

# Arab Israel

**NON-TAX**

Project No: 100783



## Support for Christians

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is working with the Arab Israeli Bible Society (AIBS) to strengthen their presence and enable their work in Galilee. This project serves the Arab Israeli community with Scripture resources and interactive community conferences and events, serving both the local church and the broader community.



### The Need

Despite the devastating circumstances and the profound impact of the war which began in 2023, AIBS is working steadfastly to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected. Through their ministries, AIBS continues to bring unity where there is division, hope where there is despair and love where there is suffering.

The Arab Israeli community (made up of 1.7 million) face significant tension due to their unique status. The Arab Israeli people (Arabs who became citizens of the State of Israel after its establishment in 1948) are a group lost between Jewish Israelis and Arab Palestinians. Since war broke out, they have been carrying the pain and suffering of both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Therefore, they are doubly traumatised. Arab Israeli Christians are a minority twice over: only 20% of Israelis are Arabs (1.2 million), and only 2% of Israelis are Christian. With such a small population of Arab-Israeli Christians, the AIBS is struggling to maintain a core presence or operations from domestic Bible sales and fundraising income. By November 2023, about 48 cities in north Israel, Upper Galilee had been displaced by the conflict. Therefore, there is a great need to build a culture of peacemakers and a community of forgivers.

# 1.7m

Arab citizens of Israel

# 185,000

Christians in Israel (at the end of 2022)

# 75.8%

of public primary schools do not have Bibles

# 49,431

of Christians in Israel are Arab

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”**

Proverbs 29:18, KJV

# Goals

The goal of this project is to provide leadership for the AIBS, to ensure their presence in and service of their community, and to enable the AIBS to produce and distribute Bibles and other tools. Each year, the AIBS aims to serve the local church and become an instrument of peace, security and hope for a region plagued by war and division. In 2024, this will be more important than ever, with AIBS preparing to serve their community to encourage peace through media, through Bible distribution, and through interaction and Bible engagement.

Each year, the goal of this project is to focus on women and families, hosting events and producing resources centred on God's word. AIBS maintains a physical presence in Galilee, with a centre open to the public for the community to visit, ask questions, engage with biblical resources and attend events. However, there is a risk that these goals may be impacted in 2024 by the instability caused by war, resulting in projects being delayed.

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# Impact

The impact of the AIBS' presence will be seen as people engage with online Scripture resources, receive and engage with printed Scripture resources, use AIBS Scripture resources in their ministry, and attend their workshops, conferences, and events.

These include workshops and conferences for families, and in 2024 on trauma healing. AIBS also use workshops and conferences to support churches and schools, impacting thousands of people per year.

AIBS' growing partnerships with the various local church denominations also has an impact on the Christian community. The impact of these relationships will be seen in increased participation by local Christians at events as well as their take-up of AIBS developed resources, and the quantity of Bibles and materials distributed.

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# Testimonies

"At this time of our lives, there is a lot of despair, pain, and sadness. We live in an unsafe place, the future is unknown, and things might escalate suddenly. The relationship between Arab Israelis and Jews inside the country is very tense and hard. The land of Christ is screaming from pain. Therefore, there is a great need to build a culture of peacemakers and a community of forgivers.

"The Arab Israeli Bible Society, as an organisation...pondered how God would respond if He were present, seeking to combat darkness through the principles of the Kingdom of God. As Christians, we abstain from taking sides; our allegiance is to Christ. We strive to be pro-Christ in every possible way. To share spiritual tools for healing, reconciliation, love and hope, the AIBS team has devised three strategic directions for their ministry in the community in the coming period: Peace through media, Peace through Bible distribution, and Peace through Bible Engagement!"  
— Dina, Director of The Arab Israeli Bible Society, November 2023

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray for the cessation of war, that God would intervene to stop bloodshed.
- Pray for healing for both people, especially those who were impacted by war.
- Pray for the AIBS team for perseverance and strength to continue to do their mission with grace.
- Pray that God will continue to lead AIBS and fulfill his will through them.
- Pray that God will provide leadership for AIBS and empower it with his presence.
- Pray that God will meet all AIBS' needs.