



# PRAYER GUIDE

## OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

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

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## OCTOBER

### Week 1 – (Sunday 29 September – Saturday 5 October)

This week we give thanks that over the last twelve months CHETNA, our partner in India, has served over 100,000 plates of hot cooked meals, as well as over 16,000 packs of dry nutrition, benefitting 630 children. The project focuses on providing non-formal education to these children, many of whom come from vulnerable sections of society and offers a much-needed opportunity to receive both educational support and nutritional care.

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

Tuesday 8th October is International Birth Registration Day, so this week we pray for the children who still have no identification documents and are not recognised by the countries in which they live. It is never too late to register a child, no matter how old they are. We pray for the success of our Christmas Appeal, which will be landing on doormats later this month, inviting people to change a child's life by helping to buy them their birth certificate.

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

This week we give thanks for Alalay, our partner in Bolivia, whose work has shown street children that their lives can be changed. We give thanks especially that, in a recent report, the children emphasised the ability to take decisions about their lives, with one child saying: *"The Alalay Foundation can give you advice and support, but you decide to get out of this situation."* We pray that more children and young people will make the decision to leave the streets behind for good.

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

This week we give thanks that through the work of SathSath, our partner in Nepal, street children have been supported to gain their legal documents, giving them greater self-respect, as well as more freedom to pursue stable careers. Even more importantly, by discovering and reuniting children and young people with their relatives, SathSath have been restoring family life for these children. The impact on their well-being has been significant.

### Week 5 – (Sunday 27 October – Saturday 2 November)

Previously we have given thanks for the success of the Urban Farm project in Kenya, which has transformed former waste spaces into sustainable food sources, combating climate change and resource scarcity. It is a real shame that this self-same project was affected by severe flooding in Nairobi earlier this year. We pray that those involved in the project will persevere as this work could have a long-term impact both on the environment and in vulnerable communities.

# OCTOBER



## NOVEMBER

### Week 1 – (Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 November)

This week we pray for the situation in Bolivia where, although 59 young people completed a technical training course, only some of them so far have been able to find employment. This is due to several factors, including the fact that formal job opportunities have reduced due to Covid. Where there are jobs available, the stigma attached to street children may count against them in the interview process. We pray that the young people will not give up hope but will continue striving to make a better future for themselves.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 November)

This week we give thanks for SathSath, and especially for the Mobile School project, which has protected children from the risks of child labour and given them access to learning and literacy. One parent told us: *“With SathSath’s help, our children have found a path illuminated with possibilities. With hearts full of hope, we dream that their journey will be free from the challenges we faced. SathSath has truly been a ray of light in our children’s lives.”*

### Week 3 – (Sunday 17 – Saturday 23 November)

Wednesday 20th November is World Children’s Day, when children and young people are encouraged to raise their voices about things that matter to them. We give thanks for Balaknama, a newspaper run by CHETNA, that has provided a powerful platform for young people to highlight issues affecting them and their communities. Kajal, a 12-year-old reporter, said, *“Writing for Balaknama has given me a voice. I report on issues in my community and feel proud that our stories are heard.”*

### Week 4 – (Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 November)

This week we give thanks for Jenniffer, a Childhood Educator who has been working for our partner Viva, in El Salvador, for more than six years now. When asked what motivated and inspired her work, she said: *“I believe that every child has the right to a happy childhood and opportunities... In the Viva Foundation we always say, ‘Working for children is working for God.’ I try to internalise this phrase and live it. It really motivates me because I believe that in the end, our work leaves its mark on children’s lives.”*

# NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

### Week 1 – (Sunday 1 – Saturday 7 December)

As we enter the season of Advent, with its countdown to Christmas, we want to share with you about an exciting new initiative. Instead of buying an advent calendar this year, why not take part in our Advent fundraising challenge for street children. Perfect for families, it’s a great way to count down the days to Jesus’ birth and support street children at the same time. If you would like to get involved, please go to [www.toybox.org.uk/adventcalendar](http://www.toybox.org.uk/adventcalendar) to sign up or call us on **01908 360080**.

### Week 2 – (Sunday 8 – Saturday 14 December)

Tuesday 10th December is Human Rights Day and we give thanks that in recent interviews conducted at the end of birth registration days in Guatemala, between our partner CONACMI, and parents and caregivers, the latter showed their knowledge and understanding of the rights provided by identity documents. For them, the most important benefits were to have access to health care and education, as well as being able to baptise their children.

### Week 3 – (Sunday 15 – Saturday 21 December)

This week we pray for the success of a new project that has been launched by Viva to highlight the message of inclusion. When the project was launched, one of the activities was “Art Without Hands”, where children experimented with painting using only their mouths. Educational banners have been created showing the alphabet in Salvadoran Sign Language and Braille and the children were taught how to introduce themselves and say their name using signs, with the support of a deaf volunteer.

### Week 4 – (Sunday 22 – Saturday 28 December)

In this Christmas week, we take time to stop and reflect on the birth of our saviour, a vulnerable child that needed nurturing to complete his divine purpose. The birth of Jesus reminds us of the fragility of all children and how they need protection to achieve their potential within their lives. During this week, please pray for the children Toybox works with, many of whom have neither a loving family nor strong community ties. Thank you for all your prayers. May you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

# DECEMBER