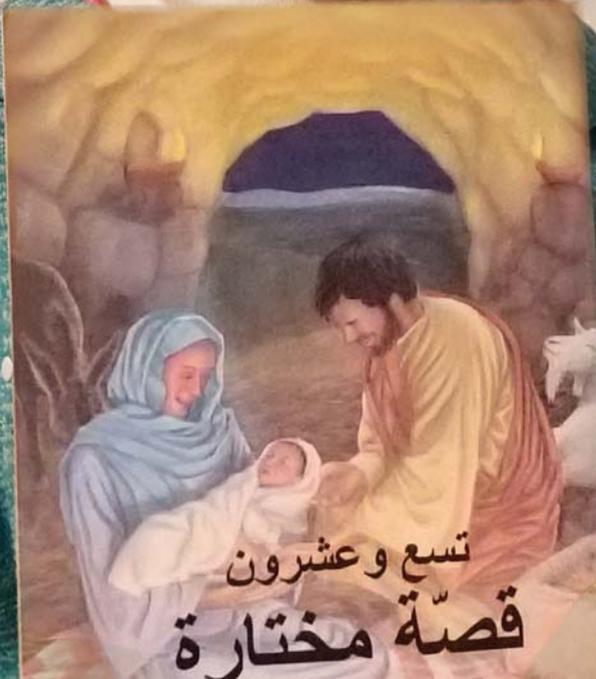


prayer **in** action



Welcome to **Prayer in Action**.

The Middle East is a region that is fraught with conflict, trauma and people having to leave their homes. It's estimated that one in every 122 people is displaced by war, violence and persecution in this region. In the face of such overwhelming trauma, please lift up in prayer our colleagues who work in the Middle East and have sent us these prayer requests for July and August.

*The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his Spirit. He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison. He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come when the Lord will save his people and defeat their enemies. He has sent me to comfort all who mourn...
Isaiah 61.1 – 2 (GNB)*

July

Saraa, a refugee in Jordan

Photography by Clare Kendall

2 – 8 July

Munther from Jordan

Please pray for the Bible Society of Jordan and for Jordanian Christians to be in a place of high regard so that God's work in this region will be accomplished. Pray for Bible Society projects that touch many spectrums of the Jordanian community, pray we will be able to spread God's kingdom in everything we do. Pray for the multitude of refugees who have crossed into Jordan, for them to encounter the good news of the gospel and see God's supportive hand in their life.



Photography by Clare Kendall

9 – 15 July 16 – 22 July

Ramez from Egypt

Thanks to so many of you who wrote expressing your concern and prayers following the tragic bombings in two churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday.



Photography by UBS

Palm Sunday is one of the busiest days at church in Egypt. The streets are full of vendors providing intricately woven palm branches, and the day is one of festive anticipation. As olive branches were distributed, amidst the waving of palm branches and chants of 'Hosanna', the Middle East's largest Christian community was once again given the honour of presenting a costly gift to their Saviour.

The bomb in Tanta exploded near the front of the church and many of the chanters who had been singing 'Hosanna' instantly traded their bloody robes for robes washed white in the

blood of the Lamb. Images from Revelation come to mind, of those who were standing before the throne, 'wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb."'

After the dust settles and the spotlight has shifted elsewhere, the grieving, maimed and economically challenged Christians are left to pick up the pieces. Please pray that each one of us in the Church in Egypt would practice what we preach! Pray that the Body of Christ would be a real and practical support to those whose lives have been altered forever because of this sacrifice. Pray for endurance and perseverance, faith and hope, when the road gets long and wearisome. And please pray for the Bible Society, in our role and focus to support and encourage the church of the martyrs.

23 – 29 July

Hrayr from the Gulf

Please pray for us as we prepare a booklet with scripture verses for the sick. We are aiming to reach 12,000 people through this project. We envisage that thousands more will be exposed to the comforting words of the Scriptures in their own heart languages once this project is fully funded.



Photography by UBS

Also pray as we create 5,000 Bible resources for teenagers in UAE and the Gulf. Pray that young people will be impacted by the Bible, as it says in Proverbs 22.6 (ESV) 'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.'

August



Photography by Clare Kendall

The Triumphant Mercy
refugee camp in Lebanon

30 July – 5 August

Anthony from Pakistan

Continue to pray for Pakistan, especially Christians, for their security in churches and other public places. Pray for the terrorists, that the fear of the Lord may come in their hearts and stop them taking the lives of innocent people.



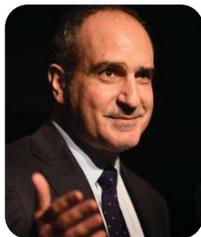
Photography by Anne Lim

The Women's Literacy Project is our biggest challenge because the literacy rate in Pakistan is so low. Please pray that many mothers will read the Bible with their families and the number of Bible readers may increase. We are thankful to the Lord that around 8,000 women are graduating every year since 2014.

6 – 12 August

Mike from Lebanon

Pray for Lebanon, a small country in the midst of regional Middle East conflicts, yet with a strong Christian presence and witness. We are currently hosting several communities of refugees (majority Syrians) constituting an additional 50% of our population. One out of three people in Lebanon is a refugee with a story that carries wounds and hurts of the past, loss of hope and no foreseeable future. Pray for Christian ministries in Lebanon, particularly Bible Society, as we seek to serve these refugees with the Bible message along with their host communities, in an area surrounded by racism, extremism and hatred.



