

# LIFEWORDS

## Lifeworlds Prayer, October 2021

*If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favour: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*

### **Philippians 2:1-4 The Message**

Through the challenges and struggles of the past year and a half, relationships have been a key focus. Many of us have been separated from loved ones; we have adapted our interactions with people by connecting virtually; some have found that their close relationships have changed; and now, we are re-adapting to busier social and working lives.

As lockdowns continue to lift and the world re-opens, we find we are renegotiating our relationships, reminding ourselves of who is important to us and who we want to share our life with. As we emerge from months of isolation from others, this passage from Philippians gives us a framework for our relationships. Paul talks about putting others first, being ready to help, forming deep friendships, and seeking harmonious connections.

This month as we pray for the work of Lifeworlds around the world, let's reflect on and pray for the connections that form between individuals and groups of people as God's Word is shared, engaged with, and lived out.

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Welcome to the October edition of Lifeworlds Prayer. This month we have an update on our literature ministry, news about the Christian Resources Exhibition, stories from Pavement Project, and a look to Christmas. Please join us as we pray.

### **3–9 October**

#### **Global literature ministry**

As the world continues to grapple, adapt, and recover from the pandemic, Lifeworlds global literature ministry is also recovering from the impact of lockdowns and reduced postal services. Jarek Jankowski updates us:

- “Over the summer there was continued growing distribution with nearly 23,000 resources sent out to supporters in August, our best month in 2021,” says Jarek. Give thanks for the team in our Poland office who have had to adapt their distribution service in light of many obstacles caused by the pandemic. Praise God that Bible resources are reaching people all over the world.

- “We now have 13 new titles in print in Bulgarian, Indonesian, Javanese, French, Gujarati, Sundanese, and Swahili,” says Jarek. Praise God for the ongoing project to produce resources in 50 languages. Pray for new resources that are being worked on right now, and for the team of translators, typesetters, printers, and project managers involved.
- “We have had a good response to animations promoted on Facebook,” says Jarek. “Over 82,000 full plays of *Finding Hope* in Pashto (one of two official languages of Afghanistan) and 124,000 plays of *An Invitation* and *Finding Hope* in Indonesian. Give thanks for those who have seen, responded to, and shared these animated versions of Lifewords booklets. Pray that the Bible’s words would impact those who read them.

### **10–16 October**

#### **CRE – come and see what’s new!**

We are delighted to be hosting a stand at the Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE) in Surrey, UK, in October this year. We are excited to be meeting you face-to-face with an elbow bump or a socially-distanced high five. Naomi Chamroo from the Lifewords UK team, shares more:

- “Due to the pandemic, it’s been a long time since we’ve been able to get out and meet our supporters,” says Naomi. “We cannot wait to share with you all the exciting things that have been happening at Lifewords over the last 18 months.” Give thanks for events like CRE where Christian organisations and charities can meet supporters. Pray for CRE – for the event organisers, participants, and attendees.
- “The digital world has become a familiar place where we have been able to bring our print-based resources to life, with animations and YouTube videos,” says Naomi. “We have a world of revamped, new, and existing resources to share with our supporters – all Scripture-based resources covering a range of topics. We also have a resource for small group leaders who are looking for an impactful group resource.” Praise God for how Lifewords helps individuals, churches, and organisations engage with the Bible. Pray that visitors to the CRE stand would be inspired to share Lifewords resources with others.
- “Come and join us – say hello, meet the team, grab a coffee and hang out. We can’t wait to see you there!” says Naomi. Praise God for the amazing relationships Lifewords has with its supporters and partners. Pray that CRE would be a fruitful time of connecting with friends, old and new.

CRE National 2021: 12–14 Oct 2021 at Sandown Park, Surrey. Visit [www.creonline.co.uk/booking-tickets-for-cre/](http://www.creonline.co.uk/booking-tickets-for-cre/) and quote the discount code “LIFEWORDS” to get your free ticket (numbers are limited).

### **17–23 October**

#### **Pavement Project online training workshops**

One of the ways Pavement Project has adapted to the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic has been to start piloting training sessions online, with a view to using this model for future training workshops. “Online training appears to be a viable model that meets the needs of children and allows a greater reach of workers in a sustainable

way,” says Clenir dos Santos, Pavement Project Director. Here some of the trainers and workers share their experiences:

- “The first training was a very rich experience in which I learned a lot,” says Luciana. “Before, there were fears of how it would be, whether it would be possible to balance the approach via the computer, or even if I would have the ability to operate the presentations, ‘Zoom’ rooms, screen sharing, writing on the whiteboard, online counselling demonstrations, child safety, and others. However, it was surprising. The time of contact with the workers in the WhatsApp group helped a lot to establish a certain relationship and generate expectations.” Give thanks for the technology Pavement Project trainers and workers have to connect with one another. Pray for the trainers as they continue to grapple with the technology and new ways of leading others in the training.
- “I want to congratulate Lifewords on the excellence of the material,” says Carmen. “The slides are beautiful and very modern, the devotional moments always so well elaborated and easy to apply. I was able to conduct the training each day with peace of mind because the guidelines were very clear.” Praise God for the Pavement Project resources that help the trainers conduct the workshops. Give thanks that they have confidence in the material as they help others learn how to use the resource.
- “Before the training, I had never heard of Pavement Project or Lifewords,” says Geovani. “In our project we serve 90 children, covering 70 at-risk families. At the beginning of the training, I saw myself as too small to meet such a great need. I wasn't prepared. But we learned that the Holy Spirit empowers us and uses Lifewords Pavement Project to equip us to reach the hearts of children. Now, I'm a lot lighter, like a feather. Now, I don't carry all the weight, all the pain, all the impact I feel in family visits, because I know that God empowers me. I am so happy and grateful for that. Thanks!” Give thanks for the amazing tool of Pavement Project that equips, empowers, and gives confidence – through the Holy Spirit – to people who are working with vulnerable children and families.

## **24–30 October**

### **Preparing for Christmas**

Christmas still feels a long way off, but we'd love you to be praying for this key time of year for inviting friends and family to share the Christmas story through our resources.

- Last Christmas was a time of uncertainty, turmoil, and many of us were unable to share it with loved ones. This Christmas could still be unsettled and disrupted. Our resource, *The True Light*, encourages us not to be afraid, but to rejoice in the glad tidings of the “True Light that gives light to everyone”. Through Scriptures that speak of the moments in the nativity story where hope meets real lives, we are encouraged that whatever the situation, we are not to be afraid – the True Light is coming! Give thanks for the grounding, settling hope that we find in Jesus' incarnation. Pray that as we prepare for Christmas this year, we would be people who bring light and hope to those around us.
- *Meet the Cast* is a favourite for sharing the Christmas story with friends and family. Focussing on the central characters of the nativity, using vibrant and fun graphics, it is ideal for children's groups, school events, and family services. Give thanks for all the children's, youth, and schools workers who reach out to young people at Christmas time. Pray for them as they prepare for Christmas, ask God to inspire them as they plan services, events, and assemblies.

- OUTSIDE/IN shows that the Christmas story is full of unlikely characters. Those on the edges are drawn to the heart of the action. Everyone is invited in. Give thanks for how everyone is welcomed in to the good news of the Christmas story. Pray for individuals, organisations, and churches that will be working with those who are marginalised and vulnerable this Christmas: for those running food banks, working with the homeless, reaching out to refugees, and providing spaces for young people.

To browse our Christmas resources, visit [www.lifewords.global/](http://www.lifewords.global/)

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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.