



PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL-JUNE 2021

Welcome to the Spring 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

APRIL 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 4 – Saturday 10 April)

Wednesday 7th April is World Health Day and so we take this opportunity to pray for continued protection from the coronavirus pandemic for our partners and all the children and families we support. Whilst the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out here in the UK, we pray for the people in the countries we work in who do not yet have access to it. We pray in particular for street children, who may well be some of the last to receive the vaccine, if at all.

Week 2 – (Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 April)

This April it will be three years since we began our birth registration work in El Salvador. Please join us as we give thanks for the ongoing efforts of our partner there to deliver this vital work. Whilst the country's late registration process is incredibly complex, with a single registration sometimes taking between six months and one year to complete, the team are working diligently to ensure as many children as possible can be registered with this life-changing document.

Week 3 – (Sunday 18 – Saturday 24 April)

With spring well underway here in the UK, and as we welcome the warmer weather, this week we pause to reflect and give thanks for the work of our partner in India who distributed warm clothing to children on the streets over the winter. During the period of September to January clothing packs, including coats, hats, gloves, and socks, were provided to over 700 children – many of whom sleep on the streets, under bridges or in railway stations at night.

Week 4 – (Sunday 25 April – Saturday 1 May)

This week, please join us as we pray for the children and families affected by the storms in Guatemala and El Salvador at the end of 2020. These storms, which impacted more than five million people in the Latin America region, will undoubtedly have long-term effects, many of which are already being witnessed. In Guatemala, our partner reports that many families affected lost personal belongings including their identity documents. Please pray for the team as they work hard to support these families to get their replacement documents.

APRIL



MAY 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 2 – Saturday 8 May)

This week, please join us as we pray for the situation in Bolivia where our partner recently reported a critical increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the communities where they work. According to official counts, cases in Bolivia spiked in the first two weeks of 2021 with the country's two largest cities being hit hardest. With healthcare facilities already overstretched, we pray particularly for outreach workers as they work, day in, day out, to deliver emergency first aid and treatment to children and young people on the streets who may otherwise be denied access to healthcare.

Week 2 – (Sunday 9 – Saturday 15 May)

This International Day of Families (Saturday 15th May) please join us as we celebrate the amazing news that during our last financial year our partners supported 148 children and young people to be reintegrated with their families at home. Whilst this number may not seem huge, the difference to the lives of these 148 children, who can now grow up in a safe, loving, and protective environment, is monumental. The process to reintegrate a child back home away from the streets, from initial contact and provision of emergency care, to positive parenting training and family counselling, can be long and complex. However, when it works it is one of our biggest victories as an organisation.

Week 3 – (Sunday 16 – Saturday 22 May)

This week, please join us as we hold our work with street children in Sierra Leone in our prayers. You may have seen in the news earlier this year that there was an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Guinea, in a town neighbouring the border of Sierra Leone. Please pray with us that this outbreak is contained, that none of the children and families we support are affected, and that our partner and the communities we work in, as well as the wider country, are kept safe from this devastating virus.

Week 4 – (Sunday 23 – Saturday 29 May)

This week we give thanks for the youth mentoring programme delivered by our partner in Kenya. This programme, in which 77 young people took part, focused on building self-esteem and self-worth, personal responsibility, and life skills. Please join us in praying for the young people who took part in this programme - that they will use their new skills and knowledge in a positive way to benefit their lives, and share what they have learned with others in their communities.

MAY

JUNE 2021

Week 1 – (Sunday 30 May – Saturday 5 June)

Please join us this week as we lift up the work of our sports project in India, where 180 girls recently took part in self-defence classes. This training, which was developed in partnership with the Delhi police, was delivered by project staff and girls who had taken part in the classes in previous years. As well as teaching physical self-defence, the training included topics like improving self-esteem and decision-making, and where and how to report abuse and rights violations.

Week 2 – (Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 June)

Street children often fall victim to the worst forms of child labour and exploitation – working long hours in extremely dangerous environments, subject to pain, humiliation, and suffering. This World Day Against Child Labour (Saturday 12th June), please join us in praying that governments, employers and organisations around the world can take collective responsibility and work together to eradicate modern slavery and end child labour in all its forms.

Week 3 – (Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 June)

This week join us in giving thanks that our partner in Guatemala has had the opportunity to work in collaboration with six other local organisations as part of a network supporting street and working children. We pray that these joint efforts to deliver much-needed activities – including night outreach, medical care and birth registration – will ensure that as many vulnerable children as possible are being helped in the ways they need most today.

Week 4 – (Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 June)

This week, please join us in praying for our work with children in conflict with the law in Kenya. Recently our partner reported that there is a huge backlog of court cases which has meant children have been stuck in remand homes for extended periods of time. Please pray for protection over these children and pray also that when their cases are eventually seen, they are given a fair chance and their rights are upheld.

Week 5 – (Sunday 27 June – Saturday 4 July)

We end this issue of the Prayer Guide celebrating a successful first six months of our new project in Nepal. This project is helping the children and young people who have been some of the worst affected by the coronavirus pandemic to access shelter, emergency healthcare and counselling. Please pray for the team in Nepal as they work to build initial trust with children on the streets – a vital first step in this important work.

JUNE