



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.

God's gift this Christmas



Seventy-five children from Scripture Union teams in 10 different countries have helped produce a new Christmas music video for 2022. 'The Gift' sung by children and young people from SU Ghana, shares the message of hope which is at the heart of the Christmas story. Children from Scripture Union movements in other parts of the world have also filmed their own gift sharing moments for the video. We are grateful for all the hard work that has gone into this and especially to Mark Pennells and Zarc Porter who gave us permission to use their song, Billy Yesudian, who produced the video, and most of all - to the children themselves! Our hope is that the video will allow more people to partner with us in helping to bring God's hope and share his greatest gift of love with children, young people and families around the world.

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20 year celebrations for Estonia



In Estonia they have been celebrating several milestones this year, with the 30th anniversary of SU Estonia, and marking 20 years of their dynamic camp ministry for children and young people.

National Leader for SU Estonia, Mari Vahermägi, said, "We praise God for the fruit of 30 years. He has blessed the work of Scripture Union in

Estonia and the young generation who have learned to love the Bible. We are praying that the seeds of the Word, sown by Scripture Union's work, will continue to empower the transformation of our society."

Mari said the highlight of their 30-year celebration was a special event in November when they gathered to look back and give thanks for the last three decades. The day included the old and the young and new and old members, who listened and shared stories from the very beginnings of Scripture Union in Estonia. After it was established in 1992 through the work of Danilo Gay from Scripture Union Switzerland, the ministry went from strength to strength. Bible Reading notes were produced, which were soon broadcast on the radio, reaching a huge audience. According to Mari the broadcasts amounted to "almost 2,000 days of God's Love Letter with daily notes being explained to the Estonian people!"

She said, "It was such joy to share with many thousands through these channels about Bible reading, about how and why the Bible is our daily bread and how much it changes our lives. Looking back, we can see the habit of personal bible-reading was on the rise and SU played a considerable part, because there is no other organisation in Estonia, that fills this task. Though we are small and understaffed - God has blessed the work."

During the celebration, testimonies were shared about how people had grown through SU Estonia's Bible Challenge campaign to help people learn the habit of daily Bible-reading. Mari said, "The family of one pastor told us how he had organised his whole day around the SU radio and web notes and, even in the last months of his life when he was not able to read any more, he insisted that family members read to him the text of the day and commentaries."



Around 80 young people also gathered for a day of celebration and thanksgiving in October for the 20th anniversary of their Bible Camps. These camps, which started with just 20 people, have seen close to 90 camps being held altogether and more than 300 young people having their faith empowered each year.

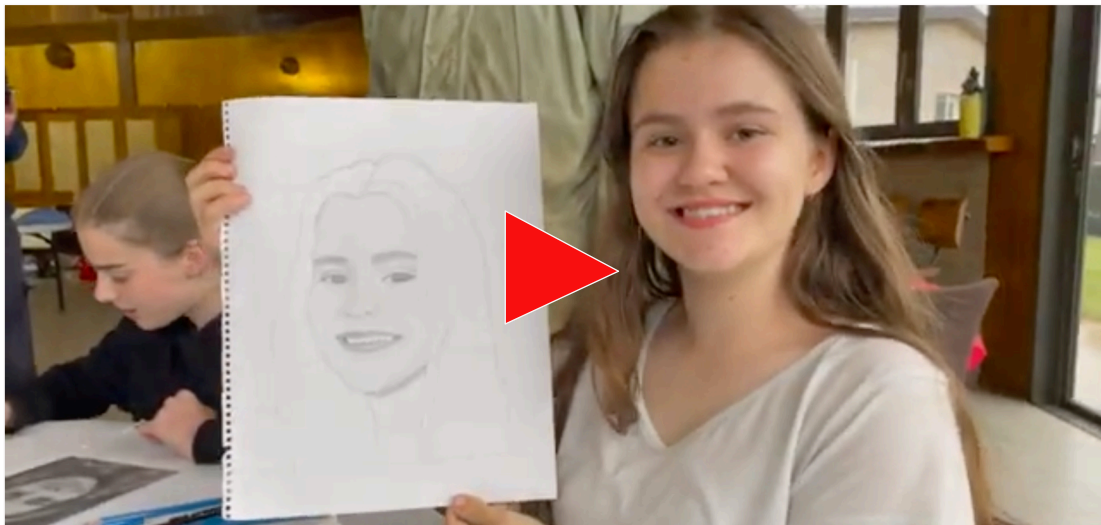
Mari said, "True leaders have emerged from these camps, serving churches all over the country. God has changed lives, liberated, and ignited hearts, and given a growing hunger for Him and His Word."

about **Estonia**

Situated in north-eastern Europe, Estonia, is the most northerly of the Baltic states and borders Russia and Latvia. The country has 1,500 islands and more than half of its land is covered in forest. The historic Estonian capital, Tallinn, was the home of the first publicly displayed Christmas tree in 1441. Estonia also has considerably more women than men – for every 100 females, there are only 84 men! Estonia is one of the least religious countries in the world, with more than half the country having no religious affiliation whatsoever. Scripture Union was established in the country 30 years ago and continues to share God's Big Story with children, young people, and families through a variety of channels.



Art camp joy - Australia



Whether it was using each other as human canvases or patiently sketching a tree, there was no shortage of inspiration at **SU Australia's** first Art Camp. The special interest camp aimed to help combine creativity with developing a faith and understanding the Bible, and there was special input and instruction from visiting artists. Scripture Union International's sustain consultant, Glenn Coombs, who is also a camp leader for Scripture Union Australia, explains how the idea of the camp came about.

[Watch the video](#)

Leaving a **legacy of prayer**



More than 350 people gathered to pray for over 24 hours as a culmination to this year's '**Global Week of Prayer**' for Scripture Union in November. The prayers were led by teams from 40 different movements in different parts of the world. One of the prayer week coordinators, Becky Swamickan, said, "We prayed in multiple languages, from Cantonese to Korean, from French to Sinhala, from English to German. It was so uplifting, and we were encouraged as we came together to pray."

"This year we had children and young people to help us unpack the

daily themes using videos they had created. We focused on the Beatitudes and the famous words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. There were prayers led by children and young people from Mauritius, Uganda, New Zealand, Myanmar and Ukraine. The week challenged us to 'live the legacy' and to be agents of justice, righteousness, peace, and mercy, both where we are and across the world."

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