

**An issue for prayer each day of the month.
Please pray daily for the Society's work.**

1. LetraViva is a network of 40 Latin American Christian publishers. This is a practical ministry of logistical support, professional development and mutual encouragement. Please pray for the LetraViva coordinator, Ian Darke, based in Costa Rica. Pray especially for the effective functioning of the LetraViva despatch centre in Miami, an essential means of book distribution run cooperatively by member publishers.

2. Peru. Please pray for wisdom and encouragement for Victor Arroyo, María Esther Ramírez and the team at Ediciones Puma. With modest resources they publish thoughtful books for pastors and lay leaders in Peru and, increasingly, throughout Latin America.

3. Argentina. Our partnership with Certeza Argentina over two decades demonstrates the value of open and enduring relationships with those we serve. Thank God for Certeza's progress in a hostile economy and growing influence in the Spanish-speaking world. Certeza Argentina is now assuming a mentoring role with other developing publishers and booksellers. Pray that Certeza director, Beatriz Buono, will continue to lead her team with vision, creativity and courage.

4. DR Congo. During years of war people lost everything; including books. Typically, students coming to Berea Bible School have never owned a book. The Society has pledged to build up the College library, sponsor the publication of books in Congolese Swahili and provide students with key Bible references. Please pray for the teachers and students, and their Bishop, Masimango Katanda. Pray also for Australian missionaries, Malcolm and Elizabeth Richards, as they train and encourage future lay and ordained church leaders.

5. Kenya. Pray today for Rev Peter Ibui and his team at Word of Life, a correspondence school based in Kianjai. The Society has provided a computer and a duplex laser printer to make possible the economical preparation and printing of Bible studies and evangelistic tracts. The material is produced or adapted by local Christians in Kiswahili.

6. Tanzania. St John's University, Dodoma, opened in September 2007. Please pray for wisdom and energy for Australian missionaries Neville and Elspeth Carr and other members of the faculty. As Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Neville is responsible for over one thousand students preparing to become secondary school teachers. Elspeth and Neville also teach theology. SPCKA helped to provide a library for the University's theology students. Thank God for the Christian commitment of the University staff and the opportunity to be partners in this nation-building enterprise.

7. Tanzania. A model of wholistic mission, Australian missionaries John and Jill Morshead both teach at the Muhimbili University of Health Sciences and at St Mark's Anglican Theological College in Dar es Salaam. SPCKA has begun to restock the college's theological library and has undertaken to provide graduation book prizes. Please pray for the college Principal,

Maimbo Mndolwa, his Bishop, Valentino Mokiwa, and all those responsible for the care and preparation of lay and ordained church leaders.

8. Sudanese Christians in Australia. We have been asked to assist with the production of liturgical resources for the Dinka church. We hope to circulate this material electronically among Dinka Christians in Australia before exploring how we might respond to the needs of Sudanese congregations internationally. Please pray for discernment as we pursue this challenge.

9. Books and bookshops. We have lots of them in Australia! Please pray for Christians who don't enjoy the resources we take for granted. With your support we can make a difference. Pray too, for those who work in your nearest Christian bookstore, and those involved in writing, publishing, and distributing Christian literature. Pray that in every nation God will raise up bold, robust and self-sufficient Christian publishers.

10. Solomon Islands. The Society has agreed to provide Bible references to incoming first year students at Bishop Patteson Theological College. These are the only books some students are likely to possess even after they graduate. Pray that they will be well instructed in using them effectively in their current study and future ministry.

11. Nungalinya College. Pray for the successful appointment this year of an Assistant Principal and other key staff. Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir Kriol speakers as they read the Bible in their own tongue for the first time. Pray that God will raise up more people to help with Bible translation and literacy teaching.

12. Northern Territory. Thank God for the ordination of indigenous leaders from Gunbalanya, Minyerri, Numbalwar and Ngukurr. Pray for Bishop Greg Thompson, Narelle and Steve Etherington, and others who will support them.

13. National Council. Please pray today for members of the SPCKA National Council who take time from their wider responsibilities to guide the Society's work and support our National Director, Michael Collie. Pray also for those who serve on our Awards, Grants, Management and Publishing committees, as we seek to faithfully fulfil our purposes under God.

14. Other Mission Societies. Support for Christian literature work is requested by people from a variety of denominations and mission agencies such as ABM, BCA and CMS. Please pray for these co-workers, and also for SPCK (UK) and ISPCK (India). Although our societies are autonomous, a positive familial relationship continues. Pray that we will all be Christ-focused in our work and purpose.

15. Management. Pray for our Administrator, Carol LePage, and our Treasurer, Bruce Millot, who are responsible for the efficient operation of our Melbourne office. Pray too for the Management Committee as it meets monthly to monitor the effectiveness of the Society's work.

16. The Australian Christian Book of the Year Award was won in 2009 by Naomi Reed's gripping *No Ordinary View*. The 2009 Young Australian Christian Writer's Award went to Leng Te and the Australian Theological Writers' Award was given to Paul Barnett. Please pray for everyone involved in administering the Australian Christian Literature Awards. Pray that the awards will encourage Australian Christian writers and publishers and that their work will help seekers to find Jesus and Christians to grow.



