



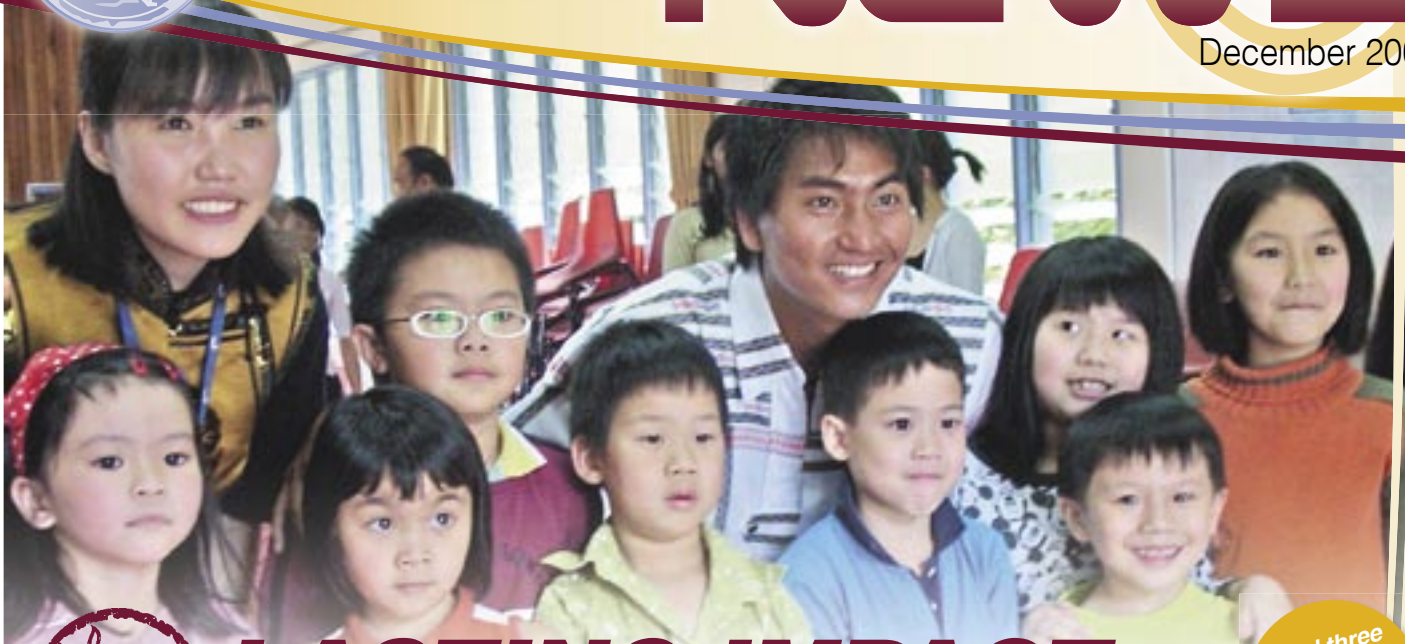
Unión Bíblica

Scripture Union International

Ligue pour la Lecture de la Bible

NEWS

December 2009



LASTING IMPACT – equipping new staff and volunteers

Read three stories from around the SU world...

ON Institute

East and West Asia Region

Orientating a new staff worker is like a trained and skilful midwife bringing a child to birth. She monitors the pregnancy, communicates meaningfully with the mother and is quick to detect even minor potential difficulties. ON Institute aims to bring forth a prepared and excited new staff worker for Scripture Union.

The first orientation course (ON Institute) was conducted by Scripture Union East and West Asia Region in 1993. The twelfth was held May-June 2009. Initially the course was conducted during October and November to coincide with Malaysian school holidays. 'ON Institute' is a shortening of October and November Institute, and also highlights the aim of helping new staff workers to get on with ministry.

ON Institute is divided into 2 segments: 1) formal classroom training for about 12 days; and 2) at least 6 days of field exposure, which includes participating in SU camps and rallies.

