



the
Bulletin

News from
Biblica Europe

September 2024

GOD'S WORD ON A GLASGOW ESTATE

Also inside:

Two lives changed in Ukraine • Translation update • How Amir found the truth online • Your place in the mission



Celebrating 215 Years

In this edition...

Two lives changed in Ukraine	4
The Bible that brought the estate together	6
Translation update	8
How Amir found the truth online	10
Your place in the mission	11

About Biblica

The mission of Biblica is to provide the Bible in accurate, contemporary translations and formats so that more people around the world will have the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.

We are Biblica Europe

We are part of the worldwide Biblica family. Biblica Europe's task is to reach people with God's Word throughout Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Connect with us

www.biblicaeurope.com

email: europe@biblica.com

tel: +44 (0)28 9073 5875

[!\[\]\(c50c8b7b2cc2cf9ff925edec0ee94c0d_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(8bed43dc33ecdde61e2f76c8f5517125_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(047f882704cdc566325d0a83645d692e_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(4f39bb1f5d124de68e2d5e309adc07d7_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(9956dc689101f4d2cd02413c5e727ccb_img.jpg\)](#) /biblicaeurope

Biblica is the translation sponsor of the New International Version Bible.

Biblica Europe Ministries Trust is a Registered Charity No. 227111

Registered office: Biblica Europe Ministries Trust, The Mount Business Centre, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast, BT6 8DD, United Kingdom

© 2024 Biblica. All Rights Reserved Worldwide.

Welcome



Dear friends,

I'm very pleased to introduce *the Bulletin* for this autumn.

Here at Biblica, we are constantly amazed by all the things God does when people access the Bible. He brings new life in the face of great loss (p.4-5). He knits fragmented communities together (p.6-7). He speaks to and heals forgotten people (p.8-9). He meets those who are searching for Him (p.10).

And we get to play a part in all this - by making sure everyone, everywhere has access to God's lifechanging Word.

Every small prayer you've prayed or small donation you've given has helped to enable the incredible stories you'll read in this Bulletin. Be encouraged, and thank you again!

Yours in Christ,

Geof Morin

President/CEO, Biblica



The atmosphere in Brazil was electric with praise and thankfulness with the launch of an updated Portuguese translation of the Bible.

Two lives changed in Ukraine - because you shared Bibles

The woman at the well

A woman had been coming to get water from a well week after week.

Across Ukraine, Russian forces have turned off the water system in occupied areas, leaving whole cities with no clean tap water. Our partner Samaritan's Purse has drilled wells and set up water distribution centres, mostly based in local churches. These water stations have become key distribution points for both physical supplies and Ukrainian Bibles.

Every time this woman, an older lady, came to the water point, the church's pastor would greet her and say, "How are you? It's very nice to see you. Would you like to come in and sit and talk?"

But she always said, "No, thank you. I'll take my water and go."

This went on for months. Then one day, the woman said, "I'll take you up on that chat offer." So they sat down and talked about all the loss she had suffered. The people she knew who had been killed in the war. Her stories were hard to hear.

Then she broke down and said, "I don't know what to do. I come here every week for water. I go and drink the water. But I just don't know why I'm still alive."



"I just don't know why I'm still alive."

The pastor was reminded so much of the woman that Jesus met by the well in Samaria; he told her about the abundant life that Jesus offers. The woman trusted Jesus and accepted the offer of salvation right there.

She has attended church every Sunday since. And every time she comes in and gets her water, she still sits and talks with the pastor. She has a beautiful zest for life now, and she's passionate about Christ.

The soldier who came to Jesus

Ilgar has been fighting for two years as a Ukrainian soldier. He's from a Muslim family and had never heard the Gospel.

He looks like a tough guy, covered in tattoos. But something happened to him while he was fighting that shook his worldview... he narrowly escaped death four times.

"The first time, I put it down to chance," he said. "The second time, it made me pause for a second and think maybe there's something protecting me".

It happened for a third time, but the fourth was the most dramatic.

"I was standing in position and just stepped aside by four steps and a missile landed on the very spot I had been standing! I was thrown by the shockwave and the jacket I was wearing was shredded by shrapnel, but I didn't have a scratch on me. That's when I knew it was a miracle."

When he came home for a weekend, his friend from school invited him to a Bible study at a Christian community house run by our partner Steiger.

Ilgar said, "After all this had happened, I knew I had to come - I needed to know this God who kept rescuing me."

At the Bible study, Ilgar was given his first copy of the Bible. He was shown the Ukrainian Bible app too, and the group explained he could access the Bible at any time.

For the next couple of months, somebody from Steiger regularly met up with Ilgar to read the Bible together.

One Sunday, the study leader asked if anyone wanted to give their life to Jesus. Ilgar put up his hand, then came and knelt down. He was physically shaking as he received Jesus right there.

Laughing, he said, "If you told me a year ago that I would be at a Christian gathering, I would have smacked you in the face!"

Ilgar is now on a rest period from the army, and he's spending his time with this Christian community in Kyiv, growing in faith and learning how to live a new life.



