



BIBLE SOCIETY
1817-2017

Prayer letter

October 2017

S 1 Word for the Week: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Psalm 46:10

M 2 Singapore: Thank God for the inaugural *The Bible and Chinese Cultural Festival* which finished yesterday. Pray many who were engaged by Christianity's rich history with the Chinese people and culture would see the truth of Christ and come to know him for themselves. Pray for the International Bible Experiences team, promoting and organising year-end tours and mission trips, that these events will be popular and run smoothly.

T 3 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for safe travels for Samuel, Bernard, Nick, Richard and Jonathan as they share with churches, conferences and individuals in NSW, including Uralla, Armidale, Gerringong, Kiama, Orange and West Wyalong. Pray for God's protection and strength during another busy month, that God's word and the mission of Bible Society would spread through the team's efforts.

W 4 Central America: Pray for those affected by disasters, including earthquake and hurricanes. Rebuilding will be a prolonged process, especially in poorer countries. Pray for Bible Society and other Christian organisations and churches to offer God's hope

and comfort, even in the midst of their own struggles. Pray for those who have lost loved ones or homes, who are facing uncertainty and need hope.

T 5 Australia—Campaigns & Programmes: Give thanks for the recent Masterclass events for year 10 and 11 students. Please pray that those who attended as Christians will feel better equipped to talk to people about the Bible and relevant issues in their school or community.

F 6 Portugal: Praise God for financial support raised to print 200,000 comic-style leaflets about the life of Jesus. Thank God for the opportunity to train church leaders in engaging children with Games Days. Pray for the Bible Society team involved with organising celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including the launch of a memorial postage stamp, an exhibition and music concerts.

S 7 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for the many events on in Queensland, including presentations at St John's Presbyterian Toowoomba tomorrow; Kingaroy Lutheran Ladies Fellowship 10/10; a lunch at Biggenden 26/10; and Redcliffe Branch luncheon 31/10. Pray for QLD staff Eddie and Sue and the upcoming events around the State: the Uniting Church Synod, several Global Leadership Summit events, and Centre for Public Christianity TED Talks.

S 8 Word for the Week: Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
Psalm 62:5-6

M 9 Syria: Pray for the Children's Scripture Distribution project in Syria, for the Bible Society staff as well as all church members and volunteers helping in the distribution. Pray for the 11,220 children who have received Scriptures so far in 2017, that God will give these children courage, that they will read these Bibles and meet Jesus. Pray for Bible Society to continue serving the generations in Syria and spreading God's hope amid such difficult circumstances.

T 10 Australia—Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Pray for events CPX is co-hosting this week with City Bible Forum, Anglican Deaconess Ministries, and the University of Sydney. Pray that the speakers will be able to convey the truth and beauty of Christian faith to a sceptical audience as they discuss anxiety, pop culture and religion, and the impact of the Protestant Reformation 500 years on.

W 11 Vietnam: Pray for staff settling into the recently relocated office in Hanoi, and for the ministry of Bible Society to be effective and to expand. Give thanks for the translators and pray the completion of the Nung NT, Bunong NT, Koho, Rade and Lao Bibles will proceed quickly and accurately so these minority groups will soon have the Bible in their heart languages.

T 12 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Thank God for the launch of a new Burnie (TAS) Hymnfest this Sunday, as well as the annual Hobart Hymnfest at St David's Cathedral 22/10. Please pray that these events would be great celebrations, where churches are united together in praising Jesus through beloved hymns and raising support for Bibles to go throughout Australia.

F 13 Cameroon: Pray for participants in Bible Society Cameroon's *Esther Project*, which supports teen mothers and girls who are recovering from sexual abuse and exploitation. Pray for peace and healing, that the girls come to a personal relationship with Jesus and understand their worth and value. Pray that God will provide funds for those who want to engage in income-generating activities, that they may be released from poverty and restored to a full and flourishing life.

S 14 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for Richard Allcock, who will be speaking about Bible Society Australia's Indigenous ministry at St Ambrose Concord, St Mary West Wyalong and St Joachim Lidcombe Catholic Churches in NSW this month. Pray that the presentations will be engaging, that parishioners will be touched by what they hear and generously support the work. Please also pray for the volunteers of Kiama/Gerringong/Jamberoo Bible Society Branch meeting next Friday at Gerringong Catholic Church.

S 15 Word for the Week: May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. Ruth 2:12

M 16 Philippines: Pray for preparations for the 22/11 celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Pampango language Bible and the 118th Anniversary of the Philippine Bible Society. Pray for wide support, great attendance and publicity for the celebration event in San Fernando, Pampanga.

