

# SUNews

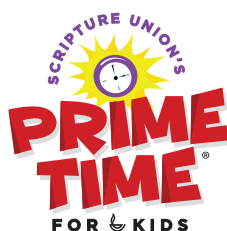
An inside view of  
Scripture Union

## Expanding Initiatives

The annual school calendar is a beast to be tamed, to which most parents will attest. In addition to special events and sports, in any given year, you'll find a smattering of random half-days off.

For my children, these days hold the promise of excitement and anticipation. They dream of more time for fun, for friends, for bike riding and playing games—a welcome break from the daily routine. For me, this shift in routine brings other thoughts. Will I be free from responsibilities at work to pick them up or meet with their teacher? Will I be able to have one of their regular after-school caregivers arrange their own day to be free a bit earlier? Who will stay with them while I am with their teacher? Half days involve extra logistics, but for many parents who lack a safety net of financial or job security or a strong village, it can be a real concern and hardship.

That is why I am especially excited about the new initiative launched in Massachusetts this past year that you will read about in this edition. This pilot program provided an extended day after-school program geared especially for



these types of half days off, bringing safety, fun and friendship to the children and peace of mind and relief to the parents. The initial response to the program has been so positive that we hope to serve more and more communities in this way each year.

Please keep Scripture Union in your prayers as we expand this new initiative as well as grow the established after-school PrimeTime® program, held throughout the year and as we gear up for the summer SuperKids® outreach. You can read about the launch of this summer's curriculum, Guardians of Ancora, inside.

We have much to be thankful for, and I want to thank especially those of you who pray or give to help us keep sharing the Good News of Jesus with children as their schedules change in the places and spaces where God's Spirit leads us.

With gratitude,

**Gail A. Martin**, *President, Scripture Union*





Building on the popularity of the Guardians of Ancora app, Scripture Union has developed a curriculum for use in children's outreach. During this 5 or 10 day program, children enter into the 'world of Ancora'. Alongside the Guardians of Ancora characters, children become 'guardians' seeking to bring light back to Ancora by recovering the story-treasures. Ideally, children will download the app and play the game prior to the program.

## THE APP

Guardians of Ancora is a world-class digital game developed by Scripture Union England & Wales. Based on stories of Jesus, the game is an amazing virtual world that 8 to 11 year-olds can enter, and a place where the Bible stories come alive. Children enter the wonderful world of Ancora and

- Play their way through exciting Bible Quests.
- Visit the Creative hub to create their own prayers and to respond to what they've been discovering about God, Jesus and the Bible.
- Test their knowledge by taking quizzes on the Bible Quests they've completed.
- Enter the 'Story of the Saga' library to listen to the Bible stories.
- Play a Bible Quest, collect firebugs, and play the Firebugs mini-game.
- Visit the Theatre of the Saga and watch videos related to each Bible story.

Parents can set up a parent account. This is a great way to be more involved in your child's play by receiving updates about what they have been experiencing in the game, plus ideas and suggestions for building on their game-playing beyond the digital device.

The app is free for all your favorite mobile devices. It is available for download on the App Store, Google play and Amazon Appstore.

**To find out more about the game, go to <https://scriptureunion.org/guardians-of-ancora/>**



## SUPERKIDS® (VBS CURRICULUM)

Guardians of Ancora has been developed from the app as an outreach program that can be used during the summer or other school holidays. The downloadable ten-day curriculum looks at who Jesus is and demonstrates the power of faith in Christ. Children are invited to consider the stories they hear about Jesus as 'treasure-stories' that are of immense value and importance. As children seek the treasure of the stories they are encouraged to seek and find their own place in God's big, ongoing, forever story.

### THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- An introduction to Guardians of Ancora and the program.
- Program scope and sequence.
- Team roles and tasks.
- Program planning.
- Venue setup.
- Leader's Guide and Team Devotional.
- AND Drama scripts, Memory verses, Quiz Questions, Crafts, Games.

Key to the program is the daily 'Quest', small group time designed to build relationships and help children dig deeper into the day's Bible story. There are Quest leader's manuals and activity sheets for Under 5's, 5 - 7's, 8 - 11's, and 12 - 14's.

The program also comes with additional downloads such as:

- The Guardians of Ancora theme song.
- Publicity materials.
- Logos, posters and more.

**Go to the SU USA website for more information about the app and how you can purchase the Guardians of Ancora curriculum download.**

# Meeting Family Needs through PrimeTime® Extended Day Program

If you're a parent or a teacher, you've probably experienced the challenge of trying to participate in a parent-teacher conference while siblings are brought along. Attending multiple parent conferences with siblings along only makes it more challenging! In Northbridge, Massachusetts, the PrimeTime® team was trying to figure out what to do on these early release days, since they always fell on our regular PrimeTime® day. Instead of thinking of the schedule as a problem, we felt it was God's opportunity to serve families in our community. On early release days we offer free childcare, with programming, for kids pre-K through 6th grade. Parents have been extremely appreciative of this service, and they've also been surprised that their kids don't want to leave! School staff have also expressed how much this childcare is needed for the families on early release days.

