



PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016

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.



OCTOBER 2016

Week 1 – (Sunday 2 – Saturday 8 October)

This week, we are giving thanks for the continued success of the birth registration work in Guatemala. In August, another mile stone was reached – 2,000 children have received their identities. To know that 2,000 young lives have been changed is such a wonderful thing, so let's thank God for His provision for this work through the wonderful generosity of those who continue to support it.

Week 2 – (Sunday 9 – Saturday 15 October)

This Tuesday is the International Day of the Girl Child. Bearing this in mind, let's pray for the young girls and women in El Salvador who often get embroiled in the gang violence through association. It is not uncommon for girls to be "chosen" as girlfriends by gang members. As they become more involved with their new boyfriends they also become more involved with the day to day running of gang activity, mainly through the collection of protection money from local businesses. This can land the girls in trouble and there are now specific prison facilities for girls between the ages of 14 and 24. Let's pray that these young girls become aware of ways in which they can avoid becoming involved and that if they do become affiliated with gangs that they are able to find ways to escape.

Week 3 – (Sunday 16 – Saturday 22 October)

In Kenya, where Toybox has now been working with children for over a year, there is a lack of government figures on the numbers of street children. This means that many children are invisible to the authorities. This often results in difficulties assessing the situation which makes working with the children more challenging. Please pray that the people working to uncover the true figures will be able to complete their work successfully and that the children who are currently non-existent on official figures will soon be visible.

Week 4 – (Sunday 23 October – Saturday 29 October)

This Friday, 28 October, Toybox's Christmas Appeal will be dropping on the doormats of some of our wonderful supporters. The focus of this appeal centres on the ongoing importance of our birth registration work and explains more about how this simple piece of paper can change a child's life in so many ways. Please pray for the success of this appeal so that Toybox's new project in Alta Verapaz, which was initially started due to the success of our Radio 4 Appeal in April, can continue to impact the lives of children in a particularly impoverished area of Guatemala. If you'd like to support the campaign, you can do so by visiting www.toybox.org.uk/musthave.

OCTOBER



NOVEMBER 2016

Week 1 – (Sunday 30 October – Saturday 5 November)

In Peru, it is estimated that at least 90% of street children take drugs. Many of them do so to escape the challenges that come with living on the streets, but this in turn can make them even more vulnerable to being abused and exploited. Let's take some time this week to reflect on the situations that may encourage street children in Peru to make this choice and pray that the teams who are there to support them are able to do so to their best ability.

Week 2 – (Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 November)

Toybox's partner in Guatemala recently started some outreach in a new area of the capital city. The activities take place in the local cemetery where many of the children work with their parents instead of going to school. In parts of Latin America, bodies are placed in little compartments in tall concrete walls which are then bricked up. However, if the family does not or cannot keep paying the rent for the space, the coffin is removed by cemetery attendants and this is the kind of work that children may be helping their parents with. Let's pray for the success of the work in this new area so that the children and their parents are able to see opportunities outside of the cemetery walls.

Week 3 – (Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 November)

In Bolivia, Toybox's partner Alalay seeks to help street children meet their basic needs. The literal translation of Alalay is "I am cold"; as winter really starts to set in in the UK, please keep the children who have no protection or relief from the harsh weather in your thoughts. Let's pray for Toybox's outreach workers around the world who will be supporting the children through these tough nights as well, that they might be able to offer practical and emotional support.

Week 4 – (Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 November)

In August, the Indian government introduced a law that made it illegal for children to work under the age 14, which was a move welcomed by many who champion child rights. However, the law also stipulates that children under 14 may work if it is after school hours, during holidays and in the sports or entertainment industry or if it is a family business. These stipulations mean that children are still open to being exploited and unfairly employed. Let's pray for wisdom for those in the position to amend this law in India so that children, particularly those living on the treacherous streets, can truly be protected by the law.

NOVEMBER

*All names changed to protect the children's identities.

DECEMBER 2016

Week 1 – (Sunday 27 November – Saturday 3 December)

Tuesday 29 November is Giving Tuesday and we'd love you to join us by praying and giving thanks for all our wonderful supporters who give so much, not only on this day, but throughout the year. Our work would be impossible without every single one of you, so thank you. You can find out more about what Toybox is doing for Giving Tuesday by visiting www.toybox.org.uk/streetsanta - thank you!

Week 2 – (Sunday 4 – Saturday 10 December)

Globally, the number of children ending up on the streets having moved away from their home communities has increased dramatically in recent years. Cities are seen to offer more employment opportunities and more anonymity by many children, but this is not always true once they arrive. Children sometimes have to cross international boundaries as well as national ones in their bid to escape, so let's pray for them as they adapt to their new surroundings at an incredibly vulnerable time in their lives.

Week 3 – (Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 December)

In India, the Juvenile Justice Act is resulting in many street children being tried as adults, even though in many cases their date of birth is not known. This increases the risk of an unfair trial and the abuse of the child's rights, so this week please ask God to watch over any children in India who are in this situation and that He might ensure their fair treatment in any legal situations.

Week 4 – (Sunday 19 – Saturday 24 December)

Discrimination is a very real problem that street children face on a regular basis. They encounter it even in places that could offer them safety. Let's think how it would feel to be in this situation where doors are shut immediately, particularly in this last week before Christmas as we reflect on how Mary and Joseph may have felt as they searched for somewhere to rest after their journey to Bethlehem. Let's also pray that children are able to find shelter and safety over this festive time.

Week 5 – (Sunday 25 – Saturday 31 December)

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let's remember all the children who are born on the streets and as a result become second and third generation street children. Let's pray for their families and communities, that they might know happiness at this festive time of year.

DECEMBER