

NBSI Overseas Support

For many years NBSI has supported work in different countries around the world – projects in 28 different countries in 2007. Each year the Sowers' Club raises funds for twelve countries through the Prayer Partnership Calendar. The Calendar is now available in a 'desk-top' format. We hope that this will reduce costs and thus release more funds to the various projects.

The “*Greatest Gift*” Catalogue provides people with an opportunity to give a gift of Scriptures to the needy in different countries around the world. In 2006 a total of €14,253 was received to support projects in Mexico, Romania, India and China and general overseas projects. In 2007 the “*Greatest Gift*” Catalogue raised a total of €16,594. Four different countries were again highlighted – Nicaragua, Russia, Malawi and Iraq – in addition to the option of a general gift.

In **Nicaragua** 53% of the population is under the age of 18. The high unemployment rate has led to a sharp increase in the children begging on the streets, and a growing risk of their exposure to drugs and alcohol. Sociedad Biblica de Nicaragua (SBN) is directing a three-year project in association with various Christian churches, the National Police and the Ministerio de al Familia, a Government Branch concerned with developing activities destined to improve the quality of life for boys, girls and adolescents. In June 2008 SBN reported that 1,148 individuals were trained to give Bible classes and teaching values to children; volunteers were also trained to support and keep track of children's learning and motivate them to go back to school. 18,236 children who congregate in churches received a Bible for free and are participating in Bible study groups. Also, as a result of the project 12,354 children who had dropped out of school are now back in school continuing their studies and also attending the church to which they belong.



In **Iraq** every year the Bible Society distributes through church groups tens of thousands of Scripture Calendars produced in Lebanon. In 2006, 10,000 Kurdish Calendars were distributed in the northern part of the country for the first time ever. Calendars were again distributed during the Erbil International Bookfair in April 2008. “The turnout was excellent and we received a lot of media coverage,” said Nabil Omeish, the Bible Society's Program Coordinator. “We hope and pray that we can continue serving this region effectively.” The Bible Society has been investigating the possibility of opening a new branch in Erbil. Thanks to Kurdish control, the northern part of the country enjoys relative freedom and security, and many Christian have settled there.



The above projects were also supported by several other Bible Societies and once the necessary level of funding was reached any additional funds can be allocated to other countries and/or projects. In view of this we were also able to allocate some funding to projects in Panama and Pakistan.