

# LIFEWORDS

## Lifeworlds Prayer, October 2019

*Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours  
but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**1 John 2:2 NIV**

This verse tells us who Jesus is for. It's a reminder of an earlier verse, John 3:16, that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus is for all of us – the whole world, every single person. No matter who we are, where we live, what we've done, Jesus loves us and died for us. This unconditional, universal love means that everyone is accepted and everyone has the chance to discover the good news of Jesus and respond to it.

When we look at the people and projects we're praying about this month, we see devoted Christians reflecting this truth – reaching out to others no matter who they are and what their situation. And we see people responding to Jesus and finding forgiveness, hope and new life.

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Welcome to the October edition of Lifeworlds Prayer. This month we remember students in the UK and hear from people using Lifeworlds resources with earthquake survivors. We also share news about Christmas, stories from around the world, and an update from Pavement Project. Please join us as we pray.

### **29 September – 5 October**

#### **Young people**

Throughout September young people in the UK have been back at school, and during the beginning of October higher education students will be starting or returning to campus life. Please pray for these young people and those that support them through their education.

- Anna Graham is Head of Chaplaincy at Trinity School in Sevenoaks: "I support students aged 11–18," she says. "Many of them experience issues surrounding fear, anxiety, loss, and depression, at school or at home. Some have self-harmed and some experience suicidal thoughts. Lifeworlds has been a big answer to my prayers since I started this role. I'm so grateful for your provision while I counsel and support students ... being able to include your resources in my one-to-ones with them makes all the difference." Give thanks for chaplains in schools,

universities and colleges. Pray that God would give them compassion, love, and wisdom for the young people they are supporting.

- As universities and colleges prepare for the arrival of thousands of new and returning students, give thanks for churches and Christian groups in cities and on campuses. Pray that as they welcome students at freshers' events and new-term gatherings they would offer a safe place and support to students.
- The UK welcomes thousands of international students to its campuses. Please pray for students who are far from home, some for the first time, that they would feel happy and welcome, and that they would settle in and make friends quickly.

## **6–12 October**

### **Sharing good news in Indonesia**

British Earthquake and Tsunami Support (BEATS) is a charity that works on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia with people affected by earthquakes and tsunamis. After reading in *Interact* magazine about Pak Niga, a pastor in Indonesia who uses Lifeworlds resources, Sarah Page from BEATS ordered similar resources to use in the villages where BEATS work.

- Sarah and her husband, Rob, took around 200 copies of *Who Cares About Me* booklets to Palu, Sulawesi, where BEATS are providing funds to help 341 families who are victims of an earthquake and tsunami that happened in 2018. "The devastation of this disaster is still very apparent, as is the poverty of the people we are helping," says Sarah. Give thanks for people like Sarah and Rob who work with charities and partners to help vulnerable people. Pray that they would have the resources and people they need to support those they are ministering to.
- Sarah shared booklets with the pastor in a village where 27 Christian families were not receiving help from the Muslim majority. "BEATS is very happy to help the Christians in this village, who were very happy to receive the booklets," says Sarah. "The booklets will also be offered to Muslims and Christians in the other two villages we are supporting." Praise God for the Bible in the hands of these people. Pray that its words would bring hope, revelation and lasting change to their lives.
- Villagers received emergency supplies after the earthquake in 2018, and then further support to help them set up small businesses. "We were excited to witness a meeting about setting up a cooperative which will enable all the smaller groups to join together to make a self-sufficient business, with a co-operative bank account," says Sarah. Pray that the practical support that these people have received will make a real difference to their lives.

Find out more about BEATS at [www.beatscharity.co.uk](http://www.beatscharity.co.uk)

## **13–19 October**

### **Looking to Christmas**

Every year individuals, churches and groups in the UK order thousands of resources from Lifeworlds to share at Christmastime. We hear stories about resources shared at candle-lit carol concerts, Christmas lunches, children's events, or tucked into food hampers. As we approach this Christmas please pray with us as we think about how we can invite people in to the Christmas story.

- This year we have updated *Meet the Cast*, a favourite for sharing the Christmas story with children. More vibrant and fun, but with the same, much loved characters, its

new look, larger size and improved readability is ideal for children's groups, Christmas family services, school and community events. Give thanks for this booklet and for how it has been shared over the years. Pray for this updated version, that it would continue to help children and families discover the Christmas story and respond to its message.

