



2016

MINISTRY REPORT

The Bible Society NI

www.bsni.co.uk

Mission Projects and Activity 2016

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

CONTENTS

3	Our Main Mission
4	Local Support
5	Keeping You Informed
6	Partnership
8	Making Money Work – Best Practice
10	Managing Bible Society NI

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

The material in this report is taken from our Trustee’s Report for 2016. A full copy, along with the Charity’s Financial Statements can be found at www.bsni.co.uk/news or from Bible House. Tel 028 9032 6577.

Cover image: Bringing hope to hospice patients in Romania.



Supporting the Bible Society in Mexico as they translate the Bible for the Tojolabal people.

Our Main Mission

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland continues to focus on the international support programme through the United Bible Societies as well as considering how best to support Bible Engagement here in Northern Ireland.

We are so thankful that the Bible can now be accessed in so many different ways, but ultimately our role remains the same – making God’s Word available to all who still need it.

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Every Continent

In 2016, our **International Scripture Programme** supported projects in 54 countries. This is thanks to the generosity of supporters here in Northern Ireland. We thank God that so many people here love God’s Word and invest prayerfully and financially to share it with others.

These projects included translation, publication and distribution of Scripture, work to improve literacy levels using Bible texts as learning tools and support of Bible engagement and advocacy projects around the world. **We also recognise the importance of encouraging people here to engage with God’s Word, as you will see when you read about our exciting areas of partnership.**

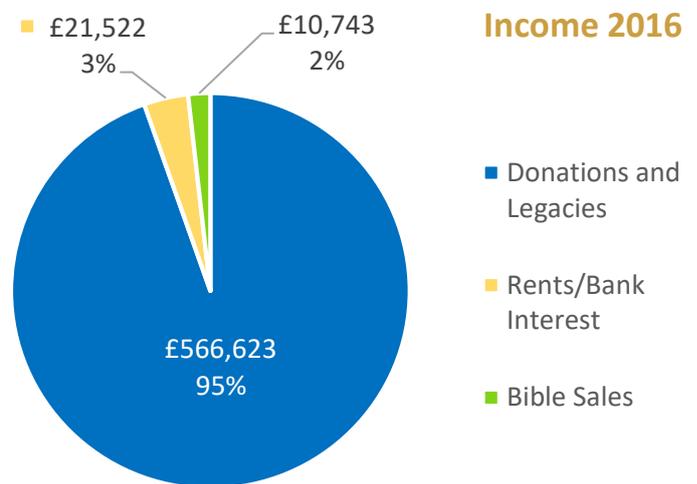


Honduras has one of the highest murder rates in the world. Bible Society NI supporters are helping make sure that the police and prison service have Bibles of their own to read.

Local Support

During the year, a number of projects were highlighted to supporters through our *Word at Work* magazine, Direct Mail letters, *The Greatest Gift* Christmas Catalogue and our *Bible-a-Month* Calendar. The support for our Bible-a-Month Partnership has continued to grow modestly.

We are grateful for each person, group and church who supports Bible Society ministries with prayerful, generous hearts. The Society is also thankful for income from Charitable Trusts, Legacies and a 3 year Grant from the Methodist Missionary Society.



Prayerfulness

Prayer is vitally important to all we do. We cannot thank our prayer supporters enough – they are foundational to each Bible Society ministry. Churches, house groups and individuals each pray for us using a variety of resources. Some use the weekly prayer material in the *Word at Work* magazine, others use online or email resources.

Email resources include **Prayer Circle**, **INSIGHT** and **12 Prayers**. These are reaching well over 1,000 people. Prayer is the fundamental way that people in Northern Ireland are supporting international ministry.

Proclaim

Bible Sunday 2016

Keeping Bible Society NI supporters informed in many ways and providing resources for churches and groups.

Keeping You Informed

The **Word at Work** magazine encourages supporters by highlighting just how much their gifts and prayers actually achieve. Around 11,000 copies are published in January, May and September. Also produced three times a year are our special **Direct Mail Campaigns** providing information about some of the projects we are supporting.

