

SU News

An inside view of
Scripture Union

Essential Ingredients



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While I like to cook, I don't always have time to make all the recipes I want to try. But when I do, I find it enjoyable—and fascinating! It's hard to pinpoint when, but I can remember clearly the first time I saw something, probably bread or cake, go into the oven looking one way and coming out altogether different; it amazed me as much as any magic trick I'd ever seen.

Recently, I've again become enamored with an old favorite. After years of giving banana bread little to no thought, my daughter came home with a loaf that her friend had made on their beach getaway. It tasted amazing, and I wanted more. I went to Google for banana bread recipes! The banana bread recipe really is simple, but each ingredient is essential for a satisfying end result. Leave out just one thing, and you will be disappointed. I'm certain that I'd quickly forget my fondness for banana bread again if it wasn't sweet or didn't really taste like bananas.



As I look at the story inside the pages of this newsletter, it strikes me that different parts were essential for the success of the SuperKids outreach in California and Mexico. There was nothing simple about putting this program together; there were many parts, but each one was essential. Engaged church leadership, many hours of prayer, an active congregation using all of its gifts, cross-cultural ministry trainers, sports trainers, mentors and emerging leaders, youth volunteers, translators, administrators—even permission to gather in a prominent public space—were critical for the program's success. And then, added to all of those parts was a deep desire to share the love of Jesus with children yet unreached with the gospel. The outcome was amazing—and we are counting on more!

You are one of the essential ingredients to our success, as well. Through your prayers and giving, you are helping to make ministry happen. We could never do this without you! Thank you!



Gail A. Martin
President,
Scripture Union

How do you engage a community in considering how to offer a life-changing answer to this question: “Who is Jesus?”

Through Partnership

A local church, the SU International’s disciple maker training, and SU-USA’s outreach, VBS SuperKids®, were joined together this summer in a Great Commission ministry called BRIDGE. BRIDGE helps young leaders learn skills for serving on multicultural ministry teams and is conducted through SU’s global training center, Leadership Lab International (LLI). During the two-week experience, God molded these existing ministries into a newly shaped hands-on discipleship training program that changed the lives of all who served and reached out in their local community for Christ.



Through Prayer

Prayer and an emphasis on dependence on God marked the heartbeat of this new endeavor. In the month of May, members of the church went on a 5k prayer walk and prayed for the hospital and businesses in the community, the families and the residents in the neighborhood, and for God to use them to demonstrate his love to those in need. God answered prayers as a permit was granted for the church to use a local park for 5 evenings in July. Young adults, both local and international, signed up for the training.

Through Discipleship



This discipleship-focused VBS became a catalyst that mobilized God’s people to GO—to be disciples, and to train young Christians

in discipling. Members of Calvary Hispano (the Spanish speaking part of CALVARY CHURCH) prepared meals, while others helped lead music, prayed for the outreach, provided security, hosted students and LLI trainers, translated SuperKids into Spanish, and built Gospel BRIDGES with neighbors who came with their children to the park. Participants in the training week expressed the transformation Jesus was doing in their own hearts as they grew as disciple makers and walked alongside the high schoolers they mentored during the second week.

Through Families

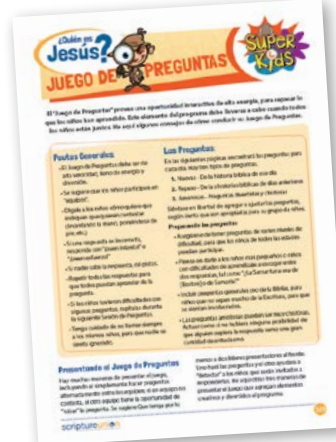


For the first time, we experienced a VBS for families where parents sat with their children and young teens, sang songs, memorized

verses, and watched the Bible stories acted out in the local park. Children and teens were guided through small group Bible



Digger times and games tying directly into the Bible stories that were shared. Adults from the church connected with the neighbors who came to participate or see what their children were learning.



None of us could have imagined all that happened, but we praise God, who put these pieces together and shaped them into a Great Commission training ground. Children, young people, and families were encouraged to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer, and were invited to embrace personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity, and become both committed church members and servants to a world in need.



From California to Ensenada, Mexico

The pastor of Calvary Hispano, Armando Reyes shared how the team fared taking the outreach to Mexico

One of the beautiful things about the SuperKids curriculum is how reproducible and adaptable it is. After presenting the outreach in the park in Santa Ana, the student team from Calvary Hispano was eager to take the program to Mexico to share in Spanish.



