# 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.

### Gathering together for good



More than 300 Scripture Union staff and volunteers gathered this month for a special <u>Global Gathering</u> in Malaysia, which also included contributions from some 40 young ambassadors.

Delegates representing over 100 countries joined in worship, inspirational discussions and presentations looking at how to shape Scripture Union ministry into the future.





## Love and patience win out on Hungarian camps



Extra volunteers and partners enabled <u>Scripture Union Hungary</u> to increase the number of camps from seven to nine last year, reaching out to 270 children and young people.

One of the new camps, run in partnership with SU Scotland and Dorkas Ministries, was for Roma refugee children from Ukraine.

All the camps had a common theme of a hero's journeys, looking at characters from the Bible including Gideon, David, Saul and Jesus.

Helga Balla, a leader on the Ukrainian Roma families camp, said there had been challenges with the changing number of children taking part each day. "Love, patience and consistency bore fruit, and the sport theme also had the advantage of helping them learn about keeping rules, playing in a team and respecting their teammates and leaders."

Ultimate frisbee was a new sport during the week alongside the all-time favourites football and volleyball, Helga said. "The more exhausted they got during the exercise the more they could concentrate on the Bible teaching. It was a privilege to play a part in sharing the word of God with the young people at the camp and to also help them grow in their faith. A particular highlight of mine was engaging in the various craft activities with the children."

One of the seven-year-old participants said: "Thank you, that I could participate in the English camp. Since my mom is raising us alone, we could not go on a holiday, but this was even better. I loved the water games in the heat, the craft, the good food, learning Scriptures. It was a joyful week, and I would love to come again."

An exciting new project taking off with Scripture Union Hungary is their online Bible reading guide for young people called UT-ON. You can check out their video on the new resources here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdnZuxBrw-8&t=6s</u>

#### about Hungary

Hungary is a landlocked country in central Europe bordered by Slovakia and Austria to the north, Ukraine and Romania to the east, Slovenia to the west, and Croatia and Serbia to the south. The country was communist from the end of World War II until 1990, when it held its first democratic elections. It became part of the European Union in 2004.

Twenty-four years ago in 2000, Hungary celebrated 1,000 years since its conversion to Christianity. However, many Hungarian people have now mostly lost contact with the gospel, looking for meaning in many other ways.

Young people remain one of the most receptive groups to loving and culturally relevant witness. Prayer is especially needed for the teaching of religious knowledge in schools, in the several hundred Christian schools and in public schools that invite this input, and for freedom to witness in schools.



Since Hungary opened up

following communism, Scripture Union and other youth organisations and groups have developed and grown. Pray for their ministry with children and young people in a variety of contexts and especially for the summer outreach programs.

The Romani (Gypsy) community is Hungary's largest minority at 2.5 per cent and it is also its most socially and economically disadvantaged. Some churches are reaching out to this group, along with Scripture Union. Prayer is needed for all those working with the Roma people, for God's love to be shown in both spiritual and practical ways.

### **Training helps with sustainability** for Scripture Union teams



Bible engagement, hands on learning, prayer and support, were the hallmarks of the first cohort of <u>Project</u> Management Training that was run in Nairobi, Kenya, a few weeks ago. This inaugural event, which saw the launching of the SUI Project Management Training, brought together leaders from nine Scripture Union national movements from two African Community Groups.

Facilitated by a team of project management professional volunteer trainers and members of SUI global team, the training looked at project management definitions, principles, approaches and phases. Participants said it was refreshing to discover and gather practical principles from the many projects referred to in the Bible.

The training days, which included a focus on SUI's strategic framework and focus areas, enabled participants to understand sustainability from an SUI perspective,

examine current donor requirements, and enhance their skills in proposal writing, budgeting and reporting.

Some participants said: "I have learnt that at times we look externally for resources, but that they are all around us – in our local spaces."

"I have learnt the importance of balancing time, scope and cost and ensuring monitoring and evaluation."

"I intend to establish a Project Management Team and ensure that all the projects adhere to PM practices."

Nancy Kahuthia, SUI Project Management Trainer, said: "Our first Project Management training event went very well and we're pleased that this will facilitate other national movements to enhance their project management processes towards more sustainable ministry. In essence, this will translate to sharing 'God's Big Story' with more children and young people. We look forward to training more cohorts."

#### High school ministry thrives in Eswatini

Pupils from Lusoti High School in Eswatini enjoyed a Scripture Union trip to Durban in South Africa. The aim was to promote fellowship and unity among the Scripture Union members in the School. Sixteen students took part along with three teachers and they all came back more united and with more love for Scripture Union.

At another High School, <u>SU Eswatini</u> gathered more than 160 children and young people for a regional camp. A special talent show is always a highlight of each camp. A member of the Eswatini team said, "Our camps are a wonderful place for young people to try new things and explore their talents. For the kids the talent show is the best moment of the camp."



#### 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