

FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA METROPOLITAN DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA

Circular No.209

*Blessings to you all the Vicars, Resident Clergy, Trustees
and Members of all the Parishes under our authority.*

Beloved in Christ,

The Church, the world over has set apart the Bible Sunday as an occasion to thank God for His Holy Word given in writing and to give special importance to study, meditate upon and distribute the Bible. We exhort everyone to offer special prayers for the Bible Society and to collect offertory on 7th December, the day our Church also observes Bible Sunday. The cover for the offertory will be sent to all the churches.

God has entrusted with the Bible Society the task of providing at an affordable price the Bible attractively produced and in simple style in each language spoken in India so that it can be understood by all the people. Over the past more than two hundred years, the Bible Society of India has been helping the Church by engaging in the task of making the Bible available to each Indian.

The Bible Society of India strives hard to make the Word of God available to the Church to meet the needs of worship, spiritual nourishment and evangelistic activities. Portions of the Bible have already been produced through the media of print, visuals, audio and Braille for the benefit of all sections of society.

Childrens bible has been printed in 29 languages in India to bring our young generation towards God. As per the 1971 census there are about 1652 languages in force in India. Bible Society has published bible portions into 70 languages, full bible in 67 languages, New Testament in 72 languages, Study Bible in 10 languages, bilingual Bible in 4 languages. The Bible Society has now 70 translation project. Out of this, translations are done in 27 languages for the first time, New Testament in 14 languages, Bible portions in 2 languages, Study Bible in 3 languages and re-editing in 24 languages. Last year for the first time, Bible was published in two languages and New Testament in 5 languages. Common language Bible for the benefit of common people in Malayalam was released by us during the last Maramon Convention-2014. Concord bible are getting ready for publishing. The responsibility of taking the Word of God to every Indian has become a very wide task that we have not yet been able to fulfill. This would become possible only with the prayer, help and cooperation of the people of God.

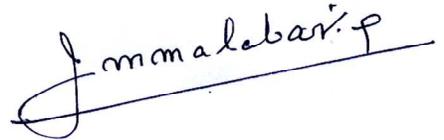
It has come to my notice that spurious editions of the Holy Bible with unauthorized alterations are in circulation. They might be available at attractive low price. I would like to advise you that authorized editions of the Holy Bible from the BSI should be used in our Churches and given as gift to children.

Let us also be partners in the ministry of sharing with others the Word of God, which offers life, light and hope to all human beings. Let us give thanks to God for his Word, which is at the root of all our blessings and progress. India thirsts for the Word of God. Let us put our efforts together to make it available to everyone.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth” (ISAH: 55:10,11)

Grace be with you all.

Dated 5th November 2014 from the Poolatheen, Tiruvalla



Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan