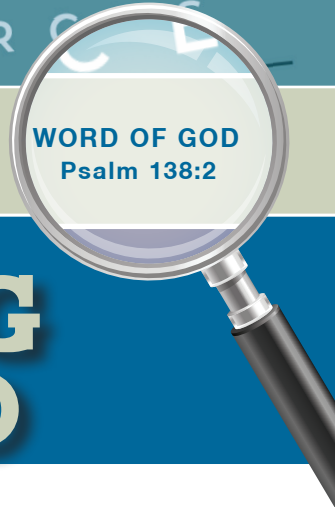




A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO MAGNIFYING THE "For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name."

WORD OF GOD Psalm 138:2



AUTUMN | 2023

BLUE LETTER BIBLE

MAGNIFYING GOD'S WORD

What You Give to God, He Multiplies

The teaching of God's Word is a high and honorable calling. It fulfills the Great Commission, as given by our Lord Jesus Christ, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20). It is a calling that should never be taken lightly. Standing in a pulpit every week and preaching the Word of God, regardless of the size of the crowd, can be intimidating.

This is one of the reasons we make Blue Letter Bible available for those who don't have access to a large amount of study resources. We recently had the opportunity to talk with Matt Parker, who shared with us how Blue Letter Bible has been a part of his ministry through the years.

At 19 years old, Matt planted a church and began teaching. While he had no formal pastoral education, Matt learned biblical teaching from his father and grandfather, who were both teaching pastors. But his resource library was extremely limited, consisting of his study Bible, Strong's Concordance, and Vine's Expository Dictionary. Thus, Matt was delighted to come across BLB early in his search for biblical resources. He was immediately drawn in by the extensive and in-depth resources available at no cost.

His curiosity piqued, he began to delve into the Bible using our tools and resources and was astounded by the amount of information he found. With these extra tools, Matt continued to teach for about a decade at the church he planted. In 2007, God called them back to Matt's hometown. Matt accepted a position as a deacon at his local church, where he served faithfully. He was soon asked to take on the role of head pastor as the previous one was retiring. However, given his family circumstances, he was unable



One of Crucible Fire's study groups

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What You Give to God, He Multiplies

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Matt Parker

to accept the offer. Matt and his wife had four children, and the youngest was recently born with special needs. Because of this, he was unable to commit to a full-time pastoral position. Instead, he offered to continue teaching from the pulpit until a suitable replacement was found.

When Matt's church merged with another, he was able to move into the area of ministry that he felt the

Lord was leading him. He expressed a desire to create a discipleship program to serve small churches. The church responded generously, providing Matt with a starting fund of ten thousand dollars. With this money, Matt created The Crucible's Fire, a discipleship program aimed at providing materials, training, and encouragement to the Body of Christ.


Over fifteen years later, God has blessed the fruit of Matt's hands. The Crucible's Fire has published study guides, provided dozens of workshops, and done pastoral training. Their passion for helping others has even gone beyond the United States and into Mexico providing training for pastors there. Through it all, Blue Letter Bible has been one of the primary tools used in discipling and training others.

Matt told us an amazing story about a 62-year-old pastor. He has a 3rd-grade education and rides his bike 60 miles every Sunday to teach at three different churches. Matt said, "After attending our workshop, he was overwhelmed at the tools being offered for completely free by Blue Letter Bible." We are not only incredibly blessed by this story as a ministry, but it continues to be a reminder for Matt, and for us, of God's amazing power to take what may seem small and insignificant and multiply it for His glory. 

ANNOUNCEMENT: Position Opening

Our current Director of Donor Relations and Development, Alan V. Pearson, CFRE, is retiring. He has led our development department since 2012 and is the only person to ever hold this position within the ministry. Since 2014, giving from individual donors has seen an average annual increase of 30%. We praise the Lord for His hand of provision through faithful, generous donors like you, as we are closing in on our goal of becoming fully user-supported. Our aim, however, is to build upon this momentum, not only to become user-supported, but to see giving surpass our operating budget of over \$3m. Given the solid foundation of donors like you, and giving which has been built over the last ten years, the opportunities to expand our global reach with giving beyond that are virtually endless. As you can imagine, this position is critical, and the ideal candidate will be a skilled relationship-driven person capable of making impactful connections with our major gift partners.

