



SU News

An inside view of
Scripture Union

The Difference You Make

"I met this man named Roger Green,"

That was the opening to an answer I was given recently while speaking with a donor on the phone, asking how he first became involved with Scripture Union. It was not the first time I'd heard that response. In fact, in my short time as president, I've heard it *many, many times*.

This past month, I had the privilege to attend the memorial service for Roger, an SU legend. That is how I described him to his son following the service. What struck me most when listening to testimony of Roger's life was his passion for sharing with children the life-transforming hope of the gospel. His desire was for each child to understand and embrace the fact that they were a one-of-a-kind individual, created in the image of God, and to know that God loved them completely. With inspired puppetry and creative imagination, he enthralled thousands with the stories of Scripture that pointed to a new kind of life, one filled with hope and purpose. Roger went on to pastor churches across the United States and led missions initiatives internationally—his legacy of ministry with SU is cemented in our history.

Whenever I attend a celebration of life service, what strikes me is the difference that every person makes in the lives of those around them. Though we all may not be called to the expanse of the beaches on the eastern shore, our care and attention to just one life can be profound. The ripple effect cannot be measured. Could Roger's Christian parents have imagined how their faithful witness to their son would make a profound difference for God's kingdom, not just in New Zealand, where he was born, but in countries around the world?

Scripture Union has just launched the Salt and Light Legacy Fund to give you an opportunity to recognize mentors and heroes in your life. Gifts can be made in honor or memory of someone. The funds will be used to continue the work of sharing Good News across the United States.

Take a minute today to consider your own unique life. You make a difference in this world in big and small ways—and really, there are no small ways. You are someone's story. And God is writing a masterpiece.



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

Roger Green attended Scripture Union summer camps as a young teenager in New Zealand, married and traveled to Canada where he conducted children's missions for hundreds. He and his wife Marguerite, an active partner in ministry, moved to the United States, and started the first beach mission in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1957. Soon after, he launched others in Delaware, Virginia, and New Jersey, many of which are still being held today—66 years later! Roger served on staff for SU and later as a volunteer and Board Chair. He was awarded the Scripture Union Lamp Award in 2004 for Bible Ministry. The Lamp Award is given each year to a person for faithful and sacrificial effort in fulfilling the mission of Scripture Union. We thank God for the life and legacy of Roger Green.

Want to increase Bible engagement in your community? Scripture Union resources can help!

From the beach to a church; a prison to a living room—four people share how they've used Scripture Union resources to help the people around them access the Bible



Patty Fleming: Discovery devotionals reach 5,000+ incarcerated people in Southeast Pennsylvania each year

As the Director of Prison and Community Reentry Programs at Liberty Ministries, **Patty Fleming** knows that people who are incarcerated need God's hope, just as much as they need physical supplies.

That's why Liberty Ministries, which serves inmate populations in Southeast Pennsylvania by providing God's love and practical assistance, distributes more than 5,000 Discovery devotionals each year as part of Easter and Christmas gift bags that also contain food, hygiene supplies, socks, and more.

"People receiving the bags often don't have support on the outside from family or friends," explains Patty, who was formerly incarcerated herself.

"There are people who don't receive mail, which means they have limited resources during their incarceration," Patty says. So the Discovery devotionals, which are 90-day guides that contain a daily prayer, set of verses to read, a reflection and application, are something they can read that are filled with hope and truth. Then people can pass around that resource so the gift can keep giving. The format of the devotional—with its simple structure and 90-day goal—is particularly helpful in the prison setting, and the high quality of the devotions was a big part of why Patty's team chose to use *Discovery* over other options.

"Being an ex-inmate myself, I know having the Word of God in the jail is extremely significant, including my own transformation," Patty says. With *Discovery* Patty and her team can ensure thousands of other incarcerated people can have access to the hope found in Scripture.

Explore daily *Discovery* devotional readings online at scriptureunion.org/discovery, or order hard copies for yourself or your community at scriptureunion.org/biblereadingguides.



Ruth Withee: Gathering friends and neighbors to read and discuss the Bible with *The Essential 100*

When **Ruth** first heard about *The Essential 100* (*E100*) from her sister, she decided to try reading these "essential passages" of the Bible for herself. She found that the *E100*'s focus on the overarching narrative of the Bible helped her more clearly see the message of redemption.

So when her local church challenged members to gather in home small groups to read the Bible together, she turned to the *E100* again.

Although the group encompassed people from different backgrounds and faith journeys, the *E100* helped Ruth bring the group together to read what the Bible said and reflect on what it meant in their lives. One evening, when just Dave Withee—a group member she had been dating—showed up to the weekly meeting, it even prompted a discussion about their own relationship. That conversation set the trajectory for a proposal of marriage a year later.

After Ruth and Dave married, they wanted to continue their Scripture reading journey together, so they turned to Scripture Union's daily devotional *Discovery*. Now each morning they read the passage and reflection together, continuing the journey of Bible engagement that they began in their *E100* Bible engagement group more than a decade ago.

Ready to engage the Bible's overarching story yourself or with a group? Check out the *E100* Bible engagement options for all ages at scriptureunion.org/e100suite. Explore *Discovery* devotional readings online at scriptureunion.org/discovery.



