
PRAYER DIARY

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

R

READ &
PRAY


SCOTTISH
BIBLE SOCIETY



'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth; it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'

Isaiah 55:10-11

We will not forget 2020! As we enter the final quarter of the year it is good to pause and remember both the low spots and the highlights of the year so far. What are they for you? There has certainly been sadness and loss for many of us. We have missed physical contact with family, friends and our church families. We have learned to live with increased uncertainty and confusion.

Hopefully there has been some joy too. Maybe the birth of a baby, the delight of being able to hug loved ones again, enjoying some direct social interaction and maybe even a meal out. Whatever your own experience, please be assured that we pray for you, our supporters, as you pray for us and our colleagues around the world.

In my interactions with staff from other Bible Societies during these last months, I have been struck by the fortitude with which they report on the challenges they are facing. Whether the challenges are new because of COVID-19, or ongoing because of political unrest and poverty, they are faced with realism – nothing is glossed over. And each person speaks warmly of their trust and faith in God. They have smiles on their faces as they recount God's faithfulness. They exude hope in Christ as they speak about their situations.

Thank you for praying. As we pray we are caught up into God's plan of salvation for the world!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine Duncan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Elaine Duncan
Chief Executive

October 2020



Two migrant workers receiving support and an audio Bible from the Bible Society in the Gulf.

1

1 October - James 2:17-18

October's *Bible-a-month* project partner is the Bible Society in the **Gulf States**. The Bible Society provides support and Scriptures for migrant workers, many of whom endure harsh living and working conditions, abuse, and non-payment of wages. Pray that those living in difficult circumstances will keep and grow strong in their faith through reading God's Word.

2

2 October - Nahum 1:3

Please pray for *Bible 2020* as we enter the last few months of the year, that God's Word will be read and heard across the world and lives will be transformed.

3

SAT

3 October - Genesis 1:27-28

Remember *Look for Mercy*, a project aimed at sharing God's Word with orphans and juvenile offenders in **Ukraine**. Pray that the Scriptures will become an encouragement and guiding light to these children in the hard circumstances they face.

4

SUN

4 October - Genesis 9:8-11

The Bible Society of **Uruguay** is working with churches to provide free *Grow and Learn* materials for children and training for Sunday School teachers. Pray that through these resources God's Word may take root and produce fruit in young lives.

5

5 October - Genesis 12:1-3

Give thanks for the thousands of *Bags of Discovery* that went out to families across **Scotland** this summer. Pray that as they engaged with the Bible, they will have met with Jesus and continue to do so.

6

6 October - 2 Samuel 7:10-11

Economic and political upheaval dominate the news coming from **Venezuela**. With new government regulations in place, the resources of the Bible Society there have virtually gone. Please pray for the whole country at this critical time and also uphold the staff of the United Bible Societies in Venezuela.

7

7 October - Psalm 146:7-10

The *Bunong* are a minority ethnic group in **Vietnam**. *Bunong* Christians are still waiting for a Bible in their own language. The Old Testament is currently being translated into *Bunong* by the Bible Society in Vietnam, but because of COVID-19 there have been delays. Pray that this important translation work will be completed soon.

8

8 October - Habakkuk 1:1-4

The *West Balkan Partnership* is a network of Bible Societies throughout West Balkan countries like **Albania, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia**. As Bible Societies work together, pray that relationships with the Church in this region will grow stronger, and pray that God will stir up a new passion for his Word.

9

9 October - Esther 4:14

Pray for the Action Groups and Church Reps across **Scotland** as they seek to use new virtual ways to communicate with their communities and congregations about the work of SBS.

10

SAT

10 October - Micah 6:6-8

Pray for the Bible Society of **Zambia**. The COVID-19 pandemic could delay the translation of the *Nyanja New Testament*. Please pray that checks with the consultant can continue unhindered via Zoom. Pray also that the first 10,000 copies will be printed on schedule by the end of 2021.

11

SUN

11 October - Isaiah 42:1-4

Pray for our resources that accompany *Dear Theo* – an accessible version of the books of Luke and Acts. Pray that many young people will begin reading the Bible because of these resources.

