FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: FEB-MAR 2016



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

Editorial: Why Winston cant keep us down



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Special points of interest:

- Past Newsletters and Information of SU, visit us on h t t p : / / 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 for details. Plant a seed into this good harvest field.

Cyclone Winston left a path of devastation, destruction and pain when it left



Fiji on the weekend after 8 February and yet it also left us excited with God's sovereign plans which are still in motion for us in Fiji. In John 10:10, the Bible reminds us that the "devil comes to steal, kill and destroy" BUT God has come that we may

have life and life in abundance. That abundance is what we experience with God daily. It is the abundance of peace, joy, love, and security even in the midst of disasters and confusion. We know for sure that God will never fail us and we will recover from Winston or any other disaster that comes our way, our confidence is in our identity in Jesus Christ. While the devils' main plot is to cause destruction and keep us from experiencing God's best for us, we are people who will not give up too easily, because our confidence is in Christ. While many are picking up the pieces of their lives and mourning their loss, we offer a prayer for them and try and much as possible to be a blessings to them in any way we can. These past two months have made us stronger. It has given us assurances of a hope and victory especially as we celebrate Easter and what it represents for us. Death could not hold him, the grave could not keep Him, Christ is victorious over both. So despite Winston, we remain victorious and optimistic of the hope we have in Christ Jesus. We anticipate a great year still and continue to trust God with it.

Fanning the flame in the Northern division

SU's ministry in the North is dependent on availability and commitment of volunteers. Earlier this month. SU Volunteers, Semi Momoedonu and Semisi Navuda started a fellowship group with young people in Labasa. This has also led to Semisi a USP Labasa student eager to take on the work of assisting the ministry in coordinating our Northern outreach. Both Semi and Semisi led a range of fellowship whilst in Labasa and encouraged the young people in attendance to be excited for the Lord and take that into their schools. We are expecting the ministry in the



North to be consumed by the Holy Spirit's flames and we continue to pray for students in the North and our team ready to take on ministry in the North.



Our people serving with Scripture Union

SU Council starts the year with prayers and planning

The SU AGM was held on Saturday 13 February at the Salvation Army church in Suva. Trustees, Council Members and the SU family, came together to discuss the ministry, clarify issues and discuss strategic directions of the ministry. The AGM was an opportunity for the members to also hear from their leaders the ministry year in 2015 and the proposed plans for 2016. An annual event of SU, the AGM brings the ministry together to also thank the Lord for His leadership and guidance in the ministry year. The AGM heard considerable progress that have taken place within the ministry, including the consistent strengthening of the administration and finances of SU. The activities of 2015 included the YouthNited event that brought together over 1000 young people to the National Gymnasium in Suva for a night of Praise and Worship after the Coke Games. The term rallies at Suva Grammar School and RKS also drew in a crowd of voung people eager to grow their faith in the Lord. The Annual camp at Navuso continues to inspire and challenge. Scripture Union Fiji continues to transition and we prayerfully anticipate another wonderful ministry year. Scripture Union does not have a steady source of income, instead its ministry is largely a faith based one, relying on the



Top left (Lati Qoro (Treasurer); Laurel Vaurasi (Legal Adviser); Middle: Apolosi Vosanibola (Trustee) Right: Teri Kempe (Secretary); Sitiveni Kalou (Chairman); Bottom: SWG Volunteers

goodwill of its partners and ministry friends. Volunteers consisting of young university students who are the fruits of Scripture Union's ministry passionately serve the Lord by organizing SU ministry activities as well as visit schools during their free university times. The commitment and passion of all those that volunteer with SU remains the backbone of our work. These young people share their contagious faith to many eager young people who become champions of the faith in their schools. Despite these challenges, they keep us excited to serve in Ministry and the AGM provides the opportunity to reflect on these challenges, celebrate our victories, recognize our volunteers and acknowledge God for being omnipresent in our respective ministry areas and for blessing us with this calling to serve Him in the Great Commission in schools through Scripture Union Fiji.

Volunteers celebrate Children's Sunday at RKS



As children around the country celebrated Children's Sunday with loved ones, a team of volunteers travelled to RKS in Lodoni to minister at the school on the invitation of the school Chaplain, Rev Sailasa. The volunteers was led by their President. Vice President, Marica Tawake shared a word of encouragement and the team ministered in testimonies and worship dances. The volunteers also spent the Saturday pre-

paring together in anticipation for this visit. It was a powerful time of ministry to the RKS community as both volunteers and the RKS SUIS ministered together that day. Rev Sailasa on a Facebook post after the SWG visit shared that they were, "So blessed to have the SUIS SWG Tailevu Zone visiting us today. God is good". For the volunteers, the opportunity to minister and visit the RKS SUIS was a great honour of them as they celebrated together God's ever faithfulness.



