



Lee Aitchison, a teenager from Pilton in Edinburgh, testifies to the effectiveness of DIME (Discipleship In Muirhouse Estate), an out-of-school project, run by SU Scotland volunteers, which meets on Thursday evenings).

I used to see fights all the time when I was growing up. Life in my neighbourhood was an intimidating one, with little to do except hang around on the street, which would ultimately lead to trouble and the sound of police sirens.

However, the volunteers at the DIME project offered me an alternative to the life I saw in my community. They built a relationship with me at the Thursday night meetings and weekends away, they shared their faith and offered a different way to live my life (without forcing it on me) and, gradually, encouraged me in my own faith.

In S2 I started to pay attention – I wanted to know what the Bible said about the problems I faced in my community. The leaders challenged me about my behaviour too, and gradually I changed – I stopped swearing when I noticed that it wasn't cool. I often felt that DIME was a 90 minute refuge from all the other options – loitering, vandalism, breaking windows, getting chased – as it encouraged me to listen and think through issues. As a result, I started to attend church with some of the leaders, where I received a warm welcome, and I enjoyed it!

The influence of DIME has completely changed me and my approach to the community. Now I am helping to serve young people as a junior leader in the project, encouraging them to follow my example.

THE ONLY THING THAT  
COUNTS IS FAITH  
EXPRESSING ITSELF  
THROUGH LOVE.  
GALATIANS 5:6

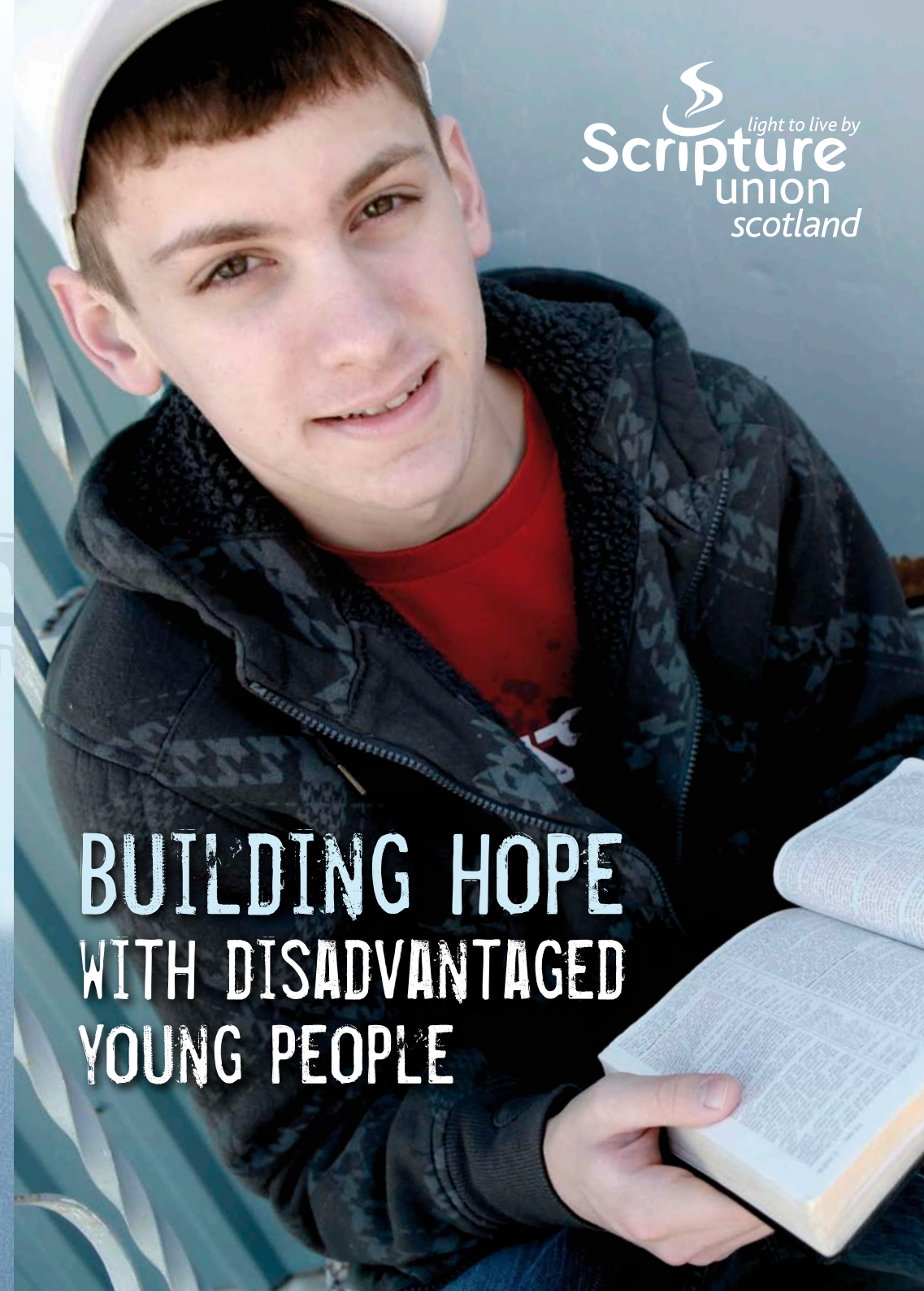
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Design by Innovivid, [www.innovivid.co.uk](http://www.innovivid.co.uk)  
Printed by Verve, [www.vervegrp.co.uk](http://www.vervegrp.co.uk)

Registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC54297).  
Registered Office: 70 Milton Street, Glasgow, G4 0HR.

 light to live by  
**Scripture**  
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**BUILDING HOPE  
WITH DISADVANTAGED  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

## Will you help us give the 21%\* of Scottish children who live in poverty an opportunity to respond to the significance of Jesus?

In areas characterised by poverty, children feel the full force of economic deprivation and social marginalisation. They live in communities marked by high levels of depression, domestic violence, lack of opportunity, drug and alcohol abuse, and vandalism. Consequently, large numbers of young people grow up in unstable, volatile family environments and, sadly, often take their cue from the prevailing gang culture.

### The Scottish Government recently reported\*:

“Evidence shows that growing up in poverty can have a profound and lasting impact on children's outcomes...The causes and effects of poverty and inequality are complex and **multi-dimensional**, and require a range of interventions and responses...Poverty is about much more than a lack of income.”

### Scripture Union Scotland recently appointed John Nonhebel to the key role of Urban Ministries Leader.



John has recently returned to Scotland after spending 20 years working among the urban poor in India. He brings with him fresh ideas and experience to help disadvantaged young people from urban backgrounds start a new journey in a relationship with God.

John comments: “One of the things that excites me is the opportunity to prevent young people falling into a downward spiral of poverty that can lead to violence, and even crime. Last year I met a young man called Stuart†, who was homeless at the time and spending the night in a shelter run by Glasgow City Mission. I learnt that Stuart had started taking heroin when he was 11, and was first arrested on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since then he has been stuck in a cycle of addiction, crime, jail and homelessness.

“In this new role with SU Scotland, I see opportunities to build hope with young people who could easily get stuck in the same cycle as Stuart but who, in relationship with Christ, can make better decisions in their lives.”

†Name changed to protect confidentiality

\*Scottish Government figure from: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/14094421/1](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/14094421/1)

## SU Scotland is already taking a multi-dimensional approach in its work with children and young people from disadvantaged areas.

Our wide range of activities includes working in schools, running church outreach clubs, and hosting residential events. They enable strong relationships to be formed with leaders, who provide great role models and help many urban young people to put God at the centre of their lives. These connections encourage them to make positive life-decisions in the years to come.

### The need to give special attention to those who are disadvantaged is emphasised in our strategy.

We recognise God's special concern for the poor, and are committed to ensuring SU Scotland's ministry does not merely reach those who would easily come into contact with it, but deliberately engages with those in areas of multiple deprivation in Scottish towns and cities.

### SU Scotland's urban ministry is already:

- Growing schools work that targets the poorest 10% of schools
- Supporting 18 local church projects who refer young people to SU *Motiv8* Holidays (heavily subsidised for those from areas of multiple deprivation)
- Delivering *On Track* – SU Scotland's specialised young leaders training event for older teenagers from deprived areas
- Running weekend breaks for over 200 children and young people from urban communities across Scotland
- Seeking new opportunities to run missions in partnership with churches in urban areas

## Will you help us raise £75,000 to grow SU Scotland's urban ministry over the next 3 years?

This money will make a difference in Scotland by enabling us to:

- Grow the number of SU groups in urban schools by 50%
- Subsidise 30 young leaders, like Lee (see over), to attend the *On Track* training programme each year
- Partner 10 fledgling urban church projects to become new *Motiv8* referrers
- Finance the core costs of urban ministries

We are grateful for your support of our existing work among children and young people in Scotland. **Will you prayerfully consider giving to this appeal so that, together, we can make a bigger difference in Scotland's urban communities?**

**£20** will buy resource materials to support volunteers running SU groups in urban schools.

**£46** will subsidise a young leader to be trained at *On Track*.

**£135** will support an SU group in an urban school for one year.

