



BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer letter

March 2020

1 Word for the Week: ‘I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—’ 1 Timothy 2:1

2 Australia – Leadership: Pray for the Leadership Team as they lead the mission and vision of Bible Society in this new year, and at the start of this new decade. Pray that God would give this team a cohesive unity, and give each member of it great wisdom and energy for the important task of leadership with which they’ve been entrusted.

3 Arab-Israel – Capacity Building: Please pray for the work of the Arab Israeli Bible Society who seek to provide Arabic Bibles and other tools to the 1.7 million Arab citizens of Israel to help them understand or engage with the biblical worldview. Pray that the Bible would transform this group of people, and through them, the region.

4 Australia – Events: Please pray for BSA staff who will be speaking at or attending World Day of Prayer events on Friday. Pray that many would be encouraged and inspired on the day to pray and support Bible Society Zimbabwe’s “Empowering Mothers of Differently Abled Children” project.

5 Zimbabwe – World Day of Prayer project: Please pray for “Empowering Mothers of Differently Abled Children” project. Pray that mothers of differently abled children would be brought together to share, pray, learn, fellowship together and encourage each other through their stories.

6 World Day of Prayer: Pray for all those gathered worldwide for the World Day of Prayer today. Thank God for the women of many faith traditions who come together in over 170 countries to observe a common day of prayer today. Please pray that these events would result in overwhelming support for Bible Society’s World Day of Prayer project.

7 Australia – Events: Please pray for the Global Leadership Summit Plus events, which feature Carey Nieuhof. As they take place around the country, pray that many are inspired in their leadership and that good relationships are formed between Bible Society and those attending.

8 Word for the Week: ‘As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you.’ 2 Thessalonians 3:1

9 China – Advocacy: Please pray for Chinese teachers in Bible Schools and Bible training centres, students and poor preachers. Pray that Bible Society may effectively support them by providing Study Bibles, Bible tools and resources to aid them in their study of God’s Word, so that they may correctly handle the Word of God and shepherd the growing number of Chinese believers.

10 Australia – Events: Pray for Bible Society’s Jonathan Harris as he speaks tomorrow at the C3 Cares Refugee program at C3 Silverwater. Thank God for the opportunity Bible Society has to partner in this ministry, and pray that the Persian Bibles presented for refugees would be treasured and bear wonderful fruit.

11 Ghana – Bible Engagement: Please pray for the Literacy for Life project run by Bible Society in Ghana. Pray that the project would be effective in training literacy teachers, developing materials, setting up classes and teaching new learners the Komba language. Pray that the students would be empowered to read and understand Scripture as well as grow in other essential areas of life.

12 Australia – Events: Pray for our CEO Grant Thomson and the Rev Dr John Harris today as they host Life Unlimited Church ACC Pastors and showcase our rare Bible collection in St Mark’s Theological Centre in Canberra. Pray that there would be wonderful fellowship and encouragement as they gather around God’s word and celebrate the history of the Bible in Australia and opportunities for the future.

13 Laos – Bible Engagement: Please pray for Bible literacy classes being run in Laos, where illiteracy is a significant problem. Pray that this literacy project may help churches who wish to teach their non-literate members to read God’s Word. Pray that individuals will be able to read the Scriptures for their own personal growth and contribute to the development of their communities.



14 Australia – Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support: Please pray as Bible Society partners with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) to help translate the Gospel of Luke into Kimberley Kriol, using oral recordings rather than a traditional ‘written’ process. It is the first time this technique has been used for an Australian Indigenous language. Please pray for the first three-week workshop commencing on the 16th at the YWAM base in Perth.

15 Word for the Week: ‘Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 **Australia – Centre for Public Christianity:** Please pray for CPX's annual Richard Johnson Lecture which will be held in Melbourne tomorrow night and in Sydney this Thursday. Please pray that the event will run smoothly, and that the speaker, Dr Sarah Irving-Stonebraker, will deliver an informative and engaging lecture on the topic "The forgotten story of religious liberty". Please pray that it will be a valuable event for all who attend.

17 **Vietnam – Bible translation:** Please pray for the Stieng people group in Vietnam. In recent years many have become Christians. There is great need for a Bible in this language, for the 45,000 believers. Please pray for the project as it gets underway, with the aim of completing the first New Testament translation in 2020.

