

# BIBLE

## MISSION TRIPS

*Sow the Word, Impact Lives*



IBEX<sup>®</sup>

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE EXPERIENCES





# MEMORABLE TRIPS. BIBLICAL EXPERIENCES

International Bible Experiences (IBEx) is a specialised travel agency dedicated in Bible-themed tours and Bible Mission Trips. We cover the Bible lands and countries related to Church history and the Christian faith. Our aim is to instil a sense of excitement in spiritual experiences and to promote Biblical understanding to make our tours experiential and affordable to our participants. We also maintain quality services through engaging knowledgeable and committed spiritual directors, reliable airlines and highly experienced land operators to create memorable trips for everyone.

We also organise Bible Mission Trips to various countries. We believe that by giving people the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and join what God is doing in other cultures and nations, lives are transformed. So journey with us and see the Bible come alive and have a special encounter with God!







# GENERAL BIBLE MISSION TRIPS

" ... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*Matthew 28:18-20*



There are many opportunities for you to serve the nations together with us. Join our Bible Mission Trips designed to help those who want to experience and explore cross-cultural missions. Whether you are in the marketplace, doing your own business or still in school, you can use your skills, stretch your faith and find a place to serve. You can support the work by ministering to the local people, through giving or praying. Most importantly, it will help you find your role in fulfilling the Great Commission. Everyone can play a part!

# CUSTOMISED BIBLE MISSION TRIPS

The Bible Society of Singapore is part of the United Bible Societies fellowship, comprising ministries in over 200 countries and territories. We can help you customise a Bible Mission Trip to a country you have a burden for. Speak to us about where or what type of mission work your church or group would like to engage in.

For customised trips, groups may also help to raise funds to support a Bible mission project in the country they go to. A full list of projects is available at [www.bible.org.sg/makeanimpact](http://www.bible.org.sg/makeanimpact).



## GO ON A BIBLE MISSION

Want to touch the lives of people living in different parts of the globe? Go for short term Bible Mission Trips (BMTs). Form your own team or join us in any of the trips.

Countries include:

- **Bible Lands:** Egypt, Israel (including Arab-Israelis and Palestinians), Jordan, Lebanon (Syrian & Iraqi refugees), Turkey
- **East Asia:** China, Mongolia
- **South Asia:** Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- **Southeast Asia:** Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam





# BE INVOLVED

***What's a Bible Mission Trip like?***

***What will I do?***

- Distribute Bibles and Christian resources to the locals
- Distribute food aid
- Visit local orphanages or churches
- Organise and run workshops or activities for children or youths
- Interact with the locals
- Grow closer to God
- Let God transform your life
- Experience the meaning of community
- Bring the Good News to the nations
- Serve and love the local churches and people
- Bless the people
- See the world through God's eyes