12

12 October - Luke 4:16-19

Please remember the Bible Society of **Albania**, which is not self-supporting, and other Bible Societies in the same situation. Please pray that the Lord will supply the necessary funds so that Bible Society work there can become better established.

13

13 October - Luke 15:3-7

As the next edition of *Transform* magazine is prepared, please pray that it will continue to help raise awareness of our work in Scotland and around the world.

14**14 October - Matthew 28:16-20**

Please pray for God-given wisdom for the **United Bible Societies** so that they can advise and support members effectively during this unprecedented time. Many Bible Societies are struggling with the impact of COVID-19 on their projects and finances.

15**15 October - Acts 4:18-20**

COVID-19 is causing financial devastation for families in **Angola**. Please uphold the many people who have lost their jobs. Pray too for the Bible Society as they work alongside local churches in this situation, distributing parcels of food and Scriptures.

16**16 October - 2 Corinthians 2:14**

Give thanks for workshops provided by the **Arab Israeli Bible Society** with the purpose of supporting families struggling in lockdown. Pray that those attending would feel better equipped to deal with their own anxiety and the fears of their children, in the light of Biblical teaching.

17

SAT

17 October - Colossians 1:3-6

Give thanks for the **Palestinian Bible Society** and the way they have responded to the needs of children during lockdown. They share daily devotionals on Facebook and also post puppet videos to help children explore Bible stories and to explain about hygiene, and social distancing.

18

SUN

18 October - 2 Chronicles 29:11

As *Bible Sunday* draws near, please pray for churches across **Scotland**. Many have downloaded resources from our Bible Sunday website. Pray for all those who are joining together to celebrate the transformational impact of the Word of God.

19**19 October - 1 Corinthians 15:58**

Elaine Duncan is a member of the *Essential Christian Board*, which meets tomorrow. Pray that they will have fruitful discussions and that God will grant them wisdom.

20**20 October - 2 John 1:1-3**

'A Message to Friends' is the new *Bible 2020* theme beginning today. Ask the Lord to encourage our hearts and cause our faith to grow through our exploration of John's letters.

21**21 October - 2 John 1:4-6**

Our Initial Training Course for *Bible-based Trauma Healing* is happening this week online. Pray for the participants and facilitators as we share together that, although we are not face-to-face, God will meet with us and bring healing and restoration.

22**22 October - 2 John 1:7-9**

Pray for the new SBS publication of Mark's Gospel as churches distribute it across our communities. Please pray that every copy given out will be read.

- 23** | **23 October - 3 John 1:2-4**
Bible to Read Out to Kids is an initiative of the Bible Society of the Republic of **Belarus**, who plan to distribute 5,000 children's Bibles. Pray that through reading, many will turn to the living God.
- 24** | **24 October - 3 John 1:5-8**
SAT
In **Egypt**, as in many countries, churches are closed and events are cancelled. Give thanks, however, that some of the bookshops run by the Bible Society remain open, one of the few shops where a Bible can still be purchased. Pray for bookshop staff as they take necessary precautions and deliver Bibles to those afraid to leave their homes.
- 25** | **25 October - 3 John 1:11**
SUN
Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) groups in **Benin** are not meeting due to COVID-19. Pray for Bible Society staff as they maintain contact with the 47 group leaders via phone. Pray also that the Lord will protect and strengthen group members.
- 26** | **26 October - Psalm 1:1-3**
'The Blessing of Fruitfulness' is our new series of *Bible 2020* readings. Ask the Lord to produce the fruit of his Spirit in our lives. Pray that he will continue to change us so that we reflect more of him.
- 27** | **27 October - Psalm 92:12-15**
The Bible Society of **Brazil** works in schools across the country to encourage pupils to consider ethical and community values through Bible study. Pray that the lessons will impact young lives.
- 28** | **28 October - Isaiah 27:2-3**
The Bible Society of **Burkina Faso** runs a literacy project to enable learners to become fluent in reading and writing. Pray that the Word of God will change lives and that better reading skills will lead to new opportunities.
- 29** | **29 October - Ezekiel 36:9-11**
The *Good Samaritan Project* is used by the Bible Society of **Burundi** to help educate and support those with HIV. Pray that the Burundian churches will be increasingly involved in this ministry and that the Lord will change lives.
- 30** | **30 October - Psalm 107:33-38**
The *Transforming Scotland* group is planning an event in **Edinburgh** for invited church leaders. Pray that those attending will feel better equipped to meet the challenges facing the church in Scotland.
- 31** | **31 October - 2 Corinthians 3:18**
SAT
During COVID-19, the Bible Society of **Cameroon** has been unable to organise mixed *Faith Comes by Hearing* groups, so they set up family groups instead. Pray for these families who have begun to listen to God's Word together.

