Publishing bible lessons
and promoting the development of
Postal Bible Schools worldwide

bibleeducationalservices

WINTER
2007

news

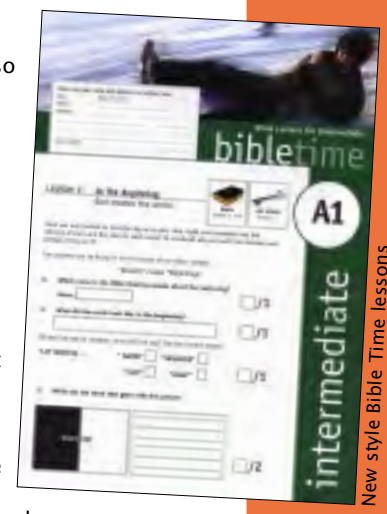
From the Editors Desk

Stephen Gillham

In introducing the second BES News may I explain its contents. We plan with the BES News, in the next two or three years, to spotlight various countries where Postal Bible School lessons are being used so that the readers will have a more detailed account of what is going on over seas. In this edition we cover Canada and also Kenya. Alongside this we also plan to have reports from UK Postal Bible Schools, this time The Word of Life in Harrogate and also an Ireland PBS centre, this time, County Donegal.

This year has been particularly busy since we have published Starter Lessons for Primary, Junior and Intermediate grades together with a series of 12 follow- up lessons, for each grade, based on Luke's gospel. These were originally produced 12 to 15 years ago to help bridge the gap for children who were not used to studying the Bible to regularly doing Postal Bible School lessons. The lessons have been re-written and are now in the same format as the normal Bible Time lessons. The Starter lessons have been used extensively this summer on Beach Missions and in other outreaches particularly in Ireland. We want to encourage their use in any way where there is an outreach that involves children in Exhibitions, agricultural shows, holiday Bible clubs, children's missions etc. People who are responsible for such outreaches have the opportunity of either enrolling them with an established Postal Bible School Centre as (the addresses as given on the rear page of the BES News) or commencing their own Postal Bible School Centre. We are able to provide samples and full suggestions for their use. Please contact either Sam Balmer or Stephen Gillham.

This year with some much graphic design work needed we are employing a designer for two days a week to layout the corrected Bible Time lessons, do all the Starter and Follow on lessons and also lead the much over due revision of the New Life Bible Study Course, and also keeping the Website updated. Pray for Steve McDonald (Bert and Wendy's grandson) as he spends the rest of his time with the Youth Work in his church.



New style Bible Time lessons

Fiftieth Anniversary Thanks Giving Meetings

2008 will mark 50 years since Bert Gray had the vision and saw the need to commence a Postal Sunday School work in Southern Ireland and he and Wendy led the work for many years and are still very closely involved.

It is a fantastic story of the work which started in such a small way and has now grown to be a massive work with children studying the Scriptures through Postal Bible School lessons in many different languages across the world. We acknowledge that "this is the Lord's work and it is marvellous in our eyes" and we do want to give thanks to the Lord for that. Consequently, we are arranging Thanks Giving Services to acknowledge God's goodness to us and to encourage the prayer support and a deeper interest in the work of Postal Bible School.

Please note that Craigavon Civic Centre in Northern Ireland has been booked for the 19th September 2008. On October 11th there is like to be a thanksgiving meeting in the North of England. ***We would like to hear, before the end of the year, from any who would like to arrange a Thanksgiving Service in their area.*** *The March/April BES News will include full details of the programme, speakers and plans for each of these Regional Thanks Giving Celebrations.*

We would value prayer as the organisation is done for these meetings and also prayer that they might prove to be a real blessing to all who attend.

PBS Ireland (Noel & Lisa McMeekin) and PBS Fermanagh and Tyrone (Sam & Louise Balmer) are producing a 50th Anniversary Music CD produced, with approx 25 schools from Ireland singing a track each, this should be available early spring DV Contact either Centres for further details.

