

Trinitarian Bible Society



178th

Annual Report
&
Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st December 2008



Trinitarian Bible Society

Founded in 1831 for the circulation of
Protestant or uncorrupted versions of the Word of God

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Warehouse Manager:

Mr. I. A. Docksey



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*For presentation at the Annual General Meeting
of the Trinitarian Bible Society to be held,
God willing, on 26th September 2009 at 11.00 a.m.
at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London*

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Report of the Assistant General Secretary

The *Second Resolution* was moved by the Rev. HUGH D. BROWN, M.A. (Dublin), and seconded by Mons. L. VALAT (Belgium):—

“That, while so-called ‘science’ and ‘scholarship’ are united for the undoing of the Word and words of God, the members of the Trinitarian Bible Society resolve to unite more fervently in its distribution, believing that the Word itself is its own best Shield and Sword, and able to accomplish all that where-to Jehovah hath sent it”.

(Extract from the Society’s Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1909, page 8)

Introduction

The above words are an extract from the Society’s Annual Report delivered one hundred years ago, but they could have been written yesterday, and if such a Resolution were to be placed before the membership at our Annual General Meeting in two months’ time, I have no doubt that it would be unanimously approved.

Whereas our Triune God is an unchanging God, and the Lord ‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever’ (Hebrews 13.8), the evil one is constantly changeable and unreliable yet keeps recycling the same old stratagems, for he knows the propensity of man to fall for them. We must therefore expect opposition in this vital work in which we are engaged, from without and even from within the professing church of Christ. We must be vigilant, and resort to the same tried and trusted weapons that have vanquished Satan before, ‘the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God’ (Ephesians 6.17).

Nowhere has that opposition been seen more vividly in the writer's most recent memory than in response to the Society's bus poster campaign in February of this year. By the providence of God, the posters, which were allotted a two-week display, were still to be seen well into June in London's streets, as the recession has led to such a dearth of potential advertisers for the buses. We were still receiving telephone calls requesting free Bibles less than a month ago, because a few of the posters were still out there. I am very pleased to report that nearly five hundred free copies of the Holy Scriptures in the Authorised Version were requested and dispatched as a direct result of the campaign.



TBS bus poster outside Westminster

Nevertheless, not only did this venture generate a great deal of opposition from atheists and various other categories of unbelievers, but quite a number who claimed to be Christians were quite strident in their criticism, wrongly concluding that we were just engaged in some points-scoring exercise with the atheists. However, our campaign was much more than a one-off response, and far

from a knee-jerk reaction, having been raised and considered in Committee for some months beforehand. It is also now resolved that there will be a subsequent display on London's buses of two more verses, God willing, 'Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people' (Proverbs 14.34), and 'there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Timothy 2.5).

These verses will be on display in September, God willing, while there are many still thronging the streets of the capital—indeed, if you are able to come to our Annual General Meeting, we trust that you may spot one or more such posters!

It is a matter of thanksgiving that our activities attract such attention, be they bus poster campaigns, or new Bible editions. We are so grateful that we have been able to develop a rapport with the churches, principally via our Deputation Speakers

and Regional Representatives. Each year Dr David Allen and Mr Graham Chewter cover many tens of thousands of miles, taking UK meetings from Cornwall to the Western Isles of Scotland, from the Kent coast to Anglesey, and, for a month at a time, over in Northern Ireland, not to mention a small number of engagements now in the Republic of Ireland too. All of these are most valuable opportunities to preach the Word and to spread the news of the Society's work.

As a result of this 'hands-on' approach, individual Christians and churches alike feel able to communicate with us their appreciation, or, sometimes, their constructive criticism, all of which is most welcome. Churches of many denominations are thus united in their appreciation of the accurate translation of the Scriptures, and we can thus have a close sense of the way the Lord is working amongst many congregations of God's people—which usually tend to be those which are most keen to serve the Lord Biblically, because they esteem the words of God rather than the words of men.

Which other major Bible publisher has such a network of supporters? Which other Bible publisher has hundreds, even perhaps thousands of the Lord's people praying for their endeavours on a daily basis? Which other Bible publisher has Auxiliaries up and down our barren land of Great Britain, and five overseas Branches all seeking to be an extension of the work—mainly in large nations where Christianity has shown a marked declension over most of the years of the Society's existence?

Which other major Bible publisher is regularly invited or encouraged to maintain a stand at a number of annual conferences, both national and international, and would wish to be present at more if resources permitted?

Are other major Bible publishers likely to receive a regular flow of legacies, ranging from a share in the bountiful estate of a wealthy supporter, to the modern-day equivalent of the widow's mite, so as to be able to set forth the Word of God in accurate translation?

How many other Bible publishers want to give away free of charge Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels, calendars and many other smaller portions of God's Word and can afford to do so through the generosity of their members and supporters?

Truly, we are privileged to be 'an handmaid of the (Biblically sound) churches', and this is a trust that we must not betray. Truly, we are almost in a unique situation, by the grace of God.

This is a quotation I came across in preparing this Report, taken from the *Quarterly Record* of October 1909, and it is equally apposite one hundred years on:

OUR PRIVILEGE

In Psalm lx.4, the Psalmist says, “Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.” When the Word of God is assailed on every side, it behoves us as members of the Trinitarian Bible Society—this most Protestant Society—not only to keep this banner floating, but to do our utmost to send forth the pure Word of God, which is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path, into every land.

In making such a resolve, these words from just fifty years ago, quoted from our *Quarterly Record* of July 1959, are timeless:

These things remain relevant to the tasks of those who translate, publish and distribute the Holy Scriptures today. The learning of the linguist and the scholar, the skill of printer and binder, the ministry of preacher and teacher and parent, the industry of the bookseller and the colporteur, and the labours, gifts and prayers of the Lord’s people all have their place—but

‘God giveth the increase’.

Circulation and Distribution

The figures for the distribution of the Word of God by way of sales and grants are shown on page 19. While it is immediately apparent that figures in most categories are lower than in 2007, we are neither surprised nor despondent, but so thankful that we could be entrusted with sending forth over ten million copies of the whole or part of the Word of God, into well over one hundred countries. This is the most valuable thing this world affords, and to be enabled to produce and distribute so many copies is an inestimable privilege.

The thirst for a free Bible that arose from our bus poster campaign was very heartening—no doubt, many thought there might be some sort of ‘catch’, for such are the methods of the world. During a period when the integrity of so many in the public eye, politicians, bankers and other company chief executives among them, has come under intense scrutiny, it is a refreshing joy to be able to reassure people that

the wording means what it says—not ‘while stocks last’, not ‘if you are aged between 43 and 48’, not only for those who live or work in London, but for all who apply, a free Bible was given. Also, we deliberately did not make the Bibles the smallest we produce, or the cheapest, but a substantial volume that will keep its shape and stand up to many years of intensive use, God willing. We could not help but notice how many of those who applied bore African names, a reminder, if one were needed, of the vast influx of immigrants into our country, and of their relative poverty when comparing them with the prosperity of the archetypal ‘white Anglo-Saxon Protestant’.

Recipients of our Scriptures worldwide are often within the despised ‘underclasses’ of society; how true it is that we are seeking to fulfil the Lord Jesus Christ’s own words in the synagogue at Nazareth, ‘to preach the gospel to the poor...to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised’ (Luke 4.18).



