

# INTERACT



## Big Dreams, New Beginnings

Prayers, plans and partnership

## A Ray of Hope

Offering comfort to  
Ukrainian refugees

## All Creation Groans

Reflecting on the climate crisis

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### Editorial team

Jess Bee  
Kris Calver  
Steve Bassett

### Photographs

Lifeworlds unless  
otherwise stated

### Cover photograph

Chuko Cribb, Unsplash

### Design

S2 design and advertising Ltd

### Print

Yeomans Creative

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1A The Chandlery,  
50 Westminster  
Bridge Road,  
London SE1 7QY

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(see page 15).

# WELCOME

“At once Jesus realised that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’”

Mark 5:30 (NIV)

“Who touched me?” Jesus, surrounded by crowds pressing in for attention, feels a tug on his cloak and utters these words. As he does, he releases a woman who has long suffered, to tell her story, and to find hope.

Wherever you are reading this issue of *Interact*, let us also pause to ask, “Who touched me?” It may be the plight of millions of displaced Ukrainian people fleeing war; mothers and children; young men defending their homeland; lives tragically lost; the world’s nations on the geopolitical brink. Or refugees and victims of ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, and many other countries around the world. Oppressed people, disenfranchised people, sick, lonely, and rejected people. Young people and children cast adrift by life. Or the very planet itself, tugging at our hearts to be cared for, helped, loved.

It is a time when dreams can die. And yet there is something in the resurrection love of Christ that compels us to hope – and to keep on praying, living, and dreaming of a better way.

In this issue our Lifewords team dares to dream of reaching more hurting children with God’s love through Pavement Project; of equipping more

and more Christians with resources to share the Bible in their own contexts and communities; of inviting people to explore the wisdom of the beatitudes – and discover the way of Jesus in these testing times. There’s a dream of youthful vision and passion shaping new ways of engaging with the Bible in digital space; and for words of life to play their part in the movement to care for our planet.

And, even as we dream ahead, we engage in the present to respond as best we can to the current crisis in Ukraine, working with frontline ministries to hold out the Bible’s hope and comfort as part of the practical care being offered to so many. Lord, have mercy.

As we prayerfully consider “who touched me?”, may it be the start of a new dream, and a new season for us all.





# Big Dreams, N

Words Jess Bee

**“It’s a big dream, but nothing is impossible with God”**

**Cleisse Andrade has a dream: “I want to reach the ‘invisible’ children of Brazil.**

The *ribeirinhos* – a population of over 7 million, a third of whom are children – live on the banks of rivers, streams, lakes,” says Cleisse. “They lack proper water sanitation, and have difficulty accessing education. The *sertanejas* – where there are 10 million children – live in semi-arid areas and suffer from drought and a lack of resources. There are 3,475 communities of *quilombola* people in 24 states in Brazil. These people suffer from malnutrition and lack basic sanitation. There are more than 200,000 children.” Cleisse is part of the Lifewords team in Latin America. She sees these “invisible children” and wants to train people to work with them, to share good news through Pavement Project and

Choose Life. It’s a big dream, but nothing is impossible with God.

There are others with dreams too. Gunar in Indonesia has plans to train more pastors and church leaders, to expand Lifewords Indonesia’s new Kids Ministry, and to re-energise work with street children. Jarek dreams about the next stage of the Lifewords 50 languages project – aiming for 26 new titles and animations this year. Many will be the first Lifewords resources in these languages to be published this century. Dan, Clara, and Serah hope to resource many ministries in their unique contexts in Australia, Africa, and India. Murima wants to bring young people together to engage digitally with the Bible. For Clenir, a dream is reaching a key point as the Pavement Project app sees its full debut this



# ew Beginnings

year, but it's just the beginning, as plans for its global rollout are dependent on training, resources and funds.

## **ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL**

These dreams are rooted in the message of the gospel – a desire to reach the vulnerable, downtrodden, lost and hopeless with God's peace, comfort, salvation and love. And big dreams are forged in partnership with God's people: those who stand alongside, pray and get involved. "It is a joy for all of us at Lifewords to know that there are people throughout the world who pray, support and encourage our ministry," says Steve Bassett, Lifewords Creative Director. "Such support helps us when things are tough and grounds us when things are going well – this partnership in the gospel is very wonderful and sustaining."

