

# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: APRIL 2015



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*Psalms 119: 105—Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*



## Editorial: Inspired by and with God



### Inside this issue:

Our people serving with 2 Scripture Union
Snippets of our work 3-4 this month
When young people 5 Unite
YouthNited pictorials 6
Testimony of Derek 7 Derenalagi
April in Pictures 8
Inspirational Corner 9
News and Prayer Cor- 10 ner, Partnership

April was an inspirational month for me. I am inspired by the many young people who serve in Scripture Union, by the staff and of course the Council members who sacrifice so much of themselves so that this work of school ministry can continue. These are people who work with minimum [see Pg3] but achieve much as they keep their eyes and faith on Jesus Christ. I was also inspired by the testimonies of Derek and Ana Derenalagi [see Pg7] whose testimonies challenge my own ministry and service to Christ. I am inspired by the YouthNited event [Pg 3-6] and the many young people that gave their lives to the Lord as a result of the sacrifices of our team of volunteers who prayed, planned and financed the event. I am inspired by our ministry partners who often give unselfishly to support the ministry of Scripture Union every month [see Pg 10] and to

ensure that SU Fiji keeps its doors open for ministry work. The resilience, faith and patience of these people inspire us to keep on doing what we're doing for Jesus. And of course, my biggest inspiration is the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who calls us into this mission field. I often wonder to myself what an honor and privilege to serve the King of kings in such a calling. Christ love, life and humility inspires me to live, love and serve. Through the pages of this Newsletter, I see inspirational stories; inspirational people (representing other inspirational people whose stories we have yet to write) and an inspirational God and I pray that you will find it also as you browse through the pages of Faith Seed. So friends, brew a cuppa, sit back and be blessed as you journey with us into April through the pages of this newsletter bringing to you our ministry, our passion and our love for Jesus in every story and faces in this month's piece. Be blessed

## Truez Up: YouthNited 2015—a success



*Nausori Zone doing their action song at Youth Nited 2015.*

### Special points of interest:

- Past Newsletters and Information of SU, visit us on <http://scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/>
- To volunteer with SU through one of its programs, don't hesitate to talk to us.
- To be a Financial Partner with SU, see back of this newsletter

The YouthNited [YN] event is one of Scripture Union's key outreach program for Term 1. The aim, is to provide through this event, the opportunity for young people to come and worship together on the closing night of the Coke Games. It is known that because this is also the beginning of the school holidays, the end of the athletics games signals parties, drinking and related vices that often entangles young people. However Scripture Union hopes that in staging this program, it gives students the only real op-

tion of finding fulfilment, purpose and hope in their lives. The program is about young people ministering to other young people. They use the opportunity to share about the experiences they have found in Christ Alone, with the hope that it will touch and inspire other young people to choose Christ. For the 2015 YN [see pages 3-6], the event would be a memorable one for many, especially those that made their life changing decision to surrender their lives to the Lord; Life in Christ, TRUEZ Up indeed.

## Our people serving with Scripture Union

### Master Mika; Dancer, Speaker, Teacher, Preacher, Leader and Father

Master Mika Mudreilagi is the Principal of Basden College, the National Director of the ICEJ Ministry, a lay preacher of the Methodist Church in Fiji, a worship dancer who once led the World Festival of Praise dances and currently a member of the Scripture Union Council. His most visible role is being the Father to his 6 children and other spiritual children. With the many hats he wears ably, this prolific follower of Jesus Christ has impacted the lives of many young people over the years. He remains a role-model and a spiritual mentor, offering advice, counselling, and care to many young people who are pushed away from their homes, depressed, lost and often confused. His powerfully charged and insightful sermons have also challenged many people in their walk with the Lord with many more attesting to giving their heart to the Lord through his preaching. So what is it about Master Mika that makes him balance his roles with ease and without complaining or the usual excuses of busyness to distract his ministries. It is his own passion and commitment to the Lord. Master Mika knows the value of quiet time, of reading His Bible and spending time with God which then allows him to function in the roles that he does. His many roles are a testimony of his own heart, his life and his own passion and zeal for Jesus Christ. He was this month's speaker at the Youth-Nited [See Page 6] and all this hats that he wears was clearly visible that night.



### William Pau'u inspired to inspire

William Pau'u joined the SWG this year because he saw amongst his peers a "zeal that each leader had for Jesus". Their faith "inspired me a lot and that was something I longed for, to associate myself around people on a common ground and that is serving God." he said. William has attended six SU camps and just being with like minded leaders is something he values, a "decision that I have never regretted" he said. In being inspired, William wishes to inspire young people and reminds them to "make wise decisions; your destiny is not based on the future, but rather on your decisions today." William's passion for the Lord will definitely inspire his peers and many others.

