

# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

[www.su-international.org](http://www.su-international.org)



Unión Bíblica

**Scripture Union International**

Ligue pour la Lecture de la Bible





# Scripture Union International



SU Leading Staff Development Course (LSDC) 2015

## From the Chair of Council & International Director

It is our privilege to present to you the SU International Annual Report for 2015. The stories in the report are just a few examples of what God has been doing through the ministries of Scripture Union around the world in the past year. We give thanks to God for the many lives changed.

We pray that you will be encouraged and join us in praying regularly for Scripture Union.



**Colin Sinclair**  
Chair of Council

**Janet Morgan**  
International  
Director



## SU International Executive

### Executive 2015

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

### 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.su-international.org](http://www.su-international.org)*



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**Scripture Union International**  
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Registered Charity No. 1072964

Registered Office  
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United Kingdom

In Memory of **Nigel Sylvester**, SU International Secretary  
1975 - 1992 who went to be with the Lord on  
13th November 2015.







LSDC

## Leadership Development

Leadership development is a priority for Scripture Union around the world. The Bible consistently demonstrates the importance of ‘handing on the baton’ – not only in terms of knowledge, but also in integrity and experience. SU’s various programs aim to equip people to think critically about ministry – and to have the courage and skills to look beyond the present, making appropriate changes to ministries as the context changes for young people. The focus of our leadership development – whether for national directors, field ministry specialists or young leaders – is on developing committed staff and volunteers who share: a clear mission; and consistent values of compassion, justice and concern for those who have little experience of the love of God. We believe that the Holy Spirit has raised leaders among our national movements around the world. This has led to a renewed emphasis on providing opportunities for SU leaders: to meet together; to learn from one another; to share resources and strategies; to create collaborative tools for ministry; and to partner with others in Kingdom ministry.

### Leadership Lab International

In 2015, young people from seven different nations and cultures came to learn, experience and practise skills to effectively minister together on Christian camping teams. This year, three LLI alumni served together on a multicultural church-planting team in Poland. Another student wrote that the skills she learned continue to help her be effective as a servant leader in Slovenia. Through the training God called two participants into full-time ministry. God continues to use LLI to equip and empower young leaders to serve in God’s Kingdom work around the world. [www.leadershiplabinternational.com](http://www.leadershiplabinternational.com)



### GCF Leadership Experience

Throughout 2015, Scripture Union continued to work with a collaboration of global children’s ministry agencies to prepare for the launch of the *Global Children’s Forum Leadership Experience* in 2016. This course brings together advanced children’s ministry leaders from around the world in a 10-month program of mentoring, research and online forums. It includes a five-week residential intensive in South Africa designed to: stretch thinking; develop leadership character and skills; and share innovative ministry strategies and models.



### Young Leaders Training

An eight-month SU European Leadership Course was launched with the aim to invest in younger SU staff and volunteer leaders. The outcome was an incredibly rich learning network. Eighteen people from across Europe – France, Bulgaria, Austria, Serbia, Latvia, Slovakia, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Germany participated - quite a mix! The two residential had a strong community feel and, with ongoing work and reflection, provided a rich learning experience. The hope is not just the immediate benefit of individual SU movements, but the long-term ministry input of those who attended.

### Peninsula Malaysia Interns

H\* came to intern with SU Peninsular Malaysia for three months to improve his English and better translate English material into his country language. While there he was exposed to various ministries. He writes, ‘I had a great experience at SU during my internship: learning the Bible and English from the staff, teaching youth and children, and exploring this multi-racial and pluralistic society’. The experience was so useful it was mutually agreed that he would extend his internship for a year. It is hoped that the time spent in Peninsular Malaysia will prepare H for ministries in his home country.

\* Name withheld for security reasons.



### LSDC

After attending my first LSDC at Brackenhurst, Kenya, I returned rejuvenated to my beloved country of Peru. The prayer and praise, hearing from the Word, and reflecting on different issues in small and large groups, awakened a desire to put into practice in my ministry all God so clearly taught through speakers and believers from other countries.

