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# Support the Bible Society of Malaysia & Prosper the Word of God!

by Rev. Dr. Simon Wong



**1** The Bible Society of Malaysia is a **Bible movement** that was started by Malaysian churches in 1985. Since its separation from Singapore and Brunei, BSM has been faithfully and efficiently administered by local Christian leaders elected by members from a diversity of church denominations. For example, the present Exco President Lee Min Choon is a Brethren, Vice-President Danny Wong and Honorary Secretary Rev. Yau Kah Fatt are Methodist, Honorary Treasurer Andrew Siew a Presbyterian, while Exco Members Nic Ng, Khong Yeng Pooi and Michael Wong are from the Brethren churches. Dr. Benjamin George from Full Gospel Assembly, Catherine Chong from the Lutheran Church, Rev. Matthew Punnoose from Mar Thoma Church and Rev. Richard Samporoh from Sidang Injil Borneo.

BSM is an associate member of the Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM) and a full member of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF). Started by the Malaysian churches, BSM seeks local support, partnership and leadership in carrying out its Bible missions and ministries to serve the local

churches in the country.

**2** As a Bible Movement, BSM is committed to the mission of producing and providing God's Word in languages and formats that are needed by churches in the country. Over the years, BSM has worked with mission partners and stakeholders to translate and publish God's Word in a number of indigenous languages. For example, BSM has translated and published the Dusun Buuk Do Kinorohingan Bible, Kenya Kitap Tuket Mading New Testament (NT), Biatah Simanya Bauh Agah Kana NT, Lumbawang Bala Luk Do' NT, BM Alkitab Berita Baik Bible, Iban Bub Kudus Bible & Revised Iban Bub Kudus, and Penan Rengah Jian NT.

In May 2011, BSM printed 5000 copies of the Revised Iban Bibles for the Iban communities in East Malaysia. In June 2011, 3000 copies of the Penan NT were printed and distributed to the Penan communities in Interior Miri in partnership with the BS in Australia. In the pipeline are the Murut Timogon Bible (in partnership with the BS of Finland), Rungus Bible (in partnership with the Protestant Church of Sabah), the BM Study Bible and the Formal Alkitab Bahasa Malaysia which would probably take about 10 years to complete. BSM openly welcomes a formal participation and partnership from any interested local churches and Christian organizations and individuals to support this important translation project.

**3** To ensure greater accessibility to the Word of God, BSM has put the **indigenous and BM Scripture texts on-line** at YouVersion. Since August 2011, permission for the online facilities was granted by the United Bible Societies. Also, if you wish to look up the ABB and WEB Bible texts, you can find them at our BSM website ([www.bible.org.my/bible](http://www.bible.org.my/bible)) which is currently undergoing a major upgrading process. Recently, BSM granted permission to an Iban Christian organization called G-KRIS to put the Revised Iban Bub Kudus text on the web at e-sword. BSM also gave permission to HOSANNA to add our BSM's Bible texts

to the Faith-Comes-By-Hearing audio pronouncers.

**4** Apart from local indigenous Bibles, BSM also supplies Bibles in major languages such as Chinese and English as well as in the languages of Asia-Pacific countries such as Pakistan, India, Nepal, Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. The latest Revised Chinese Union Version (RCUV) is now available at BSM in both classical and simplified scripts. The RCUV is a revision of the 92 year old CUV classic undertaken by UBS since 1980. It was officially dedicated in September 2010 in Hong Kong. Recently, Dr. Mary Leung, General Secretary of the Hong Kong Bible Society reported that more than 140,000 copies of RCUV have been taken up by the HK churches to add to or replace their CUV pew Bibles.

**5** BSM also supplies a wide variety of Scripture engagement resources (in both written and audio format) for the purpose of Bible-study, discipleship and evangelism. BSM has a large selection of English and Chinese Study Bibles, bilingual Bibles, Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, audio Bibles, Bible-study and devotional materials, gospel booklets, Scripture portions and selections for you to choose from and acquire at affordable prices. BSM is known for offering the cheapest and widest variety of Bibles and Bible resources in the whole country. Every December, BSM holds a year-end Christmas sale. This is a very good opportunity for you to choose and acquire your favourite Bibles and Bible resources at affordable prices.

**6** BSM is committed to carrying out free Bible distribution projects amongst needy Christian communities and churches locally and overseas. Last year, BSM raised more than RM100,000.00 to support the free distribution of Miao Bibles and Myanmar Bibles. A sum of RM60,000.00 was transferred to UBS China Partnership, and an approval to print Miao Bibles was granted by the Chinese authorities recently. BSM Exco is now planning a trip to go to Yunnan on 23-27 March 2012 to distribute the Bibles to the Miao churches in Yunnan. BSM is also committed to distributing RM40,000 worth of Myanmar Bibles to the Myanmar immigrants in Malaysia. Last month, 800 compact size Judson Burmese Bibles were claimed by the pastors of the Malaysia Chin Christian Community for free distribution amongst their Myanmar Christian Fellowships in the country. Another 846 Tedim Bibles would be collected by the Tedim-Chin Christian communities. In August this year, BSM received a pledge to support an Alkitab distribution project which would take a few years to complete.

