

# LIFEWORDS

## Lifewords Prayer, May 2018

*Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.  
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*  
**Matthew 5:15-16, NIV**

After the darkness of winter, April and now May bring longer days. Light lingers into the evening, and the world begins to look a little different, perhaps a little brighter.

Light holds great significance in the Bible. Right at the beginning, in Genesis 1:3-5, light was the first thing to be created. It was a new state of existence, separated from darkness, as different as night is from day.

Light extends right from that opening chapter of Genesis. It is a symbol for hope throughout the prophets, the promise of something new to come. As we reach the New Testament, light is focused in the person of Christ – the one that the darkness can never extinguish. And now light becomes a metaphor for our good deeds, born out of following Jesus, fuelled by the Spirit.

Just as light creeps into every corner and transforms every dark place, so our actions have the potential to influence and change us, and the world around us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control – these are the things that fill our lives and our communities with light. This is the invitation to us: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify God”. Shine on.

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Welcome to the May edition of Lifewords Prayer. This month we’re praying for peace in Ukraine, sharing news about a new Bible resource in Indonesia, hearing about WWI gospels in Australia, and celebrating International Children’s Day.

## **29 April – 5 May**

### **Resourcing refugees**

Over the last four years Ukraine has experienced ongoing conflict. During years of war, political instability and economic insecurity, Ukraine's most vulnerable populations have been worst-affected.

- According to the UN Refugee Agency 4.4 million people have already been internally displaced, and more than 2 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their country. Please pray for those whose homes, towns and villages have been destroyed, and for restoration in the country. Pray that those who need humanitarian assistance will receive it, and for the government to implement available resolutions.
- Poland is one of the neighbouring countries to have received a high number of Ukrainian refugees. It was estimated that the figure would grow to 3 million by the end of 2018. Please pray for protection, social integration and cohesion in Poland as many Ukrainians seek asylum and begin to start a new life.
- As the population of Ukrainian immigrants continues to rise, Lifeworlds' Global Bible Resource hub in Poland has received a high demand for Russian and Ukrainian Bible booklets. "Many immigrants from Ukraine now also speak Russian due to the military crisis," says Global Bible Resource Director Jarek Jankowski. "Lifeworlds has a great range of titles available in both languages. It's a blessing that we are well prepared to respond to situations like this with God's Word." Give thanks for translation teams that work with Lifeworlds removing language barriers and making the Bible accessible to more and more people.

If you are based in the UK, Ireland or USA and would like to order non-English Bible resources please visit [www.lifeworlds.global/shoplang](http://www.lifeworlds.global/shoplang).

If you are based outside the above countries please visit [resources.lifeworlds.global/en](http://resources.lifeworlds.global/en).

## **6–12 May**

### **Power to Save**

This year Lifeworlds is set to help produce the first ever Bible booklet in the Manado Malay language group – a creole language spoken by two million people in North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

- In the past Lifeworlds has worked with the North Sulawesi Bible Translation Centre to equip mission workers, children's workers and group leaders with The Visible Story – a story-telling tool using parables that Jesus told. Give thanks for organisations partnering with Lifeworlds and helping transform lives worldwide.
- Now the latest collaborative project focuses on the translation and production of *Power to Save* – Bible booklets using Mark and Luke's gospels. The Bible Translation Centre plans to make *Power to Save* available to their network of 900 churches where they can be shared in community outreach. Give praise for these churches reaching communities for the first time.
- "Currently Christians in North Sulawesi are using the Bahasa Indonesia Bible," says Lifeworlds Australia Director Dan Hardie. "But it's inaccessible to the masses as only college graduates are able to read and understand Bahasa. These booklets will be published alongside the newly-translated Manado Malay New Testament, providing communities with free access to the Bible in their own language for the first time." Please pray for the team of on-the-ground mission workers who are working to bring good news to many, and give thanks for the demand of Bible resources in Indonesia.

## 13–19 May

### The next generation

Recent figures show that children and young people aged 0–24 make up almost half of the world's population. Millions of these face daily pressures in education, the workplace, finances, physical appearance, and their families.