Over 2 million copies of the Biblica's Contemporary Ukrainian Translation of the Bible have been given out or downloaded since 2022. There has been huge demand for the Bible since war broke out.

The Bible that brought the estate together

Love, Death and Resurrection in Glasgow

“Sometimes I sit back and I’m just in awe. There have been times when I’ve had tears rolling down my cheeks thinking, this is so beautiful.”

George Sneddon is the minister of a small church on a housing estate outside Glasgow. When he arrived in 2022, things were very quiet. Following the pandemic, any sense of community on the estate had dwindled away. The church had reopened, but people hadn’t come back.

Something needed to change.

A different sort of Bible

At a conference George discovered a book called *Love, Death and Resurrection*. He went home and opened it up.

“I just loved it!” says George. “The way that it’s structured, it’s not your typical Bible - I felt like I was reading a novel instead. Before I knew it, I’d read 110 pages. To be honest, I’ve never found the Bible that easy to read, and I’ve done a Masters in Theology!”

Love, Death and Resurrection is Biblica’s special edition of the New Testament, designed, in partnership with the Scottish Bible Society, for reading together like a book group. The traditional headings, columns, chapter and verse numbers have been removed, and the books are put together in a different order, allowing the story to flow more like a novel.

George hadn’t experienced the Bible in this way before. But he saw that this might be just what his Glasgow neighbourhood needed.



An explosion of faith

When a new couple started coming to the church on the estate, George lent them his copy of *Love, Death and Resurrection*. They went home and read it with their family. Then they came back and said they would buy 200 copies for the church!

Armed with the books, George started running a group after the Sunday service called 'Look at the Book'. Every week, they meet like a book group to read and discuss a page together.

"The transformation in people's faith has been incredible!" says George. "Most of the people that come had disengaged with church. This has brought them new intimacy with God; it has given space for the Holy Spirit to lead and teach... and people have wanted to become part of this bigger thing that we call the church because they want to get to know Jesus. That's why the church has grown."

A book for the whole estate

And the Word has spread beyond the church. This New Testament has gone everywhere on the estate. The congregation loved it so much that they raised funds to buy copies for their neighbours.

One time, George went to visit a widow in her nineties whom he'd never met before. "I was sitting in this lady's living room talking, and I noticed on her shelf a copy of *Love, Death and Resurrection* that I certainly hadn't given her! I find them all over the estate. This Bible experience is bringing the community back together."

Let's pray that everybody who is reading the Bible for the very first time today will hear God speaking to them.

Translation update

The latest progress on getting God's Word to everyone, everywhere



Biblica's Brazil team were in Rio de Janeiro this summer for an exciting Bible launch

AI crosses a new frontier

An estimated 9 million people speak a Southeast Asian dialect which has never had the Scriptures. This dialect seems to have been hidden from Bible translation efforts until now, and our workers experienced lots of obstacles to getting a translation project underway.

Finally, a few months ago, we began training a team to use an AI-assisted translation approach to get the Scriptures into this forgotten dialect as soon as possible. The AI translation software can produce a first draft about five times faster than traditional methods. Then, the draft will be carefully checked and worked on by the team of human translators, including expert Bible scholars and native speakers of the dialect, making sure the meaning has carried through correctly.

The translators learned the tool well at our training week and were excited to get started.

One of them, a native speaker of this dialect, reflected: "Before, it was like there was a dark spirit hiding us from Bible translators. We are so thankful that you are now bringing us the light."

Updated Portuguese translation launches in Brazil

Biblica's Brazil team were in Rio de Janeiro this summer to launch a new, updated version (the Nova Versao Internacional) in Portuguese.

The Portuguese translation hadn't been updated for over 20 years, and everybody is delighted with the new version which uses contemporary language and the NIV's current, more methodical translation methods and standards.

Off the page

For many people around the world, it will never be possible to read the Bible in their native, heart language! Why not? Either their language is an oral (spoken) language or sign language with no written form, or they can't read well. But reading isn't the only way to experience the Bible.

In India, Biblica partners with Faith Comes by Hearing and Tree of Life to create and provide audio Bibles to people like Kovindraj.

Kovindraj was paralysed, unable to walk or speak clearly. He experienced the tragedy of his daughter passing away, but it didn't affect his faith. After receiving an audio player with Biblica's Tamil Contemporary New Testament on it, Kovindraj and his family started listening to the Word of God every day.

As he listened to the New Testament in his heart language, Kovindraj sensed Yesappa (Jesus) tell him that he could walk and speak. The voice of Jesus gave him hope and, growing in his faith, Kovindraj would soon act upon it.

