



Scripture Union
God's Big Story transforming young lives

Global Prayer News

April to June 2022

www.scriptureunion.global

*When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.*
Luke 21:28

Dear friends and prayer partners, dear SU family,

A few days ago, I was listening to a radio program interviewing children on their perception of the future. Many of them expressed their anxiety because of Covid related issues, the war in Ukraine and the destruction of the environment. And we all know that a lot of adults are feeling the same way.

At the same time our society is reasonably optimistic that we will be able to manage in the end. If we try hard enough, we will be able to stop global warming and all related consequences. We will be able to stop wars and live together peacefully as one humankind. We will be able to live our normal lives forever. But is this what the Bible is telling us?

When I grew up in the 60s and 70s in a Christian family, sermons, and books on the 'end of times' were quite popular (and quite frightening to me as a child). However, in recent years I have heard very little about eschatological topics.

When Jesus talked about the end of times, he made it very clear that life on earth would become a lot worse before He would come back and make all things new. He wanted his disciples to be prepared – but even more, to have hope!

Hope conquers fear

Instead of being paralysed with fear and feeling powerless and overwhelmed, Jesus' disciples are invited to lift their heads and rise with courage and joy. Why? Because in God's timeline, the end is the beginning. His kingdom comes into full shape when our world ends. People who are trusting God's word are aware that the best is yet to come: a time when we finally will get rid of our imperfections, when we will finally be able to fully live out what God has created in us when we were born again. A time when pain, suffering and tears will finally end forever.

Is the end of the times really that near? Is the global pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the suffering environment a concrete sign of the end? I have no idea. But that's not important. God knows the dates and times. The important bit for us is to know, horribly bad and disturbing things will necessarily happen all over the world before Jesus returns. But they should never discourage us. On the contrary, we should take strength and hope because our Lord is coming soon!

Hope encourages ministry

If we are convinced that our salvation is coming, then it is natural to share our hope and invite as many people as possible into God's kingdom. In a daunting world, people of hope can make a difference by living out – even in a broken and fractured way – God's deep love. Let us pray for each other that we will be able to do this – whether in challenging environments, in a restricted country or during times of war. Our brothers and sisters all need our prayer support. Thank you for joining in.

Warmest greetings and blessings,



Monika Kuschmierz
International Director



Community News

India

We celebrate the life of John Jacob who passed away on 2 February this year. Born to Armenian parents in 1924 in colonial India, John received his schooling in St. Paul's School, Darjeeling where he was led to Christ by R. T. Archibald of Scripture Union. John was just 12 then; yet he wished to be an evangelist as Archibald was. And God made that happen when John turned 32.

While teaching in Hebron School, Ooty - a hill station in South India, John went to Scotland on holiday. Soon he joined SU Scotland as their Camps Organiser. In 1962, he returned to India and served SU, visiting English schools in south India. He led thousands of boys and girls to Christ and trained them in the SU Bible-reading system.

Between 1972 - 1986, John made a tremendous contribution as SU India's General Secretary and SU South Asia's Regional Secretary. The SU Camp Centre along the East Coast in Mamallapuram (near Chennai) was his brainchild. More than an administrator, John was truly an evangelist by heart. This caused him to work with children and young people even in his advanced years.

John loved people and developed lasting friendships with them, remembering them each by name in prayer regularly. A great man of God, known for his simplicity, courage, and practical advice! Thank God for the life of brother John Jacob!



(D. Stephen Abraham - Former General Secretary SU India & Regional Secretary SU South Asia)

Quebec



SU ministry in French-speaking Canada has faced several internal challenges within the past three years leading to the complete dissolution of staff. However, we rejoice that God has raised new workers to continue His mission.

Donald Alexandre, SU Quebec's new director, took office last September. He arrives with an impressive background, which will be very useful to the ministry. A trained accountant and former banker, he is also a member of several organizations that help churches and Christian ministries, young people, and immigrants.

Pray that he and the other new staff quickly become familiar with the daily operations of SU Quebec so they can recommence the operations that have been on hold for the last year or so.

Pakistan

We also welcome **Raheel Iqbal**, the new national director for SU Pakistan. Raheel obtained his M.Div. at Gujranwala Theological Seminary, Pakistan. He also has an MBA and banking experience. Before joining SU, he worked with the Open Theological Seminary, Pakistan and the Theological Educators Forum.



He likes paintings (oil-Abstracts and landscapes), developing artworks for Sunday school children, and stage playwriting for church.

