



NETWORK NEWS

for SU groups
September 2009

Edition 5



How to reach the next generation?

It's the question that anyone working with young people will always ask - 'How can we reach the next generation in a way that will engage them and yet be distinctively Christian, sowing the seeds of the Good News of Jesus?'

In this edition of Network News, you will see that SU Scotland have a raft of ways in which we are actively seeking to answer this question - from engaging with a Curriculum for Excellence, through peer evangelism, meeting young people safely online, and providing resources, holidays and events that will bring the Bible into their lives and give guidance on how to live for Christ. We hope you will find this supportive to you as you partner with us in the Gospel.

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SU in Schools

6000 young people engage with God each week!

Thanks to people like you who lead SU groups across the country, about 6000 pupils week by week are able to learn about Christ and indeed teach about Christ as they share the group leadership within the primary and secondary schools of Scotland. The latest complete survey that we carried out showed that there were 455 Christian groups in schools with 90% of them being SU groups.

Each day that your group meets, there are 90 other groups meeting at the same time! That's well over 1000 children and young people each day getting into the Bible's teaching at the beginning, middle

or end of the school day and that doesn't even include the prayer meetings that happen in schools as well.

Thanks to you this means that the most likely thing that SU offers a school is an SU group. We lead assemblies in over 400 schools, make presentations on SU Holidays in about 250 schools and assist in the classroom teaching of RE or in other ways as well, but the most frequent contact that SU has in the 2700 mainstream schools across Scotland is the SU group led by teachers, parents, pupils, church members, youthworkers, ministers or SU & Associate Staff just like you.

schools alpha



taking youthalpha into schools

Have you considered using Youth Alpha in your local school?

Youth Alpha is a voluntary ten week course which provides a great way for every young person in Scotland to explore the Christian Faith.

The Schools Alpha project is designed to equip people to adapt the youth alpha material and deliver it within the informal curriculum of schools. This is not a resource for RME teaching (although there is a special RE Teaching pack based on Youth Alpha called *exploRE*. For more info www.exploreforschools.co.uk/node/15). Rather, Schools Alpha is designed for use by chaplains, teachers, youthworkers and senior pupils as part of a lunch-time or after-school club in their secondary school.

The Schools Alpha team provide training days (70 attended in October 2008) which aim to:

- give you the confidence and resources to run Youth Alpha in school
- show you how to develop interactive, thought-provoking and relevant sessions
- help you to work appropriately within the Religious Observance legislation

The next Training Day is to be held on 26th September in Aberdeen, and is in partnership with the Encounter event. For more details on this event please visit: http://www.souledout.org.uk/calendar_details.php?e=73
For more details about Schools Alpha, please contact Helen Lawson at Alpha Scotland: helen.lawson@alpha.org

schools alpha

is an initiative involving Alpha Scotland, The Association of Christian Teachers in Scotland, CARE for Scotland, Scripture Union Scotland and YFC

What are others doing?

“How do I take a good resource to my SU group when time is limited?”

STREETWISE

Group : up to 40 different P5-7s came.

We think it worked well as

- i. people played
- ii. we bought each a Luke's Gospel, which we kept until the course was over, when they took them home. To look up the passage for themselves became a “highlight”, and something we did every week.
- iii. we had already begun to build up a relationship with them



We used

- i. Fruit – we provided fruit each week.
- ii. DVD – very good in teaching about Jesus
- iii. Book – adapted for a ½ hr programme
- iv. Song – played in background as they came in
- v. Art work – caught imagination! Enlarged houses to form “street”, colouring the house about which we were talking
- vi. Small prizes – given for answering, behaviour, and games

Sample Day – week 1.

- i. arrive punctually to set up
- ii. game in a circle e.g. spot the difference (adapted version) 10 mins
- iii. keeping in circle hand out new gospel, look up and read passage
- iv. DVD 4 min
- v. Quiz on story
- vi. Emphasize main aim – Jesus wants to make a difference
- vii. With trepidation! Bandage prayer idea – child holding the bandage could write on it. When each had held the bandage they said a short prayer to themselves or aloud. Next week one said that she believed God heard her prayer!



“Where can I get copies of Luke's Gospel?”

“Get Real” is an A4 magazine-format version of Luke produced by the Scottish Bible Society (SBS) and SU Scotland 11 years ago. It uses the CEV with chapter divisions but not verse numbers, and is available free (plus P&P) from your local SU office. The SBS also sell A6-size copies of the NLT of Luke's Gospel at 45p each from their website.

www.scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/gospels

Streetwise Book & DVD is available for sale from www.scriptureunion.org.uk. Local offices may also have copies available.

