



Scripture Union
God's Big Story transforming young lives

Global Prayer News

January to March 2022

www.scriptureunion.global

*When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.*
Jeremiah 15:16

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Looking ahead into 2022, many of us are feeling nervous. The challenges and disruptions of the pandemic are not over yet. The aftereffects of two years of 'stop-and-go' ministry are concerning. Churches have shrunk in size and children and young people are struggling with mental health issues. Many are grieving the loss of loved ones, and we all are tired of the restrictions and feel unable to bear yet another year of pain and constraints. So why did I choose the verse from Jeremiah about joy and delight?

In the context of Jeremiah 15, this verse is like a bright flashlight in the gloom and darkness. Jeremiah talks about God's judgement on his people, about pain, shame, fear, and death. He is frustrated by the message he is called to share; and the people around him hate him for speaking out. But then there is this one verse that brings light on to the scene. God's words are Jeremiah's joy and his heart's delight. And even though his own people treat him like an enemy, he knows his true identity: He belongs to the Lord God Almighty!

Johann Hinrich Wichern, a German theologian and social reformer, once formulated a short 'prophecy' for the new year. Among other things, it contains this prediction: *"Whoever lets his Bible gather dust from January 1 will find his soul dusty on December 31. But whoever searches the Bible for sources of life from January 1 will have bright eyes and a joyful heart on December 31. The new year will fly by like a cloud, and before it is over, many a one who greeted January 1 cheerfully will lie between five boards and two planks and be carried out by men in black suits. But the grace and mercy of God will remain beyond the new year, that is, from eternity to eternity."*

In a world full of distractions, it is not easy to really focus on God's word – not even for fulltime SU staff workers. But let us learn to dive deep into the Word together; to challenge and comfort each other with the Word; and to invite children, young people, and families to discover the joy and delight and the deep sense of belonging and identity it brings to those who 'eat' the Word - especially in difficult and gloomy times.

Warmest greetings and blessings,

Monika Kuschmierz
International Director



Denmark



We welcome **Hakon Christensen** who has been appointed as the new National Leader for SU Denmark. Hakon lives in Hillerød with his wife Ulla, who is a teacher. They have three grown up children.

He says "My own enthusiasm and joy for the Bible is primarily due to a belief that the Bible is the word of God, and an experience that God himself is near to me through the words of the Bible. The Bible is simply alive in a way."

I think SU has a good logo. If you are in doubt, then sit in a quiet place and look at it for five minutes. The logo is a stylized oil lamp. Notice that the flame never goes out... that is because the lamp illustrates the words of Psalm 119:105 *"Your words are a lamp to my feet and a light for my path"*. The word of God always shines. And the light is Jesus. The New Testament tells us that He *"is the light of the world"* (John 8:12)."

I think SU Denmark will continue to be a small, but extremely important, piece in the great ecclesiastical landscape. Others work on the same vision, but as far as I can see, it is a gift to the church in Denmark that SU DK in a special way - and continuously - focuses on the regular use of the Bible and develops resources that can support this. Long live - the joy of the Bible!"

India

We also welcome **Eunice Elias** who has now been formally appointed as the new National Director for SU India after acting as Interim Director for the last few months.

Eunice says "I was born into a Christian family and accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour at the age of 14. When I was 19, I made a commitment to serve among children. I became a teacher and served as an SU volunteer in my free time.



I married a full-time servant of God in Scripture Union and soon after our marriage I decided to also partner as a full-time volunteer as the field was in great need and I felt the Lord reminding me of my commitment. I served alongside my husband as volunteer for seven years after which he passed away. I expressed my desire to serve full time in Scripture Union and I praise God that SU was kind enough to appoint me as a full-time field staff in 1997. In 2017 I was promoted to Field Secretary for the Trichy central area TN. In December 2020, I was invited to the SU Chennai head office to serve as the Interim National Director.

I have two sons. The older one is married and blessed with a daughter and the younger one is pursuing his master's in theology. Praise be to God for this journey through which I tasted that He is always good."



Global Prayer News

January to March 2022

1-2 JANUARY

□ Denmark

Please pray for our new national leader Hakon Christensen, who starts 1 January. Pray that God will give him creativity, resources, and spiritual clarity in his new ministry.