The classroom training covers 5 main areas:

1. **The Staff Worker and his Organisation** including the Aims, Beliefs, Working Principles and Hermeneutical Principles of Scripture Union.
2. **The Staff Worker and his Ministries** Scripture Union Bible Ministry, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry and Camping Ministry.
3. **The Staff Worker and his Relationships** which includes staff/council relationship, relating with home and local churches, team ministry.
4. **The Staff Worker's Personal Life** which covers topics such as attitude, coping with expectations and disappointments, ministering with integrity, personal management, proper use of free time and developing the inner life of a busy staff worker.
5. **Skills** on how to prepare and give a Bible message.

The lasting impact of ON Institutes comes, not so much from the lectures alone, but more through the group dynamics, discussions, sharing, praying together for each other after ON Institutes' experiential learning and group Bible study. While the teaching staff are senior workers, Council members and friends of Scripture Union in the Region, a staff member from the SU International Team is always included to give international input to this training event.

Every one of the twelve ON Institutes has been unique – and each has certainly been full of fun!

Koh Gim Lam
Regional Director,
East and West Asia Region



Coffee, cake and training...

Europe Region

Training and inducting new staff and key volunteers can be quite difficult for small SU national movements. SU Europe has addressed this by running a regional New Staff Training Course. The latest took place at the SU Germany Centre in Marienheide in November 2009. Once again the course was shared with the Britain and Ireland Region.

The key aims are to open new staff and key volunteers to a bigger picture of SU, while helping them think through some of the crucial issues facing SU workers. Simply being with people from different movements expands participants' picture and vision of SU – 26 movements were represented at the November 2009 course! These interactions give people a much bigger vision of SU and what it can be in their country.

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From the **Council Chair**

What is SU?

Sometimes when you are in the heart of a movement you can get caught up with all the work needed to enable the organisation to run effectively. You become preoccupied with structures, policies, budgets and reports. All that matters of course, but only in so far as it allows the work to go forward.

What is SU?

- It is a volunteer praying for a school group they hope to lead that week.
- It is a leader drawing together a team of people to run a weekend event for young people.
- It is someone taking time out at the beginning of a day to listen to God using an SU resource, whether printed or electronic.
- It is a youngster who has lost hope, being befriended and helped back onto the road again.
- It is lively worship and laughter, playing games and spending time together.
- It is seeing youngsters of an earlier day, now in positions of leadership in church and society because they found Christ and grew in Him through an SU ministry.
- It is leaders from all over the world coming to our Senior Staff Development Course, finding themselves part of an international family and forging friendships that will last for years.
- It is responding to a natural disaster and trying to provide help for the children caught in the middle.
- It is providing resources and training that help people discover their gifts, develop them and use them in Christian service.

This last year has seen the completion of our Strategy and Structure Review. Now the bones are in place, but we need to ensure that vision for the work, shaped by our Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles, burns brightly.

Let us pray for one another, stand with one another and work for Christ's Kingdom together through the ministry of SU.

Colin Sinclair

Chair of Council, Scripture Union International



Coffee, cake and training... from page 1

Central to SU, and to any induction or initial training program, are our Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles. However, looking at them in an international context brings a freshness that is often hard to achieve within an individual movement.

Basic skills in Christian ministry are a key part of the program and include: working with volunteers; partnering with other organisations; editing Bible notes; SU around the world; organising a camp; raising funds; and writing newsletters. The staff worker's personal life is addressed in areas such as: personal and spiritual development; coping with disappointment; work-life balance; my place in the team; and leadership principles. Hearing about what is going on in different countries gives people new ideas to take back to their home movements.

In the end however, Scripture Union ministry is about people, and good relationships are central. So the times in between the items on the program are extremely important – and not just for Marienheide's famous 'Coffee and Cake'! That's when people get to know each other, swap ideas and form friendships which can bear lasting fruit in their ministry at home.

Emlyn Williams

Regional Director, SU BIRC



Training *Africa Region*

In 2006, after much talking and praying, the SU Africa regional staff prepared a document on training for the Region, which was accepted by Council as our Training Policy. It has two aims:

1. To ensure that all SU staff are well trained and competent to perform the tasks for which they are employed. We discovered that some staff had no training at all – not to mention little understanding of the distinctives of SU.
2. To ensure that SU staff know that they are appreciated and cared for. Pastoral concern and encouragement of personal growth and development in areas outside their job descriptions are also vital.