Receiving the Scriptures in Romania

With this in mind, we continue to pray that the opportunities for sales and grants of the Holy Scriptures may increase, and we earnestly pray that much of the seed may fall on good ground, and that we may be favoured to be a savour of life unto life, rather than of death unto death.

Grants Programme

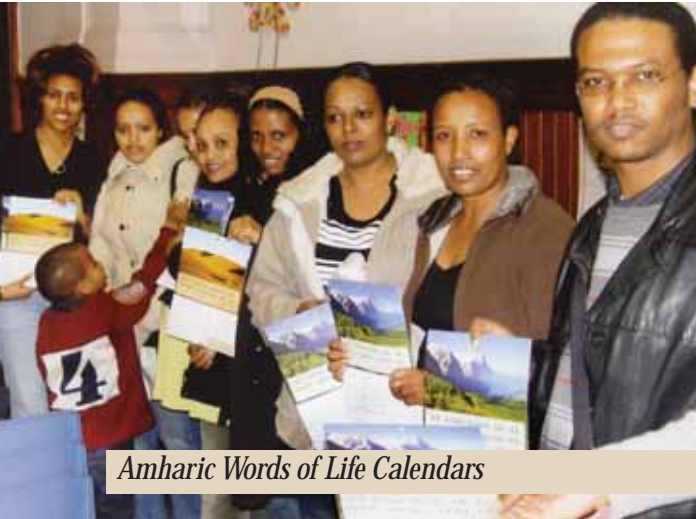
Mention of the grants leads me to include here a submission from the head of that department giving highlights of our programme of free distribution of Scriptures during 2008:—

The work never ceases in the Grants Department from year to year, which is a good thing and indicates the need for continuing with Scripture distribution throughout the world. Of course, the Society’s existence and work is for that very purpose.

Last year 1,732 grantees received Scriptures for distribution to churches, schools, hospitals, prisons, ships, and for street evangelism, children's ministries, displays on Railway Stations, etc. We cover many different and varied ways in which the Word of God is preached, taught and displayed.

We do get some odd requests—a man phoned us all the way from Ghana asking for 'a shepherd's staff'; he said he saw it advertised in our magazine! Needless to say, we do not circulate such a thing but rather we distribute the 'staff' of life!

The smallest grant was for one Golden Thoughts Calendar sent to Nigeria, and one was sent to India at a cost of 7p.



Amharic Words of Life Calendars

The largest grant was the despatch of the 49,221 Armenian New Testaments and Psalms, which arrived in Yerevan, Armenia, to much rejoicing on the 18th September 2008; the value was over £50,000.

Another new product for 2008 was the Amharic Words of Life Calendar, translated by our Ethiopian translator and sent to the UK, Ethiopia and the USA.

At the end of 2008, news was reaching the world about the terrible atrocities breaking out in Kenya. No doubt as you read this report you recall such a time; we were receiving heart-rending reports of the conditions the people were subjected to in the IDP (internally displaced people) camps. This is just one of the bits of news we received concerning the Bibles that were granted by the Society:

Dear Friends of the Bible, greetings in Jesus.

Celestine came again today, 12th February, not all that well, but still alive. She brought another letter from Eunice, parts of which I shall copy here:

I just thank you for what you did helping us in the camp: people getting saved and I have seen miracles through those Bibles. Since the time they arrived in the camp there is a big change; others were blessed to move from the camp to go and build their own houses although others have lost life because of sickness and because of food and water.

Let me tell you one thing. My daughter died on 5th February in hospital. She left me in darkness where to stand or what I can do is nothing. [There follow details of how to get the body buried.]

People are happy praying for you day and night. On my part I just thank God because of that Bible because my daughter died when she is saved and when holding that Bible in her hand and said, 'May God bless the person who helped you, Mum, with the Bible, and not only me, so many people...'

Celestine was there with the Mum (Eunice), with Eveline, the 22-year-old daughter, as she lay dying. Celestine told me this verbatim: 'Holding the Bible close to her, she raised the other hand, "Mum, I thank God that I'm saved. I've seen my way is open now [she meant, she knew she was dying]. And may God bless the Mama who helped you with the Bible so I can get saved by Jesus. May God bless her, Mummy!" And Eunice said to her, "Thank you, dear. May God bless you also." Eveline nodded and did not speak again. She sighed and died a few hours later as Celestine prayed for her. Now Eunice has lost her last child and is like Celestine, widowed and without children.'

As this report was being written, an e-mail arrived from the same contact in Kenya with these comments:

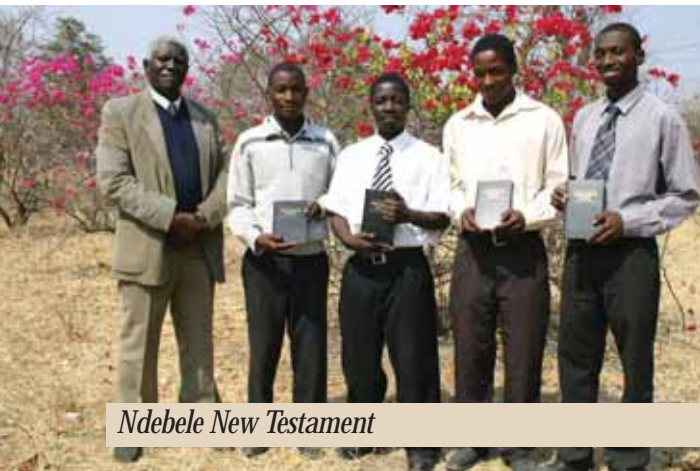
Celestine, the little widow who so bravely carried TBS Bibles to the IDP camps early last year through the worst of the post election violence, sent me an SMS message:

There's another pastor; we were with him at the camp but he is still at the camp at Cheptias [where she used to be till we got her out and back to her half-destroyed home last year] at Mt Elgon. He lost all his kids, six of them, and now he is only with the wife. He told me he remem-

bered me. I gave him and his wife a Bible. He said it really blessed him and his wife. Right now in that camp people are dying because of lack of food and sickness. Please, so many things happening. So he wanted to know from me if I can get Bibles for them.

If the Society did nothing else during 2008 but send Bibles to Kenya for these people it would have been worth it: one cannot but hold back the tears when reading such things.

Increasing funds have been coming from Canada as kind donors wish to support various projects. One during 2008 included the circulation of Scriptures for Jews; one of the grants sent was for 1,000 Hebrew Bibles to Nepal—a strange request we



Ndebele New Testament

thought at the time, but apparently many Jewish visitors/tourists go there during the Passover period. Our Canadian brethren also provided money for 17,500 Ndebele New Testaments which were sent to Zimbabwe. This was another newly produced item and again much appreciation was received from those in Zimbabwe as they arrived safely.

