



**Scripture Union**  
God's Big Story transforming young lives

# Global Prayer News

April to June 2021

[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)

*Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:  
"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"  
Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.*

Mark 9:7-8

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Have you ever asked yourself if it is really worthwhile to follow Jesus? Is it worthwhile in the light of persecution and suffering? Is it worthwhile to take up one's cross and follow him? Is it worthwhile to work in Christian ministry instead of making serious money? Is it worthwhile to give up precious holiday time to volunteer at a camp or a beach mission?

When Jesus was preparing himself for the painful path he was about to pursue, he needed a confirmation of his calling and a reminder of the future that was waiting for him. And he knew his disciples needed such an encouragement as well. So, he took three of them up to the mountain and gave them a little glimpse of the heavenly reality. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God made it clear once again that Jesus was fulfilling God's will. God's love would accompany him all the way through to the cross and beyond.

For the disciples it was a dazzling, frightening but oh, such an amazing experience. But in the end, there was only one focus point - Jesus himself. He is the one all disciples should listen to.

Occasionally God allows us to see little 'snapshots' of the heavenly reality. In Scripture Union, we talk about 'peak experiences' that help children and young people to keep faith. Camps or special events for example, offer these special opportunities for deep fellowship with other Christians. We need these moments, both children and adults alike. Probably all of us have had times when we felt: "Yes, this is exactly how it must be like in God's new world! This is a taste of heaven."

These moments encourage us to continue following Jesus. However, even more important is the right focus. As we prepare for our Easter activities around the world, I would like to remind us: Yes, peak experiences are very important. But in the end, there is only one focus that really counts above all - the encounter with Jesus alone!

Let us pray for true and new encounters with Jesus for children, young people, and families around the world. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.

Warmest greetings and blessings,

Monika Kuszmierz  
International Director, Scripture Union International



**Scripture Union International**

Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park, Wareham Road, Poole, Dorset, BH16 6FA, United Kingdom

[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)

## SU Serbia



**Olga Dega** retired as National Director at the end of December. She had been with SU since the beginning of its work in Serbia in 1995. Over the years, Olga developed many new methods to serve children, young people and families. She says "Thank you SU family for the love and support in my work. Thank you to all the responsible people in SUI who visited my country and were a support in my service. I wish God's blessing to all of you who continue to work to inspire as many individuals as possible to read the Bible daily." Thank you, Olga for your years of dedication and we wish you a happy and well-deserved retirement!

The new National Leader, **Monika Vasikević**, started working 1 January. Monika started working with SU in 2000 and she became a staff member in 2010. Now she would like to continue to serve children and youth as national leader. We ask God to bless Monika as she starts this new responsibility.



## SU Denmark



After more than eight years with SU Denmark, **Lasse Holmgaard Iverson** is leaving his post as National Director to become a pastor in his local church starting from the beginning of March. Lasse commented, "During my time with SU, my joy for the Bible and engaging with scripture has grown, and I will take that joy with me into this new role. SU is tool in God's hand to bring his life changing word to people all around the world and it is my prayer that it will continue this way; that you will minister to the children, young people and families in order for them to hear, see and feel the love of God through his word!" We wish Lasse well in his new role and pray he will bring as much joy there as he has to us in SU.

**Cecilie Thams Nord Hansen** will be interim director whilst a replacement national director is being sought.

## SU Portugal

SU Portugal is full of joy for the appointment of **Pedro Silva** as their next National Director. Pedro started out as an SU camper when he was a child. His training is in graphic design and for several years he was responsible for the graphics and covers for youth and adult devotionals. He is also a daily notes writer for children and young people. Presently he is one of the board members and is responsible for the area of publications. Pedro has a bachelor's degree in applied theology, and he has a servant's heart - always available to work with and support others.

Pedro is married to Dina and they have a daughter, Miriam.





# Global Prayer News

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## 1-4 APRIL

### □ Hong Kong

Pray for our Easter mission for children 'From Eternity and Beyond'. We have been invited by schools and churches to hold six evangelical meetings which we hope can be held physically. We are also producing an online Easter video program for families.

### □ Romania

For this Easter, besides our field activities, we want to create a special Easter video that can be used by families at home to talk to their kids about the meaning behind this holiday. Pray that this tool will be useful for many families.

### □ Angola

We are thankful that we have been able to start discipleship training with our youth and they have been engaged in Global Scripture Union Prayers.



### □ Global Family

Today is Easter Sunday. Pray for all the members of the SU Global Family as we celebrate this special day after a particularly demanding year.

