



November 2021 – February 2022

prayer **in** action



Photography by James Markham

Pray with Bible Society

Thank you so much for your prayer support. Your prayers are essential and we are grateful for them. This month, give thanks with us for the launch of the Good News Bible – Family Edition. Also, please pray with us for projects that are supported through Charity Gifts – you can find out more about Charity Gifts in the insert with this magazine or online at biblesociety.org.uk/charitygifts

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5.16 – 18 (ESV)

The Green family enjoying the interactive Good News Bible – Family Edition.



Photography by James Markham

31 October – 6 November

Give thanks for the launch of the Good News Bible – Family Edition, created in partnership with Youth for Christ. Pray that it will help families put the Bible at the heart of family life and have a transformative effect on families across the country. (Read WIA pages 4 – 5 for more information.)

Lord, we pray for children and young people in our country. We pray that we will be able to reach out to them with resources like the Good News Bible – Family Edition so they can grow up knowing and loving you.

7 – 13 November

When Pastor Wenfu and his team completed the Bible translation for the Black Yi minority group in China he said, 'My greatest hope has been fulfilled'. But 1.5 billion people do not have access to the Bible in their own language and our translators are striving to bring the Bible to those who still wait. We pray for guidance and strength for those working in difficult situations and pray they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to open up the Bible's message and bring new understanding and truth to their communities.

14 – 20 November

Nabil from the Bible Society in Syria said, 'No words can describe our true joy being involved with the work that God has given us to do in our homeland.' A vital part of this is children's ministry. Despite war and ongoing conflict the children are coming to Sunday school in growing numbers and there is a huge need for quality training for new children's workers. We pray for these children who have seen such atrocities and suffered loss and trauma, that they may know God's love and care for them. We pray for protection, perseverance and encouragement for the Bible Society staff in Syria. May they know God's peace in their lives.

21 – 27 November

Bible Society leaders around the world face many challenges and depending on the circumstances within their country; terrorism, restrictions and poverty can threaten their mission.

We thank God today for their courage, enthusiasm and unfaltering commitment to sharing the gospel.

Please pray that they will know we stand by them each day as brothers and sisters in Christ and that we share their tears and their joy.

November

December



28 November – 4 December

Please pray for refugees in the Middle East. Nadia is one refugee who fled the militant attacks in Mosul and is trying to rebuild her life in Jordan. She says, 'I search for answers in the Bible ... My life has changed!' Please pray that Nadia will know God's protection and care as she starts a new life, without friends or family, in a new land. And pray for the many thousands of refugees like Nadia who have been forced to flee their homes in the Middle East, risking everything in search of peace.

Please continue to pray for Charity Gift projects, you could support these projects by giving a Charity Gift to a loved one this Christmas. To see all of our Christmas resources go to biblesociety.org.uk/christmas

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1.21 (ESV)*

5 – 11 December

Open the Book in Ghana is impacting the lives of children throughout the country as they experience Bible stories and understand the meaning of the Bible's message. Teachers are telling us that they have seen behaviour improve and more children are continuing their education. Daniel is 11 years old and he told us, 'I love Bible stories because they can change your life.' Please pray for Daniel as he seeks to complete his education and live a life following the Lord. Pray for all the schoolchildren in Ghana, for open ears and hearts as they listen to the Open the Book volunteers.

12 – 18 December

The people of Mozambique have suffered from both man-made conflict and natural disasters, including Cyclone Idai just two years ago. Our trauma healing volunteers are reaching out to people whose pain runs deep, to start the process of healing and renewal.

We pray for all those currently attending trauma healing courses as well as for strength for the volunteer leaders as they share in stories of trauma and suffering and seek to write a new chapter of hope for these damaged lives. One workshop leader, Pastor Julia, frequently breaks down in tears and begs God for strength to help others. Today we join our prayers with hers.

19 – 25 December

Happy Christmas from us all at Bible Society!

In sub-Saharan Africa, Bible literacy classes are bringing new hope and opening doors that were previously closed to women in the region. One lady who joined the class in the Central African Republic told us what she had learned above all was respect for herself.

