



AFRICA NEWS & PRAYER BULLETIN SCRIPTURE UNION AFRICA

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Living Hope Process: Be Involved!

2012 is a special year for the Scripture Union family worldwide. Through the *Living Hope Process*, we will listen to groups of children, teenagers, parents, church leaders and our own staff talking about their understanding and experience of hope! What does God want from Scripture Union as we enter our second 150 years in 2017? Living Hope is about finding that out. We want to listen to him together. Listening to him demands that we respond to what he says.

Living Hope is a process involving three phases: *Community Listening Initiative* - Starting in January 2012; *Discernment* - In November 2012 leaders from every Scripture Union movement will meet in Malaysia. Together they will seek to discern what God has been saying to us in the previous phase in order to set directions for the future, locally nationally and globally. *Action*: Around the world we will seek to respond in obedience to what God has been saying to us. We believe and pray that through *Living Hope* God will shape Scripture Union's ministry for many years to come.

I urge you to be involved, whether you are a volunteer, staff member, national leader or friend of SU; pray, be actively involved in your country, visit the Living Hope website (www.sulivinghope.org), join the Facebook Group and help in raising funds. Contact the SU national offices in your country for further details.

Rev. David N. Gichung'wa,
Africa Regional Director

Regional Executive Committee: The Regional Executive Committee meets in between Regional Council Meetings. The committee met in Nairobi, Kenya from 23rd to 26th October 2011. The committee

received reports from the field and addressed issues that needed the attention of the Regional Council. The committee also took time to consider aspects of *Leading People and Organisations towards Excellence* through discussions with Mario Bruhlmann, a management consultant from Switzerland. During the meeting, Dr. Musa Moda, current National Chairman of Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), was elected the Sub Regional Chairman for the Central West Sub Region and Emmanuel Todjo was elected for a further term of three years as the Sub Regional Director for the same sub region. Joseph Savadogo was elected the Sub Regional Director for West 1. We wish them God's blessings as they serve in their respective roles.



Regional Executive Committee 2011

We had SU International Director, Janet Morgan, with us and Peter Hoppler, the outgoing Regional Director for Europe. Peter has been very supportive of our region and so we were privileged to have him with us just a few days to his retirement. We wish him and his family, the Lord's blessings as he moves on having faithfully served in SU for 43 years - a record which is hard to beat.

The Word of God transforms lives

Madame EPONDO Marie Therese, aged 55, mother of three children, Director and Head of Department at the Ministry of Communication and Media in Congo D R, has been an SU member since 1981. Each year, she buys the SU Bible Reading Notes, *Lecteur*, for her meditation. Encouraged by one of our members to use the notes, Marie Therese never missed her daily devotions using the notes. Through the meditations, God has much spoken to her and she has gone through many changes in her life.



Marie Therese studying the Word of God together with two neighbours

Challenged, at the age of 25 years, she stopped living as a concubine of a married man, accepting to lose all material gains and financial benefits she was getting from the relationship. Thanks to the SU Notes, she has deepened her relationship with God. She is able to easily find the biblical passages without consulting the table of contents. She influenced all those she lives with at home to meditate on the Word of God. A young girl she had hosted a few times at her home was completely changed to the point that, when back in her family, she led everyone to reading the Bible on a daily basis. And the personal testimony of this girl surprisingly changed her own mother because of this radical transformation!

MASIMBO David, 25, a student in Architecture in Atlanta, United States, wrote to his mother Marie Therese, "You gave me the best gift, i.e. *Lecteur*, the Bible Reading Notes. Every day, God speaks to me through Biblical meditations based on the program of the *Lecteur*. There isn't anything I can do without

consulting God, because God shows me the way forward. "

Maria Theresa is a very committed SU member. In recent years, she regularly and faithfully makes monthly financial contribution to SU because she recognises that it is the *Lecteur* that has helped her to know God and to better serve him. "The Word of God has changed my life," says Marie Therese. A door has just opened for her to move to the United States and she has promised to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*Interview by Emmanuel Mbikay
Sub-regional Director, Central Africa*

Testimony
Biblical meditation changes your life

In a Bible study group of the Full Gospel Church in Bangui, we ran a study and during the time of sharing, at the end of the session, a sister who had tested HIV/AIDS positive two years earlier broke down in tears. In her confession, she told us that she had infected many people as a way of vengeance. But after the Bible study, she decided not to do so anymore and to accept her status and to focus on her treatment while relying on the grace of God. The word of God changes people's lives.