Our friends in Canada are also sponsoring the cost of providing copies of the Original Languages Bible (OLB) to all in South or Central America who request one; this generous grant was prompted by the remarkable interest shown in the Greek Textus Receptus and Masoretic Hebrew Scriptures when the Society's General Secretary, Paul Rowland, and our USA Branch's General Secretary, Bill Greendyk, were visiting that region in connection with the Spanish revision project. We have recently heard from Bill that no fewer than 415 pastors, seminary professors, students and missionaries from all across Latin America requested a copy in the two weeks after news of the scheme was posted on the homepage of the Society's Spanish website. These men have then written with their thanks and many have offered to be of assistance to us in the Spanish project in any way possible, requesting visits to

their churches, seminaries and other locations to talk about the revision project. The Spanish-speaking world is said to be 'abuzz' regarding not only the offer of the OLB, but even more so regarding the revision project itself. Many of these contacts had never heard before about what we are seeking to do in terms of revising the Spanish Bible, so they are 'new' supporters.

Another highlight was the reprint and dispatch of 35,000 Turkish Gospels according to John to Turkey, where distribution is taking place slowly and very carefully, given the nature of such a ministry in that land.

Thirty-four UK schools wanted Scriptures during 2008, a large drop from years gone by, but with the situation in the teaching arena it is still good to know that our Bibles are wanted for the children. The summer months bring requests for Bibles to present to the children who are leaving, and the same schools ask for them on an annual basis now.

In July 2008, we heard from a Pastor that a twelve-year-old Scottish boy in his congregation had already memorised Psalm 119 and the Shorter Catechism and wanted something else, so the verses set out in the 'Remember' section of our Sabbath School Learning Prize Fund Scheme were suggested. After that was achieved, we were asked what he could do next! We suggested the book of Ephesians.

A special thrust to distribute Scriptures in India took place in 2008 and a substantial grant which included 1,900 English Bibles, 5,000 English New Testaments and Psalms, together with foreign language Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels in Arabic, Farsi, German, Modern Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Maltese, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Ukrainian was shipped to an organisation specialising in distribution to those entrenched in the Islamic religion. Our desire for a depot in India (as mentioned in the Annual Report for 2007) is beginning to come to fruition and a large shipment of Scriptures was sent out last autumn as the first batch of stock. It is early days yet to ascertain how successful this venture will be.

In July 2008, a request from a well-established organisation concerned for the spiritual welfare of military personnel requested 300 Camouflage Bibles to be overprinted with the Royal Irish Regimental crest blocked on the covers. These troops have since been sent to Afghanistan, which is very poignant, as so many soldiers have died there in recent weeks.

There is a lot of demand for Scriptures (especially in Urdu) in Pakistan. This is a matter for prayer, that we will be able to publish Urdu Scriptures other than the Words of Life Calendar.

We also are receiving an increasing demand for Telugu Scriptures for Southern India and at the moment we do not even have the Scripture leaflet formerly distributed, as it is now out of stock.

To end on a positive note, in December we began to grant for the first time Arabic Scriptures (100 Arabic Bibles and 100 Arabic New Testaments) to a Reformed Baptist Pastor in the Middle East who undertakes missionary trips to neighbouring countries. He spends time distributing Scriptures to militant fighters.

Editorial and Translation work

Later in this Annual Report, our Editorial Manager and his team summarise progress in a number of ongoing projects. The timescale for a translation or even a revision can be as long as twenty-five years, but we seek the favour of the Lord in being able to reduce that considerably in many instances, sometimes by revising an existing Bible that is essentially sound, or reviewing one of our older editions to take into account modern orthography and a few word changes wherever necessary, to make the resultant edition as accurate as it can be.

Work continues on the three major revision projects. Whereas the **Romanian** work is proceeding steadily, with friends in Australia responsible for the reading and review stage, and the **French** revision project is making headway, albeit slowly, through the effort of our esteemed colleagues in France, it is the work on the **Spanish** revision that gives most cause for rejoicing.

In our current edition of the *Quarterly Record* (July–September) the coordinator of our translation team, Mr Bill Greendyk, chronicles the remarkable events of the first few months of this year. Many meetings have been attended in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia by Bill in company with our General Secretary, and, on one occasion, with Mr Bill Patterson, one of our most gifted linguists, who is currently working in association with the Society in Mongolia! There is a huge interest in the Spanish Bible amongst the many thousands of believers in Central and South America, and it has also been estimated that some 45% of the population of the

United States now speak Spanish. Once it is completed, the Society's revised Reina Valera 1909 edition should be welcomed amongst many millions of needy souls in those parts of the world.

As mentioned in the first part of this Report, Satan is grieved when the Lord's people attempt something that can do damage to his kingdom, and so we are not surprised that alongside the blessings of the Spanish work this year, considerable problems have also arisen. Nevertheless, the Lord 'disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform *their* enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong' (Job 5.12–13).

Alongside these three major projects, mention must be made of our **Portuguese** revision project. Again, our General Secretary has been closely involved in this, visiting Brazil a couple of times already this year to work with our dear colleagues in São Paulo. We are indebted to friends who have identified a few places where the Society's Almeida edition is not as closely conformed to the original languages as it might be, and we are labouring hard to correct these.



The Word of God in Portuguese for Brazil

It remains a great longing of the Society to publish an accurate Bible in the **Chinese** language. I mentioned last year our anticipation of being able to produce a Gospel according to John in the fairly near future, and that is still our aim. The translator we have working with us has recently relocated, which has led to a slight interruption, but the church which he now pastors includes a number of very gifted Chinese speakers, so we are most hopeful that the work will soon be renewed with an extra impetus.

One of our most extraordinary projects is that in **Farsi**—the major language of Iran and spoken also in Afghanistan, a place much in the news nowadays. We are very

pleased to announce that we will have a presentation from Mr Pooyan Mehrshahi, our translator, at our Annual General Meeting, God willing, so I will not say any more here except that there have been remarkable developments since we were able to publish the Gospel according to John in 2007.

In mentioning Bill Patterson in connection with the Spanish project, I referred to his normally being stationed in Mongolia. Following a visit to that land by our General Secretary in February 2008, work was commenced on an accurate **Mongolian** Bible, in collaboration with FirstBible International of Tennessee. It is anticipated that this project could take five years, but there are adversaries!

For many years, the Society has published a **Modern Greek** Bible, the Vamvas (Bambas) edition. It is in the Katharevousa dialect, which is less and less recognisable today in Greece, especially amongst the younger generation. We are examining an edition in the Demotiki (people's) form of the language that may prove to be acceptable and could then be published quite soon.

It may be asked by some, 'If the Society can update the Modern Greek Bible in such a way, why can it not do the same with the Authorised Version in English?' There are two main reasons:–

- firstly, that there has not been (in the case of the Vamvas edition) a Biblical tradition of hundreds of years during which the Lord has signally demonstrated His continuing favour upon such a fine rendition of His Word into a language as the Authorised Version;
- secondly, the Constitution of the Society carefully distinguishes between the English Bible, where the copies produced 'shall be those of the Authorised Version', and versions in foreign languages, where the criteria are slightly more widely drawn, viz: 'the aim shall be to produce or select versions whose textual basis is as close as possible to the Hebrew Masoretic and the Greek Received texts underlying both the English Authorised Version and translations of comparable standing made from those texts into other European languages at the time of the Protestant Reformation.' (Both quotations are taken from Law III, 'Our Work'.)