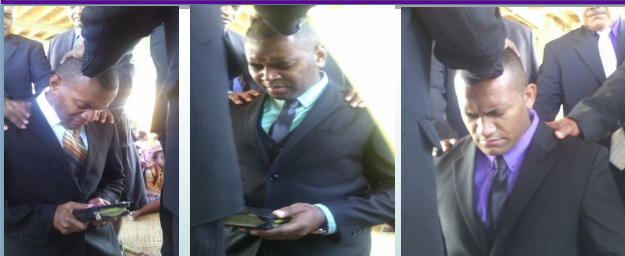


### Leading by example - Olivia shines



Olivia Melissa is a young leader whose passionate about her faith and serving in various youth movement including national ones. However in 2010, Oli responded to an invitation to attend a SU camp from a friend to escape some issues she was going through. "This camp blew me away, it was a life changing camp for me and it was as if God wanted me to be there for that...I gave my life at this camp, and along the way with trials and temptations, I fall but I repent, picked up the pieces and rose back again," Oli said. Since then Oli wants to share her story to young people to encourage them in their own journey and struggles while teaching them to walk faithfully with God.

### Young volunteers ordained as pastors of their church



Three of SU's volunteers in the Western division were this month ordained as pastor's of their church. Two of the volunteers, missionaries Meli Tui and Apenisa Ciwa [see Jan-Feb newsletter] are active members of the volunteers team in the West. As pastors of the All Nations Christian Fellowship, they are currently based in the Western division and may continue their mission calling in Cambodia later in the year. These young men are testimonies of the impact that SU as a ministry has had on many young people whose journey with the Lord began through their involvement with SUIIS and later on as volunteers for Scripture Union and also their local church. We pray every success for the young pastors as they do exploits for the Lord.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, Col 3:23

## Snippets of our work this month

### Finance Team raises funds for Scripture Union's Term 2 Ministry

As people flocked into the YouthNited event, the Finance Team was busy with preparing and selling hot-dogs and tea to hungry worshippers. The finance team is responsible for raising funds to support Scripture Union's activities and mission. These income generating activities assist in sustaining the ministry and have allowed us to meet our financial commitments. While Scripture Union is funded solely from the goodwill of ministry friends and partners, this is often variant depending on a number of factors and often the finances per month does not meet all our costings for the month. Activities are planned without funding allocation because there are often no funds coming in to support the activity, but the faith element of our work allows us to organize and carry out the activities, which in most cases happen. The result is that in most of these activities, young people have the opportunity to come together at our events and be blessed, or have their lives changed. The finance team continues to invite friends to partner with us [see page 10 for more details]. All SU activities are privately financed through fundraising and partnerships.



### Build up to YouthNited



It was a mixture of late night of planning, praying and ensuring that the program for YouthNited ran smoothly. There were also pockets of fundraising as leaders scrambled to raise funds to pay for zone-t-shirts and related costs including bus-fares etc. The leaders faith and sacrifices behind the scene was encouraging which included the weekend of practices to ensure that students came united for the event. It was a tireless month of personal sacrifices and service to the Lord for all our Volunteers.

### School Visitations steps up

April signifies the end of the first school term and yet towards the school holidays, volunteers continued to faithfully visit schools to share with students and or teach them worship dances. To Tailevu, Nausori, Nasinu, Suva and Western schools, our volunteers were excited and blessed to share fellowship with students at these zones.



### Minister for Health speaks at SWG Prayer Breakfast



The Minister for Health, Hon. Jone Usumate was the guest speaker at a SWG Prayer Breakfast held on Saturday 17 April. Speaking on the theme, Kingdom Innovation, the Minister encouraged young people about the importance of excelling and succeeding. "Kingdom Excellence is about excelling in the Kingdom of God" the Minister said. His encouragement was premised around three themes, discipline—knowing what is right and doing what is right, watching what one chooses to focus on, emphasising that we read people's values by watching their actions and excellence. The event was well attended

*Selfishness is when we pursue gain at the expense of others. But God doesn't have a limited number of treasures to distribute. When you store up treasures for yourself in heaven, it doesn't reduce the treasures available to others. In fact, it is by serving God and others that we store up heavenly treasures. Everyone gains; no one loses. — Randy Alcorn*

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, Col 3:23

## Snippets of our work this month

### Uniting students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*Suva students after an item practice at the SU Office in*



Towards the last few weeks of Term 1, committed and dedicated SU Volunteers labored under a vision of uniting students under the Gospels through combining schools in Zones and teaching students within these zones action songs for the Youth-Nited Outreach night [see Pg 6]. Zoning included Tailevu, Nausori, and Suva zones. This was the first time for students in these schools to learn action songs and minister as a group. In the past, students represented their schools and this continued in some sense the competition from the Coke Games. However by ministering as one, students were able to come together in unity and encourage one another. It was a blessed night as students broke down school walls and ministered about the love of Jesus Christ through their items. People were blessed with the items and touched by the unity displayed that night.

