

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is riding a grey donkey. She is wearing a white shawl draped over her head and shoulders, and a blue dress underneath. Her hands are clasped in her lap. The background is a dry, rocky landscape with sparse, yellowish-brown vegetation. In the top right corner, there is a white circular graphic element containing the text 'PRAYER in action' and a yellow arrow icon.

 **PRAYER**
in action



B
BIBLE
SOCIETY

October 2013–February 2014

OCTOBER - A focus on the Bible in our communities

More than a book

We believe the Bible is more than a book. It's full of human stories – of love, greed, joy, loss, passion – all the things that will be around as long as people are. It's vital to our culture. In this country, our job is to offer the Bible to people who might never before have considered its riches. We want to open it up in creative and innovative ways – and help people see that this really is a story for everyone.

We'd love you to pray for the work you support in this country – and be part of it too, by sharing the Bible with your family and friends.

This October churches across England and Wales will be celebrating the Bible on *Bible Sunday* – 27 October 2013 or any Sunday you choose. We'd love to encourage you and your church to join others throughout the country and encounter the Bible's message of freedom.

For home group resources, sermon outlines and activities for your church visit: biblesunday.org/wia

29 SEPTEMBER–5 OCTOBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- That *The Bible* TV series coming to our screens this autumn (WIA p8-9) will open up Scripture to people in new ways – and give them an opportunity to consider the Bible's big story afresh.
- That Christians will grasp the opportunity this TV series presents, by talking to friends about it and using it as a resource in our churches.

6–12 OCTOBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the aspiring filmmakers who entered this year's *The Pitch* short film competition (WIA p11). Pray that the first stage of judging, happening now, will go well.
- That, through this competition, a generation of filmmakers – the storytellers of our time – would begin to see the Bible as a rich source of inspiration.



Front cover photo: Bible Society/Clare Kendall

Photo: Bible Society/Dan Lane

a focus on the Bible in our communities

13–19 OCTOBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- Praise God that 700,000 people every year access the website Crossref.it.info to discover the biblical roots of A-level English texts (WIA p10-11).
- That these students would see how the Bible has irrevocably shaped our literature and culture. Pray that through studying the influence of Scripture, they would encounter its grand story for themselves.



No Nonsense Theatre perform their Bible Society backed adaptation of the Book of Ruth



Diogo Morgado plays Jesus in The Bible tv miniseries

Photo: Bible Society/2013 Lightworks Media

20–26 OCTOBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- That we would have 'courage to talk up the Bible' (WIA p2), and share a biblical worldview with our friends, colleagues and neighbours.
- For continued opportunities for Bible Society to talk about the Bible in the media, in ways that challenge misconceptions of Scripture and instead offer it as something positive to be experienced by everyone.

27 OCTOBER–2 NOVEMBER

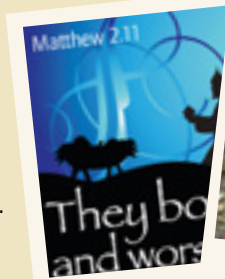
PLEASE PRAY:

- That you'll be open to new ways of engaging with the Bible (WIA p10-11) so that you'll discover more of God's character and nature through the Scriptures.
- Ask God to help you spot glimpses of the Bible story in the world – whether that's through music, advertising, TV or film – and to have the courage to share the story where it's not already being told.

NOVEMBER – a focus on Bible distribution

Meeting the demand for Scripture in China

This Christmas, we're asking supporters like you to help – through praying, giving, and taking the message to your church. Please pray this month, that many more Chinese Christians would have Bibles as a result (WIA p13).



Zhao Yi Bo, 7, lives with his family in West Village, near Meng Zhong. He received a Bible to read to his family.

3–9 NOVEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- Thank God that the church in China continues to grow; for the remarkable transformation that has seen the Bible go from banned book to the country's bestseller.
- For those in China coming to faith, that they would have access to God's word and find hope in Scripture.

10–16 NOVEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- That many Christians in this country would order and use our Christmas stickers on their post, to point people towards the real message of Christmas (see poster enclosed with WIA).
- That churches will use our Bible Sunday and Christmas resources in their Advent services, and help raise funds to buy Bibles for Chinese Christians.

17–23 NOVEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that support from people like you has already delivered more than half a million Bibles to China's growing Church.
- 80p could buy the paper for a Bible for another Chinese Christian. Pray that Christians here will respond generously to the great demand for Scripture from our brothers and sisters in China.

24–30 NOVEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the expansion of literacy projects in rural China, so that more Christians will be able to read Scripture for themselves.
- There's a huge shortage of pastors in China's churches – we're addressing this by supporting Bible colleges and offering sponsorship opportunities. Pray that new leaders will be identified, trained and equipped to serve.

DECEMBER – a focus on the Bible Lands

Bible work in the Middle East

As our attention turns to events which unfolded in a small town in the Middle East thousands of years ago, it's a good time to pray for our work in the Bible Lands.

Please pray – above all, that peace and unity would come to the area.