# BIBLE MISSION TRIPS

## + BIBLE LAND TOURS



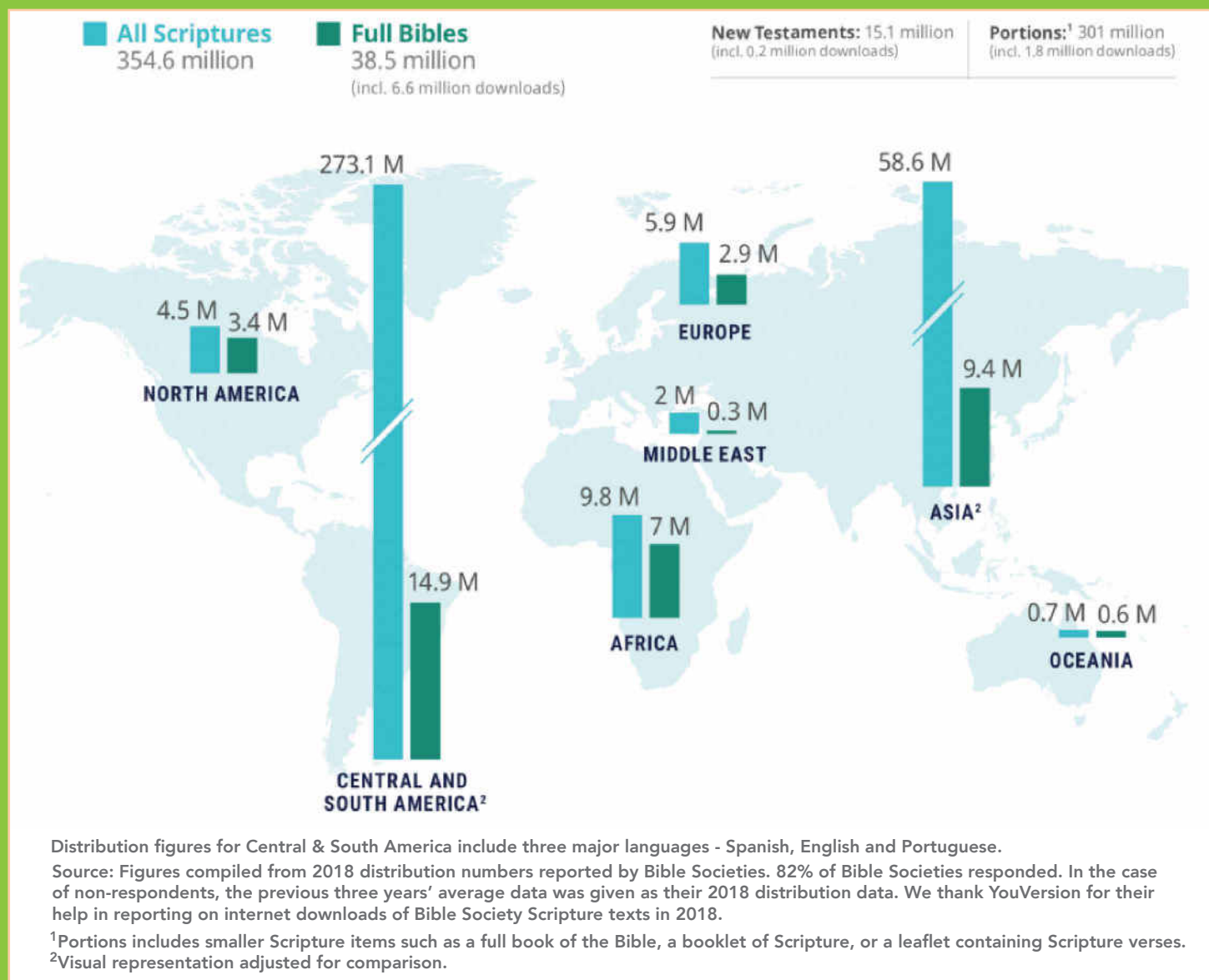
We are able to create opportunities to help you to experience God's amazing world. We have a variety of Bible Land Tours which incorporate Bible mission.

Bible Land Tour Groups will have the opportunity to visit local ministries in Israel that reach out to women, children and orphans. Tour participants will be able to interact, share with the locals and bless them. The groups will also visit Bible Society works that reach out to the Jews, Arab-Israelis and Palestinians.





# GLOBAL SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION BY BIBLE SOCIETIES IN 2018



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2018, for the second year running, Bible Societies distributed more than 38 million full Bibles around the globe.

Annual Bible distribution has been growing steadily since the turn of the decade, reflecting the ongoing demand for Scripture as well as the tremendous commitment of Bible Societies to put God's Word into the hands of everyone who wants it. Since 2010, United Bible Societies (UBS) has provided more than 305 million full Bibles to the world.

In 2018, 17% of all full Bibles were internet downloads – and for global languages such as Spanish, English and Portuguese, Scripture downloads all topped a million.

More New Testaments were distributed in 2018 than at any other point this decade. Almost 15 million print copies were provided, mostly in Asia where Christianity is considered a minority religion.

All in all, more than 354 million Scripture items, including Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels and smaller Scripture items like booklets for people learning to read, were distributed in 2018. More than 97% were in print format. These figures are compiled from 2018 Scripture distribution numbers reported by Bible Societies, and include local sales and exports of Scripture material.

Source: United Bible Societies

# VIETNAM

## Bible Mission Trip

30 Nov – 3 Dec 2018

**Linette Tan** (Bible Mission Trip Team Member)



This Bible Mission Trip to Vietnam has been very eye-opening. As the local pastors brought us around, we saw how God is working in and through the lives of the locals there. We visited several home churches, drug rehabilitation centres, and a youth service. There were certainly many needs that we saw, but also much to give thanks and praise to God for.

One of the highlights for me was visiting a drug rehabilitation centre that was still under construction, and praying for the pastor and people who will be

residing there. Despite the language barrier, we had the opportunity to edify each other through testimony sharing and affirming one another in love.

The faithful and tireless way that the locals carry out God's calling is a reminder and model for me as I serve in my own church. I do encourage everyone to join mission trips to participate in the larger Christian body. As much as I hope I have been a blessing to the locals, they have also blessed me through this short trip.



