



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bibles for Missions op shop raises \$500,000

Bible League's Bibles for Missions opportunity shop in Asquith has reached the half a million dollar mark—raising \$500,000 towards Bibles for Africa since the store's opening in 1998.

There is an urgent need for Bibles in Africa with an estimated 20,000 Africans becoming Christians every day. Statistics show that at least 200 million African Christians don't have a Bible. Each \$7 raised by the op shop provides a Bible, supplied by Bible League, in the heart language of a new Christian in Africa.

By selling good quality, second-hand goods, store managers Arie and Ditta Baalbergen, and a team of 15 volunteers, have been able to place more than 70,500 Bibles in Africa.

"We have been here for nine and a half years now," Arie said. "We are happy to be involved and happy with the support we've been given from the community."

"The philosophy of the Bibles for Missions op shop is that if we can sell it, we'll accept it—that's what makes us interesting. We also have a free pick up service."

The shop sells hundreds of trash turned treasure items including furniture, sewing machines, a variety of clothing, glassware, kitchenware, toys, games and collector items.

Bibles for Missions volunteer, Sarene Sietsma, said the op shop has a good reputation among the people of Sydney.

“Our customers were local people to begin with but now have people visiting from all over Sydney,” Sarene said. “We have dealers who come here and re-sell the items on EBay. There is even a local resident who buys items to be used on a home renovation TV show.”

Sarene’s husband, Arie Sietsma, who also volunteers in the store, said they enjoy being able to assist people in need.

“I can see how much help it has been for people in a difficult family situation,” Arie said. “They can come in here and refurbish their house—something they couldn’t normally afford.

“We can also help people just by talking to them. If they are lonely, we are here for company.”

To celebrate the \$500,000 milestone and to show their appreciation to their dedicated clients, Bibles for Missions will be holding a sausage sizzle from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday, September 22, 2007.

To make a donation please contact Arie Baalbergen on 0412 595 692 or 9476 0256 or visit Bibles for Missions in Asquith.

Further enquiries: Contact Bible League’s National Director, Grahame Smith, on (02) 4731 6599 or info@bibleleague.com.au

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