



AFRICA NEWS & PRAYER BULLETIN
SCRIPTURE UNION AFRICA
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Shaping for Service!

November 2009 was a special month for SU Africa Region. We hosted the first ever *Shaping for Service* training course. The course is part of the SU International Global Training Strategy and the course in November was to partly test the material that has been developed for this course. We had 28 participants from 13 countries of Africa. We also had four SU International staff including Janet Morgan, the SU International Director. Others from SUI were Wendy Strachan, who served as the course director, Clayton Fergie and Terry Williams. Emmanuel Todjo and Mike Smallbones added an African flavour and brought the regional context to the fore as they led in some key sessions.

According to Wendy, Africa region was chosen for the pilot training due to an advanced regional structure and also because SU Africa has many experienced practitioners. We are grateful for such a positive endorsement by the SUI.

The focus of the course is to equip the SU staff for service and so it is very strategic. Major themes included reflection on God's Word and mission – our understanding and context, exploring characteristics of a healthy ministry, exploring God's design for us and exploring the Kingdom leadership among others.

The participants had very positive comments and went charged to serve the Lord through SU in a more effective way. Encouraged by the positive reception of the course, the regional Office has put into place plans to roll out the training across the region by 2012.

We are grateful to SUI for this vision and for the deep thinking and planning that were evident at the course. We are also grateful that SUI raised the funds to run the course. We pray for lasting fruits.

David Gichung'wa (Rev.),
Regional Director.



Focus on SU Namibia

(Graeme Aldom, National Director).

Camping is a major part of SU in Namibia. In 2009 we ran Primary and Secondary Camps, often incorporating Biblical training in living right for Christ.

The national Primary Camp each May attracts 200 campers and leaders. It includes overnight train travel, lots of activity on the beaches of the coast at Swakopmund, and lots of Bible input. Leaders say how good it is to see campers reading their Bibles and asking questions to their group leaders. Please pray for the venue for 2010, as the schools we use are reducing the number of beds in their hostels.

The national Secondary Camp is held in August. It is smaller, and we are looking how we may spread such camps across Namibia, as transport is continually becoming more expensive. We are looking to re-start the SU National Conference, which has been a major event attended by hundreds of secondary campers in the past. Pray for more volunteers so we can increase the numbers of camps, and have them in various places.

Shalom Camping Centre is close to Windhoek, and is owned and managed by SU. The buildings are 40 years old, and in 2010 we will start on numerous updates so as to make it better for camps and attractive for more bookings. God sent a large government training event recently, which

will fund the start. We pray that will be the start of more such bookings, which will enable a full upgrade. But we are keeping the low-cost principle, as we want Shalom to remain affordable for all local churches, as well as SU Camps.



Graeme with some SU Camp Leaders

In 2009 we aimed to grow our Regional SU Committees, but due to factors beyond our control, we could not proceed after April. So in 2010 we aim to move these along. Please pray that in the early months of the year we will find God's right people and establish at least 6 SU Committees across the country.

Finally, we need to seek a Namibian understudy for Graeme Aldom as National Director. Please pray for us to know the right person, who has a strong God-given call to SU ministry. Pray also for funding for this position at the right time.

Focus on SU Madagascar:

In the coming months, SU will focus on the strengthening of its activities in the North Zone: (Diégo, Majunga, Antalaha...). A house bought from Majunga, will be renovated, to serve as a bookshop for Christian literature and to provide space for meetings for children and youth programmes. (45 % of the population is under 25 years in this region where Islam is pre-dominant also).

We have recruited brother Nary RAKOTOMAHENINA R. as Director for the northern zone of Madagascar. He was a volunteer in the family Ministry for 5 years. This area has 6 administrative regions (see attached photos). He will coordinate the activities of the three departments in the Northern area. He will be based at Majunga in the Boeny region. *Let us pray for him and his family to quickly adjust to this new life and environment.*



Primary schools. This is very useful to parents, since we offer free education. We encourage parents to cultivate their land and to keep some livestock to feed their families.

Praise God for the 165 children and teens that were sponsored for camping at the end of the year 2009. Pray that this will bear fruit that lasts for the glory of the Lord in the lives of these young people.

