



Scripture Union International



## Stories and updates from Scripture Union around the world

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

## Bible Day brings unity in Timor Leste



More than 150 people from different parts of the Christian community in Timor Leste gathered for a special event organised by Scripture Union in partnership with others to mark the International Day of the Bible.

The event also marked a renewed sense of unity for Christians of different denominations in the area.

National Director of **Scripture Union in Timor Leste**, Grace Adams, said, "It was the first time for SU to be partnering with other Christian organisations for an event. We had six ethnicities speaking six languages from five denominations and three different organisations (SU, WEC, IFES) coordinating the event... by God's grace, despite the challenges we were enriched and encouraged by each other, and we are enthusiastic to work together again for a similar event next year."



The event drew in a group of 30 young students, along with church members and leaders, who took part in a panel discussion during the day.

Grace explained, *"Their love of Christ, His Word and His Church brought them together despite their differing denominational and regional backgrounds. This unity in Christ came through as they discussed issues and questions on the panel. So many attendees told us how powerful and symbolic this was as a Timorese, and as a Timorese Christian. We praise God for their example of reconciliation in Christ and partnership in the gospel."*

Grace said all the participants were encouraged by the gathering which helped equip them with foundational frameworks for engaging with the Bible. *"They looked at the topics, the Biblical message, a method of reading the Bible and the history of the Bible, presented by missionaries serving in Christian organisations."*

She said one pastor told her his faith had been re-ignited through attending and that a year was too long to wait for the next event!

## about Timor Leste

Timor-Leste, formerly East Timor, is one of the most recent countries on Earth to gain independence after many years of violence and fighting. It is a country located in the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands, an Indonesian archipelago located between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. The first time that democratic elections were ever held in East Timor was in 2001 and the country gained its independence on 20 May 2002 when it became the first new sovereign state of the twenty-first century. The main languages are Tetum, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia and English and its population is around 1.3 million. The country is located within the Coral Triangle, home to an incredibly high number of corals and some of the world's most biodiverse waters. Scripture Union has been established more recently in the country and is actively working with children and young people and supporting churches in their ministry with young people.





## prayer and support for **Scripture Union in Ukraine**



We are supporting our SU teams in Ukraine and Eastern Europe as they care for vulnerable people with food and accommodation and helping them share comfort and hope through printed and digital Bible resources given to children at the borders and in refugee facilities. If you would like to support this ministry please click [here](#).

*Pictured above, are children and leaders from one of the many **Scripture Union Ukraine** camps which have been run over the past few years.*

## asking big questions about **how young people engage with the Bible today**

An international consultation on the way Scripture Union teams around the world engage children and young people in the Bible and nurture disciples begins this week. More than 100 representatives from 60 different Scripture Union Movements will join in a three-week online discussion programme, facilitated by Scripture Union International. The consultation, which will run from 14 March - 1 April 2022, aims to bring together thought leaders, seasoned practitioners, and young influencers, who will spend time listening, reflecting, evaluating, and preparing for the future.



**Scripture Union International's** director, Monika Kuschmierz, said, *"The world is changing rapidly, so engaging with the Bible must be reimagined in the light of shifting cultures, developing trends and a volatile yet highly knowledgeable new generation of children and young people."*

*"We're very excited about this consultation,"* Monika said. *"We will be asking key questions around what transformational Bible engagement and active discipling look like today. A particular area of growth and challenge is in the digital space, with our core audience being 'digital natives'. This will impact on our traditional methods of published materials and challenge our understanding of relational ministry."* Findings from the consultation will be publicised at a later date.

# children walk for hours to reach SU events

Almost 110 children gathered for a special program hosted by **Scripture Union Sri Lanka** recently, some walking for hours to reach the event. General Secretary of SU Sri Lanka, Jeevakumaran Chandrasekera, said, "The children who participated travelled 13 km by foot and then took the public transport and travelled 22 km to reach the program venue." He said many of the children were from deprived backgrounds and had not heard the Christian message before.



Jeevakumaran added, "In addition to the children more than 60 parents attended the Sunday service where we shared the love of God and the children and teenagers were able to take part, memorizing Bible verses and joining in craft activities." He said their parents had told him they had seen a positive impact in their behaviour after the program.

## Correction:

We would like to apologise for an error in an item in last month's Global News, which shared a story about the launch of Bible Guides. The launch photos and story were from the **Republic of the Congo – Brazzaville**, and not The Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are sorry for any confusion caused.

## 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:**



Help us share  
hope with more  
children and  
young people

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