



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.

A 'level playing field' for floorball and faith in Ecuador



Helping young people to enjoy sport and have the chance to learn about faith on 'a level playing field' is how **Scripture Union Ecuador** is reaching out in partnership with the Christian Floorball League.

National Director of SU Ecuador, Amy Carlson, said the floorball league was creating opportunities for them to reach out to local young people and their families.

"The beauty of this open-air sport is that we utilize the neighbourhood playing field, and as such, there is a link with the community, rather than being linked to a religious building," Amy said.

She said floorball was a sport that is easy to pick up and join in.

"In a culture predominantly dominated by football, this brings the youth to a level playing field, as one's prowess or reputation as a soccer player has little to do with their ability in this sport with stick and ball. Those typically on the side-lines of a football field can find a new opportunity to participate on the floorball court."

Amy explained that it was the same with faith, *"Similarly, during the devotions and prayer time at every get-together, practice time, Saturday morning scrimmage,*

or league event, our youth and adults alike discover that we are on level ground at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus beckons each of us, regardless of skill or reputation, past performance or apparent potential, to lay our sins at His feet, accept His righteousness, and enter into fellowship with the Father through study of His Word, prayer, and discipleship."

One of the floorball players, Bryan talked about what being part of the floorball league had meant to him. He said, *"I have been practising Floorball for quite a while. During this time, I have been able to change a lot. Especially in my character, learning about God. Reading the Bible has allowed me to obtain a bit more wisdom and maturity. Mental maturity has enabled me to make better decisions regarding my life"*

Amy Carlson asks for prayer for continued safety and God's blessing on their events.



about Ecuador

Ecuador straddles the equator on South America's west coast. Its diverse landscape encompasses Amazon jungle, Andean highlands, and the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands. Ecuador is a bit smaller than Italy, but bigger in land area than New Zealand. Most Ecuadorians live in the central provinces of the country, the Andes mountains or along the Pacific coast, with almost a quarter living below the poverty line. In rural areas only 10 per cent of the children go on to high school. The official language of Ecuador is Spanish. Quechua, the biggest indigenous group in the country, is the most spoken native language. More than 30 per cent of the population is under 15 and more than 95 per cent of the population are Christian. Scripture Union works with the churches to reach out to children and young people through teaching Biblical values programs, running sport events, outings, and retreats, along with a range of other programs.



A warm Scottish welcome for young Ukrainian refugees

Scripture Union Scotland has been welcoming refugee children from Ukraine to their holiday camps last year. Young people who had experienced the trauma of fleeing the war were able to form friends and join in with everything that was happening. Despite language barriers the young people who joined the camps enjoyed themselves enormously.

Team member, Sebastian Barclay, talked to one of the young people, Amelia Shepel, from Ukraine, about her experience on an SU Scotland summer holiday.



"I am Amalia, 15 years old. I like listening to music and I'm into outdoor active stuff. I'm also a Christian and interested in knowing God better and want to grow in serving people well."



"I really enjoyed the activities at camp which were different from normal life. It was good to meet new people because everyone was friendly - even strangers! It was a supportive, welcoming, and understanding community."

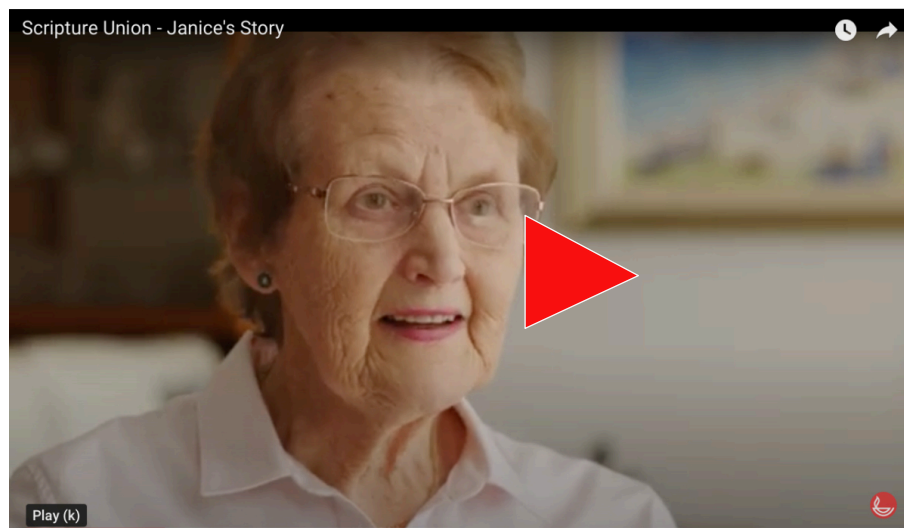


"I learned many new things at a deeper level through camp. The Bible teaching was good too because people who were teaching explained things so well. It was all so understandable and powerful. I felt filled with the power of God encouraging me."

"The Bible teaching and seminars always give questions to think about and an aftertaste of thinking about the Bible and God. It gives you more things to think about."

Read the full article in SU Scotland's latest @SUMagazine [here](#).

Seeds of faith in Australia



Janice shares her story on how [Scripture Union in New South Wales](#) planted a seed in her heart that has borne fruit throughout her whole life and family.

"The parable of the Sower resonates with me, because for me it fell on fertile soil. By some miracle my heart was fertile. My father grew up in a rather dysfunctional family. He saw that problems were caused by religion, and I was banned from any church connection, including Sunday School. The other kids of course were going to Sunday school, and I wanted to know about Jesus. Somehow, I got a Bible, and I had no idea how to read it, but it fell open on Psalm 119, so I started to reading it. My parents didn't worry about me reading it because they didn't think an eight-year-old was going to understand anything out of the King James Bible..."

Find out how Janice discovered faith and what part Scripture Union played in her life [here](#).

Faith and hope in the darkest places

Living out the Christian faith in one of our restricted countries can come at a huge cost. A Scripture Union team member in one of these countries, shares his testimony of how faith can grow, even in the most difficult circumstances.

"I was born and brought up in a Buddhist family. Since my childhood I experienced conflict, hatred, and no love in the family. My father was a drunkard man. They used to do lots of pujas/rituals to bring peace and happiness, but we never experienced peace and love.



"As I grew up, I started to long for good things such as love, peace, nice clothes, and good food. I started raising questions about the gods whom we worshiped. Due to my father's drinking habits and constant conflict in the family, our condition was very bad. We were living in poverty, and I had to discontinue my schooling.

"My elder brother was put in the school hostel, and one day one of his school friends gave him a Bible as a gift, and at the same time he told him, 'Whatever you pray to Jesus, you will get it.' During winter vacation my brother came home and gave me the Bible with the same message, 'Whatever you ask to Jesus, you will get.'" That made me curious to read the Bible. As I read, I came across a passage which said, 'If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.' And there were so many other similar passages. My curiosity grew. I was very young, I had lots of desires – dreams of getting back to school, having new clothes, good food, peace in the family. I wanted to see my father stop beating my mother and I wanted to see him stop drinking.

"With that desire I prayed to Jesus. To my surprise, the very next year I got admission into the school and got some new clothes. Slowly my faith in Jesus started to grow, and I started to ask for more, which ultimately led me to the believer's house. I started to learn more about Jesus, day by day. In the year 2001, I was baptised, which was when my parents came to know about my faith in Jesus. They tried their best to stop me from following Jesus, but I did not stop..."

You can read more of this story on our website [HERE](#).

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
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