

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

# LIBERIA

Liberia is a country in West Africa which borders Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire. Unlike its neighbours, it did not come under European rule during the colonial period. In 1822, the United States began sending freed slaves there to establish settlements. In 1847, the liberated slaves declared independence from the United States, establishing Africa's first republic, which they named Liberia, meaning "land of freedom."

But early on tensions arose between the freed slave settlers and the indigenous population. The freed slaves brought Christianity with them from the United States. Protestant missionaries began arriving in the 1820s. Today, 86 per cent of Liberians identify as Christian. The constitution allows for freedom of religion.

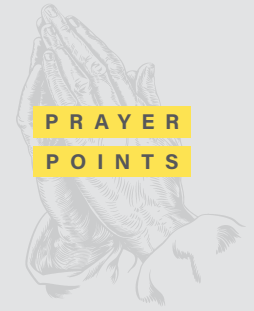
In the late 20th century, Liberia experienced two civil wars (1989 – 1996) and (1997 – 2003), which caused the deaths of 300,000 people, and an Ebola outbreak. These events

have demolished the country's economic system and traumatised its people. The country has had democratically elected leaders since 2005 but they have struggled to improve the economy. Today, Liberia is one of the poorest countries in Africa with around 72 per cent of people in rural areas living in poverty.

The Bible Society in Liberia is providing Bibles, New Testaments, and portions to new believers in rural communities, who have completed the Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH) programme and have developed some literacy skills. The intention is to grow new believers in their faith and help them become established in their churches. 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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Pray for healing for people from the pain caused by two civil wars and an Ebola outbreak, and for rebuilding to occur.

Pray for restoration for Liberia's children who make up 50 per cent of the population and who are struggling to overcome the devastation of war.

Pray for spiritually mature leaders in churches with biblical training who will preach the Bible with integrity.

Pray for upright and just leaders for Liberia and for an end to corruption and patronage in the government.



Scan to get a look at our latest Prayer Booklet!

## FURTHER BIBLE MISSION PROJECTS



### RWANDA

In 1900, members of the Society of the Missionaries of Africa established a mission station in Rwanda. Other denominations followed, all of whom looked for converts among the Tutsi ruling class. Between 1990 – 1994, Rwanda experienced a civil war. On 6th April 1994, the Rwandan President, a Hutu, was assassinated when his plane was shot down. This triggered the Rwandan genocide during which Hutu militias killed around 800,000 Tutsis.

In 2012, the Bible Society of Rwanda began its audio trauma healing programme to help people who are still recovering from the effects of the genocide. The programme airs on local radio stations while the beneficiaries listen in groups under the guidance of trained facilitators.

Photo Credit ©Bible Society of Rwanda



### INDIA

According to tradition, Christianity was first brought to India by the Apostle Thomas in AD 52. In 1498, the Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama discovered a sea route to India. In 1542, the Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier baptised 10,000 Paravars (a Tamil fisher caste) in one month. In 1799, William Carey established a mission at Serampore in West Bengal. Today, Christians make up 2.4 per cent of India's population.

The Bible Society of India is working to bring Bible engagement workshops to widows and suffering women. In Indian culture, families frequently reject women who have become widows leaving them to face a life of poverty and suffering. Through the workshops Bible Society is providing widows with spiritual and practical support, such as counselling.

Photo Credit ©Andrea Rhodes



### ISRAEL

In Israel, there are two Bible Societies focusing on two different parts of the country. The Bible Society of Israel is based in Jerusalem, while the Arab Israeli Bible Society (AIBS) is based in Nazareth. Here, the population consists of Muslims, Druze, and Christians.

Through its "Magdalena: Empowering Women and Families through Scripture" project, the Arab Israeli Bible Society is reaching out to women and families by running workshops and conferences. It provides a women's magazine. The aim is to empower women by addressing issues such as forgiveness, peace, communication, and anger. It organises events at Christmas, Easter and on Mother's Day. Partnering with churches it also distributes children's Bibles and resources to children at summer camps.

Photo Credit ©Bassam Yossef



### PERU

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish, Peru was the homeland of the Inca Empire, the largest and most advanced state in pre-Columbian America. Today's Quechua and Aymara speakers are the descendants of the Inca Empire. After the conquest of the Incas, the Spanish Empire established a Viceroyalty with jurisdiction over most of its South American domains.

Today, 76 per cent of Peruvians identify as Christian. But modern-day Peru is suffering from a national pandemic, namely domestic violence, which is affecting every stratum of society, including the church. Partnering with churches, the Peruvian Bible Society is training pastors so they can run a Bible-based domestic violence programme in their churches for families and married couples.

Photo Credit ©Bible Society of Peru



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