# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: JANUARY 2016



Email: sufijiartnership@gmail.com

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

# Editorial: It's a Do over; It's a New Year



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#### Special points of interest:

- Past Newsletters and Information of visit us on 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 seed into this good harvest field.

A BLESSED NEW YEAR to you all our partners. We have successfully completed the first month of the year and by His Grace we are stepping in the next. I for one am still feeling the excitement of the new year and the promises it holds. Every new year almost feels like a do-over. An opportunity for a fresh start especially as a ministry. I mean, the programs and activities we did last year, we have the opportunity to better them this year. But most importantly for me, is that this year, there is an opportunity yet again to strengthen my



personal walk and intimacy with the Lord. Arrrh, the new year resolutions. At SU Fiji, 2015, brought its share of life. I mean, a lot happened in terms of ministry through the passing of our National Director, the recruitment of his successor, watching the young leaders grow into maturity and especially so those young people we knew since children, watching them grow from boys to men and girls to women and the best part of it all is seeing their faith level grow too. Such remarkable transformation in a group that is passionate about their faith and find joy in each other. The beauty of seeing young people love God as they stand against the waves of popular opinion, peer pressure and the demand for conformity with a culture that often accepts sin as 'cool'. It brings to mind Joshua's challenge to the Israelites in Joshua 24:15-"Choose you this day tell me who will you serve....as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." When we witness young people making their choices for God, it affirms us of the importance of our ministry and our calling and that is to inspire our young people to love God with their all. HNY friends.

## What does 2016 have in store for us?

Someone once said that, "I may not know what my tomorrow holds, but I do know who holds my tomorrow." At SU, it looks like a full year of ministry, with planned activities for our young people. These include term rallies, the Youth-Nited event, bible studies, leadership trainings, retreat, camps, school ministry, dance ministry and a range of activities that is driven by the young people to better minister to their peers. It also means a time for us to raise fund to support our Kingdom mission. If you feel like you want to partner with us as we minister to young people, then see back for details. Be blessed.





## Our people serving with Scripture Union

#### SU Council starts the year with prayers and planning

The Council of Scripture Union endorsed the ministry's strategic vision and financial work-plan for 2016. Drawing from the Annual Camp theme, "Break In, Break Through and Break Out" the ministry has adopted this theme as the basis for its mission and vision this year. The Council comprising of volunteers, who have considerable ministry years and varied professional backgrounds bring together their experiences and obedience to the call of the Lord to serve amongst the young people. They also strategically plan the programs and finances for the year including identifying various income generating project to allow us to sustain our ministry. The main income raised in 2016 was largely from the 30 or so financial partners of SU who sow a faith seed of anything from \$10 to \$1,000, which allows us to serve and function as a ministry. The Council is chaired by Sitiveni Kalou and comprises Romulo Navacalevu (Vice Chairman), Teri Kempe (Secretary), Laurel Vaurasi (Legal Adviser), Latileta Qoro (Treasurer), Master Mika Mudreilagi, Tusake Tuivanuavou, Pst Pati Lega, Semi Momoedonu, Nancy Tikoisuva and Petero Cakau as Council members. The Council meets once a month and is believing this will be another great year of serving the Lord at SU.



#### SU Trustees continue in 2016



The SU Trustees remain as Mr. Apolosi Vosanibola, Mr. Usaia Tukana and Mrs Rokobua Naiyaga. Serving in this voluntary capacity, these leaders bring a wealth of experience into the work of Scripture Union and provide overall oversight into the work of SU. We have been blessed that they stand with the Ministry in one of the ministry's exciting time to serve. The trustees are Scripture Union's legal personality and provide general oversight to the work of SU.

#### SU Welcomes its new Treasurer

SU Council welcomes Latileta Ooro as the new Treasurer of the ministry. Lati replaced Mele Marafono who moved to PNG with her family. Lati is passionate about her faith and serves also in the ministry of LatterRain in Suva



and her local church. In her role with SU, Lati will lead the ministry's efforts in strengthening its financial systems. Lati was led to volunteer with SU having been part of this ministry and just seeing the need to strengthen and be part of the Lord's work with young people.