### Funding the YouthNited.

The end of April saw a hype of activities as volunteers, met, prayed for and strategized on the YouthNited activity held at the National Gymnasium in Suva. The event was a success as many young people made the decision to give their lives to Christ. However the weeks leading up to this night of power and victory was one of commitment, passion and dedication. The event is funded by the volunteers through fundraising activities like Prayer Breakfast, Tea Fellowship and seeking of sponsorship to ensure that the event is held. SU is praying that Christian companies, churches and partners will be able to step forward and journey with us on this event to ensure that young people are given this better option of celebrating Jesus rather than resorting to reckless partying, alcohol, and other forms of peer pressure on the night of the Coke Games. We envision a bigger YouthNited event in 2016, so do partner with us on this.



Tea Fellowship to raise funds for Youth Nited 2015



Young people pray for Youth Nited 2015

### Tailevu Zone inspired and Naiyala joins SU Ministry

Naiyala Secondary School in Tailevu joined the YouthNited for the first time this year. Volunteers journeyed to the secondary school in Wainibuka, Tailevu to encourage them in the



SUI Volunteer, Semisi Navuda shares to students

WORD and also teach them action song in preparation for YN 2015. Together with RKS and QVS, the Tailevu zone is also one of the largest SUI representatives in schools. All schools have active Christian Fellowship groups held in their respective schools and our Volunteers plan to continue their visits to schools in Term 2.

*Stand still” – keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, “Go forward.” – Charles Spurgeon*

## When Young People Unite [YouthNited]

There is something about youthfulness that inspires. Their passion, energy, creativity and within Scripture Union, their faith. The Youth Nited [Youth Unite] event is one of the biggest outreach programs for Scripture Union, and it is a program by young people for young people, reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Chairman, Sitiveni Kalou said that, the program would be a *“powerful, non-stop, mind blowing and life changing four hour program that will see thousands of young people from different walks of life not only come together to celebrate God’s goodness in a venue and atmosphere that is free of alcohol, drugs and rivalry; but equally important it will also be an avenue where they will be challenged, encouraged and hopefully inspired; to be the best that they can be as an individual and a responsible member of society.”* When the young people then gathered that night, there was a saturation in the atmosphere that just drew them into the presence of the Lord. The altar call that was made, drew in many young people as they responded to the word that was shared by the Speaker, Master Mika Mudreilagi about life in Christ Jesus. It was a sight to behold as they said yes to the Lord with tears streaming down their faces.

At a time when society feels like we are losing many of our young people to the moral decays of the time, such events reminds us that the battle is far from over. It demonstrates the hope that young people have in Christ Jesus when they choose Him over self. Further the gathering at the event, was a gathering of young people with the curiosity to experience the youth event or for others, the excitement of sharing their faith, but whatever the motive, there is something powerful that happens when young people unite. The Psalmist said, *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sits in the seats of mockers, but whose delight is in the word of the Lord”*, and as young people unite at YouthNited, there was a sense of blessings and purposes as they began to discover fullness of life in Christ. We look forward to our next programs as we see young people unite with the common purpose of knowing Christ and making Him known.



*“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.” — John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life*

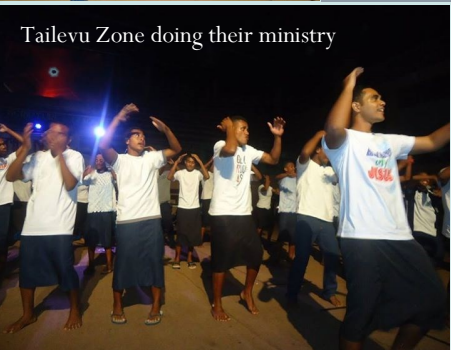
# Pictorial Testimonies

## YouthNited Outreach; reaching out to young people

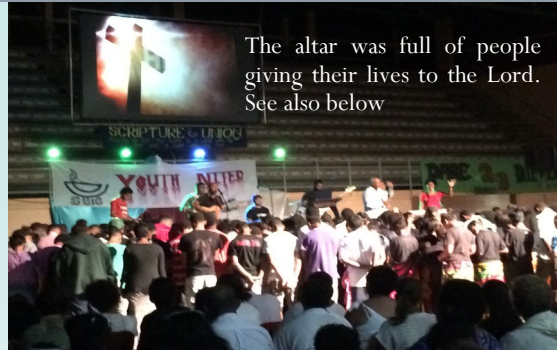


The Derenalagi's share powerful testimonies at a Q & A session at the Youth Nited

