



**BIBLE SOCIETY**

# Prayer letter

November 2018

**1 Australia – Church Relations:** Today Jonathan Harris will be speaking at C3 college Oxford Falls on indigenous translation work in the college's world missions lecture series. Please pray for the Church Relations team as they connect with pastors, schools and businesses at the Global Leadership Summit on the Central Coast tomorrow and Saturday.

**2 Central African Republic:** Praise God for the return of security in the capital Bangui. Thank God for the continuity of the biblical work here despite the many challenges associated with the long civil war that has raged for over 30 years. Pray for a return to peace throughout the country as some areas are still under the control of rebel groups who kill, plunder, and violate. Pray for the development of the work of Bible Society in the Central African Republic as the team faces many difficulties. Pray for the construction of the Bible Society headquarters, increased fundraising and strengthened relationships with churches.

**3 Belarus:** Bible Society has produced a special jubilee edition of the Bible in the modern Belarusian language, dedicated to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the first Belarusian book, *Psalter* by Francis Skaryna. Pray that this Jubilee edition may bring many blessings to the people of Belarus. Pray that God will awaken the interest of young people in studying the

Bible and that the Bible Society's cooperation with the local churches will change lives. Please pray for people to overcome drug dependence in Christian rehabilitation centres. Pray that the Bible Society will have enough funds to successfully carry out its mission in accordance with God's plan.

**4 Word for the week:** I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

**5 Australia – The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX):** Pray for the UK launch of CPX's documentary *For the Love of God*, with premiere screenings in London today and Oxford tomorrow.

**6 Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire):**

Ask God to bless the Bible work in this country and for God's word to reach the hearts of the entire population. Pray that the work carried out by Bible Society reaches every individual, thus making the Bible available in formats and translations that can meet their needs. Pray especially for peace, comfort and healing for all of those affected by the years of conflict which devastated the country and resulted in 5 million deaths.



**7 Australia – Donor Care Team:** Pray for encouragement for the Donor Care team as they go about building relationships with donors, keeping alive the donors' passion for the work of Bible Society. Thank you too for these faithful committed followers of Jesus, who give generously and regularly to ensure the Bible's impact is felt across the whole world.

**8 Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville):** Pray for General Secretary Landy Mangoyo as he leads the team. Pray for positive impact from the work currently being done in trauma healing, translation and publishing. Pray particularly for the project to translate the Old Testament into Beembe; when complete, 100,000 people will have access to the full Bible in their heart language for the first time. Pray for continued funding, good health and collaboration, and political stability in Congo so that the project can progress as planned.

**9 Australia – Thank You Events:** Pray for our series of 'thank you' events in South Australia and Tasmania this month. BSA staff will be visiting Port Lincoln (13<sup>th</sup>), Adelaide and Adelaide Hills (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>), Launceston (21<sup>st</sup>), and Kingston (22<sup>nd</sup>). Pray these fellowship events will be well attended.

**10 Sri Lanka:** Pray for the Creative Bible Study programme run by the Ceylon Bible Society. Pray that children will be motivated to read the Bible and further their Bible knowledge.

**11 Word for the week:** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

**12 Venezuela:** Pray for the end to the political and economic crisis in Venezuela which has spiralled out of control. Pray for the 80% of the population who live in severe poverty and the 90% who are experiencing food insecurity. Pray that the work of Bible Society will bring hope and light to this troubled nation. Pray that God will give General Secretary Javier Chacon and his team grace and wisdom to stand firm by bringing the word of God to the people of Venezuela.

**13 Australia – Missions team:** Pray for our local mission team as they put together the events that make up the Masterclass series for senior high schoolers around Australia. Pray for the speakers as they prepare and that students from many schools would be able to come. Please pray for CPX Director Simon Smart as he heads off on long service leave later this month. Pray that it would be a refreshing time for him and for the CPX team in his absence.

**14 Indonesia:** Continue to pray for Indonesia in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of the country. The death toll is now at 1800 with over 5000 still missing. Pray for all those affected by this tragedy and for the families still searching for loved ones. Pray that urgent needs for food, medication and other supplies can be met swiftly. Pray also for Bible Society staff and volunteers as they seek to minister to those who are suffering.



