



WEEK OF PRAYER **November 1 – 7** **2009**

Prayer Guide

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Children

Pray for Children, especially in situations where they are vulnerable

- **Throughout the World**
- **In your Nation**
- **In your local community**
- **In your church**

Pray for Children

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Year of the Child, yet children remain intensely vulnerable. From the AIDS orphan to the child soldier, from the boy bullied by peers via SMS to the girl-child robbed of educational opportunities, children all over the world struggle in unfair situations that place them 'at risk'. They are a group largely unnoticed, and often undefended against forces of poverty, consumerism, family breakdown, witchcraft, natural disaster and exploitation.

Pray that the worldwide Church will speak and act on their behalf, and that governments, agencies and churches will together make wise decisions that promote the long-term well-being of children.

Pray for SU Children's Ministry

Scripture Union has a privileged responsibility to share God's Good News with children in ways that help them to become authentic disciples of Jesus. Pray that in whatever context this is done – working amongst street children, traumatized children or orphans, running clubs and holiday activities, investing in mentoring relationships, producing print and multi-media resources - SU staff and volunteers will develop strategies that demonstrate the holistic love of Christ. Thank God for the opportunity to share this task with families and churches and pray that the gifts, opinions and contributions of children will be appreciated and nurtured.

Pray for the children, their families, and the SU volunteers and staff working with them.

Specific Prayer Items

Pre-school work in Slovakia

Every Wednesday morning a full playroom of children (1-4 years old) and their parents are thrilled to hear new stories, play games or enjoy a drama in an interactive Bible-based

program. 'Children's Club Benjamin is a safe place for our children,' was the reaction of one mother.

Pray for more opportunities for the very young to experience the love of Jesus and the adventure of the Bible.

Protection for South Asian school children

Continuing terrorist incidents have created panic amongst Pakistani children to the extent that many parents are no longer sending their children to school. Co-educational schools are under particular threat. In Sri Lanka, children continue to be traumatised by conflict and by devastation families have suffered as a result of the 2004 tsunami.

Pray that Danishmand Wasti and his team in SU Pakistan, and Julia Kassimatis and her team in Sri Lanka, will act wisely and creatively as peace-bringers.

Training Children's workers in East Asia

SU Singapore has numerous opportunities to train those who work with children - not only within Singapore but this year SU Director David Leong has travelled to Malacca, Taiwan, Sabah and Indonesia. He and his team also work in partnership with Singapore Bible College to design and deliver their children's ministry course.

Pray for David and his team, and for others with regional responsibilities for children's ministry training: Beth Baleke (Africa), Oksana Khimich (Former Soviet Republics) and Herbert Samuel (India/South Asia).

Mentoring Children in Australia

Praise God for the generosity of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in allowing SU Queensland to adapt their *Dare to be a Daniel* discipleship program for 11-14 year olds for use in government schools through their chaplaincy program.

Pray for the working group as they evaluate the trial program and prepare a final edit for public release at the start of 2010 for use in schools and churches in Queensland, and further afield.

Christmas in Russia

As Christmas approaches, SU volunteers in St Petersburg visit centres for homeless children with gifts and a puppet show. Meanwhile, thousands of miles away to the east in Siberia, winter sees the commencement of a number of village holiday clubs with a Christmas theme.

Please pray that these programs will leave children with lasting memories.

Madagascar

Over many years, SU has built extensive work here amongst children at risk. With political instability in 2009, some ministries have been disrupted.

Pray for God's provision for all needs.

KidsGames Europe Training Conference

The KidsGames strategy has been used by a number of Scripture Union movements across Europe in recent years with good success. A three-day conference in France is planned from 9-11 November to further raise the profile of KidsGames within Scripture Union movements and beyond. Invitations are being sent to interested people within Europe, Great Britain and the former Soviet republics.

Please pray for good outcomes to flow on from this event.

MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Young People

Pray for Young People

- **Throughout the World particularly in areas where they are more at risk**
- **In your Nation**
- **In your local community**
- **In your church**

Pray for Young People

Youth (people 15-24 years of age) make up 18% of the world's population and 25% of the working population. Never before has this age bracket constituted such a large share of the overall population. Many more young people, including girls, have completed basic education than ever before and many now have access to higher levels of education. Yet, in all regions of the world, young people's transition to adulthood is affected by poverty. Because of poverty, and sometimes because of social and cultural constraints, many young people are excluded from accessing quality education, decent employment, health and other resources and services. Their transition into the workforce, and therefore into adulthood, is hindered by unemployment and poverty. *(UN World Youth Report)*

Pray for young people, and those seeking to give them hope and a future, especially in these challenging times.