**7** BSM encourages and supports the production of Scriptures and Bible resources by local Christian organizations, publishers, writers and entrepreneurs. For example, BSM has entered into a partnership with Pristine World Sdn Bhd to translate the Children Bible Explorer Series: Gospel Story 1 and 2 into the Chinese language. These Chinese Scripture engagement resources for children are expected to be ready by January / February 2012. BSM has also engaged Seraphim Services Enterprise to produce the Penan audio NT for the Penan communities in Sarawak. BSM is now exploring the following possibilities: partnering

with Wycliff Malaysia to publish the BM-Semai diglot on the Gospel of Luke, partnering with the Protestant Church of Sabah to publish the BM-Rungus New Testament diglot, and partnering with the Iban Churches in Sarawak to publish the BM-Iban Bible diglot in 2012.

**8** On the international front, BSM represents Malaysia in the global Bible movement of the United Bible Societies (UBS). Since the inception of the first Bible Society in 1804 (the British and Foreign BS), UBS has grown to a membership of 146 Bible Societies worldwide. BSM has been a UBS receiving member for many years, but BSM is now a giving member. By the grace of God and through the support of local churches and individuals, BSM can offer some support to other Bible Societies and partnerships as and when the needs arise. Recently, our BSM Exco has decided to take up the UBS recommendation to engage BSM's own Translation Consultant to supervise BSM's own translation projects while allowing our TC to help out the translation projects of other needy Bible Societies. This means that there will be heavier financial commitments for BSM from next year onwards.

So, now, you have at least eight compelling reasons why you should support the Bible Society of Malaysia. As an autonomous Bible Society which promotes the local and global Bible cause, BSM definitely needs and solicits the daily prayers and financial support of all local churches and Christian individuals. Your continued partnership and support will enable and empower BSM to develop and expand the ministries of Bible translation, publication, distribution and interaction (Scripture engagement) and thus prosper the Word of God in our country. By supporting the Bible Society of Malaysia, you join us in blessing more people and Christian communities with the living and life-transforming Word of God. ■

To support BSM and prosper the Bible cause, you and your church can do at least three things:

1. Pray for BSM in your daily quiet time, in your cell group gatherings, in your local church prayer meetings and worship services.

2. Fix a Bible Sunday in your church to collect a special offering for BSM. Please contact GS Rev. Dr. Simon Wong at **016-5586849** or **cwsac@yahoo.com** to arrange for a preaching appointment in your local church.

3. Your local church can also allocate a certain sum of mission fund to support the Bible Society of Malaysia every year. You can mail the mission fund to The Bible Society of Malaysia or deposit it into our bank account: 014178-611516 (Maybank) or 00400051312 (Hong Leong Bank).

May God bless you richly as you support the Bible cause and prosper the Word of God!

# BIBLE TRANSLATIONS: KNOWING WHICH BIBLE TO CHOOSE

The original manuscripts have not survived, but God's Word has been preserved through meticulous copying. Three primary methods of Bible translation (and a fourth translation treatment) have been evolved over the centuries:

**Word-for-Word** A process in which biblical and linguistic scholars attempt to translate each word based upon the word usage at the time of writing. No translation is actually "word-for-word," but the intent is to come as close as possible.

**Thought-for-Thought** A process in which scholars translate the meaning of each thought. This approach is also known as "dynamic equivalence." This is how most non-biblical translation for modern books is done.

**Balance** A process in which scholars attempt to mediate between a word-for-word approach and a thought-for-thought approach.

**Paraphrase** A re-statement of a translation in modern terms and vocabulary, often expanded (or "amplified") for clarity.

Over the years, the following English Bibles have been translated, published and distributed:

## **Word-for-Word Translation**

King James Version (KJV) 1611  
American Std Version (ASV) 2001  
Revised Std Version (RSV) 1952  
New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) 1966, 1985  
New American Bible (NAB) 1970, 2000  
NASB 1971, 1995 NKJV 1982, NRSV 1989  
English Std Version (ESV) 2001

## **Balance**

New Int'l Version (NIV) 1978  
God's Word (GW) 1995  
Holman Christian Std Bible (HCSB) 2004  
Today's NIV (TNIV) 2005

## **Thought-for-Thought Translation**

Good News Translation (GNT) 1976  
New Century Version (NCV) 1987  
Contemporary English Version (CEV) 1995  
New Int'l Reader's Version (NIRV) 1996, 1998  
New Living Translation (NLT) 1996, 2004  
Today's English Version (TEV) 1976

## **Paraphrase**

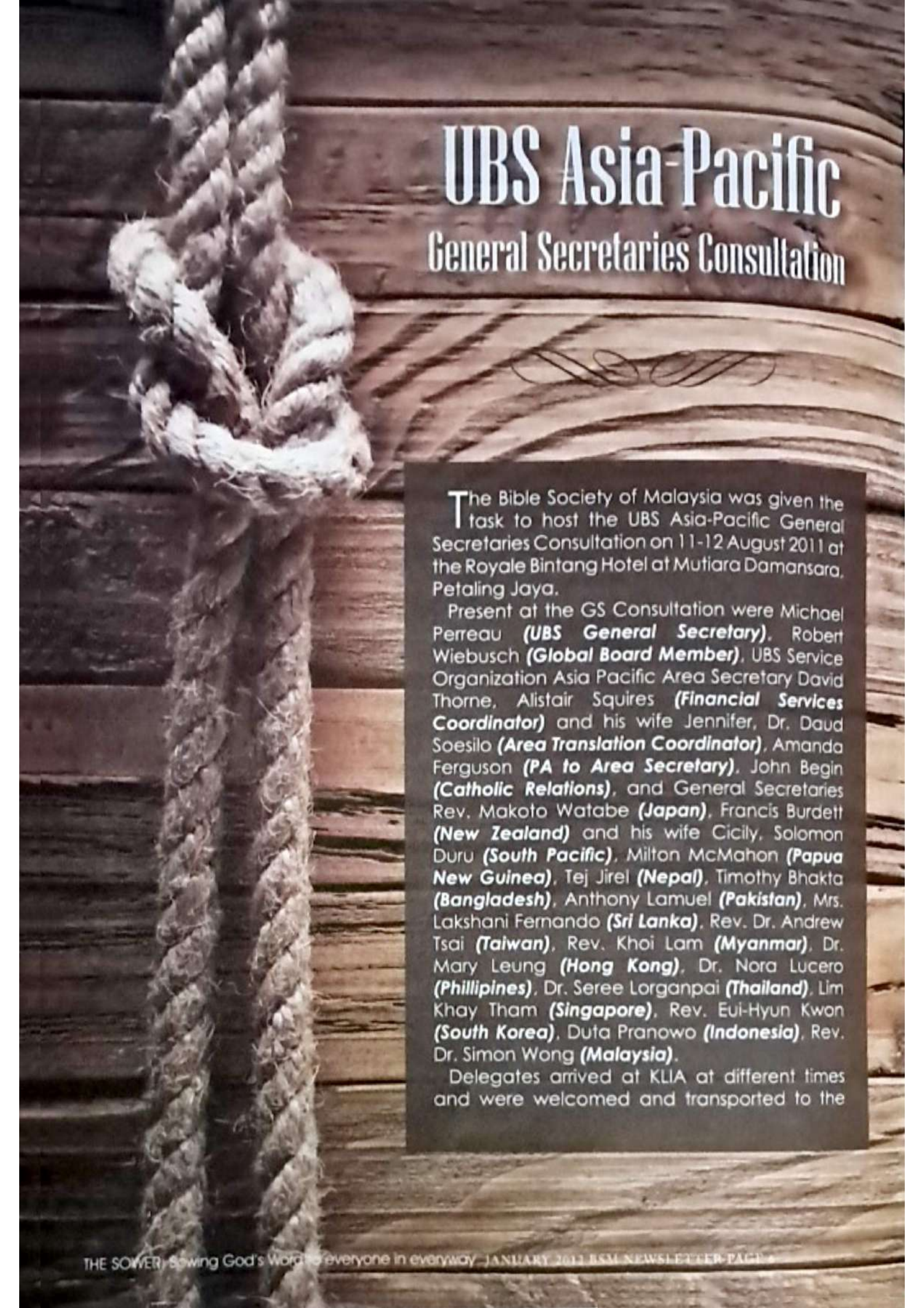
The Message 2002  
Living Bible (LB) 1967

## *Why do new translations continue to appear?*

**1** Word change. Modern language changes constantly, and the Bible must use understandable words for everyday life.

**2** Understanding of ancient language changes. The Bible was written using hundreds of words that are no longer understood. Scholars continue to discover the meanings of words and phrases, and update or create new translations.

**3** Translators' purposes vary. When an ancient word may be translated correctly in several different ways, the translators' purpose affects the words chosen. ■



# UBS Asia-Pacific

## General Secretaries Consultation

The Bible Society of Malaysia was given the task to host the UBS Asia-Pacific General Secretaries Consultation on 11-12 August 2011 at the Royale Bintang Hotel at Mutiara Damansara, Petaling Jaya.

