



LINK

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF GHANA



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MESSAGE FROM THE General Secretary

Welcome to a New Era of Connection: The BSG Digital Link Newsletter!

Dearly Beloved,

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105)

I greet you with excitement as we transition into the digital edition of the Bible Society of Ghana's well patronized newsletter, 'The Link'. This marks a new chapter in our communication, allowing us to connect with you more effectively and share the inspiring stories of how God's Word is being made available and transforming lives across Ghana.

Within these pages, you'll find uplifting stories like the launch of the Ewe-ESV Diglot, a powerful tool for deeper biblical understanding. You'll be moved by the testimonies of individuals finding hope and healing through our trauma healing programmes. Witness the transformative power of literacy as once-timid individuals confidently step into roles as teachers, empowered by the knowledge gained through BSG classes. These stories, and many more, are a testament to the impact your support makes possible.

As the General Secretary, I extend my

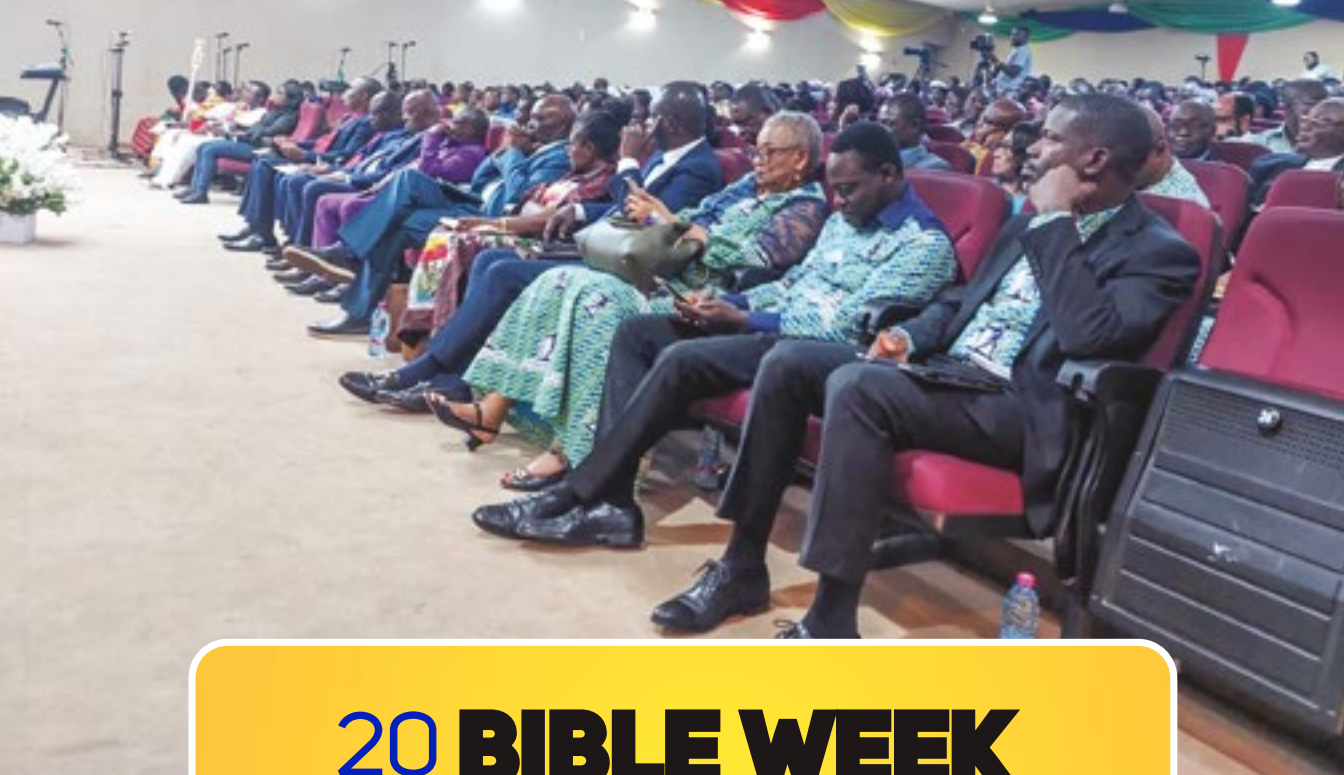
heartfelt gratitude to all, particularly, our dedicated donors. Your generosity fuels the mission of making God's Word accessible and affordable for all Ghanaians. Through your contributions, all eight Bible translation projects are on course, distribution of vital scriptures to individuals and communities is progressing steadily, and Bible Engagement programmes that foster a transformative relationship with the Bible are flourishing.

