



WORD@ WORK

BSM NEWSLETTER
马来西亚圣经公会通讯

Sowing God's Word to Everyone in Every Way
以各种方式向每个人传播神的话语

Issue: 2-2008

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To Encounter God's Word Is To Encounter Jesus

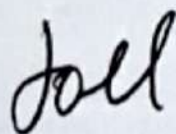
Dear friends and supporters of BSM,

I was particularly struck by this thought as I read the United Bible Societies' Scripture Language Report for 2007: Jesus is God's Word, so encountering His Word means encountering Him. It then brings to mind the urgency of the work we do as the Bible Society – to ensure that people of all colours, cultures and languages can encounter Jesus in a way that is deeply meaningful: which is to encounter God's Word in their heart-language, their mother-tongue.

Again and again, I am constantly reminded how language plays such a vital role in influencing our view and understanding of the world around us. That is why so many cultural and linguistic groups around the world still eagerly anticipate having a Bible to call their own.

Even as I consider the need around the world, I am also brought back to the needs of our own country. Malaysians have a Bible to call our own, but I think many of us have yet to make it a part of our Christian experience. That is why, in this issue, we take some time to explore a few reasons why we should use the Alkitab as Malaysian Christians.

May you truly experience the power, grace and love of our dear Lord Jesus as you encounter Him through His Word.



接触上帝的话就是接触耶稣

亲爱的牧长与主内弟兄姐妹：

当我阅读联合圣经公会2007年圣经语文报告：「耶稣是神的道，因此接触祂的话语即是接触耶稣」，这句话特别令我感触良深。它带出我们圣经公会事工之迫切性——确保所有不同肤色、文化和语言的人都能以富含深义的方式接触耶稣；即以他们的母语，他们心中亲切的语言与接触神的道。

我不断地受提醒，语文是那么关键性地影响我们对周围世界的了解和观感。因此，世界各地有那么多不同文化与语言的群体，仍然热切期待拥有一本属于他们自己的圣经。

正当我思想世界各地需要的时候，我也想到我们国家的一些需要。马来西亚人拥有一本可称为属于自己的圣经，然而我想我们当中许多人还未接纳它为我们基督徒的一种经验。因此，我要在这期通讯探讨：是什么原因，我们身为马来西亚基督徒，为什么应该使用马来文圣经(Alkitab)。

愿你透过接触上帝的话接触耶稣，真正经历我们主的能力、恩典与大爱。

愿你蒙福。



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2,454 languages now have Scripture

United Bible Societies' Scripture Language Report 2007



"To have the New Testament in your own language is to be evangelised... it is to possess God's Word and thus to be visited by Jesus Christ." These were the words of Rev Thomas Nyiwe, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, at the launch of the Vute New Testament in December.

This new Scripture was welcomed in a "feast of colour and sound" by hundreds of people, many of whom had made enormous efforts to attend the event. One chief and his entourage made the 130km (80 mile) journey on foot, while hundreds of others travelled from different parts of the country by car on roads that were so pot-holed and bumpy that they "looked like an elephant track", according to Thomas Ndimjock of the Bible Society of Cameroon.

One Vute-speaking leader, the Rev Pierre Songsare, said at the launch, "If I die today I will not be able to say that God did not love me. Of almost 270 tribes in our country, the Vute people are particularly blessed. God will ask much of us because we have received much from him."

Similar sentiments were echoed across the world by other language groups who also received Scripture in their languages

for the first time last year. Nine new Bibles and 34 New Testaments were registered for the first time in the United Bible Societies' (UBS) 2007 Scripture Language Report (SLR). The report, which is updated annually, records new or revised translations of the whole Bible or parts of the Bible which are received at one of three Bible Society deposit libraries during the year. By December 31, 2007, the cumulative total had reached 2,454.

Making the Bible's message accessible and understood has been at the heart of Bible Society work since the foundation of the first Bible Society more than 200 years ago. And translating the Bible into the languages of the world's many diverse people groups remains one of the key means of achieving that goal.

In theory, due to the globalisation of certain languages like English, French and Spanish, 95 per cent of humanity now has access to the Bible in a language they can understand. But many of these people are having to read the Bible in a language that is not their own. With overwhelming evidence that Scripture speaks most powerfully to people when it is presented in their mother tongue, Bible Societies are working ceaselessly towards the goal of giving everybody this kind of access to the Scriptures.