### □ Bulgaria

Our weekly Bible club for teens is currently proceeding online with many participating from outside Sofia. We're thankful to God for the opportunity to stay in touch with young people who've come to our camps in the past but can't come to Sofia during the school year normally.



### □ India

Pray for the Camping ministries during this holiday season.

### □ Estonia

We praise God for a growing hunger for Bible use among new Christians and young people! Please pray for wisdom for us on how best to serve them in this present situation.

### □ Greece

Please pray for 'Eunice', our new ministry for families. An old apartment in Athens will be its first home and we hope that the renovation will start during April.

## 5-11 APRIL

### □ Denmark

Pray for us and for the process of finding a new National Director for SU Denmark, who can help inspire people to engage with God's Word.

### □ Serbia

Please pray for the online Bible competition for teens which we plan to organize in April.

### □ Australia

Praise God for His leading as seven of the SU movements across Australia unite to form SU Australia. We are believing for more mission and more lives to be transformed through God's love. Please continue to pray for the SU movements across Australia as we come together nationally. Pray our staff find peace as we navigate our way through the national process into this exciting missional opportunity for SU Australia.

## 12-18 APRIL

### □ England & Wales

95% of under 18's in England and Wales aren't engaged with church. We are offering a series of online training sessions to help local churches engage with the 95% in their communities. Pray for the team as they develop the programme, and for churches as they put it into practice.



### □ Congo (Brazzaville)

Please pray for our projects: to launch a bookstore, to create a partnership with the NGO Generation 5S, and a project to create Bible groups in evangelical schools.

### □ Honduras

We thank the Lord for the donations received to help those affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, which struck Honduras in November. Staff and volunteers have been helping the most vulnerable families with food, medicine, clothing, bedding, furniture, offering shelter in their churches and helping with the reconstruction of houses.



### □ Scripture Union International

Today SUI will hold a webinar on 'Inviting Children to Follow Jesus'. Pray for the ministry leaders from around the world as they share key principles, practical ideas and resources with various members of the National Movements.

### □ Northern Ireland

Our Training & Resource department are working on a children's and youth resource to be used by families and churches. Pray for creativity, for the ability to meet schedules and that this resource will connect with the target audience as well as being a catalyst to both model and equip leaders & parents/guardians to disciple those whom God has placed in their care.

### □ Singapore

Pray for the Worship Training and Live Concert to be held via Zoom on Saturday 17 and 24 April. Pray for God to grant our team wisdom and the technical resources to stage this event.

### □ Japan

Our publication ministry has been rather active even during COVID-19. We published three titles with the help of our staff and volunteers. Pray for the wider sale of the books through visitations to churches by our General Secretary and through Christian bookstores.



### □ New Zealand

Please pray for our Boys' Fishing Camp being held 19-24 April. Pray for the Team Leader and the leadership team and pray that the camp will be able to go ahead.

### □ Sri Lanka

Please uphold us in prayer as we have planned 17 programs for 2021 – we need God's help to continue our mission in the midst of these challenges. We are aiming to reach non-Christian children in new regions, to share God's values and get them engaged in the Bible teachings.

### □ Switzerland (German speaking)

We thank God for our Bible reading Zoom meetings. Since the end of January, people have shared their thoughts about the daily Bible text from our Bible reading guide with one of our team. In February we started separate Zoom meetings for children and young people. We pray that people will get deeper into Bible reading and that the unity between Christians in Switzerland may grow through these meetings.

### □ Tanzania

Since the beginning of February, we have spoken to 99,752 children in 104 primary and secondary schools! Join us in prayer as our school's evangelism mission aims to cover 10 regions this year. We need booklets, transport and enough volunteers.



### □ Timor Leste

Pray for 'The Bible Fair' which will be held at the end of April as part of the radio program based on 'The Big Picture Story Bible'. Pray that children and families will engage with God's Word through various activities and personally encounter God.

### □ Germany

Our 'Bible Action Day', popular with many children and churches, cannot take place as a live event this year. However, we have developed an online version for 24 April, and we hope to gain an even wider reach.

☐ **Togo**

We thank the Lord Jesus for having preserved most of the Togo 'Leaguers' from the deadly pandemic of COVID-19. May the Lord minimize the risks so that SU Togo can resume its activities.

**26 APRIL – 2 MAY**

☐ **Mauritius**

A fun camp, 'Adventure Unlimited', has been organised 26 April - 1 May where mainly kids and teens from the school support programme will attend. Their parents and friends and young relatives will also be invited.

