

Connecting you

Spring
2019

IN THIS EDITION

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- Celebrating our amazing volunteers
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Scripture
Union

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Connecting You is Scripture Union's supporter and prayer magazine, keeping you up to date with what God is doing through the work you support.

Connecting You magazine is also available online at: www.su.org.uk/connectingyou. If you have a

story for *Connecting You*, or a suggestion on how we could improve our service to you, please contact the editor: eddiem@scriptureunion.org.uk

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One movement, one vision, one mission



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Welcome to the spring edition of *Connecting You*.

**“From him [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
Ephesians 4:16**

Since joining the staff of Scripture Union last September, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting dozens of staff, volunteers and ministry partners from across the SU movement. As Paul describes in Ephesians 4, God has brought together a team of people with an incredible diversity of gifts, roles and ministries, united in wanting to give every child and young person the opportunity of knowing Jesus. SU staff help bring together this body, but much of the day-to-day sharing of the gospel is carried out by volunteers across the country. If you are one of them – thank you.

A good example of such teamwork is the recent Illuminate tour (page 4). SU staff provided the coordination, and Christian band members inspired young people to follow Jesus; but it’s local churches that will support these young people on their long-term faith journey.

Will they come to church? They might, they might not. On page 10, SU regional worker Steve Hutchinson asks whether that’s the best way of measuring the success of missions

anyway. Read what he has to say then let us know what you think. We’d love to hear from you!

One thing is sure, in Ephesians Paul says that as we build God’s kingdom, so God builds us up too. On page 16, two of SU’s holiday leaders share their own experiences of how volunteering has helped them to develop skills which in turn benefit them and their church.

Helping children and young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith takes a real team effort. What part has God called you to play?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Myles".

Myles MacBean,
National Director





Team effort illuminates faith for thousands of London teens



When Lindz West of Christian band LZ7 wanted to tour schools across London and share the good news of Jesus with students, he turned to Scripture Union for help. Through your support, we were able to underwrite the tour's cost and help ensure that young people making a faith commitment were also able to take the next steps on their spiritual journey.



LINDZ WEST

Lindz became a Christian at 19 and is passionate about helping young people hear about how Jesus changes lives. That passion led him to set up a charitable arm for LZ7 and launch an ambitious national schools tour called Illuminate.

The tour's London leg launched in November 2018 and saw LZ7 with fellow musicians Guvna B and Faithchild touring 22 schools across five London boroughs. Using music, their personal testimonies and discussions on hot topics such as youth violence, family breakdowns and suicide, they explained to 18,000 students how the message of Jesus is relevant today.

Lindz says, 'One head teacher initially only allowed us into two classes but those sessions went so well that he then opened up the whole school to us. And he said, "I'll phone whoever

“we need this message of hope in all our schools”
Head teacher

you want; we need this message of hope in all our schools” – it was an amazing breakthrough.'

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL



DAN WICKS

SU development worker Dan Wicks took on the mammoth task of handling the bulk of the logistics for the tour. 'It was hard work but so worth it,' says Dan. 'About twelve hundred of the students came to a concert at the end of the schools tour that we held at the O2 Indigo venue. Lindz shared the gospel so clearly and at least three-quarters of the students made a public commitment of faith!'



‘Those students were given an “Access All Areas” pass on a lanyard,’ continues Lindz. ‘It was like the passes VIPs are given at concerts but rather than granting backstage access, this pass referred the young people to a website where the band and I shared more information about the gospel. It also linked them to local youth groups so they can connect with other young people on the faith journey and go on a six-week course to find out more about being a Christian.’

‘We’ve also heard that in one school the Christian Union has been relaunched because of the new-found interest from students.’

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

‘This was a real team effort – it was so exciting to see so many different organisations coming together around this project, with the shared passion to see young people who aren’t part of a church become Christians and grow in their faith.’

But these five London boroughs were just the start. Our shared vision is to take the gospel to students across all 33 London boroughs and fill the main O2 Arena to its capacity of 33,000 on the final night. God willing, we hope and pray that the best is yet to come.’



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT DAN AND OTHER SU DEVELOPMENT WORKERS?