One of the Bibles launched last year, for instance, was the Chuj (San Mateo) Bible in Guatemala. The Chuj (San Mateo) people only number about 31,000 – a relatively small group in a country of nearly 13 million people. Yet the arrival of their Bible was an emotional and significant event, attracting more than 1,000 people, some of whom had travelled for days to be there, braving wind, rain and thick mud on the steep and winding roads. They cheerfully sat through several showers of rain during the ceremony and then queued in torrential rain to get copies of the Bible in their mother tongue. “They didn’t mind at all – the hunger and thirst of the mateanos (local people) for God’s Word was much greater,” commented Celeste de Anleu of the Bible Society of Guatemala (BSG). The BSG has published six other Bibles in indigenous minority languages, and it has two more projects in the pipeline.

Another indigenous, minority language Scripture that was launched last year was the Kriol Bible in Australia. Kriol is the first language of 10,000 people and the second language of another 20,000. The Bible is the first formal written text in Kriol. More than 2,000 people gathered to celebrate its publication last May with an enthusiasm that will be replicated across countless Kriol communities, according to Gwen Tremlett, a member of the translation team. “People are really keen to know what God is saying to them,” she explained. “One of the highlights of my work has been seeing people’s faces as they hear God’s Word read in their own language for the first time.”

But it is not only members of small minority groups who received the Scriptures in their languages in 2007: Christians among Senegal’s nearly 1.2 million Sérère speakers recently welcomed their Bible in an elaborate ceremony in which a copy of the new Bible was placed in a gourd covered with a white cloth to symbolise purity. It is the first of the six national languages of this Muslim-majority country to get a full Bible and was hailed by a Muslim imam who attended the launch as

“something of which the whole of Senegal can be proud”. The project has taken more than three decades to complete.

In fact, each and every New Testament or Bible that is published is the culmination of years, sometimes decades, of work, including academic research, building relationships with the Churches and carrying out the painstaking task of Bible translation, sometimes in very difficult conditions. The publication of Scripture Portions (one or more books of the Bible) is often a significant milestone in this lengthy process.

Last year, for instance, SLR registered the publication of Portions, such as the Gospels of Mark and Luke, in 11 new languages. In addition to the publications that are reported in SLR 2007, last year the Bible Society fellowship also completed work on several other Scripture translations, which will be published soon. These include three Bibles and four New Testaments in new languages.

“Once again the SLR gives a fascinating panorama of the huge variety of Bible translation work throughout the world,” comments Dr Simon Crisp, UBS Director of Translation Services. “Behind each of the new publications stands a story of dedication and effort sustained over many years, so that people can receive the message of the Scriptures in their own language. The Bible Societies continue to be at the very heart of this vital ministry.”

While it is always good news when a New Testament or Bible is published, the fact remains that only 438 of the world’s estimated 6,900 languages have the complete Bible and only 1,168 have the New Testament. The Bible Society fellowship is currently engaged in 564 translation projects all over the world, funded exclusively through voluntary gifts from churches and individuals.

Statistical summary by UBS area

A summary, by UBS Area and type of publication, of the number of different languages and dialects in which publication of at least one book of the Bible had been registered as of December 31, 2007¹:

<i>Continent or region</i>	<i>Portions</i>	<i>Testaments</i>	<i>Bibles</i>	<i>Bibles + DC²</i>	<i>Total</i>
Africa	218	322	163	(29)	703
Asia-Pacific	363	495	171	(37)	1029
Europe-Middle East	112	39	61	(47)	212
Americas	153	312	42	(10)	507
Constructed Languages	2	0	1	(0)	3
Total	848	1,168	438	(123)	2,454

¹ The following three languages were added to the ABS language list based on information received during 2007: Mele-Fila spoken in Vanuatu (NT 1993), Nishga spoken in Canada (Portion 1926), and Samba Leko spoken in Cameroon (NT 2001), which had been considered identical to Samba Daka spoken in Nigeria (Portion 1933).

² This column is a sub-section of the Bibles column – for example, there is a translation of the Deuterocanon for 47 of the 61 languages of Europe in which the Bible has been translated.

