

B

Bible
Society

March – June 2021

prayer in action



Pray with Bible Society



Thank you so much for joining us in prayer. We deeply value your prayer support, especially as we continue living in an uncertain world. Many of you have written your prayers on our online China Prayer Tree on biblesociety.org.uk/chinaprayer and this month we pray with you for China.

Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.
Matthew 13.8 – 9 (ESV)

28 February – 6 March

Dear Lord, we pray that your kingdom will be established in China and that your will is done. May my fellow Christians in this country stay strong and assured of your unfailing love, always. Amen.

Abi

Almighty God, I pray that your word will reach those in China that desperately need to receive your teaching. I pray the message of love, hope and peace will continue to spread and grow there. Amen.

Lucy, Havering

7 – 13 March

I pray for peace, joy and freedom from persecution for my dear brothers and sisters in China, such wonderful people.

Penny, Harrogate

We pray for people who don't have a Bible, for money to help people get free Bibles, for people who are tired from walking to get a Bible and to have transport to get Bibles.

Melling St Wilfrid C.E. Primary, Carnforth

14 – 20 March

Thank you, Jesus, for the work being done by Bible Society, in China. It is a privilege to be part of this mission to supply Bibles to our brothers and sisters in Christ in a largely atheistic country.

Andy, Salisbury

Thanks be to God for the people of China wanting Bibles, and for us having the chance to contribute to that wonderful present.

Anonymous

21 – 27 March

Lord, your word is mighty and wonderful. May your people in China experience its power and grow in faith. Amen.

Timothy, Bexleyheath

O Lord, we pray that your knowledge will fill China as the waters cover the sea. Strengthen the hands of your servants involved with this mission and uphold them in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bola, Milton Keynes

28 March – 3 April

Dear Lord, I pray that you will provide more pastors to encourage and teach young Christians in China. Amen.

Timothy, Bexleyheath

Almighty God, I pray that you will reveal your word and truth to the Chinese people. Jesus, may you come into their lives and be a light to them, guide and lead them to full knowledge of you, Amen.

Dominick

Photography by Dag Smedo

April

Thanks to your support, and supporters around the world, close to 40 Bible Societies are receiving the urgent help they need, through the Rescue and Recovery Fund (see WIA page 11). So far, just over \$4 million has been raised by 18 Bible Societies. Please pray for these Bible Societies in need as they seek to keep Bible ministry alive in their countries.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12.12 (ESV)*



Thanks to your support, Bible Society in Panama distributed Bibles to migrant workers during the pandemic.

4 – 10 April

Happy Easter, Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!

Bible Society in the **West Indies** describes the devastating effect that Covid-19 has had on the Jamaican economy, which relies heavily on tourism. Inevitably, this, together with the closure of churches and schools during lockdown, has led to a steep decline in the Bible Society's income.

'Things are difficult, very difficult,' says General Secretary Courtney Stewart, who has been very worried about the situation. 'Our country, like many others, is going through the throes of lack of funds, lack of work, mounting bills and growing frustration.'

When asked what it means to the Bible Society to get support through the Fund, Courtney shared, 'It means we are not alone in our struggle for survival. It is a wonderful testimony and demonstration of solidarity and biblical compassion in times of tremendous challenge.' Please pray for Bible ministry in the West Indies, that people will find hope in Jesus, through the Bible.

11 – 17 April

In **Moldova**, Europe's poorest nation, the pandemic hit the Bible Society's operations hard. It completely relies on its sales income, which dropped by 80%. It has had to reduce its activities and staff in order to survive, but at the same time, the need for Bibles is growing as people are searching for comfort and hope.

'It is hard to find the right words to express our gratitude for getting the funding for our Bible Society to survive,' says General Secretary Anatoly Kirillov. 'Just as people who fall seriously ill with Covid-19 need ventilators to help them breathe and recover and return to normal life, this financial support is helping us keep going and return to our activity.'

Give thanks for the help Bible Society in Moldova is receiving and pray for encouragement and perseverance to keep going through these difficult times.

18 – 24 April

Bible Society of **Namibia** General Secretary Schalk Botha admits that he has been deeply concerned about the Bible Society's survival, as its sales and fundraising income has been badly hit by the pandemic.

'The good news of the Fund support has brought us a sense of security and relief for the difficult months ahead of us,' he says. 'The funding will help cover some of our running costs and enable us to continue our mission. People in Namibia are overwhelmed with fear and a sense of powerlessness, and there is an increasing demand for Bibles as people search for hope to sustain them spiritually through these difficult times.'

Please pray for the work of Bible Society in Namibia: pray it will be able to minister to people searching for hope in the midst of the pandemic.

25 April – 1 May

'The news [of the Fund support] came to us like an oasis of fresh water in the middle of the intense desert that we have had to face for more than six months,' says Marco Gomez at the Bible Society of **Panama**.

Amid lockdown, the Bible Society partnered with churches to distribute Scriptures to families in difficult circumstances, and to police and army officers. When the country's borders were closed due to lockdown, many migrants were trapped in the country with no work and nowhere to go. The Bible Society provided Bibles and children's Scriptures for them, while churches distributed food and other relief.

