

JBS NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 1 • Oct. 2005

Warm greetings from Japan Bible Society!

Welcome to the first issue of the JBS news international! In this news letter, we would like to inform you of our activities at home and abroad to keep you updated on the hottest news of our Bible Society, our new publications, as well as our fundraising activities. If you would like to learn more about Japan Bible Society, please visit our English website (<http://www.bible.or.jp/e>). And if you have something to ask us, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email, snail mail, etc.

But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.

Isaiah 40:31



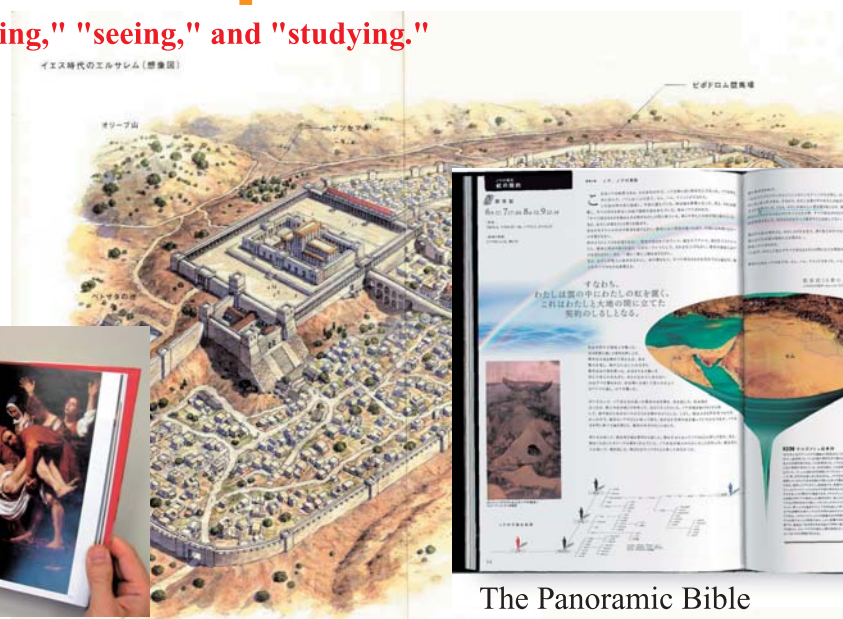
We, at Japan Bible Society, are always engaging in new projects with the common goal of seeing the seeds of God's Word being sown and growing all over the world. Please pray for our work. We also pray for God's richest blessings on each one of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Makoto Watabe
Makoto Watabe
General Secretary

The transition of Biblical publication

From "reading" only to "reading," "seeing," and "studying."



The Panoramic Bible



Art Bible



MORE INFO

www.bible.or.jp/e

The transition of Biblical publication

■ The birth of "Art Bible" - Bible and paintings

In April 2003, JBS published the "Art Bible." This is our first challenge in publishing the Scripture targeted mainly to non-Christians. Not only for reading the text, but also for visualizing Biblical scenes more easily, this Book has many paintings paired with famous stories quoted from the Biblical text. As of this month, more than 30,000 volumes were distributed and the Art Bible is still in great demand. This may be because, with the visual effects of the masterpieces, it enables the readers to understand the world of the Bible more vividly.



Art Bible DATA

Cat.No.NI ART/ISBN4-8202-4214-8
528 pages (146artists / 325paintings)
domestic price \$26 size 150 × 210mm

■ The Bible even more vivid

"Panoramic Bible" - experiencing the world of the Bible



The success of the "Art Bible" suggested us many things. We heard many voices desiring to understand the Bible in a much deeper way. Hence in the most recent publication, the "Panoramic Bible," we decided to enlarge the size (257mm ~ 367mm) for increasing visual effects and to include the texts from all books of the Bible, as well as putting many study notes, explanations, chronological tables, genealogies, etc.

The efforts resulted in a balanced book with variety of information for "reading," "seeing" and "studying" the Bible. This epoch-making publication is designed to allow even the people who read the Bible for the first time, to easily experience the vastness and the depth of the Bible.

The Panoramic Bible DATA

Cat.No.NI PAN/ISBN4-8202-4216-4 208pages
text 9pt font., explanation 7pt font , full colored
domestic price \$263, size 257 × 364mm

Contents

Passages from the Bible : about 200
Maps: 35 Solid maps: 2 Illustrations: 29
Pictures : 153 Chronological Tables: 9
Genealogies : 19 Paintings : about 120 Charts: 17
Explanations : 454 References : about 250
Outlines of the Bible : 11 Columns : 11



■ The challenge for audio Bible

Japan Bible Society already distributes Audio Bible in cassettes and CD's. Last year, we developed "Bible Talk - New Testament." The entire New Testament recording is compressed and saved in a small egg-shaped device (90g). It enables the listener to select each book, chapter, and even verses. It is powered by two AAA batteries and can be used anywhere. For example, it is convenient for people who cannot carry heavy books or for those who are unable to read, or for bed-ridden people.

