



IFES Daily Prayer Guide

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

DEAR FRIENDS

I have so many memories from World Assembly it is hard to know where to start. The joy of the Parade of Nations when each region's movements were welcomed. The witness in affiliation celebrations of those who persevere in sharing Christ in the most difficult circumstances. Fascinating conversations with old and new friends. A powerful time of lament after teaching on Psalms 88 and 89. Tiny miracles – like my colleagues in IFES International Services Asia who had pre-ordered an extra meal on the plane home. They found themselves sitting with a delegate from a closed country who had no meal and was tired out after days of speaking English – not only could they share their food, but they could speak her language. Most pervasive of all – the sense of the presence of God, and so much evidence of his faithfulness over the last 75 years. Praise God with us for that unending faithfulness! Thank you so much for your prayers.

*Kevin Van Horne,
Executive Director, IFES/USA*

OCT 01 - 05 | **EPSA**

10/01 IFES EPSA's Scripture Engagement Program is meeting in Botswana October 1-6, with participants from Zambia, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Eswatini and Botswana. Pray for an inspiring time that will resource the movements.

10/02 Praise God for the successful re-establishment of student ministry in Eswatini over the last five years.

10/03 Pray that the Institute of Staff Development and Training will effectively resource new staff to support the vast numbers of students, especially as staff often start ministry with little experience or training.

10/04 Give thanks that hundreds of students gave their lives to Jesus at FOCUS South Sudan's evangelism week last year. Pray for ongoing fruit from evangelism and peace-building events.

10/05 Give thanks for recent growth in ministry in FOCUS Kenya and EvaSUE Ethiopia, which are part of the reason that the EPSA region has the largest number of students in IFES.

OCT 06 - 11 | **SOUTH ASIA**

10/06 Give thanks for S, who is volunteering as a staff worker to re-establish student ministry in one of the region's sensitive countries. Pray for God's protection and guidance as he visits churches, campuses and graduates to seek support for the work.

10/07 As economic challenges increase and opportunities abroad become ever more attractive, pray for servant-hearted staff workers who are prepared to stay – and that God would provide for them.

10/08 Pray for UESI India students from the troubled Manipur region; ask for God's protection amidst the violence and for the gospel to bring hope and healing.

10/09 Give thanks that despite continuing disruption to education and various logistical setbacks, MFES Myanmar managed to hold a summer camp, which included two Buddhist students.

10/10 Thank God for the way in which FOCUS Sri Lanka students have been engaging with pressing issues in society. Pray for courage and clarity as they share their faith.

10/11 Join with BSFB Bangladesh in giving thanks for thirty years of student ministry in Mirpur.

OCT 12 - 16 | **INTERNATIONAL**

10/12 Praise God for the diversity of the IFES family. Give thanks that around 900 people were able to gather in Jakarta for World Assembly, including students, staff, board members and supporters from over 160 countries.

10/13 Pray that the World Assembly theme of resilience will continue to be an inspiration to national movements, especially those serving in countries hostile to Christianity.

10/14 Give thanks for the eleven new IFES board members appointed at World Assembly in August, including a new chair, Michel Kenmogne. Pray that they would work as a team and be attentive to God's leading.

10/15 Pray for those in the International Services office who are facilitating World Student Day next week (October 20) – that final preparations will run smoothly and lead to high engagement among students.

10/16 Tim Adams, IFES General Secretary, will soon be travelling to the USA for ten days to share about the work of IFES. Pray for safe travels and inspired words.

OCT 17 - 22 | PIONEERING

10/17 Give thanks for the Breaking New Ground seminar at World Assembly, which drew on recent examples of pioneering in Ecuador and Equatorial Guinea. Pray that those who attended will be encouraged to prayerfully take steps to start new groups.

10/18 Pray for the ongoing work in a sensitive European country, especially that students will be inspired to lead small groups for themselves.

10/19 Keep the pioneering work in Saint Martin (French) / Sint Maarten (Dutch) in the Caribbean in prayer – for good contacts, willing volunteers and suitable places to meet.

10/20 Today is World Student Day 2023, with the theme 'Persevere!.' Pray that students around the world will engage with the initiative and feel uplifted to be part of this global fellowship.

10/21 Pray for countries with a strong national movement yet with campuses where no student group exists – that such pioneering opportunities would not be overlooked.

10/22 Give thanks for flourishing pioneering work in many MENA countries – pray that those who have come to faith will become future leaders.

OCT 23 - 28 | EURASIA

10/23 Praise God that July's Formación conference in Georgia brought together over 140 student leaders from across IFES Eurasia. Pray that the theme 'Faithful to the end' will be true of these young influencers.

10/24 Give thanks for a student discipleship camp in August in Central Asia with over 30 students. Ask that the participants will continue to help each other be faithful witnesses in a culture of different faiths.

10/25 Pray for Sergei, IFES Regional Secretary for Eurasia, as he navigates and ministers in a politically turbulent context.

10/26 Give thanks for the many international students in a sensitive country who hear the gospel for the first time. Pray that on returning home they would remember what they've heard.

10/27 IFES Armenia plans to expand their work to two new cities – please pray that God will provide suitable places for meetings.

