

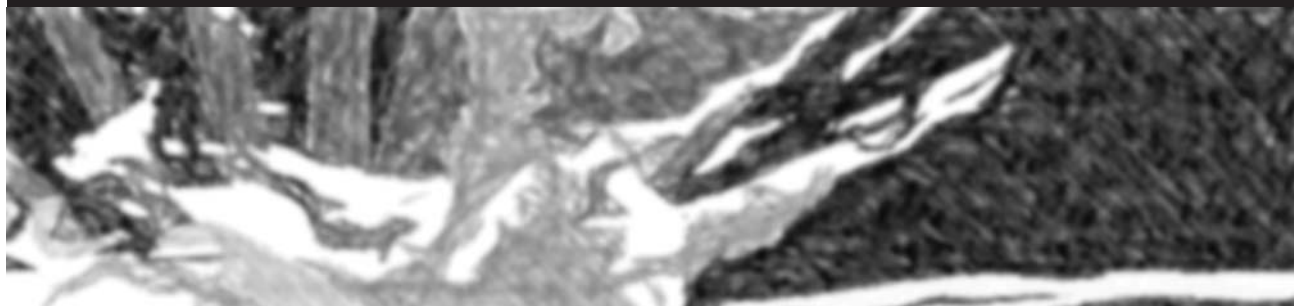
# *A Catalyst for Change*

*by Susan Thomas (text) and Lauren Meteyard  
(production)*



## A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Text                      Susan Thomas  
Production              Lauren Meteyard



## KING JAMES BIBLE

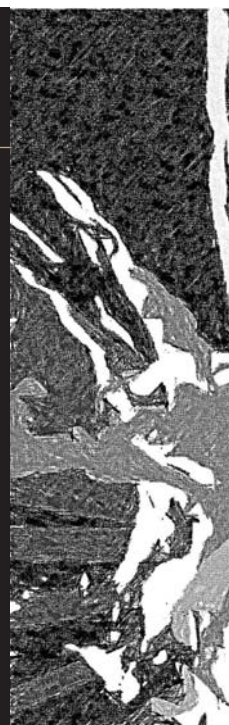
2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the *Authorised Version of the Holy Bible*, otherwise known as the *King James Bible*, probably the most influential book in the Western world,



and a CATALYST FOR CHANGE  
over centuries and across continents

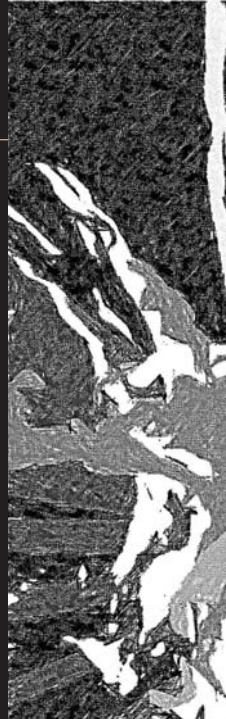


When King James VIth of Scotland became King James Ist of England in 1603, reading the Bible in the vernacular had become an accepted practice: a long way from the persecution and execution of translators, and the texts smuggled into England from the Netherlands which had been the situation until the 1540s





During the reign of Elizabeth, bibles had been placed in every Parish Church in England. They had not been produced in ideal conditions: the pioneers of English translation such as Tyndale, Mathew and Coverdale had no access to good original texts or up to date scholarship and worked in poor situations – even sometimes lacking paper, ink and candles



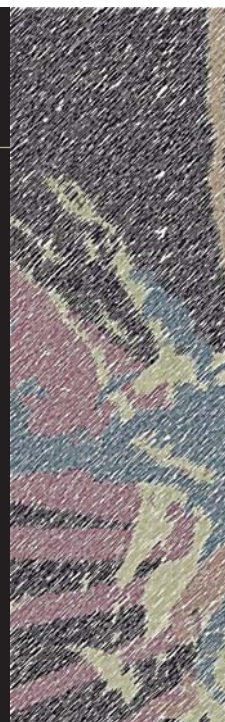
King James determined that a Bible should be produced using the finest scholars available, with ample time and sufficient money to complete their task. He wanted the best texts used as source materials and the whole Bible to be of the highest standard possible.