His relationship with Scripture Union started in his childhood. During his school days, he accepted Jesus Christ at one of the SU-summer camps for boys in Murree. He says, "the SU movement has had a huge impact on my life, I still cherish my childhood memories of all those stories and artworks, singing and actions, VBS and camps."

Pray that Raheel settles well into his new role and will bring fresh energy and direction to SU Pakistan.

Scripture Union International

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www.scriptureunion.global



Global Prayer News

April to June 2022

1-3 APRIL

□ Scripture Union International

Today is the final day of the international Bible Engagement Consultation. We thank God for everybody's contributions over the last three weeks. Pray for our ministry team as they collate all the responses and create the report.

□ Finland

We have been delighted with the many people who want to volunteer as Bible Ambassadors. Please pray for them when they spread the Good News within their own contexts. Pray also for the new Bible groups that have recently been started and are led by volunteers.

□ Nepal

Pray that the Lord will give us golden opportunities to reach children, young people, and families through VBS, camps, trainings, and devotional guides in this year, so that more lives will be changed for Jesus.



4-10 APRIL

□ Bulgaria

Please pray for our camps - first we have our Spring City camp 4-8 April then our summer seaside camps at the end of June. The ongoing pandemic is difficult for all of us, and the team may lose heart when we have so many cool ideas that we can't necessarily get on and do.

□ Sri Lanka

Pray for our upcoming children and teens programs in the different regions, including ministry among war-affected children and those with special needs.

□ Quebec (French-speaking Canada)

We have faced several internal challenges in the past three years, leading to the complete dissolution of staff and a loss of direction. However, we rejoice that God has raised new workers to continue His mission. Pray for our new Director Donald Alexandre and our new administrative assistant, coordinator, and trainer Myriamme Gauthier, that they quickly become familiar with the daily operations of SU Quebec.

□ Germany

After many unsuccessful attempts to get our camps and holiday-offers to take off due to COVID-19, this year we hope for better conditions and blessed camps in which many people participate.

□ Timor Leste

Please pray for our training workshops on the Bible curriculum, 'The Big Picture Story Bible.'

□ Australia

Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of all our young campers attending 'Wild Wee Jasper' in the Australian Capital Territory, beginning 9 April.



Portugal

After two years in an online format, we are very happy to carry out our Easter camps in person again. We are going to have many children who don't know Christ and who are going to hear the Word of God for the first time. From 10-14 April we will hold two camps – one in the south in Sintra and one in the north in Torreira/Aveiro.



Australia

Please pray for good weather and safety for all campers attending the Easter Youth Camp in the Northern Territory from 15-18 April, and that God would speak through our guest speaker.



Bulgaria

We'd like to praise God for the impressive amount of people who showed interest in our Easter Bible notes and materials last year! This year we're preparing some new ones, so please pray that they will be well received.

Easter Day

Pray for the SU community around the world, that they might be strengthened, encouraged, and unified during this meaningful time of celebration.

11-17 APRIL

Kenya

During the school holidays, we plan to implement a country-wide training for teachers, parents and children's workers on mental health and wellness, as well as child protection and safeguarding. Kindly keep us in prayer for God's favour and all the necessary resources.

Northern Ireland

Please pray for our Schools' Team as they continue to engage with children and young people in Primary, Post Primary and Special schools across Northern Ireland with God's Good News. Pray that more schools will feel comfortable enough to welcome outside visitors and pray that our staff will find themselves accompanied by members of local churches on their visits, making valuable connections.

Slovakia

We have been preparing Easter resources in cooperation with the Scottish Bible Society. Pray they will be put to good use in churches and families. Also pray that we will be able to do activities in person and not only online this Easter.

Romania

Please pray for us during this Easter period. We want to use it to send the message of God's love to children and show it in practical ways.

18-24 APRIL

Australia

Please pray for our Breakaway Camp in Western Australia. This is for young people who have a parent in prison. Please pray that our young people will experience God's unconditional love during their time at the camp.

Estonia

We are still missing some camp and activity leaders for camp season. Please pray for the right people to emerge and especially for the last two big seminars for the teams in April and May. Pray for the whole team to have a zeal to serve.



Switzerland (German speaking)

We are trying to strengthen our digital marketing and communication with a new social media position. Please pray for a suitable person to fit into the existing team.

New Zealand

We are running a boys fishing camp on Pōnui Island 21-26 April. Please pray for the team and that the participants will experience God in a new way as they enjoy various types of fishing, sports, and life skills classes during the week.

