

2017

MINISTRY REPORT

The Bible Society NI

www.biblesocietyni.co.uk



Mission Projects and Activity 2017

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

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“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 2017. A full copy, along with the Charity’s Financial Statements can be found at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/what-we-do/about-us/accounts or from Bible House. Tel 028 9032 6577.

Cover image: Bible distribution in Cuba as part of the ‘One Million Bibles’ project.



Helping the Bible Society in India provide orphaned children with School material and Bibles.

Our Main Mission

The Bible Society NI's stated mission is: 'to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and medium they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God's purpose for their life.'

Bible Society NI works at home to challenge local people to engage with the Bible. We also encourage support for Bible projects around the world, reaching people through a huge network across the continents known as the **United Bible Societies**. It is through this network of Bible Societies that we are able to support such a wide array of projects helping people access and engage with the Bible on many different levels.

Every Continent

In 2017, thanks to the generosity of supporters in Northern Ireland, people were impacted through projects in 40 different countries. The commitment of local supporters is such a source of encouragement and joy as we see God's people reaching out to bless others around the world with the message of Jesus Christ.

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.



The commitment of local supporters is such a source of encouragement and joy...

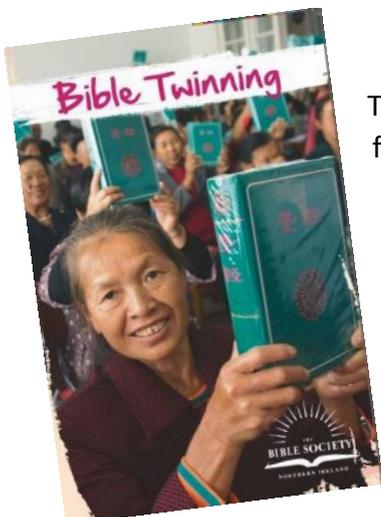
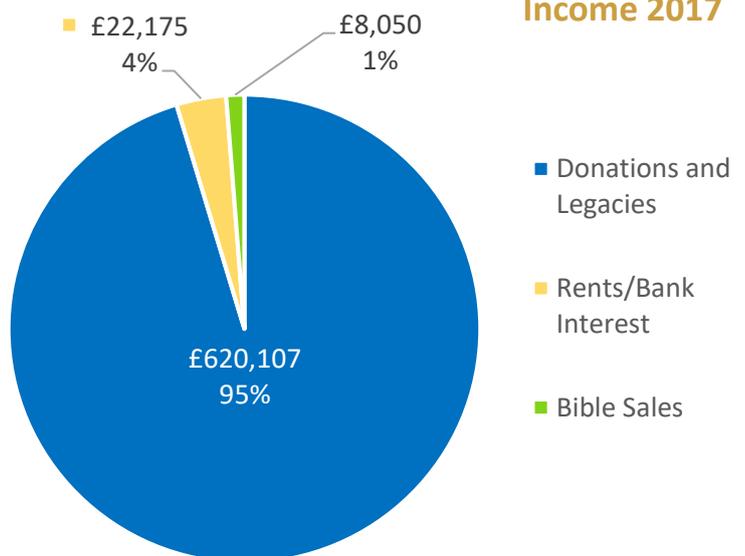


Bible Society NI supporters helped the Bible Society in Rwanda run their 'Good Samaritan' Programme which tackles stigma and reaches out to families and individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Local Support

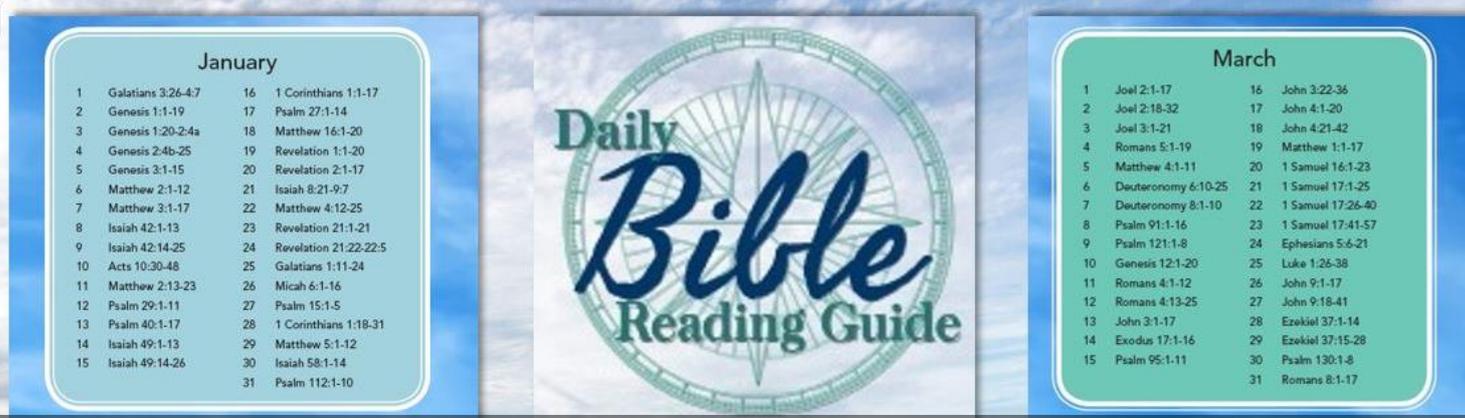
During the year, a number of projects were highlighted to supporters through our *Word at Work* magazine, Direct Mail letters, *The Greatest Gift* Christmas Catalogue and our *Bible-a-Month* Calendar. The support for our Bible-a-Month Partnership has remained similar to last year.

