

Prayer letter

June 2020

1 South Africa: Pray for students and staff of George Whitfield College in Cape Town, South Africa, which provides Bible teaching to Christian communities throughout Africa. Pray that the college would be able to continue this important work during social isolation. Pray also that God would miraculously keep the virus out of the vulnerable communities living in poverty around the city.

2 Australia – Koorong: Please pray for Koorong stores in their service to Australian families and churches. While online sales have been good, social distancing regulations have meant that the physical stores have struggled. Pray that customers would support Koorong as the stores grapple with the economic implications of the virus.

3 Australia – RIMS (Australia): Praise God that through the Indigenous Scripture Grants Program, many free Indigenous Bibles and Scripture Engagement resources have been distributed to remote communities which are currently closed to visitors. Pray that each Bible given away would be treasured as the precious word of God as people reflect on their lives and eternity.

4 Bible translation: Praise God that the complete Bible has been translated into 692 world languages. Pray for ongoing translation work around the world; there are currently 2,074 living languages identified as candidates for Bible translation projects with no Scripture portions translated. Pray that God would sustain those working in this important field and bless their efforts to make his word available to every person on earth.

5 Australia – CPX: Pray that the CPX podcast, *Life and Faith*, would continue to reach new listeners, particularly those who are sceptical about Christianity. Pray for the podcast team members as they continue to record material in different formats without access to the recording studio.

6 Middle East: Please pray that the Arab-Israeli Bible Society would be a voice of hope and peace in a place of conflict. Arab-Israeli Christians are a double minority with only 160,000 people identifying as such. Thank God that Christians enjoy a relatively high level of freedom to worship and hold services in Israel and pray that more people will find comfort and refuge in the Lord.

7 Word of the week: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

8 Pakistan: Please pray for the brave women participating in Beacon in the Darkness of Illiteracy program, who are learning to read and write to the benefit of their whole families. Thank God that, because of this program, Pakistani families will be able to read God’s word together throughout COVID-19 related restrictions. Pray that the fruit of this ministry would be seen throughout generations as mothers pass their literacy and faith on to their sons and daughters.

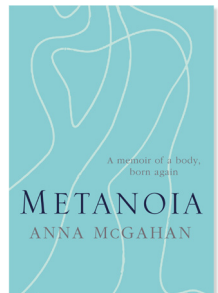


9 Australia – RIMS: Praise God that there has been an increase in requests from hospital and prison chaplains for Indigenous Bibles. Pray that our Indigenous brothers and sisters in remote communities may they know we are thinking and praying for them, even though we are unable to personally visit at this time. Pray that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander neighbours will be spared from this virus and its effects.

10 Australia – Eternity: Please pray that *Eternity* would tell the stories that need to be told to glorify God and encourage the saints. Thank God for the technology that has allowed journalists to continue listening to people and telling their stories. Pray that Christians would be eager to share good news and encourage one another.

11 Mozambique: Please pray for the people who are part of the Literacy for Life program. Pray that the literacy, spiritual and relational gains made through the program would not be lost while they cannot meet in person. Pray that when restrictions ease, that participants in this program would return eager to build on both their literacy and their knowledge of God.

12 Australia – Publishing: Praise God for the success of our 2019 publication of *Metanoia*, a beautiful memoir of a young woman’s coming to Christ. This book was a finalist in the memoirs section of the US-based Evangelical Christian Publishing Association’s Christian Book of the Year 2020. Thank God for this encouragement and please pray for the publishing team as they prayerfully discern which future projects to pursue. Pray that all the efforts made by the publishing team would ultimately help people to Open The Bible.



13 China: As China emerges from the current crisis, please pray that UBS’s many projects would recommence quickly. Also, please pray for our brothers and sisters in China who are still without a Bible of their own. Pray that our mission to help these precious people would not be hindered by virus or earthly authority, but that we would be able to give them everything they need to read God’s words for themselves.

14 Word of the week: “Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5

15 Vietnam: Pray for the translation work that is being done to produce Bibles in Vietnamese minority languages. Pray for fortitude and skill for the translation teams and that many hearts will be turned to Jesus as a result of their efforts.

16 Australia – Partnerships: Please give thanks for the many generous Christian organisations who have partnered with us to support churches at this time. Please pray for creativity, and continued enthusiasm as they produce content to be shared among the saints. Please pray that we would work together in harmony as one Church, to the glory of God.

17 Australia – Churches: Praise God for the many ministers who are working hard to continue to teach and pastor their people. Please pray for continued stamina as they deliver sermons to a camera and manage the stresses involved in keeping church going without being able to meet with people. Pray that they would be supported by their congregations and find opportunities for rest in this strange new world.

18 Cameroon: Please pray for the women involved in Project Esther. These women come to the project for healing after escaping abusive situations. Pray that the Christian support offered through the project would see the women gain self-confidence to thrive in their communities.

19 Australia – Grants: Pray for the Australian Defence Forces, that the chaplains will make the most of every opportunity to engage people with the Bible and to show love in a way that draws people to the Lord. Pray that the Bibles provided by Bible Society will go to eager recipients and will be read and meditated upon.

20 Ghana: Please pray for the participants in the Literacy and Development program. Pray that they would continue to read their Bibles while they wait for social distancing measures to be lifted. Please also pray that the government will stem the spread of COVID-19.

21 Word of the week: “You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.” Psalm 119:114

22 Vietnam: Please pray for the people usually involved in the Learning Through Listening project. Pray that their improved Bible literacy skills would open their eyes to Jesus as well as helping them in their everyday lives. Please pray that while this program is suspended due to COVID-19, the participants would take time to reflect on what they have learned and be eager to return when restrictions are eased.

23 Australia – School ministries: Thank God for the privilege we have to speak into the lives of teachers and students. The Barnabas conference in April saw over 200 teachers exploring the difficulties and opportunities available in both public and private schools at this time. Please pray that Bible Society’s mission team would continue to find ways to support these teachers, so they can share Jesus with their students.

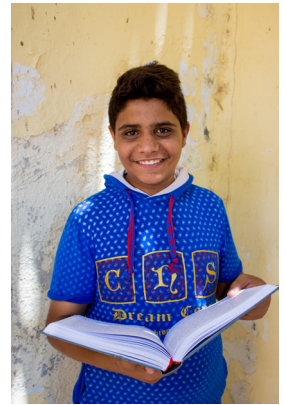
24 Australia – Church Relations: With our church relations team unable to visit churches, Bible Society is running a series of online events to offer our supporters the chance meet and hear from the local directors of our international projects. Pray that these Zoom Around the World events would run without technical glitches, that supporters would learn more about the projects, and that the directors would be encouraged by the presence of our generous donors.

25 Iraq: Please pray that the stigma which surrounds illness in Iraq would not prevent people from being tested and treated for COVID-19. Please also pray that the unrest in Baghdad would settle soon and that the virus would not become uncontrollable within the prison system.

26 Australia – Bibles For Bubs: Please pray that we would reach our goal of providing a children’s Bible to 3,000 Australian families with babies born in 2019. Pray that the parents who receive Bibles as part of the program would grow in their love of God’s word and teach their children to do the same. Pray that strong disciplines around the

value of Bible reading are formed and continue as life-long habits.

27 Egypt: Thank God for the continued efforts by the Bible Society in Egypt to reach out with a message of hope. Please pray that those who normally participate in the currently suspended literacy project would be reading their Bibles and continuing to grow in their knowledge of God.



28 Word of the week: “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3:20

29 South Pacific: Join us in thanking God that COVID-19 has not spread throughout the South Pacific. Please pray that the economic impact of the closed borders would not be devastating. Praise God for the opportunity Bible Society has to support Christians in their kingdom work throughout the South Pacific.

30 Australia – Leadership: Please pray for the Bible Society leadership team as they steer the organisation through this uncertain time. Pray that those who hold responsibility for the health and vitality of our ministry – that they will be wise and discerning, and that they will lead with vision and hope.

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