联合圣经公会2007年圣经语文报告

到目前为止，共出版了二千四百五十四
种语文的圣经。



“拥有你本身语文的新约即等于福音传给你了…那就是拥有神的话语，因此也等于耶稣临到你了。”这是喀麦隆福音信义会会长尼伟多马牧师在12月主持乌德文新约推介礼时所说的话。

几百人在一个“充满色彩与声音”的欢庆会迎接这本新约圣经的面世。他们当中很多人尽了很大的努力参加这次盛会。据喀麦隆圣经公会的丁祝多玛透露：一名酋长和他的随从步行130公里，而有另几百人乘车从全国各地到来，在充满坑洞、颠簸不堪的公路行驶。“有如大象踏出的小路”。

一位讲乌德语的领袖喇撒牧师在推介礼上说：“如果我今天就离世，我不能说神没有爱我。在我们国家的两百七十个部落当中，乌德人特别蒙福。神会对我们呼吁献出更多，因为我们从祂领受了更多。”

去年，世界各地其他语言群体第一次领受他们语文圣经的时候，类似的激动情绪在回响。2007年圣经语文报告提到：联合圣经公会首次注册了九本新出版的圣经和三十四本新约。这份每年更新的报告，记录圣经公会三个收藏圣经的图书馆中任何一间于当年收到的全本圣经或部分圣经的新译本或修订译本。到2007年12月31日为止，译本总数已经累积至二千四百五十四本。两百多年从第一间圣经公会前成立以来，使人获得并明白圣经信息乃是圣经公会之宗旨。为了达致这个目标，把圣经翻译成世上众多不同种族的语文，依然是主要的关健方式。

在理论上，因着某些语言的全球化，例如：英语、法语和西班牙语，世上95巴仙的人都能以他们懂得的语文接触圣经。但是，他们很多必须用一种不属于他们的语文阅读圣经。然而事实证明，任何人若以本身的母语阅读圣经，他们更能明白圣经的话。圣经公会正不断地努力，让每个人都能以这种方式接触圣经。

举个例子：去年推出了一本以瓜地马拉的圣马迪欧朱基圣经。朱基族人口只有大约三万一千人——在一个约一千三百万人口的国家中是一个较小的族群。可是，他们的圣经面世是一个情绪激动的重大事件，吸引了超过一千人出席，一些还得冒着风雨，走过泥泞又陡峭的蜿蜒路径多日才到。他们在推介礼进行时愉快地坐着，淋了几场大雨，然后在滂沱大雨中排队领取他们的母语圣经。“他们一点都不在乎——当地人对神的话语饥渴比雨大得多。”瓜地马拉圣经公会的安流斯勒斯特这么说。瓜地马拉圣经公会已经出版了另六种少数民族语文的圣经，并筹划着另两项工作。

去年发行的另一种少数民族语文圣经是澳洲的克里欧文圣经。克里欧语是当地一万人人口的第一语文以及另外二万人口的第二语文。圣经是第一部正式以克里欧文印刷的文本。根据翻译队的一位成员特勒姐妹透露，去年五月有超过二千人聚集并欢庆这本圣经的出版，他们的热情将在无数个克里欧社群当中重复散发。“人们真的热切想知道神要对他们说什么。人们第一次以他们的语言听到神的话语时所表露的神情，看到这个情景，是我工作最有意义的一刻。”

可是，2007年不只是少数民族获取他们语文的圣经：在塞内加尔，接近一百廿万说塞瑞语者当中的基督徒，最近在一个精心策划的仪式迎接他们的圣经：一本新圣经放在葫芦里，盖上白布以象征纯洁。在这个以穆斯林占多数的国家的六种国语中，这是首个获得全本圣经的语文，一名参加推介礼的穆斯林祭司称之为

“一件塞内加尔全国都能感到自豪的事。”此翻译工作需时超过三十年才完成。

事实上，每一本出版的新约或圣经是凝聚多年，有时是几十年的工作成果，其中包括学术研究、与教会建立关系以及艰辛的圣经翻译工作，有时在极困难的环境中进行。出版圣经（一本或多本圣经书卷）往往是这漫长过程中重大的里程碑。

譬如在去年，圣经语文报告中有关出版圣经书卷的记录，如：「马可福音」与「路加福音」，以十一种新语言出版。除了2007年圣经语文报告，圣经公会去年也完成了另几项圣经翻译工作，并即将出版。这些包括以新语文出版的三种圣经和四种新约译本。

“圣经语文报告再次提供一个全世界圣经翻译工作种类繁多的惊人全貌。”联合圣经公会（UBS）翻译服务主任Simon Crisp博士说，“每一个新的出版背后都有一个持续多年献身与努力的故事，以便人们能通过自身语言领受圣经信息。圣经公会将继续站在这个关键事工的核心岗位上。”

一本新约或圣经的出版固然是一个喜讯，然而事实仍摆在眼前：在世上估计存在的六千九百种语言中，只有四百三十八种拥有全本「圣经」。另有一千一百六十八种拥有「新约」。圣经公会目前在全世界各地从事五百六十四项翻译工作，经费只有来自教会与个人的自由奉献。

