



# PRAY WITH US

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MAY — AUGUST 2024



NEW ZEALAND

**BIBLE SOCIETY**

NGĀ RINGA HĀPAI | TE PAIPERA TAPU KI AOTEAROA

# JOIN US ONLINE!

[www.biblesociety.org.nz/pray-with-us](http://www.biblesociety.org.nz/pray-with-us)

This free Prayer Booklet is published by Bible Society New Zealand and distributed to members of our Prayer Team, so together we can pray as a means of support for Bible mission across the globe. With more than 150 Bible Societies operating in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide, there's plenty to pray for!

Some of our prayers are related to projects we are currently supporting (these projects are tagged in the booklet). Other projects reflect the broader range of the mission. Our staff pray for projects on a weekly basis. Through this booklet, you can also be involved.

If you've just been given a copy of this Prayer Booklet and would like to receive this regularly, please send an email to [info@biblesociety.org.nz](mailto:info@biblesociety.org.nz) to sign up and join our Prayer Team.

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**Front cover image: A child from the Motherwell Township, a poor township in Port Elizabeth, praying at a daycare centre. ©Kaley Payne**

**Back cover image: A child praying in a church in Kaimana, West Papua, Indonesia. ©Bible Society of Indonesia**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)*

## ***Dear Prayer Partner,***

As a society, we are facing many issues. But despite that, we continue to trust and pray that the Lord hears and responds to our united prayers within the current environment. Whatever the challenges ahead, prayer will remain an integral part of the life of the Fellowship.

**Prayer will always be essential to our mission of helping make the Bible accessible to everyone and encouraging interaction with it.**

***Pray with Us*** is part of a series of initiatives to support Bible mission through prayer. In this edition, you will find prayer points and related Scriptures for projects that UBS supports across the world, many of which are supported by BSNZ from May to August.

Sign up for a prayer e-newsletter by emailing:  
[info@biblesociety.org.nz](mailto:info@biblesociety.org.nz)

Visit our website: [www.biblesociety.org.nz/pray-with-us](http://www.biblesociety.org.nz/pray-with-us)

Follow us on our Social Media platforms as we develop prayer content.

We also send out prayer points to both our *Bible a Month Regular Giving* donors and to our appeal donors. What's more, our team at Bible Society and Manna Christian Stores come together each week in our chapel session to pray for the projects that we are currently supporting.

**Together, our prayers are working to bring the Word of God to people in many countries across the world.**

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Prayer Team**

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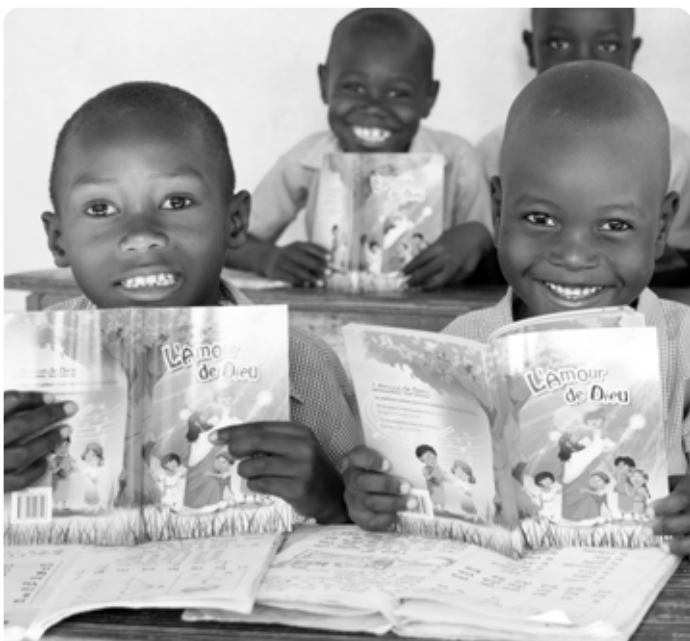
Note: You may notice the acronym 'BAMRG' appearing in brackets after certain countries. It stands for *Bible a Month Regular Giving*. These countries receive financial support for Bible mission projects, funded by our *Bible a Month Regular Givers*.

# Bible Society New Zealand

Bible Society was established in New Zealand in 1846 and is a member of the United Bible Societies (UBS).

We are dedicated to helping make the Bible accessible to everyone and encouraging interaction with it. We aim to serve the whole Christian community by working closely with Christian churches of all denominations. We do not receive government funding and rely on the prayers and financial support of churches and individuals like you.

We thank you for your prayerful support.



Children in a Christian school on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, with Scriptures they received from the Haitian Bible Society.

PHOTO CREDIT: © ANDREA RHODES

**If you would like to support Bible Society work financially, you can scan the QR code on the right, call us on 0800 424 253 or go to our website at [www.biblesociety.org.nz](http://www.biblesociety.org.nz)**



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## VIETNAM (BAMRG)

**Capital:** Hanoi

**Population:** 104.8 million

**Languages:** Vietnamese (official), English, French, Chinese, Khmer.

**Religions:** None/other 87%, Buddhism, 6%, Christianity 7%.

(Most Vietnamese are culturally Buddhist.)



In the 14th century, the Vietnamese conquered the Kingdom of Champa, expanding further south into the Mekong Delta in the 18th century. In 1833, the country became a French protectorate. In 1940, the Japanese invaded Vietnam. Post-World War II, France attempted to re-establish itself as the colonial power. In 1954, Vietnam gained independence. This was followed by three decades of war until reunification under the Communist Party in 1975.

The Vietnamese government recognises 54 ethnic minorities. It is among ethnic minorities like the Hmong, the Stieng, the Cham and the Bunong that Christianity has been taking off. Theoretically, religious freedom is guaranteed under the constitution, but it is restricted under the Bureau of Religious Affairs. The Bible Society of Vietnam is working to translate the Bible into ethnic languages, and to distribute Scripture to youth.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for youth who receive Bibles to grow in their understanding of God's Word.
- Pray for freedom from government repression of both unregistered house churches and churches that have been refused registration.
- Give thanks that missionary work carried out in South Vietnam in the early-1970s, is today bearing a mighty harvest.

### Scripture:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

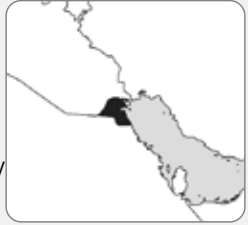
## GULF STATES (KUWAIT)

**Capital:** Kuwait City

**Population:** 3.1 million

**Languages:** Arabic, English

**Religions:** Islam 75%, Christianity 18%, other/none 7%.



Kuwait is a small Persian Gulf nation of three million people. It traces its history back to ancient Mesopotamia. In the 18th century, it became a centre for trade and pearling. In the 20th century, it endured British protectorate status, Iraqi invasion in 1990, and subsequent liberation.

But it was the discovery of oil in 1938 that catapulted Kuwait into becoming one of the world's major oil-producing nations. Today, Kuwait relies on migrant workers for various sectors of its economy, including construction, domestic work, and hospitality.

Unfortunately, migrant workers endure harsh living and working conditions, which leads to severe mental health issues. Many are turning to Christ but church leaders in migrant churches lack training. Therefore, the Bible Society in the Gulf is training church leaders in biblical topics through seminars and Bible distribution programs.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that the plight of the many migrant workers, who continue to suffer, will be eased.
- Pray that church leaders may continue to grow in faith and zeal to reach out to others, seeking wisdom from the Lord.
- Pray that Kuwaiti Arabs will be increasingly exposed to Christianity through travel, business contacts, and studying abroad.

### Scripture:

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." Acts 16:5 (NIV)

## HAITI

**Capital:** Port-au-Prince

**Population:** 11.4 million

**Languages:** French, Creole

**Religions:** Christianity 84%,  
Vodou 2%, other/none 14%

(In 2003, the government officially recognised Vodou as a religion.)



In 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the island of Hispaniola, now known as Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The indigenous people, the Arawaks, were wiped out by European diseases. In 1697, Spain and France signed a treaty, which saw Spain cede the western third of the island to France. It became France's most prosperous New World possession. In 1791, the slaves revolted, achieving independence in 1804.

Politically, Haiti has had a troubled history of bloodshed and dictatorships. The 2010 earthquake devastated what little was left of the economic infrastructure. In 2021, President Jovenel Moise was assassinated. Currently, the country is in crisis with gangs controlling eighty per cent of the capital, Port-au-Prince. In the midst of this, the staff of the Haitian Bible Society are endeavouring to bring Scriptures to people in their beleaguered nation.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for a government to be installed that can restore order and for Haiti's economic, political, and social infrastructure.
- Pray for school children who are currently unable to attend school because the schools are closed due to the political crisis.
- Pray for healing from the past for Haitians and for the country to be put on a stable footing.

