



BIBLE SOCIETY
1817-2017

Prayer letter

July 2017

S 1 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Thank God for United Bible Society (UBS) delegates who are giving their time to share before and/or after the UBS Roundtable conference. Pray for visiting speakers from Africa, Cambodia, UK and the China Partnership, that their firsthand stories of Bible ministry and needs will inspire churches and groups in Sydney, the Central Coast and Newcastle during the next two weekends.

S 2 Australia—Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Pray for today's dedication of the Eastern & Central Arrernte Shorter Bible at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alice Springs. This significant milestone event is the culmination of years of translation work by local Eastern & Central Arrernte speakers and will be celebrated with NAIDOC week. Please pray that people in this language group, making up as much as 25% of the Alice Springs population, will be blessed as they read the Bible in their own heart language.

M 3 Australia—Campaigns & Programmes: Give thanks for the hard work of the Campaigns and Programmes team in preparing for the Annual UBS Roundtable conference, officially commencing today in Sydney. Pray for a productive time as delegates from 110 Bible Societies meet, learn from and help each other. Pray that delegates will be able to better serve the Bible

cause back in their own countries. Pray for Australian staff taking on extra duties to support the conference.

T 4 Word for the Week: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

W 5 United Bible Societies (UBS) Roundtable: Please continue to pray for the UBS Roundtable conference as delegates discuss how, as a global Bible Society Fellowship, UBS members can better serve our brothers and sisters in countries where it is dangerous for people to openly proclaim and talk about Jesus. Please also pray for Bible Society workers in such countries.

T 6 United Bible Societies (UBS) Roundtable: Give thanks that UBS members could meet and talk about the main mission areas of translation and literacy, Bible advocacy and distribution, digital engagement, Bible publishing and how to best serve the church and different demographics. Pray that these discussions will lead to continual improvement in UBS members serving their own countries through UBS global mission aims.

F 7 Australia - Koorong Books: After over 40 years, today is the final day at Koorong for retiring CEO Paul Bootes, as he hands the baton of leading the company to his brother Rob. Please pray for Rob Bootes as he settles into the new role and for the entire Koorong staff during this time of transition. Pray also for Paul as he takes up other ministry opportunities.

S 8 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: In addition to NSW several UBS delegates are speaking interstate this weekend. Pray for energy, health and logistics as delegates including Arun Sok Nhep in QLD, Jock L Foo in WA and Kua Wee Seng in TAS add to their already busy schedules to share about their work. Pray that many will grow in understanding and commitment to supporting Bible ministry around the world.

S 9 Word for the Week: For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

M 10 Pakistan: Pray for Pakistan Bible Society General Secretary Anthony Lamuel and his family as they mourn the passing of his mother, giving thanks that she knew the Lord. Pray also for safety and God's blessing upon the work in Pakistan during this busy

season, as Bible Society continues its involvement with sports festivals, and Bible distribution among summer tourists in the hilly areas.

T 11 Australia: Praise God for encouragement from individuals, churches and groups in the busy first half of Bible Society Australia's bicentenary year. Pray that new connections made possible by publicity around the bicentenary will strengthen, and that momentum and enthusiasm will continue for the second half of the year. Pray for staff to take times of rest amidst the busy schedule and return stronger and refreshed.

W 12 Taiwan: Pray for wonderful worship celebrations today for the Drekey Bible in Pintung, southern Taiwan. Pray that having this translation of the whole Bible will further strengthen Drekey churches. Please pray the Sediq Bible, the Kids Puzzle Bible and The 1000 Sticker Bible for Kids will also be successfully published in the near future.

T 13 Egypt: Praise God for the successful distribution of 30,000 special gospel booklets at the recent mass with Pope Francis. Although staff were not able to personally distribute the booklets due to security measures, they were encouraged to see people's delight on receiving the booklet. Pray that all who read will discover the astonishing love of Jesus for themselves. Pray for strengthened faith for Christians in Egypt.

F 14 Australia—Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Pray for members of the CPX team as they speak to audiences locally and around Australia. Pray for the CPX weekly podcast, *Life & Faith*, that many more people will become regular listeners and that it will stimulate and challenge their thinking about faith and contemporary life.

S 15 South Pacific: Pray for those dealing with trauma, particularly following the devastation of the 2015 and 2016 tropical cyclones, as well those who are hurting from things like domestic violence, sexual assault, addiction, and racial and religious tensions. Pray that the Bible Society's Scripture-based trauma healing programme would bring healing and hope to these situations, and for provision so that the programme can continue to bring God's comfort beyond the end of this year.

