

# “The Bible4Life” project

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**R**EADERS OF the *Testimony* will by now be well aware of the UK National Preaching Effort being arranged by a joint working group of all the major preaching organisations in Britain. The main thrust of this campaign is to offer a special order of NKJV Bibles at very reasonable cost to ecclesias, campaigns and Bible exhibitions. These can be given away to local people, neighbours, attendees of our Sunday preaching meetings and our seminars, and also to senior Sunday School groups. A new booklet is available to give away with the Bibles, as is a mass-produced DVD which gives personal reasons why we believe the Bible. Bible newspapers have also been written, to be given away as ecclesias and campaigns think appropriate.

2011 will be the focus of much media attention in the UK on the King James Bible, and so it is with this publicity in mind that these preaching aids are being produced. While the public will be hearing of the literary achievements of the 1611 Bible, this provides our Brotherhood with a wonderful opportunity to tell them just what the Bible says. Our Christadelphian message is not on celebrating the Bible, but on arousing interest in its life-giving message.

## Telling our friends

We all regularly talk to people who do not share our faith, and this Special Effort may well provide us with an introduction to such people: “You know, I regularly go to our Christadelphian Hall. Can I please give you a little present? We are giving these Bibles to our friends and I wondered if you would like one. It’s quite free.” You can then go on to offer the booklet that has been specially written to introduce the Bible; or you can start with giving one of our new Bible newspapers, or a DVD.

Ecclesias might decide to arrange a special Saturday coffee morning and advertise it as “The great Bible giveaway!” The folk who come can then enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat, and listen to a five-minute talk about the life-giving properties of the Bible. A free Bible can then be given to those really interested.

The CALS is suspending its usual twice-yearly Special Effort subjects for this year and is replacing them with a promotion of the new Bible newspa-

per. The suggestion is that ecclesias may like to arrange a distribution of the newspapers in two different parts of their area, either in April and October (when the Specials usually take place) or at any other convenient time of the year. The two special subjects could simply be, “The Bible4Life!”

Samples of the Bible newspaper will by now have already been sent out to ecclesias, and the bulk supply being printed by our brethren in India will be available in the UK early in the new year.

## Should we preach?

There is no doubt at all that today’s Bible readers are included in the message given in the first century to preach the Word. Nothing was for the private hearing of the disciples alone: “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the house-tops” (Mt. 10:27). Then, a little further on in the same chapter, Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father Which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father Which is in heaven” (vv. 32,33). Just imagine Jesus saying, “I never knew him or her!”

Yes, I know that it does not always seem appropriate to mention holy things before certain people; but Paul’s last epistle exhorts Timothy, and by implication all of *us* who read that inspired letter, “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2, NIV). If people show swinelike tendencies when we try to say a word in season, then obviously our pearls must not be cast before such folk; but, as someone once said, “Be careful whom you call swine.”

When Paul and Barnabas spoke the Word to the Gentiles in Antioch, “as many as were ordained to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48). People do not have a mark on them to show that God has ‘appointed’ them to eternal life (as the word “ordained” can also be translated). So the suggestion is made, try everyone!

The Bible really is *for life!*

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