



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

May 2019

1 Australia – Church Relations: Please pray for ACC National Conference which began on 30 April and runs until tomorrow. Pray that Bible Society's relationship with the ACC would continue to develop and result in fruitful work for God's Kingdom.

2 Laos: The Bible Society is providing reading skills to those who are illiterate throughout Laos through an audio-literacy programme, with special Listen and Learn MP3 players. Please pray for this work, as participants from remote ethnic minorities develop literacy skills using Scripture-based materials as well as vital life skills. Thank God that these literacy programmes are opening the floodgates to faith. Pray for the expansion of the programmes, for new workshop facilitators to be trained and for course materials to be written, revised, recorded and printed.

3 Australia – Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Pray for the celebration of the Kriol New Edition Bible being held at the Katherine Christian Convention (KCC), beginning tomorrow and finishing on 6 May. This revision comes over 10 years after the complete Kriol Bible was completed and launched at the KCC in May 2007. Pray that this New Edition Bible will be a blessing to the many Kriol-speaking Christians in Top End communities.

4 Pakistan: Thank God for the Beacon of Light programme, which teaches women to read through Biblical literacy classes. Thank God for women like 15-year-old Nice Sadiq from Lahore, whose father was martyred in a bomb blast at the Catholic Church in 2015. Thank God that because of the literacy programme, Nice qualifies for a better position at work, and she can read the Bible in church. Pray that the Lord may help and guide the newly literate women to use their reading and writing skills for the betterment of their communities.



5 Word of the Week: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

6 Australia – Eternity news: Pray our election guide and coverage will help Christians make an informed choice with their precious votes.

7 South Pacific: Pray for Bible work in the South Pacific nations, which draw on a Christian missionary heritage but are hindered by archaic Bible translations, myriad languages without translations and a generation of young people struggling to grasp the importance of Scripture. Pray for Bible Society South Pacific as it seeks to strengthen the spiritual lives of people in the region by updating Bible translations, as well as targeting unreached groups with translations of the Bible in their own languages.

8 Australia – Tasmania: Praise God for 200 years of official Bible Society Ministry in Tasmania; the Auxiliary Branch Bible Society of Van Diemen's Land was formed in Hobart on 8 May 1819. Thank God for faithful supporters, staff and volunteers who have enabled Tasmanians to provide Scriptures within the state and to the nations. Pray for celebrations being held later this year. Please also pray that God would raise up the right person to fill the vacant field worker position.

9 United Bible Societies Day of Prayer: Bible Societies across the world, together with churches, friends and supporters, celebrate the United Bible Societies Day of Prayer today. Thank God for the Bible Societies working in 200 countries and territories translating, publishing and distributing the Bible, helping people engage with its message and undertaking a wide variety of ministries. Pray for increased Scripture distribution, new translation projects, biblical programmes with social impact, the provision of human and financial resources, and the impact of the Bible on people's lives.

10 Australia – CPX: Please pray for the CPX team as they finalise the preparations for their annual fundraising lunch, to be held in Sydney on Friday 17 May. Please pray that those who attend would give generously to support the work of CPX.

11 South Pacific: As Bible Society continues to work in South Pacific countries, please pray for stability and security in the eastern parts of the Pacific. Pray also for good health for project staff and safe travel between different island countries. Pray for harmony among the churches involved in the project. Pray for all those reached by Bible Society's materials, that they maintain a great commitment to reading God's word and living by it, and for a passion to share it with others.

12 Word of the Week: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20

13 Australia – Donor Care Team: Pray for boldness and excitement in sharing the BSA story and the impact of our work. Please also pray for energy, stamina and perseverance in undertaking and fulfilling the plans the team has set in place.

14 Pakistan – The Beacon of Light Programme: Pray for the staff of the Pakistan Bible Society as they lead this project, especially among the brick kiln workers and their families, domestic workers, women in slums, and in poor Christian localities. Pray for the teachers and supervisors, for the talents they use with the students, to provide them the beacon of light in the darkness. Pray for BSA's Pakistan appeal, that God would raise up new financial supporters who are excited by the multiplication effects that teaching Bible literacy to one woman can have in changing generations.

15 Australia – Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS): Thank God for the positive outcome of the meeting held with the Catholic Bishop of Bathurst Diocese. Bishop Michael McKenna's

endorsement for the RIMS Project means that it can be presented at all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Bathurst, to raise funds for ongoing Indigenous Bible translation projects.

