

# SU News

An inside view of  
Scripture Union

## Unexpected Joy

**Have you ever watched someone do something and thought to yourself, “How did they learn to do that?” At the same time, did you wish you had that same talent?**

**T**here are quite a few things I wish I could master; playing the piano always tops the list. Singing is out of the question, though it often doesn't stop me. Some things can be learned and others, I believe, require the right genes.

I always thought that drawing was one of those things—until an 8-year-old named Sofia showed me an app that she was using called “Simply-Draw.” She wanted me to use it with her, and while I was sure she would immediately see my lack of skill, something surprising happened. The instructor on the app shared steps I was never aware of: drawing shapes that could later be erased where needed, adding layers and highlights with strokes that were thin, thick, or layered. Suddenly, following these simple steps, I was able to draw an image that was recognizable, even passable. I found myself wondering

how, at my age, I never learned these principles. I believed drawing recognizable likenesses was simply unachievable for me. I will never be considered an illustrator, but I can now manage to draw something that will not embarrass me in front of more capable children. That has given me unexpected joy at this stage of my life.

In this issue, you have the opportunity to try something you may never have done before. We have provided a link to a free downloadable guide to setting aside time for a spiritual retreat. If you have never done something like this before or have thought it was something only others could do, you just might be surprised. It will transform your understanding of yourself and God—and bring you unexpected joy. I encourage you to try it.

Likewise, our Bridge training helps participants discover the building blocks to discipleship in a weeklong retreat, followed by a week of practical outreach. Is there someone you know who might benefit from this in guided training? Share this with them. We'd love to hear your stories of discovery along the way!



**Gail A. Martin**  
President,  
Scripture Union



# Getting Away With God: The Gift of a Spiritual Retreat



WRITTEN BY

**Jenny Meeker** | *Spiritual Companion*

I still remember the desperate longing I felt as a mother of four young boys, living life as an overseas Christian worker. I needed silence. I needed solitude. I needed God—without noise, demands, or decisions. Thanks to the urging of a friend, I got away with God to refresh my soul.

What I didn't know then was that what I was craving had a name, and a long history. Christians have practiced spiritual retreat for two thousand years. Even Jesus modeled it: *"He often withdrew to lonely places and prayed"* (Luke 5:16).

A spiritual retreat doesn't have to be elaborate. It can be three hours in a quiet park, an afternoon in a friend's backyard, or a day or more at a retreat center. What matters is intentional, unhurried time alone with God—away from responsibilities, screens, and the noise of daily life.



Photo by Daniel Jurin

Here's what I've learned in taking retreats with God over the years:

- **Start small.** A three-hour retreat is enough to begin.
- **Choose a place** that invites solitude and stillness — a beach, a trail, a chapel, or a quiet garden.
- **Bring only what draws you toward God** — your Bible, a journal, perhaps some worship music.

If you're ready to try, I've created a free downloadable retreat guide to help you get started. Use part of it for a shorter retreat, or if you have more time.

**Take a moment to Ponder:** What would it mean for your soul to have even one afternoon alone with God?

[ScriptureUnion.org/spiritualretreat](https://ScriptureUnion.org/spiritualretreat)  
or scan QR code



# MEET ELFRID A Bridge Story

**E**lfrid served faithfully in ministry for years alongside his father. Then a vehicle accident left him hospitalized. Lying in the hospital, feeling deep emptiness, someone told him it was time to give an account to God. God began to heal him through the encouragement of friends, family, and the body of Christ. He rushed back into ministry without resting, and stumbled.

At BRIDGE, Elfrid found rest, community, and a renewed trust in God.

*“Regardless of culture, language, or context, God is our Father. I finally managed to rest and fully trust in God’s sovereignty.”*



*“I began the new year with stress, discouragement, and guilt.” Then came BRIDGE 2026...*

Each session helped Elfrid exercise integrity in leadership through serving others.

His BRIDGE family surprised him with a 25th birthday celebration. *“I tangibly experienced God’s love. That gesture was a balm of joy in the midst of my process.”*

*BRIDGE equips and empowers this generation to BE disciples and lay Christ-centered foundations in an experiential and mentored setting so they may serve as disciple makers for life, serving in Jesus’ Great Commission.*

## BRIDGE 2026

This summer, there will be another SU LLI BRIDGE program, a hands-on disciple maker training in California from June 27 – July 13, 2026, where you’ll grow through mentored spiritual retreat, be equipped to disciple the way Jesus did—in the context of real relationship — and then put it all into practice serving alongside a team in community outreach.

