



PRAYER
in action


BIBLE
SOCIETY

March – June 2016

March – a focus on refugees

Across the Middle East and Europe millions are fleeing their homes to escape war and terror and find refuge. In countries like Austria, Hungary, Syria, and Iraq, our dedicated staff are serving refugees by sharing the Bible and demonstrating God's love practically. The demand for the Bible from refugees was so great in Austria at the end of 2015 that we gave out our typical stock for the year in just two months!

Even now, as Europe faces an unprecedented refugee crisis and the Middle East is torn apart, we believe that when people engage with the Bible their lives can change, for good. Thank you for praying with us that this change would become a reality.

6 – 13 March

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the many Bibles and Scripture portions that have been given to refugees across Europe and the Middle East.
- Pray that as they read stories of 'people who, like them, found themselves far away from home, facing an uncertain future' (WIA p5), they would grow in their faith and find hope, peace, and comfort as they draw near to God.
- Praise God for Chorepiskops Emmanuel Aydin and how he has welcomed refugees in Vienna by providing them with accommodation (WIA p4).
- Pray that those who are fleeing war and seeking asylum far from home would be shown compassion and love.

14 – 20 March

Please pray:

- Pray that the awful conditions of refugee camps like 'The Jungle' in Calais (WIA p8) would improve, and that people would soon be resettled into new communities.
- During the last year, our supporters have donated generously to help refugees. Give thanks that we were able to give Bibles and practical aid to those who asked. Praise God for all our supporters who have made this possible.



A focus on refugees

21 – 27 March

Please pray:

- Pray for Dr Jutta Henner and her team in Austria as they continue their work with refugees in Vienna and Traiskirchen. Pray that they'd experience God's help as they offer the Bible to the refugees around them. Ask God to strengthen and encourage them through their work.
- Give thanks for our faithful staff and volunteers working across Europe and the Middle East. Pray that our workers would be kept safe, especially in conflict-ridden countries like Syria and Iraq. Pray for our small teams as they reach out with the Bible's message of love in an increasingly hostile region. Pray that violence, hatred and extremism would be beaten by love and forgiveness.



28 March – 3 April

Please pray:

- Pray that as we host interfaith debates between Christians and Muslims, and work with students in Islamic theological faculties, the Bible's message would be carefully expressed. Ask God that fear and misunderstanding would be replaced by stability and peace.
- Pray that God would bless trauma healing sessions for Syrian refugee children in Jordan. Give thanks for this opportunity to address the unimaginable horrors these children have faced with Bible-based trauma healing. Pray that these children would see the power of the Bible's message as they begin to rebuild their lives.

April – a focus on South Sudan and ABLI

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, has been torn apart by a two year civil war in which many people have been killed and left homeless. The peace process in South Sudan is fragile, but reconciliation and forgiveness have been marked as clear needs for rebuilding this country. The African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) and the African Church more generally is playing a large role in seeing this war-torn country come together again.

Our prayer is that as politicians and church leaders work together on a proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and as Edward Kajivora conducts trauma healing sessions, that both sides of the conflict would apply the Bible's message of peace.

3 – 10 April

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the opportunity that ABLI provides to bring together church, government and business leaders in South Sudan. Pray that as MPs and church leaders continue to think about how South Sudan's issues can be resolved, they would apply the biblical message of peace and forgiveness.
- Praise God that MPs from opposing sides in the civil war were able to pray together at ABLI. Pray that as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is planned, that the Church's contribution as well as ours would underpin all the efforts to bring stability, hope and peace to people in South Sudan.

11 – 17 April

Please pray:

- Give thanks for Edward Kajivora, who leads our work in South Sudan, as he continues to offer the Bible, despite the ongoing conflict in his country.
- Praise God that Edward is able to supply the Bible to both sides of the former divide in his country, and that people want to have Scripture in their homes.
- Praise God that the Dinka and Nuer people are searching for a solution to South Sudan's problems. Pray that, as Edward oversees trauma healing workshops for people on both sides of the conflict, people would ground themselves 'on the Christian principles of forgiveness and love.' (WIA p6)

A focus on South Sudan and ABLI

18 – 24 April

Please pray:

- Pray for the millions of people in South Sudan who have fled their homes since the war began and that they would soon be able to return. Pray that the violence would stop and that peace would come to this young country.
- Praise God that in refugee camps across South Sudan Bible distribution has increased. Some people were even willing to exchange their food rations for the Bible. Pray that our people in South Sudan would be equipped with the resources and motivation they need to distribute the Bible effectively.

