



PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023

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

Week 1 – (Sunday 1 – Saturday 7 October)

The start of October marks the beginning of university life for many students. This is a life that 16-year-old Tau could only dream of before she had her birth certificate. Tau, who lives in Bolivia, was officially registered in 2021 and we give thanks that she now has just one more year of school left before she can go to university. She says, *“I am happy because I can use my ID to enter different places such as museums and libraries. It will also help me get my bachelor’s degree and go to university. Having a birth certificate means having an identity and being part of society... I am happy to have it.”*

Week 2 – (Sunday 8 – Saturday 14 October)

It is now just under three months to Christmas, and Toybox supporters will soon be receiving our latest appeal on their doorsteps. Focusing on our birth registration work, it reminds us that many children still don’t have their birth certificates. However, it is never too late to register a child, no matter how old they are, and so we pray for the success of this appeal and especially for the children who will receive their birth certificates this Christmas as a result.

Week 3 – (Sunday 15 – Saturday 21 October)

Tuesday 17th October is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and so we give thanks for the training sessions run by Pendekezu Letu (PKL), our partner in Kenya. When talking to parents and caregivers PKL found that one of the major causes they gave for their children being on the streets was a lack of basic necessities at home, caused by a shortage of economic opportunities. These sessions, attended by 189 people, provided training on how to build their income and run small businesses, with the aim of enabling them to meet their basic needs as well as those of their children.

Week 4 – (Sunday 22 – Saturday 28 October)

The Nepal government recently passed an amendment to the Citizenship Act in Nepal. The changes proposed will help children to fill in the forms required for the awarding of citizenship, even if they don’t know who their parents are. We pray that this makes the birth registration process easier for our partner, SathSath, as they support street children and young people to get their birth certificates and be recognised as official Nepali citizens.

OCTOBER



NOVEMBER

Week 1 – (Sunday 29 October – Saturday 4 November)

In India, many children lack access to healthy and nutritious food. We give thanks that over a period of three months CHETNA, our local partner in India, was able to serve over 25,000 hot meals to hungry children. This helps the vulnerable and poor families in particular by making sure they get the nutrients they need. It also encourages the children to come to the learning centre.

Week 2 – (Sunday 5 – Saturday 11 November)

This week we want to share with you about an exciting new project in Guatemala – “Caminar Juntos” or “Walking together”. In the project, our partner, Puerta de Esperanza, will be working with children who are selling goods in the infamous La Terminal market and supporting them in their education whilst also providing direct support to their parents and caregivers. The aim of this is to create a more loving home environment, in which children can develop physically, mentally and spiritually. Please pray for the families who take part.

Week 3 – (Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 November)

Menstrual health and hygiene education is a crucial aspect of empowering women and girls to manage their periods with confidence and dignity. This week, we give thanks that more than 400 boys and girls attended the life skills workshops and discussions that took place in Jaipur, India, to tackle the prevailing stigma and misconceptions surrounding menstruation. The aim is to promote awareness and foster positive attitudes towards menstrual health.

Week 4 – (Sunday 19 – Saturday 25 November)

On Monday 20th November, we celebrate Universal Children’s Day, and we are grateful for the opportunities the projects are providing to help children enjoy their childhood. In El Salvador, our partner Viva organised a day of recreation for families, with access to swimming pools and fun games. We give thanks for the rare opportunity this gave for children to play and relax with their parents and caregivers.

Week 5 – (Sunday 26 November – Saturday 2 December)

Guatemalan presidential elections were held in August, with the victory being gained by Bernardo Arevalo. We give thanks for the strong stand that Mr Arevalo has taken against corruption and pray that as he prepares to be sworn in on 14th January 2024, there will be a smooth transition of power in a country where corruption, poverty and gang violence play a key role in pushing children onto the streets.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Week 1 – (Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 December)

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
Hebrews 11:1

In this, the first week of Advent, we remember those who know only doubt and despair. We pray for our families and friends, and we pray especially for the children who are forced to survive on the streets. We pray that they may hold onto the lifeline of hope that is being offered by our partners, thanks to your support.

Week 2 – (Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 December)

“And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” *Isaiah 9:6*

In this, the second week of Advent, we remember all the areas of our world where there is war, dissidence and violence. We pray for the peacemakers, that their voices will be heard, and for wisdom for all our rulers. We pray especially for children whose lives are affected by wars and gang violence, that they may be offered a place of refuge and know peace.

Week 3 – (Sunday 17 – Saturday 23 December)

“My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.” *Luke 1:46-47*

In this, the third week of Advent, we give thanks for all the lives that have been changed over the last year. We give thanks for the children who now have birth certificates, who have been able to access education, and most of all, have been able to be children. May we, too, share their joy as they look to a brighter future.

Week 4 – (Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 December)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” *John 13:34*

At the heart of the Christmas story is God’s love for us. As we open our hearts and our homes to each other, let us also remember those less fortunate than ourselves, for whom Christmas is not such a happy time. Let us share what we have, so that they, too, may see the light and love of God, as it shines through us.

DECEMBER