



2016

ANNUAL REPORT

www.scriptureunion.global



Unión Bíblica
Scripture Union International
Ligue pour la Lecture de la Bible



From the Chair of Council & International Director

I hope you will enjoy reading the **Scripture Union International Report for 2016**. One of the ways God has blessed us is to unite us in our aims, belief and working principles but allow us to work out our ministry in creative ways in various places. Here are a range of stories from different parts of the SU world, and what happens when we work together for everyone's benefit.



Colin Sinclair
Chair of Council



Janet Morgan
International Director



SU International Team Executive

Executive 2016

Rev. Colin Sinclair	Chair of Council
David McCracken	Treasurer
Rev. Olaniyi Daramola	Member
Monika Kuschmierz	Member
Jon Ong	Member
Ragland Remo Paul	Member
Janet Morgan	International Director
Christian Hellwig	Vice Chair
	(Appointed 31/3/16)

Company Secretary

Jenny Stewart



SU Latin America Community Group 2016

Year of transition

In 2016 we took a major step forward in the transition to a new global structure.

This included meetings of all the new 'community groups' around the world. The groups explored issues impacting ministry to children, youth and families. They considered the needs related to leadership development and how they might partner together in this endeavour. There was time for sharing of resources and ministry ideas. In the groups there was a clear commitment to support and pray for one another.

Globally we began planning for consultations in key areas of ministry development and fundraising for special 150th anniversary initiatives and projects. The Global Team met for the first time to begin planning for the future. The SU International website was redesigned to reflect the new structure and to better provide information about the Movements around the world. At a Council level, the Constitution was revised for adoption in 2017 and plans commenced for the election of a new Global Board.

We give thanks to God for his sustaining power over the past year and look forward with anticipation to the 2017 celebrations of God's goodness over 150 years.



We are...

Scripture Union is a non-denominational, international movement, founded in 1867, working in partnership with churches across the world.

Aims

Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims:

- to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families; and
- 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.

A copy of the Aims, Belief, and Working Principles is available on www.scriptureunion.global



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Scripture Union International Council
Limited Company in England & Wales
Reg No. 3678243
Registered Charity No. 1072964

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United Kingdom

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Scripture Union has hundreds of thousands of volunteers and over 2,000 staff around the world and we take the development of those leaders very seriously. Leadership development takes various forms at local, national, and global levels. SU's various training initiatives aim to equip people to think critically about ministry and to have the courage and skills to look beyond the present, making changes to the way they work with young people in a changing world.

We are pleased to report on a few examples of the range of leadership training programs in 2016 in different parts of the world.

Training French Bible guide writers

Twenty-two people from 10 countries took part in the 'Training of Trainers' for Bible guide note writers held in Yaounde in Cameroon in September 2016. The aim of the training was to improve the quality of French Bible guides in Africa. Field Development Director for Francophone Africa, Emmanuel Todjo said, "This training addressed the need for notes that are relevant for the context and the current and emerging needs of children, youth and adults. We were also able to build a sense of family and establish quality



relationships between writers and editors." The 10 days of training included exercises, online training sessions and interactive and practical workshops.

Representatives from Congo Brazzaville, Tchad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, Togo, Cameroon, and Mauritius attended the training. One participant said, "I thank God for this training for it allowed me to understand Scripture Union ministry better." The main focus was on individual transformation in order to impact others. As a result of this training:

- 128 Bible note writers were trained in six months over seven countries.
- 11 training events were held and eight more are planned before January 2018.
- The first Bible guide for children written by Africans in French-speaking Africa is underway with the 2018 notes already handed to the editor.

Leaders from across the world inspired by God's big story

Children's ministry leaders from around the globe were part of a unique one-year experience sponsored by the Global Children's Forum. At the *Leadership Experience 2016*, nineteen advanced ministry leaders from around the world were able to learn together about God's restoration plan. They discussed the context of children's ministry and how they live today, strategies for transformational discipleship and ways to develop as leaders in both character and skills.

The *Leadership Experience* (LE) included participation in online forums, a practical project and a five-week intensive residential course based in South Africa. The course drew people from 10 different countries in Africa, two from Europe, one from Australia and one from Russia.

Wendy Strachan, International Children's Ministry Coordinator for Scripture Union's Global Team, said, "There are a number of special things to celebrate about LE, firstly it's the community that's established with people from a wide range of churches and child-focused agencies. With diverse leaders working together it

provides an amazingly rich and varied way of thinking, offering fresh models and strategies for holistic mission."

The program offers participants new approaches in their work with children through experimental, interactive and creative learning methods. Wendy explained, "Another special element of LE is the local mentoring and supervision that challenges leaders to apply their learning and to feed it back into their ministry. The feedback we have had from participants is clear evidence that this new approach is working."

