



Bible
Society

March – June 2017

prayer **in** action



March



The population of China is vast and when we pray for the country sometimes it can be difficult to pray for people as individuals.

So we asked Hazel Southam, our chief reporter, to gather prayer requests from the people she met in China recently. This month please pray for these people, your prayers and support mean so much to them.

After this, I saw a large crowd with more people than could be counted. They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands, as they shouted, 'Our God, who sits upon the throne, has the power to save his people, and so does the Lamb.'
Revelation 7.9 – 10 (CEV)

26 February – 4 March

Wee Seng, Director of the UBS China Partnership

'Your support of the work in China has been strong and long-standing. We are grateful and thankful and pray that you would continue to support Christians in China in their growth and development.'

Li Guangen, 69, from Zhi Chao village

'I'm really thankful that we have the Bible and for the support given to us by people overseas. I hope that more people will now see that Jesus is the truth and the life. I am hopeful and believe that more people will now come to know the Lord personally. My two daughters, one is a believer and the other isn't. I pray that with the Black Yi Bible, it will help them to be drawn closer to the love of God.'

5 – 11 March

Revd Yu Wenliang, chairman of the Yunnan Three Self Patriotic Movement*

'Thank you for your long-standing support, especially in the area of translation. All these years, there have been believers in your country who have supported the ministry here. We also ask for your prayers for our work here. Please pray for the ethnic minority groups, that the gospel will be shared with them.'

Zhang Xuecai, translator

'I hope that the Black Yi Bible will play a very critical role in the lives of our younger believers. I hope that Christ will be formed in them and new people will see Christ, rather than just hearing about him. They will really be able to encounter God himself by reading his word.'

*The Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) was established by Protestant church leaders in China in 1951 to promote a strategy of 'self-government, self-support and self-propagation' with the aim of assuring the government that the church would be patriotic to the newly established People's Republic of China. TSPM was inactive during the period of the Cultural Revolution but was restored in 1979 and now works in partnership with the China Christian Council (CCC).

12 – 18 March

Zhang Fuwen, elder at the Ni Lukan church which has not yet received the Bible

'We are deeply grateful that the Bible is translated into the Yi language. We hope and anticipate that we will receive the Bible in time. It's frustrating to wait, but it's OK.'

Zhang Wenfu, from Zhi Chao Church

'I would like to give thanks to God that the Bible has been translated into the Yi language and we give thanks to you and Bible Society for helping feed us.'

19 – 25 March

Elder Fu, leader of the Protestant Church in China

'I hope that Christians can pray that we have more young Christians who commit themselves to church ministries so that we have more students who will become the ministers for the local congregations.'

26 March – 1 April

Xie Rongbin, theological student at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary

'We all feel like missionaries, who have to go back to our own churches and help as many believers as possible. Please pray for us. Please pray for me.'

Chen Zijun, pastor whose son is about to train for the ministry

'I thank God that he's willing to serve. I have been praying since 1997 that young people would serve. Amazingly, he has said that he will. Please pray that he'd be able to understand the Bible more himself and that he'll be able to teach people more.'



We're immensely grateful for your prayers so this month please pray for us as we work to bring the Bible to life for people in our country and around the world. And we pray you have a blessed Easter!

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53.3 – 5 (ESV)

April

2 – 8 April

- As we look forward to a new season at Mary Jones World please pray for the new staff team as we get to know each other and work together to ensure another successful season. Please pray that Mary's story will continue to inspire others and that they will discover the remarkable impact the Bible has had not only on the history of Wales but on the whole world.
- Please pray for Open the Book this year as we continue to grow, that God will give us the skills to be able to handle the tasks at hand with God's grace. Remember all our storytellers as they bring the Bible to life for children across the country.

9 – 15 April

- Please pray for our team to have energy and inspiration as we launch The Pitch 2017, for us to reach new audiences and The Pitch's profile will continue to grow and that we will find new supporters and sponsors. Pray for The Pitch 2016 winner, Harry Lighton, as he prepares to shoot his film.
- This year Bible Society Wales are challenging people to 'Byw y Beibl' (Live the Bible). A series of weekly articles in Welsh will explore what the Bible says and suggest ways in which people can respond in the way they live. The articles will appear in church magazines and on Facebook and websites. Please pray for fruit from this and for creative responses and changed lives from those who read and engage with this series.

