

Prayer Guide

SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER

CHILDREN

Pray for Children especially those who have little opportunity to experience the Good News

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

Pray for Children

There are no unreached children

This was the opening statement of a discussion paper presented at the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation in October. It highlights the fact is that every day children are being 'reached' from every angle by marketing strategies, political parties, different faiths, secularism, corporations, entertainment and so many other causes. The Good News of Jesus Christ is the only one of these that can bring children hope in a world where hope is in short supply.

Pray for the myriad of local churches and Christian agencies that are working creatively and generously to bring hope to children by expressing the Good News in actions and words.

Pray for SU Children's Ministry

Pray that wherever Scripture Union serves children this week, we will bring the hope of the Kingdom of God in acts of love and protection, as well as words that point children to Jesus and encourage them to follow him with courage, joy and service.

Thank God that SU can share this task with families, churches and other agencies.

Pray for the children, their families and communities, and the SU volunteers and staff who come alongside them.

Specific Prayer Items

An Answer to Prayer in Ireland

For several years, SU in the Republic of Ireland has longed to appoint a children's ministry coordinator. Praise God for the very generous anonymous financial support that has made this possible. Pray for wisdom for Grace Deegan as she takes up this challenging role and ask that she will experience great favour with school principals and teachers.

Protection in Africa

Many African Nations are facing political elections in the near future, from now up to end of 2011. This is sometimes accompanied by conflict and children become very vulnerable.

Pray for their protection and peace. Pray too for the possibility of new SU children's ministry in Ethiopia and Sudan.



Children praying around the world

Thank God for the growing numbers of children praying for each other and for our world through global networks such as *Children in Prayer*.

Pray for the SU team in Singapore as it equips children and families in this vital area.

Challenges in Former Soviet Republics

'I think the biggest problem of our children today is loneliness' writes Oksana Khimich from Ukraine. Homelessness, access to alcohol, family breakdown and inexperienced parenting are some of the things that contribute to this loneliness.

Pray that SU will find practical ways to bring the hope of Christ, not only to lonely children, but also to struggling families.

MONDAY 8th 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**

The UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) website states, 'the largest generation of adolescents in history - 1.2 billion strong - is preparing to enter adulthood in a rapidly changing world. Their educational and health status, their readiness to take on adult roles and responsibilities, and the support they receive from their families, communities and governments will determine their own future and the future of their countries. Nearly half of all people are under the age of 25.

...Today millions of adolescents and young people are faced with the prospects of early marriage and childbearing, incomplete education and the threat of HIV/AIDS.

...Investing in young people will yield large returns for generations to come. Failing to act, on the other hand, will incur tremendous costs to individuals, societies and the world.'

Pray for these millions of young people, especially those in vulnerable situations, and for those seeking to give them hope and a future.

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 at risk.

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

Specific Prayer Items

Regional Youth Ministry Coordinators

Jason Fong is the SU Youth Ministry Coordinator for East & West Asia. David Rosse has recently been appointed to the same role in Europe and SU Africa is currently considering establishing similar role there. Regional Youth Ministry Coordinators assist National SU Movements to strengthen existing ministry, develop new models and establish ministry in places where there is none. Facilitating regional training is an important aspect of these roles, as is research. Currently SU Africa is planning a research project focusing on Youth Ministry and youth culture in Africa.

Pray for Jason Fong and David Rosse in their roles, as well as SU Africa as they seek to put someone in place. Pray also for SU's Regional Directors in places where there are no Youth Ministry Coordinators as they carry this responsibility.

Understanding the emerging generation

SU in Korea is one of many SU movements who have been actively thinking through the ministry implications of engaging with a young generation which has entirely grown up with the Internet as a central part of everyday life. Sometimes called 'digital natives', there are many general and culturally specific traits that are particular to them and which are critical for us to be aware of as we relate to them. There are many other 'interwoven' issues, determinants and consequences related to this, which SU, churches and other mission agencies must come to terms with as we seek to fulfil our aims amongst young people.

Pray for SU people and the broader church as they seek to understand and work with the massive social and cultural changes taking place as a result of emerging technologies.

E100 Youth

The Essential 100 Bible engagement program is being used in churches increasingly around the world. As part of this, a team from a number of countries and organisations is collaborating to adapt E100 for teenagers. Social media based, this initiative will use Facebook as the central platform, which will enable a high level of interactivity across the globe. Parallel to this will be the development of complementary resources designed to build the Bible engagement leadership capacity of people who work with teenagers.

Pray for the E100 Youth development team, as well as the young people and leaders who will use the resources.

