



SCRIPTURE UNION

Global Prayer News

July to September 2019

www.scriptureunion.global

*So, David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.
1 Samuel 17:50*

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

Sometimes, the small things can have a huge impact.

While I was reading the well-known story of David and Goliath, I was imagining David trying on Saul's high-quality armour. The poor young man was stumbling and swaying under the heavy burden he was not used to. Saul would have done well in this amazing piece of war clothing. But it was too big and too heavy for David. He went back to the little things he could handle so well: his shepherd's staff, his sling and a couple of stones. Nothing glamorous. Just the small things he had experience with.

We all know the outcome of the story. With a big portion of trust in God, David's experience with his sling and a few little stones killed the giant and made the Philistines flee in panic.

Sometimes we might think 'Oh if we had such a big, beautiful armour like Saul'; 'If only we had enough money to develop this or that program'; 'If only we had as many volunteers as our neighbouring country'; 'If only we had a more impressive office or campsite'; 'If only the rich and famous churches in our country would request our services'. But are we sure we could handle any of these things well? Or would they cause us to stumble and sway like David in the war clothing that did not fit him?

I pray that we are ready to trust God and to use well that which He has entrusted to us here and now, and that we might grow like David did. When he was a king, he had his own war clothing. But let us not waste this moment by not doing what God has called us to do by using the small things we are good at: serving a world in need in a Christ centred, Bible based and relational way.

Thank you for your prayer support as our movements around the world are working towards reaching the next generation with God's Good News.

Monika

Monika Kuschmierz

International Director, Scripture Union International



Praise God!

Here is a selection of wonderful answers to your prayers for SU's ministry around the world.

Canada (English speaking)

Praise the Lord for the SU Canada Sport's Ministry Internship. Six international and 14 national interns participated and successfully graduated from 10 weeks of training and apprenticeship. Thousands of children heard the Good News, and many responded to the invitation to ask Jesus to be their 'Coach' and to join His 'Team'.



England & Wales



Praise God for the increasing number of opportunities 'Guardians of Ancora' is giving for children to explore the Bible around the world. A schools worker writes: "... one of the girls was clearly very familiar with the biblical stories. I enquired if she went to church, to which she replied 'No'. She told me that two years ago she had downloaded Guardians of Ancora and continues to play it now."

France

Praise the Lord for l'Escale, a Christian drop-in centre open five days each week (except in August) in the centre of Paris. SU France is a partner in this project which has been open for the past two years. Over 300 people, some of them without any church connection, have found a warm welcome there and many have been helped on the road to faith.



India



We praise God for the success of the Writer's Workshop which has been conducted in four different languages across India.

Kosovo

SU Kosovo has initiated the formation of the Christian Football League – the very first of its kind in Kosovo. Initially 12 churches signed up for the kick off in May. All captains and managers have already been trained to use the 'Ready Set Go' model. Before every match there is a devotion and prayer for all team members. Currently we have 12 team leaders. We will work closely with them to empower them and turn them into Christian coaches for their teams. We're very excited about this program.



Laos



We thank God for the youth camps where Scripture Union was invited to be the main speaker. Many youth leaders came from several provinces in the north, bringing along 300 young people. In the south, 250 people attended the camp.

We thank God for our meeting which saw all our Scripture Union officials come together.



Myanmar



In March we held the children's community clubs' teacher training and children's camps. God has also given us the opportunity to hold summer camps in the delta area. For us this is a great opportunity to share the Word of God in between providing English lessons. Some of the young people from church join us for this special occasion. We are now providing training in three of the neediest areas of our country.

A Restricted Country

Praise the Lord that we were able to publish our daily Bible reading guide for adults 'Daily Light' for the next six months. All the printed copies, 2,000 in total, are now in the hands of our readers. People have told us they have been desperately waiting for this issue.

New Zealand



Praise God! The first SU New Zealand fishing camp in April was a success. The weather was good, fish were caught, and the boys were very responsive during group times and asked lots of questions about faith.

Northern Ireland

Join SU Northern Ireland in giving thanks for an amazing day in March when we partnered with Ravi Zacharias Trust, Crown Jesus and Summer Madness for Reboot Global. With #NoQuestionOffLimits it was a great opportunity for young people to explore the big questions of life and faith and see how God's truth still stands.



Serbia



We thank God for all the children across Serbia and we are excited that we now have the ability to reach each one of them through the app game Čuvari Ankore. We are celebrating the first year of this game being available in our language. Our hope is that it will be one of the tools used to tell every child about Jesus and help them come to know Him.

