



# Between --- Friends

2021 VOLUME 1

**The fact that God in Jesus Christ had become a missionary to our world changed Paul forever. No longer hugging his privileges to himself, he discovered one who, being in the form of God, thought it not a thing to be held on to, to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, humbled himself, took on him the form of a servant and became obedient even to the death of the cross, so that he might bring salvation to the world.**

**DAVID GOODING**

**DARING TO BE DIFFERENT: SEVEN STUDIES FROM ACTS ON  
THE DEFENCE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL**

# Contents

—

p. 2

Staff and Volunteers

p. 3

Dear Friends

p. 4

Myrtlefield International

pp. 5–7

Project 2.2 Billion

pp. 8–9

New Resources



# Staff and Volunteers

Meet the people behind the scenes.



**Matthew Craig**  
*Resource Developer*



**Helen Crookes**  
*Editor*



**Stephen Cunningham**  
*Editorial Assistant*



**Josh Fitzhugh**  
*Executive Director*



**Barbara Hamilton**  
*Editor*



**Dawn Patterson**  
*Proofreader*



**Ben Thompson**  
*Translation Manager*



**Peter Whyte**  
*Archivist*



**David Woods**  
*Editor*



## Dear friends,

From its inception the Myrtlefield Trust's work has been to promote Christian teaching all across the world. At various points in our history the Lord has given us the opportunity to focus on a specific geographical location. At other times he has called us to 'cast our nets' far and wide. In recent years, with the global increase in internet availability and usage, it has become possible to focus on both local and global distribution at the same time. One constant joy in this work has been to see books translated into as many languages as possible.

It is with pleasure, then, that we can announce *Project 2.2 Billion*. This expansive new project will see the translation, publication and promotion of all of our books into four strategic languages: Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. The scope of this undertaking is significant, but we have been encouraged by the way the Lord is providing key people and financial resources for the various languages at just the right time. In this edition of *Between Friends* you will find details about why we have chosen to target these four languages, together with specific areas for which we would value your prayers.

*Project 2.2 Billion* is not holding us back from pursuing other translation partnerships. Currently we have active translation projects in Albanian, Dutch, French, Kiswahili and Portuguese; and we will continue to provide resources in any language, as and when we are asked for it, in order to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ in the great call of Christ to make disciples among all nations.

Speaking at a missionary conference some years ago, David Gooding encouraged believers to learn about the beliefs of our neighbours and colleagues, so that we might effectively share the gospel with them. He also suggested Christians would be wise to dedicate themselves to studying the major worldviews of our age. Above all, he emphasized that at the heart of a proper Christian attitude to evangelism and discipleship is the Word of God.

He said, 'We cannot afford to let our teaching be lackadaisical, with no set aims and objectives—and sometimes no results. We need to inform ourselves of God's Word; and if we are going to promote missionary interest we would need to inform ourselves also of those spiritual needs in this world to which the Bible has the answer.'

As we consider some of those needs throughout the world and some of the specific doors the Lord has opened for the Myrtlefield Trust, let's ask the Lord of the harvest to show us what part we can play as he completes his great work.

# Myrtlefield International



The first step in this international focus was to update our ‘Myrtlefield International’ website: [www.mh316.com](http://www.mh316.com).

## BACKGROUND

Over the years, we have worked to provide quality Christian resources to as wide an audience as possible. Some of you may have been aware of our website, [keybibleconcepts.org](http://keybibleconcepts.org), which was specially designed to host translated material and to serve users in countries with less reliable WiFi.

We have now updated this website, maintaining compatibility with low-bandwidth connections, while also adding a number of new features, such as a shortened URL to make sharing easier, and reduced size PDF downloads.

At present the new website contains:

- Free downloads of Myrtlefield House books in thirteen languages.
- Purchase links for users who wish to buy print editions of the books.
- Samples of a new project we are currently engaged in called *Ask David Gooding* (see p. 8 for more information).

## THE FUTURE

We will add resources to this site as they become available. Stephen Cunningham is involved in a project to scan twenty-five more books in translation from our archive, and to produce them in PDF format. In addition, all new publications linked with the new language project will be provided on this website as soon as possible.