### Scripture:

"Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God."  
Leviticus 25:43 (NIV)



## SERBIA (BAMRG)

**Capital:** Belgrade

**Population:** 6.7 million

**Languages:** Serbian (official), Hungarian, Bosnian, Romani, Croatian.

**Religions:** Christianity 91%, Islam 3%, other/none 6%.



For centuries, Serbia has been ruled by other empires including the Ottomans and Austria-Hungary. In the 20th century, forty-five years of communism, inclusion in Yugoslavia, and the devastating Balkan wars between 1992 – 1995 have left Serbia with a bitter legacy and a desperate economy. Today, the effects of war and the global economic crisis have led to high unemployment rates.

Such is the case in southern Serbia where many families are struggling to make ends meet. Partnering with the Orthodox Church, Bible Society is working to establish Bible study groups to help strengthen families in their faith. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the project went digital which meant that young people could be reached with the Word of God as well.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the sustainability of the project so that it can continue to help people in southern Serbia engage with the Word.
- Pray for revival that frees churches from empty tradition and establishes a powerful witness.
- Pray for the many issues that the country is still struggling to recover from, including a devastated economy, and a fragile democracy.

### Scripture:

"Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." Psalm 36:5 (NIV)

## LIBERIA

**Capital:** Monrovia

**Population:** 5.5 million

**Languages:** English, 27 indigenous languages.

**Religions:** Christianity 85%, Islam 12%, Traditional 0.5%, other/none 2.5%.



Unlike its West African neighbours, Liberia did not come under European rule during the colonial period. In 1822, the United States began sending freed slaves to the area 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."

The freed slaves brought Christianity with them from the United States. Today, 86 per cent of Liberians identify as Christian. In the late 20th century, Liberia experienced two civil wars (1989 – 1996) and (1997 – 2003) and an Ebola outbreak.

The Bible Society in Liberia is providing Scriptures to new believers in rural communities, who have completed the Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) programme and have developed some literacy skills.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for healing for people from the pain caused by two civil wars and an Ebola outbreak, and for rebuilding to occur.
- 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.

### Scripture:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

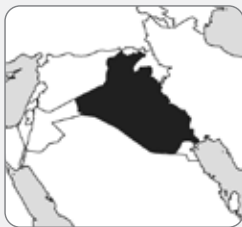
## IRAQ

**Capital:** Baghdad

**Population:** 41 million

**Languages:** Arabic, Kurdish, Turkmen.

**Religions:** Islam 98%, Christianity 1%, other 1%.



Often known as the “cradle of civilization,” modern Iraq occupies what was once ancient Mesopotamia. In the first century AD, Christianity reached Iraq, brought there by Saint Thomas. It was adopted by Assyrian communities who today are some of the oldest Christian communities in the world.

Before the Gulf War, there were one million Christians in Iraq, but after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, the number fell to 800,000. Since then, the number of Christians has continued to plummet with persecution the leading cause. Today, Christians make up only one per cent of the population. This makes it even more imperative that the Bible Society in Iraq continue to maintain its two offices which are vital to its ministry, one in the north of the country and one in the south.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for believers to stand firm in their faith despite persecution and terror.
- Pray for the safety of Bible Society staff in Iraq and that Bible mission will continue in that country.
- Pray for healing for people from the trauma they have experienced and for the elimination of corruption.

### Scripture:

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." Romans 12:14 (NIV)

## MOROCCO

**Capital:** Rabat

**Population:** 37 million

**Languages:** Arabic (official), Tamazight languages, French.

**Religions:** Islam 99%, other 1% (includes Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i).



Morocco was originally inhabited by Berbers, who were conquered by Muslim Arabs after 684 AD. In the 17th century, Morocco was colonised by France and Spain. In 1912, the nation was split into French and Spanish protectorates. Morocco became independent in 1956 and established a constitutional monarchy in 1972. The king is both the head of state and religion and has declared all those born in Morocco to be Sunni Muslim.

However, it is thought there are around 40,000 Christians in Morocco, although some say there are tens of thousands more who keep their faith a secret. Here, preaching or confessing Jesus can lead to persecution or even being put in prison. Despite that, every week Bible Society receives up to 100 enquiries from people requesting Bibles. It also supports churches and links new believers to churches.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that barriers to people hearing the gospel including deep-rooted prejudice against Christianity will be overcome.
- Pray for fellowship and unity among a Church that meets almost entirely in homes and where believers are isolated.
- Pray for safety and protection around the Bible Society staff as they engage with seekers and with churches.

