

# Algeria

'And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.'

Romans 15.4 (CEV)

## Factfile



Area – 2.382 million sq km approx. 10 x larger than UK

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Population – 39.21 million approx. 62% of UK population

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Literacy rate – 71.1%

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Languages – Arabic (official), French, Tamazight, Hassaniya, Korandje and other local languages.

## Club Corner

### Thank you

We love it when you get in touch with us. So we've been delighted with the wonderful response we've had to *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*. We're very grateful for all your encouraging messages and donations. And we're so glad you loved the book as much as we do.



If you haven't already claimed your free copy, go to [biblesociety.org.uk/queen-bam](http://biblesociety.org.uk/queen-bam) and fill in the form.

We've also been amazed at the number of prayer leaves you sent in response to our Jordan appeal in April. Thank you so much for partnering with us in prayer for our work in the Middle East.



Thank you for praying with us.

Do visit our online prayer wall to add your prayers for our work around the world if you haven't already. Just go to [biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/prayertree](http://biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/prayertree).

# Nicaragua

'God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.'

Psalms 46.1 (CEV)

## Factfile



Area – 129,494 sq km approx. 53% of UK

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Population – 6.08 million approx. 10% of UK

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Literacy rate – 78.1%

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Languages – Spanish (official), English and other local languages

Look out for your next *Bible a Month* prayer letter which will feature reports from ?? and ??.

Thank you so much for your support which is bringing the Bible to life at home and around the world.

Remember that if your circumstances change you can alter your gift at any time. To increase or decrease your regular donation call us on 01793 418222.

If you're paying by direct debit you can fill in the form below and post it to us at Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG.

I would like to change my monthly gift to.....

Please sign here.....

Bible Society, Stonehill Green,  
Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG

Registered charity 232759





Around 3,000 new Christians are baptised in Algeria every year.



## Lives changed for good in Algeria by Anonymous\*

In this issue we'll hear some inspiring stories of lives changed for good through the Bible. Our reporter from Algeria tells us about the amazing growth of the church in there. And we'll hear about how distribution in rural China is bringing the Bible to life for millions of Chinese Christians.

Thank you for your gifts which make this work possible. Continue to pray with us that more lives would be changed for good as we bring the Bible to life at home and around the world.



**John Ranford**  
Bible a Month  
Co-ordinator



Back in the 1980s, there were about 2,000 Christians in Algeria. Today it's estimated that there could be as many as 200,000. And thanks to your generous donations most Algerians first encounter the Bible through the Christian TV channels and call the number on the screen to receive a New Testament or a Bible from us.

Idir, 37 from the Kabylie region, is one of many Algerian Christians who has engaged with the Bible for the first time through us – he told me about how he became a Christian after reading the Gospel of Luke.

Idir said, 'in the early 2000s Christians here used to meet in hiding, under the trees in the mountains. This is also when the first Gospels were distributed in our area and one of our cousins brought one to my parents' house.'

Idir used to be a drug user and heavy drinker. Unable to pay for his addictions he had also become a drug dealer. He read the Gospel of Luke not expecting to find anything of note in it. But he remembers being struck by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

'This was so different from anything I had ever heard', Idir told me. 'It spoke of love and peace and hope! I was feeling so tired and discouraged and I wondered if Christ could be the way.'

Idir didn't become a Christian immediately, in fact it took many years for him to come to faith and overcome his addictions. When he eventually became a Christian he fully embraced his new-found faith and changed – for good.

But this wasn't easy for Idir – at first Idir's family was hostile to his Christianity. But his mother, Aldijah, asked him lots

# In focus

## The Pitch: bringing the Bible to life

How would you offer the Scriptures as a useful resource to people around you? Through *The Pitch* we offer the Bible to filmmakers.

The offer is simple – 'Pitch it, Film it, Take it to Hollywood!'

We ask people to upload a two-minute video pitching their idea for a short film that has to take inspiration from the Bible. Then shortlisted entrants attend a workshop to develop their idea. Finalists pitch their ideas in person to judges during a weekend at Pinewood Studios. The winner gets a budget, and help from a film crew and producer to direct and make their short film a reality. Then they take it to Hollywood, hear feedback from professionals and enter it into international short film competitions.

*The Pitch* is a great way to offer the Bible to a fresh audience.

We asked volunteers Lyn and Ian what they do for *The Pitch*. They said, 'whatever is needed on and off-set, from making sure that cast and crew get their contracts signed on time, to helping with set-building and social media. We even enjoy waiting for the cameraman to get just the right shot, in freezing conditions! We love the people, and feel privileged to work with them all – producers, competition winners, crew, and cast.'

This year's winning pitch, a historical drama set in nineteenth century Ireland at the time of the potato famine, is currently in production. If you want to see it and other entries visit [enterthepitch.com/watch](http://enterthepitch.com/watch).



