

Ready... Set... Play!

Christians in almost every country on the planet are using sport to share the hope of the Gospel.

Inspired by Bible passages that use vivid sporting analogies to highlight Kingdom values, this strategy continues to provide unlimited opportunities in our journey with children and young people.

Consider this key principle of sports ministry: The word '*compete*' literally means, '*to strive together*' – more than one person trying hard to achieve a goal. Therefore we don't play against an 'opponent' but with our 'co-competitor'. God is more interested in each person playing in the game than in the result. This means that the mission Jesus gave us to 'make disciples' when taken to the sporting fields, will exhibit God our Father's concern for people. Sporting fields are a microcosm of life where values are demonstrated, conflicts resolved, relationships forged and character built. When we engage kids in sport, we engage in their lives. This is what mission is about.

Each sporting strategy in the list below embodies the values of the Scripture Union movement. These include: evangelism with integrity; Bible engagement; connection with families; serving local church mission; intentional discipleship; being incarnational; holistic motivation; and going where the people are. As a partner in the International Sports Coalition (ISC), Scripture Union has made a major contribution to the development and resourcing of sports strategies being used worldwide.

- **KidsGames** is a resource-rich, Bible-based sports and games strategy for children aged 6-14 years.
- **TeenGames** is based on the KidsGames strategy, but with activities more suited to an older age group.
- **FamilyGames** celebrates belonging to each other. Everyone can be a part of a family – a social family, a biological family, or a new family surrounding us from our local church and community.
- **EdgeGames** caters for mature young adults.

Visit www.kidsgames.com for information and resources on each of these Global Community Games.

- **Ubabalo** is a whole life-coaching concept that can be adapted to any sport. The coach becomes the mentor for the team members, imparting sporting skills and life lessons from a biblical perspective. www.max7.org/en/library/Ubabalo
- **Community Cup of Nations** brings together all the different communities in a locality to share the culture, philosophy of life, food and friendship through sporting competition. www.nationssport.org
- **CYCAS (Community, Youth, Children And Sport) Training.** A vast library of open source training modules are available to resource local teams and trainers. www.max7.org and search for CYCAS.

What could some of these strategies look like in your country? How are you using sport as a ministry strategy?

You are invited to share your story (and a photo) so that we can celebrate what God is doing through sport. Please email Terry Williams at terryw@suqld.org.au

How are you using sport as a ministry strategy?



God is working in lives around the world

Over the last six months as I have visited many Movements, I have been so encouraged to hear stories of how God has been working in the lives of children and young people through the ministries of Scripture Union. In this issue of *SUI News* we are pleased to share some of these stories with you. This is just a small example of what is happening around the world as we seek to be faithful to our calling. We would like to include stories like this in every issue, so please tell us about the children, youth and families in your area.

Update on Transition Towards Interdependence

Since we sent the last communiqué, a great deal has happened. Here are some highlights.

A small **digital consultation** took place in Bangkok in response to needs identified in the Living Hope process. You can read more about the outcomes of the consultation on page 9.

The Big Bible Challenge has now been published in 18 languages with the most recent being Thai. SU Thailand held their first training course for churches to introduce them to the material and assist them in their use of it with children.

In early November, around 45 people gathered for the next **Leading Staff Development Course (LSDC)** held in Nairobi, Kenya. Building on the Living Hope experience and priorities, we explored the deep structures of our culture from childhood to adulthood, and the way they shape our leadership style, approach

to ministry, and the way we read and understand Scripture.

In our Bible reflections we immersed ourselves in the 'big story' of the Bible, beginning with creation and finishing with the new heaven and earth. We took time to think about ourselves as leaders and about the Movements we serve. There were additional optional workshops and seminars. We also had plenty of time for personal reflection and rest.

A number of Movements have shown interest in the '**No More Violence**' program from Honduras. The Spanish language materials have now been received in digital format. Permission will be sought for use in other countries, after which work will commence on translation to English.

We have begun discussions with **YouVersion** about possible partnership to provide Bible reflections/guides for the Bible translations on this app. Currently few are available. Millions around the world use YouVersion and we are praying that we might be able to provide this much needed Bible reading material.

Community Groups and Regional Plans

The **East/West Asia Region Council** met in April. During the meeting the constitution was suspended and a Transition Leadership Team (TLT) formed. The TLT met in August to begin work on plans for 2016 – 2017. The first community group meeting will take place in April 2017. We are very thankful for the Regional Executive that has served so faithfully over the years, providing leadership to the Region:

Vivi Handoyo – Chairperson, **Jim Neging** – Treasurer, and all of the **Regional Executive**. We also thank God for **Jason Fong**, Regional Ministry Director, for his work with National Movements and for opening up new work in the Region.

Africa Region held a special meeting for National Directors and Chairpersons in June prior to the Council meeting. Five Community Groups were formed and some dates set for meetings next year. A Transition Leadership Team was chosen and met for the first time in October. Following the meeting, the Council officially agreed to the changes. The Council will meet again in February 2016 to deal with final matters, including suspension of the constitution and closing the Regional Office.

The final meeting of the **South Asia Region** Council and first community group meeting were scheduled for April 2015 in Kathmandu. However, due to the earthquake, the meeting was rescheduled for April next year.

At the end of June we said farewell to **Paul Owen** in his role as Americas Regional Director. Paul will continue to provide a service for development of **Spanish literature**. You can read more about Paul on page 10.

Let us continue to pray for one another as we move forward in the transition process and as we recognise our utter dependence on God each step of the way.

Janet Morgan
SUI International Director

Guardians of Ancora is launched!



After five long years of planning, *Guardians of Ancora* first appeared in app stores at the beginning of July 2015. Since then, there have been more than 20,000 downloads of the game - and the major marketing campaign is yet to begin. Fun to play and fantastic to look at, the intent of the game is serious – to help children meet God through the Bible and prayer, and grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus. From the very beginning,



children have loved it. *Guardians of Ancora* will continue to expand. We've only just begun!

Guardians of Ancora is an app, so players need to have an iPad, iPhone, Android phone or tablet, or Kindle Fire device. Give it a try yourself. Search for *Guardians of Ancora* in the Apple App Store or on Google Play or in the Kindle Fire Store, and simply download it. The great news is it's free!

Over the past five years many agencies, including Scripture Union movements from around the world, have been consulted. Most said that *Guardians of Ancora* would work really well in their own context. If you take a look at the app and decide that you could use it where you are, in English or in another language, please get in touch with Mark Green direct: markg@scriptureunion.org.uk We ask language partners to play as full a role as possible in the translation and promotion of the game for their ministries, but we will provide plenty of support.

Please pray with us that hundreds of thousands – maybe millions – of children will enter the game as *Guardians of Ancora*, and leave it as lifelong, Bible-exploring, prayerful disciples of Jesus.



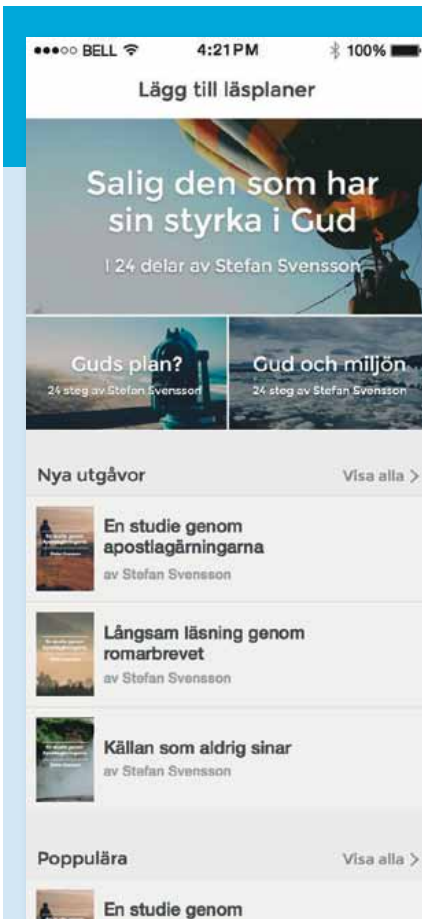
New Bible App – Denmark Sweden

SU Denmark and SU Sweden have partnered to develop a Bible reading app specially designed for teenagers and young adults – and everyone else – who like a digital environment. Using the SU Bible reading method, it is designed for a variety of reflections and guides including those based on a theme, books of the Bible, and special programs like E100.

The app includes a social media element, for sharing reflections and questions. It is an excellent tool for following up with those attending summer camps or youth conferences. The Bible app also gives users an opportunity to connect with the host SU Movement so they become aware of other SU resources.

SU Sweden and Denmark were thinking beyond their borders when they designed the app. Other Movements can use the framework to provide reflections in multiple languages.

For more information contact SU Sweden on bibelguiden@bibelnidag.org



Stories of Ministry Impact



VOICE transforms a family

SU Uganda – In November 2014, SU Uganda officially launched a new ministry – VOICE (Values Orientation in Classroom Education). VOICE is designed to mobilise and equip churches to serve their community through teaching Biblical values in schools, reaching children of all faiths.

The Bible-based curriculum from the Philippines has been adapted to make it appropriate for an African setting. Six of twelve possible modules on Truth, Honesty, Forgiveness, Moral Purity, Self-Control and Obedience have been used in primary and secondary schools in urban and rural areas. The curriculum includes songs and activity sheets.

Headmasters, classroom teachers and parents are already seeing the impact on their students and are asking for more VOICE classes. In some schools, SU Clubs have started as a result and a number of students have put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

One primary school teacher told us about 8-year old Grace who was very touched by the session on forgiveness. When she got home Grace spoke to her Mother, who was separated from her father, about the forgiveness lessons. She told her Mum, 'Mommy, we have to forgive Daddy'. Grace's Dad was invited home for Easter and Grace again spoke about the need for forgiveness to both parents. Eventually, after two years of bitter separation, her Dad moved back home. The family are now reunited.



Please pray... for a train conductor

SU Ukraine – Vera, a SU Ukraine volunteer, has served SU faithfully for almost 20 years. Recently, as Vera travelled by train to the SU campsite in the beautiful village of Vorzel near Kiev, a ticket collector came to check her ticket. He asked, 'Where are you going?'

'To Vorzel', she replied.

'Is there still the camp in Vorzel?' he asked

'There are many camps at Vorzel – it's a resort area.'

'No, I mean, the Christian camp! Probably you didn't recognise me, but I recognise you. I've been at the camp twice. I remember all the things you taught me about God there. At some point in my life I definitely want to become a Christian.'

Please pray for this man – for God to continue His work in his heart by His Holy Spirit. Also pray for the children and teenagers who came to the camps this year – that God will do His work in their lives.



Coping with Gintars

SU Latvia – Most of SU Latvia's youth ministry is focused on summer camps. It's always encouraging to see the fruit of camps, but there can also be challenges. This was the case with 14 year old Gintars (not his real name) who came to the teenage camp.

Gintars was a very active and strong young man, whose energy sometimes caused problems for camp leaders. He didn't always want to participate in games or go to sleep at the scheduled time. But leaders just kept praying for him and loving him.

On the last day when everyone was preparing to go home, Gintars became very quiet and sad. The leaders asked him why. Gintars replied, 'What will I do now? I have to wait another year for the next camp and I just can't understand how to survive a whole year.' His lips trembled and tears filled his eyes. The leaders hadn't realised how special the camp environment and their love had been for him.

Stories like this make us think again about the importance of camps and how much our relationships with young people impact them.



When Jesus steps in

South Australia – Imagine a young person with a messed up past, family breakdown and chronic illness. Where is the hope? That's the story of 'Lisa' (not her real name). Lisa had endured years of doctors and tests for her problems with no relief. She had endured years of painful family issues. She didn't feel loved, cared for or worth anything to anyone. Then a Christian family member who knew Lisa provided a way for her to participate in an SU camp. At the start Lisa was distant. She didn't fit in with the others and would sit alone. But, hour-by-hour, God's love broke through. Lisa had previously made attempts to take her own life and was planning to do so again. Then, on the last day of camp without any prompting, Lisa shared what had happened. Jesus had stepped into her life, into her pain, and she had found hope, purpose and worth. The SU volunteers and leaders had shared Jesus and His love with her through their love and actions. That's what SU is all about!



God is at work in Greece

SU Greece – Since the results of the Greek referendum were announced on 27 June 2015, Greece has entered a new, tense and difficult situation. After six stressful years, things have worsened, resulting in a financial crisis faced by the people of Greece every day.

People queue outside banks for ATM services. Corporate and business life has been massively affected and there is shortage of goods. Capital controls have been applied to entities such as Scripture Union Greece.

In the midst of all this, SU Greece is faced with a double challenge. The needs of the people around them grow and, as the demand grows, they struggle to operate and sustain ministry and to support their staff.

With the growing number of refugees, SU Greece is also assisting in 'The Refuge of Love Initiative', which provides meals in the centre of Athens for homeless, poor and refugees. SU is also involved with 'Helping Hands' for refugees at the Bethel Youth Centre, where food, basic medical treatment, life lessons (cooking, personal hygiene) and Bible teaching are provided.

Sokratis Anastasiadis writes, 'Despite the challenges, we dream of starting a daycare ministry for unescorted children who enter Greece as refugees. Please pray that in all this we will have wisdom and joy in our Lord Jesus.'

Ready...Set...Go!

Northern Territory, Australia – Yarralin is a remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory of Australia with a population of about 300. An SU Chaplain works in its small school, helping disengaged students and connecting the community with the school.

Being remote presents huge challenges for Yarralin Community School students. After Year 6, when they are 12 to 13 years, students leave the community to continue their education far away in Darwin, Katherine or Kununurra. Their transition from community to college often fails.

To assist students with the huge changes ahead, a 'Getting Ready for College' session was organised by SU. This included a question and answer time using questions prepared by the students. Three young adults from the community were interviewed about their experiences of living away from home, college education, and their transition to employment and community leadership. Students heard about difficulties and fun times and were helped with strategies for making the transition. They left feeling encouraged and more prepared and inspired for the adventures ahead.

'Friends of Jesus' Club

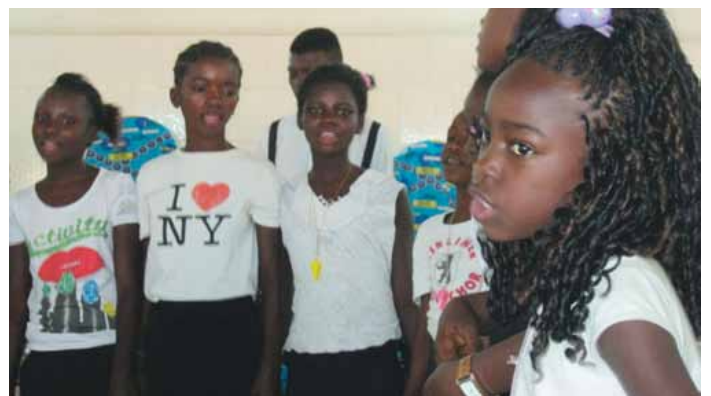
DR Congo – 'Friends of Jesus' clubs grew from a vision of SU and EPED 'Equipe Pastorale auprès des Enfants en Détresse' (Pastoral Team for Children in Distress). They wanted to mobilise DR Congo churches to actively involve children, rather than leaving them on the margins of church life.

Teenagers from various churches were trained by SU to help other children to share their faith in their schools and neighbourhoods. SU supports the teenagers and monitors the progress of the children.

Pastor Faustin said, 'It's amazing! Our Sunday School was not really functioning. Now it is lively and flourishing, and it's the children who often teach other children. They are teaching the Sunday School teachers!'

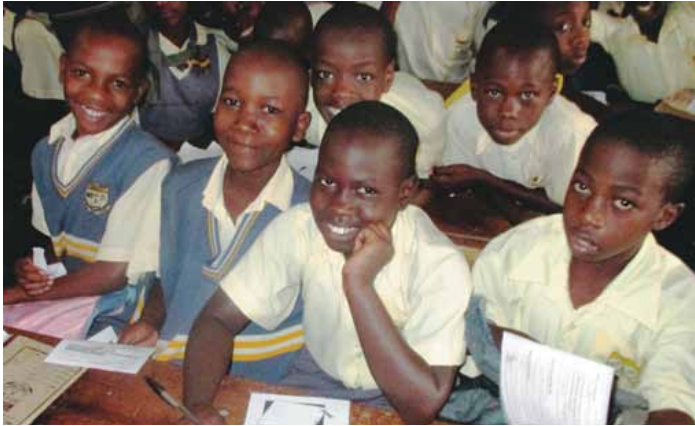
Susie Howe of Bethany Children's Trust visited. Here are excerpts from her report.

I am with Miguel, one of the young adults who helps to lead the 'Friends of Jesus' clubs. We make our way to a church where there are around 30 children and teenagers waiting... They have a highly creative program of singing, dancing, drama and preaching. I am in awe at the sheer talent of these children and young people. One young boy of about nine years of age preaches his heart out from the story of the young child Jesus at the temple. A group of children present an imaginary television documentary about children living on the streets that is so true to life it takes my breath away. Others passionately present poems about justice for children accused of witchcraft and others who are abused



and mistreated. This group meets every Saturday and has already started to bring other children into the church. As adults, we have a huge under-estimation of children, and yet it is obvious that the children in the 'Friends of Jesus' clubs have many talents and gifts. They have the potential to really connect with other children in Kinshasa in a way that adults would never be able to. More importantly, they have the potential to help transform their communities and to introduce many other children to Christ.

Stories of Ministry Impact



Help with parenting

Africa – The UN's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 gave SU in Africa the opportunity to refocus family ministry. In the light of changes taking place in Africa and in the world, SU identified a particular need for training in parent-child communication. A training manual was published to help people develop the knowledge and skills to strengthen relationships between parents and their children.

Topics include communication within the family, positive parenting and ways parents can enable healthy relationships to thrive. These include parents taking care of their relationship as a couple. The manual, produced in English and French, is being used in various African countries with very encouraging feedback.



Pentecost Project

SU Republic of Ireland – SU in the Republic of Ireland has worked hard to build relationships across the churches. They participated in an Ecumenical Bible Week, with a firm focus on Christian's united commitment to the Bible. Throughout the week there were presentations on Exploring the Bible and Prayer, Bible and Contemporary Issues, Bible and Music, and Bible and Film. SU worked with schools using a graphic artist to help children produce comics about Pentecost. The children engaged with the story of Pentecost, coming up with great characters and story lines, and enthusiastically throwing themselves into their particular comic project. Eleven comics were produced in five schools with a total number of 298 children working on them. The results were incredibly creative, enabling children to engage with the Bible in fresh ways. For some of the results see <http://www.scriptureunion.ie/index.php/primary-schools-other/news/371-hear-all-about-the-pentecost-project>



Megamakers

SU Slovakia – SU Slovakia used holiday club 'Megamakers' material published by SU England and Wales for their children's camp. The children learned about Jesus' ministry, and were astonished to see how he made things bigger and better and greater than they could have ever imagined. Afterwards the leaders looked at how they could build on the Megamakers idea for a mid-year holiday club. Looking at other Megamakers in the Bible, they settled on Solomon, a Megamaker who built the Temple. They also realised that he was a Megamaker in another way as well – a mega troublemaker because he introduced the worship of pagan gods. So, the theme became Solomon – Mega (trouble) maker. The children who came enjoyed following Solomon's story through various activities, focusing mainly on his decision-making. But the Megamakers idea didn't stop there. After some more work, the material is now available online in Slovak. A new resource!



Digital Word

SU Hong Kong – With the quick development of digital media, SU Hong Kong is promoting 'Chinese Daily Bread' for adults through a mobile application. Thanks to Hong Kong Bible Society, the app includes two versions of the Chinese Bible. A step-by-step click method reflects the SU Bible reading method. There are additional features including: electronic notes; social media sharing; booking for monthly Bible talks; and access to SU Hong Kong's Facebook page, with Bible passages for the coming week. SU Hong Kong hopes to attract younger readers to daily Bible reading and provide a systematic Bible reading for Chinese Christians overseas. We thank God that 1,500 subscribers have used the app this year, a 15% increase. If you want to introduce this app to Chinese Christians in your country, please contact SU Hong Kong for English-Chinese bilingual introduction notes: su@hksu.org.hk



More Than Gold!

SU Canada – SU Canada has just finished an incredible summer of sports ministry, greatly enhanced by the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games held in Toronto. Along with other Christian ministries, SU Canada has facilitated the *More Than Gold* network for the last three years leading up to the Games. Different ministry teams have led the local church in outreaches including: community festivals; handing out free water; chaplaincy inside and outside the Athlete Village; street-level outreach addressing poverty, human trafficking and prostitution; homestay programs for athletes' families and official volunteers; and partnerships with incoming mission teams.

In addition, SU Canada developed *KidsGames for the Big Games* curriculum, plus sport camp and sport festival manuals – and trained churches in how to use them. Local churches ran 34 weekly and weekend camps, and 15 sports festivals! Excitingly, partnerships were also forged with churches in different regions and provinces, who used the SU training and materials to enhance their own ministries and to train others.

The long process of developing quality resources has really started to pay off. The Pan Am Games was the perfect opportunity to 'launch' them across the country! Previously there was no way to pass on 8 years of work. Nine additional churches across the country used SU Canada's sports camp resources to run their own camps, while an additional 50+ people received training in other provinces to run *KidsGames for the Big Games*. A conservative estimate is that 2,500+ children will have the opportunity to hear about Christ this summer through partners with a vision to share the Gospel with children and their families.

The benefits of being well prepared for a major sporting event have been huge! Partnerships are forged, the timeline is a motivation and organisations develop strategies to increase their reach and effectiveness.



Sport! Sport! Sport!

SU England and Wales – Over the last three years, momentum has been building in the area of sports ministry. SU England and Wales is a major partner in Engage2015, a current exciting cross-denominational project. Engage 2015 mobilises and supports churches in mission related to the Rugby Union 2015 World Cup. www.engage2015.co.uk gives further information and access to a Media Hub and the *Game of Life* resource. A wide range of resources have been developed which combine rugby and faith for use in schools, churches and local parks. These resources will soon be available free online.

The London Olympics and successful grassroots SU sports projects have sparked a huge interest in sports ministry resources. The longest standing SU project is PSALMS which combines sports and faith in schools during school holidays and in MUGA's (Multi-Use Games Areas). After research, a similar project was launched in Widnes where hundreds of children and young people had the opportunity to meet the local church and encounter God. We really believe that we are called to mobilise and support the church as they connect with and disciple young people through sport.

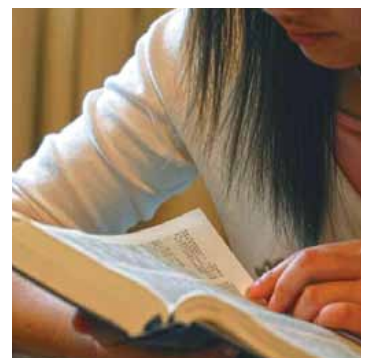
We are developing key resources to support churches. The Games, a KS2 schools day, has been very popular with thousands of schools running the day with local church volunteers. SnapSports was also produced to help 8-11's read the Bible and is full of testimonies from Christian sportsmen and women. We are seeking to grow and develop new resources to equip the church. In recent months www.highersports.org has been developed for the SU family.

Working with others on a local, regional and national level is critical as we seek to help churches connect with and disciple young people and children outside the church.

*To find out more, contact Richard Witham
– Richardjw@scriptureunion.org.uk*

Lakmini's tough life

Sri Lanka – Lakmini (not her real name) grew up in an orphanage. Her childhood was very tough. She did not know where her parents were and the Koreans who ran the orphanage were the only family she knew. They took good care of her and she felt secure and happy. Lakmini was thrilled when her mother came looking for her and took her home. She met her stepfather and two step-sisters, however her new life didn't last long. Tensions in the home resulted in Lakmini going to a hostel run by the Methodist Church. Lakmini was invited to an SU camp. She went with one of her sisters and another friend. At camp Lakmini learned how special she was. She realised just how much God loved her. Lakmini and other campers were helped to explore past memories and, through the activities, she began to realise there was hope and a goal in her life. She learned that she was 'fearfully and wonderfully made' and was given skills in protecting herself from harm. This was Lakmini's first step in her life of faith.



In the News – for your prayers



Despite earthquake, support enables work to continue

SU Nepal – We are so grateful for the support SU Nepal received after the devastating earthquake in April. We thank God that the full amount needed, \$12,000, was raised through a special appeal. SU continues to plan for additional camps for children in the worst affected area of the country and has already run a special training for young adults in one of these areas.

The 25th Anniversary celebration of SU in Nepal was due to be held the week after the earthquake at the South Asian Region and Community Group Meeting. It was rescheduled, taking place on Sunday 19 July. One hundred and fifty people gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness and the growth of the ministry. Although their South Asian colleagues and friends were unable to be present, they sent their warmest greetings. There will be a special time of recognition at the Community Group Meeting next year.

Praising God and picking up the pieces

SU Vanuatu – The response to Cyclone Pam from the SU International community was breathtaking and a great encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu. A team from New Zealand provided a rapid response to re-roof some buildings so the Easter Camp could proceed. Since then \$150,000 has been raised for the redevelopment of the campsite. Two previously planned mission trips proceeded in July in adjusted accommodation!

The redevelopment has sparked many local meetings and work parties, two International Partnership Meetings and, after much prayer and discussion, a Campsite Redevelopment Masterplan has been

approved by SU Vanuatu. Greg Smith, an architect from NSW has been a great help. Peter Davies from NSW will be Project Manager, coordinating overseas groups and resources for the rebuilding project.

The Eastgate Church NZ work party sent a container of fencing materials. In just four days they fenced a good portion of the original campsite and built a new roof for the bush kitchen. Great work! Thanks so much.

Let's keep praying for SU Vanuatu as they continue to recover from the effects of the worst cyclone in Vanuatu's history.

Glenn Coombs
SUSTAIN – Partnership consultant

Students – Potential leaders for change in Nigeria and the wider world



Nigeria FCS – Fellowship of Christian students (FCS), a member movement of Scripture Union Africa is an interdenominational, evangelical organisation working among pupils, students, youth and families to develop godly leaders and families through evangelism and discipleship.

FCS operates in 19 of the 36 states of Nigeria with 310 JFCS branches in primary schools, 4,324 branches in secondary schools, 176 branches in post-secondary schools (tertiary institutions of learning), 318 Associates Fellowship (AFCS) branches, over 7.9 million pupil and student members, and 103 staff.

Although Nigeria is going through a very turbulent time, FCS has realised that schools are mission fields full of unreached people groups. The holistic work of FCS has continued unabated, even in places like Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states – the areas most hit by the recent violent insurgency. Of the 2,272,434 reached, 60% of the young people

exposed to the psycho-social skills course have committed themselves to abstinence until they are married and 386,314 received Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

FCS sees students as the main force for changing the world. They are the potential leaders of tomorrow and strategic to the Cause of Christ – the only hope for a better Nigeria. FCS desires to reach, disciple and equip 10 million more students by 2024.

FCS Strategies include: school visitation, Bible reading promotion, leadership development, motivation of volunteers, short term mission drives, Family Life Development and Lifeskills/ Peer Education Clubs.

FCS seeks support, prayers, finances and material assistance to help intervene in the plight of Internally Displaced Persons because of the insurgency in North East Nigeria.

Emmanuel O Nwokeocha
National Director





Seble Denneque (Ethiopia), Mike Smallbones (Sth Africa), Wendy Strachan (SUI) and Sara Wangari (Kenya).



The residential will be held at Shikwaru.

GCF Leadership Experience

In February 2016, a group of 20 children's ministry practitioners from around the world will form the inaugural intake of this new 10-month program of leadership development. Designed by several different children's ministry organisations, the program invests in younger leaders around the world. Nominations have been brisk – including several from different Scripture Union movements. Choosing just 20 will not be an easy task.

Included are: mentoring; online discussions; biblical reflections; community research; and a five-week residential intensive in South Africa where participants learn from one another and from experienced facilitators from diverse organisations and experiences. Together they will be challenged to:

- explore Jesus' commission to 'make disciples' of children in a world where diversity in faith backgrounds,

family experience, safety and access to technology and education create huge challenges

- discover **what God is accomplishing** through and on behalf of children across the globe
- experience the **richness of working alongside** children's ministry leaders from around the world
- **share exciting effective models** of holistic children's ministry
- sharpen skills and strategies in **team leadership, advocacy and collaboration**
- reflect on what it means personally to be a **follower-leader in God's Kingdom**
- join a **growing cohort of people** working together around the world so that every child has the opportunity to love and follow Jesus.

There may still be spaces! Go to www.gcfleadership.org to nominate.

International Digital Summit

During August 2015, a small group met in Bangkok, Thailand, to develop a strategy for Scripture Union to work digitally across the globe. James Burden, a digital specialist who used to minister with SU England and Wales, expertly led us through the process. We were encouraged to see how much SU globally is using digital tools, both in direct ministry and to support ministry. It was also recognised that this needs to go much further in the future. As we minister to children and young people who are native digital users, we need to make this way of thinking, our way of thinking.

A number of priorities were agreed on and a number of issues needing further investigation identified for future discussion. Much of what was learnt will feed into a global Communications Strategy. This will include:

- developing a system which enables National Movements to easily share resources and see things others are doing that might help them in their ministry, and
- developing a new global website that will profile the global story of Scripture Union, and help with fundraising and connecting with partners.

Other elements of the discussions will be used to develop a toolkit for National Movements, which will help them use various digital tools to enhance their ministry and ministry support, communications and administration. Some of the findings will be shared in Community Groups as they begin to gather in 2016.

We look forward to a bright digital future as we minister together across the globe, seeking to engage the world's children with God's Word.

Jenny Stewart

SUI Business & Development Manager

BEPA: Bible Engagement Planning and Assessment Tool

Bible engagement is the key focus of all we do in Scripture Union. Introducing people to Jesus and encouraging them to grow in their enjoyment of God through His Word are central to our activities and publications around the world.

But how do we do that effectively? Living Hope in 2012 identified the need to assess how well we are meeting our Bible engagement goals. The kinds of questions we need to ask are wide-ranging. Are we helping people to understand the broad narrative of God and His restoration plan for all people? Are they able to see that they play a part in this Kingdom plan – wherever and

whoever they are? Have we considered the experiences and learning styles they bring to the Bible which might shape the way they understand it? How creatively do we build bridges between the text and the world in which children and adults live? Do the attitudes they encounter in our activities reflect the biblical values of respect, generosity, truth and kindness? Have we created a range of opportunities that encourage people of different abilities and interests to respond to what God is saying and doing?

A tool to help us answer such questions needs to be easy-to-use, suitable for a range of SU activities, and useful in

planning future activities and resources.

A prototype of the tool was trialled by those who attended Leading Staff Development Course. Feedback from their experiences will help us produce a final tool which can be made available to all national movements in 2016.



Appointments

Indonesia

Rev. Tantono Subagyo was appointed National Director of Scripture Union Indonesia in February 2015. Tantono has served on and off as a foundation member for many years. He has degrees in Biology, Intellectual Property Law and Plant Science. Tantono is based at the SU office in Jakarta.



Australian Capital Territory

Ana Davy is the new Director of SU ACT. She has a long history as an SU volunteer, employee and Board member. Ana has held policy and management roles in government and businesses. She is excited about leading SU ACT as they branch into new ministries to reach more children and young people.

South Australia

Since coming to Christ at the age of 16, **Chris Battistuzzi** has been committed to ministry with young people in roles including: Youth and Children's Pastor, School Chaplain and Church Pastor. For most of his adult life, Chris has been involved with SU in some capacity. His vision for SU SA is 'Every Child' - every child needs to, has the right to and deserves to hear about the saving grace of God through Jesus – and we need to do whatever it takes to make that happen.



India

Joshua Kirubaraj has been appointed as National Director of SU India, after serving with SU for the past 24 years in various capacities. His vision is to reach children and young people, molding them in the Christian faith; encourage Bible reading; and appointing new workers.

Chad

Samuel Maihoguemel has been appointed Director of SU Chad. Samuel has worked as a translator at Chad Bible Translation and Literacy, and with the Bible Society Distribution Unit. His vision is to lay a good foundation for SU's work in Chad.

Farewells

SU International

In March, we said farewell to **Clayton Fergie**, SU International Youth Ministry Coordinator after 11 years in this role. Clayton has wide experience of SU. He was involved in SU ministry in Papua New Guinea, and was Director in ACT, Northern Territory and South Australia before joining the International staff team in March 2004, Clayton's role focused on the development of Youth Ministry through networking, training, and special global projects. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Clay describe him as a thinker whose enthusiasm is infectious. We are so thankful for the impact that Clay has had in his role over the last 11 years. Although he is no longer part of the international staff team, he will continue to be committed and connected to SU in a variety of ways. We are encouraged to hear that Clayton has been appointed by the Australian College of Ministries as their QLD based Learning Support Manager. He will also be assisting One Hope with a special project in Africa.



The Americas

In June we said farewell to **Paul Owen** in his role as Americas Regional Director. Paul was appointed in 2004, having coordinated a rescue plan for UB Argentina following the impact of the country's financial collapse. Over the past 11 years Paul has supported and encouraged the work, particularly in the Latin American Movements. Under his leadership, the literature work has grown in both number and range of Spanish language publications. He is an excellent translator and has been a great gift to the Region and the International team. We congratulate Paul on the publication of two Spanish language youth books published in the USA by Broadman & Holman, who have commissioned four more books. Paul will continue to provide a service for UB resource publications. We are grateful for his 11 years of service and look forward to our continued partnership.



Australia

With the restructure of SU Australia, **Jacques Mouton** has stepped down as Executive Officer. We are grateful for his service.



More Scripture Union Snapshots from around the world...



Canada



Ukraine



Slovakia

Germany

Dr Christian Brenner

stepped down as Director of SU Germany in March, after serving in this role for 8 years.

Much was achieved during this time, including development of new strategic focus, reorganisation and relocation to a new office. He was also instrumental in the development of a new corporate design that is shared by BB Austria and BB Switzerland. Christian has now moved to Schorndorf, a town near Stuttgart where he has taken up a position with a marketing and communications company. He continues to serve as a volunteer, working with the SU International staff to develop a special funding strategy.



India

Mr JG Jeevaraj

has retired from the role of National Director after serving SU for 30 years. Passionate about Bible Reading, he spent most of that time in the Bible Reading Department. He continues to serve the Lord and is writing books in Tamil.



Latvia

Kristaps Kravalis has been the Interim Director of SU Latvia. At present he is exploring future opportunities which include further theological studies.



East West Asia

Hans Wuysang served part-time as Bible Ministry Coordinator for SUEWA, and part-time with SU Indonesia handling the production of some local Bible Reading Notes, and ministry matters between SUEWA and SU Indonesia. Hans pioneered the work in Timor Leste, establishing good connections with key local church leaders.



East West Asia



Jason Fong joined SU Pen Malaysia 22 years ago as a youth worker, pioneering the Camping Ministry Office in the north, the Camping Ministry and managing the

SUFES Campsite. Jason then served as General Secretary for SU Pen Malaysia. More recently he served SU East and West Asia paving the way for work in new countries and developing 3G ToTs and 3G Camps. Jason plans to work with churches, assisting with growth and development.



Greece

Condolences

In June the National Director of SU Fiji, **Sisa Teilai**, unexpectedly died after an emergency operation. He had served Scripture Union in Fiji for over 30 years. He was a faithful servant, persevering in some trying circumstances – a godly worker for the Gospel who touched many lives. The SU Fiji newsletter says, *'Through Sisa's legacy, we are reminded to celebrate life, our journey of faith and ministry as we serve His purpose in our lives on His earth.'*



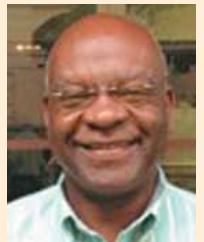
SU Kenya and friends around the world are mourning the passing of **Mike Githaiga**.

He died on 1 June in a carjack incident where he was shot dead. Mike served in SU Kenya for 10 years and was one of those trained in the pilot Shaping for Service course.



SU worldwide is mourning with SU Uganda the death of **Canon Ephraim Gensi**.

Ephraim has been a member of SU since his high school days. He served on SU Uganda staff and later as National Chairman. He was the Chairman of the East Sub-Region and a member of the SU Africa Regional Council. Ephraim actively participated in the Living Hope gathering in Malaysia in 2012 and was a member of the Process Steering Team. He passed away in early September while undergoing cancer treatment. Please uphold in prayer Ephraim's family and SU Uganda at this difficult time.



Ukraine



Greece



DR Congo



Canada



Snapshot Around the World – Sport as a Ministry Strategy

CANADA

- Major Event Outreach at the 2015 Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games 150+ churches
- 45+ KidsGames and sports camps with 3,000+ kids
- 60 Games Pastors
- 16 Chaplains serving in the Games Village
- 20,000+ gospels and magazines given to visitors
- 3,000 New Testament Bibles distributed
- 5 big screen events
- 10+ community festivals
- 17 Cup of Nations events scheduled for 2015
- Community Leagues for baseball, ice hockey and basketball
- Summer Sports Camps
- International Sports Camps
- Sending teams overseas to train and help establish sports ministry
- International Internships

ENGLAND

- Major Event Outreach around Rugby Union 2015 World Cup
- PSALMS project: sports and faith combined in schools during the holidays
- MUGA's (Multi Use Games Area) reaching children and young people beyond the church
- 'The Games': a school-based day program
- SnapSports produced to help 8-11's read the Bible

PORTUGAL

Since the start of 2013...

- 43 KidsGames – 4,355 kids
- 2 TeenGames – 131 teens
- 15 FamilyGames – 1,005 people
- 32 CYCAS training events – 500 trained
- Ubabalo – 2 futsal schools – 30 kids
- Team of 21 to Unity Cup in India

GUINEA BISSAU

- CYCAS training – 100 people
- KidsGames for 115 kids and 60 volunteers

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

- Partnering with more than 100 churches using the KidsGames strategy in the last 13 years
- SU School Chaplains initiating and serving on KidsGames for their local communities

SERBIA, BULGARIA & POLAND

- Annual combined TeenGames competition along with local KidsGames and TeenGames in each country.



PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for these key events...

► November

SU Europe – new staff course (23-27 November 2015)

2016

► February-March

SUI: Team and Exco Meetings, Greece (29 Feb-4 March)

► March

SU Africa: Final Council meeting (10-12)

► April

East, West and South Asia Community Groups, Bangkok (20-25)

Europe Directors, Greece (25-29)

► September

SUI: Team and Exco Meetings (26-30)

Are there exciting developments in your area of ministry?

Send your news and photos to a1admin@su-international.org

www.su-international.org

Available on the SU International website:

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