16 – 22 April

Happy Easter from Bible Society. Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!

- *Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.* (New St Joseph People's Prayer Book)
- Please pray for our staff and volunteers as we attend various festivals during spring and summer. Pray for us as we meet and encourage existing supporters and that we will be able to inspire new people with our vision of bringing the Bible to life.

23 – 29 April

- Please pray for our Board of Trustees, for Paul Williams, our CEO and for our Leadership Team to have God's wisdom and guidance as they lead Bible Society. Please pray for our staff (pictured) to have inspiration and creativity in all our work.
- Give thanks for all our volunteers and supporters, we wouldn't be here without you! We praise God for your prayers, time, gifts, energy and support, we are truly grateful for you.



May

In May we are praying for our teams in Argentina, Guatemala and Costa Rica. They are seeking to affect change in their countries through the Bible and would greatly value your prayer support. Please pray with Marcos from Argentina, Marco from Guatemala and Mayra from Costa Rica who have sent these prayers to us.

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28.19 – 20 (GNB)

30 April – 6 May

Argentina

- We would like to express our gratitude to the Lord and all those who have prayed for and supported us during 2016. It was a great year of successful work and we are grateful for many open doors for Bible advocacy and engagement in Argentina.
- We would appreciate your prayers in 2017. May the Lord grant us guidance from him to be strategic in our efforts and have a long-term mindset in our work.

7 – 13 May

Argentina

- Please pray for three big events this year: the International Book Fair, the Pastor's National Congress and the International Bible Conference. These three are going to be key to our work, please pray for everyone organising and attending these events.

Guatemala

- Please pray for our Wings of Refuge project where we take the message of God's love to children and young people in home shelters who have been orphaned or abandoned. Pray that the children reached by this project may have a new vision of life in Christ that will transform their lives. Pray for our staff to have love and wisdom and keep them safe as they bring the word of God to children in these difficult circumstances.

14 – 20 May

Guatemala

- Please pray for our translators working on a translation for the Quiché, a Mayan indigenous community. May the translators have wisdom making decisions about different dialects and pray the Quiché community will be open to receive the word of God and for the translation to be accepted by the entire community in Guatemala.

21 – 27 May

Costa Rica

- Pray for us as we advocate for the Bible in the minds of young people in the midst of our society that is becoming increasingly secular. Pray for our efforts to do this through the activities we have planned this year.
- Pray for the translation project for the Ngäbe of Costa Rica. Pray for our team of translators to have wisdom to find the right words and ways to transmit the word of God into their language.

28 May – 3 June

Costa Rica

- Please pray for our Institute of Biblical Sciences. In March we celebrated as our first group of students graduated with a diploma in theological studies. They are pastors of 45 independent churches who have been immersed for 18 months learning how to read the Bible to prepare their sermons and to better communicate the Bible to today's society and their churches.

June

This month we are praying for the Pakistan Bible Society who are doing amazing work in very challenging circumstances.

Please join us in prayer with Anthony Lamuel who shares his prayer requests and thanks with us.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28 (ESV)

Photography by Anne Lim

4 – 10 June

- Please pray for the safety of our staff as we work in difficult circumstances, pray especially for our offices in Quetta and Peshawar. Pray for God's protection, courage and peace for each member of staff.

11– 17 June

- Praise God for our youth and children's Bible engagement programme which has been running for 25 years. Please pray for the thousands of children and young people who have encountered the Bible through this project. 40% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 15 so reaching children with the Bible is incredibly important.

18 – 24 June

- Give thanks for the Board of the Pakistan Bible Society who provide guidance and wisdom through governance. Please pray for all the members of the Board and all the staff and volunteers of the Pakistan Bible Society. Pray for their safety and protection and God's blessing on them for their faithfulness and courage.

25 June – 1 July

- Pray for our literacy projects, in particular for our centres in distant areas in the south of the country, the edge of the desert and in the north in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. We are partnering with churches to offer literacy training and Scriptures to disadvantaged Christian women in the country.

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