



BIBLE LANDS CRISIS URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED

**Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.**

— Isaiah 40:1 (NIV)

The unfolding events in the Bible Lands have plunged countless lives into a devastating whirlwind of war, grief, and uncertainty. The turmoil and anguish gripping the region demand our urgent attention and support.

Your past contributions have been instrumental in providing Bibles to individuals in the Bible Lands, which is deeply valued by our dedicated colleagues—Victor in Jerusalem, Nashat in the West Bank, and Dina in Galilee. Yet, the current need for Bibles is more pressing than ever before.

**Your gifts will help to bring Bibles and aid to people
in the Bible Lands.**

PHOTO CREDIT: @PALESTINIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Today, our teams on the ground are tirelessly delivering Scriptures, emergency aid, and trauma healing programmes to those in desperate need. With their expertise in rapid response to emergencies and extensive networks, they can efficiently channel Scripture and aid to the most critical areas. Your assistance is crucial to their efforts. Would you consider making a gift today to help fund this essential work?

ISRAEL

In Jerusalem, Bible Society in Israel (BSI) director Victor leads a team distributing Bibles, Bible-based resources, and humanitarian aid.

"We see how these resources are much-needed, especially now that people are going through difficult and frightening times, especially young people, and children. People are mentally and spiritually devastated. They need the hope that only the Word of God can provide," says Victor.



PHOTO CREDIT: @DAG SMEMO

Bible Society is gearing up to print a significant number of Bibles to meet the anticipated demand for hope, guidance, and salvation from God's Word. Additionally, they aim to distribute 10,000 Scripture items, including:

- pocket Bibles for soldiers and young people.
- trauma healing booklets.
- children's Bibles.
- a special messianic edition of the Psalms highlighting prophetic verses about the Messiah.
- the new Modern Hebrew Translation of the Old Testament.
- the Hebrew-Portuguese diglot for the Messianic Jewish-Portuguese community.

Moreover, Israelis are experiencing significant spiritual and economic hardship due to the ongoing conflict. The swift conscription has left tens of thousands of families without their primary breadwinners, leading to immense economic and mental anguish. Bible Society is responding by distributing essential aid packages comprising food, blankets, warm clothing, hygiene items, and baby supplies, while also supporting children and migrant workers with Scriptures and necessities.

Victor, director of BSI, second from right, with young volunteers and goods they are collecting for distribution.

PHOTO CREDIT: @BIBLE SOCIETY IN ISRAEL.



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Meanwhile, Nashat and the team from the Palestinian Bible Society (PBS) are actively engaged in relief efforts despite facing challenges, including the destruction of an office and injuries to staff members. Their unwavering commitment to providing aid and spiritual support to war victims through the distribution of food, blankets, medication, clothing, and family Bibles underscores their dedication.

"The PBS formed a crisis team which monitors the situation and tries to provide as much support and help as possible. We are in daily contact with local church leaders. PBS will continue to be a living testimony and stand with the body of Christ during this tough time," says Nashat.



PHOTO CREDIT: ©PALESTINIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

They have launched social media campaigns offering spiritual and emotional support to the affected population. And despite many movement restrictions and high tensions, they are continuing their work with children, young people, and marginalised and underprivileged communities in the West Bank.

To watch a video on PBS, scan this QR code.



NORTHERN ISRAEL

In Northern Israel, Dina and her team are striving to bring peace and healing to the Arab Israeli community amidst escalating tensions. Their digital outreach initiatives, such as their *Bible Devotion for Youth* video series and hymns on YouTube, aim to renew spiritual focus and foster a culture of peace.

Through existing programmes including trauma healing and bullying in schools they can respond quickly to the needs of the community. They have a Scripture resource called *The King of Peace and His Young Followers*, which they are

School students listen intently during a bullying programme in a school.

PHOTO CREDIT: ©BASSAM YOSSEF.



“Our allegiance is to Christ, the prince of peace. Our aim is to build a community of forgivers and peacemakers,” says Dina.



PHOTO CREDIT: ©DAG SMEMO

distributing in churches and schools. They are preparing lessons based on it for religious education classes to encourage a culture of peace. They are building a website which will provide activities for children to explore biblical reconciliation, so nurturing a generation of peacemakers.

The team is publishing a family magazine called *Whispers from the Creator to the Family*, which reveals that God is always near his people to support and encourage them in every situation, especially during wartime. For their women’s ministry, they are producing a selection of scriptures called *The Gift of Wisdom* to help readers cope with anxiety during troubled times.

The war between Israel and Hamas is affecting all communities in Israel and the West Bank. The Bible Society leaders, Victor, Nashat, and Dina, are all committed to their mission of providing aid, comfort, and spiritual guidance to people in their region. They are endeavouring to bring unity where there is division, hope where there is despair, and love where there is suffering. Will you help them by making a gift of \$40 at this vital time? Thank you and God bless you!

Yours sincerely,



Neels Janse van Rensburg
CEO

P.S. Your gift will help to bring Bibles and aid to people in the Bible Lands at this critical time.

A young girl holding *The King of Peace Bible*.

PHOTO CREDIT: ©ARAB ISRAELI BIBLE SOCIETY.



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Bible Society • 6A Kellow Place • PO Box 276017 • Manukau City • Auckland 2241
Freephone: 0800 424 253 • CC22121 • www.biblesociety.org.nz



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