
SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2011

MARCH 28 – APRIL 3

- **South Asia:** Pray for the SU South Asia Regional Council Meeting to be held in Malaysia in early April.
- **Middle East:** This has been a hotspot this year and Christians have been taking some of the heat. Scripture Union has contacts in a number of countries and has been involved in training and encouraging churches in children's and youth ministry. Please pray for peace and that the gospel will bring real change.
- **Sudan:** We thank God for a peaceful referendum that was held from 9th -15th January 2011 when people voted in favour of Southern Sudan becoming an independent state. Please continue to pray for peace to prevail especially in regard to the oil rich Abyei region which has experienced a lot of conflict in the past.
- **Trinidad & Tobago:** Children's ministry is steadily growing in East Trinidad and 15 volunteers are helping students prepare for major exams. Pray for more volunteers and expansion into other areas. The Bible Ministry is working on a new strategy to counter the decrease of subscriptions and promoters. Please pray for guidance for both ministries and for wisdom for the movement's leadership.
- **Cambodia:** SU has great plans for this year. Pray for Long Sitha and the other staff who are working very hard, particularly in children's ministry. We expect a great harvest especially among the young people. Please pray that the new office will be used effectively.

APRIL 4 – 10

- **East and West Asia Region:** The next regional council meeting will be held in Peninsula Malaysia, April 5-8. On April 9 there will be a special celebration of the 50th anniversary of SU Malaysia. Pray for the meetings and for the Malaysian movement as they host these events.
- **Scripture Union Australia:** SU Australia's review of its purposes, roles and structures is continuing with an important gathering of key stakeholder groups planned for April 8-10. Please pray for a good process and clear outcomes and agreement.
- **April 9:** is the 3rd of three 'Way to Go' Children's Ministry Conferences in New Zealand centres. Pray for Hilary Hague and her team as they build on the momentum created. Wendy Strachan is a speaker.
- **Scotland:** Give thanks for the recent prayer event held for children and their families, Pray Any Way. Give thanks for the popularity of the event, where 200 gathered together, and for God's presence as children sat and prayed for their parents.
- **Austria:** The Bibel-Mobil is getting ready for a new season on the road in our schools and Bible club ministry. Repairs to the body work needed to be carried out as well as replacing the lessons with new programmes. Pray that we will have many open doors in schools and that many young people will be motivated to find Christ in the Bible.



Bibelmobil

APRIL 11 – 17

- **April 9-15:** The Global Children's Forum, 4/14 Movement, Viva and other child advocacy networks were delighted that the Cape Town Commitment (from Lausanne 2010) highlighted the strategic importance of children. Please pray that the '2fish5 loaves' DVD distributed in Cape Town will be multiplied so that people around the world have resources to disciple children. The GCF Facilitation Team will meet from April 9-15 to map the way forward for GCF in ways that capitalise on the advocacy done at Lausanne.
- **April 11 – 13:** SU International are involved in a number of global networks including the Forum of Bible Agencies International. The Forum will be meeting in Edinburgh 11-13 with a special focus on the celebration of the King James translation of the Bible, its impact, and the Bible in a post-colonial setting. Please pray for the meeting and for SU International Director, Janet Morgan, who was elected Chairperson last year. Janet is also a member of the Council of the World Evangelical Alliance that takes place the following week.
- **Korea:** We have about 200 small SU Bible Study Groups in the country. Please pray for the leaders of these groups, that they will be able to lead the members into greater obedience to the Word.
- **Europe Region:** Please pray for John Simmons and the team of experts who give of their time and expertise to movements in SU Europe. They not only identify problem areas but also help cast vision and strategy for the local situation.
- **Central America Sub Region:** Orlando Japas, National Director of SU Honduras, is also working as subregional coordinator, thanks to the generosity of his movement. He regularly visits the movements in El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica to provide support. The economic situation in the region has resulted in violence, insecurity and unemployment, so travel in the area is dangerous. Please pray for Orlando's travels and the movements he visits.

APRIL 18 – 24

- **Australia:** Much of Australia's eastern states has been ravaged by cyclones and floods over the summer. Queensland has been hit particularly badly with extensive flooding south from Rockhampton and a massive cyclone north to Cairns. Please pray especially for our schools and chaplains as they support students, staff and families affected by loss of life and property.



