



Unión Bíblica

Scripture Union International

Ligue pour la Lecture de la Bible

September 2019

Dear SU family, dear friends and prayer partners,

Every year in November, the global Scripture Union (SU) community takes a step back from the business of life and ministry, dedicating some extra time to prayer. Staff teams, boards, volunteers and prayer partners stand together in unity to praise God for the wonderful things he has done through the ministry of SU and also to bring to him our needs and concerns, our dreams and hopes, our plans and difficulties, and our search for direction and clarity. In unity, we bring to God the SU Movements around the world.

In thinking of a picture that would symbolise this unity and the pulling together of different prayer items, we came up with the theme of “weaving”. Collectively we weave our way around the world. We weave together what we want to bring to the Lord. We weave together our friendships and partnerships, both locally and globally.

The Global Week of Prayer is celebrated very differently in our different Movements. For some it is just a special hour during the week. Others bring their office teams together for a short time of prayer every morning. And for others it is a big week-long event that invites along lots of friends, volunteers and partnering churches. In whatever way you use the week of prayer, I would like to invite you to join us while we are weaving our prayers together all around the world.

Each day will have a special theme and we have provided some creative resources to go with it. Unlike the past couple of years, we are not assigning special days to individual countries this time. Please feel free to choose a time and a place that will work best in your context during the week of **4-8 November**. As we go through the week, it would be great if you could share photos or a Bible verse that has spoken to you on our Global Family Facebook page so that we all can feel a bit more connected.

Have a blessed week!

Monika Kuschmierz

International Director Scripture Union



Prayer Suggestions

Day 1

Restricted countries

- Praise God for the freedom you have in your country to share the good news of Jesus – or if you are living and serving in a restricted country, thank God for your brothers and sisters around the world who can share the Gospel freely.
- Pray for the governments of restricted countries. Pray for individual politicians who value freedom and righteousness that they might step up courageously. Pray for a change in the political system
- Pray for our SU Movements that are trying to reach children and young people under these difficult circumstances. Pray for courage and safety for those you share the Good News and for those who receive the Good News.



Day 2

Countries threatened by new political situations or changing societies

- In many places around the world SU has an excellent reputation and wide-open doors for ministry in schools. Praise God for these opportunities and ask him to keep these doors open. Pray for our Movements to use these opportunities courageously and considerately.
- In some of these countries the climate is changing. New governments are restricting the open access that currently exists. New rules and regulations are challenging our Movements. Pray for open conversations with the government, that are bold and sensitive at the same time. Pray that governors get a new understanding of the value and benefit that SU ministries can bring to schools.
- Pray for wisdom and creativity in exploring new ways of ministry when former approaches fail. Pray for courage for Board members and national leaders to gracefully finish using ministry approaches that are not reaching the young generation any more, and that they will have the creativity to develop new styles and ways to engage children and young people with God's word.



Day 3

Financial challenges

- There are no SU Movements around the world that are not restricted by financial limitations. Even those in 'rich' countries have to pray and work hard to make ends meet at the end of each financial year. God has been generous and oftentimes provided the necessary resources. Praise God for his provision in your own country and in the other SU Movements around the world.



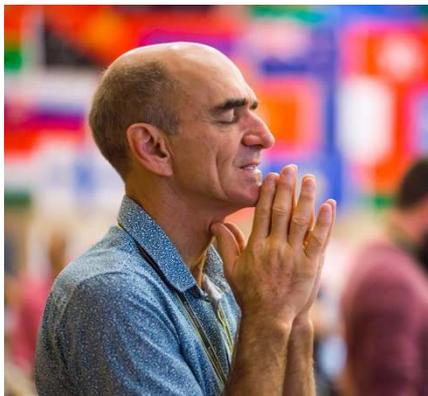
- In some places God is opening door after door for ministry opportunities, but the insufficient number of volunteers and the financial incapacity is not allowing SU ministries to walk through these doors and serve the children and young people who need Jesus. Pray for creativity and fresh approaches to how to deal with the lack of resources.
- Pray for new partnerships locally and globally with people who are committed to contribute to the ministry God has called us to do.
- Pray that we all are using the resources God has entrusted us with in a wise and transparent manner.

