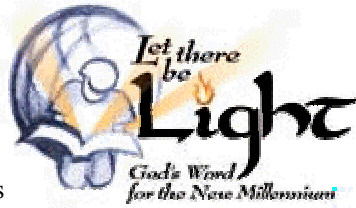


Call To Prayer - January 1998 – The Millennium



I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:2b

Time cannot be manipulated, arbitrated, hastened, slowed, stopped, stored, borrowed or bought. Its value is now. The one thing we know for certain, time will pass.

The passing of time brings to the horizon the looming millennial year 2000. The plans made for its approach depend largely on the view one has of the upcoming event... a bend in the road, the crest of a hill, a new beginning, or an apocalyptic end. Worldwide, millenarian rallies, conferences and celebrations are being organized to usher in the new day.

As time passes, the arrival of year 2000 AD (anno Domini) grows more certain, but so do feelings of uncertainty as situations worldwide grow more disastrous.

- Millions in Africa are dying of AIDS leaving children orphaned.
- Windows of opportunity, once wide open in former Communist countries, threaten to close in Europe.
- Hundreds of thousands of children are surviving in the dumps and streets of Latin America and East Asia.
- The poor and imprisoned in South Asia languish at death's door.
- Christians are persecuted and murdered in the Middle East.
- Materialism in North America continues to numb the senses of those who can help.
- Politically unstable governments create confusion and pessimism.
- Ethnic divisions generate hostility and warfare.

The inclination may be to despair. But in Romans 13:11-12, the Word of the living God encourages and challenges believers to be alert to the need for His light throughout the world.

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Let There Be Light, International Bible Society's global ministry initiative, is a Scripture ministry unlike any ever envisioned. In cooperating with individual partners, churches and ministries worldwide, IBS through Let There Be Light will address 10 things for impacting the world for Jesus Christ:

- Complete key major language translations
- Begin new translations
- Strengthen partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Produce and distribute hundreds of millions of Scripture and Scripture portions
- Mobilize an army of **Light Bearer Ministry Teams**
- Train tomorrow's leaders
- Equip pastors
- Expand strategic evangelism and discipleship programs
- Enhance ministry centers around the world

· Undergird IBS with a global prayer initiative

These plans will only succeed if they are aligned with God's plans and bathed in prayer. The requests for this month's calendar provide a look to the millennium as though each moment was the whole of eternity.

Millennial fervor quickens our call to prayer.

What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do. Isaiah 46:11b

LATIN AMERICA

1 The Portuguese NVI Bible will be released early this year. Pray for IBS-Brazil as a sports New Testament and specialized Scripture for business professionals are developed. Job 42:2

2 Pray for IBS-Guatemala staff as they develop and train a team of teachers to present the Paso a la Vida (Love Your Neighbor to Life) Evangelism Seminar throughout Central America. Hebrews 10:12

3 IBS will network closely with pastors and Christian leaders in Chile to make God's Word available to Spanish-speaking people. Pray for the IBS-Chile ministry center and staff in Santiago. Proverbs 15:22

4 Pray for the spiritual impact of an evangelical crusade held last month at the Sport Palace in Mexico City. Christmas gifts, including Scripture portions, were distributed to nearly 20,000 young people. Ecclesiastes 3:1

5 In partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Samaritan's Purse and local churches, IBS-Mexico plans to present 130,000 street children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ before 2000. Proverbs 14:22

6 Church leadership in Ecuador has asked IBS to help develop a national plan for evangelization. Pray for this opportunity and the aggressive outreach that continues with Scripture distribution to high school students. Psalm 31:15

7 Pray for IBS-Mexico's publishing of the second edition of Fuerza Para Hoy, a daily devotional for Christian leaders and El Gozo Del Amor Conyugal, a guide for couples and Bible exposition tool for pastors. Isaiah 32:8

8 Pray for the Spanish NVI Bible due for release early this year. The production and printing of this Bible will need to be funded completely before distribution can begin. Proverbs 21:31

EUROPE

9 The Romanian New Testament translation with LAB notes is complete. Pray that funds will be received to print the first 10,000 copies. Proverbs 16:1

10 In Oradea, Romania, translation of the Old Testament began last October. Pray for the completion of this translation by 2000 so that the Romanian Bible can be published and distributed. John :1

