

MONMOUTHSHIRE Free Press

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Dear Friends,

This month I have dipped into the internet – as one does – to find a number of interesting Bible facts and figures for you, some of which you may well know, while others might surprise you (as they did me). No wonder the Bible – or God’s Living Word – is the Book found on most book shelves and in the most languages throughout the world. Just have a look at this:



There are over 7,000 languages and dialects in today’s world and the Bible is available (wholly or partly) in 2,500 of them. This means of course that 4,500 languages still wait for even one book of the Bible to be translated.

The Bible Society estimates that close to 6 billion Bibles have been printed over the last couple of hundred years alone. Considering that the total world population today is estimated at 7.6 billion people that’s not bad I think. In fact, it is believed that about 50 Bibles are sold every minute.

“Do not be afraid” occurs 365 times in the Bible and isn’t that comforting to know that for every day of the year we can have that assurance and comfort for free and by the grace of God?

If ever you wanted to help support a charity in a novel way and felt inclined to sit and read the whole Bible from cover to cover out loud in front of your congregation at church, it would likely take you about seventy hours to do so. Longer of course if you need to have the occasional coffee break!

Finally this, which I can quite understand having worked as a translator and interpreter before I was called to the ministry: the whole process of producing a translation of the Bible is slow, difficult and lengthy, although thanks to computer-aided programmes available today, there is now a reduction in the time involved. This can only be good and should be welcomed, and it is also good that for all its pitfalls the internet does contain much excellent biblical information just by a bit of googling and the press of a button. God bless you all, and happy surfing.

Rev Preben Andersen