



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

February 2020

1 Australia – Senior leadership: Pray for our Bible Society Australia group, for unity between all the different entities including Koorong, the Centre for Public Christianity and *Eternity*. Thank God that we can work together to help people open the Bible. Please also pray for the upcoming Bible Society Australia Board Meeting this month. Pray for wisdom and direction for our Board as they oversee the work of Bible Society.

2 Word of the Week: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:33,36

3 Nicaragua – Hope and Smiles for Children: Pray for pastors and volunteers as they receive training to provide spiritual support to children with cancer and their families. Pray for funds so Scriptures can be handed out, as well as the provision of other practical assistance. Thank God for all those impacted by the project last year: for the 35 churches involved in the ministry, the parents and children reached by God's word in their time of suffering, and the medical staff who were shown God's word and how it can help care for sick children.

4 Australia – emergency relief: Please continue to pray for those around our country suffering from the drought and terrible bushfire season. Thank God that BSA can offer replacement Bibles, ministry resources and other specific needs to those who have lost everything.

5 Lebanon – Literacy: Pray that hope would be given to children in refugee camps as they are taught literacy skills which they wouldn't otherwise have the chance to learn.



6 Australia – Bible Engagement: Please pray for all those around our country who have decided to renew their regular Bible reading commitment as the year begins. Thank God for Bible Society Australia's Daily Bible devotion series (available by daily email and through www.bible.com.au) and The Bible 2020 international initiative in reading the Bible aloud each day. Pray that people would be blessed in pursuing Bible reading as a spiritual discipline this year.

7 Pakistan – Bible Engagement: Pray that Christian women in Pakistan would continue to be able to access education and learn to read and write. Thank God that these women are 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.

8 Australia – Koorong Books: Please pray for wisdom for Koorong store staff to help customers looking for the right Bible study and small group resources to start the year. In February, first year Bible and Theological College students come to Koorong to find the textbooks they need for their courses. Please pray for these students as they begin a year of study and ministry.

9 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

10 Iraq – Bible distribution: Pray for Bible Society's work in encouraging Christian communities in Iraq through addressing their physical needs for food, medicines, and supplies as well as their spiritual needs to encounter God's love. Pray for courage for the people and for a strengthening of their faith through Scripture.

11 Australia – BSA Team: Please pray for all Bible Society Australia staff, who are gathering today for our annual Vision Day. Pray that as we come together from across the whole country and all our different areas of work, that we would be encouraged by each other and inspired to recommit all our work to God for the year ahead.

12 Syria – Bible Engagement: Please pray for the Bible Society in Syria, as they reach out during ongoing violence, disruption and displacement. Please pray for the Trauma Healing project, which trains facilitators in Bible based trauma-healing seminars as well as creating trauma healing centres in local churches. Thank God for the leaders trained in 2019 and the hundreds of children who received healing through the groups. Thank God also for the online training sessions which were conducted, and the new Bible based curriculum which has been specifically developed for the Syrian community during their current crises.

13 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry support: Please pray as Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara speakers across the APY Lands of Central Australia receive copies of the new revised edition Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible complete with the Book of Daniel for the first time. We pray this Bible will bring hope to many communities as they discover Christ through reading his word.

14 Slovenia – Bible Helps to Heal Wounds and Trauma: Please pray for this project, which helps women suffering from trauma to break free of their past through biblical trauma healing. Thank God for the 16 new facilitators last year, for their commitment and willingness to serve God first, and through this, serve the wounded people in need. Pray that God would strengthen them with his love and give them his peace so that they will be able to endure all the obstacles and challenges in leading the new healing groups.

15 Australia – Centre for Public Christianity: Please pray for the CPX team as they restart their weekly *Life & Faith* podcast this month. Pray for Anthea (podcast producer) and the *Life & Faith* presenters as they plan and produce the podcast. Please pray that many new listeners would be struck by the truth, beauty and goodness of the Christian story through the podcast this year.