Pray for SU Youth Ministry

Scripture Union works worldwide with many young people in a variety of settings. The ministry includes camping and teen games, Bible engagement, leadership development, chaplaincy, values and life skills education, religious education and school groups. SU staff and volunteers play a role in 'mentoring' young people at a time when they can be particularly vulnerable.

Pray for the young people, their families, teachers, and the SU volunteers and staff working with them.

Specific Prayer Items

Bible Engagement in the Pacific

In October 2008 a group representing various organisations working with young people in Australia met to discuss the way forward for Bible Engagement. The aim was to identify new strategies, models and means in helping young people meet God through the Bible and prayer, and to be transformed into his likeness. SU Australia is committed to continuing this exploration through a research and development project for which they are currently seeking funding.

Please pray for the funds to be made available; for the plans as they are developed; and for the successful implementation of the partnership with great outcomes for young people and the participating organisations.

Scripture Union Young Leaders Camp 2009

In the last week of July more than 20 young adults from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic joined with staff from Germany, Austria, Portugal and Australia for a special week at the Scripture Union Young Leaders Camp 2009 in Quintas do Norte, one of SU Portugal's two Camp Centres. Participants focused on the Kingdom of God and what it means to be a Kingdom person in the Bible Engagements led by Clayton Fergie. There were also many workshops concentrating on personal development and

leadership skills. The participants – most of them experienced volunteers in their national SU movements – enjoyed a special time that not only allowed them to focus on leadership, but also gave them time to discover a little of Portugal's beauty and make international friendships.

We thank God for safety in travel and at the camp, and a great time of fellowship and fun, challenging Bible Engagement and practical workshops. Please pray for the participants to apply what they learned in their lives, churches and in their national SU ministries.

Multi-country Teen Games

Teen Games took place in Serbia-Voivodina from 18-24th July. One hundred teens attended from Serbia, Bulgaria and Slovakia. The competition included volleyball, football, basketball, chess, table tennis and badminton. All the young people took part in the million hour compassion project serving a variety of environmental projects.

Please, pray that we will be able to organise and to implement the Teen Games next year in Bulgaria. That God will lead us and provide all that we need to do this.

Please pray with us for the young people who participated in Teen Games this year in Serbia – that all they have heard and learned about God will be used in the future in their life and for God's glory.

Youth Ministry Consultation planned for the Pacific Islands - January 2010.

This Consultation has been discussed for some time as there is an urgent need for training for staff and volunteers in children and youth ministries.

Praise God that:

- *we are now able to plan for this important event for the Island Movements*
- *for the keen interest already shown by the Pacific Movements, indicating that many are eager to attend*
- *SU Vanuatu has confirmed their willingness to host this event*

Please pray for:

- *SU Vanuatu in their planning*
- *the logistics of accommodation, meals and transport*
- *provision of finances for fees and air travel for participants*
- *trainers for the various workshops*
- *the Planning Team who meet in Brisbane 26-28 August 2009*

HIV & Aids - a growing concern in the Islands: please pray for the dedicated small team of volunteers running a peer model program in high schools in the Solomon Islands with the help of their Australian Joint Venture Partners SU Tasmania & SU Victoria.

TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

Bible Ministry

Pray for Bible distribution and engagement

- **The organisations throughout the World who translate, distribute and help people engage with the Bible and particularly for areas in the world where people have little access to the Bible**
- **Those engaged in Bible ministries in your nation**
- **The writers and distribution of Bible guides**

Pray for Bible Ministry

Luke's Gospel opens with a description of the people who, down the ages, have enabled the transmission of God's word, the Bible. Luke describes them as 'those who from the beginning were... servants of the word' (Luke 1:2).

Give thanks for all who are involved today in this continuing process. Pray especially for Bible translators and consultants in a world where 2,393 languages still have no translation of any part of the Bible (2008 data from Wycliffe Bible Translators). Pray that translators may be true 'servants of the word'. Pray for those parts of the world where Bible translation and distribution involve great personal risk.