Moreover, with digital sound data, it is possible to produce "Bible Talk" in any language. Now we are in the process of developing an Audio Bible in MP3 format that can be downloaded to portable audio players such as iPod(R).



Bible Talk DATA

Cat.No.NIBT-NT
Weight 70g size 105 × 71 × 27mm
built-in speaker
Accessories : case /earphone
/AAA size battery × 2
domestic price \$120

The transition of Biblical publication



1. CD



2. Bible Talk
-includes the full NT



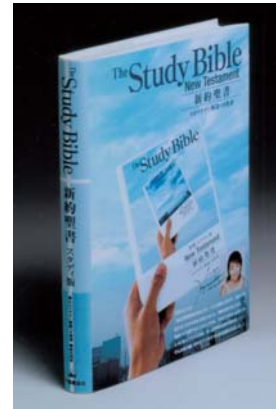
3. For MP3 audio

■ The Study Bible

Some people say that "one reason why Christianity is slow to spread in Japan is due to the fact that Japanese people have no Christian background, cultural or historical, and are unfamiliar with the Bible and its culture."

JBS published the New Testament Study Bible with detailed explanation notes, to help non-Christians and people who are not accustomed to reading the Bible. We have included some explanation notes translated from the CEV Learning Bible published by the American Bible Society, adopting them to the New Interconfessional Translation.

Currently, we are trying to complete the Old Testament. We hope that this will be an answer for the Japanese people to understand the Bible and that it will revolutionize the Japanese consciousness of the Bible.



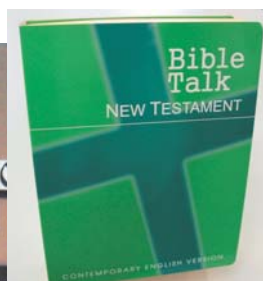
The Study Bible/New Testament DATA
Cat.No.NI 253 STUDY /
ISBN4-8202-3232-0
608 pages
domestic price \$26 size 150 × 210mm

"Bible Talk" for Tsunami victims in Sumatra

JBS donated 800 units of "Bible Talk" in English (CEV) to Bible Societies located in countries hit by the Tsunami on December 26. We also sent 3,500 Bibles in Akha language to Thailand Bible Society to encourage those who suffered from the disaster by sending them the Word of God.



plaque from Thailand BS



Bible meets Music concert

JBS organized an event called "the Encounter between Bible and Music" to let many people know about our work and at the same time, enjoy glorious music.

Two such concerts were held so far this year; at a Catholic church in Goto Islands in June and at a hotel in Morioka City in July. The attendance was high and people from all denominational backgrounds gathered. They were introduced to the history and works of JBS through a PR video and to our new publications. They were also invited to join our membership in supporting the Bible Work.



Fundraising staff



Violinist:
Ms.Machiko Ozawa

The transition of Biblical publication

Bible Readathon

Interdenominational meeting to read through the Bible

The Bible Readathon is an event where we read through the Bible from beginning to end, In other words, from Genesis to Revelation. The entire reading takes about 100 hours. Usually two people as a pair read 1 chapter alternately for thirty minutes and change to another pair.

This year, 2 Bible Readathons were held at different cities in Japan and finished successfully: in the eastern region, at Christian Center Kobe Bible House (in Kobe, 09-13/05/05), and in the western region, at Chiba Bible Festa (in Chiba, 05-13/05/05). The participants, who came from various churches in the area, were greatly blessed and encouraged by each other from reading the Bible together in one place. JBS encourages "Reading through the Bible," to individuals, churches, and regions.



▲ Chiba

▼ Kobe



15 years for the completion of the Sign Language Bible

Producing the Sign Language Bible for the hearing-impaired is a hard work requiring tremendous costs and time. So much so, that no such work in the world has been accomplished so far. The attempt to produce it in Japan was undertaken by Japan Deaf Evangel Mission in 1986 and as of now, 9 volumes in 8 videos are completed. Since 2003, with the help of our donors, JBS supports this project by subsidizing about \$70,000 of the costs each year. Please pray for the production of this Bible.



Line-up of the Sign Language Bible

The light of God's Word in Ginza, Tokyo



Electric billboard in multicolor, "LED (Light Emitting Diode)"

The renewed multicolor LED (Light Emitting Diode) billboard is attached to the side wall of JBS building. It displays new Scriptural publications and information on Bible Library for those who pass by. In June, it was made possible to display pictures and paintings with more details and in full color.



Ginza 4-chome crossing- the most crowded intersection in Japan



Japan Bible Society

since 1875 (130th anniversary)

Public Relations sect. General Administration

dept.

30 September 2005

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E-mail info@bible.or.jp



Area:

377,899 sq.km

Population:

127,708,000

Religions in % of population:

Shintoist 50.2%

Buddhist 42.0%

Christian 1.2%

Official Language:

Japanese