18 **Australia – Local Mission:** Pray for BSA's Masterclass team as they prepare and plan this year's youth Masterclass events. Following last month's season launch, pray for schools who are considering attending this year. Pray that those who attended last year would be excited to do so again; pray also that new schools would hear about Masterclass and register their students, so that many may be encouraged to understand, own and share their faith.

19 **Myanmar – Bible Engagement:** Pray for Bible Society in Myanmar as, in partnership with churches, they implement a Bible literacy program for the Sgaw Karen, Asho Chin ethnic groups and native Myanmar speakers. Pray that this project would help to eradicate illiteracy in Myanmar, especially among the Karen tribe and Myanmar people, to empower their daily walks and Bible literacy for their spiritual nourishment.

20 **Australia – Publishing:** Please pray for the publishing team as they finalise fresh new editions of the NIV Gospel series. Pray that the design of the covers and internals might invite people in to discover the good news of the Gospels.

21 **South Africa – Bible Distribution:** Please pray as Bible Society seeks to contribute to the rehabilitative care of prisoners by providing Bible texts and other materials through ministry partners working in South African correctional facilities. Pray that the Bible, as a book that brings hope, would bring transformation amongst the inmates of correctional facilities in South Africa, effecting change in behaviour through belief.

22 **Word for the Week:** 'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.' Colossians 4:2

23 **Australia – Scripture Grants:** Please pray for the outback ministries supported by BSA Scripture Grants. Pray that relationships of trust and openness with remote rural families and communities may flourish, giving opportunity for those people to meet or grow in their love of Jesus through engaging with God's word. Pray for outback roving Scripture lessons to be anticipated with excitement and remembered, producing fruit in the lives of the children and their teachers.

24 **South Pacific – Capacity Building:** Please pray for the Bible Society in the South Pacific, that they may be encouraged and strengthened to reach their people with God's word. Pray for the people of the South Pacific, where many suffer from unemployment and hopelessness through lack of opportunity. Pray that God would protect women and children who, being more vulnerable members of society, often suffer. Pray that Bible Society would be able to address the need for God's word and help people understand God's love and care.



25 **Australia – Publishing:** Pray for the safety and well-being of our brothers and sisters at Amity Printing as the coronavirus continues to spread. Pray for their health and that there would be only limited disruption to the printing and shipping of Bibles to Australia and the world.

26 **Asia Pacific – Capacity Building:** Please pray for the appointment of a United Bible Society Literacy Advisor for the Asia Pacific, to strengthen the capacity in Bible Societies for Bible-based literacy work. Pray that God will guide UBS to the right

candidate. Pray that there will be an improvement in the quality of literacy programs in the Asia Pacific as a result of the service provided by this project.

27 **Australia – RIMS:** Please pray that much support would be raised for our Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support work. Thank God for all the opportunities Bible Society has to partner with other organisations in Bible translation, Bible distribution and Bible engagement amongst our Indigenous people. Pray that God would continue to bless this ministry as supporters give generously and prayerfully.

28 **Vietnam – Bible Translation:** The Tay people group in Vietnam consists of 1.6 million people, and there are approximately 16,000 Tay Christians. Please pray for the translation of the Bible into the Tay language. The project is aiming to have a full Bible completed for the Tay people by 2021.

29 **Word for the Week:** 'Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.' James 5:16

30 **Australia – Koorong:** Please uphold Koorong's ministry heading into Easter. Koorong promotes and sells books and Bibles to share the central message of the gospel while encouraging customers to buy Bibles and Easter related materials to give away. Pray that many would come to know Christ as they reflect on the Easter message. Pray also for the health and safety of our store colleagues over this time and that they themselves enjoy a quiet time for reflection with their families.

31 **Vietnam – Bible translation:** Please pray for the 35,000 Christian Black Hmong people in Vietnam, and for the planning, translating, typesetting and publishing of the Bible in their language. Drafting of the New Testament in Black Hmong began in 2017. It is hoped that the full Bible will be completed in 2020.

To receive this Prayer Letter regularly via email please contact us at bibles@biblesociety.org.au

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