Bella Francis, National Director, SU CAR.

SOUTH AFRICA

Crouch, Touch, Pause and Engage!

As the Bokke get ready to thump the rest of the world in New Zealand, SU celebrates much activity on the Bible front. Our 2011 Year of the Bible has seen a renewed energy in our movement for innovative and exciting Bible Engagement programs.

These have included: Bible Quizzes in several regions; use of the Reach 4 Life book in schools; production of an undated leadership-focused devotional "Inspiring Leaders" used by Holiday Club leaders; and particularly the E100 Challenge.

Crouch – in the latter half of 2010, SU researched possibilities for an innovative and exciting Bible-reading tool; sights were set on the US-developed E100 Challenge.

Touch – after setting up a licence agreement with SU USA, we approached the Bible Society of SA and

partnered in the E100, in terms of production and distribution.

Pause – SU opted for a relational strategy in our roll-out, starting with our own staff members and their churches, before extending to the massive opportunity of the rest of the country.

Engage – the project moved into full swing in about May 2011 and has been gaining ground since!

To date, SU has distributed approximately 20,000 of the challenge cards, in English, Afrikaans and isi-Xhosa. A reprint has been done, thus stocks have been replenished. We praise God for using this challenge in our country. It is helping people get a clear idea of the storyline of Scripture and how the various key books, genres and passages link to tell the life-changing gospel story!

SU is planning a post-E100 strategy that will aim to link people with further resources that encourage a daily time with God in the Bible. Thank you to Sharon Davis for driving this key pillar of our 2011 Year of the Bible emphasis.

Alan Pitt

SU Operations Director

ZAMBIA

Through the partnership we have with Tearfund UK, we got a grant from the US Government under PEPFAR to conduct life skills seminars for behavior change, church mobilization through Churches Channels of Hope programme and counseling and testing.

This project was implemented in four districts in the past three years (September 2009 – August 2011). The project came to an end in August 2011. We are grateful to God for many lives that were touched and transformed through this project. We have seen a lot of great results during this period as we reached out to 30, 158 youths with the message of abstinence and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. We have also trained over 800 church leaders in Churches Channels of Hope and 2,800 plus Youth leaders from 562 churches to continue the ministry in their localities.

We are grateful to God that there is every indication that the USAID vehicle that was attached to Scripture Union Zambia for the project is given to SUZ. We are just waiting for communication as to when we can pick it. To God be the glory Great things he has done!

Guinea:

A new SU Committee of 10 was formed in Conakry, Guinea in December 2011 following a training conducted by Donald Manley, West 2 Sub Regional Director and Bertin Awomon, the National Director of Cote d'Ivoire. Donald reported of many testimonies of use and appreciation of *Lecteur* and indicated that it was the right time for the SU to carry out the training. We thank the Lord for the pioneering mission of the two brothers and praise the Lord for this development and it is our prayer that the SU ministry will grow from strength to strength in this West African country.



The new SU Committee in Conakry, Guinea

SWAZILAND

Community Holiday Clubs

During the school vacations, we reached out to four communities. The objective of Holiday clubs is to assist churches in reaching out to unchurched young people and providing psycho-social support to young people affected by different social ills. 291 young people and 60 parents were reached through these events. One church experienced growth in membership, especially on children members. Through the faith based message of Hope, young people from challenged backgrounds had their self-esteem improved. In their testimonies, they indicated that poverty is a significant driver of unhealthy behaviours. Material support and training for livelihood skills was therefore a crucial activity during

holiday clubs. Resilience was built through the message of Hope and promotion of a positive value system. Children and youth learnt about livelihood skills, especially gardening. Other activities included providing material support to 76 people (clothes and toys) in partnership with World Vision. Furthermore, two gardens were made for community soup kitchens; one for a family and one for Ekwetsembeni primary school; a school for children with special abilities. A house was refurbished for a child headed family.

