



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

# Global Prayer News

July to September 2021

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

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak;  
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

Dear praying friends,

When I was young, the meaning of this passage seemed very clear to me. I understood it in the sense that it is fine to wear out oneself to the point of exhaustion and beyond. After all, if you trust God, you will always receive new strength. Unfortunately, this attitude is causing many Christian ministry workers to break down both physically and mentally, and sometimes even spiritually.

Today I read the passage differently. It can be misleading if we read it without context, as a slightly different picture emerges from the verses preceding the ones we have just read. The passage is referring to a time when the Israelites were captives in Babylonia, running the risk of losing their identity as a people. They felt abandoned and forgotten by God. They had really reached the end of the line and were running on empty. They did not know if they would survive as a people and whether the promises God had given to their forefathers would ever be fulfilled.

But God wants to encourage his people by reminding them that he is still the same. *"O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights? Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding"* (Isaiah 40:27-28).

Because the eternal God has strength and power and is full of mercy, even weak and tired people who are at their wits end can receive new strength. In the case of the Israelites, it was the necessary spark of hope and trust that God would carry them through the dry land of captivity until they would get back into their homeland. In our case, it may be the weariness of old age, the pressure of financial challenges, the pain of serving amongst people who are hostile or indifferent to the Gospel, or it might be a new Covid wave. We may be tired and weary of all of this, but God never grows weak and weary. And he has promised to give us new strength in hard times when we trust in him.

One of my favourite theologians is Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He wrote in one of his letters from prison: *"I believe that God can and will let good come out of everything, even the greatest evil. For that to happen, God needs human beings who let everything work out for the best. I believe that in every moment of distress God will give us as much strength to resist as we need. But it is not given to us in advance, lest we rely on ourselves and not on God alone. In such faith all fear of the future should be overcome."*

Thank you for praying for our brothers and sisters around the world, who may be a bit weary at this moment.

Warmest greetings and blessings,

Monika Kuschmierz  
International Director



**Scripture Union International**

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

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

## SU Australia

On 1 June 2021 SU in the Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, the ACT, South Australia and Western Australia all merged to become Scripture Union Australia. This merger was motivated by a desire to share resources and expertise for the purpose of increasing SU's reach in Australia and its capacity to enhance existing ministries and birth new ones as well. SU Australia's vision is to see each child, young person and their families throughout Australia come to experience God's love and good news.

**Peter James** has been appointed as SU Australia's Group Chief Executive Officer. Peter loves the mission of Scripture Union! He was an SU camper and ISCF-er through school, and an SU camp leader and beach mission leader through his 20s. Since 1999, Peter has served as an SU volunteer, board member and staff member, including nine years as CEO for SU Queensland.

I am sure you will join us as we welcome the newly formed movement, Peter and the new executive team. The new SU Australia will stay in warm fellowship with SU New South Wales.



## SU New South Wales



We welcome **Ian Altman** who has been appointed as the new State Director of SU New South Wales and started his new role in June.

Ian brings with him a wealth of knowledge from 30 years of leadership in ministry. He says: *"The opportunity to partner with a team and a movement solely focused on the core mission of Jesus resonates deeply with me. I am committed to doing the hard work that will produce a harvest for the kingdom and the work of SU NSW."*

I'm sure Ian would value your prayers for himself and his wife Carolyn as they transition into this new role.

## SU Switzerland (French-speaking)

After 19 years as director of SU in French-speaking Switzerland, **Michael Siegrist** is leaving to become a professor of theology.

Michael says *"These 19 years have been rich in discovery. It is true that working with children requires curiosity, creativity and adaptability. It forces you to stay young. What a privilege to be able to experience this at SU. But SU is also a family throughout the world, and it has a wealth of experience in sharing and exchange. What a pleasure it has been to discover how each SU lives its ministry in accordance with the culture and needs of its country. It is certainly an incredible strength. But as Paul says in several of his letters, we must hold together the specificities of each one and the unity of the Body of Christ. An ongoing challenge, but an exciting one. May SU continue its incredible ministry throughout the world."*



Michael will continue in his role as chair of 'dynamique francophone'.



