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Treasury holds Bible reception

Politicians and faith leaders will be considering the role of Scripture in fighting poverty at a reception – Good News to the Poor. The event, organised by Bible Society and the Treasury office, will be held on 10 February.

Weeks ahead of the G20 gathering of global leaders in London, the recently launched *Poverty and Justice Bible* will take centre-stage at the reception.

The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, will be speaking as well as Bible Society's Chief Executive James Catford.

'At the G20, issues such as trade justice, poverty, health inequalities, and conflicts, will be discussed in the context of the developing global recession,' said Dave Landrum, Bible Society's Parliamentary Officer and organiser of Good News to the Poor.

'Our aim is to show the enduring role of the Bible in government, and in addressing these important issues,' he added.

Good News to the Poor is part of Bible Society's commitment to making the Bible heard worldwide.

Also joining in discussions are faith leaders, MPs, peers, heads of charities/aid organisation, NGOs and policy community leaders. Government ministers of departments responsible for poverty and justice issues have also been invited.

The Poverty and Justice Bible is the first to highlight more than 2,000 passages that speak of God's attitude to poverty and justice. Challenging the notion that the Bible is a dusty, outdated rulebook, it shows that, on the biggest issues of our day, God got there first – and he has something to say.

Recently a *Poverty and Justice Bible* was sent to President Barack Obama, after reports that the Bible was mysteriously absent from his second swearing-in. And the Prime Minister Gordon Brown was presented a copy by James Catford at Downing Street.

The Poverty and Justice Bible which includes a 32-page study guide, has a focus on 'doing' to help today's Christians link social action with Scripture. Topics range from equality to education, farming to Fairtrade. The studies highlight that concern for the oppressed is foundational to faith, and encourage action – from giving, to praying, to living responsibly.



Note to the Editor:

About Bible Society

Bible Society exists to make the Bible heard. We aim to show how the Bible connects with life. We make Scriptures available where there are none and we work with the Church to help it live out the Bible's message. We do this because Bible poverty is real. And fighting it matters.

Contact information;

'Yemi Folayan, Public Relations Officer, Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG T: 01793 418255 F: 01793 418118 E: media.enquiries@biblesociety.org.uk

Claire Smith, Head of Communications, Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG T: 01793 418290 M: 07771 505063 E: media.enquiries@biblesociety.org.uk

For more information about *The Poverty and Justice Bible* or to order a copy, visit www.povertyandjusticebible.org

