



BSMCONNECT

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA



Elder Mok Cheh Liang
President, Bible Society of Malaysia

Dear members and friends of BSM,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to our God! The 34th Annual General Meeting of BSM was successfully concluded on April 30, 2019 and the Executive Committee for 2019/2020 was elected. Archbishop Ng Moon Hing has been serving as President faithfully for five successive years and we would like to thank him for his untiring service. In compliance with the constitution of BSM, Archbishop Ng stepped down as President and agreed to stand for election as Vice-President. Thank God that he was duly elected. Archbishop Ng is indeed exemplary in his service to Bible Society, he will be a hard act to follow. We also want to record our special thanks to Rev Loh Soon Choy who has decided to step down. He has been one of the longest serving EXCO members.

We would also like to welcome brother Wong Seng Chee to the EXCO as he was elected the new Treasurer. Praise the Lord for the many new and younger participants at the recent AGM and we are glad that a few of them agreed to make themselves available to the ministry of BSM and expressed willingness to join the Board as invited advisors. Pray that some of them will join the Board as full Board Members in the future. BSM needs younger Board Members to assume leadership in the ministry of the Word of God.

Making available the Bible in our national language at affordable prices continues to be a challenge for BSM in the ensuing year. In the face of some state legislations prohibiting the use of certain words in our Alkitab, Christians in our country are still not able to have our Holy Book freely in the traditional language of their hearts. We shall continue to pray that such hindrance of making God's Word available to all Bahasa speaking believers be removed soon.

As the whole universe celebrated the blessed day, honouring the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ; may the timeless message of Christmas and the Blessings of the New Year fill your hearts and homes with peace, love and joy this blessed year!

Elder Mok Cheh Liang
President



THE GENERAL SECRETARY WRITES...



Rev. Mathew K. Punnoose
General Secretary, Bible Society of Malaysia



If there is No Manger ...
I am standing before a stable
I am reminded of the manger at Bethlehem
And I asked myself:

If Mary had not laid the child in the Manger
If Joseph had not accompanied her,
If the child was not laid in the manger
If the heavenly choir had not sung the carol
If the shepherds had not visited the Babe,
If the wisemen had not searched for the new born
If herod had not searched for the Baby King,
If no gifts were offered to the child,
If Joseph and Mary had not fled to Egypt.
I would not have a glimpse of the Eternal,

I would not have remembered the lowly,
I would not have shared joy and pain of family life
I would not have listened to the voice from above,
I would not have courage to disobey the ungodly,
I would have been a slave of the powers in high places
I would not have offered my best at the altar of love
I would not have talked about the refugees in the camps,
I would not have visited the slums
I would not have been what I am today.

I would be known as one living for my own 'self'
I would be going to dust with a rusted soul.

(Taken from "Laid Him in a Manger – Christmas Markings")

Christmas is to see the Word becoming flesh, and being born a little babe, becoming the Savior of the World. The Word incarnated and lived in the neighbourhood of humanity. We must affirm that incarnation of Jesus Christ was the greatest transforming event in the world history. It changed the course of history and the destiny of human beings. Therefore the birth of Jesus Christ can be seen as a "Reformation" of God's creation. Christmas story is more than the survival of a baby born in some very unfriendly conditions. This message is about God taking control of the most difficult and threatening conditions of life and transforming them into experience of enriching the life of the whole creation. The Word -The Message and the Messenger is to be expressed in a refreshing way, in the heart language of millions of people today. The work of the Bible Society around the world and Malaysia, aims to become an instrument in making the Word accessible, available, acceptable and through that one can approach the Word in flesh; Jesus Christ.

The activities of the Bible Society of Malaysia encompass a four pronged approach.

- i. It is an INTERGRATED ministry; translation, publishing, engagement and literacy.
- ii. INTERCONFESSIONAL; It serves the whole Body of Christ.
- iii. INTERDEPENDENT; Meeting the needs of churches and linking with other sister Bible Societies and Bible Agencies.
- iv. It emphasizes the INCARNATIONAL Word of God; just like the Word becoming flesh, the written Word adapts to the heart language of the people.

Bible Society of Malaysia wishes all its friends and supporters a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rev. Mathew K. Punnoose
General Secretary



ACTIVITIES OF

The AlKitab Suci (the formal BM translation) consisting of the New Testament and the Wisdom Literature was launched; first in the Klang Valley in the premises of The Bible Society of Malaysia and then in July in Kuching, Sarawak in the St. Thomas Cathedral graced by the Anglican Diocese Bishop of Kuching, Rt. Rev. Danald Jute.

