



Buried Treasure?

Unearth God's riches this Bible Sunday

Bible Ministry Worldwide The Facts & Figures

All world statistics
are from United Bible
Society year-end
figures, 2007

There are an estimated 6,900 spoken languages in the world today.

Bible Availability:

- At least one Bible book has been translated into **2,426 languages** - that's **35%** of all languages.
- There are now **438 languages** with a **complete Bible**. This is only **6.34%** of the world's languages. Bible Societies are currently involved in around 500 Bible translations.
- Up to **2 BILLION people** in the world today could not read a Bible, even if they had one. **Illiteracy & blindness** are the 2 major problems. Bible Societies face a huge challenge as a complete **Bible in Braille** is still only available in 45 languages. Audio formats are increasingly important.

Bible Society Structure

There are **145 Bible Societies** working in **over 200 countries**. They work as a fellowship to form the **United Bible Societies**, ensuring a **strategic approach** to Bible translation publication and distribution.

This combined approach worked to distribute over **391 million Scriptures** in 2007.

These included:

Bibles:	26,971,577	Testaments:	13,093,382
Portions:	24,400,388	Selections:	326,676,972

The National Bible Society of Ireland is part of this worldwide Fellowship. As such, we are supporting 25 Scripture projects abroad in 2008, (in addition to Bible projects at home). These international projects cover a range of needs, including translation, printing, relief ministry and distribution in various print and non-print formats (including audio-CD, MegaVoice and DVD). **NBSI is supporting projects in the following countries:**

- Burma (Myanmar) • China • Egypt • Ethiopia • Ghana • India • Iraq
 - Ivory Coast • Liberia • Madagascar • Malawi • Namibia • Nicaragua
 - Niger • Nigeria • Pakistan • Papua New • Guinea • Peru • Russia
 - South Pacific • Sudan • Suriname • Uruguay • Venezuela
- ...and Ireland.

If you or your church is interested in Bible Society ministry in any of these countries, we can provide you with relevant information. Or if you have another country interest because you have a missionary family from your church there, and would like to know about what is happening through the Bible Society ministry there, we would be pleased to research their current projects for you. That way, you can resource both your missionary family and the wider Bible needs of that country.

We are happy to prepare a Country resource pack that will help you to raise both awareness and funds in your church so that more people can enjoy the same access to God's Word as we have enjoyed for centuries.

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