



Bible
Society

October 2016 – February 2017

prayer **in** action



October



Welcome to Prayer in Action for October 2016 – February 2017.

Thank you so much for supporting us in prayer, we are immensely grateful for you! *'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)

In October we are praying for our country and government.

'Our task as individuals, communities and Bible Society is to respond to the changes in our government and country by working to create a society and wider world where people can flourish and enjoy living good lives.

'A good life is one where all people, in the UK, EU and wider world, can fulfil their potential and love God and neighbour, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised in society.'

An excerpt from *Responding to the anxiety of a Brexit world* by Paul Woolley, read the whole article at biblesociety.org.uk/pia-brexit

2 – 8 October

- Thank God that even though we live in uncertain times, we don't need to fear because as Psalm 145.13 reminds us, 'Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.'
- Pray for wisdom for our new government and for opposition parties as well, as ministers and shadow ministers get used to new roles and particularly for Theresa May in her first months as Prime Minister, that she would put justice and compassion at the heart of government policy.

9 – 15 October

- Take time to pray for the leadership of our country. Pray for the Queen, for the Prime Minister and the cabinet, pray for your local Member of Parliament. Pray that they will have wisdom, integrity and humility. Pray for God's blessing on them as they serve us.
- Pray for the relationship between politicians and those they represent, for integrity in our political leaders and a rebuilding of trust in the political process.

16 – 22 October

- Pray for Mark Harris and Mark Scott, our team who work in parliament. Pray for them as they plan a series of events for the coming months – to get a good

balance of engaging speakers and topics to help bring the Bible to life in parliament.

- Pray for Christians who are in parliament to be able to set an example of forging good relationships across party lines, for disagreeing well where they differ from each other and for working together where possible.

23 – 29 October

- Pray for churches celebrating Bible Sunday on 23 October, to find out more see p.12 in WIA.
- Today I pray for our country. I ask that you would give our Prime Minister wisdom beyond her own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate. I pray for all in authority over us that you would give them the grace and strength to stand against the temptation to use power as a weapon but rather to carry it reverently as one would a child. I pray for the spiritual leaders of our country that they would hear your voice and know your heart. I pray that they would lead from their knees and by that simple grace bring each one of us to our knees before your throne. Have mercy on our nation Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

A prayer from biblesociety.org.uk/lyfe-prayingforleaders

To find out more about our work in parliament go to biblesociety.org.uk/politics

November

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1.3 – 6 (ESV)

In November we are thanking God for our amazing volunteers and the time, energy, prayers and gifts that they give. Let's pray for all our teams: Church, Speaker, Open the Book, Support, Action Groups, Mary Jones and Events.

 Bible Society

EXHIBITOR



30 October – 5 November

- Thank God for over 14,000 people who volunteer for Bible Society. Ask God to bless them for the time and talents they give to us as we offer the Bible to the world. Volunteers make an amazing difference, and we are so grateful for them!
- Pray for more people with a passion for our work to join with us to bring the Bible to life.

6 – 12 November

- Please pray for our Speaker Team as they receive and fulfil appointments to speak about our work in churches, midweek groups and youth clubs. Our vision is a world where everyone has access to the Bible and can recognise its value for them, their families and communities. Our Speaker Team help us share that vision.
- Pray that our Church Team will be excited to use the new resources sent to them in the autumn to keep people in their home congregations updated and inspired by the Bible and our work.

13 – 19 November

- Remember in prayer those who live near Mary Jones World and volunteer alongside our staff to welcome visitors to the centre, whilst also undertaking practical tasks such as tidying up resources and assisting school groups.
- Pray for the many Open the Book volunteers who bring the Bible to life

for school children in a very practical sense. Ask that God would bless them for the time they give each week and give them good relationships with teachers and children.

20 – 26 November

- Pray that volunteers will come forward to attend many of the Christian festivals with us in 2017. Whether serving cake in a café or speaking on a stand, festivals are important for us to speak with people face to face, explaining why we believe that when people engage with the Bible, their lives can change, for good.
- Praise God for all the Action Groups across the country who have been supporting us tirelessly for many generations. Pray that they would be able to recruit new members and continue to find ways of raising funds and talking about Bible work that engages younger adults.

27 November – 3 December

- Please pray for our Church Relations Team: Andy, Sandra, Dai, Hannah, Kristin, Carol, Cathy and Rachael as they liaise with volunteers in churches they visit week by week.
- Pray for Susan, the Volunteer Development Officer – that God would give her wisdom in her job. Pray that she will continue to inspire people to step up to serve as volunteers and support them in their roles.

To find out more about volunteering go to
biblesociety.org.uk/volunteer

December



*For to us a child is
born, to us a son is
given; and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder,
and his name shall
be called Wonderful
Counsellor, Mighty
God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.
Isaiah 9.6 (ESV)*

**It's now December
and the Christmas
season is upon us!**
As we embrace the
festive season, give
thanks to God for
the Good News of
Christ's birth. And let
us share our joy with
our family, friends
and communities.

Prince
OF
PEACE

4 – 10 December

- Pray for those who are taking part in #AdventChallenge – carrying out small acts of kindness every day during Advent, inspired by the Bible. Pray we will be able to cover our communities with kindness throughout Advent (see pages 12 – 13 in WIA).
- Join us in praying for all of those who are displaced from their homes throughout the world. Pray that they will be able to find comfort, hope and joy in Christ this Christmas. See pages 6 – 9 in WIA for ways to pray for and support refugees.

