

B

Bible
Society

July – October 2021

prayer in action



Pray with Bible Society

Gjergj, Bruna and Altin from the Interconfessional Bible Society of Albania celebrating the translation of the Psalms

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. You make an incredible difference to people's lives around the world and we are so grateful for you! In July and August let's pray for Bible translation work around the world. Bible translation takes time, training and commitment from teams who are dedicated to provide the Bible in the heart language of people in their communities and countries.

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55.11 (ESV)

July

Ermira is delighted with her new Albanian Bible



4 – 10 July

Albania – completed Bible translation

Give thanks for the completion of the Albanian Bible after 20 years of hard work and commitment from the translation team. Pray for the life-changing words of the Bible to have an impact on the hearts of people in Albania. Pray for God's blessing on Altin Hysi, the General Secretary of the Interconfessional Bible Society of Albania, and his small team, who work incredibly hard to share God's word in their country.

11 – 17 July

eSwatini – SiSwati Study Bible

Give thanks that the New Testament of the SiSwati Study Bible has been completed and joyfully received. Pray for the translation of the Old Testament study notes, which the Bible Society in eSwatini is aiming to complete by December 2022. Their prayer is that the study notes and comments will help believers amongst the largest speaking-group in the country understand God's word deeper and prevent confused interpretations within the Swazi nation.

The Study Bible is targeted particularly at church leaders and their congregants and is used for deeper study of the word of God to help apply biblical principles. The Bible Society in eSwatini have asked that we pray for a change in attitude about sin and a more moral society resulting from an authentic application of biblical values in eSwatini.

18 – 24 July

Mali – Study Bible in Bamaman

The Bambara language is spoken by over 4.7 million people in Mali (260,000 of them are Protestant Christians).

The team in Mali have asked us to pray for them: 'Let us ask God to abundantly bless all the actors and partners of the project. Let us always pray for political stability and security in Mali. Please pray for the rooting of each Christian in the word of God and the commitment of the churches in the face of persecution and attacks.'

25 – 31 July

Togo – Kabiye First Old Testament

The interconfessional translation into the Kabiye language in Togo is under way. In 2012, the New Testament Diglot Kabiye-French was launched and now Christians eagerly await the complete Bible.

A Bible translation must be read and understood by the target population. In order to prepare this population to better interact with the word of God, the Bible Society of Togo will continue with their literacy programmes to help Kabiye-speaking people read and understand the Bible in their heart language.

The Bible Society in Togo have asked us to pray for them: 'Please pray for the translators and their families, may the Lord grant them good health. Pray for support for the project from churches and associations and pray for the project to be completed within the deadline.'

August



Photography by Benjamin Mordi

Women with copies of the first Epie New Testament at its launch in southern Nigeria, thanks to your generous support.

1 – 7 August

Nigeria – Epie Old Testament translation

Give thanks that the people of Epie in Nigeria have joyfully received the New Testament in their mother tongue. The dedication of the New Testament in 2020 was characterised with excitement, praise to God and joyful celebrations.

Miss Abraham Montgomery, who received the Epie NT, said, 'I am very excited. I have been praying and expecting this day. The Urhobos and people of other languages in our neighbouring state have the Bible in their mother tongue. I am happy we now have ours. It is no longer a wish or a dream, but a reality. Our pastors can now preach and conduct Bible studies in our language.'

Please pray for the translation team who are now starting the translation of the Old Testament into Epie.

Please continue to pray for translation projects around the world.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Revelation 7.9 (ESV)

8 – 14 August

Turkey – Turkish Bible Revision

There are currently two translations of the Bible into Turkish which the Bible Society in Turkey continues to publish and distribute. The Old Translation (1941) is the most faithful one to the original texts through its old vocabulary and syntax. However it lacks modern punctuation, modern Turkish syntax and sometimes it is hard to understand because of the old (Ottoman) words.

The New Translation (2001) targets the non-Christian audience and was translated in everyday language. It is used widely in Turkey. However, it doesn't answer the need of those who compare it with translations in other languages and the original texts.

As the Turkish Church grows, the number of pastors and biblical scholars increase and the Bible Society of Turkey receives many requests for a new translation which targets the Christian audience and becomes a real guide to deepen biblical knowledge.

