



BIBLE SOCIETY
NORTHERN IRELAND



2018

MINISTRY REPORT

THE BIBLE SOCIETY NI

www.biblesocietyni.co.uk

Mission Projects and Activity 2018

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland

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“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

The material in this report is taken from our Trustee’s Report for 2018. 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: A lady taking part in the Cambodian Bible Society’s Literacy project.



Bible Society NI supported the distribution of Family Scripture Engagement Packs in Malawi in 2018.

Our Main Mission

Our mission is “to reach everyone with God’s word in a language and format they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God’s purpose for their life.”

We are one of over 150 Bible Societies worldwide who form part of the United Bible Societies global fellowship. We raise both prayer and financial support for other Bible Societies around the world. The projects the Bible Society NI supports include all aspects of the Bible Lifecycle : Translation, Publication, Distribution, Literacy work, Engagement and Advocacy.

We also support Bible projects here in Northern Ireland, helping people here engage more with God’s Word.

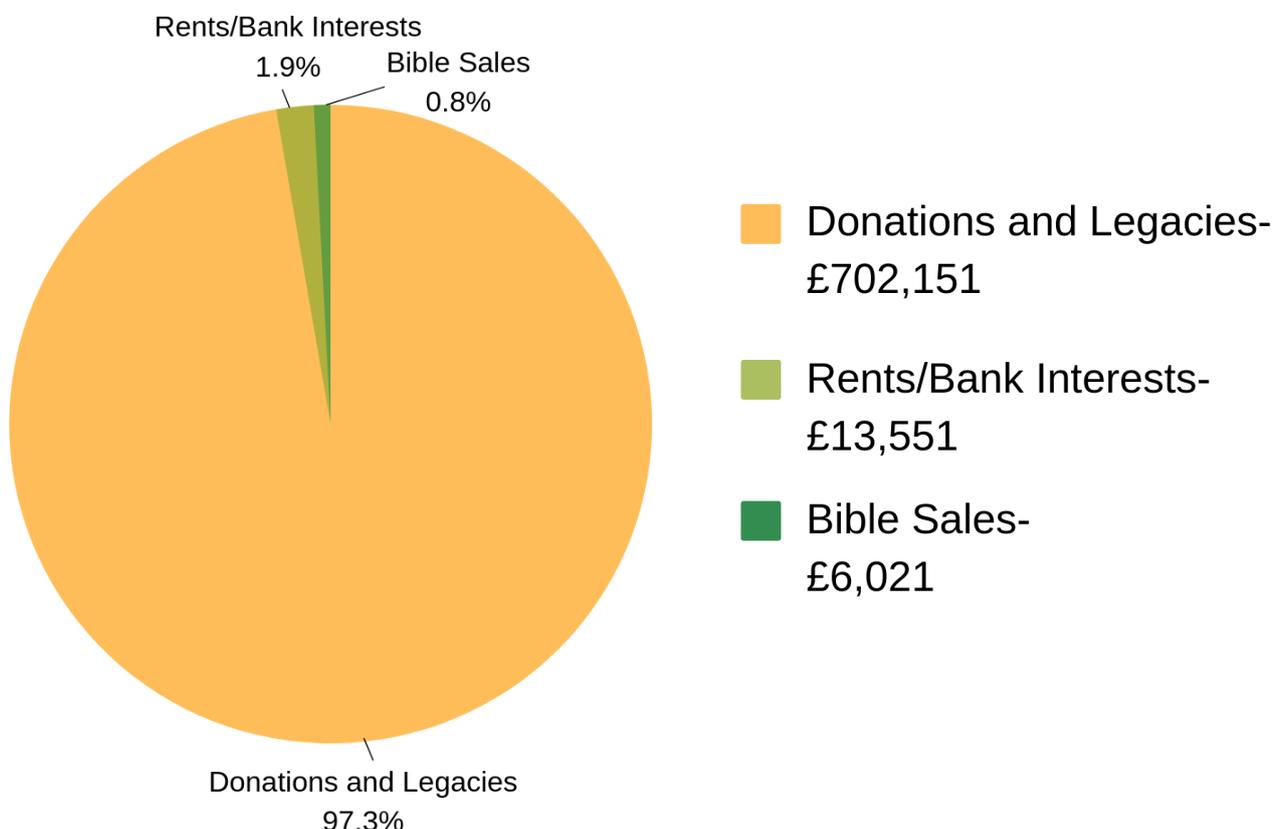
In 2018 we supported over 40 projects in 34 countries around the world thanks to the generosity of our supporters.



