



SCRIPTURE UNION



# global news

stories and news from Scripture Union around the world

March 2017



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Scripture Union International  
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## International Director

# a moment in time

THIS YEAR SU will be celebrating 150 years since God called Scripture Union into being. It began with the vision of a young man named Josiah Spiers whose occupation was an office clerk. In 1867 church services in England were not suited to children who were expected to simply sit still and be quiet. Josiah believed that children could have a living and vibrant relationship with God and could understand the Bible if presented in a way suited to them. Inspired by a visiting children's evangelist from the USA, Josiah started special meetings for children in a friend's home. The first was held on 2 June 1867 with 15 children.

The meetings grew so fast that soon they had to use a local church schoolroom. Josiah called the ministry CSSM,

Children's Special Service Mission, a Movement that would spread across the world and one day be called 'Scripture Union'.

From that small beginning, Scripture Union has expanded to a community of over 130 Movements in over 120 countries worldwide, each with the same aim of working with the churches, a) to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families and b) to encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer, so that they may come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need.



Today, Scripture Union is fulfilling this mission through indigenous leadership and specialist programs and ministries, carefully designed to fit the context of each country and culture.

We invite you to join us in a year of celebrating what God has done and is doing through the ministry of Scripture Union around the world; a Movement that has not just lasted but is vibrant and growing.

**Janet Morgan**  
SU International Director

# celebrating our big birthday



## Praying all year

In this 150th anniversary year in which we celebrate the way God has blessed Scripture Union, SU's International Chair, Colin Sinclair, and International Director, Janet Morgan, have issued a challenge to make 2017 a year of prayer, for the ministry of Scripture Union around the world.

### Special Day of Prayer

On 2 June 2017, SU England and Wales will hold a day of prayer and celebration at the actual site where Josiah Spiers had his first children's meeting. We want to join them by making this a global day of prayer and celebration so please put the date in your diary and celebrate and pray wherever you are.

... trace the story of the growth of SU on pages 4 & 5.

## 'Congratulations SU!'

Warmest Congratulation to Scripture Union on its 150th Anniversary. May you never lose your vision and always be guided by your aim, belief and working principles.  
**Colin Sinclair** (SUI Chairman 2004 - 2017)



God moves in mysterious ways indeed. His Holy Spirit prompted a man to tell of His love to children on a beach in Wales - and see what we have 150 years later! Looking now to the future, we can confidently affirm that our God in ages past is our hope for years to come.

**Emmanuel Oladipo** (SU International Secretary 1992 - 2005)

As we mark SU's 150th Anniversary and the ongoing implementation of the Living Hope declaration (*The Jacksons Point Accord*) let us not overlook the lessons that the Lord has taught us as a Movement. In particular the value of our keeping together the twin thrusts of evangelism and encouraging the meeting of the Lord daily in Bible reading and prayer, so that 'His Word may be at work in those who believe' (1 Thess 2:13).

**John Dean** (SU International Trainer Officer)



The formal way to say 'hello' in Irish, is literally to say 'God to you': Dia dhaoibh (pronounced JEE-uh YEE-iv). It gives me the greatest pleasure to greet all our International family of Scripture Union in this 150th year since the movement started. May God continue to be all to you.

**Robbie Burns** (Chairman, International Council 1997-2004)



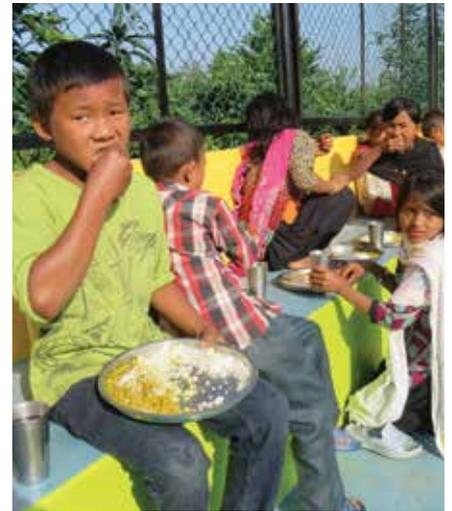
# a day in the life of SU?

