



global news

stories and news from Scripture Union around the world

March 2018



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Questions for the future

Dear SU family,

This edition of *Global News* will give you an impression of the Scripture Union Global Assembly that was held in Malaysia in November 2017. The event was very significant for us as a global movement as it marks the end of the old regional structure and allows us to move forward into the new framework of global collaboration and partnership.

Although we also celebrated our 150th anniversary, saying farewell to the outgoing leadership and welcoming the new, our main focus was not looking back. Instead the focus was how to 'fuel the future' of Scripture Union. This theme guided the choice of keynote speeches, community activities and the follow-up from the breakout sessions. The Global Team is currently working through the outcomes and our hope is that it will lead to a number of global initiatives.

The guiding questions, which came out of the Global Assembly are: How can the special calling of Scripture Union be translated in an everchanging society, and what does God want us to do over

the next three to five years as a global movement? How can we be agents of Godly transformation for a world in need? How can we bring the real Jesus to children and young people, rather than a tamed version? What can we do together that we could not do as individual movements that will make a difference in the lives of children and young people? How will global megatrends challenge us to change our working style?

Many shared ministry needs and also great ministry ideas and best practice models have already been identified through the poster session, the breakout sessions and the Community Group meetings. The Global Team will work towards a strategy that will be fed back into the Community Groups for further discussion and action.

In all of this we need to listen carefully to God who is speaking through His Word, the Bible, and through the voice of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for every Global Team member involved in this process, asking for a special awareness of God's guidance so that together we will be able to serve the younger generation and help them to meet Jesus wherever they are.



"Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralised – whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life."

(1 Corinthians 9:19-22; The Message)

Warmest greetings and blessings,

Monika Kuszmierz
SU International Director

Fuelling the future

SU's inaugural Global Assembly

'From the north and the south, from the east and west'.... more than 350 delegates from around 100 countries gathered for the Global Assembly in Malaysia for five days in November 2017. It was an exciting time of reunions and forging new friendships, as well as learning and sharing together. Scripture Union staff and volunteers from all around the world joined in worship and prayer, bridging the diverse cultures with translation in five languages, and displaying the strength and richness of the Movement's international family.

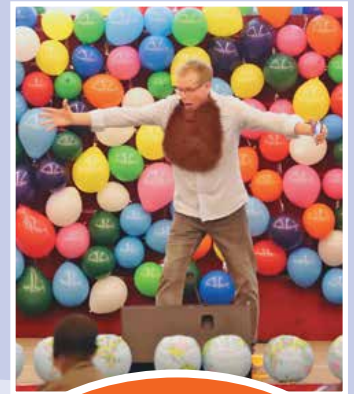
Colin Sinclair, former chair of Scripture Union International, welcomed everyone saying, "We are delighted to be part of the Scripture Union family gathered together...we have come to look back, to celebrate and to look forward as the light of the Scripture Union lamp continues to shine."



MORE PHOTOS AND ARTICLES



The theme of the gathering was *'Fuel the Future'*. But on the first evening there was a chance to look back on the Movement's 150 years. Colin Sinclair said looking back at the passion and perseverance of SU's pioneers from the past would inform the future. The story of how it all began in 1867 was re-told with drama, readings and activities. Delegates helped re-create the famous beach scene where SU founder, Josiah Spiers, shared God's love with children in 1868, as each Movement was invited to bring a stone from their country to place alongside the words 'God is Love', written in shells. The stones displayed an array of designs and imaginative decorations from across the world.



Your Word...

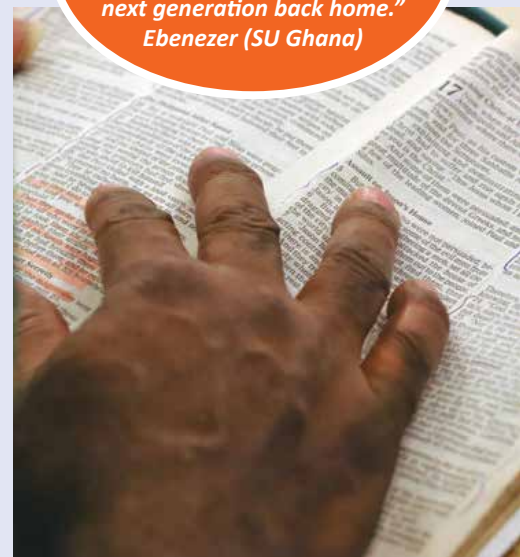
Each day was framed around a theme taken from Psalm 119 v 105 – "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path", which has been a symbolic verse for Scripture Union since the 1930s. It provided a Biblical backdrop for the symbol of the oil lamp, which is still the hallmark of SU Movements around the world.