# LAOS

## Bible Mission Trip

27 Sep – 1 Oct 2018

Neo Chun Choon (Bible Mission Trip Team Member)

When I was told that I would be joining a customised Bible Mission Trip to Laos, I initially had some reservations. It was my first time to Laos, and my knowledge of the country was severely limited; it was also my first time on a Bible Mission Trip. By God's unfathomable grace and mercy, my experience on this trip was fruitful and edifying in several ways. I would simply like to highlight two:

God's hand of providence and leading was clearly perceived from start to end. The team was blessed with good weather throughout the trip, contrary to the predictions of heavy rainfall we received before we set off for Laos. We had to plan the duration meticulously for the two care centres we were to visit - one of them having over 200 children and orphans. And the amazing thing was that some of the best and most suitable ideas implemented were borne out of discussions just the night before our first visit.

The simple faith of the Laotian Christians reminded me of what was most fundamental in Christian faith and practice. Christians in Laos live under close scrutiny from the government, are not materially well-off, and face a general lack of training resources compared to many other countries. It was a humbling and instructive moment therefore when we visited one of the minority tribe churches and had the privilege to worship with them on Sunday: they took whatever they were given, and with great thankfulness worshipped the Lord and served Him with all their heart and might. It was a simple

faith with a mighty force that can be felt, and it caused me to wonder: in our context of abundance back home, do our lives, thoughts, speech and plans really say "God is enough"?

Truly, the Lord works in mysterious ways to perform wonders. I am thankful for the opportunity to witness something of what God is doing in Laos, and also the love of the team members to God through their love and service, both within the team and to the Laotians. It is my prayer too that God will continue to grow and establish His people in both countries in the most holy faith, to the praise and glory of His grace.



# EGYPT

## Bible Mission Trip

20 – 28 Aug 2018

**Marcus Choy** (Bible Mission Trip Team Member)

“What does it mean to labour in The Bible Mission?” This was the question I asked myself as I landed at Cairo International Airport. It was not only my first time visiting the Middle East, but also my first mission trip with The Bible Society of Singapore. I was excited to see the land of Egypt with my own eyes, and experience the culture of the people there - both their cries and their joy.

My team and I headed down south to the countryside of Assuyt to be part of the event organised by the Bible Society of Egypt called “In His Image”. More than 20,000 families with children and youths came together for the four-day event filled with programmes like Bible quizzes, talent shows and musicals. The excitement from the kids was very contagious, and their enthusiasm got the entire Singapore team pumped up.

As we distributed portions of Scripture to them, what went through my mind was the hardship many of them had gone through just to possess God’s Word. From translation and printing to the raising of funds, it was a long and tedious process, concluding as the portion of Scripture landed in a pair of grateful hands. The sense of deep gratitude that I felt from the Egyptian children transcended our language barriers. It was as if Heaven rejoiced alongside us.

We also taught them Christian songs in English and crafts that reminded them of a Bible story or character. That unadulterated elation was an inspiring portrayal of their God-pleasing innocence to me. These people face danger every single day of their



lives, and yet a little song was able to lift their spirits high to worship God. Every moment in that little town was a food-for-thought moment for me, especially growing up in Singapore where we might take things like clean water for granted.

My experience was a thought-provoking and life-changing one. It opened my eyes to see the urgent needs of people who hunger for God’s Word and the weight of the Great Commission in God’s eyes.





### The Language and the Word

In Singapore, we have access to many things. We are able to purchase Bibles and Christian resources at bookshops or even online. And truth be told, in many Christian homes in Singapore, there will likely be more than one Bible for each person. Personally, I have more than one Bible at home and in fact I have them in many different versions. This is a stark comparison to the local Christians whom I met during the recent Myanmar Bible Mission Trip. I realised because of the conveniences of life in the modern society, it tends to make us forget the treasures God has given us, especially the preciousness of the Word.

During the Bible Mission Trip, it was eventful as we met with many local children and youths at orphanages, elderly ladies at the old folks' home, and the poor villagers at a rural village. At each of these places, we distributed different items like school kits, family kits and food aids. We met with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Though we come from different countries and speak a different language but we are united as one big family. That is the beauty of our Christian faith.

Meeting the locals is always the highlight for me. The stories I get to hear about the lives of the local Christians encourage me. Also, at times when I see their living conditions or hear about the challenges and persecutions they face, it convicts me and silences my complaints in life. These encounters leave deep impressions in me and they are the stories. I am privileged to share with others. And I would like to take this opportunity to share 2 encounters I had while on the Bible Mission Trip.



### Literacy Program - The Karen Language

I recall my first meeting with a group of youths who were attending a literacy program. Firstly, it puzzled me when I met the group, they looked educated. Why are they still part of a literacy program?