SU development workers help churches and others to develop mission opportunities, bringing expertise and support in a variety of forms – Dan’s been managing logistics for Illuminate London; Steve Hutchinson is discussing how we can disciple children and young people who aren’t from church backgrounds (p10), and Margaret Lilley is providing mission support to Scripture Union in South Africa (p22).

To connect with your local worker, visit su.org.uk/localsupport or, if you’d like to support their vital work with a gift, visit www.su.org.uk/regionalworkers or call 01908 856 000.



WEEK
BEGINNING
MAR 3

Prayers

.....

Please pray for young people on a journey of faith

SUNDAY 3

Praise God for the impact of the Illuminate London tour – for opening doors to so many schools so that 18,000 young people could hear the message of hope that Jesus offers.

MONDAY 4

Praise God for all the partners involved in Illuminate London – for bringing together and uniting so many in sharing the good news of Jesus with London’s young people.

TUESDAY 5

Give thanks for every young person who decided to follow Jesus at the final concert – and for those who may have since.

WEDNESDAY 6

Please pray that each of those young people gets the support they need in order to grow and mature in their new-found faith, and that God will protect them from harm.

THURSDAY 7

Please pray for churches and youth workers as they continue to visit and build links with the 22 schools involved in the tour to share more about the good news of Jesus with the students.

FRIDAY 8

Give thanks for SU regional staff and all they do to support churches in sharing Jesus with children and young people. Ask God to strengthen and bless the relationships they have and to open up new opportunities for them.

SATURDAY 9

Please pray for more large-scale opportunities to share the message of Jesus with young people in schools across our nation. Pray too that the Holy Spirit prepares their hearts to hear and respond to the good news.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAR 10

SUNDAY 10

Yesterday, SU Bulgaria's Bible Competition for teens took place. Pray that the young people who took part will have discovered how amazing the Bible is and will continue to take an active interest in discovering the truth of God's Word.

MONDAY 11



Pray for regional team leader Simon Barker and the central team as they meet today to pray and plan, seeking God's way for the next few months.

TUESDAY 12

'Yes Chef' is a Liverpool project in which young people learn basic cooking from a chef who started following Jesus while in prison. Pray that as they explore topics such as purpose, consequences, second chances and forgiveness they will see the love of Jesus. Pray also for a similar project starting in Chester this month.



WEDNESDAY 13

Pray for local mission partner COINS as they anticipate a new team leader starting after Easter. The work has grown and they have a team of five part-time schools workers running about 19 clubs in different primary and secondary schools in the Newbury area.

THURSDAY 14

Local mission partner WAVE, working in Swanage, asks us to pray that Space Academy, an after-school activity, will take off at St. Mark's School. They also ask for prayer for their plans to run an Alpha course.

FRIDAY 15

Tomorrow, Thrive Juniors takes place in Leamington Spa. This is a worship event for primary children and their leaders from across Warwickshire, run by local mission partner Thrive. Pray that those who attend will have a real sense of God's presence.

SATURDAY 16

Today a team from SU South Africa, including staff and volunteers, will be arriving in the south west to help with schools work in the Torbay area and on the Surf Break weekend holiday in north Devon. Pray that this cooperation between SU movements will make a major impact on young lives.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAR 17

SUNDAY 17

Reboot Global takes place in Belfast next Saturday. This interactive day allows 12- to 18-year-olds to ask big questions about God and is being facilitated by Ravi Zacharias Trust in partnership with SU Northern Ireland, Crown Jesus and Summer Madness.

MONDAY 18

Give thanks for over two hundred young people who attended SHINE events in Newcastle last year, with a number of non-Christians at the final session. Pray that the Christian young people will continue to have confidence to talk about Jesus with their friends.



TUESDAY 19

Over the next few weeks, Easter Cracked events will be run by many local mission partners and churches. Pray especially for Christian Connections in Schools (in Slough), Stort Valley Trust, Brentwood Schools Worker Christian Trust and Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust.

WEDNESDAY 20

Lent and Easter provide great opportunities for chaplains in schools and colleges to connect with the 95% of young people not in our

churches.

