

# Prayer for the



On 17 December 1999, in its resolution [54/120](#), the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day.

*"To the one who makes the lonely feel they are not alone, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for justice, who makes the oppressor feel as bad as the oppressed. . . . may her example multiply, May she still have difficult days ahead, so that she can do whatever she needs to do, so that the next generation will not have to strive for what has already been accomplished."*  
— Author Paulo Coelho, from his poem "To Shirin Ebadi," read at the Nobel Peace Prize concert in 2003.

## Read 1.

### (In our world)

Young people constitute a large and rapidly growing proportion of the population in most countries and in many parts of the world as a whole. These young people live in a rapidly changing world, faced with many pressures. Young people on the whole experience discomfiting confusion, disquieting irritations and perplexities, and adjustment problems as a result of rapid social change.

There is an increase in drug and alcohol use among youth leading to vandalism and disrespect toward their elders and authority. There also are teenage pregnancies and school dropouts. Illegal abortion is being practiced by many girls who sometime lead to premature death.

### We pray

Pray for a spirit of **Humility**. "The willingness to submit" (James 4:10)

Pray for a spirit of **Reverence**. "The fear of the Lord." (Proverbs 9:10)

Pray for a spirit of **Holiness**. "Christ-like behavior." (I Peter 1:16)

## Read 2

### (In our world)

Urbanization also has accentuated various kinds of evils and crimes influencing the day today life of the youth. Modernization and consumerism influences have helped to erode traditional values. The family system has lost ground rapidly, and the home-grown systems of education have largely disappeared.

## **We pray**

For a spirit of **Revelation**. “Learning to listen.” (Ephesians 1:15,18)

For a spirit of **Denial**. “A sacrifice to surrender.” (Luke 9:23)

For a spirit of **Integrity**. “The quality of truthfulness.” (Romans 12:17)

## **Read 3.** (Let’s turn our face to Africa)

The current socioeconomic and political conditions in Africa block the progress of the Africa youth. Early marriages complicate matters for youth and increase the burdens of youth, Coupled with lack of life skill training and opportunities to change hamper their aspiration. Many young Africans today have not known peace from the day their umbilical cords were buried. There has been fighting in Angola for thirty-five years, in Sudan for over twenty-eight years, in Sierra Leone for ten years, in Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) for over four years. Add to that many unreported armed conflicts within the continent.

## **We pray**

For a spirit of **Compassion**. “Love in action.” (Mark 8:1,2)

For a spirit of **Restoration**. “A ministry of healing.” (Isa. 61:1)

For a spirit of **Sensitivity**. “Openness of heart.” Luke 10: 30



**Read 4.**In spite of all these dull situations that have left the new generation in the trench of poverty, unemployment, disease and unawareness ,negative effect of modern life .as in all history, it is the young women and men that have always taken the banner of justice and freedom , been in the front line of championing the cause for freedom. We have witnessed the youth in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria and other unpublicized heroes of peace and justice.

## **We pray**

For a spirit of **Purpose**. “A wisdom to set goals.” (Proverbs 4:25)

For a spirit of **Unity**.“A respect for others.” (I Corinthians 1:10)

For a spirit of **Diligence**. “A willingness to work hard.” (II Peter 1:5)

**“Your mission is difficult, but to the eyes of faith, it is one that is grand, noble and divine”.**  
**SME GS Mission Calendar for 12August**

*Submitted by Ferew Lemma, NGO Regional Designate ECA (Addis Ababa)*