A communal marriage was organized by SU at the Town Hall to allow couples who have lived together under the customary law to formalize their marriage and renew their commitment to God. These couples come from 9 villages.

Children' & Youth Ministry: One of the largest events that took place last year was the Youth NATIONAL CAMP. 300 children, teenagers and young people attended. Many parents have given their support and approval for future camps because their children have been transformed during these camps.



The Nation: We remain sensitive to all that the Lord wants to tell us about the country, which is still in a difficult situation. Conflicts have had adverse effect socially and

economically. The population suffers due to unemployment, inflation, insecurity, etc. We remember King Jehoshaphat - "... we do not know what to do, but we turn our eyes to thee" (2Chronicles 20:12). *God will intervene, as you pray for and with us.*

SU UGANDA: Rallies & Special Needs:

Primary School leavers' rallies 2009

Every year in the month of October, SU Uganda holds Primary 7 leavers' rallies across the country. We thank God that we have been able to impact the lives of children through these rallies. This year, we were able to reach new areas in different districts all over the country. In Kaliro district in central Uganda, we were able to hold a rally for the very first time and 360 children from 5 schools in the district attended. At the end of the rally, the church leaders said they would hold rallies in each of the 8 counties in the district, meaning we will have 8 rallies in the district next year. What a great favour the Lord has bestowed on this ministry!

We thank God that many teachers have also come to know the Lord through these rallies.

Special Needs Department:

Disability is not inability, so the saying goes. We thank God that this ministry by Scripture Union to reach the children and youth with special needs is growing as the months go by. One of the highlights this season has been seeing changed and transformed lives.

Simon, a student at Kampala School for the physically handicapped where he is an SU club member, shares, "In the Scripture Union club, I have learnt to appreciate the way God created me, and I will serve him despite my special need. I am realizing that there are many things I can do which my friends who don't have disabilities cannot do. During holidays I helped my friends at Sunday school on how to find books from the Bible, chapters and verses which our patron taught us at school in the club." Simon is now the prayer coordinator in the club at his school.

We get many reports from school administrations, parents, and caregivers of children with special needs that the children's prayer lives have changed and they have improved academically and morally. This is the testimony of one of the parents of a child who is the SU Chairperson at one of the Schools, "My daughter's room used to be dirty and disorganized, but these days, her bed is well made, a Bible on top of her pillows and Bible verses pinned on the wall in her room. She is no longer aggressive, her sisters and brothers call her Rev. Joanna."

PRAYERS: JANUARY 2010

Africa Region:

Fri 1: Thank God for the blessings of a new year. Pray for the distribution of the Bible reading notes in the different countries in the Africa Region. Pray that the notes will be a source of much blessings to all those who use them.

Sat 2: Madagascar: Pray for the success of our plans in the coming months to strengthen activities in the Northern Zone: Diego, Majunga, Antalaha and others.

Sun 3: Madagascar. Pray for funds to renovate a house bought from Majunga. The house will serve as Bookshop for Christian literature, and also provide space for meetings and youth programs.

Mon 4: Benin. We are grateful to the Lord for His grace and mercy upon us. We praise Him for the finished work for Young people's notes called "**Your Appointment with God.**" This is a 4-years' Project for French-speaking countries which is funded by SU Switzerland.

Tue 5: Benin. We praise God for our office equipment and training materials. Thank God for the third national camp in Bonichon last year which has helped mobilize 20 resource people to train 96 youth and adolescents.

Wed 6: Benin. We praise the Lord for partnership with churches. Pray that SU continues to operate by faith and wisdom to help every Christian to grow, and be rooted in the word of God through the use of the *Lecteur*.

Thu 7: Zimbabwe. Please pray for us as we organize a campaign to highlight the need for responsible behaviour. We would like to challenge children and young people to make a commitment of abstinence till marriage.

Fri 8: Zimbabwe. Please pray for a board retreat for January 8 -10. Pray that everyone will make the time, and that the meeting will yield fruit, increase harmony and understanding among board members.

Sat 9: Zimbabwe: Pray also for God's favour for three main proposals we have submitted as we wait for responses.

France:

Sun 10: Daniel Besse. Pray for Editors of the different Daily Bible Notes, (for adults and youth), in French and English.

Pray for wisdom, discernment and perseverance in their editing work.

