



**BIBLE SOCIETY**

# Prayer letter

October 2019

**1 Australia – Senior Leadership:** Please thank God for Bible Society Australia's new CEO, Grant Thomson, who begins in his role this month. Pray for both Grant and all Bible Society staff as he settles into his role.

**2 Africa – Literacy for Women in Africa:** Please pray for this project, which seeks to reach women who have been denied access to education in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania. Pray that this work succeeds in equipping 20,000 women with functional literacy by the end of 2020. Pray that with literacy skills, these women and girls would be empowered to improve their lives. Thank God that literacy will also make the Scriptures available to them for the first time.

**3 Australia – Bible Grants:** Pray that prison chaplains will have insight and wisdom when they reach out with God's word to the prisoners they minister to. Pray too that God would make prisoners thirst for the living water that Christ brings.

**4 China – Supporting Needy Bible Preachers:** Pray for newly graduated seminary students and newly appointed preachers as they adjust and develop skills in their roles. Pray that this project would reduce the financial pressure felt by leaders in their first year of ministry, helping to establish and sustain them in their roles beyond this time. Pray that Bible Society would be able to invest in and nurture the next generation of church pastors, preachers, teachers and leaders.

**5 Australia – Bible Grants:** Praise God for the waterproof Navy New Testament launched this month. Pray that this edition of the New Testament will spark renewed interest in reading the Bible amongst Navy personnel, and that many will come to Christ.

**6 Word of the Week:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**7 Egypt – Children and Adult Post Literacy project:** Please pray for the adults and children who are developing their basic literacy skills by reading from the Bible. Pray that as their literacy increases, they would become more independent and their futures would brighten. Pray that they would not lapse back into illiteracy with all its disadvantages. Pray too that those who finish the course would be able to participate in and enjoy church life more fully than before.

**8 Australia – Events:** Please pray for the Thank You events being held in Sydney's eastern suburbs tomorrow and Thursday. Pray that many would be able to attend, that people would feel connected to each other and to Bible Society's work, and that all would be encouraged.

**9 Laos – Learning through Listening:** Pray for the churches in Laos participating in this program, where non-literate members are learning to read the Bible. Local church volunteers conduct classes using the Bible, a textbook and an audio device to dictate the lessons. Thank God that there is so much enthusiasm for the classes. Pray that the churches will continue to be motivated to run the program, and that more church members would volunteer to be facilitators.



**10 Australia – Strategic Partnerships:** Please pray for the Global Leadership Summits taking place this month around the country. Pray for good conversations, that Bible Society's name and work would become better known around the country, and that partnerships and support may result from our participation in these events over 2019.

**11 South Sudan – Literacy for non-literate Shilluks (Collo) of South Sudan:** Thank God that the recently published Shilluk Bible is so highly valued by many. Pray for this project, which seeks to support Shilluk churches to help the non-literate communities around them to read and understand the word of God and thereby empower them to receive Christ's message of love, hope and reconciliation.

**12 Australia – Bike for Bibles:** Pray for the Bike for Bibles Southern Slopes Ride, which starts in Goulburn today and continues until next Saturday. Thank God for all those involved, for their dedication shown through fundraising and giving their time and effort to the Bible cause. Please pray for safety and a smooth ride for all involved.

**13 Word of the Week:** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

**14 Australia – Local Mission:** Please pray for the Faith for Life events hosted by HammondCare and BSA, with one being held today in Turramurra NSW and another this Saturday 19 October in Campbelltown. Pray that event attendees would come away with a deeper understanding of the role of faith for those experiencing dementia.

**15 Vietnam – Bible Translation for Ethnic Minorities in Indochina:** Pray for the 200 ethnic groups in Indochina who have been reached with the gospel but remain without Scriptures in their dialect. Pray for Bible Society as they oversee the translation of the Bible into eight minority language groups. Pray for the safety of the translators, especially as they travel; pray for those translators who are also church pastors, that they may find wisdom and focus in both their roles; pray too for the word of God to impact these minority groups in Indochina.

**16 Australia – The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX):** Praise God for the many opportunities CPX has had in the mainstream media this year. Please pray that those interacting with CPX articles and radio/TV appearances would be struck by the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Christian story.

**17 Myanmar – Bible Translation for Ethnic Groups:** Please pray for the Bible Society of Myanmar as they work towards their commitment to make the Bible available in every language in Myanmar. Pray that Bible Society, in cooperation with churches

and other organisations, can oversee the translation projects well, so that these minority ethnic groups will receive the Scripture in their own languages as soon as possible. Pray that when ethnic minority groups receive God's word in their own language they would understand clearly and grow in the knowledge of God.

