



# NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2019



## GREETINGS! » We are praying for a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year for all our supporters



This year has been marked by a return to printing new material to cover reduced stock levels caused by a greatly increased demand for our resources. Indeed, items such as the newly printed ATC New Testament and Psalms has already run-out! We are in the actively seeking funds to produce a bigger print run of the ATC and other versions! The way we have engaged

with Biblica means that we can split a large print run of pocket-sized New Testament and Psalms into smaller subsections, this has enabled us to provide individual Regiments and Brigades with a bespoke product. Our last print run included 1 Rifles, the Coldstream Guards and 16 AAB.

Our next batch of Bibles already includes the Irish Guards, REME, 77th Brigade and the Ulster Defence Regiment. Please contact us if you want to join in! We aim to produce 2 tranches of New Testament and Psalms every year.

Other production points of note are the recent receipt of a batch of the 'Soul Man?' group study book, produced in concert with the Methodist

Forces Board and the Bible Reading Fellowship and reprints of the seafaring booklets 'Gift of God', 'You Are Not Alone' and 'Away From Home' in English, Tagalog and Russian, other languages and booklets are to follow in 2020.

In order for us to deliver on a burgeoning order book we have undergone a significant cost-saving programme, but we still need to increase our income to meet the increasing demand for our resources and we are reaching out to new granting organisations and we would encourage our supporters to join in with us financially!

God's blessings to you all,

**Andy Dakin**  
NMBS Executive Director



## »RAF HQ Message

### VEN. (AIR VICE-MARSHAL) JOHN ELLIS

One of the common ripostes that Royal Air Force chaplains hear when doing their rounds is 'you're all right, padre - one Air Publication with no amendments!' This affectionate association of chaplains with one book contains a wealth of truth. For chaplains from the Christian tradition, the Bible is foundational to faith, a source of daily strength and support. Here we read of the

experiences of God's people in peace and war, and our faith is nourished by the honesty and witness of those who have experienced God's faithfulness in trying times. Here we are assured of the foundational facts of our faith - that God made us, loves us, and that His Son passed through death for our forgiveness. Thanks to the faithful work of NMBS, chaplains can receive attractive editions of those Scriptures. To put it in the terms of the RAF Chaplaincy mission, the Word of God continues to bring value, hope, and reason to all who encounter it. People are reminded of the value God places on them,

of the hope they can have in Him, and of the reason to live that He gives them. So, as partners in ministry, thank you!

**JOHN ELLIS**  
Chaplain-in-Chief and  
Archdeacon for the RAF





## »Army HQ Missive

### STAFF CHAPLAIN

as we might interpret it the 'knowledge' of the LORD is the foundation of all wisdom. This is an enduring truth and it is of course Holy Scripture that as Christians of all denominations we look to in order to learn and understand the wisdom of the LORD.

For this reason, the work of Naval & Military Bible Society (NMBS) is so important throughout Defence. The provision of Bibles across the defence estate offers those already committed to the faith and those exploring, the opportunity to read the word of God and find his wisdom to guide them through life. This is particularly important for those whose profession demands so much from them. NMBS Bibles provide the life

changing knowledge of God which truly is the beginning of wisdom.

Throughout my time in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD), at each regiment, battalion and headquarters I have served, NMBS bibles have been freely available to all. Indeed a feature appreciated by many is the fact that in many locations the Bibles included the appropriate regimental insignia. The RACHD greatly appreciates and values all that NMBS do and look forward to their support in the future.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Stephen J H Dunwoody CF**

Staff Chaplain  
to the Chaplain - General

Some years ago, as a parish priest, I had the great joy of a Church of England Primary School in my benefice. Above the main entrance of the school, carved into the stone for all to see as they arrived each day was the bold assertion from the Book of Proverbs 'The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom'. My benevolent predecessor who caused the school to be built believed it important that all those who entered the school were reminded that the 'fear' of the LORD, or



## »From the Front

### ASR PAUL CURD

the Bibles bespoke to 1 Rifles, NMBS even had Op Toral 8 stickers made for the inside cover; truly unique. I was delighted with them when they arrived.

Due to some unforeseen, unavoidable delays, instead of sending the Battalion out with the Bibles I had to send them by post using the Enduring Families Free Mail Service, a free postal service to operational BFPO's. I sent 350 Bibles in 26 parcels, each containing a maximum of 15 Bibles, the limit due to the maximum weight of 2Kg per parcel. Those parcels with less than 15 Bibles had room for sweets and treats and even some reading material for Padre Luiz Marques who was

my point of contact in theatre. The Padre was very happy to distribute the Bibles on my behalf and reported that they were being well received by the troops. This was quite an undertaking for him since the troops were spread between various locations and he could only carry so many at a time.

