



Vibrant young people experience Internship in Ghana
 Page 4

Connected Mission

Recently I watched the Olympic flame taken on a spacewalk – live on my computer. The world (and space!) is now amazingly connected, and not just because of the internet. Air travel is cheaper than ever and the world seems to be sinking under the weight of cars. We can communicate easily with people from near and far. What an opportunity for ministry!

Great opportunities

- **Open borders.** We can connect easily and cheaply with children and young people around the world, but also with each other. Are we using those opportunities or just doing what we've always done?
- **Easier networking.** Got a problem or need ideas? Skype some friends. Have a phone conference. Message each other. How can we be a connected SU community?
- **Immediate prayer.** News spreads fast. The SU International Week of Prayer showed how the connected world can transform our intercession. How can we extend our prayer for each other even more?
- **Abundant information.** Sharing ideas and resources is easy: just look at www.Max7.org. We can keep up with

global trends and learn from each other. How can we help each other more effectively?

All of this is exciting but travel and communication are not new, just easier. The apostles got around and communicated without aircraft and the internet! Paul went to Rome and wanted to go to Spain (Romans 15:24). Thomas got to India in 52AD. Bartholomew and Thaddeus probably went to Armenia around 60AD. Later, missionaries reached China before 635AD. In the eleventh century a third of the world's Christians were in Asia – and 10% in Africa.¹ So there's no room for complacency.

But there are dangers too.

Worrying dangers

- **Losing sight of individuals.** The world is huge – vast numbers of people need Jesus. But they are all individuals. The good shepherd connected with the single lost sheep, not just the large flock.
- **Power staying with the few.** People with education, language skills and finance can have more than their fair share of influence. But we want to hear from the whole SU community, not just a few people and movements. There

are sad lessons from secular history. In 1885 Western nations meeting in Berlin, divided up Africa among themselves. No Africans were present and only two of the people there had ever set foot in Africa. Most of those borders still exist.

- **Over-dependence on technology.** Technology is powerful but not everything. Microsoft founder Bill Gates said that while 'technology's amazing, it doesn't get down to the people most in need in anything near the timeframe we should want it to'. It's not the only – or perhaps not even the most important – solution.
- **Relying on ourselves.** The more we can do ourselves, the harder it can be to trust God. A hundred years ago the slogan of the mission community was 'The Evangelisation of the World in this Generation'. They thought they could do it, but didn't. Vision isn't enough.

It's a great time to be alive and serving God. How are our connections?

Emlyn Williams
 Former Regional Director
 SU Britain and Ireland

1. The Lost History of Christianity, Philip Jenkins – Lion, 2008

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Wave of Prayer

Around the world in 108 hours – that was November's International Week of Prayer. This fresh approach engaged the whole SU family in prayer in a new way. And along the way relationships were forged and strengthened. The wave started in New Zealand and ended in English-Speaking Canada. Every movement covered a one hour slot in prayer – a five day global wave of prayer.

The Living Hope Facebook page brought a new dimension. More than 50 movements posted requests and later shared news and photos of their prayer gatherings. As the week passed interaction increased: comments on prayer requests, encouragements, affirmations – information turned into relationship.

There was joy and celebration, events and publications – even SU Slovakia's 22nd birthday. Stories of volunteers and staff brought it all to life. Not least were the personal tragedies: a life member of SU Kenya undergoing kidney dialysis and the untimely death of an SU USA staff member, Rich Patterson. We are people and families, not just organisations and ministries.

The reality of life in many places became clear: the terrorist attack in Pakistan, civil unrest in Bulgaria, the impact of the economy on young people in Greece. Most immediate was SU Philippines' request for prayer about the imminent typhoon. Underneath all this was serious prayer for the young people we're called to serve.

So now it's all over. Or is it?
The Facebook page is still there...



Janet Morgan
International
Director



PUBLISHING FOR YOUR MINISTRY

New Training Project

What happens when a camp ends? We often wish that campers could take something significant back to their daily life. Would you like to have a Bible engagement resource in your language to give to them? And would you like to learn how to publish similar resources at the same time? The SU International Publishing Group (IPG) is offering to help you do that. The resource will contain 14 days of easy Bible reading, an introduction to the SU Bible reading method and a variety of additional materials, suitable for children aged 8 to 12. Participation is open to all SU movements.

This is what will happen:

- **February 2014** – an initial electronic meeting to explain the process and what is needed to complete the publication
- After that, Bible reading passages will be sent to you – you can write your own reflections or translate those already prepared
- **September 2014** – a two week production track with live online sessions to help you enter your text into the provided layout template
- We will then assist you to get it printed if you need that
- **April 2015 or before** – the published resource will be ready for use

If you would like to participate in this exciting IPG initiative, please contact Terry Clutterham, SU England & Wales (TerryC@scriptureunion.org.uk) or Erzsébet Komlósi, SU Hungary (erzsebet.komlosi@szentirasszovetseg.net).

Bible Engagement Web Resources

Recent issues of SUI News have highlighted a number of web-based Bible Engagement resources. This area is continuing to grow, and excellent partnerships are developing between SU and other agencies. Here are some you can explore now.

Wordspace: SU South Africa is a partner: <http://thewordspace.mobi>

E100 Youth App: developed by SU Switzerland (Fr): <http://www.e100youth.com>

Ze Bible: SU France is a partner: <http://zebible.com> (in French); <http://www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/international/reading-the-bible/france> (in English)

E100® Growth

The Essential 100 Challenge (E100®) programme is continuing to grow around the world. To date over 2.5 million people have taken the challenge and the programme has been translated into 20 languages. In addition, the companion book, *The Essential Bible Guide* by SU USA President Whitney T. Kuniholm, has sold over 200,000 copies.



In January 2014, SU USA is launching the much-anticipated Youth Version of *Essential 100* and *Essential Jesus*, featuring well-known US youth leader, Doug Fields (above). In addition to the popular punch-out cards, the Essential Youth programmes include a newly-written *Youth Edition Study Guide* and a series of 20 teaching DVDs hosted by Doug Fields, for use with students. 'We're especially excited about these Essential Youth programmes,' said Whitney, 'because they are a wonderful expression of SU's mission – engaging the next generation with God's Word.'

Living Hope Future Framework Development

The process for development of a new SU 'operational framework' is well underway. The first draft report sent to movements for their response outlines the principles on which it will be developed. The key principle is that any framework must serve the mission to which God calls us and be appropriate for this time and stage of SU's life and ministry. We ask that you respond using the form provided, as your responses will guide the Process Steering Team. We want to ensure that every voice is heard.

After the Process Steering Team meets in March we will circulate a draft framework. Again we will ask for response and have planned a consultation process for further discussion. A final decision will be made by SUI Council in September 2014. Please continue to pray as we seek to identify the organisational model that will best serve SU in the future.

Consultation on Other Faiths

One of the priorities identified through the Living Hope process, was a desire to think more carefully about how we work with children and young people of other faiths. In October, a small group of SU staff and consultants met in Bangkok to take a first step in this exploration. The group included the SU International Director and Ministry Coordinators, staff and volunteers from SU Indonesia and SU Pakistan, and consultants from Compassion, The Feast (UK), Oasis India, and Interserve. Participants had the opportunity to share from their own context and experience. Together we identified and explored theological, political and social issues related to other faiths' ministry.

Steve Bell, the Director of Interserve UK shared helpful missional perspectives that have been shaped by both study and experience. He urged us towards a 'grace and truth' response that is neither naïve nor hostile.

Consideration is now being given to how we share the outcomes of this 'mini-consultation' and broaden the discussion particularly with Movements where this issue is critical. We pray that God will give wisdom as we seek to develop other-faith ministry that is characterised by integrity, honesty and compassion.

Major Leadership Training Event in 2014

The next Leading Staff Development Course (LSDC) will take place 9–23 November 2014 at Brackenhurst Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. The course is designed for leading staff such as National Directors and attendance is by invitation only. Participants must be nominated by their Region.

The purpose of the course is to envision, explore and equip. A new feature will be an extended learning process outside the two-week event. In the months prior to LSDC, participants will read, reflect, explore and listen. After the event there will be opportunities to further reflect and make practical plans. This course will include a special focus on exploring the deep structures of our culture. Please pray now for all those involved in this strategic event.

A Very Special Anniversary!

2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Scripture Union movement. Starting in England in 1867 as Children's Special Service Mission, SU has developed into the global movement we now have.



Josiah Spiers on Margate Sands, 1870 – from 'The Children's Friend' magazine.

In 2017 we want to celebrate together and thank God for calling this great movement into being as part of his great mission. Already people are making plans. In England, the movement's birthplace, there will be special events. African movements are considering a motorbike ride from South Africa to the North with celebration events along the route.

We want 2017 to be a truly global celebration, reflecting the diversity and unity of SU. So please tell us what you have planned and how you think we might celebrate as a global community. Post your thoughts on the Living Hope Facebook page or email Sue Stott (a1admin@su-international.org).

We Need to Think Differently!



The youngest member of our consultation, Nyomorosu Gideon from SU Uganda.

'Society generally and youth culture in particular are going through radical and rapid change, more so than the West experienced in previous decades. It is critical that SU adapt its approach to achieving our aims...' This statement came from a small consultation of East African and SU International staff in Nairobi in September 2013.

The aim was for younger staff to give feedback about SU's current thinking and practice, particularly in relation to Bible engagement, in the light of current social and cultural realities. Over three days we explored a number of hermeneutical approaches, particularly evaluating inductive and narrative methods. We also discussed a variety of missional approaches asking why we want young people to engage with the Bible, particularly in relation to personal, community and cultural transformation.

Contact Clayton Fergie (claytonf@su-international.org) for a full report of this consultation.



We want young people to engage with the Bible. Photo: SU interns visit Ghana. See page 4



Bertin and his wife Aké Florence.

AFRICA

Fast Growth in West 2 Sub-Region

The West 2 Sub-Regional Committee meeting was held in Conakry, Guinea, from 4-6 September 2013 with representation from The Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire. Those from Liberia and Guinea endured gruelling road journeys for up to three days to attend – particularly difficult during the rainy season! Those who travelled from Freetown, Sierra Leone, had to deal with many extortions by soldiers and policemen manning road blocks within Guinea.

These are only some of the challenges endured as the mission of SU is carried out in this sub-region. Despite this, their spirit and resolve to share the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ is not dampened. Indeed they are determined to be a dynamic sub-region.

It is exciting that new national committees have been formed over the last 3 years in Mali, Guinea and Guinea Bissau, and gratifying that the sub-regional meeting was hosted by the Guinea committee, formed in early 2012.

A special session considered how to revitalise the sub-region. Key aims are: additional SU volunteers to assist staff; increased local giving and financial autonomy to strengthen the ministry; and closer relationships with churches with relevant and effective programmes.

Pray for the team led by Rev. Canon Emerson Thomas, Chairperson, and Bertin Awomon, Sub-Regional Director. They have plans to establish strong SU committees in Sénégal and Cape Verde. Pray especially for the resources to carry out their programmes.



Sandra Ochoa.

AMERICAS

Guatemala: A matter of life and death

Guatemala is a small, poor Central American country, with one of the highest percentages of evangelicals in Latin America. Its beauty, climate and ancient history make it very attractive to tourists. But in Guatemala, as in much of Central America, violence has taken over. The international economic crises have meant less income sent from family members working abroad – many have returned home. Social unrest caused by drug cartels and street gangs has hit tourism badly.

In this context SU Guatemala is serving in the capital, Guatemala City, Escuintla (58 km away) and Huehuetenango (nearly 300 km away). Mildred Lacan and her volunteers work in schools in Escuintla and Siquinlá, using values-based programmes and the Jesus film. They also meet basic needs such as clothing and anti-parasite medicines. A couple of years ago Mildred's husband, Ronald, nearly lost his life when he was shot answering a call at the door.

In Huehuetenango, Sandra Ochoa and her valiant volunteers work in permanent danger of passing raids and drug cartel gunfire. Her eldest son, Francis, was shot dead a year ago while talking on the sidewalk with his father. Despite this, Sandra continues to share her faith and the hope of social transformation by planting the Gospel in the hearts and minds of the children and teens she dearly loves. More than 3,000 children enjoy daily Bible stories, many for the first time.

SU Guatemala's dream is for a campsite between Guatemala City and Escuintla – a beautiful place for many children, young people and families. Join us in praying.



SU interns in Ghana.

BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Internships and International Vision

The 2012 Living Hope gathering in Kuala Lumpur emphasised the urgency of raising up young SU leaders. SU England and Wales is taking this challenge seriously. One way is by dramatically increasing the number of internships we offer.

Internship allows younger leaders to emerge from under the wings of the old. It means that ministry benefits from both strong rootedness and experience, and dynamism and youthful energy. You get the best of both worlds. Everybody benefits! This year, 36 vibrant young people are serving in frontline internships, working alongside our regional teams, in SU associate trusts and in our National Office.

SU interns are young people volunteering their lives for a whole year. Some come straight from school; others have completed university courses and are exploring full-time ministry. Still others are also doing part-time ministry training.

Of course, the interns benefit from the year. They learn 'on-the-job', gaining invaluable experience of work and ministry. But what makes an SU internship uniquely compelling? The opportunity to serve internationally and to understand they are part of a global family. The aim is for all interns to fall in love with global SU and see it as inextricably linked to local SU work.

Earlier this year, a team of interns went to Ghana. They shared their faith in front of thousands and helped counsel those who responded. They saw welcome and hospitality lived out in a whole new way. They were energised by the Ghanaians' worship in song and dance. Their faith grew as they saw God powerfully at work.

You can imagine the impact those ten days had on the interns. They're thinking bigger, they're changed for life. There are similar stories from intern visits to Tajikistan and Armenia.

Internships and international vision – what a great recipe for investing in the global leaders of the future!



Summer Camp leaders.

FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

Summer in St Petersburg

An amazing and wonderfully warm summer has come to an end. This year it was remarkably easy to find volunteers for our camps as past campers from local churches agreed to be summer camp leaders.

Our relationship with the local Orthodox church became even better. The parish priest sent volunteers to help with heavy physical work. He even came to camp to bless the children. This is very important, since this is the only Orthodox church in the area – just one church for about 100,000 people. We are also friends with four small Protestant churches in the town. However, only about 250 from a population of 100,000 attend church!

The children's camp went well and the youth camp had an amazing atmosphere. Most of the young people were Christians, so we spent a lot of time in prayer and reflection on God's Word. We even made a pilgrimage to a convent and talked with the nuns.

The camp at Fillipok, the rehabilitation centre for special needs children, was also blessed with about 70 children attending. The director of Fillipok, said, 'You cannot imagine what a support it is... that people come from a distant country like England and play with their children and hug them... Here in Russia nobody voluntarily touches a child with Down's Syndrome. And now they see such love. You can see at once that these people live with God!'

Former volunteers who had trained in our camps ran twelve camps of their own, with a total of about 400 children.

Thank you for praying for us!



Some of the 3G Camp participants.

EAST & WEST ASIA

The 3G Camp/Seminar

The 3G Camp/Seminar is a special teaching programme focusing on sexuality and boy-girl relationship (BGR) issues from a spiritual perspective and with a strong biblical emphasis. '3G' stands for Girls, Guys and God!

Those working with young people will know that sex and BGR raise serious issues for young people – issues like promiscuity, pornography and pre-marital sex. The 3G programme is about much more than just abstinence! It is about correcting misconceptions, gaining a biblical understanding of sexuality and being empowered to live and grow in purity for the Lord.

The 3G modular teachings are appropriate for camps, conferences, seminars or weekly youth meetings. The 3G syllabus was developed by Jason Fong over many years of ministry with young people and is used extensively with youth groups in Malaysian churches. There has been much positive feedback.

The 3G Training of Trainers (ToT) takes a special format, aiming to contextualise the material for other cultures. After three days of training, potential trainers attend an actual 3G Camp/Seminar, followed by two days of debriefing. Potential trainers from a range of countries in the region have participated in 3G ToT. Modules and a camp have taken place in Indonesia and Singapore. Praise God! 3G is poised to have significant ripple effects for youth ministry in the East & West Region.

Contact Jason Fong (jasonfong@su.org.my) for more information about 3G.



Vennes farewell party.

EUROPE

Ministry Forums

In May 2013, about 50 staff and key volunteers met in Rimlishof, France, to think deeply about their respective ministries and explore future cross-border collaboration. This first European Ministry Forum was facilitated by Ministry Coordinators (children, youth and publishing) and the European office. Future Ministry Forums will be opportunities for sharing best practice and reflecting on ministry with colleagues face to face, rather than simply being training events.

The Children's Ministry group talked about the theological understanding of the Godly Play approach to telling Bible stories. The Youth Ministry group came up with the idea of a European training programme for volunteers. A small working group has already designed a concept for this. The Publishing Ministry group discussed the development of resources that can be easily translated into other languages to be produced in a single print run or used online. The Ministry Forums have already been helpful in developing ministry-focused cross-border activities.

Vennes – a new chapter

For more than 80 years, the campsite of SU French-Speaking Switzerland in Vennes has played an important role in the development of the Swiss movement. Thousands of young people have participated in camps and training events in the historic wooden huts. But, the city grew closer and closer and now the campsite is surrounded by office and apartment blocks. The facilities are also out-of-date, so SU decided to sell and build something more suitable.

At a big goodbye party, friends and supporters said farewell to this place full of happy memories. The more than 300 children and young people present made it very clear that it is time to look to the future and start something new. More than 800 guests marked the end of an era, but God's grace and the engagement and creativity of the SU team will move to a new place.



KidsGames, Vanuatu.



Back our chappies website.



Kids' Club, India.

PACIFIC

KidsGames in Vanuatu

During the 2012 Living Hope Conference in Malaysia, SU Vanuatu's Director attended the sports ministry discussion. It was an eye-opener and on returning home he introduced KidsGames in Vanuatu. Last August, a Train the Trainers event was organised at the SU campsite with 15 participants from different churches. SU Pacific enabled SU Vanuatu to bring a trainer to Vanuatu from the Solomon Islands. During the training, a one-day KidsGames programme was organised so that the trainers could practise what they had learned. Over 80 kids attended. Plans are underway to organise three more KidsGames programmes before the end of 2013.



KidsGames, Vanuatu.

Chaplains in Australian Schools

The right for Australian schools to have chaplains is again being challenged and SU Queensland is mounting another defence in the High Court of Australia. This is the second attempt to prevent Federal Government funding for the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP). Without funding, more than 3,500 school communities will lose the choice to employ a chaplain or welfare worker.

School chaplains provide social, emotional, practical and spiritual support. They work in prevention and support, helping students find a positive way to deal with a wide range of personal issues. Each year hundreds of thousands of students turn to their school chaplains for practical help, and for non-coercive spiritual support. Chaplains provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis, and for those who just need someone to believe in them. They are also on-hand to provide support for staff and parents in school communities.

During the last High Court challenge in 2011/12, 85,000 Australians signed a statement of support for National School Chaplaincy. Once again many Australians are visiting backourchappies.com.au to show their support for federal funding for school chaplaincy. Please pray for a positive outcome to the High Court challenge. Quite a number of the Australian Movements are responsible for overseeing the ministry of chaplains in their respective State.

SOUTH ASIA

Growth in Northern India

Scripture Union has been in India for more than 110 years. Work was started in North India by R T Archibald and it went on to flourish in South India. However success was limited in the North West Region (NWR) due to administrative, staff and financial problems. And yet almost 40% of the Indian population live in this area which is rich in natural resources and is also the main political arena of Indian democracy and the birthplace of many political leaders. The NWR is the true Hindustani region (the middle of India to the Himalayas) – seven provinces where Hindi is the major language. Unfortunately previously, only one Hindi staff member has worked for more than five years and work took place consistently in only two provinces.

For the past five years however, with Jones Israel as Area Secretary of North India, extensive development work has taken place. Hindi Daily Bread is well known in the mainline churches. Six new staff members have been appointed, with SU work starting in three new provinces and restarting in another three provinces.

There are some major hindrances to ministry including idol worship, polytheism, evil spirit possession, seeing Jesus as the English God, treating Christians as low-class people, anti-conversion laws and finance. But now, by God's grace, school meetings are taking place in Christian and other faith schools and many churches, organisations and institutions have started to use SU.

Please pray for: the development of a stable and strong SU ministry; North Indian churches to give priority to children's ministry; training of full-time children's workers; the appointment of three more staff for vacant Hindi provinces; stable finances for work in Jammu and Kashmir; and the establishment of an office and training centre.

Watch out for the SU 2014 International Prayer Directory (IPD)

Hardcopies of the IPD are mailed to all SU movements. It will also be available on the SU International website from January 2014. You can view the IPD online or download it. If you have difficulty downloading the file, contact a1admin@su-international.org

The IPD provides a helpful overview of SU ministry and practical contact information for all the SU movements around the world.



Scripture Union International People News

Appointments



Marc Wheway was appointed State Director of SU South Australia in June, following on from **Mark Schultz**. Marc is married to Justine and father to Reuben. Prior to SU, Marc worked with SASRA and EWS serving the British and Australian military, as a missionary.



Lily-Claire René, new National Director of SU Mauritius, worked as a secondary teacher before joining SU in 1990. She has always had a burden to work among children and teens. Lily-Claire enjoys teaching and is involved in training Sunday school teachers. Lily-Claire took over from the **Rev. Mario Li Hing**.



Phillips Adewale Odelana has been appointed General Director, SU Nigeria from January 2014, taking over from **Yomi Oladeji**. Phillips trained as a scientist and counsellor and has two children. His wife, Mrs Chukwudumebi Eunice Odelana, sadly passed away in 2013.



Emmanuel Onyebuchi Nwokeocha has been appointed as National Director of the Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) in Nigeria. Emmanuel is married to Justina and they have 3 children. The previous National Director was **Emmanuel Akpo**.



Alfred Bikouta is the new National Director of SU in the Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville). He replaced **Vincent Tosingilo**. Alfred is married with three children and he became a member of SU in 1991.



Stellah Mtui has been appointed National Director of SU Tanzania, following the ministry of **Emmaus Mwamakula**. Stellah is married and a mother of two. She has worked with SU since 1988.



Elmo Isaacs, the National Director of SU Namibia, is married to Marjorie and they have three children. He has been involved with SU for the past 13 years. Elmo is the Assistant Pastor in his church, serving among the young people. **Graeme Aldom** was the previous National Director.



Hans Wuysang has been released from the position of National Director of SU Indonesia to serve in two new roles. Hans will work half-time for SU East & West Asia as Bible Ministry Coordinator and half-time as Advisor for SU Indonesia. **Rev. Robby Moningka** has been appointed National Director of SU Indonesia.



SU Singapore's Council has appointed **Pastor Dr Lim Teck Boon** as National Director. Dr Lim Teck Boon has 25 years of church ministry experience, including pioneering work and pastoral positions. He takes over the leadership from **David Leong**.



Ayomie Perera was appointed National Director of SU Sri Lanka in February 2013. Ayomie has three children and is qualified in pre-school teaching and holistic child development.



Justin Simpson has been appointed State Director of SU Victoria. Justin has come to SU Vic from ACCESS Ministries where he headed up the Christian Religious Education (CRE) department. **Dave Tolputt** handed over the leadership in January 2014.



Matthew Wong was appointed General Secretary of SU Hong Kong on 1 January 2014, following on from **Mrs Lucia Cheung**. Matthew married in October 2013 and was previously responsible for Youth Ministry in SU Hong Kong. Lucia plans to focus on family ministry and writing Bible Reading Notes for adults and children.

Farewell

Rev. Tadashi Oyamada who has been working for 16 years as General Secretary of SU Japan will retire at the end of March 2014. The new GS, **Rev. Hiro (Hirotaka) Shimada** will start work from April.



Timothy and Elsa Pawson and their two children have returned to the UK from ministry in Ecuador. **Amy Carlson** (left) has taken over the schools ministry in Quito and its surrounding cities.

International Partnership News

World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) General Assembly

This six-yearly gathering of WEA's constituency, takes place in Seoul, Korea from 18–26 October 2014. The Assembly provides a unique opportunity to strategically connect, mutually equip and address topics of common concern. It aims to accelerate joint action that will have long-term impact for local churches and nations. Globally, Scripture Union has links with local and regional evangelical alliances. Janet Morgan, SU International Director, is on the WEA Council. If you know of SU staff or key volunteers planning to attend the WEA General Assembly, please let Sue Stott know (a1admin@su-international.org).

Next Generation Scripture engagement: South Asia

In a region where 50% of the population is under 25, where the church is growing rapidly, with the largest number of unreached people groups and the most languages without a Scripture translation, the **Forum of Bible Agencies International** has been engaged in a multi-year initiative with many South Asian partner organisations. In April 2014 a key event in Sri Lanka will bring together South Asian and international partners, including young people, to analyse a major research project that focuses on attitudes and practices relating to Bible engagement among South Asian youth.

The aim is to develop strategies and approaches to encourage the next generation to engage with God through the Bible. *If you would like more information, contact Clayton Fergie (claytonf@su-international.org).*

Global Children's Forum Leadership Course

Imagine children's ministry leaders in different Christian agencies and denominations around the world, following current trends to ensure that children are equipped to live as Jesus' followers in the 21st century. Imagine leaders who are passionate about advocating for children in their community and church. There are people like this in Scripture Union. Now imagine the impact if this group of people came together electronically and face-to-face to grow in their understanding of God's mission, to share ideas and resources, to explore different models and strategies for helping children to follow Jesus and to discover the value of generous partnerships.

The **Global Children's Forum Leadership Course** (GCFLC) aims to serve these people and to serve the church. This initiative of the Global Children's Forum includes mentoring, community-based research and projects, and a rigorous 5-week face-to-face course. SU is leading the steering group working to make this a reality.

It is anticipated that the first GCFLC will be held in 2015 in South Africa. Contact Wendy Strachan (wendys@su-international.org) for more details.

EXPOSED 2013

In October, Christians around the world joined Micah Challenge to speak out against corruption. Two thousand prayer vigils were held, from Uganda to Germany, from Australia to Sudan.

In the SU world, WordSpace (<http://thewordspace.mobi> – SU South Africa's social media Bible engagement tool) urged young people to 'shine the light on corruption'. Drawing their attention to Proverbs 31:8, WordSpace commented: Sometimes all it takes for things to change is people to start making some noise about it. Here's a cool quote from Desmond Tutu: 'If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.'

The focus week for EXPOSED 2013 has passed – but corruption continues to destroy hope for many among whom SU works. It's not too late to incorporate into your SU ministry the excellent ideas in the EXPOSED toolkit at <http://www.exposed2013.com/act/10-action-tools/24-toolkits-to-download>. Let us know what you do!

PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for these key 2014 events

- ▶ **February** SU International Staff Conference, (26-28)
- ▶ **March** Various international groups meeting (1-9)
SUI: Team & ExCo (10-15)
Shaping for Service: Latin America (23-29)
- ▶ **May** Europe Region: Directors' Conference (12-14)
Shaping for Service: FSR (13-22)
- ▶ **June** South Asia Region: Council Meetings (5-8)
- ▶ **September** SUI: Council (19-22)
SUI: Team & ExCo (24-27)
- ▶ **October** Shaping for Service: Central America (6-12)
WEA: General Assembly (18-26)
- ▶ **November** Africa Region: Executive Meetings (2-5)
SUI: Leading Staff Development Course (9-23)

Shaping for Service 2014

National Boards, new staff, interns, volunteers – these are some of the people being impacted as SU Trinidad & Tobago and SU Canada begin to incorporate Sfs into their training strategies following training in April 2013. It's exciting!

Shaping for Service continues to be rolled out in 2014. We would appreciate your prayers that this leadership development programme will contribute steadily to more effective ministry around the globe:

- In Latin America, Paul Owen (top right), Paul Clark and Ken Vissers will spearhead Sfs, with an event planned for key staff in the Southern movements in March, and a second for Central movements in October.
- In Ukraine in May, Wendy Strachan (right) and Clayton Fergie will share the facilitation of Sfs with Oksana Khimich. Those attending will take the training back to their national movements in the former Soviet Republics and Eastern Europe.



SU International Online Resources

Did you know that guidelines and protocols have been developed for the global SU family to help develop strong and effective ministry? The Extranet section of the SU International website now gives national and regional directors access to the International Protocols and Guidelines. Register for access at the bottom of the Home Page at www.su-international.org. It will take a day or two to be authorised, but after this you can access these documents at any time.

Documents currently available include:

- Aims, Belief and Working Principles of Scripture Union
- Statement of Hermeneutic Principles
- Scripture Union Logo Protocols
- SUI's Child Protection Safety & Care Guidelines
- Income Generating Projects
- Financial Responsibility
- International Staff in National/Regional Offices
- Process for Strategic Review & Planning
- Guidelines for Partnering

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