Orientation Courses began sub-regionally and included input on: the *Character and Ethos of Scripture Union*, *Understanding the Context Children and Youth are Growing Up in*, *Time Management*, *How to Avoid Burn Out*, *Creative Communication* and *How People Learn*.

We have also developed specialist training courses in Children's Ministry (which include some theology, as well as practical skills training) and Camping. A course on *How to Train* is being developed.

This initiative has been well received. As the Ministry and Training Consultant for SU Africa, I have personally conducted many training courses both nationally and sub-regionally in Africa.

Mike Smallbones

Regional Ministry Training Consultant, Africa Region



Pauline Hoggarth retires in 2009

Pauline Hoggarth, SU International Bible Ministries Coordinator, retired in November 2009.

Pauline joined the international staff in July 1999 to focus on the development of Bible ministries. Prior to this, she served with Latin Link and was on the staff of SU England and Wales for a number of years, responsible for adult Bible guides.

With a personal passion for equipping and enthusing people for Bible ministry, Pauline developed the 'Word and World' resources to train writers of Bible guides. She also coordinated the development of the 'SU Statement of Hermeneutical Principles'. Her contribution to the Forum of Bible Agencies International has been outstanding, particularly in the development of the Key Factors in Scripture Engagement and the Consultation held in October 2009.

In recent years, working with other Bible agencies to develop research into the impact of the Bible listening of young people, Pauline has been involved in Regional Bible engagement forums. Pauline's contribution to the Global Training Strategy includes God's Word as Kingdom Manifesto, SU's Mission, The Kingdom of God, and other foundational material.

In retirement, Pauline hopes to be involved in exploring Scripture engagement at a more grassroots level. She will be greatly missed by colleagues, SU International Council and networks around the world.

Thank you Pauline!

The first meeting in Africa in 2003, between the International Bible Ministry Coordinator and a Swiss missionary working with SU in the Madagascar, could have been their only contact. But travelling together and taking part in a Writers' Workshop in the Democratic Republic of Congo gave Pauline and I the opportunity to begin to know and appreciate each other. We have often worked, shared, worshipped and listened to the Lord together – in Africa (Nairobi and Ghana) and in France (Paris and le Rimlshof), or via internet and phone. Pauline has become a friend who uses her sensitivity and rich experience to encourage, help, counsel and welcome my family and me. The fact that I'm still working with SU and am now editor of the French Bible notes in Africa (le Lecteur) is much due to Pauline. Along with all the French speakers in SU, I am grateful for the humility and constant efforts of the English Coordinator to adapt herself to our contexts, and to try to understand and to be understood in French.

Thank you, Pauline!

Your collaborator, brother and friend,
Daniel Besse

Helping people of all ages engage with Scripture with understanding

When Pauline Hoggarth joined the SU International Staff as Bible Ministries Coordinator, I was delighted to welcome a colleague who shared a passion – helping people of all ages engage with Scripture with understanding. Everywhere she has travelled, Pauline has keenly observed moments of encounter with God as children, families and ordinary folk of all kinds open the Bible and puzzle over its contents.

Whether in South America, Asia, Pacific or Europe she has invested in seeking to understand this amazing process better. As she observed, she learned and fed back this learning to others through her training workshops and writing. This has been her greatest gift to the SU movement.

Pauline is a true internationalist, passionate about the Kingdom of God, determined to face the really important issues in the world church and committed to serious reflection on Christian witness in the complexities of our global village. A natural networker, she has developed a circle of Bible-practitioners around the world that is second to none.

There have been times when I thought of her as a prophet (ess) to the movement – someone through whom God would speak a timely word. At other times, it has just been great to kick back, laugh long and hard about trivial things, and simply enjoy the adventure of being.

As she takes her leave of SU staff, we are all in her debt, and thankful to have had the privilege of working with a true servant of God. Thanks Pauline! Enjoy your retirement, wherever it takes you.

