



# PRAYER BOOKLET

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JANUARY - APRIL 2025



**BIBLE SOCIETY**  
MANNA CHRISTIAN STORES

# 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. Together, we can pray to support Bible missions worldwide.

With more than 158 Bible Societies operating in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide, there's plenty to pray for!

Some of our prayers relate to projects we are currently supporting (these projects are tagged in the booklet).

Other projects reflect the broader range of our mission. Our staff prays for projects weekly. You can also be involved through this booklet.

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

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**Front cover image: Partnering with other organisations, the American Bible Society is distributing free Scripture to people in prison which has helped many to find peace and hope.**

**PHOTO CREDIT ©CHRIS LEAMAN**

**Back cover image: A young boy praying at a Sunday school in a church in Kathmandu, Nepal**

**PHOTO CREDIT © BRUCE MILLAR**

*“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 challenges. 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 United Bible Societies 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 worldwide, many of which are supported by BSNZ from January to April.

Sign up for a prayer e-newsletter by emailing:  
[bibles@biblesociety.org.nz](mailto:bibles@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 Group come together weekly to pray for projects that we are currently supporting during our chapel session.

**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.



A Ukrainian woman during a time of prayer at a church in Kharkov.

PHOTO CREDIT: ©Dag Smemo

**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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## UKRAINE (BAMRG)

**Capital:** Kiev

**Population:** 35.6 million

**Languages:** Ukrainian, Russian

**Religions:** Christian 79%, none/  
other 21%



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 a brutal Soviet rule and during WWII, millions of Ukrainians died. In 1991, the country achieved independence.

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 with humanitarian aid, including water and food. It supports chaplains who provide Scriptures to soldiers and to 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 including being the “Bible Belt” during the Soviet era which caused it to suffer persecution.
- Pray for active cooperation between Bible Society and its partner organisations and for everyone who risks their lives to bring the Gospel to the frontlines
- Pray for peace in Ukraine and God's guidance of the governments of all countries involved in the ongoing war.

### Scripture:

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37 (NIV)

## NIGERIA

**Capital:** Abuja

**Population:** 236.7 million

**Languages:** English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani, 500 indigenous languages.

**Religions:** Islam 54%, Christianity 50%, other 6%



In 1807, Bible mission in Nigeria began. In 1966, the Bible Society of Nigeria was founded. Today, Bible Society is reaching out to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are living in camps. In 2023, official figures showed the number of IDPs to be 3.3 million people. The reasons for the displacement include social unrest, inter-ethnic conflict, and natural disasters. Bible Society is supporting IDPs by providing them with Bibles, school bags, bedding, clothing, and toiletries.

Bible Society is also working to provide the deaf community, whose members often sit on the margins of faith communities, with Scripture in Nigerian Sign Language. To date, the team has produced 77 Bible stories in chronological order. They hope to have the Gospel of Matthew available this year.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for wisdom, patience and accuracy for the translation team as they seek to translate the Bible into Nigerian Sign Language.
- Pray for Internally Displaced Persons that through the Scripture they receive they will find healing and peace.
- False teachings are an issue in the Church in Nigeria. Pray for new believers to receive Scripture, and the correct spiritual direction and guidance.

### Scripture:

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.  
Psalm 100:5 (NIV)

## SYRIA

**Capital:** Damascus

**Population:** 23.8 million

**Languages:** Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian, French, English

**Religions:** Islam 87%, Christian 10%, Druze 3%



Syria is an ancient civilization with Damascus being the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Formerly under the Ottoman Empire, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion after World War I. In 1946, the country achieved independence, but it lacked political stability. In 1958, Syria united with Egypt to form the United Arab Republic. In 1961, the Syrian Arab Republic was re-established.

