



March – June 2019

prayer **in** action





We're delighted to be celebrating 20 years of Open the Book in 2019. Please join us in giving thanks for God's faithfulness and blessing through this project seeking to share Bible stories with primary school children.

We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the Lord's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done.
Psalm 78.4 (GNB)

March

3 – 9 March

- Thank God for his amazing work through 20 years of Bible storytelling, give thanks for all that has been achieved and for his guidance for our future plans.
- Praise the Lord for the faithful storytellers who go into their local primary schools sharing Bible stories in a fun, interactive way through drama, props, costumes and great storytelling skills.
- Pray for the launch of the newly piloted first year of Bible storytelling working in a multi-faith context. Praise God for all the storytellers who have taken part in the pilot and for the positive and encouraging response from the schools and children.

10 – 16 March

- Thank God for all the Headteachers, RE co-ordinators and teachers who welcome Open the Book into their schools. Pray for God to open the door for more schools who are closed to the idea to welcome their local church in to share Bible stories as part of collective worship.
- Praise God that children describe OtB as 'the best assembly of the week'. Pray for the seeds that are planted to grow and flourish.
- Pray for the development of a new training programme to support the delivery of our Bible storytelling working in a multi-faith context.

17 – 23 March

- Pray for the storytellers in Ghana, many of whom are young people. Pray for wisdom for the Bible Society in Ghana as they support the storytellers and consider future plans for rolling the project into new territories in Ghana.
- Please pray for Rubby and Charles who are leading the project in Ghana. Pray for storytellers to come forward and for the resources needed to be able to deliver Bible storytelling at the deaf and blind school in Cape Coast.
- Pray for Alison, our Training and Development Manager, as she runs refresher training for our existing volunteer trainers. Pray that through their faithful work and enthusiasm many more Open the Book Bible storytelling teams will start.

24 – 30 March

- Pray for the storytellers who have taken on extra schools to provide teams as part of our Catholic pilot. Pray that more Catholic churches will come forward to help create Open the Book teams for the many Catholic schools in Hexham and Newcastle Diocese.
- Praise the Lord that ecumenical teams are coming together and sharing Bible stories with Catholic schools. Pray that the Lord will open doors for Martha, our Regional Training and Development Officer, to inspire more churches to catch God's vision for Bible storytelling in schools.
- Pray for our new Regional Training and Development Officers, Matt in North London and Kerry in South London. Pray for churches and schools to come forward to start Open the Book teams.

April



Happy Easter from Bible Society. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! This month we encourage you to go and see the award-winning Wintershall cast re-enacting the Easter story in London and Surrey (pictured). We also have prayer updates from Pastor Amjad in Jordan and Edward in South Sudan as many of you uphold them in prayer.

'The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying."'
Matthew 28.5-6

Photography by Layken Thompson

31 March – 6 April

- Please pray for the Wintershall players as 20,000 people gather to watch the Easter story in central London on Good Friday. Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital.
- On Easter Saturday the Wintershall cast of players and animals moves to the High Street in Guildford, in their home county of Surrey. The play begins at the Guildhall on the High Street at 12 noon and again at 2.30 pm. Please pray for everyone who sees this powerful portrayal of the Gospel to be moved and challenged by it. For tickets go to wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

7 – 13 April

- Many of you faithfully pray for Pastor Amjad in Jordan – we recently spoke to our team in Jordan who said he is doing well and is continuing his work with refugees. Give thanks that his health is good and pray that God continues to sustain him. Pray for his ongoing ministry as he works with refugees who often feel hopeless, that he will continue to be an example of God's love in action.

14 – 20 April

We know that many of you continue to regularly pray for Edward in South Sudan, so we asked him for an update that we can share with you:

- Edward is still leading our work in South Sudan. He has some new team members with Cecilia Kaiwa as deputy CEO, and Klero Onuha and Repent

Abraham as lead programme officers. We are currently working with the Bible Society of Uganda to help provide more staff capacity support, skills-transfer and training for South Sudan. An urgent concern is the recruitment and appointment of an experienced financial manager.

21 – 27 April

Prayers of thanks from Edward in South Sudan from 2018:

- 'Thank God for all the good things that he has done in our lives together with our families. He has kept us alive and given us strength to serve him in our Bible work. Thank God for your ongoing support of us during this very difficult time.
- 'Thanks to the Almighty that the Mabaan people are reading the Bible in their own language. Many of them have turned to Christ and left their traditional beliefs. Even people from other faiths, especially Islam, have become Christians because as one of the converts said, "There is something special in this Jesus, the son of the living God!"

28 April – 4 May

Prayer requests from Edward in South Sudan from 2019:

- 'Pray for justice, peace and security in the country so that people can go about with their normal work. Pray for forgiveness and reconciliation among the warring parties.
- 'Pray for funding for the construction of the Bible/Mission House for Bible work in the whole country. Pray for peace and prosperity for South Sudan.'

5 – 11 May

Please pray for the projects that the Bible Society in Pakistan are running in 2019:

- Pray for the women's literacy project, that the Lord will help us reach villages and slums to provide literacy skills to illiterate women. This is such an important project to minister to many women and communities in need.
- Pray for the medical camps we plan to arrange in 2019, that the Lord will guide us as we seek to reach the needy in villages and slums.

12 – 18 May

- Pray for the Bible Competition programmes we run to reach out to young people and challenge them to read, study and learn about the Bible. Pray that the participants engage with the Bible deeply through these programmes.
- Pray for the youth engagement sports programmes we run, that they will continue to draw in thousands of young people to both compete in sports competitions, but also have the opportunity to hear the Bible preached and be given biblical literature.

19 – 25 May

- Pray for the Punjabi New Testament revised translation, that God will help and guide us print it on time for Punjabi readers.
- Pray for our many other translation projects as we seek to make the Bible available to communities in their heart language.

26 May – 1 June

- Pray for the staff and families of the Bible Society of Pakistan, for safety and good health in 2019 to work with commitment and faithfully for the Lord's work.



Please join us in prayer with Anthony from Pakistan and his team working in challenging circumstances in the Bible Society in Pakistan.

The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

Matthew 25.40 (GNB)

A team praying before the cricket competition in Pakistan

June

Please join us in prayer for Ramez Atallah, who leads the Bible Society in Egypt, and his team who work tirelessly to reach their country.

I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.
John 15.5 (GNB)

Children in a post-literacy class at their church in Egypt

2 – 8 June

Ramez asks us to pray:

‘In the autumn of 2016 our currency lost half its value so all the products we are selling doubled in cost, that’s our biggest financial struggle and it will take us several years to recuperate from that. Please pray that our ministry won’t be affected by these struggles.’

9 – 15 June

‘Please pray for our dedicated team around the country who work long hours, pray for their protection and energy for the work we do.’

16 – 22 June

‘We have a big project called Bible World, an interactive museum for children to help them have confidence in the Bible. We are currently renovating and we need prayers that it gets done well and on budget. We’ve had 60,000 children attend so far and we want to provide the experience for a new generation.’

23 – 29 June

Please pray for Ramez and his wife and the inspirational work they do through Bible Society and also working with the garbage villages in Egypt.