The 2015 YouthNited with the theme, "TRUEZ UP" was held on the night of the Coke Games, arguably the biggest secondary school athletics competition in the South Pacific. Speaker, Basden School Principal and SU Council Member, Mst Mika Mudreilagi delivered a power charged Word that not only encouraged but spoke into the lives of the packed auditorium that night. As the altar call was made, hundreds of people left their seats and made their way to the altar and gave their heart to Jesus. It was a powerful time of ministry as tears streamed down the faces of the many young people that night as the message hit home a powerful declaration of God's love. Also sharing their testimonies were the Derenalagi's [ see page 7]. Equally powerful were the action songs showing creativity, passion and ministry in Christ. *Truez Up* is a message of, a matter of fact, in that fullness of life can only be found in Christ. *Truez up* is also about young people telling their peers to give Jesus Christ a try. He won't disappoint and that's a *Truez Up* fact.



Tailevu Zone doing their ministry



The altar was full of people giving their lives to the Lord. See also below



*Acts 2:7 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions"...*

## Derek Derenalagi encourages SU gathering



Credit: Humans of Fiji Facebook

Derek and Ana Derenalagi are sought after speakers in Fiji and the world generally. Apart from Derek's faith and courage complemented by that of his wife Ana, when they relate their experiences in the "valley of the shadows of death" is their own love for life and Christ. To get to their testimony, one has to understand their story, particularly how the Nadi man and committed Christian found his way to serve in her Majesty's armed forces of the British Army. Derek's journey from Fiji was filled with struggles and the challenges including not being able to complete his education as a result of his own personal struggles and impoverished background. However today the couple have



With Prince William



With Prince Harry

as their audiences the movers and shakers of society including the British royal family, political leaders, business people and professionals including here in Fiji an audience to the Fiji Lawyers Christian Fellowship.

*"it does not matter who you are and where you come from if you have dreams, believe and work towards it." Derek Derenalagi, Fiji Times 2013*

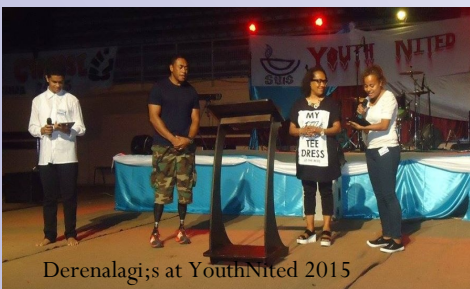
The SU Newsletter team was part of three of the Derenalagi's speaking engagement in Fiji recently, hearing first hand their testimony from the bomb explosion in Afghanistan in 2007, that caused massive injuries to Derek. The horrific description of that event will not only linger in the lives of the Derenalagi but for the many listeners to



their powerful testimony of survival, faith, love, commitment and endurance [follow his testimony on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAX9ODZYok>]. From the ashes of the bomb, the determined Derenalagi's rose and challenged their listeners of the joy in serving Christ. His first few words to his wife after recovering from his coma and upon seeing the extent of his injuries was, "let us thank God, let us thank Jesus that I am alive today...let's start again". The miracles of that "starting again" is now visible as the Derenalagis' move



crowds and audiences with their testimony of courage and faith. Further Derek has since gone on to win medals for Great Britain in the Paralympic sports. Derek shares to *Humans of Fiji* that "what happened to me was not a setback. It was step forward. My injury has given me so many opportunities. I'm still a serving soldier and have discovered my Paralympic abilities. I represented Britain in the discus at 2012 Paralympics. I made it to the final, but stepped on the white line and was disqualified. I won gold though at the European Championships. The injury has given me the opportunity to motivate others facing challenges and adversity. No matter what it is, how hard it is, don't give up!"



Derenalagi:s at YouthNited 2015

It is Derek and Ana's testimony of courage and hope that challenges and inspires as they remain optimistic and committed to the cause of Jesus Christ. Even without legs, Derek is praising the Lord and being an effective evangelist with his wife Ana, for Christ. Their inspirational courage and faith is challenging their listeners that our lives have purpose if it is aligned to God's sovereign will and plans.

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened. [Billy Graham](#)

## Scripture Union's APRIL in pictures



Volunteers preparing t-shirt prints for YouthNited. Most of the t-shirts were designed and printed here by the Suva Volunteers.