Present at the GS Consultation were Michael Perreau (**UBS General Secretary**), Robert Wiebusch (**Global Board Member**), UBS Service Organization Asia Pacific Area Secretary David Thorne, Alistair Squires (**Financial Services Coordinator**) and his wife Jennifer, Dr. Daud Soesilo (**Area Translation Coordinator**), Amanda Ferguson (**PA to Area Secretary**), John Begin (**Catholic Relations**), and General Secretaries Rev. Makoto Watabe (**Japan**), Francis Burdett (**New Zealand**) and his wife Cicily, Solomon Duru (**South Pacific**), Milton McMahon (**Papua New Guinea**), Tej Jirel (**Nepal**), Timothy Bhakta (**Bangladesh**), Anthony Lamuel (**Pakistan**), Mrs. Lakshani Fernando (**Sri Lanka**), Rev. Dr. Andrew Tsai (**Taiwan**), Rev. Khoi Lam (**Myanmar**), Dr. Mary Leung (**Hong Kong**), Dr. Nora Lucero (**Philippines**), Dr. Seree Lorganpai (**Thailand**), Lim Khay Tham (**Singapore**), Rev. Eui-Hyun Kwon (**South Korea**), Duta Pranowo (**Indonesia**), Rev. Dr. Simon Wong (**Malaysia**).

Delegates arrived at KLIA at different times and were welcomed and transported to the

hotel by BSM staff. A few of them took taxis to the hotel themselves. On 10<sup>th</sup> August Wednesday afternoon, one group comprising Alistair & Jennifer, Daud, Tej and Timothy was taken to BSM for a visit (pic 1). After the visit, they were treated to local delicacies at Charm Café next to BSM (pic 2).

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Michael Perreau led the first morning devotion after which the GS Consultation was officially opened by David Thorne (pic 3). The first business session saw Bob Wiebusch doing an overview of the Global Board's action and Michael Perreau introducing the RENEW report (pic 4). After lunch, there were three sessions of lively discussions on UBS RENEW Mission, Membership and Management. In the evening, BSM hosted the delegates to a grand Buffet Dinner at the Shogun Restaurant at 1-Utama Shopping Mall. BSM President Lee Min Choon welcomed the guests during the dinner.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> after morning devotion led by Bob, we had a lively discussion on UBS Renewal Process. David then brought the discussions together at a Plenary session.



After lunch, John Begin and Alistair shared on items of special interests. Anthony (the longest serving GS) was invited to do a prayer of dedication (pic 5),

after which Michael called the GS to take up RENEW and Global proposals (pic 6). Delegates returned home with a strong sense of change. The new Business Plan required UBS to reduce 60 Translatin Consultants to only 12 Translation Skill Facilitators. It implied that National BS would have to engage their own TCs in the near future.

At its October meeting, BSM Exco took up the challenge to engage its own TC. The decision means that BSM would be taking up new financial commitments. This is necessary to ensure ongoing translation projects (such as BM Study Bible, Murut Timogon OT/Bible, Rungus Bible and Formal Alkitab BM) would move forward.

To move the translation projects forward efficiently, we need your prayers and financial support. We invite you to contribute to the Bible Translation Fund today. ■



# BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

READING AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE by the Bible Society in Australia

How can we know what God has to say to us if we do not listen to Him? And how can we listen to Him if we do not read what He has revealed in His Word?

This RUB manual provides a study on four literary genres found in the Bible - Narrative, poetry, discourse and prophecy.

## I. Studying a narrative passage

### A. Doing Exegesis:

Exegesis must be the first step in reading every text. "It is the attempt to hear the Word as the original recipients were to have heard it, to find out what was the original intent of the words of the Bible." (Fee and Stuart, p 19)

Asking the right questions of the text:

1. What is the context?

(a) Historical context; (b) Socio-cultural context; (c) Literary context

2. What is the content?

In a narrative passage, ask five "W" and "How" questions - Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

### B. Doing Hermeneutics:

After you have done exegesis of the passage, then answer these questions.

1. How does the story begin and end?

2. What does this teach us of the relationship between God and us?

3. How is the story relevant to us today?

Note: Exegesis "E" and Hermeneutics "H" can be compared to the two wings of a bird. A bird cannot fly with one wing, so the "E" and "H" factors must always work together for the correct understanding of what God has to say to us in Scripture.

Hermeneutics is used to mean "seeking the contemporary relevance of ancient texts - the Bible's meaning for the here and now (Fee and Stuart, p 25). It must be controlled by good exegesis.