PRAYER ITEMS:

JANUARY 2012

EUROPE REGION

Sun 1. Germany: We are taking part in “Faith on Monday”, a new initiative which begins on January 2 in various churches and Christian organisations. This initiative seeks to encourage people to live out their faith in their daily routine throughout the whole year – authentic, naturally, credibly. Please pray that many Christians will rise to the challenge and use our new tools for “Faith on Monday”.

Mon 2. Latvia: At the beginning of January we will have our winter camp. So please pray for a good team and good activities, but most of all – that God will open the participants’ hearts to hear his message. Please pray for God’s guidance through every day in camp.

BRITAIN AND IRLAND REGION

Tue 3. January 3-6: The Novosibirsk team (Siberia, Russia) is running a camp this week. Other Former Soviet Republics teams also have camps and holiday clubs during the Christmas-New Year holidays. Please pray for the planning of these activities which also include a holiday club in Shakhtyor (Novosibirsk team and local volunteers – January 8-9), youth and children’s camps in Moscow and St Petersburg and holiday clubs in Kiev, Torez, Simferopol and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Wed 4. January 6-8: The Northern Ireland Camps and Mission Leaders event takes place this weekend, a time for refreshing, equipping and inspiring. Pray too for similar events in Scotland (January 13-15) and England (January 13-14, January 20-21 and February 24-26).

PACIFIC REGION

Thu 5. Queensland: The first ever Father/Son GENTS camp is happening January 6-10. Please pray for these fathers and young men to be impacted by the gospel message over the weekend. There will be awesome bonding activities such as quad biking, billy cart building, beach trips, theme park visits, sports galore, etc plus looking at the big questions about God and the universe.

AFRICA REGION

Fri 6. Regional Office: Mike Smallbones, Ministry Training Consultant, will retire in March 2012. Thank God for his faithful and fruitful ministry for many years and pray for his replacement .

Sat 7. Regional Office: The Regional Council has made changes in matters relating to the coordination of the core ministries. Pray for the team tasked with the implementation of the changes and for the needed resources.

Sun 8. Congo Brazzaville. We thank God for peace in our country. Pray for the formative training programs scheduled for this month of January 2012.

EUROPE REGION

Mon 9. Bulgaria: We are preparing our second Bible Knowledge Competition for 14-18s! We have some financial problems, but we know that God is faithful and He will answer all our prayers. We are very excited about this competition. Many teenagers have been inquiring about it and it is an inspiration to see their desire to read and explore the Holy Bible! Pray for us for God’s wisdom and that He will take care of our needs for this activity for His glory!

EAST/WEST ASIA REGION

Tue 10. Region: Please pray that our new structure will be launched into orbit as soon as possible! It consists of Tadashi Oyamada, new CEO, and eight EXCO and four Team members. Please also continue to pray for the health of our accountant, Mr. Chan Wah See. He has not been well, and is weak with very poor appetite. Pray for the Lord's healing

Wed 11. Peninsular Malaysia: Christopher Cheah has been the new General Secretary since January 2011. Please pray for him as he bears the heavy responsibilities

of leading SU Peninsular Malaysia. Many young people have been involved in camps during the long school holidays in November and December. Pray that the seed sown in their lives will continue to grow.

SOUTH ASIA REGION

Thu 12. Pakistan: Thank God for the success of the visit of the Regional Director to Pakistan in November last year. Pray for security and courage for SU Pakistan as they carry out their field ministries. Pray too for SU promotional visits to churches in the first quarter of the year and for National Director Danishmand as he visits SU offices in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL

Fri 13. January 13–15: Wendy Strachan will be at SU Scotland's Team Leaders Conference this weekend. She will stay on for children's ministry consultations with SU and church leaders. Pray that SU staff and volunteers in particular will be stimulated and encouraged by this time.

AFRICA REGION

Sat 14. Benin. Pray for the printing and distribution of children's and adult notes. Pray that the readers will encounter God on daily basis.

Sun 15. Swaziland: Pray for improvement on the country's economy and for more financial support towards the children's camps and office running costs. Pray too for the success of the ministry.

