

LIFEWORDS

Lifewords Prayer, January 2020

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6 NIV

All over the world, at any time of day, Christians are being, living, sharing good news, following Jesus' words to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). And at Lifewords we see this in action as we send out thousands of Bible resources to people who are sharing them with others. We hear story after story from those who are partnering with us in the gospel.

At the start of this new year, Lifewords continues to create ways into the Bible all around the world – offering them free, and supported by donations, just as we have for almost 132 years. And we're inviting you to "make a change for life" – to join us as we share the life-changing good news of Jesus. To find out more, visit www.lifewords.global/makeachange.

We want to celebrate and thank God for everyone who is sharing good news, and to pray that God would continue to inspire, resource and empower us in our ministries.

Happy New Year! Welcome to the January edition of Lifewords Prayer. This month we have stories from people and partners who are sharing our resources, news from Indonesia, a look back at Christmas, and an update from Choose Life. Please join us as we pray.

29 December - 4 January Partners in the good news

Lifewords work starts and ends with the Word of God – from the creation of a new resource, to someone engaging with the Bible by reading it. But it's God's people who are instrumental in getting good news into the hands of others. As we start a new year, join us as we pray for the individuals and organisations who partner with us.

- We recently asked you to pray for Pavement Project in Venezuela, where the green bag is being used for the first time. Thank you for your prayers! “We concluded the first training in Venezuela last year and we have been surprised by the consistency of the counselling sessions,” says Clenir dos Santos, Pavement Project Director. “The workers have already helped more than 70 children during this period.” The six trainee trainers – Genesis, Jerameel, Andrea, Ruthmary, Ruth Saraid and Surilma – are in the process of being mentored and trained to empower more workers to use the Pavement Project material. “They are making great progress in studying the trainer course video lessons, and they are already in touch with several interested people who are waiting to be trained,” says Clenir. Give thanks for the progress of Pavement Project in Venezuela. Pray for the trainee trainers and for those who will be learning to use the green bag.
- In the latter part of last year, the Lifewords team in Kenya distributed 4,280 Bible resources to over 75 pastors from Taru and Samburu, the coastal region of Kenya. “Pastor Daniel is on the front line in ensuring that they use resources,” says Clara Ngobolia, Lifewords Kenya Director. “According to him they have never used resources when reaching out. He is very thankful for the generosity of Lifewords.” Thank God for pastors in Kenya, and others all over the world, who are reaching out to their communities. Praise God that we are able to resource them and help them in their ministry. Pray for the ministry of Pastor Daniel that he and the other pastors in this region of Kenya would reach many people with God’s Word.
- One of our supporters works with a charity called Safe and Sound, based in Boscome, Bournemouth. “We go out on Friday evenings meeting the ‘working women’”, she says. “We give them a small food parcel and supplies they may need, along with leaflets with info on our midweek activities.” She uses *Consider the Wildflowers* with some of the women she meets. Give thanks for volunteers and the charities they work with. Pray that the women who are being ministered to are moved and encouraged by the words they read in *Consider the Wildflowers*, and that they would know they are loved by God.

5-11 January

Growing Lifewords in Indonesia

Lifewords has a new centre for training in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, where to date around 25 pastors from across the region have travelled to receive training and resources, some of them from as far as four hours away.

- Having taken “mobile mission” teams to rural areas over the past few years, Lifewords Indonesia is now inviting pastors from remote communities in Kalimantan to be trained and resourced through training events and support groups. “For so many pastors in the rural farming villages of West Kalimantan, ministry is lonely and isolated,” says Gunar Sahari, Lifewords Indonesia Director. “Many are subsistence farmers during the week, and church pastors at the weekend. Very few have formal education but all are passionate about Jesus.” Praise God for this new space for pastors to be empowered, encouraged and resourced. Please pray for the team as they train them in leadership and how to reach unreached people groups.
- Some of the pastors who are geographically close are encouraged to pray and fellowship once a month; others have formed a WhatsApp prayer group to support one another; and many eagerly anticipate the next gathering as their only opportunity to receive support and resources. Give thanks for this emerging

community of pastors and leaders. Ask God to grow their number, and that they would encourage and support one another.

- “We want extend our ministry to East Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan,” says Gunar. “Kalimantan is the only island that is still open to Christianity, so this is an opportunity for us to serve.” Pray for the ongoing work of Lifewords in Indonesia, and for more and more opportunities to serve and grow leaders.

12-18 January

Giving thanks for Christmas

Every Christmas we send out thousands of resources to individuals, churches and organisations in the UK. Thank you for praying for our resources being shared with people all over the country.

