



PARTNER MILESTONE



United Bible Societies is one of LBT's partners around the world. I work through the Bible Societies of Liberia and Sierra Leone. You may have heard of the American Bible Society. UBS partners manage the programs in their respective

countries. I serve them with training opportunities as it pertains to Bible translation and with consultant services. Here I will share some excerpts from UBS sources highlighting their work around the world.

Founded in 1946 at the end of World War II, United Bible Societies (UBS) began when a small group of Bible Societies came together with a shared conviction: that every person should have access to the Scriptures in a language they understand and a form they can use. **In 2026, UBS marks 80 years of living out this calling** as a global fellowship serving the mission of "the Bible for everyone."

Over eight decades, the UBS Fellowship has grown to include **156 Bible Societies working across more than 240 countries and territories**, in partnership with all major Christian traditions. Together, they have translated, published, distributed, and supported meaningful engagement with Scripture through print, digital, audio, braille, and sign-language formats, as well as through literacy, trauma-healing, and Bible-engagement programs. Through this shared ministry, millions of lives and communities have been transformed.

Let me recap some of these decades:

- 1950s: Bible translation by local translators is the heart of the mission
- 1960s: Scripture distribution is quadrupled
- 1970s: Worldwide literacy initiatives expand Scripture access
- 1980s: Amity printing press established in China where they have printed over 200 million Bibles
- 1990s: Expansion into formerly communist countries with 23 new Bible societies. Printing press established in Brazil where they have printed over 100 million Bibles from 100 different countries. Paratext software first launched which is used today in collaboration with many translation agencies.
- 2000s: HIV/AIDS ministry started
- 2010s: The Digital Bible Library launches. Trauma healing ministry center opens.

- 2020s: Bible ministry during pandemic. Digital Bibles are accessed more than print for the first time in history.

Today, UBS is a leading Bible translation agency, having contributed to more than 70% of the world's full Bible translations, enabling **more than six billion people to access Scripture in their heart language**. While this milestone is worth celebrating, the mission is not complete. As UBS enters its ninth decade, the fellowship looks forward with renewed faith and commitment, **continuing the work until everyone, everywhere, has access to God's Word**.

While UBS is celebrating 80 years as a united society, **it is built on a legacy of 220 years of Bible society ministry**. It values local ownership and contextual ministry providing common tools and enabling Bible Societies to respond effectively to local needs. Core priorities include:

- accelerating Bible translation particularly first translations and revisions
- delivering Scripture in multiple formats including print, digital, audio, braille, and sign language
- literacy programs so people can read and engage with Scripture meaningfully
- strengthening Bible engagement and holistic ministry in partnership with churches and communities
- advancing Bible advocacy and cultural engagement
- reaching younger generations with relevant, digital-first approaches



- and investing in shared tools and global collaboration to increase quality, efficiency, and reach

In 2024, **the organization supported the distribution** of 150 million Scripture items, including **26 million digital Bibles** and the completion of **translations in 105 languages**, reaching more than **580 million people**. UBS maintains the Digital Bible Library, a secure repository that powers access for over 5.6 billion people via partners like YouVersion. UBS trains around 100,000 individuals annually in reading and writing skills, **The aim is clear: to ensure that the Scriptures remain accessible, engaging, and transformative** for diverse communities worldwide

With **nearly 1.5 billion people still without a full Bible in their heart language**, Bible translation remains a central priority. UBS facilitates one of the world's largest and most collaborative Scripture translation efforts.

Today, **UBS supports nearly 400 translation projects** worldwide, including first-time translations, revisions for greater accuracy and clarity, digital editions, Braille translations and sign-language Scriptures, ensuring that no community is left behind

Recent success stories:

First Braille Bible in a Ghanaian language. Leaders described it as both a spiritual breakthrough and a social milestone, calling it “a symbol of hope, equality, and belonging.” Read more here:

<https://unitedbiblesocieties.org/gods-word-for-every-heart-first-complete-braille-bible-in-any-ghanaian-language-launched/>

The Afghanistan Bible Society in Diaspora has joined UBS to facilitate Bible access for Afghans worldwide.



A family in Ghana received the Family Bible 100 Steps

The Family Bible 100 steps guides families through the Old and New Testaments. The combination of storytelling, visual elements, and interactive content has made it a valuable tool for families who want to build regular Scripture habits at home. As of 2024, the Family Bible 100 Steps is available in Dutch, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole, Chichewa (Malawi), Papiamentu, Curaçao, Papiamento (Aruba), Arabic, Sinhala, Tamil, Bengali, Mandarin, Khmer, and Romanian languages. Over the past four years, 512,000 Family Bibles have been distributed. Read more here: <https://unitedbiblesocieties.org/family-bible-100-steps-reaching-nearly-one-million-families-worldwide/>

The first Old Testament in Modern Hebrew is completed and available both in print and digital formats. Read more here: : <https://unitedbiblesocieties.org/first-modern-hebrew-translation-of-the-old-testament-in-israel/>

Join me in celebrating their anniversary. I hope you can see how our ministry is fostered by partnerships such as this with United Bible Societies. **I hope you also are aware of the important partnership you have with me, LBT, UBS and God's mission worldwide** through your prayers and support.

Becky

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that our partnership with UBS remains strong and collaborative.
- Praise for the work done through the centuries by Bible societies worldwide to make Scripture accessible to all people.
- Pray for the continued printing process of the Maan and Dan Bibles.
- Pray that people will access Scripture and allow it to change their lives.
- Pray for those throughout our LBT network that require visas, work permits, and other documents, that nothing will delay their efforts.

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