



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

December 2018

1 Australia – Church Relations: Please pray that the congregation at St Bernadette’s Catholic Church Castle Hill will be greatly encouraged and responsive as they hear presentations on Bible Society’s Indigenous Ministry this weekend.

2 Word for the Week: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Revelation 22:13

3 Bangladesh: Please pray for Bible Society’s mobile tour showcasing new Scripture products. Pray that God will use this time to strengthen relationships with churches and increase awareness of Bible Society throughout the country for further ministry opportunities.

4 Australia: National Church Relations and Donor Care staff members from around Australia meet in Sydney this week, joining with other staff tomorrow and then smaller team gatherings on Thursday and Friday. Please pray for smooth travel and encouraging fellowship as the far-flung team comes together. Pray for 2019 planning and ask the Lord to open doors to long-term relationships with many new churches as well as strong relationships with existing supporters.

5 Australia: Pray for the Bible Society Australia Staff Summit in Sydney today. May the Lord continue to bless and guide our work as we strive to champion the Bible to share the love of Jesus to all nations.

6 Slovenia: Pray for programmes to help people engage with the Bible, including promoting God’s word online and in other media and Bible reading marathon events. Pray for work on a modern Bible translation. Remember the staff led by General Secretary Matjaž Črnivec.

7 Australia – Koorong: Pray for Koorong staff as they seek to fulfil all Christmas orders on time, including Bible Society’s little book *The Really Good News of Christmas – For Me!* Pray that all Christian resources supplied will have a positive impact for God’s kingdom over the Christmas period and throughout the New Year. Thank God for Koorong’s ongoing ministry and for the availability of a wide selection of Christian products for Christmas gift-giving.

8 Mozambique: Pray for an end to hostility so that people can live in peace. Pray for Faith Comes By Hearing, literacy and Good Samaritan programmes, as well as the creation of Bible Society Hubs throughout the country. Thank God for three recent Bible launches and pray for continuing translation projects. Ask God to bless the work of the team led by Executive Secretary Valente Tseco.

9 Word for the Week: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11

10 Australia – Publishing: *Confessions of a Meddlesome Economist* by Ian Harper is the newest title published this month by Acorn Press, a publishing imprint of Bible Society Australia. Pray that many people will read the book and be touched by Professor Harper’s message of how his Christian faith has helped him keep a balanced perspective in his professional life.

11 Philippines: Thank God for the launch of three (Standard, Eastern and Northern) Waray New Testaments translations last month. Pray these new translations will be widely read and bring Waray speakers closer to Jesus as they engage with God’s word in their heart language.

12 Australia – The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Give thanks for a high-impact year with the release of the Centre for Public Christianity’s documentary *For the Love of God: How the church is better + worse than you ever imagined*. Pray that CPX articles published in the media, *For the Love of God* DVDs sold as gifts, and our other online content will reach people afresh with the good news about Jesus.

13 Guyana: Pray for three new Old Testament translation projects in Wapishana, Akawaio and Patamuna languages. Please pray for the building of teams, training translation consultants, for reliable electricity, internet and other logistical challenges. Ask God to guide and empower the translation team members over the coming years as they strive to make the full Bible available to these indigenous peoples.



14 Australia: Praise God for the generosity of Bible Society supporters in supporting over 20 Remote and Indigenous Ministry projects. Pray that God may continue to work powerfully through our Indigenous brothers and sisters in sharing the Bible in their way, in their words.

15 Senegal: Ask for God’s hand on Executive Secretary Ousseynou Ngom and team as they carry out ministry in a difficult environment. Pray for Bible Society literacy programmes and for the ongoing Bible translation into the Pulaar language. Pray too for wisdom and creativity to reach out to people from different backgrounds.

16 Word for the Week: She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

17 Australia – Missions team: Please pray for the launch of *Ignition*, a joint initiative between Bible Society Australia and the United Evangelistic Council, aimed at supporting cross-denominational, evangelistic youth events throughout 2019. Pray for the teams at BSA and the UEC as they receive applications for financial assistance and resources. Pray also for these teams as they continue developing resources that will be useful for youth evangelism. Pray that *Ignition* would reach churches across Australia and give young people an opportunity to respond to Jesus.

18 Guatemala: Pray for General Secretary Saúl Urizar and the Bible Society team working to spread God's message. Praise God for the youth and children's programme working to reach children of all ages and young people who are at risk of gang culture or abuse. Pray for the ministry to the deaf and for the translation work for indigenous languages.



19 Australia: Praise God for the wonderful response to *The Really Good News of Christmas – For Me!* little books. Pray that churches, communities and families who have given away copies will make a great impact in sharing God's word to others this Christmas.

20 Madagascar: Pray that General Secretary Hubert Rakotoarivony and team would be strengthened after a difficult period. Pray for funding to rebuild their headquarters and that local Christians would be inspired to support Bible Society ministry. Ask God to use Faith Comes By Hearing and literacy projects to have a lasting impact on communities.

21 Australia: Please pray for Bible Society staff as they head into Christmas. Pray that they will know that their efforts this year have made a difference and lives have been transformed around the world because of their faithfulness.

22 Angola: Give thanks for November's launch of the Kikongo New Testament. Pray this will be a great blessing and that Christians will grow in spiritual maturity as they enjoy God's word in their own language. Pray for the ongoing translation of the Kikongo Old Testament. Thank God for good relationships between Bible Society of Angola and all the churches.

23 Word for the Week: But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Mark 2:10

24 Australia – Missions team: Please pray for the development of resources for ministries in Australian rural communities. Pray that we would respond appropriately to the needs of those on the front line of these ministries, and that through them, God's word would be effective in the lives of his people.

25 Christmas Day: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2:6-7

26 Greece: Thank God for Hellenic Bible Society's distribution of Scriptures in many languages to refugees. Pray that refugees who lost their homes and their way of living would come closer to God through the message of the gospel. May God open their hearts and eyes to see and feel secure in his hands. Please pray for all these people to encounter Jesus through his word.

27 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support: Thank God for the partnership between Bible Society and AuSIL (Australian Society for Indigenous Language) in the creation of a translation of the children's colouring book *God's Story for the Outback*. This children's book showcases 48 stories from the Bible and is currently available in 8 different Indigenous languages. This will be the first published Scripture in the severely endangered language of Kaytetye. Please pray as this resource is distributed across the centre of the Northern Territory, that many Kaytetye-speaking children and their families will know the love of God through this Bible storybook.

28 Gambia: Pray that God would continue to provide for the needs of Bible Society so that staff can continue ministering in a very difficult environment. Ask for God's blessing on the Bible programmes for children and young people as well as literacy classes and ongoing Old Testament translation. Thank God for the opportunities and pray for all who minister here.

29 Australia – Missions team: Give thanks for God's guidance in bringing together all the speakers and venues for the eight Masterclass events being held in August 2019 for Christian students in years 9-11. Please pray as we advertise these events that God will reach the right people to invite the youth to these events.

30 Word for the Week: So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

31 South Pacific: Thank God for the service of outgoing General Secretary Solomone Duru, who retires today. Pray for God's blessing on the work of Bible Society of the South Pacific and for great wisdom for new General Secretary Geoffry Miller and the management team as they take on the responsibility of making God's word available to all in the South Pacific.



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