

Prayer letter

December 2019

1 Word for the Week: ‘You [Mary] will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.’ Luke 1:31-33

2 Australia – Publishing: Pray for Joel McKerrow, author of *Woven*, released last month. Launched at The Justice Conference in Melbourne, *Woven* invites the church-hurt and confused back to faith and the loving arms of Jesus. Pray that it reaches many tired hearts and brings them home.

3 Syria – Bible Distribution: Please keep praying for Syria. Pray for the impact of the Christmas distribution by Bible Society Syria, which took place late last month over the whole country, in partnership with churches and volunteers. Pray with Bible Society Syria that God will speak to people’s hearts through each piece of Scripture this Christmas.

4 Australia – Koorong: Pray for Koorong staff in the busyness of the Christmas period, for strength and resilience, wisdom to utilise their team resources effectively, and servant hearts to guide customers as they select gifts for others. May staff reflect God’s love as they serve, and may the products purchased share the love of Jesus to soft hearts.

5 China – Bible production: We know you will rejoice with us and thank God for his work in China. Last month the Amity Printing Company reached an incredible milestone when they printed their 200 millionth Bible. Pray for the ongoing impact of God’s word, both in China and around the world.



6 Australia – Centre for Public Christianity: Please pray that CPX would be able to have a good impact in the mainstream media over the Christmas period, and that through our podcast, articles, and radio appearances many people would engage with the Christmas story.

7 China – Bible Engagement: Pray for the millions of Christians in China living in rural areas with a high percentage of illiteracy. Pray for the Provincial Christian Council as they conduct literacy classes to help rural Christians read the Bible so that they can come to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. Pray that the leaders would be motivated and persevere, and that the students would learn quickly and well.

8 Word for the Week: ‘She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ Matthew 1:21

9 Australia: Pray for the impact of the little book *Who? What? Why? How? Christmas*, Bible Society’s first locally created Christmas children’s book. Thousands of copies have been sent out to families and churches throughout Australia; pray that many would be touched with the true message of Christmas.

10 Iraq – Bible Distribution: Pray as Bible Society seeks to support Christians under pressure in Iraq by distributing Scriptures and relief packages that provide for physical needs including food, medicines and hygiene supplies. Pray that many would be reached with practical help and support as well as the message of God’s love.

11 Australia – Bequests team: Give thanks for the wonderful bequests received this year. Thank the Lord for these generous and thoughtful gifts, which help to fund BSA’s mission now and into the future.

12 Lebanon – Bible Engagement: Pray as Bible Society seeks to teach literacy skills to refugees and underprivileged communities in Lebanon. Pray for the children in refugee camps as the work unfolds through interactive drama presentations about reconciliation and forgiveness. Pray that the Peace and Justice Bibles distributed would reach those who need it.

13 Australia – BSA Sydney office: Please pray for the BSA team located in Sydney as they move and settle into new office space in North Sydney.

14 Myanmar – Bible Engagement: Pray for the Sgaw Karen, Asho Chin ethnic groups and the Myanmar native speakers who participate in Bible Society’s *Literacy through Listening* project. Pray that they will develop literacy skills and be able to read the Bible in their own language. Pray that the program will be well established and accepted in rural villages, and that it will help bring the gospel message to seekers through Bibles, comics and New Reader materials.

15 Word for the Week: ‘While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.’ Luke 2:6-7

16 Australia – Senior leadership: Pray that the Senior Managers will lead and inspire their teams in a way that honours God and fulfils the mission that he calls us to.

17 Nicaragua – Bible Distribution: Please pray for this project in the children’s cancer hospital, as pastors and volunteers are trained to provide spiritual support to children with cancer and their families. Thank God for the opportunity to distribute Scripture and provide practical care for those suffering, in the form of nutritional supplements, transport for treatment, and medication.

18 Australia – Scripture Grants: Please pray for the student work undertaken by our Scripture Grants partners. As the year wraps up, pray that students will keep seeking the God of the Bible and reading his word. Let them meditate on his words day and night. For overseas students that have come to Christ, may they take the light home with them and shine it all around!

