

# Bible society of Gabon

## ANNUAL REPORT 2005

In the context of our partnership with the different churches, the Bible Society of Gabon took part in the Movement of the Protestant Youth of the Presbyterian Church in Gabon, during the second edition of the National Youth Celebration at the Stadium Omar BONGO ONDIMBA on February 9, 2005.

This ceremony, placed under the patronage of the President of the republic, was held with the participation of many political personalities of Gabon and foreigners, but also of the different primary and secondary schools as well as high institutions of the country. The Bible Society of Gabon was able to display its various products.

At the same occasions, the Bible Society offers Bibles to the different members of the government who were present and to some diplomats who visited the stand of the Bible Society of Gabon. They are:

The Bible Society has even sent a Bible to the President who was unable to come, through the Minister of Sports.

The Bible Society of Gabon has known, during the month of April 2005, an exceptional event: It was invited by the Association of Christian Women of the Assemblies of God church in Gabon to take part in the manifestation marking the third edition of Gabon Women National Day. This event was celebrated on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at Libreville City of Democracy Conference Room and was placed under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Gabon.

The latter was accompanied by his first wife and the Vice President of the Republic with his wife, the Prime Minister with his wife, as well as members of the government and many accredited ambassadors in our country.

The President of the republic and his delegation made a stop at the stand of the Bible Society of Gabon to contemplate the various versions of the Bibles as well as other materials we have displayed.

We seized this opportunity to offer to the Head of State and his wife the Holy Scriptures: "Bible Expliquée, Catholic Version

We would like to point out that for the first time a Christian organisation has given formally a Bible to the President of the Republic. Many members of the government who appreciated our action promised to visit the Headquarters of the Bible Society of Gabon.

The executive Board which headed the coordination of the national programme has played an important role in the organisation of the Prayer Day of Transformation Africa. Many Christian fellowships in our country took part in this programme. Many cities from the interior were represented at this great event.

From July 20, to September 10, 2005, the Bible Society of Gabon has organised the second edition of Bible Marathon 2005. During this manifestation, we appointed about 20 Christian youths from our various communities as Scriptures' distributors. After an adequate training, they went through the city of Libreville and its surroundings for about forty days.

The outputs of the operation were beyond our expectation: more than **931** Bibles were distributed. This is a confirmation of the fact that people are really thirsty for the word of God. A testimony came from a doctor at the General Hospital of Libreville concerning the impact of the programme Bible Marathon 2005 on the lives of patients who received the Bible. This is what he said: "What we can notice is that patients would spend much of their time reading the Bible; furthermore, we can read joy and confidence on their faces." Later, this Doctor bought himself a copy of the Bible in a local language in order to be filled also with the joy and boldness it gives to its readers.

The Pentecostal and charismatic churches of Gabon had organised a national prayer day at the stadium of President BONGO. At this event, all the denominations, included the Bible Society of Gabon took part.

The purpose of that meeting was to invite the Political Authorities headed by the President of the Republic, for a prayer section to plead for the restoration of the country, the preservation of peace and to commit the nation into the hands of God. The Bible Society in partnership with churches was able to distribute 320 Bibles, that is, these Bibles were distributed to the different personalities of our countries: the Head of State, the Prime Minister, Head of the government, the members of the government, and the heads of other institutions.

Servants of God have seized this opportunity to exhort Authorities to read and consider the Word of God as the foundation, the source of success in all enterprises.

<b>Distribution of Holy Scriptures in 2005 :</b>					
Bibles	New Testament	<u>Portions</u>	<u>Selections</u>	Literatures	<u>Others</u>
<b>14,325</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>585.7</b>

The number of Scriptures distributed in the year 2005 was 16,443 copies (all sort of quantities taken together) against 10, 572 copies in 2004, we registered an increase of 5,871.

At the level of fundraising, we managed to gather 330,700 F CFA. We are planning to do more in the year 2006. As far as our relation with other institutions and religious association, as well as political authorities is concerned we notice great progress; many fellowships and personalities being available to support the Bible work in Gabon.

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Acting Executive Secretary