

SU News

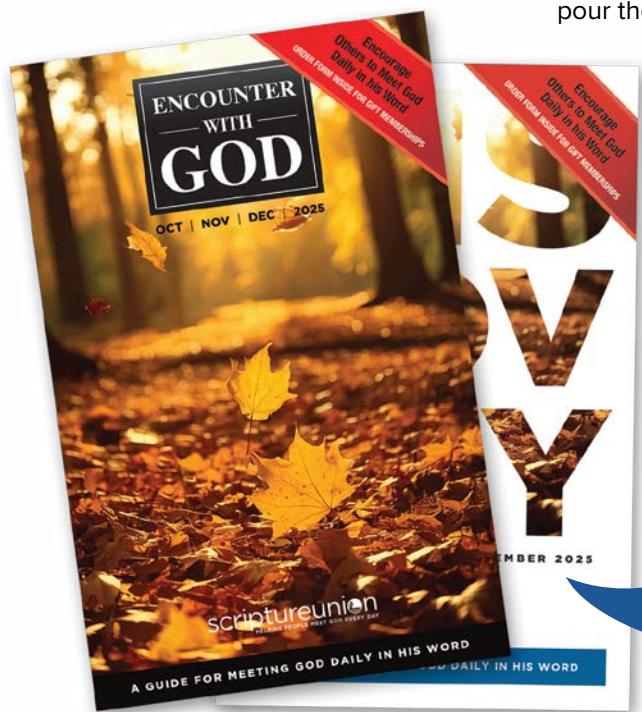
An inside view of
Scripture Union

Something to Savor

I just got home from a rare October day trip to Long Beach Island—home to our longest-running beach ministry teams. My daughter had invited me to join her at the LBI Annual ChowderFest Cook-Off, where twelve local restaurants competed for the title of best red and white chowder. Hundreds of hungry festivalgoers crowded under two big tents, eager for a sample to taste and vote for our favorites through an app. For me, there was a clear winner in the White

Clam Chowder tent, but I was torn between two of the reds. I'll have to wait and see how everyone else voted to find out which chowders took the prize.

The event reminded me of something I hear often from readers: everyone has their favorite! I can't count how many times someone has told me, *"I've tried many different Bible reading plans, guides, and devotionals, but Scripture Union's is my favorite."* Our writers and editors pour their hearts into creating a guide that is faithful, thoughtful, and accessible. It's encouraging to know that so many of you agree.



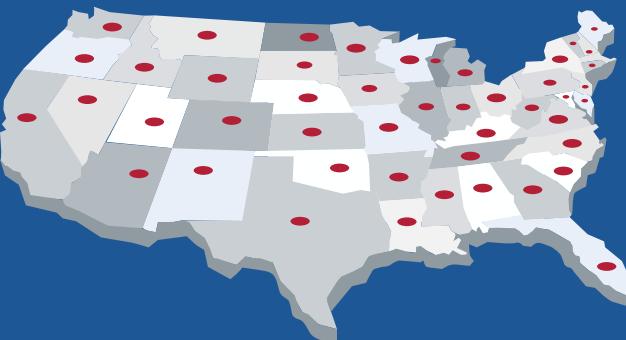
You may be as amazed as I am to know that SU has Bible guide readers in every state across the U.S. From my vantage point, I get to glimpse the rich tapestry of this community, and it truly is remarkable. What a privilege it is to partner with you in this ministry of encouragement through God's Word.

In this issue, you'll meet several of our team members from this past summer and see how God is at work in and through their lives. And for those who return to Long Beach Island next year, I'll have some solid recommendations for the best chowder on the island!



Gail A. Martin
President,
Scripture Union USA

Scripture Union Bible guide subscriptions are in all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico!



The Faces Behind the Fun and Faith at Surf City

Each summer, our CSSM SuperKids® teams brings joy, laughter, and the truth of God's Word to the beaches of Surf City. For two full weeks, these young leaders invest their time and hearts in helping children discover who Jesus is and how much he loves them. Meet four of these dedicated team members who bring this ministry to life—sharing God's love and bringing Scripture to life right on the sand!



TEAM SPOTLIGHT: Justin “Toggle”

Meet Justin, known on the beach as “Toggle,” a dedicated and passionate member of our Surf City CSSM team! At 23 years old and a 7-year CSSM veteran, Justin brings energy, heart, and years of experience to the beach every summer.

Hailing from New Jersey,

Justin has been faithfully serving with Scripture Union since his teen years. His favorite CSSM memory? The “Fight the Tide” game, a high-energy moment where kids come together, cheer each other on, and build lasting friendships through teamwork and joy. “Seeing the kids laugh, have fun, and support each other is something I’ll never forget,” he says.

But it’s not just the games that leave a lasting impact. One of Justin’s core memories comes from watching three boys grow in faith year after year at Surf City. “They’ve been coming for all 7 years I’ve been here. Watching them grow, not just physically but spiritually, and knowing I’ve been part of that journey is incredible.”

When he’s not on the beach, Justin serves as a youth group leader at his local church, dedicating his time to guiding and supporting the next generation. He also volunteers at various church events throughout the year.

