




BIBLE A MONTH
REGULAR GIVING

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

VIETNAM

BIBLE POVERTY - AVAILABILITY,
AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS OF
SCRIPTURE IN THE LANGUAGE
OF THE READERS.

“There is one Bible in my house. It has the words Bible Society printed on the first page. I cannot read, but my husband can. The first time I saw the Bible, I did not feel anything special, but that Bible saved my life because it changed my husband into someone different.”

These are the words of Leia, a member of the Bunong people, one of Vietnam's ethnic minority groups. For 22 years, Leia suffered because her husband was an alcoholic. He would drink from early morning until night. He was violent towards her. He sold anything valuable to get money to support his addiction. The situation reached rock bottom. Leia contemplated suicide. She was afraid to enter her own home. Some nights

she slept outside under the porch in the rain and cold. She suffered from dengue fever and had chronic liver problems.

But one day her husband received a Bible. He opened it and read it. He went to church where the Christian community helped him. The Bible verse: Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV), had a significant impact on him. For the past two years he has been a sober man.

Now, everyone in their village is amazed. The family has moved to a better house. Leia feels safer, and she no longer contemplates suicide. “What happened proved that only the Word of God can change human nature,” says Leia. Your gift to Bible a Month Regular Giving this month will help to support Bible distribution work in Vietnam.

Photo Credit © Bible Society Vietnam



UKRAINE

Please pray for the safety of the Ukrainian Bible Society staff and pray for the Ukrainian people who are enduring so much.

CHINA

Give thanks for the growth of the Church in China but pray for the many Chinese Christians who are still waiting to receive a Bible.

LEBANON

Please pray for Lebanon's economic situation to improve and pray for the leaders, trainers, and participating in the trauma healing programme.

RWANDA

Pray that Bible Society staff will receive training to help Rwandan people to receive healing and reconciliation through the process of trauma healing.



Scan to get a look at our latest Prayer Booklet!

FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



UKRAINE

In the 18th century, Ukraine was absorbed into the Russian Empire. It achieved a short period of independence (1917-20), but it was reconquered enduring a brutal Soviet rule in which eight million people died. In World War II, German and Soviet armies were responsible for another seven to eight million Ukrainian deaths.

In 1991, Ukraine achieved independence. In 2014, Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula. In February 2022, the war escalated significantly. Since 2014, the Bible Society of Ukraine has been providing Bibles for chaplains who are ministering to soldiers on the frontlines. It is now providing Scriptures and practical aid to Ukrainians, along with Scriptures to Ukrainian refugees.

Photo Credit © Syrotkin Oleh



CHINA

From being banned, burned, and confiscated during the Cultural Revolution the Bible is now the best-selling book in China. Officially, the number of Christians is forty million but unofficially the figure is one hundred million.

The China Partnership is reaching out to poor, rural Christians with subsidised or free Bibles. The Bibles are often in large print as many elderly rural people have poor eyesight. As well, it is providing Scripture resources for poor preachers and seminary students, whose churches cannot afford to support them and who must cover great distances and reach many congregations as part of their ministries often travelling great distances on foot or by motorbike.

Photo Credit © Dag Smemo



LEBANON

Recently, Lebanon has been assailed by a devastating, multi-pronged crisis. There has been an unfolding economic and financial crisis that started in October 2019, which was exacerbated by the dual economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and the massive Port of Beirut explosion in August 2020.

As well, Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world with over 1.5 million refugees, mainly from Syria. The economic crisis has hit refugees badly with nine out of ten refugees living in extreme poverty. The Bible Society of Lebanon is training volunteers so they can provide trauma healing to Syrian and Iraqi refugee families who are suffering greatly.

Photo Credit © Bible Society in Lebanon



RWANDA

In the 20th century, Christianity reached Rwanda. Missionaries sought to convert members of Rwanda's ruling Tutsi ethnic group. In 1994, Rwanda suffered from a genocide in which 800,000 Rwandans were killed. Three quarters of the Tutsi population was wiped out. Today, Rwandan people are still struggling to recover from the physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds of this traumatic period in their history.

The Bible Society of Rwanda is providing audio trauma healing sessions through local radio stations. Led by trained facilitators, people gather in small groups to listen to the sessions. The programme integrates trauma healing with Faith Comes by Hearing to encourage Bible engagement at the same time.

Photo Credit © Becky Silva



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Bible House • 144 Tory Street • Private Bag 27 901, Marion Square, Wellington 6141
Freephone: 0800 424 253 • Tel: 64 4 384 4119 • CC22121 • www.biblesociety.org.nz



BIBLE SOCIETY
NGĀ RINGA HĀPAI | TE PAIPERA TAPU KI AOTEAROA