

SU/FES

PRAISE & PRAYER LETTER *June-August 2020*

FOCUSING ON SCRIPTURE UNION (SU)

Some Highlights on the Calendar

6 June - Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer Online Event (Main Speaker: Marianne)

7 June - Whispering Hope Methodist Church Online Service (Speaker: Marianne)

10 Jun - Nottingham University CF (Speaker: Jun Yi)

13 June - BE seminar for High Pointe Life Youth. (Speaker: Timothy)

18 June - Wesley Methodist International School (KL) e-Chapel (Speaker: Marianne)

21 June - KLIFF (KL International Friends' Fellowship) online Sunday Service (Speaker: Marianne)

5 July - Holy Light Lutheran Church's (Salak South) BB-GB Enrolment Service (Speaker: Marianne)

9 July - Wesley Methodist International School (KL) e-Chapel (Speaker: Timothy).

3 Aug - The Seed Resource Center Online Senior e-Chapel Service (Speaker: Marianne)

16 Aug - Trinity Sanctuary AG Church English and BM services (Speaker: Marianne)

23 Aug - Living Stone Methodist Church (Speaker: Marianne)

Koh Earn Soo

The MCO forced me and the SU Team to do things differently and learn new things. It has been a sharp learning curve but a good one. We are constantly adjusting and adapting and innovating.

But we are much encouraged by the responses to some of our e-programs. In some schools, we still more than 1000 young people attending e-chapels conducted by our staff. The creativity of the girl who won the SUPA Wordchallenge (bible verse memorization) was most refreshing. Having 160 children who signed up for our e-SUPA camps within a day was most encouraging for the team.

- Pray for me and my family (immediate and extended family) that all continue to stay safe and healthy.

- Pray that this will be a season of growth for me and preparation for greater ministry when the pandemic is over.

Chai Siew Meng

I thank the Lord for his protection and provision during the MCO. My family and myself have been keeping well. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.

This is the first time I experienced working from home. There were some adjustments needed for me and my family during the time I was working from home.

With the uncertainty of when school will re-start, we have postponed the Bible Knowledge Postal Quiz 2020 to 19 June - 6 July, to give time for students and quiz coordinators to prepare after their schools re-start again. We will continue to monitor the situation and make further adjustments if needed.

- Pray for adjustments and adaptability to a new normal routine.
- Pray that the students will continue to prepare for the Bible Knowledge Postal Quiz 2020 and for the quiz coordinators to be able to carry out this quiz after the MCO.

Jennifer Chew

Staying home to work for the past many weeks has been challenging emotionally though I am getting the hang of things now. I am thankful for technology as I could still communicate with my fellow colleagues and follow-up with work. Sometimes it feels strange when a

prayer is said facing my laptop at the end of a meeting!

Personally, I am trying to keep up with what's current and be relevant. Being part of the SU Global family, there were webinars for us to learn and share with each other, what a blessing! On the other hand, my age is catching up and I hope to train and mentor a good leader in this new season.

I am happy that despite the cancellation of the SUPA camp in late May, we had the chance to do a SUPA online camp instead. I am grateful for the commitment of our 10 volunteers who ran the camp with us. The response was fantastic as it was opened to all kids in Malaysia and the camp fee was free!

- Coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, children are also experiencing trends that would affect their consciousness. Pray that families will be sensitive in noticing the differences in their children and helping them to cope.
- Pray for me as I lead my team in connecting with children and that I will also be able to reach and build bridges with children and their parents.

Elkha Asok

Since the MCO, I get to spend time reflecting on the goodness of God during this time of uncertainties. It's a good season to trust more in our Good Shepherd. My Bible Overview course has ended and soon I will start

a new Doctrine course by Equip Gospel Ministry.

Children Ministry staff has been meeting virtually to discuss and plan on alternative post-MCO projects. We also attended webinars and virtual trainings. We hosted the SUPA Online camp (23-26 May) and thank God for a good response of 161 campers! May they be closer to Jesus after this camp.

- Pray for the Children's Ministry as we work as a team to write contents that can reach the little ones in the near future.

- Pray for my coming Doctrine course, that we may grasp more of the Bible's teaching and thus deepen our relationship with God.