WHAT DOES Scripture Union ministry look like in 2017? During this 150th anniversary year we would love to capture 'A Day in the Life' of Scripture Union ministry. We hope this will become a record of what SU ministry looks like at this point in our history - but we need your help! Please could you make a note to take a photo on **Monday 31 July 2017?**

We'd like you to capture what Scripture Union ministry looks like in your country/ state 150 years since God called us into existence. Your photographs will form a collation of photos from around the world which will be a permanent record

of how God has helped SU develop over the years. The photos will need to be high resolution images of any part of your ministry, from camps or clubs to meetings and services. Wherever possible we'd prefer the photos to include children and young people. Once you have some images to choose from select your best 3-4 pictures and email the jpeg files to us at [su150@scriptureunion.global](mailto:su150@scriptureunion.global).

We will collate a photo diary of events on the day which will appear on the website and if we have enough good images we'll compile a book to capture a flavour of SU life in 2017.



## our 150th celebration resources



**YOU MAY** already be busy celebrating our 150th anniversary which is great news. But if you are still making plans and looking for inspiration here are a few extracts from our 'How-to Guide' that was sent to Movement Directors and Chairs in February 2017. Feel free to adapt and customize these ideas and resources for your local context.

• **Global Children's Bible Resource**  
A new resource for engaging children with the Bible, using contextualized methodology is being developed this year. 'The Story for Today' will help children to understand God's Big Story and the part that God invites them to play in it. It can be used in many ways: as a conversation starter about God's activity in our world, as a guide to how

God has been at work in human history, as an in-depth look at a specific passage and as an interactive tool to help children talk about faith. **Look out for more details in our 150th anniversary updates.**

• **150th Anniversary Video**  
We have a new video that tells the SU global story which will be available in March via the website. We hope you will use it to enhance and promote your 150th Anniversary plans and any events you are running. Don't forget to add it to your website. Let's tell the world about what God is doing in SU! (Special thanks to SU Switzerland-German-speaking for their work on creating this wonderful video.)



• **150th Anniversary Logo**  
You can use the new logo in a range of colours to add a touch of sparkle to your Bible guides, websites, publications and posters. Download our special SU anniversary logo here: <https://scriptureunion.global/news/150th-anniversary/>

• **150th Anniversary Updates**  
As we approach the Global Assembly in November 2017, we will be sending updates to all Council/Board Chairpersons and all National Directors. Keep an eye out for these as they will keep you up-to-date with any new resources as well as finding out more information about the Global Assembly, the appointment process for the new Global Board and a new International Director.

• **International Week of Prayer**  
In addition to the Day of Prayer on 2 June, our annual week of prayer will run from **6-10 November 2017**. Please get this into your Movement's calendar. More details will be available closer to the time.



# our timeline....

In the north of England, Annie Marston, wanted to encourage the children in her Sunday School to read the Bible daily. CSSM agreed to help and the first Children's Scripture Union Bible reading card appeared on **1 April 1879** attracting 6,000 members.



**2 June 1867** Josiah Spiers gathers 15 children in the drawing room in Islington, pioneering a new approach to sharing Christ with children.



In **May 1960**, 21 leaders from 12 countries gathered at 'Old Jordans' in England for a historic conference. A 'regional' framework was agreed giving the established Movements around the world responsibility for development in their geographical areas.

**1867**

**1879**

**1892**

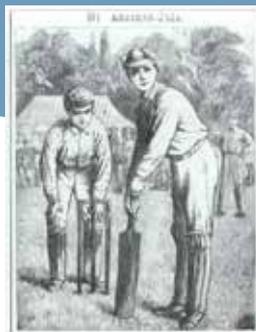
**1923**

**1960**



**August 1868.** On holiday in Llandudno, North Wales Josiah drew the words 'God is Love' in the sand and encouraged the children to decorate the letters with shells and seaweed. The first beach mission was born.

In **August 1892** a group of 55 boys arrived at a camp in Littlehampton on the south coast of England. This was the first-ever Christian camp for young people. It became an instant success which was copied around the world.



By **1893** CSSM had distributed 13 million children's leaflets in fifty languages all around the world.

The first Scripture Union 'notes' are published, **1923**



Campsite in Vennes, Switzerland opens, 1934



Tom Bishop, began running similar meetings to those in Islington for children in South London. He and Josiah began working together under the banner CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission).