Bible Society NI supported Kingo Children's Festivals in Egypt reaching hundreds of thousands of children and young people.

Where our support comes from

During the year a range of projects were presented to supporters through our Word at Work magazine, Direct Mail letters, Greatest Gift alternative Christmas present catalogue and our Bible-a-Month Calendar. We are so grateful for the many individuals, groups and churches that support our work. Legacy income continued in 2018 with individuals leaving a gift in their will for our work.





SUMMER WORD AT WORK

Literacy in Pakistan

DONATE

We invested in a new website in 2018 – www.biblesocietyni.co.uk which allows for supporters to stay in touch, keep up to date with projects and also make donations.

Keeping You Informed

We work hard to provide information about our work to our supporters, we want to encourage and show our appreciation for the support that we receive. We also hope that our materials will inspire more people to get involved supporting our ministry.

Word at Work was produced three times in 2018 - January, May and September. **Word at Work** contains the pull-out prayer resource **Prayer at Work** which has prayer notes for every Bible Society around the world over the course of the year.

In 2018 we developed a **new website** for Bible Society NI – www.biblesocietyni.co.uk which allows us to share about the projects we support, the work we do here in Northern Ireland as well as how individuals and groups can support our work prayerfully and financially.

We have further developed our **social media activity** by developing clear messaging through **Facebook, Instagram and Twitter**. We encourage Bible engagement and prayer support through the sharing of **Scripture Pictures** and **Prayer at Work** prompts.

We encourage everyone to pray for our work through **regular prayer updates by email** about our **Bible-a-month projects** as well as general information.

Equipping and encouraging Bible engagement in Northern Ireland is important. We developed our annual **Daily Bible Reading Guide** and material for **Bible Sunday** for use by our supporters and beyond.



The Bible Society in Northern Ireland seeks 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.
During 2018, the Bible Society NI is supporting projects run by national Bible Societies in 34 different countries. These projects will vary from translation work to literacy programmes to helping children and young people engage with the Bible - but all will work to reach out into the world with God's Word.



Above: Our new website. Also follow us on social media:





holy ground. I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt."

"This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness."

"This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.' It was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors and he received living words to give us to us."



"But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt - we don't know what has happened to him!' That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and revelled in what their own hands had made. But God turned away from them because they had refused to obey him."

and the star of your god Baphan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile" beyond Babylon.

"Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, who enjoyed God's favour and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. That was Solomon who built a house for him."

"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?"

"You stiff-necked people, your hearts are still as untrained oxen. You see just the outward appearance, but do not understand. Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him - you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

THE STONING OF STEPHEN

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God."

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Here are some things to think about:

- Is there something God wants you to do that you're not doing?
- How can you get that done?

Thought

Stephen was stoned very badly. He never again spoke to his fellow Jews. The Sanhedrin kept their coats, and the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God.



"Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep."

Pages of the "TIME OUT: ACTS" resource, developed through our partnership with Summer Madness and other Youth Agencies.

Partnership

Local Partnerships

To develop Bible engagement and support for Bible mission we want to work closely with others – this provides opportunities for greater impact and a wider opportunities to reach everyone with God’s Word.

- We continue to play an active part in the **Association of Mission Societies** and with **Mission Action Partnership (MAP)**
- We continue to support the Irish Baptist Youth Department’s project **‘The Amazing Journey’**
- We further developed our partnership with Summer Madness and other Youth Agencies by producing **‘TIME OUT: ACTS’**
- We partnered with the **Methodist Church in Ireland World Mission Partnership** to support work in Austria, the Gulf States and in Togo.
- Support was received from the **Presbyterian Church in Ireland Global Mission Department** for the Arab Israeli Bible Society
- Support was received from the **World Day of Prayer committee** for a project in Suriname.

We want to develop and strengthen relations with our neighbour Bible Societies. We have hosted and attended meetings with senior leaders from the Scottish Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society on both a strategic and operational level. We are pleased that developments in the National Bible Society of Ireland are also taking place to allow further collaboration across the island of Ireland.



The Cuban Bible Society celebrating the completion of their One Million Bibles Campaign at the Round Table Exchange 2018.

Global Partnerships

We partner and support other Bible Societies through the United Bible Societies Fellowship. We play an important part in resourcing Bible mission in other places.

