

# SU News

An inside view of  
Scripture Union

**H**ave you ever found yourself looking to the past for understanding and to the future for hope? In many ways, this is what we do as we read God's Word. He reveals his work throughout human history, showing us his grand design to redeem a people for his own, to restore his kingdom of justice and righteousness.

We find ourselves in God's real-life story, empowered to bring his kingdom here on earth by living as followers of his Son, Jesus.

Discipleship is at the heart of our work at Scripture Union. We want to help children understand the Good News of Jesus and give them the tools needed to follow him. We offer opportunities for life-long Bible engagement that teach them how to live as salt and light, to serve as agents of change in their schools, communities and world. Our daily Bible reading guides are designed to help adults do the same as they engage with the whole counsel of God in Scripture.

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd and resulting unrest, Scripture Union's prayer is that we will listen, love and serve well in this time. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." We pray each decision we make, each curriculum and resource we produce, every encounter we create, reflects the heart of our Creator whose image we bear.

## Thy Kingdom Come

I am grateful that our organization has historically taken a stand against racism and discrimination at the highest level of leadership. Recorded in the minutes of a Council meeting in 1960, when SU International was founded, are these words: "the Conference also desired to place on record the belief of the Scripture Union movement in the unity of all believers in Christ without distinction as to race, languages, color or social position, and their equal worth in the sight

of God, Who is no respecter of persons." This same Council was advocating for the work in the US to take place in a "non-segregated manner", well before it was legally recognized by law.

I want to place on record today that Scripture Union USA affirms this statement and condemns racism as sinful. We will continue in prayer and teaching for justice for the oppressed until the day we all gather together in praise before the Throne of God representing "every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages."

Thank you for standing with us in the work, as followers of the King.

With gratitude,

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





## GUARDIANS OF ANCORA UPDATE

# Covid-19 – When Challenge turns into Opportunity

The last four months have been challenging times in our country and the world. With the restrictions and protocols related to Covid-19, individuals, schools, organizations and companies have had to adjust and create a 'new normal'.

Scripture Union is no exception. We have been challenged to find new ways to help people of all ages meet God every day, a ministry that is particularly needed during these times of uncertainty.

Every summer is normally full of SuperKids® outreach programs (VBS). The Guardians of Ancora material was prepared and churches began to make plans for Summer 2020. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, it became clear that this would not be a 'normal' summer. In response, SU staff quickly prepared suggestions and guidelines for running an alternative Guardians of Ancora program. We have now heard that some churches are going ahead with a smaller and shorter program later this summer. You can find the Guardians of Ancora program and Covid-19 alternatives on the Scripture Union website at [www.ScriptureUnion.org/superkids-mission/](http://www.ScriptureUnion.org/superkids-mission/).

Sonia Dobson, Northeast Regional Director, rallied PrimeTime® and SuperKids® churches and leaders for a five day SuperKids® Zoom VBS June 29th – July 3rd. This special Guardians of Ancora program included drama, quizzes, music, craft and small group Bible study. It was a great opportunity for SU ministries to trial this type of outreach.

With so many confined to their homes and with children 'home schooling', Scripture Union has also prepared a special Guardians of Ancora program for use at home. The program includes Bible stories with introductory activities, a discussion and prayer guide, and ideas for crafts and games.

As SU President, Gail Martin, reported, "Our ministry is shifting, but not shaken. Our mission and vision remain unchanged". We continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and to provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults to meet God through his Word.

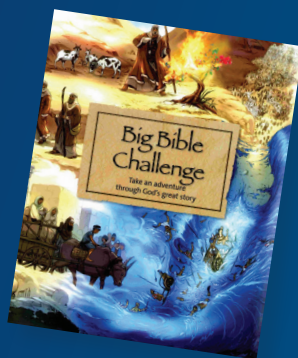
The Guardians of Ancora program is based on the award winning children's Bible based game app of the same name. The app is free and available for download on the App Store, Google Play and Amazon Appstore.

## Big Bible Challenge

Sunday School or Vacation Bible School may look different this summer. Now more than ever, we need to make sure kids stay connected, while at home, to what's really important.

The *Big Bible Challenge* is a fantastic alternative! The 100 readings are arranged in 20 sections or "challenges" of 5 readings (usually 10-15 verses) each. One of the five passages is explored in detail and the other four in outline. Each section includes a Bible text, questions to help explore the Bible passage, prayer ideas, things to make or do, and full color artwork. It's a complete Bible engagement tool for children and adults to use together.

Order your copy today at <https://scriptureunion.org/featured-resources/#big-bible> or call the office at (800) 621-5267.



## The Bible App by YouVersion



*Essential 100* and *Essential Jesus*, written by SU USA President Emeritus Whitney T. Kuniholm, is now on The Bible App. Download and read them today!

Already installed on over 425 million unique devices all over the world, the Bible App offers a free Bible experience for smartphones, tablets, and online at Bible.com.

# Bible and Prayer Resources

On our website you will find several resources that you can use as we continue in various stages of isolation and re-opening due to COVID-19 including:

## Families Together

A series of five devotions that have been specifically written for families confined to their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## God's Word for Times Like These

A series of 10 inspirational Bible reading notes produced by Scripture Union International as the world tries to cope with the immediacy and the urgency of Covid-19.

