Bible Society

November 2019 – February 2020

prayer in action

Photography by James Markham

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November

Welcome to your Winter 2019 *Prayer in Action*! Thank you so much for your prayer support, it is a vital part of our mission.

We're excited about the growing Open the Book programme in Ghana. The OtB team of Charles, Elizabeth and Rubby have asked us to pray for them.

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43.19 (ESV)

3 – 9 November

Charles Twumasi – Programme Manager

'Please pray for our volunteers. We have a passionate group of volunteers and we thank God for them. Please pray for more openings in schools. We don't usually have problems getting in, but if there is a change in the leadership at a school, it sometimes disrupts us. So please pray for them too. We should also pray for God to help give us opportunities to raise funds for this programme here in Ghana.'

10 – 16 November

Charles Twumasi – Programme Manager

'To people who have supported us in the UK, we are very grateful for your sacrifice and the efforts you make to support Open the Book in the UK, which also benefits us here. We really appreciate it and know that you have chosen a good cause. We are very grateful and we pray for you too. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to grow Open the Book.'

17 – 23 November

Elizabeth – works in the Programme Department (also an OtB volunteer)

'I have seen Open the Book change the lives of the children. Sometimes they tell you things they used to do and no longer do. Some children never used to go to church but, through Open the Book, they have become interested in what the Bible says. Some of them now go to church. We have other children who didn't know how to pray. But the Open the Book prayers have helped them learn.

'I would like to see Open the Book go to more schools and help other children to benefit from it too. I think that there would be a huge benefit if others also heard the stories and could understand them. Not just inside Ghana, but elsewhere too.

'I would like people to pray for strength for us. The children look to us as examples and our lives should reflect godly values to them. Please also pray that through these stories, we will touch the lives of the children and see transformation.'

24 – 30 November

Rubby – Programme Assistant

'I would love Open the Book to be in almost all of the primary schools in Ghana. I would love us to reach public schools as well as church schools. Open the Book falls in line with the educational system, it complements Religious and Moral Education.

'It helps the children understand because they see what has been dramatised, they hear the story, then they can apply it to their lives. Open the Book has a future, a bright future, here.

'Please pray for dedicated volunteers who come from different walks of life. Pray for some older volunteers to help us, the children see them as their grandparents and would love them to visit.'

December

This month please pray for each of the projects being supported through our Christmas charity gifts. Each gift will help bring the Bible's message to people around the world. To see the full selection and give the gift of a Bible this Christmas please visit biblesociety.org.uk/charitygifts

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!'
Luke 2.14

1 – 7 December

Please pray for the children in Malawi who come to Sunday school in their hundreds. We are providing children's Bibles so they can understand the Bible stories better and share the stories with their families.

In China around one million people come to faith every year but many simply cannot afford a Bible. Please pray for the Chinese church as they seek to support new believers and lead them on their faith journey.

Please pray for our 17,500+ Open the Book volunteers. Give thanks for the time they give so generously each week to go into primary schools and re-tell Bible stories. Give thanks for their care, creativity and talents that bring Bible stories to life for thousands of school children across England and Wales.

8 – 14 December

Pray for Bible Society's literacy programme to open up the Bible to women in Africa as well as open doors to new opportunities. Joy is mother to 6 children and the literacy programme has changed her life. She says, 'When I was illiterate, I felt myself a bad person. Now, I can read how many times to take medicine and I understand road signs.' Please pray for Joy and her family that they may enjoy a brighter, more positive future as a result of this programme.

Pastors in Costa Rica long to develop their Bible knowledge and learn to teach the Bible better, but cost and remote locations often make this impossible. Please pray for Bible Society's Biblical Institute, that more pastors may have the opportunity to come to this vital training space.

Please pray for all the prisoners in England and Wales who have received a Bible. Pray that the words of the Bible will be transformative and speak to prisoners seeking a new life on their release.

15 – 21 December

Miriam and her son, Hema, age 10, left Syria after their home was bombed. In Jordan she found new friends, a new home and Jesus as she came to faith. She says, 'Becoming a Christian has made an unbelievable difference to me. I feel safe.' Please pray for Miriam and Hema as they continue to rebuild their lives in a new land, that they may always know God's close presence and love for them.