联合圣经公会区域数据摘要

以下图表乃联合圣经公会截至2007年12月31日，根据各区域出版圣经的总数。这数目包括以不同语文与方言出版各类的圣经与圣经其中一卷书的总和¹：

洲或区域	书卷	新约圣经	新旧约圣经	圣经与附篇2	总数
非洲	218	322	163	(29)	703
亚太区	363	495	171	(37)	1029
欧洲-中东	112	39	61	(47)	212
美洲	153	312	42	(10)	507
新创的语言	2	0	1	(0)	3
总数	848	1,168	438	(123)	2,454

1 基于2007年期间收到的资料。以下三种语文列入ABS语言列表：瓦努阿图（Vanuatu）使用的Male-Fila语（新约：1993年），加拿大使用的Nishga语（部分圣经：1926年），喀麦隆的Samba Leko语（新约：2001年），被视为与尼日利亚的Samba Daka语（部分圣经：1933年）完全相同。

2 包括圣经译本中的一部分。譬如，欧洲61种语言的圣经译本中有47种有Deuterocanon（DG）的翻译。

National Bible Month 2008

This October 2008, BSM shall be organizing her first ever National Bible Month. The theme of this event is: "God's Word for us, God's Word for the world".

One of the supreme beliefs of Christianity is that God has spoken. God sent the Living Word Jesus Christ, Son of God, to save us from our sins. He inspired the Written Word, the Bible, to throw light on salvation history and to light up our path. But how much do we appreciate all this?

During this National Bible Month, we want to remind ourselves of two things. Firstly, God has spoken to us. Our spiritual life began in His Word and can only be sustained in His Word. So let us make the conscious decision to keep ourselves anchored in His Word, to feed on it and be obedient to it. Secondly, God has spoken to the world also. Isn't it time we renew our zeal for reaching out with the Good News?

Key components of the National Bible Month are as follows:

1. Launch

Date: October 1, 2008 (Wed) – public holiday
Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Venue: Christ Church Melaka
Speaker: Ps. Daniel Raut, President of SIB Semenanjung

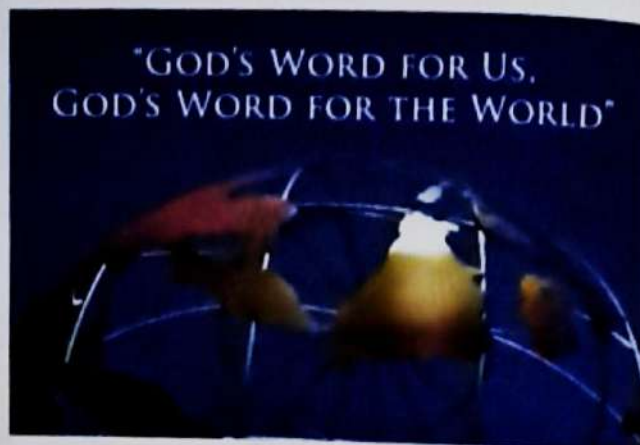
The Launch service will be conducted in the national language, Bahasa Malaysia. The event will include a public reading of scripture portions from the Alkitab Berita Baik.

2. Emphasis on Bahasa Malaysia Bible

This is in line with BSM's focus to encourage Christians to read the BM Bible. In the run-up to October and the Launch, there will be an additional campaign to promote the use of the BM Bible. Churches and Christians will be able to obtain useful resources.

3. Bible Sundays

BSM encourages churches to set aside one Sunday in October as a Bible Sunday. A simple suggested order of service will be dispatched in the near future.



4. "Walk Thru the Bible" Seminars

A series of "Walk Thru the Old Testament" seminars will be conducted in cooperation with WorldTeach Malaysia. These seminars would deepen our grasp of the Bible and draw us closer to the Author. God willing, we shall be able to hold the seminars in 5 cities across West and East Malaysia. More information on the way.

5. Migrant Scripture Project

Let's give the Word of God to the "world" at our doorsteps. BSM is working on a special welcome booklet with the Book of Ruth attached, for migrant workers from Nepal, Myanmar and Vietnam. Churches and Christians will be encouraged to give towards the production costs of this booklet (during July-September), which will be printed and handed over to O2F (Outreach to Foreigners) in October. There will also be an option for Christians to order the booklets and give them out directly. In the longer-term, we hope to expand our series of booklets and have them in more languages.

6. Scripture Resources

Last but not least, BSM shall partner with scripture ministries to bring to Christian individuals useful resources for their onward journey in the Word.