Please pray for wisdom and creativity for national mission partner Chaplaincy Central as they seek to resource and encourage these chaplains on the front line.

THURSDAY 21

Today the SU sports focus group is meeting to plan and pray about the best ways of resourcing and mobilising churches in England and Wales into mission through sport. Pray for creativity and insight.

FRIDAY 22

This month Rob Steward, regional team leader in the north west, has been working with a local church in Blackpool to run



a 'sporty church' after-school club, the last of four being tonight. These clubs are proving a really successful way of sharing Jesus. Pray for this and for similar projects on the Wirral.

SATURDAY 23

X:site Gloucester is running tonight; pray that as the team share on the theme of the big clean and help the children to understand the great love of God, the children will come to experience it for themselves.



Relationships: Stepping stones to faith

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‘Lots of children and young people come to our outreach activities – but we never see them in church on a Sunday. What can we do?’ It’s a common question. Your support is enabling SU development worker Steve Hutchinson to help identify some answers.



STEVE HUTCHINSON

Steve says, ‘Perhaps a better question to ask is, “How do we help children and young people who aren’t in our church services progress on their faith journey?” For

some, attendance at Sunday services might be the best thing to encourage but, for others, the answer could lie elsewhere.

‘Relationships are vital on the faith journey. When children and young people trust us, they open up about what’s important to them, and we can help them explore the answers that Jesus offers. Having a day-to-day relationship with them also means they can see how we live out our faith (and we know how important that is from SU holidays!). So if our outreach activities aren’t building relationships, we need to think what we can do to change that.

‘Many churches run toddler groups, which are attended by half of all the UK’s toddlers. It’s a valuable service, but does it result in parents and children knowing about Jesus, wanting to explore if the Christian faith is for them? Often the answer is “no” because the Christians running the groups are too busy serving refreshments and running activities to be able to build relationships with the parents. There’s a need to recruit volunteers specifically to chat with the parents and carers. Often those conversations will turn naturally to matters of faith and an opportunity to invite them to a “next step” activity.

‘In a schools setting, churches need to do more than run assemblies which provide little opportunity for relationship building. Regular activities – holiday clubs, after-school clubs or football sessions in the park – work better in that respect.

‘Once relationships have been built, in order for faith to grow, children and young people need a safe space in which to explore questions about faith more deeply and intentionally. It could be a “So Why God?” or “Youth Alpha” course or something informal – a weeknight club, or going in a group on an SU weekend residential.

‘But regardless of where they are on the faith journey, we should aim to make every child and young person that we encounter feel genuinely part of our Christian community from the outset. God first loved us before we loved him. We need to value, love and accept those who are still on the journey to faith.’

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!

What’s been your experience when you’ve reached out to non-church children and young people? Did they come to other church activities? What did you do to encourage that?

Join ‘The 95 Community’ group on Facebook or email steveh@scriptureunion.org.uk to add your voice to the conversation.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAR 24

SUNDAY 24

Pray for SU Denmark's children's consultant, Cecilie Nord Hansen, as she prepares for the launch of a new resource for families at the end of the month. The resource will help families to read the Bible together and talk about its meaning.

MONDAY 25

Pray for local mission partner York Schools and Youth Trust's 'It's Your Easter' programme which starts today and will run in 15 Primary Schools (with workshops for years 2 and 5 and a whole school assembly). Pray too for local mission partner Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools as they give Easter presentations to year 6.

TUESDAY 26



Alison Way of local mission partner The Youth Net in Stafford is leading Easter workshops. Pray that these will communicate

the Easter message and will lead to further opportunities in the future. Pray too for churches using the SU *Easter Cracked* resource.

WEDNESDAY 27

Tonight the Welsh team hold a supporters' evening in Cardiff, sharing the vision for the work in

Wales and seeking support for the work through prayer, giving and volunteering. Pray for a good response.

THURSDAY 28

South east development worker Lisa Jones is running Easter workshops in primary schools. Please pray that the message of the good news of Jesus comes through clearly, that the workshops go well without practical problems and that the children leave excited and wanting to know more.

FRIDAY 29



Chris Nuttall, Head of Mission Enabling, leaves the SU staff team today. Pray for him and his wife as they relocate to the north west

of England to take up new ministry opportunities.

