



Scripture Union

# Mission Report

YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH  
2019



## As Scripture Union's new National Director, I am delighted to share this year's Mission Report with you.

As you read through the next few pages, I really hope you are encouraged by the amazing work your gifts, time and prayers make possible. I know it sounds clichéd, but it really is only thanks to your support that we're able to share the gospel with the next generation so effectively. Thank you so much for the part you have played in making the activities in this report possible.

With 95% of under 18s in England and Wales not in church, we are faced with an important but challenging task in meeting the next generation where they are, both in a geographic and cultural sense. John Stott famously called Christians to 'double listening': listening to the unchanging truth of the Word of God that we might believe and obey, while listening to the modern world in order that we might understand that world and relevantly communicate the unchanging truth to it.

Your support helps us to find ways to do that for today's generation, as I hope this report demonstrates. Thank you once again for all you do to support Scripture Union in going to where the children are but the gospel isn't.

**Myles MacBean**  
National Director  
Scripture Union England and Wales



### VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are all #SUperheroes, making much of what we do possible. There were **5,561** known opportunities for volunteer involvement - the equivalent of **6,219** working weeks, or **132** full-time staff.



### INTERNATIONAL

There are around **130** Scripture Union movements working in **120** countries across the world.



### THE 95 CAMPAIGN

During the year, **3,150** people joined The 95

Campaign to play their part in reaching an estimated 12 million children and young people who don't go to church in England and Wales. If you haven't signed up yet but want to get help through prayer, by giving or by getting practically involved in mission, sign up for free at [www.the95.org.uk](http://www.the95.org.uk)

## Multiplying mission



### PARTNERS

We've got **65** mission partners across England and Wales. Many hundreds of volunteers are involved in sharing the good news in a whole range of exciting ways. Between them they employ **120** staff.



## New mission activities



**263** new mission activities were established across England and Wales seeking to share the good news with children who don't go to church.



Over **26,000** children and young people were involved, **96%** of whom were from non-church backgrounds!

## Mission POSSIBLE

We released our Mission Evaluation Report, *Mission Possible*, unpacking the factors for successful mission with children and young people.



**67** mission projects were explored in the research, having been identified through **319** survey responses (detailing a total of **1,304** activities), **50** projects funded by The Good News Fund and **253** SU staff-led initiatives.

**Interesting fact:** The research highlighted the importance of building relationships, being distinctively Christian and a reliance on prayer. Read the report at [su.org.uk/missionpossible](http://su.org.uk/missionpossible)





## Holidays, missions and amazing volunteers

Scripture Union holidays continue to be the perfect place for children to get away from home and closer to God.

**2,280** children attended an SU holiday this year. The Scripture Union Holiday Fund enabled **188** of those children to attend where finances were tight.

**2,096** amazing volunteers helped make our holidays and missions possible. We also ran **5** brand-new holidays as part of a programme of **62** residential events.

### THE GOOD NEWS FUND

**£57,000** worth of Good News Fund grants were awarded to support **45** great mission initiatives. We estimate that around **10,000** children and young people will have heard the gospel as a result!  
[www.su.org.uk/goodnewsfund](http://www.su.org.uk/goodnewsfund)



## Resources for mission



### IT'S YOUR MOVE

Over **162,000** copies of *It's Your Move* were given to children about to take the big step to secondary school.

We also launched a brand new edition of *It's Your Move*, with updated content and a fresh design for a new generation.

### ROOTED

Rooted offers a new and different approach to youth ministry, encouraging the development of long-term relationships. It can be used in any context, with any level of faith development and with any level of ability.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE EXCITING NEWS ON ROOTED SOON AT [SU.ORG.UK/ROOTED](http://SU.ORG.UK/ROOTED)

The Rooted model starts where young people are at - culturally, in their interests and passions, and at their faith stage - seeking to provide space for each

young person to grow, flourish and be nurtured in a safe, committed and compassionate Christian community.

During the year, we ran Rooted in **10** locations with **20** separate groups. Well over **150** young people were successfully involved in piloting the Rooted resource! There were also over **350** downloads of our free digital Leaders' Pack, helping others to run Rooted groups.



### DIARY OF A DISCIPLE



We released the second book in the popular *Diary of a Disciple* series, retelling Peter and Paul's story. We also launched *Diary of a Disciple Clubs*. Over **200** people downloaded the accompanying resources to help them run a club.

### LIGHT PARTIES

Over **8,500** Light Party Packs were distributed to help churches once again plan and run exciting Light Parties as a Christian alternative to Halloween. Get this year's pack for free at [www.lightparty.org.uk](http://www.lightparty.org.uk)



### CHRISTMAS PARTY PACK

Around **1,400** people downloaded the Christmas Party Pack for ideas to run a Christmas Party for children who don't go to church.



### THOUSANDS EXPERIENCE THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Around **127,000** copies of *The First Christmas* were distributed to help children explore the real Christmas story. These were gifted by local churches, our mission partners and through food banks and children's hospitals.



## GUARDIANS OF ANCORA

Our digital Bible game continues to go from strength to strength, helping many thousands of children to explore the Bible in this creative way.

We estimate that since its launch in 2015 there have been more than **1.6 million** game plays. More than **1,000** children each month are inviting their friends to play the game.

