

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF GHANA

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

“You are merciful, LORD! You are kind and patient and always loving. You are good to everyone and you take care of all your creation ... Our LORD, everything you do is kind and thoughtful, and you are near to everyone whose prayers are sincere”. Psalm 145:8-9, 17

We are overwhelmed by the mercies of God. The Psalmist in the above Psalm echoes our sentiments. How can we praise Him and thank Him enough for His kindness to us.

In spite of the polarization of our national politics (which turned ugly at times) our nation remained an island of peace and stability in a volatile sub-region. We experienced liberties and more freedom of expression and dissent. Our economy continued to be fairly stable despite the hiccups in the world economy as a result of the increases in the price of oil. Interest rates came down, our currency was fairly stable and prices of goods and services remained at appreciable levels.

As a Society we continued to experience the kindness of the Lord. We felt His “smiles” otherwise how do we explain the safety we experienced as we drove the length and breadth of our country in spite of the carnage on our roads. How do we also explain securing affordable rental accommodation next door to Bible House during the period of Bible House rehabilitation that ensured that our operation continued without a haemorrhage. And the joy of seeing Bible House rehabilitation start and realising that it was timely as we discovered much damage that could have resulted in loss of property and life had the work not been undertaken. The opportunities to order Scriptures outside the minimum level that was supported by the UBS grant was another cause for rejoicing and experiencing God’s smiles.

Recalling God’s kindness gives us cause to praise Him and to sing the local chorus “*Ayeyi ahye m’akoma ma...*” (My heart is full of praise)

2. ADMINISTRATION

The National Council and the various Standing Committees continued to provide invaluable support for the administration of the Society. There were no changes in the governing leadership of the Society. Mr. Sam Okudzeto remained the President of the Society with Apostle Dr. Michael K. Ntummy and Prof. (Mrs.) Florence A. Dolphyne as 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents respectively. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Martey and Ms Joyce R. Aryee also continued as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council respectively.

There were also no changes in the Senior Management team made up of:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Rev. Kofi Owusu | - | General Secretary |
| 2. | Rev. Dr. John D.K. Ekem | - | Translation Consultant |
| 3. | Rev. Jacob Aguda | - | Programmes & Administration Manager |
| 4. | Mr. Immanuel K. Agamah | - | Projects & Human Resource Manager |
| 5. | Mr. Adjei Agyemang | - | Senior Accountant |

3. STAFFING

Two full time staff, Rev. Kwame Ansong and Mr. Philip Kweku and two contract Translation staff, Rev. Prof. Gilbert Ansre and Rev. Dr. J. A. Boadi were retired in the year under review.

Mr. Philip Kweku, the Nzema FCBH coordinator was replaced by Mr. Raymond Onso-Nyameyeh on a part time basis.

We lost Very Rev. Stephen G. Y. Abakah, our dependable part-time Fante translator. He passed away in the UK, following a protracted illness.

Mr. Immanuel Kofi Agamah graduated from GIMPA with an Executive MBA. Mrs. Gladys Asare undertook a short course in Administration & Management at GIMPA and was awarded a Certificate in Administration and Management. Mr. Edwin Obodai, Ms. Mildred Akwei and Mr. Richard O. Mensah all made progress in their external undergraduate courses with the University of Ghana.

Messrs. Kofi Kakraba Afful and Charles Adu-Twumasi were sponsored for a Post Graduate Certificate in Business Administration and Project Management respectively at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

Mr. Wonderful Adjei-Arthur was granted Study Leave to pursue a 2-year M.Phil programme at the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon, whilst Mrs. Naa Oyoo Ace-Acquah was granted one year leave of absence to pursue a Master's Programme in Human Resource and Development Studies at the London Metropolitan University in the UK.

4. TRANSLATION

- 4.1. *Ga New Bible*: The translators worked hard to complete the final proofreading exercise. The corrected page proofs were dispatched to Nairobi in May 2005. To ensure that the work was speeded up, the Manuscript Examiner was sent to Nairobi and spent 6 weeks to assist with pre-press preparation of the manuscript. The manuscripts were sent for printing in China at the end of the year and it was expected to be received in the first half of 2006.

- 4.2. *First Dagbani Bible*: The manuscript was typeset and the first page-proofs of Genesis to Isaiah were received in December 2005. Proofreading was to commence in January 2006. Our expectation is that the remaining page proofs would be received in 2006 to assist us complete proofreading and subsequently printing of the first Dagbani Bible in 2006.

With support from the Catholic Archdiocese of Tamale, the translators worked on translating the Deuterocanonicals. When completed, the Deuterocanonicals would be incorporated and published as a Catholic edition.

- 4.3. *Esahie New Testament*: The manuscript was successfully processed for printing. It is envisaged that the printed Esahie New Testament will be ready in the first half of 2006.

Literacy promotion and Scripture-in-Use programmes were put in place in preparation for the launching and distribution of the New Testament and the commencement of the Old Testament project.

