

Scripture Union Diary and Prayer Focus January/February 2010

WE PRAISE and THANK GOD

As we face into a **New Year**, we are very aware of the many challenges we will encounter. Yet we are greatly encouraged in the knowledge that **Jesus Christ is the champion of our faith and we are exhorted to keep our eyes fixed on Him (Hebrews 12).**

Work has progressed on the initiative with the **Dublin Catholic Diocese to use the Luke the Book DVD** as part of their 'Year of Evangelisation', when some **20,000** copies will be distributed to homes throughout Dublin in January 2010. Continue to pray for this exciting initiative.

Our **2010 Camps and Holidays' Programme** will be launched in early January and we look forward to more and more children, young people and families, enjoying a great holiday at one of our camps.

We have major financial concerns, with our Bookshops losing in the region of €100,000 in sales. This is unsustainable for a non-profit Charity like SU, which depends on income from these Bookshops to support the wider ministry, like Camps and Schools' work. We have made some difficult decisions recently to reduce staff hours and all staff has taken a salary reduction. **Pray for us, that many will support the ministry in the coming year and for much wisdom in all the decisions we take, to be good stewards of our finances, as well as availing of the many ministry opportunities that we have.**

Thank you for your regular prayer support which is vital to our ministry.

Jim Donnan

JANUARY 2010

31ST Dec to 3th Jan - DEEPER CAMP at Ovoca Manor for Secondary School age. Pray for **Rachel Bow and her team** as they run this New Year's camp for these teenagers. May they have an amazing time, while hearing the Good News about Jesus.

1st - LAUNCH OF NEW SU CAMPS AND HOLIDAYS' BROCHURE & PROGRAMME FOR 2010. May many new young people and families book online for SU camps during 2010. May numbers attending camps grow considerably during this year.

4th - Stock Take in SU Bookstores. Pray for the Managers, Staff and Volunteers who will undertake this task. Pray that 2010 will see a much improved increase in sales in our three Bookstores.

4th - The Agreement to Lease the Coffee Shop space at our Talbot Street Bookshop is due to be signed today. Pray for the lessee, that his business might prosper under God.

5th - Pray for Pdraig O Caoimh as he holds his first meeting with the Bookshop Staff in Talbot Street. Pdraig will be the Sales Manager for the store in the new structure in Talbot Street.

8th to 10th - Adventure Club Camp at Ovoca Manor. Pray for **Andrea Jacob and her team** as they run this camp for primary school age children. May they have great fun and experience the Love of Christ.

8th - Church of God Conference in Glasnevin. Pray for **Dougie Hobson** as he provides an **SU Bookstall.**

11th - SU Border Counties Advisory Board meet today. Pray for this group of volunteers who co-ordinate the Border Counties Holiday Clubs. Pray for wisdom in planning the Summer 2010 programme.

12th - NEW SU YOUTH FORUM MEET. This is a very exciting new development, where we are bringing together young people to be part of a Youth Forum, to give them a voice into the varied ministries of SU. This is the first meeting of the group. Pray for a great sense of enthusiasm and encouragement for all involved.

13th & 14th - Authentic Youth Team run a retreat in St Patrick's School in Cavan for 2nd years, all boys. This is the first time our Team have visited this school. May they connect with these students and, through the discussions and programme, may these young students encounter the person of Jesus Christ.

14th - SU Staff and Council Fellowship Evening. Pray for an evening of great encouragement and spiritual refreshing for all who attend.

19th to 21st - SU MANAGERS' MANAGEMENT TRAINING at OVOCA MANOR. We are very excited about these few days of training for our Management staff. **David Bowker**, from SU in England and Wales, will provide this training. Pray that we may all learn new skills and be equipped to be better managers.

18th - Cork Christian Trust meet to consider their plans for the Haven Centre in 2010. Pray for this group and especially **Pdraig O Caoimh**, Manager of the SU Bookshop.

22nd to 24th - Adventure Club Camp at Ovoca Manor. Pray for **Simon Scott** and his team as they lead this camp. Pray that many of these children will come into a loving friendship with Jesus.

26th - Meeting for Full Time Youth Workers. Pray for **Jude Barry** as she attends this group.

May they be encouraged in this vital ministry among young people.

27th - Authentic Youth Team run a retreat in a new school, St John Bosco in Kildysart, Co Clare, for 6th year students. Pray for good discussions and opportunities to share their faith with these young people. Pray for favour with the RE teacher and teaching staff.

