



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.

Young ambassadors embark on their year-long program with SUI

Scripture Union International has selected 50 **Young Ambassadors** from SU movements around the world to participate in a year-long program in the lead up to and culminating at the Global Assembly (GA) in Kuala Lumpur in March 2024.

The successful candidates were carefully chosen from over 100 applicants, and have now started their program.

One of the ambassadors is Bidali Jeffers from **South Sudan**, who is part of Scripture Union's work in the refugee settlement in **Uganda**. He said one of the reasons he had applied to be a young ambassador was because of his passion for sharing God's good news with other young people. He wrote: *"The young people of our generation need God and also to grow good values that bring out the true nature of God."*



Brenda Vásquez from **Guatemala** (aged 28) is also joining the program and has been volunteering with Scripture Union for the past year, helping with the schools and children's ministries. She is looking forward to being part of the program. *"For me, it is a bridge where I can connect with people outside my country, my culture and especially with people who may have a similar goal to mine, where I can share my feelings, my thoughts, my experiences and I can find support for my difficulties, and together we can do what God commanded us to do, share the Gospel and let people know that Jesus is our saviour."*

Director of Leadership Lab International, Steve Meeker, who is coordinating the training for the Young Ambassadors, said it was an exciting program and the response had been very encouraging.

"What a privilege it is for our SU Global team to step alongside these young leaders. As we went through their applications it was such an encouragement to read their stories and to see who our Lord Jesus is raising up as a new generation serving in His Great Commission around the world. This year long journey has begun of learning together and encouraging one another. Whether it is reading their responses to assignments or interacting during live sessions, my heart fills with joy as we get to know our SU Young Ambassadors."

Another member of the program from **Mauritius**, is Karen Tyloo (aged 25), who has been volunteering with SU's camp program for the past five years. She said, *"I always like taking challenges, especially in learning new things. Having this opportunity will not only enable me to share my experiences with others but also learn from them. Being a leader does not mean knowing everything, being a leader for me, means that we always have to be willing to learn, to have an open mind and an open heart to learn even from the younger ones."*



Joaquín Cortés Quezada from **Chile**, (age 24), has been volunteering with SU for the past two years, where he has helped with their Bible and school ministries and reaching out to those with special needs or who are at risk. He said, *"The Young Ambassadors program will allow us to meet young leaders from different parts of the world serving in their local churches and in Scripture Union in their respective contexts, but also it will help us to support each other in prayer and fellowship, and see that the body of Christ, which is his church, is made up of people from different countries with the same purpose... to announce his gospel to the world."*



All the young ambassadors are currently raising support towards attending the Global Assembly by participating in the SUI Go Global Leadership Race this month. You can find out more about the Race and how to offer support to any of the young people [here](#).

Time and relationships key in growing young leaders

Relationships and time are the keys to growing young leaders, according to Misha from **Scripture Union Bulgaria**. National Director of the movement since 2011, Misha has seen their number of young leaders growing year on year.

"We have 20-30 young people who lead our weekly clubs and also run events, like Lego weekends, Sunday School training and camps. We train them to be servant leaders and we sit with them, listen and ask questions."

SU Bulgaria runs three Bible clubs each week for a whole range of ages from 11 to 16 year olds at their centre in Sofia. Misha explained that their core group of volunteer leaders, aged between 20-35, help lead the clubs.



Explaining how they decided to build on the seasonal camps, and start the weekly Bible clubs, Misha said, *"It was clear that if we wanted to do something really worthwhile with them, then we have to spend time with them."*

When their young Bible club teenagers reach 16, they are invited to join the camps team to help with some of the younger campers and they are trained in how to run games and gradually encouraged to play their part in leading others.

"Everything works well here in Bulgaria because of relationships. Talking, sharing, chatting I'm on the phone all the time... writing emails is not the same, Bulgarians love to hear voices and to meet people," said Misha.

During her time involved with SU Bulgaria, Misha has seen the young people who have attended camps and then clubs, mature and move into leadership over the past 30 years.

"The good part is that we are friends."

Family ministry in the spotlight

Reaching out to families was the subject of a special training event held in Honduras recently, when SUI Family & Children's Ministry Specialist, Terry Williams, led an event for Scripture Union leaders from central American movements.

Around 20 people attended in person, at **Scripture Union Honduras'** centre and 20 more joined in online. The sessions focused on today's families and explored the role of discipleship in families, along with a whole range of issues from child protection to Bible Engagement.

Terry said, *"It was such a privilege to spend time at the beautiful centre in Honduras with so many faithful and passionate leaders."*



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Scripture Union: God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives
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