



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

November 2019

1 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministries: Pray as we prepare to print the revised edition Gumatj New Testament, originally printed in 1985. This edition is being published in response to a demand for scripture in the language, which is spoken by approximately 500 speakers living in the area around Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land.

2 China – UBS China Partnership: Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the China Partnership, who are mourning the unexpected loss of one of their colleagues. Dandan passed away at the beginning of October at the age of 40. Pray for Dandan's family as they mourn her loss, and thank God for the eternal impact of Dandan's service.

3 Australia – Community Relations: The Bequest team has Thank You events happening in NSW and Tasmania in November. Please pray for enjoyable fellowship as we share Bible Society's 'good news' missional stories with our supporters.

4 Arab-Israeli Bible Society: Pray that Bible Society would be a voice of hope and peace during times of conflict, that more people will find comfort and refuge in the Lord and His word would transform lives. Pray for God's protection of staff and volunteers, and that the Bible Society centre in Galilee would be a source of blessing to local churches and the community.

5 Australia – Scripture Grants: Pray that God would use every interaction that hospital chaplains have with the sick and their families, no matter how brief, for his kingdom purposes. Pray that patients and families will remember conversations with chaplains and be drawn to scripture material while in hospital and when they go home.

6 Southern African Bible Societies (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia): Please pray for these Bible Societies, that they will be built up, and their mission sustainability strengthened as they work together in their region. Pray that there will be many opportunities to distribute scripture in their countries.

7 Australia – Centre for Public Christianity: Pray for Natasha Moore who will deliver the Anglican Deaconess Ministries (ADM) annual lecture this evening in Sydney and launch CPX's new book *For the Love of God*. Please pray that the book, which ties in with CPX's 2018 documentary with the same name, would have a wide impact, particularly among the secular public.

8 Cambodia – Bible Distribution: Pray for Bible Society Cambodia staff and volunteers as they reach out to rural communities with the word of God. Pray for safety and protection for the distribution team as they travel extensively, distributing Bibles to churches, disadvantaged communities and those living in poverty. Pray that God's word will bring salvation and transformation to those experiencing poverty and to their communities.

9 Australia – Missions: Pray for our final Faith for Life Seminar for 2019, which is being held at St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney at 2:30pm. Pray for keynote speaker Reverend Professor John Swinton from the University of Aberdeen. Thank God for these events in partnership with HammondCare, which have explored 'Memory, Worship and Dementia' and offered valuable insights on helping those living with dementia to worship God and engage with his word.

10 Cameroon – Bible Engagement: Continue to pray for Project Esther, which seeks to support teenage mothers and girls who have been victims of sexual exploitation. Pray that these women may find a way forward free of distress and healed from trauma. Pray for a changing social environment and legal system that protects young and vulnerable women, and thank God that this project is reaching the lives of hundreds of girls and young women who need additional support.

11 Australia – Publishing: This week sees the launch of the latest book from Acorn Press, *Woven* by Joel McKerrrow. Please pray that Joel's thoughtful writing will draw readers to God.

12 Iranian Bible Society: Pray for those seeking to establish the Iranian Bible Society in the diaspora to serve the Iranian communities there and on the mainland. Please pray that it may meet the scripture needs of the various dispersed Iranian communities. Praise God for the significant growth of Persian Christians around the world.

13 Missions – South Pacific Bible Forum: Please pray for the South Pacific Bible Forum which started yesterday and runs until Friday. Pray for the gathered leaders of Bible-related organisations across the South Pacific who are have come together to discuss Bible mission in the region.

14 Jordan – Bible Distribution: Pray that all people in Jordan will be reached with God's word and that children, adults, Jordanians and refugees will all discover who God is through the Bible. Pray for wisdom and protection for the staff of Bible Society in Jordan who are working in public book fairs. Pray for refugees in Jordan, that they would know God's loving presence at a very difficult time of their lives.

15 Australia – Senior Leadership: Pray for our Annual General Meeting being held today, that the review of Bible Society work would bring great encouragement. Please continue to pray for our new CEO Grant Thomson, that as he gets established in his role he would be able to lead and grow Bible work in our country and beyond.

16 Mozambique – Literacy for Life: Please continue to pray for our Mission Educate partners in Beira, who were running a literacy project until a cyclone devastated the city in March. Pray for their continued recovery from the devastation and thank God that BSA was able to supply emergency funding to rebuild destroyed churches and replace literacy materials, books and Bibles for every student.

