

**Press Conference: John Paul II Hall  
Tuesday 14 October 2008**

*Signing of the Joint Statement on Partnership in Biblical Ministry  
Catholic Biblical Ministry (CBF) and the United Bible Societies (UBS)*

In the presence of,  
Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

Representing the Catholic Biblical Federation:-

H.E. Mons Vincenzno Paglia, Bishop of Terni, President of the Catholic Biblical Federation  
Mr Alexander Schweitzer, General Secretary of the Catholic Biblical Federation

Representing the United Bible Societies:-

Revd Dr A. Miller Milloy, General Secretary, United Bible Societies.

---

Statement by Revd Dr Milloy

“The signing of this Joint Statement is a public affirmation of the cooperation that has existed between the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF) and the United Bible Societies (UBS) since 1969 . But more than this, it is a public declaration of the intention of the two organisations to deepen their collaboration in the years to come.

The United Bible Societies, is a world fellowship of 145 national Bible Societies united in the common task of achieving the widest, possible, effective and meaningful distribution of Sacred Scripture; and of helping people interact with the Word of God.

If Translation has remained at the heart of our task over the years since 1804 when Bible Society work began, service to all the churches underpins the way we seek to undertake our task.

It was in 1968, following the promulgation of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, in 1965, that *Guidelines for Interconfessional Cooperation in Translating the Bible* were first adopted by the Catholic Church and the UBS. This opened up the way for the preparation of Interconfessional translations of the Bible. Since that time over 130 translations have been undertaken by the UBS in collaboration with the Catholic Church.

In signing this Joint Statement during this XII Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, gathered to examine the *Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*, it is the hope of both UBS and the CBF that our member agencies will develop together, where possible, programmes which testify to our common desire to make the message of Sacred Scripture alive and relevant in the lives of people everywhere – opening up for them a life-relevant dialogue with the Word of God.”

---

(284 words)