Sometimes we spend many months, or even years, on a project, only to conclude, sadly, that it cannot continue because of insurmountable differences. One such proj-

ect was the **Ukrainian**, a language where we have known for many years that a more suitable edition ought to be attempted, if the Lord would provide the personnel. We were quite close to adopting a translator and his work, (referred to on page 22 of last year's Report) but eventually it proved impossible to reconcile his translation philosophy with that of the Society. Valuable lessons



were learnt, so that it was not entirely a wasted exercise, and once our Translator's Manual is complete these aspects will be carefully dealt with, so that, it is hoped, we do not encounter such problems again.

Finances

We are pleased to see that once again, the Lord has been most gracious to us in providing a small surplus overall, prior to taking into account the paper loss on the investments in the Golden Thoughts Calendar Fund.

In line with dramatic falls in share prices over the course of the year 2008 (with markets only slowly recovering this year), our investments have not bucked the trend. One additional factor to mention in your prayers is the effect upon income levels, for the portfolio is designed to maximise income in order to fulfil the terms of the trust to produce Golden Thoughts Calendars. With some companies cutting or even cancelling dividends, banks being the chief culprits, there is likely to be something in the order of a 10% drop in investment income this year compared with 2008. Production costs are likely to rise, so that we will need to assess whether to supplement the monies available from General Funds, or to produce fewer calendars.

Overseas Branches

In surveying the work of our five overseas Branches for the past year, let me say first of all how much we appreciate their labour and fellowship in the work. With the exception of Brazil, where the office staff numbers are a few less than those in London, the Branches are run by the devoted endeavours of a handful of faithful men and women. In Canada, and to a lesser extent in Australia, these efforts are bolstered by the support of local auxiliaries, scattered around these two very large countries.

Last year, in writing about **Canada**, I highlighted the need for the provision of a new General Secretary in place of Gary den Boer. We still seek the Lord's provision for this vital role, and in the meantime Gary soldiers on, but his health is not what it was.

The major focus for both **New Zealand** and **Brazil** in the past year is the production of the Maori Bible and of the more accurate Portuguese Almeida edition respectively. It may be possible to give you some up-to-date news on the Maori at the AGM, God willing, as the typesetting is now well in hand. Similarly, work on the Portuguese is progressing very well, and we are prayerfully hoping for some good news on that front too before the end of the year.

Our **Australian** Branch continues to enjoy significant opportunities to make known the work of the Society, through the Deputation Speaker Mr Christopher Tuck, and also through the good connections with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship College in Perth, Western Australia, maintained by our President, Mr Malcolm Stuart. Only recently there was a significant national convention of Aboriginal peoples from several parts of Australia held in Alice Springs, and the Society was well represented by Messrs. Stuart and Tuck. Effective contact was made with some who have opposed the Society's position on the text and translation of Holy Scripture in the past, and openings arose to follow up some of the meetings with local visits in the future. To quote from Mr Tuck's latest report:

In conclusion the visit to Alice Springs has proved to be of immense benefit and has given us opportunity to assess the wider work amongst the Aborigines. They are deeply appreciative of the work that we have been doing amongst them and are very keen to help both promote the work of TBS and to provide opportunity to speak on the distinctive witness of the Society.

It has been a concern of ours for some time that the Lord will provide additional Board members in Australia. Until recently, there were only two men based in Australia, neither of them in good health, two in Northern Ireland, plus the General Secretary and me. In the Lord's providence it has been possible just these last few months to add the Rev. Alan Brown from Perth and Mr John Marshall from Sydney, the latter a good friend of the Society for many years and previously a Board member until he encountered significant health problems which have now somewhat eased. In addition, the Company Secretary, Mr Geoff Kidd, has agreed to join the Board. Geoff has been immensely valuable to us in furnishing accounts and many other papers to our Board meetings by teleconference in the last two years, and setting up the telephone links!

One Board member, Mr Richard van Dorp of Grafton, New South Wales, where our branch is locat-

ed, has had to reduce his active involvement for the time being, on medical advice, but we pray that this will only be temporary. We continue to seek more men for the Board from the south-east of the country.

Finally, the branch in Grand Rapids, Michigan, **U.S.A.**, has had a most interesting year. There is expansion anticipated, partly arising (inevitably) as a result of the forthcoming publication of the Society's revised Spanish Bible, partly through initiatives to broaden the Society's activities and partly through the growing generosity of our supporters in the U.S.A. There is also our desire to raise awareness of the Society's Bibles through a distribution agreement with Anchor Distributors based in Pennsylvania. This last arrangement has been in place for several months now, and is gradually having a beneficial effect.

As I write this report, an agreement to acquire premises adjoining the Grand Rapids office is being finalised, in readiness for these expansion plans. We give the



English New Testament distribution in Nigeria

Lord praise and thanksgiving for steering us through this process, which has not been without its hiccoughs!

Gereformeerde Bijbelstichting (GBS)

Once again, we give God grateful thanks for another year of fruitful collaboration with our dear friends from Leerdam. I have noticed that despite standing foursquare on similar Protestant Reformation principles as our own, GBS do not seem to attract the opprobrium that we do in journals, articles and websites around the world. That would appear mainly to relate to the fact that this Society is renowned as a major publisher of the Authorised Version, which does seem to polarise people, Christian and non-Christian alike. Perhaps we would get more work done if we change our name into Dutch! We are assured that the usual two representatives from GBS will be attending our Annual General Meeting, God willing.

Our General Committee

There have been no changes in Committee personnel during the past twelve months. Please bear up Mr Graham Bidston in your prayers as he has been quite unwell with arrhythmia this year, and will be unable to attend the AGM, we understand.

Each year brings a tremendous number of burdensome and knotty problems that require the prayerful consideration of the General Committee, and it is a pleasure to work alongside these men and to observe how they resolve these issues in the fear of the Lord. Please bear each one up before the Throne of Grace for their labours in Committee, and for their ministerial duties in which nearly all are intensively engaged.

Our Staff

There have been quite a few changes this year. Mention is made in the Report of the Editorial Department of their two new arrivals—although Miss Deborah Field joined just before the AGM last year, and was mentioned in my report for 2007. Miss Katherine Pulman came to us in October, and the two work very well together alongside Debra Anderson. From time to time, we enjoy the additional assistance of

Miss Josie van Kralingen who is able to assist with our Reference Bible project whilst on vacation from University.

In the warehouse, we have bid farewell to Mr Paul McGill, who has embarked upon a well-earned retirement. Paul was the last arrival before me, eleven years ago. He and his wife, Valerie, keep in touch, and are about to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, God willing. Replacing one Paul with another, we have taken on Mr Paul Day, who has previous warehouse experience and has proved a valuable acquisition.