Snippets of our work this month

Schools ministry continues as SU fellowships with students in schools

From schools in Tailevu, Nausori, Nasinu and Suva corridors, our group of volunteers and ministry team took to the schools to either launch SUIS fellowships for these schools or to share and encourage the different SUIS groups in their SUIS programs. The SUIS programs continue to attract a good number of students at the weekly fellowship times at the respective schools. This month, the National Director visited 5 schools in Suva. At Suva Grammar School, about 200 students attend the SUIS program; at Yat Sen about 300 students attended the Easter program; at Sila Secondary, 100 students attend the fellowship including Scripture Classes for forms 3 and 4. 25 students attended the John Wesley SUIS while Jai Narayan in which SUIS was previously disallowed had about 18 students join the privately organized SUIS fellowship. However the visitation of the National Director with the Principal at Jai Narayan saw an opening for the SUIS to formally organize at the school. The National Director acknowledged that each of the schools visited, the reception has been wonderful and a great opportunity to fellowship with students and teachers.



SUIS at RKS during their Children's Sunday

Requests also come in for the ministry to assist different SUIS programs. The western team have been committed to their ministry in west schools and the North have also started a fellowship (see Page 1) that will continue to grow. SU as a ministry



ND visits and joins the Suva Grammar School SUIS group. Here principal is sharing the



ND visits Sila Secondary School SUIS and launches their first SUIS for the year.



a fellowship (see Page SWG Volunteers Jale, John and Wise joins 1) that will continue to Basden College SUIS.

started in 1867 in England and it started in Fiji in 1962. Its growth and ministry over the years, have remained testimonies of God's provisions and leadership. We are excited for what God is doing

QVS invites volunteers to launch their SUIS fellowship

Two weeks before Cyclone Winston hit Fiji, a team of volunteers and the National Director were invited by the QVS Chaplain to launch their SUIS program for the year. The schools SUIS program is often launched by SU with items, testimonies, elections of executives and prayer of dedication. This was also the national director's first launching of the school's SUIS group. Cyclone Winston caused much damage to QVS and all of its students are now on temporary placement in various schools around the country. They continue to support each other through a special QVS SUIS page created on Facebook as well as being part of their adopted schools SUIS programs. QVS will reopen in October 2016.





Snippets of our work this month

Teachers Fellowship; raising Christian educators in our mission field

In 2015, Mrs Iva Teilai coordinated and organized a teachers fellowship at the SU office in Nabua. This was an attempt to revive the Teachers fellowship which has been non-existent for some time. The few teachers that gathered for that meeting, discussed their roles as Christian teachers and identified some challenges and ways to address them in their respective schools'



Christian fellowship. Later in the year, Mrs Teilai organized a follow up gathering at the Navuso High School on the backdrop of the annual camp. The first gathering for this year took place at the Term 1 rally at ACS. Present in the gathering were the different SUIS teachers who had come with their students. Also at the gathering was the Principal of ACS and Basden. The teachers discussed their important calling not just as SUIS

Teachers praying with students at Term one rally

teachers but as Christian teachers in their respective schools. It was a great time of reviving a dream, to build a fellowship for Christian educators where they can inspire, encourage and grow their faith in their mission field; the schools. Please continue to pray for the teachers fellowship.

Our Cyclone Winston Appeal; Being a blessings

Australia, NZ, China, Israel, Solomon Islands, Korea, Vanuatu,

Scripture Union in Fiji Cyclone Winston APPEAL * Stronger than Winston * We shall Rise again For details please contact Luisa Radaveta at the SU Office on Luke Street (Bible Society Buildings); on 3383322 or sufiji@connect.com.fj Facebook: Scripture Union 50 Anniversary Please bring in to the SU office those unused clothes, shows, bags or any other products that we can bless someone with during this rebuilding time.

Australian Foreign Affairs minister, Julia Bishop recently visited Fiji to witness the extent of Australia's relief assistance following Cyclone Winston. The final damages bill has yet to be determined, but preliminary cost on the 26th of Feb, puts this at \$650 million. The government brief as of March 1 is that 44 people had been killed by the cyclone, with about 53,635 people in evacuation centres and about 999 centres in operation. Over 100,000 homes were believed to have been damaged. As countries like

Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, India to name a few responded in cash and kind, many other groups also launched appeals. Scripture Union ministry also launched a small appeal which continues to date. We are encouraged by our responses and believe these will be a blessings to the recipients. After all, we are

positioned to be a blessings



Pic source: Australia Aid; Fijians saying thank you to an Australian service woman

Partnering together



SU Fiji is partnering with Seed-lings International to be a blessings to some families through our Cyclone Winston Appeal.

