

April

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FREEDOM

HOW IRONIC IS IT THAT WE CELEBRATE BOTH FREEDOM DAY AND EASTER JUST A FEW DAYS APART- AND WITHIN THE SAME MONTH? FOR THOSE OF US OLD ENOUGH, YOU WILL RECALL THE ANTICIPATION, FEAR AND EUPHORIA, VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS A DEMOCRATICALLY FREE INDIVIDUAL OF A NEW NATION, BEING BIRTHED. THE EYES OF THE WORLD WATCHED A COUNTRY FREE ITSELF FROM ITS PAST. MY WIFE AND I STILL RECALL STANDING IN LONG LINES, WAITING PATIENTLY TO CAST OUR FIRST VOTES. HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF A NEW DAWN WERE EVIDENT ON THE FACES OF THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY FELT TRAPPED. THIRTY- TWO YEARS LATER, AND THE EMBERS OF THOSE HOPES LIE, IN SOME WAYS, SMOLDERING IN THE FIRE OF DESPAIR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A DIFFERENT FREEDOM THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS GET TO CELEBRATE. IT IS OF A SAVIOR WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR US, SO THAT WE MAY ENJOY ETERNAL FREEDOM. THIS FREEDOM CANNOT BE BOUGHT BUT RATHER RECEIVED. JESUS HIMSELF SAID THAT HE CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE, TO OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND AND TO SET THE OPPRESSED FREE, SO THAT WE CAN WALK IN THE LIGHT (LUKE 4: 18-19). FOR 44 YEARS I HAVE KNOWN THIS FREEDOM AND HOPE. AS THE SU FAMILY, WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL TAKE THIS EASTER TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE TRUTHS, AS WE TOGETHER CELEBRATE THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A BLESSED EASTER FROM ALL OF US AT SU.
DARYL HENNING

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Wednesday, 1 | On the first day of the month, we find ourselves in the middle of Holy Week, as a movement, preparing our hearts for the celebration of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. It is somewhat paradoxical too that today is also thought of as April Fools day. In the light of this we give thanks for the access we have to the wisdom of God.

Thursday, 2 | Please pray for many of our staff who will be travelling away for the Easter weekend. Pray for journey mercies, safe travel and a meaningful time together with family on this Maundy Thursday.

Friday, 3 Good Friday | Today we celebrate Good Friday as we join in with the worship and services of our local churches. We give thanks for the full sacrifice made on our behalf this day. As such we see today as - a Good Friday.

Saturday, 4 | We bring our SU Amatola Easter camp taking place over this Easter weekend, before you Lord. We trust for deep experiences with you and encounters with a living God over this weekend. May the death and resurrection take on a fresh meaning for those in attendance.

Sunday, 5 Easter | Rejoice! He is not here - He is risen. We celebrate the pinnacle of our faith on this day with Easter. It is the most signifying factor of our faith that Jesus Christ, not only died, but rose again so that we are set free to enjoy abundant and eternal life. The grace of this day sets us apart from all other religions.

Monday, 6 Family Day | We give thanks for a public holiday called "Family Day" today. So many families are experiencing trauma and are dysfunctional in South Africa. Enable our ministry to be sensitive and effective to the needs of the whole family.

Tuesday, 7 | SU KZN is most grateful to the Lord for their Encounter Worship event held within the Durban area. This is the first time that it has been launched in Durban, and we rejoice with the 25 first time commitments made. We give God thanks for the new area Support Team member in Dan Wicks and for his incredible support in ensuring the success of this event.

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Wednesday, 8 | With schools returning today, we give God thanks for the open doors and privilege we enjoy working in schools. In the light of this we are grateful for the 5 new active schools in Ladysmith and the growth witnessed by Peter Nuttall at a school in Pietermaritzburg, where 4 students started bringing friends along to what is now a burgeoning group.

Thursday, 9 | Please join us in prayer for the SU Western Cape Vision night taking place this evening. As the SU narrative is shared in this region, we pray that many will be encouraged and inspired again to support God's work in this region. We pray too that young people will "catch the vision" and run with it, in response to God's calling upon their lives.

Friday, 10 | SU Algoa and Eastern Cape wishes to give the Lord thanks for the connection with Link FM radio station and for the opportunity to be interviewed on the radio. Link Radio station boasts a listenership of 100 000 people.

Saturday, 11 | Lord, we bring the training events taking place in various parts of South Africa today. We pray especially for the training of youth leaders within the SU Western Cape region. May they be well equipped to reach the next generation. SU Algoa also requests prayer for their Supporters Missions Feedback Breakfast today.

