



PRAYER GUIDE

JANUARY-MARCH 2021

Welcome to the Winter 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

JANUARY 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 January)

We are delighted to start the year with a reflection from Lynne, our CEO:

“2021 and who knows what our year will look like! But one thing is never changing: God’s love and compassion for all, and in particular street children. In recent months I have been studying Genesis and have been inspired to see that from the outset God is walking with us, teaching us, challenging us and loving us. So, we know we can step into 2021 with confidence, knowing we have a God who never leaves our side.”

Week 2 – (Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 January)

This week we give thanks for all our wonderful supporters who responded to our Christmas Appeal this year. Focused on our Birth Registration work in Guatemala, the appeal highlighted how a birth certificate can help keep a child on the streets safe from the many dangers they are facing right now. We also give thanks that, despite the pandemic, the registration process has been able to continue, with over 200 children and young people receiving this life-changing piece of paper over a six-month period last year.

Week 3 – (Sunday 17 – Saturday 23 January)

This week, please pray for our partners who have had to adapt their activities during the pandemic, transferring many of them online. In India, educational support has been provided through WhatsApp to enable children to access online support. The team also created audio and video aids to use in virtual lessons. We give thanks that these innovative ideas are helping children to continue with their education and receive much-needed support and allowing families to connect with project staff remotely.

Week 4 – (Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 January)

Sunday 24th January is the International Day of Education, and we give thanks that 100 children were enrolled into school by our partner in Sierra Leone when the new school year began in October. All the children were supported with school materials including school bags, stationery, books and shoes and socks. We pray for these children as they start on this journey which could open so many doors to them. You can read more about the education project in Sierra Leone in your next issue of Street Life, out next week!

JANUARY



FEBRUARY 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 31 January – Saturday 6 February)

This week, we give thanks for the ongoing efforts of our partner in Bolivia to ensure the health and well-being of the children and families we support. Through the Street Outreach project, children and young people continued to receive counselling sessions, annual medical check-ups and provision of medicines. In addition, 50 high-risk families were able to receive support in obtaining food and hygiene supplies.

Week 2 – (Sunday 7 – Saturday 13 February)

Please join us as we pray for our work in Kenya as recent reports show cases of Covid-19 are once again rising. As well as the health implications, the pandemic has also had an impact on livelihoods, with many more families needing to register for financial support. We pray for those affected in this way, as a high level of poverty can exacerbate many other underlying issues such as child labour and domestic violence, and pray that our partner can continue to support children and families affected, through community-led savings groups and loans.

Week 3 – (Sunday 14 – Saturday 20 February)

Justice requires those who suffer the least to speak up the most, and that is what our job is here at Toybox. 20th February is World Day of Social Justice and, in a world where so much of life isn't fair, we pray that our world leaders will make decisions that will be for the good of all of their citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

Week 4 – (Sunday 21 – Saturday 27 February)

This week we give thanks that our Birth Registration project in Nepal is continuing to progress well. We give thanks especially for the virtual meetings held with government, civil society and the media. This did much to raise awareness of the issues faced by stateless and unregistered children in Nepal, with all attendees making a commitment to raise their voices and advocate at policy level on their behalf.

FEBRUARY

MARCH 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 28 February – Saturday 6 March)

This week we pray for the situation in El Salvador, where it has been apparent that the lockdown situation is significantly affecting the mental health of the children and families we support. In order to help counteract the frustration and discouragement in the communities they are working in, our partner provided education and art kits; virtual art classes were then used to help children to express and work through the emotions and stresses associated with lockdown.

Week 2 – (Sunday 7 – Saturday 13 March)

Monday 8th March is International Women's Day. In the countries where Toybox works, women are all too often victims of violence, with Latin America having the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world. As we remember the women and girls who have been cut off from essential protection services, education and social networks, we give thanks for the tireless work of our partners to protect those who are most at-risk in the communities they work in.

Week 3 – (Sunday 14 – Saturday 20 March)

Saturday 20th March is International Day of Happiness, and we take this opportunity to give thanks for the moments of happiness street children have been able to experience, thanks to your support. We invite you to share in the joy of the 577 children who were registered with their birth certificates in the last financial year. This means that more than 6,200 children, across four countries, have been registered since 2013. That is really worth celebrating!

Week 4 – (Sunday 21 – Saturday 27 March)

With Easter now only two weeks away, Toybox supporters will have now received our latest Easter appeal on their doorsteps. Please pray for the success of this appeal and that it will encourage donations and raise the profile of our work to even more people around the UK and beyond.

Week 5 – (Sunday 28 March – Saturday 3 April)

As we take stock this Holy Week, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. As we remember the triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, his loneliness on being abandoned by his friends, and the excruciating pain of the cross, we know that he went through all this that we may have life in all its fullness. As we prepare for Easter Day, we pray for all the children who have started on the journey away from the streets and towards life in its fullness.

MARCH