#### Suva Volunteers elects their new leaders



On Saturday 17 January, our Suva volunteers elected their leaders for the year. The SWG Suva is primarily responsible for organising events such as the YouthNited, rallies and camps and their weekly bible study. They will also be assisting the National Director in the schools ministry. Many of them came to the Lord or strengthened their faith walk through the Ministry of SU and most are currently enrolled students in tertiary institutions. The current executives are Melisa Olivia (sitting) (President), Isireli and Marica (Vice Presidents-back left); Peni (Treasurer-back right), Una (Assistant Treasurer—front left); Daiana (Secretary—next to Peni) and Ana (Assistant Secretary—next to Olivia). Other positions will be confirmed later. Their passion and faith is a drawcard for young people to the Lord and we wish our new leaders the very best in their service to the Lord this year. Loving God; Serving Others—#BIBTBO



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

### "BIBTBO" Generation; Studying and Growing in the Word

While most young people enjoyed their Christmas holidays, our young leaders took a few days off and were back at the SU office in Nabua, studying the Word of God. The weekly Bible Study is open to all and is an initiative of the SWG leaders in Suva to encourage young people in studying, understanding and applying the Word of God in their lives. The Bible Study conducted by Council Member and Principal, Mst. Mika Mudreilagi allows the young people to learn and grow in the Word. Since the Annual Camp at Navuso in December, our BIBTBO (Break in, Break Through, Break Out-Annual theme camp) leaders remain grounded in the Word. The Bible study is based on themes and this past month they were looking at the theme of "Relationships" - God, Family, Friends and Romance. This initiative started by young people after the Annual Camp at Jasper Williams in 2013.





#### Growing in the Word: Reflections by Volunteers, Marica Tawake and Una Colaivalu

For two of our volunteers, the weekly Bible Study is divine as it has allowed them to grow in their faith and intimacy with God. Una Colaivalu said that, "attending Bible study has impacted me greatly. It has helped me in building my relationship with God... and it has impacted me with the way I praise and worship in His presence. This has not been a norm for me, but the experiences has been amazing as it has also helped me get out of my comfort zone as I share God's goodness in my life and inviting them to experience this too." Another volunteer, Marica Tawake shared that, "the bible study has been an

awesome and exciting experience for me personally. It is a place where I can just be myself and not worry about what people say as it is an opportunity to feed of His Word. For me leading Bible study, has built up my self confidence and helped me break my fear of public speaking. It has also motivated me to dig deeper into the Word of God and to know God more and more. It has also answered my queries and allowed me to find my place in Christ. I have also met friends there that help me in my walk with the Lord and its basically the place, where I feel just at home."

# Online Evangelism; Encouraging one another via Facebook and social media



Swg Central Tukutuku 17 January at 07:39 · Suva · 🚱

We would like to wish you all the best in your study for this Year 2016, to all Primary/Secondary & Tertiary Students and to all our faithful volunteers. Also if you are celebrating your Birthday for this month (January), we praise God for another year-life and please note your Cake will be at the End-Month Fellowship. Our prayers with you also, if you are looking for a job or maybe your Tuition/School Fees still not update, your school stationery (Books/Pen etc), or you maybe facing mountains/circumstances at

School/Home/Workplace etc..Remember we serve a great/mighty God, He is with you always. The answer to your prayer is on its way...God Bless you all.

##\_ThisSongIsDedicatedToYou>>CHILD OF THE MOST HIGH\_## ## EKilaNaKalouNaVeidrakiNiBulaOLakoCurumaTiko ##



Comment Comment

Gaither Vocal Band - Sometimes It Takes A Mountain (Live)

Music video by Gaither Vocal Band performing Sometimes It Takes A Mountain. (C) 2015 Spring House Music Group

YOUTUBE.COM → Share

You, Ace Ratukadreu, Semi Momoedonu and 13 others like this

Example of one of

our pages on FB

ing Words to each other. and Be blessed.