Pakistan

Pray for our new National Director, Raheel Iqbal, who has just been appointed.

USA

Pray for God's wisdom and provision as we seek to grow the staff and ministry nationwide; we are focusing on developing strategy for eight key goals, including both ministry and financial support growth.

Australia - NSW

Please pray for the 49 camps that are planned for 2022 (COVID-19 permitting). Pray for the teams coordinating each camp, that everything goes to plan, and that God prepares the hearts and minds of those who will attend.

25 APRIL – 1 MAY

Australia

As the new school term begins after the Easter holiday break, please pray for our school chaplains and the young people and families they support in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory.



Scotland

'Pray for Schools Scotland' is an initiative of SU Scotland, whereby people register prayers for a school. For the past few years, the number of schools being prayed for has remained static: pray that a promotional video resource in both English and Gaelic will result in increased prayer for schools.

Portugal

During April and May, building work on our facilities in Sintra and in Torreira/Aveiro will go ahead. We give thanks to God for the many volunteers who are available to help and for the offers that have reached us. We want to improve our spaces to better serve God.



Honduras

Pray for the new government, that they will promote justice, jobs, security, peace, and fight poverty.

Greece

Please keep praying for our home for the elderly 'Lois'. Some of our staff and elderly contracted COVID-19 and it was a difficult time for all of us. Currently there are no more cases in 'Lois' but, as the pandemic hasn't finished yet, we are still under strict (and costly) measures.

Finland

We are thankful for the many new subscribers to our Bible notes 'Hetkinen'. Please pray for them, as well as for the volunteers who write the devotions. We ask your prayers also for the new audio version of Hetkinen, that the technical problems experienced at the beginning of this year would be fully resolved.

Benin

Pray for the 'Children and Youth Leader' training series, which will be held during April, May, and June to build the capacity of church leaders and to prepare for the 2022 LBC Camp.

2-8 MAY

□ Timor Leste

Please pray for our event, 'The Bible Day for Children' due to be held in the first week of May.

□ Singapore

In this ever-evolving landscape and influence of pop culture, pray for our Youth Ministry team as they continue to connect, communicate, and minister to the young people of today and the young people from the various SU@CF (Fellowship Groups).

□ Angola

We are continually praying for some documents to be signed to grant us government approval.

□ Hong Kong

Praise the Lord that we have successfully completed the five-year fund-raising campaign for our new office. We could only raise half the target amount when we moved in late 2018. Thank God for His faithfulness, all the loans are repaid to the supporters and the whole office moving project is completed. May God use this premise to be a blessing to many.



□ Pakistan

Pray for our staff, that they have the strength and wisdom to overcome the difficulties they face. Also pray for the new field work staff in our Lahore head office.

□ Kenya

Pray for continued spiritual, emotional, and social healing for children and families in Kenya who have suffered a great deal from the COVID-19 effects. The rate of suicide among young people and the number of dysfunctional families is on the rise.

□ Laos

Thank God for that we were able to share the gospel with more than 70 people, of which about 50 converted to Jesus Christ. We are also thankful for the online Sunday School teacher training partnership with One Hope. Pray for the leadership training we also hope to do.



9-15 MAY

□ Serbia

We are grateful that two sisters have joined our team for writing youth daily devotionals that we post on Instagram. Thank you for your prayers in that regard and please pray for this to bring fruit in the hearts of the young people.

□ Northern Ireland

We will be filming our SHINE video resources (www.shineinschools.com) from 11-14 May for use in November. Pray for the partners, the filming team, logistics to work, grace and patience to be shown and for us to produce a resource that equips young people to live for God at school and allow others to explore Christianity for themselves.

□ New Zealand

Praise God for the 11 youth camps with 292 campers that we were able to run over summer. Please pray that campers will find support and encouragement in their homes, schools, and churches as they continue to grow in faith.



Estonia

We need a new approach and vision for Bible use and promotion. But most of all, we pray for an eager team, inspired by God and His Word, that can recognise new possibilities and needs.

Vanuatu

We continue to face the challenge of finding enough volunteers to be involved with our 'SUPA' school ministry. Pray that the Lord will lead us to find the seven people that we need, and that the Lord will provide for us financially during these difficult times.

Madagascar

We invite you to give thanks to God that we were able to organize our National Coordination Meeting with all the leaders of our four ministries (Bible, Children, Youth, Couple and Family).

Scotland

Give thanks for the senior pupils who have served as pupil leaders of SU Groups this past school year. May is the month when they sit important exams that determine their future: pray for their eyes to be on Jesus and to develop a deep trust in Him. Pray too that God raises up others to fill their place.

