



Prayer in Action

MARCH – JUNE 2023



Pray with Bible Society

March

Let us thank God for all the people who encountered Jesus for the first time last year. Many of them did so thanks to your generosity in supporting Bible mission. Let's pray that their faith, and the faith of all believers, will be strengthened in 2023. And let us continue to remember the power of prayer.

'Most Holy God, redeemer, saviour, friend - thank you for the gift of prayer, to lift up your name throughout the world to the son who acts as mediator. Lord, accept our feeble offerings and see, hear and do. Amen.' (Marcia, West Yorkshire).

The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart. HEBREWS 4:12 (GNB)

Our Memorial Service – 15 March

Faithful God, we pray for those gathering in Oxford (see *Word in Action* page 13) to remember those who have left this earthly life; console the bereaved, comfort the sorrowful of heart, and receive our thanksgiving for the lives of those we have known and cherished. Amen.



Dina Katanacho

26 February – 4 March

Dina Katanacho, Director of Arab-Israeli Bible Society: 'Last year carried with it many challenges and many blessings. Above all, we want to honour and thank the Lord for his goodness and support and the strength he gives us. We want to thank the Lord for the peaceful elections that took place (in Israel) in November. Pray for peace in the land as the government is forming.'

5 – 11 March

Dina, Arab-Israeli Bible Society: 'Please pray for all the people who attended our programmes in schools, churches and our Bible centres. Pray that our school workshops will enrich students spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Pray that God will touch the hearts and the souls of the younger generation as we serve them with God's word. Also pray for the protection and health of the Arab-Israeli Bible Society team.'



Victor Kalisher

12 – 18 March

Please pray for the work of the Bible Society in Israel (led by Victor Kalisher) as they go out into the streets to reach out to the Jewish community in Israel and also to refugees with the word of God. Pray especially for the team in Tel Aviv as they meet with people in the most deprived areas. Pray for our teams as they boldly share the word of God in the Holy Land during these troubled times.

'Jerusalem, we pray that you will have peace, and that all will go well for those who love you'.
PSALM 122. 6 (CEV)

Cover photo

Thanks to your support, backpacks full of Christmas gifts have been distributed to children from poor families in the so-called 'garbage villages' on the outskirts of the Cairo metropolitan area. The backpacks contain illustrated Bibles, colouring books, games, and other items. This outreach enables the gospel to be brought into many homes.

Photo credit: Bible Society in Egypt



Nashat Filmon

19 – 25 March

Nashat Filmon, who leads the Bible Society serving Palestinians: 'Please pray for the political situation. Pray for peace and no more bloodshed. Our ministry is under attack from different directions. Pray that Bible Society staff will be protected and this important ministry preserved. Thank God that we were able to run many Christmas programmes, especially for children and families. Pray that the seeds that were sown will grow and bear much fruit. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers and blessings.'

26 March – 1 April

Gracious God, my neighbours in the Middle East need guidance on how to live together and learn to love each other as you commanded. Please shine a light for their path so they may find peace and live in you. **(Kathryn, Manchester)**

April

Egypt has been hit hard by the economic downturn. Churches are overwhelmed with providing the basic needs for their congregations. Christians are struggling to make ends meet. Many of them can't afford to buy Bibles. Thanks to your help many Scriptures are given out free, especially to children and young people, and prices of Bibles and other Scripture material have been radically reduced to make God's word affordable and available to all. The prayer requests are from the Bible Society team in Egypt.

But the word of God increased and multiplied. ACTS 12.24 (ESV)



A girl has fun at the Bible Society stand at a book fair in Cairo.

Happy Easter from Bible Society!

2 – 8 April

Pray for the stability of Egypt's economy. Everyone is hurting in the face of the rapid devaluation of our currency since October 2022. Restrictions on imports affected Bible supply throughout much of 2022, however, we praise God that the shipments are again coming through.

9 – 15 April

Pray for the Publishing Team in Egypt as they develop all things digital to make God's word easily understandable and electronically accessible to all. Pray for progress in

the building of a huge Digital Bible Hub (a server with an indexed digital media library) that will link all of our Scripture resources to any word in the Bible. We hope soon to complete our own Arabic Bible app, rich in features that will facilitate extensive Bible engagement. This app will also host our Colloquial Egyptian Translation when it is finished.

