

T H I S A D V E N T U R E

Prayer Diary



A MONTH OF REFLECTIONS AND PRAYER
FOR NISCU AND FOR SCHOOLS



niscu

Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union

niscu.org.uk

DAY 1

NISCU

Children and young people are searching and asking, and we want to be ready with good answers for them.

Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

••• **Jeremiah 6:16** •••

DAY 2

PRIMARY

Younger children are apt to soak up whatever they are told, how important is it then to give them access to the Christian gospel.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it

••• **Proverbs 22:6** •••

DAY 3

SECONDARY

With so much peer and media pressure on young people, they really do need wisdom to make good choices in life – so they need space to reflect, not just take in information.

Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge, for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips

••• **Proverbs 22:17,18** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- That every child hears the gospel
- That every child has opportunity to respond to the gospel
- That all children expressing a faith have a church home to care for and disciple them

PRAYER POINTS

- For NISCU workers to have good relationships with school staff
- For local churches to build relationships with their schools
- For courage for young people to invite their friends to lunch clubs

PRAYER POINTS

- For RE to be a well-supported and valued part of the curriculum
- For schools that offer Youth Alpha or similar
- Chaplaincy in schools

== DAY 4 ==

SIXTH FORM/ COLLEGE OF FE

Heb. Bacchur meaning 'Ripened One'

A 'Warrior in Training' needs a safe place to learn how to do battle in life. Young people of this age are at a vulnerable stage and need all the support they can get.

== DAY 5 ==

TEACHERS

Teaching is a hard job, and we put the lives and futures of our young people into their hands. Dare we do so without much prayer for them?

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

••• **Jude 1:24,25** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- Festive, an organisation that supports Christians in Sixth Form College and FE festive.org.uk
- For young Christians to be a powerful witness
- Development of Chaplaincy style spaces

PRAYER POINTS

- For encouragement for Christian teachers in a stressful job
- For the witness of Christian teachers
- To love the kids

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== DAY 6 ==

SCHOOL STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

••• **Romans 10:14** •••

== DAY 7 ==

PARENTS & FAMILIES

Parenting may be the one job that is harder than teaching! While we live in a society that is undermining family life. Parents need our prayerful support.

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

••• **Ephesians 3:14-17** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For school staff to hear the gospel
- For an increase in willing volunteers from local churches
- That NISCU encouragement evenings will inspire and refresh school staff and volunteers

PRAYER POINTS

- For entire families to be saved
- For strong family life
- For Christian parents to be responsible and equipped to raise their children in the faith

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== DAY 8 ==

EXAM SEASONS

Exams are important but too much focus just on study is unhealthy and unprofitable. Finding the right balance between studying hard and rest is not easy for a young person (or for some parents!)

Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

••• **Ecclesiastes 12:12** •••

== DAY 9 ==

BULLYING & MENTAL HEALTH

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

••• **Philippians 4:6,7** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For young people facing exam pressures that they will know “peace that passes all understanding”
- For parents to know how to best support their kids
- For young people to know that God has a purpose for them that is not dependant on exam results

PRAYER POINTS

- For schools to deal effectively with bullying situations
- For victims and perpetrators (who are often also victims as well) to be helped and supported
- For every young person to have at least one trusted adult in their life who will listen to them

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COLLECTIVE ASSEMBLIES

A recent Facebook conversation was started by a man approaching his 30th birthday, who wanted to reconnect with 'those two guys who used to do those amazing assemblies in primary school' – and over 40 people commented with their (very positive) reminiscences of what was, in fact, the NISCU school workers' efforts, 20-25 years ago. Assemblies (known as collective worship these days) can have a long-lasting impact!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

••• **Romans 1:16** •••

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS & CUs

Imagine, sitting with a young person who is doing a great job of answering the faith questions of her peers. Then finding out she has been a Christian just three months after being invited to a youth event by a NISCU schools worker. True story.

