



# Network News

for SU groups

Edition 6 - January 2010



A New Decade, New Challenges, but Help is at Hand!

'I lift my eyes to the hills...My help comes from the Lord' - how many of us have prayed that Psalm with heartfelt desperation

when we embark on a new term with our SU groups? Young people are growing up in a landscape which is alien to many older eyes, and it is a challenge to relate the truths of the Gospel in a relevant and meaningful way.

The Lord is indeed our helper, and he uses many and varied creative ways to extend that help. Some of them you may find within these pages! The Internet, for example, is a treasure chest of many valuable websites. We share some of our favourites. Get the latest news about our own wonderfully interactive *ignite* website.

If you prefer your resources on paper, check out our centre spread on Kenny McKie's excellent Bible reading booklet. You'll also find ideas from our Edinburgh team on making the most of Easter week.

Encouragement explodes from a couple of good news stories; reports on the GO conferences and COMMISSION highlight opportunities for mission and growth.

Finally, read the latest news about our exciting Easter and summer holidays, and let your excitement be contagious! Together, we can all make a difference.

Michele Morrison

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Stuck for ideas? Try some of these websites, recommended by SU Regional Workers:

**This is a selection of the available resources. For a full list with hyperlinks, please visit our website: [www.suscotland.org.uk/networknews](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/networknews).**

### **Primary**

**Barnabas In Schools** - [www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk)

Detailed resources for use in schools. Outlines and ideas for teaching sessions – some complete, some linking in with their publications.

**Calvary Chapel Children's Curriculum** - <http://bit.ly/yWz6>

PDF downloads for hundreds of Bible stories with word searches, quizzes, etc. An older version of the Bible is used but that is only an issue for "fill in the blank" questions.

**One Way UK: Parody Music** - <http://bit.ly/79MbmY>

The parody songs from One Way UK are used by several puppeteers as they tell a Bible story to a popular tune but you could sing or play them elsewhere as well. Many are available as £1 downloads.

### **Secondary**

**The Source For Youth Ministry: Video Clips** - <http://bit.ly/6eZvkq>

Teaching ideas using movies and songs. Tons of great clips sorted by theme - really accessible. Talk outlines and discussion starters plus a range of games, ice breakers and team building activities.

**Youth Specialities** - [www.youthspecialities.com](http://www.youthspecialities.com)

Free, downloadable resources including sessions relating to current movies. Less ready-to-use than the above site. Contains a range of articles about working with young people, and lists of books they publish, many of which are available in the UK.

**Faithzone Videos** - <http://thefaithzone.org.uk>

Downloadable video stimuli and outlines for collective worship.

**SU Scotland Resources** - [www.suscotland.org.uk/resources](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/resources)

SU Scotland is currently producing a range of resources and lesson plans to use with your secondary school SU Group. There are now 6 series available from the site.

## **Schoolswork Prayer Resources** - <http://bit.ly/8jwY8s>

With sections on the schoolswork.co.uk site such as "I need to..." or "thinking", it is easy to navigate round. You'll not find a list of ideas for tomorrow's SU group as such, but something like the prayer resources listed on the link above would be a great programme after a bit of work.

## **SU ignite Delve Blog** - [www.suignite.org.uk/index.php/delve/blog](http://www.suignite.org.uk/index.php/delve/blog)

*ignite* has a lot of material for individual use and the Delve material could be used to stimulate a group discussion.

## **Primary and Secondary**

### **Scripture Union SchoolsLive** - [www.schoolslive.org.uk](http://www.schoolslive.org.uk)

Bible-based resources for Christian groups in schools, with a wealth of free activities and ideas at your fingertips. One-off titles rather than series. Easy to find a topical item for any annual theme.

### **Damaris** - [www.damaris.org.uk](http://www.damaris.org.uk)

An educational charity with a Christian foundation - but working with people of all faiths and none. Relating biblical Christian faith to contemporary popular culture. As an SU Scotland Volunteer, you are entitled to a 25% discount on any subscriptions by quoting a discount code available from your SU regional worker.

### **Zamzar** - [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com)

Allows you to download youtube clips into a format you can show. Whether it's a pop song or a tv clip, or just the clip everyone is talking about, this wee site allows you to show it perhaps as a discussion starter, eg., the song "What I have done" by Linkin Park is available with the lyrics alongside the video. Very good for chatting about the desire for forgiveness and a brand new start. Or the "Harry Potter tick tick tick puppet clip" could be used alongside Luke 17:26-31 - where people go about their business while there is a ticking bomb right beside them.