Jesus said: "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8b) Will you claim God's Word for yourself, and give it away? Let's do it especially during this National Bible Month!

For updates, please go to www.bible.org.my/biblemonth

Chinese Scripture Forum, Hualien, Taiwan

From 18-22 February 2008, a meeting of Bible Societies working among Chinese-speaking populations were held. Present at the meeting were representatives from Bible Societies of Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, America & UBS China Partnership Office.





BSM Celebrates Easter In Sarawak

From 18-22 March 2008, the GS made a short trip to Sarawak to visit the Lun Bawang Christian community. There, he had the privilege of participating in the Easter Irau (celebration) held in Lawas, where he took the opportunity during the Irau to encourage the Lun Bawang Christians to read the Bala Luk Do', the Lun Bawang Bible. He also had the opportunity to visit Long Semado, a village 100 kms south of Lawas, where the BEM missionaries Alan and Madge Belcher first worked on the translation of the Lun Bawang Bible.

O2F (Outreach to Foreigners) Migrant Ministry Consultation

On 29 March 2008, BSM set up a booth to showcase our range of scripture products in migrant languages, and to link up with participants who were involved in migrant ministry during this Ministry Consultation.



Asia Pacific General Secretaries' Consultation

The GS met with counterparts from around Asia Pacific in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-11 April 2008. Among some of the significant matters discussed were the challenges of meeting the scripture needs of migrant communities, and working together to consolidate scripture production to maximise savings. It was also a good time of being updated about the work of Bible Societies throughout the region, and to pray for one another, particularly the Bible Societies ministering in difficult circumstances such as India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal and the South Pacific.

GS Shares About BSM Work

GS Joel Ng was invited to share about the work of BSM at the following places:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| • 14 February | Seminari Teoloji Malaysia Chapel Service |
| • 24 February | St Paul's Anglican Church, PJ |
| • 20 April | Desa Aman Gospel Centre |
| • 27 April | Gospel Hall Kuala Lumpur |
| • 18 May | Sunway Gospel Centre |
| • 31 May | Kemaman Presbyterian Church |
| • 1 June | Kuantan Presbyterian Church |

Please contact BSM (with the contact information available on the cover of this newsletter) if you would like us to share about the work of BSM at your church.

Visit of Shaanxi Delegation

A delegation of eight from the Shaanxi province in China led by Rev. Wang Jun (Vice-Chairman, Shaanxi Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee and Vice-President, Shaanxi Christian Council) paid a visit to BSM on Monday, 14 April 2008. Several members of the Executive Committee and staff of BSM, together with our two UBS Translation Consultants were on hand to welcome the visitors. We had the opportunity to share about the ministry of the Bible Society, and to hear from them about the state of Christianity and religious liberty in the Shaanxi province.

2008年全国圣经月

今年10月，马来西亚圣经公会将举办首创全国圣经月。这项活动的主题是：“神赐予我们的话语，神赐予世人的话语。”

基督教最重要的信念之一是：神曾经说话。神差遣永活的道耶稣基督，神的儿子，将我们从罪中拯救出来。他展示了书写的话语，就是圣经，揭示救恩的历史，并照亮我们的道路。可是，我们有多珍视这一切？

在全国圣经月期间，我们要提醒自己两件事：第一，神已经向我们说话。我们的属灵生命始于祂的话语，也唯靠祂的话语维持。因此，让我们刻意地决定让自己如下锚般扎根于祂的话语中，阅读它并顺服它。第二，神也对世人说话。是时候更新我们与人分享福音的热忱了，不是吗？

全国圣经月的主要部分如下：

1. 开幕礼

日期：2008年10月1日，星期三（公共假期）

时间：上午10时 - 下午1时

地点：马六甲基督教堂

讲员：半岛SIB主席Daniel Raut牧师

开幕礼将以国语马来西亚语进行。这包括公开宣读国语圣经中的部分经文。

2. 强调国语圣经的重要性

这是与马来西亚圣经公会的焦点一致的行动：鼓励基督徒阅读国语圣经。在10月与开幕礼前，将有另外一个促进使用国语圣经的造势活动。教会与基督徒将能获取有用的资源。

3. 圣经主日

马来西亚圣经公会鼓励教会保留10月的一个星期日作为圣经主日。我们不久将会发出供参考的礼拜程序。

“神赐予我们的话语，
神赐予世人的话语。”