16 Suriname – Distribution to Kids at Risk: Please pray for the children who live in orphanages and safe homes in Suriname, that they can have a relationship with the living God and experience him as their father. Pray for Bible Society in Suriname, as they seek to reach these children through visits and days of celebration, as well as the gift of schoolbags with supplies and encouraging commitment to Kids Clubs and Sunday Schools.

17 Word of the Week: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

18 Australia – Publishing: Please pray for the Custom Bibles for Schools project. Pray that more Bibles would be delivered to more students in more schools throughout Australia.

19 Vietnam – Bible Engagement: Please pray for the Learning through Listening classes run in Vietnam. A significant number of people in the rural areas and among minority ethnic groups living in mountainous regions still do not have access to an education. Pray that illiterate Christians who want to read God's word would be able to participate in these literacy classes which are run through church networks.

20 Australia – Scripture Grants: For our partners in ministry running children's camps throughout the year – please pray that children, who come from families experiencing severe difficulties, would feel safe and at peace while on camp and build good relationships with the leaders. Pray for God's word to be powerful and effective, not returning void. Pray that campers' hearts will be open to hear the invitation of Jesus, have fellowship with the living God and live with hope, peace and faith.

21 Worldwide: Pray for Bible translation around the world today, on International Mother Language Day. The importance of having God's word in the mother tongue of those receiving the gospel is crucial, so God can speak to people's hearts with his words. Pray that translation projects would be well supported, and that translators would be blessed in their work. Praise God for the work of Bible translation, which preserves mother languages for people groups into the future, thus helping preserve their culture and identity also.

22 Australia – Bible Engagement: Please pray for our Bible Engagement initiatives for youth and children around our country. Pray for the youth Masterclasses which are being planned for this year, with speakers who inform, encourage and inspire youth to own and live out their faith. Pray for our Bibles for Bubs project, which gifts a Toddler's Bible to each baby registered and encourages parents to read the Bible to their babies, nourishing their faith and family Bible reading.

23 South Africa – Bible Distribution: Please pray for Bible work in South Africa, where Bible Society aims to support the rehabilitative care of prisoners by providing Bible texts and other materials to prisoners free of charge, according to need. Pray that the Bible, as a book that brings hope, would have a reformative impact on prisoners. Pray that through exposure to the biblical message, transformation will happen, changing behaviour through belief.



24 Word of the Week: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

25 Australia – Eternity news: Please continue to pray for *Eternity* news, as the team seeks to reach people around our country with current news stories from a Christian perspective, good news stories to encourage and inspire, and articles and podcasts which generate thought and discussion on wide ranging topics. Pray for wisdom, creativity and energy for the whole team as they go about their work.

26 Zimbabwe – Bible Engagement: Pray for Zimbabwe, facing instability and uncertainty caused by drought and a deep economic crisis. Pray for the work of Bible Society Zimbabwe as the organisation works in this difficult context. Pray for the launch of a project to bring help and hope to families caring for disabled children, who are often rejected by their communities.

27 Australia – Church relations: Pray for Bible Society's involvement in today's Imagine Nations Church Missions Conference. Pray that the message about Indigenous Bible translation work would be well delivered and received.

28 Zimbabwe – Bible Engagement: Thank God for the work of Bible Society Zimbabwe, seeking to reach the families of disabled children with Scriptures in their mother tongue. "People shun us because they don't understand disability," explains Juliette as she holds Charmaine, her 17-year-old disabled daughter. The family has been living in isolation, rejected by neighbours and even some family members. The BSZ gave them a Proclaimer device so that they could listen to the Shona audio New Testament, and it helped Juliette to "know and understand the Bible better", and also enabled her to reach out to people in her neighbourhood, inviting them to come and listen.

29 Australia: Please pray for the final preparations for World Day of Prayer on March 6. Pray that many would be involved in the day, with informed prayer and prayerful action as a result. Pray for the focus country of Zimbabwe, as the Day of Prayer seeks to promote healing in a country that searches for peace and reconciliation.

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