## II: Studying Poetry in the Bible

1. Where do we find poetry in the Bible? OT / NT

**Poetry in the Bible is basically Hebrew poetry which has the following features:**

1. Parallelism:

(a) Synonymous parallelism (b) Antithetic parallelism (c) Formal / Synthetic parallelism

2. Figures of speech

(a) Metaphor (b) Simile (c) Metonymy (d) Synecdoche (e) Apostrophe  
(f) Personification (g) Hyperbole (h) Interrogation (i) Irony

3. Hebrew idioms

(a) Anthropomorphism (b) Absolute for relative (c) Relative for absolute  
(d) Son of or daughter of (e) For ever

(Doing Exegesis / Doing Hermeneutics)

## III: Studying a discourse or teaching passage

What are discourses?

1. Verbal discourses

- Sermons, conversations, exhortations

2. Written discourses

- Epistles, Books of the Law

### A. Doing Exegesis

1. Historical Context: By who? When? To Whom? Why?

2. Literary Context: What is the General Thesis? What is the Specific Point? Why (does he say / write that?)

### **B. Doing Hermeneutics**

1. What is it saying to me today concerning my relationship (a) with God? (b) with other people?

2. What attitudes do I need to change / adapt?

3. What actions do I need to take?

### **IV: Studying the prophets & prophecy**

Definition of "prophet", "prophecy"

The historical context / the larger context

Specific contexts – questions to be asked:

1. What was the date?

2. Who was the audience?

3. What was the situation?

### **A. Doing Exegesis**

1. Forms of prophetic utterance

- lawsuit, woe, promise

2. Fundamental principles in understanding prophecy

- language, historical background, context and flow of discussion, non-systematic character of prophetic writings, parallel passages (in prophetic Scripture), and essence of passage –

Is the passage predictive or didactic?

Conditional or unconditional? Fulfilled or unfulfilled?

### **B. Doing Hermeneutics**

1. Are there similarities between then and our contemporary situation / society?

2. In what ways is the prophet's message relevant for us today? ■

*Adapted.*

## **HOW PRECIOUS IS THE BOOK DIVINE**

*by John Fawcett, 1782*

*(This hymn was chosen as the hymn of the National Bible Month in 2008)*

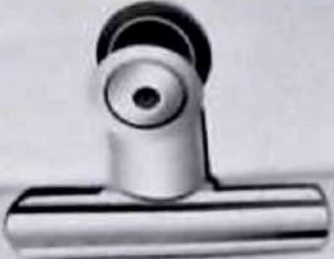
*Refrain:*

*Oh precious book of light and life Thou source of truth and love,  
In Thee we view God's matchless grace, And all His goodness prove,  
Oh precious book whose light e'er shines With bright and cheering ray,  
To guide our souls until the dawn Of eternal day*

1. How precious is the book divine, By inspiration giv'n;  
Bright as a lamp its pages shine To guide our souls to heav'n.  
Its light descending from above, Our gloomy world to cheer,  
Displays a Saviour's boundless love, And brings His glories near.

2. It shows to man his wand'ring ways, And where his feet have trod;  
And brings to view the matchless grace Of a forgiving God.  
O'er all the straight and narrow way Its radiant beams are cast;  
A light whose never weary ray Grows brightest at the last.

3. It sweetly cheers our fainting hearts In this dark vale of tears;  
Life, light and joy it still imparts, And quells our rising fears.  
This lamp, through all the tedious night of life, shall guide our way,  
Till we behold the clearer light Of an eternal day. ■



# SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

**1** The oldest form of the Hebrew Bible ever discovered: Numbers 6:24-26

- discovered in 1979 near Jerusalem
- written on two thin silver rolls, dates to the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC (over 2,700 years old)

**2** The oldest manuscript of the Old Testament ever discovered: A scroll of 41 Psalms

- discovered in the caves at Qumran in 1956
- written in Hebrew on a scroll known as Elizabeth Bechel Psalms Scroll that measures 13 feet when unrolled, dates to about AD 30-50

**3** The oldest fragment of the Hebrew Bible ever discovered: Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the Ten Commandments and the shema)

- discovered in Egypt in 1902
- written in a scroll known as the Nash Papyrus, dates to the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC

**4** The oldest portion of the New Testament ever discovered: John 18:31-33, 37-38

- discovered in Egypt in the 1920s, now housed in John Rylands Library in Manchester, England

• written on papyrus fragment (called the Ryland Fragment), dates to about AD 125 (about 1,976 years old)

**5** The first Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible: The Septuagint

- said to be undertaken by 70 Jewish scholars in Egypt about 2-3 centuries BC
- the text was preserved in nearly 2000 ancient Greek manuscripts
- first published in 1565 as the *Ruskin Septuagint*

**6** The largest and heaviest manuscript of the Bible: Codex Gigas (Latin Vulgate text)

- weighs 165 lbs and measures 49 x 89.5 cm (20" x 36"), currently housed in the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden,
- copied on skins said to be taken from 160 donkeys in the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD in the Benedictine monastery of Podlazice in Bohemia

**7** The most significant archaeological find of the 20<sup>th</sup> century AD: The Dead Sea Scrolls

- contained 28 nearly complete scrolls, 100,000 fragments of another 875 manuscripts, and multiple portions of the Hebrew Bible (except Esther)
- discovered in a Qumran cave by a young Bedouin shepherd, these Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek manuscripts were the oldest representatives of the OT text available, pushing back the date of our earliest biblical manuscripts by 1000 years.