☐ **Restricted Countries**

Pray for our SU Movements that are trying to reach children and young people under difficult circumstances. Pray for courage and safety for those who both share and receive the Good News.

☐ **Vanuatu**

Our leadership training attended by Youth leaders from different churches was successful. Also, pray for us to successfully engage more female volunteers.



☐ **Hong Kong**

Pray for our short training courses which are held in April-June, whether the lessons end up being delivered physically or through an online platform

☐ **Australia - NSW**

Pray for our new State Director, for wisdom as they engage with staff and volunteers and begin to plan for this new season in SU NSW.

☐ **Austria**

Pray for our 'LegoStadt' and our 'Holzbauwelt' - two projects that reach out to children. Pray that God will touch the hearts of many children to start reading His Word and to come to know God.

☐ **Benin**

Pray that the Lord will support our four missionaries, so that their strategy for distributing readers during this period of the COVID-19 crisis, will use up the entire stock of 2021 readers.

**3-9 MAY**

☐ **Leadership Lab International**

Please pray for wisdom on how to develop both online and on-site training opportunities in this season.



☐ **Singapore**

Pray for the participants of our Certificate in Practical Children's Ministry 'CPCM 2021' which is being conducted via Zoom, every Tuesday from February - May. Pray they will have a passion to share the gospel with the next generation.

☐ **Bulgaria**

Because of the ongoing pandemic it's difficult for us to make concrete plans. We hope we can have a Spring Camp for children and that our missionary trips to Montana and the villages there will resume soon.

☐ **Europe Community Group**

Members from the European National Movements, along with Erzsébet Komlói (SU International's Field Development Director for Europe), will meet online from 5-7 May this year. Pray for a successful meeting.

☐ **Congo DR**

Pray for the 17 girls and mothers that are receiving self-care training in literacy, sewing and small trades in our Elikya centre in Kinshasa.



**England & Wales**

Thank God for the 60 new 'Faith Guides' who have signed up to share Jesus with the 95% of children and young people in their communities who aren't connected with a church. Pray for them as they train and prepare, and that others will hear the vision and join them in this mission.



**Canada (English speaking)**

Praise the Lord for the development of the School of KidsMin 'Quick Minute Questions'. These one-minute videos provide clear answers to some of children's biggest questions and are a tremendous free resource for children's ministry workers, youth workers and parents.

**10-16 MAY**

**Chile**

Pray for our program for adolescent children and families that has been able to develop online despite the pandemic. We pray for all those who we will reach in 2021 with the message of hope in God in these difficult times. Pray also for volunteers willing to serve these needs.

**Estonia**

Pray that we would have enough volunteers for summer camps, for the training of our new young camp team, and that the leaders would be guided by the Lord in every decision they make as they prepare for the camps.

**Fiji**

Pray for our divisional coordinators and volunteers for our Student Ministry program.

**Hungary**

We give thanks to the Lord for our renewed youth Bible reading guide, the 'Utjelzo' (road sign). Pray it will have a significant impact on the lives of our young readers.



**India**

Pray that the directors of our VBS's (Vacation Bible Schools) in and around India, will be trained and used effectively for building His kingdom. Pray also for the virtual and offline VBS that it should benefit the lives of children and help them grow in the Lord.

**Kosovo**

Pray for God's protection over the church in Kosovo, for the recovery of the ones who are affected by COVID-19 and for God's provision for our ministry for this year.

**Macau**

Pray for the video screening of the Monthly Bible Talk in 2021. Please pray for more volunteers to help in this project and for more people to join the talks and be blessed by the Word of God.

**17-23 MAY**

**Malawi**

Praise God for the 220 teachers we trained on how to run Bible Clubs and how to be proactive in dealing with the problem of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts among children and youth, especially during this time when the schools are closed due to COVID-19.



**Taiwan**

Pray for an expansion and the utilization of our social media ministry, that we will be able to reach out to every church and individual in need of our resources and ministry.

**Mauritius**

We praise God for the generous hearts that were touched through our new fundraising 'Friend-raising' ministry that has been set up. We also praise God for two more volunteers that the Lord brought to the children and youth ministry.

**Canada (French speaking)**

Please pray for our team and the newly renewed Board, that God will strengthen us through our mission.

## ❑ Finland

Pray for our new website 'raamattustartti.fi'. It is based on the 'e100' youth Bible reading program and aimed at young adults. We are thankful for all the cooperation we have had during the project. We ask you to pray that 'RaamattuStartti' would be widely used and that it would be a blessing for individuals and groups as well.

