

SU News

An inside view of
Scripture Union

What Shall I Do Lord?

Recently, I had an opportunity to talk about Scripture Union USA during a socially distanced live event. It was wonderful! I loved being able to share the vision of SU in person, and then to experience the body of Christ respond, embracing His call to make disciples of today's generations. That is what the church has done since the beginning. And speaking of the early church, this summer's SuperKids®/VBS program will be all about the book of Acts – helping children to discover the life in Jesus that God has prepared for them.

Our President Emeritus, Whitney Kuniholm, wrote a book called *The Essential Question*. Also based on Acts, he relates to the questions Paul asked of Jesus on the road to Damascus: Who are you, Lord? and What Shall I Do Lord?

These are the questions we want to help children ask and have answered through our programs. They are the same questions our adult readers are asking - and that believers are asking together in community throughout our nation.

I hope that you will be encouraged by what you read in this issue of SU News. The story of Acts isn't over. God's Church is still expanding and prospering, and we are part of that story.

Every blessing,

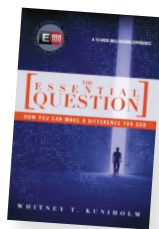
Gail A. Martin, *President, Scripture Union*



The Essential Question

The experiences of the first Christians show us that God has a mission, an essential mission, for all of His people—whether it is to serve Him faithfully in the marketplace, in the home, in school, in the military or someplace else. *The Essential Question* is perfect for groups and churches that want to read the book of Acts together and then make a difference for God in their community and the world. Are you ready to answer the essential question?

Order your copy at store.scriptureunionresources.com/the-essential-question or call 800-621-5267



Postal Delays

We have heard from many of you that you recently received your 2020 Christmas card with the enclosed 2021 calendar! Please be assured that it was indeed mailed at the end of November 2020 and we sincerely apologize for the delay. As many of you likely realize, the USPS has been experiencing never before seen delays as a result of ongoing impacts of Covid-19. Please let us know if you need anything resent to you.

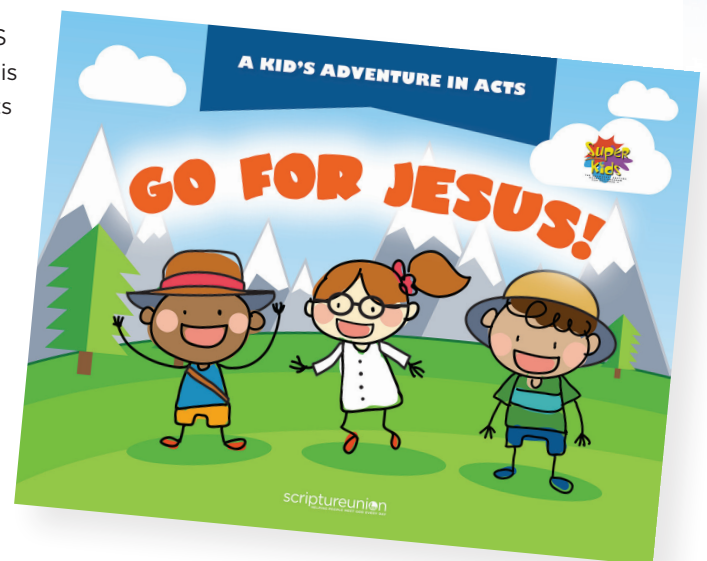
Adventure, Exploration and Fun for this Summer!

GO FOR JESUS! – A KID’S ADVENTURE IN ACTS

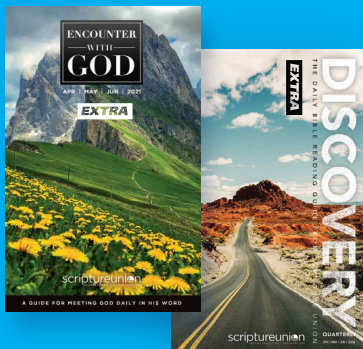
Scripture Union USA is excited about its new SuperKids™/VBS outreach called *GO FOR JESUS!*. Created for 5-12-year-olds, it is a 5 or 10 day adventure based on stories from the book of Acts that can be used in a virtual setting or safely in person – wherever children gather.

Focused on storytelling and skits, *GO FOR JESUS!* shares the good news of Jesus, helping kids start to UNDERSTAND what Christianity is about, begin to KNOW God through His Word and RESPOND to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him. The engaging curriculum is filled with a collection of games, activities and songs that your staff and volunteers can use in ways that best serve the needs of children and that also can be easily adapted to the demands of your particular setting.

Whether children meet online, gather in a church, on a sandy beach or an urban sidewalk, this program will effectively engage their attention! The program includes singing, dramas, memory verses, an inductive Bible study and games. Bible Diggers small group sessions provide hands-on Bible reading and discussion, asking questions and providing opportunities for personal application that will be loved by all.



EXTRAS



Can't get enough of our daily Bible reading guide? Want to dig a little deeper? Take your devotions further with Scripture Union EXTRAS!