Participant, Leanne Dunlop, Schools Ministry Leader with Scripture Union Northern Ireland, said, "As well as greatly benefitting from the creative and interactive learning environment, I just loved the opportunity to rub shoulders with children's ministry leaders from around the globe, each with much to share and learn from. You couldn't help but come away with a bigger picture of God and what He's

doing in the world, which has helped to propel me forward as I continue to serve in my small corner of Northern Ireland!"

Another course member, Dennis Byasi, Ministry Partnerships Coordinator with Scripture Union Uganda, said, "I was challenged to think deeper as I do ministry and also consider the real context of the child, for example strengthening ministry models that support families as the primary context for most children. I have used the learning to train teachers for children's, youth and adult Bible guide note writers."

The GCF *Leadership Experience 2018* is now ready to receive applications. Wendy is hopeful it will inspire more leaders to take up the opportunity to have their thinking and practice broadened and to enjoy the privilege of meeting with others who are passionate about children's ministry from different parts of the globe.



MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Reaching out to refugees...



In Europe

As thousands of refugees flowed into countries across Europe, fleeing war, famine and the destruction of their homes and communities, SU teams in Croatia and Greece responded by reaching out to families of homeless strangers, searching for refuge. Malena Brnic, SU Croatia staff worker, wrote about how SU was able to show God's love in practical ways by volunteering in the transit

camps. She said, "We want every person to hear God's voice and feel God's love, not only in words but also in deeds. Volunteers from many different charity organisations were placed in a huge tent at different 'stations' with supplies to give out... warm drinks, lunch, hygiene materials, special packs for children and many other things. At our station, clothes were given out to the migrants. The most beautiful thing was seeing the happy faces... when we smiled at them and tried to communicate regardless of the language barrier... there is no greater joy than to feel human in these horrible circumstances."

In Greece the enormous humanitarian need was met by the Greek Government, the army, international NGOs and private initiatives. It is estimated there are about 50,000 refugees in Greece, with some 15,000 in the Athens area, where SU Greece is located. SU's work with refugees is two-fold – meeting basic needs and also reaching out to the spiritual needs of those seeking help. In the Port of Piraeus hundreds of hot meals are cooked for those who have fled war zones. Refugee families from Syria continue to visit the Bethel youth hostel where they are able to see a doctor, learn hygiene or household skills, to play, and hear the Gospel.

SU Greece believes it is time to move into a new phase, providing more than immediate basic needs or a quick Gospel presentation. The team says it is important for refugees to integrate into local areas and SU plans, with the assistance of social workers, language teachers and others, to help these people prepare for life in Europe. This approach takes more time, but opens new doors for the Gospel.



In Nigeria

Following outbreaks of violence in the north east region of Nigeria, it is estimated that over 613,700 Nigerians have been displaced in the last year alone and are now living in various camps. The Fellowship of Christian Students of Nigeria (FCS) has been in the midst of this situation, supporting more than 4,000 internally displaced people.

There are a mixture of religions in the region, including Christian and African Traditional religion. But it is the Christians who have been ostracised, stopped from attending school and many have also had promotions denied or delayed. Some of the horrific experiences include maiming, destruction of properties, abduction, forceful change of faith and children forced to be soldiers. According to FCS there is widespread trauma, fragility and loss of livelihood. Their work, under the project Harbour of Tears has been restoring hope to the many traumatised victims. FCS has helped provide medical aid, food and clothing, and psychological support and more than 400 children have been given help through the regular programs run by SU staff and volunteers.

Reaching children and families through sport

SU Canada has been using sports ministry to share the Gospel with Canadians. With 84 per cent of Canadian children involved in some sort of sporting activity, sport has provided a great way for churches to connect their communities with Jesus and His Story. Sports ministry is simply using sports/recreation for evangelism and discipleship.

Sports camps are the biggest ministry, as SU has been helping local churches run five-day recreational sports camps that include skills and drills, scrimmages and Bible time. The Bible time introduces campers to Jesus, provides every camper with a Bible (God's Game Plan) and teaches them how to read, reflect, remember and respond to God's Word. Churches can use Camp in the Box (a box that contains all the training, manuals and documents required to run a camp) or invite a team of SU interns (trained summer staff) to come and run the camp alongside their volunteers.

In 2016 1,400 children heard about Jesus Christ at 34 camps led by 400+ volunteers at 30 churches.

Sports ministry has been growing in the past few years and SU Canada has been using bubble soccer. Bubble soccer is a growing trend in Canada, which involves climbing into a giant inflated bubble and playing something that resembles a game of soccer (football). SU invested in two full kits of bubbles and sends staff out to run bubble soccer events alongside local churches. Churches have used this for outreach in their communities, youth nights and at family festivals. At the end of a game everyone comes together to hear from the Word.

Sports and recreation has proven to be a great way for churches to connect with their communities, and so SU Canada has set out to make it possible for churches to run their own events. In addition to offering training, resources, manuals and supplies, SU has also started up a national network to cast the vision for sports ministry across the country. SU Canada does not run sports ministry unless it is alongside a local church – desiring to work in and through the church.



School clubs and leavers' camps reach all ages

In Western Australia Scripture Union Primary Age (SUPA) Clubs have been providing an opportunity for children to learn about Jesus in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Clubs run during lunchtimes or after school, with students coming voluntarily to play games, learn from the Bible and develop strong, encouraging relationships.

Every SUPA Club is different, depending on the passions and interests of the leaders and participants. SUPA leaders are provided with a program which can be followed week by week, or they can create activities and lessons specifically for their group, with help from SU Schools staff.

"I love SUPA club because I love the kids! I love that we get the freedom to go into a school and talk about God. It's fun, the kids love it, and it's great to see the kids coming to the club excited about learning," explained a SUPA leader at Applecross Primary School.

"With SUPA Clubs, opportunities to share God's Word and for relationships to grow between students, leaders, their families, school staff and even the local community are endless," said another SUPA leader at Weld Square Primary School.

Camps for school leavers run by SU in Western Australia have been providing a place for young people to ask deep questions and explore their faith. At Ningaloo camp volunteers and campers say the 'Gospel Tent' (pictured) is a highlight of the week and life-changing place for many.

In 2016 Jordan Thyers attended his fourth year at Leavers Ningaloo, and the first of two leadership roles on Summer Camps. He said, "Ningaloo had a great sense of excitement, campers finishing a big stage of life and starting something new. With the Gospel Tent there's quite an inquisitiveness. It's tackling topics people might not usually get to talk about – that they haven't really dealt with before: God and science; how to make sense of suffering; why to trust the Bible; what about all the other religions?"

As well as sharing personal stories, a host of different topics were tackled and many discussions went on outside the Gospel Tent. Jordan explained, "Every day there were questions after the session, way more questions than we had time to answer. We had a library of books in the tent, which dealt with tough questions, positive reasons why we think Jesus is the real deal. A lot of people took books."

New Bible engagement app adaptable for all

An exciting new App platform has been developed by SU Switzerland (German-speaking) and SU Germany which is now available to be easily adapted by SU movements all over the world. The app called, 'b next' provides an app for churches, events and organisations to use for Bible engagement and is available here: <https://vimeo.com/162519128>

According to the developers, any SU movement is able to offer 'b next' in their own country. Michael Matter, who is responsible for the 'b next' summarised how it could work for other SU movements.

"Churches, events and organisations (customers) contact the local SU movement for a certain project," he said.

"They either provide their own materials, such as Bible texts, notes, pictures, videos, audio material, questions or use existing materials from the local SU movement.

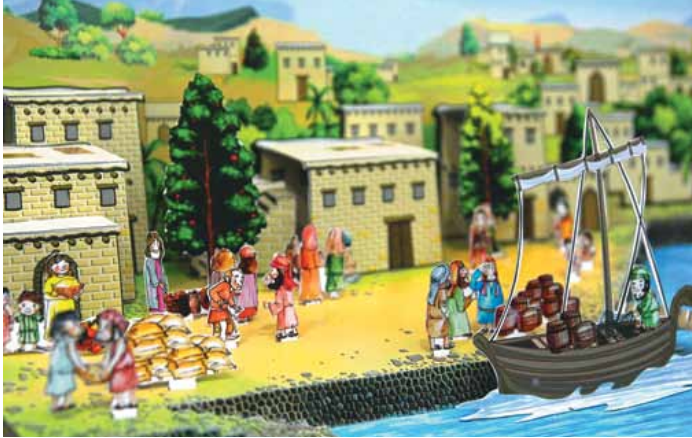


The SU responsible fills in the material into 'b next' and the consumers inform their people (users) about the project. The users download 'b next' for free and use the content

provided for them, so they can take part in personal Bible engagement wherever they are on their smartphones or tablets. 'b next' already exists in French (governed by SU Switzerland French-speaking) and English."

Anyone interested to know more about 'b next' and how it might benefit your local SU movement, contact Michael Matter (SU Switzerland German-speaking): email: michael.matter@bibellesebund.ch

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT



Pop-up books bring the Bible alive

According to Esther Phan, God started a new ministry in SU Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City – South, seven years ago.

After a number of youth leader training events, some of the participants started writing and producing children's Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum materials. Esther said, "We are now making comics, shadow puppets, magnet books... and the most outstanding of all are the new pop-up comics. We started without any equipment and resources and over five years of the VBS, we have produced 1,100 copies of four types of material and these stories were told to thousands of children across the country and also abroad."