## ❑ Italy

Pray for a SU movement to be fully established in our country. Perhaps in a difficult time like this, someone will have the call to serve in that field.

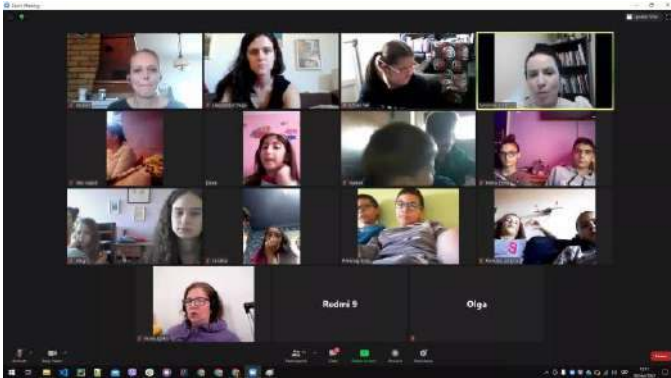
## ❑ Australia

Please pray for missional vacancies throughout Australia; especially for SU workers in rural and remote areas of the country.

## 24-30 MAY

## ❑ Serbia

We are thankful to God that we have been able to start posting daily Bible readings for young people on Instagram. We are also grateful that once a month we can serve children and young people via Zoom meetings.



## ❑ Timor Leste

Pray for the training workshop for local churches on 'The Big Picture Story Bible' curriculum.

## ❑ Tanzania

We are thankful for our staff health and the HQ building renovation work that has been going on, albeit very slowly due to the lack of funds to cover the whole budget. Pray for financial support for SU staff and for SU Tanzania ministry sustainability.

## ❑ Austria

We are very thankful for our 'BibleMobil' that we use to reach out to Schools and Churches in our country. Our work in Schools has become more and more difficult because the Bible is not very popular. Pray for open doors to reach out to the kids in our Country. Pray that God creates a new hunger for His Word.

## ❑ Nepal

We usually organise about 10 Vacation Bible School (VBS) children camps every year, reaching about 1,000 children. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to hold any camps, but eventually we were able to organize a Zoom VBS in November. A total of 161 children aged between 5-12 were registered with us and we sent the VBS books to all of them, although only about 100 children actually took part in the program due to lack of access to equipment and internet.



## ❑ New Zealand

Please pray for our annual 'WAY2GO' children's ministry conferences being held in Dunedin (29 May), Auckland (12 June) and Wellington (26 June). The 'Woven in Faith' programme that had been planned for 2020 is being used. Pray for the workshop leaders and for the key speaker Terry Williams from SUI, who is prerecording his sessions rather than presenting in-person.

## ❑ Malawi

Pray for the implementation of the Smooth Stone Sport (S.S.S.) project which aims to share the Good News with at-risk youth and to develop young leaders who use sport and mentoring to reach their peers in the communities they live.

## 31 MAY – 6 JUNE

## ❑ Northern Ireland

Give thanks for the creativity of our Schools Workers who have produced 'The Fist Pump Five', a series of five lessons exploring good mental health from a Biblical point of view. Pray that these will be used to really help pupils both now and for years to come, and that children would be reminded of the God who cares for them, body, soul and mind.



### □ Macau

Thank God for the physical meeting of Bible Reading Campaign Award Ceremony which was held successfully in January. There were about 50 participants from eight different churches who participated at the ceremony this year.



### □ Scripture Union International

The Global Team continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month to pray together and to discuss and plan our projects. Pray for continued wisdom as they seek to support all the National Movements.

### □ Denmark

Our Board is constantly working on adapting the organisation to the needs and opportunities that arise. Pray for wisdom and courage to follow the right path as we move forward.

### □ Sri Lanka

One of our staff shared the motivational thought to St. Mary's School Kollupitiya, and many non-Christians were gathered. Afterwards, students had individual discussions where some shared the personal challenges in their lives. The school principal was delighted.



### □ Australia - NSW

Pray that our volunteers can be re-engaged in our schools, camps and mission's ministries as they adapt and change to COVID-19. Also pray for our work with students in NSW public schools, for new ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

### □ Benin

We pray to the Lord to protect all the current ministries of SU Benin and to provide the funds and materials necessary for the construction of the SU Benin headquarters.

### □ Romania

We are preparing for summer activities and we need volunteers ready to serve and love their neighbour. Please pray that we find the right people for these activities.

