



Prayer letter

December 2017

F 1 Malaysia: Pray that the Christmas Selection and Newsletter which has been sent out to churches, members and friends of Bible Society of Malaysia will reach those who need it and that non-believers will be positively impacted. Pray that Christians will be willing to invest their time and resources in the lives of seekers and new believers.

S 2 Australia—Koorong: Pray for Koorong staff as they seek to fulfil all Christmas orders on time, including Bible Society's *The Really Good News of Christmas*. Pray that all Christian resources supplied will make a positive impact for God's kingdom over the Christmas period and throughout 2018. Thank God for Koorong's ongoing ministry and for the availability of a wide selection of quality Christian resources.

S 3 Word for the Week: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

M 4 Poland: Pray for the education projects currently underway for children and youth in Poland, and for the Ecumenical Bible translation, which will be published in the next few months. Bible Society Poland is planning to publish a schools edition of this Bible, as well as an edition for free distribution to prisoners and other people in need. Pray that many will come to know the Lord through these Bibles.

T 5 United Arab Emirates: Praise God for the recently launched Young Family Bible in the UAE. We've had tremendous feedback from the Armenian community in the Emirates of Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. Pray that local Armenians will share their joy and excitement with many others in the UAE who need to hear and read God's word.

W 6 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for our entire Fundraising, Church and Community Relations team as they meet December 6–8 to set plans and strategy for 2018. Ask that God gives them a clear vision for the next 12 months as they create new ways to promote and advocate for the Bible. Pray for a strengthening of current church relationships and for many new ones to be established in 2018.

T 7 China: Praise the Lord for the miracle of the distribution of God's word in China over the past 30 years! Since the first Bible rolled off the press at Amity Printing in 1987, the company has printed more than 168 million copies of Bible, including more than 78 million copies for distribution in China. Please continue to pray for the church in China as it spreads the gospel throughout the most populous nation on earth.



F 8 Iraq: Pray for the Christians who were recently forced to flee their homes when fighting broke out on the Niniveh Plains between Kurdish and Iraqi forces. Up to 900 Christian families were forced to flee their villages, and two teenage boys were injured, along with others who were caught in the conflict. Please pray that the church in Iraq remains resilient and continues to be a light in the darkness.



S 9 Australia: Praise God for the amazing response from churches to our *The Really Good News of Christmas* campaign. With donor support, we've been able to supply considerably more of the little books than we had planned for. Please pray for God's blessing on *The Really Good News of Christmas* as it is shared and read Australia-wide this Christmas.



S 10 Word for the Week: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

M 11 Australia—Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Pray for opportunities for the CPX team to communicate why the birth of Jesus continues to be good news, in creative and compelling ways, via as many media channels as possible. Pray that many will engage with our content and be challenged to look afresh at the Christmas story and its claim on their lives.

T 12 Taiwan: Pray for the Bible Forums happening from 11–13 December, that the Lord will speak to our brothers and sisters taking part in these events and that God's word will be shared further and wider as a result of these Forums.

W 13 Israel: Pray that the Lord will pour out his Spirit on those in the region who receive the scriptures, that he will reveal himself to them as their personal Saviour and that they will come to faith in him. Pray for God's protection upon everyone involved in this ongoing mission work, including Bible Society staff.

T 14 Australia—Content and Publishing: Pray for historian Meredith Lake as her major historical work, *History of the Bible in Australia*, nears publication by the University of NSW press in early 2018. Given that readers may be exploring the Bible for the first time, pray that the book would provoke them to take the scriptures seriously.

F 15 Albania: Pray for the finalisation of The Interconfessional OT, the first OT translation by native Albanians. After 10 years of work by a team of three people (one evangelical, one Catholic, one Orthodox), 2018 will be their completion year with plans to publish the OT with the NT in 2019. Pray also for the resources of the Bible Society in Albania, often facing difficulties due to the country's poor economy.