- 4.4 *Ewe New Bible*: The project slowed down in the first half of the year due to the retranslation of some of the Old Testament books. Most of the books however were co-checked. Unfortunately, we had to retire the team leader in November. It is hoped that the translation team would be reconstituted and would work hard to complete the Project by the end of 2007.
- 4.5 *Akuapem-Twi, Asante-Twi and Fante Bible Revisions*: Progress on these revision projects was encouraging. The revised editions of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), Ruth, Joshua, Judges, Job, portions of the Psalms as well as books of the Minor Prophets i.e. Hosea-Malachi were successfully checked by the Translation Consultant. Selected Portions are being processed as trial editions for testing/reviewing. Scripture HELPS (i.e. where to find what in time of need) that had been previously prepared, were incorporated into the existing Akuapem-Twi, Asante-Twi and Fante Bibles.
- 4.6 *Archival Research and Future Publications for the Society*

The Translation Consultant undertook archival researches in Europe and the United States on “The History of Bible Translations in the Gold Coast (Ghana)”. The research findings are currently being processed into a standard monograph entitled: “Early Scriptures of the Gold Coast (Ghana)” to be published for the Society in early 2007. Meanwhile, some significant findings of the research have been simplified and summarized and are being translated into Ga, Akuapem-Twi, Asante/Twi, Ewe and Mfantse (Fante) to be incorporated into future editions of Bibles in these local languages.

5. PROGRAMMES

5.1 *Publishing & Distribution*

In the year under review, we published one selection: “**God’s unchanging word for a changing world**” for Bible Week celebration. This was published in English and in seven local languages. We also introduced two new products – puzzles for children and Christmas cards to our line of products. Though both were not remarkably successful, they were well appreciated. Whereas the puzzles had strong scripture motifs and introduced children to scripture stories like the Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary, etc. the Christmas cards were meant to bring biblical texts and Jesus Christ back into Christmas.

We sponsored a number of adverts in the two leading national newspapers – The Daily Graphic and the Ghanaian Times and used each advert to put scripture selections in the public media for many who otherwise would not read a scripture text.

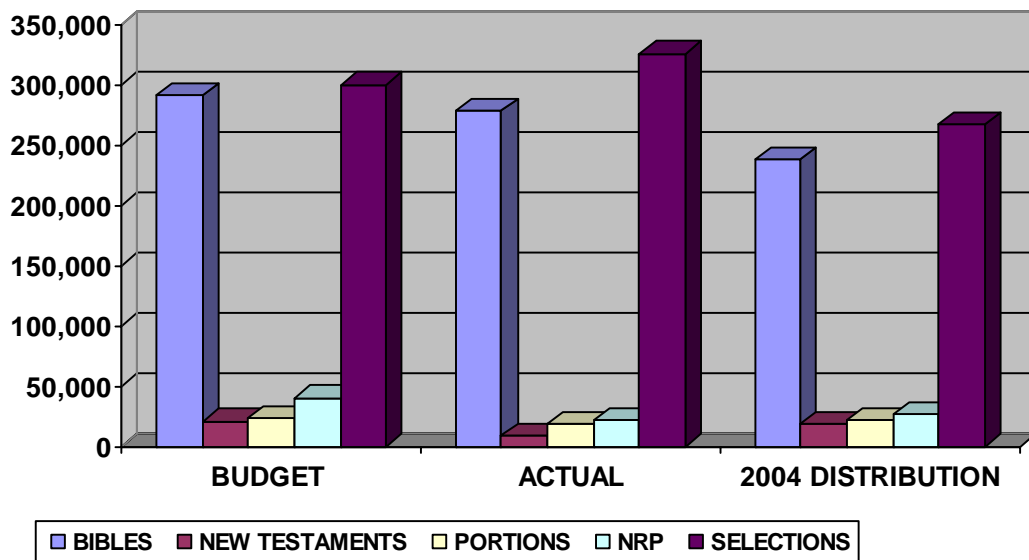
On Sunday, 19 June 2005, the Esahie New Reader Portion was launched at the Bethel Methodist Church, Sefwi Wiaso. The launch came six years after the first Esahie Scripture, the Gospel of Mark, was launched. The New Reader Portions were made

possible through a collaborative effort between the GILLBT, LEI and the Bible Society of Ghana. The launching was greeted with joy and excitement, following which a team of staff spent 6 days in the Sehwi area showing films and distributing scriptures. The launching of the New Reader Portions greatly enhanced the Esahie literacy work currently going on in the area.

We received support from World Vision (Ghana) and the Hornchurch Baptist Church that enhanced our distribution. The World Vision distributed over 5500 Bible to children in their project areas whilst a team of volunteers from Hornchurch Baptist Church, UK distributed over 800 Bibles to children at the Mt. Olivet Methodist Academy, Dansoman and at the Amrahia Community J.S.S.

By the grace of God we achieved the following distribution figures.

Scripture Distribution Jan. – Dec. 2005



In the year under review, we run out of Ga Bibles. We had hoped that we would receive the Ga New Bible in the course of the year but our hope did not materialize. We had challenges beyond our ability and for the last 6 months of the year, we did not have any Ga Bibles.

