

# LIFEWORDS

## Lifeworlds Prayer, June 2022

*God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!*  
**Genesis 1:31 (NLT)**

The Bible speaks about God's love for humanity and for the world we live in. It teaches us to love one another and to be good stewards of the earth we share with all Creation. Scripture also tells us that God is reconciling the whole world to Jesus and will one day create all things new. Until then we live, work, and pray to share the love of Jesus with the world – shown in how we treat each other, and the troubled world we live in.

Please join us in praying and reflecting on how to live, understand, and respond to the many issues impacting our world today.

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Welcome to the June edition of Lifeworlds Prayer. This month we'll be at Big Church Day Out, and we're also reflecting on how we can pray around climate justice; we have stories from Kenya, an update on Ukraine, and people share about how our resources impact their work. Please join us as we pray.

### **29 May – 4 June** **Big Church Day Out**

Big Church Day Out is a Christian music festival held in the grounds of Wiston House in West Sussex on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June. Lifeworlds will be exhibiting at the festival, showcasing the very best of VerseFirst, and finding out from the young people there how they engage with and experience the Bible.

VerseFirst is a social media-based project that provides an online space for people to start their day with a Bible verse, encouraging teenagers to explore what it means to them and whether the words of the Bible really are words to live by.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to hear from teenagers about how their "Bible life" and social media life cross over, and how we can help them to explore what the Bible is saying to them.

### **Pray with us**

Give thanks for the opportunity to meet young people face-to-face at Big Church Day Out. Pray that as we share VerseFirst, that meaningful conversations would be had that both inform and encourage us and the people we meet.

Pray for the young people at the festival, that they would encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. Pray that we would be able to introduce more and more people to VerseFirst.

For more information on Big Church Day Out, visit [www.bigchurchdayout.com](http://www.bigchurchdayout.com)

**5–11 June**  
**EarthFirst**

Our desire is always to highlight the Bible's voice – so last year, we created an Instagram series of images and verses. EarthFirst connects with young people and encourages them to engage with the Bible around the vital subject of climate justice; to undergird activism with Scripture's prompting. Now, we have a new short online animation of powerful images that invites the viewer to reflect and meditate on Bible verses that speak to these issues. Online material and some new images will connect those that engage with the images to Bible content, climate-related subjects, commentary, and blog links to inform and encourage prayer, conversation, and action.

**Pray with us**

Pray against the (over) consumption of our planet. Pray that we would be better stewards of the Earth, that we would employ action and agency, and ask what we can do to bring about change. Reflect on God's relationship, love, and concern for creation.

Father God,

We pray that world leaders would recognise the truth behind the voices leading the fight against climate destruction, and to put planet over profit.

We pray for those living in poverty around the world who contribute the least to climate change but are most impacted by it.

We pray for the young voices that bring life words and action together to effect change.

We pray that the church would play its part around the world.

Amen

Why not use the EarthFirst animation, 'Dance lightly on the earth', at your church or group as a visual meditation or prayer/action prompt? Visit [www.youtube.com/lifewords](http://www.youtube.com/lifewords) to view the animation.

**12–18 June**  
**Joy in Kenya**

In Kenya, Charles Kabogoza, from Gospel Light Children Ministry, shares Lifewords resources with young people:

"It's a great joy to write to you having been in the field sharing the gospel with children, using your booklets in schools and Sunday schools. The booklets are a great blessing to children, and they bring great joy whenever I give them out. There is joy in Turkana, West Pokot, and recently at Kitale in The Blessed Junior School.

"The booklet, *I Belong*, is the children's favourite. The story inside has brought hope to the children to trust in Jesus. We read the story together, with the help of their teachers who explain it in Kiswahili. There was joy on the faces of the children, and they took the booklets to show to their parents at home.

"There was also great joy at Sunrise Academy and Shining Angel Academy where I distributed *I Belong*, and *I Am Welcome*. I am happy too because the entrance of God's Word brings light, and I know that these booklets are bringing a bright future.

“In Turkana and West Pokot children need to learn about God’s love, care, and peace, especially in Turkana South which borders with West Pokot. They face a lot of insecurity due to conflicts between the two regions.”

