



Bible
Society

July – October 2018

prayer **in** action



Children at a Sunday School class in Malawi

July

Thank you for praying with us, we deeply value your intercessions on our behalf as we seek to share God's word around the world. If you would like to receive our prayer requests on your phone, you can now pray for Bible Society using the PrayerMate app, available from the App Store.

This month we are praying for our work in Mozambique, Mali and Malawi.

Ukitaka kwenda haraka, nenda peke yako, ukitaka kwenda mbali, nenda na wenzako.

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. (African Proverb)

1 – 7 July

Mali

- Give thanks that so much Bible work is happening in Mali despite the tremendous challenges. Last year the team distributed a huge number of Scriptures through the local church. Much of it goes hand in hand with work to engage people with God's word too, such as trauma healing counselling, literacy, relief efforts and youth ministry.
- Pray we can increase the momentum of Bible work in Mali, working with our team to grow their skills and improve their working environment. Pray our faith will be strengthened as we learn from each other and share news of what God is doing in this country.

8 – 14 July

Mali

- Pray for the abused women who long to share the Bible with other women like them across Mali. Many of these women have suffered horrendous abuse, and others have been affected by the growing threat of terrorism in the north of the country. Give thanks for their faith, boldness and compassion. Pray for funds and resources to help grow the literacy programme, so more women can read God's word for themselves.

Mozambique

- Give thanks for the opening of two Bible hubs in Mozambique, enabling more people to have access to the Bible. Please pray for our team working to make the Bible accessible in their country, pray for energy, vision and passion to see people's lives being changed.

15 – 21 July

Malawi

- Illiteracy among women is approximately 41% in Malawi. Please pray for the biblical literacy programme for the Yao community, pray that God's word will be opened up to them as they learn to read.
- Pray for the General Secretary of Bible Society of Malawi, Clapperton Mayuni, and his team. Pray for our team as they work with local church partners to run literacy classes throughout the country. Pray as they seek to serve the Lord and his Church by translating, producing, distributing and encouraging people to use Scriptures in their day-to-day lives. Pray for unity as they carry out work in partnership and co-operation with all Christian Churches and Church related organisations in Malawi.

22 – 28 July

Malawi

- There is huge demand for work with children and families across the nation. Malawi is recovering from an AIDS epidemic, so many children have been orphaned and are being looked after by their community and churches. Pray for our work with Sunday schools across the country. Pray for children like 11-year-old Lisa on the front cover of *Prayer in Action*. She was given a children's Bible at a Sunday school in Blantyre, Malawi. She reads her Bible every night before going to bed and her favourite story is Mary and the birth of Jesus. She said, 'Thank you for supporting us with these lovely children's Bibles. Now I can understand the word of God so much easier.'

August

Please pray for our colleagues in Morocco who we cannot name, but have sent us these prayers. Please pray for courage, safety and encouragement in the dangerous work they are undertaking to share the Bible in their country.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
James 1.12 (ESV)

29 July – 4 August

- 'Pray for Moroccan Christians who daily deal with fear and feelings of insecurity. You can't trust anybody...police, family. And when you live in that for a while it's stressful. Ordinary Christians are the people we work with. A big part of what we do is implemented by them and with them. From time to time people get arrested. Pray that they will be encouraged, and the experience will make them stronger in their faith.'
- 'Please pray for the Bible Society in Morocco, for our programmes, for our protection, for our people, for funding, for the development of new staff and leadership. We want to grow, so we need more staff.'

5 – 11 and 12 – 18 August

- 'Pray for the translation team of five people, working on translating the Bible into Moroccan Arabic. We have been working on this since 1999. In less than three years they are going to be finished, which means they will have no income. Many of the translators are not young, and they are worried about their future. Most of the time I say let's trust God for your future, and I promise I will stand with them. This is dangerous, risky work, and we need them to be focused on the translation now more than ever to see it through to completion.'

19 – 25 August

- Please pray for staff and volunteers to have energy, and to keep well, and to be blessed by their time at the festivals. Pray for lots of interest from delegates in *The Bible Course* so that confidence in the Bible will increase.
- Pray for others at home and around the world to be blessed by the generosity of those wishing to partner with us in global mission through Bible a Month. We often hear that giving is an integral part of someone's walk of faith. May we all see that giving allows us to demonstrate through concrete action how the Bible is transforming us.