The Bible Society sports competition in Pakistan brings together 30,000 young competitors of all faiths to take part in a range of sports tournaments including cricket, badminton, basketball and football. Please pray that the free Scripture booklets given to all competitors will introduce them to Jesus and help them take their first steps of faith.

22 – 28 December

Happy Christmas, may God's blessing be on you and your family as you celebrate Jesus' birth!

Please pray for the Sunday school teachers ministering in Syria. Pray they will receive the training and support they need so they can speak to children and young people who have experienced first-hand the horrors of war.

In eSwatini, Bible Society is providing practical support and the Bible to orphans who have been left alone with no-one to care for them. Mcolise lost his mother five years ago and he and his brother often had to eat plants from the hillside. Our team provide agricultural help, Bible-based counselling and a Bible for these children. Mcolise says, 'When I read the Bible, I feel God loves me.' Please pray for Mcolise and his brother Sphiwikho, that they may have the support they need to nurture them and that these two precious boys may feel the depth of God's love for them.

Some of our team in Wales: (from left to right) Dai Woolridge and his wife Cath, Meleri Cray who heads up the team and our new team member Joseff Edwards.

We have a growing team in Wales who seek to make our resources available in both English and Welsh. We have provided their prayer requests in both languages, so you can pray in your heart language.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2.9 – 11 (ESV)

29 December – 4 January and 5 – 11 January

Byd Mary Jones
The team at Mary Jones World are working hard to share the legacy of Mary Jones, Thomas Charles and the Bible to young and old, tourists and locals. Please pray that those who visit the centre are impacted by Mary Jones' hunger for the Bible. Please also pray for the staff in their interactions with the public and for the school pupils who take part in the workshops at the centre.

Byd Mary Jones
Mae Tîm Byd Mary Jones yn gweithio'n galed i gyflwyno etifeddiaeth Mary Jones, Thomas Charles a'r Beibl i'r hen a'r ifanc, ymwelwyr a phobl leol. Gweddïwch y bydd y rhai sy'n ymweld â'r ganolfan yn cael eu cyffwrdd gan awydd Mary Jones i gael Beibl. A wnewch hefyd weddïo am gyswllt y staff gyda'r cyhoedd ac am y disgyblion Ysgol sydd yn cymryd rhan yn y gweithdai â ddarperir yn y ganolfan.

January

12 – 18 January

The Bible Course
Meleri, Arfon and the team are working on a Welsh edition of the latest Bible Course resource. We have found that many are engaging with this resource in English. Please pray that this will encourage Welsh speaking churches to better understand the big picture story of Scripture.

Cwrs y Beibl
Mae Meleri, Arfon a'r Tîm yn gweithio ar fersiwn Cymraeg o'r adnodd diweddaraf, Cwrs y Beibl. Rydym wedi gweld llawer yn cael eu denu at yr adnodd hwn yn Saesneg. Gweddïwch y bydd hyn yn annog eglwysi Cymraeg eu hiaith i ddeall yn well ddarlun mawr y stori sy'n cael ei gyflwyno i ni drwy'r ysgrythur.