We are grateful for each person, group and church who supports Bible Society ministries with prayerful, generous hearts.



The Society is also thankful for **Legacies** received throughout the year from individuals who often supported the work throughout their lives.

Bible Twinning was introduced this year, encouraging individuals and churches to 'twin' their Bible with a Bible in either China, Cuba or Togo. There has been a good response to this with some churches even twinning their pew Bibles.



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 were published in January, May and September and the response to the appeals increased in 2017.

Three **Direct Mail Campaigns** also provided information about some of the projects we supported in 2017, including ministry in Papua New Guinea, Rwanda and India.

Online communication is an essential part of any mission today. The Bible Society NI continues to keep our website up to date while keeping followers informed through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Resourcing Churches and Groups

A considerable proportion of staff time is still invested in church **speaking engagements**, of which there were over 70 in 2017. 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 also continue to produce **Bible Sunday** materials each year to be used as part of a designated Sunday Worship service.

Prayer Resources

We are so grateful that churches, groups and individuals pray for us and Bible Society ministry all over the world. Some use the weekly prayer material in the **Word at Work** magazine, others use online or email resources. Email resources include **Prayer Circle**, **INSIGHT**, **Bible-a-month Extra** and **12 Prayers**. These reached well over 1,000 people.



Partnerships created the opportunity to reach 15,000 young people with the 'TIME OUT' Gospel of John.

Partnership

Local Partnerships

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

- Bible Society NI continues to be represented at the **Mission Agencies Partnership** and the **Association of Mission Societies**.
- Support for Irish Baptist Youth Department's project '**The Amazing Journey**', continued in 2017. In the 2016/2017 academic year, Irish **Christian Endeavour** Union partnered with us to raise support for the Amazing Journey!
- A new project was developed in partnership with youth agencies across Northern Ireland to develop an appealing Gospel of John. 15,000 copies of '**TIME OUT:JOHN**' were distributed to young people in the summer and plans are under way for a continuation in 2018.
- The Irish Methodist **World Mission Partnership** continues to partner with us on projects in Venezuela and Lithuania.

Partnering with other Bible Societies

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



United Bible Societies held a Round Table Exchange in July 2017 in Sydney Australia. Our General Secretary, Catherine Little was in attendance and this was a great opportunity to spend time with others involved in Bible Societies around the world. Catherine also took the opportunity to visit Cambodia to experience the impact of Bible distribution and literacy programmes.

Along with Bible Society colleagues from other countries, Catherine responded to an invite to visit some of the projects being run in Egypt through the Bible Society there.

Helping YOU Partner with other Bible Societies

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.

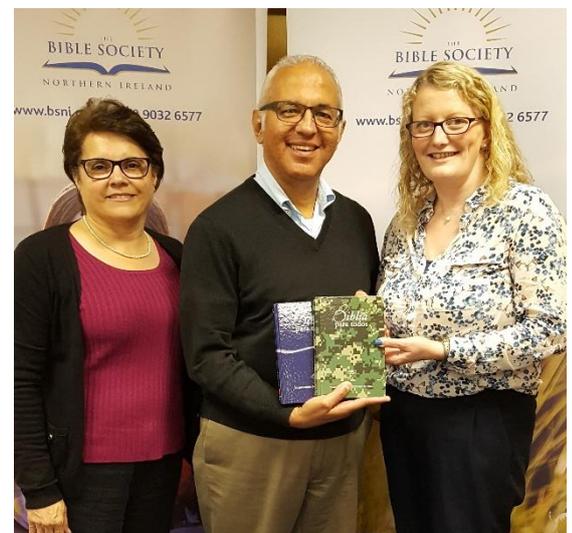
Rather than an individual here trying to acquire and ship the necessary Bibles to another country, we were able to contact the Bible Society in that country and have them delivered locally. Everyone wins: this is more cost effective for the giver, quicker for the church and supports the local Bible Society.

