



BIBLE READATHON

RELEASING THE POWER OF GOD
BY READING THE WORD OF GOD



**From
the dawn
of time**



**To
the return
of Jesus**

THE DAMASCUS TRUST

THE BIBLE READATHON

- **Cover to cover** -
- **Non-stop** -
- **Out loud** -

**A unique experience and one that you won't forget.
Be part of an incredible one-off event.
Things happen when the Bible is read out loud.
Peoples' lives are changed and spiritual powers are engaged.**

Having successfully organised and run a Bible Readathon (see case study on page 6), the Damascus Trust is now wanting to help and encourage others to do the same.

Why run a Bible Readathon?

- It happened in the Bible (see Nehemiah 8:3)!
- It brings Christians together in witness and praise, raising the profile of God's Word.
- It makes the Bible come to life in an incredible way (you won't believe this until you do it!).
- It is the most simple and pure way of declaring God's Word – powerful and effective.
- It offers an opportunity to raise money to buy Bibles and resources for different parts of the world.
- It can be run by an individual church or by a number of churches working together.
- It includes all ages, all sorts, at all times – reading and

listening.

- It opens up parts of the Bible that have been unheard and unread.

How can the Damascus Trust help?

- We will visit you to talk through the whole project.
- We will present the project, on your behalf, to church leaders and congregations, to enthuse them and explain how they can get involved.
- We will provide you with the Bible Readathon Pack (available on CD for PC use) and explain how it all works.
- We will provide support and help throughout the project.
- Our director and evangelist, Andy Paine, will be happy to speak at the launch and/or closing celebration.

What is in the Bible Readathon Pack?

- Step by step guide with an overall time plan and deadlines.
- Suggestions for how different churches can work together.
- Ways of involving the local community.
- Master sheet to have all the details in one view.
- Sign-up sheets with times and allocated readings.
- Supervisors job brief.
- Guidelines for the launch event and for the closing celebration.
- Promotional posters / flyers and suggestions for press releases.
- General hints and tips from our own experience.
- Sample invitations, letters, press releases, confirmation slips, badges and even a menu for the launch!

How long does it take to organise the Bible Readathon?

- From our experience, you need to allow between 4-5 months. A lot will depend on how many churches are involved.

What does it cost to have the Damascus Trust help us?

- We primarily rely on gift income. We would ask you to cover our expense incurred in any visits we make to you. Any further gift for materials and help is at your discretion and will go towards our ongoing ministry.

What next?

- If you are interested, then get in touch with our office (email; phone, letter - see back page) to talk it through and arrange the initial visit.

Case study - next page.

Case Study:

Location: Braintree, Essex

Dates: July 4th – 7th 2001

- ▶ **75 hours of non-stop reading**
- ▶ **300 x 15 minute reading slots**
- ▶ **31,111 verses (NIV version)**
- ▶ **76 – 128 verses per slot**
- ▶ **18 churches involved**
- ▶ **3 local schools**
- ▶ **269 individuals aged 6 to 80 years**

What people said....

'It was a pleasure; I hadn't thought it would be'

*'I dreaded the thought of standing up and reading out loud,
but now am glad I made it!'*

'Didn't know 3.30 a.m. existed – it was worth it!'

'Oh that we could do this more as the people of God.'

'Something strangely moving about night duty.'

After reading Nehemiah 7 'All those individuals counted to God!'

'A memorable experience, Upheld by the Spirit!'

Local radio station: *'We're not interested in the dignitaries. It's the fact that
you're reading the whole of the Bible non-stop that interests us.'*

'Wonderful to read about a festival I enjoyed on kibbutz.'

'A dynamic experience!'

'I felt like laughing 'cause I was enjoying it so much.'

'A wholly different way of speaking and hearing God's Word.'

THE DAMASCUS TRUST

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THE DAMASCUS TRUST
IS A REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER 1013236

Damascus Trust was established in 1990 to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people everywhere. It aims to enthuse local Christians in their love for Jesus, enable the local Church to reach out into the community and seeks to establish evangelism as an ongoing aspect of Church life.

As a charitable trust, the Damascus Trust relies on gifts and donations. All gifts from those paying tax can benefit the Trust by using Gift Aid for both one-off or regular donations. For more information, please request the leaflet 'Four Ways to Give'.

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Code: 30-94-
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