SATURDAY 30

Pray for the new pilot being conducted by Beverley Schools Christian Trust in primary schools looking at mental health issues, now so prevalent in schools. Pray for new workers who are finding their feet with new projects and for funding to expand what they feel they are being called to do.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAR 31

SUNDAY 31

SU New Zealand have a new fishing activity camp for unchurched boys which will be held in April. Pray for wisdom for the team as they plan and for an impact on all who attend.

MONDAY 1

This week, local mission partner Impact Bedford is running their Easter Experience. This event, held in a volunteer's garden, sees the Easter story acted out for the 500 children who'll attend throughout the week. Pray that the children and the staff who accompany them will understand Easter in a new way.

TUESDAY 2

Local mission partner Learn4Life is offering staff and student support at a school in Reading – working with alternative provision students, supporting the RE teacher, providing coffee, cake and a listening ear for staff and running a lunchtime club. Pray for hope and light in the school.

WEDNESDAY 3

Local mission partner PSALMS praises God that a growing number of churches in Gloucestershire



are open to reaching children and young people with no church connections through sport, games and play. Pray that this will lead to new worshipping communities.

THURSDAY 4

Pray for Matt Smith SU/SWYM trainee as he works with an outreach team in Kingswood Park in Bristol on Saturday to reach children, young people and families in the area.

FRIDAY 5

Advance Youth in London this weekend is organised by a group of agencies including SU. It aims to equip young people in the 11-18 age bracket to be effective evangelists to their peers. Please pray that young people will be given confidence to share the good news and equipped to do it well.

SATURDAY 6

Pray for Easter residentials: Kestrels (sailing on the Broads) for 13-18s led by Mary Jeddere-Fisher starts today and runs to 13 April; GW Tracks (mountain biking at Great Wood) for 13-17s led by Nathan and Lucy Johnson (8-12 April) and Bridleways and the SU Bake Off 1 for 12-15s running alongside one another led by Jo and Rachel Morley (15-18 April).

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
APR 7

SUNDAY 7

SU Namibia thanks God for open doors in the schools all over the country and asks us to pray that God will provide Christian teachers willing to run SU clubs and help young people in schools to grow in faith.

MONDAY 8



This week, Dan Wicks (SU development worker in the south east) will be running a two-day non-residential sports camp in

partnership with churches in south-west London. Pray that the children who attend will enjoy the sport and meet Jesus as they explore faith on the sports field.

TUESDAY 9

The SU team in South Africa is working on the first African language version of *Guardians of Ancora*, isiXhosa. Please pray that they will be able to maintain momentum and for clarity and wisdom as they plan how best to use the app in their ministries.

WEDNESDAY 10

Local mission partner Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust gives thanks for their team of volunteers and supporters who enable the work to happen and asks us to pray that as the days start to get longer they will have opportunities to do more

detached work with the local young people.

THURSDAY 11



Pray that more secondary schools will book the Reflective Spaces activity for years 10 to 13 put on by local mission partner Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust. Pray that pupils will learn how to make time for ongoing reflection on God in their lives.

FRIDAY 12

Today, Steve Hutchinson is leading a pyrography craft session at the Oasis Family Centre in Cheltenham as part of a Christian arts festival. Please pray for opportunities to share faith with those who take part in the activity.

SATURDAY 13

Pray for SU's development workers as they build relationships with new churches, that they would be a real help and support to those churches and, in turn, that those churches would be inspired to support the work of SU both financially and through prayer.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
APR 14

SUNDAY 14

Pray with SU Pakistan for growth in their work and vision and especially for plans to expand the ministry into new unreached areas: Baluchistan, Sindh, Khyber, Pakhtunkhwa, northern areas and Punjab provinces of Pakistan.

MONDAY 15

Give thanks for the new contacts made as a result of 150th anniversary celebrations in Llandudno. Pray for Helen Franklin as she builds on these and especially as she works with St Paul's Craig y Don to run an *Ancora* club in their church school, with the hope that this may lead to a holiday club.

