

Population: 6,790,062,216

Language: 6,912 active languages

Literacy: (definition: age 15 and over, and can read and write)

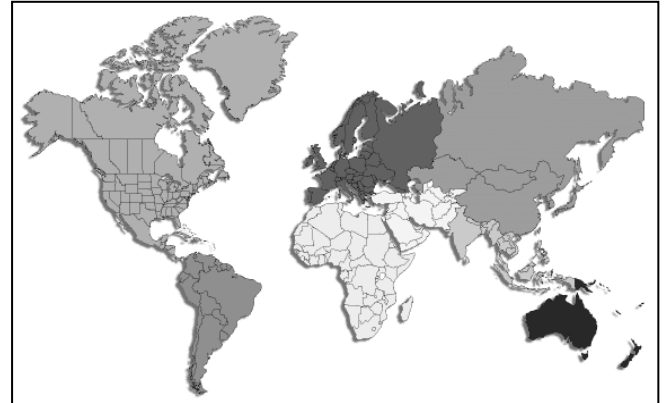
total population: 82%

male: 87%

female: 77%

note: over two-thirds of the world's 785 million illiterate adults are found in only eight countries (Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan); of all the illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women; extremely low literacy rates are concentrated in three regions, the Arab states, South and West Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where around one-third of the men and half of all women are illiterate (2005 est.)

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE WORLD FACTBOOK, CIA



Literacy Worldwide

There are 145 Bible Societies working in over 200 countries. They work as a fellowship to form the United Bible Societies, ensuring a strategic approach to Bible translation, publication and distribution.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland is supporting various literacy projects in some of these countries, hoping that millions of people will discover the love of God and His life-changing salvation through Bible-based literacy.

Your support will help us to fund Literacy Classes, Braille Bibles, New Reader Portions, and Listening Groups.



New Reader Portions in Ghana

In both schools and churches, the absence of printed material in Esahie, a language spoken by about 500,000 people, has for many years forced people to use books and Scriptures in Asante (a language commonly spoken in Côte d'Ivoire).

This project is designed to teach non-literate Esahie speakers to read and write in their heart language, and to provide them with scripture so that through reading they would come to know God fully.

Braille Bibles in India

There is no other agency in India, apart from the Bible Society of India (BSI), involved in the translation and the publication of Scriptures in Braille. BSI has the full Braille Bible (each Bible comes in 43 volumes) in almost all the major Indian languages, as well as New Reader Portions, and a wide range of other Scriptures.

Through this project, BSI plans to distribute, during the year 2009, the following Braille Scriptures:

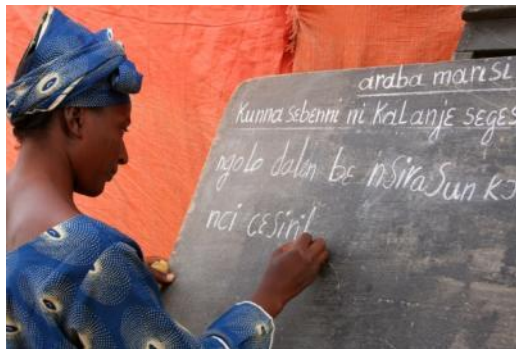
2,500 Braille New Reader Portions, 13,200 Braille Bible Portions, 5,500 other Scriptures in Braille, and 35,000 Braille Scripture calendars.



Listening Groups in Côte d'Ivoire

The listening of the Word of God helps people to make a personal connection with Christ. Though many Churches make efforts to develop literacy programs in different languages in order to help their members in the reading of the Word of God, many people still struggle with reading the Scriptures. This becomes an obstacle to their spiritual growth, and many become discouraged to engage with the Word.

The Bible Society does not want to see people discouraged as they try to engage with the Bible, and therefore they are trying to set up as many Listening Groups, using Proclaimers (solar powered recordings), as possible.



Literacy Classes in Mali

The Bible Society in Mali's goal is to train people to master the writing and reading of three local languages in Mali: Bamanan, Bobo and Dogon. It is hoped that 800 new literates will be trained per year, allowing people to read and write in their heart language, and enabling people to engage with the Word of God.

"In fact, the literacy lessons are changing the day-to-day lives of these women. For example, until now, whenever they needed medication, the pharmacist would indicate by notches on a piece of paper how many times a day they needed to take the medicine. Now, the doctor explains when and how the medicine should be taken and they make a note of it themselves. These may be simple things, but the overall impact is great: **people's daily lives are being changed completely!** Their self-esteem also improves very much. They take more responsibility and are better equipped to work things out for themselves rather than accepting blindly what others tell them as they had to previously."

Mr Kienta, a Pastor in Mali

Literacy Worldwide

Supporting Literacy4Life across the world means that more and more people will learn how to engage with the Word of God.

Your prayers and financial support will help the Bible Society to teach people how to read and write, provide the Scripture for classes and New Readers, distribute Braille Bibles to the visually impaired, and set up listening groups.

We hope that through an increase in literacy there will be an increase in people's desire to know Christ as their personal friend and saviour.

Pray . . .

That people will realise the importance of literacy across the world.

For high levels of attendance at literacy classes and listening groups.

That the Bible will be made available to people in a format that they understand.

For easy distribution of Scriptures to people of all ages and background.