17 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministries: Praise God for the opportunity to supply Indigenous language Bibles through our grants program. Praise God specifically for a mother in Queensland who recently received Bibles, enabling her to connect her long-term foster children to her faith in a culturally appropriate way. She says, "Thank you so much for sharing your resources with us so that we can share

them with others. It has been such a precious gift and blessing. People from the community are so grateful. I have given away over half your resources already, so they were needed.”

18 Nepal – Bible Translation and Distribution: Please pray for the successful translation, production and distribution of the Nepali Bible and related materials for Nepali speakers. Pray for the scripture engagement programs, especially those developed through holistic ministries. Pray for enough funding so that all projects can be carried out in full. Pray for the team led by CEO Tej Jirel.

19 Syria: With the recent escalation of violence in Syria, please pray that God will place his hands over the people there. Pray for the courageous Bible Society staff, that God would protect them. Pray for the volunteers running Bible Society’s trauma healing program, that they will have wisdom and strength as they care for those carrying the scars of war. Pray that much support can be raised for this program. Most of all, please pray that those living in the midst of ongoing violence would know that God loves them, that God knows their pain, and that God is with them.

20 Philippines – Bible Engagement: Pray for Bible Society staff as they help Filipino women who have suffered trauma through domestic and other forms of violence by leading them in healing sessions and introducing them to the scriptures as the ultimate source of comfort, hope and peace.

21 Australia – Bible Translation: Thank God for the New Revised Edition Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible ‘Tjukurpa Palya’ which is being printed. This revised edition is a result of changes made during the recording of the Pitjantjatjara New Testament audio project with Faith Comes By Hearing and also includes the Old Testament books of Daniel and 1 Samuel for the first time. Praise God that there is such a demand from Pitjantjatjara speakers for this Bible.

22 Slovenia – Bible Engagement: The Bible Society of Slovenia is running a trauma healing project in order to help the many Slovenians who face various traumas such as violence, abuse, suicide, divorce, alcoholism, depression, post-war wounds and division. Please pray for Slovenian women to experience the freedom of God’s love and truth. Pray that many hearts would be reached with hope and healing.

23 Australia – Scripture Grants: Praise God for the work of chaplains in correctional centres. One chaplain in a Queensland correctional centre says, “The men have a real hunger for the scriptures. They want to have a good look at Jesus, a good look at Christianity. We encourage them to join a Bible study group and now about 10% of our whole prison population is doing Bible study... God gives them the truth and a hope that will help them walk a different path in the future”.

24 South Pacific: Please pray for the Bible Society as they seek to encourage the spiritual life of people in the South Pacific by providing scripture translations, Bible revisions and other scripture products for eight island nations. Pray for stability and security in the eastern parts of the Pacific, for safe travel between different island countries, for harmony among the churches involved in the project, and that those reached would maintain a great commitment to reading God’s word, living by it and sharing it with others.

25 Australia – Koorong: Please pray for wisdom, strength and joy for Koorong staff as they work hard to navigate all the demands on their time. November is a busy preparation month for Koorong as staff get everything ready for Christmas, with a huge influx of books, Bibles and other stock into the stores. At the same time employees are selling and delivering lots of materials to churches and schools for end of year gift-giving. Pray that God will use all the resources that Koorong sells to change lives.

26 Suriname: Please continue to uphold in prayer the Bible Society project which seeks to reach children with the message of God’s love, through a series of events held at local schools and orphanages. Pray for children in Suriname who have experienced abuse, that they will find the love of God even in desperate situations. Please pray for the children who live in orphanages and safe homes, that they would seek a relationship with the living God and experience him as their loving father.

27 Australia – Donor Care: Please pray for stamina for the Donor Care Representatives as they approach Christmas. Thank God for their hard work over the year, as they seek to see the mission of Bible Society grow so that more people may come to know Christ.

28 Bangladesh – Bible Engagement: Pray for those in Bangladesh who have successfully completed the two-year literacy course and are now able to read the Bible, that they may help other believers who still cannot read or write. Pray that women in Bangladesh would have the opportunity to access education from a young age and excel in their literacy and numeracy in school.

29 Australia: Pray for the move of BSA’s Sydney office to a new location, which is taking place now, and on into early December. Pray that the logistics of the move go smoothly and that the work of Bible Society would be enhanced by new office premises. Pray also for minimal stress for staff and minimal disruption to regular proceedings.

30 Bangladesh: Thank God for Liza Shaha, who has participated in the Bible Society literacy course and that she is now able to read the Bible on her own. She says, “I am able to read Bible from the pulpit, even in front of the congregation. Also, now I am able to count money when I [sell] eggs. The literacy class is a place where I find peace. I can share my joy and sorrows and the participants all pray together for one another. I am grateful for these opportunities which turned my life towards light from darkness.”



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