### **Bible Gateway** - [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

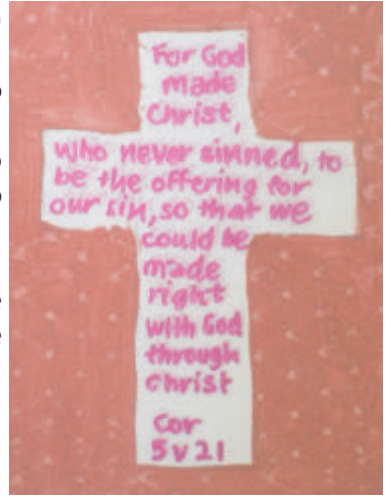
Many now use this site as a quick and extensive online Bible and concordance. Lots of translations and paraphrases, advance search options in multiple translations plus dictionaries, commentaries, etc. Copy and paste your passage in the translation you want, and know that everyone is reading the same version.

### **Icebreakers For Small Groups** - <http://bit.ly/7WsiMn>

40 easy-to-use icebreakers suitable for a wide age range. Great with a small youth group and can be used in a small space! They require very few props.

The GO conferences – GO Mad (S5-6) and GO Live (S4) – are annual discipleship events in October, offering worship and Bible teaching, with free time to network with other Christian young people from across Scotland. It is a great opportunity to develop personal faith in Christ and explore what it means to serve God.

Below are some of the reactions from three of the young people – Scott, Ross and Lindsay – who were there in October:



### **Why did you come to GO MAD?**

- I wanted to expand my faith, understand more about God and meet new friends.
- I heard about it from summer camp and was enthused to learn more about SU in schools.
- A friend recommended it and I felt in myself that I really had to connect with God.

### **What was the highlight?**

- The worship and teachings were really helpful.
- The amazing talks and new friendships, and the moving worship.
- The way everyone was really into the worship without being embarrassed. All the strong Christians my age give me hope of leading a Christian life myself.

### **What was the most important thing you learned?**

- I now know so much more about the Bible.
- I really want to get involved with my SU group and at church to make a difference.
- I now have a great group of friends I can text and email when I need help – and I have memories of the amazing worship.

Start now to share with your SU seniors about this annual event which could transform their faith and witness.

## Good News at the High School of Glasgow



As the current leaders of the High School of Glasgow Junior School SUper Club, Nimmi Whitelaw and Susan Gibson-Smith are the latest in a long line of teachers, parents, church workers and other SU Volunteers to lead this Bearsden group. Numbers are around 50 (and have been for many years).

This school could claim to have restructured SU Weekends strategy single-handedly: when a national Independent Schools Primary weekend was not viable, the SUper Club began to run its own weekend and even caused rugby fixtures to be cancelled as the school could no longer field a team!

Recently other Glasgow IS Primary schools were invited along, and now primary and secondary pupils from Glasgow, Dundee, Perth and Hamilton are also part of this growing weekend. Pupils introduced – with some trepidation - to SU residential events in this way were amongst the first from the school to book for the SU Holidays 2010 programme.

Nimmi, formerly a volunteer with SU India, stepped up to assist a couple of years ago when a local youth worker finished, leaving Team Leader, Jill Morrison, without support. Last summer, some three years after her own boys all finished at the school, Jill moved on and Nimmi is now Team Leader. Susan, a GP, joined the group this session, having told the panel interviewing her for a new job that “her other commitments would mean stopping at 12:00 on a Monday!”

This season they are all enjoying the stories and signs from SU's Awesome series, and it's just as well that Susan's son is still in Primary 6 as he does all the technical stuff for projecting DVDs!





The heart of the vision of SU is leading young people into an active relationship with God through engagement with His Word. As an SU group leader, you use games, drama and laughter to foster relationships, building a platform of trust from which to draw young folk into God's presence.

Let's not forget that the fun activities are not just fun, but help kids meet God and engage with the Bible. Have confidence in the Wow! factor

of the Word, and expect the Holy Spirit to touch hearts and change lives – including your own!

Kenny McKie has written a booklet to encourage you into the Bible, as a light to live and lead by.

