

A REQUEST FOR PRAYER... October 2009

FROM TONY CROOK

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POVERTY & JUSTICE BIBLE LAUNCH

A couple of weeks ago we launched the **Poverty & Justice Bible** (along with World Vision) in Canberra under the auspices of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition who formally launched the Bible for us.

The Bible is innovative, having been developed in the U.K. It actually has orange highlighter applied to over 2,000 passages which relate to issues of poverty and justice and how God sees them. It comes with a study diary for people to work through day by day to allow the Scriptures to speak to them of what God's intent is in this area of ministry.

It was launched along with the Micah Challenge which was holding a conference in Canberra at the same time.

- Please pray that the visits many of the Micah Challenge participants took along with the copy of the Bible to quite a number of MPs and Senators will prove impactful as it will on those who took part in the special Micah conference week.
- Please pray for our partnership with World Vision in this – especially through regional Sons of Korah concerts and Legal week in November.

We wish to impact many younger people to inform and enhance their discipleship on a regular basis and to be part of encouraging them to interact with Scripture which is becoming something of a lost art in Australia these days.



SOPHIA THINK TANK – BIBLE SURVEY

We've launched **Sophia Think Tank** which is designed to help us provide the opportunity to influence our culture in society by working in partnership in ten different areas – politics, media, arts, business, sports, community service organisations, education, health, justice, law.

Rev. Dr. David Wilson is working with us part time to help us identify the needs and the possibilities and to set plans, particularly for next year.

Our first activity for Sophia Think Tank is to **launch a Bible survey** to see how people currently use the Scriptures and what needs or could be done to enhance Bible engagement here in Victoria.

So far we've had almost a thousand responses and are seeking as many as possible to make it as wide as possible a survey. You can go on line to www.st2.viviti.com and follow the link under "Latest News". That's the quickest and easiest way for us, otherwise you might want to contact us and we can send you a printed survey for you to fill in and return.

So far the responses are encouraging, but revealing that there is much to be done.

PRISONERS - VICTORIA

In the last few weeks Geoff Warren and I managed to spend the best part of a day with one of the chaplains at Port Philip Prison and with some of the Christian inmates as well.

We saw for ourselves the lack of privacy and stressful atmosphere in which the prisoners and staff exist and the vital need for Christian chaplains to be present. We were able to take eight boxes of Bibles including some Study Bibles (specifically asked for by a number of inmates) and before we had even left the premises one of the prisoners who saw us talking with the “Padre” had asked a mate of his who he knew to be a Christian if he also could have a copy of the Bible because he wanted to read it. The chaplain we were with has made the arrangements and was delighted to hand one over that same day: he is also following up the recipient.

Please pray for the prison chaplains, many of whom do this as an addition to their local ministry.

Please pray for us, too, that we will continue to have the funds to provide these scriptures at no cost to prisons and also to provide scriptures for other chaplains engaged in other ministries (sports, hospitals etc.) which are vital and often under-supported.

OVERSEAS

Ghana

Thanks for keeping on praying. We’re asked to pray also for their preparations for Bible Week which takes place in January 2010. Please note it’s a whole week. Please pray that God will bless them and continue to bless them in their ministry to High School students.

Cameroon

We are working with the World Day of Prayer to prepare a DVD and seek out suitable projects and to help and encourage the movement in its desire to further the Gospel.

El Salvador

El Salvador Bible Society have asked us to pray for God’s protection in the face of the “uncontrolled violence our country is currently experiencing”. Pray there will be no food shortages as a result of the drought and a failed harvest. Please give thanks to God for the hunger for God’s Word and for the work of the churches in distributing it.

Honduras

The Bible Society in Honduras has asked us to pray about the great deal of political and economic instability. They are thankful that God has been faithful to them as a Bible Society team but there have been difficult days when they’ve not known whether it was safe to come to work or not because of constant hold-ups on the highways and main streets.

They ask us to pray for boldness where God opens up new opportunities for the Word to be an influence, notably amongst members of Congress, many of whom have sought copies of the Scriptures.

Sudan (Africa)

Please pray for Ismail Kanani, the new leader of the Bible Society in Sudan. He started at the beginning of September but damage caused by heavy recent rains has rendered three members of staff of the Bible Society homeless and roads impassable at the same time.

The staff are feeling overwhelmed but keen to continue their work.

The Bible on mobile phones (in Denmark)



Please pray for the Danish Bible Society as they have just launched a new project to encourage people to put the Bible in their pockets and read it in the dark on their telephone’s backlit screen.

A complete text of the Authorised Danish Bible (which was published in 1992) can be downloaded for about \$20, and customers can choose to download either the New or the Old Testament for about half the price.

“It has been quite a challenge to adapt the Bible for mobile phones, taking into account the kind of features that people want today and expect from technology. Fortunately, today’s telephones are so advanced they can handle a text as large as the Bible as well as a range of tools to help users interact with it” says Soren Moesgaard Moller from the Danish Bible Society.

Please pray that many Christians and non Christians alike will choose this download and use their mobile phones as a source of encouragement and challenge from the Scriptures.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT YEAR

Please pray for guidance for next year as we do much planning in the next few weeks. Jan Peddersen is working on the “Sower” and also on the annual project materials for the New Year, both of which have to be speedily concluded, and she seeks inspiration and guidance as well as the practical aspects of being able to put it all together despite a heavy workload in deputation as well.

Pray for those who are working on which projects we should support. We ask for wisdom as God helps us to select His choices.

Please pray for me also as I speak with Scripture Union and Evangelical Alliance to seek ways in which we might be able to further encourage, through partnership with them, Bible engagement in meaningful ways with young, middle aged and older folk alike in our churches.

Please pray also for Directors Conference (that’s all State Directors from around the country) who are meeting in Brisbane on the 20th and 21st of the month. It’s always an interesting time, and since we only meet once or twice a year it’s important that we spend the time wisely.

Please pray for unity as far as is possible and a sense of God’s leading.

Thank you. I never cease to be encouraged by the feedback we get from people who pray regularly with us and I do thank you so much.

Sincerely in Christ,

Tony Crook

Victorian Diary	
<u>October 2009</u>	
4	Ivanhoe Baptist Church “Karana” Aged Care, Kew
7	St. John’s Lutheran Church, Southgate
9	Melbourne Prayer Breakfast
11	Vision Church of Christ, Camberwell Eaglehawk Uniting Church
12	Creek Street Christian College, Bendigo
16	Latrobe Retirement Village
18	Rosanna Uniting Church
19	Bible Society Geelong Branch
20-21	Bible Society in Australia Directors’ Conference, Brisbane
25	Bible Society Ararat Branch
28	Upper Kiewa Valley Uniting Church

Then the Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation.

You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.”



Genesis 12:1-3