We produced 10,000 special Methodist Church Ghana edition of the English Standard Bible (ESV) for the Church’s 170th anniversary celebrations. The project was pre-financed by the British Bible Society.

We also introduced the Global Youth Bible (CEV) and distributed over 10,000 copies.

We also distributed 15,190 of other literature including 7,237 **Mary Jones and her Bible**.

I would want to pay tribute to our accredited distributors. As I pointed out last year, most of them are small scale distributors who often carry the Bibles on their heads but they

account for over 70% of our total distribution. Another group of distributors I want to commend is our hard working field staff. By travelling far and wide, they make sure that the Scriptures are available in the rural communities.

5.2 *Bible Week & Fund Raising*

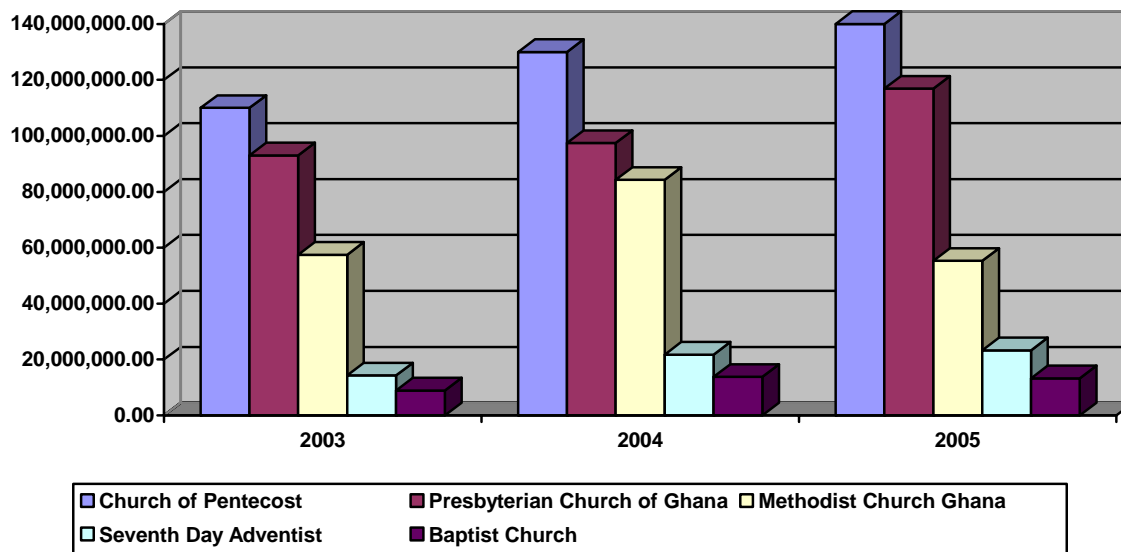
Bible Week Celebrations and the 40th anniversary of the opening of Bible House were jointly launched at a colourful ceremony at the North Kaneshie Assemblies of God, on Sunday, 6th February 2005. This was performed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Yaw Frimpong Manso who also preached the sermon on the theme. The theme for Bible Week 2005 was “God’s unchanging word for a changing world”. Many, including the choristers, who graced the occasion, were beautifully clad in the Society’s (UBS) 200th year’s anniversary cloth. The ceremony was chaired by the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Ghana, Rev. William D. Dontoh. The host pastor, Rev. Dr. Harry Insaidoo greatly assisted in promoting the Bible cause.

Bible Sabbath and Bible Sunday were celebrated in Kumasi. The Bible Sabbath was hosted by the joint conferences of the SDA churches in the Bantama SDA Church whilst the Bible Sunday was hosted by the St. Cyprian Anglican Church. Prior to the celebration of the Bible Sabbath and Bible Sunday, a Bible Society of Ghana delegation led by the President, Mr. Sam Okudzeto, and included Prof. Mrs. Irene Odotei, a member of the National Council and also UBS Vice President for the Africa Area paid a courtesy call on Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at the Manhyia Palace. They used the occasion to invite him to the Bible Sunday service and also presented him and his chiefs with Scriptures.