11 IBS-Romania has 20 volunteers on a puppet team that shares the love of Jesus throughout the country. Pray for the more than 200,000 orphans and street children who will hear this message of love. Isaiah 14:24

12 The Serbian New Testament translation will be completed this summer. Pray for its printing and the individual portions that will be published with LAB notes. Proverbs 16:3

13 Translation and publication of the Croatian New Testament was completed recently. Pray for the distribution and release of the LAB Matthew and Acts, the first study notes available in Croatian. Titus 1:2

14 More than 175,000 people live within a square mile of IBS-Slovakia. Pray for the neighborhood Bible teaching and evangelism project beginning this year, and the specialized Scripture booklets developed for this outreach. Psalm 40:5

15 IBS, in partnership with Prison Fellowship, provides the Word of God to prisoners, their families and prison guards in Hungary. Pray that many will accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Isaiah 23:9

16 The Hungarian New Testament is being revised from a 400-year-old translation. Pray for this massive undertaking and the completion of the Romanian New Testament revision before 2001. Psalm 33:11

AFRICA

17 Pray for IBS' efforts to reach the 70 percent of Africa's population who are 25 years old and younger, and the effectiveness of the Training Tomorrow's Leaders Conferences. Nehemiah 2:20

18 In March, the IBS-Africa Regional Directors' Conference will be held. Pray not only for the conference, but also for staff needs in Ghana, expansion in Nigeria and the new South Africa Board. Proverbs 19:21

19 Pray for the lives touched through IBS' bookshops in Africa, and the supply of Bibles and Christian books that must be sustained to meet this ministry need. Hebrews 9:28

20 Translation projects in Africa could be greatly expedited by technology. Pray for the funds needed to purchase computers and programs for International Bible Society translation teams and the training workshops. Hebrews 10:16

21 Pray for IBS-Africa's publishing department as they oversee the production of approximately 17 Scripture projects in 1998. Jeremiah 29:11

22 Last month, IBS participated in the Association of Evangelicals in Africa's "Making A Difference" consultation held in South Africa. Pray for those serving in ministry to share God's love. 1 Corinthians 7:29a

EAST ASIA

23 Pray for the January 1999 seminars, "A Call for Christian Leadership in the Millennium" and "Call for Timothy in the 21st Century" designed for potential leaders in four East Asian countries. The seminars will be taught by the Rev. Dr. John Stott. Hebrews 11:40

24 "First Century Lessons for 21st Century Churches" will be presented in East Asia by Dr. Michael Green in May 1999. Pray that this message will impact Christian leaders in Thailand, Philippines, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Amos 3:7

25 There is a need for the Chinese Life Application Bible to be produced as a CD-ROM. Pray for this project and the spiritual impact for Chinese-speaking people worldwide. Psalm 20:4

SOUTH ASIA

26 IBS-South Asia plans to establish Light Bearer Ministry Teams in every one of India's 5,000 postal codes by 2000. Pray for the potential of these teams to evangelize and disciple South Asia's people. Esther 4:14

27 Pray for the pastor training efforts in India, and IBS' role in grounding these leaders in the Scriptures and providing them with the tools needed to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ecclesiastes 8:5

NORTH AMERICA

28 IBS plans to establish Light Ministry Teams across North America by 2000, and make Scripture tools available for use in evangelism and discipleship to them for local outreach. Pray for evangelism efforts throughout the U.S. Psalm 62:8

29 Pray for IBS' Light Ministry Team in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the formation of additional teams throughout Canada. Exodus 26:30

30 Alan Wilson is the newest IBS staff member in Canada. Pray for him and the ministry outreach in British Columbia and Alberta. Ephesians 1:11

31 IBS-Canada plans to sponsor a major Bible distribution project in India. Pray for wisdom in presenting the need for Indian Scriptures and the funds to bring this project to fruition. Proverbs 17:17

Manitoba Lightbearers Chapter
Box 771, Riverton MB R0C 0A0 Ph 204-378-5686
email: rdueck@freenet.mb.ca

International Bible Society email: ibs@gospelcom.net
1820 Jet Stream Drive Voice: (719) 488-9200
Colorado Springs, CO 80921 <http://www.gospelcom.net/ibs>

Providing Scriptures since 1809 with 50 ministry centers worldwide.