## **SUSTAINED BY PARTNERSHIP**

Lifewords activities and outputs around the world are designed to meet specific contexts, cultures, people groups, and needs. So, whether it's producing booklets; engaging digital generations; helping at-risk children; fostering spiritual formation; doing outreach to unreached people groups; equipping churches, ministries, and evangelists; there is always more and there are always bigger dreams. "We are excited by the challenges and opportunities ahead," says Steve. "With the partnership, support and prayer of friends we can share the Bible's transforming, healing, and saving life words with renewed passion and vision all over the world."

**"We're inviting you to dream with us and join us in our prayers, plans and partnership"**

**“Big dreams are forged in partnership with God’s people”**

**GUNAR, INDONESIA**

“We plan to establish 25 new Lifewords Kids Ministry locations, reaching 1,250 children. We want to train pastors, teachers, students, church leaders, and hope to have 20 new partners. We also plan to reach 10 new islands and to re-start our ministry among street children in Jakarta and other cities in Indonesia. We’re also planning ‘mobile missions’ to 24 different areas to serve churches, schools, and seminaries.”



**CLENIR, PAVEMENT PROJECT**

“We are planning training sessions – online and face-to-face – with partners who minister to children in countries with glaring inequality, whose children suffer all kinds of injustice and abuse. We will be able to reach them with the new Pavement Project app which is now in 14 languages. We want to implement the app in all the countries our trainers are working in.”



**CLEISSE, LATIN AMERICA**

“We dream of training people to reach the ‘invisible’ children using Pavement Project and Choose Life. We also want to increase the number of people trained to use the green bag app to help children in El Salvador, which is considered the most violent country in Central America.”



**JAREK, POLAND**

“In 2022, we plan to create 26 new titles and 26 new animations as part of our 50 languages project. We also have plans for a new Life Changing Words app and website.”



**DAN, AUSTRALIA**

“In the coming 12 months, we will respond to the many ministries who are seeking Scripture resources for their unique context. We’re also looking to develop new resources for prison and school chaplains, while expanding our reach with more Ninefold Path learning opportunities and training events.”



Photographs  
Top: Ministering in Indonesia  
Middle: On the streets in Colombia  
Bottom: Ninefold Path in Australia

## MURIMA, UK

“We’ll be bringing young people together



to engage digitally with the Bible, and we’re excited to see where this could lead with the potential for new content created by young people, for young people. Other priorities in the UK are a new evangelistic booklet for churches to use in outreach, and a new Christmas resource telling ‘a story for the whole world’, complementing Scripture with design from global cultures. All these will have digital expressions too. And we’ll continue inviting people to the way of Jesus through the lens of our beatitudes-based project, NINE BEATS.”

## SERAH, INDIA

“Our dream for India is to have Pavement



Project workers in every state, and we would like to explore the possibility of mentoring and helping our two Pavement Project workers in Sri Lanka to reach more children in the Tamil community. Many states in India have passed the anti-conversion law (which prohibits Christianity) but the church is advancing and finding ways to share the gospel even in the midst of opposition. Our resources are key to many ministries to start conversations and invite people into the Kingdom of God.”

“We are excited by the challenges and opportunities ahead”

Photographs  
Left: Connecting online  
Right: Pavement Project app  
Bottom: RISE Bible Club  
in Kenya

## CLARA, AFRICA

“We will continue to work in Kenya, Uganda,



Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and DRC, sharing resources by connecting and partnering with individuals, schools, hospitals, prisons, churches, and children’s organisations.

In Zambia, we’re also excited to expand our RISE Bible Clubs in schools.”