Mon 11: Daniel Besse. Thank God for the distribution of Lector (French Notes) to North Africa and Haiti. Through these daily meditations, the Spirit of God gathers a faithful people, committed and united to their Lord and Saviour.

Tue 12: Daniel Besse. Pray that God raises more users of our Bible reading Guides. Pray that people will continue to show their unity and their sense of responsibility in contributing financially to the annual Bible reading notes.

SU International:

Wed 13: Guatemala. Schools work is established in two cities, reaching more than 3,000 students every year. They now face the challenge of establishing the schools' ministry in the city of Guatemala itself. Pray that despite difficulties God will enable Pastor Eduardo Marroquin, the National Director, as he leads this work.

Thu 14: Cambodia. There are many opportunities to start work with young teens. Pray that the right worker might be found to take up this challenging ministry, in this country which has a trouble history and where Christians are a small minority.

Fri 15: Czech Republic. God has opened the door of a primary school in Nucice with the launch of two Bible clubs. Pray for good relationships with the children in the school so that they will come to the clubs and that God will open the hearts of the children and their parents.

Africa Region

Sat 16: Uganda: Thank God for Simon, a student at Kampala School for the physically handicapped, where he is an SU club member. He shares, *"In the Scripture Union club, I have learnt to appreciate the way God created me, and I will serve him despite my special need."*

Sun 17: Uganda. We praise God for giving us the ability and resources to hold P7 leavers' rallies across the country every year in the month of October.

Mon 18: Uganda. We thank God that we have been able to impact the lives of many children through rallies. Pray for these children to remain rooted in the Lord.

Tue 19: Angola. Pray for the political leadership of our nation. Pray that their leadership will ensure peace for the people of Angola.

Wed 20: Angola. Thank God for the fruitful meeting we recently had with the Ministry of Education. As a result, we have been allowed to minister in schools.

Thu 21: Angola. Pray that we shall be able to take full advantage of the open doors in schools. Pray that we make a lasting impact to the children and the teachers.

Fri 22: FCS – Nigeria. Thank God for the early production of 2010 Devotionals. Pray for effective distribution and possible positive impacts on the users.

Sat 23: FCS: Thank God for the success of the Maiden edition of FCS Staff/Family Conference held in September, 2009 with about 150 in attendance. Pray for the lessons learnt to be sustained to move the work to a greater height.

Sun 24: FCS. Pray for open doors this year to meet the pending needs in Borno state, which includes fixing of the state's official car, and the plan to acquire a property for the state Secretariat.

Mon 25: Sudan. Pray for peace and the on-going voter registration in Sudan.

Tue 26: Sudan. Pray that SU's vacant house will get a new tenant to rent for some income to run our activities in Sudan.

Wed 27: Zimbabwe. Pray for our youth who easily succumb to peer pressure as they search for means to make ends meet, even school fees, due to economic hardships.

Thu 28: Zimbabwe. Pray for the youth who are HIV positive, and are school drop outs. Pray for parents who helplessly watch their children going through this trauma.

Fri 29: Mauritius. Pray that we will continue to touch our young people's lives and make a lasting impact on them, through our on-going counselling sessions.

Sat 30: Mauritius: Thank God for our Bible reading ministry. Pray for notes' users to meet with God in a special way.

Sun 31: Mauritius. Pray that we shall be able to reach out and extend our ministry to new notes' users.

follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour, as result of our visits to schools.

Thu 11: Namibia. Thank God for our camping ministry. The buildings in Shalom Camping Centre are 40 years old. Pray for funds to refurbish them in 2010, to make the centre better for camps, and attractive for more bookings.

Fri 12: Namibia. In 2010 we aim to strengthen our Regional Committees. Please pray that in the early months of this year, we will find God's right people and establish at least 6 SU Committees across the country.

Sat 13: Namibia: We are seeking a Namibian to understudy Graeme Aldom as National Director. Please pray for us to know the right person, who has a strong God-given call to SU ministry. Pray also for funding for this position at the right time.

Sun 14: Zimbabwe. Pray for two new board members who have joined us, Mrs. Abigail Madzorera and Mrs. Tafadzwa Mvingi.

Mon 15: Zimbabwe. Pray for many children and young people who sat for exams end of 2009. Please pray for those who may be discouraged and depressed due to poor results or failure. Pray for love, understanding and support from their parents.