In 2018 we celebrated the completion of the **One Million Bibles project in Cuba** with the Round Table Exchange meeting taking place there.

Developing relationships with other Bible Societies is key to our work, we are able to share with our supporters about their work. We need each other to be able to continue what we do.

In 2018 we welcomed some international visitors:

Hrayr Jebejian, the General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf States visited in March and was able to meet with the World Mission Partnership team in the Methodist Church in Ireland.

In August we welcomed Dina Katanacho from the Arab Israeli Bible Society who was a keynote speaker at the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention.



Dina Katanacho visited us in Northern Ireland in August 2018.



Members of the Bible Society NI Board of Trustees.

Best Practice

We are committed to operating in an efficient, effective and streamlined way by following best practice guidelines for charity management.

We have continued to comply with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. We are now registered with the Fundraising Regulator and have complied with new data protection regulations following the General Data Protection Regulations implementation in May 2018. We have developed a Risk Register for the Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

During 2018 our Board met five times, our Finance Committee met four times and our Governance Committee met four times. We have had some change in relation to the membership of the Board with some new recruitment and others stepping back from their positions on the Board.

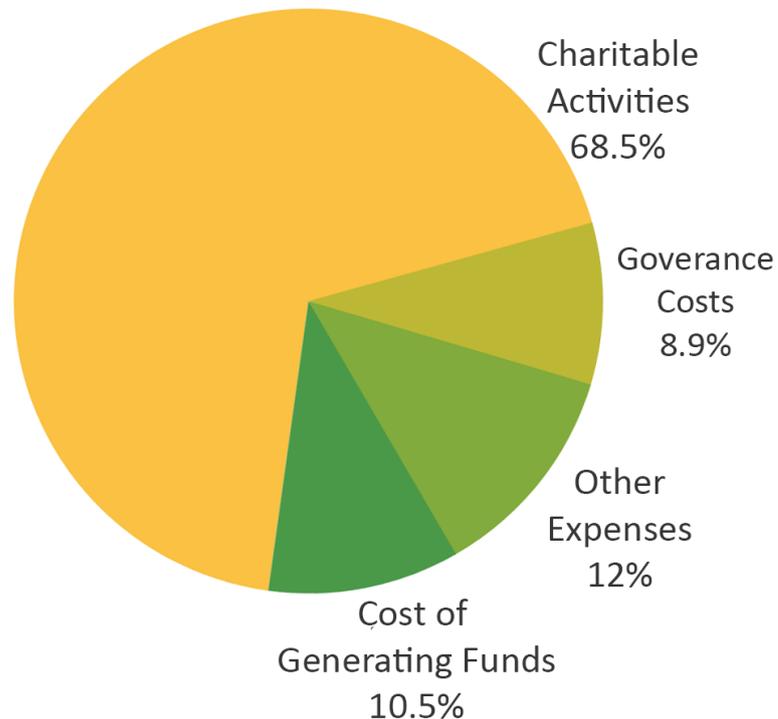
During 2018 a new tenant was secured for the second floor unit of Bible House after our longstanding tenant moved on. The ground floor unit is still occupied by a commercial trader.

Using Bible Society NI Funds

We have continued to support Bible Mission in our own context as well as globally through the United Bible Societies partnership with other Bible Societies.

Expenditure in 2018

- **Costs of Generating Funds** – Part of salaries, fundraising, printing, packing and postage expenses, advertising, investment management : £64,826
- **Governance Costs** – Part of salaries, Bible House costs, Bank and professional fees : £55,002
- **Other expenses** – Part of salaries, postage, travel and accommodation, IT, purchases of Scripture materials : £74,157
- **Charitable Activities** – Grants to Bible mission projects in 34 countries through the United Bible Societies as well as ministry in Northern Ireland : £421,581



Managing Bible Society NI



Board of Trustees

During 2018 some members of the Board stepped down from their positions and new Board members were recruited.

Trustees

Mr Alan Bridle *

Mr James Diffin (Appointed June 18)

Mrs Doris Dugan (Appointed Feb 18)

Rev Richard Kerr, Vice-Chair ∞

Rev Stephen Lowry

Mr Lawson McDonald *

Miss Joy Scott (Resigned Nov 18) ∞

Mr Tommy Stewart (Appointed June 18)

Miss Anne Taylor (Resigned Oct 18)

Rev Capt Colin Taylor, Chair * ∞

Mrs Nicola Taylor *

* Member of the Finance Committee

∞ Member of the Governance 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