S 16 Word for the Week: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

M 17 Africa: Praise God for the recent launch of the Africa Study Bible, “God’s word through African eyes”, which includes 2,400 features written by 350 contributors from 50 countries. Pray that the study Bible would be well-used in the growing African church, that believers and church leaders would not simply grow in number, but in faith, with a love for and knowledge of the Bible. Pray for the new project of producing the African Women’s Devotional Bible.

T 18 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Thank God and supporters for the blessings received during Bible Society’s End of Financial Year Appeal. As Richard and team seek support to bring God’s word to Australia’s first people and the poor and disadvantaged in Asia, pray for Indigenous translation and publishing projects and the Philippines’ *May They Be One Scripture* distribution project to gain further support from Australian Catholic churches and clergy.

W 19 Senior Leadership: Praise God for the recent opportunities during the Roundtable Exchange for the Bible Society Australia board and Senior Leadership to meet with the United Bible Societies’ Executive Board. Please pray for effectiveness in the implementation of actions agreed. Give thanks too for the service of Rick Streefland who retired last month as Tasmanian director on the Bible Society Board.

T 20 USA: Praise God for Scripture engagement partnerships growing among local churches, furthering a national Bible engagement strategy in seven major US cities including Philadelphia, New York, Charlotte, Dallas, Kansas City and Phoenix. Pray that God might order every step and provide every need to further this strategy, leading to many people reading and understanding the Bible for the first time.

F 21 Australia— Events for Bibles: Please pray for the recruitment of more runners and walkers to raise funds for Bibles in Schools through sponsorship in the 14km City2Surf in Sydney on 13 August. Praise God for the team that has assembled so far.

S 22 Indonesia: As tensions may be heightened due to events linked to Jakarta Governor Ahok’s conviction for blasphemy and other religious issues, pray for God’s protection, wisdom and grace to cover Christians in the region. Pray for Indonesian Bible Society as it continues to provide God’s word amongst the unease, and that Bible Society’s Biblical Library and Bible Museum would continue to be a source of learning and inspiration to visitors.

S 23 Word for the Week: He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:25

M 24 Australia—Campaigns & Programmes: Masterclasses for senior students kick off tomorrow, with events in all states over the next six weeks. Pray for the nine Masterclass speakers, and for the other public talks and events they are involved with at this time. Pray for John Dickson speaking at Newlife Uniting Church, Gold Coast QLD tonight on *Better off without Christianity?*, and pray for John, Patricia Weekaroon and Dan Paterson as they share at Masterclass tomorrow. Pray that attendees’ faith and confidence in the Bible’s authority and relevance would grow.

T 25 Lebanon: Please pray for the many displaced people and communities that Lebanon is currently hosting as a result of the Middle East crisis. One in three people in Lebanon is now a refugee with a story that carries many wounds and deep hurts. Pray for Bible Society in Lebanon and all their staff, as they continue to instil hope through the message of the Bible and seek to exemplify Christ in a place surrounded by racism, extremism and hatred.

W 26 United Kingdom: Pray for all those affected by recent terror attacks in England. Pray for loved ones of those deceased as well as healing for the injured and traumatised. Pray for wisdom and guidance for Bible Society staff and other Christians as they offer God’s comfort and grace in a society that has in many ways moved away from its Christian heritage.

T 27 Australia—Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support: Thank God for the great demand for the Scripture-inspired *Our Mob, God’s Story* artbook. The first print run of 2,000 sold out in two weeks, and the second print run is selling strongly, with plans for a third. Thank God for the thousands of dollars already raised for Indigenous translation through sales.

F 28 Vietnam: Praise God for the recently published Tay New Testament. Pray that the Tay people would have open hearts to receive God’s word into their lives. Please also pray for Bible Society’s Scripture-based literacy project, for safe travels for staff and volunteers to the project fields, and that the literacy textbook development and publishing process will run smoothly and produce much gospel fruit.

S 29 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for great attendance and impact at upcoming Bible Society events in WA and for local staff Rick and Marcus during this busy time. Pray for a great bicentenary celebration at Lifestreams Church of Christ in Como, Perth and for an engaging and informative Dan Patterson public talk *Are the Bible’s morals immoral?* at Living Water Anglican Church in Albany tomorrow. Pray for the speakers, students and teachers at Masterclass events in Albany on Monday and Booragoon on Tuesday, and for the *Better off without Christianity?* public talk in Booragoon on Tuesday evening.

S 30 Word for the Week: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

M 31 Cuba: Thanks be to God for the distribution of 750,000 Bibles in Cuba so far through the *One Million Bible* project. Continue to pray for further distribution and the completion of this project, which will see 8.5% of the population owning a Bible. Pray for the training of more young pastors and leaders who can speak the love, mercy and grace of the Scriptures during a time of great change and challenge in this nation.

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

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