



Bible
Society

March – June 2018

prayer **in** action

All
Scripture
is Inspired
By God

March

4 – 10 March

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8.28

Welcome to *Prayer in Action* for March – June 2018. In our recent supporter survey, 92% of you said you were satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to support us in prayer. We are delighted that you are so connected with us in prayer, we deeply value your prayer support!

Following our Pass it on article on pages 8 and 9 of *Word in Action*, we wanted to share some more of your beautiful verses and stories that have moved us deeply and provide opportunities to pray from them.

'I am Joan's husband, writing on behalf of Joan. For the last ten years she has had Alzheimer's, is quite deaf, has asthma, is diabetic and very arthritic. As her carer I can quite honestly say she is still a Christian... Until I became her carer I was a steward in our church. Joan is a lifelong Christian. She sang with her two sisters in her lay preacher father's choir. She got me to church in 1978. By 1980 I was baptised... Like Joan we love Romans 8.28, things do come to good for those who love God.'

Joan and her husband

- Please pray for all our supporters who are sick, for those who care for them and their families. We pray that they will feel God's arms of love wrapped around them and his perfect peace upholding them through all the challenges they experience.

11 – 17 March

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11.28 – 30

'I was a new Christian in my first year at college with exams approaching. A fellow Christian student saw that I looked anxious and pointed me to this passage and it spoke so powerfully to me. I gladly accepted the invitation of Jesus to bring my worries to Him. I felt the burden of anxiety lifted knowing that I was not 'travelling' alone. I can say that throughout my life these verses have meant so much to me as I have experienced again and again the graciousness of the Lord so willingly supporting me through many stressful and challenging circumstances. I am glad to commend these verses to others.'

Irene

- Please pray for all the Christian students in our country. Pray for them as they navigate college and university with new friendships, studying and questions about the future and their faith. Pray for our future generation of the Church, that they will have a strong and deep faith in God and a passion to share the Lord with our nation.

18 – 24 March

- Mary Jones World, our Visitor and Education Centre in North Wales, reopens for its fourth season on Saturday 24 March. Please pray for the new staff team, especially Mel Hill who is our Acting Centre Manager while Nerys Siddall is on maternity leave. Pray that many people will enjoy the special activities available for all ages during the school Easter holidays. We are also praying for more school groups to visit the centre this year: those who have visited found it a great learning experience for their pupils.

25 – 31 March

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE. JEREMIAH 29.11

'I can trust and rely on the Lord and His word for all my days, past, present and future, for I am safe in the palms of His hand. I can look forward to that day when I will be with my Saviour forever, and meet my dear wife once again.'