16-22 MAY

European Community Group

We will be meeting together in France this week (COVID-19 regulations permitting). Pray for renewed relationships, and a good time of sharing and learning.

Uganda

Please pray for SU Uganda's efforts to set up a radio station in the Eastern region of Uganda. The radio station would be another great tool to reach the young people and families in the region and beyond.

Tanzania

Pray for the new Council of SU Tanzania as we finalize our five-year strategic plan.

Honduras

Soon we will be restarting classes - pray that we will be authorised to give Bible classes to the students in the schools.

India

Pray for this year's VBS (Vacation Bible Schools) as we plan to reach children all over India - both online and offline. Pray for the needed volunteers who will be helping us with this.

Australia

Pray for the safety of all participants taking part in our Cycle for Hope Fundraiser in North Queensland on 21 May. Pray that God would meet our financial needs to deliver more ministry to children, young people, and their families in this region.



Canada (English-speaking)

Praise the Lord for the return to in-person children's ministry! The SU Canada's sports camps are fully booked for the summer. Please pray for the camp directors, coaches, church volunteers, and children.

23-29 MAY

Switzerland (German speaking)

Our current National Director, Markus Giger, is looking for new professional challenges, so we are looking to hire his successor. Please pray that we find the right person for this responsible position.

Angola

We thank God for such big improvements in our provincial's team who are conducting Bible study in their areas.



☐ **Germany**

The organisation of events in our 'Bibellesebund-Zentrum' in the past months was only possible to a limited extent. The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented many people from taking part. It is our wish to revive interest in our training and we have several interesting topics on offer.

☐ **Australia - New South Wales**

Praise God for the recent appointment of several new staff and four interns who have joined our team over recent months. They will actively support our network of volunteers and pursue ministry and missional opportunities in our Camps, Missions and Schools space. Please pray for each of them as they settle into their roles and use their gifts to serve our wider movement.

☐ **Slovakia**

We have a new Toddlers club. Pray Christian mums will bring their friends, so we can share the Gospel with new people.

☐ **Tanzania**

Please pray for the translation and printing of the Swahili Truth and Self-Control Biblical Values materials to be done well and effectively and, above all, that we will be able to have these taught in the schools all over the Nation.

☐ **Vietnam (Hanoi)**

Please pray that God may raise more trainers for us and help us to connect with more churches and organisations to so we can train them to use our 'QT' notes.

30 MAY – 5 JUNE

☐ **Benin**

We thank God for the new cities and churches in Benin that are being reached from the distribution of our 2022 readers. Thank the Lord for the impact of the Bible promotion sessions with the Christian communities. Pray for new and sustainable partnerships with churches and schools in the Life Skills project.

☐ **Scripture Union International**

The Field Development Directors will be meeting together face-to-face for the first time in two years. Pray for them as they work on a strategy to better serve the National Movements.

☐ **South Sudan**

We thank God for the 'KOBOKO' project that provides training and holistic ministry for refugees - SU is working in six camps. We are trying to finish a building for the refugee leaders which would have a multipurpose use for meeting, dining, and sleeping. The leaders are doing a great job discipling the young people in the camps and we are looking forward to having a greater impact.



☐ **Singapore**

Pray for our Children's Ministry Team as they plan and prepare for the Holiday Trek programmes themed 'Inside-out: Battle of the Emotions' - planned for the June and December school holidays.

☐ **Kenya**

Pray that the Ministry of Education will grant us an authorization letter to visit schools. This letter is usually shared with churches and other partners implementing Programme for Pastoral Instructions and other spiritual nurture programmes, so it is critical that we have it.

☐ **Laos**

Thank God that we have been able to work with local churches to help provide protective equipment, food and share the Gospel during COVID-19. Pray that we can continue with ministry and provide Gospel training with local Churches.



India

Pray for social unrest to be kept under control whenever we reach out to children of other faiths.

6-12 JUNE

Romania

Please pray for volunteers for our summer camps and projects. In June we want to have the teams completed so we can train them for the activities where they'll serve.

Macau

Thank God that the award-giving ceremony for our 2021 Bible Reading Campaign was able to be held. Please pray that the campaign of this year will run successfully, and the participants will be blessed and encouraged by the Word of God.



Hong Kong

We are in urgent need of a multimedia designer for maintaining our digital ministry, and a staff member for supporting distribution of our resources. May God provide His servants for us.