Vanessa Peridriau is this year's winner of *The Pitch*.

of questions. He later heard she'd been watching the Christian TV programmes when nobody was around and had first heard about Christ around the same time he did! But she kept telling him she was too old to change her religion now.

When Aldijah saw the change the Bible brought to Idir's life she went to church with him. Incredibly she also became a Christian and was baptised. The rest of the family hasn't allowed her to go back to church since then, but she's still able to hear God speak through the Bible.

Idir introduced me to Aldijah. I asked her how she was dealing with her family's rejection of her new faith. She said, 'It's okay because my heart found peace when I received Christ. I can't read, but I listen to the Bible on my audio recorder every day, and it brings me so much joy! God uses his word to speak to me and support me. I especially find comfort in reading the Psalms, but what touched me the most was God's love for me... God loves me? This was unheard of!'

Join with me in praying for Idir, Aldijah, and the many Christians across Algeria



We hope to distribute 40,000 Scripture portions in 2016.

that they would continue to be strengthened as they engage with the Bible.

\*We can't identify them – they may not be allowed back into the country.

## Bible distribution in China

Seventy percent of Chinese Christians live in rural areas where access to the Bible is limited by poverty and poor infrastructure. Although people in these areas long for the Bible, for many of them it's inaccessible and others simply can't afford to buy their own copy.

This gives our team in China a huge challenge and opportunity – to bring the Bible to life through translation and distribution for the ever increasing number of Christians in rural China.

We believe that when people engage with the Bible their lives can change – for good. And Dao Jianfen aged 46 is just one of many whose life has been changed through Bible distribution in China.

She told us about her father's encounter with the Bible around 20 years ago and the way it changed her family. When reading the book of Ecclesiastes he was inspired to be a better father to his children – he said he hadn't known how to love until he read the Bible.

Dao told us, 'The Bible has brought light into my father's life and my family. It has a lasting influence in my life.'

Thanks to the faithful support of people like you over 67 million Bibles have been printed by us in China since 1987. But there are still many more people in China who do not have access to the word of God or can't afford it.

Pray with us that God would bless our efforts and that more Christians like Dao in rural China would see the value of the Bible for them, and that their families and communities would too.



We're planning to distribute 2.7 million Bibles across China in 2016.

# Algeria

August 2016

In Algeria many people are hostile towards the Christian faith so it can be difficult for people to engage with the Bible. Strong family emphasis in society and government restriction to non-Muslim activities makes people nervous of even getting a Bible. They fear what their family and the government will do.

So we're bringing the Bible to life by enabling people to get a Bible or New Testament through radio and TV channels to make it easier for Algerians to engage with the Bible. Although the Bible is now more accessible to Algerians, Ali Khidri who leads our work in Algeria told us that 'due to the context of a Muslim family and a Muslim society life isn't always easy for these Christians.' But in the face of such opposition from people around them the church in Algeria continues to grow.

Thanks to your generous donations Ali can continue bringing the Bible to life for Algerians so that more lives like Idir's and Aldijah's can be changed – for good.



Ali Khidri leads our work in Algeria.

## Prayer pointers

- Ali says to us, 'The needs here are huge and increasing every day to meet the needs of these people asking for the word of God. Please pray for the Christians in Algeria that they will stay firm in their faith and keep walking with the Lord.'
- Pray that more people like Aldijah and Idir would have the opportunity to engage with the Bible through TV and radio and be changed – for good.
- Pray that Ali would be able to secure the government approval he needs to continue offering the Bible to people in Algeria.

# Nicaragua

September 2016

No church or Christian organisation in Nicaragua is permitted to provide spiritual support and guidance to children with cancer and their families – other than us.

Our team in Nicaragua is offering the Bible to the most vulnerable children in the largest children's hospital in the country – la Mascota. They provide free Bibles alongside pastoral advice and practical care to show the children and their parents the comfort they can find in God's word. In short they bring the Bible to life.

We do this because even in the toughest situations we believe when people engage with the Bible their lives can change – for good.

Juana is an example of this. She told us that when her son was first diagnosed with Osteosarcoma she didn't know where to turn, but she said that through the Bible we gave her, 'God has spoken to my life and his support is clear ... God gave us new life. For my child, God always heard our prayers.'



We're distributing 8,095 Bibles in la Mascota this year alone.

## Prayer pointers

- Thank God for the opportunity our team in Nicaragua has to offer the Bible to children suffering with cancer and their families.
- Pray that as God speaks through the Bible lives would change – for good. Ask God that those who are suffering with cancer in Nicaragua would find comfort in the Bible.
- Pray that as our faithful volunteers and staff members read and pray with people in the hospital they would be encouraging and discerning as they provide practical and spiritual assistance.