

# Prayer letter

September 2020

**1 Australia – Staff day:** Please pray for all the Bible Society Australia team, as we gather via Zoom to encourage each other and set the strategy and goals for the next four months. Pray that we would be blessed as we Open The Bible together, and commit the work of Bible Society to our great God in prayer.

**2 Lebanon – Emergency relief:** Please continue to pray for the country of Lebanon following the explosion in Beirut on August 4. Pray for Bible Society Lebanon as they attempt to rebuild their office and distribute 10,000 Bibles to families who lost their homes in the blast. Please pray for all those who were injured and who have lost loved ones.

**3 Australia – Local mission:** Please give thanks with us for a wonderfully successful Masterclass online conference. Last month Mark Stephens and Patricia Weerakoon brought youth-focused, Bible-based talks to 3,500 teenagers around Australia. Pray that the young people who heard would be encouraged to put Jesus first in everything.

**4 Syria:** Please pray for those suffering in Syria. The hardships endured under the nine-year war are only made worse with shortages of medicine and food due to sanctions. Pray for the continuation and success of the trauma healing program run by Bible Society Syria. Pray that many facilitators would be successfully trained, and that the programs would offer God's hope to those suffering unimaginable trauma.

**5 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support:** Thank God for the recent Kriol Audio Recording Workshop in Darwin, adding sections from the Kriol Old Testament to the already recorded New Testament. Please pray that these recordings will be a blessing to all the Kriol speaking communities across the Top End of Australia.



**6 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. Psalm 121:1-2

**7 Pakistan:** Pray for the Beacon of Light project in Pakistan. Thank God that some classes were able to continue among those in rural areas, despite COVID-19 restrictions, using all possible caution. Pray for these people, who are desperate to learn.

**8 Australia – Koorong:** During this season of coronavirus pray for God's protection over Koorong staff and customers. Pray for the Blackburn store which has been closed in the Melbourne lockdown. Some Blackburn store staff continue to work, processing mail and receiving stock; please pray for their safety.

**9 Nicaragua:** Pray for the Bible Society team who serve at the La Mascota Hospital for children with cancer in Nicaragua. Pray that the volunteers would be strengthened in their work caring for the children and their families, physically, emotionally and spiritually, as they Open The Bible with them. Pray for them as they continue their ministry after losing 11 team members to COVID-19. Thank God for their commitment, their resilience, and their hope and trust in God.

**10 Australia – Victorian staff team:** Please keep praying for all Bible Society Australia staff who live and work in Victoria, as they endure the second more restrictive COVID-19 lockdown. Pray that God would provide staff with protection from the virus and a sense of peace knowing that he is sovereign now and always.

**11 Lebanon:** Thank God for the literacy work in Lebanon among Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Pray that Bible Society will be able to show God's love to children who have come from desperate situations. Pray that more children will remember their love of learning and be encouraged and enabled to go back to school.

**12 Australia:** Please pray for those people around our country who are dealing with so many challenges this year due to drought, bushfires, job loss, COVID-19 business shutdowns and the recent flooding. Thank God for the churches and chaplains who are reaching out to support people in their suffering. Pray that we may Open The Bible with people so they may know the peace of God.

**13 Word for the Week:** The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:5-6

**14 Iraq:** Please pray for the displaced people in Iraq, who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence. Pray for the work of Bible Society which seeks to give immediate practical help through aid packages. Pray that in Opening The Bible, these people may experience the peace and love of God amidst their suffering.

**15 Australia – Centre for Public Christianity:** Praise God for the release of two new bite-sized books from Natasha Moore and Tim Costello, on *The Pleasures of Pessimism* and *The Cost of Compassion*. Please pray that many people, particularly those who are sceptical about Christianity, would engage with these two books.

**16 Zimbabwe:** Please pray for mothers with disabled children in Zimbabwe. With the onset of COVID-19 restrictions in the country, many have lost what work they could find, and now struggle even harder to provide for their children. Pray that the new emergency relief project, which aims to care for them practically and spiritually with food packages and Bible resources, would be well supported and bring them relief and peace.



**17 Australia – Publishing:** Pray that the creation of Bibles, New Testaments and Devotionals for our ADF services is smooth and efficient, especially the new waterproof editions. Pray these Bible resources will meet the needs of the Army, Navy and Air Force and speak to the heart of every service man and woman who receives one.

**18 Pacific Islands:** Pray for those in the Pacific Islands who are still reeling from the impact of Cyclone Harold earlier this year. Pray that the relief project would help people recognise and name the trauma that is overwhelming them. Pray that people would be given an opportunity to share their experiences, and most importantly, learn about the healing power of God's Word.

**19 Australia – Scripture grants:** Please pray for chaplains who serve in mental health hospitals. Thank God that Bibles and Scripture resources can be handed out during times of need. Praise God that he can reach into broken lives and show patients how to walk the narrow path with him as their rock, their guide and strength. Pray more patients would come to Jesus.

**20 Word for the Week:** ...As surely as the sun rises, (the Lord) will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:3b

**21 Australia – Chaplaincy support:** Thank God that Bible Society can support the work of chaplains in hospitals and prisons. Give thanks that at many hospitals, chaplains have been able to have full access to all patients during COVID-19; pray for patients who have no chaplain contact. Pray for the often-challenging environments the chaplains are ministering in, sharing the love of Jesus and holding out the Word of life.

**22 Arab-Israel:** Thank God that Bible Society has freedom to share God's hope in Israel. Pray for the minority Arab Israeli community, where Bible Society is working to develop Bible resources and reach people with the love of Jesus. Thank God for the team's creativity during coronavirus restrictions, and for the Zoom sessions they have run to help relieve anxiety among families.

**23 Australia – Celebrating the Auslan Bible:** Thank God for the Auslan Bible translation, especially as today marks one year since the launch of new translations of the Bible in Auslan on International Day of Sign Languages. Please continue to pray that the Bible translations in Auslan would reach the thousands of Australians who use Auslan every day to communicate.

**24 Vietnam:** Pray for the work of translating the Bible into a minority language spoken by around 35,000 people in northern Vietnam. Pray for the Bible-based literacy classes which will be established to help get this minority group ready to receive the Bible in their heart language for the first time at the end of the year.

**25 Australia – Local mission:** Thank God for the partnership between Bible Society and CRU staff at the Lake Macquarie campsite in NSW, serving those hit hard by COVID-19 with the Food 2 U program. Thank God for the many free meals delivered into the community, along with Bible resources for those experiencing trauma.

**26 South Africa:** Thank God for the work being done among inmates in South African prisons. Please continue to pray for the Bible Discipleship program which brings God's hope to some of the darkest places. The work continues but is hindered by COVID-19 lockdowns. Please pray for the team of faithful volunteers, especially for those who have been impacted by COVID-19. Nearly 2,000 staff and inmates have been infected and 16 people have died.

**27 Word for the Week:** Cast all your anxiety on (God) because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

**28 Australia – Bequest team:** Give thanks for the legacy gifts that Bible Society has received in the last year. These loving gifts, given in faith, are helping to put the Bible into the hands of so many who desperately want it. Please continue to pray for our Bequest team as they talk to many wonderful supporters about gifts that will help to provide the Bible through our mission work well into the future.

**29 Vietnam – Literacy:** Please continue to pray for the literacy project in Vietnam. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted greatly on the work; the staff have taken the opportunity to prepare for study materials but have not been able to organise classes. Please pray that classes will be allowed to resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

**30 Australia – Donor Care team:** Please pray for team members as they share with donors and potential donors about the life-transforming work of Bible Society. Pray that they would be sustained in their work, and that God would continually inspire them as they share about his work.

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