

SU News

An inside view of
Scripture Union

Setting up for Success



As 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*

Making ROOTED DISCIPLES of all nations

**Bringing together discipleship training, kids outreach
and the local church for long-term kingdom impact**



Steve Meeker is passionate about growing roots. Specifically, the roots of disciples. As the Director of Leadership Lab International, the multicultural training arm of Scripture Union International that trains disciple makers and ministry teams, he has spent nearly three decades nurturing and guiding young Christian leaders from around the world so that they are equipped to do ministry for the rest of their lives.

It's work that centers connection: first with God, then with others.

And that focus on connection is what makes him most excited for Leadership Lab International's next opportunity: joining their mentored, experiential program for young disciple makers called *Transform* with the Scripture Union-designed *SuperKids*® outreach program and a local congregation, Calvary Church of Santa Ana, which has English and Spanish speaking congregations in Santa Ana, California.

Transform | A multicultural discipleship program from Scripture Union International's Leadership Lab International

Leadership Lab International (LLI)'s *Transform* program got its name from the fruit it produced. "Mentors of the participants kept coming back saying, 'This person has been transformed,'" LLI's director Steve Meeker says.

The program, which began in 2014, leads cohorts of up to 14 young adults from around the world through experiential ministry, equipped with mentors and time for reflection.

"Often leaders are thrust into leadership, and they don't have that environment where it's mentored," Steve explains. "We are intentional in getting *Transform* participants to retreat spiritually and find those places in life where they can rest and be refreshed with their walks with God."

For the first time, in the summer of 2023, *Transform* will offer training in Santa Ana, California, where participants will be trained in and lead a VBS-style *SuperKids* outreach in collaboration with Calvary Church of Santa Ana.

***Please join us in praying for all
Transform students and the people
they interact with in their ministry.***

LEARN MORE AT:
[www.leadershiplabinternational.org/
transform](http://www.leadershiplabinternational.org/transform)



Chatting with students from *Transform* training 2022

Steve explained that Transform participants, who are between ages 20-28, will gather in Santa Ana, California, to receive training in the *SuperKids* outreach program and Scripture Union USA's curriculum *Who is Jesus?*, while simultaneously being mentored and discipled. They'll then work with Calvary Church—which is gathering multigenerational support for the outreach, from high school student leaders to adults providing meals and housing for participants—to carry out the VBS-style outreach in the park.



Steve Meeker announces this summer's training and translation of the SuperKids VBS into Spanish at the Calvary Hispano Multicultural Missions dinner. Pictured also is Juan Morales, who is assisting with the Spanish translation for Steve, and for the SuperKids *Who is Jesus?*.

But it won't stop there.

In preparation for this outreach—the first of its kind on the West Coast—the *Who is Jesus?* curriculum is being translated into Spanish. After that translation is complete, students from Calvary Church will use that curriculum for an outreach in Ensenada, Mexico, and Scripture Union Latin America will be able to use the materials throughout the Spanish speaking world.

The potential for ministry to expand and multiply abounds, from *Transform* participants returning to their home churches around the world with a new ministry model, to connections and relationships forged by the local church with their neighborhood, and a Spanish curriculum that can open doors for ministry in new regions. But Steve knows that is the beauty of connected ministry: the tall trees of the kingdom grow from the deep roots of discipleship.

Pray with us: Would you join us in praying for the *SuperKids* program participants and leaders as they coordinate many logistics?

who is Jesus?



SuperKids curriculum launches in Spanish

Scripture Union's *Who is Jesus?* curriculum will launch in Spanish this summer at a VBS-style SuperKids outreach in Santa Ana, California, followed by a second outreach in Ensanadas, Mexico.

The interactive curriculum introduces detectives Shorty Sherlock and Wallaby Watson, who challenge children to use their detective skills to explore the Gospel of John and answer the question: *Who is Jesus?*

Teams across the country have used this curriculum in English to share the gospel through dramas and small group activities. The launch in Spanish will not only open ministry opportunities in the United States, but throughout the Spanish speaking world, with Scripture Union teams in Latin America partnering to share the curriculum as part of their outreach.

Please join us in praying for God to use the *Who is Jesus?* curriculum in Spanish and English to share the Gospel to kids across the country this summer.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:
The *Who is Jesus?* curriculum in English and Spanish at www.scriptureunion.org/whoisjesus/

Upcoming Beach Missions

July 29 - August 12: Surf City, New Jersey
July 24 - August 5: Ship Bottom, New Jersey
August 6-11, 2023: Virginia Beach, VA

There's still time to plan a *SuperKids*® in your neighborhood this summer! Doesn't have to be on a beach... could be in a park, or anywhere children can gather.

Call or email us today for help to set one up!

Testimonials

My Young Life leader introduced me to Scripture Union as a way to help with daily devotions. I have been using Encounter with God since the early 80's!

- J.D., Jacksonville, FL

I discovered Encounter with God in 1991 and it is my daily helper which aids me in my every day discovery of who God is. Bless each and every one who contributes to this booklet.

- P.F., Mandeville, LA

I want to thank everyone at Scripture union for your ministry. The "Encounter with God" daily guide has been an essential instrument for the transformation I feel taking place in my life. I've been reading it every morning for the past 6 months. The routine of reading scripture in the morning and starting my day off with the right mindset has led to an unexplainable peace and mindfulness that makes every day a smashing success. Thank you very much for your wisdom, prayer, and ministry. You all are making a positive impact in at least one more life here on Earth.

- K.H., Oxnard, CA

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT



A 'level playing field' for floorball and faith in Ecuador

Helping young people to enjoy sport and have the chance to learn about faith on "a level playing field" is how Scripture Union Ecuador is reaching out in partnership with the Christian Floorball League.

National Director of SU Ecuador, Amy Carlson, said the floorball league was creating opportunities for them to reach out to local young people and their families.

"The beauty of this open-air sport is that we utilize the neighborhood playing field, and as such, there is a link with the community, rather than being linked to a religious building," Amy said.

She said floorball was a sport that is easy to pick up and join in. *"In a culture predominantly dominated by football, this brings the youth to a level playing field, as one's prowess or reputation as a soccer player has little to do with their ability in this sport with stick and ball. Those typically on the side-lines of a football field can find a new opportunity to participate on the floorball court."*

Amy explained that it was the same with faith, *"Similarly, during the devotions and prayer time at every get-together, practice time, Saturday morning scrimmage, or league event, our youth and adults alike discover that we are on level ground at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus beckons each of us, regardless of skill or reputation, past performance or apparent potential, to lay our sins at his feet, accept his righteousness, and enter into fellowship with the Father through study of his Word, prayer, and discipleship."*

One of the floorball players, Bryan talked about what being part of the floorball league had meant to him. He said, *"I have been practicing Floorball for quite a while. During this time, I have been able to change a lot. Especially in my character, learning about God. Reading the Bible has allowed me to obtain a bit more wisdom and maturity. Mental maturity has enabled me to make better decisions regarding my life"*

Amy Carlson asks for prayer for continued safety and God's blessing on their events.



ABOUT ECUADOR

Population: 18,362,418

Religion: 95% Christian

Population under 15: 33%