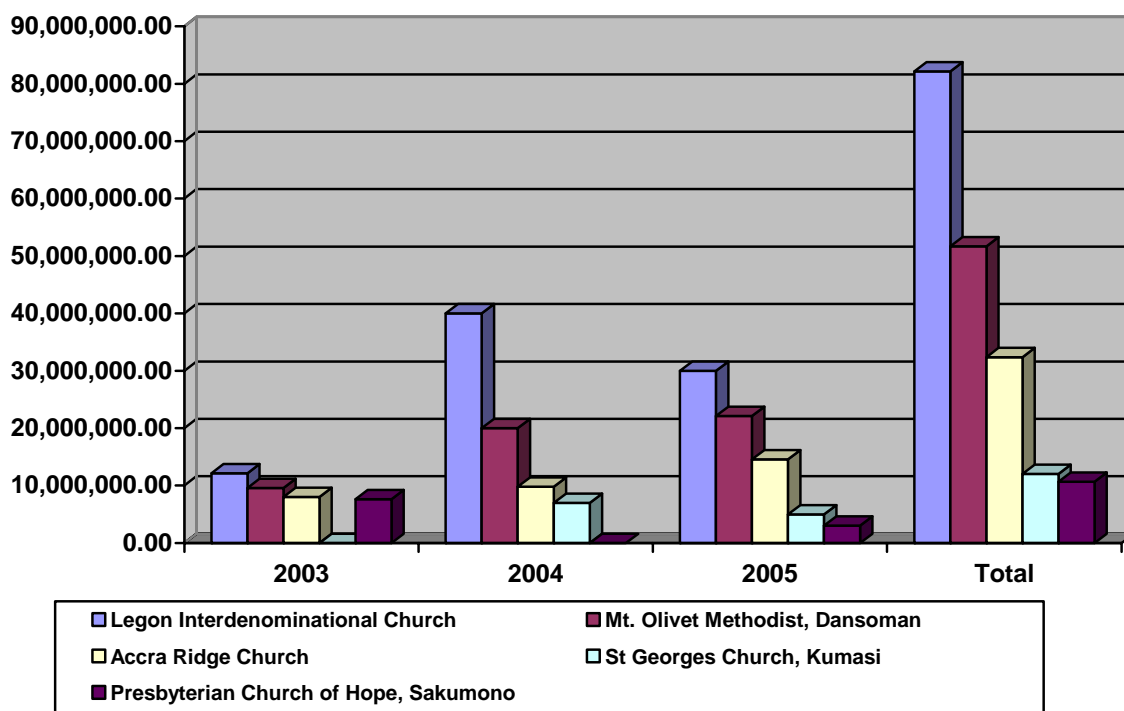
As in previous years, Bible Week brought several denominations together in fellowship and collaboration. It gave opportunities to work together and by that unity to show to the world that “Jesus had come from the Father”. The Bible Week selections in English and in the local languages proved very helpful as the theme generated interest and discussions.

Bible Week 2005 donations amounted to ₵547,110,690. This was 1.2% increase over the previous year and fell far below our budget. One explanation was our involvement in many activities that left us exhausted and unable to effectively follow up on Bible Week donations. One another explanation was the anniversary celebrations of a major supporting church that affected their participation in Bible Week activities in the year under review.

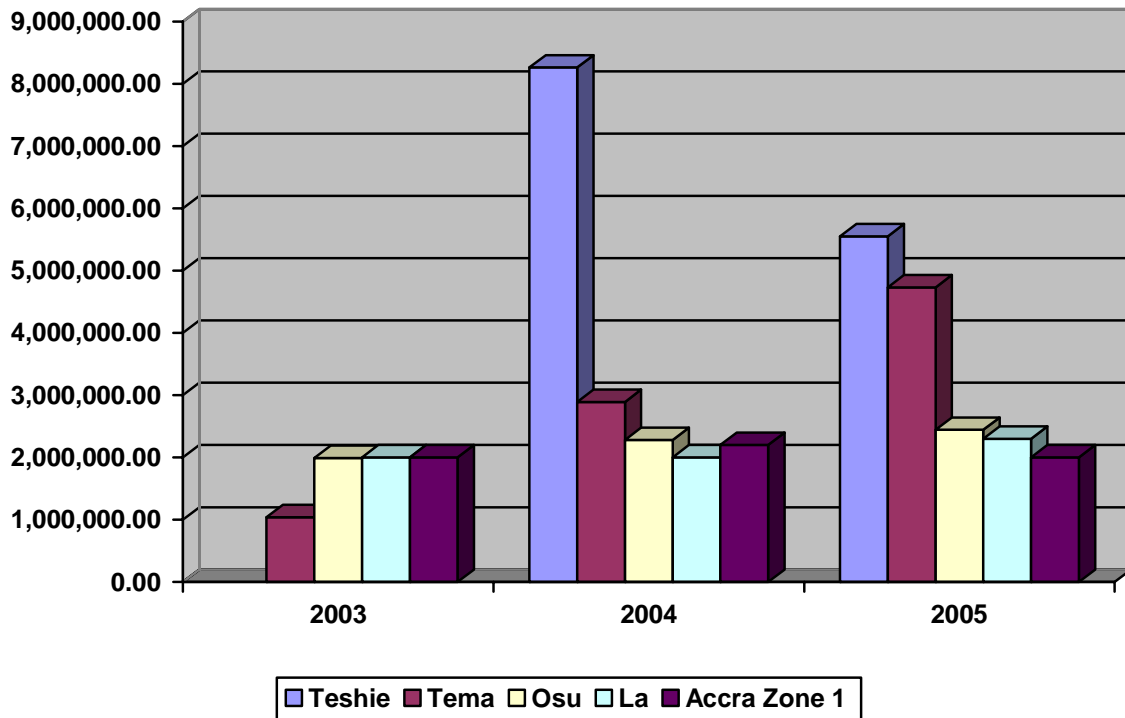
Bible Week Donation 2003 – 2005: 5 Leading Denominations



Bible Week Donation 2003-2005: 5 Leading Congregations



Bible Week Donation 2003-2005: 5 Leading Local Council of Churches



In the year under review we received a mid year Bible appreciation, from the Elim Pentecostal Gospel Church. So far as we know, the Elim Pentecostal Gospel Church is the only church that takes two offering a year for the Bible Society. The Accra Ridge Church continued to keep us on their church budget and sent us a donation of ₵4 million in addition to their Bible Sunday offertory. The International Central Gospel Church and the Word Miracle Church supported our work with a budget donation of ₵2 million each month respectively whilst the Assemblies of God sent us ₵100,000 a month.