The *Authorised Version* has been called "the most influential version of the most influential book in the world, in what is now its most influential language".




A recent book, *Begat* by David Crystal, examines the influence of the King James Bible on the English language and finds there are 257 phrases, still in common use, which come from this version of the Bible including "to set one's teeth on edge", "by the skin of one's teeth", "the land of the living" and "from strength to strength".



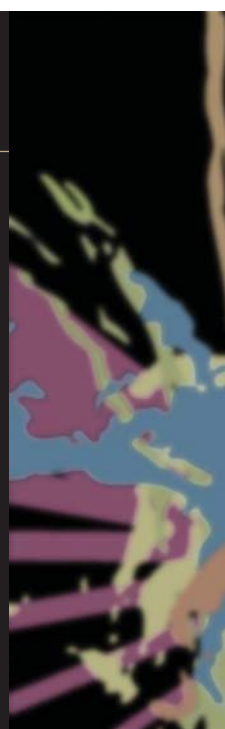


While "we no longer have a culture pervaded by Scripture, where Bible reading is a daily practice in parlour and pulpit," the King James Bible's influence remains embedded in American culture, writes scholar Robert Alter in *Pen of Iron : American Prose and the King James Bible*.

This is also true of  
Australian  
New Zealand  
and  
Pacific Island  
societies.



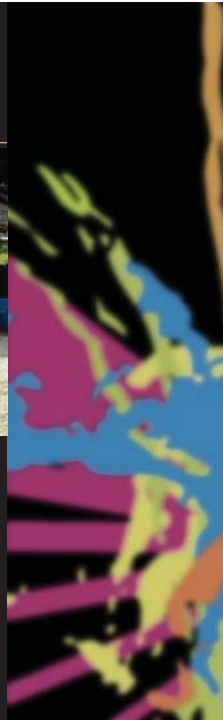
One of the purposes of theological education is to provide people with the necessary skills to be effective priests, deacons and ministers. The person leaving college to continue their journey of faith is changed from the one who arrived several years before.



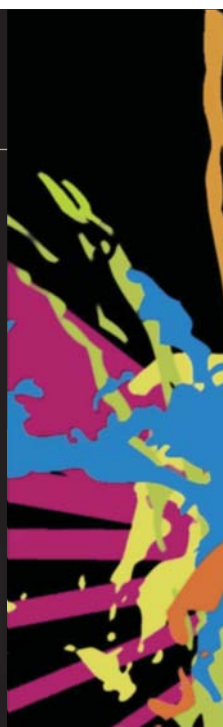
One of the catalysts of this change and growth is the academic education they have received.



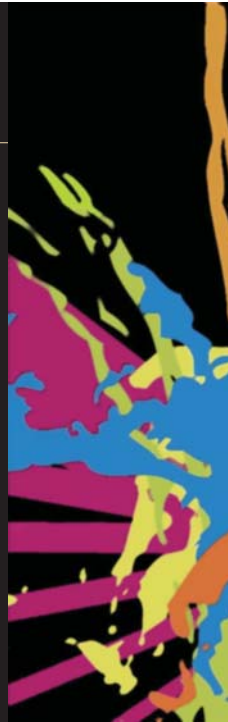
Walking with them through the education process are many helpers, directors, supporters, late-night-tea-makers, prayer groups, spouses, partners –and the library staff.



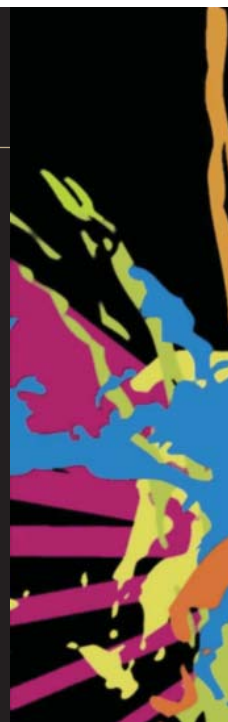
Theological libraries connect ministers and those in training for the ministry with 2,000 years of Christian knowledge, scholarship and wisdom.



Libraries and librarians help promulgate the deposit of faith and maintain the Apostolic tradition.



In connecting with the broader culture, we help in the re-interpretation of that tradition in a changing society.



Theological librarians  
in 2011 ...

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Catalysts  
for Change