□ Australia

In early January, more than 600 volunteers will serve on 18 Beach Mission, one KidsGames and 11 Theos (Youth/Young Adult Missions) in holiday locations and local communities across Victoria. Please pray that through them thousands of children, young people and families will experience God's love and the Good News.



□ Northern Ireland

Give thanks for the appointment of three new Schools' Workers in the SUNI Schools Team. Praise God for how quickly they've become established in post and developed strong relationships with pupils, staff members and local churches. Please keep praying for them (and the rest of the Schools Team) as they continue to engage, equip and empower in challenging days.



□ Australia – New South Wales

Please pray for our new SUNSW Director Ian Altman and the board as they recruit staff who are called to support the growth of ministry in digital ministry, in new regional areas and amongst our First Nation people.

□ Nepal

A VBS (Vacation Bible School) children's day camp will be held in Kathmandu in January 2022. We are expecting 100 children and 10 volunteer teachers in the camp. Please pray that the programme will be an opportunity for the children to know Jesus and follow him.

□ Ecuador

We are hoping that the 'Encuentro Con Dios' devotional books can make it through customs to be ready for sale and distribution in January. We are asking for prayer as we renew contact with churches and patrons who have collaborated in the past. May this tool raise the needed funds and, more importantly, minister to the spirits of those who participate in immersing themselves in the Word of God.

□ Serbia

We are thankful to God for the autumn activities we held at the end of last year and we pray that, by His blessing, fruit comes from what we have sown.



3-9 JANUARY

□ Mauritius

We have been accompanying some 50 children and young people for four years through a school support program with a holistic approach. We pray that they will now see Jesus at work in a concrete way, and that that the families we accompany and train, i.e., the parents of these children and young people, also come to know Jesus in a more intimate way and through His Word.

□ New Zealand

We have 14 youth and children's summer camps scheduled between 4 & 28 January. Give thanks for the young leaders from the SU NZ Beyond Experience and Exodus Prime leadership programmes who are stepping up in leadership teams and pray that they, as well as the campers, will be encouraged and grow in their faith.

10-16 JANUARY

- **Chile**
Please pray that we get the help we need to create digital resources to promote Bible reading for 8–12 year-olds.
- **Romania**
Please pray for our winter camp. We want to have quality time with our volunteers and to strengthen relationships with one another and with God. We also want to enjoy nature and winter sports together.
- **Pakistan**
Pray for a fruitful ministry among children, young people, and families.
- **Australia**
Across Australia, January is one of our busiest times of year for Holiday Camps, Beach Missions and Family Festivals. Please pray for our many SU volunteers and campers who will be taking part all over the country.
- **Austria**
Pray for our Bible Mobil Project that we can find a new way to reach out to the young generation in these times, when the schools are closed to projects based outside the schools.
- **Hong Kong**
We are celebrating our 60th Anniversary in 2022. The first event of this celebration will be a thanksgiving meeting for SUHK friends on 15 January. May God bless this event as we praise God for His faithfulness and wonderful love through His work in SU HK.
- **Congo (DR)**
Praise be to God for the multiple online training sessions with local committees across the country. More than 110 teams of trainers of children's supervisors, young people and families participated.



17-23 JANUARY

- **Estonia**
We thank God, that He has blessed the development and promotion of our Bible reading app 'P+'. Please pray that our volunteer team would get all necessary resources they need to bring it to completion.

- **Scotland**
Give thanks that our three activity centres have reopened, and that children and young people have returned for school residentials, weekend camps, and conferences. Please pray into the challenge of recruitment (recent job adverts had little response) and that these bookings made by school groups for this term will be honoured and not cancelled due to COVID.
- **Finland**
Please pray for our new volunteer program 'Bible Ambassadors' with which we encourage people to encourage daily Bible reading. We are thankful for all ambassadors and pray that their number will grow and that their work will be blessing to our country.
- **Angola**
Give thanks for the evangelization work we have been doing in different villages working with young men.



- **Slovakia**
Due to the pandemic, we had no opportunity to organize an event for our 30th anniversary. We plan to have a reunion for our volunteers in January, so we really pray that this can go ahead.
- **Vanuatu**
Our camping ministry has been going very well this year and we look forward to more in 2022. Pray for more young women and men to assist us as camp leaders.
- **Macau**
Pray for the of award-giving ceremony of our Annual Bible Reading Campaign which will be held on 23 January. It is a time of celebration and renewal of those participants joining the campaign. May God continue to bless all the participants with His Word daily.

