



(Left): Passionate youths and youth group leaders gathered to explore youth and faith related topics at YOUTh-reka. (Right): Virtual lectures and workshops were conducted by the Chinese track of Sower Institute for Biblical Discipleship during the pandemic.

# Arise & Go FORTH: BUILDING WITH GOD'S WORD

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”—Isaiah 60:1*

The Word of God has a special way of motivating and providing strength whenever we might need it most. Knowing that God is watching over us can help us find the strength to arise and forge ahead.

Isaiah 60 presents a vision of hope and restoration, not just for the people of Israel, but for all nations. In verse 3, God calls us a city on a hill that cannot be hidden, to be the light of the world, reflecting God’s presence to the world around us. His presence, character and our mission is light in the darkness of the world and in us. As Jesus has come to bring light, we, too, must spread the Gospel and bring light into a dark world.

Similarly, the Bible Society strives to make the Word of God known to all people by making it available through the work of translation and publishing, accessible through distribution and literacy programmes, and credible through engagement and advocacy. **The distribution of the first Protestant New Testament Bibles by Rev Robert Morrison,**

**to the earliest Chinese migrant workers in Singapore in 1823, started the Bible Mission. In 2023, the Bible Society will commemorate 200 years of the Bible Mission in Singapore. This year, the Bible Society also celebrates its 185th anniversary since its official registration in 1837, which has been made possible through God’s grace.**

Through the years, the Bible Society has weathered storms but remained steadfast in spreading the Word of God. Since 2014, a holistic ministry has been established to support vulnerable and marginalised communities in Singapore and around the world, by providing them with holistic care and the hope from God’s Word to rise up from their hardships.

## Empowering People with Engagement Projects

With the need to be ready for the battles we face in front of us; be it in our personal lives or in the world around us, the Bible Society plays an important role in empowering people with the Word of God through its various initiatives so as to encourage and equip



(Top Left & Centre): *Colours of the Bible*—an annual art competition and exhibition—will be held throughout the year. (Bottom Left): *YOUth-reka* is the first of many initiatives that the Youth Ministry of the Bible Society has organised for this year. (Top Right): The annual conference of *D6 2022* will follow the theme of *ReCalibrate* this year. In 2021, over 520 local and overseas participants joined the online conference on Zoom. (Bottom Right): *DECLARE*—a national Bible reading event—will be held in June this year.

everyone to take on life’s challenges and live the life that God has intended us to live. On that note, the Bible Society has relaunched in-person Bible engagement programmes in April, following two years of shifting to digital initiatives due to COVID-19 regulations.

The book of Isaiah quotes: “Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.” **This year, the Youth Ministry of the Bible Society has attained a milestone by running its first in-person event called *YOUth-reka*, focusing on encouraging youths and youth leaders to rise up in their faith and ministry. The ministry is also set to conduct more initiatives this year.**

Leading families to arise from their storms as they centre themselves in Christ, the Family Ministry of the Bible Society is organising *D6 Family Conference 2022*. Held on 29 and 30 July 2022, with the theme of *ReCalibrate*, this annual conference will expand on Deuteronomy 6 principles, strategies and healthy practices on generational discipleship and family ministry.

The Bible recounts the many times God has healed and restored His people, demonstrating His power and love that allows us to arise from sickness and oppression. The theme for this year's *Colours of the Bible* competition is *Healings in the Bible*. *Colours of the Bible* is an annual art competition and exhibition that is jointly organised by the Bible Society and The Embassy of Israel in Singapore and is held throughout the year. Participants are encouraged to share how God’s healing inspires them through their artworks and illustrations.

During the Lent season, Sower Publishing Centre—another ministry of the Bible Society—produced the 2022 Lent Devotional, which was commissioned by the National Council of Churches of Singapore in its 17th year running. Themed *Up from the Ashes, Hope will Arise*, it was published in hope that it would encourage many to break through their spiritual apathy, rise up and serve in the Kingdom of God.

