



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

January 2019

1 Kenya: Thank God for his provision in Kenya with the largest ever fundraising event for Bible translation. 2,000 people participated along with senior government officials. Please pray that this event will lead to the completion of Bible translation work in Kenya.

2 Australia: Most Bible Society offices reopen today. Give thanks for the Christmas break, and pray that staff are refreshed and ready to continue serving God through their work in 2019. Pray for finance and admin staff working on 2018 reports and other new year tasks.

3 Sweden: Please pray for the launch and distribution of the New Testament in Simplified Swedish, that many will grow in their knowledge of the gospel through this new publication. Pray also, for the *Adventures of the Bible* project, which has already reached 35,000 10 and 11 year old public school students, to continue without restrictions. Pray also for all the migrants who have come to Sweden, that they will be ministered to by Christians and be touched by God's word.

4 Australia — Koorong: Please pray for Koorong staff to start the year refreshed. In January, customers buy items they may not have considered before, along with other resources for the new year during the post-Christmas sale. Pray they would be encouraged and blessed, drawing closer to Jesus through these products and find purpose and hope for 2019.

5 Panama: Please pray for General Secretary Marco Gómez and team as they work to reach children who are living in high risk areas where they may end up living rough, joining gangs or worse. Ask God to open doors and provide funding for Bible translation and distribution. Pray for strong partnerships and good church relations.

6 Word for the Week: Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare. Proverbs 20:13

7 Australia – The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX): Pray that CPX's Executive Director Simon Smart would have a wonderful time on long-service leave and return refreshed at the end of January. Please also pray that our Media Director Allan Dowthwaite would have a relaxing break during January. Pray that God would guide the whole CPX team as they plan for 2019.

8 South Sudan: Please pray for the team led by Executive Secretary Edward Kajivora as they minister during a tumultuous time in this young country. Pray for their Trauma Healing and Good Samaritan programmes as well as literacy work and emergency relief to displaced people. Please pray for peace in this nation so that people can live in safety and peace.



9 Hungary: Please pray for supporters and staff as Bible Society celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2019. Pray for continuing Bible work including the Ecumenical Bible translation, the New Testament in Sign Language project, Bible distribution and engagement.

10 Australia – Church Relations: Pray for growing support of the Indigenous Bible projects in Australian Catholic churches and for clergy to welcome and support Bible Society Australia visits to parishes in Australia. Pray for Richard Allcock to be given God's blessings, guidance and encouragement as he represents Bible Society Australia, meeting and engaging with bishops and clergy to seek their help for the Indigenous project and providing God's word to poor and disadvantaged Christians in Asia and beyond.

11 Malaysia: Please pray that Bible Society's work with migrant ministry will continue to progress positively and that more migrant workers will be able to engage with the word of God in their heart language. Pray Arabic Bibles will arrive promptly. Pray for protection for staff and volunteers involved in the work.

12 Japan: Please ask God to bless Bible work in Japan and that his word will touch the hearts of non-Christians, who account for 99% of the population. Pray especially for young Christians to be inspired and encouraged by the Holy Spirit to share the word of God and that hearts would open.

13 Word for the Week: Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:25

14 Australia — Events for Bibles: Pray for the upcoming (Feb 8-21) Bike for Bibles ride in Tasmania covering over 1,400kms. Please pray for all logistics to be provided, for Roadies to look after the cyclists, providers of billets, host churches and caterers. Pray for good health and training for cyclists and for generous sponsorship raising for Scripture-based literacy work with women in Bangladesh.



15 Mongolia: Ask for God's favour on Executive Director Bayarmagnai Bayardalai and the whole Bible Society of Mongolia team. Pray for good progress with work on the Mongolian Standard Version Bible translation. Pray that Bible Society would be able to reach all families with the Bible and for the publication of biblical material for children.