Sunday, 12 | SU KZN has initiated what is called SU Sundays. These are opportunities where staff and mission partners represent SU at their and other churches within their region. Please pray that as they visit today, that our relationship with the local church will be enhanced as we serve them.

Monday, 13 | Scripture Union often receives wonderful opportunities and one of these has been the privilege to facilitate a Special -Needs school camp in Jeffries Bay. Together with SU Algoa, we give God thanks for the opportunity, lessons learnt, and the transformation which took place.

Tuesday, 14 | SU KZN has asked for prayer and wisdom for Garland, Jayce and Angel as they review and consider their donor base and donor relationships. We pray for favour, not only upon the relationships, but also the applications sent out to various sectors. Lord, provide the necessary resources required to fulfil their vision.

Wednesday, 15 | SU Western Cape appreciates the impact upon schools. A few weeks back, they had an opportunity to play an impactful role with key leaders at the Wynberg girls' High school. May their witness in the school long continue, Lord.

Thursday, 16 | We give God thanks for the appointment of Keenan Farquhar as Provincial Team Leader, today, as he settles into his 3rd month in the role. Keenan is grateful for the opportunities he has had recently to coordinate Vision Night and to speak at Christ Church Kenilworth, Wynberg Girls, mission partners training, and numerous other opportunities. We ask for the Lord's favour upon his life, as he leads the Western Cape.

Friday, 17 | We invite you to join us in prayer for the SU Algoa Teambuilder taking place within the school's context today. We trust you Lord for favorable outcomes and even through the team exercises, that young people and leaders will be drawn closer to God.

Saturday, 18 | Please pray for the SU Algoa Iron Man Corporate Fundraiser event taking place on this day. We pray for protection over the participants and for an effective fundraiser to boost the region. SU Western Cape will also be hosting their second Holiday Club training experience today. Today also marks the SU KZN South Coast Children's Ministry training within their region. May many children's workers be inspired within their calling, as they are equipped for the task at hand.

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Sunday, 19 | SU KZN requests prayer for Lesleigh, Jayce, Neo and their Mission enablers who are planning and actively involved in Church partnership. This is especially true for their Sunday taking place today.

Monday, 20 | We give thanks for answered prayer concerning the online Bookshop platform. It was down for more than two months.

Tuesday, 21 | SU Eastern Cape requests prayer for their Provincial Support Committee as they meet. We ask Lord for wisdom and guidance in their decision making. May they know the blessing of the Lord upon this region and its leadership.

Wednesday, 22 | SU KZN continues to trust God for a campsite where catering opportunities can be exercised. Thank you too for the excellent negotiations around the Glencairn campsite and the Rotary movement.

Thursday, 23 | Our focus today is for the resources and finances of Scripture Union as a whole. Please pray for the success of the "Back a buddy" initiative and for applications that have been submitted.

Friday, 24 | We give thanks for the ministry we enjoy among the deaf community. (SASL) We are grateful for the growth we are experiencing and continue to lift up Phumie and his team before you as they are trusting to expand their reach. Lord we ask that you bless this work with your presence and grace.

Saturday, 25 | SU Western Cape will be holding their Mission Partners training today. We give thanks for those who are willing to partner in Gods Kingdom, and pray that this will be a blessing both to the region as well as the individuals themselves.

Sunday, 26 | We thank the Lord for our volunteers who sacrifice much of their own time and resources to Kingdom work within Scripture Union. We pray for the blessing of the Lord upon them. May they find great fulfilment, purpose, and joy in their commitment.

Monday, 27 Freedom Day | From a political point this day is seen as a very important day in the lives of all South Africans. We give thanks for the prevention of a blood bath and the changeover to a fairly smooth transition. Lord we continue to lift up our nation to you this day for leadership, wisdom, guidance and protection at this time. Bless this land of ours!

Tuesday, 28 | With just about a month to go to the end of our financial year, we ask you Lord to give us the right strategies around our finances and resources. Help us steward that which you have given us with integrity, and lead us in our relationships with donors and potential donors.

Wednesday, 29 | We want to ask for prayer for both Trevor Saul our SU chair, as well as Mariska de Beer our General director. Kindly join us in prayer for those at the very helm of our movement. Grant them wisdom, guidance, discernment and grace to lead well, O God.

Thursday, 30 | We take the last day of the month to pray for our staff. We pray for those struggling with health challenges. We ask you Lord for healing and strength today. We pray too for their emotional and spiritual well-being. For those who are tired, we pray that they will be refreshed and enjoy good rest and sleep. Continue to bless their efforts in raising support, and the ministry in which they are involved.