

# Globalnews



stories and updates from Scripture Union around the world

**Global News aims to keep you in touch with how our network of Scripture Union teams around the world is having an impact on young lives. We hope this monthly update will inspire you to partner with us.**

## “We are with you”



### new schools programme supports teachers and learners in South Africa

A new program set up by [SU Western Cape in South Africa](#) has been reaching out to children and young people suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Celest Bossr, a schools' worker with SU Western Cape, said the Sinawe programme started during the pandemic in response to the way children and young people were being affected. She said a tremendous strain had been placed on school staff, learners, and parents.

Celest explained, "*Sinawe means, 'we are with you'. We chose this name because we knew that teachers and learners needed to know that they are not alone. We wanted them to know that we identify with them in their challenges, and we are willing to journey with them during and after this pandemic.*"

She explained, "*We knew that kids would struggle with the new reality of going back to schools - our desire is to be with young people in the places they live, study and play.*"

The new schools-based programme offers a relevant and relational way to provide social, emotional, and spiritual support to school communities. Sinawe schools' workers are based at different schools for two to four days a week. They look at the wholistic development of learners and teachers.

Teacher at Silverlea Primary School, Janine Cornelius, said: "The value of the Sinawe program for the teachers is relieving and lessening the stress... Sinawe workers might just go and assist with a break duty, so the teacher can catch up on admin or they may do practical things to support the teachers."

"The impact on the children is that it has helped them to know that they are being seen and they are being heard. They have been given the space to share how they



feel in a safe environment, and they have built a relationship of trust with the Sinawe workers. Some of the children come from situations and circumstances where they feel unsafe and may not be able to trust some of the adults they relate to. But here at school they know there is someone that they can call upon."

## about South Africa



With a population of 60 million, many different peoples make up South Africa, each with their own language and history. The country has 11 official languages, and many more unofficial languages. This colourful mix of cultures gives South Africa its nickname - the 'rainbow nation'. Table Mountain in Cape Town is believed to be one of the oldest mountains in the world and the country is extremely rich in mining and minerals, with nearly 90% of all the platinum metals on earth. For nearly 50 years there was a state of apartheid in South Africa, but in 1994 Nelson Mandela became the first black president, after decades of international

sanctions and boycotts, opposition from the African National Congress and public uprisings. Almost 80% of South Africa's population is Christian. Scripture Union in South Africa runs camps and holiday clubs for children, operates in schools and works with young people in a range of ways, including training and life skills programmes.



Don't forget, Scripture Union Global Week of Prayer is coming soon on **7-13th November 2021!**

Focused on the theme of being 'Prisoners of Hope' - this year's resources will be available soon.

## tribute to last of Scripture Union's 'Old Jordans'

The last remaining Scripture Union staff member to attend 'Old Jordans' - the first international Scripture Union conference in 1960 - died last month after being unwell for some time. Michael Hews, who was 96, was involved with Scripture Union over many decades and wrote the history of Scripture Union in his book, 'A Tale of Two Visions'.

The 1960 event at 'Old Jordans' conference centre in England was a pivotal moment for the movement and marked the start of a new era, when Scripture Union moved away from being centred and run from London, to becoming a truly international family of equal and autonomous national movements.

Michael Hews travelled to Kuala Lumpur for the SU International Conference in 2017 at the age of 92, where he joined in celebrations to mark Scripture Union's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You can view an interview with him at the conference below.



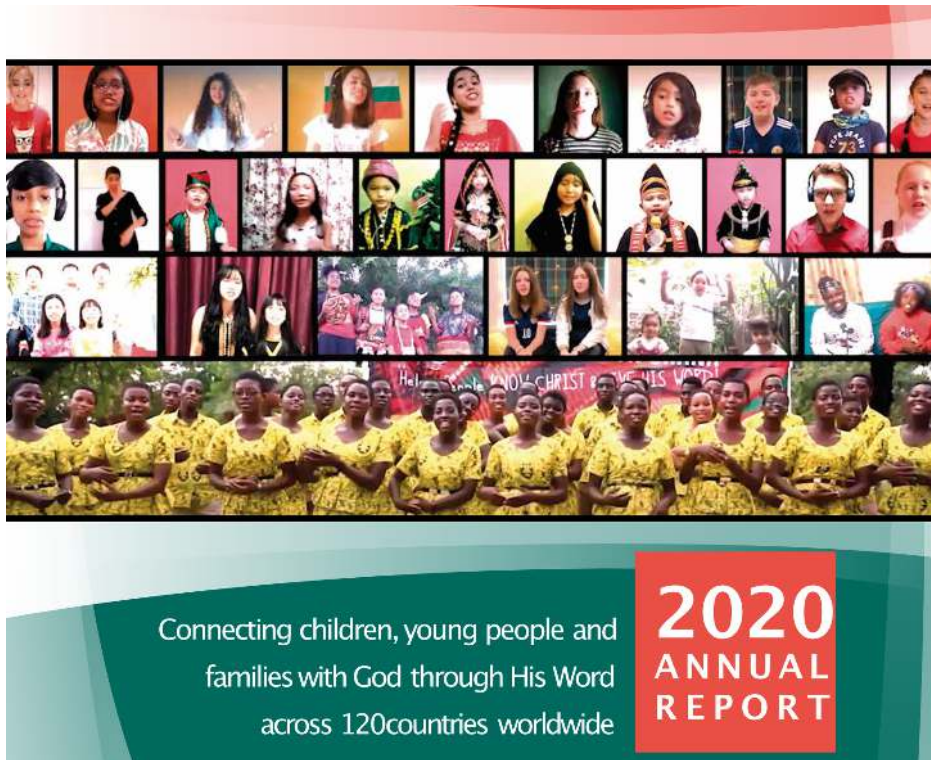
## highlights from activity camps in Canada

**SU Canada** looked back on a productive summer working with children and young people. Their video showed the impact from 15 camps, involving 120 volunteers, where hundreds of ice lollies were enjoyed and just less than 350 children chose to follow Jesus. As the Olympics took off on the other side of the world, the SU team were able to let the kids on their activities know that Jesus is the ultimate champion!



# stories from 2020 – a year like no other

**Scripture Union International's** annual report for 2020 shows how the organisation supported and encouraged national Scripture Union movements around the world as they stepped up to respond and to continue their work with children, young people and families during the outbreak of a global pandemic. Introducing the report, SUI International Director, Monika Kuschmierz wrote, "2020 was a very difficult year, but also a year full of miracles and togetherness. We are extremely grateful that God has carried us through the hard times, and we trust he will take care of us as we follow his lead and ministry calling in 2021." To view or download the report, which includes highlights from around the world, click [HERE](#)



## You can partner with us

If you would like to know more about how to partner with us or find out about Scripture Union in a particular country or area, you can discover more [HERE](#):



**Scripture Union:** God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives  
[scriptureunion.global](http://scriptureunion.global)