



BIBLE SOCIETY
1817-2017

Prayer letter

March 2017

W 1 Zambia: Bible House in Lusaka has been badly damaged by a recent fire. Thank God that no staff were harmed and miraculously the storeroom, where 50,000 Bibles (many financed by Australians) are kept, remained untouched. Please pray that God would quickly provide alternative office space and for Bible ministry to continue strongly in Zambia.

T 2 Australia—Events for Bibles: Pray riders currently on the Tas Tour 200 are kept safe and healthy on their two-week ride around Tasmania, as they mark Bible Society Australia's bicentenary and raise funds for a literacy programme in South Sudan. Also pray for those, including Bible Society's Mark Lawrenson, in training for the Round the Bay in 2 Days ride in Victoria (25-26 March).

F 3 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for many to attend today's World Day of Prayer services around Australia. Please pray for the speakers (including Bible Society staff at some events) for a time of powerful united prayer for those in the Philippines who have been traumatised by grief, loss or abuse. Please also pray for generous giving to help Bible Society minister to these victims with God's word.

S 4 Australia: Pray for a great celebration of our bicentenary in many churches this weekend. The biggest National Celebration of the Bible event will

be 9am AEDT Sunday at Hillsong Church in Baulkham Hills NSW. Pray for smooth logistics, as this event will also be streamed to more than 40 churches and be available to people to view online (see www.bible.com.au for details).

S 5 Word for the Week: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

M 6 Australia: The Bible Society board convenes today for their quarterly meeting. Give thanks for new directors recently appointed, and pray for the board as they consider the strategic direction and lead the Bible Society executive team.

T 7 Celebrating 200 years in Australia: On this day in 1817, Governor Lachlan Macquarie signed into being an auxiliary branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Give glory to God for the service of dedicated staff and volunteers as well as the prayers and gifts of faithful supporters over 200 years! Praise God for the good that has come to so many in Australia through the Bible and for the generosity of Australian Christians, enabling the Good Book to be provided to millions around the world.

W 8 Vietnam: Ask the Lord to help and provide a solution for the import and export of Bibles, which are now unavailable in Vietnam due to strict import-export control. Pray for a quick resolution to these restrictions so that all Bibles are released into Vietnam.

T 9 Myanmar: Reverend Khoi (General Secretary of Bible Society of Myanmar) and a relative of one of the Zotung Bible translators were involved in a car accident while returning from the recent Zotung Bible Dedication at Sian Pi village; please pray for full restoration of health. Also pray that the activities planned for 2017 to reach various people groups in Myanmar will effectively share God's word with many, providing encouragement and growing faith through the gospel.

F 10 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Thank God for the QLD churches who have joined in with the bicentenary celebration to date, including at Mt Gravatt, Noosa, Burleigh Heads, Coomera, Indooroopilly, Sunnybank, Bli Bli and Petrie. Please pray for events this Sunday at Gympie Uniting Church and 26 March at Buderim Immanuel Lutheran, and pray for safe travel for Bible Society people as they visit various centres to speak and assist.

S 11 Portugal: Please pray for the training events being held for youth leaders this month, that the leaders will be inspired and encouraged in their work. Pray also for the partnership with the local churches. Pray for a willingness to work together to reach more people for Christ.

S 12 Word for the Week: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

M 13 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray that this Sunday's Launceston bicentennial service will be a brilliant celebration of the Bible in Australia, reflecting on the legacy of Bible Society, hearing God's word preached by Bishop Richard Condie and featuring the Tasmanian launch of the *Our Mob, God's Story* Indigenous art book. Pray many will join us to praise God and pray for the future of Bible Society.

T 14 Middle East: By God's grace, a Children's Bible for the Greek Orthodox community in Palestine, Israel, Turkey, and Jordan is now being printed (the community has not previously had a Children's Bible). Pray that it will reach the hands and hearts of children as soon as possible, increasing their love and knowledge of Jesus.

W 15 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Please pray for WA staff Rick and Marcus during this busy time. Pray for Rick as he speaks at Capel Seventh Day Adventist Church this Saturday, Manjimup Baptist on Sunday and at Mount Pleasant Church of Christ on 26 March. Also, pray for their work leading up to the WA bicentenary launch at Wesley Uniting Church in Perth 30-31 March; may it be a joyous celebration of God's written word.

T 16 South Sudan: Please pray for peace and stability, that opposing leaders would humble themselves for the good of their country, and that there would be an end to conflict and violence. Pray also for the Collo literacy programme, that the eyes of the Shilluk people will be opened to read the Bible and that many more would come to know God.