TUESDAY 16



Today, Neil Jackson is running a fun day alongside churches in Lower Wensleydale, preparing for three days of

outreach in August for holidaymakers in a neighbouring caravan park. Pray for good communication with the owners of the caravan park and for wisdom as they think about year-round follow-up.

WEDNESDAY 17

Pray for local mission partner Faith in Schools based in Newham as they help the volunteers they will be working with next year to realise the

vision God has given them to work with the 95%. Pray that God would help them to be effective in their communication.

THURSDAY 18



Pray that the resources being produced for the Cricket World Cup, which starts on 30 May, will enable Christians in school, church and community settings to share Jesus against the backdrop of the second largest sport in the world.

FRIDAY 19

Pray for development worker Steve Hutchinson and team who are leading a Good Friday workshop in Gloucester for children and their parents. The workshop aims to share the meaning of this special day and to explain something of the love of Jesus.

SATURDAY 20

As part of increasing the impact of our activities to reach those who don't yet know Jesus, we want to make the process of booking events and recruiting volunteers easier. Please pray that our team and our technology partners may be able to resolve complex technical issues.



If you're
a volunteer on
an SU holiday
or mission
– thank you!

In celebration of our amazing volunteers

If you're a volunteer on an SU holiday or mission – thank you! Your commitment and hard work enables thousands of children and young people each year to grow in faith, or encounter Jesus for the first time. But although it's hard work, being a volunteer can also be very rewarding. Volunteer leaders James Cook and Anneka James explain what keeps them coming back.



JAMES
COOK

James is a team leader on SU's holiday The Maze. He is a maths undergraduate at Warwick University.



ANNEKA
JAMES

Anneka is overall coleader on The Track, SU's motorsports holiday. She is a missions and outreach worker at a small church in London.

HOW AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A LEADER?

James: 'I first went on The Maze when I was twelve. A school friend wanted to go (his sister had been and was raving about it), but he wanted a mate to go with him. My church was quite traditional, but at The Maze I was part of this diverse community of Christians which opened my eyes to new styles of worshipping, new ways of thinking. It became the spiritual highlight of my year, a kind of annual pilgrimage. So when I got too old to go as a participant, I decided

to become a team leader so I could keep on returning!

Anneka: 'My family have been involved in helping to run The Track for many years, so it's probably in my DNA! I went on it as a youngster then became a volunteer and now I co-lead it.'

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AS A LEADER THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO TAKE BACK HOME TO YOUR OWN CHURCH?

James: 'I discovered I had the gift of sharing my faith, which was a real surprise to me! Somehow I was able to connect and empathise

particularly with young people who don't have a church background, and explain the gospel in ways they could understand. Discovering and practicing this at The Maze really grew my confidence. When I got home, I just carried on, sharing my faith with anyone and everyone – my friends, my community, other students, in daily life as well as through outreach events at church.'

Anneka: 'My church at home is quite small, so it's great to be with a team of other volunteers. It helps give you fresh perspective. I've learned

new ideas, new ways of thinking about faith and sharing faith. It's a great way to try new things because you're surrounded by people who are supportive and encouraging. If you get it a bit wrong, you've still got time to have another go before you go home. But also, if us leaders are prepared to have a go at new things, so are the youngsters. One girl tried leading worship – at the time she was terrified, but the support she got gave her confidence. She ended up enjoying it so much that she's regularly leading worship back home.'

BECOME A VOLUNTEER AND IGNITE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FAITH!

Have you ever thought about being a volunteer on one of our events? You don't need to have been on an SU holiday or mission yourself as a young person!

Most team members enjoy working alongside children and young people, but there is also a need for cooks, caterers, administrators, those with outdoor pursuits' qualifications, lifeguards, first aiders and many more.

To find out more, or to sign up to volunteer, visit [su.org.uk/events](https://www.su.org.uk/events)





WEEK
BEGINNING
APR 21

Prayers

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Please pray for volunteers across the SU movement

SUNDAY 21

This Easter Sunday, give thanks to God for all those SU volunteers like James and Anneka who willingly sacrifice their time and use their talents to build relationships with children and young people and help them learn about Jesus.