We welcome **Jeremie Valiton** as the new director. Jeremie has been married to Salome since 2009, and they have four young children. They live in Bulle, in the Gruyeres area (for the cheese lovers) and are passionate about children, people, life, Jesus and His work through all of us. He worked for six years as a youth pastor in Lausanne, and then for eight years at the Swiss Education Group, a world leading Hotel Management School. He also studied at theological school and has a Masters in innovation and Entrepreneurship from HEC Paris.

Jeremie says *"I have the privilege to take over from Michel - his work has been remarkable and following after him is a great opportunity to keep developing SU ministry in Switzerland. I'm looking forward to collaborating on various projects and being inspired by SU values, work, and passion."*



# Global Prayer News

## July to September 2021

### 1-4 JULY

- ❑ **Scripture Union International**  
Today we hold a webinar on 'Inviting Children to Follow Jesus', featuring ministry leaders from around the world. Pray for a good time of sharing some key principles and practical ideas.
- ❑ **Scripture Union Global**  
Today is the first day of the 4-day SU General Assembly, where all the Directors and Chairs of the National Movements come together. Pray for good connections – both technical and between people!
- ❑ **Macau**  
Pray for the physical meeting of the Annual Bible Reading Conference being held today. We are thankful that the speaker and the venue are confirmed. Please pray for more people to join the conference and be blessed by the words of God.
- ❑ **Austria**  
Our summer camps are starting at the beginning of July, and we're excited to see what God is going to do. Let's pray that COVID-19 isn't going to stop us, and that God will move!

### 5-11 JULY

- ❑ **Northern Ireland**  
We are thankful for the hard work of staff and volunteers in planning our summer program. We have a variety of day camps on offer, and the hope of missions meeting in smaller groups, please pray that SU NI will know God's leading in seeking to reach children, young people and their families safely, in person.
- ❑ **Leadership Lab International**  
Please pray for God's guidance as our LLI E-Training working group begins envisioning and developing online training to step alongside disciple makers.
- ❑ **Bulgaria**  
We're very thankful that there's an opportunity to have our summer camps, not online but live! We are concerned because there aren't many volunteers able to help at the children's camp (3-9 July) and young teens 'MAD' camp (12-18 July). Pray that God will send people to help us!
- ❑ **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.

- ❑ **Hungary**  
Across the four weeks of July, we are holding our summer English kid's camps. Please pray for the teams as they go out to serve God amongst 7-13 year olds.



- ❑ **Indonesia**  
Please pray the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire and prepare all the pastors and participants for the online National Bible Ministry training and webinars throughout July.
- ❑ **New Zealand**  
We have six winter youth camps running between 11-23 July including ski camps and a drama day camp. Give thanks for the number of new young leaders involved and pray that God will use and equip them.

### 12-18 JULY

- ❑ **Australia (Western)**  
Praise God that we can run 6 winter camps in July and that they are all full. Pray for safety for the campers and the leader team. Pray that the community created on camp will provide spaces for sharing the Good News of Jesus and seeing children and young people transformed.



## □ Scotland

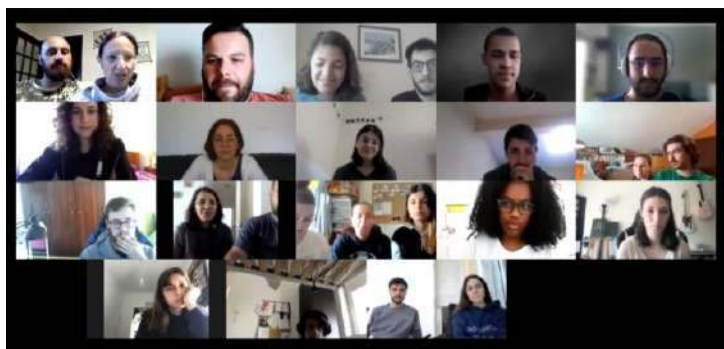
A new resource, 'Jungle Adventure', has been written especially for use by churches wanting to hold an outdoor holiday outreach club for children this summer. Please pray that churches will meet the challenges of working within government guidelines, find willing volunteers to work with the children, and that the gospel might be effectively shared.