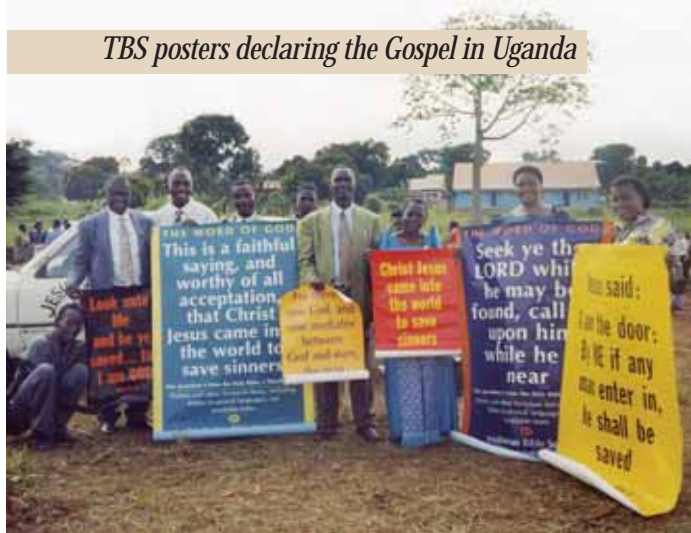
Upstairs, there have been a number of changes in the Sales Department. Mr Jon Hickman has changed to working a three-day week (two of these at home), which has lent itself well to the paying

of invoices and other bank reconciliation work formerly handled by Mr James Galbraith. James has therefore fitted seamlessly into Jon's sales role for the UK.

Mr John Cook, for several years our Overseas Sales Clerk, retired in March of this year. He continues to keep in touch, and is involved with the difficult work of prison visiting at Feltham Young Offenders Institution. In John's place, we have welcomed Miss Louise Lynch, who is our latest recruit.

For two days a week, at least until September, we are also grateful for the services of Miss Harriet Hayes, daughter of Mr Gary Hayes, our Assistant Warehouse Manager. Harriet has been assisting in the Grants Department, working alongside Miss Anne Newman and Mr Harry Qazi. Harry has recently negotiated a reduction of hours to a four-day week, and Harriet's help has greatly facilitated that transition.

Our new members of staff are not confined to Tyndale House. In the ever more complex and growing realm of the Editorial work, we are greatly blessed to have the full time



technical and textual assistance of Mr Albert Hembd, working from his Texas home and employed for us through the Grand Rapids Branch; also of Mr Larry Brigden, able to offer a substantial number of hours part-time to the role of Editorial Projects Manager from earlier this year. Larry, who is very well qualified for this role, lives on a farm in a remote part of Queensland, but with the considerable assistance of John Marshall, we were able to rig him up with all the requisite technology in a few days and thus enable him to operate effectively, liaising not only with London but also with translators and consultants around the world. He is employed for us through our branch in Grafton, NSW.

Last December, we said goodbye to Mr David Cooke, our Consultant Accountant, pastor and a long-time friend and help to the Society. He has taken on a larger pastorate at Banbury Evangelical Church, and had to pare down his accountancy clients, so that meant laying aside the Society's work. We are still learning how much he used to do, though only working a few days a month latterly, and we continue to seek a Godly and fully qualified accountant to replace him, preferably on a full-time basis.

We also still seek God's man for the vital role of Editorial Administration Manager, so that Dr Debra Anderson can devote her time to the Translator's Manual in the Old Testament and put her considerable Hebrew qualifications to full use.

Please therefore pray for these two roles in particular to be filled. It is proving harder and harder to find Godly and committed staff who have the abilities we need and who live close enough to headquarters. Perhaps in these times when so many are losing their jobs in the world around us, the Lord will direct two or more to our doors to alleviate the extra burdens borne by some here.

Once again, I wish to record our gratitude to God for all our staff, both here and in our various Branches, and for all those who labour tirelessly and virtually anonymously, for example in numerous auxiliaries both here and abroad. We give the Lord renewed thanks for the safekeeping of several of our staff who are suffering from long term illnesses, and for preserving Mr Mark Wilson free from cancer for another year. Mr Tom Massey, our most mature staff member, is now ninety-five years young, and is just as active as hitherto. We especially ask for your prayers for him, that he may fully partake of the blessings of the Gospel.

Please praise God for all these dear people, and pray for us—mention deliverance from swine flu during the coming months, as a few have underlying health problems.

Distribution totals for the year ending 31st December 2008

	Sales		Grants		Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Bibles (1)	276,036	289,212	51,418	50,675	327,454	339,887
New Testaments (2)	6,165,150	6,411,925	46,910	384,414	6,212,060	6,796,339
Portions	1,402,927	1,143,237	503,608	1,022,190	1,906,535	2,165,427
Golden Thoughts Calendars	37,225	45,676	597,499	705,943	634,724	751,619
Leaflets	517,933	708,390	114,216	114,424	632,149	822,814
Text Cards	255,108	197,369	82,502	79,863	337,610	277,232
TOTAL	8,654,379	8,795,809	1,396,153	2,357,509	10,050,532	11,153,318

Notes: (1) 16,050 Spanish Bibles produced with other publishers under Royalty Agreement.

(2) Includes 6,091,200 Portuguese New Testaments produced in association with other organisations.

Report of the Editorial Department

The Translator's Manual

Progress has been continuing on the TBS Translator's Manual. This manual will provide leadership and help to the Bible translator as he works in the original languages of the Bible on how to deal with the many and varied aspects of Bible translation. It will include extended discussions on linguistic basics such as formal equivalence principles of translation, analysis of the Greek and Hebrew texts and the textual basis of the New Testament.

● *Principles of Translation:*

This manual will be made up of three sections. First of all is 'Principles of Translation'. This will include instruction on such things as how to translate the names of God, Hebrew poetry, idioms, euphemisms, the use of chiasmic structures (parallelisms) and information on words which do not have an equivalent in the receptor language. Other information available will include such varied considerations as the structure and function of translation teams, page and layout design and the use of translation tools (with special reference to computer software programmes).

● *Translation Commentary:*

Second is the 'Translation Commentary'. This is a thorough analysis of the grammar and syntax of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, going verse-by-verse through the Scriptures as a commentary of grammar and syntax functions applied to specific words in each verse. Taking into account that many translators will not have easy access to libraries or books, and that too often the abundance of information on the Internet is not as accurate as it might be, the Translation Commentary will

provide a solid basis upon which a translator can rely in producing accurate editions of the Scriptures.

● ***Textual Variant List:***

Third is the 'Textual Variant List'. This is designed to be a thorough list of textual variants which may be found between the printed editions of the major forms of the Greek New Testament (e.g., the Textus Receptus as compared with the Critical Text). This will be especially helpful in evaluating translation and revision projects as well as checking the textual basis of the Scriptures when complete.

● ***Summary***

Thus far, work on the Translation Commentary of the New Testament includes preliminary draft work on the Epistles of John, the Gospel according to John, the Gospel according to Matthew and the first three-quarters of the Gospel according to Mark. Preliminary work has begun on the planning and preparation of the Translation Commentary of the Old Testament. Because of the uniqueness of the Hebrew language, the form and layout will be considerably different from that of the New Testament portion.



Ndebele translation team at work

The Textual Variant List analysis thus far includes the Epistles of

John, Philippians, Colossians and the Gospel according to John 1.1 through 4.39. A new computer software programme which has been acquired should produce greater accuracy in this portion of the Translator's Manual and make the work go more easily and smoothly.

This is a spiritual work and labour of love. We request your continuing prayers for this very important and much necessary project. Please pray that the Lord will also provide the necessary skills and abilities to the personnel assisting in the proofreading and correcting of this work.