# Project 2.2 Billion

This expansive new project will see the translation, publication and promotion of all of our books in four strategic languages: Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. These four languages have been chosen due to the number of speakers of each, and the need to have additional Christian resources freely available in their representative countries. In total, these resources will have the potential to reach 2.2 billion speakers in their native or second language.

Why translate these books in particular and introduce them to other cultures? Well, since you're reading this update, you are probably already convinced of the value of these books. But it's worth giving our reasons for anyone new to the work of Myrtlefield. Simply put, we believe there is still work for these books to do, and they are uniquely suited to many of the demands of readers who may not have a deep understanding of Scripture, or who may even be antagonistic towards it.

David Gooding's writing combines the insights of a scholar who had an insatiable desire for the truth and a deep loyalty to Christ, along with the heart of a teacher who was eager to see people thinking for themselves as they heard God speaking through his Word. His analysis of Scripture is highly valued by students with little knowledge of the Bible, as well as by scholars and teachers. His books have a proven track record, both in English and in translation, and have opened up the riches of God's Word across generations and cultures. Likewise, the books co-authored with John Lennox provide deep insight both into Scripture and into the contemporary world. They have been read by millions and continue to circulate in many languages.

Based on previous experience, the financial case for translations makes sense in terms of the number of people we expect to use them, and also because there are no royalties involved. The cost lies only in preparing, publishing and disseminating the contents, especially in key languages, and others as required.

## ARABIC

Arabic is spoken by approximately 420 million native and non-native speakers. It is also the liturgical language of 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide. Arabic is a majority language throughout the Arabian Peninsula and northern Africa.

In spite of many difficulties, ministries working on behalf of the Arabic-speaking world report that vast numbers of Muslims are converting to Christianity. The political upheaval in the Arab world over the last ten years has created new opportunities, such as:

- Younger Arab Christians reading more in order to investigate their faith and gain a deeper understanding of it.
- Societal instability causing many Muslims to question their own beliefs.
- Many Arab churches seeking resources to deepen their faith, increase their knowledge of the Bible and help with discipleship.

For these reasons biblical resources in Arabic are needed more than ever.

## OUR WORK

At present we have one book in Arabic: *Key Bible Concepts*. In conjunction with a publishing group in Cairo, we aim to produce 2–3 books per year, starting with *The Definition of Christianity*, *The Bible and Ethics*, and *Christianity: Opium or Truth?*. The team in Cairo will manage translation, editing and publication of these works, as they have a wide reach not only in Egypt but throughout the Arabic-speaking world.

## RUSSIAN

Russia is traditionally an Orthodox Christian country. While it technically has permitted freedom of religion since the fall of the Soviet Union, recent laws have severely restricted evangelistic activity. These new laws are designed to combat religious extremism, but in effect they prohibit preaching the gospel as this is defined as ‘promoting one religion over another’. Penalties for such activities range from the banning of religious texts, to imprisonment. The current population of Russia (including Crimea) is approximately 146 million, 1.2 percent of which are evangelical Christians. Missionary research groups estimate that 12 percent of the population (about 17.4 million) is currently unreached by the gospel. In addition to approximately 150 million native speakers, 110 million people use Russian as a second language in Central Asia and former Soviet states.

## OUR WORK

The Myrtlefield Trust has a long history in producing material for Russia, and several of our publications were first published in Russian. Therefore, this part of *Project 2.2 Billion* will mostly involve translating the remaining books into Russian and editing existing translations so that they conform with modern language standards.

## CHINESE

Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language in the world by native speakers (1.12 billion). It is spoken by 70 percent of the population of China (1.4 billion people), which is the most populous country on earth. Officially 2 percent of the population of China is Christian, but unofficial estimates state that Christianity is the fastest growing religion. There may be up to 38 million Protestants and 10–12 million Catholics in China. The only citizens who are officially recognized as Christians must be over 18 and members of the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Church, China Christian Council or the Three-Self Church. Many Christians in the country have refused to join these institutions and instead meet in underground house churches.

