



Pray for healing and peace for Honduras, which is one of Latin America's – and the world's – most violent countries.

In a country where 82 per cent of the population identify as Christian, pray that churches and Christianity will provide a real alternative and lead people away from the gang pathway.

Pray that the government and institutions will become free of corruption and pray for leaders of integrity to come into power.

Pray for the many vulnerable children living in poverty or on the streets who are in danger of being recruited into gangs.

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

# HONDURAS

Honduras is a former Spanish colony which achieved independence in 1821. In the 20th century, it was largely under military rule. Today, it is facing multiple challenges including gang violence, poverty, corruption, and natural disasters.

One whose life has been impacted by violence is Nancy, the Executive Director of the Christian Commission for Development in Honduras. "After my husband was murdered and out of fear from anonymous phone calls, I looked for the 'American dream.' It was a nightmare," she says. After a month in a detention centre, Nancy was sent back to Honduras after which she started her ministry of creating rural banks for people with no credit access.

Nancy is not alone in trying to escape the violence which plagues this country, which has one of the highest murder rates in the world. There are two gangs which are particularly infamous: the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-

13) and the 18th Street Gang (Barrio 18). In some areas entire communities have been forcibly displaced by gangs. Families keep their children home from school because they are afraid that they will be recruited by gangs.

It is in this environment that the Bible Society of Honduras is distributing Bibles to the armed forces, prisoners, and the National Police. The latter is one of the most corrupt institutions in the country. Partnering with the Honduran Christian Police Ministry and with chaplains, Bible Society is seeking to instil biblical values into members of these groups. Your gift to *Bible a Month Regular Giving* will help to support this project this month.



\*Primary source: CIA World Factbook  
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## FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



### ARMENIA

In 301 AD, Saint Gregory the Illuminator baptised King Tiridates the Great of Armenia. As a result, Armenia became the first Christian country in the world. In the 15th century, it was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire. In 1922, it became a part of the Trans-Caucasian Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1991, it achieved independence from the Soviet Union.

Today, Armenia is the poorest country in the Caucasus. It has a long-running conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. It is in this region that Bible Society is reaching people in border villages through its "Moving Gospel: Good News for Border Villages" project. Its staff travel to villages teaching villagers Gospel stories and running art therapy workshops to increase people's sense of wellbeing.

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### CHINA

In 635 A.D., Christianity was brought to China by missionaries from Persia who followed the silk trade route. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Jesuits arrived. During the Boxer Rebellion, from 1899 – 1900, rebels killed Christian missionaries. In the 20th century, Mao Tse Tung's Marxism began to take hold among some groups. During the Cultural Revolution from 1966 – 1976 Christians were heavily persecuted.

In the late 1970s, the regulations began to relax. In 1987, the Amity Printing Press was opened in Nanjing. Today, the Bible is one of China's bestselling books! The UBS China Partnership is distributing Bibles to poor, rural Christians in standard and large print sizes. As well, it is providing Bible resources for lay preachers at training events through churches.

Photo Credit @hjs@bibel.co



### THE SOUTH PACIFIC

In 1796, the London Missionary Society's ship, The Duff, left England with thirty missionaries on board, arriving in Tahiti in 1797. In due course, missionaries from other denominations followed. These missionaries encountered many difficulties, including language and cultural problems, and some were killed by the natives. However, by the 1830s, local people were beginning to be converted to Christianity. Today, Christianity is the main religion found throughout the South Pacific.

The Bible Society of the South Pacific is translating the Bible into Pacific Island languages, distributing Bibles, and providing trauma healing programmes for people who have been impacted by natural disasters, such as cyclones and volcanic eruptions, or who are victims of domestic abuse.

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### LEBANON

In the fourth century, Saint Maron founded a monastery in Lebanon, establishing the Maronite Church. In the eighth century, the Maronites, faced with persecution, fled into the mountains of Lebanon where they remained isolated for centuries. Today, the Maronites are Lebanon's largest Christian denomination.

In recent times, Lebanon has been facing many challenges, including a fiscal crisis, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftereffects of the Beirut blast. Lebanon hosts more refugees per capita than any other country in the world, with around 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in camps. Partnering with churches, the Bible Society of Lebanon is reaching out to Christian refugee families with a trauma healing programme to help them manage the grief and despair they are experiencing.

Photo Credit ©Bible Society in Lebanon



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