In 2011, the Syrian Civil War began as part of the Arab Spring uprisings. In 2022, 13 million Syrians had been displaced and 6.7 million refugees had fled the country. The number of Christians has fallen from 8 per cent of the population to two per cent. The Bible Society of Syria is seeking to encourage Christian children in their faith through Scripture distribution.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for Christians who have remained despite persecution and displacement that they will shine the light of Jesus Christ to those around them.
- Pray for safety and protection for Bible Society staff, church members and volunteers who are assisting in the distribution of Scriptures.
- Pray that the children who are receiving Scripture materials will be impacted through His Word.

### Scripture:

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:3 (NIV)



## JORDAN

**Capital:** Amman

**Population:** 11.1 million

**Languages:** Arabic, English

**Religions:** Islam 97%,  
Christianity 2%, other/none 1%



Jordan is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world whose presence date back to the 1st century AD. In 1930, Christians made up 20 per cent of the population, but today they number only two per cent.

In 1972, the Bible Society of Jordan was formed. It distributes Bibles through churches, book stands, and an e-commerce website, along with showcasing hundreds of Bibles and Christian publications in its showroom in many different languages.

The Bible Society of Jordan's vision is to create a Bible Hub and Resource Centre.

This will include a Resource Centre, a Bible Academy, and a Family Centre that will provide a safe space for individuals and families where they can participate in developmental courses.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that every visitor to the Bible Hub finds a peaceful sanctuary, and spiritual guidance and encouragement.
- Pray for current religious freedom in Jordan to remain despite increasing pressure to suppress it.
- Pray for trained leaders in the church, both lay and ordained, as the steady flow of emigration has drained the body of believers.

### Scripture:

May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. Psalm 72:11 (NIV)

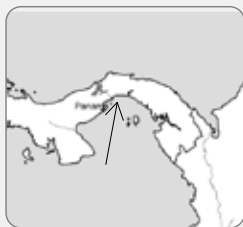
## PANAMA

**Capital:** Panama City

**Population:** 4.4 million

**Languages:** Spanish (official), many indigenous languages, English.

**Religions:** Christianity 88%  
other/none 12%



Situated between Costa Rica and Colombia, Panama serves as the land bridge between North and South America. During the Spanish Colonial period, the route became known as the Camino Real (Royal Road), across which much gold and silver made its way before departing for Spain. Having endured nearly three centuries of Spanish rule, followed by dictators, Panama has lately enjoyed relative peace and democratic rule.

Today, around five per cent of global maritime trade passes through the Panama Canal.

Despite this, many in the country suffer from poverty with 40 per cent living below the poverty line. The government officially recognises eight indigenous languages. The Bible Society of Panama is seeking to provide these ethnic groups with an audio New Testament, the Jesus Film and the printed Bible in their heart language.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the Gospel to impact the many issues that plague Panama such as divorce, domestic violence, and drug use.
- Pray for local churches to be more effective in their mission as despite being a Christian-majority country nominalism is still widespread.
- Panama's strategic location sees it attract other less desirable forces such as drug cartels. Pray for the government to root out corruption.

### Scripture:

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
Psalm 19:7 (NIV)

## ARMENIA

**Capital:** Yerevan

**Population:** 3 million

**Languages:** Armenian, Kurdish, Russian

**Religions:** Christianity 97%, other/none 3%



In the 4th century, Armenia adopted Christianity as its official religion. Between 1921-1991, Armenia was under Soviet occupation. Between 1921 – 1930, the Armenian people endured systematic repression and the collectivisation of agriculture which had the aim of reducing the economic power of prosperous peasants. In 1991, Armenia achieved independence, but it was drawn into a territorial conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which under Stalin had been placed within Azerbaijan's borders.

Today, the Bible Society of Armenia is undertaking Bible translation projects, including producing a new Study Bible. It runs Bible quizzes in schools and provides Scripture for disabled children. It is reaching out to people living in border villages in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and to people displaced by the conflict in the Artsakh region with Scripture and trauma healing programmes.

### Prayer Points:

- As Bible reading among believers is rare, pray that the new Bible translations, once available, will ignite a new passion for the Bible among believers.
- With a strong Christian heritage, pray that Armenian Christians may become salt and light to people in the surrounding region.
- Pray for deep spiritual regeneration within the Church and for godly leaders to be raised up.