4. “遍览圣经”研习会

一系列的“遍览旧约”研习会将与WorldTeach Malaysia合作联办。这些研习会将加深我们对圣经的掌握，引导我们更亲近圣经的原作者。若神许可，我们将能够在西马到东马的5个城市举办这些研习会。更多详情有待透露。

5. 移民圣经计划

让我们将神的话语给在我们门口的“世人”。马来西亚圣经公会正为来自尼泊尔、缅甸和越南的外劳制作一本附有「路得记」的欢迎小册。教会与基督徒将受鼓励奉献这本小册（在7月到9月间）的制作费用。小册将在10月印制并交给02F（外劳的外展事工）。基督徒也可以选择订购这些小册并直接派发。长期内，我们希望能扩大我们的小册系列，并拥有更多语文版本。

6. 圣经资源

最后，马来西亚圣经公会将与圣经事工合作，将有用的资源带给个别基督徒，协助他们在神话语上的灵程继续上路。

耶稣说：“你们白白地得来，也应当白白地给人。”（太10：8b）你会为自己领受神的话语，并与人分享吗？让我们特别在这全国圣经月如此行！

欲知最新消息详情，请上网站：www.bible.org.my/biblemonth

台湾花莲中文圣经论坛

从2008年2月18日到22日，在说华语社群中工作的圣经公会举行会议。出席会议的圣经公会代表来自：香港、印尼、马来西亚、新加坡、台湾、泰国、美国以及联合圣经公会伙伴办事处。





马来西亚圣经公会在砂拉越庆祝复活节

从2008年3月18日至22日，总干事前往砂拉越作简短访问，探访了Lun Bawang的基督徒社区。在那里，他参加了在Lawas举行的复活节庆典（Irau），并趁此机会鼓励Lun Bawang基督徒阅读Lun Bawang语圣经Bala Luk Do'。他也有机会到Long Semado一游。那是Lawas以南100公里的一个小镇，BEM宣教士Alan 和Madge Belcher曾在那里开展Lun Bawang语圣经的翻译工作。

O2F (Outreach to Foreigners) 外劳事工大会

2008年3月29日，马来西亚圣经公会设立一个摊子，展示我们一系列外劳语言的圣经产品，并在此次事工大会与投入外劳事工的参加者取得联系。



中国陕西省代表团到访

2008年4月14日，一个来自中国陕西省的八人代表团在王俊牧师（陕西三自爱国运动委员会副主席及陕西基督徒协会）带领下拜访马来西亚圣经公会。圣经公会执行委员会的几位成员与职员，偕同我们两位联合圣经公会（UBS）的翻译顾问欢迎他们到访。我们有机会分享圣经公会的事工，并从他们的分享中得知陕西省的基督教与宗教自由状况。

亚太区总干事咨询会议

2008年4月9日至11日，来自亚太区各区域的总干事于孟加拉的达卡相聚。当中讨论了一些重大的事项概括：满足移民社区的圣经需求、共同努力整合圣经的印制以尽力节省。会议也汇报区域内圣经公会的工作近况，并互相代祷，尤其是为那些在困难环境下运作的圣经公会，如：印度、巴基斯坦、缅甸、尼泊尔与亚太各国。

马来西亚圣经公会总干事分享圣经公会的工作

马来西亚圣经公会总干事黄约珥受邀在以下地点分享圣经公会的工作：

- 2月14日 马来西亚神学院崇拜
- 2月24日 八打灵圣保罗公会
- 4月20日 帝沙阿曼福音中心
- 4月27日 吉隆坡福音堂
- 5月18日 双威福音中心
- 5月31日 甘马挽长老会
- 6月1日 关丹长老会

如果你想邀请我们到贵教会分享马来西亚圣经公会的工作，请与本办公室联络（有关资料请参阅本刊封面。）

This Book Can Change Our Nation

Three reasons why Malaysian Christians should read the Bible in Bahasa Malaysia



1. Identity

Shared identity does not arise merely from voicing slogans or even working together. At a deeper level, shared identity arises from common consciousness. That is why schoolchildren are required to go through the same national curriculum.

In the area of Christian religion, perhaps the best example of common consciousness can be attributed to the impact that the King James Bible or "Authorized Version" had on the English-speaking world. For several hundred years since its publication in 1611, this Book shaped the culture and history of the English-speaking peoples. The common folks quoted it, their authors and poets borrowed their substance and style from it, statesmen based their arguments on its precepts, and history was often created because this Book inspired the same ideals in enough people to form a torrent of change. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer which came on its heels was another masterpiece that only reinforced this common consciousness, especially as it influenced the liturgies and rites of many later denominations.