Mon 16. Kenya. Join us in thanking God for a successful completion of the school year. SU Kenya staff and Volunteers have reached hundreds of children, young people and families with the Gospel of Christ using different methods. Let's pray that those who have come to the knowledge of Christ will sustain their faith even as SU facilitates with discipleship programmes. Pray too for more open doors to reach out the unreached.

SOUTH ASIA REGION

Tue 17. Sri Lanka: Pray for the new staff who have taken responsibilities since the resignation of National Director Julia Kassimatis at the end of October 2011. Pray for Russel, Manori and Imanka.

PACIFIC REGION

Wed 18. Western Australia: January is the busiest month. Hundreds of volunteers will be running camps and missions with 1000's of young people. Pray that many lives will be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

EUROPE REGION

Thu 19. France: SU France has not had a Director General since the end of August 2011. The Board have decided not to recruit a new Director straightaway, but want to allow time to reflect on the possible evolution of this role and to ensure that the right person is selected. So both Board and team members have taken on more responsibility. Please pray for each person involved in this transitional phase.

BRITAIN AND IRELAND REGION

Fri 20. Scotland: Give thanks for the appointment of John Nonhebel as Urban Ministries leader and pray for him as he seeks to grow SU's ministry among disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. There are two key training events related to this work happening in February – pray for those leading and those attending.

Sat 21. England and Wales: Following the positive response in churches to last year's Bible initiatives including Essential 100, we have a new year marketing campaign encouraging people to take up a good habit in the new year - to read the Bible on a regular basis. This includes promoting the new look Closer to God Bible guide for adults and Snapshots through the Year for children. Pray too for our leadership team and board as they finalise the strategic plan for the next few years.

EAST/WEST ASIA REGION

Sun 22. Thailand: Severe floods affected Thailand including the capital Bangkok from last July onwards and hundreds of people lost their lives. Pray that there will be a good recovery. SU Thailand was planning to celebrate its 40th anniversary in October but has postponed it until January. Please pray that this celebration will also lead to progress in the development of the ministry.

AFRICA REGION

Mon 23. Madagascar. Pray for Preparation of the 2013-2017 strategic plan. Pray for our leaders to have a clear vision to develop the field work.

Tue 24. Madagascar. Pray for National coordinators meeting that will take place from 25-28 January 2012 at the torch Mandriambero Centre . This will be a time of assessment of the previous year and planning for 2012. Please pray for preparations and a fruitful meeting. Pray for distribution and sale of Bible reading cards and notes. Thank God for the commitment of our volunteers.

AMERICAS REGION

Wed 25. Ecuador: There are growing pressures from the government to prohibit any sort of Christian education in the country, and also the work of volunteers. As more and more public schools are requesting the values-based program run by SU, Tim Pawson and the volunteers serving in schools need to find new strategies to accomplish the mission of sharing the Good News. They are planning to start camping ministry during 2012, so please pray for volunteers and leaders and for the children who will attend.

SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL

Thu 26. January 26–February 4: Clayton Fergie and Ravi Navaratnam will be visiting Nepal and Bangladesh to explore the development of SU youth ministry in each of these countries. Pray especially for fruitful relationship building with key people and the ability to identify pathways forward.

PACIFIC REGION

Fri 27. Australia: In November the final pieces in the restructure of SU Australia were put in place. The National Director role has now been replaced by an Executive Officer to oversee the administration tasks that remain. After a period of transition through to March, Lloyd Carter will step down and concentrate on his role as Regional Director. Please pray that the transition goes smoothly and with great wisdom.

Sat 28. Solomon Islands: Sam Emery has recently returned from a visit. A new Operational Team has been put in place and staff have been challenged to build on the

great work done by Wendy Rayner in translating Sunday School curricula into Pijin from Bislama (Vanuatu). The hundreds of different islands and the difficulties with travel make this a challenge. Pray for wide distribution and effective training.

SOUTH ASIA REGION

Sun 29. Nepal: Pray for National Director Dhruba and his new staff member Arjun as they minister to children in Kathmandu. Pray for the proposed visit of the Regional Director and SU International Staff Clayton Fergie in the first week of February.

Mon 30. India: General Secretary Pankaj Sahu retires this year. Pray for him as he adjusts to this new life and also for the new General Secretary who will assume duties in April this year.