## □ India

Most parts of our country are under lockdown, and we are suffering with a lack of oxygen cylinders etc. Pray for the protection of our communities and our SU families.

## □ Portugal

Our staff have been preparing online for the upcoming Bible camps and God is opening the way! In the first three days after opening registration, we received more than 100 registrations for each of our camps. Please pray for all the volunteer staff and all the campers (children, youth and adults), that the Good News of salvation may reach all hearts.



## □ Singapore

Pray for our on-going youth ministry work in July – that the virtual meetings remain vibrant, engaging and spiritually uplifting. The Lord's presence be upon us.

## □ Austria

Today we start our Campground Mission camps. Please pray that the cooperation with the new leader of the campground will be blessed and that God will move in the hearts of the children attending the program.

## □ Australia

The SU Australia merger has been voted on by all the participating state boards - with overwhelming affirmation. Praise God for His favour throughout the entire process of growing together.

## □ Estonia

Please pray for our three big Bible reading camps held throughout July. Pray for God's protection and safety for the children and for the young, inexperienced team - many of whom will be taking their first steps in leadership. Pray that God's love would touch and heal every camper as many of them are hurt and confused after being isolated during the long lockdown.



## □ Belgium

This year, our bilingual English/French Interaction Belgique camps will be going ahead, but only for Belgium residents; and we have been able to continue the SFME, our training program for children's workers. We pray that plans will be ready in time and that God will renew the strength of each person involved in this work.

## □ Canada (English speaking)

Pray for our One Day Summer Sports Camps. With health and safety protocols in place, as well as limited enrolments, in-person children's ministry is gradually returning in July and August.

## □ Australia (ACT)

Praise God for a fantastic youth 'Wild Wee Jasper Camp'. Campers were very eager to draw close to God and apply the teaching. This year's camp was the largest we've had in more than five years and the number of leaders and campers doubled since 2019.



## ☐ Solomon Islands

Please pray for our planned visit to eight provincial schools between June and November 2021. These visits are part of our strategy to establish Provincial SU fellowships in schools and to appoint provincial SU coordinators that will look after SU programs in schools, churches and communities. Pray that God will make these visits possible.

## ☐ Honduras

Pray for the Lamparita Biblical Course, for children from 6 to 12 years old. At this time, when we cannot go to schools, we want to reach 5,000 children in their homes with this Bible course consisting of 14 Bible lessons.

## ☐ Hong Kong

Please pray for our annual Small Leaders' Training Camp starting today, which aims to train children to be small leaders. This year we plan for it to be a 2-day day-camp instead of an overnight camp. Please pray that the situation is good enough for us to run the camp.

## 26 JULY – 1 AUGUST

## ☐ Romania

At the end of July, we will have a social camp in one of the poorest regions of Romania. It's a place where we've been going for over 10 years. Please pray for us to have a good impact there and God's work to be done through us!

## ☐ Kosovo

Please pray for the summer activities we have planned. They are only able to go ahead if the restrictions are relaxed.

## ☐ Papua New Guinea

Pray for all our school fellowship clubs. Also, pray that we will be able to host events in person soon.

## ☐ India

We thank God for a successful Servant of God Empowering camp that was held in Tamil Nadu (North) where 30 volunteers were trained. Please pray for our online staff training programs and VBS follow-up.



## ☐ Trinidad and Tobago

Thank God for ministry to two Senior Homes and one Children's Home - care packages were given to these homes and were well received. Thank God for those who gave towards the care packages. Pray for wisdom and innovative ideas so we can minister to at-risk children and seniors during the pandemic.

## ☐ Laos

Pray as we share the Gospel to non-believers through our Facebook, and that we will be able to hold our camping ministry.