MONDAY 22

Please pray for all Scripture Union volunteers, for God to encourage and bless them in their faithful service, whatever that might be, and protect them from harm.

TUESDAY 23

Praise God for the wonderful diversity of gifts with which he blesses and equips his people. Pray that he will enable each one of us to discover all the gifts and talents that we have to offer.

WEDNESDAY 24

Pray that God will give each of us the courage and opportunity to use

our gifts in his service, whether in our own local churches, for Scripture Union or more broadly.

THURSDAY 25

Praise God for giving children, young people and volunteers the opportunity to go on SU holidays and weekend residentials, and for just how much he deepens their faith through being part of a temporary Christian community.

FRIDAY 26

Give thanks to God that his love and grace at work in the lives of volunteer leaders on SU holidays and missions speaks such volumes to children and young people who don't yet know Jesus.

SATURDAY 27

Pray that God will raise up more SU volunteers to serve him and help children and young people to discover the hope that only Jesus can offer.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
APR 28

SUNDAY 28

Praise God with SU Ecuador for the success of their mission through sport initiatives, increasing the eagerness of many young people to join a local church.

MONDAY 29

Local mission partner Thrive runs two courses to grow leadership skills in young people, one in Leamington Spa and one in Coventry. As the latest courses finish this month, give thanks for the 17 young people who have participated over the last eight months and pray that God will work through them.

TUESDAY 30

Local mission partner Grantham Christian Ministries Trust gives thanks for the opportunity to visit 16 primary schools to provide collective worship, and for the four lunchtime clubs which they have been running since January helping children to explore the stories of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY 1

Thank God that the latest updates to *Guardians of Ancora* have led to an uptake in players and an increase in interaction with the stories of Jesus. Pray that

more children will tell their friends about the game, too.

THURSDAY 2

Give thanks for all our faithful supporters, many of whom have supported us in prayer, giving and volunteering over many years. Pray that as they support SU they might know God's blessing in their own lives. Pray too for others to join them in supporting the work.

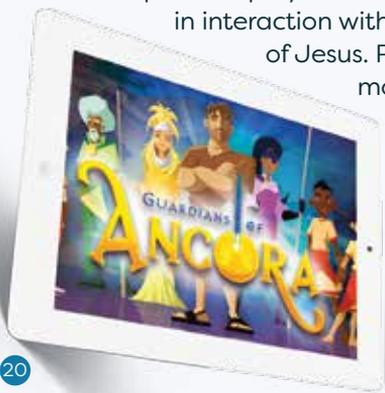
FRIDAY 3



This weekend, Centre Spot sports camp is running. It hopes to attract young people from across London, including many who don't go to church, for coaching in different sports and to give them an opportunity to explore Christian faith.

SATURDAY 4

The Families Together holiday, led by Steve and Judy Hutchinson, takes place this weekend. There will be lots of activities bringing all ages together in the wonderful setting of Great Wood in Somerset. Pray that all will sense God's presence with them.



Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAY 5

SUNDAY 5



Volunteers are key to our ministry – last year, they contributed the equivalent of 141 full-time staff. Thank God for them and pray for new volunteers to come forward.

MONDAY 6

Pray for Mark Oliver, SU sports consultant in the north east, as he works on Game Changers, a sports academy for young people where they are trained to be community sports leaders and help others explore the Christian faith.

TUESDAY 7

Please pray for local mission partner Christians for Education in North Wales as they seek to train more people to take part in school assemblies, especially at the secondary level. They find this an effective way of presenting the truth of Jesus to the young people who don't go to church.

WEDNESDAY 8

SU Malaysia-Sabah praises God for a camp for students finishing A Levels and heading for colleges and universities. Pray this will have equipped them to stand firm for

Christ in their new environment.

Pray also for the completion of the first book of a youth teaching resource for schools and churches.

THURSDAY 9

Many colleges in the West Midlands are looking to set up chaplaincies to serve their staff and students. Please pray for national mission partner FESTIVE and partner organisations as they seek to develop chaplaincies for the colleges and that people will hear God's call to become chaplains.

FRIDAY 10



Pray for Dave Parsons, SU's lead accountant, as he finalises the 2018–19 financial accounts ready for the audit at the end

of the month. Pray for clarity in understanding the numbers and for Grant Thornton as they undertake the audit.