Editorial Staff

The Lord has been pleased to more than double Editorial staff numbers over the last year. New permanent employees at Tyndale House are Deborah Field and Katherine Pulman, young ladies very skilled in numerous languages, and whose less esoteric jobs include preparation of two years of Golden Thoughts and Words of Life Calendars, and the Pocket Diary—tasks which entail focusing on 2010 and 2011 in which they must keep track of which dates fall on which days (including those which flow from right to left instead of left to right) and when holidays in several countries will occur, as well as ensuring that daily and monthly verses are correct in numerous languages and keeping track of where each publication is in terms of typesetting, proofreading and printing.

The Lord has also been pleased to bring several people who work off-site. Larry Brigden in Australia has taken part-time oversight of portions of our translation work. With the assistance of several other capable workers, it is hoped that Larry will in due course be able to take on the oversight of more of the translation project work.

Also off-site is Albert Hembd in Texas, USA. He brings his scholarship to the Society, dealing with various individual translation revision projects including the Hebrew New Testament and the Portuguese Bible as well as writing articles for the *Quarterly Record*. Additionally the Society is blessed with the services of a number of consultants who work on a part-time basis on specific projects for us.

Along with these are the 'old timers': George Anderson, who is working full-time on the New Testament portion of the Translator's Manual; Peter Hallihan, who continues to write the much-appreciated country and translator articles for the *Quarterly Record* and is currently working on a book in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the Authorised Version in 2011; and Deb Anderson, who currently oversees the work of the Department as well as undertaking much of the editing and Old Testament work.

We continue to seek an Editorial Administration Manager to manage all of the work of the Department, and would covet your prayers that the Lord will raise up the right person for the job.

Editorial Projects

Along with those projects mentioned in the Assistant General Secretary's Report on pages 10-13, the following are also current.

● *Completed Scriptures:*

This year we have had the pleasure of seeing the newly typeset **Arabic** Bible, with fuller vowelling, come to fruition.

The New Testament and Psalms in **Eastern Armenian** is now in print.

The full **Catalan** Bible, many years in translation, was published earlier this year. The translator reported:

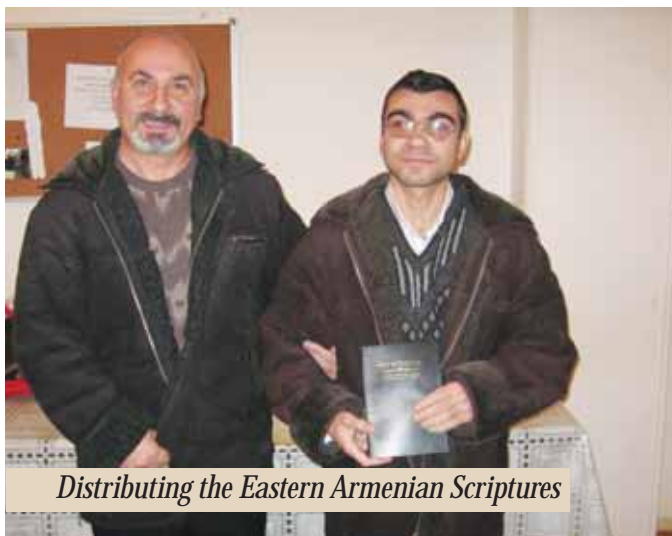
'Today, 5th of May 2009, at 13.55, while we were having lunch, we have received the long awaited parcel with the first five TBS Catalan Bibles for our family. These volumes are precious to us! We have read Psalm 107 to express our gratitude to the Lord as the first family reading with our new Books'.

By the time of the Annual Meeting, we expect to have the **Maori** Bible nearing publication for Aboriginal peoples in New Zealand.

● *Ongoing work:*

We hope in the Lord's providence to produce the next of our own settings of the **English** Authorised Version by 2011. This edition will include substantial cross-referencing—the production of which is taking a great deal of time and energy as we type, cross-check, and correct thousands of references. Several temporary and part-time workers are helping with this.

A number of years ago we published the New Testament in **Gio (Dan)** for the people of Liberia. There has been a call for more copies to replace many destroyed during



Distributing the Eastern Armenian Scriptures

the conflicts which have ravaged that nation. This New Testament is being digitised and corrected, and we hope to have it back in print in the near future.

Our **Hebrew** New Testament, first published in the late 1800s, is a translation of the Greek Textus Receptus. The Hebrew language has changed sufficiently that this New Testament needs updating, and this work is currently underway by friends of the Society in Israel.

Old Testament work continues in **Nepali** and **Ndebele** with a view to having full Bibles in print in the next couple of years.

● ***New projects:***

New work has started in several languages, including **Shona** (for Zimbabwe), **Simte** (for India) and **Thadou** (for north-eastern India)

● ***Desired projects:***

Other projects are also in hand at various stages of completion. But we would ask for your prayers for qualified workers in many languages in which we are not working, particularly those of India and the African continent. We have long looked for opportunities to produce Scriptures in **Urdu**, **Hindi**, **Punjabi**, **Swahili** and numerous other tongues. Please pray for these, and for all the work which the Lord brings our way, and rejoice with us in His goodness for another year.

Stop Press: SermonAudio's Gospel Project

Several months ago, SermonAudio began a project to send copies of the Gospel according to John to homes in target cities in the USA. Their long-term hope is to continue this project to as many different cities across America as possible—and as frequently as possible (every three months). They are currently in Phase 1 of the project.

To date, they have printed, mailed, and delivered 35,000 copies of the Gospel according to John to individual homes in New York City, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Their next target city is Indianapolis, Indiana.

This project involves printing the Gospel, uniquely-themed for the particular city, and mailing each individual copy to homes throughout the city. In partnership with the Trinitarian Bible Society, they are able to print and mail these Gospels to thousands of homes at minimum cost.

More information can be found at www.sermonaudio.com/gospelofjohn.

Financial Highlights 2008

Mr Richard Clarke, FCA, Honorary Treasurer

Introduction

It is very pleasing to be able to report a small surplus across the whole of the Society's activities for 2008. We humbly and gratefully acknowledge the Lord's dealings with the Society in this way, especially as a significant deficit budget had been approved for the year by the General Committee in London, in order to ensure that the significant surpluses arising from the exceptional legacy income received in recent years could be effectively applied to the work of Scripture translation and distribution.

The format of the financial statements has changed slightly this year to show a full consolidation of the Society's UK and overseas activities. This means that a separate balance sheet for TBS UK is included in the full financial statements in addition to a Consolidated Balance Sheet.

We hope that the following comments will assist you in understanding the figures.