Tue 31. Bangladesh: Please pray for the writers workshop planned for early February in Dhaka leading to the writing of Bangala Daily Bread Notes. Thank God for the successful visit of the Regional Director in Dhaka to initiate children and youth ministries. Pray for the Youth Leaders and Youth leadership programmes planned for early February in Dhaka.

FEBRUARY

AFRICA REGION

Wed 1. Zambia: We have been praying to God for provision of adequate transport for our operations which was very critical. We thank God that He has come through in answer to prayer. A couple gave to Scripture Union Zambia a good second hand mini-bus with a capacity of 18 seats.

Thu 2. Zambia .We have new leadership on the Council. Pray for wisdom and grace for the new entrants. We are struggling to meet the monthly wage bill as well as the operational and overhead costs. Please pray for God's intervention and application of new ideas of friend raising/fundraising. The Multipurpose hall at our Shepherds Campsite is still at foundational level. Please pray for funding that we may complete it.

AMERICAS REGION

Fri 3. Bolivia: God has blessed the school ministry this year in the city of La Paz. We are now working on a new opportunity to extend the ministry to the rural area in cooperation with the Methodist Church and with a Swiss mission. Join us in prayer of gratitude and praise to the Lord and for wisdom as we prepare resources and train workers.

Sat 4. United States: Last September, we implemented the "E100 Every Pastor Project". A packet of information about the E100 Challenge was mailed to 150,000 pastors, followed by a second mailing to 50,000 of the original group. Please pray for efficient and effective follow-up, that pastors will continue to respond, that many new churches will take "the Challenge" and that God will use it to spark a Bible reading revival across the entire country.

Sun 5. February 5–10: Please pray for the SU International staff as they meet this week in Australia to work on international initiatives, issues related to children, youth, and Bible ministry, and supporting policies, guidelines and protocols. Pray also that it will be a time of refreshment and fellowship as they share God's word together.

BRITAIN AND IRELAND REGION

Mon 6. Northern Ireland: We are really encouraged by the growth and development of the staff team, including new E3 local schools workers. Please pray in particular for the new staff as they establish their work.

Tue 7. Republic of Ireland: SU staff worker Jonny Somerville has started a very exciting new outreach using the Youth Alpha course in secondary schools. Already there are eight Secondary schools committed to running this 10 week Youth Alpha course in their schools. Please pray for Jonny in this new and exciting role.

AFRICA REGION

Wed 8. Namibia . Praise God for good health for all the staff last year. Thank God that Graeme Aldom's work permit is valid till end of 2012. Pray that Shalom Camping Centre will continue to be a source of funding for our ministry. Thank God that we managed to do all our programs as planned last year. We also thank God for all volunteers who remained committed to the ministry throughout the year.

Thu 9. West 2 Sub-region. Praise God for the successful

hosting of the 6th Sub-Region Committee meeting in Monrovia, Liberia despite the huge challenges SU (Liberia) is facing in terms of finance and human resources. Praise God for the semblance of peace that has returned to the sub-region after many years of rebel wars and political instability. Pray for effective promotion, distribution/sale and use of the SU Bible Reading Notes for 2012 within the sub-region.

Fri 10. West 2. Praise and thank God for the successful exploratory visit to Guinea (Conakry) by the Sub-Regional Director and the National Director of LLB (Cote d'Ivoire) from 7th – 11th December 2011.

Thank God for protecting the lives of the Sub-region Chairman, Mr. Jules Ballé, and SU members in Cote d'Ivoire during the post-election crisis. Please continue to pray for their physical and emotional healing.

Pray for God's leading for the replacement of the National Chairman and five other members of the Executive and Council of SU (Sierra Leone) during their 45th National Council Meeting in March 2012, having served two consecutive terms.

Sat 11. Malawi. Pray for resources for the development of Area 14 SU plot. Pray also for donors who can fund HIV and AIDS program. The just ended project was the backbone for ministry financial support. Pray for staff and volunteers to be fully committed in serving God faithfully in Malawi. Pray for the newly formed National Youth Committee to get established and work in solidarity.

