



# PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL-JUNE 2024

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](http://www.toybox.org.uk/pray)

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## APRIL

### Week 1 – (Sunday 31 March – Saturday 6 April)

Sunday 31st March is Easter Sunday, and what better way to start this new Prayer Guide than to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and his victory over death. As we stand in the light of the hope that this offers, we pray for everyone who is struggling with despair and for children on the streets who see no way of escaping their situations. We pray that they may be supported towards having a brighter future.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 7 – Saturday 13 April)

On Friday 12th April organisations and individuals around the world celebrate International Day for Street Children. We give thanks for the awareness that this raises of the hardships faced by street children and the fact that, though they should be entitled to the same rights as everyone else, sadly this is rarely the case. We pray that this day will be a reminder to individuals and governments around the world that we need to work together towards a better, fairer world for street children.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 14 – Saturday 20 April)

This week we invite you to pray for 'Caminar Juntos', a project run by Puerta de Esperanza, our partner in Guatemala. This focuses on providing both formal and informal learning opportunities for children, as well as parenting skills for parents and caregivers. The hope is that creating a more loving environment in the home will support the holistic development of the children. This should then allow them to be better prepared to meet the challenges and difficulties of daily life as they grow up.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 21 – Saturday 27 April)

Sunday 21st April is World Creativity and Innovation Day and so we wanted to share with you about 'I, the Artist', a series of child-led activities organised by CHETNA, our partner in India. This initiative enables children to express themselves, share their experiences, and to showcase their artistic talent through various forms of visual expression. We give thanks that these activities fostered a sense of independence, imagination, and self-discovery, as well as belonging, cooperation, and shared understanding.

APRIL



## MAY

### Week 1 – (Sunday 28 April – Saturday 4 May)

This week we give thanks for the work of Alalay, our partner in Bolivia, as they support children and young people learning about child rights and leadership skills through the 'I Count Too' Network. Children joining the network are trained in rights and duties, self-esteem, gender equality and empathy. Please pray for these children as they learn to understand that they have both true value and rights.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 5 – Saturday 11 May)

Sunday 5th May is World Laughter Day and so this week we celebrate the fact that learning can be fun! The School Reinforcement days led by Viva, our partner in El Salvador, have been developed with the methodology that laughter, play, and learning go hand in hand. We give thanks that through games such as 'Who wants to be a mathematical millionaire', children can have fun while they are learning, and that their grades are improving because of these classes.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 May)

On Wednesday 15th May we celebrate International Day of Families. However, it is important to recognise that there are many different types of family, not just those with biological links. We pray for the children who have left home due to difficult circumstances and that there will be an opportunity for them to return home if it is safe to do so. As this is not always possible, we also pray for the 'families' that street children form, where each member looks out for each other, offering mutual support.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 19 – Saturday 25 May)

This week we ask you to pray concerning the possibility that there may be a substantial increase in some of the birth registration fees in Kenya. As you can imagine, this would have a huge, negative, impact on the number of children who can be registered, and it is currently being challenged by organisations involved in this work. We pray that the challenge may be successful, thus allowing our partner to help as many children as possible.

### Week 5 – (Sunday 26 May – Saturday 1 June)

This week we pray for our partners who work tirelessly to help street children. We give thanks for a team retreat and well-being activity that was organised by CHETNA, the primary objectives of which were to strengthen team bonds, boost morale and address the overall well-being of the staff. The participants reported feeling more relaxed and rejuvenated, and the day had a motivational effect on the team, leading to increased enthusiasm and commitment to the organisation's mission and goals.

# MAY

## JUNE

### Week 1 – (Sunday 2 – Saturday 8 June)

Wednesday 5th June is World Environment Day, and we give thanks for the 'Music and Recycling' workshops held by Viva. These workshops, which are part of a programme that encourages personal and environmental responsibility, included musical activities based on instruments made from the bottles, cans and cups that the children had, thus teaching them about recycling these items.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 9 – Saturday 15 June)

This week we give thanks for the ways in which PKL, our partner in Kenya, is encouraging children to identify and develop their talents. Twelve boys have enrolled at a local music centre and are learning to play various musical instruments; three other boys have been enrolled in local football academies. Other children have been linked to music producers who are supporting them in recording their songs, and five young people have already produced a gospel song, which addresses the need for being thankful to God despite all the hardships they face.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 16 – Saturday 22 June)

This week we ask you to pray concerning the difficulties that single mothers in Nepal face when trying to register their children, particularly where no information is available about the father. It is made more complicated by the fact that, living on the streets, many of these mothers do not have their own documents. We pray for the work of our partner, SathSath, who are working to get the process simplified so that these children do not miss out.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 23 – Saturday 29 June)

We finish this Prayer Guide by giving thanks for an outing to Lake Titicaca organised by Alalay. This had many positive results, including experiencing nature first-hand and teaching about the importance of environmental conservation. In addition, it provided a good opportunity for the children and young people to interact with each other, and a well-deserved break in a relaxing and fun environment. Overall, the trip provided a wonderful opportunity to enrich the children's lives by providing them with meaningful and memorable experiences.

# JUNE