



# PRAYER GUIDE

## JANUARY-MARCH 2022

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

## JANUARY 2022

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

As we start a new year, we give thanks for a new project starting in Bolivia where young people and families living on the streets are being supported to build entrepreneurship skills. The 20 families taking part in this project are also being encouraged to have a savings account as this will enable them to manage their profits properly. We pray for the success of this project, both financially and in the building of self-esteem.

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

This week we ask you to pray for the street children in Nepal, where our partners report there has been an increase in suicide rates amongst young people on the streets. It is thought that contributing factors may include struggle for survival, isolation, and fear of an uncertain future during lockdown. During discussions with the team, children acknowledged that they were very worried about their legal identity and discussed their need for a place where they can share their problems and receive help.

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

This week, we give thanks for a training course that was held in Sierra Leone on how to raise awareness of child rights at school, community and national level. The children attending this course were asked to identify the most troubling issues in their communities and, in smaller groups, came up with ways of solving the different problems. We pray that the children will grow in confidence as they share their new knowledge and skills with others in their communities.

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

Monday 24th January is the International Day of Education, and we give thanks for the children who have been helped by the Toybox-supported education project in India. One of these children is Sonam, who had never been to school as she had to look after the household chores and her siblings. With the support of our partner, and her family, she is now studying and achieving a high place in her classes.

# JANUARY



## FEBRUARY 2022

### Week 1 – (Sunday 30 January – Saturday 5 February)

This week the latest issue of Street Life magazine will be landing on the doormats of Toybox supporters. Inside, we hear from young people involved in vocational and skills training projects in Kenya, Guatemala and Nepal, who missed out on their education due to living a hand to mouth existence on the streets, at high risk of exploitation. Please join us as we give thanks that with the right support and guidance these young people can grow in confidence and can start to think beyond their daily survival needs and plan for their futures.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 February)

Winter is not a good time to be on the streets, especially in Nepal. This week, we give thanks that during the last quarter our partners have been able to provide warm clothes for 145 street children. In addition to this, one of our partners has been supporting the process of reintegration within families, and we are delighted to tell you that, among others, two young people are now back home after ten years of street life. We pray that they may settle back at home and remain safely with their families.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 February)

We give thanks for a series of eight registration days that were held across Guatemala, which saw more than 850 people being registered. This was despite many challenges due to poor internet signal and electricity blackouts. We give thanks that the people who have received these life-changing documents will now be able to access proper health care, education and all the other rights to which they are entitled.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 February)

Sunday 20th February is the World Day of Social Justice and this week we remember the children with whom we work in Nairobi, Kenya. It takes time for the children to appreciate the fact that they have rights, as they will have grown up on the streets with a lack of shelter, medical care and parental love. We pray that they may realise that this isn't how it should be and grow to an understanding of how life really should be and how to access their rights.

# FEBRUARY

## MARCH 2022

### Week 1 – (Sunday 27 February – Saturday 5 March)

This year, as we start Lent, we remember all the children who have to do without the very basics of life. Whether we give something up or take on a new commitment, we pray that God may guide us in our prayers and in our giving so that we can support vulnerable street children and young people in the best way we can.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 March)

Tuesday 8th March is International Women's Day. Marta from El Salvador is no stranger to the challenges life can throw at you. A mother at 17, Marta was brought up by her grandmother and had to spend a lot of time on the streets to earn money to survive. We give thanks that now, through the help of our partner, both Marta and her daughter have their birth certificates and can look forward to a very different life.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 March)

Online bullying is prevalent anywhere that people have access to the Internet. At a workshop held by our partner in El Salvador, young people discussed the issues of emotions, self-esteem and bullying, and the fact that online bullying can lead to children and young people taking their own lives. We pray for all those who may be caught up in this and pray that they may seek help and receive support.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 March)

As we celebrate the International Day of Happiness on Sunday 20th March, here are some thoughts from the children about happiness. Albert from Sierra Leone writes, "I am happy when I'm playing with my friends, and when adults treat us nicely." Kanci from India writes, "Having sanitary towels is a luxury for me. Now I have them, I feel immense happiness." What makes us happy at Toybox is knowing that we are helping to make these things a reality, and I hope this makes you happy as well.

### Week 5 – (Sunday 27 March – Saturday 2 April)

We finish this Prayer Guide with a story of hope. Choco had spent most of his life living on the streets of Bolivia. Not long after he left home, he turned to drugs to help him cope with the challenges of street life. One day, he met our partner's frontline workers, who have supported him for eight years and stood alongside him so that he is no longer using drugs, lives in a rented accommodation with his brother and has been officially registered with his birth certificate. Thanks to all of this, Choco is hopeful for a future of fulfilling his dreams of becoming an international rap star.

# MARCH