EXTRAS has been created as an additional resource to use with Scripture Union's daily devotionals *Encounter with God* and *Discovery*. The questions will encourage you to dig deeper into the meaning of the Scripture passages from the previous week's readings and is an excellent tool for small group Bible study, Sunday School classes or individual Bible reading.

EXTRAS can be found online at ScriptureUnion.org/bible-guide-extras or can be delivered right to your inbox each quarter. Sign up on our homepage at ScriptureUnion.org for email delivery.

Impact Children and Families for Christ Through Your Appreciated Assets

As you consider investing in God's Kingdom, there are significant benefits to legacy giving where your contribution is used for the sake of the Great Commission even beyond your lifetime. With planning, your non-cash assets can have far greater impact in reaching the lost.

Through our stewardship ministry, we can assist you in making a strategic plan for a variety of non-cash gifts that will afford you significant tax incentives and give your investment greater benefit.

Cash is usually the smallest portion of a family's wealth. It's often possible to receive greater tax benefits by giving assets such as:

- **Real Estate**
- **Life Insurance**
- **IRA Funds**
- **Stocks and Mutual Funds**
- **Private business assets**

To learn more about these giving opportunities, please call toll free (800) 621-5267 to speak with a Scripture Union advisor or visit:

www.ScriptureUnion.org/PlannedGiving



Benefit Concert with **Trey Taylor**

Just as everything had shut down due to COVID-19, an engaging young country singer named Trey Taylor contacted me to offer his time and talent to benefit the work of Scripture Union USA. Trey is a rising Nashville recording artist signed by Dolly Parton's label, *Go Time Records*. He shared that he wanted to launch his career with philanthropy as an important part of his work in music. He had looked for causes with vision close to his heart and among them, the work of Scripture Union captured his attention. Understanding the power of God's Word and regular Bible engagement, Trey committed to doing a benefit concert near the Valley Forge office in Pennsylvania. In a beautiful open-door barn setting, about 40 people shared a wonderful evening of music and storytelling. As they were introduced to this talented new musician, they also learned more about SU and were inspired to give to its ministry.

Trey will be performing a second benefit for us in Guthrie, Oklahoma later this year. We give thanks for his generous support and sacrifice on behalf of Scripture Union's vision to see people of all ages come to faith in Christ, committed to God and His Word and living as salt and light.



SU Global Snapshot

An art competition publicized through local Christian radio has been helping children in Timor Leste hear more about God's Big Story and how each of them can be a part of it. When Scripture Union staff went to congratulate the young winner, Zilton, who had come third in the competition, they brought a smile to a quiet, shy boy whose family had never owned a book before.

Zilton was delighted to be presented with a copy of 'The Big Picture Story Bible', translated in Tetun-English and published by Scripture Union Timor Leste. Scripture Union National Director for Timor Leste, Grace Adams said, "Zilton and his extended family welcomed us with warmth. Zilton had been brought up by his father after his mother left when he was a baby." She explained that growing up wasn't without struggles for Zilton and his family.

"Zilton's aunt explained to us that his father had difficulty with his speech and body movements since suffering a stroke 10 years ago. The whole family was surprised that Zilton had won the competition as it seemed he often goes unnoticed," Grace said.

"Like many families in Timor Leste, Zilton's family doesn't own even one book, so the family was thrilled with Zilton's prize. His dad had a big smile on his face and his aunt said it was a huge honor for the family. While we were there, several children immediately gathered around Zilton and they began reading the book together.

"It was heart-warming to see children reading the Bible with such excitement. We praise God that we were able to be an encouragement to Zilton and his family through the art competition and the children's Bible. We continue to pray that God's Word will take deep root in the lives of these children and their families."

For more information go to www.scriptureunion.global

ABOUT TIMOR LESTE

Population: 1,340,668

Religion: Christian 98% Other 2%

Population under 15: 40%



In Memoriam, W. Gordon Haresign

W. Gordon Haresign, long-time Scripture Union Board Member and Chair Emeritus went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in February 2021.

Gordon loved God's Word. He studied it, wrote about it, lived it, and shared it. He was passionate about the work of Scripture Union that helps people to meet God through His Word and prayer every day. Gordon began his interactions with Scripture Union as a young man by using our Bible guides daily, and he continued to read them throughout his life.

Gordon served the SU-USA Board for more than a decade and was named Chair Emeritus after passing the baton last October. He came to every board meeting prepared with a big vision, a passion for prayer - and always with a number of ready jokes, laughing heartily as he delivered punchlines.

We thank God for the life and legacy of our faithful brother.



SU USA Board and staff with Gordon, second from left clockwise.

Buy One, Get One Free Youth E100 Book

The **E100 Youth Edition** will guide teens through 100 key passages from Genesis to Revelation, carefully selected to highlight the big story of the Bible.

Order at 800-621-5267
or store.scriptureunionresources.com

