

Annual report
of the activities of Bibliotheca biblica in Sofia, Bulgaria
(July 2015 – August 2016)

In the last 13 months the Bibliotheca biblica in Sofia was considerably revived. One of the important reasons for this revival is the new degree program of Hebrew Studies at the St. Clement of Ohrid Sofia University that drew the attention of many new students towards the library. The visits by students, lecturers and guests, which during the preceding period were 425, increased twice (with normal growth of 20% during the last few years). The service of copying particular pages or giving information concerning books and periodicals and sending it on e-mail was sensibly developed.

During the current period were received 374 library units, including 296 books and 78 volumes of periodicals. Now the books and periodicals available for readers amounts to 10145 library units, including 54 units electronic media, 7512 books and 2579 volumes of periodicals.

In May this year within the framework of the celebrations dedicated to the Saint Brothers Cyril and Methodius was published the 11th volume of the Bibliotheca biblica Series under the title “Two Pillars of the Temple”. It contains the papers presented at a Symposium dedicated to the doyens of the Biblical studies in Bulgaria in the last decades, Rev. prof. dr. Nikolay Shivaroff and prof. dr. Slavcho Valchanov (+2013), both members of the board of BB for many years. The fresh news in this initiative is that the publication of this volume was sponsored by several Orthodox parishes in Sofia and in the country, which have demonstrated willingness for partnership with BB.

During the same month was organized at the Veliko Tarnovo University a meeting for people occupied with Biblical Studies, where was taken the decision for revival of the activities of the Collegium biblicum with the assistance of our library. The initiatives of Bibliotheca biblica and Collegium biblicum are intended to intensify the publishing of the results of the biblical studies in the country.

In July 2016 the main part of the private library of the deceased prof. Valchanov was delivered to the BB and now it is to be inventoried. The units that do not exist yet in the BB will be kept in the library and the other units will be donated to other libraries.

In October a biblical seminar dedicated to Saint Clement of Ohrid will be organized in the town of Ochrid, Republic of Macedonia, where assoc. prof. Ivaylo Naydenov will present the activities of BB to the scholars from different Balkan countries.

The contact with the Theological Book Network was accomplished and a considerable amount of books was delivered, the greatest part of which was already inventoried.

Contributors and donators: prof. Slavcho Valchanov , prof. dr. U. Luz, prof. dr. M. Ebner, G. W. Buchanan, as well as few colleagues from our Theological Faculty.

Last October the librarian Rossen Russev defended his doctoral thesis in theology and in July 2016 was appointed as assistant professor in Old Testament. For that reason now we are looking to appoint a new librarian for BB. Till the appointment of a new librarian dr. Russev will continue to help voluntary in the Library.

15.8.2016 Assoc. prof. Ivaylo Naydenov,

Director of BB Sofia