

# Prayer letter

October 2020

## INTRODUCTION

This month, we would love you to partner with us in praying for the literacy projects we support around the world. Bible Society Australia is committed to changing lives by supporting the development of literacy skills in those who are not fortunate enough to already have them. Being able to read and write is crucial to Opening The Bible for men, women and children, so they can access the message of God's love. Literacy also empowers people to engage in their community and improve their quality of life. Bible Society Australia supports 11 literacy projects internationally, from [China](#) to [Egypt](#), [South East Asia](#) and [Pakistan](#). As you pray this month, we hope that you are inspired by the many projects seeking to equip those who desire to read God's word for themselves.

## WEEK 1 (1ST-4TH)

**Word of the Week:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*



Lebanon

- **Vietnam:** Thank God for the lives that have been changed by the *Learning through Listening* project in Vietnam. Pray that the illiterate in Vietnam will learn reading skills so they can Open The Bible to go deeper into God's message of grace and truth for themselves. Thank God that the project staff have been able to develop new course material during the COVID-19 shut down of classes. Pray that classes would be able to resume as soon as it is safe to do so.
- **Lebanon:** Please pray for the thousands of Syrian and Iraqi refugee children and youth in Lebanon. Pray that through the Bible Literacy course, Bible Society will be able to show God's love to these children who are in desperate situations. Pray for the students and facilitators who have been confined since March due to COVID-19, and unable to continue the literacy course even online due to poor living conditions.
- **Australia:** Your prayers for BSA staff around the country are greatly valued. Please pray as we continue to seek wisdom about returning to the workplace within COVID-19 guidelines and thank God for our teams' abilities to continue managing our projects and technology from our homes.
- Please also pray for BSA's upcoming Board and Committee meetings.

## WEEK 2 (5TH-11TH)

**Word of the Week:** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*

- **China:** Pray for the Scripture Literacy project in rural areas for Christians. Pray that they would learn to read the Bible and come to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, grounded in the word of God and able to withstand the influence of cults and heretic teaching. Pray for the training, motivation and perseverance of the teachers and for the quick learning of the participants. Thank God that despite COVID-19 shutdowns of churches and classes in January, from July some literacy classes were able to begin again. Pray that classes in all areas would be able to reopen safely as the year progresses.

- **Cambodia:** Please pray for the *Learning through Listening* project in Cambodia which addresses the need for literacy in the country, where approximately 20% of men and 50% of women are illiterate. Pray for protection and strength for staff and volunteers, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; for the revision of the literacy textbook; that God will bring salvation and spiritual growth to students; and for the social impact of the program on communities throughout Cambodia. Pray that the effects of COVID-19 on the program – enforced smaller class sizes and consequent dropouts as well as increased resourcing costs – would not be a lasting change.
- **Australia:** Pray for the **publishing and mission team** as they work to develop a Bible for young children and other low literacy groups. Pray that they find the right translation and design so that these groups will be able to read and engage directly with God's word for themselves. Pray for the development of youth Bible resources to help our young people thrive in a complex and often confusing world.

## WEEK 3 (12TH-18TH)



Egypt

**Word of the Week:** I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*

- **Egypt:** Please pray for adults and children alike who are participating in this ongoing literacy project. Pray that they would be motivated and enabled to develop their new reading skills, and that helping them to read the Bible would inspire a lifestyle of literacy. Thank God that during the COVID-19 shutdowns staff have been able to work on resources for the project.

Please continue to pray as staff adjust to COVID-19 curfews and safety measures. Pray for wisdom in how to continue the classes as the country begins to re-open.

- **Laos:** Please pray for the *Learning through Listening* project in this country, where nearly 20% of men and 40% of women over the age of 15 are unable to read and write. The literacy project has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, with class sizes limited for social distancing and travel not possible. Please pray that during the second half of the year more facilitator training workshops can be held, and more classes started.
- **Australia:** Please pray for the **Centre for Public Christianity's** annual Richard Johnson Lecture which was postponed in March due to the pandemic and will now be held as an online event this week, on **October 14**. Please pray that the technology would run smoothly, and that the speaker Dr Sarah Irving-Stonebraker would deliver an informative and engaging lecture on the topic "The forgotten story of religious liberty".
- For our **Remote and Indigenous Ministry support**, please pray for the recording of the Gospel of Mark in Western Arrarnta during the month of October. Western Arrarnta speakers from Hermannsburg in central Australia and Finke River Mission approached Bible Society to seek assistance to record the Western Arrarnta New Testament ('Altjiraka Angkatja'). This Bible was translated and published in 1997 and while speakers were preparing for the recording it became clear a revision of the text was required, so Bible Society has been supporting this revision. A team of translators have now completed the Gospel of Mark revision and are eager to record this Gospel.

#### WEEK 4 (19TH–25TH)

**Word of the Week:** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

- **Myanmar:** Please pray that the *Literacy through Learning* program will be well established in the rural villages and accepted by the people. Pray that it will work to eradicate illiteracy in Myanmar. Pray

that the program would empower the daily lives of participants, and that Biblical literacy would bring them spiritual nourishment, as well as contribute towards building good citizens in an emerging nation. Pray that despite the delays to classes caused by COVID-19 this year, God will use the program for his glory.

- **South Africa:** Please pray for the program, which provides resources to teach basic literacy to children in disadvantaged areas. Pray that this program will prepare children for successful years in the formal education system, and that a life-long love of the Bible and God's message of love and hope will be seeded in their young hearts.
- **Australia:** Please pray for **Koorong**. Pray that parents and children will find their resources helpful, especially where home-schooling continues due to lockdown circumstances. Pray for opportunities for the Global Language Bibles to further resource communities where the Bible has not been readily available before. Pray that churches find just the right items for ministry and teaching, as they engage with congregations online and start to meet again in restricted services.
- Please pray for our **Scripture Grants** program, and the women's ministries we partner with. Please pray for women in troubled and difficult circumstances, that the Lord would save and guide them through his word into deeper communion with himself. Thank the Lord that he cares about women in all walks of life – single mums, women with husbands serving overseas away from their families, women in violence refuges, women working in red light districts, and women in jail.



#### WEEK 5 (26TH–31ST)

**Word of the Week:** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

- **Ghana:** Please pray that the *Literacy for Life* project would enable participants to Open The Bible for themselves, as well as eliminate high levels of ignorance in communities. Pray that in imparting literacy skills, the project would improve the standards of living for individuals, homes and communities. Pray that people would be exposed to better methods of health, commerce, and agriculture, as well as social and spiritual relationships.
- **Pakistan:** Please thank God for *The Beacon in the Darkness of Illiteracy* project. Thank God for women like 72-year-old Rabbia Bibi, who jumped at the opportunity to join a literacy class at her church in January this year. Despite the challenges caused by COVID-19, Rabbia continued to attend, using a facemask and hand sanitizer. "It was very difficult for me to understand the alphabetical words but slowly, slowly I start reading. Now I am thankful to the Lord that I can read, not fluently, but with consideration. I hope that I will read the Bible very soon."
- **Australia:** Please pray that our **Donor Care team** can share their passion for literacy and learning with those who are interested in this aspect of BSA's work. Pray the team would have the right knowledge of the literacy projects and be able to communicate passionately and fluently.

To receive this Prayer Letter regularly via email please contact us at [bibles@biblesociety.org.au](mailto:bibles@biblesociety.org.au)  
Bible Society

M: GPO Box 9874 In Your Capital City  
E: [bibles@biblesociety.org.au](mailto:bibles@biblesociety.org.au)  
P: 1300 BIBLES (1300 242 537)