If you are a long-time supporter or have just newly stumbled upon our ministry, **we're inviting you to dream with us and join us in our prayers, plans and partnership.**

Throughout the pandemic, we adapted to ensure that our Bible resources remained accessible to all, that we could still reach out to at-risk children, still reach digital and contemporary cultures, and still hold out the Word of Life in multiple languages and contexts. **As we emerge, there are new challenges – and new opportunities.** Through the eyes of faith, we have many dreams for 2022 to share the Bible's life words in this new landscape. Always free at the point of need, or for donation, our challenge is to raise the funds to deliver all the resources and programmes we dream of. When God's people share the journey with

us, this vibrant partnership makes a real impact on our ability to reach more people and places.

If you would like to partner with us, you can donate to Lifewords ministry through making a one-off gift, a regular standing order or direct debit (which helps us to plan ahead), or even leave us a gift in your Will.

Be assured that it will be put to work to bring these dreams to reality. There is a huge challenge ahead for all of us that believe Bible ministry is still living and active – and vital.

**Please do pray for our endeavours through the year.**

**You can make your gift using the enclosed form, online at [www.lifewords.global/give](http://www.lifewords.global/give) or by calling us on 020 7730 2155.**

## PRAY

Give thanks for these dreams and plans.

Pray for the different Lifewords teams around the world.

Pray for the resources and funding to see these dreams come to fruition.



# WORLD NEWS

## Love, longing, lament

In February, NINE BEATS was invited by St Peter's Arts Church (SPARC) in Malvern, UK, to host an evening exploring love, longing, and lament. This was the first event of the year for NINE BEATS and was a chance for the collective to come together to create, perform, and connect with people.

The evening provided a blend of live music, spoken word, conversation, and spiritual formation which explored the Ninefold Path and ways of helping people access the words and way of Jesus. "It was my first-time meeting some of the collective members and friends," says Murima Thodi, who is part of NINE BEATS Collective. "Eric Wilson's live spoken word was very powerful.



There's always something new to take away from experiencing the beatitudes in this way, and it was encouraging to hear how people engaged with the evening."

Esther, an audience member at the event, talked about her experience of the evening: "The group skilfully used a well-balanced mixture of song, Scripture, testimony, poetry, and spoken word to unravel the mysteries of the beatitudes in a way that was both modern and reverent," she said. "It was a wonderful evening full of beautiful melodies and harmonies that filled my soul in a totally unexpected way."



## A bumper year

2021 was Lifeworlds most intensive and fruitful year ever for the Global Bible Resources programme – in terms of developing and printing new resources – with 67 new booklets or animations being created, and over 228,000 booklets in 48 languages being sent to 60 different countries.

"It was the first year of the 50 languages project and we printed 39 new global titles and produced 28 animations," says Jarek Jankowski,

Global Bible Resources Director.

"On top of that we advanced the work on 18 new animations, which will be published in 2022." In many cases, these new resources are the first Lifeworlds products published in the languages this century.

It's exciting to report that over 2 million people around the world are watching Lifeworlds animations with the most popular language being Indonesian, closely followed by Hindi, and Swahili.

# A Ray of Hope

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, hope was very distant for many. Half a million people, mostly women and children, fled Ukraine in just the first few days. Around 1.3 million reached Poland within the first two weeks. At the Lifewords office in Torun we responded by joining with others to offer help and spiritual comfort.

Words Jarek Jankowski

**“A ray of hope in this dark time has been the wonderful response of the Polish people”**

Many have been forced to flee their homes



© KEVIN BUCKERT, UNSPLASH

As I write, war rages on in Ukraine, recasting the dark shadow of the horrors of the 20th century for our region of the world, where the last witnesses of World War II are still alive. The media brings us news of shelled residential estates, destroyed cities, and murdered civilians.

A ray of hope in this dark time has been the wonderful response of the Polish people, with millions of Poles involved as volunteers, donors, or by opening their homes. Refugees have found shelter in boarding houses, community spaces, and, to a great extent, churches, with some offering accommodation and help for up to 100 or 200 people. For

the Lifewords team in Poland, our contribution has been to work alongside other Christian ministries to surround those in need with the love of God, expressed through practical concern and spiritual solace.