SATURDAY 11

Please pray for the preparations for Southport Higher Tour this summer, in which local mission partner Southport & Area Schools Worker Trust will partner with The Message Trust to share good news with secondary school students through school visits and an evening festival.



Scripture Union South Africa: Building faith and unity amidst division

Most South Africans, including children and young people, belong to church. In spite of this, as Tim Hastie-Smith discovered on a recent visit, they need mission beyond the church walls as much as we do here in the UK. He explains the challenges, how Scripture Union South Africa (SUSA) is rising to them, and shares an exciting opportunity for you to help.

‘People still openly talk about faith in South Africa, but there are different interpretations of what “faith” means. For example, there has been a rapid rise in new churches founded by untrained but charismatic leaders who promote scripturally unsound but popular ideas such as the prosperity gospel.

‘It’s the cultural norm here for children and young people to go to church. Faith is formed in childhood and, because they may have been exposed to a flawed version of Christianity, SUSA needs to present children and young people with a clear and accurate gospel message. (In that respect, there are parallels with the challenge we have in the UK of sharing the gospel with children and young people who aren’t part of a church.) Once they understand it correctly, young South Africans are often very receptive to the good news of Jesus.

‘SUSA is trying to challenge the inaccurate teaching in some churches, but because that will take time, it’s often quicker and easier

“Once they understand it correctly, young South Africans are often very receptive to the good news of Jesus.”

for them to share the good news of Jesus directly with children and young people in those communities. They do this in partnership with those churches whose theology is sound, training up congregation members to run after schools clubs, holiday clubs, camps and missions. SUSA staff, having seen some of our 95 Campaign mission initiatives on visits to the UK, are keen to embrace some of these as well. For example, many young South Africans now have access to the internet at school, so this summer SUSA plans to launch *Guardians of Ancora*. It has the exciting potential to reach many more of South Africa’s children and young people than SUSA and their church partners can through direct mission.



MEETING PHYSICAL NEEDS

'The gospel is inextricably linked with social justice. South Africa has one of the largest inequality gaps in the world. For ministry here to be effective, physical needs must also be met. So SUSA runs camps for children who live in orphanages, townships or on the streets, with the costs covered by local and foreign benefactors. In schools, SUSA teaches life skills to young people to enable them to make wise and healthy lifestyle choices that will help them flourish and live life in all its fullness. And they also encourage better-resourced churches to partner with poorer ones to promote community-based mission.

'To sum up the mission situation in South Africa, it really is a case of the harvest being plentiful and the workers way too few. So this July, a team of Scripture Union staff and volunteers will fly out from the UK to help run street missions in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. And there's an opportunity for you to join them!

'One of our trainee young leaders, Matt Godfrey, was on such a visiting team a couple of years ago, and ended up returning as a volunteer for three years. So being on this year's team could deepen your faith, even change your life – it certainly changed his!'



VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA THIS SUMMER

If you're 16+ and have worked with children and young people, why not apply to join the UK team that's going to South Africa for two weeks?

If you're accepted, you'll need to organise your own insurance and flights to Johannesburg. Internal flights to Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, accommodation and food will cost an additional charge of around £250. To find out more and register your interest, please contact Margaret Lilley: margaretl@scriptureunion.org.uk

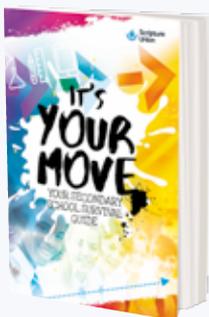
Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAY 12

SUNDAY 12

Pray for SU Canada as they develop a children's ministry handbook to equip parents and children's workers to help children build lasting relationships with Jesus. They aim to have this resource completed this year.

MONDAY 13



Thank God for the way in which *It's Your Move* has helped so many children make the move from primary to secondary education with practical guidance and a simple

message of God's care. Pray that the updated and redesigned edition with new content available this year will be even more effective.