I shared with my colleagues about ‘Differentiating between Bible Values and Mainstream Culture’ – how family practices and lessons from society, formed largely during our childhood years, differ from Biblical values.

In our multicultural nation we often work with children whose background we know little about. This must challenge us to rethink our goals and explore ways to be effective in reaching these youngsters and their parents. Without diagnostic tools to gauge the desires and maturity of the young people we serve, we face tomorrow’s new challenges by trusting in the Lord’s teaching and the guidance of His Spirit.

Our commitment is to children, young people and parents from different backgrounds and religious beliefs. Our ultimate goal is to present the Lord Jesus, with biblical support, within the context of a mentoring program. I continue to share material I was given in Brackenhurst in leadership seminars with my staff all over Peru.

*María Antonieta*



Guardians of Ancora

## Bible - Publishing/ Digital Advances

### Guardians of Ancora

Imagine being able to introduce Jesus to any child, anywhere in the world, who has access to the internet and a mobile device – tablet or smartphone. After five long years of planning, *Guardians of Ancora* first appeared in app stores at the beginning of July 2015.

This online game is designed to help children explore the Bible, respond to truths of God, and grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus. Currently it has 10 Jesus-focused stories to run, jump, climb and search through the fictional world of Ancora.



Since the launch, 100,000 users have signed on, the app has been downloaded in over 100 countries, and it has won two prestigious UK awards, including for innovative digital evangelism. Accompanying resources have been developed to help churches, networks, and children's agencies use it as a mission tool. Currently *Guardians of Ancora* is only available in English, however, there are plans for more languages to follow.  
[www.guardiansofancora.com](http://www.guardiansofancora.com)



### SU East-West Asia Bible Ministry Consultation

SU East-West Asia region held a Bible Ministry Consultation on 22-26 June 2015 in Bogor, Indonesia. Thirty-five people from nine countries discussed topics such as *Passion for God's Word*, *QT (Quiet Time) Discipline*, *Bible Engagement and the Church*, *QT notes and Digital Word (Bible Apps)*. There were many issues to consider, but the time was enriched by lively discussions. Those attending don't have all the answers, but are certainly more aware of trends and challenges ahead.

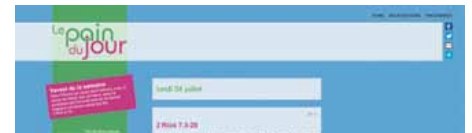
The importance of SU's Methodology in Bible Engagement was reinforced. Reading the Bible systematically and in context seems so simple and fundamental. You would think everyone would do it, but reality shows us otherwise. SU's Methodology, which encourages readers to grapple with the text and find the main point of a passage, is powerful.

### What is Express'O?

*Express'O* is a website ([www.guide-expresso.com](http://www.guide-expresso.com)) – and soon an application – for people who want to read the Bible but never have time to do it. Four minutes a day is the strapline. Just two or three verses and a short comment... but not a comment written by theologians. No, just the first thought you have when you read a Bible text. Sometimes, even something politically incorrect. And for people who want to read more, there is the *Capuccino* (the verses in their context).

Always SU... even if there are only two or three verses, the goal is always to read all the Bible. So we go through all the books of the Bible.

And the cost? It's free, but gifts towards the project are welcomed. To this point, the required funding has been received. The project started in July 2015 and, so far, over 20,000 people have connected at least once.



### Online Francophone Africa Notes

A new website ([www.pdjenligne.com](http://www.pdjenligne.com)) was launched in February 2015 to provide online Bible guides for French-speaking Africa.

Adapted from LLB Switzerland's *Express'O* guides, the site is designed to be used by French-speaking Africans around the world. And the graphics ensure that the site can be accessed even if the Internet connection is slow.

### Malay Bible Reading Collaboration

Not many people realise that more than 60% of Malaysia's Christian population is Malay-speaking and located primarily in the states of Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo Island. These Christians have relied mainly on the Indonesian Bible. Therefore, it is most significant that *Alkitab Versi Borneo*, a new Malay Bible, was published in February 2016. The first print run of 10,000 copies has since been sold or given away.