Since the last SUI Week of Prayer, two significant new websites have been born, thanks to the hard work of the Forum of Bible Agencies International, of which SUI is a member. One is www.scripture-engagement.org which seeks to make known as wide a range as possible of resources to help those who encourage others to explore God's word. The other, still to go live, is the result of the Find a Bible project. This aims to be a web site where any Web user can learn about the availability of Scripture resources in any language of the world (more information on www.ifoba.com/about_ifoba/default.aspx?id=106).

Thank God for the collaborative work of FOBAI member agencies. Pray that these websites may serve the worldwide church and soon be available in other languages.

Pray for SU Bible Ministries

SUI's 'Working Principles' document describes our Bible ministries work as 'encouraging people to meet God through the Bible'. That means our Bible work is fundamentally about *relationship*, about helping children, young people and families to discover the Bible as a place where God meets us and models for us new ways of relating to our families, neighbours and communities. 'We live today in a world impoverished of story; so it is not surprising that many of us have picked up the bad habit of extracting "truths" from the stories we read: we summarize "principles" that we can use in a variety of settings at our discretion; we distil a "moral" that we use as a slogan...or a motto...It is no wonder that we continue this abstracting, story-mutilating practice when we read our Bibles' (Eugene H Peterson, *Eat This Book*, p 48).

Pray that all of us in SU will keep relationship with God at the heart of our Bible ministries, whether we are writing or editing Bible guides, preaching, leading young people in reflecting on Scripture, planning office prayers, or in our own Bible reading.

Specific Prayer Items

Hearts Burning – Scripture Engagement Consultation

Exploring Scripture Engagement for the 21st Century was the theme of the Hearts Burning Conference convened by the Forum of International Bible Agencies in Malaysia in

October. In the 'Children and Youth Track', experienced practitioners (including several SU staff from different national movements) presented workshops that demonstrated different models of working amongst young people. Each of the models reflected thoughtful hermeneutics, the relational dimension of Scripture engagement and the expectation of response.

Thank God for the diversity of experiences shared from around the world: from Godly Play with young people to state-of-the-art multi-media resources, from an interactive Bible Timeline approach to the Bible narrative, to the transformational impact of that narrative upon traumatised children and youth. Please pray that as a result of the Forum, SU around the world will face the challenges of Scripture engagement with today's young people with renewed vision and innovative ideas as the many SU delegates return to their national movements.

Africa Region

Donald Manley (National Director, Sierra Leone) has taken over the demanding role of editor of the English language Bible guides for the Region. This involves gathering 365 contributions every year from volunteer writers in several movements, editing them into comments that help readers grow as disciples of Jesus as they relate Scripture to their context, and overseeing the distribution of the final texts on time so that they can be printed locally. This month is a key time for distribution of *Daily Power* and *Daily Guide*. Daniel Besse, also serving as chaplain at Rimlishof, the SU France centre, does the same work for the French Bible guide, *Lecteur*.

Please pray for Donald and Daniel in this extremely demanding and responsible ministry, and for the teams of volunteer writers, that they may experience the Holy Spirit's direction and help as they seek to build people's love for God's word.

USA

In March this year Whitney Kuniholm, President of SU USA, reported some very encouraging outcomes of the E100 (Essential 100) Bible reading initiative. (More information on www.E100Challenge.com/pages) Some 50,000 people in nearly 1,000 churches have read through the Bible in the 100 readings provided in the resource. A survey by the respected Barna Group showed that pastors and individuals have found this resource very helpful indeed in encouraging a habit of Bible reading. SU in Australia are currently working with the Bible Society to roll out the program, which is also available in Spanish.

Praise God for the impact in the USA of this simple but effective Bible reading tool. Pray for courage and discernment for Whitney and his team as they seek God's way in difficult economic times and respond to many requests for a follow-up Bible reading program. Pray that the Spanish version will also take off and for the implementation of E100 in Australia.

SU INTERNATIONAL

Pauline Hoggarth, SUI Bible Ministries Coordinator, retires at the end of November 2009 after 10 years of service. The process is underway to appoint her successor.

Please pray for wisdom and discernment for all those involved in this appointment and for God's clear leading to his man or woman for this work.

WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER

Leadership

Pray for Leaders

- Throughout the World
- In your Nation
- In your local area

Pray for Leaders

'There is no better time to renew our commitment to pray for our leaders...much of the blessing in the life of our church unfolds because of the prayers of people united in seeking God's way. Prayer increases our readiness to live humbly, wisely, and courageously. Our President and our nation need humility, wisdom, and courage. These three qualities should guide our prayers for the leaders responsible for our nation and our world. Leadership that is lacking in any of these three will be far less constructive than these trying times demand. When we pray for a pluralistic, conflicted, and divided nation like our own, we should recognize that we are not just praying for the church, for the community of God's people. Instead, we are stepping into our role as faithful exiles, surrounded by a widely varied people, who seek God's life-giving love, mercy, and justice, especially for the marginalized and for our enemies. We cry out to God for his shalom to be poured out upon others. That will be the evidence to the world that the blessing we seek isn't just for ourselves, but that we truly care for all peoples, tribes, and nations.'

(Mark Labberton, Pastor First Presbyterian Church Berkeley, California – *Christianity Today* 16/01/2009)

Please pray for leaders in your nation, and for existing and emerging Christian leaders.

Pray for SU Leaders

Scripture Union seeks to develop volunteer and staff leadership in a variety of ways around the world. This includes national, regional, and international training events. The first SU International 'Shaping for Service' training pilot will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in November. This comprehensive global training strategy will assist in training volunteers and staff in many areas of ministry and leadership.

Please pray for the development of SU leaders with vision, and a concern for children and young people, and that they may 'chase after God's heart and help others to do the same.

Specific Prayer Items

New SU Staff

Please pray for the new SU Staff and Volunteer leaders in your area of the world. Pray that they may be filled with wisdom and vision for their ministry. Then give thanks for the Staff and Volunteer leaders that have retired from service with SU this year. Give thanks for their contribution and commitment.

SU Regional Leadership

Over the next few years there will be changes in Regional Leadership. East and West Asia Region are seeking to appoint a replacement for Koh Gim Lam who will retire at the end of 2010. Europe Region has also begun the process for replacement of Peter Hoppler who will retire in 2012.

Please pray for those who are responsible for the search process and for those whom God may be calling to these leadership positions.

Leading Staff Development Course

Please pray for preparation for the SU International LSDC that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2010. Leaders from all over the world are taking part in this training event.

Please pray that all those involved will grow in their vision and ability to fulfill their calling in SU. Also pray for a deep sense of fellowship and that lasting relationships will be forged. Please pray for energy, vision and wisdom for Peter Hoppler, course director, and the planning team, and ask God to supply our financial needs as he has done so faithfully for the last three courses.

THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER

International initiatives & concerns

Pray for the special initiatives and concerns of God's people

- Throughout the World and particularly in areas where there is civil war, famine, and other crises
- In your Nation
- In your local area

Research

Thank God for research that can help us to work more effectively and use resources more carefully. Thank God also for partnerships without which we would not be able to do this research work. We thank God for SU USA's collaboration with the American Bible Society that is behind the E100 initiative.

Specific Prayer Items

Shaping for Service

SU International's Global Training Strategy, *Shaping for Service*, aims to equip staff and volunteers for their ministry within SU. It is being trialled in Africa in November 2009 with the intention of multiplying it throughout Africa and other regions in 2010-11.

Please pray that the resources being developed will be readily adaptable for the wide variety of circumstances in which SU works around the world.

Global Children's Forum

The Global Children's Forum is an emerging and growing partnership of children's ministry agencies that operate with a global or major regional focus on the evangelism and discipleship of children. Its vision is to work together in advocacy for children, in multiplying the training of children's workers around the world and in empowering children to be authentic followers of Jesus.

Please pray for a willingness to face the challenges of partnership with creativity and enjoyment.

Global Community Games

Global Community Games continues to expand around the world throughout every continent.

Praise God for the way that the universal language of sport builds a bridge between the child's world and the world of the Bible, and provides opportunities for community service. GCG is intentionally developing leadership skills amongst children and young people especially in the Middle East and Asia.

Global Youth Ministry Consultation

In September 2008 SUI ran a Global Youth Ministry Consultation with representatives from most regions attending. A number of key issues arose from the consultation which are important for shaping the development of SU's youth ministry around the world. These will increasingly feed in to the support of SU movements through training and development initiatives.

