

# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: AUG 2014

Email: [sufijiartnership@gmail.com](mailto:sufijiartnership@gmail.com)



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



## The way forward for Scripture Union Fiji



### Let's let God back in our schools!



#### Inside this issue:

Our people serving 2  
with Scripture Union

Snippets of our work 3  
this month

SU West Camp Review 4-5  
and Pictures

Testimonies: Fine Dito- 6  
ka

Scripture Union's Au- 7  
gust in Pictures

Story Corner: Don't 8  
Quit, Keep Playing

Scripture Union Part- 9  
nership; Why Not?

#### 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

Next month, we go to the polls; our first in 8 years. For the majority young voters, this will be their first election and many are excited to cast their vote. Throughout this past few months, we have heard so many promises and aspiring politicians talking to us about what they intend to do in parliament. We now have a constitution that makes us a secular state, our first such declaration since the missionaries

arrived in our shores. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education through one of its officers informed schools that Christian activity can no longer be part of schools extra curricular activities. This has since been clarified and rectified with an advice from the Solicitor General's office and schools are free to continue Christian Fellowship activities as long as it is not imposed. As a Christian ministry serving in Fiji for the past 50 years, we have seen many young people make lifelong decisions to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. They have contributed significantly in this nation's development in the government, business, private sector and the church. SU does not impose Christianity on young people but through its ministry gives them that choice and those that chose Christ, testify of being a new creation and a sense of purpose. One of the best decision of my life was choosing Christ in high school, 20 years ago.

## The Christian State debate; A voter's personal dilemma

Politicians, newspapers and the social media continue the stir on whether Fiji should be a Christian State. While the constitution recognizes a secular state, that has not gone down well with many people. Some have accepted the status quo and still others don't even know what the fuss is about. But it was Christianity that changed our islands, that caused our ancestors to throw down the war clubs and take up the Bible. George Washington, the first US President US said, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." In his contribution to this debate, former legal advisor and aspiring politician, Filimoni Vosarogo stressed that, *Without a doubt, Christian principles and values have shaped this*



*nation. Moral standard of service, its penal laws, its health social development policies have all been shaped and influenced by Christian principles.* At a time when young people are looking for leadership and the nation is on the cross roads of choosing a government, one of the issues that will determine the votes of young Christians will be this very issue. It is trite that a Christian state does not mean enforcing Christian values and beliefs, rather it is about ensuring that as a nation, we have a strong moral compass to direct us on our journey.

The Christian State debate will remain a crucial one for many voters even after the votes are cast. Christian values of love, forgiveness, dignity, and hope are what we want in our government. By the next newsletter, we would have elected our new government and the questions remains on whether this issue will be a crucial one in

## Our people serving with Scripture Union

### Scripture Union Trustees



Ms Naiyaga

Earlier this year, 3 of Scripture Union's long term supporters agreed to come on board and become registered Trustees of the ministry. Apolosi Vosanibola is a pharmacist by profession and is married to Caroline. Mr. Usaia Tukana, a lay preacher of the Methodist Church is married to Mariana, the former Treasurer of SU and Mrs. Rokobua Naiyaga, an educator is the



Mr and Mrs Tukana



Mr. Vosanibola

third member of Trustees. Our trustees are serving the Lord faithfully in the ministry especially in its challenging times and SU is blessed to have their wisdom, leadership and commitment. The work of the Trustees is to provide general counsel and advice and they are committed to working with young people.

### Teri Kempe: SU's new Council Secretary

She left retirement and the comforts of home in Australia to move and volunteer in Fiji. She is currently based with the Basden College in Kinoya as a volunteer with the college.

Teri Kempe was elected to the SU Fiji Council Secretary earlier this month and has come to serve at an important time of SU's ministry. She is passionate and finds her heart with

SU spending doing what she loves. There is no slowing down for this passionate and committed woman and SU is blessed to have Teri as its new council secretary.



### Romulo Nayacalevu: SU's new Council Chairman

In assuming the Chairmanship of Scripture Union, Romulo Nayacalevu reflects on his personal journey with God and attributes much of that to his decision to give his life to Jesus through the ministry of SUIS in high school.



The exact year was 1993. Since leaving high school, he has served with SU and continues to do so today, because of the impact and the many people that since have come to know Christ through the SU

Ministry. The strength of SU is the many people that serve Christ unselfishly in this work. They sacrifice so much so that one more person can find life in Christ and for Romulo, there can be no greater calling than this.