Amiram Eini, 39, finds inspiration for his art in Scripture

1–7 DECEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- For artists like Amiram Eini, (WIA P6-7), that they will find inspiration in the stories of Scripture. Pray for unity among artists from different backgrounds, that they will be open to participate in this project.
- For passers-by who will see Scripture-inspired art around the Bible Land as a result of our project. Pray that the art will generate curiosity and lead people to ask questions.

8–14 DECEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- For children who will receive Bibles at Christmas camps run by the Palestinian Bible Society. Pray the activities would help bring the Scriptures to life, and the children would read and engage with the Bibles they take home.
- For the team of volunteers running Bible events across the Palestinian Territories this Christmas.

15–21 DECEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- For staff at the Bible Society in Israel, the Palestinian Bible Society and the Arab-Israeli Bible Society, working together as the Bible Lands team. Pray they continue to cooperate with respect, unity and understanding.
- For Labib Madanat, who leads the work in the Bible Lands. Pray for safety and protection as he travels, and for wisdom as he pursues new opportunities.

22–28 DECEMBER

PLEASE PRAY:

- During this Christmas week, for peace to be across the place of Jesus' birth.
- For Dina Katanacho (WIA p15), part of the Bible Lands team. Thank God for her ministry with women, for her courage, determination and perseverance.

JANUARY – a focus on nations restored

The amazing story of the Bible in Cambodia



Eight of our volunteers visited Cambodia last year (WIA p12), and were amazed to see the impact the Bible is having there... vibrant churches full of young believers, a decrease in domestic violence once a community has Scripture in their language, Christians learning to read and then committing to teach others.

We've been working closely with Bible Society in Cambodia for years, and have seen the difference your prayers make. Please keep praying for Cambodia – and for other countries facing new beginnings in 2014.

Pastor Lim leads the church in Mechrey



Photo: Bible Society/Claire Kendall

29 DECEMBER–4 JANUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Thank God for the extraordinary growth in the Cambodian Church over the past 10 years, and for the impact of Scripture on the lives of ordinary people.
- For the Bible Society team in Cambodia, who run projects including Bible translation, distribution, a radio broadcast, literacy classes and major youth events. Pray for energy and creativity in their work.

5–11 JANUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks for the eight volunteers who visited Cambodia last year, and who have since spoken to countless churches and supporters about what they saw. Pray they will convey the story of the Bible in Cambodia with passion and integrity.
- For literacy facilitator, La Heng, who the volunteers met. Pray for her as she leads two reading groups alongside her role as unofficial church warden in Mechrey floating village.
- For Pastor Lim in Mechrey. Pray for spiritual growth and wisdom as he leads the growing church.

12–18 JANUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- That we'll be able to keep offering the Bible to people in Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa – meeting the demand for Scripture and holding it out to those who've never before considered it. Pray that God will continue to guide and shape this vital work.
- For the Bible Society of Egypt (WIA P2) and the rebuilding of their two bookshops after the attack last summer. Thank God for his protection and that no one was hurt. Pray that Christians in Egypt will have a spirit of forgiveness.



Ali Khidri leads Bible Society's mission in Algeria

19–25 JANUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- In South Sudan there's a unique opportunity for the Bible play a role in shaping the development of the country. Pray for the team at this fledgling Bible Society, as they start a new year with a new vision for their nation.
- For Edward Kajivora, leading the work in South Sudan, for wisdom and skill as he embarks on this huge challenge to see Scripture play a part in restoring the nation.

26 JANUARY–1 FEBRUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the growing church in Algeria. Give thanks for the courage and confidence that many Christians have in living out their faith, in a country where Christian activity is restricted.
- For Ali Khidri who leads Bible Society's ministry in Algeria. Pray for protection and wisdom as he looks for new ways to scale up Bible distribution to meet the great demand for Scripture.

FEBRUARY – a focus on Bible translation

First Romani Scripture brings joy

Approximately 4,515 languages in the world still wait for even one word of the Bible in their language.



63-year-old Deljic Elmaza

Photo: Bible Society/Clare Kendall

The launch of the Romani Gospel translation, sparked great celebration among the community (WIA p4-5). One woman said it was the most important day of her life – and added: 'It's like God speaks my language.' It's a comment we hear again and again at new Bible launches. Please pray for the vital work of translation.

2–8 FEBRUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Deljic Elmaza said the launch of the Gospels in Romani was 'the most important day of my life, more important than when I got married.' Pray for her as she immerses herself in the first Scripture she really understands (WIA p4-5).
- Give thanks that up to 700,000 Romani people in Serbia now have Scripture in their language. Pray they will read it, understand it and engage with it.

9–15 FEBRUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- For translators who work tirelessly, often over decades, to put the Scriptures into new languages. Give thanks their dedication and commitment.
- For confidence and assurance as they translate God's word.

16–22 FEBRUARY

PLEASE PRAY:

- For Neil Rees, our Digital Bible Advisor, who helps Bible Societies around the world get their translations online so they are available more widely.
- Scripture is currently available online in just under 300 languages. Pray that this number might be increased this year, to make the Bible available to millions more people via the internet.

23 FEBRUARY–1 MARCH

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the Quechua translation in Bolivia which is now going through revisions. Pray the new translation will enrich the texts and will be clear and easy to read.
- Pray for wisdom in revising the translation and for unity between those making the revisions who are from different backgrounds.