1883 Adelaide Whitney pioneer in Japan



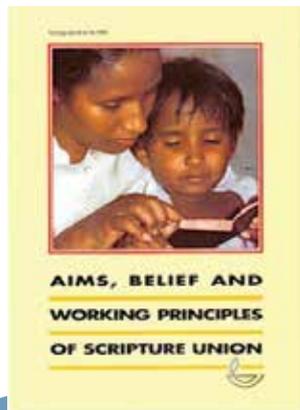
1901 Roddy Archibald pioneer in India



Edmund Clark pioneer in Australia

Under the governance of CSSM in England, CSSM & SU spreads to other countries

## continuing to make the Good News known to children, young people and families



In **1985** at an international conference in Harare, Zimbabwe the Aim, Belief Statement and Basic Philosophy of SU are agreed.

Ministry continues to diversify with growth in Schools ministry, camping, holiday activities, and special ministries such as 'Aid for Aids' values education, work with street kids, and ministry to orphans.



Many SU bookshops are sold as the priority is placed on creating resources for ministry.



SU responds to an increasing digital world with online, social media and app based Bible ministry resources.



In **2014** SU begins the transition to a new Global Framework for a truly global Movement. Community groups begin to meet for ministry and leadership development and resource sharing

# 1985

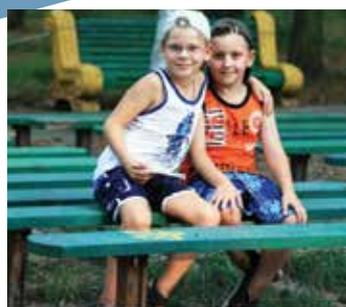
# 1992

# 2001

# 2012

# 2017

As communism collapses in the late 80's SU begins to grow in Eastern Europe, East Asia and Former Soviet Republics



In **May 1992**, 692 SU staff and volunteers from 92 countries gather in DeBron in the Netherlands for the SU International Conference. The focus was on SU's vision and celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Movement The next International Conference takes place in **2001** in Nottingham, England with over 800 participants.



In **2012** SU globally embarks on the Living Hope initiative. It is carried out in 3 phases -Listening, Discernment, Action. At an international gathering in Kuala Lumpur Priorities for Ministry, Leadership and Organisational Development are agreed.

As we enter into our **150th** year, SU is now in 120 countries and growing. In November leaders from the global community around the world will gather in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for 'Fuel the Future'. The primary focus will be on vision for the future, development of SU ministry, and sharing resources. A new Global Board will be elected and we will celebrate 150 years since God called SU into being.





# fuel the future

2017 IS a special year for Scripture Union. We are celebrating 150 years of ministry and praise God for His care and provision. But being immensely thankful for God's blessing over the past 150 years, this is not where we want to stop. Rather we want to look into the future and prepare ourselves so that we may serve children and young people even better in the years to come.

The Global Assembly will be an important step towards this goal:

1. Key leaders from around the globe will have the opportunity to learn from each other, get to understand excellent practice on new and existing ministry models, as well as start conversations about collaboration.
2. Inspirational speakers will help us gain some insight into the joys and challenges of discipling the next generation of

children and young people. The efforts we have been working on to develop a new structural framework that will allow better collaboration between our ministries worldwide will come to a first conclusion with the election of the new Global Board at the Global Assembly.

Of course we will also celebrate what God is doing around the world and share our ministry stories. We will say farewell Janet Morgan (International Director) and Colin Sinclair (International Chairman) and welcome the new Director and Chairman. We will strengthen old and new friendships between leaders and enjoy the fellowship. But most of all we hope to *fuel the future*, so that we might be equipped to reach out to the new generation of children, youth and families.

by **Monika Kuschmierz**



# scriptureunion.global now online

SUs REDESIGNED website [www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global) is now live and reflects our identity as a global SU ministry. The new site is designed to tell the story of SU across the world, with a page for every national movement, which includes photos, information about the ministry, contact details and staff and the country demographics, along with an opportunity to give to the ministry. Please do add the link to your Movement's website and list it on all your publications and promotional material.