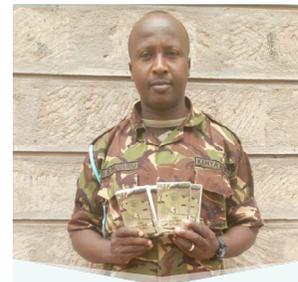
I'm extremely grateful to NMBS and its supporters who have enabled me to undertake this project putting the most valuable commodity, the Word of God, into the hands of soldiers of 1 Rifles Battalion.

Thank you,

**Paul Curd**

Army Scripture Reader  
SASRA

When I heard that 1 Rifles Battalion were to deploy to Afghanistan on Op Toral 8, March - September 2019, I decided it might be a good opportunity to put a New Testament and Psalms into the hands of the soldiers who were deploying. My vision was for a completely bespoke design entirely incorporating the Rifles colours. Andrew Dakin the Director of NMBS picked up on the vision and after sending me many 'prototypes' a design was agreed upon. Not only were



## »Missions Focus

### STEPHEN MUGURO

Bible Society, we have been distributing Camouflaged Bibles and Military Edition Booklets to the Kenyan soldiers. The Kenya Defence Forces Chaplaincy has embraced the project since it has a significant impact.

The spiritual publications have received a positive reception from the soldiers, and demand has been more than supply. They blend well with the soldiers since they address very specific issues faced by military personal - moral issues, how to pray in operational areas and dealing with change. I pray that many soldiers will make a decision for Christ since faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

By equipping Kenyan soldiers going for operations/peacekeeping in countries like Somalia and Sudan (Darfur Region) with the spiritual resources, they shall carry the Gospel to places where evangelism has been very difficult to carry out. I believe this shall pave way for seeds of faith to be born in such places.

The bigger vision for the

Soldiers Outreach program in future is to start a Christian Spiritual Care centre for soldiers both active and retired. A centre where those personnel with PTSDs and other life issues can come for spiritual care, counselling, inner reflection, research and stay for a specified period of time receiving help. Soldiers and security personnel at large have very unique challenges - traumatic experiences, marriage/family frictions due to long separation periods, alcohol addiction, finance management problems, overindulgence in leisure and hard time in adapting to civilian life after retirement. There have been widespread cases of soldiers committing suicide, and I believe that such a centre will offer a solution.

Calvary blessings!

**Stephen Muguro**

Give a Smile Today Ministry

*NMBS is committed to Stephen's ministry in support of Kenya Defence Force Christian resource needs. It is hoped to include a KDF version of our military New Testament and Psalms in a 2020 print run.*

**The provision by NMBS of Bibles in support of our continuing mission to South Sudan is a great help to us and invaluable to the recipients.**

**Val Batchelor - Flame International**

**The Bible Marathon went really well. God accomplished it for us. It started well on Friday and we kept reading the word until Sunday. We are all so blessed, and feel joyful. The atmosphere was very peaceful right from the start. We believe in the peace of Christ for the people of Malakal and South Sudan. (NMBS supplied Bibles to the participating churches).**

**Sara Koman - OP TRENTON**



# »Maritime Musings

## COMMODORE DAVID DICKENS

direct expression of our faith.

My work takes me as far afield as Taiwan for the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) conference and to the most far flung corners of the UK. Promoting our work and forming meaningful working partnerships is critical in my role. I work with government agencies, the fishing industry, and maritime partner charities to raise awareness of our services, to discuss the main areas of concern for us – at the moment, the general health of our active fishermen and their safety when out working and the poor financial position of some many of our retired fishermen and their continuing health issues. We work on an early intervention

basis to try and prevent longer term problems in the future and our partnerships are proving to be strong and effective.

Working closely with my wonderful team of dedicated staff, both out in the ports and small head office team, makes the job worthwhile. They are such dedicated folk who care so much and work so hard to help others is both admirable and humbling.'

### David Dickens

Chief Executive of the Fishermen's Mission

*NMBS supports David's team with Christian resources and as an ICMA member we are increasingly engaged with fishing communities globally.*

As the Chief Executive of the Fishermen's Mission I can truly say that each working day brings its own unique challenges. The Fishermen's Mission offers a service around the whole of the UK coastline, providing emergency support and practical help to both active and retired fishermen and their families. With our roots deeply established in our Christian faith, we commit to providing a non-judgemental service to those of all faiths and none. Our work is our

*I have been gifting your Bibles, particularly the English/Tagalog New Testaments and they have been very well received. This morning I gave one to the cook aboard a vessel, whom I met on a previous visit, whose 12 year old son has been seriously ill. He was very pleased indeed. So, just wanted you to know, your ministry continues to touch lives and encourages those who are going through tough times.*

Padre Ian Hutchinson Cervantes - Mission to Seafarers Regional Director – Latin América and Port Chaplain - Panamá

*The little gift of tracts from conference last weekend came in handy in my ship visits yesterday in Greenock. Godspeed,*

John Burleigh - Seamens Christian Friend Society



# »Adieu From Derek

## DEREK DONALD

hall and I had the opportunity to listen to a pastor who gave talks on the subject of the Bible. That evening his talk was about Salvation and the need to be forgiven for our sins through what Jesus did for us on the cross. What the pastor said, spoke directly to my heart and I asked Jesus to forgive me for my sins and from that moment my life changed completely.

