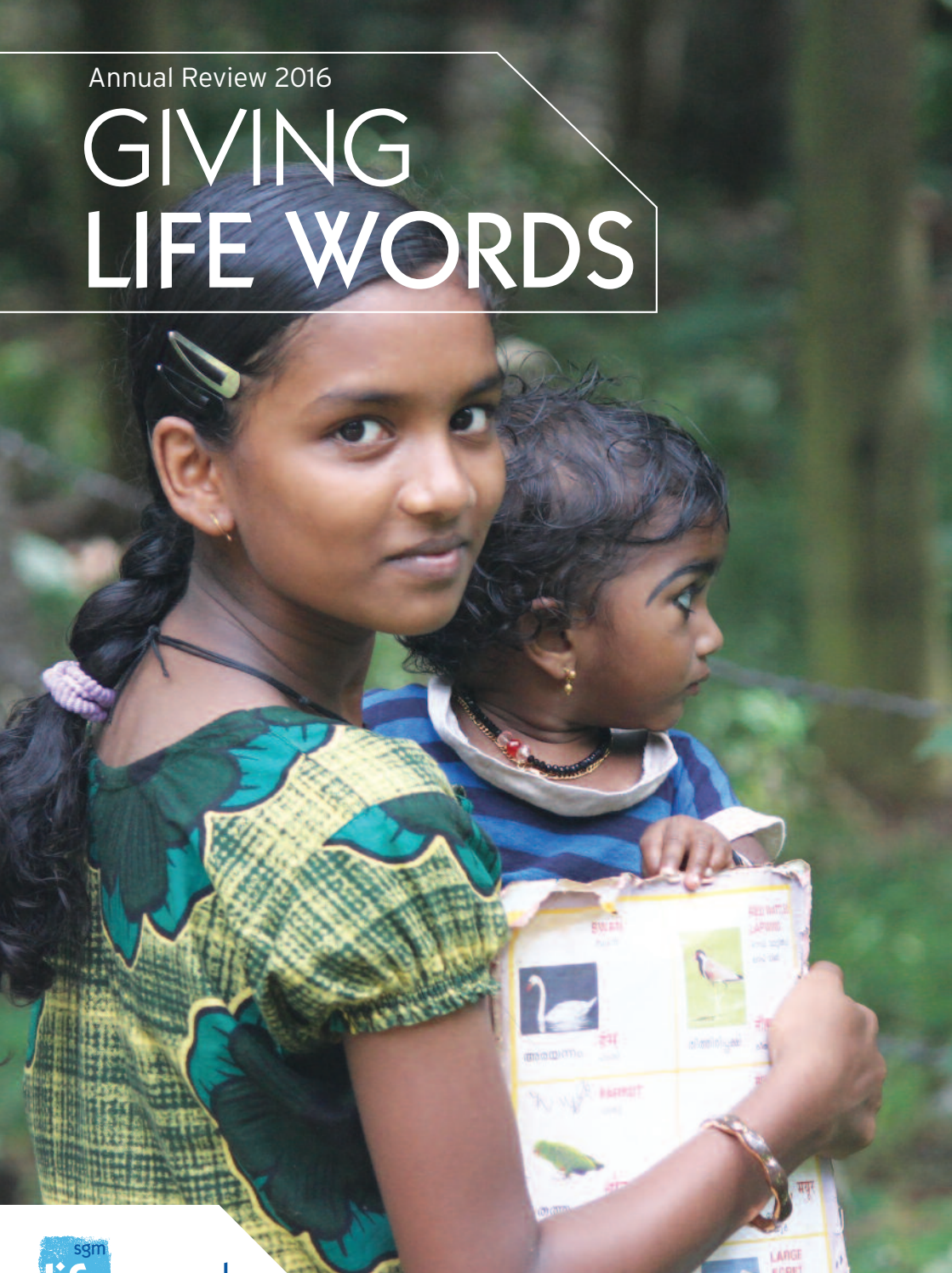


Annual Review 2016

GIVING LIFE WORDS



“I CAME TO GIVE LIFE – LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.” John 10:10, NCV



Danielle Welch
Executive Director,
UK & International

At **SGM Lifewords**, we're all about sharing one of the world's greatest gifts - the Bible's life words. We want everyone, everywhere to have the opportunity to experience the Bible as the life-changing, world-enhancing good news that it is.