16 – 22 April

Please pray for our Church Relations Team as they work tirelessly to build and maintain relationships with church leaders so we may serve them better. Pray for the planning and implementing of the various training programmes for small group Bible study leaders and Sunday school

teachers. Pray for the organisation and preparation of the different Bible engagement programmes and events for children, young people and families. Pray that all, both old and young, will experience the word of God in fresh and relevant ways.

23 – 29 April

Pray for the new Bible Society Ministry Centre that will be built in the New Administrative Capital that is being constructed in Cairo. Pray that this addition to our network of bookshops will firmly establish a core presence in the public sphere, raising the profile of the Bible and Christianity in Egypt. Pray for wisdom and help in our fundraising efforts. This will be the first time for us to have a permanent

outlet in a mall and we look forward to accessing new customers in a new atmosphere. Our prayer in this, and in all that we do, is that people will be transformed by the word of God.

30 April – 6 May

Angie, 13, was in critical condition after a church fire in Egypt. Forty-one people died in the blaze including two of Angie's siblings. Prayer meetings were held for Angie and she pulled through, as reported on the Bible Society website.

I pray for comfort for Angie and her mother. Bless those in the tragedy of the fire. Angels surround them with hope. Love wins. **(Joyce, Northern Ireland)**

May

Thank you all for sharing your prayers after Queen Elizabeth II passed to be with her King, Jesus. Let's pray for the royal family, that they will draw closer to God. Also, let's pray for God's people in Mali, that they will be given strength and courage in one of the world's toughest places for Christians.

Then in their trouble they called to the LORD, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the raging storm, and the waves became quiet. They were glad because of the calm, and he brought them safe to the port they wanted. PSALM 107. 28-30 (GNB)

7 – 13 May

'Father, thank you for life and testimony of our late Queen Elizabeth. We now pray for her son King Charles that he will know your guidance as he now takes his appointment as King. Amen.' (Catherine, Worthing)

14 – 20 May

'We pray for Bible Society supporters who are experiencing bereavement. At times such as this we can only draw comfort from knowing our saviour holds us in his hands and provides peace and mercy beyond all understanding. We can wonder why, but God never promised to make life easy for any of us. He did, however, promise to be with us and to show us how to live our lives as Jesus would

live our lives, if he were us. We pray that God will help our supporters to grieve as Jesus grieved, and to stay close to the God of all comfort who weeps with us and will, in time, wipe away every tear.' (Howard Barker, Head of Legacy Giving)

21 – 27 May

Lord, we thank you for the communities and schools creating Psalm 23-inspired gardens. We pray

