

Location: Western Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia

Population: 20,617,068

Language: French (official), 60 native dialects with Dioula the most widely spoken

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

total population: 48.7%

male: 60.8%

female: 38.6%

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE WORLD FACTBOOK, CIA



The Bible Society of Côte d'Ivoire

Based in Abidjan, the Bible Society in Côte d'Ivoire (ABCI) began ministry as far back as 1903. Of great importance is the focus on translation work, as there are currently only **2 languages out of 60 that have full Bibles**. Only recently completed, the Cebaara and Tabgana Bibles will hopefully be printed soon. Despite serious disruption in recent years, the staff continues to serve the Lord faithfully in their work to make the Bible available for Ivorians.

Margaret Bohoussou (nee Linton) has lived and worked in Côte d'Ivoire for over 20 years. Originally from the Frosses near Ballymena, Margaret has entered into life in West Africa, working tirelessly with the Bible Society to make God's Word available to the people of Côte d'Ivoire in their mother tongue.



Listening Groups in Côte d'Ivoire

This project sets out to help people to encounter the Word of God in the language that they understand the most, through group listening.

Listening to 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.

This project is therefore important and really welcomed by the people of Côte d'Ivoire. More and more people are engaging with the Word of God as they listen to it and accept it into their hearts.

The Bible Society is working closely with 'Faith Comes by Hearing' (FCBH) to set up these listening groups. FCBH aims to 'record and use heart-language Audio Bibles to bring His church together and make disciples from every nation, tribe, language, and people'. (www.faithcomesbyhearing.com)



A wind-up, solar-powered Proclaimer

Proclaimer

The Proclaimer is a digital player dedicated to playing God's Word in local heart languages.

An installed microchip contains scripture, in one of 260 languages, allowing people to listen to God's Word in a way that they understand. Powered by the sun, the device will run for as long as there is sunlight; alternatively the battery power allows 15 hours of listening time and can be recharged enough times that one could listen to the whole New Testament over 1000 times. With a clear enough sound that groups of 300 people could hear the words, the Proclaimer is a brilliant way to facilitate listening groups.

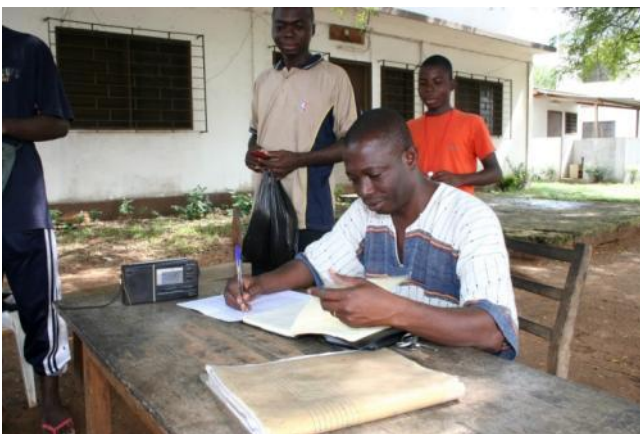
Listening Groups

While people are still learning to read, how do they engage with the Word? Listening Groups provide a place where people can come together and listen to Scripture and discuss the impact of God's Word on their lives.

ABCI do not want to see people discouraged as they try to engage with the Bible, and therefore they are trying to set up as many of these Listening Groups, using Proclaimers, as possible.

It is hoped that 55 listening groups will be set up per month that is about 660 groups per year. It is averaged that each group will have about 15 people in it.

If these figures become a reality, in total 9,900 new listeners will engage with the Bible per year.



Pray...

That all churches will understand the importance of this programme and integrate it into their activities.

That all members of the different groups will be able to attend the listening sessions.

For good health and protection of the group leaders and of the coordinator, especially during their different trips in the field.

That the programme will have a real impact on the target audience.