



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.

Sharing faith through football - despite fuel costs



Reaching out to children and young people through sport has been a key element of ministry for **Scripture Union in Kosovo**.

National leader, Driton Krasniqi, said SU is the only Christian organisation in Kosovo involved with sports ministry. One of their main events is the Christian League in Football (LKF), which is a year-round event with church teams visiting each other for matches. Churches involved in the league are encouraged to involve both Christians and non-Christians in their teams, so the events are an opportunity to discuss and share faith.

Starting up this sports ministry again after the pandemic, Driton said the latest challenge was the rising cost of fuel which affects teams ability to travel. He organised an event to bring 15 League team captains together to discuss and pray about the issue. He said, *"Fuel prices in Kosovo have gone through the roof since the war in Ukraine. Therefore, we all agreed to form a League Fund to assist churches who cannot afford fuel. It was such an exciting thing to see leaders from different churches come together to pray and play."*

Once again, SU Kosovo ran kids camps this summer, reaching out to children in two different towns through daily events and activities. The team said many were able to hear 'God's Big Story' for the first time.

about **Kosovo**

The Republic of Kosovo is a landlocked country in the central Balkan Peninsula, which declared its independence from Serbia in February 2008. The country was ruled by the Ottoman Empire from mid-15th century to the early 20th century. The Kosovo War happened between 1998 and 1999 and it became the reason for the death of some 10,000 people. The name 'Kosovo' derives from the name of a place in Serbia meaning 'field of blackbirds'. It has four bordering countries that include Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Most of the country's population is Albanian and most of the population lives under the poverty line. Serbian and Albanian are the official languages, and the majority of the population are Muslim. More than 70 per cent of the country's population is under the age of 35, which makes it the youngest country in Europe. Scripture Union is actively working with children and young people in partnership with local churches and has an active ministry through sport.



Holding onto to God's hope in Ukraine



How has life changed for ordinary people living in Ukraine and what is it like living with the constant threat of shelling and danger? **Scripture Union International** team member, Oksana Khimich, who is the Field Development Director for Former Soviet Republics and lives in Kyiv, reflects on the past nine months. She talks about what brings her hope amidst the current crisis.

[Watch the video](#)

bringing smiles to children's faces in Sri Lanka



According to news from SU Sri Lanka, the country has been facing its worst economic crisis since independence. General Secretary for **SU Sri Lanka**, Jeevakumaran Chandrasekera, said, *"The unavailability of food, fuel, fertilizer, and medicines has disrupted livelihoods across our nation and as a result, 5.7 million people across the country are in need of humanitarian assistance. Children are particularly affected by the crisis as the feeding programs have been reduced."*³

Along with running a whole range of children's programs in partnership with local churches, SU Sri Lanka has been helping provide rations to some 20 families in one part of the country. In Moratuwell, Moratuwa, where many are living in poverty, the SU team led weekly Bible studies with children and were also able to support their families in a practical way. Jeevakumaran explained how many of the children were orphans or from single-parent homes. He said, *"During the events, the SU team celebrates their birthdays if they fall during the week. This brings the children happiness, and we see the smiles on their faces. We're so happy that SU ministry has brought hope into their lives."*

Fresh encounters with God at Côte d'Ivoire camp

A youth camp led by **Scripture Union in Côte d'Ivoire** drew in 134 campers, with many having a fresh encounter with God. The Bible Camp for young people over 15 years old, was held in the country's capital city of Yamoussoukro, and focused on the theme, 'God does not change'. Young people took part in Bible studies, conference gatherings with talks and workshops on topical themes. Sport and cultural activities were also part of the program, along with worship and prayer and time by the campfire.



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Scripture Union: God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives
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