"I believe we should re-commit ourselves to relational ministry with open Bibles," he says. "I want to encourage leaders to spend good quality time mentoring groups, by simply opening the Bible, reading it together and asking one another some good questions."

First-hand experience: "The Banchory (Aberdeenshire) schools group leaders all had a look at it on our training and prayer day and were excited about it as it removes a lot of the burden of preparation and gives more direct Bible teaching. May not be using it exactly as it stands but are using it to 'inform our practise' - to use teaching jargon!" says Morag MacPherson, LAW.

*"Teach Yourself Bible Reading*

*Groups'* (available to download from [www.suscotland.org.uk/tybrg](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/tybrg)) includes sets of questions applicable to different Bible passages such as Jesus' teaching, NT and OT narrative, etc. The questions are designed to stimulate individual thought, opening eyes to see the Truth.

"Have confidence in God's power to speak through His Word," Kenny advises. "Don't preach, teach, or set yourself up as a go-between: your job is to guide, to show the young people how to handle their Bibles themselves."

If you believe in the power of God's Word, then show your groups how to get into it. Open the Bible with them. Show them you are serious and handle Scripture with care.

"I believe Bible reading, and obeying, are the key ingredients to God bringing revival," Kenny concludes. "So go for it!"



Before you start, ensure everyone has their own Bible and help them to find the right chapter. Pray before you begin and then read it together, briefly outlining the context. Then tackle the questions, which may stimulate more questions, or lead to prayer or praise. Let the Holy Spirit teach and guide.

## Suggested Questions for Jesus' teaching passages:

1. Can someone point out (on the timeline provided) when this took place?
2. Who was listening to Jesus?
3. If this is a parable, can you work out what Jesus is teaching the listeners and us?
4. If this is straight teaching from Jesus, can you put into your own words something that Jesus was telling his listeners?
5. What do you find exciting about what Jesus says?
6. What do you find hard about what Jesus says?
7. Is there something in what Jesus says that you think would change the world, or change you?
8. Is there something here you'd like to put into practice in your own life?
9. How much do you believe what Jesus says?



Christine Galloway has been leading schools groups for about 15 years, having been drawn into it by her sister. She leads three groups: lunchtime clubs at Braehead Primary and Braehead Academy, in Dumbarton, and an after school club at nearby Cardross Primary.

"I really enjoy it," she enthuses. "I love the interaction with the children. Most have very little Bible knowledge and are so keen to learn. In the primary groups, we sing songs like Whoopah Wahey, with a funky upbeat backing and actions, play games, and read a Bible story. Sometimes we have a quiz. At the Academy, they don't want to sing, so we may start with a game, then read a Scripture passage and have some structured discussion. We pray together, and they offer their own prayer requests."

While Christine starts the Primary groups after the October break, the Academy group runs all year. "If I don't start at the beginning of term, the new S1 kids get involved in other clubs and we lose them," she explains.

"I just want to encourage others to go for it. You never know where it will lead. About five years ago, a young girl started coming to one of the primary groups, then joined the Kids' club I run for my church, and asked if she could bring her parents to church. They all came on Christmas Eve, and the girl became a Christian. Then her mum, who had problems with alcoholism, asked me to visit her. She accepted Christ, and when her husband saw the change in her life, he became a Christian, too!"

Numbers attending are high now, but it wasn't always that way. At the Academy, only one or two came in the beginning. She prayed that if God would give her even just one a week, she would keep going. About fifteen come along regularly now.

Although Christine would love a helper, she is solo, but at each school there are Christian staff members who provide support and enthusiasm.

"You don't have to be young and trendy to lead a group," Christine encourages. "It is so rewarding teaching the Bible to children. I benefit as much as the kids do!"



In 2010, the membership of *ignite* ([www.suignite.org.uk](http://www.suignite.org.uk)) will open up to teenagers attending SU Groups in secondary schools. Up until now, *ignite* membership has been available only to young people who have been on a residential with SU Scotland. We are excited by the prospect of enabling teenagers from two vital strands of SU's ministry (SU Groups and Holidays/Weekends) to socialise together online and benefit from the discipleship community on *ignite*.



Lindsey (S6), has been a member for almost two years, and she sums up the positive impact *ignite* could have on the teenagers in your group: "I think *ignite* is invaluable because it is a safe place to talk online and talk about God. You can make so many new friends who also are Christians and this can be very encouraging. It's just a good place to have fun."