10/28 Pray for another Eurasian movement hoping to pioneer work in a new city – for open doors and good contacts with students.

OCT 29 - NOV 03 | EAST ASIA

10/04 Give thanks for the IFES East Asia Faith and Culture webinar series this year. Pray that it will boost whole-life discipleship and relevant evangelism among students and staff.

10/05 KGK Japan staff Yuya Shimada led a Faith and Culture webinar on manga and anime. Pray that this will encourage Japanese students to talk about faith in everyday conversation.

10/31 Pray for the work of IVCF Philippines, rebuilding after Covid, especially for more partnerships with churches and for pioneering in Eastern Samar.

11/01 Lisman, IFES Regional Secretary for East Asia, is seeking to strengthen connections across a region where many countries are sensitive or closed; pray for him and a gathering of student leaders later this month.

11/02 Give thanks that a sensitive country was able to send delegates to World Assembly in August. Pray for the national movement, which is in need of staff, funds and supportive church relationships.

11/03 Thank God for the affiliation of CEF Taiwan to IFES at World Assembly and ask that the movement will flourish after some difficult years.

NOV 04 - 08 | **STRENGTHENING NATIONAL MOVEMENTS**

11/04 Pray for the ongoing work of the IFES Governance Development team as they seek to strengthen boards in national movements – a crucial factor in sustaining healthy ministry.

11/05 Thank God for connections made at World Assembly and ask that movements' sharing of experience and best practice will foster stronger ministry.

11/06 Pray for the Indigenous Support Development team as they support national movements in developing local and international partnerships of prayer, resources, personnel and finance.

11/07 Give thanks for the Fellowship of Eurasian Bible Expositors, a joint project between IFES Eurasia and Langham Preaching, which provides training in biblical preaching for the region's students, staff and church partners.

11/08 IFES Foundations of Scripture Engagement e-learning course has recently blessed individuals in Guyana, Italy, South Africa, and Ethiopia. Praise God.

NOV 09 - 14 | **SOUTH PACIFIC**

11/09 Give thanks for Belyndar from the Solomon Islands who shared at World Assembly about her lead role in Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change. Pray that her story will inspire other students to engage with environmental issues in their contexts.

11/10 Join in praying with AFES Australia, who ask "for the gospel to impact a context of greed, selfishness and forgetfulness of God."

11/11 Give thanks for the ongoing work of GNYF Vanuatu and their plans to start two new groups in vocational colleges.

11/12 Pray for GBU New Caledonia – that God will raise up student leaders and staff for the ministry there.

11/13 Give thanks for TSCF New Zealand's student leadership forum in the summer, which included an auction to raise funds for Ecuador and Fiji. Pray that IFES national movements will continue to find ways to support each other.

11/14 Praise God for the recent growth of PSFC Fiji and ask that God will protect and bless relationships among students, staff and board.

NOV 15 - 19 | **NORTH AMERICA**

11/15 Thank God for staff like Alan who work alongside Masters and PhD students in IVCF Canada – and pray that God will give them wisdom for the specific challenges and opportunities that these students face.

11/16 Give thanks and pray for InterVarsity/USA's plans to reach new corners of campus, especially nursing students and athletes, as well as plans for the Lakes and Plains region.

11/17 Pray for GBU Canada: "We had a wonderful experience at World Assembly... back in Quebec, the harvest is large." Pray for a harvest among these French-speaking student groups.

11/18 Give thanks for the region's delegations of students and staff that were able to participate in World Assembly in August. Pray that they will have opportunities to pass on the inspiration and vision they received within their national movements.

11/19 Pray for Canada after the devastating forest fires this summer. Pray for Christian students and staff as they articulate and demonstrate how creation care is part of their calling.

NOV 20 - 25 | **EUROPE**

11/20 Pray for student groups as they prepare for Christmas outreach – that it will be creative and faithful, and that Christians will courageously invite many.

11/21 Students from Ichthus and GBU Belgium were joined by an InterVarsity/USA team earlier this year to perform The Mark Drama. Thank God for this collaboration, enabling Mark's gospel to be experienced in French, Dutch and English.

11/22 Pray for new movement leaders Chris McBurney in CUI Ireland and Grigoris Karasaridis in SXEF Greece as they settle into their new roles.

11/23 Pray for the Graduate Impact Cross Current Conference in Berlin (November 23-26) – that participants from across Europe and Eurasia will grow in their ability to think, live and speak for Jesus at work.

11/24 Give thanks that ÖSM Austria has successfully implemented a mentoring program for students and pray for them as they seek to expand it to include recent graduates.

11/25 Pray for peace and stability in Serbia and for lasting fruit from focused outreach in Novi Sad in September.

NOV 26 - DEC 01 | **FRANCOPHONE AFRICA**

11/26 Praise God for the movement from a sensitive country that affiliated to IFES at World Assembly. Pray that the work among international students will continue to flourish.

11/27 Give thanks that movement General Secretaries from the region could stay in Jakarta after World Assembly to reaffirm resolutions and renew plans for dynamic management of ministry.