Top picture Juliaf — www.sxc.hu

POSTAL BIBLE SCHOOL WORLD CENTRES

PBS Centre, Canada

Pete & Elaine Smith

The PBS Centre lies in the heart of the Canadian Prairies in the province of Manitoba, almost dead centre of the country.

Since its commencement in July 1999, the work has known periods of activity, growth and consolidation, but none like the last ten months. During this time the office has been fully upgraded and Elaine now has weekly help. Two new computers, with up to date programs are fully networked, while the extra help has meant Elaine's load has been reduced and the whole operation has become more efficient. Numbers of PBS students still hover around the 1200 mark and these in turn are marked by a faithful team of 185 Teachers. Please pray for Eunice Vanstone & Helen Knox (our daughter) who help in the office, as well as for Elaine as she heads up the day to day running of the Centre.

In the spring, we were able to meet some French-speaking believers in N. Ontario to discuss their role in helping to translate the NewLife Bible Studies for adults, into French. As well as making these available for those working particularly in Quebec, we want to be able to add these to our new website, which is presently being designed. God willing we're hoping this will be launched by the end of 2007. In addition to the French translation, we are also thankful to the Lord for enabling a Spanish translation to commence this autumn. Also working with the BES International Secretary , we are in touch with a missionary in Mexico who is commencing some Spanish lesson translation using local believers to prepare the scripts.

Over the summer months, hundreds of our new colourful application forms have been distributed across the country. We had 70,000 printed in February and Evangelists have used them at various country fairs and shows, and in follow-up to various tent/children's outreaches. In September 6000 were sent to Yellowknife, North West Territories, for distribution with Seed Sower packs, prior to some pioneer Gospel meetings. Please pray specifically for many new recruits and that they will become consistent and keen students. Pray too for the constant need for new teachers.

They were used for the first time in Brandon at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair at the end of March. One group of visitors that are targeted at the booth is the many Hutterites. We presently have over 200 young people from some 50 colonies doing PBS. Elaine and I seek to visit regularly some colonies that are near to home, as well as stopping by the occasional one in another province, as we're traveling through.

For some time we have been burdened about two parts of this large country where we have very few or no students. Presently we have less than 50 students in the four Maritime Provinces on the Atlantic east coast. We would like to see the lessons being more widely used in this region so a three week trip has been planned for October, to promote PBS among assemblies in Labrador and Newfoundland, particularly at 3 large conferences. Then to

our north in Nunavut, Yukon and the North West Territories we have no students at all. These all lie north of the 60th Parallel, where very little Gospel work is engaged in. Since the late spring we have been praying very much about a new development in the work that aims to post gospel literature, including a PBS form, to small communities across this area in a targeted and systematic way. Please pray for the Lord's guidance in planning for this outreach to the north.

Earlier in the year, after seeing the new colour design of the British lessons, it was decided that we would aim to have a new look ourselves for the A-Series in January 2009, God willing. This winter we hope that our computer designer, who has been with us since the work commenced in 1999, will be able to commence this project in earnest. Incorporating our own Canadian translation and our many new drawings, we plan to give the front and back pages a fresh new look and print on white, in black and a single colour. Please pray for Tony as he undertakes this work for us.

As we look back over the past 7 years since moving to Canada, we can clearly see the Lord's hand working out His purposes in so many wonderful ways. These recent months have been some of the most exciting and enjoyable times in our 23 years of serving the Lord. Truly we can say like the Psalmist – *"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes"* (Psalm 118: 23).

Thank you for your prayers.

Pete & Elaine Smith (October 2007)

Singing Hutterite children

INDIA TRAVELS

Special Prayer matter

Sam Balmer travels in India 26th Nov to 10th Dec visiting South, Central and Delhi regions of the country to follow up enquiries for those who have commenced to use the lessons and those who have an exercise to do so. Pray for safety of travel and wisdom in decision making.

