



101791 – South Africa
Project Fact Sheet 2022

South Africa: World Hope Ministries

Overview

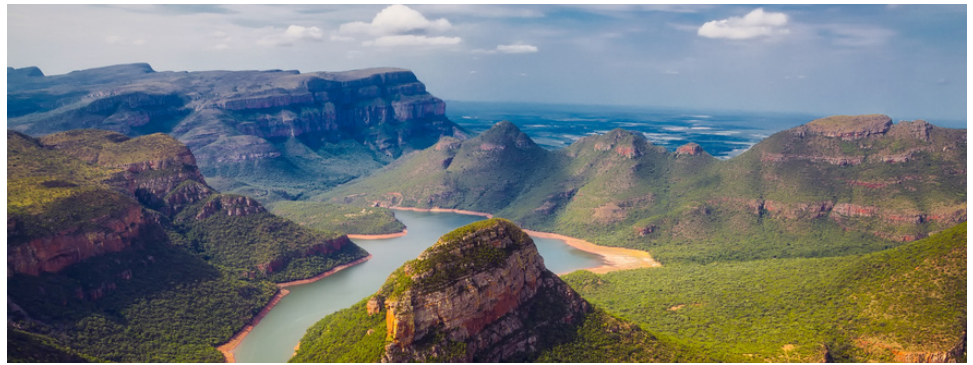
In a country that is desperate for change, Bible Society is working with World Hope Ministries to offer hope with God's powerful word in some of South Africa's darkest places – its prisons. This project aims to present prisoners with the Scriptures through lessons on practical issues of Christian life and to support the facilitators who run these lessons.

Through the program, Scripture resources are also provided to schools, local underprivileged children and prison staff.

The Need

South Africa has suffered extreme poverty, violence and a history of racism. The country is experiencing endemic corruption and, in some places, inequality is worse than it was during apartheid. One in five South Africans live in extreme poverty. The crime rate is skyrocketing due to the state of the economy and prisons are overcrowded. South Africa has the world's 12th highest number of prisoners, outranking countries with nearly five times its population. There are a total of 240 prisons countrywide, with approximately 164,000 inmates at any given time. The prison population remains overwhelmingly overcrowded with a national bed space of a little under 120,000 across the 243 facilities nationwide, leaving more than 45,000 inmates without proper accommodation.

Most of the prisoners have never owned a Bible and are in great need of Opening The Bible, to hear the transformative message of God's love. In addition to this, there's a great need and opportunity to reach out to Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Officials, who experience many challenges and among who there is a high suicide rate.



Project Goals

This project aims to reach a total of 4,000 prisoners and 1,000 DCS Officials in 2022 with Scriptures, and the knowledge and hope that they too can experience a personal relationship with Jesus as their Saviour.

The Bible Discipleship Courses (run by World Hope Ministries) are offered to inmates in over 50 prisons across South Africa, both in person through facilitators and by correspondence. The course aims to teach inmates the love of God and help with their rehabilitation. Upon completion of the Bible Discipleship Course, participants receive a Bible in their own language.

In addition to reaching inmates, World Hope Ministries also reaches out to DCS Officials. While promoting the Biblical Discipleship materials in the prisons, the project team make time to find out where DCS officials are in spiritual life and make use of the opportunity to share the Gospel and pray for them.

This project also involves outreach to children by World Hope Ministries. Bible Memory verse calendars are provided to local schools for a memory verse competition. At Christmas, local underprivileged children are given bags filled with Bibles, Scripture resources and hygiene items.

Impact

The number of prisoners completing the Discipleship Course and receiving Bibles in South African prisons continues to increase. Lives are changed through this program, as prisoners receive the opportunity to understand the forgiveness and mercy of Christ. For many, their hope has been restored in God, in man, and in themselves.

Many also begin to seek restoration with their families and ask forgiveness from those they have affected by their actions.

The program is also reaching children and prison officials facing extremely difficult living conditions, distributing God's word and offering the hope only found in Jesus.

Testimonies

Charlie received a small Good News Bible from Bible Society while he was in prison. "My comfort was only like King David's, when he says, "I become comforted only through the word of God." Now a free man, Charlie willingly goes back to prison to give hundreds of other inmates what he freely received. He has become a facilitator for the Discipleship Courses, visiting some of South Africa's most notorious prisons several times a week. "If I can see only one soul change and be like what I am today, then I can praise God for that," he says.

Prayer Needs

- Praise God for the opportunity to enter South African prisons and preach God's word. Thank him that prisons are open to their inmates receiving the Bible and learning from it.
- Pray for course facilitators, that they may be wise in leading prisoners to the Lord.
- Pray that lives will be changed in South Africa's prisons, that eyes and ears will be opened to the word of God.
- Pray that children in schools and underprivileged children in shanty towns would be blessed by this project and come to know and follow Jesus.