November 2020



▲
The Bible Society of Jordan works alongside local churches to reach Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

1
SUN

1 November - John 15:5-8

November's *Bible-a-month* project partner is the Bible Society of Jordan. Working alongside local churches, they reach out to people, particularly refugees, who suffer hardship by helping with their basic needs. Pray for stability in **Jordan** in the midst of the surrounding conflicts. Pray that many refugees will come to know Christ personally.

2

2 November - Romans 12:1-2

Give thanks for the new volunteers hub page on the Scottish Bible Society website, created by our communications team. Pray that it will help to keep our volunteers regularly updated about our work.

3

3 November - Colossians 3:12-14

Born to Love is run by the Chilean Bible Society to promote Christian and family values among children and teens while providing support to the whole family. Pray that God will bring healing to broken family relationships in **Chile** through his Word.

4

4 November - Galatians 5:22-23

Learning Through Listening is a programme run by the Bible Society in Vietnam to help people learn to read and engage with the Bible. Please pray for this important work, as it reaches the ethnic minorities of **North Vietnam**, most of whom have little access to education. Pray that as people become confident readers they will see God clearly in his Word.

5

5 November - James 3:17-18

SBS monthly email update to supporters is sent to around 7,500 recipients. Please pray that our email will be opened by many and that the content will encourage them to pray for and support our work.

6

6 November - Ephesians 4:29-32

Through *Living Word for All*, the Bible Society in **Cambodia** provides subsidised Bibles for those who can't afford to pay the full price. Pray that God will bring transformation to Cambodia's poorest communities through his Word.

7

SAT

7 November - 2 Peter 1:5-8

In **Armenia** the Bible Society runs a *Bible Quiz in Schools*. Give thanks for this project — now more accessible than ever as it has moved online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Pray particularly that the pre-quiz Seminars for teachers will be useful and well-received.

8

SUN

8 November - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Literacy of the Aymara Children is an ongoing project in **Bolivia**. Give thanks that the Bolivian Bible Society has been asked by rural teachers to supply Bible stories in large print to reinforce children's reading comprehension.

9

9 November - Galatians 2:20

An *Audio Bible in Uzbek* is being recorded by the Bible Society in **Uzbekistan**. Due to restrictions on printed religious material, distribution of a paper Bible is difficult, but an Audio Bible can be easily shared. Give God thanks for this work, and pray for the people of this country.

10

10 November - Philippians 3:10-12

In **Zimbabwe**, mothers of children with disabilities have suffered throughout lockdown. Most make their living by selling products on the street, but now they have no income. Pray for these families as the Bible Society of Zimbabwe provides them with food, Scriptures, face masks and sanitisers.

11

11 November - 1 Corinthians 1:7-9

Elaine Duncan will address the Biblica global team at their virtual Chapel service today. Pray that Elaine's message will both challenge and encourage them.

12

12 November - Ephesians 1:15-17

Please pray urgently for the many Bible Societies around the world who rely on Bible Bookshops to generate income. For many the decrease in sales means that staff will not be paid and Bible ministry cannot continue.