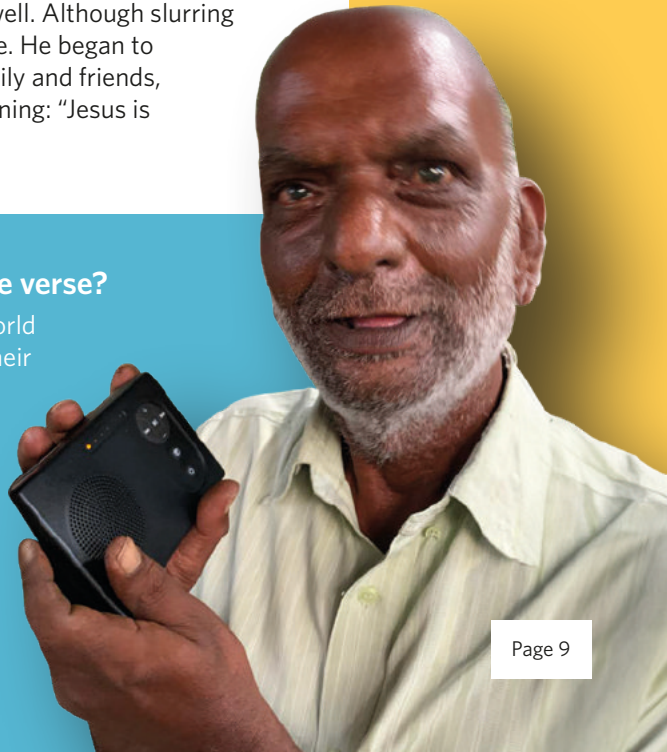
One day, Kovindraj got up and started walking! Soon enough he started speaking as well. Although slurring a bit, he could now communicate. He began to engage in conversation with family and friends, saying: "Yesappa Nallavar", meaning: "Jesus is good."

**Yesappa
Nallavar
means
"Jesus is
good"**

What's your favourite Bible verse?

Millions of people around the world have never heard that verse in their own language.

It costs £25 to translate a verse into a language for the first time. Want to make it happen? You can donate £25 today at biblicaeurope.com/donate



How Amir found the truth online

"Something attracted me so much that I needed to know more."

Nearly half a million people visit Biblica's Arabic outreach website every month. Our skilled partners speak to visitors over social media, helping to answer their questions and guide them if they want to follow Jesus.

Amir*, a 25 year-old Egyptian, was magnetically attracted to the love, peace, outreach and church rituals that he saw in Christianity. He kept searching YouTube and the internet to find out more. He just couldn't leave it alone.

Biblica's website was really helpful for him. He was hungry to examine the Bible, so he requested a free copy and asked if he could have help to understand anything that confused him. We soon realised Amir had already read the Gospel of John and parts of Luke.

Chatting online, we explained that at the heart of Christianity is a restored relationship with God, not just a religion. He saw how God's justice and mercy came together at the cross.

After six months, Amir asked in the chat: "What do you advise me to do? How do I start my path? I am truly convinced in my heart, but with a terrible conflict as the matter is not easy." Amir's family and friends were all Muslim, and it was a serious matter to profess faith in Jesus. "I feel very much that I have met Christ and I love him," he said, "but I still need time."

We encouraged him to take it step by step. His next step right then was to pray a beautiful prayer of commitment to Christ. Biblica will continue to support him confidentially in his new Christian life.

*Amir's name has been changed to protect his identity

"How do I start my path?"



Your place in the mission

If you share our passion to bring God's Word to everyone, everywhere, there are lots of ways you can help make it happen!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING IN...
SO ALL WILL KNOW.



Keep informed

Each month we share a short story by email about the lifechanging impact God's Word is having around the world. We'd love you to be included.

Email europe@biblica.com, sign up on our website, or send back the enclosed form, and we'll make sure you receive the latest news.

You can also follow and share our updates on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram – find us [@biblicaeurope](https://www.instagram.com/biblicaeurope)



Pray

Praying for this work makes you a partner in everything God's doing to reach and speak to people through His Word.

Please pray for our translation teams, and for our partners helping people to access and use new Bible materials. Pray that many people every day will be set free and transformed by Jesus Christ as they meet him in the Scriptures.

Visit www.biblicaeurope.com/praying to see where we need prayer more widely.



Give a gift

We can't do anything without funding, so giving a gift is a great way to invest in this mission. Your gift will help us translate and take the Bible to people in hard-to-reach places.

If you'd like to help, please fill in the enclosed form and send it back to us, or give a gift online at www.biblicaeurope.com/donate



Help to break new ground with a regular gift

To really invest in the mission, you can set up a regular gift. Reliable monthly income allows us to plan new innovations, translations and much-needed resources. Even £15 per month would make a big difference to our progress.

You can set up a standing order easily through your own internet banking – our account details are: Biblica Europe Ministries Trust, Danske Bank, Sort code: 95-01-21, Account no: 80552763. Choose the amount and frequency that suits you.

Please call us on +44 (0)28 9073 5875 to let us know you've done this.

WE ARE SO
♥
thankful
THAT YOU ARE **NOW**
BRINGING US THE
LIGHT

- Native dialect speaker, Southeast Asia



Celebrating 215 Years

If you'd like more copies of The Bulletin for your church or group,
please get in touch

www.biblicaeurope.com | email: europe@biblica.com | tel: +44 (0)28 9073 5875

