



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.

## Churches adopt schools with help from Scripture Union Guatemala

A new approach to help churches adopt schools in Guatemala is taking off thanks to Scripture Union.

National Director for **SU Guatemala**, Byron Velasquez, said following on from all the pandemic restrictions, this year their ministry had begun to return to normal.

After training teachers online and supporting their vocations in schools, Byron said their ministry was taking a new approach. *"We have a plan that says, 'every church adopts a school'. Our dream is that every local church adopts a local school, which means that they don't*

*just share God's Word in schools, but are also interested in the needs of schools, children, teachers, and parents and seek creative ways to serve them so that the gospel continues to impact the lives of children and families."*

According to Byron, the Scripture Union team were also pleased to be asked by school directors to run values programs in schools and that churches are supporting this work by providing volunteers to share material based on God's Big Story with children and young people.

He said, *"We have also been promoting 'Guardians of Ancora' in schools and churches, so that thousands of children know this game. It is a great alternative to other games that add nothing to their lives."*



# about **Guatemala**

This central American country south of Mexico, is home to volcanoes, rainforests, and ancient sites. Tajumulco Volcano is the highest point in Guatemala, at 4,220 metres. The country has 33 volcanoes altogether. Agriculture makes up a quarter of the country's wealth, focused on coffee, bananas, and sugar. But the country is also where chocolate was invented with its origins in the ancient Mayan civilisation. Guatemala has one of the youngest populations in the Americas with an average age of 23 years old. Spanish is the official language. More than 70 per cent of the population profess to be Christians. Scripture Union is running values programs in schools supported by volunteers from local churches.



## welcomed into **God's family**



A Scripture Union values program run by **SU Uganda** in one of the camps for refugees from South Sudan, has been seeing young lives transformed.

The SU leaders help young people learn about forgiveness, purity, relationships and how to become Christian disciples. At a recent conference looking at purity, Chris Mugweri explained how one teenage refugee who had lost his family, found new hope and meaning through understanding what it means to be part of God's family.

He said a 14-year-old boy called Daniel had come to ask about being married, so that he could be part of a family. After talking and praying with Chris he turned his life around by returning to school and completing his education. Chris said, "A year later he was leading the Scripture Union group in his school and now he is counselling other young boys not to marry at that age, but to complete school."

[Watch the video](#)



# Dance and drama help share **God's Big story** in Fiji

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Children at schools around Fiji have been enthralled by the Scripture Union programs in their primary schools this summer where the team has been reaching hundreds of children and young people. In preparation for the events, the SU team was able to visit several schools, speaking with head teachers and staff and sharing God's Big Story with children through dance, drama and teaching them to remember Bible verses.

National Director of **Scripture Union Fiji**, Nacanieli Tikoduadua, said the children had listened intently and they were encouraged by their meetings with the school leadership.

The SU Fiji team were able to run six youth events up till the end of July, attended by approximately 2,500 students from across the nation. A further five events are also planned for the remaining months of the year.

In the north of the country one of the SU team, Ane Tuiloma, explained how their sports rallies and teacher's workshops had drawn in large numbers. She said, *"We praise God for everything that took place on that day because not only did the students turned up in big numbers, the teachers and the parents did too. One of the parents, who is a Senior Pastor in one of the villages nearby, said was surprised that the children could learn about God through sports."*

*"We were expecting around 200 students, prepared for 300, but in the end, more than 450 people turned up on that day not counting the teachers. We were able to feed everyone. We were not really prepared for that big number, but God was in control."*

The events helped build on the partnership between Scripture Union and the many different church denominations who took part.

Chairperson for SU Fiji, Sitiveni Kalou, thanked all those who had supported the rallies through funding and prayer. He said, *"It is Scripture Union Fiji's fervent and abiding prayer that the many individuals who rendered their generous support will reap a hundred-fold return on their giving and good-will."*

# Scripture Union **Global Week of prayer**

The Global Week of Prayer is coming soon! We invite you to be involved in a series of prayer events and activities based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-12) which is a reminder for us to come together as a Christian community - to look within and dig deep to see how we each reflect the Kingdom of God amid a broken, torn, discouraged and anxiety-driven world. Each day will have a particular focus and we will also provide ideas for praying with families. The week will start with a short launch broadcast at 5pm (London) on 6 November and culminate in a global 24-hour prayer starting event starting 5pm (London) on 11 November.



The Global Week of Prayer resources for aiding our daily prayers can be found on the SUI [website](#) or by emailing [prayer@scriptureunion.global](mailto:prayer@scriptureunion.global)

## 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)