



Bible
Society

BIBLE A MONTH

OCT/NOV 2021
Issue 209

A girl enjoys a Scripture booklet provided by Bible Society in the Gulf.

Answered prayer leads to Gulf Bible ministry

EYEWITNESS
REPORT

“

I was threatened with death, but God gave me strength to stand firm.

”

My name is Prasad. I came from India to Kuwait on a domestic worker's visa, looking for a better life for me and my wife. We were very poor.

My wife became pregnant, but as my sponsor in the big house we lived in had prohibited it, I acquired tablets to induce a miscarriage. We left that sponsor for another job, and after a few months my wife got pregnant again. When we went to the doctor, he discovered a cancerous tumour in her womb, and we lost our second child. She also told us that it was impossible for my wife to conceive again. We lost hope. We became desperate.

I had to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week as a driver, hoping to save money to treat my wife. We shared a flat with another family to save money. This family was a Christian one. They prayed for us. We thanked them but did not understand what it meant. After a few weeks, my wife started

going to church with them. I allowed it just to make her happy.

After four months of going to church, I took my wife for a regular check-up. The doctor informed us that the tumour had gone and that my wife was pregnant! It was so incredible that my wife became a Christian because she believed that Jesus did this miracle.

A few days later I was at a supermarket and out of the blue a man asked me if I was Christian. I said no. He said, 'Go to church'. I did not give it another thought. I lost my job again. My wife asked me to go to church with her. I did, just to make her happy. I sat listening to the message but without any interest.

After a few months I found a job in Wafra, near the Saudi border. The workers there were so poor and simple, but what astonished me was

that they held Bible study sessions and looked happy. The regular support from Bible Society thanks to you enables these activities to take place. I remembered our miracle baby and started attending with them. The words of the Bible touched my heart, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I felt that I became a new person.

I loved my new life. I loved this group of Christians so much that I felt that I had to do something. One day I invited one of the church leaders in Salmiya to visit us in Wafra to share the Word of God with us. That night I could not sleep. I was thinking of doing something for these poor Christian farmers. I realised how Jesus helped me and changed my life and gave me a wonderful gift – my first new baby.

I decided to read and study the Bible in Telugu with the help of my Christian friends in the Salmiya church.

By God's grace I was led to teach them

the Word of God. In spite of losing my job in Wafra, I stayed and prayed with them. When I returned to India my family members objected against my Christianity. I was threatened with death, but God gave me strength to stand firm.

I left my village for the city where I started studying theology. I returned to Kuwait but not for any sponsor, but this time as a worker for God. Wafra was still on my mind and in my heart so I established a church called Sharon Ministries there. I also pastor a congregation in a basement in Salmiya.

I cannot close my testimony without thanking you all for your support through Bible a Month. The door of Bible Society has always been open to providing us with Scriptures and teaching material. The Bible Society is a blessing not only to me and my church but for the Christians and churches in Kuwait. Thank you!



Prasad
(Prasad is a pastor in Kuwait)



Prasad prays with members of his congregation in Kuwait.



Worshippers hold up Scriptures provided by Bible Society at Prasad's church.

Prison cells cannot keep out the Holy Spirit

MISSION UPDATE



Photo credit: Hamay Yaye

This woman in Niger can now read the Scriptures and also integrate better into society after attending Bible Society literacy classes.

Even lockdown could not contain the word of God in Africa.

Moussa Dan Baba was a prisoner in Niger, one of Africa's poorest nations. We don't know his crime – but we do know that, while Moussa was behind bars, the Bible changed his life.

Moussa took part in a Scripture-based literacy class, and encountered Jesus in the Bible he received from our team. Moussa said if he was released from jail, he would become a carpenter.

Miraculously, months later, Moussa was granted a presidential pardon and set free. Today, he's a member of the local church and has a contract to make 50 carts for the prison he used to call home.

It's clear that prison cells cannot keep out the Holy Spirit. And it was true during the coronavirus crisis too; even lockdown could not contain the word of God in Africa.

Isolated communities in rural Niger continued to run Bible-based literacy classes right through the pandemic. Even when teachers could no longer visit and churches were closed, they

persevered. People met under trees or gathered in barns – and soon almost everyone in the classes was able to read parts of Scripture.

This life-changing literacy project was funded by generous supporters who chose to remember Bible Society with a gift in their wills.

Gifts in wills are the most significant way to impact future generations with the Bible. It's simple to add Bible Society as a beneficiary – but to make things even easier, we've partnered with will-writing company Bequeathed.

