



United Bible Societies

# Day of Prayer

MAY 9, 2023

This year's official prayer was written by Rev. Dirk Gevers, Secretary General of United Bible Societies.



"Eternal God of Grace and Truth,  
Creator, Redeemer, source of all meaning,  
May we hear your voice speaking,  
Always speaking,

*"For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him."*

**Colossians 1:16 (GNT)**

Into the hurting hearts of humankind,  
Always speaking, gentle,  
Words of love, words of healing, words of kindness, words of hope, words of invitation;

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

**Romans 15:13 (NIV)**

Always speaking, unavoidable,  
Words that defeat darkness and evil,  
Words that call us to a better way;

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

**James 4:7 (NIV)**

Open our hearts and our minds by your Spirit;

Bless, we pray, the work that makes your words accessible and understandable to all.

Though Jesus Christ the living Word;  
Amen."

*"The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart."*

**Hebrews 4:12 (GNT)**

*"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe."*

**1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)**



**The UBS Day of Prayer – a significant celebration in the life of our global Fellowship – has been held annually on May 9, coinciding with the anniversary of the founding of the United Bible Societies on May 9, 1946.**

Every year, since 1983, we have gathered together to give thanks for all that God has achieved through this global Fellowship, to pray for our shared mission today and into the future, and to seek his guidance on ongoing efforts to make the Bible accessible to everyone. Please join with us in prayer.

*You can use the full prayer overleaf and the prayer points below in your personal prayer time.*



*United Bible Societies is a Fellowship of Bible Societies working in more than 240 countries and territories to make the Bible available to everyone. Bible Societies serve churches of all confessions and denominations and are actively involved in Bible translation, publishing, distribution, engagement, advocacy and ministry.*

## PRAYER POINTS

**Gracious and loving God, we humbly come before you with hearts full of gratitude. We thank you for:**

- Your Holy Scripture, which inspires, encourages, and transforms us.
- The tireless ministry of 156 Bible Societies working in over 240 countries and territories.
- The hope that the full Bible, in 733 languages, brings to billions of people around the world.
- The completion of translations in 81 languages used by 723 million people in 2022.
- The blessings you continue to pour out on us and our work, sustaining us through times of blessing and challenge.

**Together, with our sisters and brothers across the Fellowship, we pray for:**

- Your divine guidance and direction as we work to spread Your Word in our nations and communities.
- Improved inroads into the 3,776 languages – more than half the world's languages – used by 201 million people, which still have no Scripture at all.
- The flourishing of Bible work through Bible Societies and partner agencies, and for all those who tirelessly serve the Bible cause.
- The ongoing effort to make your Scripture accessible to all people, regardless of their language or background.
- Our spiritual connections and unity as a Fellowship of believers, that we may grow and support each other in faith, hope and love.

**Thank you for your prayers on the UBS Day of Prayer and throughout the rest of 2023. Let's continue to pray together, thanking God for his faithfulness and trusting him to guide and strengthen us in all that we face.**