



World Vision

PRESS RELEASE

New Bible highlights issues that connect with today's world

A new Bible which connects Scriptures with some of the biggest issues of our day has been launched by Bible Society.

The Poverty and Justice Bible is the first ever to highlight more than 2,000 passages that speak of attitudes to poverty and injustice. Challenging the notion that the Bible is a dusty, outdated rulebook, it shows that, on the biggest issues of our day, the Bible got there first.

Rev Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia said "We all have our favourite tracks through our Bible, which we find nourish us in our faith. This bible offers another track. In a world where 27,000 children die every day from preventable diseases we not only need to have this track highlighted for us but to take action as follows of Jesus be part of shaping a different world. I am delighted that World Vision is associated with this project and invite you to follow this track with me over the coming years - for the sake of the gospel and the sake of the children".

The imbalance of global wealth, famine, water shortages, exploitation and corruption are all issues that invoke outrage – and demand attention. But *The Poverty and Justice Bible* shows that, in speaking out on these issues, God got there first.

Before the Make Poverty History movement, before Sir Bob Geldof's Live 8 and before politicians began debating these issues, the Bible spoke loudly and clearly on poverty and justice.

The Poverty and Justice Bible opens our eyes to that. It highlights – literally – that the Bible has something to say about issues that resonate today. This Bible connects with the very fabric of today's world, with all its problems and messiness – and has something powerful to say.'

The idea to develop *The Poverty and Justice Bible* was born out of a comment by US pastor Rick Warren, who said that if Christians don't speak out against poverty and injustice, they lose their credibility. U2 lead singer Bono also said, 'It's no coincidence that in the Scriptures, poverty is mentioned more than 2,100 times. It's not an accident. That's a lot of airtime.'

Bible Society staff and experts spent months scouring the Contemporary English Version (CEV) Bible, locating verses relating to poverty and justice.

After weeks of debate, they were left with more than 2,000 sections. From Genesis to Revelation, almost every page emphasised just and fair behaviour.

The Poverty and Justice Bible also has a focus on 'doing', helping today's Christians link social action with Scripture. Produced with support from aid agency World Vision, it includes a 32-page study guide written by bestselling authors Nick and Claire Page. 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.

James Catford Chief Executive of the British & Foreign Bible Society said, 'In this country, in the United States and among the affluent of the world, the issues of poverty and justice have become front and centre. It's what we are increasingly talking about.

'But what people will discover is that the Bible got there first. Poverty and justice have always been on the heart of God. The Bible is not full of rules, finger-wagging and old-fashioned ideas. The Bible has something to say about life and, in fact, there's nothing on earth that we can experience that the Bible doesn't tackle.'

About Bible Society

The Bible Society in Australia is a Christian not-for-profit organisation that exists to make the Bible available and used in a meaningful way to touch people's lives throughout the world. A large part of its work is overseas, in partnership with the United Bible Societies, a fellowship of national Bible Societies established in over 135 nations. The aim of the Bible Society movement is to make Bible available in a language people can understand and at a price they can afford. Here in Australia, the Society works to build bridges between the Bible and people's everyday lives, as well as to rebuild confidence in its enduring message.

About World Vision Australia

From the beginning, World Vision's activities have been focused on giving people – especially children – opportunities to alleviate their suffering and to improve their lives. In 1947, American missionary Dr Robert Pierce travelled to China and Korea and encountered people who regularly had to go without food, clothing, shelter or medicine. During the Korean War in the early fifties, he helped set up orphanages to care for children who'd been abandoned or orphaned.

Upon his return to the US, Pierce began raising funds to continue and expand his work in Asia. The strength of the public response was such that, in September 1950, World Vision was founded, with Pierce as its president.

World Vision was established in Australia in 1966. During that decade, World Vision expanded its operations to meet the needs of refugees in Indochina and of people recovering from disasters in Bangladesh and in several African countries. Where long-term assistance was needed, children began to be sponsored by Americans, Australians and others.

In the 1970s, World Vision's focus broadened from assisting the individual child to include community development. Since the 1980s, the "welfare" approach has gradually changed to a more collaborative relationship. Poor, marginalised people and communities work with World Vision to improve their lives and take control of their futures.

Contact information

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***The Poverty and Justice Bible* can be ordered at
www.biblesociety.com.au**