Quebec (French-speaking Canada)

For almost one year now, due to many staff changes and financial issues, all our operations have been on hold, except for the distribution of Bible reading guides. We ask for your prayers to facilitate our short-term objectives to reach the different ethnic groups present in Quebec; recruit financial partners and volunteers; train Christian education leaders and create French resources for children and young people.

Switzerland (German speaking)

Our strategy working team have started developing new projects. We pray for God's guidance in this process and for new and creative ways to engage families and young people with the Bible.

Scripture Union International

A virtual Global Board meeting will be held today. Please pray as they prepare for the General Assembly that is due to held 1-4 July.

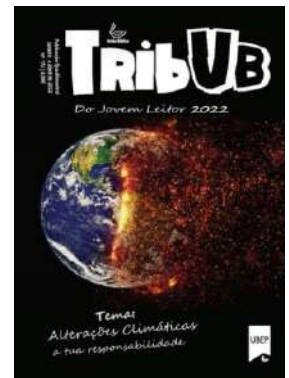
Madagascar

Please pray for our sports complex building project, for a new mission of evangelism and education through sports, and that we will find partners to support this great project.

13-19 JUNE

Portugal

We are developing an app for for teens and young people devotional. We believe that the Word of God will reach many young people with this project.



Timor Leste

Please pray for our publication of 'The Beginners Bible' for younger children and our Bible study guide for young people, '8 Foundations of Christian Faith.'

Northern Ireland

Give thanks for the 16 camps and 20 missions due to be held in Northern Ireland this summer. Pray for the hundreds of volunteers who have signed up to serve and ask God to equip them by His Spirit as they open His Word with children and young people. Ask God to transform the next generation in our land for His glory.

Estonia



We praise God for an encouraging step in international cooperation concerning the development of our Bible app 'P+!!'. Our next challenge is to include extra study material, but the preparation work is far bigger than our present capacity! Pray for heavenly wisdom, and for the best solution to emerge.

Finland

We are preparing a new podcast series based around the 'e100' youth resource (raamattustartti.fi). We pray that it would be an encouragement for many to start reading the Bible and to get to know Jesus.

Nepal

Currently there are nine writers who are writing notes for our devotional guide. Please pray for them that they will receive revelation as they expound God's Word so that their writings will connect with the readers and lives will be changed for the glory of God.

Vanuatu

Pray that the secondary schools and colleges in our area of work will once again open their doors to our ministry.

20-26 JUNE

Australia

Across Australia we have just under 300 schools requesting a school chaplain. Pray that God would raise up the right people to fill these positions so more students and families can experience God's love and hope through their local school chaplain.



Singapore

Pray for our Council and Annual General Meeting which is to be held in June. Whilst giving thanks for God's providence and protection, we will continue to seek wisdom, guidance, and inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

Africa Community Group 2

We will hopefully be meeting together in South Africa 23-26 June. Please pray for a fruitful time of fellowship and learning.

New Zealand

Our Children and Families Ministry, 'WAY2GO' conferences are running as smaller regional events rather than three large conferences this year, to be more resilient in the face of COVID-19. The theme is 'First Things First', looking at the things we need to put first to nurture a child's connection with God. Please pray for the workshop leaders and that all who attend will be inspired as we explore the importance of prioritising a deep faith grounded in the Bible and prayer.

Serbia

Please pray for the Parent Podcast we have started with the intention of encouraging parents and giving them support.



Tanzania

Pray for the sustainability of the ministry in Tanzania. May the Lord open a way for SU to sustain her work and the ministry.

Australia - NSW

Pray for Christian Teachers Connect (CTC), an online event designed to encourage, refresh, and connect Christian teachers across the Department of Education in NSW. Pray that these times together are a source of encouragement and connection.

27-30 JUNE

Scotland

School finishes at the end of June and we have a busy summer of holidays and missions ahead as well as a large youth festival, Magnitude. Pray that volunteers come forward to fill spaces on teams and that over the next weeks everyone involved prepares both practically and spiritually.

□ Sri Lanka

In January, we ministered to 110 underprivileged children. Most were from non-Christian backgrounds and several parents also attended the Sunday service. The children had travelled 13 km by foot then took public transport and travelled 22 km to reach the venue!



□ USA

Pray as we seek to grow our beach ministry presence in the US – for God to raise up emerging leaders. Thank him for our faithful existing leaders who are critical to this strategy.

□ Africa Community Group 5

Will be meeting together in Ghana 30 June - 3 July all being well. Pray for a time of mutual encouragement and a good learning experience for all.