

## LATEST NEWS # 453, November 9, 2007

The following news concerns Mauritius.

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[http://biblesociety.org/latestnews/index\\_latestnews.html](http://biblesociety.org/latestnews/index_latestnews.html)

### Bible Society of Mauritius launches campaign against violence

**MAURITIUS** — *Violence pe briz lavenir nou zanfán* (Violence is ruining our children's future): this is the theme of a campaign launched last month by the Bible Society of Mauritius in response to a rise in violent crime.

"Cases reported to the police clearly indicate that there is an upsurge of violence in this country," said Bible Society Executive Director Marc Etive at a press conference. "This is the result of a profound sense of ill-being in our society. There is an urgent need to help people channel their energy in the right direction in order to reach their full potential as human beings.

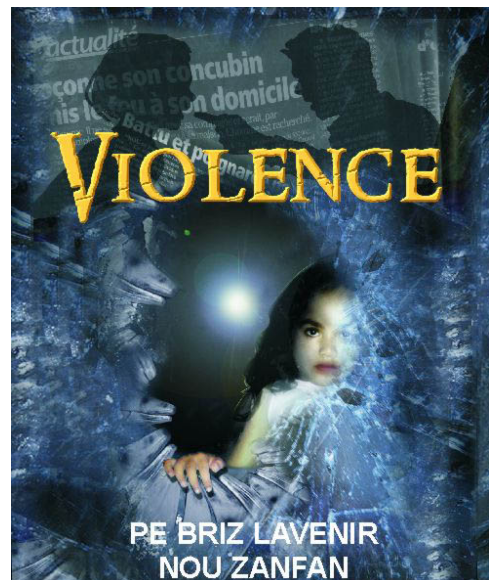
"The Bible Society takes a holistic approach, which means that we not only work towards the spiritual well-being of people, but their social and physical well-being, too."

The Bible Society's partners in the campaign include the Council of Religions, KINOUETE (an organisation that rehabilitates ex-prisoners), the police department and the National Agency for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers. Children and young people are a major focus of the campaign, and child welfare organisations and government departments are also participating.

"Thousands of children have experienced violence in different forms and they are themselves potential aggressors," said Mr Etive.

A brochure published by the Bible Society and its partners contains the story of a young woman, Sarah, who is both victim and perpetrator in this cycle of violence. Sarah describes how she became embroiled in prostitution and violence at a very young age, and how she was regularly beaten by her boyfriend. She turned to alcohol and ended up shooting someone while she was drunk, and was sent to prison for 14 years. With the help of KINOUETE, she is working to rebuild her life.

The brochure also contains police department statistics showing a clear rise in violence, including rape, domestic violence and murder. It challenges people to help reverse this trend and contains



Scripture verses containing advice for authorities, institutions, families and individuals, focusing on issues such as justice, anger and obedience to the law.

“This campaign will continue in 2008, with a particular emphasis on reaching young people and children,” said Mr Etive.

The Bible Society and its partners have printed 3,000 posters and 100,000 brochures, which will be distributed across the country.

*This story relates to project 81825.*

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