This position requires work to be done from our office in Greenville, South Carolina, and requires a significant amount of travel across the USA. A CFRE or ACFRE certification, seven years of experience encompassing all areas of fundraising and resource development, including a minimum of five years of experience in leadership roles with responsibility for oversight of fundraising functions and staff are highly preferred. Please see the position description and requirements below. And most importantly, please join us in prayer as we seek the Lord's direction with this hire.

You can read all the details at www.blb.org/careers. 


New Content *Head to blb.org/newsletterlinks for links to content.*

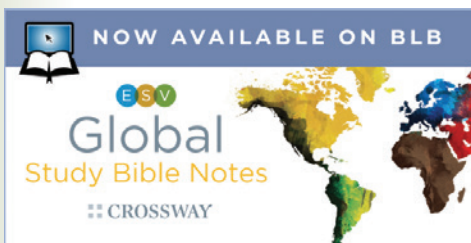


New International Resources on BLB!

We are so excited to announce several newly-released international language resources from multiple different authors. Chuck Smith and J. Vernon McGee have been long-time providers of audio resources to our site. Now, we are blessed to offer their content in multiple languages. Chuck Smith's

Verse-by-Verse audio can now be listened to in Hindi, Mandarin, Arabic, Portuguese, and Russian. J. Vernon McGee's Thru the Bible radio show can also be selected in Spanish and Arabic. As shown below, choosing one of the options will direct you to that language's landing page.

We are also excited to introduce the late Pastor Alejandro Alonso as our newest Spanish content provider. His ministry has generously given us permission to provide Pastor Alonso's completed expository audio messages of the Bible. Pastor Alonso spent over four decades teaching the Word of God in various Hispanic churches and released several albums of worship music during that time. For his full biography and to learn more about his ministry, find his ministry link on blb.org/newsletterlinks. 




ESV Global Study Bible Added to BLB!

Blue Letter Bible is blessed to announce our newest collection of study resources from the ESV Global Study Bible, generously provided by our partners at Crossway Publishing. The pure number and quality of study resources provided are incredible,

including 14,151 concordance entries, 12,215 study note entries for every chapter of the Bible, and 80,000 cross-references.

We are so humbled by the privilege of providing this content to you, which also contains Old and New Testament character profiles, charts, diagrams, facts, and maps to name a few. We recommend taking a look at the comprehensive index that we have under the "Bible Reference" section in the Study tab. They can also be accessed via their own section under the Commentaries tab in the Tools button.

There is an impressive wealth of biblical information contained within this collection of resources. That's why we want to thank Crossway Publishing for their generosity and continued partnership. To learn more about their mission, you can go to their website from blb.org/newsletterlinks. 



GOD'S WORD IS **ALIVE** & **ACTIVE**

The Expanding Reach of Blue Letter Bible



Blue Letter Bible has always endeavored to not only provide free Bible study resources, but to make them available to everyone. This has led to a fervor to supply resources and tools in languages other than English to reach a global audience. We have been blessed in recent years to make several new study materials available for our Spanish-speaking audience. But it is people on the mission field like Matt who bring this biblical initiative to fruition.

The global church is intrinsically partnered together in the calling of the Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to

observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20 NASB95). Stories like Matt’s bear witness to the fruit of the work that God is accomplishing through BLB, which is beyond encouraging. Praise be to God, and may He continue to use us for the furtherance of His gospel!

Until the whole world hears,

Jim Milligan
C.E.O. and Co-Founder

User Testimony

“I LOVE BLB. I am reading through the Bible in a year. Going through the OT can be rough in some areas, like now in Numbers, so I listen to it through BLB. I personally use the NLT. I also like to look up words, and BLB made it so easy to look things up. Thank you for creating BLB.

— Timothy (Castle Rock, CO)

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