The LIC Bible-a-month club continued to be the leading Bible-a-month Club with their support of ₵60 million whilst the Guild of the Good Shepherd of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Bible Society of Ghana Staff Bible-a-month and the World Vision Bible-a-month clubs supported us with ₵5million, ₵20.7 million, and ₵6.4 million respectively.

The fourth Annual Presidential Dinner was hosted by the President of the Society, Mr. Sam Okudzeto and his wife Priscilla, on 10 December 2005 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel. The Guest Speaker, Prof. Mrs. Irene Odotei shared the story of her life and credited God’s Word for her life’s achievement.

The dinner was well attended and yielded a net income of approximately ₵68 million and ₵183 million in pledges including a pledge of ₵50 million in building materials for Bible House rehabilitation.

5.3 *Church Relations*

The Society continued its programme of partnership with churches and para-churches organisations. It accepted all church invitations and sent fraternal greetings to Synods, conferences and General Assemblies. It also collaborated with churches and selected Theological institutions in giving out Bibles to newly commissioned pastors. The Translations Consultant and the Senior Media Officer were permitted to teach one day a week each at the Trinity Theological Seminary and the Maranatha College respectively.

Through our Jesus Film project and Faith Comes by hearing (FCBH), we continued to partner a number of churches in outreach and Bible use programmes.

5.4 *Youth & Children*

5.4.1 Youth Bible

In the year under review we launched the Youth Bible, Global edition (CEV). The launch was done as part of Bible week 2005 celebrations and we had Rev. Dr. Newman Barclay, Senior Translations Officer of the American Bible Society to assist us promote the Bible.

Over 2,000 Youth Bibles were distributed during Dr. Barclays' one week visit but our total stock of over 10,000 copies were sold out by the end of the year.

5.4.2 Kids-games

The Society partnered with the Church of Pentecost to organise its second denominational kid's games. Teams from 18 districts participated with over 800 children and 120 leaders and church leaders attending.

5.4.3 Special Bible Reading Marathon & Quiz

The Society partnered with the Accra Ridge Church School to hold a day's Bible Reading marathon and quiz. The programme involved all pupils of the school, the Management and staff. The book of Revelations was read.

5.4.4 National Christian Youth Rally

The Society collaborated with other Christian organisations to hold the 3rd National Christian Youth Rally. The rally, held on Ghana's republic day, brought together approximately 10,000 young people from schools, universities and church groups and had as theme **Transformed Youth: Transformed Nation**. Apart from sponsoring the Adverts in the national media and using it as avenue to make Scriptures available, the Society offered Bibles and portions as special discounts to the young people.

5.4.5 Student Conferences and Outreaches

As in previous years, the Society participated in the annual Students Conferences of the Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students and the Scripture Union. The participation

made it possible to make Scriptures available to the students at special discounts and also to share the mission and vision of the Society.

The Society also supported the Students-In-Church Evangelism (SICE) and outreaches of the Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students, the Ghana Methodist Students Union and the Presbyterian Students Union by making available Scriptures for free distribution and also for sale.

5.4.6 Youth Impact Project

We continued to receive requests from young people for free Scriptures. These were processed to take part in our Youth Impact Project. Over 3,000 requests were processed.

The first batch of students who started the Youth Impact Correspondence course received their Bibles in July 2005. A total of 778 participants, representing over 75% of those who started the course completed and received their Bibles. Their scores indicated that they had diligently studied the Scriptures through the 3 stage correspondence course. A number of those who received Bibles sent acknowledgement. One acknowledgement simply read:

“I have received the Bible you sent. I really like it and that is a precious gift in my life, something I can call my own. May God bless you and the Society. Bye”

5.5 Media Apart from Print

5.5.1 *Scripture via Cell Phone*

A new Scripture accessing service via cell phone, christened “*God’s Word for ‘U’ Today*” was launched during the year. The Bible-on- phone service was made possible through the collaboration of Theovision International, the Bible Society of Ghana, Mobile Content.com and Areeba.

The service affords ‘areeba’ (024) subscribers the opportunity to listen to God’s Word in their preferred language out of the 12 listed languages on the phone, viz. English, French, Asante, Ewe, Ga, Fante, Hausa, Dangme, Konkomba, Dagbani, Nzema and Frafra. One can access any of these languages by dialing 1455 and following the prompts. Furthermore, by texting the word ‘BIBLE’ to 1455 on Areeba, one can read a daily Bible verse in English.