At 20 I had a relationship with the Lord, so for most of my naval career I was a Christian. This was a great help to me and Sue, my wife, who was also a Christian, when in 1982 I served on HMS Fearless and was deployed to the Falkland Island during the conflict with Argentina. Our faith and the prayers of others helped us through a challenging situation.

Having digressed somewhat from talking about my 15 years of service to NMBS I had better get back on track! It has been a real pleasure to serve the Military, Cadet and Seafaring communities in being able to provide Bibles and other Christian literature when they are asked for.

I am now retiring from the Administrative Secretary role and will become a volunteer 'Ambassador' for the Society, which means talking to people about the work of NMBS and show them what Bibles, books and booklets can be provided by the Society.

I live near Portsmouth and would be happy to come and give talks to groups and churches that would like to hear about our work. For bookings please call NMBS on 02392 699873 or email enquiries@nmbs.org.uk.

Many blessings,

### Derek Donald

Administrative Secretary

*I would like to personally thank Derek for his exceptional service to NMBS over the last 15 years.*

*He has managed to cope with the foibles of many different directors during this time!*

*He has provided continuity through turbulent times and we are very grateful that he has decided to stay on in the newly established volunteer 'Ambassador' role.*

### Andy Dakin

Executive Director

## »NMBS Christmas Prayer Points:

- That our supporters join in with us financially, we are praying for a proportion increase from 1% to 10%
- That we find suitably skilled volunteers to populate our newly established 'Ambassador' network
- That we make more connections to help with the content of our Mental Welfare booklet programmes

Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth, PO2 8RN

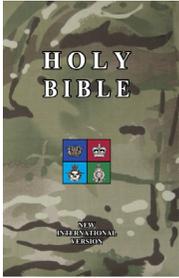
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# »Project Pipeline

## A FEW EXAMPLES OF ITEMS REQUIRING SUPPORT

### Military Hardback Bible NIV



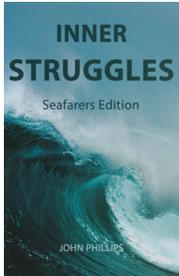
There has been a recent 'run' on our hardback camouflage cover Military Bible and we have now run out (paperback versions are still available). This situation has precipitated a programme to reprint them and we are looking to produce individual service versions as well.

### Pocket New Testament and Psalms (NTPs)



With increasing demand for our pocket NTPs, including the recently reprinted ATC version (pictured), as well as many dual and provisional requirements for several new versions we now need financial support to commission a print run of at least 20,000 NTPs.

### Inner Struggles - New Editions



The Inner Struggles suite of books is proving to be extremely popular and we are soon to receive an 'Army' Edition with a 'RN' Edition to follow after, although funding is still being sought for that print-run. A Seafarers Tagalog version is also being considered.

### Seafarer's Luke/Acts Diglots



Because a Luke/Acts Tagalog diglot extract produced to give to delegates at the recent ICMA conference was so well received, it has been decided to produce Luke/Acts diglots in the 5 seafaring languages to support the extant diglot New Testament and English Full Bible initiatives.

### Mental Welfare Initiatives



NMBS is keen to provide material that can be given to individuals who are struggling with mental welfare issues. Initially, we are looking at an update to our 'Combating Change' booklet, but ultimately it is our aim to provide a suite of resources to cover the various facets of this topic.

### Cadet 'Worldview' Booklet



We are progressing the 'world-view' booklet for cadets, which aims to provide a resource for chaplains to help cadets question the way they view world around them. What works well, what doesn't; what is consistent, what isn't?

# »Giving

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

### Join the 1779 Club

Marking 240 years since the Society was founded by lay Christians, George Cussons and John Davis, the **1779 Club** is an opportunity for you to be part of our historic story. 1779 Club members will occasionally receive gifts from the society, as well as knowing that you are investing in the spiritual well-being of our Armed Forces.

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### Boost your giving with Gift Aid

By signing a Gift Aid declaration you can boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate.

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I want all donations I've made to you in the past four years and all donations in future to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### Thank you for your support

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