

PRAISE & PRAYER



**BE
STILL**

Sanctuary

IFES WORLD STUDENT DAY

World Student Day
2023 in Ukraine ▶



In a shaking, roaring world, we need times to be still – to stop the noise, pause for a moment, and find new trust in God as our refuge, strength, and ever-present help (Psalm 46). For this year's World Student Day, we're praying that students around the world can enter into that stillness.

The storms are many: physical conflict, divided societies, economic uncertainty, peer pressure, heavy academic loads. **Let's pray for students to find sanctuary in Christ so that God might be honoured among the nations, exalted in all the earth.**

▼ World Student Day 2023 in Benin



Last year, more than 25,300 people from more than 138 countries and territories united to pray for students around the world. Will you be one of those praying this year?

IFES movements have been sharing specific requests. Please join them and their students in prayer:

- ▶ **Trinidad and Tobago:** "Please pray for the high school clubs in Tobago – we need willing and committed sponsors in all the schools." – Bernadette
- ▶ **Japan:** "Pray for students to be transformed by the Gospel, to be equipped, to build up each other, and to be strengthened to share the Gospel with others." – Yasu
- ▶ **Zambia:** "Kindly pray, believing God for re- pioneering of Christian Fellowships in three universities on the Copperbelt Province of Zambia and the establishment of Scripture Engagement Multipliers on campuses across Zambia." – Paul
- ▶ **Moldova:** "Pray that God will raise student leaders in our country who are prepared to be witnesses for Jesus in times of war, who can engage with those that have very different political opinions. Pray that we will speak openly with a Christian perspective on what is happening in the world."
- ▶ **Poland:** "Pray for Poland as we finally experience a season of exciting growth after years of overwhelming challenges, which nearly devastated our movement— leadership changes, COVID, and the war in Ukraine, which nearly exhausted our resources. With increasing interest and enthusiasm, as more people join our efforts, we trust that God will provide the strength and resources needed to fully capitalize on this surprisingly positive momentum and fill the gaps left by the overwhelming needs of those fleeing war and political unrest." – Maciek





▲ World Student Day 2023 in Australia (left) and Bolivia (right).

SANCTUARY CONTINUED

- ▶ **Niger:** “Pray for GBU Niger, where the students live in an environment dominated by a Muslim population, that God will make their witness effective in saving lives for Jesus Christ.” – Souley
- ▶ **Mexico:** “Pray for the ministry in Mexicali. Since the pandemic, we’ve struggled to have a consistent group, with no established leaders or regular Bible studies. It’s been difficult to invite Christian students to accept the call to serve in student mission. So, please pray that the Lord will raise up committed, servant-hearted student leaders. Pray that those attending the Bible studies will discover Jesus and find hope for their university.” – Elizabeth

- ▶ **MENA:** 24–28 October sees the MENA region running a conference for graduates, held in a nearby country. Ask God that participants will meet with Him there, and that they will find great joy as they have fellowship and are encouraged to shine for Christ in their workplaces, many in very hostile contexts.
- ▶ **USA:** “We’re in the process of becoming a recognized club on campus at Virginia Commonwealth University. Please pray for the process to go well and that we can connect students with each other and with God.” – Annelies
- ▶ **India:** “Pray that Indian students (believers) may share their faith with their unique and influential lifestyle, irrespective of the situations and the whole country may be influenced by

UESI movement for God’s glory.” – Srinivas

- ▶ **New Caledonia:** “Recent riots brought Caledonia to its knees economically, along with racial and social rifts. This means that the fledgling GBU group that was already in decline has now ceased. But we’re working to rebuild it – students need more than ever to discover and anchor themselves in God’s Salvation, Grace and Love. So, pray that God will grant us wisdom and love to navigate these uncertain times.” – Anne-Christine

These are just a few of the requests submitted in advance of World Student Day. You can find many more at ifesworld.org/wsd. **This 18 October, let’s be still and pray that students in all the earth know God.**

SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

“Moments of deep silence were followed by floods of tears and cries of pain. As the students vented their feelings, we witnessed liberation from hatred, anger, and resentment. Many were finally able to break their silence and verbalize their traumatic experiences.”

Sarah Obotela’s IFES Logos and Cosmos Initiative (LCI) project is helping students to process the trauma of war in DR Congo. This is just one way in which IFES movements, regional and global ministry teams are serving students in difficult circumstances.

Student mental health challenges are seen around the world, and our movements identified this as a priority. IFES is connecting them with existing resources and helping to develop new ones through programs like the LCI. Projects in Mexico, El Salvador and DR Congo are just some of those bringing psychosocial and theological approaches to mental

health. LCI participants are also writing academic papers to share knowledge and experience, and encourage good practice in society.

The LCI project is not the only one seeking to build expertise in this area. IFES Latin America have been working with Fuller Seminary to run an online training program (pictured below). Participants shared:

“In student ministry, I will share how caring for our minds is essential for a strong faith and a fulfilling life in Christ. I will encourage openness about our internal struggles, freeing ourselves from shame, and seeking support and guidance if needed.” – Kathia Arauz, CEC Panama

“This course has helped me view pastoral care in times of grief as a challenge in the church and ministry. We have good intentions, but without a balance between the theology of hope and the theology of suffering, our comfort is not very effective.” – Rosa García, ADEE Dominican Republic.

Pray with us for students struggling with mental health challenges, and for those seeking to serve them to do so with spiritual insight and wisdom.



▶ Sarah Obotela is fourth from right, with participants in one of her workshops in DR Congo

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