



January – March 2024 | ifesworld.org

IFES DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

DEAR FRIENDS

Another year stretches ahead of us. For many students in the southern hemisphere, it is the start of a new academic year. In the north, a new term looms, for some exams too. Student mental health is a huge concern across the globe. Please take time to pray for students to find rest and healing in Christ. Praise God for IFES programs like the Diplomat in Latin America, run in collaboration with Fuller Seminary, which seeks to train movement staff to provide better support to struggling students. In a culture where many see depression, anxiety and mental illness as a sign of lack of faith, pray that movement staff and students could help educate the Christian community. As Christian students find their own healing in Christ, pray that they would witness to others of the hope to be found in relationship with the God of all compassion. Thank you for praying!

Kevin Van Horne, Executive Director IFES/USA

JAN 01 – 05 | SOUTH PACIFIC

01/01 Give thanks to God for the ministry of the past year – especially for Bible studies that led students like Bevan in Australia into a relationship with Jesus. Pray that more students find their Savior and Lord this year.

01/02 Pray for Sam who is seeking to plant student ministry in Tonga – that the Lord will guide and bless his endeavors so that groups can be established in coming months.

01/03 Ask that GNYF Vanuatu students will have a renewed desire for outreach at Emalus Campus and that opportunities to plant new groups at VIT/APTC will be realized.

01/04 Pray for students like Patrick and his two friends in an art college in New Zealand, who “are often ostracized from the classroom” and “deal with the bashing of our beliefs” – pray for courage, wisdom and grace.

01/05 Ask God to guide Mark and the IFES South Pacific team who are praying for an opening for student ministry in the Federated States of Micronesia.

JAN 06 – 11 | FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

01/06 Give thanks that 130 GBU DR Congo student leaders and staff could attend the Eastern Congo Missionary Conference in Goma last September, despite political instability.

01/07 Lives and ministries are often disrupted by volatile situations in this region. Pray especially for peace in the Sahel (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad) and the Great Lakes.

01/08 Pray for students at Campus Zege, Burundi – that they remain firm in faith amidst deteriorating living conditions.

01/09 Thank God for blessings in the Atlantic and Coastal areas of Benin over the last year and pray that the monthly GBEEB outreach events will attract new students.

01/10 Pray for a change of heart in the administration of a college in the Ivory Coast so that GBUCI groups may be allowed to meet.

01/11 About half the region’s movements have had a new General Secretary in the last five years. Give thanks for this fresh wave of leadership and pray for strong relationships and spirit-led vision.

JAN 12 – 17 | INTERNATIONAL

01/12 Give thanks that over 25,000 people from more than 130 countries prayed for students on World Student Day last October – a truly global act of fellowship.

01/13 Pray that a review of IFES Connect, an online platform for students and staff, will result in wider and deeper engagement with each other.

01/14 Thank God for the ministry of Graduate Impact in Europe/Eurasia over many years. Pray for wisdom and guidance for the team as they seek to respond to the growing need in other regions.

01/15 Pray for students and staff in countries where there is war, that movements, groups and individual Christians on both sides can remain united in Christ and see brothers and sisters rather than enemies.

01/16 Give thanks for Creation Care projects in Francophone Africa and Latin America through the Logos and Cosmos Initiative. Pray that students will be inspired to engage with environmental issues.

01/17 Pray that 2023 ministry reports being prepared this quarter will effectively convey all that God is doing through IFES and inspire praise and giving.

JAN 18 – 23 | PIONEERING

01/18 Give thanks for the opportunity CBUU Uruguay had to visit two new campuses in the country's interior last term. Pray that links made will bear fruit in months ahead.

01/19 Pray for pioneer staff Berenice in Cape Verde as she meets with students on campus – that she can make good connections and train up small group leaders.

01/20 Give thanks for the pioneering work in Equatorial Guinea and pray that plans for groups in Bata and Djibloho will be realized.

01/21 In Hovd city, Western Mongolia, there are very few Christians and shamanism has a strong hold. Pray for the two FCS staff workers – that the Lord bless them with resilience and creative outreach ideas.

01/22 Give thanks for the GBU France mission week on Corsica in September, which resulted in many good conversations. Ask that relationships built will further deepen.

01/23 Thankfully, despite a health set-back, David could still move to Greenland to continue Sara's pioneering work – pray for his health and that nationals will soon grow into leadership roles.

JAN 24 – 31 | EURASIA

01/24 Give thanks that despite the conflict in a sensitive country, student ministry is continuing in six cities.

01/25 Praise God that last summer's Formación student leadership camp made an impact: "It changed my ideas of serving and investing in others," a student in Moldova said.

01/26 Pray for A in a sensitive country who "understands the gospel but does yet see it as the truth."

01/27 Ask that God would grow the team of CSC Moldova student leaders in Balti.

01/28 Give thanks for Knarik serving on the IFES International Board – pray that she will wisely represent the region's needs.

01/29 Pray for the team that visited Central Asia last August as members seek to stay connected with one or two students and mentor them.