Editor's note: *The work in Kenya commenced with two contacts in Co Fermanagh. One young man from Kenya, worked with Sam Balmer in business, he married a young lady from Fermangh, and heard about the PBS lessons. His father was visiting Ireland from Kenya and met us saw the Bibletime lessons and decided this would be very useful in follow up after their youth camps. Another brother and sister in Fermanagh had a charity called kindfund set up to help spread the Gospel in a very rural area of kenya. They heard of the resources and are now using them weekly in Bible Clubs in Kenya.*

www.kindfund.com

Report from Cliff of Kindfund

The Bible club is going on well and the Lord is expanding our territory. All the centres are doing well Attan, Ngaremara, deaf school, the nursery schools. Now we have Archers Post and Millimani children's home. I will be going to YWAM training course, which will help me in running the BES club. The course lasts for five months starting 1st of October and Kim will be taking over to run the programme. (Kim) Reuben Kimathi is a young man who I have known for quite some time.

The Lord has given us new territories to venture in to, Millimani children's home where we have 31 children taking different levels. We visited the home with Kim and we talked with the lady in charge and she was very optimistic about the programme, we also met the children and had a chat with them. We showed them the papers and set Saturday as the day that Kim will be going there to take the classes at 2:00pm.

At Archers Post we have Dominic one of the nursery schoolteacher who will be taking the Bible club classes at the site where the children have their meals. I spoke to him today and he said he had given out 12 copies to the children who can read and write in English and he is expecting the number will increase. So let us pray about this. Kim and I visited the site and he will be going to Archers every month end to see the progress of the programme.

The schools have reopened for the third term and things will be easier since it will be better to have all the children at the same time. Also Nursery school teachers are also using the lessons.

(Editor's note: The Word of Life centre in Nairobi also use the lessons)

RECENT NEWS ITEMS (REPORTS FROM SAM BALMER AND BERT GRAY)

Romania PBS Camp

This year PBS Romania held a junior and senior camp from the 12th – 27th August. Many children were able to attend camp as a result of believers here sponsoring the cost (£40) to take them on camp for the week. The impact these weeks have on many of these children is incredible. We pray that they will trust the Lord and/or grow deeper in their faith as a result. If you would like to help in this way again please feel free to contact us. They are great children and so appreciative of the bible teaching and fun they can have together at camp. The senior camp was increased in number by six teenagers from Northern Ireland. It proved to be a wonderful experience for these teens. Learning about a new culture and language and seeking to help each other spiritually.

PBS Camp Romania

Romania

Bert Gray visited Romania with Roger Harding in late September and early October, for almost three weeks before going to Ukraine. Roger was delivering TBS Calendars to assemblies and workers for distribution to unbelievers. Bert went to assist and to meet some who were already involved in using the PBS lessons and promote them to others. Some very useful contacts were made which should lead to a growth of the work that Mihaela Vas and others are doing. Mihaela Lung was married to Tudor Vas last June and Tudor and Daniel (Mihaela's brother) are also involved. Pray for Mihaela as she has not been well and may have to go to Hungary for expensive medical treatment for a blood condition.

Emmaus leaders from CIS countries with Martin Vedor (ZAM Germany) and Bert Gray (BES)

From Romania and also Ukraine we have heard interesting stories about how individuals are using the lessons to start local groups of children in Bible Study. Some use them for their own children or grand children to start with and encourage them to enroll their friends. One lady invited children living next door to do the lessons and now has a group of fifty meeting in her house. We have often felt that many more believers in the UK could use the lessons in this decentralized way. It is not always convenient to enroll the children in a remote Postal Bible School.

Ukraine

Bert Gray and Sam Balmer had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Emmaus conference in Kharkov from the 16th - 20th Oct, here they met Orest & Leysa who have nearly completed the translation of all the 144 lessons containing 576 stories, We praise the Lord for their dedication in this fruitful task.
Bert has attended this conference in the past two years. It was two years ago that Andreas Reh encouraged the use of the children's courses by Emmaus. This visit was a wonderful opportunity to see first hand what the Lord is doing via the Bibletime lessons not only in Ukraine, but also Belarus, Russia and Moldova. We had the joy of meeting the Emmaus co-ordinators from each of these lands, sharing ideas and having fellowship together. Praise the Lord for what He is doing, and please pray for this work, and in particular those who have the responsibility of co ordination, distribution and grading. It is difficult to give an exact number of student who are doing Bibletime(PBS) lessons but it is estimated that at least 11,000 are involved!