24-30 JANUARY

□ Canada (English speaking)

SU Canada is restarting Sports Clubs in local churches. Ask the Lord to equip and encourage our Community Sport Development Coordinator as he facilitates this ministry.



□ Singapore

Give thanks and praise for SU staff and our community volunteers and donors; as our annual appeal letter goes out in January 2022, we pray for continuous support and God's providence.

□ Tanzania

We need prayer to get to hard-to-reach areas in ten regions this year.

□ Ecuador

Join us in praying that students will be permitted to safely return to classes in person starting in January. May God give wisdom to parents and school staff as they remember He is both healer and provider. We are believing for doors to be open again for us to continue our work in schools' once classes are underway.

□ Australia - New South Wales

Please pray for the Gospel tent outreach which will be at the Tamworth Country Music Festival held at the end of January.

□ Italy

Pray for more Italians to get involved in mission. One of the main challenges is the need for financial support, as Italian believers and churches don't have a vision of supporting people.

□ Australia

Schools across Australia resume for the year in late January/early February. Please pray for our school chaplains as they support staff, students, and families this year. Pray also for ongoing and positive relationships to be formed.



31 JANUARY – 6 FEBRUARY

□ Switzerland (German Speaking)

In the first quarter of the year, our ski holidays for young people and families take place. Pray with us for protection during the winter sports and for a spiritually fruitful time.

□ Scripture Union International

The last in a series of six Bible Engagement Round Tables will take place today. Pray that there will be robust discussions that would help us to rethink and reimagine Bible Engagement across the SU Global Family.

□ Australia

Please pray that God would provide enough leaders for our mission teams in South Australia, and for positive and strong outreach throughout the region as we seek to share the Good News of God's love in more local communities. Pray for the right candidates as we recruit for three new roles in South Australia.



□ Nepal

Our volunteer writers will be writing notes for our devotional guide during January and February. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they expound God's Word so that the readers will understand what God is telling them and how to follow Christ and serve His people.

□ Chile

Pray that we can find an appropriate strategy to work with children after the face-to-face restrictions of the past months.

□ Kenya

Join us in thanking God for enabling us to implement a Mental Health and Wellness Programme across the country. Pray for God's enablement as we train more people and as those trained continue to support children and young people in this hour of need.



❑ **Scripture Union International**

Pray for Africa Community Groups 3 and 4 who will be holding online meetings for National Directors during January, February, and March. Pray for encouraging fellowship and strategic conversations.

7-13 FEBRUARY

❑ **Singapore**

Pray for our equipping efforts through WWC (Walking with Children) scheduled for January and February. With the training provided and skills acquired, we ask that God uses the participants to touch the hearts of many young lives!

❑ **Sri Lanka**

Pray for our mission work from January to March 2022, especially as we seek new local donors to support our administration budget. Please pray for the health and protection of all our donors, well-wishers, board members, volunteers, and staff members.

❑ **Tanzania**

We thank the Lord who has done tremendous things for us. All our children's work has gone well, and in November we got four 'bajajis' (three-wheeled vehicles). Praise the Lord.



❑ **Vietnam Hanoi)**

Pray that God may help us to connect with more churches and organizations to train with our 'QT' notes. Also pray that God may raise more trainers for us. We thank God that a pastor who had the QT (Quiet Time) training from SU has now introduced it to some other churches.

❑ **Congo (DR)**

Pray for the distribution of meditation guides for children, youth, and adults in the regional areas to reach local churches in the country.

❑ **Austria**

12-19 February we will have a ski camp in Austria. Pray that God will bless this week and touch the hearts of the participants through His Word.

❑ **New Zealand**

The SU New Zealand Youth Team is developing a new workshop for youth ministry workers called 'Anamata' which means 'time to come, the future' in Te Reo Māori. Please pray for its development and that there will be good uptake as the workshop is rolled out this year.

14-20 FEBRUARY

❑ **Serbia**

Please pray for the parent seminar we have planned for February.

❑ **Angola**

Please pray for us as there are many health problems among our board members and two of our staff members have been attacked.