At a time when social This trend continues to aid our media is heavily criti- evangelism and especially in cised for its abuse and sharing Christ and encouraging our young young people in their stand for people and the Ministry the Lord. Scripture Union has a as a whole is using it as a number of online presence on tool to encourage one social media including a Scripanother in their own ture Union Fiji page, a few journeys and personal group pages (SUIS Campers, walk of faith. Daily, a SWG Central, SWG Volunteers, verse is posted, an en- Youthnited, SU 50 Anniversary couragement is shared, etc. Connect with us today and seeking together, let us fill these spaces prayers ,or offer uplift- with the Word. Stay in the Word



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

### Volunteers prepare for a year of service and mission, first leaders training

The SWG—School Working Group in Suva held their first leadership

Effective Christian leaders are committed to advancing the mission in ways that also enable others to make their Kingdom contribution.



and skills training on Saturday 30 January at the SU office in Suva. Facilitated by the National Director, the training focused on different issues and styles of leadership with a strong focus on Servant Leadership modelled by our role model, Jesus Christ. The objective of the training was for our young leaders to leave with an understanding of

what being a leader truly means and to develop habits that will help them stay close to the "Christ-centered" leadership model. This model is the best one in terms of effectively carrying our ones roles and responsibility within our ministry. The sessions were well received by the leaders as they mauled and digested the sharing that day. National Director, Naca Tikoduadua said of the training that, " as leaders, especially the ones as young as ours, zealous and ready to go out and do exploits for God, I believe the training sessions will help bring about some form of coaching/mentorship to help us as oversight



keep them grounded and accountable. It will also keep us connected/involved in their lives so they can see that we do not only need to do the work but that we also care about them. I believe the training session should give them this kind of assurance and therefore it is crucial for us as a ministry to conduct training sessions regularly. " Future trainings will look at important ministry issues including legal, financial, evangelism, and ministry generally. All welcome.



### Serving at Scripture Union, when passion becomes joy



Since suming rving

re- they are beginning the ministry commit to our Great Commisspent office cleaning and now ship in ministry allows us to serving the Lord through them.

of- year with strategizing and acti- sion in schools. It is anticipated fice, the Na- vating the various ministry that this will be a great year of tional Direc- arms including our team at the serving the Lord and especially tor has car- Western division in preparation for our young people and we out for schools ministry and oppor- thank all of our partners and programs and initiatives for the tunities. Together with an awe- friends who allows us through work of the Lord in the minis- some team of volunteers and their partnership and prayers to try. Together with Luisa at the the committed Council mem-turn this passion we have for SU office, the fist few days was bers and trustees, this partner- the young people into a joy of

# A Word; with the National Director, Mr. Nacanieli Tikoduadua

World Shakers and History Makers—Daniel 11:32—"Those who know their God, shall be strong and do exploits" (KJV)

We live in a world that's becoming more and more intolerant to who we are and what we believe in. News and media outlets now have no problem running a pastor or Christian minister down publicly. Something that hardly happened 15 or 20 years ago. Now they won't hesitate. In fact they welcome the opportunity to trash Christianity or anything to do with the church. A world that makes a mockery of our Jesus and ridicules us for believing in Him and living by His standards set in His words. The world is more liberal and ungodliness and lawlessness is celebrated more than godliness and righteous living. A world that thrives and glamorises instant gratification (we email our letters, we fast post our packages, we microwave our food and we instant message our wish list to those overseas) and glorifies loose morals and unethical standards (high school, tertiary school sexual relationships, drug use, boozing, partying, flirting, phone sexting etc...) and will have a field day when they learn of your decision to wait on God for His plans and provision. Some of you here today have friends who have already started mocking your decision to make a change in your life and go in a different direction and hang out with a different group. If they haven't already, I promise you, they will soon. The minute they find out that they are talking to a different you, the arrows and the hammers and stones will begin swinging your way. What will you do? What will you say? What will you decide when this happens? Will you defend yourself? Will you give them a piece of your mind (peace of heart) or will you let them run you down?

So what does it mean to "know their God"? It says know their God, it doesn't say know about their God. It's an intimate expression. It's a personal relationship. It's a spiritual connection, not head knowledge. We all know about Ben Ryan. We've seen the transformation he has brought, the discipline he has instilled in the boys; the character being around him has brought about in them. We know about him. You know about him. But do you know him personally. Do you have a personal connection to him? What would a phone call to him sound like? On that note, do you know about Jesus? Or do you know Him personally? Read Matthew 7:22 - 23. "And I will declare to them, 'Depart from me you who practice lawlessness; I never KNEW you". We get to know Him by spending time and communion and fellowship with Him. We get to know Him as we listen to Him speaking to us. We get to know Him by speaking to Him. We get to know Him by observing His ways of how He works.