"At BSG, we believe in collaborating to maximise our impact. We invite all individuals and organizations who share our values and goal of spreading the true word of God and bringing hope to many, to join us in achieving it. With your collaboration, we can make Bibles available and accessible to all to save souls and transform lives"

As we embark on this exciting digital journey, we invite you to actively engage with our newsletter. Share your stories, provide feedback, and let us know how the Bible Society of Ghana can continue to serve you better.

Together, let us ensure that the light of God's Word shines brightly throughout Ghana.

Very Rev. John Kwesi Addo Jnr.
(General Secretary)



20 BIBLE WEEK 24 CELEBRATIONS

The 2024 Bible Week celebration was launched at a beautiful ceremony at the Odorkor Seventh Day Adventist Church and other Adventist Churches across the country on Saturday 3rd February, 2024.

The Accra launch was graced by esteemed guests like the Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army, Col. Samuel Agyei Appenteng, and Very Rev. Dr. John Kwesi Addo Jnr, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG), leadership of Southern Ghana Conference of the SDA, led by Ps. Dr. S.O.T Hammond, Council and Committee Members as well as Staff of the

Bible Society of Ghana., promised a week of spiritual enrichment and reflection.

As the General Secretary of BSG expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome, his words resonated with the congregation. He then embarked on a powerful message, highlighting the Bible's pivotal role in our lives. He emphasized its ability to guide us towards peace, unity, and development, urging everyone to embrace its wisdom.

He also made a passionate appeal to the congregation to consider becoming partners/members of the Society as their

contributions to the Bible ministry in Ghana.

A pivotal moment arrived when he, on behalf of the President and Chairman of the Council, officially launched the week's celebrations.

The sermon on the chosen theme, "The Bible: Guide for Peace Unity and Development " was delivered by Col. Samuel Agyei Appenteng who delved into the heart of the matter, exploring the complexities of human nature. The focus shifted to the story of Adam and Eve, not condemning their act of eating the fruit itself, but rather the underlying willful disobedience of God's command. This disobedience, he explained,

marked the beginning of humanity's deviation from true stewardship.

He urged everyone to take responsibility for their actions and humble themselves before God to seek His will. The upcoming Ghanaian elections were also addressed, with a powerful call to prayer for a peaceful and just outcome.

Col. Appenteng also emphasized the importance of starting within our own spheres of influence. He encouraged everyone to be a beacon of faith and righteousness in their communities, radiating the values espoused in the Bible.





EWE-ESV DIGLOT BIBLE LAUNCH

Sunday, 10th March 2024 at the E.P Church, Dela Cathedral in Ho, marked a historical moment in the annals of the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG) as the much-anticipated Ewe-ESV Diglot Bible was launched. The launch ceremony, held under the theme “We heard them speak in our own language” (Acts 2:8), resonated deeply with the Ewe-speaking community.

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including the following;

Togbe Dr. Adza Kodzo IV of Abutia Kloe, Hon. Sam Okudzeto(a former President of the Bible Society of Ghana and a member of the Council of State), Dr. Mrs. Ellen Hagan, Vice President of BSG, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. (rtd) Bliss Divine Kofi Agbeko(Moderator of the E.P Church), and Heads Churches from different denominations.

