



Prayer and News

Bible Society
Making the Bible heard since 1817

Update

January 2010

Dear Prayer Supporter,

Too often, as we read the exploits of the saints of old, it is easy to romanticize them as being some kind of super faith heroes. Heroes they were, but, when we do this we are in danger of seeing ourselves as “grasshoppers” in our own eyes rather than giants in the eyes of the Lord.

James here clearly puts the whole idea of faith into perspective. True faith is not the exploits of the privileged few but the opportunity for those who “will”. James says that Elijah was human like us yet when he prayed he prayed earnestly in faith believing that God “will”.... What sets him apart is not his innate ability but his choice to believe.

As we begin a new year let us remember that we are just like Elijah and like him we have the ability to choose to believe that God will answer our prayers.

Blessings

Daniel Barreca
Donor, Church & Volunteer
Coordinator

“...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.” (James 5: 16-17) NASB

URGENT NEEDS FOR PRAYER

Pakistan:

Continue to pray for the situation in Pakistan as the Government attempts to counteract the terrorist activities of the Taliban. Many lives have been lost through the almost daily terrorist and suicide bombings. Pray particularly for God’s people caught up in this chaotic situation that they may be protected and given opportunity to share the Gospel with their non Christian neighbours and friends.

WEEK ONE

Bible Society NSW:

January is a time of preparation and planning for the upcoming year. Following on from the success of the *Jesus. All about life* campaign in 2009, the new year provides a great opportunity to engage new Churches and individuals in the work of the Bible Society and to maintain the unity evident within the Christian community over the campaign period. Pray that God would continue to encourage His people to reach out into their local communities with the Gospel and that wisdom would be given to the staff of Bible Society in the preparation of appropriate resources for this purpose.

Austria:

A growing number of refugees from Iran are seeking asylum in Austria and many turn up at the Austrian Bible Society’s Bible Centre for a Bible and for prayer. God is clearly working amongst these people who have escaped a land all but closed to the Gospel and now have the opportunity, for the first time, to read the Bible for themselves. The refugees are fed up with Islam and are looking for an alternative and consequently are eager to study and explore God’s Word.

WEEK TWO

Indigenous Audio Program:

Over 50,000 Australians speak an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language as their main means of communication. They find English difficult especially when it comes to understanding the truths of the Bible. Bible Society and several key partners are working together to record and edit the 26 Indigenous languages that have Scripture translations and to provide these audio Scriptures to a wide cross section of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The goal in 2010 is to record Scriptures in 5 languages.

Egypt Bookshop:

The backbone of the Bible ministry in Egypt is the 11 Bible Society bookshops and bookstalls. In predominately Muslim Egypt, it is legal to sell Christian material but not to freely distribute it. The Bookshops therefore provide an open door to Christianity where many non believers can enter and ask basic questions about Jesus and the truth of God's Word. The bookshops also stock a range of Bible based audio and visual material which is proving popular in a country where literacy levels are low.

WEEK THREE

South Pacific:

In partnership with the American Bible Society and the United Bible Societies, Bible Society NSW is seeking to develop Bible Society work in PNG and the South Pacific by providing these national Societies with assistance in strategic planning and capacity building. This foundational work will provide a solid basis for the future growth and development of Bible translation and distribution work in the Asia—Pacific region.

Australian Schools:

There are around 800,000 students in public schools and a large proportion of these students participate in Special Religious Education (SRE) or Scripture classes each year. This is a massive mission field with many of these students having no knowledge or understanding of even basic Biblical truths. It is the aim of Bible Society to give every child attending Scripture Classes a Bible of their own with Scripture Teachers then guiding them through the Bible and encouraging them to read the Bible for themselves.

WEEK FOUR

PNG Literacy:

Bible based literacy is the key to bringing about significant change in the behaviour and attitudes of many illiterate detainees in PNG prisons. Being able to read and write provides access to God's Word and the ability to make quality personal decisions as well as raising an individual's self esteem. This life changing program has the full support of the prison authorities. Upon release, many prisoners use their new literacy skills to the benefit of others by providing literacy training within their families and local communities.

Bible Society Bookshop:

The Bible Society Bookshop in Clarence Street, Sydney, continues to act as a valuable resource centre for Churches and the Christian Community. As the *Bible Specialist*, the Bookshop provides a comprehensive range of Bibles covering a wide range of languages. 2010 brings significant change to the staffing of the Bookshop with a new manager and sales assistant to be appointed. Please continue to pray that God would continue to bless the distribution of His Word through the Bookshop.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 10 to 15 January Bike for Bibles Snowy Mountains Ride.

Your on-going prayer support for the Staff of Bible Society is greatly valued and appreciated. Also a number of our supporters from time to time face health, financial and other family issues. Your regular prayer for our brothers and sister in Christ who are in need, both here in Australia and overseas, is both welcomed and valued.

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