Seedlings International is one of SU's partners in ensuring that schools are resourced with bible based materials. Seedlings International Directors Les and Pat Markham and their friend Penni. brought smiles to the faces of students as they brought materials to the school during their school visits. Seedlings International has supported some primary schools in Fiji with Christian resources. They then purchased products and contributed it towards the SU Cyclone Appeal. We value our partnership with Seedlings International. Such a blessings



Snippets of our work this month

Western schools start their SUIS year celebrating God's faithfulness

Western Volunteer, Naomi Vakawaci was excited as she shared of the opening of the ministry year for SUIS in western schools. "We do have a great team here in the West. Our Executive member Petero Cakau encourages and continuously connects us back to the heart of God to reconnect the hearts of the many multi talented young people in the west that is to be visited somehow or the other. Through the Word of God and in prayer. Our education system being one of the pillars of the nation, and through Scripture Union In schools we are able to engage in it. Naomi also acknowledged the mentorship of Pastor Apenisa Ralulu and Brother Bill whose flat in Nadi hosts the weekly Bible Study. Naomi shared, "our weekly Bible study conducted by Pastor Apenisa Ralulu held every Tues-

days (Simla, Lautoka) and Wednesdays (Namaka) where young lives are trained and equipped and disciplined about their personal, intimate and dynamic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. To know Christ more and the power of His influence on earth. "The current leaders of our Western team include: Ra Rep. Pastor Ilaitia Varani who has been visiting Ra schools. Mereoni Madigi and Sakiusa Nakabu visits SUIS groups in Nadi schools. The team is supported by some Fiji

Airways staff who have also availed themselves to visit schools during their free schedules including Mrs. Rakoroi, Mrs. Nakalevu, Mrs. Marseu, Mrs. Tawaiyuna and other western workers." Naomi shared that "we like to acknowledge the SU office for their prayers and emails and SMS to Thank the team and to trust the western team in carrying the Gospel of the Kingdom Of God in schools." Naomi and Team West acknowledges that this year is a



year of Greatness and a year of Restoration not just for the west but for SU as a ministry. Please continue to pray for our work in the West and also our team of volunteers who serve God faithfully without remuneration or benefits. However to support them please contact the SU office in Suva.

SWG Volunteers part of the crowd to welcome the "Island of Rotuma

The President of Fiji, HE Jioji Konrote brought the experience and shared on the goodness of home Fiji Airways' newest A330 plane. Rapturous applause and excitement greeted the aircraft as it touched down at Nadi Airport and taxied up to the airline's Hangar facilities. Prime Minister Bainimarama and other Government Ministers joined Fiji Airways staff to welcome the aircraft.

A traditional Rotuman ceremony of welcome was accorded to HE the President, who stepped off the A330 as its first official guest. The aircraft has been christened 'Island of Rotuma', following Fiji Airways' naming convention for its fleet after Fiji's islands. Marica Tawake, Bill Siqila and Broderick Mervyn were some of the volunteers from Scripture Union that we privileged to be part of

the Almighty. They were in awe to see how God had orchestrated this event from the arrival of the new aircraft and a tour of the "Island of Rotuma". They also had the opportunity to meet his Excellency, Jioji Konrote.





Snippets of our work these two months

Term One rally at Adi Cakobau School; the week after Cyclone Winston

Adi Cakobau School hosted the Term 1 central zone rally on Saturday 5 March, a week after Cyclone Winston brought devastation to Fiji and destroyed many schools and homes. With the graciousness of the school Principal of ACS, the rally continued as an opportunity to bring students together for a time of fellowship, encouragement and empowerment. The planning which took about 3 days was held at the backdrop of the recovery efforts of Cyclone Winston and saw over 800 young people converge at ACS for a time of spiritual nourishment. Students prayed for the nation, prayed for other schools and just sought God at the rally. Council Member, Ms Lati Qoro shared, What an incredible time of prayer and fellowship! I was truly blessed by the passionate prayers of intercession rendered by the youthies. Thank You Lord for Your restoration in every fiber of our Nation's being! ND and Team, Bless you all for being relentless in your pursuit of Kingdom business! And Loraini Dagaga shared as the students prayed that, "where there is unity god COMMANDS his blessing."





Representing schools in the wider Suva-Nausori corridors, the central rally impressed upon the lives of the attendees the importance of making a choice for Jesus Christ in a world where young people are confronted with many worldly choices. Speaker of the rally, Pastor Lusi Leqa, also a former student of ACS, shared from Joshua 24:15. As the Word was shared and challenges made, many young people made a commitment to the Lord and gave their hearts to Him that day. As the students fellowshipped at the lower hall, the teachers also took time to have their own fellowship. Led by Mrs Iva Teilai, the fellowship focused on resourcing SUIS teachers on ministry strategies. The rally was timely and many left ACS that day, blessed, challenged and inspired.