### Petero Cakau: Scripture Union's Vice Chairman of Council



SU is blessed with dedicated volunteers like Petero Cakau who has served with SU for over 20 years. Petero's home in Nadi is open to many young people in transi-

tion. A flight attendant by profession, Petero's commitment sees him arriving in Nadi from his flights and often getting on the next transport up to Suva to attend the monthly meetings before heading back to Nadi for an-

other flight the next day. Petero was elected the Vice Chairman, a befitting position for this servant leader, whose humility and love for God is unquestionably tangible in his own life. He was elected SU's vice chairman.

## Snippets of our work this month

### Scripture Union Fiji’s partnership with SU Northern Territory and SU South Australia

SU Fiji is blessed with the prayer and financial support of its sister movement, SU Northern Territory and SU South Australia. Earlier this month, the two SU sister movements in Australia sent a love gift to support the work of SU Fiji. The love gift was a testament to us in Fiji of the Ever Providing hands of the Almighty as this generous gift came in time to support us in our financial recovery program. As we have reiterated in our previous newsletters and through our partnership program, SU as a ministry is able to do what it does not because of consistent funding from a dedicated source, but from the conviction of those that see value in our work amongst young children. The timely gift from Australia is a testament that serving God is about obedience, not focusing on ones ability, pockets or bank account but stepping out in faith and watching God provide. Our friends from SUSA and SUNT are answers to prayers and so is our 30 or so partners who tirelessly give to support our work. SU Fiji remains grateful to God who refuses to fail us and to our partners who listen to that voice and give to support SU, not necessarily out of their wealth, but out of their obedience. Thank you SUSA and SUNT.

### Feeding the hungry;

Earlier this month, Suva volunteers took to the streets of Suva to feed the homeless and the less fortunate. It may have not cost much but to these young people, it took a lot to make that sacrifice, yet they opened their hearts and lives to be able to give from their lack to the less fortunate. It was for

them an opportunity to extend their faith and step out in obedience to feed the hungry. Such faith, such commitment, such blessings as they reached out in faith.



### Praying for the nation and soldiers

With the news that shocked the nation of the capture of our soldiers; UN peacekeepers by rebels this last week, our volunteers posted a call for prayer on their Facebook pages and then had a prayer session committing the lives

Of our captured soldiers to the Lord. Volunteers’ Betty posted “I feel the urgency that we need to pray for the 43 soldiers...LORD BE WITH THEM” while Ilisoni stressed that, “I believe as a Christian, prayer is one of the most important elements of growing spiritually amongst youths and it also changes things.”

### Reading the Bible together

The Suva Volunteers meet weekly to study the Bible and pray. These young people, all attending university make time in their weekly schedules to encourage each other with the Word of God and testimonies. This was

a personal initiative of the group that continue to see growth not only personally but in their individual ministries. Many of them also belong to the University Christian fellowship groups and are leaders within their fellowship. The Bible studies is an opportunity for self-discovery, revelations and absorbing the Word and equipping them to face life’s

challenge together and individually.



*“To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map.”  
— William Carey*

## Snippets of our work this month

### Term 2 Western Schools Camp: A review

As students around the country enjoyed their 2 weeks schools break, at the Western division, about 100 young people were at Mulomulo Secondary School enjoying a weeklong camp organized by the Scripture Union Western Team. Pastor Apenisa Ralulu, one of our key volunteers in the west shared that the idea of the camp was birthed out of their leadership bible study where they felt strong leading to plant the Word of God in young people especially as they see the many challenges and trials that young people are going through in our nation. It was about encouraging them to know that God is still Sovereign over their circumstances. With a theme for the week, “Its All in You” and the Bible pacifier

from Colossians 1:27, “Christ in us the Hope of Glory”, the week was about encouraging young people to search within themselves and find the treasures that God has purposed them to be. Pastor Ralulu stressed that the camp was about reminding the young people that within the crowd are some of the “best authors yet to be read and best speakers yet to be heard,” and all that was needed was for that seed of the Word of