David Bruce

Executive Secretary, Board of Mission in Ireland formerly Regional Secretary for Scripture Union Britain and Ireland Region

Faith, Hope and Vision for 21st Century Europe

Jeff Fountain, Director of YWAM Europe and author of *Living as People of Hope* (IntialMedia), was the guest speaker at the SU International Team and Executive meeting in September.

Originally from New Zealand, Jeff has lived in the Netherlands since 1975. Using his extensive knowledge of European history, he spoke about the influence of Christianity and the Bible in the formation of European culture.

Jeff has a particular concern to help Christians understand their responsibility and respond to the appalling biblical illiteracy so widespread today. He believes this is compounded by secularist revisions of history and, until we recover our history, it will be hard

to recover our hope for the future. 'Our view of the future is often gloomy, and we are robbed of the Kingdom perspective, to see the Kingdom come on earth. This robs us of the belief that God will use us in the transformation of the world.'

Jeff explored how Christians might confront the realities of Europe today and spoke of signs of hope for the future. While with the SUI Team and Executive, Jeff and his wife Romke celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Janet Morgan

International Director, Scripture Union International



Child Protection, Safety and Care

The development of a guideline for minimum standards for child protection and safety policies is well underway. It is designed to guide SU Movements as they develop and implement their policies for the protection of children in ways appropriate to their context.

'Child protection is more than compliance with legal standards for child safety', says Wendy Strachan, SU International Children's Ministry Coordinator. 'It is our obligation as Christians and part of SU's commitment to the emotional, intellectual and spiritual welfare of the children in our care.' The guidelines reflect SU's Working Principles which state 'we aim to express God's Good News to children...not only in words but by building caring relationships with them' and... 'we have a special responsibility for children...who are...exploited'. They also reflect the intention and standards of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are grateful to SU Movements around the world who have developed extensive policies and practices, and have made this work available to SU International. The international guidelines are scheduled for completion and should be available in 2010.

Janet Morgan

International Director, Scripture Union International



AFRICA REGION

A New Era in the Sudan

SU ministry was greatly affected by the 21 year long civil war in the Sudan. It almost came to a standstill until recently when a new National Director, Charles Lumori, was appointed. We thank the Lord for the brave committee members who kept the name and ministry going, though at a very low key, due to difficulties associated with the civil war. A new era has dawned and the work is growing once again. Since SU in Sudan mainly works with secondary schools (high schools), which are currently fully operational everywhere in Southern Sudan, with churches and families, the doors of opportunity are wide open. There are many volunteers willing to serve with SU but they need training. The movement also needs training materials and funds to run the ministry.



SU ministry in schools in Sth Sudan

AMERICAS REGION

Costa Rica Children's Feeding Program

Do all you can for everyone who deserves your help. (Proverbs 3:27)

In 2001, in the Santa Rita community, San José de Alajuela, an elderly couple, don Mario and doña Maria, started to feed a small group of children. Doña Maria would sell 'apretados' (a typical local meal) and, with the profit, buy goods and cooked food for the children who came. SU Costa Rica helped by providing volunteers. In 2006 SU took over full responsibility for the program and, with the Lord's help and a group of donors, started feeding 50 kids. Meals are offered three times a week for the neediest children, who are carefully selected after completing a census of all the families living in the community.

Six volunteer ladies with excellent culinary skills prepare the food at the SU office. The meals are then transported to the City Hall where the children are fed. These premises are used free of charge in gratitude for our service to the community. While we serve the meals we chat to the children. They open their hearts to us, revealing their fears, anxieties, aggression and shyness. In simple ways they communicate their emotional health, spiritual needs and any lack of affection. This led us to start a Bible Club, using Bible stories, activities, group dynamics, songs, crafts and games to apply Bible truths to their lives.

Since these kids live with their families, there have been opportunities to share the Gospel with their parents, who are invited to a monthly activity. Where possible, we also offer them Biblical orientation and advice. We are very encouraged by the results we are already seeing in their homes and lives.

Carolina Bolaños
Program Director, SU Costa Rica



BRITAIN AND IRELAND REGION

An Action Packed Summer! – SU Northern Ireland

Picture the scene – a church hall packed full of children, young people, and leaders – some playing games, others doing craft and some studying the Bible together. Or how about a normally tranquil lake suddenly full of young people splashing around in canoes, trying to get their leaders as wet as possible but not fall in themselves! Or perhaps you might be able to imagine a group of boys on the beach praising God at sunset.

