

# Prayer letter

December 2020

## BIBLE SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD

*Please pray with us for national Bible Societies around the world who have a huge heart for God's work and for reaching people with the Bible, but need help to build their capacity. We will be praying for Bible Societies such as the Arab-Israeli Bible Society, who reach a minority in their region with the hope of the gospel. We will pray too for those Bible Societies who have responded to emergencies in their countries this year, from cyclones, to explosions, all compounded by the pain of the COVID pandemic. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer for these countries, and these people, as we seek to Open The Bible with them.*

## WEEK 1 (1ST-5TH)

**Word of the Week:** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. *John 1:9-10*

- **Australia – Eternity:** Praise God for the recognition of *Eternity* as the winner of the 2020 Gutenberg Award, the top gong from the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA). Thank God for the continued work of the team at *Eternity*, as they 'provide an outstanding mix of personal testimonies, opinion, national stories of Christian interest, local reflection on international events, in depth issues reporting and news.' Pray that many would be blessed by the good news stories *Eternity* brings to light.

- **Australia – Donor Care and Bequests:** Please pray that Donor Care representatives can serve BSA supporters' passion and interest for our work. Praise God for the slow return of our Face to Face Thank You gatherings with donors, and especially for our first COVID-safe event on October 28 in Terrigal. Thank God also for the two online Thank You events in the last two months; that we are still able to connect, encourage and 'meet' with one another over Zoom. Please pray for the Thank You events planned for the first half of 2021 as the country recovers from the COVID lockdowns. Praise God for the wonderful churches all over Australia who partner with BSA to further our Bible mission.
- **Arab-Israel:** Thank God for the Arab-Israeli Bible Society (AIBS). The community they serve are Israelis who are also Arabs (only 20% of the population), and overall, only 2% of Israelis are Christians. Pray that the AIBS would be able maintain a core presence in operations. Pray that BSA, together with the United Bible Societies, can effectively support the Arab-Israeli Bible Society, to ensure its ongoing presence and viable operation in Galilee.

- **Bible Societies around the world:** Please pray for Bible Societies around the world who are struggling for survival, since a decline in bookshop sales of Bibles and other materials mean they cannot rely on sales income to support their ministry. Pray for the 'Solidarity Fund' which has been launched by the United Bible Societies, and is funded by Bible Societies around the world, to support around 35 struggling national Bible Societies and ensure their survival.

## WEEK 2 (6TH-12TH)

**Word of the Week:** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. *John 1:12*

- **Australia – Mission:** Join us in praying for churches around Australia heading into the Christmas season, that they would have many opportunities to share the wonderful news of Jesus' birth with their communities. Please also pray for aged care chaplains as they work with residents who now find it

difficult to read a Bible; pray that BSA's pilot program using audio devices would help the chaplains in their work of sharing Jesus' love.

- **Australia – Publishing:** Please pray that the Bibles created for the state and national police forces are delivered on time this month and that God's word touches and guides all who receive them. Please also pray for the publishing team as they plan the 2021-2022 program, that God would guide them to the faith voices and subjects he wants to see published.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Pray for Bible Society in PNG, that they would be able to build their capacity with the help of the United Bible Societies, and be equipped to reach future generations with the word of God. Pray as they find ways to access very remote communities, ensure Bible translations are available in people's heart languages, enable access to the Bible for the illiterate, and provide support for the poor so they can engage with God's word.



Papua New Guinea

## WEEK 3 (13TH-19TH)

**Word of the Week:** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

- **Australia – Centre for Public Christianity:** Please pray that CPX would have a good impact in the mainstream media over the Christmas period, and that through their podcasts, articles, and radio appearances many people would engage with the Christmas story.

- **Australia – RIMS:** Please pray for the publication of the Book of Psalms for the first time in the West Arnhem language of Kunwinjku, a project made possible through support from the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory, CMS (Church Missionary Society) and the local Kunwinjku translators. Also, praise God for the recent launch of the Story of Ruth in Nyoongar in Perth during the NAIDOC week celebrations. May both Scripture books bring hope and healing to these language communities.



Australia – RIMS

- **Training for Literacy Staff:** Pray for this training project which increases the capacity of Bible Societies to run literacy projects in their countries. Pray that the training provided, which went online in May due to COVID, would bear much fruit with those who participated, from countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, China, South Africa, Egypt, Lebanon, India and Indonesia. Pray that they would continue to learn useful skills to equip their literacy programs. Pray that participants would grow in familiarity with the Bloom software, equipping them to produce books in their mother tongues for print and digital distribution.

#### WEEK 4 (20TH–26TH)

**Word of the Week:** ...Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. *Philippians 2:5-7*

- **Australia – Christmas:** Praise God for the wonderful gift of his son Jesus, who we remember this week as

we celebrate Christmas for another year. Praise our Lord Jesus, that he chose to make himself nothing, that he took the very nature of a servant, and human likeness too. Pray that we may meditate on the awesome and humbling truth of Jesus' incarnation this week.

- **Australia – Koorong:** Thank God for the hard work of Koorong staff in stores around the country, as they have worked to fulfil Christmas orders in good time. Pray that God would bless and empower everyone who receives a Christmas gift bought from Koorong. Over the summer, please pray that God would keep all staff and customers healthy and safe; please also pray that staff would be able to assist every customer who comes into stores to find the perfect items. Finally, please pray for the Koorong cafes that have been recently renovated, that staff would continue to be able to provide a welcoming environment and delicious food for every customer.
- **Asia-Pacific Literacy Advisor:** Thank God that a literacy specialist has been appointed for the United Bible Societies Asia-Pacific region. Pray for Cito, who is serving to strengthen the capacity in Bible Societies for Bible-based literacy work. Pray that he can work across Asia to establish frameworks for best practice literacy development and assist in providing comprehensive materials and development for Bible Societies in the region. Please also pray for every person across the region who will participate in Bible-based literacy classes, that God would impact their hearts and minds with his word, and that they would grow a deep faith in Christ.

#### WEEK 5 (27TH–31ST)

**Word of the Week:** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:9-11*

- **Australia – Scripture Grants:** Please pray for the work of our Scripture Grants partners with prisoners and their families. Pray that prisoners will be drawn

to Christian chaplains regardless of their faith of origin or lack thereof. Pray for openness to God's word, that it will be "sweeter than honey" to all the prisoners in Australia and will be fervently studied and honoured as the Word of the Living God. Pray that the Lord will make a noticeable and lasting change in prisoners' lives through His Holy Spirit. Pray that prisoners' families will begin the journey of faith alongside their incarcerated family members.

- **Emergency response projects – Lebanon, Pacific Islands and Zimbabwe:** Please continue to pray for Bible Society in Lebanon, that they would be able to distribute 10 000 Bibles to replace those Bibles people lost in the Beirut explosion. Pray that Bible Society can repair and rebuild their offices, so they may be equipped to reach out to their suffering communities.

Pray for Bible Society's ongoing relief efforts and trauma support in **the Pacific Islands**, and particularly in Vanuatu, for people reeling from the impact of Cyclone Harold earlier in the year and the effects of the pandemic. May God bring restoration and healing.

Please continue praying for the families of disabled children in **Zimbabwe**, where the pandemic made a difficult situation even harder for carers struggling to provide food and adequate care for their children. Pray that God would bring them relief from their suffering as well as hope and healing from his word.

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)