# here to serve everyone

ONE OF the priorities identified through the Living Hope initiative, was to ensure we were reaching children and young people who are at risk or excluded. As a result there has been a growing concern in SU to develop ministry with children and young people with disabilities and to increase the inclusiveness of these children in SU programs around the world so they, too, may know God's love and follow Jesus.

Responding to this, a Consultation is to be held from 5 - 9 May at SU's campsite, Le Rimlishof, in France with practitioners from SU Movements such as Canada, France, New South Wales, Serbia,

Scotland, England and Uganda. These are Movements who have built different models and approaches to ministry with those with disabilities. These models will be used to develop principles and guidelines for development in other countries and so that we move toward maximum inclusiveness in SU programs around the world. The participants are also committed to providing coaching for other Movements who would like to develop special programs and to be more inclusive in their current programs. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities in your Movement please contact: [beckys@su-international.org](mailto:beckys@su-international.org)



## Scripture Union International

### Farewells

We thank God for **Moise Wagbe** and his committed service with **SU Togo**. After joining as a volunteer supporting school work, he became Acting National Director in 2012. We are grateful for his language skills and his contribution to the lifeskills programme in schools. Moise has left SU Togo to serve full time with Prison Fellowship and we are grateful for his tremendous contribution for the past six years. We pray for success and fruitful ministry in the future.

**Helen Warnock**, the General Director of **SU Northern Ireland**, has resigned to take up the post of Principal of Belfast Bible College. Helen was General Director of SUNI for 13 years. Helen was instrumental in shaping the direction of SU's work in Northern Ireland including the formation and development of



seven E3 Schools Districts, growth in the camps and missions work and the production of exciting resources. She has

been a catalyst and leader in developing thinking around youth ministry. We wish her every success and God's blessing as she takes on this important and challenging role.

**SU New South Wales** Australia said farewell to **Jeff Mann** Operations Director on 16 June 2016. Jeff is now working in Outdoor Education at The Scots College Glengarry campus.



We are grateful to Billy, and his wife Yashmin for the encouragement they have been to the Movements in these countries. With various changes and new demands on UB Perú, an opportunity arose for Billy to return to their staff, providing strategic support to the National Director. We pray God's blessing on him as he takes up this new role.



**The Revd Tanton Subagyo**, **SU Indonesia** National Director, stepped down from his position in June 2016. Tanton served as a foundation member and we are grateful for his strong commitment to Bible ministries and service to SU.



**Billy Clark** joined the Global Team to support the staff and volunteers in **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Bolivia** in developing their Movements and ministry.



**SU International** is very grateful for the leadership of **Whitney Kuniholm** who completed his service as SU International's 150th Campaign Coordinator at the end of September

2016. He served as **SU USA** President for over 19 years and is the author of The Essential series including E100, Essential Jesus and The Essential Questions. He continues to speak, write and consult on Bible Engagement. The SU/USA Board of Directors recently named him as President Emeritus of SU USA.

### Condolences

**John Lane**, former State Director of **SU Victoria** in Australia, and National Director of **SU Australia** passed away in October. John made a huge contribution to SU globally in SU's Bible and children's ministry. Pauline Hoggarth, SU's former Bible Ministries Coordinator, writes, 'I thank God for every memory of John and for the privilege and enjoyment of working with him. Along with countless others we thank God for every memory of him.'

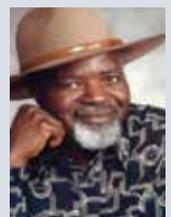


hearts of many, especially in relation to children and Bible ministry and pastoring the elderly.' Matthew praised her example of servant leadership.

**Glen Simpkins**, former Director of **SU Northern Territory**, Australia, passed away on 21 July. Glen began his ministry with SU New South Wales in 1997, taking up the role of Director of SU NT in 2008. His colleague and friend, Glenn Coombs, said, 'Glen's passion was that 'young hearts' would hear and follow Jesus. He is a great example of someone who said, 'yes' to Jesus a long time ago, and kept saying 'yes' by giving 110% to his ministry, to his family and us all.'



communicator and life-evangelist, who left behind an unmatched testimony and a strong legacy as a teacher and preacher of the Gospel. He often shared his passion from Philippians 3:13, 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...' We thank God for a life lived to the glory of God and to His service.