11/28 Sendra from UGBH Madagascar asks: "pray for our students, for spiritual friendship between the groups."

11/29 Thank God for GBEEC Cameroon, which has blessed IFES with its new board chair, Michel Kenmogne and ask that God will continue to use the movement to raise up more godly and visionary leaders.

11/30 Pray for students in Mauritius – that more of those in churches would catch the vision for student ministry and get involved with SCF Mauritius.

12/01 Give thanks for a day seminar for student lawyers run by UJC Chad in August, 'Ambassadors of God in Society' and ask that similar initiatives will support them in their calling.

DEC 02 - 07 | **LATIN AMERICA**

12/02 Praise God that AGEUP Peru has celebrated 60 years of witness this year. Pray that their vision will continue to inspire students to live for Christ amidst corruption, social unrest and injustice.

12/03 Sixteen movements' staff have now been trained in the first module of Cross Current, a training program that helps graduates integrate faith and work; pray that they will effectively run the course with their graduates.

12/04 Pray for a team from CBUU Uruguay who are planning to start a group on a campus far away from the capital – the realization of years of prayer.

12/05 Give thanks for regional mental health training that helped Compa Mexico staff learn more about self-care and ways to support students.

12/06 Pray for students and staff in movements where there is political uncertainty or turmoil; ask that God will give them courage and wisdom for when, where and how to continue ministry.

12/07 Give thanks for GBU Chile students and staff who positively engaged with protests against sexual violence and abuse on campus.

DEC 08 - 13 | **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

12/08 Give thanks for a new cohort of the Global Leadership Initiative (pictured below) currently meeting for six days in Burundi (December 6-12).

12/09 Pray for the new GLI cohort as they meet – that they would learn from each other and grow in understanding of who they are and what their calling is.

12/10 Give thanks that those in the first GLI cohort (2016) are proving a blessing to IFES – like Milhan Santoso, who was instrumental in the organization of World Assembly in Jakarta.

12/11 Thank God and pray for other GLI 'graduates' – Lawrence Gomez (IFES EPSA) and Isabelle Veldhuizen (GBU France), who are now mentors for the new cohort.

12/12 Pray for IFES South Asia as it seeks to adapt the GLI model in a regional context to enhance leadership across its national movements.

12/13 InterVarsity/USA is relaunching their four week Leadership Institute in summer 2024 after a four year hiatus. Pray that it will continue to be influential in the lives of student leaders.

DEC 14 - 19 | **EVANGELISM**

12/14 Pray for Christmas-related outreach events taking place on many campuses this week – that the good news of God incarnate would awaken hope and faith.

12/15 Thank God for a small group of university students with disabilities in GBUP Paraguay who initiated an evangelistic Bible study using sign language.

12/16 Give thanks that the evangelistic work of CCX Ukraine continued through the summer with many successful English Clubs. Pray that the new relationships formed will last and bear fruit.

12/17 Thank God for the Europewide FEUER Conference last month in Spain. Ask that the content and connections from it will facilitate a fresh wave of students and staff who communicate the gospel with passion and clarity.

12/18 Pray for wisdom and guidance for Christian Pichler (another GLI graduate) in his new role planning the European Student Evangelism Conference in 2025.

12/19 Pray for VBG Switzerland as they prepare for MEHRGRUND, a day conference in January exploring questions about God and faith; ask for a good turnout and engaging conversations.

DEC 20 - 25 | CARIBBEAN

12/20 IFES Caribbean has produced a guide on artistic engagement with Scripture. Thank God for this resource and ask that it will promote a deeper hunger for God's Word among students and staff.

12/21 Pray for IS/IVCF in Trinidad and Tobago, where students have been facing an increase in school violence; ask that God will protect them and bring peace.

12/22 Pray for GBEUH Haiti – for more human resources, healthy finances and students to have hope and courage in a difficult context.

12/23 Give thanks for a growing number of enthusiastic student leaders in GBU Guadeloupe and ask that those who still appear passive may be inspired to lead.

12/24 Since the pandemic, many national boards have been struggling. Pray that God will raise up those who can nurture the movements to full strength.

12/25 There may not be a White Christmas in the Caribbean but there will be plenty of festivities. Pray that in the midst of them all, students and staff will find social, physical and spiritual refreshment as they celebrate the birth of Christ.

DEC 26 - 31 | MENA

12/26 Give thanks for the movement that was affiliated to IFES at World Assembly and pray that this step will encourage students and staff in this war-torn country.

12/27 One movement's General Secretary, with a PhD in psychology, often finds himself counselling students into the early hours. Pray that God will sustain him and provide other sources of mental health support for students.

12/28 Thank God for a regional student conference with participants learning to engage more deeply with Scripture. Ask that skills gained will be spread in each national movement.

12/29 Give thanks for the inclusion of a time of worship in Arabic during this year's World Assembly.

12/30 Pray that gospel seeds that were sown in this region over the last year will bear fruit over the coming months.

12/31 Give thanks for the work of IFES in 2023 and pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will remain at the center of all we do.

WORLD STUDENT DAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 2023

Join tens of thousands of people on our global day of prayer.

Sign up now at:
ifesworld.org/wsd



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