Our team taught 5 of the 10 SuperKids lessons in a 3-day VBS to a community of very poor children in Ensenada. We did 2 lessons every day, and one on the last day. Since they are very poor children, we offered them breakfast and lunch every day.



The result was that 7 of the children have received Christ. Some of them as

old as grades 6 and 7 are going to be baptized. The Bible

Digger booklets included in the curriculum for investigation in small groups helped us a lot because the children understood very well who Jesus is with the different witnesses that we presented to them, such as Nicodemus, the Healed Blind Man, the Paralytic, etc.



Our youth are looking forward to coming back and using the other 5 lessons next year. Thank you very much!!



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Armando Reyes
Pastor del Ministerio Hispano
Calvary Church of Santa Ana

“First of all, I want to thank you for allowing us to translate the “Super Kids” material. It was a great blessing that our young adolescents were trained to use it and that there is flexibility in its implementation. It has been a great blessing!”

GOD’S PROMISE KEPT ADVENT KIT Now offered in Spanish, as well as in English!

With SU’s Advent Kit, families are provided with a memorable way to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Using 25 daily reflections on Scripture passages beginning in Genesis and ending in the gospels, they will see God’s promise of a Savior fulfilled in the birth of his Son, Jesus. Each day, there is an opening question for families to engage with, a candle to be lit, a coordinating sticker to be put on a Christmas tree poster, and a time to respond in prayer together. The daily reflections and stickers are packaged individually to spark anticipation and excitement for children as they wait each day for Christmas.



Order your kit online at www.ScriptureUnionResources.com



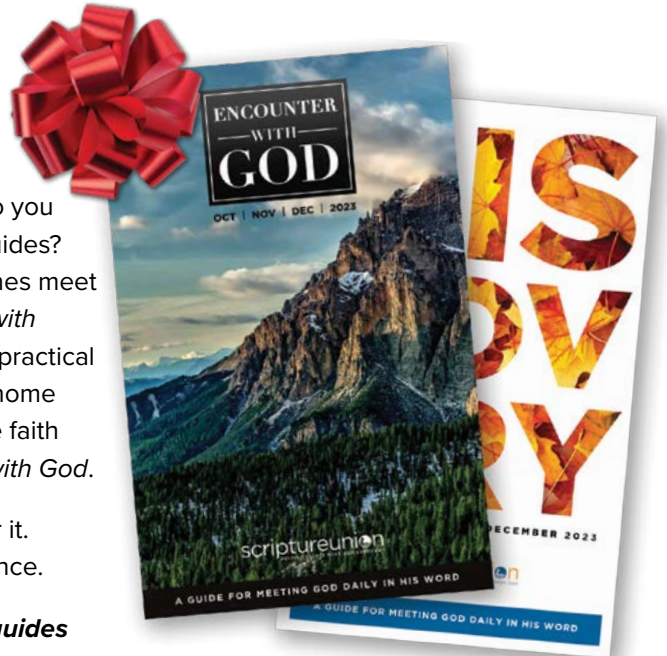
Honor or remember your family, friends, and loved ones this Thanksgiving or Christmas by making a "Salt and Light" donation to Scripture Union. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help make God's Good News known to children, young people, and families, and encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. www.ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight

Gift a Bible Guide Membership this Christmas and Share the Joy of Daily Meditation on God's Word

What could be a better gift than a daily walk with God in his Word? Do you know someone who would benefit from receiving one of our Bible Guides? Give a Bible guide membership today! Help your friends and loved ones meet God every day in the coming New Year with *Discovery* or *Encounter with God*. Newer Christians and young adults will appreciate the relevant, practical discussions of Scripture in the *Discovery* Bible guide, mailed to their home each quarter. Those with greater Bible experience and a more mature faith will be challenged by the more in depth daily readings in *Encounter with God*.

Both guides also come in Large Print should your gift recipient prefer it. A Gift Membership Form is included in this mailing for your convenience.

You may also order online: www.ScriptureUnion.org/biblereadingguides



IN MEMORIAM:

David Melville

We give thanks for the life of David Melville. David was a pillar piece of SU's ministry in the late 90's/early 2000's and continued to support our ministry for the rest of his life, making a significant contribution to accomplishing our mission. David was awarded the SU Lamp Award in 2005 for his faithfulness to the ministry and vision of Scripture Union. He was a lifelong reader of Encounter with God.