We are not attempting anything as ambitious here, but the fact remains that there is at the moment little common consciousness across the entire spectrum of Malaysian Christians. At the subconscious level, that is. If we read different Bible versions in different languages, this puts a natural limit to our unity and common identity. And if one Bible is to become the Bible for Bangsa Malaysia, then it has to be the Bible in Bahasa Malaysia.

While we continue reading the Bible in our familiar version and language, let's read it also in the national language. Unity in diversity is what we aim for!



2. Big Picture

Somebody once said that she loved to learn many languages because it kept her humble. It made her realize that hers was not the only people or language, that there were many other "tribes and tongues" in the world which were no inferior to hers.

For us Christians, we can take this a step further. Reading the Word of God in another language impresses upon us that God speaks to every "tribe and tongue" too. God's plan of salvation is for everyone. Most of us have been touched by certain verses in the Bible versions that we read, by the beauty and power of it. When we see that God speaks powerfully in other languages too, it dawns on us that God's love is indeed offered to every human person. We see the big picture.

Ideally then, we should read the Bible in the language we understand best, and read it also in other languages that we can manage, for example the national language.



3. Evangelism

When William Cameron Townsend (who later founded Wycliffe Bible Translators) tried to sell Spanish Bibles to the natives in Guatemala, he was asked this burning question: "If your God is so great, why can't he speak my language?" The lesson for us is, if we wish to evangelize to a people, we need to use their mother tongue or the language they are most familiar with!

How do we see Christianity in Malaysia 20 years from now? Do we want to be fishers of men or aquarium keepers who merely maintain the existing flock? If we insist that the Good News is for everyone, shouldn't we reach out to all? As we expect the younger generations to become increasingly adept in Bahasa Malaysia, it may be the only language that can be used to evangelize all our fellow Malaysians for Christ. The opportunities may be relatively limited at the present time, but we ought to be prepared.

If you would like to read the Bible in Bahasa Malaysia for yourself, please feel free to pick up a copy of the Alkitab (the Bahasa Malaysia Bible) at our Bible House location. You can also download a Bible Reading Plan in Bahasa Malaysia from our website at:

<http://www.bible.org.my/resources/introhm.php>

Prayer Items

- Proofreading for the Penan New Testament and the Biatah Bible are currently in progress. Pray that the proofreaders will be able to do a good job. Also pray that we will be able to begin printing these two publications within the year.
- We had been facing great challenges in Bible production last year, resulting in a shortage of Iban and BM Bibles for a long time. Thank God for helping us to overcome these challenges recently. Pray that readers will soon be able to get their copies of the Iban and BM Bibles.
- Pray for the staff of BSM as they make preparations to hold a National Bible Month in October.

BERITA BAHASA
YANG DISAMPAIKAN
YOHANES

Kata Pengantar

menyampaikan oleh Yohanes, mengemukakan Yesus
menjadi manusia dan tinggal antara kita. Set
di atas, Berita Baik ini ditulis supaya para pem
percaya yang diutus oleh Allah, dan Ia
di-Nya, mereka beroleh kehidupan. Ia
yang menyatakan Yesus sebagai Penebus
mengalahkan berbagai-bagai kuasa
yang diutus...

ALKITAB BERITA BAIK

这本书能改变我们的国家

马来西亚基督徒应该阅读国语圣经的三个理由

1. 身份

共有的身份不从喊口号而来，也不来自共同寻求的努力。在更深的层面上，共有的身份来自共同意识。这就是学童需要上同样的国民课程的原因。

在基督教的圈子里，共同意识的最佳例子或许可以归因于英王詹姆斯圣经（King James Bible）或“钦定本”（“Authorized Version”）对说英语世界的影响力。自1611年出版圣经数百年来，这本圣经塑造了说英语地区人民的文化和历史。平民引用它，政治家基于它的规范来争辩，而圣经启发多人有相同理想，足以形成改变的激流，因而屡次创造历史。随后而来的圣公会公祷书（Anglican Book of Common Prayer）是另一部杰作，更加强这种共同意识，特别是它影响了许多宗派的礼仪和仪式。

我们在这里不是胸怀大志要尝试什么，但是目前并没有多少共同意识连贯所有马来

西亚的基督徒却是一个事实。那是指在潜意识的层面。如果我们阅读各种不同翻译的圣经版本，这自然为我们的合一与共同身份设限。而如果一本圣经要成为马来西亚族（Bangsa Malaysia）的圣经，那么它必须是以国语书写的圣经。