Then the pastor explained that in Myanmar the main language is Burmese and there are over 100 indigenous languages. And there is a large population of Karen people in the south-eastern part of Myanmar. These youths are from the Karen people group. They do not know how to speak their native language as it is not taught in schools.

And he further explained that the people of his generation speak Karen in their homes and amongst the elderly. It is like their mother tongue language that is part of their lives and culture. However, the young people are slowly losing their interest and ability to speak their native language - Karen.

With that, I saw the similarities to what we are facing in Singapore with our dialects like Hokkien and Teochew etc. In Singapore, the young generation are not able to speak in their dialect and often times they find it hard to communicate with the elderly people.

In the class, I saw the youths being motivated to learn their native language. And I wondered, why do they want to learn the Karen language? When this question was posed to them, some of the youths answered that it is part of their culture and they do not want to lose their traditional language.



Continues on the next page



One of them answered that some of their own people are not able to speak it and they do not know how to learn the language. In other cases, some can only speak the language but they may not write it. And now here, they are given this chance to study their own language and each wants to treasure this opportunity given. And he says that after he finishes learning the language, it will benefit him more in life. Another youth said that after learning the language, he hopes to go to his own people and teach them how to write and read in Karen. This is a precious language to him.

It is the Sunday school teacher who organises the literacy classes after Sunday service for the youths. Through these classes, the youths are equipped to



speak and write the basics of the Karen language. This enables them to connect with more Karen people and to share the gospel in the Karen language too.

With my short interaction with them, I can see their desire to preserve their culture and language. According to Wikipedia, there are about 7 million Karen people in Myanmar, with only 4% of the population being Christians. It is no wonder that the Karen Baptist churches are seeing the need to continue to equip their young people in their indigenous language.

## Lemi Bible Dedication

I attended my first Bible dedication on this mission trip. At the ceremony, I saw the Lemi people dressed in their traditional clothes, worshipped in their indigenous language and read the passage from the Lemi Bible. It was an honour to be part of their celebration. What great joy of being able to finally read and hear the Word of God in your own language.

It was mentioned during the ceremony that the translation work painstakingly took 10 years to complete. And I learnt something new about translation work too. The translators had to ensure that the usage of the spoken and written language was stable before they could start the translation. Thus, they first had to run a series of Lemi literacy programs to stabilise the usage of the language. Through the literacy program, they had to sort out the jargons and nuances of the language which helped to prepare for the next phase of translation.

Wanting to find out more about the translation process, I approached the translator to ask more questions. He shared on how tedious and arduous the process was as English is a sophisticated language and the Lemi language is a common spoken language for the locals.

And I asked him what motivated him to keep on going for so many years to finish the Lemi NT Bible. He said it was because of his own people that motivated him to go on. He desired to see his people (Lemi) being

able to have a Bible in their own language. He said, "Because when the Word is spoken in your own language, it speaks deeper into the heart of the person." This struck me deeply.

He also shared that during the translation of the portions in the synoptic gospel, the stories in there spoke to him in a greater measure. Reading it in his own native language, the familiarity of the sound and the emotions that comes along with it touched his heart.

When I heard that, it touched my heart too. It makes me treasure the Word of God so much more and appreciate the efforts of the people involved in the different ministries who make the Word of God available and accessible to the indigenous people in the parts of the developing world!





# CHINA

## Bible Mission Trip

14 – 23 Oct 2017

Ivan Lim (Bible Mission Trip Team Member)

This was my first Bible Mission Trip to Shaanxi and Gansu province, China. I was initially hesitant when a friend asked me to go along. God's majesty, glory and love for China were clearly evident throughout the trip.

We visited the Bible schools, listened to the reports from the local churches, and learnt of their great need for pastoral workers in light of the rapidly growing numbers of Christians in China.

I was also often put to shame by the love and fervour of the Chinese believers. I heard how the Bible school students huddled together at night to keep warm in winter, and how older folks in rural areas made their way to church at two in the morning for Sunday services. The Chinese congregations responded with "Amen" in unison during prayers. The continual prayers and fasting of the Tianshui congregation for God to grant them a place to worship also greatly encouraged and moved my heart.

I also gained a deeper appreciation of the term guanxi (关系, "relationship"). Upon deeper appreciation, I realised that guanxi may give us access to various organisations and groups in China, but it is love, God's love, that unifies and binds these relationships together. This same love is foundational to the guanxi that Elder Zhang in Tianshui, Gansu province has with the authorities for them to entrust to him the running of the old folk's home. It is also this same love that motivates him to know the residents personally in order to reach out to them.