The ceremony commenced with a stirring sermon delivered by Rt. Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. (rtd) Bliss Divine Kofi Agbeko, Moderator of the

E.P Church Ghana. His powerful message underscored the significance of the Diglot Bible in fostering spiritual growth within the Ewe community.

“Our children will have no excuse to read in their language. If you speak ewe, your are smarter, as Ewe is a difficult language so when you are able to read Ewe, you can learn and read any language in the world.

A crucial aspect of the launch was the affirmation and endorsement of the Bible. This vital step was undertaken by Very Rev. Prof. John David Kwamena Ekem, Translation Consultant of the BSG, with the able assistance of the Translation Officer, Rev. Dr. Kennedy Kwame Owiredu.

The Ewe-ESV Diglot Bible presents a unique opportunity. It offers the timeless message of the Bible in both Ewe, the cherished mother tongue, and English, a widely spoken

global language. This innovative resource bridges the gap between generations, allowing Ewe speakers to connect with the scriptures in their familiar language while gaining deeper insights through the English translation.

In a welcome message and purpose of the gathering, the General Secretary of the BSG, Very Rev. Dr. John Kwesi Addo Jnr indicated that the Ewe-ESV diglot was significant for two reasons for able Ewe-speakers to relate with God’s Word in a more meaningful way and also to correct the growing anomaly where many Ghanaians ae reading English fluently but very erratic in the reading of their mother tongue.

The Chairman for the launch was Togbe Dr. Adza Kodzo VI, Chief of Abutia-Kloe in the Volta Region of Ghana.



FROM TIMID TO TEACHER: REGINA'S LITERACY JOURNEY WITH BSG

Regina Adakluvi, known affectionately as Daavi Gina, once felt a pang of exclusion during church services. The sight of others reading the Bible fluently in Ewe, her native language, filled her with a sense of longing. "I never had the chance to go to school," she explains, "so reading the Bible seemed like an impossible dream."

But a glimmer of hope emerged when her pastor announced a new literacy program organized by the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG). Initially hesitant, Regina decided to attend a few classes out of curiosity. "What I saw surprised me," she recalls. "The way Deaconess Mary, our teacher, explained the basics was so clear and engaging. It sparked a fire in me!"

The first time Regina successfully deciphered words in Ewe, a wave of joy washed over her. "I couldn't believe it!" she exclaims. "That feeling of accomplishment was unlike anything I'd ever experienced."

The newfound literacy skills transformed

Regina. Gone was the timidity that once held her back. Now, confidence radiates from her. "The Bible is no longer a closed book," she beams. "I can read it myself, understand its message, and even share it with others."

Regina's passion for learning extends beyond herself. At home, she has become a teacher to her children, guiding them through the scriptures in their mother tongue. "It fills my heart with immense pride," she says.

Regina's story is a testament to the transformative power of literacy programs offered by the Bible Society of Ghana. By equipping individuals like Regina with the ability to read and understand the Bible, BSG not only fosters personal growth but also strengthens families and communities.

"I am a changed woman, thanks to the BSG literacy program," Regina concludes with heartfelt gratitude. "Now, I can confidently share the word of God with others. Thank you, BSG, for empowering me to be a light in my community!"



FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT SIGN LANGUAGE BIBLE TRANSLATION LAUNCHED ON SPIRIT FM, KUMASI

The Ashanti Regional Office of the Bible Society of Ghana has launched the 2024 fundraising campaign on Spirit 88.9 fm in Kumasi to raise funds to support the Sign Language Bible translation project. This year, marked the second year of their fundraising campaign for the Sign Language Bible Translation project.

The General Secretary, Very Rev. Dr. John Addo Jnr, speaking on the morning show of Spirit fm said “the richness of God’s word hasn’t been fully accessible to our deaf brothers and sisters. This project bridges

that gap, bringing the scriptures to life in their own language – sign language.”