We do this by creating opportunities for people to explore the Bible for themselves, and freely giving Bible resources for sharing. We build bridges across languages and cultures, creating new ways in to the Bible's good news for all.

In 2016 two particular areas of focus were:

- Those in greatest need, including poor, marginalised, displaced, and unreached communities, where our support, encouragement and resources can make a marked difference.



We aim to share the Bible with those in greatest need, including children-at-risk in Guatemala

- The needs of the coming generation, encouraging Bible engagement in innovative ways, using life words for practice-based formation in young people's lives.

This brief review gives just a snapshot of work we carried out in 2016. Please do let us know if you would like further information on any aspect of our work.

Thank you for partnering with us in 2016, through your prayers and financial support. We pray that together we will see hearts changed and lives transformed through God's Word in 2017.

GIVING LIFE WORDS TO MEET NEEDS

We have a growing range of core evangelistic and pastoral Bible resources in 22 key languages - the languages of communication for the greater part of the world's population - through which we're able to support and resource thousands of ministries, churches, and individuals around the world to reach out to others.

In 2016 we also provided Bible literature in response to specific language needs, partnerships, and world events.

In response to many requests from Indian partners, particularly those in rural contexts, we published five titles in Indian languages (Bengali, Hindi, Kannada and Telugu). The church in India is growing, but also facing opposition and restrictions on its work, so resources and prayers are really valued. More titles for India are in the pipeline for 2017.

Similarly, to meet the needs of churches and communities befriending and supporting refugees in mainland Europe, we printed additional Bible booklets in Arabic and Farsi. And as engagement with another Muslim community increased, we also began producing Turkish literature, printing one booklet this year with other titles planned.

In Indonesia, where there are many unreached people, our concern is

to support pioneer workers to share life words effectively. During 2016 we hosted several training events for evangelists and partners in our **Lifewords** centre in Jakarta, equipping them with Bible literature and story-telling resources. Volunteer teams also took training and resources out to equip remote communities through regular missions.



Left: The growing church in India faces many difficulties, but our resources help share life words.

Below: Training and equipping evangelists in Jakarta



GIVING LIFE WORDS TO NEW GENERATIONS

Visit the VerseFirst website at www.versefirst.com

More than half the world's population is aged under 30. Engaging these emerging generations with the Bible as good news for their lives and for the world is a key priority for our work.

In 2016 we served thousands of young people in East Africa through the Choose Life programme. This interactive life-skills curriculum, based on the Bible, helps children make good choices throughout their lives. In Kenya, we also increased the number of RISE Clubs, which promote Bible reading, discussion and prayer for small groups of high school students, giving them a solid grounding in discipleship.

Left: Choose Life helps children in East Africa make good choices

Right: RISE Clubs promote Bible reading and discipleship in Kenya

Pavement Project, a counselling programme that responds to trauma with children and young people, continued to bring hope and healing to thousands of children at-risk in 18 countries.

We created and tested a prototype tablet 'app' version of the counselling tool. This is an exciting development that will allow us to reach more children, train more workers, and move quickly in response to emerging events - to make sure that children in crisis can experience the love and hope that Jesus brings. We will be working on a full version of the app for roll out in 2017/18.

We also invested in two specific programmes to enable young adults in western/global culture to engage with life words as relevant, meaningful, and transformative for their lives.

VerseFirst provides daily Bible content via social media with an invitation to share, comment and to delve deeper into the Bible. The programme aims to build a bridge between the Bible and young people's lived experience, and to instill habits of Bible reading for teenagers and young adults. We increased resources for the programme, creating a new website and commissioning regular blog posts exploring how to put these words into practice in our everyday lives. Over 18,000 people are signed up to VerseFirst feeds.