EUROPE REGION

Sun 12. Greece is currently undergoing economic Crisis. This has caused serious effects in the everyday lives of thousands of people. The Church needs your prayers. We run a project for homeless and poor people in Athens. Every week, on our premises we prepare 120 meals that are distributed to the poor people. During the meal, our volunteers present a spiritual program with worship and Bible Study for the people. Please pray for this project as every day more and more people come in need of practical and spiritual nourishments.

Mon 13. Madagascar. Couples and family ministry
Tomorrow 14th is valentine's Day. We have organized a couples' and families evening. Our main goal is evangelism. Pray that it will be a moment of blessing for each couple. More than 10 regions will mark this event.

EAST/WEST ASIA REGION

Tue 14. Hong Kong: Praise God for the Bible Reading Campaign which started in October and runs for a year. Already it is affecting many churches and Christian organisations. The next Regional Council meeting will take place in Hong Kong in April. SU Hong Kong will celebrate their 50th anniversary during that time. We congratulate them and praise the Lord!

Wed 15. Indonesia: Last November there was a training course for pastors on using SU Bible reading methods. Please pray that this will have a significant impact on the churches through their ministry. Pray too for the impact of SMART, Gen-M, Superkidz and Specialkidz. These are Bible notes for students in secondary and primary schools.

AFRICA REGION

Thu 16. Kenya. Join us in praying for funds to do the Ministry and to put up SU-Kenya campsite/retreat Centre. Pray for the Council Meeting and AGM which will be held On 17th -18th February 2011.

PACIFIC REGION

Fri 17. Victoria: Biblical Turning Points Program DVD is now in production. Pray that this 8 session Bible Overview project will go national, in partnership with the Bible Society, and will encourage many groups to engage with the themes and stories of the Old and New Testaments.

SOUTH ASIA REGION

Sat 18. Region: Thank and praise God for the successful completion of the Shaping for Service (Sfs) training course held for the South Asia Region in India last November. Pray for Ravi Navaratnam, Regional Director as he travels to the different movements to give them help and support.

Sun 19. India: Every day, 330 children come to five Suhasya ('joyful laughter') centres run by SU's Ministry to Children in Crisis department. They receive educational help and participate in various spiritual programmes and community development initiatives. Pray for the long term impact of this ministry on these children's lives

SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL

Mon 20. February 20–23: Living Hope is an international

initiative that includes a gathering of SU leaders in Malaysia in November 2012. Ruth Pinkerton, the chair of the planning group will be visiting Malaysia this week with Remo Paul, SU International Executive Member, Janet Morgan, SU International Director, and Jenny Stewart, SU International Business & Development Manager. Please pray for them and for SU Peninsular Malaysia as they work through the practical arrangements for the gathering.

AFRICA REGION

Tue 21. Sierra Leone. Thank God for Youth and Children's camp held last year. 32 children and youths rededicated their lives to Christ. Pray that these children and youths will live up to the commitments they made, to live for Christ wherever they are. Our annual staff retreat was held September 2011. The main agenda was to review the effect of the 'Shape for Service' training held in Nigeria. Pray for successful implementation of the things learnt.

Wed 22. Sierra Leone. Last year, HIV and AIDS and Life skills educational film shows were organized in Schools, in various parts of the country. This activity has been of tremendous help. It has also helped to attract a good number of students to SU School groups/Peer Education club meetings. We thank the Lord for that.

Thu 23. West 2 Sub-region. Pray for financial resources to enable the sub-region facilitate an Organizational Development Process for SU (Liberia) during this first quarter of 2012.

Pray for the funds needed to help **SU Gambia** purchase a property that will serve as the SU Office cum accommodation for the National Director (and family)

Fri 24. Zimbabwe. We thank God for the three Prefects Training Camps that were held at Sanganayi Creek last. We pray that all the student leaders being developed will do their best to influence the next generation.

Sat 25. Zimbabwe. As many as one million people are facing starvation in our country. Please pray for a Government that will be sensitive and compassionate enough to protect people rather than exploit the hungry and vulnerable.

Sun 26. South Africa. Pray for the SU Pietermaritzburg team, led by Garland Sam. Pray for understanding and foresight as he leads the Region. The E100 Challenge is a wonderful tool to encourage individuals to read God's

Word daily. Pray for more churches and individuals to join this campaign.