This interim release was purposed for review and feedback to ensure that the complete Bible will be one that is well received. The full Bible is targetted to be completed in early 2021.



From Left to Right: Ms. Silipah Majius, Archbishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing, Pastor Richard Semporoh and Ms. Evelyn Tan Hwee Yong



Praise & Worship led by SIB Damansara Central



Launch event in Kuching



BSM IN 2019

The **100th** Anniversary **CHINESE UNION VERSION**



The Chinese Union Version (CUV) turned 100, since it was first published in 1919 and has become the predominant translation of the Bible into Chinese. In conjunction with its anniversary, The Bible Society of Malaysia held a Bilingual Chinese Scripture Forum in March of 2019 to appreciate the contribution of the CUV in the life of the Church.

Published on 22 April 1919 in Shanghai, the Chinese Union Version Bible (CUV) was the largest Bible translation project in the history of the Chinese Protestant Church. Spanning three decades, it survived major political events like the Boxer Rebellion, collapse of the Chinese empire and World War I. The translation work involved 16 missionary Bible translators of different nationalities, denominations and mission societies, an even higher number of Chinese translators and assistants, and the crucial support of the Bible Societies.

As for its circulation, hundreds of colporteurs across China helped sell and distribute the Bibles in cities as well as far-flung towns and villages. Enduring the test of time, the CUV remains today the predominant translation used by most Chinese Christians not only in China



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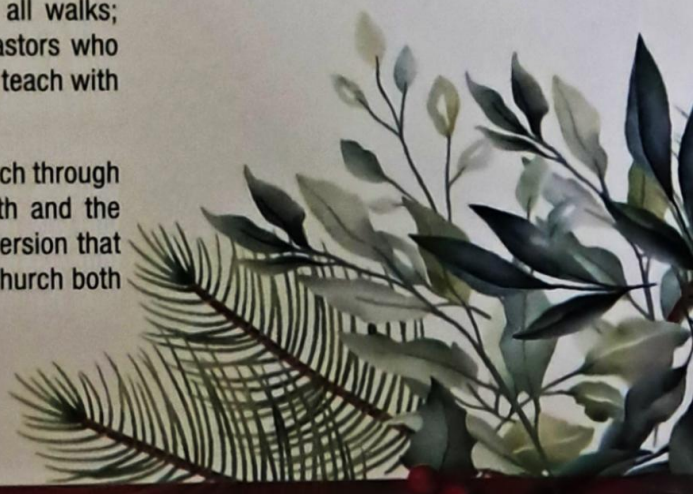
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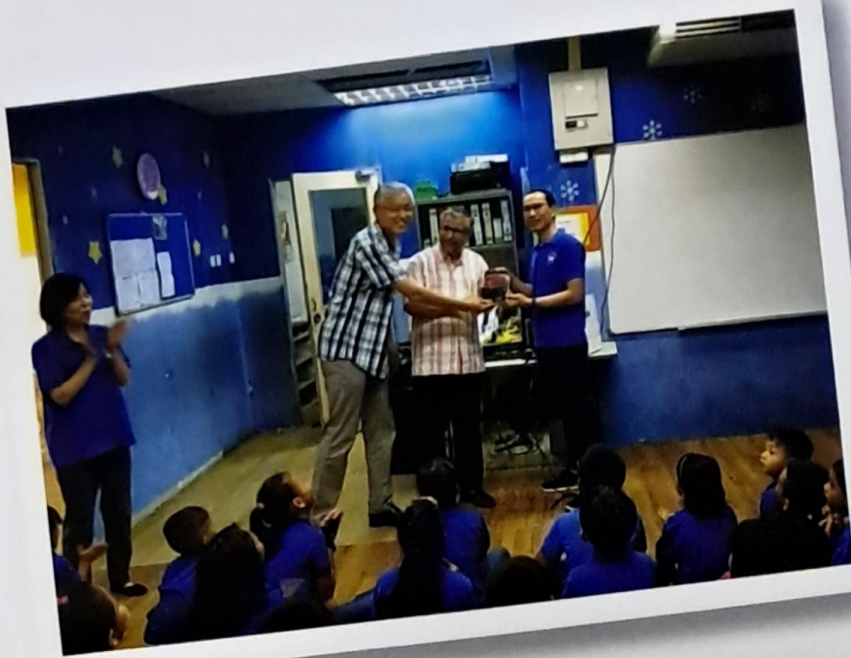
but also in Chinese-speaking churches the world over. For the past 100 years, the CUV has been gladly embraced by Chinese-speaking believers from all walks; layman Christians who read, memorise and quote from it, Chinese pastors who preach from it, churches that read it during service, Bible lecturers who teach with it and seminarians who study it during their theological training.

