



PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Toybox Prayer Guide. Thank you so much for all your prayers for our work with street children.

Please feel free to share this guide with your church and friends.



www.toybox.org.uk/pray

OCTOBER 2020

Week 1 – (Sunday 27 September – Saturday 3 October)

Following the decision to postpone the London Marathon until next October, we are delighted that several of our runners have chosen to take part in the virtual marathon. We give thanks for all their hard work and fundraising efforts over the last year, despite the many hurdles, and pray for their continued motivation and encouragement as they prepare to take part in the virtual race on Sunday 4th October.

Week 2 – (Sunday 4 – Saturday 10 October)

It is now just under three months to Christmas, and our wonderful supporters will soon be receiving our latest Christmas appeal on their doorsteps. Please pray for the success of this appeal – that it will encourage donations and support for our Birth Registration projects and raise the profile of Toybox's work to many more people across the UK and beyond.

Week 3 – (Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 October)

As we remember the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Saturday 17th October, please pray for those in Nepal who have lost their jobs as a direct result of the pandemic. Our partner has witnessed the number of children on the streets of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, increasing during lockdown as migrant families, who have lost their livelihoods in neighbouring India, return home. Please pray for protection for children who now find themselves on the streets due to poverty and family conflict as a result of lockdown.

Week 4 – (Sunday 18 – Saturday 24 October)

In many of the countries where we work, the pandemic is at its height and cases are increasing every day. With weak healthcare systems and limited economic and social resilience, the impact of this is huge. Please pray for those of our partner staff who have fallen ill with the virus, or who are at high risk of contracting it, and join us as we give thanks that some of the team in Guatemala who were ill are in recovery. Please pray for the continued health and wellbeing of all our partners and the children we work with around the world.

Week 5 – (Sunday 25 – Saturday 31 October)

We give thanks that Sierra Leone has not had a high number of coronavirus cases to date, and we hope and pray that this continues. The low level of infection has meant that most of our project work has been able to go ahead as planned, with some adaptations, for example using radio programmes to reach communities about the importance of education. With schools reopening in September and October, we pray that the 100 children who were enrolled into school by the project last year will return, and that an additional 100 children will start, and remain, in school.

OCTOBER



NOVEMBER 2020

Week 1 – (Sunday 1 – Saturday 7 November)

Please join us as we pray for children in Kenya as they face repeating the school year when schools eventually reopen in January. This decision for children to re-take the school year has obviously been very disheartening for the children in our projects and their parents, many of whom have been working hard to support their children's education at home. Please pray for all children, in Kenya and beyond, whose education has been disrupted due to the pandemic and particularly for those for whom education is a lifeline to help them escape poverty and difficult situations at home.

Week 2 – (Sunday 8 – Saturday 14 November)

We give thanks for the way our partner in India was able to adapt their sports project during the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, with a total of 251 children being contacted through their online sports club over a period of three months. During these clubs, team members talk to children every day via phone, teaching them street games as well as giving them basic Hindi, English and mathematics lessons using a variety of learning materials. The children are also given homework so that they can revise the lessons in their free time.

Week 3 – (Sunday 15 – Saturday 21 November)

Friday 20th November is World Children's Day. Please join us as we give thanks for all of the children in our Child Ambassador projects around the world. Over the last year, the children in these projects have taken part in Child Rights and leadership workshops, where they have gained important new skills and knowledge and shared it with others in their communities. We pray these vital activities can resume soon and give thanks that our partners have been able to continue supporting the children in practical ways as much as they can.

Week 4 – (Sunday 22 – Saturday 28 November)

Please pray for all those whose livelihoods have been affected by the economic fallout of the pandemic. In Bolivia, many of the families we support are dependent on unstable and irregular work to survive and, for those who sell on the streets, a reduction in potential customers and restrictions in selling hours has made it much more difficult for them to cover their housing costs. Please pray that as the colder nights draw in, these families are able to stay safe and warm at home and do not face evictions.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 2020

Week 1 – (Sunday 29 November – Saturday 5 December)

At this time of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate a very special birthday, join us as we give thanks for the six people who have recently 'gifted their birthday' via Facebook in order to raise money for Toybox. Between them, they have raised over £535, which will help to register sixteen children with their birth certificates. This year those children will also be able to celebrate their birthdays.

Week 2 – (Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 December)

Thursday 10th December is Human Rights Day and we ask you to remember those for whom the pandemic is aggravating issues such as police brutality as lockdown restrictions are violently enforced. We pray especially for those living in one of the slums in Nairobi, where 15 people have been killed and 31 people injured by the police since the curfew was imposed. We pray for peace in this community and that this brutality will soon end.

Week 3 – (Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 December)

We give thanks for the recent reduction in violence seen in El Salvador and pray that the level of homicides will continue to drop. We pray that the government will make wise and sensible decisions about their interaction with the gangs, and that the current gang truce will continue to be effective. We pray for children on the streets, some of the most vulnerable to gang violence and recruitment.

Week 4 – (Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 December)

Our Christmas celebrations will be probably be very different this year. But one thing will never change, the core message of Emmanuel – God is with us. God came as a little baby to show us how much he loved us. May we respond by showing that love to those around us and by sharing what we have with those who have little or nothing. All of us here at Toybox wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Week 5 – (Sunday 27 December – Saturday 2 January)

We end the year with a reflection from Lynne Morris, our CEO, who writes, *"What a year 2020 has been, beyond anything we could have imagined. I would like us to end this year with a prayer of praise and thanks for God's protection and guidance and to thank God for our amazing partners and our ever generous and kind supporters. We thank Him for his amazing grace and love."*

DECEMBER