

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords Prayer, August 2019

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV)

This verse from Psalm 91 is hope, light and a future. For those who are trapped, vulnerable, forgotten and in danger, God's promise is to offer "shelter", "rest" and "refuge".

When we think of children and young people this promise becomes even brighter – for those who are weak, oppressed, abused, and reliant on those who wish to harm them, God's rescue is a loving father, a protective mother, a strong community. God's shelter is a space where they are secure and cared for.

This month we are praying for young people, from vulnerable children in India and Portugal, to young adults enjoying their summer break. We are thankful for organisations using Pavement Project, and others who share our resources, for their partnership in offering a safe space for young people to discover God's love for them.

Welcome to the August edition of Lifewords Prayer. This month we have an update from Lifewords India, news from Indonesia and Pavement Project in Portugal, together with a story about a group ministering at a festival, and insight into literature ministry around the world. Please join us as we pray.

28 July – 3 August

Young people in India

Recently Serah Thomas from Lifewords India spoke at the 4-14 conference in Kerala, India, challenging churches about the need to rise up and respond to reach out to children both in and outside the church.

- "This is the second time I have spoken at this conference," says Serah. "My sessions were focussing on the issues faced by children in India, and the need for the church to rise up and address these issues, as well as help the children. I introduced Pavement Project and as a result, got some responses for new partnerships. Give thanks for Serah and her passion for helping vulnerable children. Ask God to further the work she is doing with Lifewords, and pray for strong and fruitful partnerships for Pavement Project in India.
- Two out of three children in India are physically abused, of which 55% are boys. Just over half of children face one or more forms of sexual abuse, with half of abusers being people whom the child knows, or who are in a position of trust and responsibility. Every second child is facing emotional abuse. India has one of the

world's highest suicide rates for young people aged 15 to 29; every hour, one student commits suicide in India. Half of children work seven days a week; every 8 minutes a child goes missing. These are horrifying and startling statistics – please pray that God would speak to those in leadership so that lasting change can be brought about, and young people are protected.

- Lifewords India is working with a social organisation who are serving the tribal and rural poor – particularly women and children – in 10 Indian states, through 61 development projects, which serve around 7,000 children and over 12,000 families. This organisation has five development programmes – educational, health, youth, women, and relief and rehabilitation – that work to raise future generations who will accept and respect human values and love one another. Lifewords is partnering with this group to train them to counsel the children through Pavement Project. Thank God for this new partnership and pray that many children will find peace, rescue and new life through Pavement Project.

4–10 August

Update on Indonesia

Lifewords Indonesia regularly trains pastors in rural situations to use and share Lifewords resources. Gunar Sahari, Lifewords Indonesia Director, updates us on training in Kalimantan:

- “We have recently continued our training with around 20 pastors in Kalimantan,” says Gunar. “Part of the training is to help them increase their self-esteem, because most of them do not have enough education or training. They need help so that their ministry will be more fruitful. We also train them how to be trainers. Our goal is that people will know how to use our booklets, but also that many will know how to train others so that the numbers of pastors and church leaders sharing our booklets will increase.” Praise God for the willingness and enthusiasm of these pastors to receive training. Pray that God would use them powerfully to share the Bible and its message of hope and transformation.
- “During our training events we always spend time praying together, asking for God’s blessing. In Kalimantan many people are still practising occultism and animism, so we need God’s power to protect us.” Pray for the work of the gospel in this region, that God would break down strongholds and protect those working to further the Kingdom.
- “We spent time working together with some missionaries who serve in Kalimantan. They use our booklets and are planning to train their staff and pastors how to use them.” Give thanks for new partnerships. Pray that God would use these missionaries to share good news in Indonesia.

To find out more about our work in Indonesia visit www.lifewords.global/projects/the-visible-story/

11–17 August

Pavement Project in Portugal

Portugal is the first country in Europe where the green bag has been made available. Originally created for developing contexts, the specialist counselling process is now being used with more and more vulnerable children.

- Pastor Danilo, who leads a church in the city of Portimão, Portugal, explains why Pavement Project is so important for them: “There is a great need,” he says. “We see many families that are dysfunctional, many children who suffer or who live in vulnerable situations. Pavement Project has come to answer the need we have here in Portugal.” Praise God for Pavement Project and the way in which it continues to be relevant for different groups of people around the world.
- “We have many children who come to our church whose parents are separated, others who do not know their parents, those who live in vulnerable situations; there are children who have experienced trauma. We work in prisons, where often the inmates ask us to help their families. There are many families and many young people, many children who are vulnerable. I really believe that Pavement Project is God’s response to us!” Pray for these children and families, that God would bring peace and healing, and that through the church, they would find friendship, support and a new perspective.
- For 19 years Pavement Project has been working in over 20 countries and has counselled thousands of vulnerable children. Give thanks for its ability to reach young people and change lives. Please pray for the continued expansion of Pavement Project.

Visit www.lifewords.global/projects/pavement-project/ to find out more about Pavement Project.

18–24 August **Festival angels**

The Leeds Festival is a music event that takes place over the August bank holiday weekend in the UK. Festival Angels are a group who offer a safe place, a Christian presence, and safe people around the festival site. The volunteer “angels” are on hand to help festival-goers have a safe and enjoyable experience. They also run the lost property tent and a prayer café.

- Helen Webster, part of the Festival Angels team, ordered copies of Lifewords’ “little books” to share with people at the festival. “It’s a fantastic opportunity to work with young people, mainly from non-Christian backgrounds, and share something of God’s love with them,” says Helen. Give thanks for the Festival Angels team, ask God to fill them with love, compassion and wisdom for the young people they will meet.
- “I am organising the prayer activities and information to give out at the prayer café this year,” says Helen. “Last year, I had some of the little books and we put them out at the prayer café. They were really well received by the young people who came and most of them were taken away.” Pray that people will be drawn to the prayer café, and that they would find rest and sanctuary away from the busy festival. Pray too for good conversations and that people would read and take the little books.
- The summer is a time for young people to take a break from studying – to rest, have fun, and explore different things. Pray for those who have received exam results and are planning next steps for their future. Ask God to guide them and give them peace at this time of transition and decision-making.

www.leedsfestivalangels.org.uk

25–31 August

Global literature ministry

Every month the Lifeworlds office in Poland sends out thousands of resources to people all over the world (not including the UK). Here is a snapshot of what's been happening over the past few months.

- In June, the Lifeworlds Global Resources website took 370 orders, which made up 37,792 items in 31 languages, sent to 21 countries. Praise God for all those who have ordered booklets to give to others. Pray that each booklet would be read, shared, and be an inspiration, help and comfort.
- The Poland office looks after a lot of translation and printing work. The team there have recently completed work on the *Power to Save* series in Manado (for distribution in Indonesia), proofread and corrected French *Encounters with Jesus*, reprinted English *Way to Life* and *You Matter*. Give thanks for the development, translation, printing and distribution of these Bible booklets. Pray that God would continue to provide the people and resources needed for this important work.
- In June we heard several stories from Brazil, one of the countries we often send resources to. One group ordered *Encounters with Jesus*, *The Way to Life* and *You Matter* to use with those who have recently come out of prison. Another story was from people who take coffee, bread and Lifeworlds resources to a cancer hospital. We also heard from an evangelistic group who share the Bible in public squares, schools, hostels, and orphanages. Give thanks for these people, and others like them all over the world, who are ordering Lifeworlds resources and sharing good news with those who need to hear it.

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 also make a donation to our work online at www.lifeworlds.global, by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.