### Scripture:

"And because of His words many more became believers." John 4:41 (NIV)

## TURKEY (TÜRKIYE)

**Capital:** Ankara

**Population:** 83.5 million

**Languages:** Turkish (official), Kurdish, other minority languages.

**Religions:** Islam 99.8%, other 0.2% (e.g. Christianity and Jewish).



Many early Christians came to Asia Minor to escape persecution. In 380 AD, Christianity was declared the official religion during the reign of Theodosius I. The first ecumenical councils were held at Nicaea (modern-day Iznik) in the Marmara region. During the Ottoman period, the "Dhimmi" tax was introduced meaning non-Muslims had to pay 50 per cent of their earnings to the rulers.

In modern times, the percentage of Christians in Turkey has declined from 20 to 25 per cent in 1914 to 3–5.5 per cent in 1927, to less than 0.2 per cent today, which is somewhere between 200,000–320,000 believers. In 1924, Turkey became a secular state with no official religion. The Bible Society of Turkey is reaching out to Turkish people through its Bible bookshop hubs in Istanbul and Izmir.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that people will come to know Christ even though it is culturally accepted to be Turkish means to be a Muslim.
- Pray for the Gospel to advance in power despite encountering deep-seated resistance, intense prejudice, and mistrust.
- Pray that Bible Society's bookshops will be a beacon of light and that people will be drawn to them.

### Scripture:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

## GHANA (BAMRG)

**Capital:** Accra

**Population:** 33.8 million

**Languages:** Asante, Ewe, Fante, Boron, Dagomba, Dangme, Dagarte, Kokomba, Akyem, Ga.

**Religions:** Christianity 71%, Islam 20%, traditionalist 3%, other/none 6%.



The modern state of Ghana is named for the African empire that flourished until the 13th century. In 1471, the Portuguese arrived. By the 1600s, Europeans were trading gold and slaves from the region. The local Ashanti tribe provided slaves to the Europeans. In 1874, the Europeans defeated the Ashanti turning the Gold Coast into a colony. In 1957, Ghana became the first African colony to gain independence from Britain. In 1960, it became a republic, and in 1992, it became a democracy.

The Bible Society of Ghana advocates for the Bible through Bible Week. It supports people through trauma healing programmes. It is distributing children's Bibles to children in schools, and it is translating the Bible into local languages.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks that relatively speaking compared to its neighbouring countries Ghana is a politically stable and peaceful democracy.
- Give thanks that Ghana enjoys a rich Christian tradition but pray for evangelism among the unreached especially in the north.
- Give thanks that the Bible has already been translated into nine local languages but pray for ongoing translation work into other languages.

### Scripture:

"He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat." Psalm 147:14 (NIV)

## INDIA

**Capital:** New Delhi

**Population:** 1.4 billion

**Languages:** 22 official languages including Hindi, Bengali, and Telugu.

**Religions:** Hindu 80%, Islam 14%, Christianity 2.3%, Sikhism 2%, other/none 1.7%.



In 52 AD, Christianity reached Kerala, India, brought there by Saint Thomas. There were two subsequent migrations of Christians from the Middle East to Kerala, in the 4th and the 9th centuries. Today, Christians make up 2.4 per cent of India's population, about 32 million people out of 1.4 billion. Around half of Christians live in South India, and many also live in India's more sparsely populated Northeast.

The Bible Society of India is reaching out to suffering Christian widows who suffer rejection from their families after they are widowed. Through Bible engagement workshops it provides Christian widows with Bibles along with additional support such as counselling, and food aid.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for creative, effective teaching models by the nation's seminaries to equip the country's pastors and leaders for mission.
- Pray that Christians will witness to non-believers at every level of society as currently many associate Christianity with the lower castes.
- Pray for suffering Christian widows and women, that the project will empower them and heal them.

