

FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER



scripture union

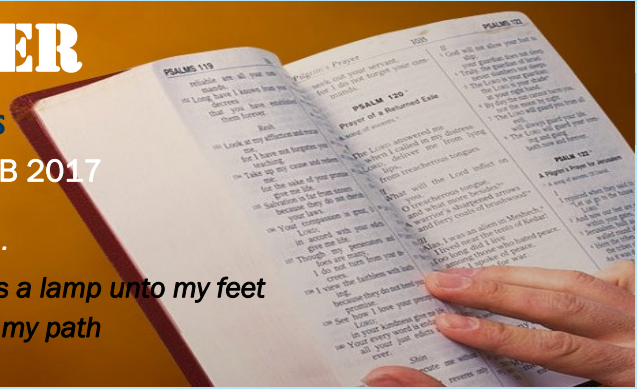
Scripture Union Fiji's Testimonials

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: FEB 2017

Email: sufijiartnership@gmail.com

This is our Partnership Good News(letter)...

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



THE MONTH OF VALENTINES; ROSES AND LOTS OF LOVE



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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

This newsletter covers our adventures in the month of February. Amongst other things it was the month of Valentines, where love becomes the subject of focus, at least for this hopeless romantic. The bottom line is Valentines, whilst planned to be a romantic day of sorts for couples, can be daunting and stressful when we have to plan the perfect surprise for the perfect one. Well my journey into this world of roses, chocolates, hearts and love began when I met my wife and what a Valentines journey it has become for us. This year in the usual rush for the romantics, I walked to the Christian bookshop with the intention of finding something "Christian" for my beautiful Valentine. Fast forward, she loved it and I was the star for the day. Alas! Valentines with its usual rhetoric often forgets that every day is a day to love one another and especially to celebrate God's love for us, our spouses, our parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, neighbors and even the stranger down the road. You see, we love because He first loved us. I love this picture of what

Valentine must mean in the Christian language. An unconditional love that is not measured by chocolates, roses, hearts or emoji's of love but that which is sacrificial and unconditional and comes straight from the throne room of grace. At a time when love seems fleeting, we all try and find some semblance of love around us. Some try and find it in their work, others in their relationships, and yet others in drugs, alcohol, peers and parties.. Whatever the love road we choose, there is no greater love than that which we can find in Christ Jesus; the author of Love; the very definition of love. In Christ, we find the reason for living; the reason for forgiving; for healing; for joy and peace unspeakable amongst other things. That is why, it becomes an easy road to extend that very love by

extension to those around us. The beggar down the road is not just a nameless face in the crowd, the young and alone pregnant girl is not a statistic, the poor family down the settlements is not just a name; they are people who are loved unconditionally by God even if their own world of love is crashing around them. This month our SU Family finally delivered some gifts, one of the expressions of love to students who were still reeling from the aftermath of Cyclone Winston (See Page 2-3). What a sight, a joy to see their smiles, and hear their songs of praise as they received our gifts with excitement. The joy in our hearts cannot be fully expressed in words and we are grateful to our faithful partners who continue to stand with us in our ministry of reaching others with the love of Jesus Christ. Of course this month has also seen us continue our schools ministry program and strengthen our efforts in remaining true to our mission calling at Scripture Union, the Great Commission in schools. Our love for Jesus made manifest in our obedient to His calling.



We thank God for our partners in ministry and thank you for standing with us in this great calling to our children and young people and continue to invite you dear reader, if you have not already to think about being a financial partner with Scripture Union. Till the next edition, enjoy the chocolates and be blessed.



Spreading the love of Jesus Christ after Cyclone Winston

The smiles on the faces of the students at Nadarivatu Primary and High School, Ra High School and Nakauvadra High School was so rewarding as the SU team distributed over 500 Winston appeal school packs. These included exercise books, stationeries and a devotional recently launched by SU in 2016. Our Winston Appeal started in 2016 following the devastation of Cyclone Winston and donations poured in from our partners and friends including a large financial donation from Scripture Union Southern Australia and Scripture Union International. The joy to receive school packs in time for the new school year proved to be a timely and much needed relief for the students in the schools. Vice Chairman, Romulo Nayacalevu shared that, "as a ministry, our efforts extends to



responding to the needs around us and this is one small way we can contribute to being a blessing to some of our students who are in need of a little bit more in their lives". In leading this initiative, the SU council recognised that as part of our ministry efforts, it was important to express love in giving at a time when there was so much need around us.