This much beloved translation has since accompanied the Chinese Church through the past century, where Chinese believers learn the language of faith and the Chinese Church had her theological vocabulary shaped. It is also the version that has contributed remarkably to the tremendous growth of the Chinese Church both spiritually and numerically especially in the past few decades.

(Excerpt taken from www.ubscp.org)



BIBLE DISTRIBUTION WITH BSM MINISTRY PARTNERS

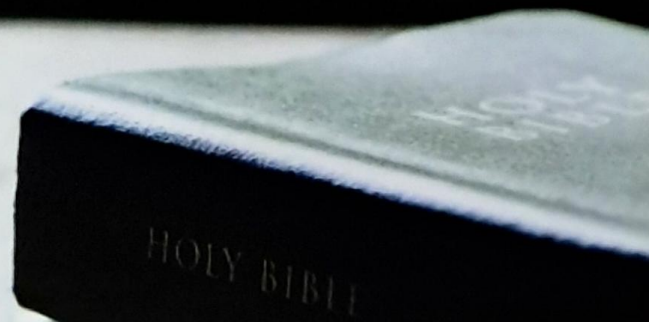


According to figures taken from UNHCR, there are approximately 178,100 refugees and asylum-seekers here in Malaysia REGISTERED with them, as of November 2019. It is believed that there could be as many as 1 million more that are NOT.

Of these; around 65% are men, 35% are women and around 50,000 are children below the age of 18. Many of them remain homeless and are suffering, deprived or sick – some traumatized from having been cheated or in danger of being trafficked and enslaved. Many churches and Christian organisations have risen to the challenge and are working tirelessly to rescue and restore these communities.

BSM works with these partners to bring relieve and the message of PEACE and HOPE by providing Bibles and Scripture portions in the different languages to reach out to these displaced and marginalized people who have come from all over the world; Myanmar, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

This is very much the vision of The Bible Society of Malaysia; to ensure that the Bible is made available to ALL and in their HEART LANGUAGE; a language they can understand.



PLEDGE A BIBLE PROJECT

The Bible, despite being one of the most widely read and distributed books in the world, still remains out of reach to many! In some countries, the Bible is banned and in others, the book is yet to be translated into a language they can understand.

Bible Agencies around the world have come together to eradicate Bible Poverty by year 2033.

THE 2033 GOAL

95% of the world's population with a full Bible.

99.9% of the world with at least a New Testament.

100% of the world with some portion of the Scripture.

THE MISSION

Partnering to provide God's Word in everyone's heart language in a format they can engage with, so their lives may be transformed.

All Nations Will Come To Your Light... (Isaiah 60:3)

You too can be a part of this Mission, you can help support it with a Donation; a Prayer; a Gift. Your generous support to **PLEDGE-A-BIBLE** will help us bring the Word to the multitudes in Malaysia.

Join Us in touching countless lives with God's Word. For as low as RM40, you can help someone own a Bible; OR

For any amount, you can help support the ongoing translation work towards the 2033 Goal. Your first steps towards being a Bible Patron.

Step 1 : Bank In Donation

(Hong Leong Bank Account Number : 004 000 51312

Account Name : The Bible Society of Malaysia)

Step 2 : Send us the Bank In Slip (info@biblemalaysia.org) along with Personal Details (Name, Address and contact details for receipt)

ONGOING TRANSLATION PROJECTS

**SOON TO BE RELEASED;
SEMAI, JAHUT AND
BAU BIDAYUH.**

- BM FORMAL 65%
- IBAN STUDY BIBLE 35%
- KAYAN (REVISION) 85%
- KENYAH 40%
- BUKAR SADONG 10%

PERTUBUHAN BIBLE MALAYSIA (3618/84)
THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA

2, Jalan SS 20/10, Damansara Kim, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

Tel: +603-7727 8215, +603-7727 8216 e-mail: info@biblemalaysia.org