

The Bible Societies in Ireland

Scripture Fact File

- 1) In 2006, barely 6 % of the world's languages have a complete Bible. While this represents the world's most widely spoken languages, speakers of many languages have still to hear even a verse of Scripture in their heart language and so understand it clearly. This is a major challenge for the Bible Society movement as the United Bible Societies represent the largest effort and commitment to both **Scripture translation** and **distribution** in the world.
- 2) In 2005, work was completed in **4** Bible translations. This brings the total number of languages with the full Bible text to **426**. The following represents the progress that was made in completion of the translation of smaller parts of the Scriptures:
 - a. 12 New Testaments were completed meaning that it is now available in **1,115 languages**.
 - b. **862** languages now possess, at least, a single book.

One or more books of the Bible are now available in 2,403 languages.

- 3) **Bible Societies combine their efforts to distribute Scriptures** in a number of forms. During 2005, the following Scriptures were distributed:
 - a. Bibles - 2,345,671 copies
 - b. New Testaments - 11,220,780 copies;
 - c. Portions (Single books)- 25,109,383 copies
 - d. Selections (small publications that draw heavily on Scripture to provide encouragement to people experiencing challenging situations (for example, ill-health, bereavement, HIV/Aids) or who need to hear particular parts of the Gospel story (for example, Christ's passion or birth). - 311,994,451 copies.

This represents a worldwide programme of over 372 million Scriptures.

- 4) There are now **141 Bible Societies** in membership of the *United Bible Societies* and their work is having an impact on over **200 countries**.
 - 5) The two Bible Societies in Ireland (The Bible Society in Northern Ireland and the National Bible Society of Ireland) work closely together through joint publications and fundraising to provide Scriptures in some of the poorest countries of the world. In 2005, Scripture translation /distribution projects were funded in 25 countries. So far in 2006, 28 countries are being supported:

6) Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cambodia, Chile, China, East Caribbean, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, India, Namibia, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, West Bank (Israel), and Zimbabwe.

These projects are supported by gifts from individual Christians and churches.

- 5) **Finally, what could your church do this year to:**
 - a. **Appreciate** the Bible more?
 - b. **Share it** with other people in the local community?
 - c. **Organise an event to provide funds** to enable the Bible Societies here to supply Scriptures to people in **INDIA for the first time?**