Siau See Yuan

I've witnessed God's faithfulness, provision and mercy in our efforts to continue to reach out to kids via a digital platform, especially in our 2-part Easter Videos, #SUPAWordChallenge and the SUPA Online Camp. I've also been creating social media content for Children's Ministry and tuning in to relevant webinars.

Studies-wise, I've completed my Apologetics Module 2 and have embarked on a Foundations of Preaching course with the Centre for Expository Preaching (CEP) together with my fellow workers, Yi Hong, David and Tze Kwang. Meanwhile, I appreciate time at home and the simple meals with my family. I

also don't miss the traffic jams and parking merry-go-rounds.

- Pray for the children who participated in the SUPA Online Camp, that God may advance His work in the lives of these kids through this camp.

- Pray for me and my fellow colleagues' growth in our CEP Preaching studies, that we may have zeal, discipline and a burden to be faithful to preach God's Word.

Marianne Liaw

With the "new normal" in place, I've also been experiencing a whole lot of "new" when it comes to ministry in SU. Having fully transitioned into my new role as leader of the youth ministry team, I'm praying for much wisdom & strength to lead faithfully, so that together, we can continue to serve in bringing the Gospel & God's Word to youths.

I hope to further sharpen newly acquired skills, such as video editing, so that I can continue doing what I love best – sharing God's Word - on online platforms at this present time.

- Pray for godliness and faithfulness as I continue serving in SU, in leading the youth ministry team.

- Pray for strength, energy, stamina and wisdom for both my husband, Daniel and myself in juggling work and various ministry roles and responsibilities in our home church, St Mary's Cathedral and in the wider community.

Charis Tan

During this MCO period, it has been a season that has stretched me from inside out. Praise God I am enjoying my time with my family. During free time I will do cooking, baking and reading. I got to spend more time for my devotion. It has stretched my faith to experience how real God is through the different things that happened recently.

Besides that, I feel honored to step up to give a sharing to my life group after a long gap. This season has granted me opportunities to grow in different areas of my life. I am grateful that it is also a productive season in which I am enjoying the pace life too.

- Pray for God's continual grace and strength in everything I do, especially for work, family, church and ministry. May I be able to find fulfillment and purpose through it all.

- Pray that I will be in good health to juggle with different tasks in my daily life.

Chai Tze Kwang

After almost 2 months into this MCO, and another month coming ahead, I thank God for opening more doors in ministry work with the high school students. To be able to get back to guiding and helping them is something I am thankful for.

However, it is still hard to adjust and adapt as we move towards a new normal in the coming months. The

flexibility in working hours has blurred the line between work and rest and has translated to fatigue and tiredness.

Study wise, I am thankful for the opportunity to learn alongside other SU staff on how to preach in the CEP course that we are taking.

- Pray for new opportunities in school ministry as we work towards a new normal in the next couple of months.
- Pray that students will have the passion to continue despite the limitations at hand.
- Pray for wisdom as I continue to adjust to this new schedule during the CMCO.

David Teoh

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to God for His faithfulness and grace over my family this season. We did not lack anything at home and this is because of His never-ending provision.

I have come to realize that there are two things which God has revealed I need to work on. First, mental growth and second, spiritual growth. In the first half of MCO, mental growth was more dominant in my life. I have learnt how to cook, tidy up the house more effectively, how

to be a son who honors his parents and ultimately, his Heavenly Father.

In the current part of the MCO, I have learnt a great deal about

spiritual growth. God by his grace has shaped my perspective towards His word. I thank Marianne who introduced CEP preaching course to me. Without it, I wouldn't have realized the great importance of reading His word for what it is and being faithful to His teachings.

- Pray for self-discipline when it comes to reading the Bible daily.
- Pray for sustainability.

Lue Jun Yi

Working from home gives me the flexibility of working hours, yet at the same time you can't help but be preoccupied with work-related matters most of the time. As things become a norm, new ministry ideas are being translated into the way of doing things now.

I enjoyed exploring new programs and methods, with lots of trials and errors doing them. That being said, I'm still very much involved with the youth ministry because of the current situation, and have not had much time to explore sports ministry (to be launched in October), which I hope to work on soon.