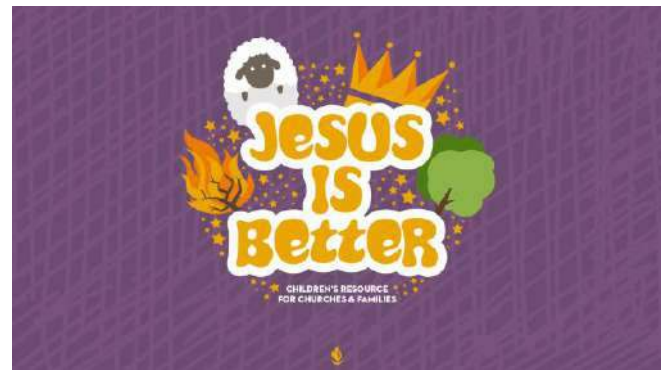
## ☐ Spain

We ask for prayer for our new children's projects.

## 2-8 AUGUST

## ☐ Northern Ireland

Give thanks for technology, creativity and space to be able to film for our new children's resource for churches and families based on the theme 'Jesus Is Better'. Please pray that as it goes out to people, we would hear feedback on the need and potential furtherance of this type of resource and that many children would see that Jesus is better.



## ☐ Switzerland (French speaking)

Pray for our summer camps, for good organisation, protection of everyone, and more than anything, that many of the kids can get to know more of His love during all the summer activities.

## ☐ Germany

Although it is unclear whether and to what extent our beach mission will be able to take place this summer, our staff have been preparing and we want to create offerings for children within restrictions at various coastal locations.

## ☐ Vietnam (Hanoi)

Pray that we can connect with more churches and groups to train them to use our Daily notes, so more Christians will use them.

**Greece**

Our elderly home, 'Lois', is still in the centre of our prayers. After some COVID-19 cases among the elderly and the staff, we are now 'Covid free'. Of course, the pandemic is not over, and we keep taking all the necessary precautions. We thank God for His protection, and we pray for wisdom and strength.

**Serbia**

This year, due to restrictions, we decided to organize local day camps. Pray that God will provide us with wisdom on how to organize everything and that God will protect the children and teachers who will serve them.

**Timor Leste**

Please pray as our team works towards publishing our second Bible guide, 'Following Jesus'. It is about the Sermon on the Mount and written for young people.

## 9-15 AUGUST

**Scotland**

Give thanks for good teamworking between SU Scotland and SU Northern Ireland to produce 'Back to School with God' resources – free for churches to download to hold an all-age service at the start of a new school year ([suscotland.org.uk/bsg](http://suscotland.org.uk/bsg)). Pray that children and school staff feel supported by the church family and leave the service encouraged, confident that God goes with them into school.

**South Africa**

We are grateful to the Lord for His faithfulness and grace, enabling us to continue to function with no restructure of jobs and loss for our staff in South Africa. Pray for continued financial stability and provision as we implement a new budgeting system for 2022

**Sweden**

We would like to praise God for the great start we have had with Here 2 Stay. Our launch has created a lot of buzz.



**Zambia**

Zambia will hold its general elections today. Pray that all goes well and that nothing should disturb the children going to school during this period. Also, pray that God gives us leaders that will continue to support the SU movement in the nation.

**Singapore**

Pray for our August planning and budgeting period as staff gather to pray, plan and prepare for next year's activities and work. May God's wisdom guide us.

**Italy**

Pray for the Italian Bible notes 'Per l'Ora che Passa', that they would be distributed more among the churches and believers.

**Indonesia**

Praise the Lord that the online youth camps for various churches across the eastern part of Indonesia earlier this year were conducted well. We also thank God for the online regular follow-ups where some young people meet with others, study, share God's Word and pray together.

## 16-22 AUGUST

**Bulgaria**

Our summer camp for older teens will be held this week. Last year we managed to hold it in person in a hotel in the mountains. Please pray that God will be with us and give us His guidance about how to teach these young people about Him and His Word!