Many Christian leaders in China believe that the nation as a whole is experiencing a key time of spiritual and cultural emptiness. Old traditions are practised less and less due to the rise of Communism, and individualistic commercialism is rising in the big cities where 60% of the population now live. Even as Christianity continues to grow, there is increasing pressure on the Chinese church. This includes persecution, imprisonments and banning of some books. Given the size of the country and the different cultures represented throughout, there is an ever-increasing variety of needs, not least of which is the need for solid biblical materials for training church leaders and teachers, as well as building the faith of younger believers.



## OUR WORK

At present we have two books available in Chinese: *Key Bible Concepts* and *An Unshakable Kingdom*. *True to the Faith* is in the final stages of production, and translation work has begun on *According to Luke*. The current climate within China means that we are limited in printing books, but we are preparing translations for a time when that door opens again.

## SPANISH

Castilian Spanish is an official language in 20 countries, and has a total of 489 million native speakers worldwide. It has a further 75 million second-language speakers, making it the third most spoken language in the world. The majority of the Spanish-speaking world still identifies as Catholic (67 percent in Spain and 69 percent in Latin America).

Many Christian leaders are keen to see an increase in the production/distribution of resources that promote the Bible as God's full and final revelation. There is also demand for books which promote a biblical understanding of the meaning of life and suffering. These resources are important for equipping leaders and evangelists who daily interact with Roman Catholicism, animistic beliefs and the prosperity gospel.

## OUR WORK

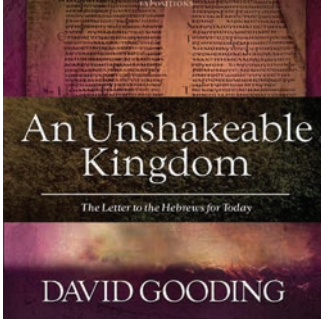
Last year we launched a new publishing imprint: *Myrtlefield Español*. Since many of our books had already been translated into Spanish, most of the work is on the editorial side. Ben Thompson (our Translation Manager) is updating the language to modern standards and organizing the translation of those books that aren't already available. We plan to publish *The Bible and Ethics*, *Key Bible Concepts*, *In the School of Christ* and *An Unshakable Kingdom* in 2021, with all other Myrtlefield House titles to follow as soon as possible.

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

- If you know anyone who would be interested in reviewing and promoting books in Arabic, Russian, Simplified Chinese or Spanish, please let us know by emailing [ben@myrtlefieldhouse.com](mailto:ben@myrtlefieldhouse.com).
- If you know anyone who would benefit from having the resources in these languages, please put them in contact with us or share our website details with them.
- Please pray:
  1. that God would provide the right people to carry out the work in Russian.
  2. that all these resources would reach a wide audience, specifically among speakers of Arabic and Chinese.
  3. that God would open a door in China to allow the publication of Christian resources again.

# New Resources

## UPDATE: AUDIOBOOKS



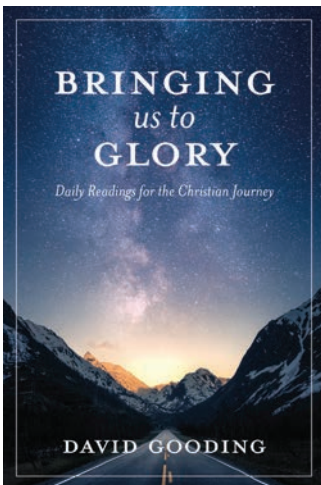
In March 2021 we released our first audiobook: *An Unshakeable Kingdom* read by Andy Mayo. It is available on a host of platforms including Audible, NOOK, Scribd, Apple, EBSCO, Google Play and audiobooks.com.

We plan now to produce audiobook editions of *According to Luke*, *True to the Faith*, *The Riches of Divine Wisdom*, *In the School of Christ* and *Windows on Paradise*.

Andy Mayo has begun recording *In the School of Christ*, and this should be available by early 2022.

If you use other platforms to download audiobooks, please let us know so that we can look into making them available there as well.

## UPDATE: BRINGING US TO GLORY



Since the launch of *Bringing Us To Glory* in November 2021 we have received much positive feedback. The book has quickly jumped to be our bestselling print book, and we have already begun printing extra paperback copies due to the first print run selling out. Helen Crookes has started work on another daily reader, which we hope to launch in 2022.

