Prayer letter June 2019

1 RIMS (Australia): Give thanks for the publication of the Kriol New Edition Bible, launched at the Katherine Christian Convention (KCC) in early May. As this new revised edition Bible is distributed to key church leaders and communities across the Top End of the Northern Territory, pray it will be a blessing to these communities bringing both hope and healing to many.

2 Word of the week: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6 NIV

3 Nicaragua: Pray that God would bring peace as well as economic and social stability to Nicaragua. Social and political instability has rendered 500,000 people jobless. More than 600,000 have left the country to look for better conditions, which has led to loss of sales and store closures. Pray for wisdom for Bible Society’s Board of Directors and their General Secretary as they make decisions. Pray also for protection and health for all staff of the Bible Society, and provision to cover commitments with suppliers and for the execution of projects.

4 Australia – Publishing: The BSA publishing team meets this week. Please pray that their discussions and decisions will be seasoned with wisdom and boldness for God’s kingdom. This is an important stage in the lead up to the August launch of *Metanoia* by Anna McGahan. Pray that Anna’s powerful story of redemption and transformation through Jesus will impact many lives.

5 South Sudan: Pray for the security of the country, and for the Revitalized Peace Agreement signed by the government and the rebels. Pray against tribalism, nepotism, corruption and hatred in the country. Bible Society hopes to construct a Bible Mission House, to replace the old warehouse they are currently working out of. Pray God would provide funding for the building of the Bible house.

6 Australia – Community relations and bequests: Pray for ‘Thank You’ events being held in Sydney Northern Beaches, Cairns, Townsville, Wagga, Albury-Wodonga and Ballina throughout June. Pray for great attendance and travelling mercies for Bible Society teams on the road.

7 Egypt: Please pray for the country, as the reality of the Egyptian pound’s devaluation means that everything costs two to three times more than previously. Pray for Bible Society finances, for increased donations so that a generous subsidy for Scriptures can be provided, and so that effective Bible engagement programmes can be run.

8 Australia – Scripture Grants: Pray for a consistent supply of reasonably priced Global Language Bibles for chaplains to use in all their different ministries within Australia.

9 Word of the week: Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. Deuteronomy 5:33 NIV

10 Jordan: Pray for wisdom and protection of Bible Society staff in all that they do with churches and with the community, and pray for the expansion of the team. Pray that God would continue to work in the hearts of people fortunate enough to own a Bible, to experience his power and presence through it. Please pray for those receiving Bibles, that they will read the Scriptures and the truth will set them free.

11 Australia – Local mission: Please pray for the development of a series of videos for teenagers called *Can we really trust the Bible?* which tackles objections to the Bible as an historical source. Pray that the team would be able to find the right way to present this information so that it is engaging, accurate and provides a real answer to sceptical students.

12 Lebanon: Please pray for two new initiatives being undertaken by Bible Society Lebanon this year: an interfaith research symposium and a meeting between Western and Eastern Christian delegates. Your prayer support will enable the team to continue their ministry in this troubled region.

13 RIMS (Australia): As well as the new Kriol Bible, a complete Kriol New Testament in audio format for Kriol speakers is now available to download, listen and enjoy. Please pray, as plans are made for recording sections of the Old Testament in Kriol later this year, that many Kriol speakers will come to know Jesus and grow in their faith through reading and hearing the Bible in their own heart language.

14 Syria: Please be in ongoing prayer for the war to end in Syria. Pray for healing for the people of Syria, who carry scars so deep and traumas of such magnitude that they need healing wherever they are. Pray for the children and young people who should not have had to go through these times or experienced what they have. Pray that the Holy Spirit will set them free. Please pray that people all over this country will be able to gather strength and carry their crosses to Jesus and open up their hearts to him.

15 Australia – Community relations and fundraising: Please pray for the Wahroonga Hymnfest being held tonight at 7pm, that many would be encouraged by the music and that generous support would be raised for Bible Society work.
**Pakistan:** Pray for the safety and security of Christians, churches and Christian organisations in Pakistan. Please also pray that God would provide the funds to reach villages and slums with education, especially for people who work at the brick kilns, and who live in dire poverty. Continue to pray that literacy would increase in Pakistan, and especially pray for the Bible based literacy projects.

**Vietnam:** Please pray for Vietnam Bible Society as they focus on staff development and capacity building in order to serve the church in Vietnam, the Bible Translation movement, and the fellowship of the United Bible Societies better.

**Australia – Local mission:** Many churches in rural and regional Australia do not have a minister to prepare and present a sermon every Sunday. Please pray for the Sharing the word project, which is partnering with regional churches in bringing video sermons to these churches. Thank God for the generosity of partner churches and please pray that plans for bringing a crew to country locations for filming would come together.

**Australia – Community relations and fundraising:** Give thanks for the members of the Ulverstone Bible Society Branch in North West Tasmania. Please pray for a great Festival of Word and Song being held at the Ulverstone Christian Reformed Church on the 23rd. Pray for an uplifting time of praise, inspiration from God’s Word and generous support for Bible ministry.

**Iran:** Please pray fervently with Bible Society staff in Iran that their team would increase. Thank God for their current team of one full-time staff member, two part-time contractors, and over 30 volunteers. Pray that God would meet their serious need for more team members who can commit full time to the ministry.

**Word of the week:** For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. Psalm 149:4 NIV

**Word of the week:** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 NIV

**Australia – Community relations and fundraising:** Please pray for the annual Perth Hymnfest being held tonight, that many would be encouraged and uplifted by the music and inspired to support the work Bible Society is doing.

**Word of the week:** The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. Psalm 145:14 NIV

**Australia – Coax:** Please pray for staff as they prepare and manage the end of financial year sale time, and for those completing stocktakes, which can be quite stressful. Give thanks for the many years of service to faithful customers as Kooring marks 41 years since the first store opened. Praise God that he continues to sustain the Kooring team in their mission of building and equipping the body of Christ, when other Christian bookstores have had to close their doors.

**South Sudan:** Please pray that the ongoing translation projects, the Bari Revision and Zande Old Testament translation, would be successfully completed. Pray that the economic situation in the country would improve, and that Bible Society would be able to engage government and church leaders in the work which has created many benefits and bridges. Please also pray for staff members as they undergo economic hardships and pray for their good health.

**Word of the week:** For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. Psalm 149:4 NIV

**Australia – Senior Leadership:** Dr Greg Clarke ends his time as CEO of BSA tomorrow. Thank God for his contribution over a nine year period and pray for him as he discerns his next steps. Please also pray for BSA at this time of transition.