The launch was performed by Ms Joyce R. Aryee, the Vice Chairman of Council who is also the CEO of the Chamber of Mines and The Salt & Light Ministry respectively. The guest of honour, Mr. Dan Botwe, Minister of Information commended the partners for the innovation and urged Christians to take advantage of new communication technologies to promote God’s Word, Christian principles, religious and moral values in the country.

5.5.2 *Dagbani FCBH*: The Dagbani FCBH currently has 415 listening groups functioning across communities in the six Dagbon districts in the Northern region. We distributed TAZI New Testaments to Moslem converts to Christianity and some enquiring Moslems with a desire to convert to the Christian faith.

Savannah FM radio continued to broadcast the Dagbani FCBH programme and is rated highly in the vast coverage area. Lives have been transformed as a result. We have accounts of 45 Moslems who made genuine decisions to join the Christian faith including that of a woman from Tinguri a village in the Northern region. She contacted the supervisor in charge of her area to give her a copy of the cassette after listening to the radio broadcast. He did and had discussions with her in her home. One day she decided to give her life to Christ and after that she started going to church and has been going since.

A number of primary schools and clinics have also started the FCBH programme.

Various programmes were organised in the year to address issues on prayer, conflict management, and leadership. A regional quiz competition was organized in Tamale and we showed the Jesus film in several communities.

It was interesting to observe that in the North, the Word of God has been allowed to speak directly to the people. They clearly credit no personality but God in the transformation they experience. Clearly, most participants are waiting with great expectation for the first Dagbani full Bible.

The FCBH group in the Tamale Central Prison continued to bring hope and reformation to some of the inmates. Regular visits were made by the Dagbani FCBH coordinator and whenever a team visited from Accra. During the year we presented scriptures and used clothing made available by individuals and the Legon Interdenominational Church. The FCBH Committee donated an amount of ₵500,000 to two inmates who had completed their sentences; one of them had served 15 years and had become leader of the Christian Fellowship in the prison.

The 54 FCBH supervisors deserve commendation for faithful service in very challenging circumstances.

- 5.5.3 *Ga FCBH*: The Ga FCBH programme was revived in the district with series of activities. There were many leadership challenges in most of the churches with FCBH programmes. We organized community durbars to discuss issues the leaders recognized as felt needs.

We also organized in conjunction with the local council of churches and schools in the area. An HIV/AIDS awareness programme for the teens in the Bortianor community, a community noted for its high rate of teenage pregnancies.

- 5.5.4 *Nzema FCBH*: Currently there are 245 FCBH groups in the Nzema area. The programme has become a platform for church evangelism and also a focal point for bringing churches together.

Another innovation was the FCBH half-nights which some youthful FCBH groups initiated for the study of the Word of God in the Axim and Sanda areas.

We initiated the broadcast of the Nzema FCBH on Space FM in Tarkwa for the Nzema people. This has been appreciated by the audience remarks received. We are pleased to quote in full a letter received from a listener:

“I am a 72 year old and I hail from Beyin. I retired from the Civil Service and became Commissioner of Oaths some 20 years ago. I have been listening to the Nzema Bible reading on Space FM for the past few months and I enjoy listening to the reading. Those of us who cannot read the bible regularly due to weak eyesight take great delight in listening to the bible reading in Nzema. The fluency and eloquence with which the reading is made is a source of delight to me and those who listen, as it is easier and enjoyable to listen than to read”

Besides a number of village “FM” stations also carry the FCBH broadcast. These are basically announcement centres where PA systems are installed in small rooms with Horn Speakers rigged outside for carrying information about community events.

- 5.5.5 *Akuapem FCBH*: Currently there are more than 350 FCBH groups. The Akuapem FCBH programme focused on roping in more churches to support the Bible Cause through programmes targeted at local councils of churches. FCBH training workshops were organized during the year in Akim Swedru, Akim Oda, Akim Achiase, Fotobi, Aburi, Donkrokyerwa, Otoase, Kraboa Coalta, Kraboa Kese, Kofi Nyako and Kofi Quaye.

The programme continued to help build positive relationship with churches. An HIV/AIDS workshop organized at Teacher-Mante was well attended. So was a drama based on the **Good Samaritan** at Kitase, put up by a youth group from Aburi. Other programmes employed to promote the FCBH work included a pastor’s conference, Jesus Film shows and a marriage seminar amongst others.

- 5.5.6 *Ewe FCBH*: The northern Ewe FCBH team focused its work on the non-church areas especially places steeped in idol worship.

At Kadja-sonu, the chief expressed gratitude to the Bible Society for bringing God’s word to them in their own language. On the day the programme was introduced, 30 people gave their lives to Christ. A philanthropist, a native of the village, donated a tape player and 4 packets of batteries to assist the programme.

At Atiglinyikofe, a Volta Lake settlement village near Kwamikrom, a 47 year old fetish priest told the visiting BS Ghana team that after listening to the FCBH cassette that he was so grateful to God for sending the Gospel to his village. He exclaimed, “oh I have being in darkness for too long a time, I will give my life to Christ”. Very anxious about growing in the word and seeing others also turn from idol worship, he immediately donated six batteries and a radio tape player for the listening group. Following an appeal from the teachers and pupils of the only local primary school and JSS in the village, a listening group was formed for the school.