Community News

Update on Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka experienced a "Black Easter" as churches and hotels were the target of bomb attacks for which ISIS has taken responsibility. Around 250 people lost their lives and hundreds were injured, most of them worshippers in the attacked churches. The country was under shock.

Thankfully, our SU team stayed safe even though they were travelling to deliver Easter messages in different churches.

Slowly life is going back to normal, even though a constant fear of further bomb attacks is a permanent companion. But it seems that the Christian community is growing closer to each other. A Catholic priest said: "We are now called to be messengers of reconciliation and forgiveness."

Let us pray for our SU team that they are able to share the message of Jesus, of love, reconciliation and forgiveness, even under such difficult circumstances.

Welcome to...



Tasmania - new director

Chris Taylor took up his role as the new State Director of Scripture Union Tasmania in April. Chris has experience in business strategy as well as pastoral ministry, having provided guidance and strategic insight within the public and private sectors for many years. He is a strong advocate of transformational leadership and is passionate about enabling people to reach their potential and managing change. Chris has been a leader and participated in SU beach/holiday missions and school programs. He is married to Jane and they have two teenagers. He is looking forward to working with SU staff and volunteers to see a flourishing organisation with a sustainable future and clear vision.

Croatia - new director

Marijana Crnković became a Christian when she was 15 years old through hearing the Gospel from her cousin. After studying theology for four years with her husband, they both travelled to Mexico as part of a short mission trip working with children and young people living on the streets. It was there they sensed their call from God to work with families, children and young people. Marijana developed a ministry with young girls at her home, encouraging and supporting them through craft work and discussions. She began working with SU Croatia four years ago and said she is excited about the new journey God is taking her on as national director.



Global Prayer News on PrayerMate

Remember, you can also access our prayer news on the Prayer Mate app. This app publishes daily prayers directly to your phone or tablet. It's easy to use and we hope will offer a fresh way to engage in prayer for Scripture Union. Our prayers will appear there each day under Scripture Union Global. Click on this link to find out how to download the app and receive our daily prayer feed www.prayermate.net



Global Prayer News

July – September 2019

1-7 JULY

- Northern Ireland**
For the fortnight 30 Jun-12 Jul, seven SU Camps and eight SU Missions will run across Northern Ireland. Pray for each volunteer as they open the Bible with children and young people. May they be empowered by God's Spirit and may their interactions with each other, with the children and with families bring glory to Him. May the locations where they meet be full of fun, laughter and security.
- Greece**
Please pray for our summer camps - teen camp 1-5 Jul and children's camp 8-11 Jul. Also pray for the groups that will visit Biblical Greece and walk in the steps of the Apostle Paul.
- Germany**
Please pray for SU Germany's beach mission taking place between 1 Jul - 31 Aug at seven different destinations on the North Sea beaches with several staff members and about 60-80 volunteers involved. We also have our own program for teenagers. Please pray that many children and teenagers will discover what the Bible means for their lives and how much God loves them.
- Hungary**
Please pray that we would have enough English-speaking and Hungarian volunteers for our nine kids' camps that will take place during July. We have more and more requests each year, but it is getting very hard to find new helpers, especially from the UK.
- Kosovo**
Please pray for the Christian League which started on 3 May. The 'Ready Set Go' model will be used. Please pray for this League to bind the Christian youth together, but also for our friends from other faiths to be reached as they play with us.
- Switzerland (German speaking)**
Please pray for our canoe camp in Scandinavia. A group of young adults will be travelling through Sweden from 6-13 Jul. Pray for their safety during the trip.
- France**
Please pray for our camps which will take place from 7 Jul-17 Aug in various parts of France, that the 600 or so children will have an unforgettable stay. Some may hear of Jesus for the very first time and we hope others will grow in their faith.

8-14 JULY

- Estonia**
We praise God for many young team members in our July youth and August children's camps! But we need more leaders to emerge. Pray for God's calling, guidance, obedience, an open connection with children and for safety. Pray that God would touch and transform many hearts.
- Sri Lanka**
Please pray for our land and keep all Sri Lankans in your prayers as we still don't know what will happen next. Many Christian souls have been lost and all those families are traumatized. We have been a peaceful and safe nation since the last civil war but now we feel fear once again, fear of going out.
- Australia – Victoria**
We are developing 'interest-based' camping for children, young people and families. In July we are holding a Performing Arts Camp. Please pray for the students as they develop their gifts and creative skills in areas like drama, music, dance and visual arts. Pray for the team as they express creativity alongside the students and help them to encounter Jesus exploring stories from the Gospel of John together.
- Vietnam – Hanoi**
Pray that God may help us to connect with churches, to guide and train with our Quiet Time ministry and to help us to increase the number of Quiet Time subscribers.
- Sweden**
At the moment we are searching for the next step in helping families with their Bible engagement. We have a couple of ideas but need God's guidance in the important decisions that have to be made.
- Togo**
Please pray for the smooth running of the children and young people's camp in Atakpamé in July. May the participants be transformed by the Word of God by the end of this camp.
- Myanmar**
Please pray as our country is facing a lot of problems - civil war, natural disaster, political changes and crisis. Natural disasters are happening more and more frequently due to changes in the weather. We need the prayer of our partners.