19 Pakistan – Bible Engagement: Please continue praying for this *Beacon of Light* project, as Bible Society gives Christian women access to education and the opportunity to read and write. Praise God for the women who have been empowered to have a greater influence and impact in their households and communities and are equipped with the skills to read and understand the Bible better.

20 Australia – Donor Care: Please pray that the team would have a blessed and relaxing break over the Christmas period and come back refreshed, ready to continue building meaningful relationships with supporters.

21 South Africa – Bible Engagement: Thank God for the life changing impact of his word, and the work of World Hope Ministries in South African prisons. Please keep praying for this project, as Bible Society helps World Hope Ministries work with prisoners through Bible discipleship courses. Pray that God’s word will bring spiritual rehabilitation through this work.

22 Word for the Week: ‘But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”’ Luke 2:10-11

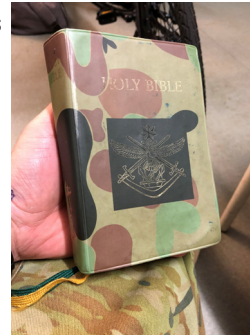
23 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support: Pray for the development of a new language app based on the children’s Bible story resource *God’s Story for the Outback*, which will enable children to engage with 48 different Bible stories. Pray that this will be a useful literacy tool for those who may be able to speak their own language but not read it. Pray that more languages would be made available in the app format and be used as a template for further translations.

24 South Africa – Bible Engagement: *If You can Read You can Learn* is a project which teaches basic literacy skills to children from pre-school to Grade 2 in disadvantaged areas of South Africa. Pray that the teachers can help students learn and point them to the God who loves them. Pray that all child beneficiaries will be prepared for success in their formal education. Praise God for the thousands of children reading Bible Society materials and learning how much God cares for them.

25 Australia – Christmas Day: Pray today for all those around our country celebrating Jesus’ birth. Pray that all will be blessed in remembering the greatest gift God has given us, and that we all may reach out to those around us with the heart and hands of Jesus. Pray for those not yet in a personal relationship with the Saviour, that their hearts will be moved towards him and the love and salvation he offers.

26 South Africa – Bible Distribution, translation and production: Please pray for Bible Society’s partnership with the George Whitfield College in South Africa. Pray that the Greek and Hebrew Bibles provided to students would aid their studies and their Christian growth, as well as the Bibles distributed in target African languages.

27 Australia – Scripture Grants: Praise God for the opportunity to provide Bibles to the Australian Defence Forces. As one ADF member says, “These Bibles are incredible. I have personally carried this Bible with me while serving for over ten years now and I’ll be forever grateful for having it. Being able to open the word while being deployed and even in training has been invaluable to me and my faith journey. The encouragement, challenge and hope within this durable, relatable cover is beyond words.”



28 Syria – Bible Engagement: Pray for the trauma healing project in the Syrian community and its work this year amidst the ongoing violence and displacement in Syria. Pray for the facilitators being trained through Bible-based trauma healing seminars, and for the trauma healing centres being set up in local churches. Thank God, as the Syrian Bible Society does, that the Trauma Healing programs have ‘broken down the walls and opened new doors’ between people in their country.

29 Word for the Week: ‘After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”’ Matthew 2:1-2

30 Cameroon – Bible Engagement: This project will establish Bible-based literacy classes for two minority people groups in Cameroon. Pray for those who will attend the classes, which will integrate an element of general knowledge, including respect for others, human rights, the harmful effects of violence, as well as health information, to offer holistic learning that will equip the communities to improve their way of life.

31 China – Supporting Needy Bible Pastors: Thank God for Cheng Weiwei, a student of Shandong Theological Seminary, who received a copy of the Chinese Study Bible through this project. Cheng was convicted that in order to serve the Lord better, he needed to study the Bible systematically. “I need to understand God’s Word more. I need to draw from the power and wisdom of God,” he shares. He recognises that having the opportunity to study the Bible in seminary is due to the grace of God, allowing him to have this time to learn and grow. Pray that God will continue to lead Cheng Weiwei according to his will.



To receive this Prayer Letter regularly via email please contact us at bibles@biblesociety.org.au

Bible Society
M: GPO Box 9874 In Your Capital City
E: bibles@biblesociety.org.au
P: 1300 BIBLES (1300 242 537)