

Impact Report:

Northern Ireland

The Bible for All



Project Update

As a part of World Day of Prayer 2022, Bible Society Northern Ireland (BSNI) began implementing a Whole Family Bible Engagement plan, which helps to bring children, young people, families and individuals closer to the Bible and therefore closer to faith in Jesus. Churches are supported by this project to engage with their members, encouraging family Bible reading.

Overall in 2022, BSNI has had a wonderful year with these new projects getting underway. The registration for babies born in 2022 was completed at the end of January with over 1,500 babies signed up. The main activity has continued around Bibles for Babies each week with a number of new volunteers coming in every 5-6 weeks to write birthday cards, wrap and send out Toddler Bibles and pray for the families that will receive the Bibles. Positive feedback from families and some images of their little ones with their new Bibles were also received. The number of followers on social media has also increased especially as a result of the Bibles for Babies project, and work from the team to track these followers' journey to financial support is ongoing.

BSNI have seen some good uptake of "Daring to Hope (Lament)" including a seminar facilitated by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as part of the event called, 'Tending the soul in the wake of the pandemic'. A second print run of "Daring to Hope" has been completed, with new groups having participated and completed the course in the weeks leading up to Easter in 2023.

A new Community Partnerships Manager has also been appointed since the former manager has moved on from this role. The new manager started in early February 2023 and has focused on a strategy for the ongoing distribution of "52" and "Daring to Hope (Lament)" across Northern Ireland. So far, the feedback from the distribution of these resources has been positive and more connections to families, children, adults, volunteers, and churches are being built as a result of the support received for these projects.

Bible Society Northern Ireland continues to strive for greater awareness of their work within churches across Northern Ireland.

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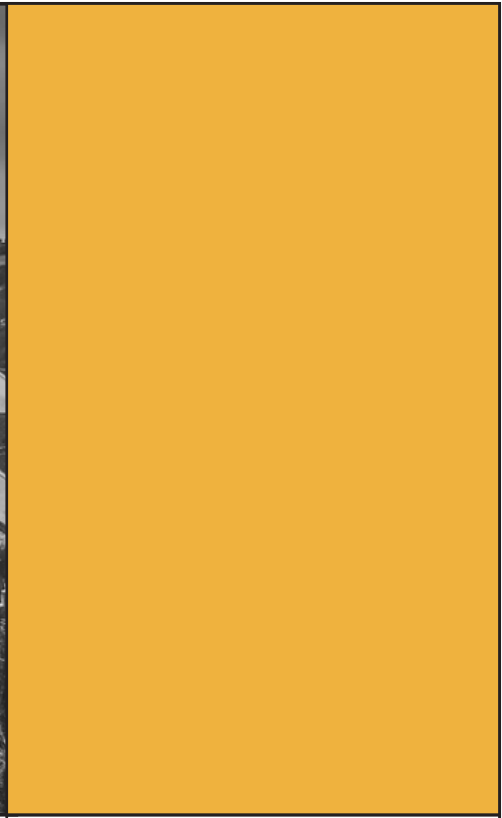
is the population of Northern Ireland

40.8%

of Northern Irish people identify as Catholic based on a 2011 UK census, whilst 43.6% as Protestant Christians, and 17% with no religion

1,500

babies born in 2022 were registered for the Bibles for Babies project and will receive Toddler Bibles to build Bible reading habits with their families



Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact over eight years is 20,000. Since its beginning in 2022, and throughout 2023 the project is estimated to impact 12,000 individuals.

By reaching people with Bibles and other resources in their homes, communities and churches, the impact of this project will be in beginning healthy Bible reading habits amongst children, young people, and families. Resources like "Daring to Hope (Lament)" will also help individuals and churches deal with all that has happened during the pandemic as they prepare for what the future brings. Additionally, it is hoped this project will help bring about more collaboration between denominations in Northern Ireland.

Project Testimony

"We are a Christian family who read the Bible with our little girl every night but have been in a tight financial period, so we greatly appreciate this Bible for her and see it as God's provision for us." Recipient of The Bibles for Babies project

"I learned about Bibles for Babies from reading the magazine and thought about Psalm 119:105 and Proverbs 22:6. I was brought up in church with hymns from an early age with hymns and a lot of the lyrics are embedded in a child's mind. The word needs to be embedded in a child's mind from an early age as most people will come to faith as children. Overall, I just think it's brilliant! I love coming once a month on a Thursday! You feel you're doing something useful and reaching out to others. When I'm packing the Bibles and writing the birthday cards, I pray for the babies and the adults who will be receiving them." Jean M., volunteer

Expenditures

2022:

Staff costs: \$3,000

Scripture costs: \$16,197

Distribution of Bibles (postage + packaging): \$5,900

Design & printing of "52" resource: \$4,969

Design and printing of "Lament" resource: \$5,525

Indirect costs (office expenses, volunteer lunch etc): \$5,114

Total: USD \$40,705

2023: (Jan-Mar)

Staff costs: \$375

Scripture costs for "Bibles for Babies": \$28,229

Printing of "Lament" resource: \$2,039

Total: USD \$30,643