

# A REQUEST FOR PRAYER... FROM TONY CROOK

MARCH 2010



THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)  
2-6 ALBERT STREET, BLACKBURN, 3130

PH: (03) 9877 9277 FAX: (03) 9877 8399  
EMAIL: [infovic@bible.com.au](mailto:infovic@bible.com.au)  
WEBSITE: [www.biblevic.com.au](http://www.biblevic.com.au)

*Dear Praying Friends,*

## Haiti update

In early February a military plane from Brazil arrived in Haiti with 4,000 Bibles in French, and the Haitian Bible Society has ordered another print run in that language. In addition, 23,000 Bibles in Creole are being printed in South Korea right now. Meanwhile in the Dominican Republic, the printing of 200,000 Portions and 100,000 Selections with Bible verses giving comfort and hope has already begun. The editorial work for these publications was completed in two languages in record time. Sixty percent of these materials will be in French and forty percent in Creole.

But in spite of all these Scriptures, Magda Victor, the General Secretary of the Haitian Bible Society, says they will not be enough. “Wherever we go, people ask for a Bible and we have only a few left,” she told me.

No income from sales is coming in to the Bible Society, but they have simply undertaken to give out Bibles in print and in audio to bring comfort and help to their people.

Please keep praying for Haiti—and for Peru, which has suffered such terrible floods.

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## Norway

The Norwegian Bible Society writes: “We are now in the final stage of translation work on the full Bible in the two main languages: Bokmål and Nynorsk (New Norwegian). This puts heavy pressure on all involved and we need to remain in good health to finish by the end of the year. The launch is planned for the later part of 2011. There is some public discussion of parts of the texts that have been published already and we pray that the texts themselves and the debate about them create interest in reading the Bible among a wider audience.

We give thanks for good financial results last year, especially in fundraising, where we reached our budget and can continue our level of support to the programs of the fellowship.”

Please pray for the Norwegian Bible Society and this important translation work.

## A New Leader for United Bible Societies

Please continue to pray that as the deadline for applications comes to close on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, it will be possible to find God’s choice for the new General Secretary of the United Bible Societies worldwide fellowship.

## Affirming the Bible in Japan

The Bible is highly respected in Japan., Although the country has only one million Christians—less than one percent of the population—the Japan Bible Society sells an astonishing one million Bibles every year—proof that non-Christians, too, hold the Bible in high esteem. Yet it is not sales figures alone that are important, emphasises Bible Society General Secretary the Rev. Makoto Watabe. What is most important is that people build a strong personal faith based on the Bible.

“We must let people know that the Bible is not just a book of historical and academic significance,” Mr. Watabe says. “We must guide them towards experiencing its power directly in their own lives, giving them firm principles to follow.”

Overcoming the ‘casual’ approach to religion that has emerged in Japan’s westernized, post-modern society is a significant challenge for the Bible Society, he continues.

“Western culture seems to encourage people to question belief. In contrast, I see that in less westernized societies—India, for example—people have less formal education but they have firm, undoubting faith. We must encourage people to read the Bible regularly and to really develop a personal relationship with it.

“And even those of us who are familiar with the Bible must not take it for granted, either. I believe that one of my main responsibilities as General Secretary is to demonstrate firm faith, and that’s why I always read seven chapters of the Bible every day.”

Please pray for Makoto Watabe, a dynamic and effective leader, and for his staff as they seek to get people in Japan to “read, learn and inwardly digest” the Bible.



Japan Bible Society General Secretary, the Rev. Makoto Watabe, making a presentation to a couple at a Christian Bookshop in Tokyo to mark the distribution of 10 million copies of the New Interconfessional Bible.

## Serbia Update

Please keep praying for the new translation of the Serbian Old Testament. The translator has been temporarily moved to Kosovo for a limited period, but unfortunately that may well delay the translation process and so I would ask you to pray that it will get back on track and that it will not be held up by this temporary transfer of responsibility.

Please pray for Lenart de Regt who is the translation consultant responsible for the project as he seeks to negotiate these difficulties.

## Tasmanian Bible Society



Please pray for the Tasmanian Bible Society who are just opening their new Bible House and Mission Centre in Launceston.

I will have attended the opening on February 28th and taken part in Bible Society meetings held around that event.

Please pray for us as State Directors as we seek to work smoothly together for the future of the Bible Society.

## Victoria

Please pray for the Kenya project materials which have just been sent out in the post. Please pray that the children's and adult materials, the recipes, the ideas, the enthusiasm generated will be something special. Pray too for the use of the DVD. We've tried a different style this year and we are seeking to raise around \$100,000 for a variety of projects for children in poor parts of Kenya for translation work, particularly in the north of the country with the Massai, as well as the provision of scriptures to those who cannot afford them but desperately would like them.



If you or your church would like a project pack, please just let us know. Ring or email. Thanks. Please pray that the project will have an impact as it's used by schools, church groups and churches quite widely throughout Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

The Bible Society values its association with the Women's World Day of Prayer which will take place this year on March 5th. Pray for the funds raised, which are going to Scriptures for Cameroon - largely to help young women and children in difficult circumstances.

## Victorian Diary—March 2010

DATE	VENUE	SPEAKER
Thursday, 4th	Crossways Baptist Services Group	Jan Peddersen
Friday, 5th	St. Colombus Uniting Church, Balwyn St. Mary's Anglican Church, Caulfield Bundoora Uniting Church Loch Uniting Church St. John's Anglican Church, Dunolly	Margaret Penford Jan Peddersen Tony Crook Sarah Wilson Tony Crook
Friday-Monday March 5th-8th	Surrender Conference	David Wilson, Sarah Wilson
Sunday, 7th	Mornington Baptist Church	Steve Davies, Bible Society Queensland, Sarah Wilson
Tuesday, 9th	Staff Retreat	All Staff
Sunday, 14th	Euroa Uniting Church	Jan Peddersen
Thursday, 25th	Airport West Uniting Church Friendship Group	Jan Peddersen
Friday, 26th	Heathdale Christian College	Jan Peddersen

As always, thank you for your prayers.

Tony Crook

*I prayed to the Lord and He answered me.... Ps. 34:4a*