01/30 Last term, the Kutaisi team in SKSK Georgia organized a public lecture "Science and Faith" with Dr. Alexander Fink – pray for those who attended.

01/31 Pray that last month's Scripture Engagement round table will lead to stronger biblical foundations in the region's movements.

FEB 01 – 05 | ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICA

02/01 Give thanks that SCO South Africa was able to collaborate with the Department of Education and Koinonia Bible Church to run a Final Exams Prayer Service last October. Pray this partnership will allow greater access for ministry in schools.

02/02 Natnael, a student in EvaSUE Ethiopia, asks us to pray for students in the North and West, facing conflict, violence, and persecution – that they would know the Lord's protection and strength.

02/03 Give thanks for recent annual leadership development conferences run by NIFES Nigeria. Pray that the students will return encouraged and equipped.

02/04 Ellen, in SCOM Malawi, says: "pray that students will be empowered to live out their faith despite the increasing pressure to conform to worldly standards."

02/05 Pray for Julien, staff with FES Gambia, as he seeks to apply recent Scripture Engagement training on silent retreats into his work with students.

FEB 06 – 10 | STRENGTHENING NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

02/06 Give thanks for the first Global Governance Day, when board members and general secretaries from IFES movements came together online to share and receive advice.

02/07 Pray for the Governance Development team – that God will give them wisdom and guidance as they help national movements to develop more effective boards.

02/08 Give thanks for the recent Scripture Engagement Multipliers gathering in EPSA. Pray that attendees (from Zambia, Gambia, Nigeria, Eswatini, and Botswana) will effectively pass on what they learned, facilitating a hunger for God's word.

02/09 Pray for 'Good News for the University,' a Europe-wide initiative for postgraduates and scholars to encourage the connection of the gospel with academic work.

02/10 The whole FES Singapore staff team has recently been able to take the Scripture Engagement e-learning course together. Ask that God will use the new knowledge and skills to shape their ministry.

FEB 11 – 15 | SOUTH ASIA

02/11 Give thanks for BSFB Bangladesh's annual camp last October with the theme 'God is good.' Pray that students from all backgrounds will experience God's goodness in Jesus.

02/12 Pray for those affected by last year's violence in Jaranwaka, Pakistan; ask that PFES can help students there find the spiritual and mental health support they need.

02/13 Give thanks for a series of webinars on mental health for around 40 of the region's female staff, including topics like 'building resilience' and 'accompanying students through tough terrains.'

02/14 Pray for UESI India ministry in Kolkata, with 200+ colleges and 11 universities: "The potential is vast but we are few," says Shashank. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the team as they prioritize.

02/15 FOCUS Sri Lanka recently ran a seminar: "Work stress, depression, lack of sleep, and an improper diet are common issues. Is it possible to overcome these challenges and maintain good health?" Thank God for this social engagement and ask that students find full wellbeing in Jesus.

FEB 16 – 20 | NORTH AMERICAN

02/16 A team of GBUC Canada students has created an Instagram account specifically for the campuses of the UdeM and Polytechnique. Pray that this initiative will give them greater engagement and reach.

02/17 Pray for states in the USA like Alaska and North Dakota – where InterVarsity has struggled to establish and sustain campus ministries – that God will send more laborers and resources to these places.

02/18 "We want to counter the cultural narrative on campus that says 'Christians are bigots' and just love and bless this campus," declares a student at Trent University, Canada. Pray that students in InterVarsity groups across the country will challenge stereotypes with love and kindness.

02/19 Pray for the many international students studying in Canada and the USA. Ask that God will guide their paths so that they may be blessed by – and a blessing to – InterVarsity ministries.

02/20 Give thanks for a Self-Care Worksheet and Devotional produced by InterVarsity/USA and ask that it will support staff and student leaders in managing their overall wellbeing.

FEB 21 – 26 | EAST ASIA

02/21 Pray for the IFES East Asia team preparing for a July conference. Ask the Lord to guide their plans so that the hundreds attending will be inspired and equipped.

02/22 Give thanks for a mission trip that brought together students from Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak, and Sabah to engage with issues faced by Sabahans. Pray that such interactions will enhance FES Malaysia.

02/23 Pray for those planting and sustaining ministry in three sensitive countries – that the Lord will protect and guide them. Give thanks that one of these movements now has a regular graduate group.

02/24 Pray for the ongoing pioneering ministry on four campuses in Timor Leste and give thanks that four nationals who attended World Assembly returned enthused.

02/25 Give thanks that local Christians in Cambodia are starting to pray and give to student ministry.

02/26 Pray for pioneer staff L in a sensitive country – she is meeting regularly with one graduate and one student for Bible study. Pray for transformative times that support further ministry.

FEB 27 – MAR 03 | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

02/27 Give thanks for funds donated in December to support training initiatives, including a program for student leaders in Francophone Africa.

02/28 Pray for the launch of CARIFES Academy, a new training program for student leaders and staff in the Caribbean. Ask that it will shape leaders of integrity and vision.

