

LATEST NEWS # 331, November 17, 2005

The following news concerns Nicaragua and Namibia.

Latest News items are posted on the UBS web site (with photographs embedded where available) within a short time of issue. Please go to:
http://biblesociety.org/latestnews/index_latestnews.html

Bible Society brings God's Word to hurricane victims

NICARAGUA — In addition to projects being developed in Guatemala, Mexico and the West Indies in response to the storms and hurricanes of recent months (see *Latest News* # 299), staff at the Bible Society of Nicaragua are also preparing to minister to victims of Hurricane Stan locally. Although the damage from the hurricane was less severe in Nicaragua than in some neighbouring countries, there is still a clear need among the victims for support as they rebuild their lives.

Almost 2,400 people, or 350 families, were affected when Hurricane Stan hit Nicaragua in October. More than half of them were evacuated to temporary shelters in schools and churches when their homes were flooded or destroyed. As well as rendering people temporarily homeless, the hurricane destroyed crops, killed livestock and caused landslides which in turn severely damaged roads and buildings. In several regions, the authorities were forced to declare a state of emergency in order to protect people whose lives were feared to be at risk and to prevent outbreaks of disease.

The Bible Society's response is designed to meet both the immediate physical and the long-term spiritual needs of the victims: in collaboration with relief agencies, it plans to distribute 350 food packages to the affected families, along with 350 Bibles, 300 Children's New Testaments, 700 New Reader Portions and 1,000 Portions entitled *God Speaks to Those who Suffer* and *God's Word Brings Strength*. These items will be distributed during November directly to the people who are now living in temporary shelters in six regions, with local pastors offering additional support. In order to fully implement these plans, the Bible Society requires funding of US\$7,820. (285 words – NICARAGUA.17.11.05)

Fundraising – the fun way – in Namibia

NAMIBIA — The cost of around 2,000 Bibles will be subsidised as a result of the efforts of those who participated in the Bible Society in Namibia's fundraising weekend at the end of October. With activities including competitions, a concert and a

sponsored walk, there was something to encourage everybody to raise or donate money for Bible distribution.

The weekend began with a concert by South African singer Randall Wicomb. The next day, more than 1,100 people, young and old, arrived to participate in the Society's second Walk for Bibles. They could choose to walk, run or even swim 5 kms or 10 kms. After their exertions, they were invited to enjoy refreshments, stalls, children's activities and light-hearted competitions.



“The second Walk for Bibles was a huge success,” says General Secretary the Rev Barnie Van der Walt. “We realise that it is only with the help and direction of our Heavenly Father that we accomplished what we did. We plan and look forward with excitement to our third Walk for Bibles!” (176 words – NAMIBIA.17.11.05)

Photo (Bible Society in Namibia):

NAM05DJ-10: 1,153 people participated in the Bible Society in Namibia's second Walk for Bibles on October 29, 2005. Windhoek, Namibia.

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