



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

# ISRAEL

“Our staff is safe, but the situation is very tense. After yesterday when Hamas terrorists entered Jewish towns and brutally massacred and kidnapped people, many are in a state of shock. One of our staff was called up for army duty. Some rockets fell very close to us. However, all of us are safe and thank you for your prayers.” These are the words of Victor Kalisher, Executive Director of the Bible Society in Israel. It is a country which exists on a permanent war footing. Now a crisis is taking place and our thoughts and prayers go out to the people there.

Through its “Go and Proclaim the Word of God throughout Israel” project, the Bible Society of Israel is providing Scriptures to people. This year, it intends to distribute 80,000 Scripture items, including Bibles, New Testaments, portions, children’s materials, and audio Scriptures. The Scriptures are in the languages of Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Amharic,

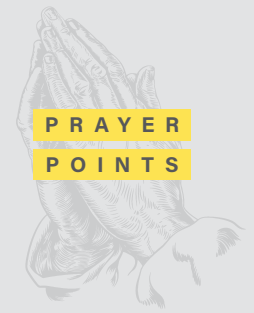
English, and French.

By partnering with churches, organisations and attending events, Bible Society will connect with people from all walks of life, including Jews, Arabs, secular, and religious people. For example, there is an historic Lutheran Church in Jaffa which hundreds of Israelis visit every week where a Bible Society staff member is based to speak to people about Christianity.

Bible Society of Israel also has strategically located bookshops in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa which draw many to browse the attractive displays and ask questions of the staff. Your gift to Bible a Month Regular Giving this month will help to support Bible mission in Israel.



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Pray that God will grant leaders restraint and wisdom to seek long-term solutions that promote dignity and honour for both Palestinians and Jews.

Pray for courage to affirm loving both Jews and Palestinians and to seek a future for both nations.

Pray that Christians will have the courage to present a counter-cultural message rooted in the love of God, His justice and mercy.

Pray that the Lord will use the “Go and Proclaim” project to increase His kingdom and the body of Christ in Israel.



Scan to get a look at our latest Prayer Booklet!



## PAKISTAN

In the 16th century, Christian missionaries reached what is now Pakistan proselytising among Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims. Today, most of Pakistan's Christians are descended from low-caste Hindus who converted under the British Raj in the 19th century, partly to escape the caste system. They provided labour in garrison towns and every cantonment city had an area known as Lal Kurti, where Christians resided.

Today, Pakistan is a Muslim-majority country in which Christians face persecution. They are forced to work in the lowliest types of work known as 'chura' or 'filthy', such as being sanitation workers or brick workers, a form of indentured servitude akin to modern-day slavery. The Pakistan Bible Society is running literacy classes for illiterate Christian women, especially those working in brick kilns.

Photo Credit © Pakistan Bible Society



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Prior to the arrival of Christianity indigenous people in Papua New Guinea practised animism and ancestor worship. In the 19th century, Christian missionaries such as the Society of Mary (the Marist brothers) and the London Missionary Society began arriving. The early missionaries encountered many difficulties, including disease, danger, and death.

Today, 96 per cent of people in Papua New Guinea identify as Christian. The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea is revising the 1989 version of the Tok Pisin Bible, as the language has changed over time. It is hoped that the new revision will play a significant role in the life of young Christians in the church.

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## THAILAND

Christianity reached Thailand in the 16th century with the arrival of Portuguese mercenaries and their chaplain in Ayutthaya. By 1660, the Vicariate Apostolic of Siam had been established. Today, although Christianity has had an influence in social and educational institutions the percentage of Christians remains low at one per cent.

However, growth has occurred among tribal groups such as the Urak Lawoi, who are a coastal people also known as the Sea Gypsies. The Thailand Bible Society is translating the Bible into Urak Lawoi and after twenty years of work this should be finished this year. It is also creating a Thai Study Bible to help Thai people engage with the Bible.

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## 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. They encountered many difficulties, including language and cultural problems, and some were killed. However, by the 1830s, local people were beginning to be converted to Christianity. Today, Christianity is the majority 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.

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