02/29 Pray for Annette Arulrajah in her new role as IFES Associate General Secretary for Global Fellowship – ask the Lord to guide her in fostering deeper ministry connections across regions.

03/01 November's IFES East Asia Young Leaders' Training conference in Taiwan resourced 46 leaders from 13 movements. Pray that the hope and strength they gained will remain.

03/02 Continue to pray for the third Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) cohort exploring questions of calling, collaboration, culture, and context.

03/03 Pray for Savithri (Regional Secretary for South Asia) and her team as they shape a leadership program based on the GLI model. They hope to invest in 34 leaders from various movements.

MAR 04 – 09 | LATIN AMERICA

03/04 Pray for the organization and resources needed for the IFES Latin America Andean Christian University Encounter in July, which brings together students and staff from Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru.

03/05 Praise God for the encouraging rebirth of the CECE student group in Portoviejo, Ecuador, where five students invited more than 20 other students to take part in Bible studies.

03/06 Pray for CCUH Honduras as they pioneer campuses in the south (Choluteca and Valle) – that students and alumni will hear God's call and step forward to serve.

03/07 Natalie asks that we pray for CEC Panama small group leaders: "may God put passion and love for students in their hearts and help them to organize and prioritize."

03/08 Give thanks for the way GEU Guatemala has been engaging with environmental issues and promoting creation care. Pray that recent seminars will build bridges and inspire action.

03/09 Give thanks for ABUB Brazil's "gratitude generates generosity" campaign, seeking donations from students and alumni. Pray that the Lord will provide for all their needs.

MAR 10 – 14 | MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

03/10 Pray for the IFES movements in Israel and Palestine – that God will uphold them and fill them with love, peace, and hope.

03/11 Praise God for a training conference in the Gulf last October and ask that it will lead to new ministry opportunities in the region.

03/12 Give thanks that a movement in a sensitive country has the need to hire another staff worker even though student groups cannot openly meet.

03/13 In November, movements gathered to consider effective ways of sharing the gospel with followers of the region's predominant religion. Pray that participants will have courage and wisdom as they witness to Jesus.

03/14 Give thanks that groups across the region signed up to take part in World Student Day last October. They prayed for students around the world to persevere in their witness – let us pray the same for them.

MAR 15 – 20 | EVANGELISM

03/15 Give thanks for the FEUER (Fellowship of Evangelists in the Universities of Europe) conference in Spain last term, gathering 225 participants from 45 nations. Pray for delegates as they explore fresh ideas in their movements.

03/16 Pray for the GBU DR Congo student who evangelized for the first time in October, and discovered that he loved it. Ask that others would have courage and start sharing their faith too.

03/17 Thank God for the growth of mission weeks in GBU Spain and the initiatives they have taken to reach tens of thousands of students and young people through social media and online debates.

03/18 Pray for students who attended Christmas outreach events in December and January. Ask that the Spirit would bring to mind truths which they heard.

03/19 Give thanks for the ongoing uptake of the Mark Drama, an innovative theatre-in-the-round experience of the gospel, performed in Armenia and Nigeria, among other movements, last year.

03/20 Pray for student groups holding Easter-related events – that the gospel will be clearly presented to many who have never heard it before.

MAR 21 – 25 | CARIBBEAN

03/21 Praise God for the response to the region's Gift Day campaign in November raising funds for their new leadership academy. Pray for the remaining finance needed and for the CARIFES team as they prepare to launch this initiative.

03/22 Pray for churches in the Cayman Islands as they consider their response to a recent IS/IVCF 10th Anniversary Tour – that supportive partnerships would deepen so that the ministry can flourish.

03/23 Thank God for recent growth in GBU Martinique. Ask that the possibility of meeting directly on campus will be granted and that this will result in more students being reached.

03/24 Pray for the young people of French Guiana, especially the high school and college students who have recently been targeted by kidnapping groups.

03/25 Give thanks for a recent ministry link that has developed between IS/IVCF Barbados and an InterVarsity/USA group in Michigan. Pray that this new partnership will help to revive the work in Barbados.

MAR 26 – 31 | EUROPE

03/26 Give thanks that some international students have been meeting in a church on Malta and that IFES ministry may start on the island in 2024. Pray the Lord will guide those involved.

03/27 Pray for students who responded at the LKSB mission week in Vilnius, Lithuania, last term – that those who professed faith will grow and that seekers who signed up for small groups will believe.

03/28 Pray for volunteer staff serving cross-culturally on IFES InterAction teams, like Helen (UK) in Austria. Ask that team members and host movements will be mutually enriched.

03/29 Give thanks for the recent growth of the GBU Italy group in Bari. They ask for wise creativity in reaching out to their peers.

03/30 Pray for students in VBH Slovakia, who are often considered “weird” for attending Christian talks and groups. Ask that their words and lives will break down prejudice.

03/31 Give thanks for an openness to prayer amongst students in Finland. Pray that OPKO will help them find a spiritual home.

We are a movement of students sharing and living out the good news of Jesus Christ. Locally. Nationally. Globally.

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