



BIBLE A MONTH
REGULAR GIVING

YOUR MONTHLY MEMBER'S REPORT **MARCH 2023**

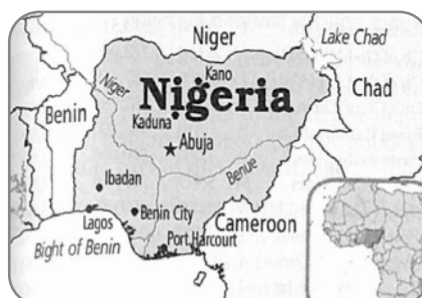
NIGERIA

Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in sub-Saharan Africa, with over 2.7 million IDPs. Globally, it is ranked third behind Syria and Colombia in terms of the number of IDPs it has within its borders. The reasons for the internal displacement of people are complex, including attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in the north-east, clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen over grazing land, natural disasters, and climate change.

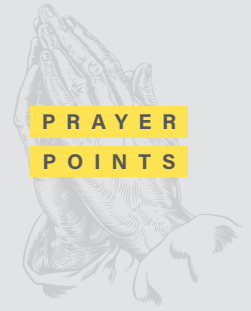
Upon being displaced, the IDPs find themselves living in camps in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, where food and water are in short supply. Many people are sleeping in tents made of thatch, polythene bags or tarpaulin. Some are lodged in schools by the government, but there is no bedding. They are from many different backgrounds, religions, tribes, and cultures. Each community has its own challenges. Even inside the camps,

people are still vulnerable to attacks and human trafficking.

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) is reaching out to people living in IDP camps to provide Bibles, notebooks, school bags, clothing, and food. In 2023, it will carry out a needs assessment in four camps, which are in Abuja (Federal Capital Territory), Adamawa and Kaduna States (north-east Nigeria), and Lagos (south-west Nigeria). It will source some items, such as food and clothing, from churches and individuals, and it will purchase back-to-school bags for children. It will distribute these items in the camps and run mini trauma healing courses. Your gift to *Bible a Month Regular Giving* this month will help to support this project.



*Primary source: CIA World Factbook
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Pray for an emphasis on discipleship and balanced Bible teaching in the Nigerian church, whose teaching is often syncretistic and prosperity-based.

Pray for the dismantling of widespread corruption which is deep-rooted and cripples all levels of society – especially in the government and including the church.

Pray for healing and reconciliation between Nigerians, and for leadership that unites rather than divides.

Pray for the government which is facing many challenges, including extremist Muslim activity in the north and widespread poverty.



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FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



EGYPT

For over 1,000 years Egypt was a Christian-majority nation. Today, it remains home to the Middle East's largest body of Christians - the Coptic Church, whose members make up 12% of the population. The Egyptian Church has endured persecution for over 2,000 years, but recent instability and the presence of the Islamic State has intensified the suffering of Christians. Yet, the Church is growing in unity, and Scripture is more accessible than ever.

Through its sixteen bookshops, bookfairs and events the Bible Society of Egypt is reaching out to people with subsidised Scriptures, including Bibles, New Testaments and Scripture selections.

Photo Credit © Dag Smemo



JORDAN

Jordan is a Muslim-majority country, where Christians make up only two percent of the population. It is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world who date back to the early 1st century AD. Compared to other Middle Eastern countries most Jordanian Christians live a relatively stable life although Christian communities are still monitored.

In 1972, the Bible Society of Jordan was formed. It distributes Bibles through churches, book stands, and an e-commerce website, which showcases 1,400 items in 26 different languages. It provides biblical seminars. Through its showroom, it showcases hundreds of Bibles and Christian publications in more than 26 languages, along with Arabic Bibles.

Photo Credit © Clare Kendall



IRAQ

A country with strong biblical roots, Iraq experienced a culture shift in the 7th century when Muslims invaded bringing Islam in their wake. In the 20th century, due to conflict and persecution there has been a steady decline in the number of Christians with the Christian population falling from 10% in 1950, to just 0.4% today.

The Bible Society of Iraq is the only organisation which is licensed to provide Bibles in the country. The geography of the country means that it needs to maintain two offices. One is in Erbil in the north to assist Christians in the Kurdistan region and on the Nineveh Plain, and one is Baghdad to serve the southern region.

Photo Credit © Bible Society in Iraq



ALGERIA

Christianity arrived during the Roman era and was practised by the Berbers, an ethnic group. However, following the Islamic invasion in the 7th century Christianity all but disappeared. A remnant group of Christian Berbers fled to the Atlas Mountains east of Algiers, but within 100 years their faith had gone.

Today, Christian revival is taking place among the Berbers. In the 1980s, it is estimated there were 2,000 Christians in Algeria. Today, the number is between 100,000 and 200,000.

Many Algerians begin their faith journey by secretly watching or listening to Christian media, at the end of which they can phone the Bible Society of Algeria's phone number to receive a Bible.

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