### Scripture:

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5 (NIV)

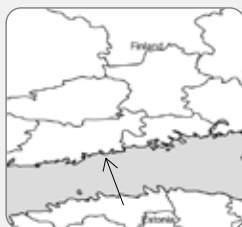
## FINLAND

**Capital:** Helsinki

**Population:** 5.6 million

**Languages:** Finnish, Swedish, Russian

**Religions:** Christian 68% other/none 32%



Christianity in Finland has deep historical roots, going back to the Middle Ages. During the Reformation in the 16th century, Finland adopted Lutheranism when it was under Swedish rule. In 1917, Finland declared independence from Russia becoming a constitutional republic. Religious freedom was enshrined under the 1919 constitution.

Today, many Finnish people identify as Lutheran. However, church attendance is declining and other forces such as secularism and materialism are increasing. In 1946, the Finnish Bible Society was established. It takes a global leadership role supporting other Bible Societies that are running literacy projects. In March 2024, it released a new translation of the book of Psalms in Finnish available in digital and audio formats, through which it hopes to make the Old Testament accessible to a new, younger generation.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the Lutheran Church, the main denomination in Finland, for growth and a more vibrant and dynamic worship that draws young people into the fold.
- Pray that churches in Finland will send more missionaries to surrounding countries such as Russia and the Baltic States.
- Give thanks that 84 per cent of Finnish people identify as Christian but pray for revival as the last revival occurred in the 1960s and local church attendance is declining.

### Scripture:

"The LORD turn his face toward you and give you

## NORTHERN ISRAEL

**Capital:** Nazareth

**Population:** 1.528 million (2023)

**Languages:** Hebrew and Arabic, Russian, English, French, Aramaic.

**Religions:** Jewish 73.6%

Muslim 18.1%, Christian 1.9% Druze 1.6

The remaining 4.8% included faiths such as Samaritanism and Bahá'í, as well as "religiously unclassified"



In 1816, Bible work began in the Holy Land. The region of Galilee was served by a small office under the Bible Society in Israel. In 2008, three different Bible Societies were created to serve different people groups. The Arab Israeli Bible Society is based in Nazareth and serves an Arab population, which include Muslims, Druze, and Christians.

The Arab Israeli Bible Society ministers to women and families by running family conferences and women's breakfasts. But with the advent of the war, they have expanded this to include distributing Scripture, in both printed and digital formats, which they hope will renew a spiritual focus and foster peace. Through existing programmes including trauma healing and bullying in schools they have been able to respond quickly to the needs of the community.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the work of the Arab Israeli Bible Society and for safety and protection for its staff.
- Pray that by sowing the seeds of peace, reconciliation and forgiveness, a new generation will adopt biblical alternatives to war.
- Pray that God will touch the heart of marginalised women who are exposed to the Word of God though the mission.

### Scripture:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

## GUATEMALA

**Capital:** Guatemala City

**Population:** 18.2 million

**Languages:** Spanish, 23 indigenous languages

**Religions:** Christian 88%  
other/none 18%



In the 16th century, Spanish colonists brought Christianity to Guatemala. In 1821, Guatemala became independent of Spain, after which it was controlled by a few plantation owners through a series of dictatorships and military governments. The poor, especially indigenous Mayans, suffered years of indignity and deprivation. In 1960, this suppression exploded into 36 years of guerrilla warfare.

Today, Guatemala is facing many issues, including high levels of violence, poverty, and teen pregnancy rates. The Bible Society of Guatemala is providing life-changing Scripture for adolescent gang members in prison. It is supporting Sunday schools in gang zones to try to prevent children from being recruited into gangs. It is providing practical aid and Scripture for teen mothers. It is providing Scripture for intellectually disabled children and Braille Scripture for visually impaired people.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that the government and police will exert control over the gangs, drug traffickers and organised crime groups which inflict so much violence on the population.
- Pray for the economy as more than half the population is living in poverty and 40 per cent of children under five are malnourished.
- Pray for healing for a country where there has been terrible mistreatment of the indigenous population and war atrocities on both sides.