15-21 JULY

- SUI International**
Please pray for our new Finance and Grant Manager who starts today. Pray that he will quickly find his way into SUI and the Global Team and make good use of his excellent skills and experience.
- Australia – South Australia**
Pray for our new project 'First Nations Ministries' which aims to evangelise, disciple and support ministry to indigenous Australians. Our new indigenous staff member is leading the ministry. Pray for her and the new team being developed.
- Canada (English speaking)**
SU Canada is developing sports leagues in several communities. Please pray that the leagues will be a means to reach children and young people with the Gospel, connect families with local churches, and root children and young people in Christ.
- Latvia**
Pray for our children and youth missions in schools and day care centres - to receive new opportunities and partnerships and to reach out to the unreached.
- Mauritius**
Pray for the evangelistic activities that will be carried out during the 10th Indian Ocean Island Games (19-28 Jul). They will be led by a committee of 15 members representing churches and Christian organisations, of which SU forms a part.
- Finland**
This summer we have published a brand new, low-threshold Bible magazine for 15-year-olds. We pray that churches and families would encourage confirmation school youth to read the Bible with it and find hope and joy in God's Word.
- India**
Kindly pray for the Vacation Bible Schools being held across the Country, where SU will be involved in about 400 different centres. Pray that children would be attracted to the Gospel. Pray also for the weather which is expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius.

22-28 JULY

- Bulgaria**
We want to thank God for everything that happened during the year so far and would like to ask you to pray for us in the following months for the summer camps, especially our Teen Games, a camp with participants from different European countries. May God be glorified there!
- Canada (French speaking)**
We have been taking steps with private schools to offer an evangelistic program to children. Please pray for the Lord to open the doors.

- New Zealand**
There has been a great uptake by New Zealand schools of Āpōpō, the SUNZ mental health awareness program. One school has booked in workshops for each year level and parent groups for each year level! Please pray as we recruit new presenters to cope with the demand.
- Canada (French speaking)**
We are creating new partnerships with Bible agencies that have a real impact on children. Please pray for the summer camp with Youth on Mission so that we can raise enough funds to send children from families in difficulty.
- England & Wales**
Pray for one of our staff who is on placement with SU in the north east of England while studying at Cliff College. Along with our part-time sports consultant, she is developing 'Sporty Legs', a new after school club focused on reaching 'the 95' through sport. Pray that it will continue to grow.
- Trinidad & Tobago**
Pray for God's guidance in developing a local compilation of 10 lessons on 'Who is God in the Psalms' for primary school-aged students.
- Hong Kong**
A new series of youth notes is under production. The whole series consists of 12 volumes and we have already published three of them, with an aim to complete the whole project in the next three years. Please pray for a good response from churches and schools for the promotion of systematic Bible reading among young people and for the production of App version later on.

29 JULY – 4 AUGUST

- Chile**
Pray for our program of care for children, adolescents and their parents - that they can know the hope that Christ offers for the various problems that affect them.
- Finland**
We ask your prayers for several Christian summer festivals where our Bible reading materials will be displayed. We pray for adults to be encouraged to subscribe to the Bible reading notes for either themselves or as a gift.
- Greece**
We would like to find a place to serve children in need in Athens, including refugees, immigrants and poor Greek families. Please pray we will find the right place.

Sri Lanka

The Annual Children's camp that was scheduled for May has had to be postponed to August because of the present security situation. Please pray that it will be a fruitful and successful camp and that many children will be able to participate.

Australia – Victoria

In August and September, we are running training days for SUFM (SU Family Mission), Theos (Young Adult Mission) and Summer Camp team directors and volunteers. These teams will serve in communities around Victoria over December and January. Please pray that God will be speaking to each of them as they seek Him in their planning and preparation for programs and activities over summer.

Germany

Please pray for the three summer family camps of SU Germany in Croatia (14-26 Jul), Austria (13-25 Jul) and at the Baltic Sea in Germany (3-15 Aug). May children, teenagers and their parents have a wonderful time and get to know God better through the Bible. The family camp in Croatia has about 120 participants, the other two have around 70 and 80.