16 Mongolia: Please pray for Bible work amongst the estimated 10,000-12,000 deaf people in Mongolia. Pray for Bible Society's project which seeks to develop a resource that can be used by all deaf Mongolians, regardless of their ability to read or write in the Mongolian language. Pray that this work will support deaf Christians to know more about God and experience the life-changing transformation of the Bible.

17 Australia – Koorong: Pray for our customers and staff in Hobart where our Criterion Street store will cease trading at the end of the month. Pray for a smooth process as we close, and for God's direction on how Koorong can continue to serve in that city.

18 Mongolia: Pray for that the project for deaf Mongolians would be well funded, so that they can complete a New Testament simplified version and New Testament video version for use by deaf people. Pray that project runs smoothly and is able to meet all expected deadlines. Pray for all staff that they will prosper and be able to work until the end of the project. Pray that many more Mongolians would be reached with God's love and enjoy access to his word.

19 Word of the Week: ...Then (Jesus) said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

20 Australia: Praise God for Bible Society's partnership with Alpha Australia, which has seen over 1000 Bibles distributed to people exploring the Christian faith in both Protestant and Catholic Alpha groups around the country.

21 Nepal: Pray for Bible Society's work in Nepal, amongst the almost 4 million people who do not have enough to eat and have little or no ability to generate additional income. Many school-aged children are denied a formal education as a result. Pray that Bible Society would be successful in increasing community literacy levels by offering classes, and that access to quality education for children would be improved by building up existing physical facilities as well as supporting the development of education curriculums.

22 Australia – Youth Outreach: Thank God for the joint initiative between BSA and the United Evangelistic Council, Ignition, which gives churches and other Christian groups the chance to host evangelistic youth events. Please pray for upcoming Ignition events and for more churches to engage with this initiative.

23 Nepal: Please continue to pray for Bible work in Nepal. Please pray for community members who are overwhelmed by the problems they are facing, that they may have opportunities to know God's hope. Pray that this project would deliver significant change in the target communities. Pray for wisdom and ongoing health for project staff to continue their work. Please pray that more people would see and understand the truth of God and find their salvation in him.

24 Australia – Senior Leadership: The Senior Management team is currently building the budget for the second year of the five-year Strategic Plan. Pray for wisdom, discernment, excellent stewardship and God's leading.

25 Syria: Pray for the country of Syria, as the war there enters its ninth year. There is no one in Syria who isn't traumatised. Nearly all have lost at least one friend or family members. Many have been numbed by the grief and pain. Please pray for the work of the Bible Society, who have developed a plan to involve Syrian churches in helping locals overcome their trauma. Please pray for the work of the two trauma healing programmes which are up and running.

26 Word of the Week: Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1

27 Cameroon – Esther Project: Pray for the unique Bible-based trauma healing programme for abused women in Cameroon. Pray for staff from the local Bible Society as they distribute Bible leaflets and visit schools and churches, teaching girls to protect themselves from sexual abuse. Pray for the success of this programme with vulnerable girls and refugees across Cameroon, including literacy



classes for women in refugee camps. Pray for the participants as they study the Bible and receive a copy of God's word, learn vital life skills, and allow God to heal their emotional and psychological wounds.

28 Australia – Bible Grants: As a part of BSA's Replace your Bible initiative for flood victims, we have received prayer requests from those impacted; please keep these people in your prayers. Pray for encouragement for those who have lost cars, equipment and property. Pray for those looking for rental accommodation, that safe places would be provided. Pray for God's strength to carry on, for his guidance and peace, and that people would continue to feel his blessings.

29 Vietnam – Translation: Pray for the work of translating the Bible into minority languages in this country. Praise God that in the remote and lightly populated areas of Vietnam there are growing Christian communities amongst ethnic minority groups. Without the Bible in their heart language these communities will struggle to grow and share the gospel with others. Praise God for the great enthusiasm with which these groups approached the Bible Society to work on this project.

30 Australia – Bible Grants: Praise and thank God that there is such an appetite amongst Australian Defence Force graduates for a Bible. Pray that the Bible wouldn't be seen as just an ADF memento to be kept on the shelf but that God would use the ADF Bibles to bring about new birth and springs of living water.

31 Indochina: Pray for the four ethnic minorities in Indochina who eagerly await full Bibles in their own languages and dialects. One pastor said that when they receive the Bible in their mother tongue it will be "more precious than a piece of gold". Pray that much support would be raised so that God's word can be translated for these growing Christian communities.

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