- 13** | **13 November - Colossians 1:9-12**
Pray for young people in **Scotland** who have missed out on being part of a supportive Christian community this year. Pray that they would know God with them through the Bible.
- 14** | **14 November - 2 Timothy 4:7-8**
SAT | Please pray for *Bible-based Trauma Healing* sessions being broadcast by the Bible Society of **Uganda**. Uganda has been hit hard by COVID-19 and cases of domestic violence have risen sharply. The need for people to be restored by the Lord has never been greater.
- 15** | **15 November - Isaiah 65:17-19**
SUN | A new *Bible 2020* theme begins today. 'A Vision of Heaven' focuses on verses that speak of a broken world made new and of the hope of resurrection. Thank God for the way he came to our broken world through Jesus and for his resurrection.
- 16** | **16 November - Isaiah 61:4**
The *United Bible Societies* governance meetings take place this week. Give thanks for the technology which has enabled these global meetings to continue virtually throughout the challenges of this year. Pray for unity in the decisions that are made.
- 17** | **17 November - Isaiah 49:8**
Pray for *Students Action for Christ* and the **Bangladesh** Bible Society. The project involves a programme of youth activities combined with Bible distribution. Pray for wisdom as many sessions can't run at present due to COVID-19.
- 18** | **18 November - John 11:25-27**
The *Outspoken Bible* podcast was launched this year by SBS as an online Bible engagement resource. Please pray that God will use it to encourage all who listen.
- 19** | **19 November - John 14:1-4**
Pray for the Bible Society in the **Central African Republic**. They are seeking support in the areas of finance and project management. Ask the Lord to provide the right training and wise advice from other Bible Societies.
- 20** | **20 November - Luke 24:25-27**
In **Azerbaijan** local churches don't have a sufficient number of Bibles for evangelism, and some believers don't even have their own Bible. Please pray for an end to Bible poverty in this country.
- 21** | **21 November - Luke 24:32-34**
SAT | Give thanks for the work of *Bible-based Trauma Healing* around the world as many people have the opportunity to share about their hurt and pain in a safe environment. Pray that as they read God's Word, he will bring comfort and hope to all.

22
SUN

22 November - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Pray for the National Ministries team at SBS as we seek new and innovative ways to create Bible engagement resources, responding to the changes brought about by the coronavirus.

23

23 November - 1 Peter 1:3-5

Pray for the Argentine Bible Society as they translate the *Bible into LSA* (Argentinian Sign Language). Please pray that the Word of God will be a blessing to deaf people of all ages throughout **Argentina**.

24

24 November - 1 Corinthians 15:19-20

Please pray that the SBS Communications team will be able to reach new supporters via social media, and that many will be challenged and encouraged by our work.

25

25 November - 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

The Bible Society of **Algeria** is translating the Bible into *Kabyle*, the language of the Berber people. Many *Kabyle* speakers do not understand any other language, so this particular translation is very important. They aim to create a translation that will be easy to understand. Sessions with the translation consultant are currently done online. Please pray that this method of working will not cause further delay to the project's completion.

26

26 November - 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Give thanks for the work of the Bible Society in **Austria** as they distribute God's Word to refugees. Gifts include the 'On the Road' booklet and a bilingual Gospel of Luke in Arabic and German.

27

27 November - 2 Corinthians 5:1

The *Biblica* Board meets today, of which Elaine Duncan is a member. Give thanks for the work of *Biblica*, and pray for wisdom and grace as they work through the agenda.

28
SAT

28 November - Philippians 3:20-21

Give thanks for the *Revised Chinese Union Version* of the Bible, and pray for the **Hong Kong** Bible Society as they seek to promote this translation among the non-Christian and younger generation of Chinese speakers.

29
SUN

29 November - Colossians 3:1-4

Give thanks for the continued support of *West Glasgow New Church* for our work, as Elaine Duncan speaks there today. Pray that the congregation will be encouraged by the message they hear.

30

30 November - Matthew 6:19-21

Pray for the **China Partnership** who earlier this year launched an appeal to help people infected with COVID-19, particularly those in the rural areas of Hubei Province. Pray for the many Christians who have been infected and for local preachers who, due to the temporary closure of churches, have no income.

December 2020



▲
A group of Christian inmates in Gitega Prison, Burundi.