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

••• **1 Timothy 4:12** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For continued protection in law for daily worship in schools
- For good links with schools for NISCU staff to contribute to collective worship programmes
- For presentations to be appropriate in the school environment (we want to be invited back!), but at the same time 'not ashamed of the gospel'

PRAYER POINTS

- Primary clubs e.g. QM, JaM
- Big Questions and one-off events like Crème Egg Challenge (where young people swap faith question for a chocolate egg)
- Drop ins, Imagine (outreach programme for Year 8 children) and CUs

LESSONS

Our words need to be as sound in a school lesson as they do in a Sunday morning preach, and delivered with the same love, faith and reliance on the help of the Holy Spirit

But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

••• **2 Timothy 1:12-14** •••

HEALTH & SAFETY OF NISCU STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling - tripping hazards are in the Bible!!

••• **Jude 1:24** •••

STAFF TRAINING

As staff are giving out continually in schools, so they need space to rest, pray, learn and be encouraged in meeting with each other and with the Lord.

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

••• **2 Timothy 2:2** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For delivery of engaging lessons that accurately portray Christian faith
- That children would enjoy learning about the Christian faith
- Take-up by schools of lessons offered

PRAYER POINTS

- Travelling mercies, especially of staff often working and travelling alone
- Protection, anointing and wisdom for all staff and volunteers
- Effective risk assessments that minimise any risk to staff or children

PRAYER POINTS

- Team days
- Staff retreat (March)
- Conferences e.g. Youth Evangelism Conference in March will be attended by whole NISCU staff team

== DAY 15 ==

VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for the amazing people who have a willing heart, and regularly bring their offering of time, effort and love to schools ministry.

All who were of a willing heart brought... offerings

••• **2 Chronicles 29:31** •••

== DAY 16 ==

PUPPET TEAMS

There is a lot of work goes into crafting puppets, scripts and relationships with schools in order to present the gospel in this way.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

••• **Ephesians 2:10** •••

== DAY 17 ==

AREA SUPPORT GROUPS

Area Support Groups are key partners in the gospel, we could not do it without them.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

••• **Philippians 1:3-5** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- That local church members would be encouraged/provoked to volunteer in their local schools with NISCU
- Take up of NISCU Sunday niscu.org.uk/niscu-sunday/ and Just One Thing niscu.org.uk/just-one-thing/
- That each school would have local Christians praying for it, with volunteers building strong links between school, church and families

PRAYER POINTS

- Great scripts with a clear and appropriate gospel message
- Well received by schools
- Recruitment of right people to participate

PRAYER POINTS

- That people would be encouraged to join area support groups
- Effective Area strategy and sufficient finances to support it
- Communication with local churches

== DAY 18 ==

TRUSTEES

Trustees play a vital role in keeping us on track with statutory bodies like the Charity Commission and Companies House. And they are faithful in supporting the work of NiSCU.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

••• **1 Timothy 3:1** •••

== DAY 19 ==

CENTRAL

Not all of us get to be in schools! The work of Central is vital to ensure that our schools workers and volunteers are able to do what they do - a different gifting but the same purpose.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

••• **Romans 12:4-6** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- That people would be encouraged to become trustees
- Overall responsibility for managing the charity in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines
- Insight into the bigger picture, being aware of the opportunities and threats facing the organisation

PRAYER POINTS

- For stable long-term funding
- SMT members: CEO, Operations Manager and Financial Administrator
- Effective admin and sound financial management

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SUPPORT: Central

The supply comes through Central, the seed is sown in schools every day across our areas. And we hope for a harvest to come in to our local churches.

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

••• **2 Corinthians 9:10** •••

SUPPORT: Areas

This probably sums up the purpose of the area supporters better than any policy!

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

••• **Romans 12:12** •••

NISCU Church Links

NISCU is an arm of the local church, it is not separate to it. So we are indeed thankful.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

••• **Colossians 3:14** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- Finance for the essential tasks and personnel within the Central team
- Regular prayer support for Central
- Effective curating of NISCU media presence (website, social media etc.)

