



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.

Opening the Bible with children in Bangladesh



Momota Bairagee, National Director for **Scripture Union Bangladesh**, is excited about planning more activities and camps with children and young people this year after joining in the Scripture Union Global Gathering.

Momota, said she had benefitted so much from attending the SU Global Gathering in March: *"I'm very new in Scripture Union Bangladesh," she said. "This gathering showed me the way for the future work for Scripture Union in our country, as well as finding out more about other movements, what they do, and the situations they face."*

Although Scripture Union had been operating in Bangladesh for a number of years, their programs had fizzled out. After feeling called to take on the role of National Director, Momota has started up ministry with children again through Vacation Bible camps.

As she plans for the coming year, she said: *"I am focusing on children's ministry especially. This depends on reading the Bible, I think it is the best way to teach our children and young people how to read the Bible."*

She said children are in deep need of spiritual care, with many having working parents, without time to help them think about spiritual matters. She said this was such an important thing that Scripture Union could help families with.

"The children learn so much in an interesting way and it is good for them.... They learn how to read the Bible and have small quiz events, learning memory verses, and they enjoy the learning process. It is not so hard and not so boring!"

[Watch the video](#)

about **Bangladesh**

Situated in south central Asia, Bangladesh is bordered by India, Myanmar and Bay of Bengal to the south. It is one of the most crowded countries in the world and famous for its Mangrove forests.

The Bengali, or Shaikh, people (240 million globally) remain the largest unreached people group in the world. Pray for them to hear the true gospel and for the few Bengali believers to depend on God in their poverty, to be strong when faced with persecution, and to find community with followers of Christ from different backgrounds. Pray also for Bengali Hindus (201 Hindu groups, of which 188 are unreached), who face violence and persecution as a religious minority.

The political situation is difficult and complex with feuding between two very wealthy clans and deep-rooted corruption. Pray for governance that is just, transparent and effective at assisting those in need while thwarting those seeking to gain at the expense of the nation. The churches have been growing faster than the population rate for the last 50 years, but pray for their work in many different contexts, helping those in poverty and reaching out to those facing discrimination and violence.

Scripture Union has been operating in the country for a number of years, but has recently had a new vitality, and is engaging actively with children and young people through Bible camps and clubs.

Realising a dream of transformation for young people

Faith and education have been transforming young lives at a school in Guatemala, where Scripture Union has been working.

[Scripture Union Guatemala's](#) national director, Byron Velasquez, said on a visit to one school they had heard how the transforming work with young people at the school began with a dream. Retired teacher, Sergio Nowell, had heard God speaking to him through a dream one afternoon, while sleeping in his hammock under a tree. In the dream he heard God say to him:





"There are many young people making bad decisions and leading their lives to waste, aren't you going to do anything?"

He explained the dream to his wife, Gladys, and despite lack of support and doubts from others, they believed that God would provide all that was needed.

Today more than 200 young people have been able to fulfil their dream of becoming professionals through the education at Galileo Science School, which was founded by Sergio and Gladys Nowell.

The couple had more than 37 years' experience serving children and youth in public schools as teachers. In their retirement years they were inspired to invest their savings to set up the school, which provides basic and diversified education to many young people in the region.

There are now more than 15 teachers at the school and the cost per student goes towards the remuneration of each teacher, donating their time and everything they do for the school. They create space to encourage young people to be enterprising and develop their skills to the full. Sergio is the school's director and also teaches maths for all grades. Gladys has now retired from teaching due to ill health.

Byron Velasquez, said: *"We were impressed to see how faith and perseverance can do so much over the years. These are very noble people, who despite the trials and difficulties they have experienced have not given up on what God has given them."*

"It was an honour to visit this school, to know their trajectory, what God has done through them, and how they have left a mark in the hearts of these young people by speaking to them about God in a relevant and fresh way with the same message of love and salvation, through the NUA programme. We rejoice in knowing that these new generations are destined to change the course of what their community has been."



Croatia camps nurture young leaders and children



After worrying that they wouldn't be able to find enough young leaders to help with their camps, [Scripture Union Croatia](#) celebrated a fruitful summer with children and young people coming closer to God through their ministry.

National Leader of SU Croatia, Marijana Crnkovic, said one young girl had told her camp leader that camp was the only place where she had friends in her life and that God was closer to her at the camp. Some of the young leaders on the camps, were helped to cope with many difficulties in their lives from broken homes to depression.

Nineteen-year-old Maja said, *"Last year I said I could never spend time with kids as a leader. This summer I can see how much God stretched me and showed me I am able to be a leader. I enjoyed as CREW again but next year I will apply one week for CREW and next week for young leader."*

One 10-year-old who was inspired by their time at camps now has great ambitions for the future and told her leaders, *"I can't wait next summer to come as a camper! I will continue to come every year, and after being a camper, I will become CREW, and then one day I will lead camp!"* Another seven-year-old called Ivan said, *"This was my first camp ever. I cannot stop crying. Why do we have to go home? I want to stay here."* A month later his mother wrote and told the leaders, *"He changed so much after camp. He reads his Bible, quotes Bible verses, talks about the leaders and how they took care of him; every day he asks me: 'Mum, how can I help you?'"*

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Scripture Union: God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives
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