## MEETING A NEED

One of our first tasks was to organise an urgent print run of *Finding Hope* which was originally developed by Lifewords as a crisis response resource. Churches and organisations wanted Bible resources to share with refugees, alongside practical assistance; to offer spiritual comfort and a source of hope to people forced to leave their homes, jobs, and often their

partners. Orders for our Ukrainian printed resources began immediately, but we only had a small quantity left. We desperately needed more copies of *Finding Hope*, both in Ukrainian and Russian. So Lifeworlds launched an immediate appeal for support and prayer, and we were able to start printing 100k resources across a range of titles and languages in a matter of days.

## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

One of the first churches to ask for *Finding Hope* was Radość Fellowship, in Warsaw. It's based at the Polish Baptist Union office and seminary, and had quickly become a place where Ukrainian refugees found accommodation, food, and clothing. I spoke to Pastor Piotr Czerwinski of Radość Fellowship just after war broke out. He shared with me how they were responding: "We are accepting Ukrainian refugees and helping them to reach other destinations. We are doing our best to offer them the necessary practical help, but we also want to share the word of encouragement." In addition to the printed booklets, Lifeworlds Ukrainian *Finding Hope* online animation – available on YouTube and

social media – offered a digital tool which could be easily shared, even in the midst of conflict. On Facebook, plays exceeded 40k in the first six days of conflict.

## A LONG JOURNEY

In recent days, I have been particularly touched by the story of an 11-year-old boy who travelled by himself over a thousand kilometres, escaping from Zaporozhye in Ukraine. He arrived in Slovakia with only a passport, a small plastic bag, and a phone number written on his hand. However, the situation in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries will be precarious and uncertain for many months and years, with people needing shelter, food, and medical assistance, as well as emotional and spiritual help.

## THANK YOU!

In response to the situation, we asked you to urgently help us print thousands of copies of *Finding Hope* – thank you for your support! You can still give by visiting [www.lifeworlds.global/give](http://www.lifeworlds.global/give) or by calling 020 7730 2155.



**“Lifeworlds launched an immediate appeal for support and prayer”**

## PRAY

Give thanks for *Finding Hope* and for its place in helping people in crisis.

Please pray that many will find comfort and hope through reading Lifeworlds resources.

Pray for the ongoing situation and aftermath in Ukraine.



# All Creation Groans

**Climate breakdown is a touchstone issue of our age. The global campaign for climate justice, change, sustainability, and legislation is being championed by young people. There are many voices – including Christian activists, churches, and networks – who are motivated by God’s loving concern for all of creation.**

Words  
Steve Bassett

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. The animation points people to Bible content, supplementary online material, and new images, as well as further climate-related subjects, commentary, and blog links – all to inform, and encourage prayer, conversation, and action.

“ ... our primary allegiance is to ... a God who calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. We face a situation where we do not see justice being done ... In the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer ... the role of the church in such times is ‘not to just bandage the victims under the wheel, but to put a spoke in the wheel itself’. ”

**Ruth Valerio, Time to Act**

## PRAY WITH US

Join us in praying for climate justice;  
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 with us 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



### EARTHFIRST ANIMATION

Visit the Lifewords YouTube  
channel ([www.youtube.com/lifewords](http://www.youtube.com/lifewords)) to view the new  
animation – why not use it  
at your church or group as  
a visual meditation or to  
prompt action, prayer,  
and further engagement.

# GET INVOLVED

LIFEWORDS AND YOU

## Do you see this woman?

**“Forty-nine named women speak in the Bible, uttering just over 1% of the total number of words. Most of their words are never read aloud in churches, and many are forgotten.”**

*Liz Shercliffe, Out of the Shadows: Preaching the Women of the Bible.*

Following on from our 2019 resource, *Day Three: Believe the Women*, VerseFirst ran an Easter campaign called “Do you see this woman?”, showcasing 15 women of the Bible using social media. Now, this June, VerseFirst will be taking these women – these brave influencers, law-changers, leaders, and revolutionaries – to Big Church Day Out. Elizabeth King from Lifeworlds UK, explains more:

“During the first two weeks of April, VerseFirst featured the stories of Rahab, Hagar, Vashti, Esther, Eve, Mary, the daughters of Zelophehad, Deborah, and Jael. Often, the words, actions, and lives of the women of the Bible are, at best, skimmed over, and at worst, completely ignored. We want to centre their experiences and choices, telling their stories, and showing them as the main characters they are. Each generation recognises more and more the contribution and intrinsic value of women, and current young people are no exception. This campaign seeks to encourage teenagers as they look for something of relevance for their lives and values in the words and stories of the Bible.”