- Pray for self-discipline as I manage the various ministry work that needs to be done and to make full use of my time.
- Pray for continual personal growth in Christ as this MCO allows me more time to read and reflect on how I can

live out my faith in the community as well.

Timothy Cheang

This season has been challenging for me and my family as my wife is working on the frontlines, and I'm at home taking care of both my young children, one of whom has special needs.

I've also been conducting regular Bible Studies for my church members and thankfully been able to keep up with my Masters of Divinity studies online as well.

- Pray for the wellbeing of my wife at her work, and our children (mentally and emotionally) being stuck at home since January.
- Pray for wisdom to prioritize Family, Ministry, and Studies. And the strength to endure.

Edwin Khoo

This Covid19 has changed many ways of serving in my church and SU ministry. One of them is for me to record myself teaching/message with my phone. Another is to minimize physical meetings and use technology to discuss matters related to work/ministry. I am still adjusting to it and I look forward to be more equipped in new ways to reach out to others.

- Pray for the well-being of mental and physical health of my family.
- Pray for wisdom and strength to care for family, to serve creatively in ministries under new environment.

Kelly Tan

Due to the MCO, I am learning to do e-chapel. I am picking up new skills on how to edit videos for camp and chapel services. I find it challenging as it takes days and lots of work/effort to compile and edit a 15-min video (and need to take care of my two kids at the same times). But I am truly glad and grateful to have this opportunity to learn new things.

- Pray that the Lord continues to guide and lead me as I learn to share in a different way (through videos).
- Pray for wisdom and strength to go through daily life, being full time with my kids, and to surrender myself for the Lord's work too.

Emelda Roukin

I am grateful for God's goodness. During this MCO period I am trying to finish the BM translation work which is really needed badly for us in Sabah. This stay home period allows me to finish the translation, and then I can focus on other things. At the same time I am constantly thinking about what to do next for the ministry.

Even though work has occupied most of my time, I try to slot in time to learn God's Word through online courses, including a course which I had signed-up for before MCO started.

- Pray for good health for us here in KK, and for our family members.

- Pray for a constant and persistent spirit to seek God's counsel especially on how, what, when to conduct our SU programs and activities in Sabah.

Verseliesa Luis

Thank God for His grace and provision during this time. I appreciate and enjoyed working at home as it teaches me what working from home feels like. At the moment, I am doing translation and hope to finish soon. We are also planning on activities and finding alternatives to reach the kids in Sabah during this period. I have also started my Rhema Bible School Training.

- Pray for good health, wisdom and strength as we do the translation.
- Pray for ideas and alternatives for us to continue to engage with the kids and youth in Sabah during this time.

Elaine Liew

Praise God, for me this MCO period is an opportunity to do ministry in a new way and also to learn new things. Sadly, the Subang- Puchong (28-30 July) combined CF camp which the committee had planned for sometime, had to be cancelled. I am thankful some SCFs are meeting online whereas some others are unable to due to limited wifi connection.

Personally, I am learning to use online tools like Zoom and teamlink in the many meetings I am involved with. Our ladies prayer meeting meets thrice each week plus weekly meetings like

care group, college group (where I am one of the helpers), family groups, BSF classes, music lessons and even an exercise class.

- Pray for self-discipline each day.
- Pray for encouragement for the committee of the Subang-Puchong combined camp and SCFs who are not able to meet, that they will use this time to draw near to the Lord.

Dennis Lim

At the Tapah SUFES Campsite, the staff there are keeping the grounds and premises in order. I managed to meet them on 9 May, the first time since the 18 Mar lockdown. (It was an interstate travel from Pahang to Perak.)

- Pray for protection and strength for staff as they continue to upkeep the campsite.
- Pray for success in the implementation of additional sources of income from the campsite.

Chew Yi Hong

I am based in Alor Setar, so I have been working from home. I recently went to stay in PJ for training at the SU Office, and it has been much more fulfilling there. During MCO, I had to come home, and being back in the same environment as I was in before MCO has not been so productive.

However, I am occupied with the course on expository preaching (CEP) that I'm doing with some of the other SU staff.

- Pray that I will have discipline and a good mindset no matter what the environment I'm in.