## Praying at Times Like These

A series of prayer resources that include suggested prayers and specific requests from SU movements around the world whose work has been impacted.

## Stand up for Justice

Prayer Resource for Children. Download **Head-to-Toe Prayers** on our website for a resource that offers an easy way to teach children how to pray about the injustice we see in the world.



## Let's Encounter God's Word ... Together!

This July, we launched an online devotion and reflection from the *Encounter with God* and *Discovery Bible Guides*. The weekly short form program will be hosted by the new SU President, with featured special guests, who will discuss together the selected readings of the week, share reflection and insights and lead the online community with a closing prayer and encouragement for the week.

You can find our weekly recorded broadcast at [ScriptureUnion.org/EncounterTogether](https://ScriptureUnion.org/EncounterTogether).



## PrimeTime™ on Zoom

by Sonia Dobson

Our PrimeTime™ after-school groups started this year with much excitement, dreaming of the second annual summer "All PrimeTime Rally Celebration" that the children so loved last year. The COVID-19 pandemic forced all groups to suspend face-to-face meetings. The children and volunteers were so disappointed. With very little time lost, we quickly switched focus and the leaders and partner churches developed an online format to keep these programs going. Volunteers were trained and soon the children began to gather for a digital PrimeTime meeting – online via Zoom and Google Meet. It was met with an enthusiastic response – the children were ecstatic that PrimeTime had resumed!

Each week we saw growth in the numbers of children joining online meetings as they invited their friends and family members to attend with them. Together, the children have been sharing in the Scriptures, songs, at-home crafts and show and tell. Some of the groups have merged, allowing the group leaders to collaborate and the children from different groups to get to know one another. In one Zoom meeting, we had children attending from Brooklyn, Bronx, White Plains, Peekskill, Ossining, Rockland and New Jersey! Another group had children from Long Island, Brooklyn and Queens. They are forming new friendships and are eager to meet together in person at the next all-PrimeTime celebration. Following online safety protocols, PrimeTime groups have also had children join in from Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America. This was quite exciting for the children, as some leaders led them in Spanish.

Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, there have been new opportunities. Technology has helped to remove some distance barriers, so that children who are geographically distant were able to benefit from the program. Children who had previously been unable to attend because of transportation issue were able to join in. By bringing the programs into the homes, parents, adults and family members were able to enjoy the fun and share in the Gospel stories alongside the children. We thank God that this year's online PrimeTime program is helping people in this desperate time to meet God and that it has been such a blessing to so many children and families.

"I love PrimeTime because I learn about Jesus, I get to meet my friends, play and have fun."

- Anna

## SU Global Snapshot

In 2017 SU Sri Lanka celebrated 50 years of ministry. This growing ministry includes work with children aged 5-18 in 26 schools. Many SU Vacation Bible Schools take place in the summer and four residential camps are held annually for children from diverse ethnic religious and economic backgrounds. The partnership of SU Sri Lanka with schools and churches helps to foster interfaith communal harmony in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country.



Sri Lanka continues to recover from the ravages of a brutal 30-year ethnic war. An outcome has been a significant section of youth physically, mentally and emotionally deprived of a stable childhood and adolescence. SU Sri Lanka has responded meaningfully to provide these young people with a ray of hope through programs for visually and hearing-impaired children, orphans, those abused due to broken families and teenage girls who experience unwanted pregnancies.

During this time of Covid-19 restrictions, SU Sri Lanka has been connecting with children and young people through live and recorded programs on Facebook.

SU Sri Lanka's resource base comprises three full-time workers and 40 volunteers who shoulder the responsibility of ministry in this challenging environment.

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



### ABOUT SRI LANKA

**Population:** 21,283,913

**Religion:** Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, Unspecified 10%  
Population under 15: 24.9%

## Greater Kingdom Impact ... Today and Tomorrow

As stewards in God's kingdom, we can have a significant impact (right now and eternally) by establishing a Giving Plan. In order to harness as many resources as possible for the Lord's work and for our families, we should take advantage of tax incentives available to us.

To learn more about Asset-based and Legacy giving opportunities, visit the Scripture Union website ([www.scriptureunion.org/plannedgiving](http://www.scriptureunion.org/plannedgiving)) or contact our office (1-800-621-5267) so we can connect you with a knowledgeable advisor at no cost to you.



## Testimonials

I first bumped into it (*Encounter with God*), in a hotel room, where it had the 3 months booklet in a drawer in Virginia. I read it on my flight home and I fell in love with it. Since then, my day is dependent on it. My day feels incomplete without it. You have no idea, what a great job you are doing with these devotions. I have sent it to several of my friends, who find it as intriguing as I do. May God bless you and the entire Scripture Union team! - **DO, Houston, TX**

Our friendship started when we began our journey through motherhood 5.5 years ago. We are diving into our faith deeper and deeper. Thank you for bringing us closer to Jesus together even though we are miles apart. - **SU Member, USA**

Only by God's mercy, discipline and grace have I been rescued from this. He's given me new vision! Such a blessing you are to the people of God! Thank you for your ministry! - **JW, inmate**