We’re excited to share that Justin plans to return for CSSM 2026, continuing to build relationships and share God’s love with the Surf City community.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”—1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Thank you, Toggle, for the incredible heart you bring to the team!

TEAM SPOTLIGHT: Ava “Kachow”

Meet Ava, known on the beach as “Kachow,” a bright and compassionate presence on the Surf City CSSM team!



At 20 years old and serving in her 5th year, Ava brings joy, depth, and a heart full of love for the kids she ministers to each summer.

A proud South Carolinian, Ava says one of her favorite parts of CSSM is watching children return year after year, growing not just in size, but in faith. “Getting to have real, honest conversations with them as they grow up makes my heart light up,” she shares. Her gentle spirit and sincere compassion shine through in every interaction.

When she’s not at the beach, Ava is active in her local church as both a youth group member and a faithful part of the worship team, using her gifts to lead others closer to Jesus.

We’re so thankful for the joy and care Kachow brings to the team, and we look forward to seeing all that God continues to do through her in the summers to come!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”—John 1:5 (NIV)

Thank you, Kachow, for loving big and shining bright for Jesus!

TEAM SPOTLIGHT: Jared “Hat Trick”

Say hello to Jared, better known on the beach as “Hat Trick,” a faithful and fun presence at Surf City CSSM! At 25 years old and in his 9th year with CSSM, Jared continues to serve with purpose, joy, and a deep love for the next generation.

Originally from Virginia, Jared has been part of the Surf City mission family since his youth. One of his favorite CSSM memories came from a deeply touching moment: a young boy who began his CSSM journey alongside Jared gave him a sand dollar, along with a heartfelt note expressing gratitude for their friendship and the impact Jared had on his faith. “That note reminded me why I come back every year. I’m so thankful to be part of the way God is moving in these kids’ lives,” Jared shared.



TEAM SPOTLIGHT: Toby “Dumplin”

Introducing Toby, known affectionately as “Dumplin” on the beach—a first-year team member who’s already made a big impression! At 20 years old, Toby joined the Surf City CSSM team from South Carolina, bringing with her a heart ready to serve and grow.

Though it’s her first summer with CSSM, Toby dove right in, building relationships and encouraging those around her. One of her favorite memories this year? The bonding



When he’s not on the beach, Jared serves as a youth leader at his local church, helping guide teens in their walk with Christ and staying active in ministry throughout the year.

We’re excited to have Hat Trick back for CSSM 2026, continuing to pour into children and create a place where faith and fun come alive!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”—Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Thank you, Hat Trick, for showing up year after year and making an eternal impact!

moments with fellow beach team leaders, from deep faith conversations to learning to whistle like a rock star, she loved every part of the shared experience. “It’s the little things that bring us together in faith and fun,” she says.

Toby is also actively involved in both her university and her hometown church. At school, she serves as a spiritual leader and big sister, mentoring and walking alongside others in their faith journeys.

She’s already hoping to return for CSSM 2026, and we can’t wait to see how God continues to use her kind heart and joyful spirit in the years to come.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”—1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Thank you, Dumplin, for jumping in with bold faith and big love—we’re so glad you’re part of the family!



Seasonal Family Resources: FOR INDIVIDUALS AGES 7-99!

THANKSGIVING PLACEMATS

for your Thanksgiving table

“The Road to Thanksgiving” placemat helps celebrate Thanksgiving and introduces God’s provision for us in Jesus. The paper placemat includes facts about Thanksgiving, a Bible reflection, and fun puzzles and activities focused on celebrating God’s goodness to us. True to Scripture Union’s ethos, both thanks and giving are encouraged! They are ideal for use by churches in their Thanksgiving outreach and food giveaways, and for families as they celebrate around their Thanksgiving meal.



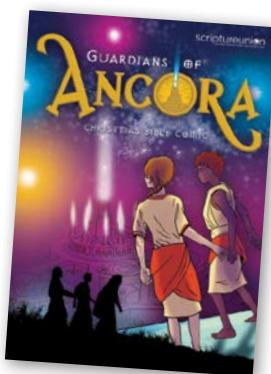
CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH GOD'S PROMISE KEPT DEVOTION KIT

Scripture Union’s Advent devotion kit provides children and families a memorable way to celebrate Advent as they anticipate the birth of Jesus. It points to Jesus with daily Scripture readings, Bible reflections, and a simple activity at the end of each week. This kit takes you

from Genesis through the birth of our Savior with 25 Scripture passages, daily reflections, and questions for response. God’s Promise Kept includes a candle to light each day as you count down the days to Christmas and comes with a Christmas tree poster and meaningful stickers to put on the poster each day. Candle comes with candle holder and marks the days remaining before Christmas.

GUARDIANS OF ANCORA CHRISTMAS BIBLE COMIC

This Bible-based comic is based on the award winning *Guardians of Ancora* app. Join the characters from Scripture Union’s ground-breaking game as they rediscover the Christmas story. Ideal for your Christmas outreach to children and families. Encourage children to download and play the free game - available on the Apple, Google Play and Amazon app stores.



Honor or remember your family, friends, and loved ones by making a “Salt and Light” donation to Scripture Union. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help make God’s Good News known to children, young people, and families, and encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. www.ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight

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Liz Kornak	Richard Hasselbach

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
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