- This year's UK Mental Health Awareness Week will focus on stress, how we cope with it, and if we're coping at all. British charity, UK Youth, found that young adults are spending more than six hours per day feeling stressed from daily pressures, causing 1 in 6 to experience anxiety. Please join us in praying for the events and campaigns that will run from Monday 14th May – Sunday 20th May addressing concerns around managing stress. Pray too for continued opportunities to open up conversation around mental health.
- Designed for teenagers and young adults, VerseFirst's *Little Book of Chaos* looks at depression, anxiety, self-worth, and tough times we face – from a biblical perspective. Lesley Beare from Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland (GBNI) recently received feedback from a parent whose daughter used *Little Book of Chaos*. "She was so thankful for the resource being so freely available," said Lesley. "Her daughter even shared a personal post on Instagram about the booklet and how it's helped her reconnect with God." Give thanks for VerseFirst helping young people engage with the Bible, and for being able to resource organisations like GBNI.
- This month VerseFirst kicks off a brand new initiative – Live it Out Loud. The digital campaign invites young people to discover and explore biblical teachings in a practical way and encourages readers to take on challenges. Over the course of six months, Live it Out Loud will look at many topics, including justice, generosity, love, and perseverance. To mark the launch of the campaign, VerseFirst will be heading to one of the UK's largest Christian events – Big Church Day Out. Give thanks for new, fresh and innovative ways to learn and apply life words to our everyday experience.

Visit [www.lifewords.global/versefirst](http://www.lifewords.global/versefirst) to find out more about VerseFirst and Big Church Day Out 2018.

## 20–26 May

### Gospels in Australia

During the First World War Lifewords – known then as Scripture Gift Mission – resourced troops with WWI Active Service St John's Gospels. This year marks 100 years since the end of the conflict and still Lifewords' replica copies are shared globally. Here are some ways they are being used in Australia:

- Last month Lifewords Australia shared WWI gospels with local communities in commemoration of ANZAC Day. Observed on 25th April each year this remembers the Australian and New Zealand service personnel who fought in the First World War. Please pray that Armed Forces, groups and churches who received copies of the booklet would find strength and hope in God's Word.
- Trinity Church in South Australia is closely connected to the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) – a support organisation for those who have served or are serving in the Defence Force. On ANZAC day they held a service with more than 1,000 local residents together with RSL. "Using the WWI gospels allowed us to draw on the history of ANZAC day," said Pastor Matt Lehmann. "We looked back to WWI where army chaplains spent time with troops using the original Gospels, reading passages of Scripture and singing the songs in the back of the booklet." Give thanks for

partnerships like this where many can gather together and reflect on God's comfort in times of loss and guidance in times of adversity.

- High Seas Ministries is an organisation dedicated to creating Christian communities on cruise ships for guests and crew members. Ken Hodson and his wife from Australia joined High Seas last month. They will be holding Bible studies, seminars and worship services for 54 days on a world cruise. "We'll be using Lifewords WWI gospels to read with groups and to give away too," says Ken. What a blessing to have these!" Give thanks for the continued commitment of Christians reaching out to people in different cultures and countries.

To find out more about Lifewords Australia please visit [australia.sgmlifewords.com](http://australia.sgmlifewords.com).

## **27 May – 2 June** **Hope for children**

The International Day for Protection of Children (also observed in some countries as Children's Day) is held every year on 1st June. This week we're sharing stories of restoration through the Bible-based counselling work of Pavement Project for children-at-risk – praise God for his Word at work in these young lives.

- Valeria\* from Colombia was just 7-years-old when she learned that her father had wanted to abort her. She began to feel anger and hatred towards him. One day he left Valeria and her mother, and Valeria experienced huge guilt thinking she was to blame for his walking away from the family. Feeling helpless and unwanted, Valeria met a Pavement Project worker called Wilson. After spending time in prayer and having an opportunity to express her feelings Valeria said she felt great relief for the first time in a long while.
- In Mexico Alex\* had been displaying aggressive behaviour for years, and his friends and classmates were bearing the brunt of his anger. Ethel, a Pavement Project worker met with Alex and discovered he was struggling with his parents' volatile relationship at home. "At first he drew himself as an empty chair," said Ethel. "We then prayed and talked about stories from the Bible using the green bag. After these sessions Alex said he felt a joy from God's love. His parents have since connected with a marriage counsellor and have reconciled their relationship."
- Sana is a youth worker in Zimbabwe and has 25 years of extensive experience counselling children-at-risk. However, since recently discovering Pavement Project Sana says the green bag is the most effective tool she's come across. "The Pavement Project resources have been such an eye opener. Children love the pictures! I am always amazed at how their hearts and minds are transformed with the Bible stories in just one session."

\*Names have been changed.

For more stories of transformation with children-at-risk, please email [uk@lifewords.global](mailto:uk@lifewords.global) with your postal address for your own copy of *From the Streets* – a free magazine sent three times a year.

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Thank you for praying with us! Your partnership in prayer is vital to all that we do as we share the Bible's life words around the world. You can make a donation to our work online at [www.lifewords.global](http://www.lifewords.global), by post, or by calling 020 7730 2155.