God to be planted into their lives. Most of the campers were empowered by the Word and responded to the challenge and the call to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. It was an emotional time for many as they came broken before the Lord. The sharing included themes such as “Discovering what's in me”, “Destined for Greatness”, “Value” and “Discover what else is in me” as the final message at the camp. For many young people, SU Camps have been platforms for them to forgive themselves for the enslavement of bitterness, anger and hurt because of their personal experiences, whether that is abuse or violence. Many others come to the camp, disempowered and broken and in most cases, it is the Word of God that begins that healing process for them. For Pst Ralulu and the team at this Camp, what was

clearly evident was the importance of challenging these young people about their destiny and purpose in Christ and watching God bring the Word alive for them. In reflecting on his own camping experience with Scripture Union, Pst Ralulu stressed that it was the 2002 SU Camp at Bucalevu where like these students, he met Christ and since then, his love for God has been his driving passion. Pst Ralulu recognises the impact of SU's ministry in many people's lives, him especially. Now he shares to many young people of this important truth he heard through his own camping experience. *“I take my hat of to all the volunteers and supporters of SUIS...lets keep on pressing on....and keep finding those that God will bring along our path”* was his final reflection of this camp as we continue our ministry with Scripture Union Fiji. SU's main Annual Camp will be in Levuka this December. **[See Camp photos on Page 5]**



*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"...*

## Western Camp PICTORIAL highlights



Japanese students also attended the Camp and enjoyed themselves

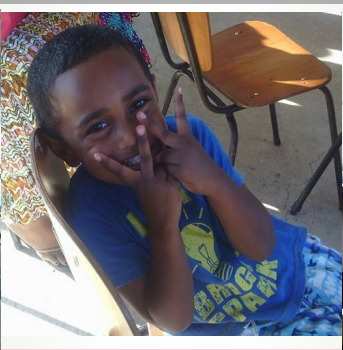


Photo Credit: Pst Elijah Varani and Volunteer Naomi Vakawaci

Sharing of the Word were powerful reflection times



Young boys loving camp as they express themselves confidently



Creativity and students reaching students at the camp.



Meal time, one of the volunteers preparing dinner

*"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate." Anonymous*

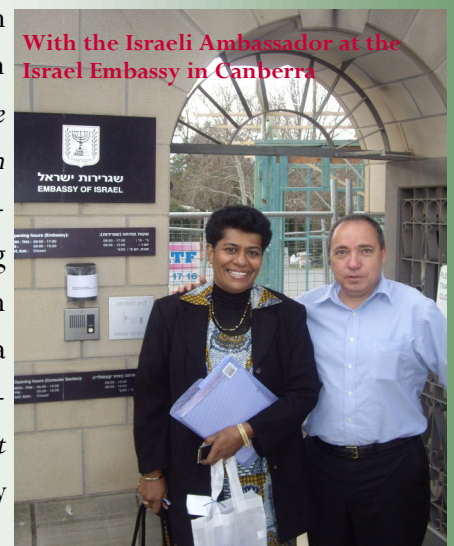
## Testimonies: Fine Ditoka's journey from Scripture Union to national politics

Esther Ditoka, the daughter of Fine Ditoka stated recently on a Facebook posting that, *“Known to her friends as Miss Fyne, to teens as auntie Fine, to the family as Na levu or Nei lailai BUT to me shes MUMMY”*. In retrospect, Fine Ditoka does wear many hats and the most visible is that of mum, not just to Esther, Josh and Davila, but to many young people who often crowd their flat at Beddoes Street in Samabula. What is remarkable about Fine amongst everything else is her commitment and passion for young people and her staunch faith. Fine was until recently the Secretary of the Scripture Union Council, a supporter of the Pacific Students for Christ ministry and a Council member of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ—Fiji Branch). She is also a dedicated member of her church at Grace Baptist Church in Valelevu. Her faith has been tested many times especially in the painful loss of her beloved husband, Joeli Ditoka about 7 years ago. Since then, this courageous woman, has had to raise her children and many others with only her Faith in Christ as her ultimate testament. These experiences have shaped her to be the person she is today. Often with very little to share, Fine has never closed her doors to any young person in need and one will always find young people at her home sharing with Josh and Esther a meal, a laugh or just the company. Such is the openness and love that comes from a woman who many fondly call Aunty Fine.



Early last month, Fine resigned to pursue her calling in politics. *“My decision to stand in this general election under the OneFiji party banner is based first and foremost on my spiritual conviction as a Christian and being obedient to God’s call in my life. I firmly believe without any doubt that this is a Divine Call to lead our people in rebuilding the “broken walls” here in our beloved nation of Fiji” she stressed.* SU Fiji accepted Fine’s resignation as we remain apolitical yet interested in the spiritual journey of our nation through the political process.