Online Resources

Have you discovered the resources for secondary SU groups on the SU Scotland website yet? If not, why not take a look on

www.suscotland.org.uk/resources

The feedback from groups that are using the outlines has been positive. Each series has a different approach and a distinctive feel.

New for the new school year is a series entitled

‘New Term-New Start’. This series looks at:

Changes - despite everything changing around us, we can be assured that God remains the same. How do we keep our eyes on the goal when things are changing?

Rules - God’s rules are a positive aspect in our lives. God wants us to follow his commandments because we love him and other people, not because we must follow them

Friends what are the qualities of true friendship? Sometimes being a friend involves making sacrifices

Gossip words can hurt others. How can we remember to speak positively towards and about each other?

Attitudes our attitudes affect others. How can we recognize and emulate Christ’s attitude to life?

Later in the term we will be adding a series based on the life of David, another looking at the Beatitudes and a couple of outlines about Christmas.

If you are using these resources, please do let us know what you think - what works for your group? What doesn’t work? What topics would you like to see covered? Any comments would be most welcome - email borders@suscotland.org.uk.

Telling the Story



During March 2009, every secondary school in Scotland received a copy of the BBC's Easter 2008 production of "The Passion" telling the story of the last week of Jesus' life. (The DVD is Certificate 12, and therefore not sent to primary schools.) The materials were sent to the Head of RE and included additional discussion materials and resources on CD-ROM and an A4 book for both school and church settings.

The material could obviously be used in the run-up to Easter, but would also illustrate group times throughout the year to help pupils picture the landscape, environment, content and impact of Jesus' life, death and teaching. For example, making two dice out of the cross-shaped templates brought 6 characters and 6 events within the story into focus; participants rolled the dice and tried to identify and explain to others how this event impacted on their character.

Most schools will be open during Holy Week 2010 (Good Friday is 2nd April). SU groups could offer to run assemblies that week or put on special events as part of their own Holy Week or Passion Week in school.

If you are not able to track down these materials from your head of RE, they are still available for sale from the English Bible Society down south on 0800 652 5369 or www.bibleresources.org.uk priced £19.56 for the DVD set and £7.99 for the A4 Teachers' book, all of which is contained within the DVD box set.

THE GO CONFERENCES

These conferences are part of SU's work in training and discipleship young people - who could you invite that would benefit from this experience?

GO LIVE

IS FOR S4 PUPILS
GETTING READY TO MAKE
A STAND FOR WHAT THEY
BELIEVE AND LIVE OUT
THEIR FAITH AT SCHOOL

GO MAD

IS FOR S5 & S6 PUPILS
FOR THOSE READY TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
THEIR SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE THAN
JUST ANOTHER WEEKEND AWAY.



READ THE BULB,
FILL IN THE FORM,
GET INVOLVED

**GO CONFERENCES
ENABLE YOU TO...**

4 DAYS OF BIBLE TEACHING,
SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS &
ACTIVITIES WITH PLENTY OF
TIME TO BE WITH FRIENDS
AND TO SHARE THE STORIES
AND HASSLES OF BEING A
CHRISTIAN IN SCHOOL AND
BEYOND.

...USE THE BIBLE TO SHAPE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT
AND LIVE YOUR LIFE

...UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL BETTER IN ORDER
TO TELL OTHERS

...HANDLE PRESSURE WHEN FRIENDS THINK
CHRISTIANITY IS RIDICULOUS

... MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SCHOOL AND
COMMUNITY

...DEVELOP YOUR AWARENESS OF WHAT IT MEANS
TO SERVE

...SEE YOUR POTENTIAL FOR CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP AND PUT IT INTO ACTION

...PREPARE FOR FACING CHALLENGES TO YOUR
FAITH BACK HOME

HOW DO I
BOOK?



There are leaflets and booking forms available online - you could ask your regional worker to come in and talk about it or call Bruce Lockhart (01577842017) to discuss how your young people could get involved in training with SU. www.suscotland.org.uk/goconferences



(www.suignite.org.uk) was re-launched at the beginning of July with a new look and enhanced functionality.

New features for members include status updates, activity stream, photo sharing and applications for their profiles, plus more! The new site is proving a huge success with close to 400 teenage members already and an average of 84 members logging in daily. Our daily average is almost as high as the "old ignite's" monthly average and has actually increased to 94 members a day with the schools going back.

Of course, ignite is about more than just socialising, and discipleship remains a focus on the site, as we continue to add more great content to the Engage, Seek, Delve and Play zones.

In September, we hope to make ignite membership available to secondary-aged teenagers and adult leaders of SU Groups. This will involve a simple application form for those teenagers wishing to join, the details are yet to be confirmed but we'll explain how this will work nearer the time. In the mean time why not check out the new site at www.suignite.org.uk.



Connect home page - members view

Pray for schools Day is on Tuesday 17th November.