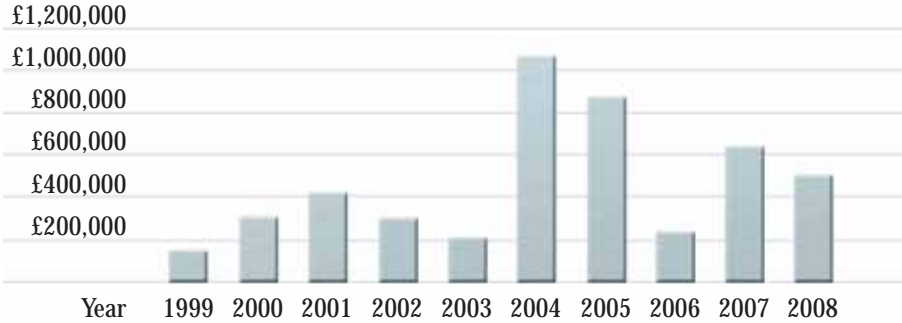
Railway poster at Blackfriars, London

Incoming Resources

'Generated Funds' is the collective term given to describe income from the Society's supporters and its investments. The decrease in this figure compared with 2007 is accounted for by a reduced level of legacy income (see below), combined

with a reduced level of donations income (£574,000 compared with £701,000 in 2007). This reduction was partly offset by an increase in collections to £152,000 from £117,000 in 2007. Legacy income will always be difficult to forecast, and the figure for 2008 was lower at £505,000 than the £643,000 received in 2007. The yearly trends can be seen by reference to the following table.

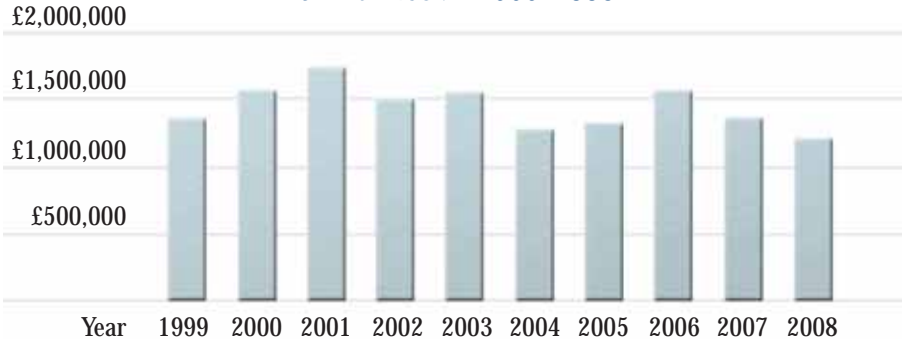
LEGACY INCOME 1999-2008



Investment income levels were comparable at £198,000 with those achieved in 2007 (£194,000).

‘Charitable Activities’ is the term given to income arising as a result of the Society’s primary purpose activity of distributing Scriptures—in other words, income from Sales and Royalties. Due to the ongoing revision of a number of our best-selling foreign language Bibles, global sales continued to decline, being some 10% lower at £1,223,000 compared with £1,353,000 in 2007. (See table below.) We expect this position to be reversed once these necessary revisions have been completed.

SALES INCOME 1999-2008



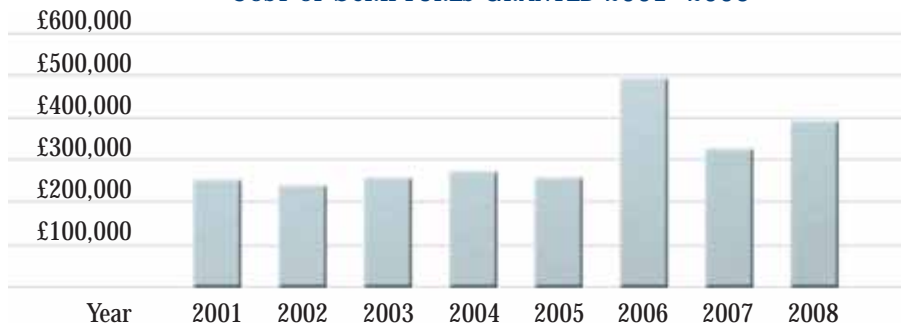
Resources Expended

Over the past few years the Society has increased its expenditure on publicity and deputation with a view to making the work of the Society, and the principles on which it operates, more widely known. In 2008 this expenditure was £278,000 compared with £208,000 in 2007.

The figure for 'Charitable Activities' includes the following:

- **Sales Expenses.** These showed a reduction of over 20% at £925,000 compared with £1,198,000 in 2007, which is not surprising in view of the reduction in sales activity.
- **Translational and Editorial Expenses.** There was a small reduction to £245,000 from £270,000 in 2007.
- **Cost of Grants Made.** The cost of Scriptures granted increased from £325,000 in 2007 to some £397,000 in the year under review, an increase in excess of 22%. Members will be encouraged by the generally increasing level of Scriptures granted over recent years. (See table below.)

COST OF SCRIPTURES GRANTED 2001–2008



Grants overhead expenses were almost contained at the same level as in 2007, with the result that total expenditure on the Grants Department was £604,000 compared with £525,000 in the previous year.

- **Infrastructure and Support Costs.** There were various increases and decreases here but the overall total was £654,000 in 2008 compared with £646,000 the previous year.

The Charities SORP requires a heading under ‘Resources Expended’, namely ‘Governance Costs’. These comprise costs ‘which relate to the general running of the charity as opposed to the direct management functions’ which are integral to generating funds and supplying Scriptures whether as sales or grants. In the case of the Society, these costs comprise simply the auditors’ fees and the expenses incurred in the running of the General Committee. These were comparable with the previous year, totalling just above £14,000 in 2008 (£13,250 in 2007), approximately 0.5% of total expenditure.

The Result for the Year

The incoming resources in the year were exceeded by the resources expended by some £25,000, but further adjustments are required to that figure before the ‘bottom line’ is reached.

You will see that the ‘Exchange adjustment – overseas branches’ shows an apparent inflow of £52,000 in 2008 compared to an inflow of £103,500 in 2007. However, it should be noted that these are purely ‘paper’ transactions. In both years it reflects the fact that the Society’s assets in the USA and Brazil were worth more at the end of the year than at the beginning when measured in sterling.

There was a gain of £7,000 on the disposal of some of the General Fund Investments, and a similar and compensating loss on the disposal of some of the Golden Thoughts Calendar (Endowment) Fund investments in the year. Overall this compares with a gain of £18,000 in 2007. However, there was a sharp fall in the value of the Endowment Fund investments held throughout the year of £512,000, compared to a much smaller decrease of £53,000 the previous year. These reductions in value reflect the general trends in the UK stock market.

As a result of these adjustments there was an overall negative movement of funds of just over £485,000, compared with a positive movement of just over £244,000 the previous year.

The Balance Sheet

As shown in the consolidated balance sheet (page 32), the fixed assets of the Society decreased from £4,605,000 in 2007 to £4,032,000 in 2008. This was

mainly due to the fall in the value of the Endowment Fund investments already referred to above. Stocks increased significantly, from £1,362,000 in 2007 to £1,866,000 in 2008 and there were smaller decreases in the level of Debtors (£512,000 compared with £647,000 in 2007) and Cash at bank and in hand (£581,000 compared with £697,000 in 2007). Creditors were higher at £455,000 compared with £293,000 in 2007.

Much of the Cash holding is located overseas and is being held to fund expansion of the work, especially in Brazil. The balance held in the UK was just £45,000 but this is not a cause for concern, because the General Fund (Unrestricted) investments are all short-term deposits which could be accessed fairly readily in the event of an emergency.

Conclusion

The small surplus prior to taking the loss in the value of the investments in the Golden Thoughts Calendar Fund (Endowment Fund) into account, confirms the gracious dealings of the Lord as the Society proceeds with the planned expansion of its grants programme and its revision of certain of its major foreign language titles. Despite this modest surplus, the Society has again budgeted for a significant deficit in the current year to ensure the wisest stewardship of the large surpluses which have arisen over recent years.