T 17 Australia—Content and Publishing: Give thanks for the success of the art book *Our Mob, God's Story*, which was named Australian Christian Book of the Year. Pray for sales to continue both here in Australia and overseas, and that the funds raised would see Bible Society's Indigenous Ministry work grow, giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access to the Good Book in their own heart languages.

W 18 Ghana: Please pray for this year's *African Biblical Leadership Initiative—Ghana Forum* being held today and tomorrow with the theme 'Responsible Citizenship: The Hallmark of a servant leader'. This Bible advocacy event reaches out to leadership from all spheres of influence to discuss biblical principles. Pray also for the dedication of the Dagaare audio NT on 28/10. Pray the audio NT will promote reading of the Dagaare NT, which was completed in 2014, to the more than 1 million Dagaarti people who live in the Upper West region of Ghana.

T 19 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Please pray for tomorrow's annual *Melbourne Prayer Breakfast*, that it be well attended and God glorifying while covering the city in prayer. Pray for good connections and fellowship for Bible Society's David Lepore and Nic Capp at the prayer breakfast. Pray also for David as he shares in Kerang and Leongatha this month, that through his message existing supporters will be encouraged and many new people will hear about and be inspired by Bible Society's 200 years of operation in Australia.

F 20 Bangladesh: With monsoonal flooding that submerged two thirds of the country and traumatised refugees arriving, Bangladesh is facing harder times than usual. Please pray for the Bangladesh Bible Society, as they work to bring the Bible to the large population in Bangladesh, where there are very few Christians. Pray for the resources, volunteers and church co-operation needed to effectively carry out Bible mission in this challenging situation.

S 21 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Please pray for WA Church Relations Coordinator, Rick Pekan, as he shares about Bible Society ministry at Maida Vale Seventh Day Adventist and Pinjarra Uniting churches this weekend, and next weekend at Belmont Seventh Day Adventist and the Combined Churches of Moora. Pray also for great attendance and engagement with the Centre for Public Christianity TED Talks in Perth on 25/10.

S 22 Word for the Week: Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Proverbs 30:5

M 23 The Gulf: Please pray for open doors allowing Bible Society to take part in the 2018 *Bahrain International Book Fair*—secular book fairs can be a major distribution opportunity for Bible Societies in the Middle East. Pray also for successful outcomes for Bible Society's 2017 programmes including Scripture distribution among migrants, a literacy programme, prison ministry, trauma healing, Bible training seminars for Arabic churches, storytelling training seminars, Megavoice audio distribution, and children's projects.

T 24 Australia — Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Please continue to pray for Bible Society Australia's ministry to First Nations people and for the translation projects taking place around the country. Pray for the local Indigenous translators as they persist in grappling with the Scriptures, often amid difficult circumstances; pray for their health and the health of their families. Pray for the development of effective Bible Engagement resources for reaching into hospitals, prisons, schools and churches with the gospel message in a way that is culturally sensitive and engaging.

W 25 Myanmar: Thank God for a successful Bible Day and for those on the Bible Mission Team from Singapore who assisted in meaningful Scripture distribution work. Please pray for those who attended the recent Translation Officer Training, that they will be encouraged and will work efficiently as they strive to make Scripture clearly understood in more languages.

T 26 Australia—Senior Leadership: Ian French commenced in September as Group Chief Financial Officer, replacing Barry Morris who retired at the end of last month. Pray for Ian as he settles into his new role. Pray too for the senior leadership team as they finalise budgets for 2018.

F 27 Arab Israeli: Please pray for Dina as she leads the Arab Israeli Bible Society (AIBS) in Nazareth. Thank God for her strategy, vision and leadership to the people living as a double minority in a hostile environment. Thank God for the partnerships that have developed with local churches through working together on projects. Ask God to continue to lead AIBS, empower it with his presence, meet their financial needs and fulfil his mission in Israel through them.

S 28 Australia—Events for Bibles: Thank God for volunteers who organise, assist and/or participate in Bike for Bibles events. Please pray for enjoyment, safety and successful fundraising for today's Ulverstone to Turners Beach ride in north-west Tasmania. Pray for the planning of summer season rides around Australia, for organisers, vision, initiative, open doors and many willing helpers, riders and sponsors, and that many successful rides will take place.

S 29 Word for the Week: He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4

M 30 India: Pray for the Bible Society of India *National Staff Retreat* happening this week. Pray for encouragement, refreshment and equipping for the future. Please pray for Bible Society staff and volunteers as they continue to interact and help beneficiaries through Bible Advocacy and Engagement programmes.

T 31 Netherlands / World: Today is the 40th anniversary of Eep *Talstra Centre for Bible and Computer* (ETCBC) using computers to analyse the Hebrew Bible. Pray for an inspiring Bible and Computer celebration in Amsterdam today, followed by productive expert meetings tomorrow as the work enters a fifth decade. Thank God for technology that helps Bible translators around the world.

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

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