**18 Australia – Koorong:** Pray for the Colin Buchanan concerts which continue throughout October. Praise God and pray for the impact of Colin's music and words as he shares God's love with those who attend. Pray also for staff in all stores as they manage the influx of stock for the Christmas season. Pray for servant hearts as they relate to customers and other staff.

**19 Cambodia – Learning Through Listening:** Please pray for this program, which aims to provide literacy skills to a total of 5000-6000 students each year. Pray that God will use the program to bring salvation to students and spiritual growth to believers. Pray for protection and strength for staff and volunteers. Thank God for the approximately 46,000 people who have learned to read through this program and pray that God would continue to transform rural communities through it.

**20 Word of 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

**21 Australia – Events:** Please pray for the Thank You events being held in the Greater Melbourne region from Tuesday to Friday this week. Pray that many would be able to attend, that people would feel connected to each other and to Bible Society's work, and that all would be encouraged.

**22 Mongolia – Sign of Love Deaf Bible NT Project:** Pray for the development of a New Testament which can be used by deaf people in Mongolia. Translating the Bible into sign language allows for a more accurate meaning in sentence structure to be communicated to deaf people. Please pray with the Mongolian Bible Society that this will enable deaf Christians to know more about God and experience the life-changing power of the Bible.

**23 Australia – RIMS:** Please pray for the Bible Translation training workshop which will be held in Alice Springs in the last week of October. Pray that the workshop would serve to introduce potential Diploma students to the course available at

Nungalinga College Darwin, as well as provide training for those who are unable to attend the fully accredited course. Pray for the students attending the course and for those who are presenting the workshop, that it would be a productive learning experience.

**24 Vietnam – Bible Translation:** Thank God for the faithful prayers of church leaders amongst three minority groups in this country, for the Bible to be accessible to their people. Pray that the translation project will help Christians in these minorities to make and grow disciples. Pray for the teams of translators as they try to find the vocabulary to translate biblical concepts that are new to the languages. Pray for safety and wisdom for the field trips, when the translation teams check their drafts with people in the communities. Pray that the project stays on schedule so that the word of God may reach these people as soon as possible.

**25 Australia – Fundraising:** Pray for two fundraising initiatives taking place in Leongatha, Victoria today and tomorrow. Pray for the China fundraising dinner tonight, that many would attend and be encouraged, and that much support would be raised for Bible work in China. Please also pray for the Walk for Bibles taking place tomorrow on the Great Southern Rail Trail, that the walk would be a wonderful event at which great fellowship is enjoyed and much support raised.

**26 China – Affordable Bibles for China's Millions:** This project has a target of printing 2.5 million copies of Scripture materials so that millions of Christians in China can receive their own copy of the Bible. Please pray for rural Christians who still do not have their own Bible. Pray that each Christian who receives a copy of the Bible may read and understand the Word of God, and be transformed, growing in their understanding of Jesus Christ. Pray that each non-believer or seeker who receives a copy of the Bible has their heart opened to the Word of God.



**27 Word of the Week:** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

**28 China – Affordable Bibles for China's Millions:** Thank God for 66-year-old Li Yanjing, who received his first Bible from his father-in-law who had prayed for his conversion for many years. Li now thirsts for the word of God and reads the Bible whenever he can. Thank God for the Bibles Li gave to his passengers when he was working as a taxi driver, and for the passenger who became a Christian after reading the Bible Li gave her. Praise God for the way that Li's faith was strengthened through seeing how God's word truly convicts and transforms all people.

**29 Australia – Events:** Pray for the Thank You events being held today in Newcastle and tomorrow on the Central Coast of NSW. Pray that many would be able to attend, that people would feel connected to each other and to Bible Society's work, and that all would be encouraged.

**30 Vietnam – Learning Through Listening:** Pray for the illiterate Christians in Vietnam who want to read God's word. Pray that this project would effectively reach these people, and use God's word to end their illiteracy. Pray that there would be enough volunteers to facilitate the classes; for safety, strength and wisdom for the project team as they travel, conduct training, and implement the program; and that Christians would be empowered as they learn to read the Bible.

**31 Australia – Donor Relationships:** Please join our Bequest team in thanking God for the generosity of BSA supporters and the special gifts received through wills. Please pray for all our supporters, for their safety, passion and connection to what God is doing through BSA. Praise God also for the legacy of families supporting BSA for multiple generations and that they would be able to pass the BSA baton on in their family for generations to come.

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