Learn more at [www.leadershiplabinternational.org/bridge](http://www.leadershiplabinternational.org/bridge) and apply for 2026!



**USA  
TODAY™**

**SPECIAL EDITION  
EASTER  
2026**

Did you see our promotion for **TIMELANDERS®** and *Encounter with God* in the USA Today Easter issue? We want more people across the United States to hear about our Bible engagement resources for children, families, and adults.

**Help us spread the word!** Share a post about **TIMELANDERS** or *Encounter with God* on your



THIS EASTER

**Give them a story  
bigger than the bunny.**

Make this the Easter your family starts exploring faith together. TIMELANDERS magazine for the kids. Bible guides for you.

AGES 8-11

**TIMELANDERS**

The Bible adventure magazine they'll actually want to read.

COMICS PUZZLES  
ART STICKERS



FOR YOU

**BIBLE GUIDES**

Daily readings that bring Scripture into real life.

DAILY REFLECT



GET YOURS

[www.ScriptureUnion.org/easter](http://www.ScriptureUnion.org/easter)

**scriptureunion**  
HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY

SCAN CODE



favorite social media platform—whether it’s Facebook, Instagram, or X, and tag us so we can celebrate together. The more people who hear about these

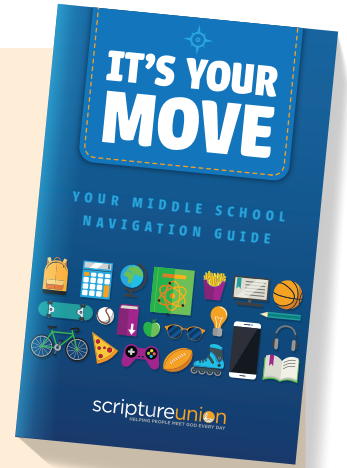
resources, the more lives we can impact. A simple share from you could be the reason a family discovers a whole new way to engage with the Bible.

## BIG CHANGES AHEAD? WE'VE GOT A BOOK FOR THAT.

The jump from elementary to middle school is one of the biggest transitions in a young person's life—new building, new faces, new expectations. *It's Your Move* helps young students navigate it all with confidence and faith.

Packed with practical tips, real-life stories from students who've been there, and Bible reflections that remind young readers God is with them through every change, *It's Your Move* has been a trusted companion for young people around the world for over 25 years (revised for the US in 2022). Inside, kids will find advice on everything from making friends to handling homework—plus puzzles, quizzes, and space to make the book their own.

Whether you're a parent preparing your child for the fall, a church looking to partner with a local school, or a grandparent searching for the perfect end-of-year gift, *It's Your Move* is the resource you've been looking for.



## Historical Treasure Finds New Home

Roger Green, one of the founding fathers of our beach ministry across the East Coast in United States, was affectionately called by his beach name “Kiwi.” Every leader on the beach team receives a chosen special name, uniquely theirs. Roger came to Canada and the United States from New Zealand, which is how he earned his. He was gifted this hand-stitched remembrance of the CSSM ministry by leaders “Seaweed and Driftwood.” A favorite song, still sung today on beach outreaches, and the iconic beach “pulpit” with the message “God is Love” that is built on shorelines around the world, a replica of the first one imagined.

After his passing, Roger’s son wanted to be sure this remarkable Scripture Union memory had a permanent place in our new ministry home. Roger had kept it close all these years.



We're grateful to have received this addition to our office, connecting our past to our present. The same gospel message shared on beaches generations ago continues to transform lives today.



Honor or remember your family, friends, and loved ones by making a “Salt and Light” donation to Scripture Union. [ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight](http://ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight)

IN HONOR OF:	GIVEN BY:
Adrian Brown	Yvonne Vitale
Skylar Brown	Yvonne Vitale
Barbara Emerson	Anonymous
Sean Ewart	Anonymous
Gordon and Nancy Haresign	Anonymous
Mildred Webber-Holmes	Gail Martin
Mildred Webber-Holmes	Mary Russell
Liz Kornak	Richard Hasselbach
Sharon Sacks	Asher Martin

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
Gordon (Skip) Giorgio	Ms. Darlene Zuehl
Willie Hamilton	Anonymous
Gordon and Nancy Haresign	Anonymous
Kellie Kirkpatrick	Mrs. Vicki Kirkpatrick
Paul Nichol	Mrs. Anne Nichol
Elizabeth Nygren	Ruth Nygren Keller
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