### Scripture:

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

## SOUTH AFRICA

**Capital:** Pretoria  
(administrative), Cape Town  
(legislative), Bloemfontein  
(judicial).

**Population:** 60.4 million

**Languages:** Eleven official  
languages, including English, isiZulu, and isiXhosa.

**Religions:** Christianity 86%, traditional 5%, Islam 2%,  
other/none 7%



The region was first inhabited by Bantu-speaking tribes. In 1652, the Dutch established Cape Town as a stopover point on the spice route to the Far East. In 1806, the British arrived. In 1879, the British seized the Zulu kingdom's territory during the Anglo-Zulu War. Between 1899-1902, the British and the Boers fought the Second South African War. In 1948, the National Party instituted a policy of apartheid. Many African National Congress (ANC) leaders spent decades in prison.

In 1994, the first multi-racial elections took place ushering in majority rule under an ANC-led government. Since then, South Africa has struggled to address apartheid-era imbalances in wealth, housing, education, and health care. The Bible Society of South Africa is providing Grade 7 learners with Bibles to help them navigate the challenges in life you are facing.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the economy as the country struggles with extremely high levels of poverty and inequality, along with widespread unemployment.
- Pray for those working for justice and for people's safety including the police force as violence and crime rates are alarmingly high.
- Give thanks for the continuing, expanding mission

### Scripture:

His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. Habakkuk 3:3 (NIV)

## KAZAKHSTAN

**Capital:** Astana

**Population:** 20.2 million

**Languages:** Kazakh, Russian

**Religions:** Islam 69%, Christianity 17%, other/none 14%



In the seventh and eighth centuries Christianity reached Kazakhstan with the arrival of Assyrian Christians in the region. The expansion of the Russian Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries saw the arrival of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In 1936, present-day Kazakhstan became a Soviet republic. The country endured seventy years of religious repression as the Communist Party sought to eradicate religion, and even after its collapse anti-religious sentiment has remained strong. In 2011, the government of Kazakhstan enacted its Religion Law that outlines strict registration requirements for religious communities.

In this environment the Bible Society of Kazakhstan is working to bring people a new translation of the Kazakh Bible, it is providing children's Bibles in Russian, and it is distributing Bibles to families and to people living in remote places.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for growth in the Kazakh Church which went from no believers in 1990 to around 15,000 in 2010.
- Give thanks for Christian partnerships and alliances which cross both ethnic and denominational lines and for the many mixed ethnic churches.
- Pray for children receiving Russian Bibles that they and their families will be impacted by the Word.

### Scripture:

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. Psalm 119:50 (NIV)



## ECUADOR

**Capital:** Quito

**Population:** 18.3 million

**Languages:** Spanish (official), indigenous, e.g. Quechua, other

**Religions:** Christianity 87%, other/none 13%



Ecuador was originally inhabited by Native Americans who were incorporated into the Inca Empire during the 15th century. In the 16th century, the territory was colonised by the Spanish. In 1820, Ecuador achieved independence as part of Gran Colombia, emerging as a sovereign state in 1830. Since then, the country has struggled to attain political stability.

Currently, Ecuador is going through one of the most negative periods in its history. The country was economically devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As well, international drug cartels have begun operating bringing a drastic deterioration in security and increased violence. The Bible Society of Ecuador is running audio trauma healing programmes for people who are suffering in this environment. It is distributing 1,000 Bibles to indigenous Christians who have completed the Faith Comes by Hearing programme.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for wise government leaders who are committed to justice and willing to address difficult social issues.
- Pray that people who receive the Word of God through Bible Society projects will be touched and impacted by it.
- Pray for a spiritual maturity in the Church that roots out false teaching and embraces a heart for the less evangelised.