**Lucia Cheung**, previously **SU Hong Kong's** General Secretary, and also a member of SU E/W Asia's former Exco, passed away in August after suffering from liver cancer. Matthew Wong, SU Hong Kong's GS writes, 'Lucia joined SU Hong Kong in 1986. Her preaching and teaching moved the



**The Revd Dr Phineas Dube** passed away on 1 January. He was a leader for **Scripture Union Zimbabwe** and will be remembered as a mentor, Bible student,



**Gunaseelan Jeevaraj** went to be with the Lord on 7 January at the age of 58, after suffering a heart attack. Please pray for his family as they grieve the loss. Jeevaraj was the previous General Secretary of **SU India**. He was passionate about helping Tamil people read Scripture in their mother tongue with the help of the SU Tamil Bible guides.



## Partnering with YouVersion

SU NORWAY, with their partner organisation, Norea Radio, have been uploading thematic Bible studies for youth on YouVersion in Norwegian since 2015. Other SU movements have also had their notes uploaded. YouVersion has invited SU to support them by providing topical, thematic, seasonal or regular Bible studies in languages that they don't have online yet. Some of the languages they have indicated interest in are Chinese, French, Spanish, German, Korean and Russian. They will provide a direct link back to your website if you make the notes/studies available for their use.

This does not need to affect your sales income. You could send them notes that have been used in a previous year or you could also adapt your current notes and offer a thematic version, directing them to the full set through the link on the YouVersion site. YouVersion will digitize the notes for you. If you already have a relationship with YouVersion in your country or you might like to pursue this opportunity, or for any questions get in touch with Becky Swamickan (beckys@su-international.org).

## in search of Digital Resources

Moving into this year of celebration also signifies we live in a different context to that of Josiah Spiers – the digital age. We are wanting to map the various SU resources that are available online to help give ideas to other movements. If you have digital resources available on your website, or as an app, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Becky Swamickan beckys@su-international.org, providing her with links to your resources.



## SU Global Team

WE ARE very pleased to welcome **Rachel Farmer** and **Davi Krukalis** to the SU Global Team. Rachel takes on the part time role of Communications Manager. She has a background in journalism and has worked in communications for the Church of England and more recently with the world-wide Anglican Communion. Davi has taken on the part time role of Field Development Director serving Latin America. From Brazil, Davi has served with Scripture Gift Mission/Lifeworlds Brazil. He has a background in business with a focus on marketing and promotions. Please pray for Rachel and Davi as they take up these new roles. We look forward to their contributions to the SU family.



## Prayer headlines

Please pray for these key events...

- **March**
  - 27-28 International Director interviews
- **May**
  - 5-9 Working with young people with disabilities consultation, Le Rimlishof, France
  - 11-14 Europe Council, Le Rimlishof, France
  - 16-20 East Asia Transition Leadership Team meeting, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  - 21-25 Global Assembly Planning team, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **June**
  - 2 Global Day of Prayer. 150th anniversary of Josiah Spiers first meeting in London
- **July**
  - 3-13 Africa English Bible Guide Writers training of trainers, Nairobi, Kenya
- **October**
  - 5-8 East Asia Transition Leadership Team meeting, Bangkok, Thailand
- **November**
  - 6-10 Global Week of Prayer
  - 10-14 Global Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Giving to Scripture Union

We are grateful for the prayer, financial and other practical support from so many around the world who join us in ministry partnership. If you would like to give a gift to any of the ministries mentioned in this edition of *SU Global News*, or to any other SU ministry around the world, it is easy to do.

**Australia:** Scripture Union International Council, BSB: 032-523, Account No: 213677

**UK:** Scripture Union International Council, Sort Code: 405 240, Account Number: 00006064

From other countries, by credit card, or by other means, please see: <http://scriptureunion.global/donate/>

### Credits:

*SU International News* is a publication of SU International Council

**This Edition:** Editorial Team:

Jenny Stewart, Janet Morgan, Rachel Farmer, Sue Stott and Ruth McIntosh

**Production & Design:** Rachel Farmer

**Photos:** SU National Movements and staff members provided the photos included in this edition.