

## Coronavirus Crisis Hits Bible Societies in 88 Nations

**Almost 500 projects** to translate, distribute and share the Bible with millions of people are under threat. And at a time when many are turning to God's word for hope and comfort, a totally unforeseen crisis has been triggered by Covid 19.

**More than a third** of the Bible Society network, has been hit by plummeting sales with dire effects on overall income and staff salaries.



A 'Rescue and Recovery fund' has been created to support Bible ministry in 88 different countries. Critical funding is being redirected to pay staff and cover the cost of rents and shops. Some struggling Bible Societies are being helped with things like online Bible sales, to generate income.



## Picking Ourselves Up Again!

**Next week, PCC will meet.** Last week it was MLT.

**What is being discussed?** Next week we will devote a good chunk of the bulletin to answering that question for you.



## But What Happened at the End?

**We all know about the Day of Pentecost** in Acts chapter 2. But what about the fanatics who swore never to eat again until they had killed Paul? They missed. Leaving themselves a problem. The end of Acts is a roller coaster of a book that we often miss out on. So we are going to have two readings from the end of Acts at each service for a while just to find out what happened next.



**The Rule of Six does not apply to public worship.** We can meet with masks and at a distance.

It does not apply to PCC or other church *business* meetings. However PCC decided to meet on Zoom so as to avoid any risk of spreading the virus. Social meetings must not be greater than ...



## Questions and Answers from Cathy's Sermon

**Cathy Okoronkwo preached for us two weeks ago.** Her sermon raised questions in the minds both of black and white members of our congregation. Just as no individual from Scotland could possibly speak for all Scottish people, Cathy cannot speak for all black people. She has bravely opened a discussion about race so let's see if we can hear what she is saying.



**Cathy, could you tell us more about what causes you about the church.**

*Mainly, that I don't see myself represented in the Church. There are very few BAME people in our congregations and even fewer in leadership. I personally felt unable to use my name 'Okoronkwo', because it placed me at a disadvantage.*

**What it is that would make a difference to those in our society who have suffered racial abuse?**

*I would like to see white people acknowledge the hurt and pain that has been caused by racial injustices and inequalities. I would like white people to lament the suffering of generations of BAME people in society, to educate themselves and choose to engage in the discourse. I would like to see them move from being passive, to acting wherever or however God leads them. I would like our churches to offer a generous compassion that chooses to be inclusive and diverse.*

**What would actually make a difference for the future?**

*I long to see our churches being places of welcome, hospitality and love where people of colour aren't treated as 'guest' but as 'family'. Our churches need to engage and encourage BAME people at all levels of church life especially leadership i.e. Youth Leaders, Worship Leaders, PCC members, ordained and licensed Lay Ministers. Churches need to be invitational to people of colour.*

**What does it mean to "have your body contorted to fit white expectations?"**

**What is it that we are asking you to be or to do - and how can we stop?**

*I want to know I belong to a church family as me and not in line with the agenda of white people. The liturgies and music cause me as a black person to conform to expectations. Would I be able to dance in your church? Would I be able to sing an Igbo worship song in your church and others join in fully? When I come to a church will they see me as family? Will someone want to touch my hair as if I'm a strange zoo creature, or ask me if I'm used to weather, or tell me I should speak in a particular way, or some other remark that reminds me that I'm other? These are things I have experienced many times directly.*

**Prayers:** *Ali Wiltshire* is making real progress with her shoulder injury. Her surgeon has told her, "Whatever you are doing, keep doing it!". So we will keep praying. **Andy Hall** is struggling with sleep. Expected NHS appointments are long overdue. Pray for Andy and **for those forced to wait** long months for an appointment or an operation. **Daphne Carter's** diagnosis of macular degeneration came as a shock. We pray that it will remain at a very low level, and that **Daphne and Donald** may know God's peace. For **June Freeman** in Orchid whose sister Madeleine has died. Orchid is in lockdown leaving June feeling helpless and alone.

**Laos—Country Number 20**

Laos is one of the world's poorest countries. Communism is growing bolder again. Authorities monitor all religious activities, including registered Christian churches. Christianity is seen as a Western ideology.



**Buddhists are also hostile to converts.** New Christians are sometimes expelled from their homes in Buddhist villages and forced to live in the jungle for months, even years, before relocating to safety.

**Please pray for our church family**

<b>Mon</b>	Joan Titcombe
<b>Tue</b>	Patti Tomlinson
<b>Wed</b>	David and Lizzie Tunley
<b>Thurs</b>	Tom and Heather Vandamme
<b>Fri</b>	Edna Webb
<b>Sat</b>	Janet Welham
<b>Sun</b>	Helen and Steve Wheeler

**IT Blues!**

There is a regrettable instability about the brand new Media Shout 7 programme which manifested itself again at the 9am service last week. We apologise for the fact that there was no music as a result.

**Mike Crosby** is on the case and has been talking with the IT people in the USA.



**Sunday**  
**20th September**  
**15th after Trinity**



**Running Late!!**

Services Next Week			
27th Sept 2020	9am 11am	<b>Paul is arrested</b>	Raymond Adams Raymond Adams

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00 am	<b>Holy Communion in church</b>	Raymond Adams	Acts 20: 13-24 Acts 20: 25-38
11 AM	<b>Holy Communion Online</b>	Raymond Adams	Acts 20: 13-24 Acts 20: 25-38