



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

WORD OF GOD  
Psalm 138:2

FEBRUARY | 2025

BLUE LETTER BIBLE

# MAGNIFYING GOD'S WORD

## Saying Farewell with Gratitude to Alan Pearson



Alan Pearson

For the first 17 years of Blue Letter Bible's existence, the Lord provided virtually all the funding needed to maintain and grow the ministry through a Christian foundation known as Sowing Circle. This foundation was created by a group of men who were dedicated to equipping Christians worldwide through free in-depth Bible study resources that were otherwise too difficult for most people to obtain. In 2012, Blue Letter Bible found itself at a crossroad. After much prayer, the Sowing Circle Board of Directors was led to an important decision. BLB would make its funding needs known in an

effort to set itself on a path to becoming fully sustainable from its base of dedicated users. This created the need for a donor relations and development program. In the fall of 2012, Alan Pearson was introduced to our CEO and co-founder, Jim Milligan. Jim said, "One day, I sat down next to Alan Pearson at a luncheon. That conversation resulted in an inspiration to develop a donor relations emphasis within the ministry. It changed the manner in which BLB could expand in the future, allowing us to better serve students of the Bible." Alan began to help BLB build its own donor relations and development program on a part-time basis that year. And then, in the spring of 2014, he joined our team full-time as the Director of Donor Relations and Development.

Creating a donor relations and development program from scratch was quite an initiative, and we praised the Lord for the philosophy of fundraising that He instilled in Alan's heart. By design, the approach is based on 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and Paul's concept of sharing (*koinōnikous*) with the fellowship-community (*koinonia*). Rather than directly asking our users to give, we encourage them to pray about how God might lead them to support BLB. It is our sincere desire that all support we receive from our partners would be a result of them being led by God to give and not by anything we would ever say or do. Developing deep and lasting personal relationships has been the cornerstone of this approach. To the extent time would allow, Alan has met in

*Continued on page 2*

P2

SAYING FAREWELL  
WITH GRATITUDE  
TO ALAN PEARSON (CONTINUED)

P3

GENEVA BIBLE  
STUDY NOTES  
NOW AVAILABLE

P4


THE IMPORTANCE OF  
HISTORY IN CHRISTIANITY

# Saying Farewell with Gratitude to Alan Pearson

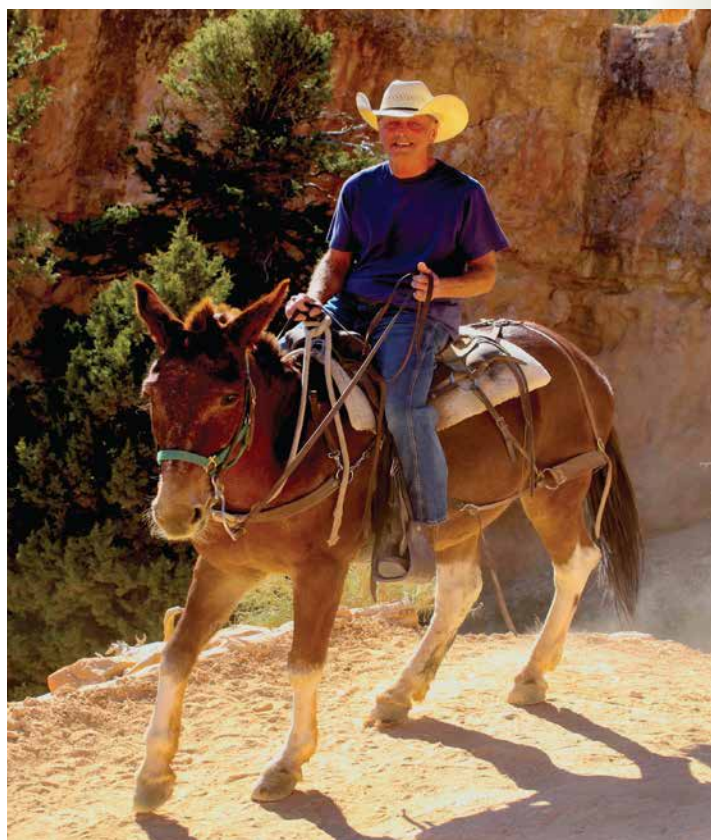
Cover Story (continued from page 1)

person with hundreds of BLB partners over the last decade. Alan said, “I will forever cherish the countless relationships I have developed with BLB partners all around the country over these last twelve plus years. I see any gift to BLB as a by-product of an ever-growing relationship with a ministry partner who is growing in the Word and is joyfully committed to being used by God to help BLB achieve its mission. We aspire to ministry, not giving. Our desire is to help our partners experience the joy in giving the way God designed us to give.” Between 2014 and 2024, we have continued to see increase year after year on our journey to become fully supported by our users and donors. This growth has enabled BLB to expand all it does to provide God’s Word along with free in-depth study tools through the innumerable opportunities God has given us. But as God continues to bless us with more and more opportunities, our financial needs to maintain the ministry grow as well. That is why the consistent increase in support from our partners is so vital and blesses us every year.