28th - YOUR MOVE event at Trinity College. SU will have a stand at this event. Pray for great interest in volunteering

28th & 29th - Authentic Youth run a Retreat in another new school; St Anne's Community School, in Killaloe. Pray for **Jude Barry and Jonny Somerville** as they speak into these young people's lives. May their hearts and minds be open to the message of Christ.

28th - Church Leaders' Conference at St Mark's Church. Pray for **Dougie Hobson** as he provides an SU Bookstall.

28th - CSSM Greystones Committee meeting. Pray for **Alison Gill**, who takes on the Leadership this year. Pray for her team and for good planning.

29th to 31st - TINE Conference for Catholic leaders from all over Ireland. Pray for **Howard Hall** as he provides an SU Bookstall at this event. Pray for good sales and new contacts.

30th - SU TRAINING DAY FOR ALL CAMP LEADERS, in Dundrum Methodist Church from 9.30am to 1pm.

Pray for **Rachel Bow, our Camps & Missions' Manager**, as she co-ordinates this important day in the SU calendar. Pray for a good attendance; that all who attend might be better equipped and enthused to work with children and young people through camps' ministry.

31st - Tajikistan is predominantly Muslim and SU has a work there. Pray for God's wisdom, counsel, encouragement and protection for **Dima & Mahbuba Bazorov** as they lead S.U. Tajikistan and for **Michael Rowe & Emlyn Williams** who plan a visit to Dima & Mahbuba in late January. Pray for protection for these staff.

FEBRUARY 2010

1st - SU ministry in the Former Soviet Republics (FSR) have a new Director for Moscow. Please pray for **Vladimir Strellov**, Director of S.U. Moscow and volunteers, as they develop the work there, particularly with teenagers.

5th to 7th - Adventure Club Camp at Ovoca Manor. Pray for **Dirk and Olive van der Flier and Scarlett Tice** as they lead this camp. May many of these children respond to the love of Jesus.

8th - FULL COUNCIL MEETING. Pray for **Dirk van der Flier** as he chairs this meeting. Pray for **Jude Barry and Jonny Somerville** as they present their annual Youth and Schools' Report to Council. May they know the support of Council for this exciting ministry to some 4,000 students throughout Ireland.

9th - OM TEAM Meeting at Ovoca Manor. Pray for the Team: **Nathan Norris, Damien Parle, Dirk van der Flier and Jim Donnan.** Pray for wisdom in decision making regarding the operations of the Centre and especially the major investment needed to undertake the Extension Project.

9th - Meeting with Arrow Leadership Team - Rev Ed Vaughan and Diane Lyons, as they discuss the Arrow Residential at Ovoca Manor with **Nathan Norris and Jim Donnan.** Pray for good planning for these Residentials in 2010 and for the 23 participants in this Leadership Programme.

11th - Authentic Youth run a retreat for 4th year students from King's Hospital in Dublin. Pray for good opportunities to minister into the lives of these young people and may they open their hearts to the love of Christ.

12th to 14th - Adventure Club Camp for Kill O' the Grange School. Pray for **Mark and Helen Groves and Ian Horner** and may these campers experience the wonderful love of Jesus.

15th - Staff meeting with Authentic Youth Team and Camps and Missions' Manager. Pray for **Jim Donnan** as he meets with these staff. May he bring encouragement and support. May these ministries see great growth this year.

16th - BOOKSHOP MANAGERS MEET. Pray for all the staff and volunteers of our three Bookshops as they adjust to changes in working hours and structure. Pray for more customers for our Bookshops. Pray for the motivation of these staff to continue to serve God in these difficult times.

19th to 21st - Adventure Club Camp run by Grace Deegan and her team. Many these children open their hearts to Christ.

22nd to 23rd - Authentic Youth Team run a retreat for 2nd and 3rd years in the Presentation Secondary School in Terenure. Another new school. Pray that, through the personal testimonies of the team, the students may encounter the reality of Jesus Christ.

24th - Authentic Youth run a retreat for 3rd years from Abbey Community School in Boyle. Pray for hearts and minds to be receptive to the love of Christ.

26th to 28th - All Ability Camp at Ovoca Manor. Pray for **Kingsley Prescott, Sean Kelly and Salome Stephens** as they lead this camp. Pray for the special campers, that they will have a great weekend of friendship and fun. May they experience the wonderful love of Jesus.

Greystones Christian Youth Work:

Pray for **Sarah Jane Taylor** and her growing work among the young people in Greystones:

- **Young Women's Club in Kindlestown**
- **Youth Club in Burnaby Lawns**
- **RE Classes in St David's Secondary School**
- **Youth Activities in the C of I and Catholic Churches**
- **Community based projects**