Job Description

Job title	**Senior Research Lead**
Reporting to	Director of Research and Impact
Staff responsibility	None
Key Relationships	Senior Research Manager, Senior Data Insights Lead, Impact Lead, Head of IBAC, Director of International Mission, Head of Global Relationships
Location	Swindon-based (with some flexibility to work from home)

What we do

Around the world, we're translating, producing and distributing the Bible, helping people learn to read it and relate it to their everyday life, and equipping pastors, teachers and other Bible communicators to promote its message. In England and Wales, we're resourcing churches and individual believers to increase their confidence in the Bible and working to change the perception of the Bible in wider culture. We believe the Bible is God's gift to the world, and we want everyone to discover its message for them.

Summary of role

The Senior Research Lead is a key role within the Research and Impact team and the wider organisation, providing insights into global religious trends to further Bible engagement around the world. This role works closely with the International Mission team and utilises qualitative inquiry and quantitative datasets, including our Patmos World Bible Attitudes Survey, to shape understanding of how and why Bible engagement happens in diverse cultural contexts. Going beyond data generation, this role will help Bible Society, the wider United Bible Societies Fellowship, and mission agencies around the world understand Bible engagement opportunities and challenges around the world.

This is an exciting time to join Bible Society as we continue to drive the global conversation about collaborative Bible engagement mission through our Patmos Initiative. Research is a key part of this strategy, and the role holder will be instrumental in generating research that inspires new ways of thinking and provokes high impact action.

Main responsibilities

Research delivery

- Lead on insight generation from the Patmos Survey, identifying key insights about spirituality, Christianity, and Bible engagement around the world
- Project manage with design and efficient delivery, cost-effective qualitative and quantitative research projects in different contexts to answer key research questions relating to better understanding of what influences, shapes and drives Bible engagement in lived, everyday contexts, furthering progress towards our global Mission Tasks

Research communications

- Using a variety of mediums (written reports, blogs, podcasts, presentations) deliver high impact research communications to key stakeholder audiences that further our organisational goal of catalysing global Bible engagement

Research development

- Lead on refining the instrument of the Patmos Survey (and other surveys) so it is optimal for future waves
- With others in the Research and Impact team, proactively work to assess and improve measurement frameworks and instruments relating to our key research topic
- Develop creative frameworks and models to map the barriers and catalysts to Bible engagement across different generations and cultures
- Manage relevant outsourced research projects and partnerships

Research collaboration

- Develop and grow relationships with external research teams and organisations to share insight and learn from other approaches
- Manage relevant outsourced research projects and partnerships, particularly the second wave of the Patmos Survey when it is next commissioned
- Develop and grow relationships with external research partners and networks in a manner that builds Bible Society's knowledge base and reputation as an expert and trusted voice

General

- Adhere to our policies and standards in all areas of your work
- Carry out ad hoc duties that may be required to ensure we maintain our effectiveness
- Participate fully in the corporate life of Bible Society, by attending All Staff Meetings and departmental meetings as required

Who we need

Qualifications

- A postgraduate degree (or equivalent professional experience) with a strong emphasis on research methodology, preferably within social sciences (essential)

Knowledge

- Very strong analytical skills and good working knowledge of qualitative and quantitative approaches to research and impact measurement. Solid working knowledge of statistics and confidence in applying quantitative approaches (essential)
- Good knowledge of global contemporary Christianity and religious trends or a strong willingness to learn (desirable)

Experience

- Strong demonstrable experience of the design and use of qualitative and quantitative research approaches in real world practice. Experience of working in contexts outside of Western Europe and the USA would be beneficial for this role
- Demonstrable experience of communicating complex research in an accessible way to different audiences
- A successful track record of commissioning and managing large-scale research projects, ensuring scope and deadlines are agreed and met
- Proven excellent project management skills

Skills

- Ability and willingness to work independently and flexibly, whilst also being able to work well acrossdepartments and as part of a team
- Excellent organisational skills with the ability to manage and prioritise a range of tasks when facing competing deadlines
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (including confidence to present)
- Excellent interpersonal and influencing skills
- High attention to detail
- IT skills including MS Word, Excel and Outlook, and experience using software packages for research and data management (e.g. SPSS, R, Stata, Q, NVivo)
- A proven ability to manage complex and large workloads while working to deadlines
- Exceptional ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences and stakeholders
- Ability to plan and organise work to meet strategic objectives
- Strong analytical skills, including the ability to effectively use and interpret evidence

Personal attributes

- A curious thinker who is interested in bringing together different tools, ideas, and concepts to explore the complexity of Bible engagement and human behaviour
- A cultural insight strategist who can connect and understand diverse human motivations for engaging with religion, spirituality and the Bible and translate these insights into action for a variety of audiences

- In sympathy with the aims and values of Bible Society and passion for our mission and to make an impact
- Willingness to travel overseas occasionally

Culture and character

Culture

We're committed to building on our unique culture, which is based on our Christian faith and seeks to bring out the best in our people.

We want to build a culture that demonstrates our values:

Prayerful – we're honest, attentive and humble, because we work in the sight of God

Imaginative – we're experimental, creative and dynamic, because we're made in the Creator's image

Bold – we're willing to work hard and face hard questions, because we trust each other

Skilful – we study, learn and practise, making the effort to serve others with our best

Joyful – we enjoy our work and seek to build others up, because we're designed to flourish together

Character

As well as recruiting for talent, experience and expertise, we're interested in the character of our staff. We'd like to know how you demonstrate the following:

Character for leadership – you'll be self-aware and know what it takes to connect well with others, enabling you to inspire, challenge and support them.

Character for teamwork – you'll have strong interpersonal skills, loyalty to and respect for colleagues, and a collaborative style of solving problems through a shared sense of common mission and purpose.

Character for followership – you'll be committed to our vision and mission, and will constructively and proactively support these so we operate effectively.

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