Review of Life Skills Curriculum in Africa

In the early 1990's SU in Africa developed the first Lifeskills curriculum focused particularly on HIV and AIDS intervention among students in schools. Since then, various SU Lifeskills programs have been developed and used extensively across Africa. In addition, the focus of these programs has expanded and similar models have been developed by SU in other parts of the world. In 2011 a small international team will undertake a review of the existing Africa curriculum to strengthen the Bible engagement aspects of it, as well as its cross cultural and mode of delivery capacities.

Pray for Sam Udanyj and Clayton Fergie as they identify members of the review team and for this team as it does its work.

TUESDAY 9th 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

The Forum of Bible Agencies International website gives the following statistics: the 6.9 billion people in the world speak 6,909 languages. All or some of the Bible is available in 2,479 languages. Translation programs are in progress in 1,990 languages, but 2,252 languages (about 353 million people) need Bible translation.

Praise God for those who have access to at least part of the Bible in their own language. Thank God for the many faithful people involved in translating and distributing the Bible. Please pray for the many who can't read God's Word in their own language – and for Bible translators and distributors whose work is often difficult and sometimes dangerous.

Pray for SU Bible Ministry

Scripture Union Bible ministry is an integral part of every ministry of Scripture Union. Through camps, mission activities, schools ministry, work with street children, orphans, and others at risk, we seek to help them meet God through the Bible and prayer. SU also publishes Bible guides for children, youth, adults, and families in many languages and provides a variety of online resources.

Please pray that the lives of children, young people, and families will be transformed as they meet God through His Word. Pray for those who are responsible for the development of Bible engagement resources.

Specific Prayer Items

125 Years for SU in Nigeria

In Nigeria, as far back as 1885, missionaries who were SU voluntary workers started circulating SU Bible reading cards through the local churches in several of Nigeria's main languages. In the 1950's SU schools groups were developed. SU Nigeria has recently celebrated 125 years of ministry through their National Convention. The ministry has grown tremendously since 1885 with over 300 staff and an extensive support system.

Give thanks for the ministries of SU Nigeria and pray for the continued development of their Bible, Schools and other ministries.

E100 in Argentina

This year SU Argentina in partnership with Argentine Bible Society launched the E100 Challenge program. The English resources have been translated and published in Spanish. Pastors in the five main Argentinean cities are involved in the project.

Please pray for this Bible reading initiative that it will make a real impact across the churches and in the nation.

Inspirer and Editor

SU Norway is thankful for all that Grete Martinsen achieved as editor of Alfa, their notes for children. Jorunn Elise Djupvik, in addition to working as our inspirer for Bible engagement, has taken over Grete's editorial role.

Please pray for Jorunn Elise in this important ministry.

WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER

LEADERSHIP

Pray for Leaders

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

Pray for Leaders

There have been meetings of only a moment, which have left impressions for life...for eternity. No one can understand that mysterious thing we call 'influence'...yet everyone of us continually exerts influence, either to heal, to bless, to leave marks of beauty; or to wound, to hurt...other lives. (J.R. Miller)

Pray for SU Leaders

In Scripture Union leadership takes many forms. There is leadership in governing bodies such as councils and committees, there is leadership in staff teams, and a huge number of volunteer leaders responsible for various SU activities. They all have one thing in common; they need our prayer support. We praise God for the gifted, visionary, able leaders in SU.

Please pray for SU leaders, that they may be filled with the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus, and filled with a vision for God's mission in their area of the world.

Specific prayer items

Finding Volunteers

SU movements as diverse as Nepal and Hungary are among those for whom it is increasingly difficult to find volunteers for children's camps and holiday programs. There have even been occasions where activities have had to be cancelled.

Please pray that God will raise up groups of volunteers who are excited to see God at work as they build relationships with children and young people.

Pacific Islands Training Conference

About 80 young leaders and staff from Pacific Island Movements will gather in Vanuatu from the 7-14 December for a week of training and fellowship. The program will use SU International's 'Shaping for Service' training program. This week will be critical for this region, which has seen very significant growth in the number of SU volunteers in recent years – volunteers who carry significant responsibility for various aspects of SU's ministry. While the majority of the training will focus on Youth Ministry, there will be a specific stream devoted to Children's Ministry, which is a relatively new development in the Pacific Islands.

Pray for those who will be attending the conference, as well as the trainers and organising team. Pray particularly for those who will be involved in Children's Ministry training and for the development of this area as people return home.

New National Director in SU England & Wales

In September, Tim Hastie-Smith commenced his role as National Director of SU England & Wales. Tim has spent most of his career in teaching, having been Head of Dean Close School with over 900 students. Prior to joining the staff of SU, he was the minister of a local church in a small Cotswold village not far from Swindon in Gloucestershire.