**8** The first complete Bible in English: The Wycliffe Bible

- based upon the Latin Vulgate, completed in 1382 by John Wycliffe with substantial help from his colleague Nicholas Purvey

**9** The most popular Bible and most influential book in the history of English language: The King James Version

- over 50 scholars completed the King James Bible in 1611 based on Bishop's Bible.
- Revised in 1769 as the King James Version, the Oxford standard edition

# INTRODUCING ON THE ROAD

## ~ A Journey through the Bible for migrants



This brochure produced by the French Bible Society in 2009 gives a selection of passages from the Bible that tell of the experiences of men and women who left their country to look for another place to live. It contains seven steps:

- Step 1: Why leave?
- Step 2: A difficult journey
- Step 3: Seeking a place
- Step 4: Are all means acceptable?
- Step 5: Finding a place to settle
- Step 6: Is a return possible?
- Step 7: God is close to everyone

The seven chapters correspond to different stages of the journey and to finally settling in a new country. Each chapter contains several passages to read and think about. To help reader understand each passage, there is an introduction, followed by questions and suggestions:

1 - to think about the meaning of the passage, 2 - to discuss possible applications of the passage, 3 - to pray using a phrase (or verse) from the passage, and 4 - to go a step further by reading more from the Bible.

These passages and questions can be studied alone or even better, by discussing them with others.

By following each of the steps, the reader will also discover testimonies and prayers that might reflect his or her own journey, contributed by people from different places. They share their stories, revealing their doubt and suffering as well as affirming their faith and hope.

This brochure, prepared by the United Bible Societies and translated into several languages, was developed in collaboration with a group of migrant people. The passages and prayers have already given many people counsel, comfort and hope,

as well as an invitation to consider a different perspective on life, and to discover that God is not far from each one of us.

"He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person, God made all nations who live on earth, and he decided when and where every nation would be. God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn't far from any of us, and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. 'We are his children,' just as some of your poets have said." (Acts 17:25b-28)

### YOU ARE NO LONGER FOREIGNERS

Ephesians 2:13-19

You were living in this world without hope and without God, and you were far from God. But Christ offered his life's blood as a sacrifice and brought you near God.

Christ has made peace between Jews and Gentiles, and he has united us by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us. Christ gave his own body to destroy the law of Moses with all its rules and commands. He even brought Jews and Gentiles together as though we were only one person, when he united us in peace.

On the cross Christ did away with our hatred for each other. He also made peace between us and God by uniting Jews and Gentiles in one body. Christ came and preached peace to you Gentiles, who were far from God, and peace to us Jews, who were near God. And because of Christ, all of us can come to the Father by the same Spirit. You gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God.

So, rejoice! You are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. (Ephesians 2:19)

If you want to learn more about this Bible resource, we encourage you to obtain a copy of this brochure at the Bible Society of Malaysia. It is now available in both English and Chinese. ■

## 圣经是怎样的一本书？

**圣**经好像一个图书馆：汇集了许多卷书，将它们合成一本，而整本圣经的书写过程历时逾千年。

你从圣经中读到故事、律法、诗歌、讲论、祷告、书信等。圣经的众位作者生活于不同的年代，也来自不同的文化。

圣经虽然出自古代的以色列人，却不是任何一个社群所独占的。反之，它是全人类的一个宝库。

圣经中有不少故事是由一些流放异国的人写的，讲述神如何与他们同度这特殊的人生经历。



## 为什么要读圣经？

**信**徒透过读圣经，经历神向他们说话，所以读圣经可以帮助他们更亲近神，生活得更美好。我们还可以透过圣经中称为“新约”的部分，认识耶稣的生平和教导。

事实上，不仅是信徒，即使任何人翻阅圣经，都会发现圣经中许多人生处境或人物故事，均与我们的经历相似。因此，圣经的教导可以成为我们的鼓励，也可指导我们的思想和行为。

## 怎样应用这本小册子？

这本小册子不能代替圣经，它只是从圣经挑选了好几个离乡背井、寻找另一个安居地的人物，诉说他们的故事。

接着的七章将会按照旅程的七个阶段，而终站就是一个新的安居之地。每一章都会选出几段圣经经文来细读及反思。为了帮助你明白每段经文，首先会有简单的讲解，然后列出一些反思的问题和建议，期望你能够：

