



Bible Access List

Where Bible access is most difficult, and Bible shortage is greatest

Honduras

Bible Restrictions Rank: **82**
MINIMAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Bible shortage has been confirmed



An Overview of Bible access in Honduras

In Honduras, Christianity is deeply woven into the national fabric. Around 92% of the nearly 10.5 million people in the country identify as Christian. However, despite this strong Christian presence, Bible access remains insufficient. An estimated half of these believers do not have regular access to a Bible, highlighting a significant gap between religious affiliation and scriptural engagement.

Legally, there are no restrictions on Bible ownership or distribution in Honduras. Yet, several social and practical barriers hinder full Bible accessibility. Poverty is widespread, particularly in rural areas, where daily survival often takes precedence over spiritual resources. Many families simply cannot afford a Bible, and church leaders frequently report that entire congregations may share just a few copies among them. This financial hardship, combined with limited distribution networks, creates a pronounced deficiency in Bible availability.

In addition, Honduras faces persistent threats from organized criminal groups and gangs that exert control over certain regions. In gang-controlled areas, the distribution of Bibles requires permission from local leaders. While these restrictions are not based on opposition to Christianity per se, they reflect a broader environment of fear and instability. Evangelical pastors have been targeted and, in some tragic cases, murdered. These incidents are typically tied to the country's larger culture of violence rather than a targeted campaign against Christianity.

Another layer of complexity arises from spiritual opposition within some indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities, particularly the Garifuna and Miskito groups. Conversion to Christianity in these regions can lead to social exclusion or even physical threats. In these areas, the Bible may be viewed with suspicion or seen as a disruption to traditional beliefs. This makes it especially difficult for new believers to practice their faith openly, let alone access a Bible safely.

While literacy is high and electricity coverage is nearly universal, over a third of the population lacks regular internet access. This digital divide limits the reach of online Bibles, particularly in rural areas.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Honduras?

How can I pray for Honduras?

- **Provision for Bible Shortage.** Pray for the provision of Bible shortage in Honduras. Ask for increased availability and accessibility of Scripture to ensure every believer can own and study a Bible.
- **Global Partnerships.** Let's ask God's guidance in forging global partnerships and collaborations. May these relationships implement creative solutions to overcome the barriers to Bible distribution, especially in impoverished and remote areas.
- **Economic Development.** Pray for economic breakthroughs that elevate the standard of living, enabling more Hondurans to afford Bibles and other necessities. A stronger economy can pave the way for more of God's Word to spread freely within the country.

After praying for Honduras, continue reading on the next page to learn more.

Bible Access Restrictions

Minimal Access Restrictions



Distribution restrictions

Other Limiting Factors

Some Other Factors



Poor

Bible Shortages Among Believers



Bibles are needed for believers and seekers

Main religion: Christianity

Country population: 10,759,000

Christian population:



10,276,000, 95.51% of total population

World Watch List: #65

WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN HONDURAS?

While there are no national laws that ban Bible ownership or distribution in Honduras, the reality on the ground tells a different story. In many parts of the country, access to Scripture is deeply affected by violence, fear, and isolation.

The Risk in Gang-Controlled Territories

In neighborhoods controlled by gangs, simply carrying a Bible can be seen as a threat. Criminal groups like MS-13 and Barrio 18 maintain tight control over their areas, and churches are often viewed with suspicion. Some pastors who preach against violence or try to help young people escape gang life are directly targeted. Reports have shown that pastors have been harassed, extorted, and even killed.

These threats create an atmosphere of fear. Churches in these zones are closely watched, and Christian activity—especially anything involving outreach or distribution—can lead to retaliation. Some congregations have been forced to disband or meet in secret.

As a result, many believers choose to lay low, leaving large parts of the population without safe access to Scripture.

Economic Hardship and Lack of Infrastructure

Outside urban centers, the challenges shift; but they don't get any easier. In Honduras' rural and remote regions, poverty is widespread, and infrastructure is weak. Roads are often impassable, electricity is inconsistent, and communication is limited. These areas are also frequently neglected by government services, and criminal networks can still exert influence with little resistance.

For churches and ministries trying to bring Bibles into these communities, the logistics alone can be overwhelming. Transportation is expensive, distribution channels are unreliable, and the cost of a single Bible may be out of reach for families focused on daily survival. Even digital alternatives aren't always viable, only around 60% of the population has internet access, and many rural areas still lack electricity. Without roads, signal, or funding, Bible access increasingly difficult.

Hostility from Indigenous Groups

In some indigenous communities, Christianity is viewed with deep suspicion. Local customs and traditional spiritual practices often clash with biblical teaching, and when someone converts to Christianity, they can face serious consequences. Converts have been excluded from communal gatherings, denied land rights or services, and pressured to renounce their new faith.


Churches that attempt to evangelize in these areas sometimes encounter resistance not just from individuals, but from the broader community. This social opposition makes it extremely difficult to deliver Bibles or organize discipleship efforts.

Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Honduras


Honduras	Islamic Oppression	Religious Nationalism	Ethno-religious hostility	Clan oppression	Christian denominational oppression	Communist and post-Communist oppression	Secular intolerance	Dictatorial paranoia	Organized corruption and crime
Persecution Engines →									
Persecution Drivers ↓	Not at all	Not at all	Not at all	Very weak	Very weak	Not at all	Very weak	Not at all	Strong
Government officials					+		+		+++
Ethnic group leaders				+					
Non-Christian religious leaders				+					
Christian religious leaders					+				
Violent religious groups									
Normal citizens					+		+		++
Extended family					+				+
Political parties							+		+
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups									
Organized crime									++++
Multilateral org. & Embassies							+		

Reference


The more fully shaded the circle in orange, the stronger the level of persecution. The number of "+" signs indicates the frequency or intensity of the driving factors behind it.




Very Strong



Strong



Medium



None

In Honduras, the most significant force hindering Bible access stems from the pervasive influence of organized corruption and crime. This operates through a web of violent gangs, drug cartels, and deeply entrenched corruption within local and national institutions that can even involve government officials.

Now, we can go deeper to ask the question: How does this affect Bible access? Furthermore, where can we pinpoint the problem so we can address the need and demand for Bibles in Honduras?

A CLOSER LOOK AT PERSECUTION ENGINES

A persecution engine is simply this: the source of persecution in the country. A persecution driver (or actor) is the one “driving” the persecution. Taking a closer look at these engines and drivers, in proper context, will give us insight on how we can solve the problems of Bible access in the country.



Gangs such as **MS-13** and **Barrio 18** are known to target Christians who speak out against criminal activity or evangelize in their territory. In May 2023, a pastor was gunned down in Olancho after a church service, shot multiple times by assassins on a motorcycle. Similarly, another pastor, a Pentecostal leader working with youth in Comayagüela, was shot in the head while parking in front of his church. These are not just isolated incidents. They reflect a broader pattern of intimidation and violence against spiritual leaders.

Churches located in gang-controlled areas are routinely threatened with extortion. Those that refuse to pay face retaliation, including vandalism, theft, or even targeted killings. During the COVID-19 lockdown, gangs tightened their territorial grip, forcing some Christian leaders to request permission from criminal groups just to carry out humanitarian aid or worship services. In many cases, criminal groups monitor churches through coerced community informants.

Former gang members who convert to Christianity are also placed at extreme risk. If the gang deems their conversion "not genuine," they may be surveilled or attacked. These individuals, now trying to live a new life, are often unable to safely participate in Christian community or receive access to a Bible without endangering themselves or others.

Corruption exacerbates the danger. Local authorities often turn a blind eye, or worse, cooperate with criminal networks. This collusion makes it nearly impossible for believers to report threats or seek protection. Even religious radio stations, like **Radio Progreso**, have been targets. In 2023, it suffered smear campaigns, extortion, and threats, while its director was personally harassed and hacked for broadcasting messages advocating for justice and supporting vulnerable populations.

The intersection of criminal dominance and systemic corruption creates a hostile landscape where even the simple act of sharing or reading Scripture can place someone in mortal danger.

THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN HONDURAS

Despite a strong Christian presence in Honduras, research estimates only a little more than half of believers have access to a bible. As a result, **a significant amount of Bibles are needed** to meet the current demand among believers alone. For seekers, those exploring the faith, an additional number is needed to bridge the gap for evangelism.

A Growing Church, A Growing Demand

Over the last five years, the church in Honduras has seen growth, reflecting a hunger for the Gospel even in the midst of corruption and crime. This growth creates a pressing need to equip new believers with the Word of God, especially in rural and indigenous areas where access to biblical materials is severely limited. Without timely Bible distribution, the momentum of the church's growth could be stalled.

Bible Formats for Diverse Needs

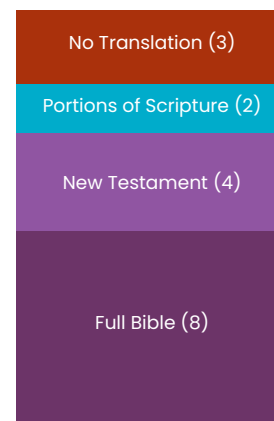
The demand for Scripture is not just about quantity, it's about accessibility. **Printed Bibles** remain the most critical format, particularly in remote or offline communities. **Audio Bibles** also serve as vital tools for those with limited literacy, while **internet-based Scripture access** continues to gain relevance, especially among youth.

The Challenge of Bible Translations

The challenge when it comes to translations remains urgent. Christians in Honduras speak at least 17 languages. Of these languages:

- Only **8** have a full Bible translation.
- **4** languages have access to the New Testament only.
- **2** have just a portion of the Bible translated.
- **3 have no Scripture available at all**

This linguistic gap leaves entire communities without the transformative power of God's Word in their heart language.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Honduras

THE CLARION CALL

Now is the time for the global Church to respond. The window is open, and the harvest is ripe in Honduras. As the church grows in number and boldness, we must rise to meet this historic moment with faith and urgency. Every Bible placed in the hands of a believer is a seed of hope planted in a land hungry for transformation.

Together, we can ensure that no Christian in Honduras is left without a Bible, and no seeker is left without access to the truth of God's Word. Will you answer the call?