Head of Legacy Giving Howard Barker said, 'Bequeathed can help you draft and complete a will, free of charge, using reliable law firms. The service provided by Bequeathed is not exclusive to Bible Society supporters, so do share with friends and family.

'As you make or amend your will, please prayerfully consider leaving a gift to keep sharing the Bible with people like Moussa, far into the future.'

Visit biblesociety.org.uk/legacy

Prayer pointers

Give thanks that Bible-based literacy classes are changing lives in Niger. Praise God especially for former prisoner Moussa, and his new life in Christ.

Pray for Hama Yaye, who leads Bible work in Niger. There are so many challenges to ministry in this tough, hard place.

Prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to share the Bible with future generations, by leaving a gift in your will to Bible Society. Of course, your loved ones come first, and any decision must be right for you.

Pray that many would benefit from the free will-writing service we're offering in partnership with Bequeathed.

YOUR CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

This year we have a whole host of excellent Christmas resources for you, your family, church and community to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

We have a brand new children's booklet called *The Impossible Promise* written by Bob Hartman for ages 6–11 and a pre-school booklet called *The Christmas Poem*. Both are available in English and Welsh with a lively video animation and there are bulk discounts for large orders.

The Impossible Promise booklet has also been adapted by Bob into a fun and interactive, rehearsal-free nativity to perform in your church.

If you're looking for a wonderful alternative to an Advent calendar, the Family Advent Box provides all the ingredients for a meaningful, memory making, relationship building family Christmas that will be enjoyed by all.

You can also sign up to The Advent Encounter which will take you on a journey through four themes throughout Advent – love, joy, peace and hope. Each week in December will focus on a different theme, with daily emails containing videos, relevant Bible verses, prayers, challenges to make and do and the opportunity to explore God's word more deeply. Sign up at biblesociety.org.uk/adventencounter

There are also new, beautiful Christmas cards and stickers available to buy, and so much more!

All the Christmas resources are available from biblesociety.org.uk/christmas or call 01793 418222.

Don't forget Bible Sunday is on 24 October! Register for your free resources at biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday and celebrate God's word!

ANSWERS TO PRAYER



Thanks to your kind giving, Hama and his team in Niger (see previous prayer letter) have purchased a new 4x4 vehicle.

For the first trip, they packed the vehicle with Bibles and headed to Ilela on the border with Nigeria. Usually the trip takes three days and they have to leave at the crack of dawn with no time for a team prayer meeting. With the new 4x4 they were able to pray as a team and get there in under two days!

Thank God for the support of people such as yourself! More Bibles are now reaching people who really need them in Niger!



The Niger team's new 4x4 is packed with Bibles.

YOUR STORIES & COMMENTS

You are part of a community of 23,000 people, committed to seeing God's word change lives around the world. Here's a snapshot of what some of you have to say!

Tim

I enjoyed reading about Niger. Thank you for the encouraging reports and stories. They are inspirational for praying.

Penelope

The Bible is the most wonderful book in the world and I want to support your great work.

Mrs K

Seeing how Bibles are changing lives encouraged me to upgrade my giving.

David

Hearing about the way the Lord is using Bible a Month to spread his word is really encouraging to my faith.

We love to hear from you. Email us your thoughts at bam@biblesociety.org.uk or use the comments form attached. You can also find an online version of the prayer letter at biblesociety.org.uk/bam

GULF REGION

There are hundreds of churches attended by migrant workers in Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Thanks to your regular giving, Bible Society is able to help the majority of them with training and resources.

Your generosity enables seminars for church leaders who have very little theological training. They study Bible storytelling and pass on their knowledge to worshippers mainly from non-Christian backgrounds.

Bible Society's Arabic and Migrant programmes in the Gulf are crucial for the Church there and your regular giving sustains them.

Church leader Amal said, 'I love to attend the Bible Society seminars as it is one of my best places to learn about the Bible. One day before the seminar, I was discussing with my family about going

back to Egypt because of the very difficult living conditions in Kuwait. But during the seminar, tears came down my cheeks. The Holy Spirit spoke to me that I have to rethink, there is a purpose, there is spiritual work for me here in Kuwait. This seminar really was a turning point in my life. I do not know how to thank you all for this unique ministry.'

Thousands are flocking to the Church, looking for answers and reasons to cling to life. By being part of Bible a Month you're helping them find those reasons.