Day 4

Post Christendom

- We praise God for those Movements where Christianity has played an important part in the history of the country. Thank God for the many positive developments that can be ascribed to a deep-rooted knowledge of the word of God in these cultures.

- Societies have changed and many of those countries would hesitate to be called 'Christian' any more. People are leaving the churches en masse. Children and young people have no biblical knowledge any more, often not even a basic understanding



who Jesus is. Churches are considered boring, totally irrelevant or even as a hindrance for development.

Pray that our Movements in these environments will find new and fresh ways of sharing the Good News.

- Pray that the churches understand the need for change. Pray that they keep close to the word of God and are ready to find new ways of welcoming and engaging children and young people who have found faith through SU and other ministries.

Day 5

SUI's global ministry

- Praise God for the many good developments the new SU structure has started. Praise God for new resources, training and individual support of national Movements through members of our Global Team.
- Pray that the global leadership will finalize and implement a helpful strategic plan for the next couple of years. Pray for wisdom, courage and God's guidance in all their decisions.
- Pray for the Global Team to identify local ministry resources that can serve the global community. Pray that they are able to address the needs of individual Movements and Community Groups.
- Pray for our global fundraising efforts - they are not an end in themselves, but ultimately serve our national Movements. Pray that God will provide sufficient resources to support ministry on the ground in order to serve more children and young people.



Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:4-7

Weave your way around the world in **prayer**



Scripture Union
God's Big Story transforming young lives

Why weaving?

We wanted to symbolise the way that Scripture Union is bound together with so many different threads. In this bracelet we have **13 strands** to represent the various **13 community groups** across the world. They are interwoven together with our prayers for all the different countries and movements they represent.

Weaving with others

Weaving bracelets or any other item gives you an opportunity to come together with others and be creative as you pray. You might decide to do this together as a family, with a small group or as part of your SU team. However you decide to join in, the finished woven bracelet will act as a reminder to pray for Scripture Union all through the year, remembering we are all part of one body in Jesus Christ.

Sharing

We hope you will enjoy weaving your prayers as you weave with others and give thanks and intercede for the wonderful global family of Scripture Union.

Here are some simple steps for weaving a prayer bracelet.

10 steps

to weaving your Scripture Union prayer bracelet...



1 Lay out a length of thread in thirteen strands – you don't have to cut the ends yet

2 A simple way to hold the thread in place as you weave is to tape the ends down



3 Using a strip of card, separate out every other horizontal strand ready to weave your first line



4 Insert a second strip of card to separate the next alternate strands – this enables you to easily see where you are weaving



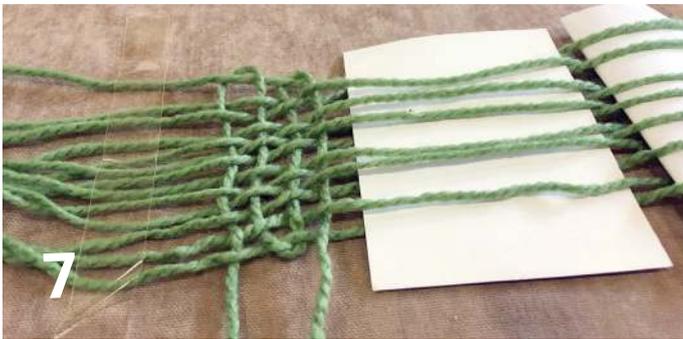


5 Weave your thread vertically under the first set of strands, leaving a short length of thread at the beginning

6 Use the card to push the first vertical line to the side and reposition your card for the next alternate strands



6



7 Continue to weave each vertical line, using the cards to easily lift the correct horizontal strands each time

7

8 As you add each line you will begin to see the pattern emerge



8

9 Tighten the threads carefully as you go to the desired width



9

10 Continue to weave until you have a good length, then use the extra thread at the beginning and end of your bracelet to tie off the strands and trim the ends.



10

There are many methods of weaving, but this simple guide will enable anyone to join in. If you don't have thread, you could even use long strips of paper instead. For some variety you may want to use two coloured threads or different threads tied together.