



OUR WONDERFUL WORD

Bill Pugh

The Bible Society's annual review has just come out. Over 120,000 copies distributed to armed forces, prisons, detention centres and hospital. Many thousands to state schools and 25,000 Really Good News Christmas books distributed.

But the influence of the Bible is marvellously at work in the fields of mission. In South Africa, 62,000 children developed literary skills using the Bible. And in the Cameroons the Esther project, a Bible based trauma-healing program, reached 12,000 young women.

Each learnt at least five income-generating activities. Bibles have been translated into many languages by dedicated missionaries working

in the field. Bibles are freely given wherever there is poverty and need. Theological students were provided with Hebrew Old Testaments and Greek New Testaments by the Bible Society free of charge. And the wonderful Gideon Bibles are in motels and hotels. These contain valuable headings and references for visitors.

These organisations need our prayers and financial support. And representatives are willing to come to Church services, or organizations, to tell their stories, some travelling many kilometres around the country "Lord your Almighty Word, chaos and darkness heard, let there be Light." And it is! Praise the Lord!

Reflection:

Bibles are daily studied, read, and at work in mission. Spreading the Word. Isaiah expresses God's plan for effective mission thus: so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, succeeding in the thing for which I sent it.(Isaiah 55:1)