Flood damaged schools in Queensland, Australia

- **Pakistan:** Pray for school and hostel visits, Scripture Union Sundays in different churches in Pakistan, preparation of Vacation Bible School Material, Children's Easter Rally in Rawalpindy, and Youth Seminar in Karachi in April. Pray for the Youth seminar in Peshawar and printing of VBS material in May. Pray for VBS training for volunteers and VBS in Lahore, Rawalpindy, Karachi and Peshawar in June
- **A1 Admin:** Please pray for A1 Admin as they work on producing and distributing SUI News, a helpful publication with news from for SU movements around the world.
- **Botswana:** Pray for God's wisdom as we reorganise our staff, volunteers, and leadership for effective ministry. Pray that God will help us have 1500 volunteers to work with in our schools all over Botswana. Pray for us as we recruit and appoint three people to serve in other regions in the country. We want the Lord to provide faithful, God-fearing and hardworking officers.

APRIL 25 – MAY 1

- **Former Soviet Republics:** The annual conference takes place at Vorzel in Ukraine from April 28 – May 3. This is an important time for staff and key volunteers who are often working in isolated situations. Pray too for preparations for camps including the International Camp in July and the first camps of the summer which will take place in the second half of June in Vorzel, Moscow and Siberia.
- **Guatemala:** Central America is experiencing increasing social violence. National Director, Eduardo Marroquin, often requests prayer for the families of volunteers who have lost a relative in violent attacks. Mildred Lacan and Sandra Ochoa are leading the schools ministry in Escuintla and Huehuetenango with their volunteers, regularly having to minister in class to children who have suffered this same drama in their families.



Mildred Lacan in a school in Escuintla

- **Britain and Ireland:** E100 Bible Reading Challenge is being launched in many countries and in Britain and Ireland SU is working with the Bible Societies and Wycliffe to encourage 1,000 churches to take up the Challenge during 2011 as part of the Evangelical Alliance Biblefresh initiative. The Essential 100 book contains 100 Bible readings giving an overview of the Bible and by February more than 25,000 copies had been sold. Pray that these books will be used and lead to people meeting God in fresh ways through the Bible. Pray also for churches using E100 as a group – that together they will discover the blessing of reading the Bible in community.
- **Indo-China:** Tadashi Oyamada, the East and West Asia region CEO visited some Indo-China countries in March. Some of the countries are restricted. Please pray that their visit will have been an encouragement to the people they met. Pray too that the experience will help the region to see how work can be further developed in those countries.

MAY 2 –8

- **SU International:** Staff training and strategic development are critical to the health of SU globally. Please pray for the implementation of the Shaping for Service training program and for the first phase of Living Hope when SU Movements will be reflecting on ministry and culture. Also pray for Jenny Stewart, SU International Business and Development Manager as she coordinates fundraising for these two initiatives.
- **Norway:** Pray for a widespread use of our new resources and for increased Bible engagement in families and youth groups through them. *Growing together – with the Bible in the family* is notes for adults following our *Alfa* notes for children, with short reflections on the Bible passages, prayers and activities related to the Bible texts. *B-tweens* is a Bible engagement resource for leaders of tweens groups (ages 10–13). Give thanks for the strength, wisdom and creativity God has given Jorunn Elise Djupvik, as she edits *Growing together* and *B-tweens*.
- **Australia:** Pray for ongoing acceptance for the E100 Challenge across many churches in Australia and for Resources For Ministry as they develop the *Essential Jesus Challenge* for Australia. Pray for Kevin Hooper as he leads RFM and seeks new avenues to resource the Church in Bible engagement.
- **Nepal:** Praise the Lord for the opportunity to work among children in January 2011. We had a VBS (Vacation Bible School) camp at Bhaktapur 11-13 January where 120 children attended. Eighty of them were non-Christian students from Life Vision School where the VBS camp was held. Another VBS was held from 16-18 January at Bethel AG Church. Another group of 105 children attended this camp. Please pray for the writing, typing, editing, printing and distributing of Nepali Bible reading guide. Pray that the Lord will supply all our needs, especially that he will provide sufficient funds for staff salary.