Pray for International Youth Ministry Coordinator, Clayton Fergie as he coordinates this.

HIV & AIDS intervention ministry

SU continues to develop HIV & AIDS intervention ministry around the world. Most of this is in the form of Values and Life Skills education in primary and secondary schools. About 40 SU movements in Africa are involved, as well as a number of movements in other parts of the world where the spread of HIV continues at an alarming rate.

Please pray for Sam Udanyi, SU Africa's Aid for AIDS coordinator and Clayton Fergie, SU International Youth Ministry Coordinator, as they work with many movements around the world.

Work with those affected by the 2004 Tsunami

SU in India and Sri Lanka continue their ministry with families affected by the 2004 Tsunami. The nature of this work is constantly changing as children become teenagers, community development continues and local government policy shifts with the changing situation.

Pray for the teams engaged in this ministry as they continue to provide much needed long term support, adapting to changing needs as they go.

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Resources

Pray for the provision of resources for God's work

- Throughout the World and particularly in areas of greatest need
- In your Nation
- In your local area

Pray for the provision of resources for SU's work

The resources required for any ministry are varied in nature and scale. Within SU this includes materials that are used in ministry (printed and electronic), human resources (volunteers and staff), and financial resources. It is a constant challenge to provide all that is needed in changing environments and to provide for growth and new projects. Currently SU International is exploring opportunities for a new cooperative approach to publishing within the SU global community, particularly in the light of increasing ministry delivery via the internet and the wider availability of technology.

Pray for those in SU responsible for providing materials, for training and developing staff and volunteers, and for raising and managing the funds required. Pray that possibilities for collaboration in publishing will enable us to make the best use of the resources God gives us.

Specific Prayer Items

Max7

Praise God for the growth of Max7, a web-based strategy to share discipleship resources free of cost around the world. The website is now live in English, French, Spanish and Russian and over 100,000 resources have been downloaded in almost 100 countries.

Please pray for the development of a team of Max7 Master Writers, largely from the majority world, who can equip others to develop local resources.

SU publishing collaboration

Ongoing meetings are being held to discuss ways in which collaboration between SU movements may result in cost savings in the printing and production of SU materials around the world.

Praise God for open discussions and willingness to work together. Please pray for all those involved – for clear direction, creativity and vision.

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

The Church and God's transforming power

Pray for the church and God's transforming power

- **Throughout the World and particularly in areas where the message cannot be openly shared**
- **In your Nation**
- **In your local area**
- **Through the Church and SU**

Pray for the God's transforming power throughout the world

'Secularists in parts of the world have clamoured for the separation of church and state, religion and politics, opposing the use of public funds for faith-based initiatives. But a study on the social benefit of Christian churches in Rotterdam suggests that, if the churches were to stop their volunteer activities today, the city would go bankrupt. While in some European countries, like France, Poland and Belgium, evangelical fellowships are still branded by secular authorities as 'sects', it is clear from the Rotterdam research that such fellowships are rapidly becoming 'mainstream', swelled by large numbers of evangelical migrant Christians. Churches clearly have a cohesive function in the city, concludes the report. Within the churches themselves, they offer a framework for building social networks among people of different ages, different cultures and different lands of origin. Also, the churches play a major role in the community by promoting contact between various ethnic groups in the neighbourhood and the building of longer-term relationships. According to the researchers of this report, it is time for city fathers in Rotterdam and elsewhere to give recognition and concrete financial assistance to the considerable contribution of the urban churches.' (Jeff Fountain, YWAM Europe)

Pray for the ministry of the churches and SU in God's transforming work in the community.

Specific Prayer Items

Areas where there is ongoing conflict and turmoil

Pray for war torn areas of the world and countries that continue to experience turmoil and disorder. Pray for the role of the church in bringing about peace and stability.

Financial crises

Pray for areas of the world most deeply affected by financial crises. Pray particularly for the poor and marginalised in these situations. Pray for wisdom and courage for national and church leaders. Pray for the local SU leadership as they continue to support and strengthen the work among the cyclone orphans.

Please pray for God's transforming power in the lives of all the children, young people, and families with whom SU works.

More information and prayer items are available on the SU International website – www.su-international.org