In 2022, Alan informed the board of Blue Letter Bible that he would be retiring at the end of 2024. And so, the search for Alan’s successor began in early 2023. By the end of that year, after an extensive search and the fervent prayers of many, God led us to Jacob Evatt. Jacob joined the staff in January 2024 and worked closely with Alan throughout all of 2024. He has already become an invaluable and cherished part of our staff at the ministry. Alan affirms this wholeheartedly: “I am 100% confident Jacob is an answer to our prayers for my successor. Jacob understands how we view stewardship. He shares our vision and passion for developing meaningful relationships with our partners, and those relationships will continue to grow under his leadership as the new Director of Donor Relations and Development.”

In light of Alan’s retirement, Jim said, “We thank God for bringing Alan to be a crucial part of this ministry to help us develop systems and cultivate relationships with donors and users. These have made it possible to continue providing Bible study tools around the world at no cost to users.” And we also thank God for continuing to abundantly provide for all our needs as we remain committed to strengthening and equipping God’s people through His Holy Word. Our heart is to assist all believers everywhere who desire to grow in their faith by deepening their understanding of God and His will for their lives. We give all praise and glory to God for His wonderful work through our ministry in the lives of our users, donors, and staff. It is only through His divine power that any of what we do is possible. If you would like to learn more about BLB’s guiding principles as it pertains to fundraising, please visit [blb.org/donorinfo](http://blb.org/donorinfo). 

*Riding off into the sunset...*



## New Content *Head to [blb.org/newsletterlinks](http://blb.org/newsletterlinks) for links to content.*




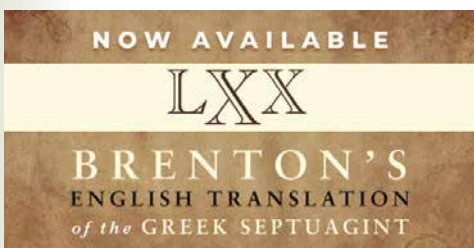
### Geneva Bible Study Notes Now Available

The Geneva Bible is one of the most important versions in the history of Bible translation. It stands as a milestone in the development of biblical annotation and commentary. First published in 1560 by Protestant scholars in Geneva, Switzerland,

this work was notable for being the first English translation to implement several things. Among these are textual and explanatory study notes in page margins. That is what we are excited to now offer on Blue Letter Bible.

The study notes included in the Geneva Bible were compiled from the work of Reformation leaders including John Calvin, John Knox, and others. Their Reformed theological perspective enhanced the reading of the Scriptures and promoted purposeful study of the text by laymen. These notes were comprehensively vast, covering theological, historical, and practical aspects of the text. These will be accessible from the Study tab under Bible Study Notes.

The Geneva Bible has laid the groundwork for modern study Bibles, which themselves served as the inspiration for applications and websites such as Blue Letter Bible. In the spirit of the Geneva Bible, our ministry desires to give our users the ability to study the written Word in order that they may better understand the living Word, Jesus Christ. We pray that both these study notes from Reformers and the plethora of other resources and tools we offer will benefit your time in God's Word. 




### Brenton's English Septuagint Available

The Septuagint is an ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. It was a key factor in readability as Greek had become the common language by the time of Christ. At Blue Letter Bible, we have offered the Septuagint (LXX) for many years, which is regarded as the most credible Greek translation

of the Hebrew Old Testament. Now, we are pleased to offer Brenton's English Septuagint (BES), an English translation of the Greek Septuagint.

