



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

# MALAWI

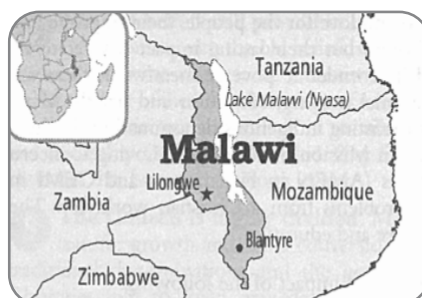
In 1859, David Livingstone, the British missionary and explorer, arrived at a lake in Central Africa which he named Lake Nyasa. In 1861, the Anglican Church sent missionaries into the area. Other church denominations followed, including the Presbyterians in the 1880s, and French Catholics, who were known as the White Fathers, who arrived in 1889.

Today, eighty per cent of Malawians identify as Christian. But Malawi, a former British protectorate which achieved independence in 1964, is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is suffering from the effects of climate change, and it has poor agricultural production with eighty per cent of the population surviving as subsistence farmers.

Pedros Mulimba and his family are subsistence farmers from the Chiradzulu area in the southern region of Malawi. Due to drought and flooding they struggle to produce sufficient maize from their small plot of land, and they regularly suffer from food scarcity.

Partnering with Scripture Union and churches in rural areas, Bible Society is providing Family Scripture Engagement packs to impoverished families like theirs, including Bibles, children's Bibles, and Scripture Union Bible reading guides.

In 2013, Pedros walked to the Bible Society head office in Blantyre to ask if he and his family could join the Family Scripture Engagement programme. Pedros and his family received two Bibles in Chichewa, a language spoken by 80 per cent of Malawians, and a Bible reading guide. The family has had ongoing support from a project co-ordinator. By engaging with the Bible, the family believes they are discovering God's will for their lives. Your gift to *Bible a Month Regular Giving* will help to support this project this month.



\*Primary source: CIA World Factbook  
Photo Credit ©Bible Society of Malawi



Pray for the government as it struggles to address many areas of concern, including infrastructure, inadequate roadways, and waterways.

Pray for the many challenges Malawi is facing including poverty, high population growth, HIV/AIDS, unemployment, and low levels of education.

Pray for Bibles and theological resources for under-resourced and impoverished believers and that Bible Society's engagement project will impact many.

Pray that the Bible Society of Malawi's work will meet the Scripture needs of all Malawians, churches, and church-related organisations.



Scan to get a look at our latest Prayer Booklet!

## FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



### EL SALVADOR

Originally inhabited by Maya and Pipil tribes, El Salvador's Cuscatlan region was discovered and inhabited by Pedro de Alvarado, a lieutenant under Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortez, in 1523. Spain sent Catholic priests to be missionaries to the native population. The country remained a part of the Spanish Captaincy General of Guatemala until 1824. In 1839, it achieved independence.

The name El Salvador may mean "The Saviour" but unfortunately it is one of the most violent countries in the world with a proliferation of gangs and many murders. Because of this, many children are suffering from fear and anxiety. The Bible Society of El Salvador is working to address this issue by providing Bible comics, entitled "Fear Not." It is also providing training for teachers on a conflict resolution model for peers which it is introducing into schools.

Photo Credit ©Bible Society of El Salvador



### PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

In the Palestinian territories, there is a Muslim-majority population, with one per cent of the population consisting of other faiths, including Christianity. Through its "Child of Bethlehem" project, the Palestinian Bible Society is reaching out to children with a Bible-based programme, which includes events, trips, camps, puppet shows, school programmes, and special events at Christmas and Easter. Many Scriptures are distributed to the different attendees.

As well, Bible Society participates in other community events. On March 10, 2023, the team had a station at the annual Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem where they distributed hundreds of Bible resources. Bible Society Head, Nashat Filmon, also gave a two-hour interview at a national radio station in Jerusalem to discuss the work of Bible Society.

Photo Credit ©Katri Saarela/ Finnish Bible Society



### GUATEMALA

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish, the Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala. Between 1524 and 1821 the country was a Spanish colony with Catholicism as the official religion. Today, Catholicism retains a special status under the constitution.

During the second half of the 20th century, Guatemala experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the internal conflict.

Unfortunately, one of the legacies of war is ongoing sexual violence against women and girls. The country has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the world, with girls often being victims of rape by a family member. The Bible Society of Guatemala is reaching out to these girls running workshops to provide them with spiritual, emotional, and psychological healing.

Photo Credit ©Cesar Almaras



### UKRAINE

In 988, Christianity became the dominant religion in what is now modern Ukraine when Prince Volodymyr I of Kyiv accepted Christianity. In 1924, Ukraine came under Russian rule. In the 1980s, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Kremlin's state sanctioned church, became known as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The war has brought great suffering in its wake not least of all among families who had already been suffering through decades of an economic and social crisis, with many turning to drugs and alcohol, and many women and children abused within families. Partnering with churches, the Ukrainian Bible Society is distributing children's Bibles, youth Bibles, Bibles, and large-print New Testaments in Ukrainian and Russian to families. The programme offers Scripture-based training to equip parents with wisdom to raise healthy families.

Photo Credit ©Ukrainian Bible Society



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