One of the migrants, Vielka Morales, shared how receiving the Scriptures during that difficult time helped her and her family.

'I have always wanted a Bible, so when you arrived bringing Bibles I asked you to help. Reading the Bible gave my heart tranquillity and peace. Above all, it helped me feel God protecting us on our journey. The books the children received helped to distract them from our situation but also gave them lessons that will help them in life. We are very grateful for the Bibles.'

Give thanks for the ministry that Bible Society in Panama is continuing to provide. Please pray for all Bible Societies around the world as we seek to bring the Bible to life.

May

Through your giving, Bible Societies in some of the toughest, hardest places in Africa are able to share the Bible, particularly from your giving to the Rescue and Recovery Fund. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Mozambique, Cameroon and Niger as they risk their lives to share the gospel.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalm 23.4 (ESV)

2 – 8 May and 9 – 15 May

Mozambique

Covid has completely paralysed an economy already destabilised by various crises, including Boko Haram attacks, turmoil with the Anglophone region, and a political crisis since the 2018 elections. Although the Bible Society has been able to continue its work through the previous crises, Covid has severely curtailed its ability to operate, significantly cutting its fundraising



and sales income. This means that it is hard to pay salaries and taxes, and also to maintain the two translation projects that it has been running with local funding since 2019.

Valente (pictured below left), General Secretary of Bible Society in Mozambique, says, 'This means that God won't allow Covid-19 to stop the plan for his people to get his word through the Bible Society's ministry. Just as Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, we'll continue making him known while looking for the best ways to be sustainable during and after the Rescue and Recovery Fund.'

'Allow me to confess that I was in despair and had sleepless nights for weeks and months, but I kept praying and the answer came in God's time, not mine. Praise the Lord! I pray for all our donors and fundraisers, for God's anointing in their work of being a blessing to our Bible Society and our people.'

'It also gives us great motivation to do God's ministry, as written by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15.58: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

Please pray for our team in Mozambique, that they will be lights shining in the midst of extremely challenging circumstances.

16 – 22 May

Cameroon

'After the murder of our two team members, who were responsible for preparing



the community for the arrival of the Bible in Parkwa, our task becomes even more urgent,' Luc (pictured above), General Secretary of the Bible Society in Cameroon, said. 'It is this Bible that will bring hope and heal the wounds of the Parkwa-speaking people. You know, when God sends you on a mission, he doesn't say what conditions you will face when you go. He says, "Go, I'm sending you." He sent us to this people and we must accomplish our mission. We are convinced that, with him, we will complete our mission, despite the actions of the enemy.'

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Cameroon and in other nations in the Sahel region of Africa who live under the constant threat of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. Ask that God will protect them and give them courage so they will not be deterred from worshipping or from spreading the word of God.

Please pray for the families of Joseph and Jonas, pray for safety and protection for our staff in the region, and pray God's word can bring healing and hope to communities which have endured so much.

23 – 29 May

Niger

An update from General Secretary Hama Yaye (pictured far right):



'The situation in Niger regarding Islamic extremists remains tense and no less political. There are still hostilities in the red zones because the churches are unable to worship freely and there are always kidnappings of influential Christians, the governors of the regions, the heads of villages and people considered to be rich. Ultimately, we no longer know whether they are bandits or terrorists, and this is where the state complicity lies. Because the country is 98 per cent Muslim, politicians are unwilling to touch these so-called terrorist Islamists because they will lose their electorate.'

'What encourages us is that Nigerian Christians themselves are not afraid of Islamists. Christians even in regions declared red zones are looking for more ways to know God. We are used to the violence of our own persecuting parents.'

'In my humble opinion God takes every opportunity to glorify his name. I have found that Christians in the heat of the moment are more serious in their faith, even when they lack everything. This is the motivation for our actions in these dangerous zones, but with great caution.'

June

Our colleagues at Bible Society in Australia (BSA) recently interviewed George, the General Secretary of Bible Society in Syria. Syria is still in the midst of war after ten long years and they deeply value prayer support from their brothers and sisters around the world. Please pray with Belinda, our colleague from BSA.

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ...
Isaiah 61.1 (ESV)*



Please pray for George and his family

'Heavenly Father, we thank you for our brother George. We thank you for his passion and great love for you and his commitment to you and your word, and to spread that to the people of Syria. Lord God, we pray for Syria, we lift up that nation to you.'

'Lord, ten years of suffering is ten years too long. We ask that you would give our leaders wisdom to make different decisions, decisions that don't hurt and cause pain and damage to these people.'

'Father, we thank you that through all of this suffering and crisis, you have not forgotten the people of Syria; you love them and you died for them. Father, we thank you for George. And we ask that you would give him wisdom and guidance as he leads the Bible Society of Syria.'

'We pray particularly for the trauma healing project and for all of the other projects that George is leading. And we thank you for those. We ask that you would continue to move the hearts of people to give generously so that they can continue. Father, we pray for peace. We pray for peace and for comfort.'

'And we thank you, Lord, for all of the great work that you are doing. Thank you that, in spite of the pain and the suffering, Lord, we know that you are still at work. We know that you are still good. And Father, thank you that George knows this too. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.'