

Prayer letter

August 2020

1 Australia – CPX: Please pray for CPX Research Fellow Mark Stephens as he speaks at Bible Society's livestreamed event 'Masterclass' for high schoolers on 11 August. Pray for wisdom and clarity as he addresses the question 'Is Christianity still good news for the world?'

2 Word of the week: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

3 Vietnam: Please pray that the faithful pastors and churches in North Vietnam will soon have access to the Bible in their own language after years of managing without. Pray that it would be a blessing to Vietnamese Christians and strengthen their knowledge of, and trust in, God. Pray for perseverance and skill for the translator teams as they work hard to produce a translation that is both faithful and accessible.



4 Australia – RIMS: Join us in thanking God for the newly approved Pitjantjatjara Bible App. Pray this app will be both accessible and engaging for all people who download and use it. Pray it may reach people who have not encountered God's word before, as well as deepen the knowledge of Christians who engage with it. Pray for God's blessing upon the Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS) team as they move forward with this product.

5 Cameroon: Pray for the girls and young women of Cameroon who have experienced sexual abuse and exploitation. Pray for Project Esther as it seeks to offer support services to these women. Pray that it may offer space for healing and rehabilitation as survivors work through remaining trauma. Thank God that this project is reaching hundreds of young women in need of further support.

6 Australia – Chaplaincy: Please pray for all seafarers reached through the Chaplain and Parachurch (C&P) Grant. Pray for strength, ingenuity and wisdom for the dedicated port chaplains and that each Bible given will be read, understood and cherished. Pray that God will keep all chaplains safe and healthy, particularly those who are elderly and may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

7 Australia – CPX: Please pray for CPX's new study guide based on the *For the Love of God* documentary, that it would be used widely across churches and denominations. Pray it would provide help for participants, particularly those who are sceptical about Christianity.

8 Suriname: Pray for Surinamese children in orphanages, local schools and safe homes who have received a school bag and a Bible through our Kids at Risk project. Many have experienced abuse. Pray God will cover them in his love and peace, even in desperate situations, so that they may find comfort in God's word and know him as a loving and caring Father.

9 Word of the week: So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

10 Australia – Youth Ministry: Join us in thanking God for the opportunities we have had this year to host online youth events. Our YouthQ events in June reached over 1000 teens and we are looking forward to hosting Masterclass on 11 August. Pray that the Masterclass livestream would operate smoothly, and that students who attend any of our youth events would walk away with a more robust confidence in the Bible.

11 Pakistan: Please pray for the Beacon in the Darkness of Illiteracy project as it assists Pakistani women to read. Pray that participants find teaching resources helpful and clear. Pray also they may be impacted by God's word and, in turn, impact their own families and communities. Pray their churches would respond positively to the program and pray for wisdom and strength for all staff working on this project.

12 Australia – BSA Publishing: Pray as we prepare to print Bibles for chaplaincy in various state police forces, corrective services, and ambulance and paramedic services. Pray that God's word would help those who tirelessly serve. Pray for the development of a low-literacy Bible, that we would make the right choices as we go about putting this new Bible together to make God's word accessible to all Australians.

13 Egypt: Pray for the Children and Adult Post Literacy Project as it seeks to develop a lifestyle of literacy for students of all ages in Egypt. Pray that this project would reach its goal in preventing relapses into illiteracy. Pray also for the students involved in this project, that they may grow a deeper understanding of God's word throughout their learning and that despite current political uncertainty, this project would continue to grow and strengthen.

14 Australia – Children's Ministry: Join us in thanking God for the work of those involved in church ministries to children over the trying period of isolation. Please pray for them as they gradually return to face-to-face teaching, that they would have renewed vigour and creativity for teaching our precious little ones.

15 Laos: Thank God for the enthusiasm churches have shown for literacy programs and classes throughout Laos and pray they may be motivated to host these programs as part of their outreach. Pray that as participants learn, they develop a deeper relationship with God.

16 Word of the week: "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:67-69

17 Australia – Church relations (VIC): Pray for the BSA branches and volunteers in Victoria who have had to adapt or postpone events in light of COVID-19 outbreaks. Pray for the people of Victoria who are facing a worrying time with COVID-19, that they may be kept safe and in good health. Please pray for churches in Victoria as they find their new normal during this COVID-19 season.

18 Myanmar: Please pray for the Learning through Listening program in Myanmar. Pray that as participants learn, that they would engage in God's word and deepen their knowledge of him. Pray that the program will be well established in rural areas and accepted by the local people.

19 Australia – Donor Support: Please pray for the BSA donor support team who work hard to provide information and assistance to donors. Pray that they would be patient and kind as they work together to take calls, answer questions about projects and care for each of our donors.

20 Word of the week: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8.

21 China – Bibles: Pray for the many rural Christians in China who still do not own their own Bible. Through generous donations, Bible Society provides Bible paper to support the printing and distribution of affordable and free Bibles across China. Please pray for the success of this project, so that poverty is not a barrier to accessing God's word.

22 Australia – RIMS: Please pray for the staff and students of Nungalinya College in Darwin. The College trains and equips Indigenous Bible Translators through the Diploma of Bible Translation Course. Join us in thanking God for the privilege of partnering with these mission-minded linguists and pray that their work would lead many to put their hope in Jesus.



23 Word of the week: To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24-25

24 Syria: Pray for the Trauma Healing project which seeks to equip local churches to host their own Trauma Healing Centres for their communities. Please pray for safety and strength for all trainers, trainees and participating families, and for wisdom for the leaders facilitating this program. Pray the program may provide healing and a sense of God's peace for participants.

25 Australia – ADF chaplains: Please pray for the ADF chaplains and their work among the armed forces. Pray that conversations they have with those who are serving would be full of salt and light and that the Bibles we provide them with would be received, read and understood.

26 China: Praise God that the Chinese authorities have announced that all religious sites are now allowed to re-open and all religious activities allowed to resume. Please pray for Christians in China as they continue to faithfully worship God under difficult circumstances.

27 Slovenia: Please pray for our partnership with the Bible Society of Slovenia in their trauma healing work. This project aims to train the trainers, so that a vast number of people can benefit from the Scripture-based programs. Pray that as the Bible is opened with hurting people, they would find a saviour who never disappoints and a hope that they can depend upon.

28 South Africa: Pray for the teachers involved in the "If you can read, you can learn" project. Pray that as they teach basic literacy skills to young children in disadvantaged areas, God would provide them with an abundance of patience and kindness. Please also pray that the children would learn to love both reading and Jesus.

29 Australia – BSA leadership: Please pray for the leadership team of Bible Society Australia. Pray that they would make careful use of limited funds to help people to Open The Bible here and overseas. Please pray that they would navigate through this difficult year with grace and wisdom.

30 Word of the week: "No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34

31 Australia – Koorong: Pray for our staff as they open revamped cafes in Koorong stores and seek to serve customers with renewed energy. Pray that the books sold through Koorong would build up the saints.

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