F 17 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for tonight's Light up the Dark dinner in Geelong VIC, and for Bible Society's David Lepore as he hosts the evening. Pray that many young people will attend, raise funds and engage with Bible Society's vision and work. Pray for Sunday's Bicentennial Celebration Hymnfest also in Geelong, that those who attend will be encouraged and uplifted by the music.

S 18 Germany: Pray for the United Bible Societies Publishers' Convention 2017, starting in Berlin tomorrow. Pray for great mutual learning and fellowship amongst Bible Society staff from many countries. Much like the Reformation (which started 500 years ago in Germany) helped bring the understanding of the Bible to the common people, please pray that the fruit of this convention will make the Bible available to even more people in formats and languages that are easily understood.

S 19 Word for the Week: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

M 20 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for joy as NSW staff assist with extra event-based duties this year, and for energy to keep up with normal work. Pray for Samuel travelling to six churches stretching from Sussex Inlet to Toronto; for Nick presenting in churches and groups in Camden, Chester Hill, Albury and Campbelltown; for Richard meeting with Catholic churches and leaders seeking support for Indigenous Australian and overseas Bible projects; and for Bernard ministering to many individuals, groups and churches. Pray for great responses that will support and advance Bible work.

T 21 India: Praise God for good relations between Bible Society India and Catholic churches and leaders, enabling much wider Bible distribution. Please pray for the launch of joint programmes for Bible engagement among various age groups in 2017.

W 22 Australia—Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Amy Orr-Ewing is speaking tomorrow night at the annual Richard Johnson Lecture on the topic, "Is Christianity Bad News for Women?". Thank God for significant interest in the event, and pray that those who come (especially those who aren't Christians) will be engaged by the gospel of Jesus as good news for all people.

T 23 The Gulf: Bible Society in the Gulf has initiated a literacy programme for Egyptian migrant workers, enabling the migrant workers to learn to read while engaging with the Bible-based curriculum. Pray for openness to the gospel and that many workers will understand and grow in faith as they learn.

F 24 Australia—Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Please pray for the *Our Mob, God's Story* art book launch during tomorrow's Bible Antiques Roadshow in Albury-Wodonga. Also, pray for the youth night and concert this evening and for the many churches hosting Bible Society speakers on Sunday. Pray that many in the region will take up Bible resources, and grow in their understanding of Bible Society's work as well as awareness of Bible needs here and around the world.

S 25 Pakistan: Women's literacy work continues in villages and slums. Please ask God to help and guide Bible Society staff to reach unreached areas through this project. Also pray that many more women will engage with this Bible-based literacy learning, receive a beacon of hope in the darkness of illiteracy, and take the Bible to their families.

S 26 Word for the Week: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

M 27 Cambodia: The Bible Society in Cambodia is implementing a new project: Children of the Word. Please pray for open doors in schools throughout the country and for children to be changed and engaged by God's word. Pray for the staff team as they connect with and lead the children.

T 28 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Praise God for a strong heritage of generous supporters and volunteers in South Australia. Pray for staff Strauss Viljoen and Steve Bengtsson as they meet with SA church leaders and Bible Society branches to discuss fundraising events for the year. Pray for safe travel and great attendance as they visit churches, groups and other events to present the need to *Get The Word Out* in Australia as part of the bicentenary celebrations.

W 29 Yemen: While fighting in Iraq and Syria may make headlines, the conflict in Yemen is almost unreported. About 80% of Yemenis are in need of some form of humanitarian aid and many have fled as refugees in other countries. It is a hard land to be a Christian and very difficult for Christian ministry. Ask our mighty God to work miracles, to comfort and strengthen his people and to reach many with his word.

T 30 Australia—Koorong Books: In the lead up to Easter, Koorong promotes books and Bibles to share the central message of the gospel about the death and resurrection of Jesus while encouraging customers to buy quantities of Bibles and Easter related materials to give away. Pray that many would take up this challenge, and that more will come to know Christ as they read and reflect on the Easter message.

F 31 Canada: Give thanks for the first ever Inuit Bible Translation Conference held recently in Toronto. The Inuit people, who inhabit the rugged Arctic terrain on the north coast of North America from Alaska to Greenland, have recently experienced a resurgence of indigenous languages and cultures. In the church there is a vibrant indigenous faith community with a corresponding desire for Scripture that speaks to cultural expression. Pray for Bible Society and its partners as they work to meet the Scripture needs of the Inuit people.

To receive this Prayer Letter regularly via e-mail please contact us at bibles@biblesociety.org.au

Bible Society

M: GPO Box 9874 In Your Capital City
E: bibles@biblesociety.org.au
P: 1300 BIBLES (1300 242 537)