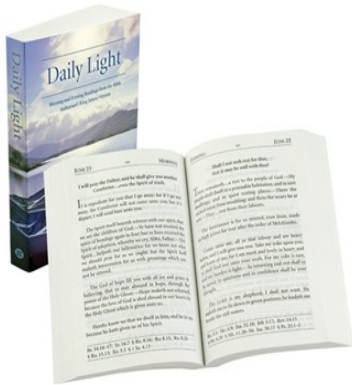


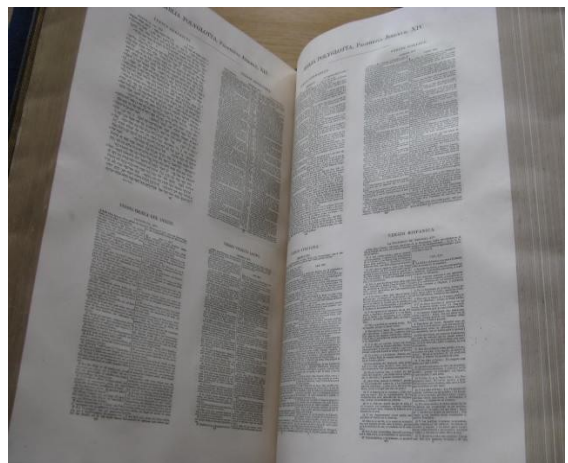
The Bagster Family



Have you ever seen a copy of this little book? Can you see the name on the cover: *Daily Light*? Many people read this little book every day. It has something in it for every day of the year. For every day there are some Bible verses. They come from different parts of the Bible. The verses have been chosen carefully. They all fit together well. You can read the verses and then think about them during the day. *Daily Light* was first published in 1875. Ever since then you have always been able to buy a copy. Some books are not like that. When the publisher runs out he does not print any more copies. *Daily Light* is not like that. It has never gone out of print.

Daily Light was put together by members of the family of Samuel Bagster (1772-1851). Samuel Bagster was a bookseller and publisher. He was born on 26th December. He was sent to a Christian school by his parents. Then he became a bookseller's apprentice. An apprentice is a learner. He learns a trade by helping someone who already works in that trade. When he had learned how to be a bookseller Samuel Bagster set up his own shop. Samuel Bagster was a Christian. He would only sell good books in his shop. He and his wife had twelve children. When they grew up, some of them helped in the bookshop.

Samuel Bagster produced an unusual kind of Bible to sell in his shop. It was a big Pol-y-glot Bible. You can see it in the picture. Can you see that when you open the Polyglot Bible you can see eight small pages all at once? Each small page has the same words on it but in a different language. *Poly* means “many” and *glot* means “tongues” or “languages”. A Polyglot Bible is one where you can read God Word in more than one language.



When we cannot understand what it says in one part of the Bible we can look at another part of the Bible to help us. Samuel Bagster knew that was the best way to

study the Bible. So he and his son worked together to make *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*. You can see the first page here. For every verse of the Bible they made a list of other verses. The other verses help you to understand what the verse means. Both Samuel Bagster and his son had spent a long time studying the Bible. They chose the helping verses with great care. What a useful book they made together!

Many members of the Bagster family helped make *Daily Light*. Jonathan (1813-1872) was Samuel Bagster's tenth child and he had the idea for *Daily Light*. In Jonathan Bagster's family they had family worship every day. Jonathan prepared carefully. He chose a Scripture text. Then the family were asked to think of other texts that helped to explain it.

Together they talked about the texts. They prayed together. They wrote the texts down. Each day for two years the daily texts were put together. Jonathan Bagster was in charge of the final selection. His daughter, Anne, helped him. Ann was old Samuel Bagster's granddaughter. Then it was all ready. Two sets of readings. One for the morning and one for the evening.

Robert Bagster was another one of Samuel's grandsons. It was Robert who first published *Daily Light*. "This book was prepared... within our family," he wrote, "... each text was chosen with heart-searching care...." Christians have been gratefully using the Bagster family's work ever since.