What does "will be strong" mean? This is a declaration of what happens when you know God. This by the way is not just referring to physical strength, brute force of raw power as we know it. - This is more so referring to the strength of your will to stand against and resist temptation. It speaks of your resolve to never allow anything or anyone to distract you in your walk with God. It speaks of your boldness to stand up to those who make a mockery of what you have come to believe and love and defend it righteously. Acts 1:8"You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth"- We become stronger in our confidence in Him; We become stronger in our ability to meet and overcome temptation and evil; We become stronger in our ability to add strength to others.

So how you holding up against the pressure, temptation, difficulties and mockery that has come against you lately. What does "will do mighty exploits" mean? By definition in the Oxford Dictionary - to be bold, daring, make full use of what's available, to take advantage of the opportunity. Webster says - an act of notable skill, strength or cleverness. When we are strong, we shall do exploits for God. The Bible is full of illustrations of men and women who did exploits for God—Gideon and his 300 (Judges 7:19-23); Samson (Judges 14:5-6); Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:36-39); And then have a look at the Halls of Heroes in Hebrews 11. And think also of the apostles and early Christians who put their lives is harm's way for the Name of the Lord (Acts 15:26) and they turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Case in point: If we really know God and are thereby made strong in Him, we also shall do exploits, and this we will accomplish in two ways:

By Prayer: You and I don't have to necessarily do extravagantly elaborate things to be seen by the world. We so easily can and will make a different on our knees in prayer. "God moves mountains, but prayer will move the hand of God" (Hudson Taylor). "When God does something in any nation, He does in answer to the prayers of His people" (George Muller). "Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers will make a difference" (Max Lucado). The prayer of faith in the God Heaven offered in the secret place for a lost and dying world, has in the past and will continue to more the arms that rule this world.

By Witnessing: The second thing that will happen is we will find ourselves walking in the footsteps of early Christians, whose hearts were so full of the love of Christ that wherever they went, they spoke of Him. They told people about what He has done in them and for them and through them, the world got to know of the power and the grace of God.

As we've looked at these 3 areas, which of them do you think you will need to strengthen this year? Do you need to get to KNOW Him better and more intimately? Do you feel you lack the STRENGTH to be what you need to be? Do you feel like you're not BEING the men/women you ought to be? Well, TODAY is a great day to start....

# Reunion Picnic for BIBTBO campers at the Cuvu Beach in Nadroga

The exotic Cuvu beach hosted the "BIBTBO" campers reunion on 8 January for a time of encouragement before the new school year. It was also an opportunity for campers to let down their hair, soak in the sea and enjoy the tropical Nadro weather. There was also a fellowship and worship program at the beach organized and an encouraging Word from the National Director. A prophetic prayer was also organized by Mst Mika, the 2015 camp speaker at the beach drawing from the prayer experiences at the camp. Campers had fun and fired up for the new school year, as they enjoyed and reflected on God's blessings during their holidays.



Campers praying for Suva during their Annual camp last year (December).



"One of the main reasons that we lose our enthusiasm in life is because we become ungrateful. We let what was once a miracle become common to us. We get so accustomed to his goodness it becomes a routine.."

— Joel Osteen, Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential

## Reunion Pictorials in all its awesomeness



"God doesn't bless us just to make us happy; He blesses us to make us a blessing."
— Warren W. Wiersbe

