

## BIBLE SOCIETIES & BIBLE ACCESS

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### BIBLE SOCIETIES

There are currently 153 Bible Societies working in over 200 countries. Each Bible Society works as an independent organisation within its own national boundary, while also being connected to each other through membership of the United Bible Societies.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland works in partnership with this worldwide network. Our main role in Northern Ireland has been to raise awareness of the great need for Bibles around the world and encourage support for various projects, mainly Bible translation, publication and distribution.

As there are projects being carried out by Bible Societies all over the world, there is always a great deal going on and a wealth of inspirational stories.

It is wonderful to be able to continue to provide funding for a number of projects, thanks to the generosity of Bible Society supporters here in Northern Ireland.

Throughout 2017 we have been partnering with Bible Societies in:

Albania, Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guatemala, The Gulf, Honduras, India, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam.

The projects in these countries range from Bible translation to distribution, from feeding programmes to HIV/AIDS awareness, from literacy programmes to listening groups and a huge range of other life-changing ministries. God is touching hearts, changing families and impacting entire communities through Bible Societies and their partners.



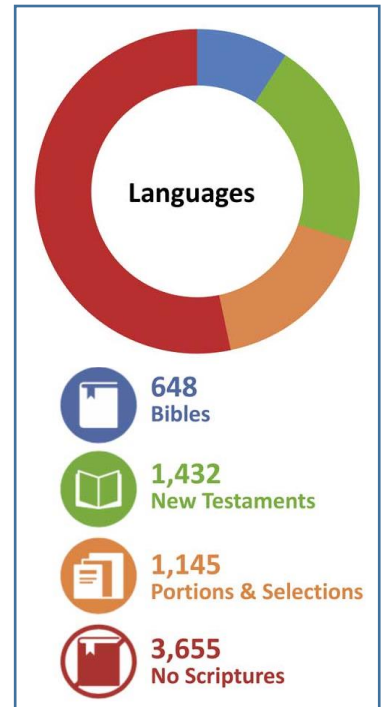
*What a blessing to know that people in Northern Ireland are helping Cubans own and love God's Word. Thank you.*

## BIBLE ACCESS

Bible Societies are working towards the day when everyone in the world can access the full Bible. It is our vision that everyone would be reached with God’s Word in whatever language or medium they need to be able to engage with it themselves. The first step towards Bible access is a translation in every language.

### Translation

Bible translation is a core element of what Bible Societies do. The United Bible Societies is one of the largest Bible translation organisations in the world today. Only 648 of the world’s 6,880 languages have a complete Bible... that means hundreds of millions of people still don’t have the Bible in their own language. The image on the right is helpful. This shows the breakdown of Bible access for world languages. (For more details, see: [www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/key-facts-bible-access/](http://www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/key-facts-bible-access/) )



### Bible Distribution

Each year, Bible Societies publish and distribute tens of millions of printed Bibles. As well as Bibles, there are hundreds of millions of other Scripture items, from New Testaments to smaller items of Scripture. The sheer numbers of printed Scripture distributed each year is something to praise God for.

#### Printed Scripture in 2016:

Full Bibles - 34,291,757      Testaments - 13,486,950      All Scripture - 401,356,200

Thanks to the Bible Societies’ Digital Bible Library®, many millions of people are also accessing Scripture digitally. People can access the Bible text online, through free sites and apps such as BibleSearch and YouVersion.

The text used on YouVersion is taken From the Digital Bible Library® which is owned and managed by the United Bible Societies.

### Non print Bible distribution this decade