### Scripture:

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

## GEORGIA

**Capital:** Tbilisi

**Population:** 4.9 million

**Languages:** Georgian (official), Azeri, Armenian, Russian

**Religions:** Christianity 86%, Islamic 11%, other/none 3%



Christian history in Georgia dates to the time of the apostles. Over time, the Georgian Orthodox Church has played an important role in maintaining Georgian culture. The country has known centuries of domination by surrounding empires. In the 19th century, it was absorbed into the Russian Empire. It was independent for three years (1918 – 21) following the Russian Revolution but was forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1921.

In 1991, Georgia regained its independence when the Soviet Union dissolved. It has two breakaway regions- Abkhazia and South Ossetia-which are supported and recognised by Russia. In 2003, public discontent over corruption prompted the Rose Revolution. In 2018, the Bible Society in Georgia completed the translation of the New Testament into Georgian. It is currently translating the Old Testament, which it hopes to complete by 2028.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks that since the fall of communism many Georgians have returned to the Church and despite widespread nominalism, there are signs of growth.
- Pray that Russian interference and support for the breakaway regions will end and that Georgia will know peace.
- Pray for the economy which is very reliant on agriculture to improve, along with high unemployment rates in villages.

### Scripture:

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13 (NIV)

## ZIMBABWE

**Capital:** Harare

**Population:** 17.1 million

**Languages:** Shona, Ndebele, English, 13 minority languages (all official).

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



Around 2,000 years ago, the Bantu people arrived in the region now known as Zimbabwe. In the 1880s, the British South Africa Company began its activities, leading to the colonial era in Southern Rhodesia. In 1965, the white minority declared itself independent from Britain but failed to secure international recognition. Internally, it faced opposition in the Rhodesian Bush War which lasted fifteen years.

In 1979, the Lancaster House Agreement briefly restored Britain's colonial authority. In the 2000s, the economy began to deteriorate due to economic sanctions by Western countries and widespread economic corruption in the government. The Bible Society of Zimbabwe is translating the Bible into the languages of Chikunda, Tonga and Zimbabwean Sign Language. It has initiated the Faith Comes by Hearing programme and is supplying audio Bibles in the Shona and Ndebele languages.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the many issues Zimbabwe is facing including persistent inflation, low-productivity agriculture and high unemployment.
- Pray for the Church in Zimbabwe, for purity in doctrine as many people mix Christianity with indigenous beliefs, and unity among denominations.
- Pray that the hearts of those doing the Faith Comes by Hearing programme may be opened and they will accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

### Scripture:

Consequently, faith comes by hearing the message.  
Romans 10:17 (NIV)

## SLOVENIA (BAMRG)

**Capital:** Ljubljana

**Population:** 2 million

**Languages:** Slovene (official), Croatian, Serbo-Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian, Hungarian.

**Religions:** Christianity 74%, Islam 3%, other/none 23%



Dominated for centuries by Austria, Slovenia became a part of the Yugoslav Federation in 1918. In 1991, it achieved independence, becoming a member of the EU in 2004. In the 8th century, Christianity had been accepted by Slavic tribes in Slovenia. Today, Slovenians enjoy freedom of religion, with a traditional Catholic culture that is rapidly giving way to secularism.

Churches are seeking new alternatives to pastoral work. The Bible Society of Slovenia is supporting Catholic churches and other denominations by training them to run ecclesia groups where people read and engage with the Bible. It is providing spiritual tools such as a Journaling New Testament and a Healing Bible. It is training facilitators to run trauma healing groups for broken-hearted people. Many people transition to trauma healing groups after completing their Bible study.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for an awakening in the mainline churches that draws the many nominal Christians into personal faith in Christ.
- Pray for young people to have the perseverance to complete the group study, and for group leaders who promote the vision of the project.
- Pray for more means of engaging Slovenes with the Bible such as Christian literature, bookshops and radio.