### □ Greece

We are grateful to God for His protection for our residents at our 'Lois' home for the elderly. Despite the rise of the COVID-19 cases in Greece all our elderly people are safe. Moreover, we received two vaccine doses in January.

### □ Honduras

We thank the Lord for His care over managers, workers and volunteers during the pandemic and the hurricanes that hit the country in November 2020. Pray for continued protection for staff and volunteers from COVID-19 and for the provision of funds to aid the poor and for the administrative and logistical expenses of SU Honduras.

### □ Austria

We have opened a Christian bookstore, not only to sell books but also to invite visitors to share the love of Christ with them. Pray for creative Ideas and open hearts.

### □ Japan

Collaborating with two other organizations we were able to hold a seminar on the effectiveness of Bible study in small groups. Because it was online, people living in various parts of Japan could join in. Continue to pray for us to promote the Bible reading among churches and Christians in Japan so that they would testify the Lord's salvation with love and conviction.

### □ Scripture Union International

The Global Board meeting will be held today and high on the agenda will be preparations for the General Assembly which is due to be held 2-5 July.

### □ Germany

At this point, it is unclear if and how our Beach-Ministry will be able to take place during the summer. We are currently looking for alternative ways to carry it out and need wisdom from God to do so.

### □ Italy

We thank God for the protection from COVID-19 for all the writers of the Bible notes. Pray that more Christian believers will make our Bible notes their devotion guide.





- **Canada (English speaking)**  
During COVID-19 we have had opportunities to collaborate with the 4/14 Movement, Global Children's Forum, Lausanne Children's Movement, 1for50 Global Network, Max 7, the Sports Movement, Forum of Bible Agencies, and others. Please pray for our ministry partners.

- **Angola**  
Please pray that God provides us with training for Bible notes and interpretation in Portuguese. Also pray as we look forward to accomplishing the 'Guardians de Âncora' project in Angola.

- **Northern Ireland**  
Please pray for our summer camps and missions. May God make a way for children, young people and their leaders to meet 'in person' so that they can open His Word together and lives be transformed.

- **Australia**  
Many of the SU movements in Australia started the year 2021 with Prayer Retreats - a time set aside to focus purely on prayer and giving God space to speak! We are seeing God answer these prayers!



- **Taiwan**  
Thank God for the newly elected Board members as well as those who currently serve. Pray that God will equip our leaders with the wisdom, patience and love required to do their job effectively.

- **Fiji**  
Please pray for an appointment with the Ministry of Education to enable us to engage with the primary and secondary schools. Also pray for our Church partnership and engagement program.

## 21-27 JUNE

- **Papua New Guinea**  
Pray for a possible venue to host our student prayers in Port Moresby and that we are able to hold our 2021 events.
- **Congo DR**  
Praise the Lord for local committees, which are increasingly developing evangelism through children's clubs.

- **Ecuador**  
We thank God for meeting with so many young people during our annual Floorball event. May they continue to seek Him for security through the challenges that are ahead.

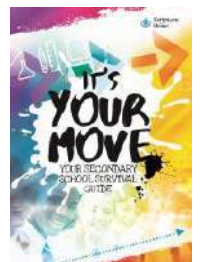


- **Finland**  
Pray for our radio programs where we interview Bible teachers, that they would be an inspiration for listeners to read the Bible. Also pray for our online Bible groups, that they would multiply especially during COVID-19 restrictions.

- **Romania**  
Pray for protection for our upcoming summer activities, that God can do His work through us.

- **Switzerland (German speaking)**  
People are hesitating to register for our camps due to the uncertainties with COVID-19. Pray for a relaxation of the situation so that we have enough registrations and can put on our camps.

- **England & Wales**  
We are celebrating 20 years of 'It's Your Move'. Thank God for all the children who have found the book helpful as they prepare for secondary school. Pray for those who receive it this year, that they will know God with them in challenging times. [su.org.uk/iym](http://su.org.uk/iym)



## 28-30 JUNE

- **Vanuatu**  
After cancelling all our camping ministry in 2020 due to COVID-19, we are looking forward to re-organising children's camps again this year. Pray they will be able to go ahead.
- **Canada (French speaking)**  
The pandemic has greatly affected the youth of Quebec with an increase in cases of depression. We are preparing a larger distribution of our youth guides and an awareness campaign among our donors. Thank you for your prayers.
- **Hungary**  
We are preparing for our English summer children's camps. Please pray that we would have enough Hungarian and English helpers and that we would have enough kids in all of our camps despite COVID-19 concerns.