Since most of the families in Massachusetts are unfamiliar with church, we do what we can to make it a meaningful and enjoyable experience. We want to build trust as parents get to know us, the facilities, and our program. We've had several children stare at the ceiling and stained-glass windows, and say, "Wow, I've never been in a church before." Last year, we held a "Block Party," where kids used all kinds of cardboard boxes to make structures to go on our make-believe block. The result was an unexpected reason to be happy, when a boy said, "This is fun! We're really cooperating." How awesome that something as simple as positive social interaction would bring joy to a child? Another time we included a small group Bible discussion. Knowing that the Bible might be unfamiliar, I started to explain what the Bible is, and immediately a girl blurted out: "I've always wanted to learn about Jesus! I went to the school librarian and asked for some books on Jesus and she gave me a Bible story book."

Whether it's parent-teacher conferences, professional development, or other programs, early release days can be a struggle for families. It's not hard to open your doors and spend time with kids, and the return of relationships for Christ are well worth it!

— By **Mary Meade Sutton**, Northeast Regional Field Leader, Massachusetts



## ***Kids Play! Anytime, Anywhere Games Book***

Whispered Prayers and other games for your children's ministry or youth group

In this simple game, which used to be called "Telephone," begin with everyone sitting in a circle. Have one child think of a message she or he wants to send around the group. Encourage them to think of something they would say to God. The first child whispers that message to the player next to her or him. That player whispers it to the next, and on around the circle it goes. When it gets around the circle, have the last child say the message out loud. Did the message change or did it come through loud and clear?

For other games and activities that you can use in your children's programs, summer outreach, youth group or VBS programs, order a copy of "*Kids Play! Anytime, Anywhere Games*" available through our online resources store or by calling 1-800-621-5267.



# Read the Bible with your family!

From Genesis to Revelation, same readings, three age appropriate styles.

The **Essential 100** Devotional book narrates your journey from Genesis to Revelation in 100 carefully selected readings that take you through the story of the Bible in about 10 minutes a day. Each day's commentary reads like a letter from a friend.

Teens learn to pray and apply the readings with the **E100 Youth Edition Study Guide**.

Even the very youngest can join in with the **Big Bible Challenge** book and activities. Discussion questions and prayers in each book keep everyone engaged with each other and with God.

Order online at [Store.ScriptureUnionResources.com](http://Store.ScriptureUnionResources.com) or by calling 1-800-621-5267



THE BIBLE READING PROGRAM THAT  
REALLY WORKS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

## Testimonials

I have used *Encounter with God* for nearly 50 years. It has always given me deeper understanding of the Scriptures and challenged me to continue to grow in the love of God.

– MM, Goodhue, MN

I am a retired minister, 90 years old. My first encounter with SU was in about 1942 at a camp in Canada. We used small 'guides' from Scripture Union every morning for personal devotions... and that initiated my life-long reading of the Bible! It was at that camp that the Lord called me to be a missionary, which I was for 20 years. SU, in those days of my youth, helped in my formation as a disciple of Jesus, our Lord.

– DR, Arden, NC

In 1979, our daughter was a stay-at-home mom. A bible study leader introduced her and a friend to SU guides. She told us and the rest is history.

– RV, Edgerton, MN

## SU Global Snapshot

Scripture Union had a ministry in Sudan that ceased due to the long war that began in 1983. In 2002 SU was able to begin growing ministry in **South Sudan** beginning in Yei and establishing its headquarters in Juba in 2008. They now operate in 11 locations and in a refugee camp in Uganda.

FOCUS  
ON SOUTH  
SUDAN

In 2019 SU South Sudan were able to reach over 18,500 children and youth and trained over 150 volunteer leaders. Their ministries include Values Education in schools, Bible Clubs in schools, Sports ministry, and camps. 2019 was also the fourth year that a special camp was organized for children and youth living in a refugee camp in Uganda. Over 1400 participated including those who are deaf.

SU South Sudan has developed an annual Bible quiz for elementary and high school students. Both students and teachers appreciate the program. One participant said, "I am very grateful and diligent about the Bible reading competition. I think the Bible reading will help boost our minds in reading the Bible and understanding it. It also makes us want to know much more about the Bible and how it will change the negative way we think and act." Please pray for SU in South Sudan.

For more information go to  
[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)



## ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN

**Population:** 10,561,244

**Religion:** Christian, minority African tradition, Muslim

**Population under 15:** 41.5%

**Official language:** English