## Reflections with Marica Tonawai: 'Into the depths of the ocean'

Life has a funny way of allowing us to deal with certain situations. Sometimes we find ourselves in the most awkward places, whether in school or at work, or even within our social circle and just think to ourselves, how on earth am I going to sort this problem out! Here's what I've learnt, for every situation we are in, God has put us in it for a reason, to learn and grow and to either move forward, or go back but above all, testify of God's goodness! As a believer, we may feel obligated to behave or act a certain way, but God wants us to be the same person we are in private influence who we are in public as well. Personally for me, that was difficult. I grew up in a Christ-centred family. I grew up in the Church, where the Church wasn't only a Sunday event but an every day one. Devotion in the morning, devotion in the evening and life was aligned with biblical principles and values. Not that I'm complaining, but it was hard to deal with the conflict of both worlds because at the time, I didn't understand God's calling for myself. I decided to take the straight road instead of the narrow one, and decided to do my own thing for a bit and see how it pans out! I was so wrong! Life just got harder and harder and most things in life just didn't add up or make sense. This is when I decided to restore my relationship with the Lord and get down to business. I'm sure every one can relate to the statement "Life is a rollercoaster" and that's because it is. As a Christian, we will have ups and downs and our own battles to fight. Sometimes, the battles we face don't always come in big sizes, but can be as small as the battle that takes place in the mind, and most of these may cause us to question our faith. The bible emphasizes on the importance for one to renew their mind (Romans 12:2) to avoid the devils attack on our Christian walk and be exposed to God's good and perfect will for our lives. If you put God first in everything you do, you will definitely see God's amazing Hand at work because He promised to take care of us in His word. The God we serve is bigger than any of our problems, He has overcome the world (John 16:33) and is willing to fight our battles for us if we let Him. He will meet our needs, He is Jehovah Jireh our provider, He will go before us into the plans that He has already set out for us and He will protect us under the shadow of His wings. It's truly amazing to see how God is working in our lives and testimonies are great extracts from our book of life during our journey here on earth.

William Konusi, a member of the SWG shares with us a wonderful story about God's provision during his Christmas break. "So one day last year after returning home from Bible study my uncle, whom I was staying with asked me if I wanted to go to NZ and Australia during the holidays and without a second thought I said Yes. Before leaving for NZ I called one of my mentors (PASTO) and one of the many things that he said was ... "William call your Ravens to go before you and provide for you".. and in faith I asked God that He would send His Ravens to provide for me during the holidays and sure enough on our arrival on the day we departed NZ and also in Aussie I just saw God's provision in everything. He provided so much that I didn't spend a penny in either of the countries. Philippians 4:19 and He will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory..."Our God is a God of wonders beyond our galaxy. And if we call upon Him, He will answer. God is waiting for us to come to Him with all that we are. Each and every person matters and has a special role to play here on earth for the Glory of the Kingdom of God and just like the Ethiopian man who was diligently seeking for the Lord, the Lord will send us a Philip to bring us closer to Him.

Sometimes we have a rough start to life, sometimes we decide to make it our own, sometimes we question our Faith and what it can achieve, but all this happens for a reason, to help us better ourselves and learn. As we grow and move forward from all the trials this world has to offer us, we no longer have a past, but we have a TESTIMONY that is so powerful it can change someone else's life because it reveals God's miracle working power in our life. Testimonies are the most beautiful stories any one can share because it shows ones growth spiritually and mentally through God and how God has been working in them. God is the potter and we are they clay, shaping us for His glory. "Okay so for me God really helped me deal with old problems that had been haunting me since childhood. He used SUIS to help me. I am so thankful and full of praise for the experience He had allowed me to have at last years camp and the irreplaceable friends that I have made along the way. It is my personal desire to help other people my age with the power of my testimony from God"- Isikeli Dokanivalu (Former Queen Victoria School student).

The Scripture Union in Schools has become a platform where students come to know Christ more. Where students Ask, Seek and Knock! Where students become hungry for the word. It's indescribable how God is using the Scripture Union and all those associated with the organisation as instruments for God's kingdom. Let us never grow tired of doing good, of working for the extension of God's Kingdom and of testifying of how God has changed our lives. **Galatians 6:9** "**let us not become weary in doing good, for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not.**" Remember, the harvest is plenty but the workers are few, we all have a role to play. God Bless and may you all have a Prosperous 2016. This is the Year of Breakthrough!





"The family should be a closely knit group. The home should be a self-contained shelter of security; a kind of school where life's basic lessons are taught; and a kind of church where God is honoured; a place where wholesome recreation and simple pleasures are enjoyed." Billy Graham



#### **Scripture Union Office**

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#### Check us on:

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

## Prayer Wall

- Our Ministry in 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 27th of Feb. Contact office for details
- SWG Prayer Breakfast held this Saturday at Victory Family Church from 6am.
- SU Prayer Breakfast will be held at Ya Rawa Church on the 20th of February.
- 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

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

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.

The work of Scripture Union is privately funded by those 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.