19 – 25 January

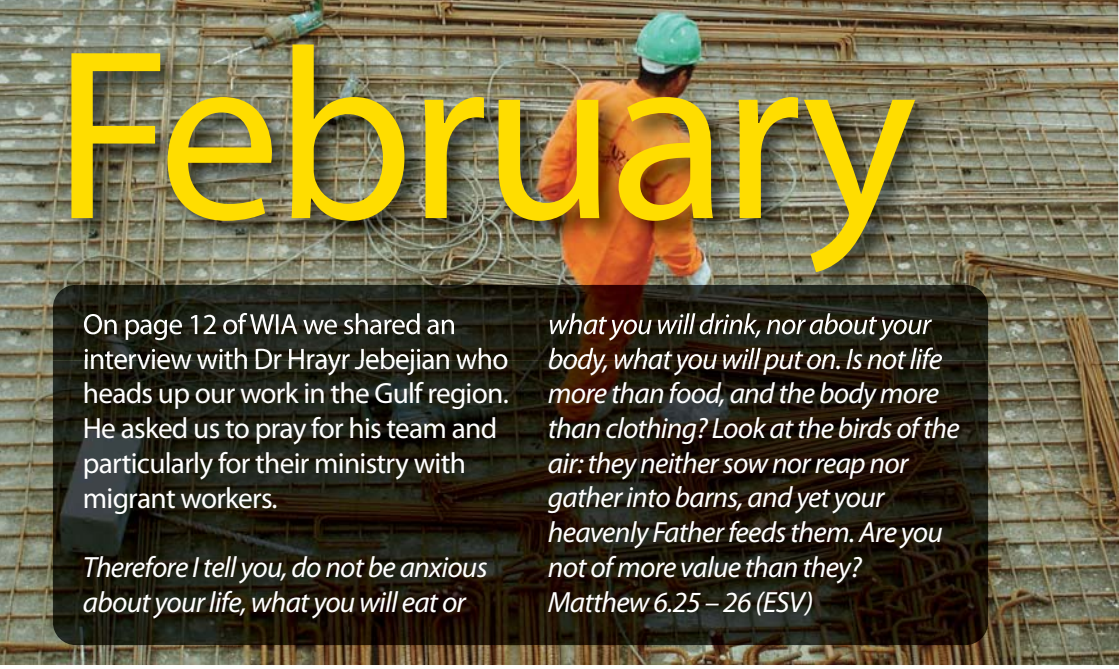
Pray for our team
Please pray for all the staff and faithful volunteers who work in Wales. A key part of Bible Society's journey was birthed in Wales over 200 years ago, and we are privileged to continue serving Wales with the Bible today. Please pray for the storytellers in Wales as they continue to share God's word in schools. Please pray for the staff based in Wales with their ongoing work.

Gweddïwch dros ein Tîm
Gweddïwch dros yr holl staff a'r gwirfoddolwyr ffyddlon sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru. Dechreuodd rhan allweddol o daith Cymdeithas y Beibl yng Nghymru dros 200 mlynedd yn ôl, a'n braint yw cael parhau i wasanaethu wrth gyflwyno'r Beibl i Gymru heddiw. Gweddïwch dros holl storïwyr Cymru wrth iddyn nhw barhau i gyflwyno gair Duw mewn ysgolion. Gweddïwch dros yr holl staff sydd wedi eu lleoli yng Nghymru a'u gwaith cyfredol.

26 January – 1 February

New staff member
We have appointed a new worker for the South East area of Wales who is due to develop our work with both English and Welsh language churches and to promote the continued growth and development of Open the Book. His name is Joseff Edwards. Please pray that Joseff settles well in his new role and is empowered to carry out his work according to God's will.

Aelod staff newydd
Yr ydym wedi penodi gweithiwr newydd ar gyfer ardal De Ddwyrain Cymru. Ei enw yw Joseff Edwards. Bydd disgwyl i Joseff ddatblygu ein gwaith gyda'r eglwysi Cymraeg a Saesneg eu hiaith, yn ogystal â hybu tŵf a datblygiad cynllun Agor y Llyfr. Gweddïwch hefyd y bydd Joseff yn setlo i mewn i'w swydd newydd ac y bydd yn cael ei rymuso i gwblhau ei waith yn unol ag ewyllys Duw.



February

On page 12 of WIA we shared an interview with Dr Hrayr Jebejian who heads up our work in the Gulf region. He asked us to pray for his team and particularly for their ministry with migrant workers.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6.25 – 26 (ESV)

2 – 8 February and 9 – 15 February

'Please pray for the churches who we partner with and pray for people whose lives are being touched by the stories in the Bible. Sometimes I feel jealous of these people because of their faith, when they become Christians they don't want to keep it for themselves, they want to share their faith. It's like a treasure that they don't want to keep for themselves, they want to share it with others. We need to learn from these people, from their passion and strong desire to share their faith. Sometimes we are lazy to share our faith, but they are passionate. They have come from desperation to hope and they have been transformed. They share their faith in the migrant labour camps. Their situations don't change, but their approach to life changes. That's the power of the Scriptures.'

16 – 22 February and 23 – 29 February

'Please pray for the Bible Society in the Gulf, it's a very unpredictable region. It's so different living in the free world; make the most of the freedom you have in your country. Every day we have new challenges arising. We currently have some big issues in Qatar with importing Scriptures. Customs stopped a shipment of Bibles from Dubai to Oman, they confiscated the Bibles and suspended our trading license. Please pray for the meeting we need to have with the minister of religion in Oman to try and reverse this decision. We seize any opportunity we have, because the future is unknown. We don't know what will happen tomorrow so let's make the best use of the opportunities we have now.'

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