



Scripture Union International



## Stories and updates from Scripture Union around the world

Global News aims to keep you in touch with how our network of Scripture Union teams is having an impact on young lives each month.

“we all felt **God’s presence in our lives**”

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Inspiring young people and helping them on their journeys of faith is at the heart of ministry for [SU Portugal](#). Their Bible camps have been drawing together children and young people, relying on a team of volunteer leaders. A first-time leader on one of the camps explained how she loved the atmosphere and the way young people had opportunities to serve each other. “I really enjoyed seeing the change in the campers in just one week,” she said. One of the young people said, “What I enjoyed most was that we all felt God’s presence in our lives. I think it was really cool, and we all played and laughed together.” Alongside the camp activities SU Portugal is also developing a Bible reading app for teens and young people, which they hope will reach out to many more children.

[watch the video](#)

# about Portugal

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Portugal is one of the oldest states in Europe. The country was the first global maritime power and the birthplace to some of the world's first explorers. Located on the most westerly point of continental Europe, its Atlantic coast is also one of the world's top surf spots. Portuguese is the native language for more than 230 million people and is the official language of nine countries. Portugal is one of the poorest countries in Western Europe and has one of the lowest incomes per person among the European Union member states. The country is a founding member of NATO and joined the European Union in 1986. More than 80 per cent of the population are Roman Catholic. Abel Rodrigues ran the first Bible camp at Carrascal in 1949 marking the beginning of Scripture Union ministry in Portugal, inspired by the Swiss Bible camps and missions. Today SU Portugal publish Bible reading notes for a range of Portuguese speaking countries, along with running Bible camps and a variety of sports ministries, in partnership with others.



## making a difference in 100 days?

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A banner for the Scripture Union E100 Challenge. The background shows a close-up of hands holding an open Bible. The text is overlaid on the left side. The Scripture Union logo is in the top right corner.

**Join our**  
**E100**  
**Challenge**

An interactive 100 passages Bible reading plan – beginning this Easter, April 18th 2022.

[Register Now](#)

[SU New South Wales](#) relaunched a Bible Reading Challenge in April, inviting anyone to join them. Their E100 Challenge, which started on Easter Monday, is a Bible reading plan to help young people reflect and engage in the Bible's greatest messages. It includes 100 carefully selected excerpts from both the Old and New Testaments, aimed to help bring clarity to the Bible story. It also includes reflections on the passages to help people further engage with their meaning and recognise their relevance for life today.



South Coast Regional Coordinator for SU New South Wales, Joanne Faletose, shared her experience of the challenge, "Reflecting on the readings from the last week, I'm always amazed that God would choose Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his family! They seem so dysfunctional and messed up. Bad parenting, lying about their wives, sibling rivalry, selling your brother... drama, drama, drama. But they're just people - flawed and imperfect like all of us. I read through these stories, and it made me think that I wanted to learn from other people's mistakes, all the while knowing that I'll still make my own mistakes. What I keep coming back to is that God is constant. He is the faithful one. And he cares and is interested in us..."

[find out more](#)



## mysteries and loneliness of parenting

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Encouraging and supporting parents is the aim of a new parent podcast launched recently by [SU Slovakia](#).

The Podcast, called 'Pracujem s detmi', was started in January 2021 after the lockdowns exposed the need for Christian parents to be supported in teaching their children about Jesus. Natália Luptáková, National Director for SU Slovakia said, "We started with interviewing Christian mothers about what Christian parenting means for them and about their joys and struggles. The episodes were about 30 minutes long and we had a different guest in every episode. We are now publishing shorter episodes of about 15 minutes, and we go into more depth on issues."

She said each season has six episodes and they are currently in the middle of publishing their 4th season.

Natalia explained, "Our aim is to open people's homes a bit so that Christian parenting doesn't seem so mysterious and lonely. We are also trying to find guests who can talk more specifically about certain issues. Our third season was about having small children (0-5 years) as part of a Sunday congregation, and we talked about the drawbacks and benefits of helping children to be part of a church community from a young age."

# growing in faith in Nepal

Some 115 children took part in a Vacation Bible School (VBS) run by **SU Nepal** in Surkhet in May. Children enjoyed hearing about God's Big Story along with singing, dancing, and playing, as part of the program.

One of the teenage participants, Prarthana Bishwakarma, said that the VBS was joyful and very good. "I was happy to know that Jesus is my Saviour who died on the cross to set me free from sin. I committed myself to follow Jesus and to help others to do the same," she said.



An eleven-year-old boy, Arpan Guidel, said, "Before coming to this VBS I was not spending time with God, but these days I am spending much more time with God. Jesus is our Saviour and I want to preach His gospel to others."

National Director of SU Nepal, Dhruba Nepal said, "After a time of disappointment in the ministries of SU Nepal, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, God gave us some wonderful opportunities to use our skills and resources in Bible studies among children as well as among adults. We had some exciting and fruitful times through the Bible Camps and also with our children's Vacation Bible School. We are praying for those who joined in the events, that they will grow in their faith in Christ and serve him better."

## You can partner with us

If you would like to know more about how to partner with us or find out about Scripture Union in a particular country or area, you can discover more [HERE](#):



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