

# Bible a Month

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Your support through Bible a Month helped Emmanuel (wearing the check shirt) receive Bible storytelling training in Dubai. His Bible stories have given joy to people of all ages in his home village in Ghana. Photos: Bible Society in the Gulf

## Eyewitness Report

*Emmanuel learnt Bible storytelling in the Gulf and then spread the gospel in Ghana.*



**By Emmanuel**

Trained Bible Storyteller

## Saved in the Gulf to witness in Africa



**Emmanuel escaped from a cult in Africa and found Jesus in the Gulf, thanks to your support of Bible work among migrant workers in the region. He's found his calling in Bible storytelling and is now leading people to Jesus:**

It was my turn to do the Bible story. I did the story of Zacchaeus. It was the last time Jesus went to Jericho. After that, Jesus went to Jerusalem to be crucified. One of the main points of the story is how amazingly God rewards those who seek him. At the end of the story, I shared my testimony with other migrant workers.

I am from Ghana in West Africa. My father comes from an animistic

faith. I used to observe him doing all the rituals. But for some reason, he respected Christianity and would force me to attend the local church. I found the church boring so I stopped going. When my father found out I had stopped going to church, he beat me hard. In a quest for the truth, I tried another religion which has a strong presence in Ghana. I accepted this faith and practised it faithfully for some time.

Then I was attracted to a music group that turned out to be a cult. I went through the ceremony to join the cult – cuts on the hands, shoulders and back. You can still see the scars.

Then I discovered this cult was

bondage and God freed me from it. The turning point was street preaching. I witnessed a conversation between a street preacher from a local church and a passer-by. I was so intrigued by the preacher's answers that there and then I decided to attend that church. From there God brought me from West Africa to the Evangelical Church in Dubai where there is a feast of God's word. After the church

**'I shared the Bible stories in two tribal languages. I would sit under a tree and read them to people who would gather around me. The young men heard the Bible stories eagerly.'**

service, I was given free Bible story training, which the Bible Society in the Gulf makes possible.

I am an engineer and I handle the equipment used in drip irrigation. Several months ago, I lost my job. As

our company did not have any more projects, I went back home to Ghana.

I shared the Bible stories in two tribal languages I can speak. I would sit under a tree and read the Bible stories to people who would gather around me. The young men listening to the Bible stories heard them eagerly. My interactive way of teaching that I learnt in the Gulf thanks to Bible Society held their attention fully.

A few months later I was called back to Dubai. Now I am continuing to enjoy learning and presenting more Bible stories. God's ways are amazing. It is by the grace of God that I am here today, doing my best to reach as many people as possible with the word of God. Thank you Bible Society supporters for helping provide this storytelling method and for being there for us.

**Here is how others benefited from *A Strong Foundation*, one of the storytelling books used by Emmanuel and produced by Bible Society in the Gulf thanks to your kind giving:**

This book is like a manual for discipleship. Our desire is to train

**'Our desire is to train all those who attend our church regularly in discipleship so that when they go back to their home countries, they will be good Bible teachers.'**

all those who attend our church regularly in discipleship and when they go back to their villages in Pakistan or move to other countries, they will be good Bible teachers.

*Pastor Isaac, Urdu Congregation, Bahrain*

I used the Bible stories during our weekly visits to prisons. The impact was heartwarming, as the inmates started asking questions and showing interest in our church.

*Sister Beulah, Hebron Telugu Church, Bahrain*

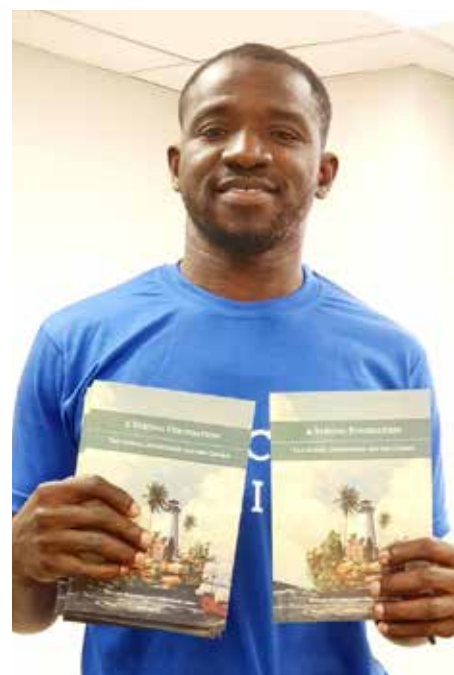
I come from a Western African country. The storytelling method is extremely suitable to us as most of my people are oral learners.

