

April

THIRTY YEARS AGO, I STOOD IN A LONG QUEUE TO CAST MY VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN THE LAND OF MY BIRTH. THE MOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS ONE OF OVERWHELMING CELEBRATION, WITH SOME APPREHENSION THROWN IN ON THE SIDE, BUT WE MOSTLY FELT FREEDOM THAT DAY. FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, THE MONTH OF APRIL BECAME KNOWN AS FREEDOM MONTH. FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT, AND WITH TWO MONTHS TO GO, LEADING TO ANOTHER ELECTION, THE MOOD IN THE COUNTRY IS ONE OF UNCERTAINTY AND TREPIDATION INSTEAD.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE AS CHRISTIANS HAVE JUST CELEBRATED A DIFFERENT KIND OF FREEDOM OVER THE EASTER SEASON. A FREEDOM OF THE SOUL. A FREEDOM FROM ALL THAT WHICH TRAPS US. FROM OUR OWN SNARES OF ADDICTIONS, PERFECTIONISM, INSECURITY, NEED FOR APPROVAL ETC. THE MESSAGE WE BRING THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR NATION IS A SIGNIFICANT ONE. IT IS THE FREEDOM OF VICTORY OVER SIN, WITH THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE. NO, IT IS NOT A POLITICAL FREEDOM BUT SOMETHING FAR DEEPER. NOW THAT IS SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8 verse 36

Monday, 1 | We give the Lord thanks for each Scripture Union family on this public holiday. We pray also specifically for the SU Algoa Fundraising Hike taking place today. The funding from today's activity is being set apart for their Summer Special Mini Camps for children.

Tuesday, 2 | Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the approved contract between PACT and our SU KZN region. We pray that the "Let's talk" programme will be launched with success and will expand our reach in and through our mission partners in this region.

Wednesday, 3 | Today we welcome Carine, as she joins our staff, as the campsite director for our SU Stoneyridge Campsite in Gauteng. We give the Lord thanks for the way that he has led us through the process of this appointment. We look forward to what God has in store for us through this site and our camping ministry.

Thursday, 4 | We thank the Lord for a successful SU International Conference recently held in Malaysia. South Africa was well represented by our young international ambassador in Anastasia Kaunda from SU Gauteng.

Friday, 5 | SU Western Cape gives thanks to the Lord for a successful Froggy Pond Boys Camp for underprivileged children. We pray that each leader will be refreshed following such intensive ministry and that each one of the 106 boys would take the hope they received back to their communities.

Saturday, 6 | As part of the 100-year celebration, SU Western Cape will be running their past staff dinner today. We are trusting for good attendance. Pray that it will be not only a joyous and memorable occasion but one that also connects and ignites vision and passion.

Sunday, 7 | Our heart for evangelism is key to what we do. In light of this, we pause to give you thanks, Lord, for the learners who recently gave their lives to the Lord at Mzontsundu High School in our SU Algoa region.

Monday, 8 | Father, we thank you for both successful Like skills programmes being run in Mazungula and Seyeisi Primary Schools within the broader SU Algoa region. We trust you for a deep impact in the lives of the children and volunteers.

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Tuesday, 9 | Our SU KZN region will be hosting their Missions Partners Training over the next two days. Father we pray for the relationships to grow and that the appetite for the gospel will be enhanced with wisdom and grace.

Wednesday, 10 | A number of regions have asked for prayer around safety of those working in schools. Our SU KZN region specifically has asked for God's protection as the elections draw closer. Lord, we commit all of our staff and teams to you and ask for your hand upon us, so that not a single staff member or volunteer will come to any harm.

Thursday, 11 | We ask for the blessing of the Lord upon the Beach Mission planning meeting taking place with SU KZN region today. We ask for guidance, good leadership and direction.

Friday, 12 | We are grateful for the equipping of our youth and children across the nation. In this regard, SU Gauteng gives thanks for their recent children's ministry training, whilst SU Western Cape is praying for their 25 youth leaders committed to a nine-month growth and transformation journey.