❑ **Laos**

Thank God that we were able to share the Gospel with over 500 people, and about 150 converted to Jesus Christ.



❑ **Northern Ireland**

The new resources for our SHINE kids programme for primary school SU groups launch in February. Pray that our aim of helping children 'meet Jesus and share Jesus' would be the reality and give thanks for partnership with Crown Jesus Ministries that makes the creation of these resources possible each year.

❑ **Greece**

We are thankful to God that our new Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre 'Eunice' is ready to open. The renovations are complete and the first appointments with the mental health professionals have been booked!

☐ **Estonia**

Please pray that God would raise up camp leaders for our summer camps. Pray for God’s calling in their hearts, encouragement and longing to serve. Pray for the whole very young team.

☐ **Finland**

Pray for all new subscribers to our Bible reading notes ‘Hetkinen’. We had a campaign at the end of 2021 because the reading program will start from the beginning. ‘Hetkinen’ is now also available as an audio version. Please pray that it will be a blessing for many Bible readers.

☐ **Scotland**

We rejoice that we have space for over 350 children and young people at 14 different SU Holidays running in the Easter school break; pray for a fruitful time of discovering God and exploring the Bible. Team Leaders and Assistant Team Leaders for SU Holidays and Missions will be preparing for summer camps as well as at Easter: pray that God provides able volunteers to make up their teams.

☐ **Vanuatu**

Please pray for SU Vanuatu to have extra two volunteers.

21-27 FEBRUARY

☐ **Canada (English speaking)**

After several months of research and development, SU Canada praises the Lord for a successful brand refresh and the launch of a new website. We also praise the Lord for our new Bible Reading Blog.

☐ **Pakistan**

Pray for the extension of SU Pakistan’s ministry work across more cities of Pakistan. Pray for more female staff that we need for our field ministry.

☐ **Ecuador**

We have need of coaches and additional leaders for our children’s programs. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send eager, conscientious workers who are willing to be trained and to firmly commit to working in a team.

☐ **Australia - New South Wales**

Please pray for our awesome volunteers and all the children, young people and families who will hear about Jesus through the many beach missions along the East coast.



☐ **Slovakia**

We are selling candles with our SU logo on as a 30th anniversary fundraising project. We are praying to find at least 30 regular donors.

28 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH

☐ **Italy**

Pray for our authorities and government as they seek to make important decisions on ethical and economic matters.

☐ **Germany**

During the past two years, the composition of the SU Germany staff team has changed considerably. However due to the Corona pandemic, it was not possible to hold a staff meeting during this period. We pray that we will be able to have our annual conference in March, as this is very important for our fellowship and cooperation.



☐ **Australia**

We will launch our new, national brand in March 2022. Please pray for a smooth and successful rollout and that God would continue to unite us (staff, supporters, and church partners) as a national movement.

☐ **Scripture Union International**

Pray for the Africa Community Group 1 that will be meeting this month in Southern Africa. Pray for encouraging fellowship and strategic conversations.

☐ **Sri Lanka**

We are delighted to say that God has opened the door for sharing the Good News to eleven members who come from strong Hindu backgrounds. We praise God for this opportunity and these members need our prayers the most at this juncture. All glory and honour be to God.

☐ **Leadership Lab International**

Pray for the continued development of our eTraining courses. The first one on 'Journeying through Grief' was well received by the people who attended from SU movements, and by some missionaries as well. We are now considering offering a course on Discipleship and Worship.

☐ **Northern Ireland**

Pray for the team of staff and volunteers in Northern Ireland as they plan their Summer 2022 Camps & Missions programmes. May they always place their hope and confidence in our unchanging God and rely on His strength in every situation.

7-13 MARCH

☐ **Romania**

Please pray for a new member of staff that will replace our current Assistant Manager. Please pray that God will help us find the right person.

☐ **Australia**

Please pray for God's wisdom and inspiration for our SU Australia North Zone team in their efforts to support our First Nations people through ministries including camps, school chaplaincy and leadership training.



☐ **Estonia**

Pray for our camp coordinator - for joy, for vision, for encouragement and strength for the season.

☐ **Finland**

Christian youth leaders are happy that young people can gather again in youth groups. Please pray for the Finnish youth that they would get to know Jesus, start to follow Him, and read the Bible.