Scenes like this were happening all over Northern Ireland in July and August as SU Northern Ireland managed to squeeze 17 camps and 19 missions into an action packed 7 weeks. In total over 850 volunteers gave up part of their summer to share God's Good News with the 4,500 children and young people who attended the camps and missions.

Summer 2009 also saw a few firsts for SUNI. The leaders of the first Senior Scottish Camp saw amazing growth in character and maturity in the Christian lives of the campers, especially in those who had outgrown Mixed Youth Camp Scotland. A real mixture of boys from different backgrounds attended the first ever Football Camp. Alongside the many hours spent playing football, the boys heard the Gospel and engaged in discussion groups, encouraging and challenging each other. A new mission in Loughbrickland reached children from both sides of the community and saw some open the Bible for the first time. Another first was a camp for children with special needs run in conjunction with the Big House.

We saw God do amazing things this summer, with many encouraging stories of lives changed and eyes opened to the Gospel. The impact of summer 2009 will continue to change lives and last long after the flip-flops and shorts are packed away.

Catherine Reaney
Volunteer Development Officer, SU Northern Ireland



EUROPE REGION

Scripture Union Young Leaders Camp, Portugal

In the last week of July 2009 more than 20 young adults from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic joined with staff from Germany, Austria, Portugal and Australia for a special week. The Scripture Union Young Leaders Camp 2009 was held in Quintas do Norte, one of SU Portugal's two Camp Centres. The participants were all young leaders – experienced volunteers in their countries, working in churches, national SU movements and other ministries. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful surroundings – including a fabulous beach – and the international atmosphere.

Clayton Fergie presented the main sessions, focussing on the Kingdom of God. We asked the following questions: What does it mean to be a kingdom person? How do different Bible stories relate to my life and environment from a kingdom perspective? Participants could choose from a wide variety of workshops. Some focussed on personal development (spiritual growth, dealing with a personal crisis, spiritual temperaments), others on leadership skills (public speaking, counselling, strategic thinking).

One participant wrote: *I really liked the idea of an international camp. Maybe next time you can invite even more countries...It was motivating to see what Scripture Union does all over the world. I liked the program in general...it was a good balance between 'working/learning' and trips/free time/beach time...I also enjoyed not only learning theoretically but having practical inputs like serving in the old peoples' home. But...without our camp leaders and God's blessing this wouldn't have been the same camp!*

Benjamin Carstens
SU Germany



PACIFIC REGION

YouthServe, SU New Zealand – Serving a World in Need

YouthServe is urban mission in action. Running since 2006, YouthServe gives young people opportunities to put the words and deeds of faith together – not just serve and sacrifice, but to verbalise their faith in some more needy communities.

A five day event, YouthServe runs from 8.30am to 9pm each day. After breakfast there's a time of worship, reflection, training and teaching; then teams set off to work in the community for 6 hours. Projects have included: painting health clinics, working in homes for the elderly and schools, tree planting, a holiday week for disabled kids, presenting the Gospel through talks and drama, running a kids' street party, scrubbing graffiti and clearing rubbish from properties. In the evening, teams chill out, worship, discuss and download the day. They then head off back home (or to bed if residential) and return the next day to do it all again!



Recently, YouthServe 'Streetinvaders' has given this concept real traction. Working with a local church, a team of young people and leaders adopt a street and spend an entire week serving and meeting the needs of residents. Young people giving up time and paying to serve others in their holidays is unusual, so there are many opportunities to explain why. An increasing number of churches and communities are asking how they can train a team of young leaders and meet needs in their community.

Some YouthServe feedback:

There were tears in the eyes of the local dairy owners as team members sanded and painted over the graffiti-covered wall, replacing it with a lovely mural.

As a church we are extremely grateful for the servant hearts of these teenagers. They have planted seeds of God's love and hope in our community.

While we were working and filling the skip bins with rubbish, a group of kids came up to me and starting asking, 'Why are you so nice?' so I was able to tell them why we wanted to help, and share Jesus with them.