25 April – 1 May

Please pray:

- Pray for ABLI in 2016 which will be taking place in Kenya. Pray that leaders in Kenya and across Africa would be open to the biblical message put forward there, and that the speakers will be able to speak to the heart of the issues facing Kenya and the whole of Africa.
- Kenya, like South Sudan, has numerous challenges relating to conflict, corruption, and extremism. Please pray that these problems would be high on the agenda at ABLI 2016 and that our workers in Kenya would be wise and have insight as they engage in these complex issues and seek to show the relevance of the Bible to their situation.



May – a focus on leadership

'Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honour God.' 1 Timothy 2. 2 (CEV)

We want to offer the Bible to the world not only overseas in difficult and war-torn places, but also in relatively safe and secure countries like ours.

Our work with parliamentarians is vital to placing the Bible at the heart of public life in England and Wales. Our Senior Parliamentary Officer Mark Harris meets with MPs and regularly hosts events to present the relevance of the Bible to the world of politics. Please keep him in your prayers. As well as this, our patron The Queen, attaches great importance to the Scriptures as is seen in our new booklet *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*.

2 – 8 May

Please pray:

- Give thanks for our recent Westminster debate 'Is the Bible a bridge or a barrier to democracy?' Pray that Christians working in Westminster would be salt and light to those around them, and be able to speak up for the Bible and its significance for today.
- Pray particularly for a series of lunchtime services looking at the parables of Jesus and for the various Bible study groups that meet within Parliament. Pray that as Scripture is opened its credibility and relevance will be made clear. Pray that biblical principles will be applied to the work of Christians in Parliament.

9 – 15 May

Please pray:

- Pray that *The Servant Queen and the King she serves* which we are publishing with HOPE and LICC, will help draw attention to the impact of the Queen's Christian faith on her work and life. Pray that this book will be well used and that people will find it beneficial for their faith and be encouraged by it.
- Give thanks to God for the example of the Queen and ask God to bless her and the Duke of Edinburgh as she enters her 91st year. Praise God for the Queen's patronage of Bible Society and the great emphasis she places on the Bible.

A focus on leadership



16 – 22 May

Please pray:

- Pray for the role of the Bible and Christianity in politics, that it would not lose its voice, but continue to be regarded as respected and valid as something which contributes to the political life of our country. Pray that our team and other Christians in Westminster will be able to continue to carry out their work effectively.
- Pray for James Catford former CEO of Bible Society. Thank God for his 14 years of faithful service and all that God has achieved during his time with us. Ask that God would bless his future work. Pray for our new CEO, that their leadership would further our mission to offer the Bible to the world in a way which is accessible and engaging.

23 – 29 May

Please pray:

- Give thanks for Jutta Henner and her team in Austria. Pray that she would lead them effectively as they serve the people of Austria.
- Ask that God would bless Edward Kajivora's leadership at Bible Society of South Sudan. Pray that as Edward's team seeks to bridge the divide between the two sides of the civil war he would enable them to more effectively make the Bible available and demonstrate its relevance to all sections of society.

June – a focus on making the Bible available and accessible

Over 200 years ago 15 year-old Mary Jones walked 26 miles across North Wales so she could buy a Bible in her own language. Her story inspired the beginnings of Bible Society. Ever since we've been making the Bible available to those who didn't have access to it, and helping people who haven't encountered the Bible to do so in an engaging way.

30 May – 5 June

Please pray:

- Give thanks for Mary Jones' determination to buy her own copy of the Bible. Pray that we won't take ours for granted.
- Pray for those preparing to do the Mary Jones Challenge this July as they raise money for our work with refugees (WIA p11).

6 – 12 June

Please pray:

- Thank God for our *Daniel and the Lions* booklet which is being distributed this year. Pray that, as people read it, they'll see the Bible in a new light.
- Pray that as people engage with the Bible they would recognise its value.

13 – 19 June

Please pray:

- We regularly thank God for all our supporters who fund, pray for and volunteer in our mission to offer the Bible to the world. Please join us in praising God for people like you, who help make this amazing work possible.

20 – 26 June

Please pray:

- Ask that God would bless our new Easter materials which were distributed earlier this year.
- Pray that people would continue to consider the death and resurrection of Jesus and that they would be transformed as they read the Easter story in a new and engaging way.