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.

Welcome Guests

2017 brought some welcome visitors including Mike Bassous from the Bible Society in Lebanon, Jorge Gomez and his wife from Honduras and Anthony Lamuel from Pakistan. Each spent some time with staff and presented great opportunities to connect with groups and partner organisations.

Jorge and Maribel Gomez are seen here presenting Catherine with examples of Scripture distributed in Honduras.





Bible House, which is owned by the Society, remained fully occupied throughout 2017. This is a great asset that realises some income and provides the staff with office space.

Best Practice

The Society has a full **Annual Report and Audited Accounts** available for 2017 on request or through our Website. This is just one of the many ways we strive to follow best practice in the day-to-day management of the Society.

See our website here:
www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/what-we-do/about-us/accounts



...we strive to follow best practice in the day-to-day running of the Society.

The Board of Trustees are provided with monthly and quarterly financial statements and continue to meet regularly. A Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees also meets throughout the year.

The Society has taken steps to ensure compliance in the area of **safeguarding** in connection with children and vulnerable adults.

Bible House, which is owned by the Society, remained fully occupied throughout 2017. The ground floor retail unit is occupied by a commercial trader and the second floor office space by an accountancy firm.

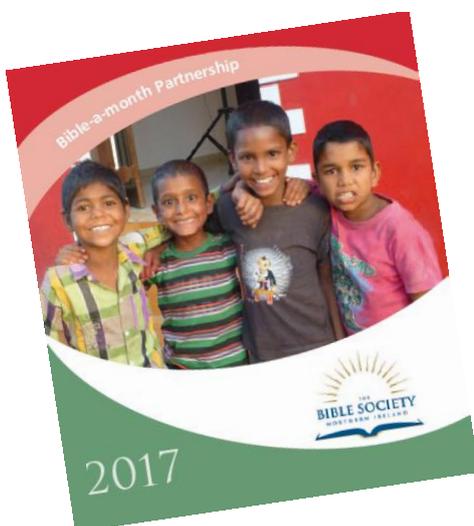
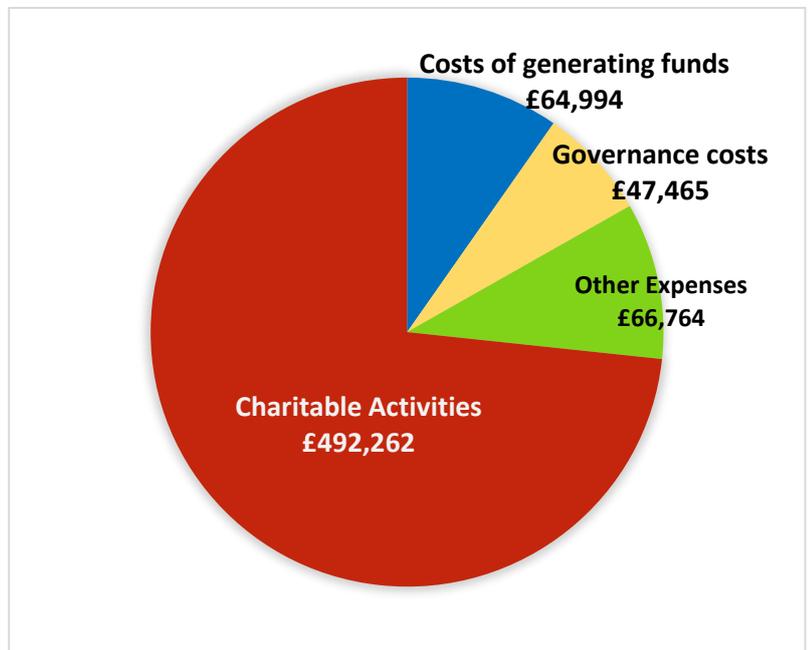
Using Bible Society NI Funds

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.

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 2017.

Expenditure in 2017

- **Costs of Generating Funds** – Part of salaries, fundraising, 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 40 countries through the United Bible Societies as well as ministry in Northern Ireland.



Producing resources such as the Bible-a-month calendar helped supporters pray for and partner with different projects around the world in 2017.

Managing Bible Society NI



Board of Trustees

In September 2017 Pastor Lindsay Allen and Mrs Jacqueline Gee stepped down from the Board. We are thankful for the valuable input brought over the years by both members.

Trustees

Pastor Lindsay Allen

Mr Alan Bridle*

Mrs Jacqueline Gee

Reverend Richard Kerr, Vice Chair

Reverend Stephen Lowry

Mr Lawson McDonald*

Miss Joy Scott

Miss Anne Taylor

Reverend Captain Colin Taylor, Chair*

Mrs Nicola Taylor*

*Member of Finance 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

