

IFES

Jan – Mar 2026 | ifesworld.org

PRAISE & PRAYER



▲ Suriname World Student Day prayer meeting

"We are delighted to share that our fellowship joyfully celebrated IFES World Student Day 2025. It was a wonderful time of prayer, worship, and reflection on God's faithfulness among students. Together, we prayed for student movements around the world and thanked God for the unity we share through IFES. Our theme reminded us once again of our calling to be light and hope on our campuses. The students were deeply encouraged to continue living out their faith boldly in their daily lives. We are truly grateful to be part of this global family of believers, standing together for God's Kingdom among students." **Aradhona, BSFB Bangladesh – Dhaka**

29,000 participants – students, staff and supporters – in 134 countries and territories prayed on World Student Day. Alone, in small groups, large groups and online gatherings, together we celebrated God's

faithfulness and answered prayers from 50 years of World Student Day, and asked for his blessing and favour for the future. Praise God for the encouragement it was.

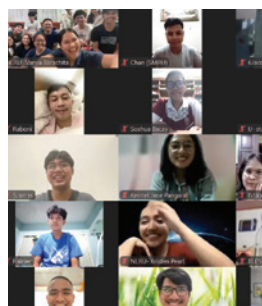
"I believe prayer moves the heart of God. And he gives, he blesses us. In prayer, you carry your brothers and sisters, other students, you carry their burdens." **David, SEAM Macedonia**

"We printed IFES region maps to create stations where students could pray for specific parts of the world using the prayer requests submitted by staff and students from that region! Fadel, an international student from Benin,

was particularly moved to pray for a student from his country." **Hannah, InterVarsity/USA**

"It was truly an extraordinary experience. We were able to read stories from students across the globe, learning about their struggles, perseverance, and passion for witnessing Christ's love to their communities, all while navigating the challenges of university life. These stories made us feel that we are not alone. We have a global family of fellow students, all moving together to be witnesses for Christ and a blessing to others in their own corners of the world." **Ariel, Perkantas Indonesia**

▼ Prayer on a boat in Chatoola, Bangladesh; Worship in El Salvador; Prayer across borders with IVCF Philippines and KIVF South Korea; Vanuatu World Student Day prayer meeting



▲ Recent planning meetings: IFES Europe Staff Consultation, 2025; IFES Latin America General Secretaries and Board Chairs meeting, 2025

STEPPING FORWARD IN 2026

In a new year, we want to see progress and development in ministry. Taking time to reflect and to plan is vital, and a number of our regions are taking time to do this in various ways. IFES Europe Associate Regional Secretary Craig Weyrens shared a request for the Europe Staff Consultation event which would apply to each of these upcoming planning events: *"We would appreciate prayer that this event would really serve the staff. We want them to reflect on what God has done, to think about how they are doing as a team, and to begin to grow together in this cross-cultural learning community."*

East Asia: International Student Ministry Consultation in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-15 January for 20 staff from across East Asia. *"There is a rapidly increasing number of international students coming to East Asia – and they are not only a mission field but also a mission force."*

Europe: What do you do when your team needs to reflect and strategise, but everyone is busy with day-to-day pressures? Or your movement has a tiny team, or lacks the resources to take time out to look at the big picture

and make plans. 60–70 participants from 10 movements will gather in Warsaw, Poland 12-16 January for the Staff Consultation - Bible teaching, training, fellowship, guided evaluation, planning, and prayer.

East Asia: Student Ministry Consultation in Malaysia, 26-31 January for 60 staff. *"With the generational shift among current students and the enormous external challenges posed by the changing worlds of education and technology, we hope to reach a shared understanding of how we can engage and disciple them more effectively. Please pray."*

MENA: Two Regional Support Group meetings are happening January 15-19 (North Africa) and February 5-9 (Middle East) for movement leaders to review 2025 ministry and plan 2026. Please hold them in your prayers.

Latin America – the Regional Team will gather in April to reflect, evaluate, pray, and plan the regional strategy for 2027 and beyond. *"The regional team often works remotely and under pressure. This retreat provides a much-needed time for strategic alignment, mutual support, and rest."*

THANK YOU

Your faithful support in 2025 has shown how much you care about student ministry. As we enter a new year, we want to thank each person who wants to see God's work grow on campuses and so invests in IFES ministry, movements and students through prayers and donations. Thank you to all who have given so generously to strengthen work around the world in 2025. We praise God too for the supporters who chose to leave a gift in their will to help ministry continue after they have passed on. Your love and care means the world to us, and we look forward seeing how God will use your partnership in ministry in 2026 for his glory and the growth of student ministry.



▲ Yohan equips movement staff to run their own Scripture Engagement training for students, like this event in Nepal in 2023.

IFES PERSON: YOHAN ABEYNAIKE

IFES SOUTH ASIA SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT LEAD

From his first days studying Physical Science at the University of Colombo, Yohan and all at FOCUS Sri Lanka grappled with issues facing their nation. They were asking themselves what it means to be a disciple of Jesus amidst poverty, civil war, ethnic and religious tensions, nationalism and corruption. FOCUS helped him to dig deep into the Scriptures and not settle for easy answers.

After graduation, he briefly served with FOCUS before working for an organisation producing and distributing short films and documentaries on social justice and sustainable development. He returned to FOCUS and served for 15 years, eight as General Secretary.

In 2022, Yohan joined the IFES South Asia Regional Team as Scripture Engagement Lead. Alongside this, he teaches at Colombo Theological Seminary and helps train Sri Lankan missionaries for ministry overseas. He and his wife Radhika have a 12 year old daughter, Micaiah.

Yohan will be providing Scripture Engagement training to South Asian movements and helping develop global resources, and will be helping to pioneer the Logos and Cosmos Initiative (equipping young Christian academics to relate God's Word to God's World) in South Asia. He would particularly your prayers for designing the program for the South Asian context and for Scripture Engagement ministry to bless and equip the movements.

CONTACT DETAILS

ifesworld.org

IFES International Services (UK)
5 Blue Boar Street
Oxford OX1 4EE
United Kingdom

+44 (0)1865 263 777



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