VBS (Vacation Bible School) Nepal

MAY 9 – 15

- **Africa:** Pray for our Regional Team meeting to be held from 10-13 May 2011 in Nairobi. Pray for safety as members fly in and out of Nairobi. Pray for good fellowship and fruitful discussions
- **E100 Youth:** Clayton Fergie is coordinating a team from a number of countries to produce a youth version of E100 Challenge using social and digital media. Pray that the project will move quickly and be effective in helping young people encounter God in the Scriptures.
- **Australian school chaplaincy:** There is a case before the High Court of Australia to consider a challenge to the Federal Government funding of Chaplaincy services in public schools. The defence was prepared in February and the hearings will take place May 10-12. An outcome is expected to be announced later in the year or early in 2011. Please pray for wisdom in fighting this challenge on both the legal and media fronts. Especially pray for Tim Mander of SU Queensland and his team.
- **Peru:** National Director of SU Peru, Paul Clark, also coordinates the Andean Amazonic Sub Region. He is helping schools workers and volunteers to share their ministry experience with neighbouring countries. One example of this is in Huaquillas in the south of Ecuador, where a group of Ecuadorian volunteers are now serving in several schools. Pray for our Peruvian colleagues as they share the vision and assist their neighbours in starting up their own ministry in schools.
- **German-speaking Switzerland:** Our Hotel Casa Lumino in Tessin began its new season on 6 March. Please pray for Roberto und Regula Calvarese as team for the new season settles in. Pray that God will give them joy and strength for this arduous ministry and that the guests will be sustained and nourished through meeting with God in his Word.

MAY 16 – 22

- **Scotland:** January 2011 marked the commencement of SU Scotland's new 5-year strategy. Pray for the outworking of this strategy on the ground, and in particular for increased effectiveness in reaching disadvantaged and marginalised children and young people, and working more closely with churches.
- **Japan:** CSK is SU Japan's ministry to junior and senior high school students. There are three main dimensions to its work: encouraging young Christians to read through the whole Bible, camping ministry and training local church leaders working with this age group. Please pray for Ms Yasuko Omi, the director of CSK and the eight committee members who lead the work with her.
- **Czech Republic:** We are grateful for the current work in Prague and Prague-West. We will continue working with the local schools by helping them with English conversation, sport and craft activities that will again develop into a Bible Club. We will also continue running an afternoon club that was very successful during last six months – the pedig basket-making activity and working with the children from the schools who have taken part in our camps. Please pray that God will touch these children's hearts.
- **Pacific:** The Pacific Executive met in March to follow-up on the major outcomes from the conference in Vanuatu in December. Please pray for this group and especially the Pacific Islands Coordinator, Sam Emery in putting plans in place and working with key people throughout the region.

MAY 23 – 29

- **Sri Lanka:** Pray for Julia Kassimatis and the team as they venture into Youth ministries. Pray as SU Sri Lanka chooses staff to expand ministry into the North and East of the country.
- **Liberia:** Thank God for “Camp 2010” where the attendance was 208, with very meaningful results. First, we succeeded in conducting two camps simultaneously for the first time: one in the west and the other in the southeast of the country. Second, the camp recorded the largest number of young people accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour, than at any previous camps! In the west, 130 Muslim youths accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour; in the southeast, 15 youths accepted the Lord for the first time. So there were 145 souls won to the Lord at the camps!
- **Ecuador:** Bible ministry is growing including distribution of Encounter with God in Quito. SU Peru staff helped Tanya Gonzalez and a group of Ecuadorian volunteers begin new ministry in several schools in the southern city of Huaquillas. Tim and Elsa Pawson are replicating this ministry in the suburbs of Quito. Please pray for the schools where Pastor Manuel and wife Martha, Amy, Maritza and Tim are teaching values. National Director Margarita Padilla expects to retire this year. Please pray for a new leader who will take this movement to the next stage of growth and consolidation.



- **Northern Ireland:** The E3 Schools Project aims to place SU schools workers in six local districts. Please pray for the staff, Rachel Sheppard (Ballymeena), Mark Hawthorne (Antrim) and Jenny Atkinson (North Coast). Pray too for Leanne Dunlop who has just moved from East Belfast to Bangor and for Lindsay Witherow taking over in East Belfast on April 1. The final district, Fermanagh, already has most of the funding in place. Please pray for the final 30%!

MAY 30 – JUNE 5

- **Thailand:** Please pray for the new chairman Ms Bu-nga Kornvinai, and General Secretary Ms. Yawanit Kasaetwatananond. Pray too about the possibility of SU Singapore developing a closer support relationship with SU Thailand.
- **Greece:** SU Greece needs volunteers to help in our Home for the Elderly, during the months April - October. Please pray we will be able to cover this need with volunteers who are able to give at least 3 weeks of their time and who are able to speak English.
- **New Zealand:** Please pray for the roll out of Essential Jesus in NZ as a follow-on from the very successful E100 Challenge last year. A denomination in Queensland are also keen for this to be launched in their churches this year and we need the capacity to be able to do this. Pray as people read the Word and are changed by it.
- **Bangladesh:** Ravi Navaratnam visited Bangladesh in February. Please pray for fruit from the contacts he made and for the development of Scripture Union work here.
- **Zambia:** Praise God for the 13 youth camps held around Zambia in 2010, reaching a total of 3,978 youth, with 1,291 young people responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, a total of 136 High schools were visited in the Copperbelt, central, Northern, Southern, western and North- Western Provinces. Thank God also for partnership with Tearfund UK in which SU Zambia is seeking to scale up demand for HIV prevention services.