*Review on Amazon:* Anything with David Gooding's name on it has always been a quick and rewarding purchase for me and this devotional was no exception (and I'm not even a devotional kinda guy). To have so many of Professor Gooding's teachings wrapped up into one book is a treasure more valuable than anything you could ever find buried in the Caribbean ocean; what a truly remarkable gift to the Body of Christ this book is. Thank you Myrtlefield team for putting this together, God bless you!

## COMING SOON: NEW BOOKS ON JOHN'S GOSPEL

Josh Fitzhugh is currently compiling all David Gooding's teaching on the Gospel of John and editing it into three books:

1. A short *overview* of the Gospel (especially for Bible teachers, due 2022)
2. A long *exposition* of the whole Gospel (for all Bible students, due 2022)
3. *Stories* about individuals in the Gospel (for believers and non-believers, due late 2021)

## UPDATE: MYRTLEFIELD BIBLE STUDIES

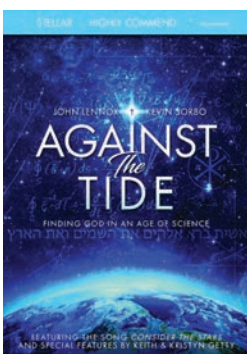
Our editors continue working to make transcripts of David Gooding’s teaching available now and for future generations. Eight additional sets of studies are available for free download on our website, bringing the total to 180 series. The new transcripts, listed in the table below, are available in multiple formats so that you can download and read them wherever you go. Our full catalogue now features teaching on 20 Old Testament books, 17 New Testament books, and a variety of topics such as apologetics, the Christian life, Christian doctrine, the gospel, and prophecy.

<i>Finding Truth in our Modern Age</i> Four Studies Answering Common Questions about Christianity	<i>God’s Glorious Plan for Creation</i> Seven Studies on Major Themes in Ephesians
<i>Conforming to the Spirit of God</i> Three Studies from 1 Corinthians 12–14 on Spiritual Gifts	<i>Authority, Freedom and Responsibility</i> Three Studies on Applying the Gospel to Our Lives
<i>Prayer, Praise and Worship</i> Four Studies on Responding to God’s Grace	<i>The Body of Christ</i> Five Studies Answering Vital Questions about Church Order
<i>How About God?</i> Four Questions About the Eternal God and Eternal Destiny	<i>The Salvation of the Lord</i> Twenty Five Studies on Isaiah 1–39 (Estimated release: July 2021)

## COMING SOON: Q&A PROJECT

As announced in the previous issue, we are getting ready to publish an online archive of David Gooding’s answers to Bible-related questions that he received through correspondence over many years, and in Q&A sessions. This includes his reaction to books and articles that were brought to his attention as well as doctrinal matters and issues of a more pastoral nature. We plan to launch them as part of the new Myrtlefield House website later in 2021. If you have any letters to/from David Gooding that you’d like to share with us, please email [info@myrtlefieldhouse.com](mailto:info@myrtlefieldhouse.com). Correspondents’ names/details will be removed to preserve anonymity.

## OUT NOW: AGAINST THE TIDE – A FILM FEATURING JOHN LENNOX



‘*Against the Tide* is a travelogue, an examination of modern science, an excursion into history, an autobiography, and more. But at heart, it is the story of one man’s daring stand against the tide of contemporary atheism and its drive to relegate belief in God to society’s catalogue of dead ideas. Join the conversation between Dr. John Lennox—esteemed Oxford professor, mathematician, and philosopher of science—and veteran Hollywood actor and director Kevin Sorbo as they journey from Oxford to Jerusalem and explore the evidence on which Lennox’s Christian faith stands firm.’

As we go to evangelize in a hard old world, let us not forget the inherent attractiveness of our blessed Lord, not merely to Jew but to Gentile. If nowadays the centre of evangelism is passing from countries that once shone brightly and are now going down the slope of rejecting the gospel, into atheism and every kind of perversion, there are other nations where the name of our Lord has been blasphemed and denounced for decades but now multitudes are coming to see the wonderful beauty of Jesus Christ, the Son of Jesse, of the house of David. We needn't be pessimists; he is still as attractive as ever.

**DAVID GOODING**

**RISE UP AND WALK: TWO STUDIES ON LIVING  
FAITHFULLY FOR GOD IN A HOSTILE WORLD**