Despite the slow response to the Winston appeal, SU Fiji was blessed with the end result allowing for this great act of kindness to be shared to the students from the ministry partners of SU. Representing the ministry was Teri Kempe, Council Secretary and Master Mike Mudreilagi, the Principal at Basden College, a member of the Council and team of volunteers who unselfishly devoted their time to assist in the packing and delivery of these love packs. It was a humbling time for the team as they visited the schools in these remote areas and had a time of fellowship with the school families including teachers and students.

See below for an in-depth story by Teri Kempe on the SU team Fiji's visit for the distribution of these love pack.

SU Fiji distributes Cyclone Winston appeal gifts

The Visit: Ms Teri Kempe, Secretary, Scripture Union Council



Teri waiting for the bags to be sewn

We hired three vehicles, We set out around 5.30am heading along the Kings Road. We soon came to a road washout and had to detour over a gravelled back road over the mountains. We had gift packages of about 550 packs which contained school exercise books, ruler, pencil case, eraser, sharper, pens and pencils, mathematical set etc.

Ra High School Arriving around 8.30am it was cloudy but dry and students were streaming into the school. As we looked around we could see the staff quarters, including the Principal's house still had no roof. Repairs had just begun on these homes. We were warmly greeted by the school staff as we entered the hall.



Suva SU leaders sort through the contents of each school pack, the night before the schools visit

It is now one year since TC Winston destroyed the school and the staff and students are struggling with the lack of class-

rooms, constant heavy rain causing mud and flooding, lack of resources and many other challenges. Despite the difficulties the inspiring Principal was positive and enthusiastic. He praised God for the cyclone because eventually they will have a new school with better facilities. He was proud of the students and teachers who had become resilient, adaptable, flexible and determined through all the difficulties. He felt the experience was creating character and backbone in them all. He was effuse in his gratitude for the gift we had brought. Although there were over 300 students, and our gifts were 135 stationery packs, he said another visitor had recently bought around 130 school bags with stationery and our gifts would supply those who had not been blessed before. After some speeches of



The temporary tent classrooms

encouragement and prayer, Master Mika blew the shofar and we left.

We praise God for the creative way the teachers and students are coping with the many challenges.

Nadarivatu High and Primary School. This school is located in the highlands and the graded metal road was in quite good condition, despite several wash outs. As we arrived we realised we were in the clouds. The air was thick with moisture and it wasn't long before it was raining heavily. We joined the joint primary and high school assembly and handed over our gifts. The Principal apologised they had nothing to give us, except a song. The whole school sang beautifully. Mstr Mika explained about the shofar and why it was important to invite an open heaven and blessings to flow to the school and its community in the mountains. We shared a message and some beautiful singing. It was hard to leave but we had to make a quick departure as the continuing rain threatened to close the road. On the way down we witnessed the huge waterfall over the road and just got through. We could only marvel at the courage and perseverance of the staff and students.



Some of the school packs ready for distribution

Nakauvadra High School We arrived at the school as the students were leaving. We were warmly greeted by the Principal, Vice Principal and School Chaplain. After delivery our gifts, receiving their heartfelt thanks, and joining with them in prayer, we had a tour of the school. It was heartbreaking to see the number of buildings without their roof and every window shattered. There were tents on the grounds that were unusable because they have no floor and the desks and chairs sink in the mud, they are too hot and lack ventilation. So students have their lessons in make-shift places. The library was destroyed along with all textbooks and stationery. The Principal assured us our gifts would be well appreciated by the students.