Jeremy Carlson

I have been doing video editing work on a SU resource package. And the MCO has given me the opportunity to use my skills to help three churches to pre-record their sermons and post them on social media.

During this period I am thankful that I get to rest in His presence and meditate on His Word more.

- Pray for new and creative ideas for me to serve God and give my best. And that I will use my time wisely in serving Him.
- Pray for my dad and brother who are now recovering from fractured collar bone and finger respectively.

Joel Mohan

In terms of work, MCO has probably been one of the toughest periods. It has exhausted me mentally and drained my time. Between my ministries with SU and church, I find myself sitting down for hours at a time by the computer and sleeping at dawn many days of the week.

Thankfully, my health has been okay so far. Praise God for the times when creative juices flow and am able to come up with content for the digital platforms.

- Pray for mental and emotional strength, ability to rest and good health, to get through the MCO as a lot of the work involves brain power.
- Pray for creativity to find better ways to reach and engage the students and youth we are contacting

Christopher Cheah

Initially the enforced stay home gave a welcome break to the activities and things to do of normal work. It was a time to pause and catch up with some reading. But as we adapted to working online the number of things to do and to think about in SU and church seem to fill my time just as much as before.

- Pray for a meaningful and deepening time of reflection before God in this period of slow down.
- Pray for understanding of the new situation that we will face in the next year or so, and how we can do our ministry in SU.

Children's Ministry

The year started with lots of opportunities to partner with churches and sharing resources and ideas; working on potential camps. We now have 3 staff to share the workload and it certainly helps a lot! We do hope to be more involved in CF & Chapel in schools.

With the new norm, we are working fast and hard to see how we can support children's ministry activities. So far, we have made Easter videos, p u z z l e & b i n g o ,

#SUPAWordChallenge (memory verse challenge) and conducted an online camp for the May school holidays!

We are also concerned with children who are not accessible via online nor have a gadget to communicate with at this time.

- Pray for new and fun ways in how we deliver lessons and programs online, to engage children.
- Pray for wisdom to communicate with churches on camps which have been planned for the second half of the year.

Youth Ministry

These are exciting and challenging times for us on the team. With online platforms being the main way to connect with youths in schools & churches, we have continued to seek to reach them with God's Word through online events, creating various forms of Scripture content on social media, producing online Bible talks and resources for students, teachers and ministry workers in schools and churches.

Together, we look forward to finding more new and creative avenues and ways to engage young hearts with God's Word.

- Pray for unity in Christ and his Gospel as we continue serving together as a team, using our different

gifts and abilities to the fullest to help us reach youths with God's Word.

- Pray for new and creative ideas and ways for us to help youths hear the Gospel and engage with God's Word.

Bible Engagement Ministry

In the central Region, we have been down to one person since January, and it has been a time of adapting and transition. The training modules for SU interns have been put to good use in conducting virtual training sessions to a wider group of youths.

Pray for opportunities to partner with churches and organisations who desire for their members to engage with God through His word daily.

Pray for the current group of youths that we're running online training sessions with, that they may grow spiritually and in turn disciple others as well.

Regional - Perak

Working with my SU colleagues in various ministries, we are building wider partnerships in the region mainly with churches or schools from Ipoh/Kampar, Taiping, Manjung, Teluk Intan, to promote Bible Engagement and other children/youth related programs in physical as well as digital platforms.

- Pray for chapels/CFs in Perak schools to continue meeting and fellowship in a new environment.

- Pray for the Christian teachers in Perak for great strength and passion

to reach out to their students with God's love and the Word of life.

Regional - Sabah

The idea to coordinate an online camp can be done in Sabah, though it will be limited only for those who live in the areas where they can get good internet connection. We are excited about planning a BM camp for children, with some friends giving their support and are eagerly waiting for it.

We are also thinking on how to keep connected with the youth. We are discussing the best way to run an online camp and other programs to introduce Scripture Union Ministry in Sabah.

- Pray for opportunities to introduce God's Word through this ministry, especially through digital platforms.

- Pray for more ideas, creativity and wisdom to plan and to hear from God.

- Pray for partnership with the churches and other ministries so that we can work together with one goal to spread the Good News and grow in the Word.

- Pray for the growth of CFs in Sabah both in secondary and primary schools.