我们继续阅读我们熟悉的版本和语文的当儿，让我们也阅读国语版圣经。我们要达到多元化中的合一！

2. 扩大视野

有人曾说，她喜爱学习多种语言，因为这让她感到谦卑。她从中知道世上不是只有她的民族或语言，世上还有许多其他不低于她的“种族和语言”。

对我们基督徒来说，我们可以更进一步，以另一种语言读神的话语，并使我们深深意识到神也对每一“种族和语言”说话。神的教恩计划是给每一个人的。我们大多数人读着我们的圣经版本时，曾因当中某些经文的优美和能力所感动。当我们看到神也以其他语言说话时，我们领悟到神的爱的确是赐给每一个人。这使我们扩大了视野。

因此，最理想的是，我们应该以我们最明白的语文阅读圣经，并以其他我们应付得来的语文阅读，例如：马来西亚国语。

3. 传福音

创立威克里夫译经会的汤申William Cameron Townsend尝试售卖西班牙文圣经给瓜地马拉的土著时，有人问他这个极关键的问题：“如果你的神那么伟大，为什么祂不懂得说我的语言？”我们可以学习的一点是：如果我们想要传福音给某族群，我们需要使用他们的母语，或是他们最感亲切的语言！

我们如何看待马来西亚20年后的基督教？我们要得人如鱼，或是看守鱼缸，保持现有的羊群？如果我们坚持好消息是给每个人的，我们不是应该传给所有人吗？我们可预见年轻一代会更熟悉国语，它可能是唯一可以向所有马来西亚同胞传福音的语言。目前机会可能相对地受限，可是我们应该有所准备。

如果你想读国语圣经，请在我们的圣经公会中心自由索取一本Alkitab（国语圣经）。你也可以从我们的网站下载国语的读经计划：

<http://www.bible.org.my/resources/introbm.php>

代祷事项

• Penan新约和Biatah圣经的校阅目前在进行中。请为校阅员祈求，他们能将工作做好。也祈求我们能够在今年内印刷这两种圣经。

• 去年我们的圣经出版遇上很大的挑战，以致依班（Iban）和国语圣经长期短缺。感谢神，祂不久前帮助我们克服这些困难。请为读者祷告，以致他们很快可以获取自己的依班语和国语圣经。

• 请为马来西亚圣经公会的全体职员祷告，他们正为10月举行的“全国圣经月”进行准备的工作。

He who has ears... Let him hear!



**"Faith comes by hearing...
Hearing by the Word of God"**

(Romans 10:17)

In keeping with the times, we've put the entire Bible into a format that best suits the fast-paced, digital lifestyle of the 21st century.

**NOW YOU CAN LISTEN TO
GOD'S WORD ON THE GO!**

Did You Know?

Scholars tell us that most of what we now hold in our hands as the written Bible were once oral traditions that were passed on from generation to generation. The Scriptures were originally heard!

Order Form

ORDER DETAILS (please tick appropriate boxes)

MP3 New Testament @ RM42 per set (Includes WISE Kit)

- ☐ English NIV Dramatised ☐ Cantonese ☐ Foochow
☐ Hokkien ☐ Mandarin CUV ☐ Tamil
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Quantity required: _____

Audio CDs New Testament @ RM120 per set (Includes WISE Kit)

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☐ Hokkien ☐ Mandarin CUV ☐ Tamil
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Quantity required: _____

WISE Kit @RM15 each (Includes a 96 page devotional booklet, WISE stickers and a certificate upon completion of programme)

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*Other languages available - Hakka, Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, Khmer, Tagalog, Malayalam, Burmese and Hainan.

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 2 Jalan 5520/10, Damansara Kim
 47400, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
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The Bible Society of Malaysia
 is pleased to introduce
**WISE - Word Intake for
 Spiritual Edification -
 to Christians in Malaysia.**



What's WISE?

Developed by the Bible Society of Singapore, WISE is a programme to encourage regular intake of God's Word. Recordings of the Scriptures in major languages and dialects are available on audio/MP3 CDs and matched with the WISE Kit consisting of a well-thought plan to stimulate church-wide as well as individual listening of the Word of God.

PLUG INTO THE BIBLE FOR A MIND-CHANGING EXPERIENCE TODAY!

Partnership with Churches

Contact us if you would like your church to embark on WISE. We will be happy to help in the following ways:

1. Consultancy as to how to launch the programme.
2. Devotional materials, Bible quizzes and Bible study guides to accompany the audio CD/MP3 media.
3. Supply of WISE materials for church bulletins and visual aids to motivate listeners.