Worship led by an international team started each day and Bible Engagement was a key element of the conference. Talks were interspersed with discussion and activities around tables with delegates from different cultures and contexts able to share experiences. Children's Ministry Coordinator, Wendy Strachan looked at Acts 2 and talked about connecting the God of the Bible to people's lives. She said, "We'll always be looking for ways to help people to understand

the Bible in ways that make sense in their context."

Two members of Scripture Union's Global Team, Emmanuel Todjo and Terry Williams spoke about Bible Engagement with children and young people. Emmanuel talked about building a bridge between the world of the Bible and people's lives. Terry explained that the Bible is actually one big story – the story of God's plan to save His people. He said, "It's a compelling story. It's filled with many connecting stories with each of our lives. There are stories of despair, hope, sadness, rejection and joy, all of which helps us to connect with people who have shared and experienced those same emotions themselves. And we get to learn from their experiences for our lives today."

"We work mostly with children in our country and I hope I can go back and share what I learn here with the next generation back home."
Ebenezer (SU Ghana)



A global ministry

Many SU Movements brought posters and displays to share their resources and ministry ideas with one another. Resources ranged from Bible story pop-up books and digital Bible apps to how to run sports ministry and ministry through theatre.



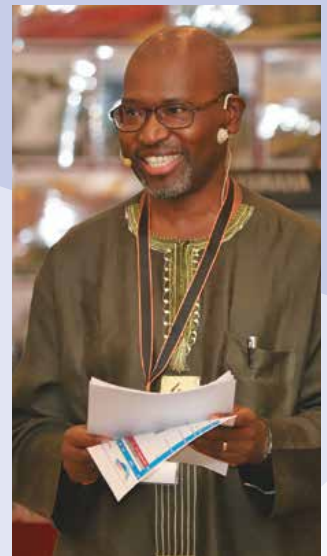
...is a lamp to my feet

Inspirational Bible teacher, **Joe Kapolyo**, led the Bible Engagement session on Sunday morning. Joe recently retired from his position as the Lead Minister at Edmonton Baptist Church in London and prior to this was principal of All Nations Christian College in the UK. Focusing on Acts 10 he highlighted the need for all Scripture Union work to be inclusive. He said, "Every human being needs to hear the Gospel and they're there all around you, whatever their position, however exalted, whatever walls they have built around themselves, cultural walls, educational walls, whatever it is – they need to hear the Good News. And you are there in that position because you have that Gospel which they desperately need..."

International Bible teacher and theologian, **CB Samuel** (pictured on page 5) from India,

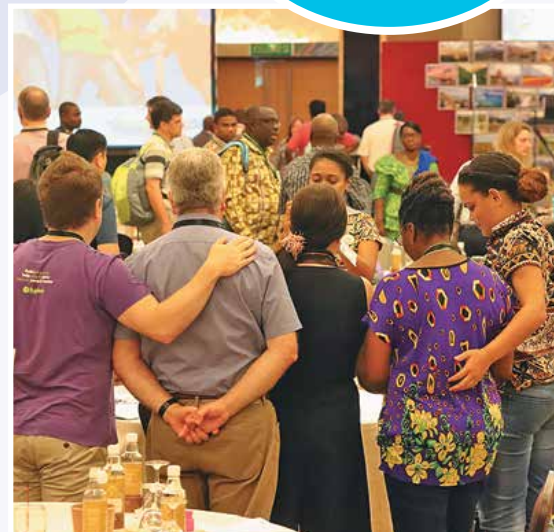
challenged delegates about the image of Jesus that is being presented to young people and how this has a huge impact on how they behave. He asked delegates to focus on how their own characters had changed through becoming Christians and to discuss how Scripture Union can disciple children to bring about behavioural change.

He said, "Discipleship is not about learning Bible verses... It's no good if we know verses but we have no behavioural change... For the early disciples it was about a living relationship with God... Jesus taught them how to be a person who has a heart for people before becoming a fisherman of men... Our children and our youth are waiting; waiting for people to shape their character. They want people who can tell them how to change."



Joe Kapolyo

*"It's my first time attending a global conference - I'm looking forward to meeting people from different nations."
Sitiweni (SU Fiji)*



Joe Mendoza, SU Colombia

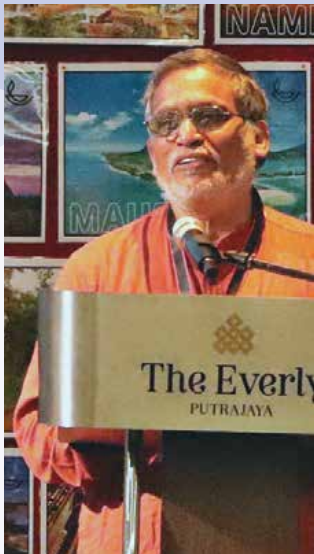
Transformation on the streets of Colombia

Many stories were shared as part of the Assembly gatherings. **Joe Mendoza**, a volunteer from **SU Colombia**, explained how he has been part of a program reaching out to children living on the streets of Barranquilla in Colombia. He said, "The country is full of children living on the streets and we work with those that have been forced onto the streets either because of the civil war or due to other circumstances." According to Joe many children's lives have been transformed through their work, which involves music, worship and activities, along with a meal and visits to families.

He said, "One boy called William used to come along to our events when he was about five. He was very timid and didn't interact much, then he

gradually became more relaxed with us over the weeks and months." Joe explained that it was easy to keep the children's interest while they were young, but when they became teenagers they were often drawn away, tempted by the excitement of violence, gangs and drugs. "This is the big risk we face in working with them," he said. "We didn't want it to happen to William, so we started working with his family, which made a huge difference. Today William is 16 years old and is working with us as a volunteer, leading SU programs. His life has been transformed. It's because of young people like William that I am so passionate about this work and seeing the way God can change lives."

...and a light to my path



CB Samuel

CB Samuel continued to challenge delegates as he talked about transforming society with children and young people. He said Christians have a God of hope who goes ahead of them into the future. "What is unique about the God of the Bible, is that He is a God of hope," he said. "That's what we bring to people; it is the ability to hope and it's the ability to dream." Encouraging delegates to help children imagine and dream, he said, "My prayer is that Scripture Union and such organisations that teach the Word of God, will teach people the capacity to dream... because the Word of God is an invitation to dream and an invitation to hope."



What does the future look like?

Futurologist and researcher, **Andreas Walker** gave a presentation about new trends for the future and challenges that would be faced by Scripture Union teams working with tomorrow's children and young people. He said, "I cannot predict

the future... I don't know it, but I think it's important to prepare our children for a changing world. And it's important that we give our children some guidance about how they may use the Bible, how they may use their relationship with God the Father and with Jesus to understand all these changes."

He referred to the words by the Apostle Paul in Corinthians 13 when he wrote about many things changing, but faith, hope and love remaining. Andreas said, "I think the biggest chance for the new century is that we have hope. Hope is to rely on a good God... on a loving God and to rely on a God who is prepared to share His future with us."



Andreas Walker



Dickens Zziwa, SU Uganda

Family reconciliation through SU Uganda

Dickens Zziwa, National Director for SU Uganda, talked about how lives have been transformed through their values education program in schools.

He said, "Brenda (not her real name) was a young girl who was part of our values education in schools. After the fifth lesson Brenda raised her hand and asked the SU facilitator a question about forgiveness. Brenda said, 'You talk about forgiveness, but I have a problem. I have been living at home for two years and there is never any reconciliation. Every time my dad tries to come back home more quarrels and fights between him and my mammy break out.

Yet I want to see my family back together, how can I convince my mam to forgive my dad so the family can be reconciled?'"

After the lesson the SU schools facilitator spoke to Brenda privately and she was invited to visit her home. Dickens said, "Amazingly, the mam listened to the facilitator and she broke down and wanted to hear more about those lessons and how to forgive." Brenda's mam asked for a meeting with the husband, and both parents agreed to come and listen to the facilitator and Brenda explaining more from the lesson.

Dickens said, "The parents didn't fight, they just listened, then to our amazement the dad broke down also. He confessed he had been planning to leave the family for another woman and was even building a house for her to move into. But having heard the message of forgiveness he really was willing to repent and be reconciled to his family and he moved his family into the house he had been planning for another woman."



Psalm 119 v106

'I have taken an oath and confirmed it..'

The final day of the Global Assembly was an opportunity to look ahead and for delegates to commit themselves to new ways of approaching ministry with children and young people in the future.

Along with plenary sessions there were many opportunities to share and discuss different areas of ministry and ways of working through a series of smaller group sessions and workshops on a whole range of areas from digital Bible ministry and working with children and young people with disabilities to sports ministry and developing young leaders.



Reimagining the future

by Monika Kuszmierz

A key element of the Global Assembly was the breakout sessions (electives).

On the first day the main theme was *Reimagining*. In many places we have been doing camps, schools' work, work with children or youth and other 'classical' SU ministries for 50 years or more. But how much has our style of work changed and adapted to a new generation of youngsters? How can we re-invent our ministries? What kind of models have we developed in the SU world that work well today? What is the main thinking behind these new models and how can we make best use of them in other places?

New models and best practices were shared and brought some 'aha' experiences

for participants, as they grasped a new idea or discovered new insights for ministry. "We definitely need to change the way we are doing our camps", one participant said. "I am going home inspired and absolutely keen on changing our outdated style to something fresh that brings Jesus to the kids in new ways."

The second day was dedicated to 'Exploring' new types of ministry. How do we serve children at risk or with disabilities, and how do we best respond to crisis? How do we find our place in the digital world? These workshops led to different forms of cooperation and on-going conversations.

A few other groups were dealing with 'hot potatoes', with conversations

around difficult topics like, 'Why are young people leaving the churches and is there something we can do about that?' Talking with colleagues from around the world who are struggling with the same issues was encouraging and inspiring and awakened a desire to develop helpful ministry tools together.

Now it is the task of the Global Team to drive these initiatives forward and prioritise them according to the needs that the national movements identified. We'll be keeping you informed about these developments through future newsletters and via our global website and the SU Global Extranet.



WELCOMES

National Movements:



Richard Riley has become the new Director for **Northern Territory**, Australia. Richard, who grew up in Sydney, Australia, is married to Jenny and they have

four children. He has been serving God in various full-time ministry roles since 2002, which has included working with a church in Narrabri in New South Wales and completing four years of Bible college training. He has a heart for young people and loves to see people of all ages sitting down with the Bible open and engaging with God's Word and allowing it to shape and transform their lives.



Juryun Kim is the new National Director of **SU Korea**. Juryun joined SU Korea 18 years ago as a book editor. Since then she has edited the *Youth Daily Bible* and *Adult*

Daily Bible for the past eight years. In 2008, she became Director of the Publishing Department and has led the Department for 10 years. As the National Director, her greatest hope is that SU Korea will shape the future of the Bible Engagement Ministry for the next generation.



Samuel Kalizi is the new National Director for **SU Zimbabwe**. Samuel made a decision to follow Jesus Christ at the age of 14. He is married to Patricia and they have three

biological children and two foster children. Samuel was a secondary school science teacher for 12 years in Zimbabwe and joined SU Zimbabwe as a field officer in September 2003. He graduated with a MSc in Strategic Management in 2014 and a BA in Religious Studies and Theology in 2017. He was also the pastor at Fresh Water Christian Fellowship for five years.

Global Team:



Erzsébet Komlósi has been appointed as the new Field Development Director – Europe, following Monika Kuszmierz's appointment as

International Director. Erzsébet was Director of SU Hungary from 2001 and built up that movement for many years. It now has more than 100 volunteers and an active camps ministry and has become

a well known producer of Bible study resources in the country. She has also been a member of the SU Europe Board and we look forward to benefitting from her experience as part of the Global Team.



Tony Nanzah has been appointed as the new Field Director for English-Speaking Africa. He served as Director for SU South Africa for several years

and as leader of the Southern Africa sub-region and Community Group, he has been supporting movements in their development. We look forward to adding Tony's experience and skills to the Global Team.

FAREWELLS

As the Global Board took up its responsibilities in Kuala Lumpur in November we said farewell to two people who have been at the helm of SU International for the last fourteen years – fittingly for Scripture Union one was a volunteer, the other a member of staff.



As Council Chair **Colin Sinclair** brought quite exceptional skills and experience particularly in challenging situations. He exercised his role with humour, meticulous

preparation and an appreciation of what was vital and what was merely important. Consistently able to find words which respected everyone's point of view while maintaining unity, Council and Executive meetings under his chairmanship always covered every item on the Agenda, but never left members at odds with one another. Colin is a lifelong SU person; in early days on the staff of SU Zambia, later as National Director of SU Scotland and over many decades as the volunteer leader of a summer camp. It always showed!

Janet Morgan joined the SU England & Wales staff in 1984



serving in a number of roles before moving to Australia to take up the role of State Director for SU Victoria in 1997. Some 14 years ago she

was appointed CEO for SU International with responsibility for strategic development. Over the period, working with the international team, among many other things, a 'Global Mission Strategy' emerged, 'Shaping for Service' was rolled out across the regions, and the Leading Staff Development Course was developed. In 2012 'Living Hope', which was a completely different way of doing an international conference, was staged with a very significant impact on the priorities of the global Movement, culminating in a new international structure in 2017. This was all accomplished on a shoe-string budget!

Individually and together Janet's and Colin's service was (often painfully) sacrificial, their impact transformational, their legacy foundational, their grace under pressure exemplary and the love they engendered across many cultures challenging.

continued over >>>

Members of the new Global Board:



Christian Hellwig
(Chair)
from Switzerland



Monika Kuszmierz
(International Director)
from Germany



David Thompson
(Treasurer) from
Northern Ireland



Enrique Martinez
from Honduras



Maggie Norman
from Canada



Jon Ong
from Singapore



Margaret Siwale
from Zambia



Sam Afrane
from Ghana



Ray Baker
from Sweden



Jenny Stewart (Company Secretary, Operations Director) based in UK



David McCracken
– consultant from
Northern Ireland



The Queen joins SU England and Wales celebration service

Scripture Union England and Wales had the great honour of welcoming Her Majesty The Queen to their Jubilee Thanksgiving Service to mark the 150th Anniversary in December.

The service was held at St Mary’s Church, Islington, close to where Josiah Spiers held the first SU meeting in December 1867. National Director of SU England and Wales, Rev. Tim Hastie-Smith said, “Alongside Her Majesty, we had the joy of welcoming many others with links to Scripture Union, both from here in the UK and from much further afield, as well as children recently impacted by various SU ministries. It really was a special time as we joined together to thank God for His faithfulness to the movement and to celebrate what He has done in the lives of countless children over the years.”

The music was provided by All Souls Orchestra, who also played a new hymn, *God of Unchanging Grace*, which was written by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith for the occasion. Children from a local school choir also took part and there was an inspiring drama from Artless



Theatre Company, documenting the entire history of SU in just five minutes.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, gave the address, reminding everyone that ‘God is love’ – the simple unchanging Gospel truth that Josiah Spiers chose to write in the sand in Llandudno some 150 years ago.



The service was also recorded for BBC Songs of Praise and was broadcast on Sunday January 14. Tim said, “We are thrilled that Her Majesty the Queen chose to join us. For many young people, it is the faithful and gently inspiring witness of grandparents and great-grandparents that testifies most powerfully to God’s enduring love. Her Majesty embodies this witness, and just as she seeks to serve all people of this nation, regardless of race or religion, so SU seeks to testify to the abiding presence of a life-transforming loving God, whose love is for all, and is found freely in His world.”



David McCracken was appointed to the SU International Executive in 2007 and has served as Treasurer since 2009. His knowledge of business, finance,

requirements for charities and not-for-profit organisations has been a great benefit to the Movement. Among many other tasks, David took special responsibility for the revision of the memorandum and articles of association in preparation for the change to a global structure and developed a handbook for the new Global Board. He also worked closely with the Operations Director on all financial matters and in providing sustainability review and support for a number of Movements. Whilst his reports were excellent, one of the things the Executive most appreciated about David was his Bible reflections. David will continue to serve as a key volunteer and consultant.

Former SU Executive members:

As we said goodbye to the SUI Executive we also said goodbye to **Olaniyi (Niyi) Daramola** and **Remo Paul**. We are grateful for their contribution to the Executive and particularly for their commitment and service through a time of considerable change over the last few years.



Myungsup Park has retired from SU Korea after 28 years of service. Throughout those years, Myungsup has served in three different positions: Branch

Director, National Operating Director and National Director. He has always been interested in Children’s Ministry, so he is now planning to help Korean diaspora churches in Asia develop their own Children’s Ministries.



DATES FOR YOUR PRAYERS

March

Global Team – 8-12 March
Global Team & Board – 13-15 March
Global Board – 16-18 March

April

Europe Community Group – 23-26 April

June

Africa Community Group 3 – 14-17 June
Africa Community Group 5 – 22-25 June
Global Board Skype – 30 June

July

Africa Community Group 1 – 19-22 July
Africa Community Group 2 – 27-30 July

September

Global Team – 18-20 Sept
Global Team & Board – 21 Sept
Global Board – 22-23 Sept

October

Latin America Community Group – 11-15 Oct

November

SU Global Week of Prayer 5-9 Nov
Global Board Skype – 24 Nov
Europe Community new staff training – 26-30 Nov



Giving to Scripture Union

We are grateful for the prayer, financial and other practical support from so many around the world who join us in ministry partnership. If you would like to give a gift to any of the ministries mentioned in this edition of *Global News*, or to any other SU ministry around the world, it is easy to do.

Australia: Scripture Union International Council, BSB: 032-523, Account No: 213677

UK: Scripture Union International Council, Sort Code: 405 240, Account Number: 00006064

From other countries, by credit card, or by other means, please see: www.scriptureunion.global

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