The FCBH broadcast was however resumed during the later part of the year after the technical problems had been fixed.

The FCBH campaign was extended to passengers on the boats that ply the Volta Lake. Most of these passengers spend between 6-7 hours on the lake travelling between various communities and market centres. We however did not have enough tape players and would be pleased to receive support to assist us make available enough tape players for this exciting development.

In the course of the year the FCBH broadcast on Volta Star Radio (VSR) was suspended due to technical challenges the radio station experienced. This was a deep source of worry to people of the Volta Region like this middle aged man who remarked during one of our visits “I listen first to the FCBH programme before I do anything for the day, I feel like I have lost something precious if I do not listen”.

5.5.7 *Asante FCBH*: The programme suffered some set back in the year and did not achieve much. However the programme was adopted for public playing in the local lorry park at Ashanti-Bekwai.

5.5.8 *Dangme FCBH*: The FCBH audio New Testament continued to be broadcast on Radio Ada. The cassette albums for the Dangme FCBH arrived in the later part of the year and were officially launched on 5th and 19th November 2005 in Sra and Kasseh respectively.

A coordinator and four supervisors were appointed to coordinate the programme following the launching. The plan is to set up 200 FCBH listening groups in the Dangme East and West areas.

5.5.9 *Jesus Film*: Our Jesus film unit was busy during the year. The team visited an average of 3 outreach stations per week to show the “Jesus film” and other evangelistic films and distribute scriptures. Sometimes the visits involved a combination of film shows, school visits and market sales.

At times the visits were at the invitation of churches and assisted the churches in their outreach to unreached areas.

Once the team was dragged to court to answer for noise making whilst a court was sitting. They had mounted horn speakers to announce the availability of scriptures on a market day. Unknowingly their announcements disturbed a court that was sitting. The judge discharged them after hearing their charge by saying “*brothers, you were doing God’s work eh? Go and sin no more*”.

6. **40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

In the year under review, we celebrated 40 years of organised Bible work in Ghana. The celebrations took several forms including Bible reading marathon, walk and float dubbed Mary Jones Walk, Children variety activities, luncheon and Thanksgiving service.

In the planning stages the activities were conceived to help the Society raise more funds for its programmes. God however had other plans and used the activities to enhance the image of the Society and provide service to our people. For example, a health mission was organised at the Global Evangelical Church, Kotobabi Down, Accra. The mission was coordinated by the Anglican Provincial Health Service headed by Dr.

Jenny Coley and saw five other health institutions collaborating with us. The free health service benefited over 1,000 children, youth and adults.

A luncheon planned for 250 persons had a little under 100 people participating. Participants were nevertheless fascinated to hear Dr. Joe Cleggy-Lampsey's, a Consultant Surgeon of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and senior Lecturer of the University of Ghana Medical School, testimony and the impact of the Bible on his life and medical career.

Though the attendance at the luncheon was disappointing and left us with lots of food, the LORD touched our hearts; almost simultaneously, the organizing committee members decided to donate the "Surplus" food to the Osu Children's home. And what an excitement that greeted the team that took the food to the home! The team returned excited knowing that the Lord had used them to bless others.

The Anniversary Thanksgiving Service was hosted by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Trinity Congregation of Tema. The District Pastor, Rev. Peter M. Kodjo, a long time friend of the Society and his session went out of their way to host us in a significant way. The service was preceded by a parade and a guard of honour formed by the church's Boys and Girl's Bridge. The church donated ₵5 million from its budget to support Bible society work whilst an appeal for funds from members yielded ₵11,431,500. The General Secretary preached the sermon whilst Mrs. Akosua Okraku, Chairman of the Business Committee and a member of the congregation led the service.

At the request of the Bethel Presbyterian Church, La, a mini anniversary Thanksgiving Service was held at that chapel and had Rev. Dr. B. Y. Quarshie, a past Presbytery Chairman of the Ga Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana delivering the sermon.

We consider it significant to have the opportunity to host the **Africa Area Board (AFAB) meeting** in our 40th anniversary year. The meeting, held in Accra from 26th to 29 September 2005 was attended by 20 members from 14 countries. Among those who attended included the UBS General Secretary, Rev. Miller Milloy who was visiting Ghana for the first time, and the Chairman of the UBS Global Board, Rev. Gerrit Kritzinger from South Africa.

We used the occasion of the Africa Area Board meeting to host a cocktail for Church Leaders. Each participant at the cocktail received a free copy of the Travellers Guide New Testament which had notes from the Learning Bible.

