

Arab Israel



Support for Christians

Project: 100783
Non Tax Deductible



1.7m

Arab citizens of Israel

185,000

Christians in Israel (at the end of 2022)

75.8%

of Christians in Israel are Arabs

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 ongoing war, 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: Arab Israelis comprise of only 20% of Israel's population; only 6.9% of Arab Israelis are Christians. With such a small population of Arab Israeli Christians, AIBS is struggling to maintain a core presence or operations from domestic Bible sales and fundraising income. Many have also been displaced by the conflict and therefore, the need to build a culture of peacemakers and forgivers is greater.

Goals

The goal of this project is to provide leadership for AIBS, to ensure their presence and service within the community, and to enable AIBS to produce and distribute Bibles and other relevant tools. Each year, 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 2025, AIBS' mission is more important and relevant than ever, as they continue to engage the Arab community in Israel with Scriptures, as well as build relationships and grow their network.

Each year, their goal is to support women and families, hosting events, Trauma Healing workshops and producing media and print resources centred on God's word. AIBS maintains a physical presence in Galilee, with a centre open for the public to ask questions, engage with biblical resources and attend events. However, these goals may be impacted in 2025 as the instability of the growing conflict cause projects to be delayed.

Testimony

"Many families expressed gratitude for the principles presented in the ['Family Altar' and 'Unity'] workshop and have asked important questions about ... how they can implement the biblical values at home with their children. A mother ... [shared] that she has been looking for a way to encourage her boys to have a deeper commitment to God. She said that this workshop has given her the answer ... and helped her family to draw closer to the Lord." — Staff Member, Arab Israeli Bible Society

Prayer Points

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

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 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.