



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

## Bible reading “with all your heart” in Macau

A Bible reading campaign being promoted by **SU Macau** has been reaching out to hundreds of local Christians over the past few years.

The campaign, organised by SU Hong Kong (which is a companion movement for Macau), was launched in 2014 and is called 'With All Your Hearts'. About 200 Christians from nine local churches have taken part every year, encouraging churches to promote systematic Bible reading.



National Director of SU Hong Kong, Matthew Wong, explained, “*The campaign offers clear direction and targets for the participants to read the Bible daily. It includes daily readings, inviting Christians of different ages to use different systematic Bible plans. There are also daily notes specifically designed for children and a range of other ages.*”

Other highlights include Bible activities, like monthly screenings of Bible talks which focus on the Book the participants are reading that month, and a mid-term gathering to keep up their enthusiasm to meet God daily. An award-giving ceremony is organised each year to celebrate all that has happened.

Matthew said, “*Through this campaign, many participants and their pastors realise the importance of the word of God, and experience life-transformation when they devote themselves to read the Bible daily.*”

## about Macau

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Macau is located on China's southern coast, 60 km west of Hong Kong, on the western side of the Pearl River estuary. The population of Macau is about 680,000 people and the city covers a total area of 115 square kilometres. A former colony of Portugal, Portuguese remains the official language. It was also the last European colony in China and was handed back to Chinese sovereignty in 1999. Today, the 450-year legacy that the Portuguese left in Macau lives on through its distinct East-meets-West culture and architecture. In 2005 the historic centre of Macau was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Macau is the most successful gaming capital on earth and has a reputation as the Las Vegas of the East. The city's booming casino industry accounts for around 80% of its economy and it remains the only place in China where gambling is legal, generating three times the annual gambling revenue of Las Vegas.

Chinese Folk Religion is the dominant belief, making up 48% of the population, with 17%, Buddhist, 7% Christian and the remaining 28% following other religions. There are just 70 churches in Macau and Scripture Union is actively working to help their ministry with children and young people, supported by SU Hong Kong.



## New international role for 'Scripture Union trained' bishop

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A former staff member of **Scripture Union in South Sudan and Uganda**, who became a child refugee when he and his family were forced to flee Sudan, has been appointed to a key international role, as the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, who is a South Sudanese bishop, takes up the role in September, which will involve helping link together the world's third largest Christian denomination. The Anglican Communion comprises 42 independent-yet-interdependent

autonomous regional, national and pan-national Churches and is active in more than 165 countries.

Anthony Poggo was forced into exile before he was one year old, when he and his siblings were taken by his father – an Anglican priest – and his mother into Uganda to flee the first Sudanese Civil War. In 1973, at the age of nine, he returned with his family to South Sudan.

Bishop Anthony said that, when he was about 12, somebody shared with him the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He said, *"I then took the step of accepting Christ and following him."*



*"I have found it very important to spend time reading the Word of God, especially with my Scripture Union background, because the Word of God is an important aspect of our lives for our spiritual growth."*

After graduating from Juba University with a degree in Management and Public Administration, he joined Scripture Union and gained an MA in Biblical Studies from the Nairobi International School of Theology in Kenya. He then returned to Uganda to minister to Sudanese refugees with Scripture Union. After being ordained into the Anglican Church he was eventually elected Bishop of Kajo-Keji, a position he held until 2016 when he moved to Lambeth Palace in London, to support the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, as his Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs.

Bishop Anthony said, *"Please pray for me as I take on this role in leading the ACO team so that the Anglican Communion family will continue in its role of being 'God's Church for God's world' in such a time as this."*

[read more here](#)



## Support for the whole family in Serbia

[Scripture Union Serbia](#) have been offering support to families online in response to the needs they saw during the pandemic. Building on their activities with children and young people through camps and events, they also recognised that parents were looking for support.

National Director of SU Serbia, Monika Vasiljevic, said, *"We think it is extremely important to support the family-as-a-whole. We have been using parent seminars that take place twice a year as one of our tools. During the pandemic, the need to support families grew even deeper, so we continued with the seminars online."*

She said the seminars included topical discussions led by Christian psychologists and Sunday school coordinators on subjects like, 'Being a good enough parent', which generated a lot of interest. Monika explained, *"Some of the parents said they wished they'd heard much of what was said earlier, because it would have made their parenting much easier. These responses show us how important this work is and encourage us to keep going."*

This year SU Serbia has expanded the ministry by creating a podcast on the YouTube Skripta channel - Scripture Union Srbija. Monika said, *"It's a very convenient platform for busy parents to listen to whenever they find free time. One of the first topics we discussed was parental roles. We interviewed a local pastor, Petar Pilić, who is a parent himself. He gave us his perspectives on what are the most important roles of a Christian parent. After this, we talked to a local Sunday school coordinator who has extensive experience. She told us about the importance of Sunday school in children's lives. We hope to continue having relevant conversations that can encourage parents and provide answers to vital questions."*

## SUI's annual report **celebrates growth**

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Scripture Union International's Annual Report for 2021 includes a range of highlights from new training and events to significant projects that have been launched during the year. One of the significant milestones in SUI's programme to help national movements achieve sustainability was the launch of a series of SU Projects online.

SUI's Sustain Partnership consultant, Glenn Coombs, said, *"We now have a dedicated 'Projects' area on our website to make it easy for people to see how they can support some of the exciting initiatives in different parts of the world. We are keen for the best of these opportunities to be connected to the resources required, to see the extension of God's kingdom in these countries."*



Some of the current projects show how Scripture Union teams are thinking differently about income generation and developing new missional opportunities to reach children and young people with the good news about Jesus. For example, in El Salvador, Scripture Union launched a project to help young people break free from violence and gang pressure. Supported by SUI and other donors, they were able to develop their partnership with churches, training leaders to run workshops with young people.

The project, called 'Brave and Free – for you and me', aims to help support young people and families whose lives are blighted by dangerous gangs and organised crime. El Salvador has one of the highest murder and crime rates in the world. It also has more than 60,000 gang members across most of its towns and cities.

Project Coordinator, Remy Ocon, said: *"The implementation of the Brave and Free programme, has been an opportunity for learning and applying knowledge with a multidisciplinary approach for our local movement."*

[Read more here](#)



# 50 year anniversary for Scripture Union South Korea



다시, 새롭게

SU South Korea celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. They held a celebration service at the end of their Leadership Training Conference. SU South Korea staff member, Byoung Hwan, said, "As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 2 July, above all else, we thank God for his faithfulness to us for the last 50 years. We hope that by his faithful guidance, God will continue to lead us in his ministry so that we can help children, youth and their families meet God through the Bible and prayer."

The event, including around 200 staff and volunteers, was joined by 1,000 supporters and friends online.

Later in July, SU South Korea will be running their summer vacation programmes across the country with camps for children and young people. They are praying God will keep all the campers and workers safe and help them grow in faith.



the very first SU Leadership Training Conference held in South Korea in 1972

## You can partner with us

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