In conjunction with the publishing of this new Malay Bible, SU Sabah and SU Sarawak collaborated to produce a Malay Bible reading guide, *Tumbuh dalam Firman (Growing in the Word)*, to encourage young people to engage with the Bible daily.





SU Ukraine

## Children & Youth – Stories

### God Opens Doors

Christian work is not officially allowed in Ukrainian schools, but God gave us an opportunity to visit schools with Samaritan Purse gifts during Christmas celebrations. We were able to run Christmas evangelism programs and give gifts to the children. As a result, we established relationships with school administrations which started to invite us to run day camps. Now we run different meetings in schools during the year, presenting the Bible and God's love to children. Please pray that we will be able to run more school meetings and for volunteers to help us. Please also pray for the ongoing development of good relationships with the schools and children.



### Queensland, Australia – Quest Camp

What does it mean for a child to follow Jesus? On the Quest Camp, we immersed 24 Christian kids (aged 12-14) in experiences aimed to help them explore what the Bible means when it tells us to love those different from ourselves. Campers served and interacted with people with disabilities. They also investigated other faiths with the challenge 'How would you explain what you believe?'

A highlight was using Skype to speak with Christian kids in Iraq. Our campers asked, 'How can we pray for you?' It was moving to hear the reply, 'Pray that the fighting stops so we can return home.' Our 24 kids now have faces to remember as they pray for kids around the world.

As God worked in their lives, we had the privilege of seeing these kids mature in their attitudes over a week.



### Bible Competition 2015, SU Bulgaria

In 2010 SU Bulgaria started *There was a Book in His Hand*, a competition for teenagers about knowing and understanding the Bible. The competition aims to motivate young people to read and study the Word of God in-depth. By 2015, the number of teams had tripled – there are now about 170 players and coaches. A large number of volunteers from many denominations and churches across the country are coming forward to help participate in this initiative.



### Every Kid Camps, Canada

SU Canada summer sports camps include children of all ability levels. To help partnering churches meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, Sarah Chaudhery, Director of Major Sporting Events and Outreach and a registered occupational therapist, has designed the *Every Kid Camp™* program. The EKC program ensures that children with disabilities/special needs/exceptionalities are included in every camp and receive the help required. Inclusion Coaches are trained, resourced and monitored by Sarah. All SU Canada camp directors, sport coaches and volunteers also receive basic training in serving children with disabilities.



### Work with Children of New Zealand Prisoners

Since 2011, SUNZ has partnered with Prison Fellowship in NZ to run two camps a year designed for children with a parent or guardian in prison. The aim is to give them an experience they may not otherwise be able to have. The Prison Fellowship database and SU contacts form the basis of who to invite. Alongside camp-style games and opportunities for safe social interaction, an SU holiday program provides a theme and Bible discovery material. Prison Fellowship follows up these family contacts with further support, while some of the children attend other SUPAKidz camps run by SUNZ. Statistics indicate that children with a parent in prison are seven times more likely to offend themselves. We trust that these camps are an important contribution to reducing intergenerational crime.





*Fiji after Cyclone Winston*

## Central African Republic (CAR)

The office of LLB CAR is located in Bangui, close to the area affected by the military-political crisis that began in December 2014. Fierce hostilities resumed in September 2015 and, on 27 September, the premises of Elim Evangelical Church of Bangui M'Poko which housed the LLB office was totally destroyed and the LLB office looted before being burnt. It was impossible to determine if any lives were lost as the area could not be entered because of fighting raging in the capital.

Francis Bella, LLB – CAR Director, and his family miraculously survived and fled to safety. Francis was able to travel to Kenya just four weeks later to attend the Leading Staff Development Course. While he was there, a generous donor raised funds to replace all the destroyed equipment.

## Emergency and Special Appeals

2015 saw a number of natural disasters happen around the world that impacted SU Movements in those countries. We are grateful for the way the SU family, Movements, staff and supporters, joined together to support the Movements facing these challenges.