Joy can be seen in the eyes of this woman as she receives a Bible in Kuwait.

October prayer pointers

Thank God that even though the lives of migrant workers in the Gulf region can be so tough, more and more of them are finding hope in the truths within the Bible.

Ask God to provide solace and safety to the many migrant workers who have lost their jobs and all their income for their families due to the Covid pandemic.

Pray that the trainee church leaders will be emboldened to share their faith with family members and other labourers.

T O G O

'Every evening I will read this Bible before going to sleep, and I will be carried away in my dreams by the stories!'

That was the wonderful reaction of a child who, thanks to your support through Bible a Month, received a children's Bible of their own. Your generous gifts are helping to put Bibles into the hands of thousands of children in Togo, Africa.

Amazingly, two in five people in Togo are under the age of 15 – so the Bible Society team has a sharp focus on Scripture distribution among children. This French-speaking nation, to the east of Ghana, is one of Africa's tiniest countries, and has a population the size of London's.

With your kind help, 1,000 children in Togo will receive a Bible this year.

They'll be encouraged to develop a Bible reading habit through quizzes and holiday clubs, so Jesus can shape their lives and futures.

Meanwhile, you are also helping to fund a key Bible translation in Togo. The Kabiye Old Testament was launched in 2006 and the New Testament is due for completion in December 2022.



A boy in Togo with a children's Bible gifted by Bible Society thanks to the help of Bible a Month members.

November prayer pointers

Give thanks that so many children in Togo are meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible. Pray for strong partnerships with churches and village authorities as this significant Scripture distribution among children continues.

Pray for our team in Togo, who share the Bible in a tough context. A third of the people are Christians, a third hold indigenous beliefs, and around a quarter are Muslims.

Pray for perseverance for our translation team. They have dedicated years to the Kabiye Old Testament, and now the end is in sight. Pray their faithful service will be rewarded with the joy of a new Bible launch.

GULF (KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)



FACTFILE



Area (all in square miles)

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



Population

Kuwait 3 million, Bahrain 1.5 million, UAE 9.9 million



Languages

Arabic, English, regional languages



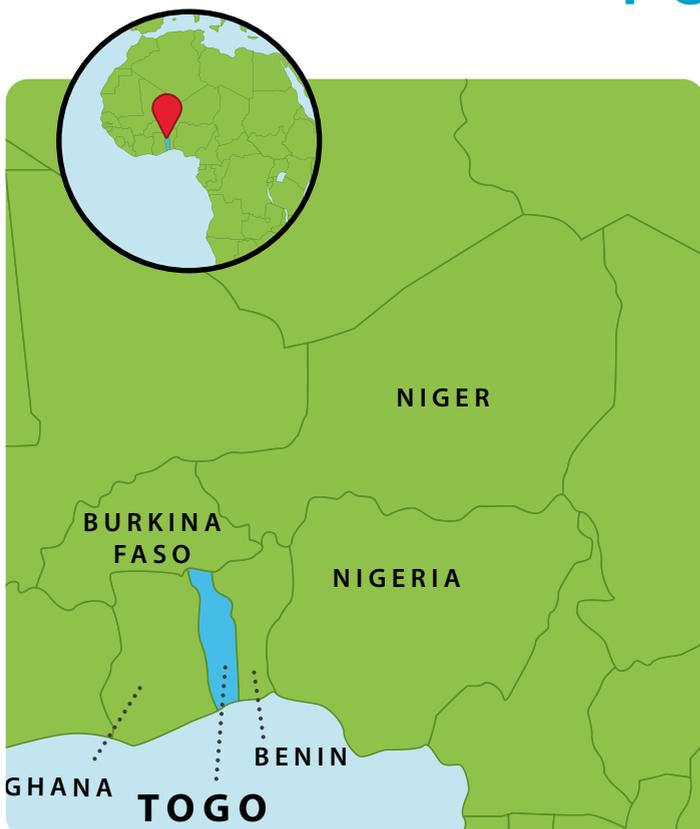
Literacy rate

Kuwait 96.1%, Bahrain 97.5%, UAE 93.8%

'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.'

Ephesians 1.7 (ESV)

TOGO



FACTFILE



Area

21,925 square miles, about four times smaller than the UK



Population

8.3 million



Languages

French (official), Ewe, Mina, Kabye, Dagomba



Literacy rate

63.7%

'Respect and obey the LORD! This is the beginning of knowledge. Only a fool rejects wisdom and good advice.'

Proverbs 1.7 (CEV)