Knowing that they'd made a real difference to people in need and that their efforts had been appreciated gave them a strong sense of achievement. At the end of the week they were convinced that the friend who had gone skiing was the one who missed out and convinced him to come with them next time.

The potential for this ministry is great – it works on so many levels. Everyone is excited about the future.

Wayne Fraser
National Director,
Scripture Union in New Zealand



EAST WEST ASIA REGION

On The Mark

In 2008, Scripture Union International, through Koh Gim Lam, asked SU Hong Kong to translate into Chinese *On The Mark* (Scripture Union Australia, 1999), a booklet with the Gospel of Mark and personal testimony from 12 Olympians. The aim was to distribute *On The Mark* to children and young people in mainland China. As the 2008 Olympics in Beijing sparked intense interest in sport in China, *On The Mark* has the potential to reach thousands of young people with the Christian message.

The initial print run was so well received that it has been decided to print another 100,000 copies: 50,000 for primary school students and 50,000 for secondary school students. The cost, including printing, delivery and taxes, is about US\$15,000. Please pray that the Lord will provide the necessary funds as the SU Hong Kong team works on behalf of the Region.



See page 6 for more SU Around the World Stories >>>

Are there exciting developments in your area of ministry?

Send your news and photos to
a1admin@su-international.org



ISRAEL

2009 Camp in Israel

In 2009 we held one wonderful and blessed camp from 27-31 July in the Baptist Village. To our great joy, Phyllis Caldwell and her daughter Helen from SU Scotland came to help run the camp. Their presence and participation was a great blessing for us, and an immense spiritual and moral support.

Thirty-five children attended, with 12 leaders who worked, played, prayed and looked after them. Fifteen children from single-parent families needed special attention and care.

The camp program focussed on the story of Noah's Ark, using Bible teaching and group Bible studies. The children also joined in the worship group and presented sketches about the Ark theme. Each day games helped the children learn Bible verses, with a memory verse quiz at the end of camp. The children really enjoyed craft activities, which this year had a nautical theme. Morning exercises and sports were also a part of the daily program.

The children not only had a holiday and got to know one another, but most importantly, had time to study the Bible, get to know the Creator, have fellowship with Him, and spend time in private and group prayer. All this helped to renew and deepen their relationship with the Lord. We hope to see them again next year.

Ora Guler
SU in Israel



Multi-National TeenGames, Serbia

In any game or sport the ultimate goal is to win. But what is more important: the way we play or achieving that ultimate goal?

These and many other questions were asked by the participants of TeenGames. In small group discussions they looked closely at the life of King David, learning from his experiences, and building a bridge between the games they were playing and the Word of God.

One hundred teens from Serbia, Bulgaria and Slovakia attended TeenGames 2009, spending a wonderful week enjoying games and competitions, and the pleasant company of friends. Competitions included volleyball, football, basketball, chess, table tennis and



SOUTH ASIA REGION

Sunday School Training – SU Pakistan

The churches of Pakistan recognise SU Pakistan's expertise in the training of Sunday School teachers.

On 25 & 26 April 2009, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches Pakistan (NCCP), a Sunday School Teacher's Training Program was held near Lahore. Twenty-five young men participated, including Bible College students, and pastors who planned to train local Sunday School teachers.

The training sessions focussed on: Bible teaching for children; preparing and presenting a Bible lesson; teaching memory verses; singing; relating to children; and teaching children to pray. At the end of the training session all the participants were awarded with certificates.

One participant said: *I feel privileged that I participated in this training. (It) has broadened my vision regarding the importance of children's ministry.*

Danishmand Wasti
National Director, SU Pakistan

badminton. All the young people took part in the million hour compassion project serving a variety of environmental projects. One of the greatest encouragements was to see changes in the lives of young people. Valio comes from a non-Christian background and had no knowledge of the Bible, but he joined right in during the 2008 TeenGames. This year he invited his twin sister to TeenGames 2009.