SUI

Tue 16: Australia. Praise God for the government's resolute stand that a holistic education for Australian children cannot ignore the spiritual dimension of their lives

Wed 17: USA. Thank God for the positive impact that the 'E100 Challenge' (Bible reading program), has made to the lives of many people. It has so far reached over 50,000 people in USA. Pray for plans to launch it in other parts of the world.

Thu 18: LSDC. This Course runs from 1-14 March 2010 in Nairobi – Kenya. Pray for SU Africa Region as hosts for this great event.

Fri 19: LSDC. Pray for funds availability for all the participants. Pray for those who may be still struggling to acquire visas. Pray too for smooth flights arrangements.

Sat 20: LSDC: Pray for all the facilitators. Pray for strength as they handle all the logistics of the Course.

FEBRUARY:

Africa Region

Mon 1: Benin. Pray for good team work. Pray for renewed vision for staff, National Committee members, the Executive and city committees. Pray for our volunteers' training opportunities.

Tue 2: Benin. Pray for the different SU departments: Bible Promotion, Save the Family, Hope for the Future, school for disabled. We need funds to sustain these ministries. Pray for God's direction for our children's ministry in schools.

Wed 3: Benin. Construction work for SU Benin headquarters stopped in August 2007 due to lack of financial resources. Pray for funds (estimated US \$ 50,000), to resume the work.

Thu 4: Cote D'Ivoire. We request you to continue to pray for peace in Côte D' Ivoire.

Fri 5: Cote D'Ivoire. Pray for the development of our work. We hope to recruit two Regional Directors in 2010. Pray for the 2010 Bible promotion. Pray for the new Council members.

Sat 6: Madagascar: We have recruited brother Nary Rakotomahenina R as Director for the northern zone. He will be based at Majunga in the Boeny region. Pray for him and his family to quickly adjust to this new life and environment

SU International:

Sun 7: Western Australia runs the Blokes program which is designed to provide mentoring for teenage boys. Pray for the teenagers' positive response.

Mon 8: Pray also that God would be glorified in the relationships that leaders build with the participants and the schools.

Africa Region

Tue 9: Uganda. Praise God for the new areas in different districts that we were able to reach. In Kaliro district in central Uganda, we were able to hold a rally for the very first time. Praise God for the 360 children from 5 schools who attended.

Wed 10: Uganda. Praise God for the 48,224 children and youth, and 12 teachers who indicated a commitment to

Sun 21: LSDC. Pray for the participants to come fully prepared for equipping.

Mon 22: Namibia. Give thanks for the many open doors in schools, and pray for committed Christian teachers to run SU Groups in 2010.

Tue 23: Namibia. Please pray for the venue for our Primary school Camp in May 2010, as the schools we use are reducing the number of beds in their hostels.

Wed 24: Namibia. Pray for more volunteers so we can increase the numbers of camps, and have them in various places.

Thu 25: LSDC. Pray for safety for all participants and facilitators as they travel from various parts of the globe.

Fri 26: Pray for safe and harmonized local transport from the Airport to Brackenhurst Conference Centre – the LSDC venue.

Sat 27: SU England: Pray for wisdom for staff, associates and volunteers, as they mentor young people to stand firm in their faith against peer pressure.

Sun 28: SU England. Pray for the church to fully embrace the need to promote regular and consistent personal Bible reading among Christians (children, youth & adults).

MARCH:

SUI/Africa Region

Mon 1: LSDC. Thank God for safe arrival of all the participants and facilitators. Pray for smooth starting and continuation.

Tue 2: Benin. Pray for staff and their families: The National Director (Kiki Assogba) and colleagues martial AITON, Robert TETEGAN and Joshua SOSOU. Pray for good health, protection, and for a new dynamic strategy to coordinate the work of SU Benin.

Wed 3: Benin. Pray for the 20 city committees, and the recruitment of a workforce which will boost their operation.