### Scripture:

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

## BOLIVIA

**Capital:** La Paz (administrative);  
Sucre (constitutional)

**Population:** 12.3 million

**Languages:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Guarani, other indigenous languages (all official).

**Religions:** Christianity 85%, other/none 15%



In 1538, the Spanish defeated Inca forces near Lake Titicaca, allowing Spanish penetration into central and southern Bolivia. Although native resistance continued for some years, the Spanish conquerors pushed forward, founding the cities of La Paz in 1549 and Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1561. However, the remoteness of the country did protect the Indigenous population from European diseases to some degree.

Unfortunately, corrupt and unstable governments have rendered Ecuador Latin America's poorest nation. The Bolivian Bible Society is providing trauma healing programmes for women, children, and youth affected by abuse and violence. Many of the children are in state run orphanages and the women attend family support centres. It is providing literacy classes for Aymara children in the Lake Titicaca area. It is providing Scripture portions for churches to distribute to families.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for impoverished farmers who grow the coca leaf because it is profitable, to begin growing other crops to make a living out of agriculture.
- Pray for Christians who practice a syncretic form of Christianity combining it with traditional Inca religions to come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for training for church leaders as only a tiny fraction have formal theological training.

### Scripture:

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. Psalm 14:6 (NIV)

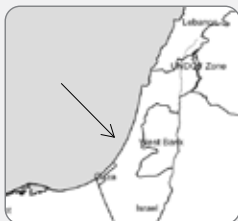
## PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

**Capital:** Jerusalem, Ramallah

**Population:** 5.5 million

**Languages:** Arabic, Hebrew, English

**Religions:** Islam 83% Jewish 14% Christianity 2.5% other 0.5%



The Palestinian Bible Society (PBS) is based in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is the main source of Scriptures in the Palestinian territories and East Jerusalem, distributing Scripture through churches, schools and universities, and using different media such as radio and social media to proclaim the Bible. It has distributed thousands of calendars through distribution centres and shops.

PBS builds relationships with all churches and denominations and does frequent visits to all partner churches. It has printed the Armenian Children's Bible—a significant achievement—and the Armenian Church leadership has already received some copies.

With the advent of the war the PBS is endeavouring to support people including its staff some of whom have been impacted by the war by bringing them the comfort of God's Word along with practical aid.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for a soon end to the war and for help to be given to the needy people of the different areas.
- Pray for the work of the Palestinian Bible Society as it reaches out to people with the Gospel message, which now in wartime is needed more than ever.
- Pray for protection for the staff of the Palestinian Bible Society, which has had its offices in the Gaza Strip destroyed in the bombings.

### Scripture:

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Matthew 14:14 (NIV)

## UGANDA

**Capital:** Kampala

**Population:** 49.2 million

**Languages:** English, Ganda, Swahili, Arabic, other Niger-Con-go languages.

**Religions:** Christian 84% Islam 14% other/none 2%



By 1200, several large kingdoms were established in the area, which had long been a crossroads of migration. In the 1860s, British explorers arrived seeking the source of the Nile River. In 1894, Uganda became a British protectorate. In 1962, Uganda achieved independence, which was followed by two decades of political instability.

In 1971, Idi Amin seized political power in a coup plunging the country into economic ruin and mass atrocities that saw as many as 500,000 civilians killed. In 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army terrorised Ugandan citizens. In 1986, President Museveni came to power, but political corruption remains a reality to this day.

The Bible Society of Uganda is distributing Bibles in schools and churches. It is providing Braille Scriptures to visually impaired people many of whom suffer from discrimination within their communities.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that visually disabled people will be able to access health and education services and other things they require.
- Pray for the Ugandan Church which continues to be afflicted by nominalism, secularism, materialism, and a lack of unity.
- Pray for the many NGOs and ministries that are working among the many people who have experienced immense suffering.

### Scripture:

The LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. Psalm 146:8 (NIV)



NEW ZEALAND

**BIBLE SOCIETY**  
MANNA CHRISTIAN STORES



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