He emphasized the transformative power of the Bible, the comfort it brings, and the wisdom it imparts. “Imagine,” he continued, “the joy of a deaf person experiencing the Bible for the first time, not through interpretation, but directly in their hearts.” Dr. Addo’s words resonated with a profound truth, stirring the hearts of listeners across the Ashanti Region.

Following Dr. Addo’s powerful message, the host introduced Rev. Dr. Kennedy Owiredu,

the Translation Officer leading the project. Dr. Owiredu's voice boomed with pride as he updated listeners on the progress made possible by last year's donations. "Thanks to your generosity," he exclaimed, "we've completed the translation of the Gospel of Mark! Imagine, the very first words of Jesus in Ghanaian Sign Language – a testament to your incredible support."

He elaborated on the meticulous process of translation, ensuring the essence of scripture was conveyed accurately and beautifully

through sign language. Dr. Owiredu then outlined the next phase – translating the Gospel of John. The interview concluded with a powerful call to action. Dr. Owiredu urged listeners to continue their support, emphasizing, "With your help, we can bring the entire Bible to life in sign language, ensuring God's word reaches every corner of Ghana."

Be a supporter of God's Word, partner the Bible Society of Ghana by clicking the link





GHANA STUDY BIBLE TAKES A LANDMARK STEP!

The Bible Society of Ghana (BSG) is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in the Ghana Study Bible Project – the official launch of the translation for the written articles into the three selected languages.

This groundbreaking initiative, the first of its kind in Africa, aims to create a unique study Bible specifically tailored for the Ghanaian context.

For the past three years, the BSG has been diligently laying the groundwork for

this project. The Ghana Study Bible will be available in three major Ghanaian languages: Asante Twi, Ewe, and Ga. The Ghana Study Bible will make the Bible more accessible and understandable for a wider audience, fostering deeper engagement with scripture.

The Ghana Study Bible is more than just a translation – it's a resource designed to empower individuals and communities. Key goals include:

- **When completed, the Bible will have** study notes and explanations will be

provided within the biblical text, allowing readers to interpret scripture through a Ghanaian lens, drawing connections to their own life experiences.

- **It will also** be a valuable tool for providing clear and relevant scripture engagement materials for local communities. Additionally, the GSB will be a valuable tool for training pastors, priests, and lay leaders, enhancing their ability to effectively guide their congregations.

Speaking to some of the translators of the Ghana Study Bible, they expressed excitement and hopes of how the Bible would transform and impact lives amongst the Christian community in Ghana. Reverend Evans Kwabla Agblega of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church emphasizes the unique impact of a study Bible in local languages: “The GSB will bring the study notes and illustrations directly to the reader, unlocking

new meanings and fostering a deeper connection with the scriptures.”

Ms. Charlotte Ogbedee Laryea, an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast, highlights the project’s potential to revitalize local languages: “The GSB is a welcome step towards addressing the decline of our indigenous languages. By providing valuable content in these languages, we can bridge the gap and ensure their continued relevance.”

Join Us in Making a Difference

The BSG invites you to be a part of this landmark project. Your generous donations will enable us to complete the translation process and make the Ghana Study Bible a reality. Together, we can foster spiritual growth, preserve cultural heritage, and empower communities across Ghana through the transformative power of God’s Word.



**I AM NOW A
Confident Woman
THANKS TO LITERACY**

Bible Society of Ghana

Project #102077: Ghana's Literacy & Development Programme

“ I am Regina Adakluvi, everybody calls me Daavi Gina, I used to be very reserved at church because I have never been to school and when I see church members reading the Bible in Ewe, I feel bad because I cannot read it. When our Pastor told us about the literacy project by the Bible Society of Ghana, I decided to join for a few days just to see what happened at the classes but the basics that were taught us and how our teacher, Deaconess Mary, went about it got me interested. I was so happy when I was able to read my first words in my mother language. I am now very confident, no more timid than I used to be because I can now read and write in my mother tongue. I now read to my children and teach them the Bible at home. Thank you very much Bible Society of Ghana, I am now a confident woman, thanks to the literacy programme in my church. ”

By Samuel Adjei Ntow

Dec 18, 2023

For more information about this story, contact Samuel Adjei Ntow,
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FINDING HOPE & HEALING

Powerful Testimonies from the BSG's Trauma Healing Project

The Bible Society of Ghana's (BSG) TraumaHealingProject is transforming lives across the nation. Through innovative programs and a blend of biblical and mental health principles, the project is empowering individuals to overcome past hurts and embrace a brighter future.