Please pray for Tim as he takes on leadership in SU and for his vision to raise the profile of Scripture Union's worldwide ministry across England and Wales. Also, pray for any new National Directors in your region or country

THURSDAY 11th 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**

Pray for SU initiatives and concerns

God continues to bless Scripture Union with insight and vision for new types of ministry. This often happens as staff and volunteers take time to prayerfully listen, observe and consider directions in which God may be leading. New forms of ministry also come from seeking God's will in response to situations that arise, such as natural disasters.

Please pray for SU as we seek to listen, observe and develop ministry, particularly as we consider how we might respond to special needs as they arise.

Specific Prayer Items

Ministry to Orphans

The ministry among orphans that arose out of Cyclone Nargis continues to be much blessed by the Lord. New openings keep presenting themselves, however resources are limited.

Pray for wisdom for the local leadership and the Regional leadership to know how to respond to these openings.

The Three Friends – Germany

SU in Germany are developing a TV series for pre-school and primary school children called 'The Three Friends'. Three soft toys (a lamb, a donkey and a pig) tell Bible stories with great humour and creativity. A Christian station, Evangeliums-Rundfunk, will broadcast two 5-minute pilot episodes about Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus in Autumn 2010.

Please pray that these evening bedtime stories will reach many children with the gospel.

Living Hope 2011 - 2013

Living Hope is a Scripture Union global initiative designed to provide an opportunity for leaders of the global community of SU to reflect on the nature of the world we live in, God's mission and SU's mission. It will commence in 2011 with provision of a survey, resources and information for reflection and discussion within National Movements. In 2012 the findings of the survey will be brought together in a special event in November in Singapore. The event is designed for National and Regional Directors, Chairs of Council, ministry specialists and a selection of young leaders. In 2013 Regions and Movements will continue to work on strategic development in the light of discussions at *Living Hope*, Singapore. Throughout the process there will be a strong emphasis on hope and listening to the Spirit's voice as we open ourselves to His direction for ministry in coming years.

Please pray for vision and wisdom for Ruth Pinkerton and the planning team. Please pray that the process will be a time of great blessing and strengthening for many SU leaders - and for God's clear direction for ongoing ministry.

FRIDAY 12th 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

SU ministries around the world require many and varied resources - printed and electronic materials, people (volunteers and staff) and finances. It is a constant challenge to provide resources for new and continuing projects in a rapidly changing world. SU International continues to explore a new cooperative approach to publishing within the SU global community, with a particular focus on the Internet.

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 new possibilities for collaboration in publishing will help SU worldwide to make the best use of the resources God gives us.

Specific Prayer Items

Resources in the Pacific

There is huge need in the Pacific Islands, for locally produced resources that will connect with local children. Thank God for new Solomon Islands Pijin Sunday School curriculum created through a partnership with SU in Australia.

Pray for successful completion and for good attendance and effective training to take place in November.

SU in Chad

In Chad the SU work is organised by Committee members committed to fulfilling the Aims of SU in this country. As the work has developed, they would like to employ a fulltime staff worker and open two regional offices in their country.

Thank God for the commitment of the Committee members and pray for the needed funds to employ staff for SU Chad.

Opportunities in Chile

SU Chile has been asked to extend their ministry to teens and their families through their Pro-family ministry. For this they will need to train new leaders.

Please pray for Paulina Barrera and her team as they seek to respond and find the resources for these new opportunities.

SATURDAY 13th 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

'(The) Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.' (Colossians 1:6 NLT)

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

Specific prayer items

E100 for children

The E100 Challenge helps readers see the big picture of the Bible using a carefully selected list of short Bible passages - 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament - which can easily be read in 10 minutes or less. E100 is encouraging individuals and church congregations in many countries to regularly read the Bible.

In New Zealand, a booklet 'God's Amazing Plan' helps families to explore the Bible together. SU in Germany and England are developing an activity-based resource that will link children with their Bible 'coaches' through an interactive website.

Please pray for teams in many countries (from SU and other Christian organisations) who are promoting the E100 Challenge. Praise God that in New Zealand over 10% of churches are already taking part in this initiative. Also, pray for the groups that are developing the E100 for children and youth.

Global Children's Forum

This Forum of Children's Agencies met for the third time in Lebanon in March. It is exciting to see the growing commitment among agencies and churches to work together to further God's Kingdom among children. One evidence of this was at the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation in October 2008 – GCF, 4/14 Global Initiative and Viva are combining their gifts in advocacy for children.

Pray for the impact of an open-source DVD being widely distributed which provides free children's resources for local churches in many different languages.

Global Community Games

It has been World Cup year – and sports ministry among children and young people has been very active in South Africa and around the world. This includes KidsGames, TeenGames, and other sports initiatives.

Pray for local churches as they use the new Global Community Games curriculum: 'Champions Change Their World'.