1. **反思**：思考经文的意思；
2. **探讨**：探讨在当前处境可以怎样应用这段经文；
3. **祷告**：引用经文的一句话（或一节经文）来祷告；
4. **多走一步**：按照提议多读几段圣经。

你可以独自思考这些经文，若有机会与别人讨论更佳。

当你完成这几个步骤，便会读到不同地方的人所作的见证和祷告。他们的心声也许是你的写照。他们在故事中诉说了他们的疑惑和痛苦，同时亦重申他们的信心和盼望。

这本小册子是由一班移民合作编写，再由圣经公会编制并译成多种语文。当中的经文和祷告已让许多人得着透切的建议、安慰和盼望，而且让你从不同的角度去观察人生，从而发现神原来离我们各人不远。

“他是创造宇宙和其中万物的神……他将生命、气息、万物赐给万人。他从一人造出万族，居住在全地面上，并且预先定准他们的年限和所住的疆界，为要使他们寻求神，或者可以揣摩而找到他，其实他离我们各人不远。我们生活、行动、存在都在于他。就如你们的诗人也有人：‘我们也是他所生的。’”  
(使徒行传 17: 24-28)

你若想认识更多，我们鼓励你找一本圣经……再慢慢细读。



## Women Profile in Malaysia

Women occupy more than 49% of the population of 28.7 million in Malaysia. Amongst this women population, more than 50% are Malays (Muslims). Due to Malaysian sensitivities, the project proposal seeks to engage only the non-Muslim women (about 6.8 million) in both East and West Malaysia. It takes note of the fact that the Federal Constitution and State Enactments prohibit the propagation of non-Muslim faiths to the Muslims. Amongst the non-Muslim women population, about 1.6 million are non-Muslim Bumiputra, 3.2 million are Chinese, 1 million are Indians, around 800,000 women of other ethnicity, and around 950,000 non-Malaysian. The Christian population is around 9.1%. Within this non-Muslim women population, there are large and diverse ministry needs in terms of ethnicity, language, culture and location.

In view of our limits, BSM would focus on women between the age of 15 and 64 years (which is 65.4% of the women

population), of which more than 65% of the urban and literate women live in West Malaysia, and 70% in urban areas. Amongst the urban women, a large group of career women had remained single by choice or by circumstance, while many career women with spouses and children struggled with difficult issues arising from the demands of home and work. In a general survey amongst working professionals in the local churches in Petaling Jaya, (the eleventh largest city in Malaysia with a population of about 540,000), it was found that more and more professional women chose to leave their jobs to become full-time mothers (at least for a period of time) with consensual support of spouses. Due to a paradigm shift and family priority, this group of mothers faced serious emotional and motivational issues, and need a lot of spiritual and scriptural guidance/support to help them overcome the challenges of the vocation as full-time mothers. ■

## WWDP 2012 SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR:

**Date:** 10-11.2.2012

**Venue:** Bible Society of Malaysia

**Medium:** English & Chinese

**Cost:** Participants pay for transport and lodging only. Other expenses are covered by BSM. All are cordially welcome. Kindly register with BSM by 31.1.2012.

### Speakers:

1. Ty & Cyna on One Hope Bible-engagement Resource (from One Hope USA);

2. Mr. Peter Lim on Children's Bible Explorer Series: Gospel Story 1 & 2 (from Pristine World)



# Women World Day of Prayer 2012

## 二零一二年世界公禱日

Malaysia was chosen as the focus of the Women World Day of Prayer 2012, and the Bible Society of Malaysia was given the honour to organize proactive projects in conjunction with this annual global event. The project proposal would be put up at the UBS Registry and as usual, the proposal would receive substantial financial donations from Bible Societies and Christian organizations worldwide to support the proposed projects.

At its October meeting, BSM Exco endorsed the GS proposal to declare 2012 as the Year of the Women and Children. To celebrate the year of the Women and Children, the proposal included the undertaking of a multi-year Bible-engagement project to engage and empower 5000 Malaysian women (especially single women with young children) towards the development of wholesome Christian characters and healthy families based on the teachings of the Word of God.

To realize the goals and objectives of the WWDP 2012 proposals, the multi-year project plan would include setting up Bible Resource Centres at different locations. The Resource Centres would be adequately equipped with relevant and helpful Bible & Scripture-engagement resources, creative facilities and physical amenities. Suitably qualified full-time / part-time personnel would be engaged to conduct and facilitate Scripture-engagement ministries and Bible-based literacy programs to benefit 5000 women with young children. In accordance with WWDP traditions, numerous Women World Day of Prayer meetings would be organized in March 2012 in partnership with selected Christian women societies and groups in the country.