JUNE 6 – 12

- **India:** Pray for the SU Chennai Staff family seminar to be held in the 2nd week in June. Pray too for 10th Standard and 12th Standard students as they write their board exams during March and April. Pray for VBS - Vacation Bible Study - during May, when the students will have their vacation. And finally please pray for journeying mercies for all the staff when they travel for mission from one place to another.
- **June 6 – 10:** Each year at this time the SU International Executive, Regional Directors, and International Staff meet for 5 days for development and planning. Dr. Andreas M. Walker a well known Swiss evangelical Christian and co-president of Swissfuture, will be the guest speaker. He has undertaken a survey on 'hope' and will be with the staff to explore this topic.
- **Zimbabwe:** Pray for focus, commitment and unity of purpose for the Management team this year and for the continuity and stability of the ministry. Pray too about the social, political and economic challenges in this country. Thank God for the committee and senior staff training which took place from January 21 to 23 in Nyanga. Pray for plans to promote Bible reading in the country under the SU South Africa-SU Zimbabwe combined efforts through E-100 Challenge.
- **Bolivia:** SU Bolivia is going through a very critical moment. They are facing financial constraints and are without a national director. Please join us praying for the Board as they struggle with these issues and also try to continue sustaining the work of their volunteers in schools.

JUNE 13 – 19

- **Republic of Ireland:** Work on the major redevelopment of the Ovoca Manor residential centre is continuing and due to be complete in June in time for summer events. Please pray for the builders and architect that they will be able to meet that target. Pray too for Grace Deegan the new Primary Schools Coordinator as she develops this exciting new area of schools ministry.
- **Hong Kong:** SU has a new one year course for Youth Ministry Tutors. May God use it to bless the HK youth ministry tutors with the Word, that they would be edified and their lives transformed for a better ministry ahead. Pray too for the HKSU 50th Anniversary planning committee: Lucia, Matthew, Allen, Shinas, and Joseph Chan the committee chairman.
- **Hungary:** One of our best and most successful products is *Lélekfrissítő*, our Bible guide for women. We are so grateful to God for all the positive feedback we get from our readers! However, it is a lot of work to prepare each issue, and other equally important projects, like *Christianity Explored* have had to take a back seat due to that. Please pray that Erzsébet Komlósi who deals with both, would find the right balance, and would be able to find people who she can delegate some of the work involved in the preparation of *Lélekfrissítő* each quarter.
- **SUSTAIN:** This is an initiative to provide assistance with property development (eg camp sites) in the Pacific Islands. A Project team recently visited Fiji to evaluate the prospects and plan development. SU Papua New Guinea and Solomons are also keen to pursue the potential for building sustainable ministry through property development such as camp sites and administration facilities.

JUNE 20 – 26

- **Pakistan:** Last year's floods and ongoing terrorism continue to scar many lives. Please pray for peace and that the gospel will bring liberation from fear, from oppression, from evil, from suffering to the people of this country.
- **Uganda:** Thank God for the success of various activities that were held in the last quarter. Many young people and adults gave their lives to Christ during those programmes. Pray that pupils and students will have access to Bibles in order to grow strong in their faith. Pray also that SU will develop a sustainable flow of income for the ministry. Pray that we will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all our activities.
- **Colombia:** Every Saturday National Director Joe Mendoza and volunteers sing and share Bible stories with more than 200 children on the dirt streets of the poorest area of Barranquilla. Last year pastors from the city of Valledupar asked for help. SU trained a work team who ran two camps. The second one had 100 children from 5 different churches. They are now planning schools ministry. Please pray for this new stage in their ministry.



Street meeting for children in Bajo San Felipe, the poorest area of Barranquilla in Colombia

- **England and Wales:** Earlier this year we introduced an online booking system for our holidays. All bookings and payments are made via the website, which is simpler for both parents and the SU volunteers organising the holidays. Please pray that the system will run smoothly and help us to reach more young people. And pray for the administrative team as they handle the queries that an online system cannot answer.