Orest & Leysa Kulenych & family PBS workers in Unkraine

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Words of Life Yorkshire

(Report from Paul and Elizabeth Jackson who took on the responsibility of the PBS in Harrogate before Peter and Elaine Smith left for Canada in 1999)

In the summer the PBS Camp went well (see picture), we had around 50 young people at the beginning of the summer holidays in Robin Hood's Bay. A good time was had with the activities and the Lord kept us safe. We knew the Lord's hand of blessing upon us as well in the meetings that were held.

The first Saturday in November is our Camp Reunion and Birthday Rally and we expect around 100 students, campers, parents and teachers to be there. We pray that the Lord will bless the time of fellowship and might be pleased to use the occasion to His glory.

The main PBS has around 300 children at the moment, a slight fall over recent months. Our team of teachers remains strong at around 90, with three more teachers added recently. We thank the Lord for all those who mark the lessons for us.

The Schools' Scheme continues well, with 3 schools in the Yorkshire Dales now taking lessons for the children to complete, some in school as part of the RE curriculum and some who take them home. There are also opportunities for one of the elders in the meeting in Harrogate to take assemblies and give out prizes in the schools.

Co Donegal PBS

(Report from Joan Patterson)

The Donegal PBS continues with around 400 children completing the lessons each month. We send to four schools and also two Sunday School groups. Our individual pupils number about 24 and they are very regular in returning the lessons each month. The prize-givings this year went very well. George Hall was the speaker again this year and gave a clear presentation of the Gospel on each occasion. Please continue to pray with us that many of these young people will be saved early in life. We have some individual pupils but most of our scholars are in schools. The staff in the schools, really appreciate the lessons and always receive us warmly when we go for the prize-givings.

This year we have two special ten year prizes which is very encouraging; one of these girls is continuing the lessons despite having gone to university.

Editors Note:
When the Postal Bible School started in Ireland in 1958 it was based in Cork. Joan Patterson became one to the teachers and later when it was decided to divide the work into regions she took on the responsibility of Donegal along with May Bingham (now with the Lord) and others. It is now operated from Joan's home and her husband Sam is very supportive. Sam is a full time servant of the Lord and spends a lot of his time in Donegal. In fact he is currently involved in a series of Gospel meetings in that county.

Main PBS Centres in the UK and Ireland

PBS CENTRE	MAIN CONTACT	SIZE	CONTACT
Dorset Postal Bible School	Stephen Gillham	180	01202 873500
Kingfisher Postal Bible School	Luke & Gwen Butler	190	01635 868820
Norfolk Postal Bible School	Janice Coleman	120	01502 562421
County Donegal Postal Bible School	Mrs. Joan Patterson	400	02890 655151
Living Word Postal Bible School, Stoke-on-Trent	David and Susan Jackson	122	01782 642206
Swansea Postal Bible School	Steve and Gwenneth Treseder	Over 300	01639 852708
Fermanagh & Tyrone Postal Bible School	Sam & Louise Balmer	900	02866 327801
Belfast Postal Bible School	Gordon & Valerie Mullen	180	02890 701481
North East Ireland Postal Bible School	Ivan and Jenny McClean	200	02825 878269
Words of Life Postal Bible School	Paul & Elizabeth Jackson	700	01423 505678
Postal Bible School, Republic of Ireland	Noel & Liza McMeekin	3,500	00353 4955 52915
United Beach Mission, Postal Bible School	Mavis Mathers	690	01132 304362

If you know of any children who would benefit from Postal Bible School lesson, please encourage them to contact one of the PBS centres listed above, or order the lessons from Bible Educational Services and start a local work. You can start with just one or two children and encourage them to enroll their friends in what you could call a 'Bibletime Club'. Sample lessons are always available from one of the BES trustees or can be printed out from the pdf files on the website.

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The Trustees are available to speak at Assemblies or Conferences to encourage prayer for our brothers and sisters worldwide (as well as the UK) who engage in this ministry.

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