ACTS 12:24 OFFERS A LINE that otherwise appears only twice in the Bible, both referring to Israel’s miraculous increase in numbers while living in the land of Goshen. But in Acts 12:24 the reference is not to population increase but to the spread of the gospel in the days of the early church: “The word of God grew and multiplied” (Acts 12:24, NKJV). Today, because of the work of more than 100 organizations in Bible translation and distribution, it is still true that the Word of God continues to grow and multiply. Following is some data on that growth and multiplication.*

**COMPLETE BIBLES MADE AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD**

**TOP FIVE COUNTRIES WHERE COMPLETE BIBLES WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN 2019**

- **Spain**
- **Portugal**
- **Mandarin**
- **Brazil**
- **India**

**COMPLETE BIBLES AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD AS PER LANGUAGE (IN MILLIONS)**

- **Spanish**: 8
- **Portuguese**: 6.5
- **Mandarin**: 3.5

**COMPLETE BIBLES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SCRIPTURES DISTRIBUTED**

- **North America**: 76%
- **Europe**: 62%
- **Asia**: 19%
- **Central & South America**: 45%
- **Africa**: 63%
- **Oceania**: 81%

**UNITED STATES, THE BIBLE, AND COVID-19**

During the pandemic nearly one in five people in the United States (18%) reported finding comfort in reading the Bible. By contrast: two in five (41%) reached for food; just under two in five (38%) found comfort in family; more than one in 10 (13%) turned to alcohol; one in 10 used marijuana (10%); one in 11 (9%) used prescription drugs.


† Africa’s great proportion (9%) relates to the fact that Africa is the continent with the world’s largest youth population.