



Prayer and News

Bible Society
Making the Bible heard since 1817

Update

March 2010

Dear Prayer Supporter,

In the Old Testament we find it a common practice of “building an altar to the Lord.” Building an “altar” implies worship, adoration, surrender, prayer and an attitude of “walking with God.” Whenever an altar was built it signified something new. Noah built an altar (first time mentioned in the Bible after the Flood). It signified a new beginning. Abraham built regular altars whenever he went somewhere new in his travels.

In *1 Samuel 14:35* we find that King Saul built an altar, but for what reason? Why did Saul wait so long to build his first altar? Saul was not in the habit of doing this, so when he built it, it was out of need (to help undo a foolish decision) and not out of devotion.

I thank you who pray regularly for the work of the Bible Society as your prayers are like “building altars” before the Lord. It is worship, devotion and surrender.

Blessings

Daniel Barreca
Donor, Church & Volunteer
Coordinator

“And the Lord appeared to Abram and said ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.” (Gen 12: 7 NASB)

URGENT NEEDS FOR PRAYER

Peru: Devastating Floods:

Pablo Gutierrez, Program Director of the Peruvian Bible Society, has just visited some of the communities in southern Peru affected by last month's flooding and he said “In the face of all the needs, I just felt so helpless.” These are the tragic statistics from Peru: 7,000 houses and 40,000 hectares of cultivated fields have been destroyed and 13,000 families made homeless. He continues: “It is one thing to read the news and to see the statistics, but another to see it all around you.” Please pray for this devastated land that the rebuilding process brings complete healing to all of these families.

WEEK ONE

South African Prisons:

World Hope Ministries provides free Bibles through their Prison Ministry in over 270 South African Prisons. Bible Society has diligently supplied 25,000 Bibles to this vital ministry over the past 3 years. With a 20% increase each year, there are currently close to 26,000 offenders who are registered and studying with World Hope Prison Ministries. Please continue to pray for this important work.

Jesus. All about Life (JAAL):

As an ongoing commitment to the JAAL branding there are a number of activities being arranged this year. The Royal Easter Show and City2Surf are two events where the JAAL logo will continue to be used to place the name of Jesus in the marketplace. Sabbath Sunday (to be held on the last Sunday in October) is another event that will provide the churches with the resources to make Bible study exciting again. It is our aim to have people within churches reconnect with the Bible in meaningful, life changing way. Please pray for JAAL that it may continue to place the name of Jesus into the minds and hearts of people everywhere.

WEEK TWO

Egyptian Bookshops:

Most Bible Society Bookshops in Egypt have an open Bible in the front window of the shop, and each day the page is turned. In one shop in Upper Egypt the page was turned to a section from the Sermon on the Mount. The paragraph heading stated, "Don't Kill." An agitated man walking past on his way to take revenge on the death of his 6 year old son confronted the Bible Society staff and said "*Who wrote those words? How can he say such things? How are we supposed to do this?*" They were able to share with him the radical truths found in God's Word. The man was impressed with this new teaching, and purchased a Bible for himself. Immediately he opened his new Bible to see if these verses were indeed in his copy as well. Continue to pray that God will use these bookshops to bring people to know Him personally.

Scripture Grants: Hospitals:

The following is a testimony from a Pastoral Care Worker in a Sydney hospital: "*The grants have helped us tremendously in the way of providing us with Study Bibles. Also the leaflets that encourage the patient while in hospital and other resources such as the Large Print Devotionals help with those with any vision impairment. The Promises of Life and the Daily Inspirational book we purchased is also very helpful for when we have our private chapel time and sharing the Word. So thank you for all involved in making the grant available to us without it we would not be able to have purchased these valuable resources.*"

WEEK THREE

South Pacific Bible Society:

Many smaller Bible Societies need help to become effective in reaching out to their respective communities. Bible Society is working with the South Pacific Bible Society to help develop better structures, strategies, policies and procedures so that they become more effective in reaching their goals. The eventual aim is to have the smaller Societies in a position where they can effectively manage and support their own projects. Please pray for this new initiative.

Bible Friends:

"*You'd have thought we had given them gold! said Jackie. They thought they were the coolest present!*" These were the comments made after children received Bibles from their SRE teacher. Bible Friends helps provide Bibles to children and adults throughout the world. Please continue to pray for this regular giving program that the number of supporters will increase so that more Bibles can be provided both here in Australia and overseas.

WEEK FOUR

Austria:

Having heard about the Austrian Bible Society's refugee work from other aid organisations, refugees often turn up at the Bible Society Centre asking for Bibles. With the number of refugees increasing within Austria it has become a great opportunity to reach out to them. Iranians are one group of people that are being reached. Please continue to pray for this great work to continue so that many will come to know Christ through the Bible.

Free Bibles in Public Schools:

This year Bible Society has 10,000 free Bibles to give away to SRE teachers but already applications for 20,000 Bibles have been received. The need is truly great. These Bibles are given to Public Primary and Secondary Schools throughout NSW and ACT. Please pray for wisdom in distributing these Bibles and for the school children across the state that lives will be changed for eternity through this program.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Inner West Showcases, March 16th to 20th
- Jesus. All about life Luncheon 25th March

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.