16 Palestinian Territories: Pray for hope, peace, justice and provisions for the Palestinian people living in East Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories. Pray for the local Church to stand firm, with a compassionate heart to share God's comfort and to help the poor and the needy. Ask God to renew the strength of the Palestinian Bible Society's leadership and staff.

17 Kyrgyzstan: Christians are under pressure and ministry is difficult in this place where Islam is strong and growing. Pray for Executive Secretary Roman Fedyanin and team as they work to make the Bible available. Pray for strong relationships with churches and for an increased ability to provide Scripture resources for all ages.

18 Australia – Publishing: Give thanks for the books published during 2018 by Bible Society and its imprints Acorn Press and Morning Star, and for the people who bought and read these books. Pray for the publishing projects in the pipeline for publication this year and for the publishing team staff.

19 Northern Ireland: Pray for Bible Society as they continue to build partnerships and strengthen relationships with churches and other Christian agencies to have a deeper impact with Bible ministry in Northern Ireland. Please pray also for fresh ways to attract new supporters and partners who are passionate about the spread of the Bible.

20 Word for the Week: Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

21 Taiwan: Pray for the Bible Interpretation Camp starting today, on the book of James. Pray for the pastors, seminary students and Bible Study leaders who will attend, that through the camp they will be equipped in their studying and teaching of the Bible. Pray also for good registration numbers and participation in the Bible Interpretation Lectures on the books of Colossians and Philemon (commencing 26 January).

22 Australia—Missions team: Pray for Ignition – praise God that our website has launched! Pray for the team continuing to put together resources, that they would have wisdom in writing youth-oriented training and new believers' courses. Pray also for many churches across Australia to hear about Ignition and to apply to run an event. Pray that Ignition events would strengthen interdenominational unity in Australia and bring the gospel to more young people.

23 Zimbabwe: Please pray for an inspiring and productive 80th anniversary year for Bible Society of Zimbabwe. Pray for the completion and launch of the Shona Study Bible translation project this year. Pray also for our People with Visual Disabilities Project and for an increase in Scripture distribution.

24 Australia: Praise God for our generous supporters who have made an incredible impact in Bible work in 2018. Pray that many more Bible projects will be fully funded in 2019. Pray staff will be effective in informing and engaging donors in their passion for the work of Bible Society.

25 Nicaragua: Praise God for the recent launch of the Mayagna Audio New Testament, which was received with great joy. We give glory to God for the opportunity to provide the word of God in Mayagna Indigenous language and in a format accessible to them. Pray that this New Testament leads to great impact in their lives and hearts of all who hear it.

26 Australia Day: Pray for our nation's leaders, that they may govern our country wisely. Pray for Bible Society Australia (BSA) that the team may serve our country by effectively sharing God's word, and partnering with many to bring the light of the gospel to Australians of all backgrounds. Pray for our CEO Greg Clarke as he leads BSA in 2019.

27 Word for the Week: For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

28 Georgia: Thank God for last month's launch of the New Testament in Modern Georgian – the first easy reading translation of Scripture in this language. A young student commented, "When I read this



text I find it full of inspiration for us young people in Georgia. It creates many thoughts in my heart." Pray that the new translation will help many Georgians, especially young people, to better understand the story of the New Testament.

29 Australia – Events for Bibles: Pray for the upcoming events (8-18 March) with visiting Head of China Partnership, Kua Wee Seng. Please pray that Wee Seng's firsthand knowledge of Bible printing and distribution in China will provide Australians with further insight into the great need of our brothers and sisters in China for Bibles.

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

31 Australia—Missions team: Our new Bibles in Schools initiative has been very well received. Scripture teachers who teach classes K-3 can apply for a set of three Jesus Storybook Bibles to be used as "borrow" Bibles. These borrow Bibles are taken home by the children and read for a week at a time, then brought back so other children can borrow them for the next week. Our first shipment of borrow Bibles were all ordered so quickly that we needed to order another batch virtually straight away. We are praising God that next year thousands of parents and children will be curled up at bedtime with the greatest story ever written – God's true living word. Praise God!

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