

**From:** "E. Susanne"  
**Date:** Wed, 15 Jul 2009 11:08:34 +0200  
**To:** <Adrian Madau>  
**Subject:** RE: Voltaire's house & the Geneva Bible Society

Dear Mr Madau,

As you are not the first person to ask about Voltaire, I am sending you hereafter copies of e-mails (in grey) exchanged with another person interested in this same subject. Hope this helps,

Kind regards,

**Susanne E.**

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[Société Biblique de Genève, Praz-Roussy 4bis, CP 151, CH-1032 Romanel-sur-Lausanne](#)

Association sans but lucratif fondée en 1917

La S.B.G. a pour but premier de rendre la Bible accessible à tous au coût le plus bas possible. Au travers des "[Maisons de la Bible](#)" notamment, elle cherche à promouvoir la connaissance de la Parole de Dieu et à préserver la culture chrétienne.

Dear Ms. E.

Thank you very much for your reply. I had looked on the internet and found several sites that say the Geneva Bible Society used Voltaire's house- but the inconsistency came in the actual quoting of Voltaire. Some say that Voltaire said, "In a hundred years this book (the Bible) will be forgotten, eliminated." Other sources say that Voltaire said, "In 50 years, the Bible will no longer be in existence."

Since the quotes that supposedly came from Voltaire were not consistent- I thought I better investigate some more to learn if the Geneva Bible Society ever really used his house. I am glad I did! I am also glad you took the time to do some research. That was very kind of you. Again, I thank you!

God's blessings~  
Tina Reid

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susanne E. [mailto:]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2006 4:17 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Printing in Voltaire's house

Dear Mrs Reid,

Thank you for your message and for your question. In fact, I had to do some research myself to find out about the house of Voltaire in Paris and its link with a Bible Society. The house of Voltaire was located at "47 rue de Clichy, Paris". The place has later been used by the "British & Foreign Bible Society" (based in London), then by the "French Bible Society", and today it is being used by the "French Protestant Federation of France" (Fédération Protestante de France). The Geneva Bible Society never had any thing to do with this place, although we have been active in Paris since 1925 with a bookstore "La Maison de la Bible" which is not far away from the other place.

The confusion might have come from the fact that the first "Geneva Bible Society" (created in Geneva in 1814 and dissolved around 1923) had the same kind of activities which were largely inspired by the ones of the British & Foreign Bible Society.

There has been a Bible House in Geneva since 1917, but it is only in 1943 that the name "Geneva Bible Society" was taken as this ministry was registered with the Register of Commerce of the State of Geneva.

I hope the above will be useful to you and clarify things. I was surprised of the many web pages mentioning that the Geneva Bible Society is printing and storing Bibles in the former house of Voltaire! It's always good to check out your sources... as you did.

May God bless you  
**Susanne E.**

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**De :** Paul Reid [mailto:]  
**Envoyé :** vendredi, 21. avril 2006 15:06  
**À :** [info@maisonbible.net](mailto:info@maisonbible.net)  
**Objet :** Printing in Voltaire's house

Hello

Is it true that the Geneva Bible Society used Voltaire's printing press and his home to print Bibles? I read this somewhere- that Voltaire said "the Bible would not exist in a 1000 years"- and ironically his home was later used to print and distribute Bibles. Is this true? If so, could you tell me what exactly it was that Voltaire said? I am all for the Bible- and think it humorous that God would allow Voltaire's home to be used as a place to distribute Bibles.  
Hoping to hear from you soon.

Mrs. Reid

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**De :** Adi [mailto:]  
**Envoyé :** mercredi, 8. juillet 2009 23:08  
**À :** [info@bible-society.org](mailto:info@bible-society.org)  
**Objet :** Voltaire's house & the Geneva Bible Society

Dear Brethren at the Geneva Bible Society,

I am the webmaster for the BibleToday website and we were recently challenged by a statement on one of our pages regarding your society and the use of Voltaire's house. It would be much appreciated if you could confirm or reject the following statement:

"-- in 1890 A.D., Voltaire's house was being used by the Geneva Bible Society as a depot for their Bibles."

The link to the webpage where this statement is made is listed below.

[http://www.bibletoday.com/htstb/lostbible\\_text.htm](http://www.bibletoday.com/htstb/lostbible_text.htm)

Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we want to ensure we are properly representing the history of the society on our webpage.

May the Lord continue to bless your efforts.

Adrian Madau  
Webmaster BibleToday.com

Editorial Note: Susanne's last name and contact information has been removed from this correspondence per her request.