**Thursday August 13, 2009**

**PEOPLE’S LIVES POSITIVELY CHANGED BY THE USE OF SCRIPTURES**

The successful completion of the translation of the Bible into the Pokot language brings the number of complete Bibles available in local Kenyan languages to 17. The Bible Society of Kenya (BSK) is a non-sectarian, non-denominational organization registered under the Societies Act. It serves all Christian Churches. Church organizations and individuals. In order to avail the Holy Scriptures to all Kenyans. BSK is involved in the following programmes: Translation Faith Conies By Hearing (FCBH)

- Audio Scriptures, “Where is the Good Samaritan today?” - HIV/Aids programme and Youth and Children Outreach Translation Kenya has over 53 language groups and BSK is continually seeking funds to enable it translate the Bible into marry other local languages So far, there are 17 language groups with complete Bibles, 15 with New Testaments only and 3 have only a portion of the Bible However,

The communities have no scriptures at all

The Bible has 31,101 verses

a) 2.3,145 in the Old Testament

b) 7,956 in the New Teament

Each verse costs Sh.480 on average to translate

It takes about 15 yearsto translate the entire Bible.

Current Translation Projects:

BSK has resolved to translate all its Bibles in common contemporary

language. In addition the Bibles incorporate the extra Deuterocanonical

Books used by the Roman Catholic Church. The resultant translations are

referred to as Interconfessional Bibles

BSK’s cuitent projects include:

. Translation otthe Bible into (1) Kiembu-Kimbeere and (2) Oluluhya

. Revision of the Kalenjin Bible

. Publishingof:

a) Lubukusu Bible

b) Lukakarriega-Lutirichi Bible

c) Common Language Kikamba

Bible

d) Common Language Kirniiru Bible

Recently completed Bibles

include: Logooli Bible, launched on

11th July, 2009 while the Põkot Bible

will be launched on 15th August,

2009.

Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH)

is an audio scripture listening

programrnewheregioups of

people listen to thescriptu res in

the language they understand

best. The impact of FCBH has been

tremendous in the areas it has been

introduced with the transformation

of lives bist by listening to Gods word. 85K has been running the FCBH

programme since 1995. The programme upto date has over 2,500 listening

groups

“Where is the Good Samaritan today?”

The Good Samaritan Programme isa Bible based programmethat

encourages churches to respond to the HIV epidemic with responsible

and intentional action. The programme comprises of HIV/AIDS Trainerof

Trainer (TOij workshops using audio visual aids and trained person nel.These

workshops have five major objectives that they address:

. The nature of the Hl V/AIDS infection

. Fators that influence the spread of HIV/AIDS

. Preventative measi res again st HI V/Al DS

. How people can live positively with HIV/AIDS

. How both healthy and infected people can join hands to care for people

who suffer from the epidemic and reduce stigmatization.

Youth and Children Programmes: The youth and children ministry is

involved with ailing and encouraging use of relevant Scriptures among the

youth and children in Kenya This is done through appropriate activities and

programmes like rallies. scheol visits, church visits, college visits, university

vist children home visits and conferences.

Our main objective is to reach out to the bulk of youth and children in

Kenya with the Word of God. The programmes aim at engaging the audience

with practical lite skills for the future challenges.

Braille Scriptures: 85K isthe sole distributor of Braille Scriptures in Kenya.

It continues to provide Braille Scriptures to visually impaired l’nyans. 85K

provkles Holy Scriptu res to institutions of learning for the visually impared,

The Scriptu res enable the visually impared students to study forth eir CRE

eaminationsaswellastogain a firsthand knowledge of the Bible.

BSK response to social issues: BSKcontinuestoaddress social issues

affecting society by addressing them through portions with relevant

scriptural reference Most recently 85K prepared a bilingual portion, The

Path to Healing, to spread the message of peace among Kenyans. The

portion both in Swahili and English tackles issues ranging from repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation among others and ¡sa ielevant reference book

for Kenyans concerning peace and unity.

BSK support programmes: lndivkluals can support our piojects through

the following means:

. Membership that is open to individuals, churches and other organisations.

. Donations from churches, ornizations and individuals

. Annual Fund raising Dinner

. Mopta language- where one supports translation by translating a number

of verses of a specific language of Bible being translated.

. Bible a Month Club- one can contribute towards free Bible Distribution to

the less fortunate by buying a Bible each month.