Praise God! As we drove home we tried to process the extraordinary sites we had seen and the wonderfully resilient people we had met. We only spent a day and were in deep shock at what we saw; these people have experienced these conditions for a whole year. We can only marvel at their courage. Our prayer is that the rebuilding will proceed with speed and all the children, staff and school communities will be able to focus all their attention on their education. Thank you Scripture Union South Australia for your generous gift. It will certainly make an impact on those receiving it, but more importantly we were able to assure the schools we visited, they are not alone, they are prayed for by the international family of Scripture Union, they are loved by God and we will return to encourage and support them in the future.

In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave." C. Spurgeon

News Flash: SWG Updates

Scripture Union Suva Volunteers elects their new leaders

In January, the SU Volunteers within the Suva, Nausori zones came together to elect their new leaders for the year. The SWG elections is part of the annual calendars for the volunteers where they come and decide the new set of leaders for the year. Volunteer Josh Hezekiah was elected the President for this year and has set plans on continuing the great work of the 2016 leaders. Volunteers at Scripture Union are the backbone of our schools ministry; continuing to take the Gospel to schools to share and encourage students in their journey of faith. All of our young leaders are products of Scripture Union's ministry and continue to be inspired in sharing their faith journey to the many people they minister to. Despite the volunteers commitments to their studies at various tertiary institutions in Suva and their churches, they commit a few hours each week in their school ministry. As young leaders, the SWG team also commit to assisting the Ministry in meeting its strategic objective plans and activities including organising of key fellowship pro-



Left: John Tuivanuakula (Treasurer); Grace Tukana (Assistant Treasurer); Palu Soqoiwasa; Isikeli Dokonivalu; Daiana Sofina
Front: Marica Tawake (VP); Josh Hezekiah (President) and Joe Waqivolavola (VP) and left... Volunteers pray for their leaders following their election in January of this year.

grams such as the term rallies (see next edition for the March rally); annual camps and the upcoming YouthNited rally which is a fellowship night hosted on the night of the Coke Games. Further the volunteers also organise weekly bible studies and monthly sports fellowship as avenues to welcome new members and also to encourage one another in their own faith journey.

Stay tuned for SWG activities updates...

Scripture Union Western Division leaders go through leadership training

The Western SU leaders organised a leadership training to understand the vision of Scripture Union for the year and the processes and procedures of the ministry as it relates to programs, finances and schools activities. The leadership training was led by National Director, Naca Tikoduadua and Council Vice Chairman, Romulo Nayacalevu to about 15 Western leaders in Nadi. The National Director encouraged the western team on their faith journey and reminded them of the importance of operating as one in our vision of sharing the love of Jesus Christ to students. Mr. Nayacalevu then shared on some biblical principles around leadership, accountability and the importance of being ambassadors for Christ as they serve in this ministry calling. The leaders were then prayed over and as they soaked in the presence of the Lord, most were led to strengthen their ministry calling and to keep responding in obedience as the Lord leads. The team at the west, meet at different leader's home for their bible studies and their love and passion for the Lord continues



to manifest itself in their schools ministry and other programs they have initiated to encourage Christian fellowships in the west. Mereoni Madigi is currently the Western Coordinator and she is supported by a team of able leaders who serve God unreservedly in the Western division.

2016 Annual Camp Reunion for students

Held a week before the commencement of the school year in January, the SU Volunteers organised a reunion for the 2016 campers at the Cuvu Beach in Nadroga. The annual program is an opportunity to bring together the campers for a time of encouraging and follow up on their spiritual journey since the camp. The reunion is also a time for the campers and leaders to pray for students embarking on the new academic year. The campers were excited with the opportunity to catch up with the friends they made at camp and to wish each other well in the new school year. Of course the fun, sun, sand and sea provided the much needed opportunity to soak in the joy of the Lord and to share together fun fellowship and encouragement. It was a memorable day for all our children and leaders in attendance.



Scripture Union school's ministry program commences with the new school year



Nakauvadra High School visitation



Ratu Navula 1st SUIS gathering for 2017



RKS SUIS



Tailevu team walk on for their zone visit

1 The Schools Ministry program for the year has commenced and our volunteer leaders are already committed to visiting various schools and enjoying fellowship with students. Apart from attending SUIS with the different schools in the central, western and northern division, it is a blessings to see the enthusiasm by students and especially the school management who continue to support CF in



Tavua District School SUIS has commenced.