I came to understand that Bible Mission Trips are not simply about the printing and distribution of Bibles. It is about being there in person and being personal in relationship-building, just like how our relationship with God is a personal relationship.



Remembering how the Bible and Christianity were banned in China 50 years ago, I am thankful for the guanxi with the authorities which have been built on God's love. I pray that these guanxi would continue and grow, so that the doors of China will remain open for further missions.



# Holistic Missions: Loving the Poor and Needy in Word and Deed

*"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land."*

*Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV)*

**T**hroughout Scripture, God shows Himself to be a God who takes notice of the poor and needy, and cares for them materially and spiritually. It is one of the ways in which He demonstrates His love and compassion. As God's children, we are called to imitate Him, loving not only His word and talk but also in deed and truth (1 John 3:18). This is the motivation for holistic missions, which is an integral part of the expanding global Bible Mission.

Holistic missions focus primarily on humanitarian efforts and disaster relief, seeking to meet the immediate needs of those disadvantaged by persecution and natural disasters. These acts of care and love communicate to the poor and needy that they are not forgotten, and that God's love and message of salvation in Christ are also theirs to embrace.

Since the early 2000s, The Bible Society of Singapore, in collaboration with regional Bible Societies and churches, began engaging in holistic missions to serve overseas communities in need. This included raising awareness of an undertaking fundraising activities for countries hit by major disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and the recent floods in South Asia.

From 2014 onwards, formal mission trips have also been organised to various affected areas to serve the needy there. Through these efforts, The Bible Society of Singapore and participating churches gain opportunities to be God's channels of blessing to these communities, both in the caring for their material and spiritual well-being, as well as in the restoration of their way of life.

There are still many needy communities in the world that need to know and grow in God's love, which mean more areas of service for us to explore. Egypt is one example. One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Egypt has a rich history and culture that dates back to Biblical times. At the same time, children and youth, many of whom are poor, make up a large percentage of the total population (33%). Its Christian population is also among the most persecuted in the world today. In August 2017, we sent a team to Egypt to further understand and support the mission works there. They joined up with

staff from the Bible Society of Egypt, who have been organising rallies and special programmes to reach out to the children and youth.



**"I saw how the youths were so passionate about the Word. Living in the hostile environment, the local Christians also depended on one another for support, which further strengthens their faith and identity as one Body of Christ. I am greatly challenged to take the reading of God's Word and being part of the church – my immediate spiritual family – more."**

Joan Cher

We are truly privileged not only to partner with our Egyptian brothers and sisters in serving the needy in Egypt, but also to share in the joy of seeing them grow in the love of God and His Word. We are also committed to support these ongoing outreach works in Egypt, such as the upcoming Christmas distribution of Scripture materials, hygiene items and sweets to the children.





British evangelist Leonard Ravenhill once remarked, "That world outside there is not waiting for a new definition of Christianity, it's waiting for a new demonstration of Christianity."

We are ever thankful for our faithful supporters and volunteers, whose contributions enable us to continue to demonstrate God's love through these missions

with local and overseas brothers and sisters in Christ. We also covet your continued prayers and support, so that more will be able to taste and see that the Lord is good, and be brought into his fold.

#### TACLOBAN – the Philippines (2014)

- Ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan, the worst tropical cyclone recorded in history.
- Distributed Scriptures, food, toiletries and furniture to the locals, and helped in church rebuilding efforts.

#### MYANMAR (2016)

- Locals subjected to regular floods from yearly monsoons.
- Distributed Scriptures and necessities such as mosquito nets and family kits to aid the rebuilding of the local's homes and lives.

#### NEPAL (2016)

- Locals affected by frequent earthquakes and floods.
- Distributed Scriptures and daily necessities and provided zinc roofing sheets to aid in house rebuilding projects.

#### LEBANON (2015)

- Thousands suffered displacement, persecution and hardship from ISIS attacks.
- Visited refugees in several areas and provided relief through the distribution of Scriptures and relief packs.



Scan this QR Code or Visit [bible.org.sg/egypt](http://bible.org.sg/egypt) for a video from our most recent Egypt trip.



**@Armenian (Main Office)**

7 Armenian St, Bible House, #B2-02, Singapore 179932

Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am – 6:00pm

**@Orchard**

14 Scotts Rd, #01-83, Far East Plaza, Singapore 228213

Opening hours: Mon-Sat, 10:30am – 6:00pm

☎ +65 6304 3762

☎ +65 8424 7072

✉ info@ibex.sg

fb ibexsingapore

ig ibexsg

🌐 [www.ibex.sg](http://www.ibex.sg)