From September 2018, when the scheme started, more than **1,695** children in Ancora clubs have received 'goody bags', to encourage them to play the game at home as well as during their club.

Working with SU Kosova, the game was released in Albanian in April 2018, making four language versions so far, with more in development.



## A new Development Hub

We launched the Development Hub to help us better develop innovative mission resources and tools. The hub is closely integrated with our work in the field, ensuring we have our ear to the ground and can test, evaluate and improve on ideas and models for reaching 'the 95'.



help reach the next generation.

The **Creative Collective** is a community of Christian creatives using their creative skills to

Two Creative Collective residential weekends took place during the year, bringing together over **40** people. The first gathering focused on developing content and mission models to connect with 'the 95' around issues of mental health and wellbeing – providing content for our new *Mental Health Toolkit*. The second weekend also generated several innovative ideas that are now being pursued by the Development Hub. Look out for more information soon!

To be part of this creative process, go to [su.org.uk/creative-collective](http://su.org.uk/creative-collective)

## Mission through sport

### JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS



Over **1,000** people downloaded the free *Jumpers for Goalposts* pack to help them use the Football World Cup to share Jesus.



### GRASS-ROOTS

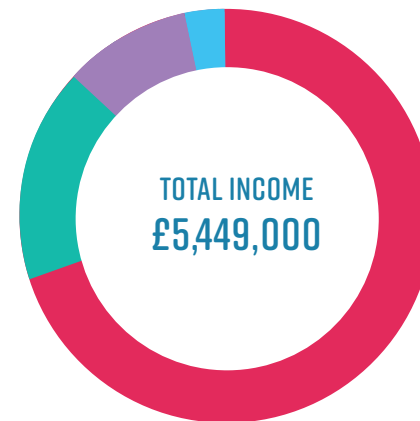
**7** new local grass-root mission-through-sport initiatives were developed with churches in the north east of England.

## Financial resources for mission

It's only through your gifts, time and prayers that SU can continue to provide opportunities for so many children and young people to explore the difference Jesus can make to their lives. To everyone who has supported us in any of these ways, THANK YOU.

Your gifts make a huge difference and, for the year ended 31 March 2019, your donations and income from legacies totalled **£3,676,000**. As expected, expenditure was higher than income, largely because your past giving allowed us to invest **£614,000** in a number of significant initiatives to grow the scale and impact of SU missional activities. In addition, the money spent during the year on securing funding for SU's mission achieved nearly a 7:1 return.

Here's an overview of the money we received during the year, and the ways in which it was spent...



**£3,676,000**

Donations and legacies

**£1,051,000**

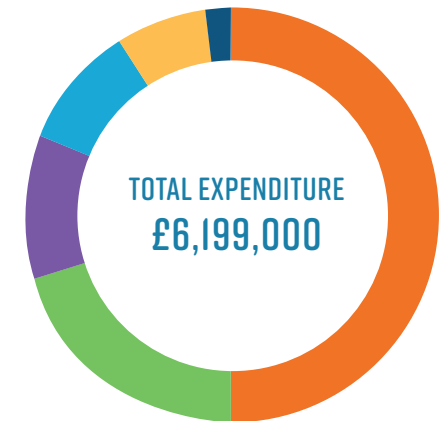
Publishing sales

**£585,000**

Holidays and missions

**£137,000**

Other, including investments



**£3,153,000**

Face-to-face mission (including holidays and missions)

**£1,099,000**

Commercial publishing

**£791,000**

Content creation

**£545,000**

Cost of raising funds

**£450,000**

International activities

**£161,000**

Advocacy

This is a summary of Scripture Union's financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2019, extracted from the full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements which have been audited. A full statement of our financial activities can be found in our Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, a copy of which can be obtained online at [su.org.uk/annualreport](http://su.org.uk/annualreport) or by contacting us on 01908 856135.

TURN THE  
PAGE TO MAKE  
A GIFT



# Help more children hear the good news

Will you help us share the good news of Jesus with even more children and young people by setting up a regular donation?

## Your details (for contact purposes)

Title	First name	Surname
Address		
		Postcode
Phone		

We would like to send you updates to keep you informed about the difference you are making to children and young people's lives through your giving, and to offer you further opportunities to ensure the good news is shared.

**Post – No Thank you**  Updates will be sent to you by post. However, if you would rather not receive such information please tick the box.

**Email – Yes Please**  If you would prefer to receive updates by email, tick the box and fill in your email.

Email

We take your privacy seriously. Scripture Union will never sell your data or share it with another company or charity for marketing purposes. You can change the way we contact you at any time by contacting Scripture Union: 01908 856000, via our website or emailing [hello@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:hello@scriptureunion.org.uk). You can read our full privacy policy at: [www.su.org.uk/privacy](http://www.su.org.uk/privacy)

## Regular gift

I wish to make a regular gift of £  every month  quarter  year

Payments will be taken on the 6th day of the month.

(FOR SCRIPTURE UNION OFFICIAL USE ONLY – This is not part of the instruction to your bank or building society.) 1/15227

## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: Scripture Union, Trinity House Opal Court, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DF



To: The Manager  Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account no  Sort code

Service user number  Reference no. for office use only

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit. Please pay Scripture Union Direct Debits from the account detailed in the instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain within Scripture Union and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature  Date