



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



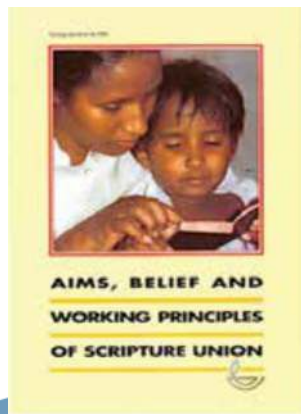
1901 Roddy Archibald pioneer in India



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.

