

BIBLE CHALLENGE (formally Scripture Exam) Report 2021

I am sure, like most others, the period being reported on has been one of many frustrations. While 2020 began very well, with many churches asking for (or downloading) the material, the final number that wrote was down considerably compared to the previous year.

The Theme for the 2020 lessons tied in with the Theme of the BU President and focussed of “REVIVE US AGAIN” with a special emphasis on “BUILDING BRIDGES”. The three lessons were:

Lesson 1 - John 4:1-26 - Jesus has a heart for foreigners – The GOAL OF THE LESSON was: To help learners realise the importance that Jesus is for everyone

Lesson 2 - John 4:43-54 - Jesus values children – The GOAL OF THE LESSON was: To help learners realise how much Jesus values children

Lesson 3 - John 8:1-11 - Jesus treats women with dignity – The GOAL OF THE LESSON was: To help learners appreciate how Jesus treated women differently compared to other religious leaders and that he treated women with dignity.

The Scripture Memory Portion were selected verses from John 10:9-18 (Jesus loves LIFE) and the Baptist Principle Lesson was “Regenerate Church Membership”.

The DATES FOR THE EXAM was set for 13-15 March 2020. **THEN CORONAVIRUS HAPPENED.** As we all know and experienced, the first national Lockdown was set for 26 March to 16 April. Many Churches decided not to write, because of the rising threat. The churches who did write had great difficulty in returning the papers for marking. Some papers that were posted, got lost on their way to us, some got stuck in the PEP Paxi system. We literally only received some papers at the start of 2021. In the end about 1400 people wrote the Exam from about 50 different churches. The previous year 2105 people wrote from 89 churches.

We would like to thank all who wrote the exam and participated. We do apologize for all the difficulties in communication. This current year, 2021, has not been any easier. At the date of writing this report, no exam date for 2021 has been finalized, although 12-14 November is the most likely date.

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