Mon 27. West 2 Sub-region. Pray that God will bring about positive transformation in the families and communities within the sub-region through the lives of the Scripture Union children and youth.

Tue 28. Swaziland. Praise God for a great volunteer coordinator's training, in which we experienced God's presence. We thank God for the success of our fieldwork activities.

Wed 29. Swaziland. Pray for improvement on our country's economy. We also pray for more financial support towards the children's camp and office running costs.

MARCH

AMERICAS REGION

Thu 1. Honduras: Honduras has more violent deaths than any other country in the world. The world death rate is 8.2 per 100,000 persons, Latin America's average is 15 and Honduras' is 82. Family disintegration and unemployment produce socially excluded young people who join gangs, the drug cartels' main allies. Please pray for our workers and volunteers developing the values-based programmes in Public Schools. Also pray for the finances needed to keep this programme alive and responding to the growing demand.

Fri 2. Guatemala: Recently the son of our schools worker Sandra Ochoa was shot dead on the street while talking to his father in the city of Huehuetenango. Mexican drug cartels operating on the borders randomly kill people on the streets to create chaos and terror. This is the social climate in which our workers and volunteers serve. Sandra and the volunteers did not interrupt the classes and, firmly convinced of the Lord's calling, share the Good News of hope and love. Please pray for Sandra, her family and the volunteers.

BRITAIN AND IRELAND REGION

Sat 3. Republic of Ireland: SU staff worker Jonny Somerville has started a very exciting new outreach using the Youth Alpha course in secondary schools. Already there are eight Secondary schools committed to running this 10 week Youth Alpha course in their schools. Please pray for Jonny in this new and exciting role.

Sun 4. Scotland: SU Scotland's strategy puts renewed emphasis on working with the church. Please pray that our links with churches will grow and develop and that partnerships will develop which will make for even more effective Missions and Holidays.

AFRICA REGION

Mon 5. Benin. We thank the Lord for the printing of the 2011 notes for adults, youth and the family, and children from 6 to 9 years.

Tue 6. Benin . Bible Ministry department: "save the family" is a program of life fitness (EPA-AIDS) in colleges. We have nearly 2000 students to teach each week and we need funds for the recruitment of a coordinator for this Ministry. Please pray for funds.

Wed 7. Benin. Pray for good health and the needs of the following full-time staff : AZONVIDE Aurelien, (bookstore); Martial AITON (transport); Robert TETEGAN (Accounts & funds mobilization); Joshua SOSSOU (Bible Ministry); KIKI Assogba [Management and Leadership].

Thu 8. Uganda. Scripture Union of Uganda is in partnership with the Bible Society of Uganda in promoting the ministry to the people with visual impairment in schools, churches and in the communities. This sensitization was done in the districts of Mbarara and Kabale. Thank God for this partnership and pray for its value and a lasting impact.

Frid 9. Kenya. Thank the Lord for a committed Board and staff team that has persisted in Ministry despite financial challenges, and pray that the Lord continues to strengthen and bless them and their families.

Sat 10. Kenya. We are in the process of launching a **Pilgrims Ministry** which will allow more Kenyan Christians to register with SU and get involved with the work. Pray that the Lord grants us favour.

SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL

Sun 11. March 11–15: Last year, a small international group met to begin to consider how SU Movements around the world might collaborate in their fundraising efforts. This week the group will meet again to work further on plans. Please pray for this group as they seek to address issues related to funding SU work and managing SU's God given resources.

Mon 12. A1Admin: Please pray for Sue Stott and Ruth McIntosh as they support the extensive preparations for Living Hope, especially as they attend to the production, translation and distribution of monthly communications to the movements.

East/West Asia Region

Tue 13. Finance: There are huge needs and opportunities in this region. Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless us with more financial donations so that we can meet all our commitments for the year 2012. Our need is getting bigger and bigger!!

Wed 14. Development: Let's pray for the salvation of the people in China, North Korea, Timor Leste, Brunei and West Asia, that the Lord will open wide door to do SU ministry in these countries. Tadashi is planning to visit Brunei sometime this year.

EUROPE REGION

Thu 15. Sweden: In Sweden we are in the final steps of releasing a new Bible Guide for groups and individuals. It's written by young writers (under 35 years) and will be published twice a year. A new generation wants to say that they believe in the Bible as God's word and that it has a lot to tell us in our lives today!