YouthNited Prayer Breakfast in Suva



Volunteers on school visitation to Dilkusha High School



Students at Basden College learning their Zone item for YouthNited 2015.



Pastor Tululu, our Western Coordinator leads devotion at the Ratu Navula secondary School's assembly held at the school. Pastor Tululu regularly leads devotion on the invitation of the school principal.



SU Volunteers who are also students at the Medical School hosted a Easter Production for staff and students at the Medical School on the weekend before Easter. Medical School CF President, Bro Keni Baro is also a committed SWG member. Others are Betty, John, Sony [Vice President SWG], Ben and Oli and other



Tailevu Zone leaders on a Saturday morning at QVS. They were in Naiyala Secondary on Friday to fellowship and teach students the Tailevu Zone item, headed down to QVS where they taught students and spend the night at the SUIIS Teacher's residence before heading to RKS on Saturday to teach the students there.



Scripture Union Volunteers do an Israeli action song at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) celebration of Passover on April 4. Council member Mst Mika is also National Director of ICEJ Fiji.



***Deuteronomy 15:10—Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.***



## Inspirational Corner; 57cents church

### [A True and Inspiring Story](#) by Author unknown

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it "was too crowded." "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class. The child was so touched that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings and the parents called for the kind hearted pastor, who had befriended their daughter, to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note scribbled in childish handwriting which read, "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday school. For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, [he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion](#). He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building. But the story does not end there! A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a Realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered it for 57 cents. Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00 a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300 and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of Sunday scholars, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time. In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russel H. Conwell, author of the book, "acres of Diamonds"---a true story. It goes to show you "What God CAN Do With 57 Cents."

*"I can't go to  
Sunday School,  
"she sobbed to the  
pastor as he  
walked by. ..."*



***"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." — John Wesley***



# Scripture Union

## Scripture Union Office

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Scripture Union 50th Anniversary  
SWG Central Tukutuku; SUIS Campers  
SUIS Lautoka SWG; Western Fiji SUIS

## Prayer Wall

- SUIS groups present in 62 schools. And pray that all schools will be open to SUIS.
- Volunteers and Leaders including Council and Trustees of SU and our work in schools
- SU movements regionally and globally.
- Students as they enjoy their school holidays to remain connected to the Vine.
- Scripture Union's Ministry in Term 2 including finances to support our ministry
- SU Office for wisdom and leadership as we expand our ministry

## News Board

- Planned Ministry Prayer Breakfast for May 30. Venue to be advised in due course
- SU will be registering volunteers soon with the TRB. All volunteers to please give your details to the office.
- School visitations resume when school starts in two weeks time.
- For any visits to schools or any news update of SU, contact the SU office in Suva or follow us on Facebook.

## Partner with Scripture Union Fiji's vision for schools and families

The work of Scripture Union is privately funded by those who prayerfully consider giving to support our work in student ministries. Unlike the church or organisations whose funding is from established sources, SU has to rely on the good will of friends to be able to meet its financial obligations such as paying rent, bills, programs such as rallies, camps, schools visitation and a range of activities to encourage our children in schools on a monthly basis. Every year the cost of student ministry increases and so are the challenges and struggles that young people are dealing

*SU is in the fore front of impacting the next generation of young people for the Lord.*

with. The pressure to raise children who know God through the Bible is not complete without introducing young people to the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. This is our work as Scripture Union and despite the many financial challenges over the years, we have held onto this important part of our work by going into schools to minister and inspire young people to make right choices about their lives. This is where your faith seed will go into amongst others. It is about investing in the life of our children so that they can know Christ and make Him known. We know that our financial investment in this regard is secured in eternity.

In considering whether to partner with Scripture Union one of our current partners stated that,

*"I believe that the few dollars I put into the work of SU may not be much, but I am inspired to know that this investment will change a life and that for me is an eternal investment worth making."* To see lives change is a blessing. Scripture Union is in the forefront of impacting the next generation of young people for the Lord. By investing in Scripture Union's work, we are investing into the next generation of Christian leaders, pastors, civil servants, NGO workers and the nation as a whole as we challenge and raise up the next generation of champions for Jesus Christ. This investment is probably the best one can make as we partner together in this Great Commission in schools and especially so in our nation. Our partners have a choice to give a one of sum, give weekly, fortnightly or monthly. A seed varies from a widow's mite of \$10 to a family's annual pledge of \$1000. To date there are about 30 pledge partners supporting SU's ministry in Fiji and we are grateful for the sacrifices and commitments made, allowing us to strengthen our outreach and missions to schools. Thank you for your partnership and for giving to the Lord through SU Fiji.

*"As base a thing as money often is, yet it can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor. It can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality." A Tozzer*