**Australia (Western)**

Praise God for training events that have been happening in July and August. Pray that they will equip and strengthen SU ministry. We particularly pray for 'JR Lead', an under 18 leadership camp that trains emerging leaders. Pray that the camp inspires them to serve God more effectively in SU ministry and in their local church.

**Solomon Islands**

This year we aim to have 3,000 Bibles available for schools. Praise God for those who donated 800 Bibles. Please pray that our Bibles arrive on time.

**Honduras**

Please pray for our El Encuentro Bookstore and the Cerro de Luz Camp: that during this time, we can have enough sales to cover our operating costs.

**Restricted Countries**

Remember to pray for SU movements that continue to operate in restricted countries. Pray that God will bless them with courage, wisdom and protection.

- ❑ **Sri Lanka**  
Please Pray for SUSL online ministries during the lockdown.
- ❑ **Vanuatu**  
We are thankful for God's protection over SU Vanuatu staff, volunteers and their families. We ask that God provides for our movement's financial situation.



## 23-29 AUGUST

- ❑ **Trinidad and Tobago**  
We thank God for a successful webinar on 'Safer Online Ministry' held earlier in the year. There were 45 Child Evangelism workers in attendance – pray as they implement safe working principles.
- ❑ **Scripture Union International**  
Pray for our new Global Board members, that they would settle well into their roles and responsibilities.
- ❑ **Solomon Islands**  
We are thankful that this year we were able to begin our School Combine fellowship successfully. We still have no restrictions on religious gatherings and no COVID-19 cases yet.
- ❑ **New Zealand**  
Our Annual General Meeting and supporter update will be running via a Zoom video meeting on 28 August. Please pray for the technology involved and that a wide range of supporters will be able to attend.
- ❑ **Papua New Guinea**  
Our feeding program has kicked off again. A primary school is now carrying on from our initiative to provide free breakfasts for the needy kids that attend their school.
- ❑ **Pacific Island Community Group**  
As a Community Group, the Pacific Island movements are praying and working towards a new SU ministry in Samoa. Please pray for God's guidance.

- ❑ **Switzerland (German speaking)**  
In the last few months, we have been working on our strategy with a small team. This process will come to an end in this month. Please pray for the final phase, where concrete projects should emerge from our plans and visions. Today our board will discuss the projects proposed by the strategy team. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom!



## 30 AUGUST – 5 SEPTEMBER

- ❑ **Kosovo**  
Please pray for God's provision for the SU ministry in Kosovo.
- ❑ **Sweden**  
Pray that we get a great start after restrictions are lifted, with the continuation of the 'Here 2 Stay' roll out. Pray also for a flow of new creativity and ideas after the slow-moving season of lockdown.
- ❑ **Singapore**  
Pray for our Children's Ministry team as we contemplate the planning and structure of our proposed training this month 'WWWC' (Walking with Wounded Children). May the Lord's leading refresh us.
- ❑ **Hong Kong**  
A special Christian school uses our youth notes to help their 40 students. These students are teenagers who are sent to live at the school for drug addiction treatment. Please pray that the life of these students would be transformed by God's Word whilst they read the Bible with our youth notes every day.
- ❑ **Timor Leste**  
Please pray as we continue to be in lockdown in the capital city and for how we can best adapt to this new normal as a movement.

**South Africa**

We are trusting the Lord to show us creative ways to do ministry during the challenging COVID-19 times in our nation.



**Switzerland (German speaking)**

We are planning a celebration for our volunteers today. We pray and hope that this event can take place despite the possible restrictions that might still be in place.

**6-12 SEPTEMBER**

**Northern Ireland**

Give thanks for the 78 new school contacts to whom we have been able to send online assemblies and RE lessons during this academic year. Please pray that these online contacts will translate into opportunities to physically visit new schools as the new academic year begins in September.

**Australia**

Please pray for SU Australia as we launch into a new era together with a passion for more mission and ministry across Australia!

**Germany**

Some of our staff are taking time out due to additions to the family and are being replaced by new colleagues. Please pray that our new staff will settle well into their work and the team and experience God's blessing and affirmation.