The most important thing at the end of TeenGames is to finish strongly. Everyone concentrated on the goal and prepared to do battle, so that at the end they would be able to say, 'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith'. (2 Timothy 4:7) This was not only a goal for the end of another camp, but a wish for a lifetime. Finally the competitions and games were over, but the young people had won more than medals. They gained new friends, personal growth and a fresh look at God's Word.

TeenGames 2010 are planned for July in the village of Kovachevci, Bulgaria.

Radostina Milanova
SU Bulgaria



FOBAI Worldwide Scripture Engagement 'Hearts Burning' Consultation

In October 2009 over 30 SU staff and volunteers from around the world attended this conference in Malacca, Malaysia. The consultation, organised by the Forum of Bible Agencies, attracted over 250 participants from churches and various other Bible agencies. Malacca, the place where the first translation of the Bible into Chinese took place, provided the ideal setting for participants keen to explore how individuals, groups and communities can engage with Scripture in ways that bring about transformation. The program was rooted in sharing practical experience and considering how this influences our understanding of and approaches to Scripture engagement.

SU people made a significant contribution in planning, coordination, workshops, small groups and worship. Some comments by SU participants:

No big up-front names featured large, but God and the Bible and listening to the Spirit! The emphasis on practitioners' input, the depth of thought in content and balance of plenary, small groups and workshops, the unique gathering of experiences and settings of participants – all combined for a revolutionary yet welcoming and friendly event!

(Naomi Swindon – SU Victoria, Australia)

Only 20% of Beninese can read, so the SU daily guide only helps a minority. SU needs to take audio Scripture more seriously. **(Jacques Wella - Benin)**

One workshop in the 'Differing Convictions' track has changed my mindset on how I should engage with Hindu friends and neighbours. **(Elsie Cherian – Malaysia)**

There is still a place for individual study / devotion as part of our responsibility in the community. As they say on the plane, 'Put your own mask on first before helping others'!

(David Gichung'wa – Africa Region)

New National Directors

PACIFIC REGION

Solomon Maui

Director, SU Solomon Islands

SU Solomon Islands has appointed Solomon Maui as its new Director.

SU workers and Solomon (with guitar), with his wife Rachael and daughter Ina standing behind.



Albea Nalisa

National Coordinator, SU Vanuatu

Albea Nalisa, new National Coordinator for SU Vanuatu, and his wife Laku have 4 children. Albea, a gifted musician, is an elder with the Futuna Seaside Presbyterian Congregation. His passions are mission, preaching, planning events and working with youth.

Other News

AFRICA REGION

Sam Otigo, who has served as the Administrator in the regional office since April 2005, is taking up a new assignment with SU South Africa, Algoa Region. He will be based in Port Elizabeth. Sam wants to work directly with young people, rather than dealing with figures as an accountant. We wish him and his family well as they relocate.



SU International Executive

Congratulations to SUI Executive member, **Remo Paul**, his wife Susan and their son Adarsh on the birth of a second son, Jai Daniel, on 22 September.



EUROPE REGION

At the May 2009 Council Meeting it was decided to make changes to the Region's structure. The traditional geographical linear structure (e.g. local movement, sub-region, region) had the advantage of some cultural and language overlap, however it made partnerships outside this structure less likely. The new matrix structure is based on common ministries. The plan is to appoint three coordinators from the Europe Region to give about 24 days a year for three key ministry areas: Children, Youth and Bible Ministries. They would head up work within the Region and liaise with the corresponding Coordinator at International level. David Rossé from SU French-Speaking Switzerland is keen to take on Youth Ministry and hopefully others will be found for the first Key Ministry Forum in 2010.

CONDOLENCES



Photo from CMS-Victoria Inc.

Alan and Ada Kerr

The SU family was saddened to hear of the death of Alan Kerr AM on 24 June 2009 at the age of 91. Alan was General Secretary in Victoria, Australia, and a significant influence in the setting up of the SU International Secretariat in 1960. He was the first Chairman of the Anzea (Australia, New Zealand and East Asia) Council and also served as Chair of SU International and SU Australia. Alan's wife, Ada, passed away peacefully on 11 August 2009. Our sincere sympathy to the Kerr family.