### Scripture:

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling." Psalm 68:5 (NIV)

## CAMEROON

**Capital:** Yaounde

**Population:** 30.1 million

**Languages:** English, French (both official), 24 major African language groups.

**Religions:** Christianity 71%, Islam 24%, animism 2%, other/none 3%.



The earliest inhabitants of Cameroon were the Baka (pygmies), followed by Bantu speakers in the highlands. In the 15th century, the Portuguese reached the coast. They named the area Rio dos Camaroes (River of Shrimp), which later became Cameroon. Between 1884 – 1919, Cameroon was a German colony. Post World War I, it became a mandated territory under French and British protection up until 1945. In 1961, the two sides formed the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

Today, poverty is high especially, in rural areas, where structural underdevelopment and recurring climate events hinder local growth. Today, the Bible Society of Cameroon is working to translate the Bible into local languages, it is providing literacy classes. It is working to reduce teenage pregnancies by empowering girls to stand up against peer pressure.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for a government without corruption that will meet the basic needs of its people including clean water, food, and health.
- Pray for the churches where nominal Christianity is widespread, for deep-seated repentance and revival.
- Pray for church leaders and pastors to have pure motives and to lead their churches with integrity.

### Scripture:

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word." Psalm 119:9 (NIV)



## PERU

**Capital:** Lima

**Population:** 32.4 million

**Languages:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara.

**Religions:** Christian 75%, other/none 25%.



In 1532, the Spanish conquered the Inca Empire establishing the encomienda system whereby Spanish soldiers were rewarded with land, effectively enslaving the indigenous population. Along with this came enforced conversion to Catholicism, which led to syncretism between Catholicism and indigenous beliefs.

In 1824, Peru achieved independence from Spain, but since then the country has struggled under a series of dictatorships and repressive military rule. Unfortunately, Peru suffers from high levels of domestic violence. Through its "Building Healthy Families" course the Bible Society of Peru is endeavouring to strengthen families and prevent domestic violence. Partnering with churches, the course includes Bible study sessions and the provision of subsidised Scriptures for families.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for a return to peace and stability after decades of corruption, dictatorships, and terror.
- Pray for pastors who are trained in biblical theology who can show the face of Jesus to those around them.
- Pray for Christians to boldly oppose sin and injustice while also ministering to the poor and oppressed.

### Scripture:

"The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed." Psalm 103:6 (NIV)

**ZIMBABWE (BAMRG)****Capital:** Harare**Population:** 15.4 million**Languages:** 16 official languages:

Chewa, Chibarwe, English, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, sign language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa.

**Religions:** Christianity 85%, African traditionalist 5%, other/none 10%.

Once, Zimbabwe was ruled by various tribal groups. In the 16th century, the Portuguese arrived. In the 1880s, the country came under British rule. In 1965, the white minority declared independence from Britain. In 1980, Zimbabwe declared independence, with Robert Mugabe as the first Prime Minister. In 2002, under the Land Acquisition Act, white-owned farms were redistributed to black farmers. The country has experienced hyperinflation and economic meltdown driving millions into poverty.

Partnering with churches, the Bible Society of Zimbabwe is providing audio Bibles in the languages of Shona and Ndebele to poor Christians. Illiteracy and visual impairment means that many are unable to read the Bible, so this enables them to engage with the Bible.

**Prayer Points:**

- Give thanks that the Church has grown in numbers and passion, even while the country is falling apart around them.
- Give thanks that 85 per cent of people identify with Christianity but pray for purity of doctrine among churches and unity among denominations.
- Pray for Zimbabwe's economy as the country has a high national debt, soaring inflation and an unemployment rate over 90 per cent.

**Scripture:**

"So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth."  
Job 5:16 (NIV)

## UKRAINE

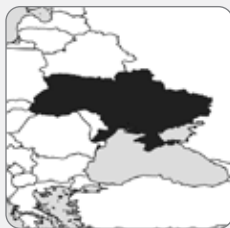
**Capital:** Kiev

**Population:** 43.7 million

**Languages:** Ukrainian, Russian.

**Religions:** Christian 79%

None 19% Other 2%.



In the 18th century, most of Ukraine was absorbed into the Russian Empire. Between 1917 – 1920, the country experienced a brief period of independence before being reconquered by Russia. Under the ensuing brutal Soviet rule and during WWII, millions of Ukrainians died.

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, millions have fled the country, and millions more are internally displaced. In addition, the population suffers greatly from HIV/AIDS and alcoholism. Rampant drugs, crime, and prostitution enslave many vulnerable people. The Bible Society of Ukraine has been providing people with Scriptures and humanitarian aid, including water and food. It supports chaplains who provide Scriptures to soldiers and people living in liberated villages. It is providing family Bibles to families living under pressure.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks that Ukraine has a long Christian heritage, and that during the Soviet era, it was known as the "Bible Belt" of the Soviet Union.
- Give thanks for the work of the Ukrainian Bible Society amidst the ongoing war as the staff seeks to bring Bibles to Ukrainians.
- Give thanks and pray for the fortitude of the Ukrainian people as they continue to resist the invasion of their country by Russian forces.