Please pray for the translation team in Turkey as they begin the huge task of a new Bible revision.

Pray for their insight, patience and commitment to this project and for the new translation to have an impact on people's lives in Turkey.

15 – 21 August

Burkina Faso – Bissa Old Testament translation and New Testament revision

Bissa is spoken by nearly 800,000 people across west Africa, with at least 500,000 in Burkina Faso (in the south centre of the country), 165,900 people in Ghana and about 3,000 in Togo and Côte d'Ivoire. The New Testament has been published in this language since 2000 and the need to translate the Old Testament to complete this Bible is incredibly important.

The Bible Society in Burkina Faso has asked us to pray for the successful completion of this project so they can serve the Church in Burkina Faso, provide the people with their inter-confessional Bible, contribute to the spiritual growth of the Church and reach out to non-Christians.

22 – 28 August

Burkina Faso – Lyélé Old Testament translation and New Testament revision

Lyélé is spoken by more than 210,000 people in Burkina Faso. Give thanks for the completion of the New Testament which has been published in this language since 2001 and is well used. The current project aims to serve the Church in the Lyélé area by translating the Old Testament and the Deuterocanonical books as well as revising the existing New Testament. Please pray for the translation team as they undertake this work, pray for their encouragement, patience and inspiration.

September



Prayers in the pandemic

2020 was an unprecedented year and 2021 is currently following the same path. We have created an online prayer tree for people to add a prayer leaf to lift the historic events that we are witness to in prayer to God, including prayers from church leaders. We will be compiling and releasing a booklet featuring a selection of the prayers. To contribute your own prayer and to find out more go to biblesociety.org.uk/pandemicprayers

In September and October let's pray together with those who have written their prayers for the pandemic.

*In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.
Psalm 120.1 (ESV)*

Photography by Jack Sharp on Unsplash

28 August – 4 September

5 – 11 September

Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster
Vice President of Bible Society**

12 – 18 September

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ suffered for us on the Cross that we might have eternal life, be present with us in our suffering as we endure the pandemic.

Be present to the sick; be present to the dying; be present to the bereaved.

We know that in your love all things shall be made whole. Strengthen in us that hope which comes only from faith in your unfailing love.

This we ask through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

**Most Revd Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury**

19 – 25 September

Heavenly Father,
We give thanks to you on every occasion, in every condition and for all things.

We ask you to accept unto yourself your children who have departed from this world and comfort those grieving their loss. We also ask your healing hand upon those who are still ill, recovering, or having to live with the effects of this illness for years to come. We ask your blessing, our True Physician, upon those who have served selflessly and tirelessly throughout the pandemic; that you may reward them. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

**His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos
Coptic Orthodox Archbishop
of London
President of Bible Society**

26 September – 2 October

Thank you Lord that even in the darkest of situations the light of your love cannot be extinguished. We have found this year strange but nevertheless we have been able to recognise that you are challenging us to support those who are finding life particularly difficult right now. Remind us that our neighbours are not only 'down our street' but 'throughout the world' as we endeavour to spread the light of your love to all.

Muriel, Derbyshire



October

I pray God will bless all who take the word into the prisons to bring comfort and love to all in need of peace.

Audrey

We are living through traumatic times; finding solace in the Bible is important. Prayer for people you have never met is vital, but phoning a neighbour who is alone is a lifeline for them and rewarding for you. So why not phone a friend or lovely neighbour and maybe pray together.

Jennifer

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask for your blessing on all who have been brought low by this pandemic. Give strength and skill to all medical and research staff in their efforts to overcome this virus. We pray also for all who are going through anxiety or isolation. Lord, in your great mercy, hear our prayer that we now make in your most precious name. Amen.

Anthony

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that so many people have received Bibles through the work of Bible Society during the past year. Bless them as they read your word. Speak words of comfort and peace to them in these difficult times and may they know your love and care in a real way. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Anonymous

Prayers in the pandemic

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1.3 – 4 (ESV)

Father God, we pray for individuals facing challenges. We bring to mind those personally known to us. We pray for those who are sick, the bereaved and who have lost loved ones, the vulnerable, those with mental health issues and all those for whom home is an unhappy, unsafe place, for those who are particularly isolated and lonely and those with financial worries. May each one know your comforting presence at this time. Amen.

Deborah, Great Bookham