AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Prayer at the Official Installation of Dr. Jennifer Holloran, the New President of AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

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I invite you to join us in praying for the new President of American Bible Society, Dr. Jennifer Holloran, that with the grace of Our Lord, she may begin her faithful mandate to the Word.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end…" (Rev. 21:6)
God, almighty, the beginning and end of all that exists, we praise you for all that – in its long history – American Bible Society has been and meant for the Christian religion in the United States and the world and, also, for the construction of better human beings, better disciples of Christ and better citizens, through their encounters with you, with your Word written in the Bible, but – especially – with your Word incarnate in Jesus Christ, the full revelation of your wisdom and love.

"Lord, you are good and forgiving." (Ps. 86:5-17)
God of history, we thank you for your blessings, we offer you our current work and that of so many men and women who, with their effort, made possible the existence and permanence, now bicentennial, of the Bible House and we ask your forgiveness for our personal and institutional sins.

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel" (Mark 16:15-18)
Today, those of us present renew our faith and Creed as disciples of Christ and our commitment as agents of the evangelizing mission in the world, through the mission of American Bible Society.

"How much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him!" (Matt. 7:11)
Compassionate and merciful God, we recognize the loving imprint of your presence in all that we are, live and experience and we thank you for the opportunity of our work in ABS, as well as the gifts and talents you give us for our human, social and professional development and for the good of all.

"And how can they hear without someone to preach?" (Rom. 10:14-17)
We live amid social structures devoid of evangelical principles. In many aspects of our personal and social lives, we contradict your will. We have been building lives, relationships and social structures behind your back or – definitely – against your Word, which teaches us to live as Children of God, loving one another as brothers and sisters.

We want to renew this stage of ABS with new energy. We want to return to our primary institutional mission and responsibility: that of imagining and building paths for the encounter of our neighbors and all humanity with the God of the Bible.

We want to take up, with renewed spirits, our vision, mission and daily work by which everyone can discover the love of God the Father revealed in his Son, Jesus Christ.

"The Most High is sovereign over human kingship and gives it to whom he will." (Dan. 4:22)
Almighty God, from You proceeds all authority. Today we pray especially for our sister in faith and fellow worker, Dr. Jennifer, whom you have called and placed at the head of American Bible Society.

"The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness." (Rom. 8:24-28)
Bring down upon her the blessing of Thy Holy Spirit, the Spirit of your wisdom by which we can understand that, *"if anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35)*, and that *"whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt. 16:25-26).*

"They were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority…" (Luke 4:32-36)
May Dr. Jennifer preside over us in the authority she serves, in the same authority that they admired in Jesus of Nazareth. An authority in Truth. An authority that consists in the coherence between what we believe and what we live, between what we profess and what we practice, between our deeds and words.

"By their fruits you will know them." (Matt 7:15-20)
"In every good work bearing fruit." (Col. 1:9b-14)

We pray, good God and Father, for Dr. Jennifer and her family. For their human and professional development in our institution. We ask you to encourage and strengthen her. May your work with everyone be an experience of Christian fraternity. Grant her joy and hope. May her decisions, actions, achievement of objectives and fruits be good and abundant for your greater glory.

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you."
(John 13:34)

May Dr. Jennifer's daily work and all our lives and work be in accordance with your will: that of loving and serving, to build your reign in the world, as *"a new heaven and a new earth". (Rev. 21:1-4)*

Grant us, Lord, through your blessing, to always prepare ourselves to do good, moved by the abundance of your mercy, source of our life and hope.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.