Please pray for the women who are thinking about joining the course. Please give them the confidence to take the first step into the classroom and remove obstacles that are preventing them from taking this opportunity, including practical considerations like childcare and care of elderly relatives.

26 December – 1 January

During the pandemic many prisoners spent up to 23 hours confined to their cells, but that has not stopped Bible mission. Prisons have broadcast *The Bible Course* to prisoners' cells and the sessions are opening up a new conversation about the relevance and meaning of the Bible's message today.

Please pray for the prison chaplains dedicated to serving prisoners and to the 2,500 men and women in over 50 UK prisons who received a copy of the Bible this year.

January

We are so thankful that you not only partner with us through your kind giving, but also in prayer. The power of prayer cannot be underestimated. Your prayers make a big difference to the success of Bible mission, where the challenges can be daunting.

We would ask for your prayers in relation to Bible work in China and our new initiative to take the Bible into schools internationally as part of our Open the Book programme. Thank you so much for praying!

'Friends, please pray for us.'
1 Thessalonians 5.25 (CEV)



2 – 8 January

We would like to introduce you to Angela (pictured above), who leads our Open the Book International initiative.

Angela is training up Bible storytelling teams in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East to take the Scriptures into schools.

Please pray for God's blessing on Angela and Open the Book International. Pray for this project to flourish around the world so more children can hear the life-changing stories of the Bible.

Thank God for the new storytelling team that has been formed in Uganda. Pray that the Ugandan team and all the other teams worldwide would be inspired as they participate in Open the Book training sessions.

Pray for a smooth start to the work of translating the Scripture storytelling resources into different languages.

9 – 15 January

Pray for our Open the Book team twinning programme which is now in the planning process. It will encourage Open the Book teams in England and Wales to twin with and support a team overseas.

Pray also for Kerry, the new Head of Open the Book in England and Wales, that she will be granted wisdom and inspiration to continue the mission of bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school in England and Wales.

16 – 22 January

Please pray for Arleen, our China Mission Specialist (pictured on the right).

Pray for strength for Arleen. Ask that God will grant her discernment and wisdom as she organises so many important projects to help Christians in China and also Chinese Christians in England and Wales.

Pray for perseverance for Christians in China so that they will not waver or be led astray and will remain strong in their faith.

Ask God to bless our plans for domestic Bible mission among the many Chinese people living in England and Wales. This is something we hope to focus on in the coming years, especially evangelism, discipleship and clergy training for this growing Chinese diaspora.

23 – 29 January

Pray that Bible Society communicators will be granted wisdom when imparting information related to China to supporters and others. The situation in China is complex. It is important that correct and careful words are chosen when sharing information about Bible mission in China.

There is a huge growth in Christianity in China but very few ordained pastors. Ask God that many more leaders will enter the mission field in China and that we will be able to continue to support their training.



We are so grateful for your ongoing prayer support and we're delighted to share answers to prayer with you.

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7.7 (NIV)*

30 January – 5 February

Give thanks for the amazingly generous response to our recent vehicles for Africa appeal. You gave so kindly and now Hama in Niger and Michael in The Gambia have brand new vehicles suited to the harsh terrain they travel across to deliver Bibles. (See WIA page 8 for information.)

6 – 12 February

In the last edition of PIA we asked for prayers for translation projects. We're delighted that the very first full Bible in Chadian Arabic, the language used by more than 60 per cent of the population of Chad, has been launched thanks to your kind giving. The Bible was warmly welcomed by religious leaders, government representatives and Christians who said they hoped it would help to bring peace to the strife-torn country in north-central Africa.

13 – 19 February

We recently heard from Nashat, who leads the Bible Society in Palestine. He said, 'Give thanks that people in the Bible lands are finding hope in God's word. Several people called us and expressed how they find the word of God helpful in these tough days.' The Mayor of Bethlehem said to Nashat, 'We need not just to read the word but to teach and help people learn how to live the word of God, it's the source of hope in hopeless situations.'

20 – 26 February

Give thanks that after the pandemic, Open the Book teams are now able to go into schools to share Bible stories with primary school children. Please pray for God's blessing and protection over all the teams.