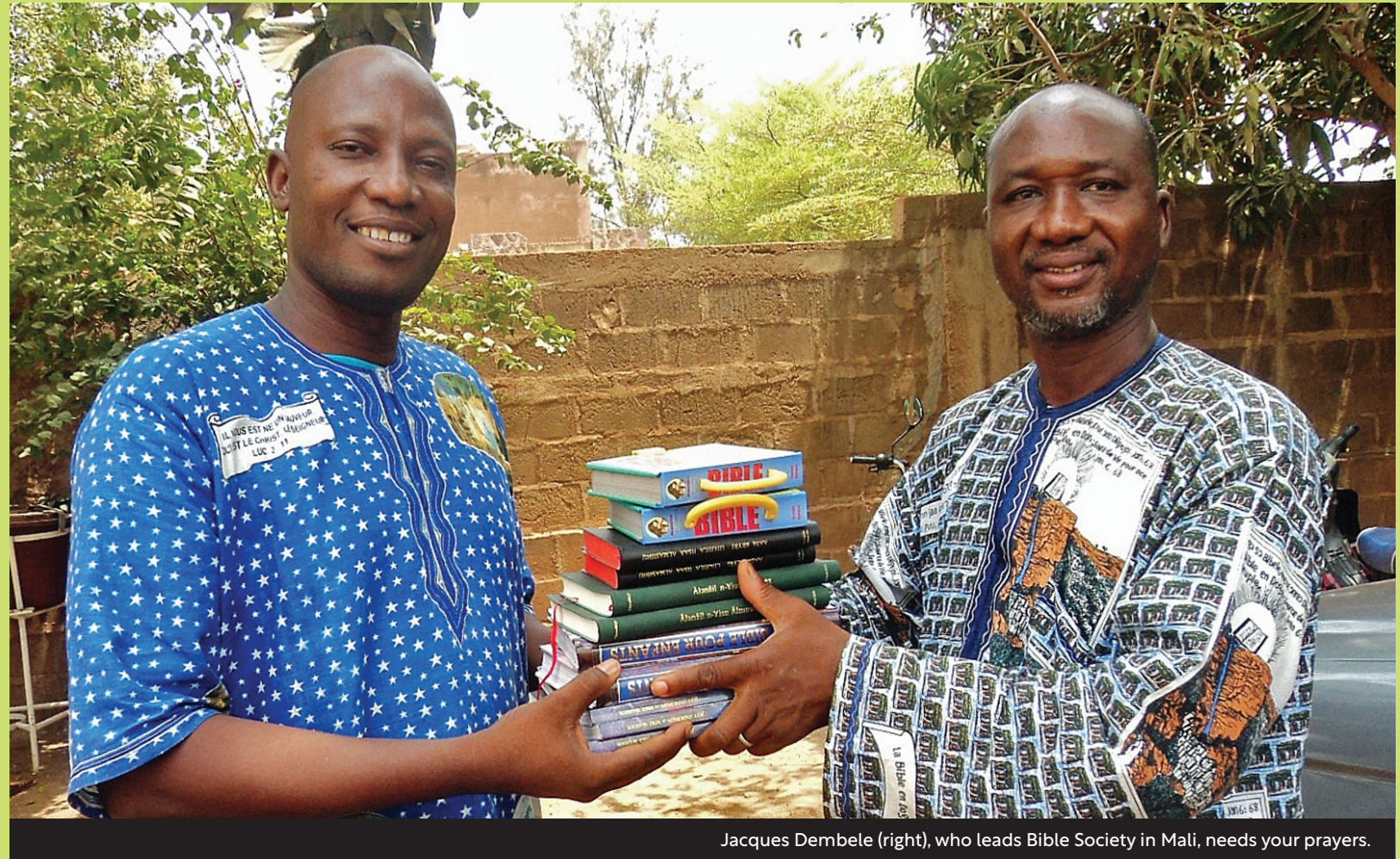
that all who visit those gardens would experience your faithfulness, love and constancy. We pray that each garden would change lives, build communities and enable people to encounter you. Amen.

28 May – 3 June

Ask God to bless the Mali Bible House building project. Pray that the required funds will be raised to provide a safe and comfortable

location for all those who want to deepen their relationship with Jesus in a nation that has been torn apart by extremism.

Pray that Jacques Dembele, leader of Bible Society in Mali, and all of his team will be protected and granted wisdom, strength and perseverance.



Jacques Dembele (right), who leads Bible Society in Mali, needs your prayers.

June



Christians in Britain provided about 168,000 Bibles and scripture books to Ukrainians last year. Thank you!

‘Prayer is more than a wish,’ Billy Graham has said. ‘It is the voice of faith directed at God.’

Let us have confidence, then, and approach God’s throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it. HEBREWS 4.16 (GNB)

4 – 10 June

Please pray for this year’s Bake for Bibles initiative, which last year raised more than £2,000 for Bible mission. Baking is seen throughout the Bible, from fig cakes in Isaiah to the Bread of Life. God uses baking as an image of his provision for our bodily, social, and spiritual needs. Please pray for a fruitful, joyful Bake for Bibles initiative this year in churches around the country.

11 – 17 June

Gracious Father, thank you for those who have already signed up to take part in Bike for Bibles this year; we ask that they would be kept safe and healthy on their rides, that you would fill them with joy and energy, and the knowledge that their efforts are leading to the spreading of the message of the Bible here in the UK and in many places around the world. Amen.

18 – 24 June

Throughout 2023 almost 100,000 people around the world will be answering questions about the Bible, as part of a global research project. Please pray for each respondent, that they will engage with every question and feel able to answer honestly. Pray that respondents might explore the Bible for themselves because of their engagement with the project.

25 June – 1 July

Please pray for a peace that will last between Ukraine and Russia. Thank God that the number of people asking for Bibles in Ukraine more than doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year, and that Ukrainian Bible Society was able to distribute a total of 359,000 Bibles. Pray that these Bibles will lead thousands to find peace in Jesus in 2023.