Alan

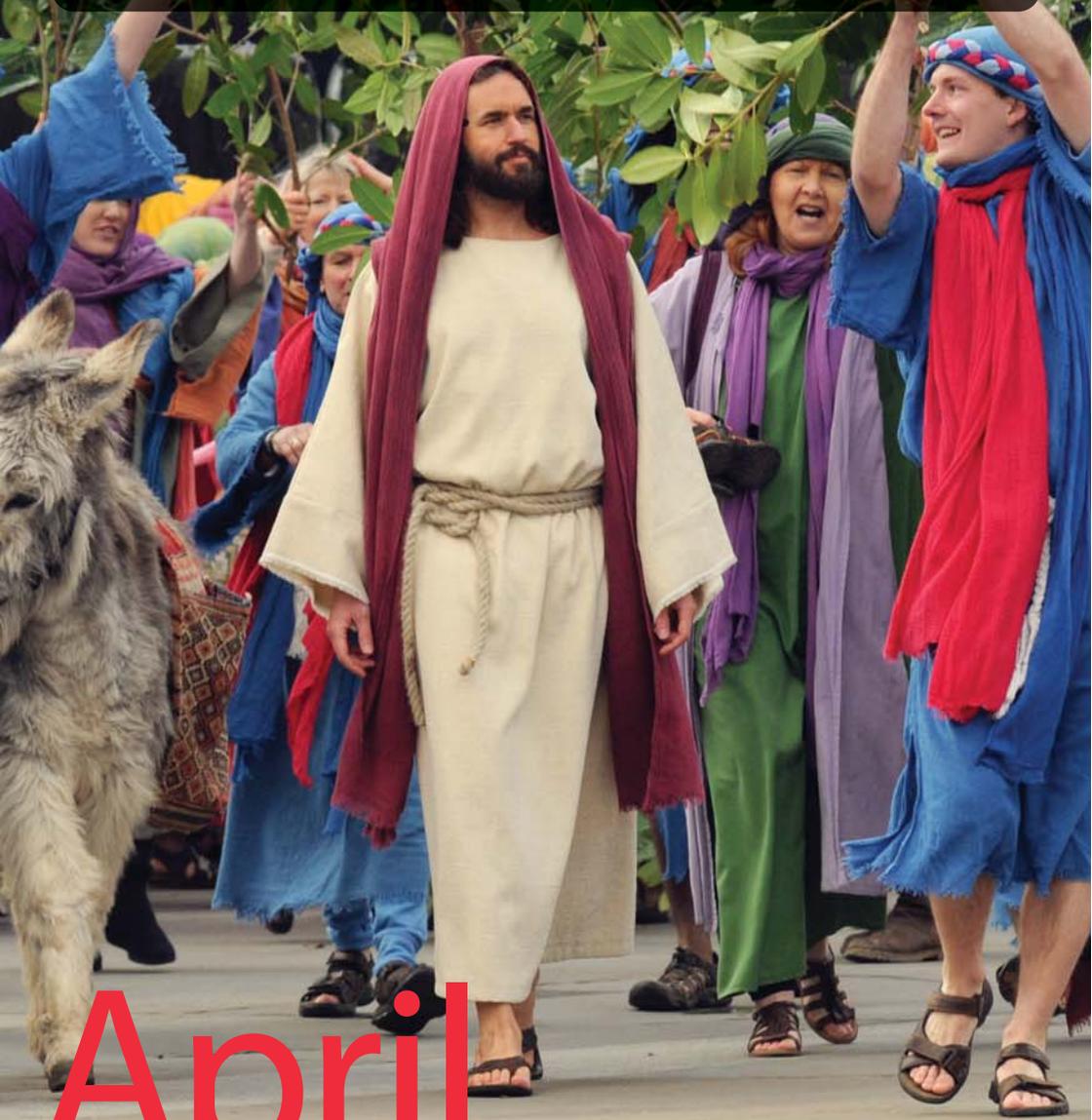
- Please pray for everyone experiencing bereavement of a loved one. Pray that they will experience God's comfort and look forward to our future with our Saviour forever.

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

This month please pray for our activities and be encouraged by the Pass it on verse from the road to Emmaus story, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!'
Mark 11.9 – 10 (ESV)

Photography by Clare Kendall



April

1 – 7 April

- Please pray for the The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square (pictured left). May all the performers and staff from Wintershall who are supporting this years' event communicate the life-changing story of Jesus' sacrifice with clarity and integrity, and may all those who watch the performance be inspired to explore the Bible for themselves. We pray, Heavenly Father, that all those who experience this deeply moving narrative of the trial, execution and resurrection of our Saviour deeply reflect on and are transformed by the true story of Easter.

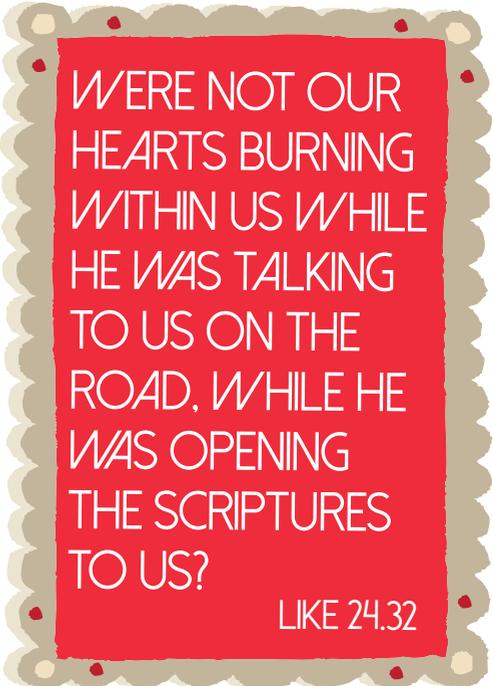
Wintershall will be performing The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square on 30 March 2018 and in Guildford High Street on 31 March 2018.

