



BIBLE SOCIETY
1817-2017

Prayer letter

April 2017

S 1 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for NSW field staff: for Nick to inspire Kogarah Congregational Church with Bible Society's work tomorrow; for safe, fruitful travel as Sam and Tika go from Sydney to Glen Innes and Tullamore, speaking at 12 meetings along the way; for Richard as he engages church clergy with the Murrinhpatha Mini Bible, Indigenous project and Scriptures in heart language projects; and for Bernard as he shares bicentenary highlights with Dundas-Ermington Uniting Church on 13 April. Pray also for mutually encouraging and positive outcomes as the team visits individual supporters.

S 2 Word for the Week: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

M 3 Vietnam: Please pray for the translation and recording of Bible stories into Vietnamese Sign Language. Pray that deaf people who receive the Scriptures will deeply understand and grasp God's love, that they will grow spiritually and be able to share the gospel with others.

T 4 Australia—Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Pray that the *Our Mob, God's Story* art book launch in Adelaide tomorrow will help showcase

this magnificent book to Christians, non-Christians and many key media people. Thank God that the book is raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander faith, and raising funds for Indigenous Scripture publications and the development of Bible Engagement resources.

W 5 Nigeria: Bible Society of Nigeria is aiming to strengthen and develop its work through a new training academy with a programme for future leaders. Please pray for the 39 participants who have started 10 months of training, and that the programme will raise up many competent leaders who are well-equipped to take up positions of responsibility within Bible Society.

T 6 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Please pray for Allison and the Bible Society team in Victoria coping without Sue in the Melbourne office for six weeks, and pray for Sue's full recovery after surgery. Pray for Church Relations Coordinator David as he continues deputations throughout Victoria raising awareness of *Get the Word Out Australia*. Pray that donors will respond to the events held and the hard work that has gone into Bible Society Australia's bicentenary celebrations. Please pray that new donor partnerships will be established as a result.

F 7 Tajikistan: Laws in Tajikistan are becoming more restrictive; distribution of religious literature and religious propaganda in public places is forbidden. Please pray for Bible ministry amongst the minority Christian population and for guidance and strength for Christians living in this Central Asian country.

S 8 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Please pray for Rick as he shares Bible Society's ministry with Busselton Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church today and with other WA churches during April, including in Thornlie, Willetton and Leeming. Thank God for Bible Society Australia's opportunity to be involved in the SDA Easter Camp in Perth; pray that the 2500+ participants will be inspired by the presence and power of Jesus Christ.

S 9 Word for the Week: For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

M 10 Sri Lanka: Please pray for editing work on the New Revised Sinhala Version and Revised Old Version Bibles. Pray for the translation

committee and staff involved in these projects, and for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance to faithfully complete the translations. Pray for the new Bible Society office complex and sales room, that the new location would increase Scripture sales and be an efficient base for Bible ministry.

T 11 Australia—Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Thank God for the recent public Richard Johnson Lecture, which was a huge success in Sydney. Give thanks for the successful public event in Melbourne, and pray for our guest speaker Amy Orr-Ewing's ongoing apologetics ministry. Despite significant challenges, thank God that the CPX team had a successful trip to India to film for the documentary *For the Love of God*; pray for the team as they continue recording in Europe and Australia in the weeks to come.

W 12 Lebanon: Please pray for the current Bible Society programme aiming to offer hope to refugee children in Lebanon through an interactive biblical drama presentation about reconciliation and forgiveness, focusing on trauma healing. Please pray for the children taking part, that they may find healing and hope through the Bible.

T 13 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for Bible Society's Melissa Lipsett as she visits Tasmania and speaks this evening and tomorrow at the Launceston Alive Easter Festival about the timeless message of the Bible and its "goodness" for all people, across generations and cultures. Pray that churches and denominations would make the most of this opportunity to come together and share the good news of Jesus with the city and Northern Tasmania!