Bible Sunday continues to be a popular resource for churches, helping them remember that many around the world have no Bible access.

The Society continues to use online communications to share our mission. The Bible Society NI website is kept up to date with the latest material while our Facebook page and twitter feed are also used to share emerging issues.

Resourcing Churches and Groups

A considerable proportion of staff time is still invested in church **speaking engagements**, of which there were 54 in 2016. These are important opportunities to share Bible Society ministry, to increase support and generate new interest.

We seek to provide resources that will help churches engage with Scripture. To this end we continue to produce our free **Daily Bible Reading Guides** that are made available for collection at Bible House.

We continue to produce **Bible Sunday** materials each year to be used as part of Sunday Worship. Also promoted this year was a '**Bake for Bibles**' group fundraising pack. This generated support from groups who ran coffee mornings to raise money for children in Peru through the Bible Society in Peru project 'Bread of Life'.



Partnerships open up opportunities to reach people here with God's Word and Bible Society news.

Partnership

Local Partnerships

Bible Society NI continues to be represented at the **Mission Agencies Partnership** and the **Association of Mission Societies**. These offer vital opportunities to meet others involved with Mission agencies working in NI.

Partnership offers greater scope, wider horizons and opportunities we could never create ourselves. Some notable partnerships:

- Support for Irish Baptist Youth Department's project '**The Amazing Journey**', continued in 2016 when the Society provided 30,000 copies of Luke's Gospel for distribution around schools in Northern Ireland.
- In the 2016/2017 academic year, Irish **Christian Endeavour** Union has chosen the Bible Society NI as the Charity of the Year. This partnership will raise support for the Amazing Journey!
- During 2016 the Society joined a consortium of other charitable groups in Northern Ireland, in an initiative entitled '**Will to Give**', in order to increase the awareness of the potential for leaving gifts in wills. This has provided helpful training opportunities for staff.



Partnering with YOU

Bible Society NI has been able to make use of links with colleagues in other countries to help place Scripture around the world on behalf of churches and groups here at home.

Rather than an individual here trying to acquire and ship the necessary Bibles, we were able to source them through the Bible Society in the country and have them delivered. Everyone wins: this is more cost effective for the giver, quicker for the church and supports the local Bible Society.

In Belfast, Bible Society NI continues to provide a range of Scripture to individuals and churches. This is a worthwhile service which provides Scripture in other languages as well as Gospels and pew Bibles in English.

Partnering with other Bible Societies

Our partnership extends around the world through membership of the **United Bible Societies** (UBS).

United Bible Societies held a World Assembly in May 2016 in Philadelphia. The Bible Society NI was represented by the new General Secretary, Catherine Little and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rev Richard Kerr. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the global work of UBS and provided Catherine with an invaluable opportunity to meet others involved in Bible Societies around the world. The Bible Society NI are also involved in the Europe-Middle East Affinity Group which met in January 2016 and gathered General Secretaries from almost 50 countries.

Bible Society NI is one of a small number of Bible Societies who are able to make grants to support the ongoing ministry around the world. This is done through UBS.

During the World Assembly in Philadelphia, UBS thanked Bible Society NI for our sacrificial giving to International ministry over many years. This is thanks to so many generous supporters who invest in the Kingdom!





Support from Bible Society NI Bible-a-month partnership helped 12 different projects. This included distribution of God's Word in Algeria where the Church is growing against all odds.

Making Money Work

Best Practice

The Society has a full **Annual Report and Audited Accounts** available for 2016 on request or through our website at www.bsni.co.uk/news This is just one of the many ways we strive to follow best practice in the day-to-day management of the Society.

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The Board of Trustees met on five occasions during the year, one of these occasions was an Away Day with the Staff. The Finance and Business Committee also met 4 times.