Thu 4: Madagascar. One of the largest events that took place last year was the National Youth Camp. 300 children, teenagers and young people attended. Many parents have given their support and approval for future camps because

their children have been transformed during these camps. ***Praise God for that.***

Fri 5: Madagascar. We remain sensitive to all that the Lord wants to tell us about our country. We are still in a difficult situation. Conflicts have had adverse impact socially and economically. The population suffers severe effects of unemployment, inflation, insecurity, etc. We remember King Jehoshaphat's words "... we do not know what to do, but we turn our eye to thee" (2Chronicals 20:12). Pray for ***God's intervention for us.***

Sat 6: FCS: Thank God, for the success of Lifeskills Clubs in schools. Pray that the lessons learnt by the young people would be put into practice in their daily lives.

Sun 7: FCS embarks on her National Campsite development as from March 2010. Every student has been challenged to donate one (1) block and every Associate (volunteer), two (2) blocks for this project. Pray for positive response from members and other supporters

Mon 8: FCS. Thank God, for the success of the Post Secondary School (POSEC) FCS Leadership Retreat in October, 2009 with about 1,500 participants. Pray that the lessons learnt on leadership and the theme, "Finishing Strong" would be put into use in their various campuses

Tue 9: Zimbabwe. In the midst of the strife people are going through, pray for salvation above material relief.

Wed 10: Zimbabwe. Thank God with us for the relative peace we enjoy. Pray that God will intervene in our nation. Pray that God gives Zimbabwe a sense of remorse and seek forgiveness for all her evils.

Thu 11: Madagascar. A communal marriage was organized by SU at the Town Hall to allow couples who had lived together under the customary law to formalize their marriage and renew their commitment to God. These couples come from 9 villages. Praise God, and pray for them.

Fri 12: Uganda. We are thankful to God for enabling us to visit a total of 85 schools where we met 66,564 children and youth.

Sat 13: Uganda: Praise God for the many teachers who have also come to know the lord through our school rallies. Pray that the Lord helps them to grow and be rooted in Him.

Sun 14: Madagascar. From an early age children are taken to SU primary schools. This is very helpful to parents, since it is free education. Praise God for the 165 children and teens that were sponsored for camping at the end of 2009. Pray that this will bear fruits that last for the glory of the Lord in the lives of these young people.

Mon 15: Madagascar. Brother RIJA and his family have received God's call to continue His work at Antsiranana (North Pointe Island). *Pray for him, his family and Ministry.* Rija has already completed a three-month mission in this city.

Tue 16: Sudan. Praise God for the one-day prayers we held where many students and some teachers gave their lives to Christ.

Wed 17: Sudan. Pray for another camp that will take place in Juba in April 2010 for secondary leavers and students as well.

SU International:

Thu 18: Australia. Praise God for the partnership between SU and the church. Thank God too for the government's policy that has allowed Christian chaplains to operate in public (government) schools

Fri 19: Australia. Thank God for moving in unbelievable ways in the lives of young people through the Chaplaincy ministry.

Sat. 20: Praise God that since its inception in 1990, school chaplaincy in Queensland has grown to 200 chaplains. These Chaplains have provided a frontline defence for students against overwhelming situations sometimes.

Pacific Islands

Sun 21: Praise God for Youth Ministry Consultation that took place in January. Pray that this will result in new initiatives for work with young people.

Mon 22: SUI. Continue praying for East, West Asia and Europe Regions. New leadership changes will take place in

the near future. Pray for the search process for new leaders.

Tue 23: England. Thank God for the first meeting of field staff that took place in January at King's Park in Northampton.

Africa Region

Wed 24: Uganda. Thank God for a team of staff who travelled last year to Northern Uganda on an evangelistic mission.

Thu 25: Uganda. Pray for provision of Bibles, especially for the pupils who gave their lives to Christ during our mission to the north.

Fri 26: Uganda. It is a challenge for pupils who get saved in school but no church to go to in their home areas. Pray for them. Pray also for SU to know how to help.

Africa Region

Sat 27: We thank God for all our Notes' Writers. Pray for strength, wisdom and inspiration as they write for 2011.

Sun 28: Pray that writers will be able to submit their portions on time as scheduled.

Mon 29: Pray for grace and wisdom for all our editors in editing 2011 notes.

Tue 30: Pray for all the on-going arrangements for the Africa Leadership Summit to be held in Nairobi Kenya in May 2010.

Wed 31: Pray for all the participants of the Leadership Summit. Pray for funds and visas. Pray for flights arrangements and all other logistics.



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