The Chief Justice, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana, received a high powered delegation of the United Bible Society, and the Bible Society of Ghana made up of Rev. Miller Milloy, UBS General Secretary, Rev. Gerrit Kritzinger, Global Board Chairman, and Prof. Mrs. Irene Odotei, UBS Africa Area Vice President, Mr. David Hammond, UBS Africa Area Secretary, Mrs. Efua Ghartey, UBS Africa Area Board member and the General Secretary. Among other things the delegation congratulated the government for sustaining an enabling environment of peace and stability that enhanced Bible work and presented a copy each of the ESV Bible to the President and the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice assured the delegation of government's determination to sustain an enabling environment to ensure freedom of expression and religion. The Chief

Justice also expressed commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Scriptures and added that, that commitment undergirds his personal commitment to fight corruption and ensure integrity in public life.

We also consider it significant that in the year that we celebrate 40 years of organised Bible Society work in Ghana, a former General Secretary of our Society, Mr. David Hammond was appointed UBS Africa Area Secretary. Mr. Hammond was General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana for 12 years, 1985 – 1997, after which he served as one of 3 (later 2) Regional Secretaries of the Africa Region until this latest appointment. It is our joy to congratulate Mr. Hammond heartily and to pray for his success.

7. **BIBLE HOUSE REHABILITATION PROJECT**

In the year under review we started the Bible House rehabilitation project. The project originally envisaged to start in June started in October after due consideration by the National Council. We were assisted by **The Consortium**, a leading consultancy firm, as consultants. Their consultancy fee of 4% was very well below the recommended professional fee of over 12½.

Work progressed very satisfactorily. The Lord was very gracious to us and supplied timely funds to meet all commitments. It is the expectation that the works would be completed about the end of the first quarter of 2006.

8. **FINANCIAL REPORT – 2005**

8.1 *Income*

Local contributions made up of Bible Week donations, donations from Churches, Individuals, Bible-A-Month Clubs and Companies amounted to ₵1.32 billion as against ₵1.31 billion in 2004.

Other source of funds including investment income, and overseas donations came to ₵837.7 million as against ₵1.296 billion in 2004. Net income from Scripture and literature sales amounted to ₵3.76 billion. In 2004 it was ₵2.80 billion.

A total of ₵681.53 million was received designated for the Bible House Rehabilitation as against ₵422.23 million in 2004.

8.2 *Expenditure*

Total recurrent expenditure amounted to ₵6.58 billion as against ₵5.68 billion in 2004, an increase of approximately 16%. It may be helpful to point out though that we operated within our expenditure budget of ₵8.5 billion.

8.3 *Assets*

In the year under review, the Society acquired Furniture and Equipment worth ₵18,340,000 and Computer Equipment worth ₵72,200,000. The Computer Equipment included 1 Laptop Computer, 3 Desktop Computers, 5 UPS and 1 Laser Jet Printer.

8.4 *World Service Support*

Net World Service Support came to €1.38 billion, made up of €1.26 billion grant to support the Society's Scripture Budget and €127.8 million to support the pre-financing of Scripture Imports outside the Society's regular Scripture budget.

8.5 *Support To The UBS Fellowship*

The Society made a token donation of US\$6,000 to the UBS Fellowship. This donation was designated as assistance to the Bible Society of Pakistan, the Bible Society of Bolivia and the American Bible Society to meet emergency situations in those countries.

9. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We are grateful to God for the privilege of serving Him and permitting us to partner with Him to serve His purposes in our own generation. We are also grateful to Him for His mercies and grace granted us in answer to the many prayers offered on our behalf.

We acknowledge with gratitude the partnership we had from churches their Pastors and Sessions that hosted our National programmes: Bethel Methodist Church, Sefwi Wiawso; Kumasi; Calvary Baptist Church, Accra; Global Evangelical Church, Kotobabi; Joint Conferences of the Seventh Day Adventist Churches; Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries, Kumasi; North Kaneshie Assemblies of God, Accra; Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Bethel Congregation, La; Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Ramseyer Congregation, Kumasi; Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Trinity Congregation, Tema; and the St. Cyprian Anglican Church, Kumasi.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the many churches, local council of churches, a couple of Bible-a-month (BAM) clubs including the Legon Interdenominational Church (BAM) club, which may be the leading Bible-a-month club in Africa, and the many individuals that supported us through their prayers and sacrifice.

We have had a growing partnership with sister organisations namely GILLBT, Theovision, GHAFES, Scripture Union, World Vision and for this we are grateful.

As in the previous year, the Washington Community Fellowship, Hosanna, Vision First, all of the USA and the Hornchurch Baptist Church in the UK partnered with us and supported us in various ways.

We also recognize the contribution of **The Consortium** for providing consultancy services at a very reduced rate for the rehabilitation of Bible House.

Mention should be made of our distributors, who distributed over 70% of our Scriptures and our staff who worked assiduously to ensure that our programmes were carried out.

Mr. David Hammond, Associate General Secretary for West and Central Africa and later Africa Area Secretary and his team of Co-ordinators and Consultants were very helpful to us.

This report would not be complete without expressing sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Bible Society Council and Committee members. They assisted us with their wise counsel, encouragement and sacrificial involvement.

Finally, we acknowledge the contribution of the United Bible Societies family. Their input and support assisted us greatly in fulfilling our mandate of making God's Word available and affordable.

Humbly submitted

REV. KOFI OWUSU
GENERAL SECRETARY