- Margaret McCartney from Lenzie Union Church in Glasgow, told us about an event they run every year called the “Christmas Experience”, a multi-sensory drama of the Christmas story. This was shared with almost 300 children from local schools and was also open to the public. The children and visitors moved around the church from scene to scene, meeting all the “cast” played by adults from the church. “Your booklet *Meet the Cast* almost mirrors what we do,” says Margaret, “and it made an excellent souvenir for the children, enabling them to recall the different parts of the Christmas Experience.” Thank God for churches who opened their doors at Christmas, welcoming in people from their community – some of whom would not normally go to church. Pray for the school children who experienced the Christmas story in Glasgow and who took a copy of *Meet the Cast*.
- Last year we partnered with Biblica – the International Bible Society – and disability charities Livability, and Count Everyone In, to create a more inclusive and accessible version of our Christmas resource, OUTSIDE/IN. Give thanks for the Bible’s message of diversity and inclusivity. Pray that we, our churches, and our communities, would continue to live out God’s love and welcome into this new year.
- Give thanks for the many people who went to church for the first time or who returned to church after time away. Praise God for those who invited them and sought to share good news with them. Pray for churches as they get back into “normal life” after the Christmas season. Ask that God would help them to keep reaching out and inviting people in.

19-25 January

Choose Life stories

In Kenya the Lifewords team continue to hear stories of Choose Life impacting the lives and decisions of young people. Clara Ngobolia shares some of them with us:

- “At the Kenya-Uganda border prostitution is very high due to the many truck drivers who solicit young girls. However, through Choose Life, girls are learning the value of saying no to oppressive and immoral behaviour.” Thank God for the way the Bible is having a positive impact on the lives of these young people and their community.
- “Young people in villages who have been involved in gang activities are now being impacted through the *Choose Right* booklet, and parents are observing behavioural change in their children. The young people are now gathering together to support one another and protect others from destructive behaviour, some of which had been passed on from the older generation. Now through

Choose Life, the cycle is being disconnected.” Praise God for the power of the Bible to change perspectives and help bring real change. Pray for these young people that they would continue to support each other and experience transformation in their community.

- “Please pray for Choose Life teachers and trainers. Jane Nyongesa, a Choose Life Trainer from Malaba, is doing great work as she reaches out to children through Choose Life. She has also trained many Sunday school teachers to use the Choose Life resources.” Praise God for people on the ground who are committed to helping young people understand the world and their place in it. Pray for wisdom, compassion and understanding for these teachers as they seek to support those they work with.

26 January - 1 February

Pastoral resources

Our pastoral range of resources – *Daily Strength*, *Living with Loss*, and *Why Me* – have been used by many to bring comfort in difficult times. Each of the titles have now been updated and *Daily Strength*, a long-time favourite, has been redesigned with greater readability and a fresh look. Please pray with us for those using these booklets to bring hope, comfort, and peace to those in need.

- *Daily Strength* includes verses for each day of the month that ask for God's help and tell God's promises. Thanks to feedback from users of this popular Lifewords resource a new updated version is available. The text size has been increased to improve the readability and match the other recently updated pastoral titles: *Living with Loss* and *Why Me*. The imagery has also been updated for greater vibrancy and a focus on nature. A large print version of the booklet is also available and is Lifewords first large print resource that has the same look and feel as the smaller version – ideal for those working with older people, or those with limited or failing eyesight. Praise God for these new versions of *Daily Strength*. Pray that the text and images would help communicate God's love to those who read them.
- *Why Me*, another of our pastoral resources, asks hard and honest questions about serious illness and suffering. Written with experienced psychologists, this booklet is a tried and tested tool for sharing life words even in difficult times, and offers ways to pray and talk about the future. Praise God for the way the Bible speaks to us in times of trouble and suffering. Pray for the people who are sharing this booklet, in particular chaplains, pastors, and hospital visitors, that they would be able to offer hope and peace as they counsel and minister to the desperate, vulnerable and suffering.
- *Living with Loss* was developed with bereavement counsellors. Using verses from the Psalms, *Living with Loss* deals honestly with heartache, anger, fear, and loss. Give thanks for how the Bible reflects all of life, and how the Psalms speak so evocatively of the pain of death. Pray for the chaplains, clergy, and funeral directors who use *Living with Loss*, and for those who are grieving – that they would find solace, understanding, and hope in God's Word.

Visit www.lifewords.global/shop to browse our pastoral range.

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/give, by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.