Recruitment

There was much anticipation and a good amount of time spent in the latter parts of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 on the recruitment of a new General Secretary. In January 2016, Catherine Little was appointed as the new General Secretary and started in the post on 1 April 2016. Catherine shadowed John Doherty for 2 months until his retirement at the end of May 2016.

Bible House, which is owned by the Society, remained fully occupied throughout 2016. The ground floor retail unit is occupied by a commercial trader and the second floor office space by an accountancy firm.

Using Bible Society NI Funds

Stewardship and transparency are so important for all of us in the Charitable Sector – even more so for those of us in Mission Agencies. The chart illustrates the use of resources in 2016.

Expenditure in 2016

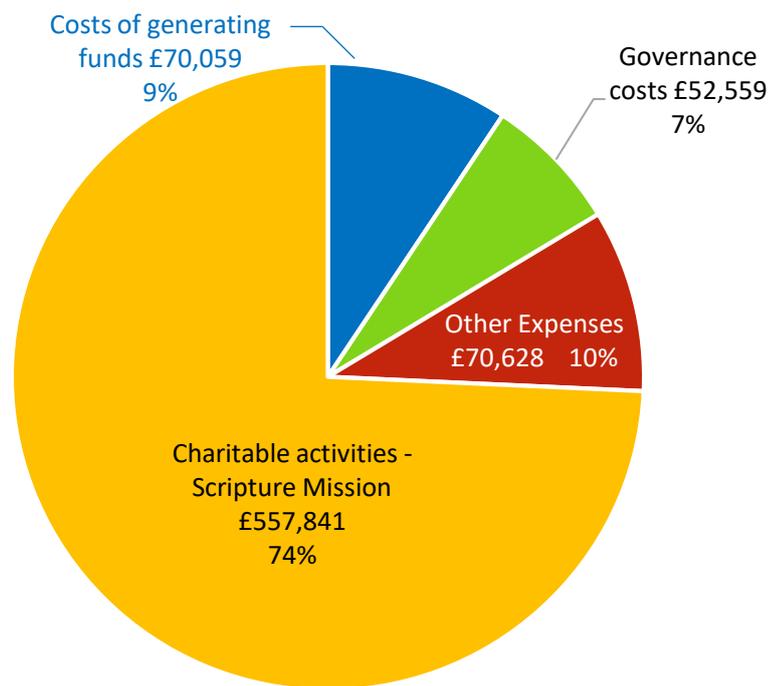
● Costs of Generating Funds

– Part of salaries, Fund raising, printing, packing & posting expenses, advertising, investment management.

● **Governance Costs** – Part of salaries, Bible House costs, Bank and professional fees.

● **Other Expenses** – Part of salaries, postage, travel & accommodation, I.T., purchase of Scripture.

● **Charitable Activities** – Grants to Scripture projects in 54 countries through the United Bible Societies as well as ministry in Northern Ireland.



Bible Society NI has been able to continue supporting Bible Ministry in many countries and aims to provide funds at the first opportunity, to impact people with the Gospel.

Managing Bible Society NI



Board of Trustees

During 2016 Jackie Whyte stepped down from the Board. We were sorry to see him go but are so thankful for all his input.

Mrs Nicola Taylor started serving on the Board from January 2016. She brings significant financial experience to the Society.

Trustees

Pastor Lindsay Allen

Mr Alan Bridle¹

Mrs Jacqueline Gee

Reverend Richard Kerr, Vice Chair¹

Reverend Stephen Lowry¹

Mr Lawson McDonald¹

Miss Joy Scott¹

Miss Anne Taylor

Captain Colin Taylor, Chair¹

Mrs Nicola Taylor¹

¹Member of Finance & Business Committee

Staff Team

Miss Catherine Little, General Secretary

Mr Campbell Moore, Office Manager

Mrs Julie Hutchinson, Communications Manager

Miss Leah McKibben, Projects Manager

**Bible Society NI General Secretary
Catherine Little**