### **Pray with us**

Give thanks for Charles and others who are working with children and young people in Kenya. Praise God for their dedication and commitment to sharing good news.

Pray for the children Charles has shared Lifeworlds resources with. Ask that God would speak to them as they read the booklets, and that they would encounter Jesus.

Pray for children in Kenya who are vulnerable, marginalised, or caught up in conflict. Pray that God would protect them and lead them to safe places, and people.

### **19–25 June**

#### **Accessing the Bible**

Across languages, in person, in print, and online, everything we do is about resourcing individuals, churches, and communities around the world with creative ways into the Bible:

“We love using Lifeworlds publications because they seem to speak into people’s lives in accessible ways,” says Jenny Bourne from The Ark Bus.

“The quality and simplicity of your booklets really appeals to students, and I am delighted to think of them being able to take home Scriptures in such an accessible format,” says Jo Curtis from Oxford Schools Chaplaincy.

“I can’t begin to tell you how important the impact of great resources has had among patients, families and staff affected by the pandemic and the accompanying restrictions,” says Norman Harrison, Lead Chaplain, Northern HSC Trust.

Jarek Jankowski, Lifeworlds Global Bible Resources Director, shares the impact of our digital resources in the context of recent global events: “They were very useful in the pandemic when restrictions limited face-to-face contact,” he says. “Individuals and churches were sharing resources on social media and using them during online services. Now, while we are unable to send resources into a warzone, and our Russian resources are unable to be sent to Russia because EU sanctions make it impossible to send parcels there, Lifeworlds digital resources are an excellent tool, going beyond warzones and being unstoppable by sanctions. In April, our *Finding Hope* animation was watched 76,000 times by Ukrainian Facebook users, and 93,000 times by Russian speakers in both Ukraine and Russia (despite Facebook being officially blocked in Russia).”

### **Pray with us**

Give thanks for our resources, for how they help people engage with the Bible. Praise God for all the work – writing, designing, project managing, translating, printing – that has gone into each resource.

Praise God for the people and communities who use our resources – for the individuals who share God’s Word one-to-one, building relationships and offering new life to the lost, vulnerable, and broken.

Give thanks for the way the Bible is reaching even more people through our digital resources, that in the face of the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the Bible is transcending boundaries and restrictions.

## **26 June – 2 July**

### **Ukraine update**

“Polish churches, organisations, and individuals taking care of Ukrainian refugees have continued ordering and using Lifewords materials,” says Jarek Jankowski, Global Bible Resources Director. “Two of our biggest deliveries earlier in the year were sent to Operation Mobilisation (OM) Poland who are working at two Polish-Ukrainian checkpoints. The most popular publications at the border are *Words for the Journey* and *Finding Hope* – both the titles and the content are very relevant in the current situation and the experiences of those fleeing war.”

Maryna is an OM volunteer at the checkpoint in Dorohusk, on the Polish-Ukrainian border:

“During a shift I met a woman. She saw the brochures [Lifewords resources] in my box and asked for every one of them. She was from the occupied territory in the Kherson region in Ukraine. She is an elder in her village, but it was dangerous for her to be in her village because the Russian soldiers were looking for such people and asking them for information about people from their village, and about soldiers who've been fighting in the Donbass since 2014. She knew several of them, but she didn't want to give them up. Feeling the pressure and the danger, she decided to run away. She took a former soldier with her, and they left the area. She says she was too scared to get through the roadblocks and had to lie to the Russian soldiers. All the way she prayed. She is surprised that they managed to get out and says the Almighty helped them. She's looking for hope for life. I hope that the words of the Scriptures from the brochures will serve her in her search for God.”

### **Pray with us**

Give thanks for Operation Mobilisation and other Christian groups and churches who are reaching out to the vulnerable and displaced. Pray for Maryna, and other workers and volunteers – ask that God would strengthen them and help them in their work.

Pray for the people of Ukraine who are scared and despairing, for those who are fleeing their homes. Pray that the Russian forces would retreat, and the conflict would end. Pray that Ukrainians would find peace and hope in the words of the Bible.

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Thank you for praying with us! Your partnership in prayer is vital to all that we do as we share the Bible's life words around the world. You can make a donation to our work online at [www.lifewords.global](http://www.lifewords.global), by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.