

PRAISE & PRAYER



**SCRIPTURE
AT THE
CENTRE**

IFES EPSA Scripture Engagement Multipliers and Facilitators, Malawi, April 2022

How can we help our students find out for themselves what the Bible says about living in a culture where corruption is rife? Or a context which surrounds them with ethnic- or gender-based conflict?

These were just two of the questions which the Scripture Engagement multipliers (key resource staff in IFES movements) in the English-and Portuguese-Speaking Africa region have been tackling over the last three years with support from global Scripture Engagement and regional team members. The facilitators and movement staff journeyed together, studying Scripture themselves to learn how to lead others to do the same. This process is how God equips us to live lives of integrity in challenging circumstances.

The joy of meeting in person for their final session was clear when they gathered in Malawi in April. The pandemic had forced them online after their first session in 2019, but the program has been a great blessing:

“It was a space created to learn and grow together, a safe space for honest conversation and growth.”

“Wonderful reading and studying the Old Testament, discovering God’s nature in it.”

“Great to explore more about our context. Context is everything in our daily lives, so important to acknowledge where we are when studying the Scriptures.”

“The fact that the focus was not on methodologies and techniques, and that we were actually engaging the Scriptures together, it made the whole difference.”

“Great to see how IFES regards Scripture, seeing it at the centre of IFES ministry.”

Please pray for Joan (Tanzania), Nelson (Zimbabwe), Victor (Ghana), Frederico (Angola), Messay (Ethiopia), Nyanda (Liberia), and Bwire (Uganda) as they share their new skills and deeper love for the Bible.

UNFINISHED – LIVING GOD’S STORY IN THE UNIVERSITY

On 10 August 1947, representatives of ten student movements met at Harvard to start a new global movement with a vision to see a witness to Christ in every university. IFES will be celebrating our 75th anniversary over the coming year, so look out for stories of God’s leading and faithfulness in pioneering and developing student ministry on social media and all IFES publications. Praise God with us for all that he has done!



Meeting in person (L-R): IFES EPSA Scripture Engagement Multipliers Training; Front row: Alice (Cyprus), Gunn Elin (Luxembourg) and Sara (Greenland); Pioneers with (back row) IFES Europe staff Lorna Moore and IFES General Secretary Tim Adams at the IFES Europe General Secretaries Gathering, Greece, May 2022; IFES Europe Young Staff Network, Poland, May 2022



National movements have also been enjoying in person events (L-R):

IFES Netherlands HOST International Student Retreat, May 2022; IVCF Philippines Management Team Retreat, May 2022

IFES PEOPLE: NEW IFES REGIONAL SECRETARIES

2022 has already seen new leaders appointed to the IFES regional teams in Latin America and Europe.

CARMEN CASTILLO

LATIN AMERICA

Carmen led GBUCH Chile from 2006 to 2013 and since 2015 has been part of the IFES regional team in Latin America working closely with the Southern Cone subregion. She has studied Law and Philosophy and is currently working on a Masters in Theology. She is married to Jorge, a church pastor, and they have one daughter.

Carmen writes: "From July to September there are many activities happening in Latin

America: training for graduate leaders, mission workshops, and the Logos and Cosmos Initiative. In the midst of all this we are preparing for our first face-to-face meeting of General Secretaries 1-8 September. In this



meeting, we will study 2 Corinthians and base our work on seeing ourselves as fragile vessels sustained by the Lord."

Carmen asks us to pray for wisdom to find the right balance for all the demands on her as a wife, mother, church member, and Regional Secretary. Do pray particularly for planning the General Secretaries meeting. "Pray that the Lord will smooth the way for us to have a special time that will renew the strength of the participants, and allow them to feel cared for by God and by the region."

DAVID (MONTY) MONTGOMERY

EUROPE

Monty led the Irish IFES movement from 2013 to 2018 and since then has been on the IFES Europe regional team as Associate Regional Secretary for Pioneering and Bible Teaching. Monty studied in Scotland, Canada and in the USA, where he completed doctoral studies in church planting. Monty is married to Gwen, who runs her own business as well as supporting IFES Europe.

Monty shares: "We are seeking to rebuild

after the impact of the pandemic, and dealing with unexpected opportunities to serve and witness to refugees due to the war in Ukraine. Key to strengthening any movement is the development of biblically rooted student leaders confident in the Gospel and with a heart to share it. In August student leaders will meet in Poland for the *Formación* conference. Also this summer we hope to recruit additional regional team members.

"Pray for me as I try to provide oversight for multiple movements and ministries until the team is enlarged, and for Gwen and me as we travel to provide pastoral support. Europe is extremely diverse culturally and with 42 movements, including pioneering locations, the task can seem daunting. Pray that all our leaders will have a missional vision and that this rebuilding will not just be a case of restoring what already existed, but also an opportunity to pioneer new groups and ministries."



EURASIA EMERGENCY FUND UPDATE

The war and devastation in Ukraine leave us grieving and feeling helpless. It reminds us that such suffering is an ongoing reality for millions around the world impacted by conflict, oppression, poverty and natural disasters. We cannot see when or how this war will end, or what it will mean for IFES ministry in Ukraine and the region. We know that God's love for students in Eurasia is unfailing and we stand in prayer and practical support, doing what we can to help our friends in crisis.

In these dark days for Ukraine, the faith, hope and love of the IFES fellowship has continued to shine. CCX Ukraine staff have helped hundreds of international

students to safety and continue to support Ukrainian students inside and outside Ukraine. Student movements in nearby countries are giving practical support and advice, helping refugees on their journey, and opening homes. Around the world, we have seen thousands of students, staff and supporters standing together in prayer, and we have received many gifts to sustain and support student ministry in the affected countries. Thank you to all who have given so generously, and have provided the funds needed this year. Your gifts are providing care for staff and refugees, trauma counselling and ongoing support for ministries and individuals impacted.

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