We are grateful to the Lord who has once again bountifully provided for the Society's needs. And we are grateful to our many supporters, both in the UK and overseas, who have collectively contributed to the Society's continued ministry. Please continue to pray that, as a result of the millions of Scripture publications distributed in 2008, many more precious souls may be brought to the Saviour!



Bringing the Gospel to people in India

Statement of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of the



Trinitarian Bible Society

We have examined the summary financial statements set out on pages 31 and 32.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditors

The summary financial statements are the responsibility of the General Committee on behalf of the Trustees. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' report. We also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statements.

Basis of Audit Opinion

We have carried out the procedures we considered necessary to confirm, by reference to the full financial statements, that the summary financial statements are consistent with those statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' report of the Trinitarian Bible Society for the year ended 31st December 2008.

5 Robin Hood Lane,
Sutton,
Surrey,
SM1 2SW

Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditor
17th July 2009

Trinitarian Bible Society

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 31st December 2008

	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £	Restricted Funds 2008 £	Endowment Funds 2008 £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
Incoming resources					
From generated funds—					
Voluntary income	1,209,996	66,048	-	1,276,044	1,489,578
Investment income	80,607	117,708	-	198,315	194,369
Charitable activities	1,216,269	6,274	-	1,222,543	1,352,696
Total incoming resources	2,506,872	190,030	-	2,696,902	3,036,643
Resources expended					
Cost of generating funds—					
Publicity & deputation	278,433	-	-	278,433	207,844
Charitable activities	2,247,374	181,747	-	2,429,121	2,639,411
Governance costs	14,147	-	-	14,147	13,246
Total resources used	2,539,954	181,747	-	2,721,701	2,860,501
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(33,082)	8,283	-	(24,799)	176,142
Exchange adjustment—					
overseas branches	51,681	-	-	51,681	103,573
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	6,891	-	(6,776)	115	18,020
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	25,490	8,283	(6,776)	26,997	297,735
Unrealised loss on investments	-	-	(511,705)	(511,705)	(53,410)
Net movement in funds	25,490	8,283	(518,481)	(484,708)	244,325
Total funds brought forward	4,610,721	73,991	2,334,459	7,019,171	6,774,846
Total funds carried forward	4,636,211	82,274	1,815,978	6,534,463	7,019,171

Trinitarian Bible Society Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2008

	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £	Restricted Funds 2008 £	Endowment Funds 2008 £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	1,152,639	2,997	-	1,155,636	1,186,738
Investments	1,085,363	6,437	1,784,393	2,876,193	3,418,536
	2,238,002	9,434	1,784,393	4,031,829	4,605,274
Current assets					
Stocks	1,865,675	-	-	1,865,675	1,362,543
Debtors	491,813	20,000	-	511,813	647,488
Cash at bank & in hand	496,204	52,840	31,585	580,629	697,110
	2,853,692	72,840	31,585	2,958,117	2,707,141
Creditors					
Amounts due within one year	455,483	-	-	455,483	293,244
Net current assets	2,398,209	72,840	31,585	2,502,634	2,413,897
Net assets	4,636,211	82,274	1,815,978	6,534,463	7,019,171
Financed by:					
Total funds	4,636,211	82,274	1,815,978	6,534,463	7,019,171

Note to the Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements are only a summary of information included in the Society's financial statements and Trustees' report.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information, the full accounts, the Auditors' report on those accounts and the Trustees' annual report should be consulted, copies of which can be obtained from the Society at Tyndale House.

The Trustees' annual report and full financial statements were approved by the General Committee on 15th June 2009 and signed on its behalf by M. H. Watts and R. A. Clarke. A copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

The report of the Auditors on the full accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008 was unqualified.

Notes

Notes



Trinitarian Bible Society

International Headquarters

Tyndale House,
Dorset Road,
London,
SW19 3NN,
England

Telephone: (020) 8543 7857

Facsimile: (020) 8543 6370

e-mail: TBS@trinitarianbiblesociety.org

Web site: www.trinitarianbiblesociety.org

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

English Charity Number: 233082

Scottish Charity Number: SC038379

V.A.T. Registration Number: GB 215 9219 67

Auditors:

Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet
5 Robin Hood Lane,
Sutton,
Surrey,
SM1 2SW

Solicitors:

Bates, Wells & Braithwaite
2-6 Cannon Street,
London,
EC4M 6YA

Bankers:

Arbuthnot Latham & Co. Ltd.
Arbuthnot House,
20 Ropemaker Street,
London, EC2Y 9AR

Sterling Account No.: 71529601 **Sort Code:** 30-13-93

Swift ID Code: ARBUGB2L

Euro Account No.: 31529601

IBAN Euro Account No.: GB19 ARBU 3003 0831 5296 01

International Branches

Australian Branch

President & National Secretary: Mr. M.F. Stuart
Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia),

G.P.O.Box 777

Sydney 2001, Australia

Tel.: 1300 303 827

Fax: 1300 783 827

e-mail: TBS@trinitarianbiblesociety.org.au

Brazilian Branch

President: The Rev. Dr. T. L. Gilmer
Sociedade Biblica Trinitariana do Brasil,

Rua Julio de Castilhos, 108/120

Belezzinho

03059-000 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Tel.: (11) 2693-5663

Fax: (11) 2695-3635

e-mail: sbtb@biblias.com.br

Canadian Branch

Acting General Secretary: Mr. G. den Boer, B.A.

Office Manager: Mr. J. van Huigenbos

Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada)

9128 Young Road,

Chilliwack, B.C., V2P 4R4, Canada

Tel.: (604) 793-2232

Fax: (604) 793-2262

e-mail: tbs@caylix.com

New Zealand Branch

Secretary: Mr. U. Haringa

Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand),

17 Heatherlea Street,

P.O. Box 740, Gisborne, New Zealand

Tel. & Fax: 06-863-3700

e-mail: NZ@TBS-sales.org

U.S.A. Branch

General Secretary: Mr. W. Greendyk, B.A.

Trinitarian Bible Society (U.S.A.)

927 Alpine Commerce Park,

Suite 100, Grand Rapids,

Michigan 49544, U.S.A.

Tel.: (616) 735-3695

Fax: (616) 785-7237

e-mail: tbsusa@sbcglobal.net

The Aims of the Society

To publish and distribute the Holy Scriptures throughout the world in many languages.

To promote Bible translations which are accurate and trustworthy, conforming to the Hebrew Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, and the Greek Textus Receptus of the New Testament, upon which texts the English Authorised Version is based.

To be instrumental in bringing light and life, through the Gospel of Christ, to those who are lost in sin and in the darkness of false religion and unbelief.

To uphold the doctrines of reformed Christianity, bearing witness to the equal and eternal deity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, One God in three Persons.

To uphold the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

For the Glory of God and the Increase of His Kingdom through the circulation of Protestant or uncorrupted versions of the Word of God.



Trinitarian Bible Society

Tyndale House, Dorset Road, London
SW19 3NN, England

e-mail: TBS@trinitarianbiblesociety.org
www.trinitarianbiblesociety.org