

LATEST NEWS # 452, November 8, 2007

The following news concerns Northern Ireland.

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http://biblesociety.org/latestnews/index_latestnews.html

Special Bible marks 200 years of Bible Society work in Northern Ireland

NORTHERN IRELAND — A Handwritten Bible to which 10,500 people contributed was one of the main attractions at a special celebration held recently in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, to mark the bicentenary of the Bible Society of Northern Ireland. The culmination of 14 months' work, this Bible is now being made available for public exhibition.

In addition to the 19 volumes of the Handwritten Bible, a programme including music and Scripture readings celebrated 200 years of Bible ministry locally and the ongoing work of Bible Societies around the world. A member of the Belfast Chinese Christian church gave a Scripture reading in Cantonese, while a theological professor read the Lord's Prayer in the original Greek. Other readings were given by Judy Wilkinson, General Secretary of the National Bible Society of Ireland (based in Dublin), and representatives of the media.

The Society's domestic work was portrayed through a presentation by the Baptist Youth Department about its storytelling program in schools. Its support for Bible work abroad was demonstrated through a recorded message from Mike Bassous, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Lebanon, and through an interview with Margaret Bohoussou about her experiences of Bible translation in Côte d'Ivoire. Money donated at the event will be used to support Bible work in Ethiopia and India.

BBC journalist Will Leitch read from the Handwritten Bible, which contains the full Bible text in the Contemporary English Version and was produced by almost 200 schools and churches of different denominations and community backgrounds. Each participant, writing an average of three verses, received a certificate and a copy of Luke's Gospel. The volumes will now be made available for participating schools and churches to view. The National Bible Society of Ireland has also been running a parallel project which is now approaching completion.



“Praise God for what our Society has been able to accomplish in partnership with our sister Societies over so many years, at home and abroad,” says General Secretary John Doherty. “May our Handwritten Bible be a continuing source of inspiration for our people.”

For an earlier report about the Handwritten Bible project, see World Report 399/8.

Photos (Bible Society of Northern Ireland):

NOI07DJ-2: The Handwritten Bible, the Bible Society of Northern Ireland’s bicentenary project, on display at a celebration event at St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, on October 12, 2007.

NOI07DJ-3: John Doherty, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Northern Ireland, speaking at an event at St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, on October 12, 2007, to mark the Society’s bicentenary.

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