Fri 16. Denmark: We are happy that Carsten Riis Jensen has taken over as chairperson of our council. He is already involved in SU-Denmark in various ways. So we are thankful that he agreed to take this challenge. Pray for Carsten, his leadership and for all the other projects he is doing for SU-Denmark such as new material for confirmation candidates, mobile appointments for Bible Reading Notes for adults.

PACIFIC REGION

Sat 17. E100 Challenge continues to roll out across Australia with the focus at this time being on Queensland and New South Wales. Pray for Dan Hardy as he works with local people and assists churches to commence the Challenge. Also for the roll out of the E100 Big Bible Challenge for children and the iPhone App.

SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL

Sun 18. Wendy Strachan: KidsHubs, Advocacy Toolkits, Collaborative Training Programs, Children's Bible Engagement Websites - these are just a few of the ongoing

Action Groups of the Global Children's Forum. Thank you for your prayers for GCF 4 in Manila in October. We are now in the early stages of planning for GCF 4.1 in April.

Mon 19. Clayton Fergie: Pray for Clayton as he focuses on a range of details related to Living Hope communications, the development of the E100 resource for youth, an International Forum of Bible Agencies workshop and Shaping for Service course in North America.

AFRICA REGION

Tue 20. Benin. Pray for city committees, special committees, Executive and the National Committees. Pray for funds mobilization for the construction of the head office and for funds to revive the work. Pray also for volunteers that the Lord strengthens those who are already active in various departments and for others to join the ministry.

Wed 21. West 2 Sub-region. Thank God for the six years service of the Sub-Regional Chairman and Director. Please pray for God's leading for their replacement and a smooth transition during the 7th Sub-Region Committee Meeting in September 2012 in Cote d'Ivoire.

Thu 22. South Africa: Pray for SU South Coast as they go about forming new partnerships with churches in the region. Pray also for many more volunteers to offer their time for the ministry.

Fri 23. Kenya. Thank God for the vibrant partnership we have had with churches especially in the area of Bible reading promotion.

Sat 24. Uganda. Film Show Ministry. We showed both the Jesus film and the Life skills films to young people to promote positive behavioral change, HIV/AIDS awareness to enhance moral behavior change. Praise God for those who committed their lives to Christ after the film shows.

Sun 25. Congo Brazzaville. Praise God for the more than 3,300 junior and adult notes that were distributed last year. This year, we will start with "Life skills" in a few schools and churches where God open doors for us.

Mon 26. Mauritius. We praise the Lord for seeing us through the year 2011. Also for successful training sessions for Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, couples and Christian leaders held in 2011.

We are grateful to God for the success of counseling sessions to married couples, engaged couples, ladies and young people. Fruits are being born in their lives.

Tue 27. Mauritius. Pray for our subscribers particularly the new ones who will use our daily Bible reading materials this year. That the Lord will meet them as they engage with the Bible daily.

Pray for funds to meet the great demand for Christian literature. Pray too for renewed vision, grace, wisdom, strength and health in our service.

Wed 28. South Africa. Pray for all the Scripture Union staff, field workers and administrators. Pray for them as they go about their duties today, that God will strengthen them.

Thu 29. Uganda. *Evangelistic Outreaches.* In the last quarter, we reached-out through missions and assembly addresses. We also partnered with the Gideons members and gave out over 13000 Bibles. Let us pray that they will have a positive impact on the lives of children.

AMERICAS REGION

Fri 30. Canada: SU Canada's vision for 2012 is to: strengthen the SU leadership training and sports ministry apprenticeship for University students, to develop and initiate a Leader in Training program for High School students, to increase the number of partnering churches that host summer sports camps, to expand the publication and distribution of Bible engagement resources and to increase the ministry reach with a special focus on the poor and marginalised. Please pray for these initiatives.

Sat 31. Costa Rica: The children feeding program continues to grow. Please pray about the need for a new and larger facility to run the program. Please pray for Carolina and Arturo as they make plans for these coming months and for the volunteers sharing the Bible stories with the children and their mothers. Please also pray that the Lord will provide a new couple to lead the campsite on the Damas Island.

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