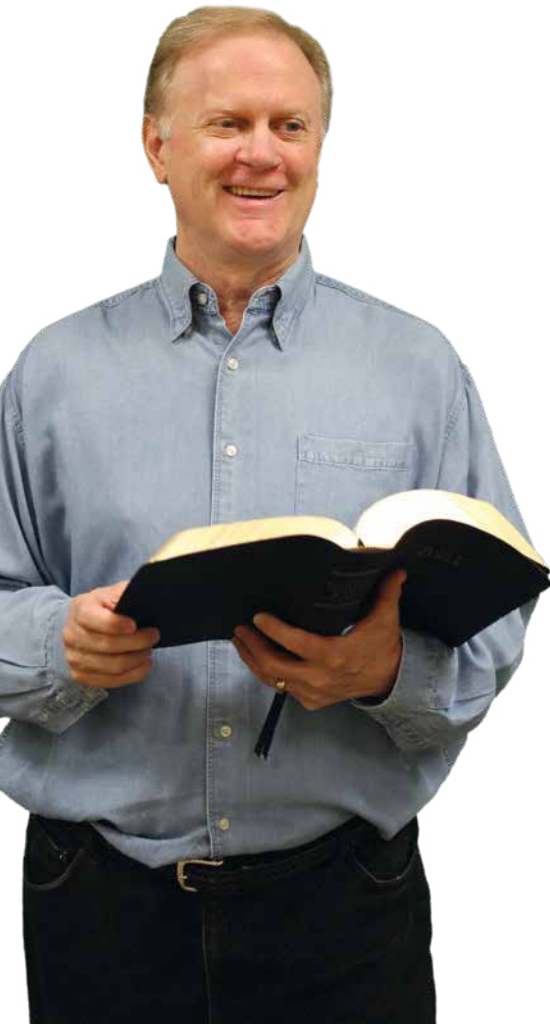
Being able to offer an English rendering of the Septuagint is an amazing opportunity. In the preface of the BES, the writer makes a statement about the importance of the LXX: "It is not only a translation of the Old Testament, but it is the Old Testament translated into the language of the New. Let it be remembered that the Gospel was in its aspect to the world a Hellenistic thing."

At BLB, we recognize the usefulness of studying God's Word using the Greek Septuagint, especially in instances where a New Testament writer references the Greek Septuagint translation. Thus, the BES translation is just one more of the in-depth Septuagint tools that we offer. While checking out the BES, be sure to open up the Tools button, and take a look at the Septuagint tab with each Greek word and parsing. 





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



## The Importance of History in Christianity

In recent years, the world at large seems to be overwhelmingly focused on current trends and the recent past. Knowledge of world history wanes, causing facts to become twisted and the concept of unbiased truth to become difficult to discern. Similarly, Christians seem less and less inclined to read and learn from those who have had a major impact on the church, such as Martin Luther, John Bunyan, and Charles Spurgeon. And yet, these men of God and numerous more have been influential in forming the thoughts of contemporary teachers to whom we listen and read.

In our recent additions of the Geneva Bible study notes and Brenton's English Septuagint, Blue Letter Bible wanted to showcase two older works that are amazing resources for study. The Geneva Bible was a keystone work that resulted from translating the Scriptures into the common English language, as well as pioneering the concept of study Bibles. Brenton's English Septuagint

was also vital in bringing awareness to the importance of the Septuagint as a whole.

As a ministry that focuses on providing tools and resources to study God's Word, we are blessed by the invaluable work of those faithful saints that came before us. God used the work of men and women throughout history to translate Scripture, publish commentaries, deliver teachings, and pen poems. All of this was done so that we would grow in our understanding of the greatness of our God. That is why BLB focuses on giving glory to God. Without Him, there would be no Scripture, no commentaries, no Internet, and certainly no Blue Letter Bible. He is worthy of all the praise and worship we can give!

Until the whole world hears,

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

## User Testimony

"I enjoy the Word being brought to me through your online courses. God has richly blessed my understanding and my relationship with Jesus through the courses I have completed. Looking forward to more studying of God's Word." — *Carol (New Jersey)*

## BlueLetterBible.org

If you are led to give, you can do  
so easily at our secure website:

[BlueLetterBible.org/give](https://BlueLetterBible.org/give)

Or mail your gift to: Blue Letter Bible

PO Box 80670

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-9918

Youtube: [BLB.org/YouTube](https://BLB.org/YouTube)

Blue Letter Bible Institute: [Study.Bible](https://Study.Bible)

[facebook.com/BlueLetterBible](https://facebook.com/BlueLetterBible)

[instagram.com/BlueLetterBible](https://instagram.com/BlueLetterBible)

[twitter.com/BlueLetterBible](https://twitter.com/BlueLetterBible)