

Prayer letter

November 2020

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION

This month, please join us in praying for some of our Bible Society projects which are working to translate and distribute God's word. Your support, including your prayers, is achieving amazing things, making God's word available for people in their heart language, and putting God's message of love in people's hands, eyes and ears.

According to the United Bible Societies, there are 4 billion people who have Bible translations in their language. There are 1.5 billion people still waiting for Bible translations, and there are 400 translation projects underway right now. In Iraq, Nicaragua, South Africa, Suriname, Zimbabwe and China, Bible Society is working to distribute Bibles to those who need the message of God's hope. In Vietnam and our own country, translators are working hard to put the good news of God's saving love into the heart languages of those who desperately need him. Please join us in praying for some of these projects this month.

WEEK 1 (1ST-7TH)

Word of the Week: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' *Isaiah 52:7*

- **Cameroon:** Please pray for those in the Far North of Cameroon who have been bereaved due to the actions of Boko Haram in recent months. "After the murder of our two team members, who were

responsible for preparing the community for the arrival of the Bible in Parkwa, our task becomes even more urgent," says Luc, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Cameroon. Pray for the successful translation of the Bible into the Parkwa language, that it may "bring hope and heal the wounds of the Parkwa-speaking people".

- **China:** Please pray for the supply of Bibles in China, where there is still a great need for Bibles to be printed and distributed. Thank God that Chinese Christians love reading the Bible. Pray that the cost of Bible production would be subsidised by donations, so that millions of Christians in China will be encouraged with their own copy of the Bible. Pray that as they read it, they would grow in their faith, be strengthened in their understanding of God's truth and resist false teaching and heresy. Pray also that they would be able to give out Bibles to new Christians as a gift and to non-Christian friends or relatives as a form of outreach.



- **Australia – Scripture Grants:** Thank God for those we partner with who serve cross culturally. Please pray for their cross-cultural ministries. Pray for people caught up in detention centres, those in refugee resettlement community programs and in ESL classes, that they will have a hunger and thirst for the living God. Pray that there will be an openness to the message of the gospel, and real growth in Christ as people study God's word.

WEEK 2 (8TH-14TH)

Word of the Week: [my word that goes out from my mouth] will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55:11*

- **Vietnam:** Pray for the work of Bible translation in Vietnam, which has a huge need for Scripture, due to the many languages which have not seen any first translation. Please pray for one group, an underprivileged ethnic minority group of approximately 500,000. They live in the mountainous areas of North Vietnam, with a sizable population also living in Laos and China. Pray that the Bible translation project would fulfil the team's aim to provide the first translation of the New Testament in this language in 2023. Pray too that they would be able record each New Testament book in audio form when the translation is completed and approved, so that the New Testament can be used easily by the Christian community.

Please pray for and with Timothy, a member of this ethnic minority and a pastor of a small church. Deep in his heart, Timothy keeps hoping that more and more of his people will know God and learn about him through the Word. He longs for the day when his people will have a Bible in their own language. He says, "When the translation is completed, our community can listen to God's Word in [our language], and they will have the feeling that Jesus is speaking in their heart language. The Bible is no longer a foreign book, but our book." Timothy hopes



that the Bible in their language will accelerate the work of evangelising and more will come to Christ to be saved. Thank God that even though the translation is not yet completed, some portions are already being used in church gatherings, which helps satisfy the hunger of the people for the Word of God.

- **Australia – RIMS:** Please pray for the upcoming launch events for the *Story of Ruth* in the Western Australian language of Nyoongar. Pray for the launch events around Perth during the NAIDOC week celebrations. Please pray for the Nyoongar people of Western Australia; may they experience God's blessing on them as a people who are loved by him. We also pray that many will encounter the love of Christ through the publication and distribution of the *Story of Ruth* in Nyoongar.



WEEK 3 (15TH–21ST)

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? *Romans 10:14*

- **Vietnam:** Pray for the translation of the full Bible into another minority language in northern Vietnam. Praise God that the New Testament in this language has already been completed (in 2017) and pray that the Old Testament will be completed next year, on schedule. Pray for the translators, that they will be safe and that they will be able to find the best way to translate the Biblical concepts that are new in their language. Pray for the Christians in this minority group, that they will be able to continue to use the Bible in their own language to reach their neighbours and bring more people to Christ.

Thank God for Cong, who lost everything he had to war, except for his new life in Christ. He was one of the first Christians in this minority community and felt burdened for his own people. He knew that the Bible in his heart language was needed for evangelism. After 40 years, the New Testament was completed. Cong says, "My heart is at peace and joyful as we now have the New Testament in our language. God is always faithful!" Now, as they wait for the Old Testament translation, Cong says, "We are using this New Testament for church services and it is very helpful. Everyone was very interested in going to church, we have more people come every Sunday." Thank God for the New Testament in this language, and for the growth in the church in this region as people respond to God's word.

- **Australia – Centre for Public Christianity:** Praise God that the CPX team has been able to continue to speak in schools, churches, and conferences in recent months (both in person and online). Please pray for further opportunities in 2021, and that the team would be able to clearly communicate the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Christian story in these varied contexts.

WEEK 4 (22ND–28TH)

Word of the Week: For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. *Romans 15:4*

- **Vietnam:** Pray for the translation of the Bible into another minority language in Vietnam. It is estimated that there are around 35,000 Christians who speak this language in the country. While this language is close to other languages with Scripture translations, there is still a great desire for these people to be able to read the Bible in their own language. Please pray for hope, perseverance and encouragement for this community, who suffer from discrimination, a very poor economy, and persecution. Pray that the New Testament translation would be finished this year, and the Old Testament by 2024, along with audio recordings of the New Testament. Pray that God's word in their heart language would bring them true hope and encouragement.

- **Australia – Publishing:** Please pray that the large multi-services Bible print run, printing Bibles for our state and federal police and corrective services, would arrive safely from the printers to be delivered across Australia in November. Pray that each Bible finds a home and a heart for those working to keep us safe and working with those in prisons. Please also pray that we will be able to source a Bible comic range to support our prison ministry partners.

WEEK 5 (29TH–30TH)

Word of the Week: For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12*

- **South Africa:** Please pray for the work of the Bible Society through World Hope Ministries, who distribute God's word to the inmates of South Africa's prisons. Please pray for those who have been impacted and affected by COVID-19 this year and are living in fear. Pray that God's word would bring transformation amongst the inmates, effecting a change in behaviour through a growing belief in God's love.
- **Australia – Koorong:** Please pray that the Lord's hand would be upon staff at Koorong as they continue to work together as a company, under different state guidelines for COVID-19 management. Please pray for joy, wisdom and gratitude as they work through the large quantity of stock and mail orders which are a part of Christmas sales. With the disruption to normal Christmas celebrations in some states, please pray that Koorong would be able to provide wonderful resources for reaching out to the vulnerable and lonely.

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