Thank you!

*Pastor Yousef, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*



People flock to hear Emmanuel tell Bible stories in his home village in Ghana.

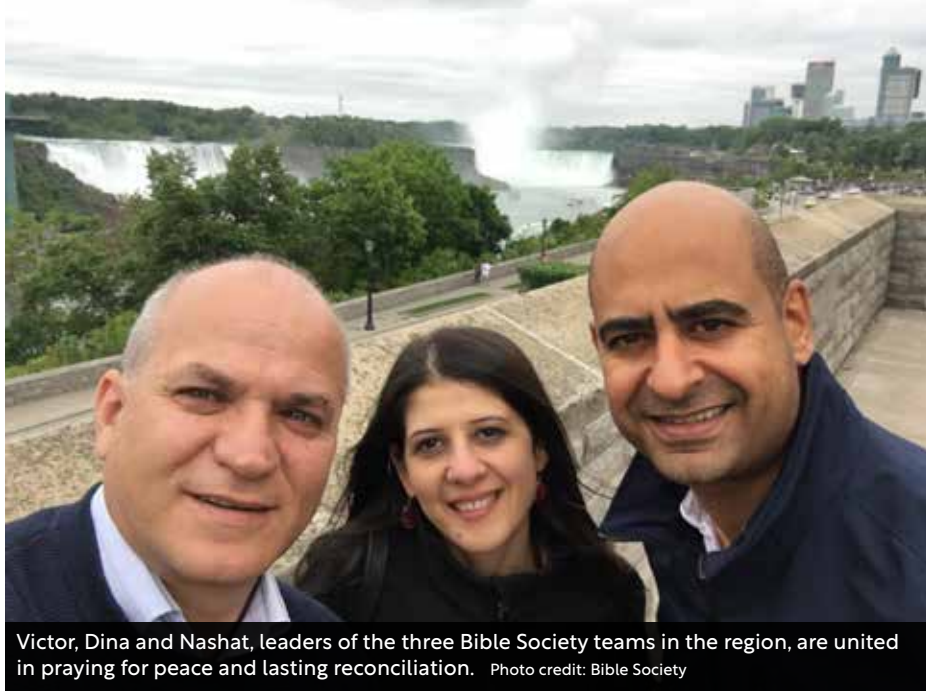


Emmanuel uses the Bible storytelling book *A Strong Foundation* as a starting point for sharing the gospel.



# Mission Update

**The Palestinian, Israeli and Arab Bible Societies are united as peacemakers during the conflict.**



Victor, Dina and Nashat, leaders of the three Bible Society teams in the region, are united in praying for peace and lasting reconciliation. Photo credit: Bible Society

## Let's pray for people broken by war



**It has been a time of terror in the Bible Lands, and the situation often seems hopeless, but we must remember that during periods like this, perhaps more than at any other time, it is an opportunity to share God's love.**

Bible Society supporters have generously given towards an appeal to do just that, raising more than £500,000 at the time of writing for emergency supplies and Bibles. This is on top of the work you regularly support in the Bible Lands through Bible a Month.

**'It is heart-breaking to see the land of Christ screaming from pain. We need to build a culture of peacemakers and a community of forgivers.'**

Thanks to your help, Bible Society teams serving both the Israeli and Palestinian communities are

ministering to people whose lives have been turned upside down and who have lost loved ones.

Your continued support through Bible a Month for work in the Bible Lands is reminding so many people whose lives are on edge that Jesus loves them.