Photography by Clare Kendall

13 – 19 August

Gaith* from Syria

When you think of Syria think today about the women and girls who have been through the worst of times when being abducted.



There are so many, but pray especially for Joumana, who spent over a year in a basement with other women and girls. She experienced things that nobody should have to go through.

She'd read her Bible secretly, but one day they searched her belongings and found it. Then she only had her Bible verses to remember when praying. But she survived! She's completely traumatised, but her desire is to help others who are traumatised and she's already started doing so. Pray that she will be healed, restored, blessed and made into a blessing for many others. We need her in the Church of Syria and many others like her.

*name changed to protect his identity

20 – 26 August

Tamar from Turkey

Pray for the political situation in Turkey, there is great unrest and you can feel this in every level of the society from the taxi driver to the highest level of politician. All types of minorities, including the Christians, are often the most affected in this situation.



Photography by Dag Smermo

Please pray for the Syrian refugees in Turkey. Their numbers have reached 3 million and we can't provide them with the help they deserve. They face difficulties because of the language barrier. They can't dream of a better life, they are hopeless. May God give wisdom to the decision makers to finish this war in the region so that they can return to their homeland.

27 August – 2 September

Dina from the Bible Lands

Please pray that more people will encounter Christ through our ministries in 2017. We have started a new outreach and invited people who don't know Christ to engage with the Bible in a comfortable environment. That was our first public activity in our new centre. Pray that God through his word will touch the hearts of Muslims, atheists, agnostics, sceptics and others. Pray that our guests will enjoy our hospitality and be willing to accept a Bible and other resources as gifts. Pray that God will continue to meet all of our needs and bring peace and hope in the Holy Land.



Photography by UBS

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, 'There is no salvation for him in God.' But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.
Psalm 3.1 – 5

September

We have a vast range of work in England and Wales as we seek to reach people in our country with God's word. Please pray for Matthew, our Director of National Programme, and his team as they bring the Bible to life here at home.

*Where there is need Lord help us to see
Clear our heart, O Lord, that we may see you
Clear our heart, O Lord, that we may see the world around us
Teach us to search for you in our own depths that we may find the truth in every living soul
Teach us to understand, have insight, give good advice and sound wisdom;
That we may strengthen others in their endeavours*

Children from St Mary's CofE Infants School, Cheltenham, praying in an Open the Book assembly

Photography by Clare Kendall

3 – 9 September

- Please pray for our Communications team as they tell the stories of Bible Society's work and of people experiencing and having their lives changed by the Bible across the world. From our Chief Reporter capturing stories in the Middle East to our Senior Press Officer filming in the UK, may we communicate the essence of the transformative power of the Bible with clarity, discover and reveal the stories that need to be told with integrity and inspire those reading or watching to explore the Bible for themselves.
- Please pray for the growth of our work with secondary schools in England and Wales and that our new Sources of Wisdom education resources inspire teachers and students to explore the Bible more deeply in their lessons.

10 – 16 September

- Please pray for the Bible readers in 90 different organisations in England and Wales, including prisons, refugee centres, immigration removal centres and colleges, who this year received over 4,400 Bibles in 26 different languages. May access and experience of Scripture in their native language, or a new language they are exploring, help them to engage with the Bible in new ways, and change their lives for good.
- Please pray for people touched by experiences and opportunities provided as a result of grants or partnerships with Bible Society.

From the children from 140 schools in Wearmouth and Jarrow who engaged with and interpreted the Bible through the Children's Codex project, to the vulnerable adults in urban contexts experiencing the Bible through their own life experiences and stories with Unlock, may all those inspired to explore the Bible discover its transformative power in their lives.

17 – 23 September

- Please pray for all those participating in The Pitch competition. May their experiences of interpreting, adapting and retelling stories from the Bible for film help inspire a new generation to open and explore the Bible. May our investment in them help their careers, and may the filmmakers involved take their knowledge and experience of Scripture into their future roles in the film industry as they shape and influence culture and society.
- Please pray for all our work in England and Wales, for everyone in the National Programme team, and our colleagues in Bible Society's internal teams who support our work. From our Welsh language projects such as Byw y Beibl, to the vital research conducted by our Research team, help us remain agile and continue to innovate and explore new and exciting opportunities to deliver on our commitment to bring the Bible to life.

An Open the Book Storyteller
getting into character!



24 – 30 September

- Please pray for our work with the Catholic Church in England and Wales. May we enable the Catholic community to find new ways to engage with the Bible creatively through the resources we have produced. Please pray for our new ecumenical resource – *Calling People of Goodwill: The Bible and the Common Good*. As we promote this booklet across the different denominations may it be a source of unity and collaboration in furthering the common good at all levels of our churches and society.
- For more churches to start Open the Book teams in their local primary school. Every week we get requests from schools who want a team to do Open the Book assemblies on a regular basis. For the volunteer Storytellers who faithfully pray, prepare and practice before going into their local primary school, often on a weekly basis.
- Please pray for the Regional Training and Development Officers – encouraging churches to start teams in London, the West Midlands, the Chilterns, South Wales - especially Cardiff - and the North East. These are strategic locations where we want to see Open the Book established over the next five years.
- Give thanks for over 14,746 Storytellers who give their time every week to go into over 2,623 schools reaching 708,210 children.

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