Fine’s involvement with Scripture Union started during the second term school holidays SU Camp in 1980. She was then a SUIS member at ACS and one of the youngest campers at the camp. *“The experience I had at the camp was inspirational, encouraging, and spiritually motivating, something I have treasured in my heart”* Fine said. Her work with young people remains one of her passion especially as she offers counselling, motherly advise and just inspiring them to succeed. *My advice to all young people is firstly, strengthen your intimate love relationship with God and Heavenly Father and guard your precious time with Him jealously. I urge you to read your Bible and feed from His Word daily, praying unceasingly.* SU Fiji is committed to Fine’s advise as it reaches out to young people and, many, like Fine many years ago who found their purpose in Christ during their CF days in schools. It was the late renown poet Maya Angelou (1928-2014) who summed up Fine’s life perfectly in these immortal words, *“I’ve learnt that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”*. Fine has a way of making people, especially young people feel empowered.



**Ms. Fyne’s full testimony can be read on: <http://scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/testimonies.html>**

*The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve. John Stott*

## Scripture Union's AUGUST in pictures



Suva volunteers took time out to climb Mt Korobaba for a time of fellowship and prayer earlier this month.



Repentance and reconnection with Christ was evident throughout the Western Camp as young people feel convicted by the Word and commit their lives to Jesus.



A young man surrenders his life to Jesus at the recent Nadi SU Camp



SUIS volunteer Semi Momoedonu shares with students at Lomaivuna High School earlier this month. He also shared with students about the Annual Camp in Levuka



Young Boys showing whose boss at the Western Division Term 2 Camp held at Mulomulo Secondary School in Nadi.



Empowered and Set Free, Young people praying for each other at a recent camp.



Our Suva Volunteers were also part of their University CF Annual Camp held at Nataleira this month. With the theme, "Intimacy", one of the speakers included Council Member, Mst Mika Mudreilagi, resident for the Medical School CF is Peni who is also the Assistant Secretary for the SWG.



Brotherhood and intercessions at a recent camp



SU Council meets once a month to discuss the progress of the ministry. At last months meeting, Fine Ditoka seen here with Mrs Emi Rabukawaqa presents her resignation as Secretary to the Council.



The smile says it all, after a powerful session at the recent SU Camp (left) and right, Japanese students were also part of the SU Western Camp.



SUIS continued in most schools this month

*"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him"*  
— John Piper

## Story Corner: Don't QUIT, Keep Playing - Author Unknown



Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit." Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience



was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."



Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful.

The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit." "Keep playing." May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the 'called.' Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire.



*[Photo Source: Naomi Vakawaci: SU West Term 2 Camp, August, 2014]*

**“Let go of what you think you know. Something amazing happens when you let God and trust.” — Tammy L. Kubasko**





### Scripture Union Office

Bible Society Buildings, 8-10 Luke Street, VATUWAQA



Phone: (679) 3383322



sufiji@connect.com.fj

Postal: P. O. Box 1278, Suva.

### Check us on:

[scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/](http://scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/)



Like us on Facebook Scripture Union Fiji



Scripture Union 50th Anniversary

SWG Central Tukutuku; SUIS Campers

SUIS Lautoka SWG; Western Fiji SUIS

### What about the Annual Camp?

Official Countdown: Approximately 90 days.



Nothing beats our camping experiences at SU. As western students completed their camp, the focus is now on the Annual camp in Levuka. For the western students attending the term two camp, it was a time of empowerment with the theme, "Its all in You" and with the theme, the sharing, the fun, sports, food, companionship and friendship, the most important was that many of them gave their hearts to the Lord Jesus and found a whole new identity and purpose in Christ. Camping is around the corner and it is time now to start planning and saving for Levuka 2014.

### 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 the work of 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 do the challenges and struggles that young people are confronted with.

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

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 the work of Scripture Union in schools 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 to young people about making right choices in 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 se-

cured 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 to the sacrifices and commitments to allow us to go into schools. Thank you for your partnership and for giving to the Lord through Scripture Union Fiji. May you be blessed.

*"That's what I consider true generosity. You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing." Simone De Beauvoir*