Victor, Dina and Nashat lead the three Bible Society teams in the Bible Lands. Although they serve communities that are in many ways divided from each other, they are united. Victor, who leads the team in Israel, said, 'We pray for each other, we call each other, especially when there are high tensions. We have a testimony of unity in our ministry.'

The Bible Society teams have been sharing God's word and giving out blankets and hygiene items.

Dina, who leads the Arab-Israeli Bible Society team in Galilee, said, 'It is heart-breaking to see the land of Christ screaming from pain. We need to build a culture of peacemakers and a community of forgivers.'

Victor added, 'People are mentally and spiritually devastated. They

are in great need of the hope and encouragement that only the word of God can provide.'

**'We want to share Bible Society's trauma healing programme and reach people with spiritual, social and emotional support.'**

Nashat, who leads the Bible Society team ministering to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, said, 'It is heart-breaking to see and hear the number of casualties ... we want to share Bible Society's trauma healing programme and reach people with spiritual, social and emotional support. The body of Christ is under pressure here.'

Please pray for people broken by war. You may also want to visit Bible Society's online prayer tree at [biblesociety.org.uk/middleeastprayer](https://biblesociety.org.uk/middleeastprayer)

# Answer to prayer ...

## UK Church boosted by Chinese Christians

**The Chinese Church is now the fastest-growing Church in the UK, with 28.8 per cent growth in the last two years, a Bible Society survey has revealed.**

The growth is happening largely in Cantonese congregations, boosted by people emigrating from Hong Kong to the UK since 2021.

Dr Yinxuan ‘Yin’ Huang, who carried out the Bible Society survey, said, ‘This is an exciting time for the Chinese Church in Britain. It is seeing a time of incredible growth, which is also a missional opportunity as others from within the Chinese community are drawn to the Church.’

‘It is also a time when local, English-speaking congregations can welcome people from Hong Kong to their services. There is a real opportunity for growth, but also for learning from each other.’

The new report finds that not all Chinese Christians attend a Chinese church. A quarter prefer to attend an English-speaking church. This means that the current influx of people from Hong Kong represents

an opportunity for established churches to welcome Chinese believers.

One of the fastest-growing Chinese churches is the Manchester Alliance Centre, which has seen six-fold growth. Its pastor, the Revd Wai Chor Chiu, said: ‘When the UK government welcomed Hong Kong people to move, it was quite exciting. The church expanded to six times the original size to more than 1,500. It’s a big change.’

You can watch a video of Chinese Christians talking about their experiences, or download the report in English or Chinese, at [biblesociety.org.uk/BCCB-bam](https://biblesociety.org.uk/BCCB-bam)

To find out more about Yin and the Chinese Church survey, read his story originally published in the Bible a Month prayer letter in 2022: [biblesociety.org.uk/yin-bam](https://biblesociety.org.uk/yin-bam)



Yin holds up a copy of issue 211 of Bible a Month in which he first discussed the Chinese Church survey.  
Photo credit: Alex Baker/Bible Society

### APRIL PRAYERS

Praise the Lord that the Church in the UK has been boosted by the arrival of Chinese Christians.

Pray that the Chinese Church in the UK will go from strength to strength and ethnic Chinese non-believers will encounter Jesus through the Scriptures.

Pray for Christians in Hong Kong, whether they decide to move abroad or remain. Pray they will be given the wisdom and courage to be peacemakers in every circumstance.

## ‘Shadow of the Cross’ Lent resources

Where is Jesus in the Old Testament? This Lent, dive into the Scriptures and let your mind and heart expand with the riches that are there! Come along on our ‘Shadow of the Cross’ journey, and you’ll reach Easter with a renewed appreciation for all that Jesus accomplished on the cross.

The cross of Jesus casts a long shadow, reaching all the way back to the book of Genesis. Each week throughout Lent join us for a tour from Genesis to Malachi as Bible

Society contributors point out the threads that connect the Old Testament to the events of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Each week you’ll journey through a portion of the Old Testament until you come to that last week in the lead up to Easter. Then you’ll be amazed as each day unfolds and the threads you’ve seen in Genesis, Judges, Kings, Psalms, Isaiah and more feed into the events of that unforgettable passion week.