☐ **Switzerland (German speaking)**

From 11-13 March we hold our annual retreat with all employees, board members and spouses. Pray that we will have an encouraging, empowering, and God-led time.

☐ **Mauritius**

Pray that the project of Bible Engagement that started with five churches in Rodrigues and one church in Mauritius develops and extends to other churches in the region.

☐ **Scotland**

Discover, Explore, Respond, Flourish are our four strategy outcomes. Pray for teenagers to flourish through discipleship programmes. On 4 & 25 March are two Equip events where young people hear a Bible talk on a key topic, have Q & A and fellowship together. On 13 March young people will gather in person for Encounter, SU Scotland's youth prayer event.

14-20 MARCH

☐ **Scripture Union International**

SUI's Bible Engagement Consultation will take place starting in mid-March for a period of three weeks. As one of SU's global priorities, the Bible Engagement Initiative aims to develop new thinking and approaches amongst the SU Global Family. This consultation will serve as a referral point along this journey and will facilitate Bible engagement thinkers and practitioners to reflect on today's generation, transformation, and innovation and the impact on SU. The aim is to lead to fresh thinking, resources, and ideas.

☐ **Chile**

Pray for the personal development of all the children and adolescents we served during 2021.

☐ **Slovakia**

Please pray for the distribution of our book, Mark's gospel for kids, that it will be widely used in families and churches across Slovakia.



❑ **Kenya**

The re-opening of schools has been marred by unrest, with about 40 schools set on fire by students in the last few months. Pray that we may find solutions to this and as well to for a resumption of Bible Clubs to help children be more grounded in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ amidst trying times.

❑ **India**

Please pray for our 87 staff, 20 retired missionaries, 11 contract staff and all the volunteers who support our work for the Lord across India.

❑ **Pakistan**

Pray for financial resources as prices for everything are rising in Pakistan and it is very difficult to manage.

❑ **Nepal**

We thank and praise the Lord for the 86 children and 18 teachers who attended our Mudabas VBS (Vacation Bible School) and the 123 children and 25 teachers at our Rajahar VBS, both of which took place in October 2021.



❑ **New Zealand**

The 2022 New Zealand Children’s Ministry ‘WAY2GO’ conferences will explore the importance of our relationship with God and how that flows into our connection with children and families in our church and community context. Please pray for our Children and Families Team as they plan and prepare for the conferences.

❑ **Serbia**

Please pray for the authors of our daily youth devotionals and for the Lord to encourage and add to our team others who would be willing to serve young people in this way.

❑ **Scripture Union International**

The Global Board will be meeting together from 25-27 March. In these uncertain times, please pray for their wisdom and open hearts to focus on the right things and for the strategic decisions they need to make.

❑ **Macau**

Pray for the video screening of our Monthly Bible Talk in 2022. At the time of writing, we are about to confirm partnership with one local church which will provide a venue for this monthly event. 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.

❑ **Australia**

Please pray for our partnerships with churches and for more opportunities to work alongside them in communities across our nation to further God’s kingdom.



21-27 MARCH

❑ **Austria**

Pray for our SU Team consisting of four fulltime staff and five part time staff that serve the people both in our region and across the whole country. Pray for unity in our team and wisdom for our programs.

❑ **Sri Lanka**

Pray for the prevailing situation where living expenses have skyrocketed by 63%, especially for essential goods. People are struggling to meet their day-to-day needs due to poor leadership and high level of corruption in the country. Please uphold our nation in prayer, let God intervene and provide us a solution.

28-31 MARCH

- ❑ **Switzerland (German Speaking)**
Our regular general assembly will take place on 28 March. We pray for God's guidance in all strategic decisions and aspects of our finances and staff.
- ❑ **Hong Kong**
'Bible Mini-Classes' is a series of five short videos of five minutes each. They highlight special Gospel messages for Christians. This is the first attempt of SU Hong Kong to produce videos which includes sign language for those who are deaf. It's our response to the call of SU ministries with disabilities worldwide. May God use the videos to be a blessing to many.
- ❑ **Laos**
Because we are now in a country-wide lockdown, we are using the opportunity to announce the good news to families by creating online lessons for them.



- ❑ **Tanzania**
Pray for extra support that we need from new volunteers who are ready to work with SU in evangelism mission and camps.