26 August – 1 September

- Pray for volunteers who serve with us on the stands or in the café at New Wine to see the value that they add to Bible Society, enabling us to do what we can't do alone. Please pray that delegates would leave the event excited about being mission partners and would share that with their home churches, encouraging others to get involved too.
- For staff to enjoy this different way of working and to find they are personally rewarded by the teaching and worship as well as relationships built with each other, volunteers and delegates.

We love getting out of the office to festivals to talk with everyone about the work that we are doing to help bring the Bible to life and ask people to partner with us.

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!
Psalms 90.17 (ESV)



September



Please pray for our varied work at home in this country. For our initiatives, events and resources designed to help all Christians engage with the Bible with enthusiasm and passion. For our work in the public sphere, promoting the importance of the Bible in education, in film, in politics, in the workplace and for the family. And for our engagement with children through the fantastic work of over 15,525 Open the Book volunteers.

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'
Matthew 19.14 (GNB)

Photography by Layton Thompson

2 – 8 September

- Birmingham City Mission has been instrumental in helping us work in multi-faith primary schools, we now have more schools wanting teams than churches to deliver assemblies. Pray that more churches will come forward to deliver Open the Book in inner city Birmingham.
- Pray for the pilot teams who are trialling the multi-faith materials. Pray that the assemblies will be well received and the teams will grow in confidence.

9 – 15 September

- Give thanks for the hard work of our Regional Training and Development Officers: Martha, Meleri, Sarah, Lynn and Nigel.
- Praise the Lord that over 15,525 volunteers are sharing Bible stories in primary schools across our country. Give thanks for our generous donors and trust funds that help fund our work.

16 – 22 September

- Give thanks that our fourth series of stories based on Christian Values has been underway for a year now. We have been receiving some very encouraging feedback for this material that reaches children with Bible stories and enables the whole school to participate in the actions.
- There have been changes in data protection and safeguarding this year that affect us. Please pray we can help make things clear and understandable to our supporters and volunteers.

23 – 29 September

- Open the Book in Ghana has been running for two years. There are currently 54 volunteers from schools and colleges doing OtB in 13 schools. Pray for Charles in Ghana who is heading it up with his team of helpers.
- We are also looking at developing a European model. Please pray for the right resources to be in place to develop this.

30 September – 6 October

- Alison Clark, who arrived in January this year, is our latest addition to our team of 10 OtB staff. She has been doing a wonderful job taking responsibility for our 5 Regional Training and Development Officers and our volunteer trainers scattered across the country. We are making plans to develop our training programme to see OtB grow stronger as well as bigger. Please pray for this complex part of our programme.
- In 2019 it will be OtB's 20th anniversary since its beginnings in Bedford in 1999. The storytelling project has grown into the huge network of over 15,525 volunteers that exists today. This anniversary is drawing staff from every corner of Bible Society to make a wonderful celebration that we will share next year from a personal level to regional and national events. We'll let you know more details soon!

October

Please pray for the Church in Turkey and Algeria. Pray for our brothers and sisters working to share God's word in difficult circumstances. Please support them with your prayers.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41.10 (NIV)

Sunset through the doorway of an ancient church in Laodicea, Turkey

7 – 13 and 14 – 20 October

- Give thanks for the publication of *Christianity: Fundamental Teachings* in Turkey which has united Christians in an unprecedented way. Pray that its impact will be far reaching and will leave a legacy of unity throughout Turkey.
- Pray for the political situation in Turkey. Pray for the minorities, including Christians, who are often the most affected in difficult circumstances. Pray for the Bible Society team to have peace and wisdom, and for the Lord to bless the work of their hands.

21 – 27 October and 28 October – 3 November

Ali Khidri, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Algeria, asks us to pray for the Church in his country.

- 'Please pray for Algerian Christians and for the ministry of the Bible Society here,' he says. 'Our freedom of worship is facing a grave threat and there is a clear violation of fundamental freedoms. We need your prayers more than ever.'
- Please pray for courage for our brothers and sisters who live in countries where the Church and Christians face enormous pressure.