

## FORUM OF BIBLE AGENCIES (FOBA)



### Background

Forum of Bible Agencies (FOBA) was birthed as a result of the historic global meeting of Bible agencies on October 10, 1990, at Horsley's Greens, England.

A three-point call was given to all churches and mission agencies that met:

1. To make the scriptures central to their worship and ministry.
2. To do the evangelistic work of the church worldwide.
3. And to give a higher priority than ever to prayer and financial support of the worldwide ministry of the Bible translation and distribution, in order to make it possible for the word of God to be provided to each and every person who now waits to receive it.

### Pan-African Conference in Nairobi

In October 2002, a FOBA pan African meeting took place in Limuru, Nairobi. The meeting called on all African countries including Ghana to constitute FOBA Agencies at the national level to broaden our evangelistic efforts through the translation and distribution of scriptures in the sub-region.

The forum of bible agencies began in Ghana in 1999 following the 5-year experimental projects which were piloted by six main agencies namely: Scripture Union Ghana, Bible Society of Ghana, Lutheran Media Ministry, Great Commission Movement of Ghana, Theovision International, and Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation.

### What is FOBA GHANA?

FOBA (Forum of Bible Agencies), Ghana is made up of Christian organisations that translate and / or publish scripture and its related products in all formats. Some of the tools/resources are Bibles in

various languages, Audio Bibles, Jesus Film, Bible Literature/Devotions, and many more.

These tools/resources are used by individuals, churches, and other Christian groups for personal growth and ministry.

Participating organizations fulfill the following criteria:

1. Non-profit scripture work is their main ministry
2. Are within the mainstream of historic Christianity in Ghana
3. Have international relations with a sister or other bible agencies
4. Are involved in translation and distribution works.
5. Are with and commit to the standards and objectives of the forum.

### What we do

Collaborate with member organisations to work on:

- » Bible Translation
- » Media Translation
- » Publication of Scripture
- » Audio Bible
- » Jesus Film
- » Devotionals
- » Christian Literature
- » Audio-Visuals for Evangelism & Discipleship
- » Contemporary Resources for Missions
- » Research
- » Consultancy and Training

### Why do we exist?

The reasons for the existence (reasons d'être) is summed up in the two subsections below.

## Translation

We as a bible translation agencies see the need to cooperate whole-heartedly in carrying out this task recognizing the distinctive characters and unique ministry of each organisation, we jointly express our commitment to work together to coordinate and collaborate the efforts of member agencies in order to significantly increase the speed and scope of making Gods word available to (every church and individual in the language of their heart) or (every person on earth).

## Implementation

1. Identifying needs of the audience through research
2. Planning new projects
3. Sharing personnel, resources and facilitating partnerships
4. Encouraging training, consultancy, and developing strategies to complete the task.
5. Sustaining ongoing cooperation and project coordination.

## Distribution

We commit ourselves together in seeking ways of ensuring the best possible stewardship of God-given resources entrusted to each of our organisations to carry out distribution activities.

## This is done:

1. By providing forums through which information on plans and programs is shared with the intent of reducing as far as possible unproductive competition and unnecessary duplication of effort
2. By providing a context or framework which will facilitate undertaking specific cooperative projects

## Our general objectives are:

1. Encourage churches, missions and agencies to use and confirm God's word at the heart of their life and witness.
2. Reaffirming our commitment to make the word of God available to Ghana and beyond, thus

helping the churches fulfill their mission to proclaim the gospel to every person and make disciples of all nations.

3. Forming national networks of decisions makers for the purpose of promoting co-operation and partnership at these levels.
4. Sharing news of product development and providing updates on activates and future plans.
5. Building a relationship and encouraging and strengthen one another in our common task.
6. Providing a forum for creative discussion of relevant issues and for formulating visionary and strategic thinking.
7. Identifying problems that require attention and reviewing key issues in depth.
8. Using every available way to communicate the scriptures both print and media.

## Member Organisations:

- » Biblica, Ghana
- » OneHope, Ghana
- » Scripture Union (SU)
- » Lutheran Media Ministry
- » Theovision International
- » The Bible League Ghana (BLG)
- » Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH)
- » The Bible Society of Ghana (BSG)
- » Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)
- » Great Commission Movement of Ghana (GCMG)
- » Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students (GHAFES)
- » Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible translation (GILLBT)