



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 28: Sunday 25th October 2020

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Bible Sunday. It is a day when we focus on the importance of the Bible in helping us all on our journey of discipleship. Bible Sunday also reminds us to pray for those who are involved in the important work of ensuring that the Bible is available in people's own language in every part of the world.



The ministry of the Bible Society has its roots in the amazing commitment of a teenage Welsh girl called Mary Jones.

In 1800, when she was just 15, Mary Jones walked 26 long miles through the rugged terrain of north Wales to buy a Welsh Bible.

Mary was so determined to have a Bible of her own, in her own language, that she had saved up for six long years before her walk to Bala.

With the help of Revd Thomas Charles of Bala, who arranged lodgings for Mary and sold her three Bibles for the price of one, Mary Jones' determination was rewarded. Mary's unswerving desire to get hold of God's written word soon became the talk of the churches in the area.

Revd Joseph Hughes, a visionary Welsh pastor was inspired by Mary's story, and by the need for reduced-price Bibles for Welsh speakers. He challenged other church leaders by asking them the question, "If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?". That question was posed at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society on 7 December 1802, and the conversation that followed would ultimately lead not the formation of the 'British and Foreign Bible Society'.



The Society, which is now simply known by the name 'Bible Society', was established by a Royal Charter which states

that the work of the Society is to encourage the 'circulation and use' of the Bible. Both aspects of that statement are important. The task of 'encouraging circulation' involves the work of translators, printers and distributors, while the 'encouragement of the use' of the Bible involves the society in developing Bible Study material and programmes such as 'The Bible Course' which enable people to understand more about the message of the Bible and its relevance today.

The Bible Society Charter, which holds together 'circulation' and 'use', reminds us all that if we have a Bible available to us in our own language but leave it unread on the shelf, then we are not allowing the Bible to do its work of bringing God's message of Good News into our lives.

The story of Mary Jones, who saved for six years and then walked 26 miles so that she could have a Bible she could read for herself, is for us both an inspiration and a challenge.



Yours in His service,

Chris Blake

Worship Reflection

Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. (Psalm 119 v 89)

Hymn (StF 160)

Powerful in making us wise to salvation,
Witness to faith in Christ Jesus the Word;
Breathed out for all by the life-giving Father
These are the scriptures,
and thus speaks the Lord.

Prayer:

Living God, for your love beyond price and your goodness beyond measure, receive our praise. Amen.

Bible Reading (Deuteronomy 6 v 1-9)

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

Reflection These words from the Old Testament are a powerful reminder that the words of Scripture should be part of our daily life. A pious Jewish family will follow the final instruction in a literal way, and you see a 'Mezuzah' (which actually means 'doorpost') fixed in the doorways of Jewish homes and hotels. Many different designs of Mezuzah are used but each will contain a hand written scroll on which are found the words in today's reading from Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 6-9



Some very devout Jews will also wear Tefillin on their foreheads and on their arms. The Tefillin are small back boxes which, as with

the Mezuzah, contain these important verses from Deuteronomy chapter 6.

As Christians we may not follow the literal interpretation of the Bible passage, but the words in this week's reading do encourage us to make the use of the Bible part of our daily pattern of life.

We are challenged by these verses to make the reading of the Bible and our meditation on its message part of our day when we are 'at home' or 'along the road' or when we 'lie down' and when we 'get up'. We may not have the words of the Bible written on our doorposts, or indeed on our arms or our foreheads, but allowing the words of the Bible to live with in our hearts and minds throughout every part of the day will allow God to bring to us words of encouragement, hope, peace, comfort and direction. The Bible is God's living word and a powerful resource in our daily discipleship. We must make sure that we use it well.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week for:

- Bible translators, printers and distributors who work to make the Bible available to all people in their own language.
- Those who live in countries where the Bible is not easily available and where freedom to worship is restricted.
- Ourselves that we might not leave our Bibles on the shelf but that we will allow God to speak to us as we read the Bible each day.

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn (StF 161)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Final Prayer

Lord God, encircle us, nurture us, guide and protect us, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.



The Anchor and the video reflection are taking a half-term break. The next edition of the Anchor will be available for Sunday 8th November. This will be a special edition for Remembrance Sunday.