



Trauma Healing

Overview

Bible Society in Syria is running a project to bring a message of hope and life to those experiencing long-lasting trauma caused by war and violence. This project addresses trauma and family conflict through specialised training seminars for churches as well as workshops, and distributes the healing word of God to all participants.

The Need

Thirteen years of war have inflicted profound suffering on Syrians, particularly Christians, with their population decreasing from 2 million to less than one million due to violence and Islamic fundamentalism.

This project aims to address trauma, impacting both Christian and non-Christian communities, amidst a heightened demand for healing programs. The economic downturn, exacerbated by factors like the COVID-19 pandemic, adds to the humanitarian crisis. An earthquake on February 6, 2023, further devastated northwest Syria, compounding challenges for an already vulnerable population of over 4 million reliant on humanitarian aid. The trauma-healing training program seeks to restore individuals and families in this dire context.

The aim of this project is to act as a catalyst and an encouragement to all groups, regardless of religious background or political affinity.



90%

of families in the country live in poverty, while more than 50% are food insecure

12m

people are displaced within the region

15.3m

people inside Syria needed humanitarian assistance (prior to the earthquake) in 2023

8.8m

were affected by the 2023 earthquake

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18, NIV

Goals

The Bible Society in Syria, since 2015, has aimed to spread a message of hope and life with this project, which aims to establish a network of trained trauma healing personnel, impacting people throughout Syria.

Trauma Healing Training Seminars, conducted with specialists, equip personnel in diverse trauma therapies, and collaborate with organisations across Syria. The overarching goal of the project is Syria's rehabilitation, fostering mental health, and transforming churches into healing spaces. The highest goal is to reconnect people with God through his healing power and his healing word.

In 2024, the Trauma Healing Program seeks to train specialists, develop manuals, publish materials, and address the elderly affected by war-induced immigration. Twenty single-day workshops will focus on family therapy, stress relief, and activities for the elderly, complemented by clinical training abroad. Bible Society will regularly visit church leaders and individuals interested in Trauma Healing to sustain awareness and expand connections. Bibles and Scriptures will be distributed during workshops and training sessions.

Impact

The impact of this project will be seen in how it equips leaders in the trauma healing field, brings about changed behaviour in traumatised families, and changes the atmosphere of communities, encouraging hope for the future.

The impact of this project is seen in the leaders who have been equipped in trauma healing, care for the elderly, and family therapy. Those participating in the Trauma Healing seminars have demonstrated a change in behaviour, and there has been an increase in a positive outlook and more hope for the future, shown through less immigration and the increase in self-value and trust in others. Churches have begun to collaborate more as they all take part in the training and witness the impact on participants.

For each person who receives trauma healing, it is estimated that another 50 will be impacted. For every person who participates in a trauma healing workshop, it is expected that at least four more (family members most likely) will be impacted.

Testimonies

"As we started up our Trauma Healing Ministry, we didn't know where it would take us. It's been a tearful experience going through the deepest of valleys together with the most precious people who have suffered so much ... we want to thank Jesus with all our hearts for having been with us and the many who have been with us in 'the darkness of the valley' ... We couldn't have continued for (seven) intensive years without Jesus being there in all our seminars giving strength to us all and giving healing to us all." — Nabil, a former Bible Society Syria staff member

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the trainers, trainees, participating families as well as the leaders who facilitate this program and set up the training.
- Pray for some political stability to enable the team to complete the program successfully.
- Pray for those working to produce the Trauma Healing (and family therapy) Manuals, which are so important; pray that they will fit all levels of participants.
- Pray that the coordinators and overseers will have the strength to continue year after year, and praise God for their incredible work.