



Prayer in Action

JULY – OCTOBER 2023



Pray with Bible Society

July

Welcome to the new edition of *Prayer in Action*.

Let us thank God for the wonderful opportunities we have been given to help others encounter Jesus through the Bible.

Let us praise God for the success of the recent Bible resources distribution in China (see *Word in Action* pages 12–13), good news made possible through the generosity of Bible Society supporters.

Let us pray that people throughout the whole world who will be reached with the Bible this year, through expanded distribution and new translations, will encounter Jesus and enjoy a wonderful rebirth.

Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. (Colossians 4.2, GNB)

Cover photo

Our colleagues in China enjoyed fellowship with Liu Meiyun, aged 81, in Shandong Province. She recently came to faith after her son (also pictured) introduced her to God's word.

Photo credit: UBS-China Partnership



2–8 July

Praise the Lord that we have been able to distribute 1,000 packages of discipleship material to churches in the Chinese city of Feicheng in Shandong Province. By the time you read this, even more Bible resources will have been distributed in China! Thank God for the generosity of Bible Society supporters that make this provision possible.

9–15 July

Thank the Lord for the wonderful positive impact that the discipleship resources have had in Feicheng in strengthening the faith of believers, many of whom are new to the faith (see article on page 12–13 of *Word in Action*). Pray that the churches in Feicheng will be able to train and raise up more small-group leaders to help shepherd and nurture believers towards maturity in Christ.

16–22 July

Pray also for churches in other Chinese provinces which are struggling in their discipleship journey due to the lack of pastors and resources. Pray that the Lord will raise up more shepherds for his Church in China.

23–29 July

Bible student Xinyu recently visited our head office in Swindon. Xinyu will help to develop our training courses for pastors and lay preachers in China. Ask God to bless this work.



Xinyu

30 July–5 August

Pray for guidance and wisdom for Bible Society's China mission team as they plan distribution of further Bible resources in China and continue supporting pastors and lay preachers who often face great difficulties in the mission field.

August

This month let's pray about *The Romans Course* and *Open the Book*.

Please take a look at *The Romans Course* (see *Word in Action* pages 4–5). It's a follow-up to *The Bible Course* and will give you and others the tools to better engage with Scripture.

The LORD, who made the earth, who formed it and set it in place, spoke to me. He whose name is the LORD said, 'Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvellous things that you know nothing about.' (Jeremiah 33.2–3, GNB)

6–12 August

Pray that *The Romans Course* draws more people to church and that people will invite their friends to join them on this journey through one of the richest books, both spiritually and historically, in the Bible.

13–19 August

Thank the Lord for the success of Open the Book in Kenya, where children have become Christians after hearing stories from the Scriptures. Pray that even more schools in Kenya will welcome Bible Storytellers and more children will have their lives changed by encountering Jesus.

20–26 August

In Africa, the Bible storytelling ministry is expanding in Uganda, Ghana and The Gambia, and it is expected that five Portuguese speaking African countries will join the Open the Book family this year. Thank God for the amazing success of Open the Book in Africa, and pray that it will go from strength to strength and more children will be reached with the word of God.

27 August–2 September

It's great that Open the Book is taking off in so many places worldwide. With the new school year upon us here in England and Wales, let's pray that more Open the Book volunteers will step forward on our shores, and that more schools will be open to welcoming Bible Storytellers.

Photo credit: Bible Society in Argentina

September



The terrific work that goes into translating the Bible into different languages and its impact on communities can be seen on pages 6 and 7 of your *Word in Action* magazine. Let us focus our prayers on this challenging but incredibly important ministry.

Understanding your word brings light to the minds of ordinary people. (Psalm 119:130, CEV)

3–9 September

Suzanne in Burkina Faso will soon have a complete Bible in her own language (see magazine page 6), the same privilege you enjoy. Give thanks for the strength of her faith as she's waited. Pray that God would use believers like Suzanne to reach their neighbours now that they can read the Bible in their heart language.

Give thanks for the way that the powerful lessons of Scripture are already inspiring Damian (see magazine page 6) in Guatemala. Pray that he holds those lessons tightly. Ask God to make him the Christian witness he aspires to be.

10–16 September

Praise God for the completion of multiple Bible translation projects last year, including Bissa, Epie and Lyélé, which were supported through Bible Twinning. Pray for a smooth publication process and wide-reaching distribution that sees old barriers to God's word broken down.

Ask God that more support, from Bible Twinners and elsewhere, will help bring Scripture to the Ngäbe, Kabiye and Serbian peoples.

17–23 September

Give thanks that now almost 6 billion people can experience the words of Scripture in their heart language. Pray that in the decades to come everyone will be able to enjoy this privilege.

24–30 September

The appearance of the Bible in a language for the first time is an event like no other. Ask God to bring transformation to whole communities through engagement with Scripture. Pray that people from every kind of background will embrace Jesus as they meet him in the pages of Scripture.

October



Let's focus on thanksgiving this month. When I'm feeling sorry for myself, I sometimes don't ask God for anything. I just say thank you for one thing after another. It ends up being a long prayer. Afterwards, I feel rejuvenated as if I've been blessed. (Simon Bartz, Editor of *Word in Action*)

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. (Colossians 3.16, GNB)

1–7 October

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. (Martha, West Yorkshire)

8–14 October

Lord please help us to reach people with your living word. I thank you for my being able to help in some small way. Please, as these Bibles go out, bless the people with understanding of your word in Jesus' name. (Darren K, Northern Ireland)

15–21 October

Dear Lord, thank you for Bible Society. By their works many around the world have got access to your word and there they find your beautiful promises. (Mary, Ghana)

22–28 October

Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good; his love is eternal! (Psalm 107.1, GNB)

29 October–4 November

Please look at Bible Society's prayer webpage this week, and perhaps add a prayer. **It's at: biblesociety.org.uk/pray23**