2. the various schools visited by our team of volunteers. While the weather has been unfavourable for travel this month, the volunteers have braved the elements and for our Tailevu zone volunteers, this includes crossing damaged roads so they can continue to fellowship with the students in these zones. It has been an exciting time for our volunteers as they visit schools and encourage students with the Word.



SUIS at Ra High School

3. SUIS fellowships are great opportunities for students to to encourage one another and be inspired by the Word of God and the testimonies and sharing of our volunteers. Western Coordinator Mereoni Madigi said, *"I will continuously thank God for the opportunity to minister the Word of God to all the students irrespective of their races and culture. Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible!"* The ministry in schools continues in the month of March. *Partner with us today as we strengthen our ministry efforts...see Page 10 for details of our Partnership program...*



SUIS at Basden College at Newtown.



Korovuto College SUIS



Tavua District SUIS

The ministry of Scripture Union Fiji over the years

This year Scripture Union Fiji celebrates 50 years of ministry in Fiji. It has been an exciting and adventurous journey for a ministry that is largely faith based. The faith based part of the ministry is what has kept us going for this 50 years and will keep pushing us on. Faith not just in the practicality of how we live and demonstrate our beliefs and lives in Christ Jesus but also in anticipating the journeys we take with the Lord. In our past 50 years, we have celebrated the coming to the faith of thousands of young people including myself. As I coin the words of this piece, I see myself in a classroom in 1993, the year I gave my life to the Lord and the SUI programs that have been the foundation of my relationships with Jesus Christ. But my story is but one of the many other stories of faith, life and love of those that have come through the ministry of Scripture Union Fiji. Every year we see of how many young lives often broken and lost come to experience new life in Christ. In the midst of the tears and the hurts because of their experiences, they find that the message of Jesus Christ is enough to set them free; to release the burden they carry and give them a sense of purpose and directions. Many come to share of their lives, often in the cross roads of life and death, of depression and suicide and how in finding Christ, they find meaning and purpose. And so is the story of Scripture Union 50 years on. We most certainly have seen heroes of the faith and people that have given their lives and their wealth unselfishly to advance this awesome Gospel of Jesus Christ. From the days of Uncle Mesu Nainoca, our first local National Director to Mr. Sisa Teilai who was called to glory in 2015, we still see the imprints of God's faithfulness and grace as He continues to bless the work of Scripture Union and the lives of those that give to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in schools. From the 3 Trustees of the ministry to the 12 Council members, the 2 staff members and the hundred or so volunteers, we continue serve God passionately despite the often difficult school or natural environments, the limited financial resources or other challenges of ministry in the past 50 years and especially as we anticipate the next 50 years.

In our next newsletter, we will share with you a little bit more of the Lord's calling through the work of Scripture Union so until then, we continue to respond obediently to the calling of the Lord through the work of Scripture Union and especially our ministry to young people, families and of course our dear students, the heartbeat of our service as we serve Christ in the new month.



SU Council members at one of their monthly Council Meeting



Volunteers praying and encouraging one another...



National Director, Naca Tikoduadua at a conference of Pacific national directors for SU's in Brisbane in February.



2015 Campers praying for the nation at Suva's Sukuna park



Bible Study

Praying for one another

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

Partnership Devotional

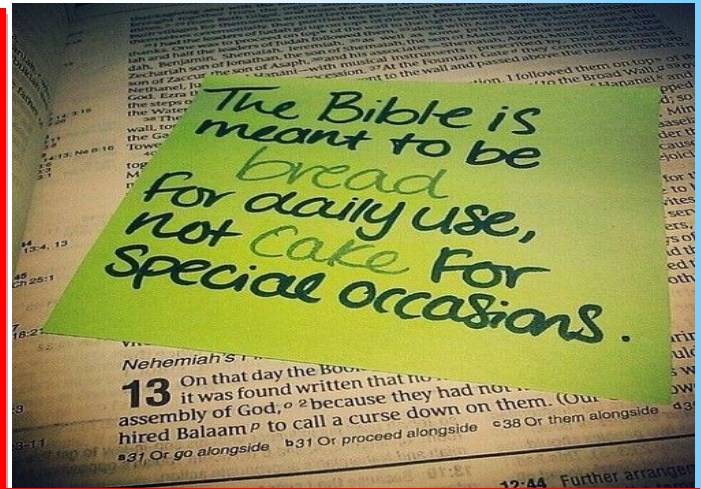
Joshua 1:1-9

What is God calling Joshua to?