S 16 Australia—Fundraising & Community Relations: Pray for Richard sharing his passion for RIMS work with Catholic churches, that they will eagerly open their doors to him. Pray for Nick as he speaks to a men's group in Sydney's south. Pray for Bernard and the team as they promote the Post Literacy work in Egypt and many other BSA projects to supporters this season. Pray for wisdom as the team plans for 2018.

S 17 Word for the Week: Now faith is the substance of what we hope for and evidence of things not yet seen. Hebrews 11:1

M 18 Canada: Pray for God's leading as Canadian Bible Society implements new strategies to reach more Canadians with God's word through various partnerships. Pray for Dr Rupen Das, as he begins his leadership role as CBS's National Director in January 2018. Praise God for the completion of Operation Bible, a complete Bible with a camouflage cover available to all members of the armed forces, that has been a joint project of the Canadian Forces and CBS.

T 19 Sudan: Pray for the Bible Society in Sudan, after government authorities detained a container full of Arabic Bibles in Port Sudan without explanation, leaving the Bible Society in Sudan without a single copy of an Arabic Bible in Khartoum. Pray for God's intervention and the release of his word in Sudan.

W 20 Philippines: Join in thanksgiving for significant milestones the Philippine Bible Society has just celebrated: their 118th Anniversary; a 50th year in partnership with the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines, and the centenary of the Pangango Bible. Praise God for his faithfulness in this region.

T 21 Australia- Senior Leadership: Please uphold our executive team as they strategically plan for next year and beyond. Pray for wisdom, discernment and God's direction. Pray for Anne Robinson who was appointed Chair of the Bible Society board at the November board meeting. Pray for Mark Schultz who, at the same meeting, was confirmed as the new director on the board representing South Australia.

F 22 India: Praise God for the many volunteers involved in Bible work throughout our 16 auxiliaries, promotional centre and the central office in India. They give their time, talent, and theological expertise for the Bible cause. Please pray for them as they continue to face the many challenges to witnessing for Christ in a predominantly Hindu country.

S 23 Israel: Pray for Bible Society staff as they produce and distribute new books for children about the gospel in both printed and digital formats. Pray that God will work in the lives of the children who receive this literature, that they will grow to love him, be a living testimony to those around them, and become faithful witnesses of the Lord in Israel.

S 24 Word for the Week: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1.

M 25 Christmas Day: Thank God for sending his son to be born, to live a perfect life, to die on the cross for our sins and to rise from the dead in victory! Thank God that this and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

T 26 Australia—Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): In the lead up to Christmas, Bible Society provided *God's Story for the Outback* to the children of Elcho Island, off the coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. The colouring-in book, translated into the Djambarrpuyngu language, tells the Bible story from creation through to Jesus' death and resurrection. Please pray that children and their families on Elcho Island will be blessed with the knowledge of who Jesus is. Also give thanks to the faithfulness and dedication of the local indigenous translators.

W 27 Bangladesh: Pray for an upcoming marketing tour with some of our new products in Chittagong and the northern area of Bangladesh. Pray for the appointment of a new General Secretary for Bangladesh Bible Society. Praise God for the recent national book fair at which Bible Society sold many copies of the Bible.

T 28 Australia—Mission Events: Pray for the Missions team as they book speakers and finalise topics for nine 2018 Masterclass events, including Canberra and Newcastle for the first time. Praise God for the amazing teaching, support and encouragement these events provide to Christian students in their senior high school year.

F 29 Australia—Content and Publishing: Praise God for the release of *Mr Eternity—The Story of Arthur Stace*, a biography of the man who chalked his one word sermon, 'Eternity', for 37 years. Pray that the book will touch people's hearts with the gospel message, particular those who are interested in Australian history but haven't met God yet. Pray also that Christian and secular media will review and promote the book positively.



S 30 Sri Lanka: Praise God for resolutions made during the recent CBS 2018 planning meeting. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in 2018, and that God will prepare the hearts of those who will experience the Bible for the first time next year.

S 31 Word for the Week: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

To receive this Prayer Letter regularly via email 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)