

Prayer letter

May 2020

1 Syria: Please pray for the Syrian community who have been suffering from conflict for nine years, and now face the restrictions of the COVID-19 quarantine. Pray particularly for the conflict between the need to quarantine and the need to work and earn money to feed their families. Please pray for the Bible Society in Syria as they continue to bless the needy. Pray Bible Society can continue to deliver hope to their community through the Word of God!

2 Australia – Koorong: During this time of isolation, please pray for family and friends, especially as Mother's Day is celebrated this month. Pray that Koorong can provide inspiration for all those who want to honour and bless their mothers with a gift or card. Pray that people will turn to messages of hope and encouragement and find peace in the words of comfort that come from our Almighty Father.

3 Word for the week: 'Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."' Psalms 91:1-2

4 Nicaragua: Please pray for the most vulnerable population exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nicaragua. Pray that during this pandemic Nicaraguans would learn to seek God again through the Bible. Please ask God for strength for all the children with cancer and their families who are in the La Mascota Hospital, that they would have peace and find refuge through the Bible in these moments that the volunteers cannot be near them.

5 Australia – CPX: CPX has recently started a new bi-weekly social media initiative called 'Thinking Out Loud'. Please pray that these short (250-word) reflections on current events would be shared widely and be helpful for many people, especially in these difficult times.

6 Nicaragua: Please continue to pray with Bible Society Nicaragua, that all the volunteers and staff would be kept free of illness, and that their families would also be safe. Please ask God to help them, so that more people acquire a copy of God's word, and that as they open the Bible they would be impacted, and their lives transformed.

7 Australia – RIMS: Please pray for Indigenous communities in Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia and Far North Queensland as they remain closed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While many of the Indigenous projects Bible Society is involved with have been suspended, there are some that are able to continue. Please pray for the Bible work that continues, including the translation of the Book of Ruth in Nyoongar and the revision of the Gumatj New Testament.

8 Cambodia: Please pray against fear in the people of Cambodia. Fear is causing barriers between people. Please also pray for God's grace upon his church in Cambodia, and that he would continue to work in people's lives.



9 Australia – RIMS: Please pray for the West Arrarnta speakers of Central Australia who are currently revising their New Testament in preparation for recording workshops later in the year or early next year. Pray as Bible Society continues to distribute Bibles and Scripture resources across Australia through our Indigenous Scripture Grants Program, so many people in prisons, hospitals and remote communities can have access to the Bible in their heart language.

10 Word for the week: "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day." Psalms 91:4-5

11 Suriname: Please pray for Suriname and Guyana, who are both served by the Suriname Bible Society. Pray for peace of mind for staff and protection for them and their families against COVID-19. Please pray that the distribution for the Kids at Risk (WDOP) project can go ahead this month and next.

12 Australia – Publishing: Praise God that our printing partner in China, Amity, is now back at work and our Bibles are coming off the presses again. Pray that Tien Wah, our printing partner in Malaysia will also be able to re-open safely and the printing of *Our Mob God's Story* in paperback and the NIV Gospels will be able to start.

13 Lebanon: Bible Society Lebanon have asked for prayer as they are facing challenging times between the political, economic and financial crises in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank God that the literacy project had an excellent start for 2020 and that they have enrolled about 750 children. The children are committed to begin as soon as the situation is back to normal. Pray that this may be soon.

14 Australia – Eternity: Thank God for the opportunity to encourage people through reporting good news stories during this time of isolation and uncertainty. Thank God for the Eternity podcasts and the Faith Stories which are reaching people with words of faith and encouragement.

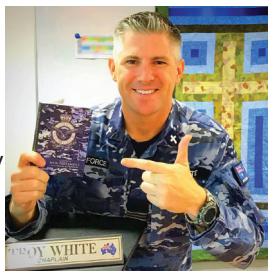
15 South Africa: Pray that South Africa would unite as a nation to fight this pandemic. Pray for the millions who live in poverty, that somehow the Lord will not allow the virus to cause massive loss of life. Pray that the economic road which the country has started on will be able to continue, even with the downgrades that are coming their way.

16 Australia – Leadership: Please pray for wisdom and unity for the BSA Board, and our CEO Grant Thomson. Continue to pray for wisdom across all BSA teams and leadership, so we may know how to best continue our work in this current environment. Pray for creativity and great ideas for all our teams to know how to best help others engage in God’s word right now.

17 Word for the week: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalms 27:1

18 Zimbabwe: Please pray for the government which is busy renovating hospitals to be used as emergency units for COVID-19 patients. This also entails securing the correct equipment such as testing kits and protective clothing for the medical staff to use. Zimbabwe operates in an ailing economy. The virus will have a devastating impact on this struggling nation. Please pray for God’s protection over its people.

19 Australia – Grants: Pray that the chaplains and gospel workers we partner with through Scripture Grants can be creative and find ways to encourage, teach and reach more people with God’s good news at this time. Particularly pray for police, hospital and ambulance chaplains as they work under worrying conditions. Pray for the safety of port chaplains in contact with sailors from all around the world.



20 South Pacific: Please pray for the ongoing good health of all Bible Society staff and their families during this pandemic, and especially for those staff in Vanuatu who cannot return to Fiji. Pray for our Eastern and Western translation projects, as plans and timeframes are rolled back due to travel restrictions and lock downs.

21 Australia – Fundraising and Partnerships: Please pray for the Bible Society team who is reaching out to as many of our supporters as possible, offering pastoral care where needed, and a listening ear. Pray that the news from our projects will still make its way to supporters, encouraging many to keep praying for this vital work.

22 South Pacific: Please pray for the work of the Bible Society in the South Pacific in the wake of cyclone Harold, which struck the Pacific Islands mid last month. Pray for the areas the cyclone struck, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, killing dozens of people and leaving around 150,000 Pacific Islanders without shelter and with limited food supplies.

23 Australia – Publishing: With printing presses and book retailers closed or compromised please pray that God will provide wisdom and inspiration to the publishing team as they look for new ways to bring God’s message of peace and hope to people in these times.

24 Word for the week: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalms 27:13-14

25 China: Please pray for the literacy classes and distribution projects which are currently suspended. The Churches in China have been running scripture literacy classes with the support of UBS for many years. These classes equipped many poor Christians in China with the basic skills to read the Bible for themselves. Praise God that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and suspended church services, Chinese believers can read God’s word in their own homes.

26 Australia – Fundraising and Partnerships: In the absence of being able to visit people or hold events, please pray that Bible Society staff can make a difference to people’s lives, showing forth God’s love at this difficult time. We pray especially for those amongst

us who struggle with technology, that the team will be able to make some sort of contact with them to provide support.

27 Myanmar: Thank God for the Bible Society in Myanmar, and for the literacy project there. Praise God for the staff, who meet every evening and pray together before the office closes, for the global crisis that COVID-19 is causing.

28 Australia – Donor Care: Please pray for grace, persistence and hope for BSA staff as they go about their work in challenging circumstances.

29 Slovenia: Thank God for the work of Bible Society Slovenia and their efforts to keep the Trauma Healing ministry going, using social media tools to invite people to participate online. Pray for their work translating the booklet *Beyond Disaster* (Trauma Healing Institute) to use with their groups and share with the wider public. Pray for this ministry at this time as people need God’s consolation, comfort and encouragement even more than before.

30 Australia – Bequests: Please pray for wisdom and grace as we reach out by phone to many supporters to pray with them. Please pray that our organisation would still be able to keep sharing the Bible throughout these difficult times.

31 Word for the week: “I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Psalms 121:1-2

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