



s I write, spring training is in full swing for Major League Baseball and the networks have been airing some local games. Although it's still quite brisk where I live, I can almost smell the fresh cut grass on the field, feel a balmy breeze in the stands, and taste the concession stand food. It's the beginning of a season that overlaps the long summer break from school, beach trips, and time relaxing with America's favorite pastime—or at least mine—baseball!

Last year, the team I cheer for made it all the way to the World Series. It was thrilling, even though they stopped short of victory. We had a lot of time to get to know our players and were entertained all the way into October. It was a great time to enjoy the sport with fellow-enthusiast friends.

This year's offseason was shorter than usual for us, but you can still see evidence of the work that was done over Winter to prepare for spring training—batters have muscled up for stronger swings, pitchers have developed their signature pitches, and position players have been putting in time to perfect their roles. Hours and hours of hard work precede the first step onto the field and more hours follow

each day throughout the season, all in preparation for a winning game, a winning season. Training is critical. Getting on base is important. Progressing through the bases through to home plate is essential. But it is a step-by-step process that requires full team participation. Every player, every coach, every practice matters.

We are in training season at Scripture Union and I am thrilled with developments that are taking place on the West Coast and with the initial progress of the Spanish translations for our programs, curriculum, and resources. They are first steps. Yet I believe, with the collaborations taking place, we will be loading the bases, setting up for winning, and replicating success.

Rejoice with me with what God has been doing as our team and volunteers put in the work each day to see people of all ages coming to faith in Christ, committed to God and his Word, and living as salt and light.



Every blessing, Gail A. Martin, President, Scripture Union