Father Tommy Thompson: Building a congregation's foundation of Bible engagement through *The Essential 100*

When Father **Tommy Thompson** began serving as the rector of Washington Memorial Chapel Parish in October of 2020, he realized that there was a hunger for Bible knowledge within the congregation. Many members came from church traditions that didn't emphasize Scripture engagement, so they needed a foundation of knowledge to build on as a community.

That's when Father Tommy turned to the *Essential 100 (E100)*, a guide through 100 essential Bible passages that former Scripture Union CEO Whitney Kuniholm initially developed to introduce his children to the grand narrative of God's Word.

Father Tommy led his church in developing in-person and virtual small groups, spreadsheets to track passage reading, and sermons that followed the *E100* curriculum.

The journey sparked such a significant "aha!" in the congregation on the topic of Christian hope, that as soon as they finished the *E100*, they studied N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope*, followed by a study of Scripture Union's Essential Jesus curriculum.

"I think for any parish that wants people to be in a daily conversation with God through the Word, The E100 is the best option that I've seen out there," says Father Tommy, who is currently preparing to lead his congregation on a study of the book of Revelation, for Christian hope and encouragement in the midst of a world that's not what it's meant to be.

Explore the *E100* curriculum designed for adults, youth and kids at scriptureunion.org/e100suite.



Ali Rabideau: Introducing the next generation to Jesus through the *Bible Diggers* curriculum

Twenty-nine year-old **Ali Rabideau** first began serving as a CSSM kids beach ministry team member when she was 16. The energetic, gospel-focused outreach was a perfect fit for the now-elementary school teacher who loved theater and serving the Lord.



She remembers the special moment when she first shared the gospel while acting out the role of Jairus's wife, the mom in the story. She found the costume and spent time getting into the character in order to clearly share Jesus's message of hope and salvation. It was a sacred moment that she treasures to this day.

But in addition to engaging dramas, Bible stories and memory verses, CSSM's program features a special break out time where kids gather with a leader in small groups to engage Scripture through the Bible Diggers curriculum, which is designed in different levels for different ages of children.

Ali explains that time with *Bible Diggers* challenges children to apply what they learned in the morning and ask deeper questions. It's often where kids accept Jesus into their lives. Ali, who leads the 2-6 year-olds' breakout group, often guides her group to draw pictures in the sand or look at visuals to help them understand the stories.

"16-year-old me starting out wouldn't have imagined how God would use this program in my own life and how years later I'm still active in it," Ali says. *"Never underestimate God's plan."*

Leading a kids ministry this year? Check out the Bible Diggers curriculum—customized for kids in three different age groups—in our online store at store.scriptureunionresources.com/superkids.

IN MEMORIAM:

Roger Green



This is the story of Kiwi. Because my dad was from New Zealand, as children my brother and I would sit in the sand with our sunburned noses, watching as dad would stomp across the top of the sand pulpit early in the morning, preparing for the morning service. It was more of a show, with children coming and sitting in the sand ‘bleachers’ to watch and participate. Guitar music, quizzes, puppets (rather hard to pull off in the sand), skits filled with humor and rich meaning, and finally the ‘sermon’. Kiwi was a master storyteller. He could raise his voice over the pounding waves and noise of the beach activities, and then lower it into almost a whisper so that each child strained to hear the rest of the story. He always spoke to children with great respect, expecting them to listen. And they did!

Thousands of children up and down the eastern seaboard heard the Good News of Jesus. Roger Green’s passion was to tell that story in a way that would grip the hearts of children (and often the odd adult or two that happened to listen as well). As my husband and I traveled in our own ministry, many people came up and asked me if I was Kiwi’s daughter. They would then share how they came to Christ while attending a beach mission. Or maybe they would tell me about how they learned to work with children themselves, and that it was an important part of their church work today.

But Kiwi was not only the preacher of the beach, he was a father too. He taught us all the things a dad should teach their children. Dad worked in Dallas as a minister at Highland Park Presbyterian Church but he was always home between three and five o’clock when we got home from school, as our mother was working.

I’ll close with Dad’s favorite verse which he prayed over me many times. I know the Lord has walked with Dad over many years. He had a calling, and the Lord gave him a job. I hope his story inspires you. Give your talents to the Lord and watch what he does!

An excerpt from Roger’s autobiography by daughter Ruth

Isaiah 40:3-4

A voice is calling, ‘clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley.’

“A well told Bible story is the most effective way to communicate God’s truth with a child”

– a favorite quote of Roger’s



OF NOTE:

In the early 1900s, cartoonists started to use images of the kiwi bird to represent New Zealand as a country. During the First World War, New Zealand soldiers were referred to as ‘kiwis’, and the nickname stuck. Eventually, the term Kiwi was attributed to all New Zealanders, who proudly embraced the moniker.

Salt & Light
LEGACY FUND

Honor your family, friends, and loved ones by making a ‘Salt and Light Legacy’ donation to Scripture Union. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help make God’s Good News known to children, young people, and families, and encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer.