

Bible Society

Prayer

letter

July 2020

1 South Africa – George Whitfield College: Please pray for the Explore Bible project at the college. Thank God that, while COVID-19 has brought its challenges, students are still managing to participate in the program. Pray for students as they navigate learning from home, that their knowledge and faith in God may be strengthened.

2 Australia – RIMS (Australia): Please pray as the RIMS team completes final preparations for the Pitjantjatjara Bible app. This app will contain features that enable people to engage with the Bible in audio and written modes, as well as share scriptures with others. Pray also for those who will download and use this app, that they will be inspired by the words they hear and read.

3 UBS: Praise God for the Bible-based trauma healing resources created by American Bible Society for use around the world. Many Bible Society projects support people emerging from traumatic circumstances. Pray that because of this work, people will find comfort and hope in God.

4 Australia – Christian SRE: Please pray for Christian school scripture which has been suspended during the COVID-19 lockdown and restarts in term three. Pray that churches would be able to find enough volunteers to cover classes and that the transitioning back into the school community would be a joy and delight for teachers and the students.

5 Word of the week: The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7

6 Kenyan Bible Society: Please pray for Bible Society staff in Kenya who are working with Love of Christ Foundation to meet the physical and spiritual needs of children living on the streets of Nairobi. As well as providing food, the Bible Society is providing trauma healing and offering the children opportunities to engage with the Bible. Pray that these precious little ones would grab hold of the hope that is held out to them.

7 Australia – CPX: Praise God for the release of a new book from CPX Research Fellow Richard Shumack, *Jesus Through Muslim Eyes*. Please pray that many people would engage with the book, particularly Muslims.

8 Laos: Please pray for literacy programs that we support among the Laotians. Pray that the participants would enjoy both an increased quality of life and access to the word of God as a result of the program. Pray also for the Christians there as they seek to live out and share their faith in a context where this can often be difficult.

9 Australia – Youth Ministry: Give thanks for the grit and constancy of youth ministers around Australia as they respond to the ever-changing restrictions in meeting together. Pray that teens doubting or despairing during the difficult season of isolation would find the courage to speak to their leaders, teachers or ministers and that they would find fresh hope in Jesus.

10 Nicaragua: Please pray for the Hope and Smile for Children project. Through this project, families affected by childhood cancer receive emotional, spiritual and financial assistance. Pray for families who have lost



children and family members over this COVID-19 period, in particular that they might find peace and rest in God.

11 Australia – Eternity: Please pray for the storytellers at *Eternity* as they continue to share seriously good news with Christians. Pray that they would continue to be faithful, respectful and generous in the way that they gather and produce stories.

12 Word of the week: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

13 Arab-Israeli Bible Society: Join us in thanking God for the staff and supporters of the Arab-Israeli Bible Society as they adapt to the changed needs of their communities. Please pray that the Society's family workshops would encourage families to pray together, read the Bible and to have fun.

14 Australia – Publishing: Please pray for our publishing team and the work they do in selecting projects and nurturing them to fruition. Thank God for their talents and their commitment to Bible Society. Pray that they might have the both the grace and the fortitude to work with authors and printers respectfully and productively.

15 Myanmar: Please pray for our Literacy Through Listening program which aims to equip local peoples with skills to be able to access the Bible in their own languages. Pray that each person in the program would meet Jesus in the Bible and know him and his salvation.

16 Australia – Auslan: Praise God for the Auslan Bible translation work conducted over the last 23 years. Many who began this project are now heading towards retirement. Pray that the new committee currently being formed would come together with one heart to continue this important work in making God's word accessible to the deaf community in Australia.

17 Cambodia – Learning through Listening: Please pray for the Bible Society in Cambodia's Literacy Program. Pray that it will continue to reach students in safe and effective ways, and that staff and volunteers may find strength and perseverance in God.

18 Australia – Churches: Pray for ministers and pastors around Australia as they consider all that is necessary to bring church back to physically meeting. Pray that there will be no more outbreaks of COVID-19, and that God's people will rejoice in being able to spend time together, either virtually or face-to-face, around his word.

19 Word of the week: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty..." John 6:35

20 China – Bible Study Resources: Pray for Christians in China as they face the effects of COVID-19 on their communities and churches. Pray our Bible study resources are a useful tool in this time, and that through the Bible and these resources, church leaders would continue to sharpen and refine their Biblical knowledge so that they can be effective ministers to their people.

21 Australia – Grants: Pray that God will protect the Bibles in Schools program. We provide class sets of Bibles for primary and high school students, and also Jesus Storybook Bibles for younger children to borrow and return. Pray that the Bibles will be well used and spark a love for God.

22 Mozambique: Pray for Mozambique as they work through the effects COVID-19. Pray for our Literacy for Life program – that it be an effective tool even if participants cannot meet in person. Pray teachers might find motivation and encouragement in God's word. Pray for participants as they continue to improve their literacy levels and engage with the Bible.

23 Australia – ESL Programs: Pray for the churches hosting ESL programs in person and via the internet. Pray for the partnership Bible Society Australia is developing with

Anglicare to support these churches with resources as they introduce new English speakers to Jesus.

24 South Pacific: Please pray for the South Pacific as the inhabitants face the aftermath of both Cyclone Harold and COVID-19. Pray our Healing the Wounds of Trauma project would be a useful tool in this season, as well as throughout 2020. Pray that as the participants share, they would be open to God's word and its healing power.

25 Australia – Church relations: Pray for our church relations team as they transition back to physical meetings. Pray that they would make the most of the opportunity to refresh relationships and share in the joys and frustrations of our partner churches.

26 Word of the week: How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15

27 Zimbabwe: Pray for Zimbabwe and the compounding challenges that COVID-19 has brought. Pray for people who can no longer earn an income, as well as those who have been further disadvantaged by COVID-19. Pray that our hampers of food and sanitary products will be a blessing to families of children with disabilities, who are greatly disadvantaged by lockdown measures. Pray that as these families navigate this season, they may find strength and courage in God.

28 Australia – Fundraising: Pray for Bible Society's fundraising initiative, 20/20 Challenge. Several staff members have already started working towards their goals in fitness, Bible reading and other pursuits as generous supporters encourage them with donations towards our missional work. Thank God for those who have engaged with this enterprise, and pray that this fresh fundraising idea would be an encouragement to all who participate.

29 China – Scripture Literacy for Illiterate People: Pray for the Provincial Christian Council, as they work with local churches to run Scripture literacy classes emerging out of the COVID-19 crisis. Pray participants continue to learn quickly and well, despite disruption to their normal lessons. Pray teachers might find motivation and wisdom in God's word as they navigate easing restrictions.

30 Australia – Koorong: Please pray for continued energy for our Koorong staff as they serve customers each day. Thank God for their patience and dedication to helping people to access the Bibles and resources that help them grow in their faith. Pray that customers will continue to support Koorong in these uncertain times.

31 Lebanon: Please pray for our Bible-based literacy skills project. This project exists to care for Iraqi and Syrian children living in Lebanon as refugees. Pray that the children would rediscover a love of learning and be able to join local schools. Moreover, pray that they might find Jesus as they read God's word together with Christians in their local communities.



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