2009

December

Pacific: SU Australia / New Zealand Directors' Network (1-3)

SUI: 2012 Leadership Conference Planning Meeting, Melbourne (7-11)

2010

January

Pacific: Regional Executive and Council Meetings (22-24)

February

Africa: Training of Leaders from the national movements in Central West Sub Region

March

SUI: Leading Staff Development Course (LSDC), Brackenhurst, Nairobi, Kenya (1-14)

April

East & West Asia: Region Executive Meeting (7-9)

May

Europe: Europe Board, Männedorf, Switzerland (3-5)

Europe: European Directors' Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland (5-9)

Africa: Africa Leadership Summit: (19-23)

Britain & Ireland: Region Council Meeting (12-13)

South Asia: Region Council Meeting (13-17)

June

SUI: Executive Meeting, Marienheide, Germany (7)

SUI: Team & Executive Meeting, Marienheide, Germany (8-11)

September

SUI: International Council, Nairobi, Kenya (24-27)

SUI: Executive Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya (28)

SUI: Team & Executive Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya (29-1)

October

[Lausanne III Congress, Cape Town, South Africa] (16-25)

Africa: Africa Regional Council, Johannesburg, South Africa (25-28)

November

Americas: Region Leadership Team Meeting (6-7)

Europe: Sub-Regional Conferences and/or Ministry Forums

December

Europe: Europe Board, Männedorf, Switzerland (1-3)

www.su-international.org

Also available on the SU International website:
Catalyst – Edition 5



Max7 Master Writers' Workshop

Six days were set aside in Orlando, Florida (30 Oct – 4 Nov) to bring together about 20 people from each continent of the globe as a next step in providing quality training and resources for discipling children.

Following the 2 Timothy 2:2 principle, the goal is to train specially chosen leaders in the principles of writing and sharing resources so that they can teach others.

More specifically, the goals of this time were to:

- 1 Strategise effective follow-up to KidsGames: to equip local churches to follow-up and disciple children after KidsGames; and to mobilise the KidsGames leader network to work with children every week in a Bible club.
- 2 Plan a One-Day Trainer Course: to write the essential strategies of discipling children as a first step to developing a more thorough future training course; and consider how to train the leaders needed to disciple up to 2 billion children.
- 3 Create a plan for contributing resources, including the translation, transposition, contextualisation and development of resources for each region or language group.
- 4 Empower teamwork strategies, to help each participant build a team in their home region.
- 5 Write lessons and other resources, learning how to use the different components of the New BibleMax curriculum and providing training on how to write contextualised lessons in our own cultures.

Simon & Penny Hood and Roy Meredith (Logosdor, Sydney), Michael Collins (Gospel Mission of India) and Terry Williams (SUI) facilitated the process.

Terry Williams

Children's Consultant, Scripture Union International

Global Children's Forum

Do you know what happens if you set up a trail of dominoes so that, as they collapse into one another, the last one falls into a box full of table tennis balls and loaded mouse traps? The outcome is far more dramatic and far-reaching than you could ever imagine!



In this last activity of the 2009 Global Children's Forum, we asked God to multiply our efforts so that His outcomes would be far greater than we can imagine. We had spent four days, largely in Action Groups, focussing on how to present a voice for children at Cape Town 2010, the Lausanne/WEA Congress in October 2010.

Our aim is to offer practical strategies and resources to local churches such as:

1. *Advocacy* to shape the message and resources to help the global church serve children more effectively in evangelism and discipleship.
2. *1 for 50 Initiative* to train and equip enough children's workers to provide a concerned and equipped leader for every 50 children in the world. Scripture Union national movements will be invited to participate.
3. *Open Source*: to develop an open-source resource to be made freely available across the world. The starting point is a DVD of Bible resources in around 40 languages to assist in evangelism and discipleship. The DVD would be distributed to as many as possible of the world's 2.6 million churches.

We welcomed Luis Bush, the visionary behind the Transform 4/14 Generation Movement, which held its first Congress in September 2009. GCF and the 4/14 movement have a similar vision. We will be working together to complement one another's efforts. Please celebrate our deepening unity of purpose, and pray that the outcome for children will be as explosive as those table tennis balls and mouse traps!

Wendy Strachan

International Children's Ministry Coordinator