1

1 December - 2 Peter 3:10-13

December's *Bible-a-month* partner is the Bible Society of Burundi. After a long period of civil war, **Burundi** has numerous prisons. Working with local churches, the Bible Society of Burundi offers the Word of God to inmates. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to touch hearts as prisoners encounter the Good News.

2

2 December - Revelation 7:9-10

Pray for our National Ministries Department at SBS and the advent series they have created around the *Bible 2020* reading plan. Pray that many will respond to hearing God's Word this Christmas.

3

3 December - Revelation 21:22-27

The SBS Board meets today for their last meeting of the year. Give thanks for the time and commitment shown by all the Trustees, and for their encouragement and support throughout the year.

4

4 December - Revelation 22:1-2

The **Colombian** Bible Society in partnership with churches offer *Sanidad del Trauma* (Trauma Healing). At the time of writing, the coronavirus is affecting South American countries severely, and people are struggling to cope. Pray this initiative will bring healing through God's Word.

5

SAT

5 December - John 1:10-13

'Incarnation' is the new *Bible 2020* theme – a series of readings on Advent. Pray that God will speak to our hearts as we explore the reality and wonder of Jesus' incarnation.

6

SUN

6 December - Galatians 4:4-6

Remember the *You are Precious* project. Through this initiative the **Bulgarian** Bible Society aim to bring the Bible closer to poor children by providing Children's Bibles as Christmas presents.

7

7 December - Ephesians 1:3-5

Bible-based Trauma Healing is greatly needed in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Pray for the Bible Society as they equip radio presenters and facilitators to deliver broadcasts and care for listeners in the east, west, and the central regions of the country.

8

8 December - Matthew 1:18-21

Give thanks for events organised last year by the Bible Society of **Costa Rica** with the aim of introducing new audiences to the Bible's message. *The Secret Behind the Music: Songs Inspired by the Bible* was a concert giving kids from deprived neighbourhoods the opportunity to hear classical music and the Bible message.

9

9 December - John 1:18

Pray for the Lord to direct the team working on *See and Believe*. Through this project the **Croatian** Bible Society aims to deliver the very first translation of the Gospels in Croatian Sign Language.

10

10 December - Isaiah 11:2

Give thanks for the *Bible-based Trauma Healing* groups that are happening in churches and communities around Scotland. Pray that as people bring their pain, grief and loss to Jesus, that God's Word will encourage and renew them.

11

11 December - Luke 1:30-33

The Cuban Bible Commission aims to purchase a printing facility to publish Biblical material. Praise God for the many people in **Cuba** coming to church for the first time and the growing interest in the Bible there.

12

SAT

12 December - Isaiah 7:14

For over 10 years the Bible Society in **Cyprus** has been printing New Testaments that are distributed to students. Give thanks that, through this project, around 7,000 teenagers have received a free New Testament during a sensitive phase of their lives.

13

SUN

13 December - Luke 1:46-50

As our *Bible-a-month* Calendars are sent out to existing Partners, give thanks for the generous support from so many, both in prayer and financially. Pray for God's blessing on each of the countries represented throughout 2021.

