



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.

opening up the Bible with 'chainsaw wood sculpture'



Wood sculpture using a chain saw is one of the creative ways that members of Scripture Union in [German-speaking Switzerland](#) are helping open up the Bible in fresh ways.

Claudia and Ruedi Kündig have been using art and painting through all kinds of innovative projects to share 'God's Big Story' with children, young people and families, but decided to take it a step further with 3D sculptures carved from wood with chainsaws.

The special church services are held in the open air in a range of locations. Ruedi explained, "*Claudia spends a quarter of an hour sawing an animal out of a trunk with a loud petrol chainsaw. The audience is not yet clear what it will be. Then she continues to work with the small cordless saws, with flex and sprays. The noise level is now so low that I can preach clearly with loudspeakers without any problems.*"

"As a log is refined through the work of Claudia, so it can be for us when studying the poetry books of the Old Testament. There are often angular and sharp Bible verses that

challenge us positively and are a concrete help for our life and faith. That goes with the loud, sharp chainsaw with its 'double-edged sword'".

Ruedi said, "Two years ago we started using chainsaws and when we asked the congregations, we received a sceptical answer as to whether it was really necessary for the service to be held outside. Then the Corona virus came and everything changed. Suddenly we received a lot of requests, and so we are doing 10 Christian chainsaw events from spring to summer, most of them are church services. Today congregations are happy if they can hold services outside with a lot of distance. For us this is another beautiful experience of Kairos, of God's perfect timing.

"Claudia's chainsaw art should not and must not be the focus. We always want to use all the gifts, resources and technical means at our disposal to inspire people to read the Good News and the Bible."



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about **Switzerland**

Switzerland is a landlocked country in central Europe, sharing a land border with Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Italy and France. It has the highest mountains in Europe and the longest river in Europe. It also boasts 7,000 lakes. It was formed in 1291 as a confederation of municipalities and has one of the highest living standards in the world. Switzerland was a neutral country during World War II, but the neutrality went back further as European powers liked the idea of Switzerland as a neutral buffer. In 1815, this neutrality was sealed at the Congress of Vienna and Switzerland remains the oldest neutral nation in the world.



Switzerland has four official languages including German, French, Italian, and Romansh. The most widely-spoken language is Swiss German, a dialect of standard German. French is largely spoken in the west of the country. Winter sports were developed in Switzerland and it is also one of the largest producers and consumers of chocolate in the world!

Scripture Union in Switzerland is almost 100 years old. The Bible Reading Union was set up there in 1925 and camp work with young people began in 1929. Today Scripture Union is active through a range of ministries and creative approaches from Lego events, ski camps and Bible ministries.

a herb growing business helps sustain ministry for SU Kenya



[Scripture Union Kenya](#) has been finding fresh ways to help sustain their ministry through growing and selling herbs around their campsite grounds.

National Director of Scripture Union Kenya, Nancy Kahuthia, explained how the Covid pandemic had shut down their thriving camp ministry and the team began to explore new ways of using the resources God had provided to help generate income.

Nancy said, "Just when we were about to have the major event for the camping in April 2020 that was when Covid struck and everything came to a standstill. For a whole year there was really nothing happening here because this was one of the places that was locked-down."

The covid pandemic brought lots of challenges, and as their income streams dived, they were forced to put staff on unpaid leave.

Having already been using part of the campsite land for growing onions and water melons, Nancy heard about herb farming. With the backing of SU Kenya's council, they took the plunge to invest in herb farming.

She said, "We did it in phases. We had two polytunnels to grow basil and then we added another one and then two more, so we have five tunnels in all. And I know this is going to be huge income generation, not just now, but into the years to come."

The programme has been so successful that they have now extended their range of herbs to include rosemary, thyme, sage and oregano.

"It's been an amazing journey. An amazing journey of discovery and just realising that we have resources on our hands which we can use to sustain our ministry. I would encourage many movements to think in terms of innovation and creativity... and how to utilise what is on our hands to sustain our movements?"

"They may not look like the traditional income generation for Scripture Union, but the idea is that our programme work needs to continue. I am absolutely grateful to God for the mind to do this and for all those who have been part of it and who have encouraged the process."

[watch the video](#)

Sharing hope with Ukrainian families

[Scripture Union in Slovakia](#) has been working in partnership with local churches in the east of the country to support Ukrainian families fleeing the war.

National Director, Natalia Luptakova, said, *"In the situation with the ongoing war in Ukraine, we were able to work together with different organisation and churches in distributing Ukrainian literature. The Ukrainian flyers we created as a Global movement were successfully delivered to many churches and distributing centres, which were preparing welcome packages for refugees. We have distributed almost 4,000 flyers."*

Michalovce-based church worker, Terka Klova, said the flyers were distributed to children coming to the transit accommodation. He explained, *"Over the last weekend in May we also had an ecumenical stand with Christian literature which was taken by Ukrainians living in Michalovce or by residents who are accommodating Ukrainians."*

A team of Christians from Slovenia were able to hand out leaflets on the border with Ukraine to children crossing into Slovakia. Terka said the literature was also being used for children in a community centre for Ukrainian families and children attending the holiday clubs.

Natalia said that refugee families attending language courses had taken brochures and flyers to Language centres. *"We pray that this will be fruitful and people will find God in their difficult situation. We have also been able to give some sample leaflets to local schools for Ukrainian kids and teachers."*



assessing the **impact of the covid pandemic** on the Church

[Scripture Union New Zealand](#) has launched a 7-part series of videos to examine the impact the pandemic has had on the Church.

Introduced by the National Director of Scripture Union New Zealand, Hilary Hague, the effect of the pandemic is described as the tip of an iceberg, as many of the effects are not known about yet.

Hilary introduces the series, called 'Into the Deep', which will include looking at the deep questions the pandemic has raised for many and present a series of conversations for people to examine.

She said, *"Covid has brought our understanding of our beliefs and what is important to us to the surface of our lives. Some of what's come to the surface has been good and strong, but of course our weak spots and our vulnerabilities have also been exposed."*

Hilary says the series aims to examine deep questions for Christians about identity, attitudes and ways of being. *"This has been a hard period of life, but it is also an opportunity to look at who we are, what we do and what should be."*

The series will include conversations with a variety of people aiming to look below the surface and giving them an opportunity to reflect on what they have seen and how to answer some of the most challenging questions facing Christians at this time.



[watch the video](#)

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Scripture Union: God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives
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