**Vietnam ((Hanoi)**

Pray that our trainees learn to do well with our Daily notes and be able to pass on the training to others.

**Indonesia**

We thank God for our donors who faithfully support us through their prayers and donations.

**Scotland**

Last September very few SU Groups were able to recommence in Scottish schools, due to restrictions and home learning. Pray that volunteers who had a break last year may be willing to return to serve in leading groups and also that senior pupils who have gone through pupil leadership training may be bold enough to take up the challenge to start an SU Group where none currently exists.

**Laos**

Pray for our online preaching on church pages and YouTube Channel and for our online Bible ministry training for our volunteers in local churches.

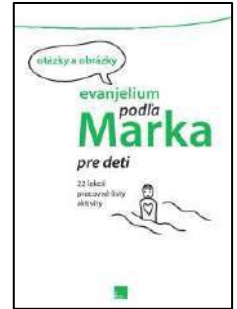
**13-19 SEPTEMBER**

**Switzerland (German speaking)**

Several webinars will take place in September. We pray that our online training courses inspire many people on their personal journey with God.

**Slovakia**

This month we are going to publish a new resource: 23 Bible lessons for kids from the Gospel of Mark, with questions, activity sheets and craft ideas. We pray that the launch will go well.



**Canada (English speaking)**

Praise the Lord for the latest School of KidsMin "Two Minute Training" animated videos. The videos teach big concepts in small bites.

**Spain**

Please pray for the 'Teaching like the teacher' training course that we started during this year 2020-21. May God open doors in many more places and may it be a blessing for many churches and children and youth ministries.

**Serbia**

We are thankful to God that we have been able to start training on how to write daily Bible readings for young people. Pray for this ministry and that the writers be inspired and persevere. Pray for the young people, that through these readings we post on Instagram, they will be encouraged to know God even better and that the Lord will touch their hearts.

**Greece**

We ask that God helps us to cover our increased expenses which have gone up during the last month due to our increased use of personal protective equipment and PCR (Covid) tests.

**Australia (Western)**

Pray for the School Camping team as they prepare and plan for over 10 school camps for the second camping season for 2021. Pray for unity in the team and building of good relationships with those schools. Also pray for effective ways they can share the gospel on camp with students, parents and teachers.



## 20-26 SEPTEMBER

### □ Austria

The season for our church projects ('Lego Stadt' and 'Holzbauwelt') has started again. Let's pray that God will speak through those projects to the people and that we will actually be able to do them and won't be held back due to any restrictions.

### □ Trinidad and Tobago

Pray for the success of Project: Discipleship 2021 which is intended to help 221 people in 2021 strengthen their relationship with God through daily study of the Word.

### □ Vanuatu

We praise God that our Inter-Secondary School Christian Fellowship Rally has been able to recommence after being suspended during 2020.

### □ India

During lockdown our missionary, Aesa Rooban, took the opportunity to share God's Word to the children in his area which was a great blessing to many kids. We sincerely request your prayers for our camps, where children can greatly benefit and be engaged.



### □ Honduras

We thank the donors who are supporting the humanitarian aid for the victims of hurricanes Eta and Iota.

### □ East West & South Asia Community Groups

As these two groups are meeting today, please pray that they will be inspired by the presentations and encouraged by sharing and praying for each other.

### □ Papua New Guinea

Pray for strength in our coordinators in the 21 provinces to be creative during this pandemic.

### □ Kosovo

Please pray for our sports ministry. We're unable to develop it any further at this stage. Please pray for God's help once we are able to restart the activities.

### □ New Zealand

We are so grateful that while many movements are in very difficult situations, we are able to work almost normally. Give thanks for the three 'WAY2GO' children's ministry conferences held in May and June which were able to go ahead face-to-face.

## 27-30 SEPTEMBER

### □ Australia (ACT)

Please pray that new volunteers would emerge to respond to numerous requests for new 'SUPA Clubs' in primary schools across Canberra.

### □ Zambia

We thank God for the good health of our staff, volunteers, council and board members. Pray for families of SU in Zambia, for God's provision.