- Last year we developed our popular OUTSIDE/IN resource by making it more accessible. We partnered with Biblica (International Bible Society) and disability charity, Livability, to create a more inclusive and accessible OUTSIDE/IN. The booklet uses a larger text size to aid people experiencing sight difficulties, and Bible verses from Biblica's NIrV (the New International Reader's Version) for simplicity. Give thanks for the way OUTSIDE/IN has helped churches make the Bible more accessible for all. Pray that this year more and more churches would catch the vision and open their doors to all at Christmas.
- From 15–17th October Lifewords will be at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown racecourse. We are looking forward to meeting supporters old and new, and will be showcasing *Meet the Cast* and OUTSIDE/IN. Please pray that this is a time for visitors to be inspired to share good news this Christmas.

We have a limited number of free tickets available for CRE – please get in touch if you would like one.

## **20–26 October**

### **One-to-one ministry**

Each month Lifewords sends out thousands of resources to people all over the world. Here are just three stories from individuals, groups and churches who are sharing good news.

- Every year in Charleroi, Belgium, Festival de l'Espoir (Hope Festival) takes place. The festival offers free entertainment for all ages, including concerts, recreational activities and food, as well as enabling people to access services such as free legal and medical advice, family counselling, and a clothing bank. Rev Etienne van Holderbeke who is part of the festival team ordered Lifewords resources in different languages to share at the event. "The city [has] numerous nationalities represented and the foreign population of Charleroi is increasing constantly," he said. "The need to reach these people in their own languages is growing accordingly. Having the resources of Lifewords was precious ... it was vital to enable the Christian Churches of Charleroi (about 50 communities) to reach out to the foreign and national public." Give thanks for these churches who are working together to reach people with good news.
- A supporter in Brazil uses Lifewords resources for street evangelism in favelas, with street dwellers, and at bus stops. He tells us that children are very receptive to the leaflets that tell the story of the prodigal son. He also told us about a homeless person who picked up *Finding Hope* and decided to leave the street and return home. Praise God for groups all over the world who are reaching out to vulnerable people. Ask God to give them compassion and wisdom for the people they meet.
- John Beswick Pallister, a curate from Staffordshire, UK, ordered copies of *Day Three: Believe the Women* to share with his churches last Easter. "We were able to give one to everyone who came to our Easter services. It was a great take-away book to encourage further reflection." John also shared the booklets with students in the local secondary school as a follow-up from an assembly. "In our rural setting,

I think an important part of the work is to plant seeds, and in some cases, to help those who have some contact with church to consider further steps in their journey of faith. I am very grateful for your work, which helps us greatly in this." Give thanks for churches in the UK and beyond who are welcoming people to their services and who are going out into their communities to share good news.

To find out more about our resources and to order copies visit [www.lifewords.global/shop](http://www.lifewords.global/shop)

### **27 October – 2 November Pavement Project in Venezuela**

Last August and September, Cleisse Andrade from Pavement Project visited Venezuela to train 12 people to use the green bag, with six of these already in the process to become trainers themselves. Clenir dos Santos explains more:

- "Venezuela is the 22nd country now using the green bag methodology. We have been dreaming to go there to train workers for about two years, but the actual preparation and the fundraising for this really happened in the last four months, thanks to the donations that came through different people and churches. Cleisse said that among all the countries she has been, this is the one that gave her the strongest feeling of being there at the right time." Give thanks for God's timing and provision, and for the continued support from churches, partners, and individuals for Pavement Project.
- "Cleisse heard tough stories of abandon, abuse, hunger, and lack of hope, but at the same time she saw how the church is flourishing and making a lot of difference in the crisis. As part of the training, some children were counselled by the new workers. In one of these counselling sessions, Mateo, who is 10 years old, said that the worst moment of his life had been when his father hit him to discipline him. He prayed and asked God that this would never happen again. Three days later, at his birthday party, his father, who now knew about his pain, asked him for forgiveness, in front of all the guests. It was a beautiful restoration of the father and son relationship." Give thanks that God's love changes lives. Pray for Mateo and his father that their relationship would grow and strengthen as they put their trust in Jesus.
- "Cleisse told me that the counselling sessions were full of pain, sadness, and tears, but also filled with relief, joy, and smiles of the children and the workers. According to her, the country is indeed in a chaotic situation. There is lack of food in the market, the electricity comes and goes many times during the day. The currency is extremely undervalued and the minimum wage extremely low. Parents have gone to other countries in search of a better situation so many children are living with their grandparents, uncles, or even neighbours. Besides all that, there are people that still care for these children and are truly interested in making their lives better." Pray that the Venezuelan government would work to bring about change for its people. Pray that Pavement Project would be a positive and strong influence in the lives of the children it counsels, their families, and beyond.

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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 also make a donation to our work online at [www.lifewords.global](http://www.lifewords.global), by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.