

RESOURCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2008 and 2009 saw the publication of three new Bibles which aptly illustrate and support both the Massachusetts Bible Society's mission and the reality of continued Biblical relevance in today's world.

- *The Green Bible* (HarperOne, 2008) addresses the environmental crisis by highlighting in green all Bible verses which deal with creation, the environment, and care of the earth. It includes critical essays by N.T. Wright, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brian McLaren, and Matthew Sleeth and is designed to "equip and encourage you to see God's vision for creation and help you engage in the work of healing and sustaining it".
- *The Poverty and Justice Bible* (American Bible Society, 2008) tackles issues of economic justice through critical essays and by highlighting "more than 2000 verses that spell out God's attitude toward poverty and justice At the core of the groundbreaking *Poverty and Justice Bible* are in-depth studies and practical suggestions on what we can do to tackle poverty and injustice in our world today".
- *The Peoples' Bible* (Fortress Press, 2009) fully establishes the Bible as a multi-cultural collection of texts. It "highlights the role of cultures in shaping both the development of the Bible and the way people read the Bible today. Relying on the best insights of historical-critical, liberationist, postmodern, and postcolonial interpretation, introductory essays highlight issues of ethnicity, gender, and identity in interpreting the Bible".

The "media" position within the Massachusetts Bible Society has maintained an evolutionary trajectory which both parallels and reflects the larger change in mission of the organization as a whole. While MBS, since its founding, has been an organization that works to spark and nurture ecumenical dialogue grounded in scholarship, since the first half of the twentieth century it has done so by way of bookselling, Bible Grants, and educational events . . . pretty much in that order. However, MBS has recognized that a drastic change in the means by which people learn and interact, in addition to new societal priorities, requires a new direction. Access to information, whether it comes from Bibles, books on spirituality/theology, or the Sunday pulpit, is no longer an issue for the large majority of the public. This is why the maintenance of a position such as Bookstore Manager, Book Services Manager, or any position that focuses on the distribution or sale of printed materials is no longer needed. What *is* needed is a position that will provide assistance and direction to the general public . . . someone that, using up-to-date technology, will point people *to* the resources needed to continue the Massachusetts Bible Society's mission of fostering an open, spiritual, multi-denominational dialogue.

This realization has seen the Book Manager's position recreated as MBS Resource Director. Behind this new position is the new direction of moving out of the bookselling business and devoting attention to creating and maintaining the MBS website (www.massbible.org) as an information and resource recommendation portal (books, articles, web links, etc.), working personally with churches and other Massachusetts institutions in determining their needed resources, collaborating with the Executive Director and other staff in the planning and carrying out of MBS' educational events (which includes taking advantage of access to the Media Center), and continuing to approve and process Bible Grants to organizations within the Commonwealth that are in need. Funds for continued staff development have been budgeted in order to keep up with the ever-changing technologies and modes of communication.

The Massachusetts Bible Society, marked by its 200th Anniversary in 2009, is entering into a very exciting period in its history. Our Board of Trustees and Staff are more determined than ever that MBS will continue to champion Biblical literacy, understanding, and dialogue among the many voices that exist today and it will continue to move toward reaching the broadest possible audience in the 21st Century by embracing new technology as it comes into being.

Mike Colyott, Resource Director