Times of change often take real courage, for change is rarely easy and often costly. There isn't time for Joshua to grieve for Moses as the Israelites need to be led (2). God challenges Joshua straightaway to step into the space that Moses has left and start the process of taking the land. God reminds Joshua that Moses only became the leader he was because God empowered him. Now God makes similar promises to Joshua: that he will give him the land (3,5), and that he will be with Joshua as he was with Moses. But the greatest challenge is for Joshua to believe and accept the call which God was placing upon him. Twice God encourages Joshua to be "strong and courageous" (6,9), and once "very courageous" (7). God cannot give the mantle to him if Joshua isn't prepared to assume it. That requires great courage, and for him to set aside fear (9). All this is spoken by God to Joshua alone. He needs all this assurance for he's being asked to succeed where Moses failed.

Write a list of the ways in which you feel God has encouraged you to "be strong and courageous."

Source: Scripture Union USA



THE POWER OF PURPOSE

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."Philippians 1:12-14

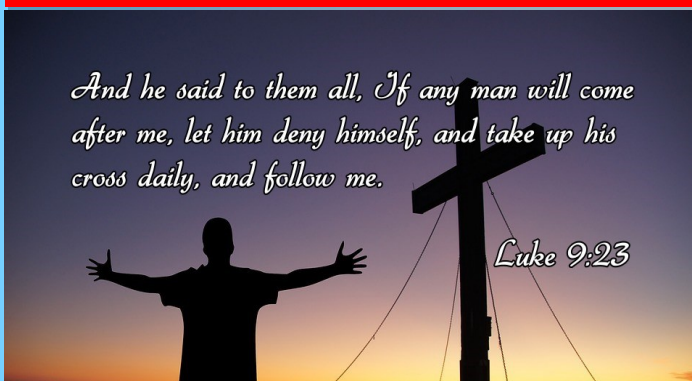
Paul might have been forgiven had he chosen to take a little sabbatical as he sat in prison, awaiting his trial. Yet he used even this opportunity to advance the gospel. Paul was a leader who never drifted from his mission. He determined to leave his mark wherever he went.

How did Paul's sense of purpose keep him in the battle as he sat in prison? What did he learn behind bars? Consider the following:

- A purpose will motivate you.
- A purpose will keep your priorities straight.
- A purpose will develop your potential.
- A purpose will give you power to live in the present.
- A purpose will help you evaluate your progress.

Excerpt from *The Maxwell Leadership Bible*.

<http://www.iequip.org/daily-devotional/the-power-of-purpose>



Scripture Union volunteers' fellowships



Paul Chns added 5 new photos — with Will J Singh and 4 others.
20 January · 🧑🏻‍🦱 **Volunteers Northern division fellowship**

1st SUIS meeting North 2017..... Awesome brothers and sister in Christ.....very productive night....



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.



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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 70+ schools. Pray that all schools will be open to SUIS.
- ◆ Volunteers, the Council and Trustees of SU and our work in schools
- ◆ SU movements regionally and globally.
- ◆ Pray for the Scripture Union land, that supernatural doors will open.
- ◆ Scripture Union's Ministry in 2017
- ◆ SU Office for wisdom and leadership as we expand our ministry
- ◆ The school year in 2017
- ◆ For the work of the Lord through SU and all young people of Fiji.

News Board

- SU AGM is now planned for April 8 at the Salvation Army church in Suva. A new SU Council to be elected at this AGM.
- SU is selling its Daily Challenge devotional at the SU office in Suva.
- SUIS fellowship continue in different schools around the country.
- SU Ministry has started disseminating the Winston Appeal packages last month.
- Bible Studies for young people have at SU office for the Central division and in Nadi for the western division on Wednesdays at 7pm

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