11 – 17 December

- Please pray for all the children and families who will read our children's nativity booklet, for them to be inspired and blessed reading about the true meaning of Christmas. To order the booklet see the cover letter and pass it on to a child in your family, church or community.
- Give thanks for all the churches in England and Wales. Pray that the Christmas services and events taking place will impact their communities and share the joy of Jesus' birth.



18 – 24 December

- This week leading up to Christmas is often one of the busiest times of year, so let's set aside a few moments to be still with God and dwell with him:
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,
Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Christ.
May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us. (St Patrick)

25 – 31 December

- Happy Christmas! Every blessing to you and your family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In the words of Charles Wesley's famous hymn; 'Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!'

To find out more about Christmas with Bible Society
go to biblesociety.org.uk/Christmas



January

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. He gave laws to the people of Israel and commandments to the descendants of Jacob. He instructed our ancestors to teach his laws to their children, so that the next generation might learn them and in turn should tell their children. In this way they also will put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments.
Psalms 78.4 – 7 (GNB)



Please pray for Open the Book (OTB): bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school. We have wonderful teams of volunteer storytellers from churches using drama, mime, props and costumes to dramatise Bible stories in primary schools throughout England and Wales.

1 – 7 January

- Give thanks for generous donations that have enabled us to appoint our five new trainers in North East London, the West Midlands, South Wales and North East England. We are so grateful for the gifts and prayers of our supporters.
- Celebrate with us the exciting first year of OTB in Ghana – our first international pilot. Please pray for the 47 young volunteers who are impacting nine primary schools in James Town and Mamprobi communities and Cape Coast in the Central region.

8 – 14 January

- Pray for us as we prepare to launch our new series of stories on Christian values in the spring to add another year's worth of material to the existing three year rolling programme. Some of the values include wisdom, trust, peace and forgiveness. Pray that it will be popular for both church and community schools.
- Pray for networking opportunities and growth in Chichester and the Chilterns – these are areas where we have sponsorship to start new teams. If you live in these areas and would like to become part of an OTB team, please get in touch with us on 01793 418355.

15 – 21 January

- Please pray for Open the Book Awareness Week during February. It's a celebratory week for OTB volunteers to spread the word about what we do and how we are impacting the next generation with the Good News! Pray for our storytellers who invest their time and energy into this and throughout the year.
- Pray for Mike Otter as he oversees the new Education Department for Bible Society and line management of OTB.

22 – 28 January

- Pray for OTB's Advisory Group who are making decisions and plans for direction over the next five years. They need wisdom, faith and guidance to make important decisions.
- Give thanks for our OTB staff team who work tirelessly with the aim to bring the Bible to life for every child in every primary school. Pray for God's blessing, wisdom and strength for Julie, Val, Shirley, Katie, Nigel, Lynn, Sarah and Meleri.

To find out more go to openthebook.net

February



Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, 'You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.' He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases. He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you.

Psalms 91.1 – 4 (GNB)

We believe that prayer changes things. So we asked you to join us and post a prayer on our interactive tree to pray for the **Middle East** at biblesociety.org.uk/prayertree. Below are some of the prayers that you have posted online.

29 January – 4 February

- Lord Jesus, we pray for women, men, children and babies who are hurting and on the move today. We pray that they will recognise your everlasting, loving arms waiting to gather them, comfort them and give them true rest.
- Loving God, I pray that peace, justice and tolerance will prevail in the Middle East and that while people are forced to flee their home and country, my country will be open and welcoming to them.

12 – 18 February

- Abba Father, help those fleeing persecution and war to find a place of safety. In your mercy, Lord, hear their cries and prayers. Grant essential resources to all the agencies helping, and Christian love to those who are traumatised. Amen
- Dear Father, you are the God of love. Allow your truth to change these refugees' lives. Reveal yourself to them and heal them. May you bring life to their bodies, minds and souls. Bring healing where there is hurt. Amen

5 – 11 February

- Father God, send your Holy Spirit to comfort and heal suffering, to guard the hearts of the children from shock, to guide those in authority to act with love and compassion. In the name of Jesus I pray.
- May you be filled with a peace that surpasses all understanding and stand firmly in the love of God. I pray that your heart will be filled with God's peace and the knowledge of his unfailing love for you.

19 – 25 February

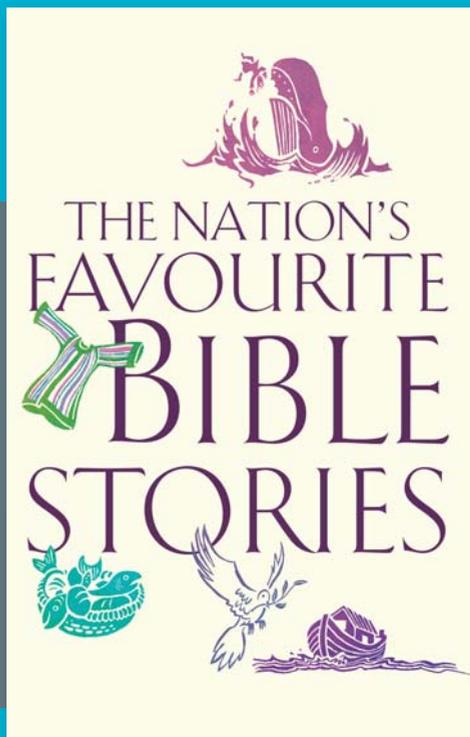
- 'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.' May you truly know this in your hearts. Amen
- Dear Lord, please watch over those without a home, please watch over the elderly, the mothers, the children and the fathers who are separated from one another by war. Please open our hearts in Jesus name. Amen

Our teams in Jordan and Lebanon are offering Bible-based trauma healing, as well as food and other essentials, to refugees fleeing war in the Middle East.

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