

➤ PRAYER
in action


BIBLE
SOCIETY

July - September 2015



July - a focus on Africa

Bible and Alpha going hand in hand

In seven African countries, we're partnering with Alpha to provide Bibles to those who complete the course. There's a particular focus on offering Scripture to prisoners, poor families from rural communities and students (see WIA p4-5).

Currently we supply around 20,000 Bibles a year to Alpha and as the programme expands, the demand for Bibles also increases. It's a vital tool in nurturing a growing faith and we feel privileged to provide God's Word in these communities.

28 JUNE - 5 JULY

Please pray:

- Pray for Kingsley Dartey, who met Jesus and discovered the Bible while in a Ghanaian prison (WIA p4-5). Pray for him as he leads other prisoners in worship, and pray he'll realise his dream of becoming a pastor once he is released.
- Pray for the 70 inmates taking part in Alpha at St James' Camp Prison in Accra, Ghana. Pray they'll read and connect with the Bibles they receive.



Rose Kuada (65),
Alpha course leader



Elizabeth Kalli (72),
Alpha course participant

6 - 12 JULY

Please pray:

- In rural Ghana, the cost of a Bible is simply out of reach for many communities. Pray we'll be able to provide Bibles to go with Alpha courses in these areas.
- Alpha volunteer Frederick Acquah, who leads courses in Ghana's Volta region, said, 'Pray that what people don't know at first, they will come to discover. Pray they will make changes to their lives.'
- Give thanks that whole communities are coming to faith and receiving Bibles through Bible Society's partnership with Alpha.

A focus on Africa

13-19 JULY

Please pray:

- Thank God for the strong relationship between us and Alpha, in England and Wales, as well as Ghana, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Zambia.
- Alpha in Africa is expanding. In Ghana, 10,000 people are taking part this year and the number is set to double in 2016. Pray we'll be able to keep up with the demand for Bibles.

20-26 JULY

Please pray:

- Pray for logistics. Pray for good, timely communication among staff on the ground, for the availability of Bibles in the right translations, for more volunteers and for safety as our staff travel round Africa to distribute Scripture.
- Pray for those who have completed the Alpha course as they begin their journey in faith.



27 JULY – 2 AUGUST

- Since 2008, more than 90,000 prisoners, rural families and school children in Africa have received a Bible after completing an Alpha course. Thank God for the supporters, donations and relationships that make this possible.
- Pray individuals here will choose to be part of our mission to provide Bibles to Alpha participants, so more people will meet Jesus and come to know God through Scripture

August - a focus on breaking down barriers to the Bible

Advocating for the Bible

Here in England and Wales, where nine out of 10 people don't read the Bible, our work is about introducing people to scripture in new and exciting ways. We gently offer it through various means, including street theatre, comics and apps to demonstrate how the Bible can be more interesting and relevant.

That's why we produced the *Pass It On* book, where five authors retell classic Bible stories (WIA p10-11). It's why we run Open the Book, which sees volunteers act out Bible stories in primary schools all over the country (WIA p2). And it's also why we created Mary Jones World, in Wales.

3- 9 AUGUST

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks for the five authors, including Sir Andrew Motion, Anthony Horowitz and Beano's Kev F who applied their creative minds to Scripture. Praise God that so many people have and continue to order the booklet.
- Pray for the children reading the stories. Pray the Bible will come alive for them in a new way, and pray they'll be curious to know more.
- Pray for those entering our competition to re-tell a Bible story. Pray they'll engage with Scripture, and consider how its themes and characters are relevant to life today.

10-16 AUGUST

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that half a million children are now regularly hearing Bible stories at primary school through Open the Book.
- Pray for our 11,000 volunteer storytellers, who go into schools every week to share the Bible. Thank God for their commitment, and pray for renewed energy and ideas as they prepare for a new school term.
- Pray for the work to take Open the Book into new towns and cities – and particularly ask that churches in London will embrace the vision for Bible storytelling.

A focus on breaking down barriers to the Bible

17 - 23 AUGUST

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that so many people have enjoyed visiting Mary Jones World in Llanycil, Wales, since it opened for the season in April.
- Pray that, through the exhibitions and conversation with our staff, people will discover the rich, expansive story of the Bible – and be inspired to read more.
- Pray for our staff and volunteers at the centre. Pray they would give visitors a positive experience, and open up the Bible in relevant ways.

24- 30 AUGUST

PLEASE PRAY:

- Consider how you could open up the Bible for someone who might never have read it. Pray for wisdom, sensitivity and opportunities.
- Pray more Christians would share their love for Scripture. Particularly pray for parents you know, that they'll make time to share Bible stories with their children.
- Pray for energy, ideas and support for our staff in England and Wales, who are continually looking for ways to break down barriers to the Bible.



SEPTEMBER – a focus on new opportunities

Working in four new countries

When we allocate the money you and other supporters provide, we carefully select teams to work closely with and fund a number of projects that compliment each other – like translation, literacy and distribution. We also provide essential training to help ensure the best results are achieved by all.

This year, we've joined forces with our colleagues in Costa Rica, Turkey, Guatemala and Laos, and we'll be working with them for five years (WIA p6-8). An essential element of the partnership is prayer – and we hope you can play a part in this way.

31 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER

Please pray:

- Give thanks for close partnerships with our international colleagues, and pray for good communication across cultural and geographical boundaries.
- Pray for our international team, juggling a number of responsibilities. Pray for safety as they travel, and for wisdom as they support teams overseas.

7 - 13 SEPTEMBER

Please pray:

- Pray for those who will come to our bookshop in Istanbul this month. Pray they'll take the opportunity to ask questions and explore the Bible.
- Give thanks for the boldness and bravery of our colleagues in Turkey, particularly Tamar Karasu, who leads the work. Pray for God's protection over them in a country where Christianity is tolerated but rarely welcomed.

14- 20 SEPTEMBER

Please pray:

- Pray for ambitious plans to put together a Bible in text language, written by teenagers in Guatemala. Give thanks that 25 schools are on board, and that the government is backing the project.
- Pray for our work with Guatemalan street children, gang members and orphans. Pray our staff can show God's love to these children, and introduce them to the Bible's message in everyday life.

A focus on new opportunities

28 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

Please pray:

- Give thanks that the Church in Laos is growing, and that Christians have increasing freedom. Thank God that we have official permission to import Bibles when other agencies do not.
- Pray for efforts to set up a distribution network that will enable us to provide subsidised Bibles to Christians across the country to whom, the Bible is a luxury they cannot afford.

21 - 27 SEPTEMBER

Please pray:

- Pray for plans to distribute a Bible to every home in Costa Rica. Pray there'll be enough volunteers to carry out this huge task, and pray that churches of all denominations will come on board.
- Pray people will accept and read the Scriptures they receive. Pray the depth and richness of the stories will impact their lives.



Bible Sunday 2015

Get it...

...Live it...

...Share it



Pass it on...

Download your **free resources**
from biblesunday.org from July

Celebrate with your church on
Sunday 25 October or date of your choice