

## PRAISE & PRAYER



### WORLD STUDENT DAY 2025

## 50 YEARS OF IFES WORLD STUDENT DAY

Each year, World Student Day unites thousands across the globe in 48 hours of prayer. Students, staff, and supporters join together to pray for students worldwide and celebrate all that God is doing through local IFES ministry in the world's universities.

On Thursday 16 October - the 50th IFES global prayer day - we'll be guided by the Apostle Paul's perspective in Ephesians 3 (vs.20-21). Unite with students, staff, and supporters worldwide to celebrate how God has exceeded what we've "asked or imagined" and to seek "him who is able to do immeasurably more".

The vision for global prayer has been around for centuries. Old Testament prophets spoke of it (Isaiah 56:6-7), Jesus got visibly emotional about it (Mark 11:15-17), and the apostles tasted it (Acts 2:5-21).

This is surely one reason why IFES World Student Day feels so exciting, holy, and significant – it is an earthly reflection of the great multitude in heaven

"from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9).

Just as the concept of global prayer is not new, neither is World Student Day. Its first iteration was in the 1970s. At the IFES General Committee (World Assembly) in 1975, member movements unanimously adopted "a proposal that a day be set apart each year when student members of IFES would pray for the International Fellowship". This day grew into today's IFES World Student Day.

However, one special day to focus prayer across the fellowship was merely an outworking of a long-standing passion for prayer. The ten national movements which founded IFES in 1947 covenanted to "work and pray to see a clear evangelical witness established in every university in the world". This vision remains unchanged. At its very core, IFES is a ministry of global prayer.

Within the fellowship today, Annette Arulrajah (Associate General Secretary

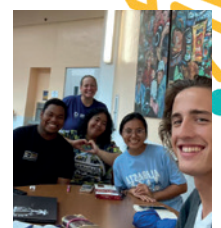
for Global Fellowship) has been championing a renewed call for prayer:

*"Any movement that's not underpinned with the prayers of its people is a movement straining away from the powerhouse. In order to thrive, any movement of God must be powered by God Himself. As we endeavour to do his work, we must fall on our knees and cry out to him."*

Thank you for your role in this prayer ministry. Let's enter into joyful thanksgiving for the multitude of students who've personally encountered Christ, for the thousands of universities impacted by student witness, for the many more countries that now have a thriving IFES movement. And let's pray with expectant faith for countless more lives, campuses, and communities to be transformed through "God's power at work within us".

**Praise God** for more movements – most recently GBU São Tomé and Príncipe. Just last month, the IFES South Pacific regional conference →

▼ World Student Day 2024 in... (L-R) Timor Leste, Nigeria, Honduras, Ireland, Guam



## CONFERENCE SEASON

As we go to print, events are still going on, but initial feedback has been very encouraging. Students have taken time out of the distractions of ordinary life to focus on Christ and been equipped to share him. They have worshipped God, eaten and danced together, taken long periods of quiet before the Lord, shared their student groups' ideas and been inspired by those from other groups and movements. The first event to share feedback has been Eurasia Formación, which gathered more than 150 participants:

*"I was reminded to learn to understand the context we are living in and to share the truth. I have to talk more to unbelievers to understand more of them and their worldview. I was concerned*

*of burning out if I was starting something new. I came with that question during the Quiet Day with God. The answer I received was that I have only 3 years at university left to share Christ."*

*"A prayer evening and a cultural evening built many bridges between students. People from countries currently at war with each other were reconciled. When nationalism and personal pain are pushed into second place through forgiveness, you can sense something of the spirit of the Gospel that unites us."*

*"This is the beginning of a revival of students and not the end, particularly for [my central Asian country]."*

IFES Europe's  
European Student  
Festival in Latvia



### IFES PERSON: JOSUÉ OLMEDO

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Originally a dentist, Josué has completed graduate studies in Bible, theology, and philosophy, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Philosophy. He is married to Ruth Hicks, who serves in the IFES Latin America regional team. They have two daughters (19 and 15).

Josué brings rich experience from serving students, staff, and national movements over many years. He was an active student, staff worker, and then National Director of CECE Ecuador. He served on the IFES Latin America regional team, is part of the IFES Engaging the University team (both regionally and globally), and most recently co-led the Logos & Cosmos Initiative in Latin America. On 1 September, he moved into the global role of Scripture Engagement Coordinator.

Josué is passionate about helping university students and teachers bring the Bible into conversation and connect God's Word with their real-life contexts in ways that are appealing and transformative. Please pray for God's guidance and inspiration for him as he settles into this new role, particularly as he combines it with his studies and other commitments.

### 50 YEARS OF IFES WORLD STUDENT DAY CONTINUED

(SPARC) gathered representatives from across the region. Past SPARC conferences have sown seeds for new movements. **Pray** that this will prove to be the case again.

**Praise God** for more evangelism in Christian student groups – with more groups running events weeks, and new resources being made available.

**Pray** that more students would meet with Christ and choose to follow him.

**Praise God** for more leaders – in November, a conference in Central Asia will allow IFES Eurasia Formación participants to serve as small group leaders for the first time. **Pray** for them as they start –and keep on – discipling students.

**Praise God** for more students – as higher education expands globally, thank God for Christian students seeking to share Christ on their campuses. **Pray** for IFES staff as they help support the movements which invest in and equip students worldwide.

You can access many more prayer resources and requests for this year's World Student Day at [ifesworld.org/wsd](https://ifesworld.org/wsd).

### CONTACT DETAILS

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