马来西亚被选为二零一二年世界公禱日的着重点。

按照2010抽查统计：

马来西亚人口约28.7百万，基督徒人数有9.1%，姐妹人数约1百50万，其中，回教徒约8百万，非回教徒约6百80万，土族约1百60万，华族约3百20万，印度族约1百万，其他约800,000以及非公民约950,000。15至64岁65.4%，65%以上住在西马，70%住在城市里。

马来西亚圣经公会联合圣经公会委托举办研经事工计划庆祝这2012姐妹世界公禱日。

### 马来西亚圣经公会计划：

- (一) 宣布二零一二年为“马来西亚姐妹年”。
  - (二) 推动“妈妈宣教计划”特别关怀单亲妈妈与孩童们。
  - (三) 设立圣经资源中心（一间在圣经楼，一间在怡保城市，.....等等）
- 目的：帮助五千位马来西亚姐妹（单亲妈妈）建立良好的品格建造健康的家庭生活。发展与提供圣经以及教育资源、举行培训与辅导落实妈妈宣教计划。
- (四) 与本国的教会团体举办姐妹世界公禱日聚会活动。

# 支持 马来西亚圣经公会

## 扩展 马来西亚圣经事业

(一) 一九八五年，本国的教会领袖们推动了一个圣经运动就是设立了马来西亚圣经公会。会员以及董事门全部由本地的基督徒和教会领袖组成。马来西亚圣经公会必须自管，自养，自传。

(二) 从开始至今，马来西亚圣经公会终于翻译，出版圣经以及供应本国教会多种的语言圣经。到如今，马来西亚圣经公会已经翻译以及出版了最少有八种的本土圣经，列如 Dusun, Kenya, Biatah, Lumbawang, Murut Timogon, Iban, Penan 以及马来语旧约与新约圣经。

(三) 现今，马来西亚圣经公会多种类的圣经正文已上网方便读者观赏，阅读与研究。请看 [www.bible.org.my/bible](http://www.bible.org.my/bible), YouVersion, 等等。

(四) 除了供应少数民族圣经，马来西亚圣经公会也提供马来文（国语），英语，华语，印度语以及亚太州多国多类的语文圣经。去年九月，香港圣经公会推展和合本修订版圣经。和合本华文圣经已有九十多年的历史，二十年前圣经公会开始和合本修订。现在，本会书局都有精美的繁体/简体和合本修订版（和修本）出售。

(五) 为要鼓励基督徒多多研究神的话语，马来西亚圣经公会提供多种类的究读版圣经，双语版圣经，原文圣经，聆听版圣经，研读与查经资源，单本福音书，圣经精选，福音单张，等等。以上的经典都与特别优惠的价钱出售，特别是在十二月优惠的时间。

(六) 马来西亚圣经公会也推动免费圣经分发计划。去年，本会筹款得到马币十万多元，用了六万元在中国云南省分发三千本苗族圣经以及用了四万元购买两千本缅甸语圣经送给居住在马来西亚的缅甸难民群体。今年，本会与奥州圣经公会合作分发了两千本 Penan 语新约圣经给东马美丽省内部的 Penan 教会信徒。本会正在分发免费国语圣经到全马各地的教会群体。

(七) 马来西亚圣经公会支持本体的圣经资源创作与出版。最近，本圣经公会与本体公司 Pristine World 合作翻译与出版五千套儿童圣经系列：福音故事一和二（中文版）。本会也与 Seraphim Services 合作录音出版少数民族的聆听版圣经。

(八) 在国际层面，马来西亚圣经公会是联合圣经公会一百四十六个成员之一。开始多年，本会领受联合圣经公会的支助。现在，得蒙天父的供应以及教会弟兄姐妹的支持，马来西亚圣经公会已成为一个分享的会员。有需要的时候，本会都会尽力的帮助其他的会员肢体与团体。

看以上八项的情况而言，当教会群体以及弟兄姐妹支持马来西亚圣经公会的时候，你们就在扩展本国与国际的圣经事业。

为要更有效的推展本国的圣经事业，马来西亚圣经公会寻求本地的教会与信徒的支持。请纪念马来西亚圣经公会，为圣经事业祷告。请贵教会在2012年期间，安排一个圣经主日给马来西亚圣经公会，为圣经事业代祷与奉献。

本人或本会的董事代表与同工都愿意到你的教会讲道以及分享有关圣经公会的事工。

联络电话 016-5586849,

e-mail: [cwsac@yahoo.com](mailto:cwsac@yahoo.com).

本会的银行户口号码 014178-611516

(Maybank) 或 00400051312 (Hong Leong Bank).

愿上帝祝福你! ■

马来西亚圣经公会总干事  
黄伟贤牧师博士敬启