Celebrating God in the midst of chaos; Term 1 rally fellowship



The Lord intends us to be powerful people-mighty in optimism and hopeful of spirit, powerful in evangelistic zeal, potent in influence, sturdy in moral fiber and purity. We can be powerhouses in prayer and preaching. ~ David Jeremiah



Rejoicing in God's presence; Term 1 rally at Adi Cakobau School



Yat Sen Secondary School SUIS group leads Easter service at school

The SUIS group at Yat Sen Secondary School hosted the schools Easter service on Thursday 24 March. The speaker was SU National Director who shared a passionate word to the school that morning. The service included students, teachers and parents with the school principal also challenging students about their spiritual life. SUIS teacher, Mrs Mataitini shared that SUIS is held weekly at the school with different groups leading the fellowship. A week earlier, Council Vice Chairman, Mr. Nayacalevu was invited to share a word at their SUIS fellowship, led by Year 13 students. Praise the Lord for YSSS





A Word; by the National Director, Mr. Nacanieli Tikoduadua

DON'T JUST HOPE YOU'LL GO TO HEAVEN...

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11-12 NIV). If you were to head out to a mall today and ask people if they are going to Heaven or Hell, you'll likely hear them say, "I hope I'll go to Heaven."

But hope just isn't good enough. I pray that's not your answer. Your eternal destiny is too important not to know for sure. Only a fool would be unprepared for what we all know is inevitable: 'death'.



The most recent statistics show that mortality rates in the world are 100 percent!

You're not guaranteed another minute on this planet, much less another hour. Don't put off the most important choice you'll ever make.

The Bible says in 1 John 5:11-12, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (NIV). That's about as clear as you can get. If you have Jesus, you have life. If you don't have Jesus, you do not have life. You have a choice.

You won't go to Heaven because of someone else's faith. You'll never go to Hell because of someone else's choice. It's your choice! You decide where you'll spend eternity.

This is why Christmas and Easter are so important. If Jesus hadn't come at Christmas and if he hadn't died and come back to life on Easter, we'd be hopeless. Nothing we do would matter. You wouldn't have this choice.

The cross is the answer to our deepest problem — our separation from God.

The Bible says, "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14).

God nailed everything that separated you from himself to the cross. But God won't force you to make the most important decision of your life. It's in your hands. It's time to choose.

POINTS TO PONDER...

- 1. How does the realization that you're not promised another second on Earth give an urgency to either your decision to follow Jesus or the decision your friends and family need to make?
- 2. Who in your life needs to read this message? How can you develop your relationship to a point where you can share this message with them?
- 3. If the decision to follow Jesus and have life or reject Jesus and not have life is so clear, why do you think it's hard for some people to make?

Prayer: I pray that the Lord will bless you and yours with wisdom so you can make wise choices that not only impacts your eternity but also the eternity of those you love and care for.



The Thief on the Other Cross: A Good Friday Monologue by Dr. Ralph F.

I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am — I was — an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They travelled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself. Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the



trick. Threaten them with a beating and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honor in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a *long* moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?" I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want so much to go up to him after he has finished and take him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it.

I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake -- the guy on the third cross -- get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us. And so it happens that on the same day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on his left, the other on his right. This isn't any normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a savior, save yourself — *if you can*!" Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."

Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, his words, his invitation. And so I call over to him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder. "Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?" He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He *does* remember. "I never forgot what you said. I wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me — look at us!"

He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath laboured. He isn't going to last long. I can see that. But somehow I can see *beyond* all that. He *was* the Messiah, *is* the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, he will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now. He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes. "Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?"

His words are laboured, his lips parched, but I can still hear him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. *I do!* That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I *do* believe him! And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?





February and March in pictures





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

Prayer Wall

- Our Ministry schools in 2016 especially with SUIS and SUPA club
- Volunteers and Leaders including Council Members. Trustees. SWGs and our work in schools in 2016
- SU movements regionally and globally.
- Pray for our teachers and students as they begin the new school year.
- SU Office for wisdom and leadership as we extend our ministries in 2016
- Finances for 2016
- Pray for one another.

News Board

- SU Volunteers Retreat will be held at the Sabeto Christian camp from 5 April-Contact office for details
- SWG Bible Study held every Wednesday at 7pm at the SU office
- For any school visitations or any news update of SU, contact the SU office in Suva or follow us on Facebook.
- SU Volunteers are teaching items by zones in preparation for YouthNited 2016.

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

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

ministry increases and so are the challenges and struggles that young people are dealing 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.

"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 leada monthly basis. Every year the cost of student ers, pastors, civil servants, as we challenge and raise up the next generation of champions for Jesus Christ. SU is leading the Great Commission in schools and you can partner with us to keep this going. 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. Talk to us about being a partner.