Dr Lim Teck Boon, National Director Scripture Union Singapore and Scripture Union International Sustainability Consultant said, "These 3-D pop-up books captivate the children with the colourful pictures and figures which greatly enhances their attention and listening to the stories. It's like the stories 'coming alive' before them."



Video and music developments

Video and study material that draw the big picture of 'God's Story' was released by SU Denmark on its 50th Anniversary in April 2016. The story of the Bible is told in 11 short videos, with questions and activities. The aim is to help people see themselves grow in their relationship with God and to grow more into the story of God. Another anniversary initiative is #SpokenBible which is scripture readings with music added behind them. The new #SpokenBible was shared via social media during the year – particularly aimed at a younger audience. It is designed to give people a new experience of well-known words such as Genesis 1, Psalm 103 and 1 Corinthians 13.



Global Connections & Daily Bread

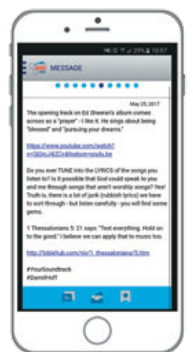
SU Hong Kong is working in partnerships with SU movements around the world to promote Bible reading among Chinese communities. With Chinese communities in almost every part of the globe, they are making their introductory leaflets available in several languages so that SU teams in other countries will be able to work with Chinese Christians in their own communities and encourage them to meet God daily through the Bible. Their vision is that the Chinese Bible notes will help Chinese Christians grow in personal faith and spirituality. Introductory leaflets are now available in English, French, Spanish or Chinese. Matthew Wong from SU Hong Kong said, "We work with SU movements to provide Chinese notes to the Chinese communities in those countries or regions, especially Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia. We've also developed a mobile app for our flagship-guides, *Chinese Daily Bread* (CDB)."

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.touchutility.dailybread&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwyLDEsImNvbS50b3VjaHV0aWxpdHkuZGFpbHlicmVhZCJd

Connecting to God in the spaces

"Sometimes on school mornings I forget to read my devotions because I'm too busy worrying about whether I have everything and if I'm on time but now with WordSpace I can read a devotion wherever I am. Thank you for that." Kimi

WordSpace, developed by SU South Africa in partnership with the Youth Hub and Custom Design, sends daily messages to teens on their phones using different social media messaging platforms and is available as a free App. The developers hope to encourage Bible reading in the life of a young person so that they get to know who God is and who they are in Christ. They strive to load posts that are relevant and practical enough to help a teenager live out their relationship with God in their daily lives – and because it's on their phone, they have access to it whenever and wherever. Posts are written by a diverse team of volunteer writers who are able to share content that connects with current events in South Africa. There are currently over 5,000 users.



www.wordspace.co.za

Finance Report

Statement of Financial Activity for 2016

Income Resources	Total £ 2016	Total £ 2015
Donations, Legacies and Gifts		
Restricted	382,691	510,046
General	18,047	29,288
Voluntary Contributions from SU Movements	252,859	262,171
Team Support	25,574	23,137
Activities for Generating Funds		
Programs & Publications	8,233	8,145
Investment Income	1,052	3,428
Total Incoming Resources	688,456	836,215
Resources Expended		
Charitable Activities		
Grants Payable in Furtherance of SU's Objectives	165,514	163,577
Bible, Children, Youth Work	20,367	156,142
Global Training Strategy	335,207	53,056
Other Charitable Activities	19,629	225,449
Currency Losses (Gains)	(17,362)	2,271
Total Resources Expended	523,355	600,495
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources *	165,101	235,720
Fund Balances b/f at 1 January 2016	735,290	499,570
Fund Balances c/f at 31 December 2016	900,391	735,290
* Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources comprised of:		
Net Operating Surplus	19,519	57,550
Net Movement in Restricted and Designated Funds	145,582	178,170
	165,101	235,720

Balance Sheet

	2016	2015
Current Assets		
Debtors	153,722	105,164
Cash at Bank and In Hand	791,384	658,424
	945,106	763,588
Current Liabilities — Creditors	(49,196)	(30,446)
Net Current Assets	895,910	733,142
Non-Current Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	4,481	2,148
Net Assets	900,391	735,290
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds	493,212	347,340
Designated Funds	181,536	180,899
General Funds	225,643	207,051
	900,391	735,290



We are most grateful to all the Trusts, Foundations and SU Movements who have provided grants to support the development of SU's ministry around the world.

The 2016 Statement includes audited figures. The full audited statements will be available from the UK Office from 31 July 2017.

All figures were prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

Independent Auditors:
Cansdales Chartered Accountants,
Registered Auditors and Business Advisors.



Operations Director
Jenny Stewart
Email:
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