

# Types of Materials that we plan to have in our Bulgarian Christian Library "New Life".

## **Adolescent Literature**

Although teens are included in other areas, it is worth mentioning them individually. There are any number of good books for youth, both fiction and non-fiction, that are written from a Christian perspective. Certainly guidance from God's Word is the biggest help for this age group at a time in their lives when they may have many questions, conflicts and insecurities. Getting teens to read the books may be the librarian's biggest challenge in this area.

## **Bible Study Helps**

Bible atlas; Bibles, various translations; Bible concordances for various Bible translations; Bible commentaries; Bible dictionaries; Bible encyclopedias; Bible history.

## **Bibliotherapy**

This is a long word for books, often fiction, that serve a therapeutic purpose in helping the reader deal with a particular issue in his or her life. Reading about someone else's experiences may give some help to the reader in dealing with a similar situation. You may find these available especially for the elementary age and junior and senior high readers.

## **Biography**

Reading about the lives of other Christians can inspire today's Christians.

## **Books for All Age Levels**

Although the library will provide books for all age groups, when it is first getting started, you may want to select more books for those age groups that you find are using the library the most. Picture and read-to-me books for the preschooler may prove to be quite popular unless there are few young children in the congregation. If there are mostly adults in the church, self-help books may be of great interest, particularly books about marriage, parenting, and other interpersonal relationships.

## **Children's Literature**

Reaching the young readers of a congregation is a wonderful goal, for

those who develop the habit of reading Christian literature early in life can continue this blessing throughout their lives. You will want sturdy books for the preschooler. Fortunately there are now books for the beginning and intermediate level readers that are written from a Christian perspective. Be sure to include some of these; they are worth seeking out. If your congregation has a Christian elementary school, the children will be quite familiar with the Bible stories and you may want to look especially for other Christian books for the children to read.

### **Christian Family**

There are many books from a Christian perspective available on such issues as marriage and parenting. There are also Christian books on divorce, single parenting and blended families as well as books about sex education from a Christian point of view.

### **Christian Education for Organizations of the Congregation**

The library may provide materials for special groups in the congregation such as Church Council, Board of Christian Education, ladies and men's groups, youth and adult Bible classes, Sunday School, Vacation Bible school.

### **Difficult Issues**

Christian literature on the appropriate topic can be very helpful to the member who is facing an issue such as abortion, alcoholism or other drug abuse, death and grieving, infertility, physical or sexual abuse, suicide, terminal illness, and more. We dare never think that the members of our congregations are not confronted with some of these issues. Our congregations are made up of sinful human beings and Satan always will be our greatest enemy. Although members may be in need more help in some of these situations than they can get from reading, books can be one source of help for people dealing with difficult issues.

### **Doctrinal Studies**

This area can include books about the angels, death and resurrection, heaven and hell, Law and Gospel, salvation, and the Trinity.

### **Evangelism, Outreach, Christian Witness**

The church library should include books that help the members realize that personal witnessing is the responsibility of EVERY Christian. The books should aid the members in carrying out such witnessing among others. Include books that suggest ways to respond to those of various faiths.

### **Fiction**

Many members enjoy reading fiction. The church library may provide more of an opportunity to read Christian fiction than the public library does. Some people are interested in reading historical fiction based on the lives of people from the Bible as well as the lives of others, such as Martin and Katherine Luther. Although not every event is true, these books can give an idea of what life was like at the time the individual lived.

### **Missions**

There are a number of books about church missions that are fascinating reading.

### **Spiritual Growth**

There are many devotional, inspirational, and prayer books available which are a real blessing for the Christian reader. Be sure to include a variety of these for your members. Besides books, which would be of interest to any Christian, there are books specifically for family, men, women, mothers, singles, seniors, teens, children, etc.

### **Church**

Your church library should include books that present the beliefs of your church. Included annual reports and yearbooks describing the activities at the local, district, and church levels.

### **Magazines**

If the library is including copies of magazines such as the "Friends" or "Lea" be sure to have available an index of topics so members can easily find the issue and page(s) dealing with articles pertaining to a given topic.

### **Cassette Tapes or CD's**

The library can include audiotapes or CD's of each Sunday's service even if your congregation provides a tape ministry to shut-ins. Others in the congregation at times miss services and appreciate having the tapes available.

### **Video Tapes**

Video tapes may also be placed in the library, including the Bulgarian Evangelical Church of God "New Life" videos and kids videos. You will find that videos will draw people into the library. Having videos does not mean that people will watch video and not read books. Experience has been that books are still checked out in great numbers even if you

offer videotapes.

### **Vertical File**

The library is a good place to keep a vertical file (a file cabinet would do fine) for such items as newsletters from various organizations within the church, letters from missionaries, etc. Also include church annual reports, records of congregational meetings, history of the congregation, etc. especially if no other group within the congregation is doing so.

### **School Books**

Bulgarian School books for different age levels- dictionaries, DVD's SD's and etc.

### **Christian Music**

Different styles of music on CD's that are good for Christians not limited to worship only but other like wedding song, relaxing baby songs and etc.