Denmark

In August we will roll out a campaign for our Bible resource for families - 'Hang out with God'. Pray that families outside a church context will find interest in this resource.

5-11 AUGUST

Singapore

Pray for SU Singapore's inaugural Special Needs Training Programme in August. It consists of an introductory course in working with the Special Needs Children's Ministry for Sunday School teachers and church leaders.

Thailand

SU Thailand will visit SU Laos during 6-8 Aug. We will be sharing and teaching Sunday school teachers from different churches in Laos.

Switzerland (German speaking)

In August and September we will show the exhibition 'Timeless' at Sinnorama. The interactive exhibition tells visitors about the beginning and transmission of the Bible. We pray that our visitors will get a fresh fascination for the Bible.

Canada (English speaking)

Please pray for the development of contextualised, ministry specific, resources and tools that SU Canada is creating for children's, youth and family outreach events.

Kosovo

Please pray for our staff and Board members. We have big dreams and many plans ahead, but we need God's help and provision.

Netherlands

We have to re-organise our Bible reading guide Leidraad. We want to work with a mix of print and digital. More and more people are also asking for digital, but the problem is how to make it financially viable.

Mauritius

Please pray for the Lord of the harvest to bring more labourers into Scripture Union.

12-18 AUGUST

Macau

Please pray that the pastors and church leaders in Macau would encourage brothers and sisters to spend time with God daily and engage with His Word more deeply by using SU daily notes.

Denmark

Pray for wisdom and guidance as SU staff preach at evangelistic open-air meetings to be held 13-14 Aug. May the Lord open hearts for the Gospel!

England & Wales

'Centre Stage' is a new performing arts holiday for 11 to 14-year-olds running this week. Pray that the holiday will establish an identity and that those who come will discover both new creativity and the love of Jesus.

A Restricted Country

Please pray for the children's camp that will be held on 15-16 Aug. We hope to gather 100 children for the camp. Please pray that the children will have a meaningful event and that they will each develop a personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Greece

We give thanks to God for our staff. Please pray for them and their families.

New Zealand

Please pray for SUNZ's Annual General Meetings on 17 Aug. Gatherings are being held in a number of venues around New Zealand. Please pray for enjoyable times of fellowship with supporters and good video links with the National Support Centre in Wellington for the official part of the meeting.

Sweden

Pray for wisdom for our Board, who have an important role because we are a small movement.

19-25 AUGUST

- France**
A group of young French people will be in Bulgaria from 19-28 Aug, where they will take part in the Teen Games with others from Switzerland, Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania. May this meeting allow them to help each other to grow in their faith!
- Australia – Western**
Please pray for our leadership development camps and program as we aim to partner with local churches more in supporting and developing young leaders.
- India**
Kindly pray for our note writers, who work in eight different languages, as they write and finish for the year 2020.
- Switzerland (German speaking)**
We thank God for seven horse riding camps, four children's camps and several camps and holidays for adults and families that we will run during the summer. We praise God for all the volunteers who help us on these camps.
- Chile**
Pray for our Director as our ministry becomes increasingly diverse and **challenging**.
- Canada (French speaking)**
The Ligue du Québec is a publisher of Christian books for religious booksellers. We currently have an optimization plan for our ongoing operations. Please pray for this project to free up resources for SU's ministry.
- Togo**
SU Togo thanks God for having helped us in the installation of the city committees in nine cities of Togo. We entrust to God the rest of the work in another 11 cities.

26 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER

- Trinidad & Tobago**
We praise God for the stamina of our Board to operate the ministry without a National Director for 15 years. We pray for God's guidance to help us in filling the position.
- Laos**
Please pray for us as we run training: "Bible Guide" to the church leaders in the northern provinces; "Effective Youth Leadership" in the capital and Sunday School teacher training.
- Estonia**
Today we plan to launch a Bible App for Kids in Estonian. Praise God for this opportunity and pray for a wide reach and blessed preparations for this special day for kids!

- Pacific Islands Community Group**
This Community Group will be meeting from 28 Aug-1 Sep. Pray that the participants will encourage one another and that new ways of collaboration will be developed.
- Madagascar**
Pray for the training of our camp counsellors.
- Kosovo**
Please pray for our Sports Ministry. The Easter Tournament went very well. Please pray for the many young people from other faiths who heard the Gospel for the first time.
- Restricted Countries**
Pray for our brothers and sisters in places where it is dangerous to profess their faith and even more to share the Good News of Jesus. Pray for strength, wisdom and courage.