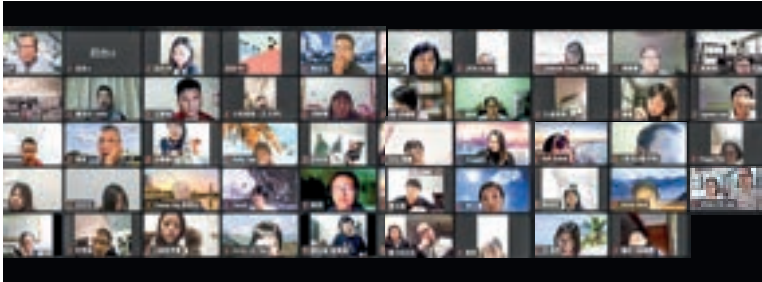
**In June this year, the Bible Society is organising its annual *DECLARE* event—a 72-hour long national Bible reading event—where believers from every tribe and tongue arise in unity to proclaim the entire Bible, blessing all nations in restoration to His perfect purpose. Last year, 90 nations and tongues represented over 800 readers worldwide, with 24,500 people reached online.**

### Building with God’s Word in Different Languages

Making God’s Word available in various languages has been one of the key pillars of the Bible Society’s mission. In order to equip the Christian community with the Word of God for every good work, so that they may continue to go forth and be witnesses of Christ, the Bible Society has also been actively engaging people with God’s Word through its language-based ministry programmes available in English, Chinese, Tamil, Filipino, and other languages.

In response to that, **Sower Institute for Biblical Discipleship (SIBD)—a ministry of the Bible**





(Top Left): CDC Mayor Denise Phua graced the *Love Your (Unseen) Neighbours* movement, a new initiative that SowCare supports to show care for the underprivileged communities in Singapore. (Right): MSF Senior Director Lee Kim Hua joined SowCare volunteers in distributing angbaos, roses and goodie bags during Valentine's Day. (Bottom Left): In 2021, the virtual lectures and workshops conducted by the Chinese track of SIBD benefitted nearly 30,000 people and reached more than 20 countries.

**Society—endeavours to be a hub that actively conducts workshops, seminars and conferences in English and Chinese.**

The *Encouragement Seminar*, one of the equipping sessions of the English track of SIBD, was an on-site event—amongst many others—that enabled participants to deepen their understanding of the Word of God and be uplifted as they see themselves in a new light. A strong line-up of course tracks are also set to be conducted this year, some of which include *Resilience Training*, *Leadership Series*, and *Trauma Healing*, all of which will be used to help Christians advance the Kingdom of God.

**With the same missional call, the Chinese track of SIBD has also swiftly migrated their various lectures and workshops online since the pandemic, drawing in and benefitting nearly 30,000 people and reaching more than 20 countries last year.**

**Helping Others Rise Above Storms through Holistic & Community Initiatives**

Especially in tough times, the Bible encourages us to step up in helping the poor among us. SowCare—the community service arm of the Bible Society—offers holistic ministries to serve and provide care for struggling communities in Singapore and beyond. Aligning with Jesus’ heart for the poor and needy, SowCare has actively partnered with Hope Initiative Alliance (HIA) in a new movement called *Love Your (Unseen)*

*Neighbours* to care for the underprivileged communities in our nation, where they receive monetary gifts and goodie bags to help with their daily living. (More information on page 18)

Aside from local outreach, our holistic initiatives are also driven towards other nations who are suffering. Having obtained a permit by the Commissioner of Charities, the Bible Society worked closely with Ukrainian Bible Society and World Evangelical Alliance to send help to those suffering in Ukraine during the height of war and has continued to do so as they rebuild their nation. The Bible Society has also worked with our sister Bible Societies and the evangelical communities in the countries affected by natural calamities such as the Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka to bring the Word of Hope and provide practical help that includes essential items and medical supplies to those in need. (More information on page 10-12)

Through the storms of life, we can hold on to God’s promise that He is with us at all times (Deuteronomy 31:8). As we respond to God’s call to rise up even in challenging times and make disciples of all nations, we continue to endeavour to bring God’s Word through initiatives to uplift communities near and far, so that many more can receive the life-transforming Gospel.



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