Amina, a participant in the BSG's training program, shares her experience: "For years, I carried the weight of a traumatic childhood filled with neglect and abuse," she explains. "Talking to people often felt futile, as they dismissed my pain." However, everything

changed after Amina discovered the BSG's radio program and joined a healing group in Bilpila. "For the first time," she says, "I felt truly listened to. Sharing my story lifted a heavy burden. Thank you, and glory to Jesus!"

Kwaku, another program participant, highlights the project's impact on his professional life. "The training has equipped me to better support those facing grief and trauma," he shares. Kwaku acknowledges that before the program, his approach was limited. "I used to offer scriptures and

generic advice,” he admits. “Now, I actively listen, allowing individuals to express their emotions freely.” Kwaku recently witnessed the power of this approach when a colleague grieving the loss of a child found solace through their conversation. “Thanks to the training,” Kwaku says, “I understood the importance of listening and prayer over quick solutions.”

Amina and Kwaku’s stories are powerful testaments to the transformative power of the BSG’s Trauma Healing Project. By

addressing the unseen wounds of trauma, the project empowers individuals to heal, build resilience, and create healthier communities.

The BSG invites you in our Trauma Healing project, through you, we can ensure that more Ghanaians like Amina and Kwaku find hope and healing on their journeys towards wholeness.

Don't suffer in silence, seek help!

THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

LUKE 8:11

HELP SPREAD
THE WORD
THROUGHOUT
GHANA



SUPPORT THE
BIBLE SOCIETY
OF GHANA

Averagely, it costs the Bible Society of Ghana **\$20.00** to translate a verse of the Bible from the original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic (OT) and Greek (NT) into any of the local languages.

Your membership and donation will be highly appreciated as no amount is too small for the Bible cause.



A CHANGED LIFE

Open the Book Makes a Difference in the North

A Changed Life: Open the Book Makes a Difference in the North

The Open the Book project, a Bible Society of Ghana (BSG) initiative, is proving its transformative power not just in the south, but also in the predominantly Islamic north. This story showcases the project's impact on a young boy named Enoch and the potential it holds for fostering understanding across religious backgrounds.

From Bullied to Engaged: Enoch's Transformation

Darlington, a volunteer at A.M.E Zion School, shares a remarkable testimony. Enoch, a student who faced neglect at home and ridicule at school, displayed challenging behavior. He was known for bullying, tardiness, and skipping classes. However, everything changed after his participation in the Open the Book program.

Finding Acceptance Through Storytelling

Selected to play the role of Goliath in a dramatization of a Bible story, Enoch faced

initial skepticism. Teachers and classmates doubted his ability due to his perceived lack of intelligence. However, Enoch astonished everyone with his performance. This experience instilled a sense of purpose and belonging.

Open the Book: A Bridge for Understanding

Enoch's dedication has been remarkable. He now arrives early, especially on Wednesdays, dedicated to Open the Book activities. He even ensures his classmates are prepared. His transformation is a testament to the project's ability to empower and build self-esteem.

Open Doors in the North

Charles Annara Atia, the BSG's Northern Regional Manager, is excited about expanding Open the Book into the region. He recognizes the opportunity it offers for all children, regardless of religion, to engage with biblical stories. He acknowledges past difficulty in discussing faith directly in schools, but celebrates the project's positive reception.



CONTACT US FOR YOUR

BIBLES IN ENGLISH & LOCAL LANGUAGES



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