You can see the posts at [www.instagram.com/versefirst](https://www.instagram.com/versefirst) – simply search for the posts beginning on 4th April. And join us at Big Church Day Out in West Sussex on 3rd and 4th June 2022.

# Sharing hope in Zimbabwe

How do you use Lifeworlds resources? Peter Nyangara from Harare, Zimbabwe, tells us how sharing the Bible with one man has led to more opportunities to reach people with good news:



“One day I was chatting with a young man called Tendai at his tuck shop. From our discussion I sensed that he was hopeless. The following day I gave him *Finding Hope*. One week later as I was passing by, he told me that he had friends who needed to be ministered to, so I rushed home to collect more copies of *Finding Hope*. I had a good time ministering to them as they were good listeners. At the end it was all smiles as they came to know Christ.

This was just the beginning, now Tendai’s tuck shop is like a ‘gospel stop’. One day I was ministering to two young people at the tuck shop when a young girl arrived. I gave her *Finding Hope* and said to her, ‘Follow the instructions in this booklet and you will find God.’ She took my words so seriously, like she had been waiting for such words all her life. Tendai himself did not know who Christ is and how salvation is accessed by faith in him. Now that he has received the Light, he shares the Light with the young people who used to gather at his tuck shop to smoke drugs. His cry now is for more literature to give to young people.”

## CONTACT US

Get in touch with the Lifeworlds global family. Find us online at [www.lifeworlds.global](http://www.lifeworlds.global), or contact your local office.

### AUSTRALIA

[australia@lifeworlds.global](mailto:australia@lifeworlds.global)

### BRAZIL

[projectoc@lifeworlds.global](mailto:projectoc@lifeworlds.global)

### CANADA

+1 905 683 6482  
[info@sgmcanada.ca](mailto:info@sgmcanada.ca)

### KENYA

+254 20 2730100  
[kenya@lifeworlds.global](mailto:kenya@lifeworlds.global)

### INDONESIA

+62 81294210986  
[indonesia@lifeworlds.global](mailto:indonesia@lifeworlds.global)

### INDIA

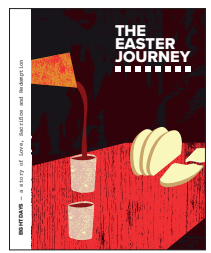
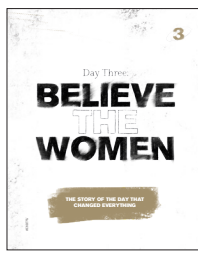
+91-9538811181  
[india@lifeworlds.global](mailto:india@lifeworlds.global)

### POLAND

[europe@lifeworlds.global](mailto:europe@lifeworlds.global)

### UK & INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

+44 (0) 20 7730 2155  
[uk@lifeworlds.global](mailto:uk@lifeworlds.global)



# LIFEWORDS RESOURCES FOR YOU

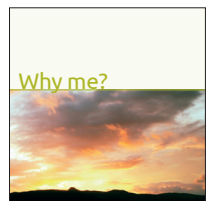
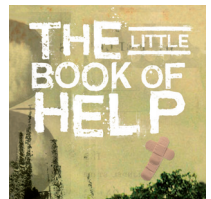
Across languages, in person, in print, and online, everything we do is about resourcing individuals, churches, and communities around the world with creative ways into the Bible – offering them free and supported by donations, just as we have for 134 years.



“We love using Lifeworlds publications because they seem to speak into people’s lives in accessible ways.” **Jenny Bourne, 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.” **Jo Curtis, 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.” **Norman Harrison, Lead Chaplain, Northern HSC Trust**



In person, in print, online – helping you share the Bible  
To find out more, visit [www.lifeworlds.global](http://www.lifeworlds.global)

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