8 – 14 April

- The Pitch 2018 competition is being launched this spring. Please pray as we plan, finance and deliver a new campaign and pray for a vast number of submissions. Please pray as we approach new industry experts for exciting talent to join us on the judges' panel.

Please pray as we seek resources to grow capacity, realise potential and manage the work. Pray for the previous winners of The Pitch from 2016 and 2017 as they enter their winning films, based on Bible passages, into film competitions.

15 – 21 April and 22 – 28 April



WERE NOT OUR
HEARTS BURNING
WITHIN US WHILE
HE WAS TALKING
TO US ON THE
ROAD, WHILE HE
WAS OPENING
THE SCRIPTURES
TO US?

LIKE 24.32

'This has moved me for over fifty years! I've always loved it, and the beautiful Emmaus story from which it comes. It reminds me that Christ is there, transforming our lives and our whole set of feelings by this companionship, this transformation. He is too the One who shows us His face of love in all the varied Scriptures in the Bible, just as in life, even when His presence is less obvious He suddenly reveals Himself and His everlasting cherishing of us.'

Rosey

- Pray that Jesus' transformational presence will be made known to those in need of him over this time of Easter celebration. And that we will be reminded of his everlasting love for us, his children.

May



We are delighted that Open the Book grew by an average of 83 new Storytellers and 25 new schools every month during 2017. Praise God for his faithfulness as we seek to share his word with children in primary schools across the country.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Psalms 45:17 (ESV)

29 April – 5 May

- Thank God for the amazing work he is doing through Open the Book. Praise the Lord that we now have over 15,000 volunteer storytellers sharing the Bible with the next generation. Praise God that primary schools in Birmingham are willing to have Open the Book teams as part of the urban/multi faith pilot.
- Pray for wisdom as we use the results of the volunteer survey to inform us as we shape and develop a ten year strategy for Open the Book.

6 – 12 May

- Pray for Martha, our Regional Training and Development Officer in the North East, that the training and information sessions she delivers bring a rich harvest.
- Pray for Alison, our new Training and Development Manager, that she will have a smooth transition from her current role and that she will bring many blessings to Open the Book.

13 – 19 May

- Pray for Nigel, our Regional Training and Development Officer, as he continues to work with a wide variety of churches to spread Open the Book in North London.
- Pray for Lynn, our Regional Training and Development Officer as she works with Birmingham City Mission to spread Open the Book in Birmingham. Pray for good relationships between the pilot teams and the primary schools in these multi-faith settings.

20 – 26 May

- Pray for Meleri and Sarah, our Regional Training and Development Officers working in Wales. Pray that churches in Cardiff will start to respond and form Open the Book teams.
- Pray for the Welsh translation of the Christian Values material with the challenges it presents because of the Storytelling style, poems and rhymes.

27 May – 2 June

- Thank God for the blessing of our new website and video. Pray that the video will inspire lots of churches and Christians to get involved in Open the Book. Pray for a bountiful financial response to enable us to bring God's plans for OtB to fruition. Watch the video at biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook
- Pray for energy and good health for the Open the Book team; Shirley, Katie, Val, Julie, Nigel, Martha, Meleri, Sarah, Lynn and Alison.

Please pray for our colleagues in Jordan who work in very challenging circumstances. Pray for energy, inspiration and effectiveness in their work with refugees and the country of Jordan.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1.2 – 3 (ESV)

June

3 – 9 and 10 – 16 June

Munther Namat, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Jordan, has asked for your prayers.

‘I would like you to pray for the Middle East, especially that God will protect Jordan and maintain peace here. Please pray for strength for the Church to be a good witness in the Middle East.

And finally, please pray for the Bible Society of Jordan to have the wisdom and strength to do the mission to which God has called it, both now and in the future.’

17– 23 and 24 – 30 June

Please pray for Pastor Amjad (above), featured in June 2016’s *WIA*. He works with refugees in Jordan and has terminal cancer.

‘My body is tired. There’s so much pressure from the refugees. I am thinking of retiring in 2018. Please pray for someone to support me in this work, as I do it alone. Please also pray for strength and encouragement in the work that I do among 350 Syrian families and 100 Iraqi families. I want to retire, but feel God is encouraging me in this work, so please pray that I would know God’s will.’