- 14** | **14 December - Luke 2:4-7**
In the **Dominican Republic** the Bible Society distributes copies of God's Word among the 50 registered orphanages in that country. Pray that this provision – currently on hold due to coronavirus – will be life-changing for many children.
- 15** | **15 December - Matthew 2:1-2**
Drug abuse among adolescents in **Ecuador** has increased dramatically in recent years. Please pray for the United Bible Societies in Ecuador as they offer education and care in schools along with the distribution of Scriptures.
- 16** | **16 December - Matthew 2:3-6**
Give God thanks along with the Bible Society of **Egypt**. Their newest bookshop is well-positioned in the city centre of Hurghada, near the Red Sea. Please pray that the Scriptures will be effectively promoted from there.
- 17** | **17 December - Luke 2:8-11**
In **Algeria** it is risky for someone to ask for a Bible. Please pray for the work of the Bible Society in Algeria as they help people seeking to respond to radio and TV programmes about Jesus. At the moment, distribution of Scripture has been reduced due to the pandemic.
- 18** | **18 December - Luke 2:12-15**
Pray for **El Salvador**, a country where murder rates are high and as a result many children are orphaned. Pray that the Lord will use *Fear Not*, an interactive comic book for 6-10 year olds produced by the Bible Society there. It looks at the subject of fear and guides the reader to the Bible for solutions.
- 19** | **19 December - Luke 2:27-32**
Pray for the **Estonian** Bible Society as their team translates a new version of the Bible into contemporary Estonian. At the moment excerpts have been published and the team await feedback on these. Please pray for an accurate and thorough assesment of the work so far.
SAT
- 20** | **20 December - Luke 2:36-38**
The Bible Society **Eswatini** is building a *Children's Mission Centre*. Give thanks for the recently installed water harvesting system meaning that clean water is now readily available. However, finances remain a challenge – please pray that the Lord will supply every need.
SUN
- 21** | **21 December - 2 Corinthians 8:9**
The *Children's Bible in Amharic* is aimed at 5 to 14-year-old *Amharic* readers. Give thanks to God for good progress with this project. The Bible Society of **Ethiopia** completed a revision of the first volume a few months ago.
- 22** | **22 December - 1 Timothy 3:16**
New Reader Portions are being developed by the Bible Society in **Finland** for the *Literacy for Women in Africa* project. The first step is to produce English templates (in three literacy levels). Please pray that the Bible stories will be faithfully communicated at each level to provide a quality resource.

23

23 December - Isaiah 9:1-2

The French Bible Society plans to deliver *Hebrew and Greek scholarly editions of the Bible* to theology students in **France** to provide help for them in their studies. Please pray for the many students in need of original language Biblical texts.

24

24 December - Isaiah 9:6

The *Fang* translation of the Bible is a project we shared about back in March. Please continue to hold the translation team and the Bible Society in **Gabon** in your prayers. Praise God that progress has continued online despite the pandemic with 74% of this project now complete.

25

25 December - John 14:5-7

As we celebrate Christmas pray that God will touch our lives today with new wonder and joy at God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. Pray that, as the story of Jesus' birth is shared, he will bring light and hope.

26

SAT

26 December - John 14:15-19

The Bible Society in **Georgia** started with a contemporary version of the Bible and are adding helpful cross references, notes, introductions, and maps to it. Pray that this new Study Bible, aimed at young Georgian speakers, will serve to deepen young people's knowledge and faith.

27

SUN

27 December - John 15:9-14

The Bible Society of **Ghana** works with vulnerable teenage girls, equipping them through Bible teaching, moral education, and life skills. Pray for the 10,000 girls this project aims to reach. Pray that God would be at work in their young lives.

28

28 December - Matthew 28:18-20

Bible Society of Guatemala reaches out with Bible portions, trauma healing, and humanitarian aid to deported people returning to **Guatemala**. The challenges for returning migrants are great and complicated. Pray that many will find hope and new life through an encounter with Jesus.

29

29 December - Luke 24:50-53

As the SBS communications team looks ahead to 2021, please ask that our staff will be granted wisdom as we consider ways to reach new audiences and encourage our existing supporters with inspiring updates.

30

30 December - Revelation 1:7-8

Please pray for the *Toma Translation Project* which the Bible Society in **Guinea-Conakry** has almost completed. Pray too for the literacy projects which prepare *Toma* speakers to read and study God's Word for themselves.

31

31 December - Matthew 6:9-13

As we end the year please pray for everyone across the world who has engaged with *Bible 2020*. Pray that the reading of God's Word will have an eternal impact. Pray that many will have discovered Jesus in a deeper and more personal way through reading and growing.

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY READING THE BIBLE ALOUD

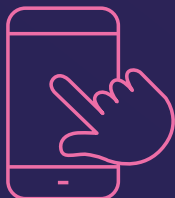
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LIFE TRANSFORMED THROUGH THE BIBLE

**The Scottish Bible Society seeks, under God, to
put the Bible into people's hands and hearts.**

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they understand, a form they can access, and at an
affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God.**

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