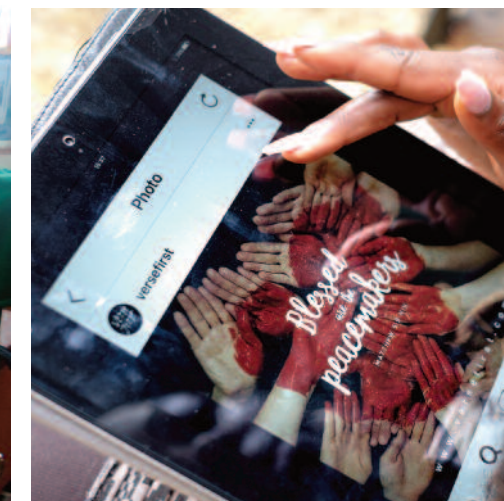
NINE BEATS is a major new arts-based project in development during 2016, created for millennial and centennial audiences, who have not encountered the Bible or Christian faith as good news in the world. The project has gathered a collective of musicians, artists, theologians and activists to produce ways in to the Beatitudes (and Jesus' wider teachings in the sermon on the mount). NINE BEATS will launch in 2017 with an album of music and spoken word, website, events and resources for practice-based spiritual formation.

To see our latest films, scan this QR code or visit www.youtube.com/lifewords



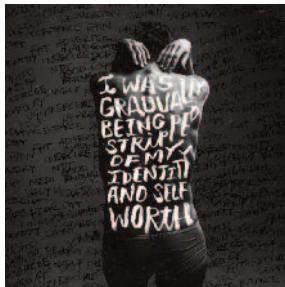
Left: The prototype Pavement Project app is undergoing field testing before full development

Right: VerseFirst reaches young people with the Bible through social media



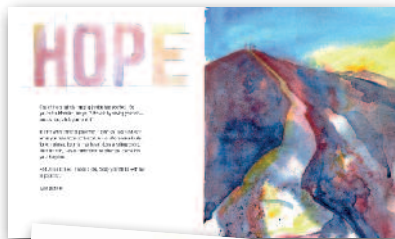
GIVING LIFE WORDS AT HOME

In the UK we worked with Luton-based charity Azalea to produce a Bible resource for women in sexual exploitation. The resulting booklet - *Wildflowers: Flourishing in the Chaos* - was created together with Azalea's clients and contains Bible passages interspersed with quotes and stories from the women. This pioneering resource will be used by Azalea and is available to other similar organisations.



Young people in our VerseFirst programme identified the issues of anxiety and mental ill health as important to them, and we began developing resources to provide Bible-based wisdom and support. These will be ready for publication in 2017.

We also encouraged churches in the UK to share the Bible more extensively in their outreach activities around Christmas, Easter and Remembrance, producing a new Easter booklet *One Friday*, and an interactive Christmas resource for families, *Expect the Unexpected*. We also provided churches with prayer resources for Advent, focusing on 'Stories from India'.



One Friday: a beautifully-illustrated Easter Resource

In 2017 we will continue to work in partnership with other organisations in the UK and around the world to promote Bible engagement. We are also renewing our branding to make sure that we build on our 130-year heritage to engage new generations with life words for themselves and for the world.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

These figures are taken from the full audited UK accounts for 2016. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

Income	£	%
Donations and grants	933,840	60
Legacies	592,761	38
Investment and other income	38,567	2
Total	1,565,168	100

Expenditure	£	%
Providing Bible resources	1,072,689	69
Bible programmes	288,561	19
Cost of raising funds	141,864	9
Support for global offices	45,247	3
Total	1,548,361	100

These figures are taken from the full audited UK accounts for 2016. Please contact us if you would like a copy



IMPACT – A SNAPSHOT

- 1.1 million items of Bible literature were distributed in 45 languages to 72 countries.
- 32,000 people received daily Scriptures through our Life Changing Words (LCW) email service, in 12 languages and 209 countries. The LCW app has been installed 31,000 times.
- 18,000 people were part of the VerseFirst community and each post averaged around 600 likes.
- We printed new titles in 7 languages, and reprinted or revised 18 titles in 9 languages. In addition 5 new titles and 2 reprints were prepared for publication.



THE
YEAR
IN
PICTURES

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