An opportunity to join with hundreds of prayer groups across Europe as they focus on praying for schools.

- Could you make this the beginning of a prayer group at your school?
- Use this day to get local churches praying for their schools.

On the Schools Prayer Network (SPN) site you will find information, ideas and resources to help you and your group at school or at church take part in the Pray Day.

visit www.suscotland.org.uk/prayer or email elizabeth.mcdowall@suscotland.org.uk

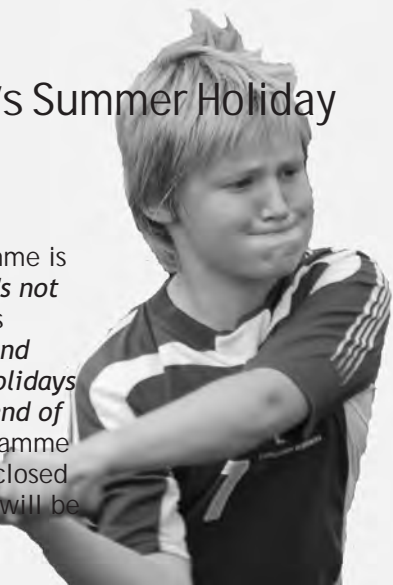


Don't Miss

...the chance to book next's year's Summer Holiday this September

Book earlier

The launch of SU Scotland's 2010 Holiday programme is going to be a lot earlier than ever before. *'And it's not just the Easter holidays either,'* explains Holidays Manager, Ewen Cunningham. *'We plan to go live and take bookings for both our Easter and Summer holidays programme via the SU Holidays website by the end of September.'* Postcards advertising the 2010 programme and the invitation to get online and book, are enclosed with this edition of Network News. The brochure will be distributed later in the year, arriving on campers' doorsteps between Christmas and New Year.



Pay over a period of time

The move to have SU Holidays advertised for longer gives everyone more time to save up to pay for the holiday. For the 2010 season it will be possible for Any Amount to be paid at Any Time for Any Holiday via the SU Holidays website.

Get a great value holiday

'It's just a bit too early to talk about prices' says Ewen, 'but we can talk about excellent value for money with 7-day holidays that include all activities and in many cases accompanied travel.'

Go with a group

While Scripture Union offers many opportunities for weekend residential events throughout the year you may consider taking a group from your school to an Easter or Summer event. The Holidays Team can help to make this a stress-free option ring them on 0141 352 7620 to talk about the possibilities.

Don't forget!

Put www.suholidays.org.uk in your diary for the end of September! Advertise for us by asking for more postcards from your SU regional or associate worker or SU holiday dept. to distribute amongst your children/youth. Get in touch with the Holidays Team to talk about group bookings.

EXCELLENCE IN



By the time you read this, SU Education's glossy Classroom Outdoors brochure will have been posted to every school in Scotland - part of Scripture Union's strategy to maximise on schools residential work in Scotland.

The statistics speak for themselves. In 2006/7 Lendrick Muir had only 11 schools on educational visits - the same number as Alltnacriche. This last year growth has been staggering with 51 schools visiting Lendrick Muir - 30 on residential breaks whilst Alltnacriche has continued to be fully booked for its Spey Breaks season. Both Alltnacriche and Lendrick Muir hope to attract fresh bookings from this latest 2009-10 brochure.

The story of The Classroom Outdoors involves God, lots of 'breakthrough' events and a team of people 'working their socks off' to earn the opportunity to give young people a residential experience which they can talk about for many months to come.

THE OUTDOORS

**Want to know how you can help to further the work?
There are three things you need to know!**

SU Education” is building a strong identity.

1 Although Lendrick Muir and Alltnacriche are in different locations and have completely different feels to their breaks, the message is clear value for money, a strong Christian ethos and an emphasis on Curriculum for Excellence. Our 'branding' is increasingly being recognised.

Our Classroom Outdoors is credible

2 We aim for educational excellence and the strapline 'Curriculum for Excellence in Action' isn't taken lightly. Our residential experiences are driven by education not by activities. You can be confident that we can provide a quality experience from which any school group will benefit.

We work with schools

3 We are about educational partnership really working together with teachers in the educational process. We find out what they want to get out of the residential experience so that they can build on it when they return home.

What YOU can do

Now...we need you to be excited and confident and enthusiastic enough to hand a brochure to a teacher or two! It's not hard (honest) and when you see the brochure, feel the glossy cover, smell the ink, and read the contents ... we hope you will not only put a brochure in the hands of a local teacher, but that you will want to accompany the school that you have encouraged to book! Please pray for opportunities, give copies to teachers, come and visit one of our centres, find out more online, ask us for more brochures - we'll do our best to equip you.

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www.suscotland.org.uk

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