PRAYER POINTS

- Sustainable finances
- For regular prayer support
- For effective strategic planning within area support groups

PRAYER POINTS

- That NISCU and local churches would clearly and publicly work together in bringing the gospel into schools, where NISCU is a catalyst for meaningful inter-church partnerships
- For follow up and discipleship of young people
- Every child expressing a faith finds a church home where they are welcome

TRANSITION SEASONS

Change in any time of life is a challenge, and this is the best advice for anyone moving on.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

••• **Matthew 6:33** •••

OTHER ORG. IN SCHOOLS

We are grateful to our many partners who each bring a different aspect of the Christian faith to our schools.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

••• **1 Corinthians 12:4** •••

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

These are testing times for schools and for the bodies of people, representing the local community, who help steer and guide them.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

••• **James 1:5** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For children moving up to secondary school
- For post -16 youth moving on to sixth form, College or apprenticeships
- For post -18s moving on to University or into work

PRAYER POINTS

- Gideon's
- Walk Through the Bible
- Open the Book
- Prayer Spaces in Schools
- *And any others you know of*

PRAYER POINTS

- That local Christians would see the role of a school governor as one way they can live out their faith, and be a witness to Christ
- For schools to recruit governors who are Christians
- That school mission statements reflect the gospel

== DAY 26 ==

LISTENING SERVICE

It is said God gave us two ears and only one mouth for a reason! Listening Services provide a safe place for children and young people to be listened to and as schools' pastoral services come under increasing pressure, this is a vital provision for them.

A place to be still. A place to be heard.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.

●●● **Psalms 37:7** ●●●

== DAY 27 ==

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

This is a RE resource that helps teachers of Reception class to Year 9 teach the Bible in such a way as to promote biblical and theological literacy. NISCU delivers teacher training and ongoing support to Community schools, while the Diocese trains teachers in church schools.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

●●● **2 Timothy 2:15** ●●●

PRAYER POINTS

- For successful training of new listeners
- For schools to embrace listening service
- For children and listeners in schools

PRAYER POINTS

- For Community schools to take up training opportunity with NISCU
- For NISCU staff delivering training to teachers
- For effective teaching of Christianity in schools

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ALUMNI (Niscu Kids)

It is a regular occurrence to come across people, often in other parts of the country, who were significantly impacted and inspired by NISCU as a child and/or teenager. They include youth workers, worship leaders, pastors, academics and trainers in ministry, CAP centre managers, film makers and mission agency administrators. And yes, even schools workers! As well as a whole host of secular trades. All have one thing in common – they are holding fast to what they learned from childhood.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

••• **2 Timothy 3:14,15** •••

CHALLENGING TIMES

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

••• **Psalm 46:1** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For them to stay committed and faithful in their faith
- That they would find a home in a local church
- For Alumni to continue as supporters of schools work in their local area

PRAYER POINTS

- For people to experience God in their need
- For schools undergoing OFSTED inspections
- For schools undergoing SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

SCHOOLS OUT! SUMMER PROGRAMMES

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven

••• **Matthew 5:13** •••

NEW WINE DISCIPLESHIP YEAR

(Run by NISCU on behalf of local churches) Our interns come from the U.K., Brazil... and we are hoping for our first ones from Chile. They are aged 18-24 and are giving a year of their life to discipleship and service in local churches and Christian charities. Most are involved in youth and children's work, and make a vital contribution to schools work as well. It is one way NISCU gets to support churches in their ministry to children, young people and schools.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

••• **Matthew 28:19** •••

PRAYER POINTS

- For holiday clubs and programmes provided by local churches, that children and young people would hear the gospel.
- For youth attending summer festivals
- For good links between Christian holidays and festivals, and local churches

PRAYER POINTS

- Recruitment of interns to start each September/-January (including ones from Brazil and Chile)
- For local churches to manage and mentor interns in a local church, to invest into them for a year
- For interns' contribution to NISCU's schools work, including release of finance to have some of them work as trainee schools workers