Sign up for free at [biblesociety.org.uk/lent2024](https://biblesociety.org.uk/lent2024) and you’ll receive daily devotions, as text or audio, throughout Lent direct to your inbox.





# Gulf



Storytelling booklets are crucial to evangelism. Photo credit: Bible Society in the Gulf

## Four hundred Christians completed a full course in Bible Storytelling in the Gulf last year.

Your support helped achieve this. Listening to stories, rather than reading, is a cultural tradition for many migrant workers who arrive in the Gulf desperate for work. And when they return to their homeland – whether it be in Africa or the Indian subcontinent – they go on to share the gospel through storytelling. This is Bible engagement at its most impactful, thanks to your support.

A total of 24,400 copies of the booklet *Who is Jesus Christ?* and the storytelling manual *A Strong Foundation* were distributed in more than a dozen languages in the Gulf last year.

Many migrant workers who arrive find themselves in a dreadful environment, working long hours for poor pay, and being housed in camps separated from regular society. It was reported recently that migrant women are held captive in one Gulf state and traded online like slaves. These people are finding hope in Jesus thanks to you. Last year, Bible Society in the Gulf provided Bible-focused healing sessions for 369 migrant workers suffering from trauma. And 3,715 full Bibles or New Testaments were provided in Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

## FEBRUARY PRAYERS

Ask God to protect each member of the Bible Society in the Gulf team as they work in a difficult environment.

Pray that laws will be passed in Gulf countries to improve working and living conditions for migrant workers. And pray that more of them will encounter Jesus through the Bible.

Pray for Emmanuel and ask that there will be many more like him. And thank God for the great success of the Storytelling ministry.

# Bible Lands



Bible workers arrange Scriptures and other aid in Israel during the war. Photo credit: Bible Society in Israel

## Less than two per cent of the population in the Bible Lands is Christian but thanks to your kind support more Bible work is taking place and more people are finding hope in Jesus.

Dina, who is based in Nazareth and leads the Arab-Israeli Bible Society, works with more than 100 churches to distribute Bibles and help women, young people and children particularly to engage with God's

word. One ministry sees Bible-based workshops set up in schools to address bullying and help students realise true peace can be found only through Jesus.

In the West Bank, Nashat and his team run five Christian bookshops and ministry centres. 'Whether it's through leadership training, peace building or trauma healing, we take the word of God to people in the hardest places in the land,' he said.

Victor and his team in Israel run three bookshops in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. He also oversees a huge Bible Society outreach programme in streets and parks. 'We meet many secular young Jews who are searching for something,' said Victor.

This incredible work would not be possible if it wasn't for your regular support through Bible a Month.

## MARCH PRAYERS

Pray for healing. Pray that people will be released from the burden of both physical and mental wounds. Ask God to restore hope to people most affected by the war.

Pray for the three Bible Society teams – their leaders, staff and volunteers. Believe in the power of God to bring them through the conflict energised and not exhausted.

Pray for real progress towards peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Ask God to bring together Jewish and Arab Christians as a powerful testimony of unity.

# Gulf

## FACTFILE



### AREA (all in square miles)

UAE 32,278, Bahrain 293, Kuwait 6,880, Oman 119,499 (UK is 93,630)



### POPULATION

UAE 9.9 m, Bahrain 1.5 m, Kuwait 3 m, Oman 3.8 m



### LANGUAGES

Arabic, English, other languages



### LITERACY RATE

UAE 93.8%, Bahrain 97.5%, Kuwait 96.1%, Oman 95.7%



‘Abraham named that place “The LORD Provides” And even today people say, “On the LORD’s mountain he provides.”

GENESIS 22.14 (GNB)

# Bible Lands

## FACTFILE



### AREA

10,871 square miles, about nine times smaller than the UK



### POPULATION

13.5 million



### LANGUAGES

Hebrew, Arabic, English



### LITERACY RATE

97.5%

Cumulative stats for Israel, West Bank, Gaza Strip



‘You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.’

COLOSSIANS 3.12 (GNB)