### Scripture:

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." Isaiah 40:29 (NIV)

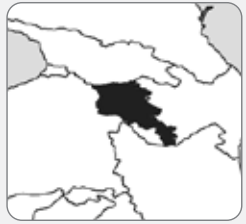
## ARMENIA

**Capital:** Yerevan

**Population:** 3 million

**Languages:** Armenian, Kurdish, Russian.

**Religions:** Christian 94%, other/none/unspecified 6%.



In the 4th century, Armenia adopted Christianity as its official religion. Between 1921 – 1991, Armenia came under Soviet occupation. Between 1921 – 1930, the Armenian people endured systematic repression, followed by the collectivisation of agriculture.

In 1991, Armenia achieved independence. However, it was drawn into a territorial conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The history of the enclave was that it was populated by Christian Armenians, but, in the 1920s, under Stalinist reorganisation it was placed within Azerbaijan's borders. Today, the Bible Society of Armenia is reaching out to people living in border villages. It teaches villagers Bible parables and provides art therapy classes. It is also distributing Bibles, and providing art therapy, first aid and food supplies to Armenians from Artsakh who have been displaced from their ancestral lands by the conflict with Azerbaijan.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the survival of the Armenian Church throughout the centuries, despite frequent harsh oppression.
- Pray for the Armenian diaspora to pray for, evangelize amongst, and disciple Armenians living in-country.
- Pray for all those who have been affected by the conflict with Azerbaijan, that they will find peace and comfort through His Word.

### Scripture:

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

## BOTSWANA

**Capital:** Gaborone

**Population:** 2.4 million

**Languages:** Setswana, Sekalanga, Shekgalagadi, English.

**Religions:** Christian 79%, Badimo 4%, other 1%, none/ unspecified 16%.



In the mid-1870s, Christianity was brought to Botswana by mission organisations, such as the London Missionary Society (LMS) and the Dutch Reformed Mission (DRM). Regional hereditary tribal chiefs converted to Christianity, followed by their tribes. During the latter part of the 19th century, Christianity was established as the official religion of five major Tswana states: Kwena, Ngwaketse, Ngwato, Tawana, and Kgatla.

Today, Botswana is an officially secular country with complete freedom of religion. The Bible Society of Botswana is working to translate the Bible into the language of Mbukushu, a Bantu language spoken by 50,000 people. It is translating Scripture into Botswana's sign language and it is providing Scripture to vulnerable people.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks that Botswana is a stable democracy, has steady economic growth, and that corruption is rare.
- Give thanks that there is good cooperation between the different denominations and ministries in Botswana.
- Pray for the many ministries that are working with AIDS victims and orphans as Botswana has the world's second-highest prevalence of AIDS after Swaziland.

### Scripture:

"The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high. He will fill Zion with His justice and righteousness."  
Isaiah 33:5 (NIV)

## ROMANIA

**Capital:** Bucharest

**Population:** 18.3 million

**Languages:** Romanian (official), Hungarian, Romani.

**Religions:** Christianity 95%, other/none 5%.



By the 3rd century AD, Christianity had reached what is now Romania. In the 16th century, the area came under the Ottoman Empire. In 1862, the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia joined together under the new name of Romania. In World War I, Romania joined the Allied Powers, but in World War II it allied with the Axis Powers. Three years later, overrun by the Soviets, it signed an armistice. In 1947, it became a communist state. In 1965, dictator Nicolae Ceausescu came to power. He was overthrown and executed in 1989. In 2007, Romania became a member of the EU. Today, it is Europe's poorest country.

The Interconfessional Bible Society of Romania is currently revising the Cornilescu Bible, from the 1924 version. It provides Bibles and New Testaments for children, youth, and the elderly.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for revival among nominal Orthodox Christians and for a Christian worldview to replace communist thought in the minds of believers.
- Pray that the legacy of brokenness which endures from the days of Ceausescu's regime where substance abuse, prostitution and pornography run rampant, can be overcome.
- Pray for the economy where there is widespread unemployment, economic instability and corruption.

### Scripture:

"Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind." Psalm 26:2 (NIV)



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A Chinese woman from the West Lisu ethnic group in traditional costume praying before the start of a church service. ©Deborah Yuen



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**BIBLE SOCIETY**

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