2-8 SEPTEMBER

- Netherlands**
In September we will launch some new books and materials for working with kids. They will include hints and tips for parents to work with their children around Bible issues. It is important to frequently design new materials and we now have 'parents-help' for all the things we are producing.
- Northern Ireland**
Pray for all the children and young people who were part of camps and missions over the summer as they return to school for the new academic year. Pray that those who made a commitment to Jesus in July and August will connect with an SU group, Christian friends and a church family that will help them become rooted and established in faith.
- England & Wales**
As England & Wales reach the end of their summer season, pray for children and young people who have been part of holidays and missions. As they return to school with all its challenges, we are praying that God will help them to remember what they discovered and to be true to Him.
- Bulgaria**
We would like you to pray for our annual team retreat at the beginning of September, where we will discuss our plans for the next year. We hope that the next school year will touch even more young lives than the one before!
- Australia – South Australia**
Pray for the upcoming Gents (male) and Jewels (female) camps, for the leaders needed and for good responses from the campers.

Thailand

Sunday School Teaching Certificate Training will take place during the four Saturdays of September. It is organised by SU Thailand along with Bangkok institute of Theology. Also please pray for speakers and Sunday School teachers from various churches in Thailand.

Namibia

SU Namibia wants to request prayers for volunteer workers to make themselves available as we are not in a position to pay salaries.

9-15 SEPTEMBER

Thailand

We continue to search for a full-time General Secretary for SU Thailand. Please pray the Lord helps us with this.

Togo

Pray that God raises volunteers for SU Togo and helps the movement to overcome its current financial restrictions.

Estonia

Please pray for the completion of the renewed Boards for SU Estonia and the Campsite Foundation. We are missing several key people.

Hungary

Please pray for the publishing of 'Life Explored' and for wisdom in choosing our new publishing projects for 2020.

Hong Kong

We praise the Lord for leading us into a new office. The renovation work was completed in December and a successful dedication ceremony was held in January. Now all the staff of SU Hong Kong are working together in this new place. Please pray for continuing provision as we need to repay the interest-free loans from supporters.

Global Team

14-16 Sep the Ministry Specialists are meeting together in Bangkok, Thailand, and will then lead training on Child Protection and Sports Ministry. Pray for excellent working and learning outcomes.

Sweden

Pray that more people will find our resources and see that what we do is of high quality and focused on Jesus.

16-22 SEPTEMBER

Singapore

Pray for the logistics and preparation for the Jana Alayra Children's Concerts and children's worship workshops that will take place mid-September.

Chile

Help us pray for our church Bible reading program, that is facilitated by a coordinator and a support group.

Trinidad & Tobago

Pray for God's guidance to help us develop creative outreach methods and for committed volunteers to work with children and senior citizens.

East West & South Asia Community Group

19-21 Sep Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. Pray for a deep sense of unity and for helpful and encouraging sharing and learning.

Myanmar

Our children and youth programs are becoming more successful year by year, so we need volunteers and resources to build up the ministries. We thank God that 122 churches are volunteering with our team to share the gospel to the pre-believers. By the grace of God, we can reach to more than 4,400 children in these mostly non-Christian areas.

Finland

We pray for our brand-new Bible reading and teaching materials website for youth leaders, LiftariPro. This will be launched at the beginning of the autumn season. We pray that it will give inspiration to many who work among youth, so that more young people in Finland come to know God through His Word.

Latvia

Pray for wisdom for SU Latvia staff to reach out to potential volunteers who they need for their mission.

23-30 SEPTEMBER

Kosovo

Please pray for the children and the youth we're engaged with in our ministry, that the work may bear much fruit and that they commit their lives to Jesus.

Vietnam – Hanoi

Pray that God may help us to work with our volunteers effectively.

A Restricted Country

Please pray that we will find enough volunteers to write Bible notes for the next issue of our daily Bible guide. We need Godly people filled with the Holy Spirit to interpret God's Word for our readers, so that they will be nourished with proper spiritual food.

Australia – Western

Please pray for our new Schools Ministry staff as they begin new programs and ideas to reach primary and high school students.

Global Board

27-29 Sep the Global Board is meeting together in Prague, Czech Republic. Pray for inspiration, vision and wise decisions.

Mauritius

Thank God for the outing we had with 35 pupils of the specialised support school who learnt about God through sports and play. We pray for God's direction and discernment in setting up a ministry to help pupils from the school, as well as adults who have special needs.

Namibia

SU Namibia wants to praise the Lord for committed Christian teachers who are running vibrant SU clubs at their various schools. Pray that God continues to support them.

Global Team

SUI Field Development Directors are meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, from 30 Sep – 2 Oct to work through the best way to support our national movements. Please pray for insight and God's guidance.