



## 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.

## Building up and finding faith in Zambia

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[Scripture Union Zambia](#) volunteers in Kitwe, supported by SU national staff, ran an outreach to children and young people in the Luyando community of Kitwe district, a place where very few churches have been established.

Working in partnership with Mindolo Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAOG), which is planting a new church in the area, the SU team were also joined by student pastors from the Trans Africa Christian University.

More than 100 people were reached with the gospel and a total of 60 people made a decision to receive Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Many more believers were also encouraged to remain firm in their walk of faith.



## about **Zambia**

Zambia, in southern Africa, is a landlocked country of rugged terrain and diverse wildlife, with many parks and safari areas. On its border with Zimbabwe is the famous Victoria Falls plunging more than 100 metres into the narrow Batoka Gorge on the Zambezi River.

Zambia has a population of around 19 million and although English is the official language there are more than 72 languages spoken.

Zambians widely accept Christianity, even in public institutions and the media. Former president Chiluba declared Zambia a Christian nation in 1991, and Zambians practise freedom of all religions.

The country enjoys a legacy as a stable and peaceful nation surrounded by countries troubled by war and unrest. But national transformation along biblical lines still has not come. Too few know the Word of God, or how to live a Christian life. Superstitions and occult practices are still widespread.

Pray for Christians to live pure and holy lives that depend on God alone for spiritual power and blessing. Pray that Zambia will truly be a nation that honours God.

## Bridging the Gap **leaves a legacy for Scripture Union teams**

Scripture Union staff from across the world took part in worship, prayer, discussions and sharing during the [Global Gathering](#) in Malaysia.

The packed week, which included Bible engagement, input from three keynote speakers and workshops and discussions was a pivotal time for many, who said they would be returning home with challenges to consider and fresh ideas to implement.







[Watch the video](#)

*"It's helped me to find out the way of working in our country, although we have different contexts, it has helped think about plans for the future and new ministries."*

*"In one of our table discussions, they said they are restricted in their programs in schools. When we hear stories about what other nations are going through we realise how blessed we are with freedom to worship and being able to run our programs in schools and help children."*

*"I think the thing we are taking back is the theme itself, 'Bridging the Gap', and the challenge of how we can bridge some of the differences that are there in our own society. In our sports ministry we want to get into the shoes of those who are marginalised and try to feel how they feel, rather than seeing them through the lenses of a majority."*



Scripture Union Young Ambassadors were an integral part of the week's programme, where they met face to face for the first time. They took part in presentations sharing their research, experiences and questions on a range of key issues facing Scripture Union, from climate change to sustainability. After spending the week together they were sad to say farewell, but each of them said they would be taking home special moments and fresh inspiration from their time together.

*"For the me the gap I see right now for where I am in Peninsular Malaysia is the local movement and global movement. And that fits in well with a young ambassador role, to speak and share about the global team and what other movements are like with my local team-mates so they know they are part of something bigger. It's not just in Malaysia but across the world."*

*"I come from a culture where older people are way up here, so you can't relate with them in the same way. Coming here and we are sitting at the same table, they are sharing freely, telling their stories and listening to my story and also asking questions and challenging the way of thinking. We are just together, talking on level ground, trying to do what the Lord has called us to do. I have not felt the generational gap, I have been reminded of being with my own father, sharing stories, it has been very special."*

*"This was the end of a year-long program. What Scripture Union is really good at is long term relationships, we see people love meeting up together because they've known each other for so long. This program has provided an opportunity for the younger leaders to build a basis for that. So, now we know each other and love each other and have friends across the world, and we would love to work together in the years to come."*



Findings, outcomes and reflections from the many discussions and workshops held during the week will be worked on in the coming weeks and shared more widely in the months ahead.

International Director for Scripture Union International, Monika Kuschmierz said: *"This was a precious time for the global family of Scripture Union, for sharing both joys and difficulties and in helping us look at the challenges we face together. We were all blessed by having the young ambassadors with us and I am personally excited about all that will come from the new connections, sharing of ideas and joined-up thinking that was made possible by bringing together so many people from different cultures and contexts, with one common goal, to share God's Big Story with children and young people and see lives transformed."*





[Watch the video](#)

## Camps in Latvia **help children rely on God**

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Having run camps for more than 20 years, [Scripture Union Latvia](#), continues to see the impact on the lives of children and young people attending camps. One of their greatest joys is the way their young volunteers have grown into leadership roles, having attended the camps as children.

One member of the SU Latvia team said, *"We can already see the fruits from the camps in different generations. This year we had three camps - one for children and two parallel camps for teenagers and youngsters, including a discipleship program to enable them to become a volunteer in the future."*

*"One the volunteers, Artūrs, who is now 20-years-old, has been a camp participant since he was 11. He was (and still is) a wild child. When he turned 14, he joined the discipleship program and started to be a helper for the group leaders."*

Artūrs admitted to the leaders that he had not been very easy to work with and did not want to do anything except eat!

This year was his fifth year as a volunteer and the leaders said they have seen huge changes in his attitude and in how he has taken responsibility. As well as joining in lots of jokes and fun, he also took care of his own group of children, keeping order during the small groups and discussions, and being responsible for evening activities with his colleague, as well as being a good support for other team members.

One of the leaders said: "A lot of children trusted him and could talk with him, even about faith. This may sound like something small, but the team could see changes in his words and deeds, also in his faith. Only God can make these changes!"

One of the children who took part, 14-year-old, Adriana said: "I was really happy to return to these camps. I really liked small groups, where we could talk about different important topics and share our thoughts. In this camp I realised that we all have a choice - a chance to make a choice - and in the end the most important thing is to hold on tightly and rely on God."

Watch the camp video below:



[Watch the video](#)

## You can partner with us

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**Scripture Union:** God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives  
[scriptureunion.global](http://scriptureunion.global)