Saturday, 13 | Father, we lift up the three training events taking place today. We pray that the Children's Ministry Training taking place in Alexandra (SU Gauteng) will equip our children's workers to disciple many in the faith in their region. Secondly, as momentum builds within the SU Western Cape region holiday club training, we pray that not only the levels of competence will increase, but also the passion and calling for the communities from whence they come. Thirdly we also lift up their youth leaders training today.

Sunday, 14 | Lord, we thank you for the wonderful Easter Assembly programme which took place in the Pietermaritzburg region SU KZN. We are grateful for these open doors.

Monday, 15 | We thank the Lord for our Bookshop and resource team led by Grant Griffiths. Grateful for the team God has given and we pray that we will end our financial year strongly

Tuesday, 16 | Our Pact programme and new initiatives has added additional workloads upon our HR, Finance and IT departments. In the light of this, we lift up Sharon Viljoen, Lucinda Hendricks, Alice China and Mark Nadler before you, Lord.

Wednesday, 17 | Please join us in praying for the good health for our staff. In this light, Lord, we lift of Jodi Bridgens before you and her little baby Luca. We are trusting for full recovery and healing for baby Luca and for the increased connection between mom and baby.

Thursday, 18 | Under the Guidance and leadership of Maggie Mamorobela and Anastecia Kaunda from SU Gauteng, the school retreat of Loreto Queenswood will be run from the 15th to the 18th. Please pray for them.

Friday, 19 | We give thanks for the children's ministry training taking place in various centres across the country. Included in this was an opportunity to run a Peninsula Regional event in SU Western Cape for all of the Congregational churches.

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Saturday, 20 | We see our social media platform as potential for sharing the narratives of Scripture Union. Pray that our website and other platforms will be relevant and effective tools for increased traffic and usage. We pray for the blessing upon the role that Jaclyn de Kock is playing in this regard.

Sunday, 21 | Please join us in praying for Daryl Henning today. Daryl serves as our current national chaplain and life coach for key staff.

Monday, 22 | God, we bring our SU KZN SUIIS Unity meeting taking place today before you. May each school Christian group and member be inspired to take their learnings and calling back to their own school and mission field.

Tuesday, 23 | We are grateful for role that Alan Pitt plays for us. He is trusting for new work in the Kimberly region 2024. His role in Bible Engagement is key and he has requested wisdom with the development of resources in this space. Pray too for his involvement in the SU devotional for adults, Closer to God.

Wednesday, 24 | We bring our leadership teams across the country to you, Lord. We pray for Mariska de Beer as she leads us. We pray for strength, courage and discernment in all of her and our National Executive Committee's decision-making. Bless the leadership of Ant Ryan as Chair and each Chair of our regional committees along with our regional directors.

Thursday, 25 | SU Western Cape is gearing up for three pastors' breakfasts coming up next month. We trust you for meaningful connections and partnerships with the local church across this region.

Friday, 26 | There are numerous networking opportunities taking place for us as a movement. We ask you Lord to grant us wisdom and discernment in all our relationships and alignments.

Saturday, 27 | Please join us as we pray for the assets and properties God has blessed SU with. In some cases, we are looking to rent them out. In this regard we also pray for wisdom and favour for 83 Campground Road, Rondebosch.

Sunday, 28 | SU National is exploring and setting up an effective intern camping programme. Please pray that the Lord will lead us well in this endeavour.

Monday, 29 | With a month to go to our National elections in South Africa, we ask that you join us in trusting God for a peaceful and fair election process. We pray for your protection and will, O God.

Tuesday, 30 | We thank the Lord for the connections made in a recent visit from Mariska de Beer to the George/Mossel Bay area. Pray that the Lord will raise up the right people in this region to establish effective ministry, as we harness the resources and opportunities God is leading us to.