Anyone in S1 to S6 who attends your SU group can join. The young person will fill in a brief application form which the accredited SU Group leader (you!) will counter-sign to confirm eligibility. After receiving the application, we will email an Activation Keycode to the teenager, enabling them to register online.

All accredited secondary SU Group Leaders will be welcome to join *ignite*. Your Regional or Associate Worker will be in contact with you later in 2010 to explain this process in greater depth and provide you with application forms along with advertising material for *ignite*. They can also assist with your own accreditation forms for all SU Volunteering - *ignite*, schools, weekends, missions and holidays.

## SU Holidays 2010

The on-line launch of the SU Holidays 2010 programme in September attracted many bookings. Printed brochures have now been posted to previous campers, and are available from your local SU Office or via your Regional Worker.

Lots of you already bring young people to a Regional Weekend: a longer event multiplies the blessings. Places are still available, so encourage the young people in your group to sign up. It just may change their life!

It's easy! Let us block book your places. Contact the SU Holidays booking team on 0141 352 7620 (line open Monday to Friday Noon to 4.30pm) or by emailing [holidays@suscotland.org.uk](mailto:holidays@suscotland.org.uk)



**Primary**

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Plastic Easter eggs are cheap (£1.50 for 6), can be used over and over, and kids love to hunt for them! (A quick Google search lists loads of suppliers.) Each egg splits open: place a different part of the Easter story and a sweetie inside. Once all eggs are found the children put the events in order.



**Resurrection Eggs** - They can be ordered from Amazon, or make your own with plastic eggs. See <http://bit.ly/6cXly4> for instructions.

**Easter Cracked** - This book includes dramas, stories and crafts, as well as assembly programmes.

**Out of the Ark Music** - Quality Easter music suitable for SU groups. See [www.outoftheark.co.uk](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk)

**Secondary**

**Easter Grill-a-Christian** – Invite a panel of Christians to get 'grilled' about Easter. Distribute invitations to everyone the previous week. With financial help, you could offer a free lunch (a little bribery never hurts!). You'll need volunteers to help with crowd control as a free lunch is usually a magnet.

**Cadbury Eggs** - Distribute during lunchtime with a verse or information about the SU group. A great opportunity for Christian young people to make a stand for God in their school. Consider the best distribution point and time. Warning: Get permission from the school and confirm that there is no problem with giving out chocolates, i.e. allergies or a ban on sweets.

**Invite a Guest Speaker** - get them to share what Easter means to him/her. This could be someone from a local church who has a dynamic testimony, a local church youth worker, or a brave group member who might welcome the opportunity to share what God has done in his or her life.

**Multi-Sensory Seasons** – This book includes 6 very creative, user-friendly lessons on Easter and Lent. Each lesson incorporates multiple senses to help bring freshness to the topic and ensure young people remember what's been taught.

**More information on these resources can be found on our website:**  
[www.suscotland.org.uk/networknews](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/networknews).

## What's it all about?

Helping all the kids of Scotland to hear and respond to the Gospel.

## How do we get there?

We need Christian young people to engage with us in this ministry.

## via COMMISSION...

...A programme which shares a vision for the needs of Scotland, equips young folk to help meet those needs, and involves them in ministry activities: residentials, missions and school groups.

## Specifically...

COMMISSION includes Basecamp and Lead Up training events, placements in SU teams, and Review weekends at the end of summer. Participants are encouraged to be involved throughout the year, helping lead school SU groups and weekend events and continuing leadership development training.

## We need SU Group Leaders to...

Identify suitable individuals aged 16-25 and encourage them to check out this link for more information:  
[www.suscotland.org.uk/commission](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/commission)

## Amy, S6 @ Strathaven Academy



Amy was COMMISSIONed at Basecamp C in the summer.

Afterwards, Amy served as trainee leader at Kingscross, and helped with holiday club at her church.

## Her Thoughts?

"I helped to organise the holiday club and was hosting the Friday night which was so much fun, but I would never have had the confidence to do it before Basecamp and KX1."

## What next?

Amy's started up an SU group at her school. "I want to be able to use the skills I was taught at Basecamp and to share the Bible with people who might have no other chance to hear about it."

Please pray for Amy and her new group, and encourage your own young folk to consider being COMMISSIONed.

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For further details and downloads for each regional area, please visit the regional pages on [www.suscotland.org.uk/regional](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/regional)

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