

TRAVELLING BIBLE TO PROMOTE SCRIPTURE STUDY [ANN/BUC News #608 17 October 2008]



A Bible written in 66 languages began a two year trip around the world on Sabbath, 11 October. The special leather-bound copy, measuring 12 by 18 inches, is written in 66 languages – one for each book. Its trip began at a special Day of Fellowship connected with the World Church's Annual Council business session in Manila, Philippines. Church President Jan Paulsen handed it to Alberto C Gulfan Jr, President of the church in Southern Asia-Pacific, the first stop of a global itinerary for rallies and marathon readings at villages, hospitals and universities.

The journey, an initiative planned since last year called "Follow the Bible," is intended to emphasise to Adventists around the world the daily need for a connection with the Bible. A recent survey of world membership found that 51 percent said they regularly studied the Bible.

The Bible will travel to six continents and culminate at the next world church congress in Atlanta, Georgia, United States in 2010.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church must rediscover the value of reading this book," Paulsen told some 12,000 people during Sabbath worship at Araneta Coliseum in Manila. "Too many of our own people do not spend time on a regular basis with this word and we suffer for it," Paulsen said. "This is a commitment that we will make the Word of God more central in our lives."

Mark Finley, vice president for evangelism and personal witness told the crowd that this special Bible features Genesis written in Spanish, Psalms in Chinese and Revelation in Korean.

After spending several months in Asia the Bible will then move to the South Pacific and on to Europe in May 2009. It will be in the UK from 19 August to 26 September.

An increased emphasis on studying the Bible is one of the foundations of Adventist mission. Newbold church in Binfield, Berkshire, is just one of the churches in the UK and Ireland that will be focusing its members on Bible study in 2009. From January Newbold church will start a series entitled 'The Word and the words' looking at how we study the Bible, and how our approach shapes our Christian walk. Associate pastor, Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist explains, "the family service plan on having a 'church family Bible' that will 'travel' the church during the year." For the 200+ children, a special collection of their Bible story drawings into a special "children's version of the Bible."

Web users will be able to follow the Bible's journey at www.followthebiblesda.com – a site which, incidentally, has graphics drawn by Ani Holdsworth from Durham in the North of England. The site also offers other resources, including a guide to reading the Bible in one year. Other news from the World Church Annual Council can be viewed at <http://news.adventist.org> and will be summarised in next week's BUC News.