### Nepal

In April, Nepal was struck by an earthquake registering 7.8 on the Richter Scale. SU worldwide responded to an emergency appeal, giving more than US\$10,000. This enabled staff and volunteers to run extra children's camps in remote areas heavily impacted by the earthquake. As well as taking God's Good News to these children, food and blankets were provided as Winter was approaching.

The earthquake also provided another unexpected opportunity. For a couple of years SU Nepal had been looking for a building to purchase, but prices were out of reach and insufficient funds were raised. After the earthquake, a building became available at about two-thirds of the expected price. A number of donors – individuals and trusts – saw this as an excellent opportunity and were able to provide the necessary funding. On 31 December 2015, SU Nepal became the owners of a building that will provide them with training and office spaces, as well as offices and shops to rent out to provide a much-needed source of steady income.

### Vanuatu

In March 2015, Cyclone Pam tore through the islands of Vanuatu, destroying many of the buildings on the SU Vanuatu campsite. An appeal for help was launched. Not only had SU Vanuatu lost the campsite for their own activities, but rental income which contributed towards their ministry costs would not be available until the campsite was up and running again.

We are grateful to God for the way He brought Movements and supporters together to raise AUD\$174,000 – the first estimate of building replacement costs and salaries previously covered by rental income. In addition, God brought together a team of skilled volunteers who, under the SUSTAIN ministry banner and Glenn Coombs' leadership, have provided design and building expertise, enabling the construction of much more solid buildings. This meant a delay in construction, but this is moving ahead quickly in 2016 with various work teams going to Vanuatu to erect the new buildings.



### India

In December, there was severe flooding in Chennai, India, where SU India has its central office. While many were affected in some way during this time, one staff member and their family lost everything. Through the emergency support provided by the SU family, and the prayers of many, much that was lost in the flood was replaced and restored.

## Thank You for Your Support

We are most grateful to our supporters who pray and also those who give regularly, for special projects and emergency situations. Your support is very much appreciated as we seek to minister across the globe.

*If you would like to become a supporter, please contact [a1admin@su-international.org](mailto:a1admin@su-international.org) for further information.*



# Finance Report

## Statement of Financial Activity for 2015

Income Resources	Total £ 2015	Total £ 2014
Donations, Legacies and Gifts		
Restricted	510,046	137,963
General	29,288	9,638
Voluntary Contributions from SU Movements	262,171	208,939
Team Support	23,137	24,573
Activities for Generating Funds		
Programs & Publications	8,145	958
Investment Income	3,428	3,116
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>836,215</b>	<b>385,187</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Charitable Activities		
Grants Payable in Furtherance of SU's Objectives	163,577	112,391
Bible, Children, Youth Work	156,142	246,961
Global Training Strategy	53,056	40,637
Living Hope	–	50,973
Other Charitable Activities	225,449	40,958
Currency Losses	2,271	2,023
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>600,495</b>	<b>493,943</b>
<b>Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources *</b>	<b>235,720</b>	<b>(108,756)</b>
Fund Balances b/f at 1 January 2015	499,570	608,326
<b>Fund Balances c/f at 31 December 2015</b>	<b>735,290</b>	<b>499,570</b>
<b>* Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources comprised of:</b>		
Net Operating Surplus	57,550	15,443
Net Movement in Restricted and Designated Funds	178,170	(124,199)
	235,720	(108,756)

## Balance Sheet

	2015	2014
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	105,164	124,359
Cash at Bank and In Hand	658,424	409,733
	763,588	534,092
Current Liabilities – Creditors	(30,446)	(50,725)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>733,142</b>	<b>483,367</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Loans Receivable	–	14,777
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,148	1,426
	2,148	16,203
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>735,290</b>	<b>499,570</b>
<b>Income Funds</b>		
Restricted Funds	347,340	169,610
Designated Funds	180,899	198,490
General Funds	207,051	131,470
	735,290	499,570



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 2015 Statement includes audited figures. The full audited statements will be available from the UK Office from 31 July 2016.

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.



International Business  
& Development Manager:  
Jenny Stewart  
Email:  
jennys@su-international.org

# Scripture Union International

Angola  
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   Western Australia  
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