SPCKA 2010 Prayer Diary

17. France. An SPCKA loan has made possible the publication of *Search the Scriptures* in French. This is an initiative of the French IFES-affiliated student movement. Portions are available at gbu.fr. Pray that this book will inspire francophone students in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and Canada.

18. Grants Committee members are selected for their experience and knowledge of mission and Christian literature needs in various parts of the world. Pray today for Michael Collie. As National Director he is responsible for providing the information with which the Grants Committee will decide how to best respond to the many requests for assistance we receive.



19. India. Persecution of Christians in India is rising sharply. Pray for Christians under pressure, and especially for the Christian booksellers and publishers of India. Please pray for the new *India Commentary on the New Testament* to be published in Bangalore. We intend to sponsor Dr Graham Simpson's contribution to the series; a single volume dealing with the pastoral epistles.

20. Literacy and translation. Sometimes we support work in locations which are too sensitive to publicly disclose. This might involve providing opportunities for people to encounter the Word of God in education and translation. Pray that members of literacy teaching teams will use appropriate opportunities with integrity to share the good news of Jesus.

21. Egypt. Pray for the strategic Alexandria School of Theology and its Principal, Dr Emad Azmi Mikhail. Give thanks for the successful launch last year of the Master of Arts programme and the appointment of Arabic-speaking faculty. Please pray that the library books provided by the Society will deepen students' love of and devotion to the Lord of the harvest.

22. Pakistan. Christians in this powerful but unstable country face grave risk of persecution. Please pray for them now. The Zarephath Bible Institute is preparing pastors and scholars to serve in this difficult context. As the institute grows and standards of theological education rise, SPCKA has been asked to help build up library resources. Pray for Rev Steve Sonneman as he encourages students and pastors to acquire the habit of regular reading. Pray also that ZBI graduates will soon begin to address the dire need for good quality Christian books written in Urdu.

23. Nepal. Please continue to pray for the effective use of the library which we funded as a means of outreach and education by Christians at the Anugraha Church in Dharan. Pray too for the Christians of this nation as they seek to be wise and faithful citizens in a nation recovering from political upheaval.

24. China. Please give thanks for the successful publication and distribution in China of *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm. This superbly produced bilingual edition is proving popular with parents wanting to teach their children English. Copies have also found their way into the hands of the Chinese diaspora who use it to teach their children Mandarin! Pray that this simple yet profound book will lead many to faith in Jesus Christ.

25. India. Pray for under-resourced church planters in parts of northern India with little Christian witness. The Society is supporting them by funding the publication of pastoral aids, Bible references and commentaries in Hindi.

26. Philippines. We receive regular expressions of appreciation from final year students at St Andrews Theological Seminary in Manila for awarding them a Bible commentary and concordance upon graduation. Please pray especially for the graduates who take up teaching positions in less sympathetic contexts such as Myanmar. As their personal resources are meagre these gifts become indispensable tools.

27. Cambodia. A solid and vibrant body of indigenous Christian literature is essential for the maturity and strength of the local church. The availability of Christian literature in Khmer is still exceedingly limited, and there is little encouragement for local Christians to become published authors. Please pray that Cambodian Christians will find creative ways to foster a new 'reading culture' so that helpful material can be assimilated.

28. Filipino Seafarers. Tagalog-language editions of *Just Grace* and *The Gift of God* have been funded, in part, by SPCKA for distribution by Seafarer Mission workers. Please pray that they will be received gladly by many of the half-million merchant mariners from the Philippines who visit Australian ports each year. Pray that God will raise up from among these seafarers a movement of globe-trotting evangelists.

29. SPCKA supporters. Sometimes tears flow in the office as we consider the humbling generosity of some of our supporters. Please thank God today for those who—like you—pray regularly

for the work God has put in front of us. Thank you for being one of them! Pray that we, and those we assist, will be motivated and challenged to bring people to Christ and help them to grow to Christian maturity. Pray also for discernment so that we will allocate generously given resources, effectively and efficiently.

30. Deacons & Bishops. When new bishops and deacons are ordained, the Society celebrates the occasion by presenting them with a book gift on your behalf together with a letter alerting them to the nature of our work. Please pray that they will be faithful in building up the body of Jesus Christ.



31. Your Church. Does it support literature ministries in difficult places? Please encourage your congregation to do so through SPCKA. Do you encourage your leaders? Pray for them as you praise God for those who originally pointed you to Jesus and nurtured your Christian growth by suggesting helpful books!

A Prayer for SPCK Australia

Almighty God, we thank you for rescuing us from sin and the ignorance of your love by sending your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. By his death and resurrection you have opened the way to true knowledge of you, our Father in heaven.

By your Holy Spirit, fill us with the knowledge of your love, so that we will be willingly involved in your purposes for the world

Raise up more people to pray for and give to the work of SPCK Australia; give wisdom and discernment to all involved in gathering and allocating resources, so that through Jesus Christ our Lord, the light of the knowledge of your glory will fill the Earth.

Amen

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Christian literature in difficult places