F 14 Good Friday: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

S 15 Israel: Pray that God would work in the lives of the Hebrew-speaking children who receive Scripture materials so that they would grow to know him and become faithful servants and witnesses of the Lord to many others in Israel. Pray that the children will learn about forgiveness, and that it will shape their lives in a way that will facilitate future reconciliation within the body of Christ in the Holy Land.

S 16 Word for the Week: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

M 17 TAZI Scriptures: Pray for wisdom and guidance for those in United Bible Societies who are preparing more TAZI Scripture resources, designed to help engage people from Muslim backgrounds. Pray for Christians in many countries and situations who use TAZI Scriptures to share the gospel, and that many will read and seek to know more about Jesus.

T 18 Australia—Campaigns & Programmes: Bible Society's Masterclass will be held in all states during July and August, and is a great day for students in years 10 and 11 to think through and ask questions about the foundation of the Bible and current issues that they might face. Please pray for the speakers as they prepare for the events and that the invited Christian schools will be keen to come.

W 19 Africa: Please pray for the new literacy initiative in eastern and southern Africa. Pray for the Bible Societies of Finland, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania and SIL International Africa who are partnering together for this Scripture-based project. Pray for all involved, for successful implementation and that the lives of all participants will be changed for the better through the life skill of literacy and engaging with God's word.

T 20 Australia—Koorong Books: Koorong distributes Alpha material in Australia and has been actively promoting Alpha courses based on endorsements from Bear Grylls. There will be a number of new Alpha courses starting up around Easter. Please pray that many people will join these courses and be led to commit their lives to Christ.

F 21 Philippines: Please pray for Bible Society's trauma healing ministries and Scripture distribution efforts to Filipino women across seven provinces this year. Pray that this work will succeed in introducing hurting women to the Scriptures as the ultimate source of comfort, hope, and peace.

S 22 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Thank God for the positive reception Strauss and Steve encountered during recent visits to the Riverland area of South Australia. Also pray that their 6-7 April visit to the Fleurieu Peninsula will continue to bring fruit of stronger relationships with pastors, existing donors and new supporters.

S 23 Word for the Week: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 John 4:11

M 24 Austria: Please pray for Bible Society's new exhibition, *Approaches – Encounters with the Bible*. The exhibition is based on visual depictions of human experiences and topics including freedom, relationships and justice. It connects these themes with Bible verses, and invites people to link daily life themes with the Bible. Pray for great exposure for this travelling exhibition, that many will engage and take the Bible Society booklet to explore the topics and God's word further.

T 25 Suriname: Thank God for the new Bible translation into Sranang Tongo and pray for the completion of Bible translation into Surinamese Javanese. Please pray for many to grow in God's love through these translations. Pray also that Christians would be a positive force in improving the political, economic and social problems in Suriname.

W 26 Australia: Pray as Bible Society Australia prepares to host the United Bible Societies Roundtable Exchange in Sydney during July: with some 200 delegates from over 100 countries, pray for smooth visa, travel and venue arrangements; pray for Australian staff serving in various support roles; pray for great interaction and fellowship between delegates, that all involved will grow in understanding of global Bible accomplishments, needs and ministries.

T 27 Laos: Please pray for Bible Society literacy programmes, that churches will be moved to run these programmes as part of their outreach and that more people from the churches will volunteer as facilitators. Many classes take place in rural areas where there can be restrictions on Christian activity; pray that local authorities will allow Scripture-based literacy classes to take place.

F 28 Australia: Please pray for the annual Illawarra Christian Schools Bike for Bibles ride from Canberra to Wollongong, starting tomorrow. Thank God for the riders and staff who make this ride happen each year, and pray for a safe, enjoyable ride over the three days.

S 29 Ethiopia: Praise God for the recent joyful launch of the Arisis language New Testament in Dodola, south eastern Ethiopia. Pray that the minority Christian Arisi people will be strengthened by having Scripture in their own language, that they will grow in spiritual maturity and become good witnesses for Christ.

S 30 Word for the Week: Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" John 11:40

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