TUESDAY 14

Give thanks for the Teesside sports mission hub set up by SU development worker Neil Jackson and Mark Oliver (SU sports consultant in the north east). Please pray that new sports mission activities emerging from this hub will help Teesside young people to get to know Jesus.

WEDNESDAY 15

Recently, the North West staff team have piloted some new *Diary of a Disciple* clubs where children can learn more about the difference Jesus can make to their lives. Pray for the clubs that have started, the

children who now have a Diary book at home and that many more clubs will develop.

THURSDAY 16

'I pray now because it's exciting to talk to Jesus,' said a child who had never been to church but who went to a *Guardians of Ancora* club. Please pray for club leaders and the impact of these clubs in schools, churches and communities.

FRIDAY 17

The 3Sixty adventure holiday for 8-11s led by Bob and Bec Goody takes place this weekend. Pray that in the midst of a range of exciting outdoor activities the children will discover the joy of knowing Jesus for themselves.



SATURDAY 18

Local mission partner Christian Initiative to Schools, Letchworth and District, is in the process of creating an interactive resource to take into schools from the summer term. Pray for all those involved in putting this together asking that it would be well received in the local schools.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAY 19

SUNDAY 19

SU in the Republic of Guinea asks us to pray about the endless socio-political troubles the country has experienced since independence preventing a potentially rich country from developing. Pray that despite these difficulties the work of SU may prosper.

MONDAY 20

Pray that more secondary schools would book *Emerge*, an emotional literacy course run by local mission partner Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust. Pray that on the current course the young people will learn key skills to help them deal with their emotions in positive ways.

TUESDAY 21



Lifepath Bunyan takes place in Bedford over the next three days.

Pray that the school groups who come will encounter Jesus

as they explore the life and faith of John Bunyan.

WEDNESDAY 22

Thank God for Rooted, a new initiative to help young people explore the difference Jesus can make to their identity, purpose and self-worth in creative and relevant ways. Following the positive response to Rooted groups last autumn, pray that many other groups will

start. Pray too for plans for a Rooted residential holiday that are underway.

THURSDAY 23

Pray for plans in Wales to run more SLAM (Sport, Life, Adventure and More) days in partnership with local mission partners and churches this term as a way of inviting people to the SLAM camp. The vision is to use the same identity at different levels to create the opportunity to explore the love of Jesus.

FRIDAY 24

This weekend, development worker Dan Wicks will be taking the south east region inflatable sports pitch to Big Church Day Out with a view to engaging with young people on the fringes of the event who want to do sport, and encouraging them to explore faith.

SATURDAY 25

Last year we saw children really encounter God and make decisions to follow Jesus on the Go Wild holiday. As this year's holiday takes place this weekend pray that more children will encounter God in life-changing ways.



Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
MAY 26

SUNDAY 26

Pray for SU chaplains and volunteer school teams in Victoria, Australia. Pray for wisdom and energy as they build relationships with young people, support school communities, represent Jesus' love in schools and build partnerships with local churches.

MONDAY 27

This week, development worker Bob Goody will be running prayer spaces in schools in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Please pray that children and young people will meet with God as they have the opportunity to take time out to reflect.

TUESDAY 28

Pray for Komputer Consultancy Services who have recently taken on our IT Support, that they will use their skill and experience to provide outstanding support for Ian Gooding, Technical Services Manager.

WEDNESDAY 29

The south west region has a dream to see more residential and non-residential camps based on the very successful Go Wild residential model. One way of moving this forward would be to work in partnership with others. Please pray for discussions and planning, asking that there may be more camps this summer.

THURSDAY 30



Melody Ayandokun is doing a leadership development year with SU based in London and is working

on a variety of projects. Pray that this will be a great opportunity for her to grow and to bring blessing to others.

FRIDAY 31

The 'created to play' sports gathering will take place 1-3 July; participants will deliver sports mission programmes as a way of helping them to develop the skills to conduct a range of sport mission events themselves. Pray for God's wisdom in the planning process.

SATURDAY 1

Thank God for almost four hundred young Christians in FE colleges and sixth forms who are being supported with resources and through prayer by national mission partner FESTIVE. Pray that, through the witness of these Christian students, many more of the young people in this age group who have no church connection hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR
PRAYERS



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