**15 Romania:** Ask God to bless General Secretary Emilia Badescu and her team as they carry out Bible work in this Orthodox-majority country. Pray that this work would reach the heart of every individual. Pray also for the holistic social projects, that they would help youth and vulnerable and marginalised people be better integrated into society.

**16 Portugal:** Pray as Bible Society Portugal seeks to reach one million children between 4 and 14. Thank God for the 200,000 Bible comic brochures produced last year, and for the 540 teachers who were trained to engage children with the Bible and in The Action Bible Kids' Games. Pray that as children are presented with the gospel message they would come to an understanding of and relationship with their Heavenly Father.

**17 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS):** Pray for the upcoming Translation Stakeholders/Mission Partners Conference in Darwin coordinated by the Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Church (20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>). Pray that as the team meets and discusses plans for translation work in the Top End with key organisations involved in translation work that God will make clear his plans. Pray that the local Yolngu people's strong desire for scripture in their own heart language will be honoured and supported through these planning days.

**18 Word for the week:** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. Hebrews 6:19

**19 Egypt:** Please pray for a better understanding of the scriptures for those taking place in the literacy programme. Pray that the programme would grow, despite the difficulties and security issues in the country. Pray for safety for all involved and that God would bless the new strategy coming into place to double the current numbers of participants.

**20 Australia:** Please pray for our *Really Good News of Christmas – For Me!* campaign, that many churches, Christian organisations and individuals will help distribute these books amongst their family, friends and communities. Pray that this little book and the associated resources would have an enormous impact as people hear the really Good News of God's love for them this Christmas.

**21 Pakistan:** Please pray for the Beacon of Light women's literacy project. Thank God the project is running smoothly and benefited more than 5,600 women in 2017, boosting the number of graduates to about 30,000; all can now read the Bible. The project is tracking to graduate similar numbers in 2018 as well.

**22 Nigeria:** Pray that the Bible distribution projects will bring hope to those who have been displaced and will transform many Nigerians. Ask for God's protection on the staff members who work throughout the country, led by General Secretary Dare Ajiboye. Pray also for work on the Nigerian Sign Language Bible and the literacy programme.

**23 Paraguay:** Please ask God for the progress of the Enhlit Bible revision, Nivaclé Bible revision and the Guarani Study Bible projects. Pray that God will continue to provide the board of directors with wisdom. Pray for the families of Bible Society staff.

**24 Australia – Koorong:** November is a busy preparation month for Koorong as staff get everything ready for Christmas. There is a huge influx of books, Bibles and other stock into the stores and at the same time employees are selling and delivering lots of materials to churches and schools for end of year gift giving. Please pray for wisdom, strength and joy for Koorong staff as they work hard to navigate all the demands on their time. Pray that God will use all the resources that Koorong sells to change lives.

**25 Word for the week:** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

**26 Peru:** Please pray that we can continue to benefit destitute children by offering them full assistance. Pray also for the efforts to reduce family violence and child abuse. Pray for Bible Society's work in prisons that aims at the social reintegration of prisoners by studying God's word.

**27 Australia – Missions team:** Pray for guidance for the Missions team as they coordinate a Christmas audio piece. Pray that it would all come together well and that many families would be touched by the Christmas story afresh.

**28 Poland:** Thank God for Bible Society's success in the past, through more than 200 years of history in Poland and the influence of the Reformation. Praise God for the publication of the Ecumenical Bible in Polish, a translation made by Biblicists from 11 churches. Ask God to provide Bible Society Poland and the whole fellowship with guidance and wisdom.



**29 Australia – BSA Board:** Pray for BSA chairman Anne Robinson and BSA directors as they meet tomorrow for a board meeting, that God will guide their discussions and deliberations with wisdom and boldness.

**30 Czech Republic:** Pray that God would empower Christians in the Czech Republic to share God's word with the rest of the nation. Please pray for the youth, that they would not be led astray by the agnostic society in which they live. Thank God for the Bible for Teenagers, which was published and began to be distributed in 2016.

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