

# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: JULY-AUGUST 2015



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



## Editorial: How time flies and drawing from Ecclesiastes



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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

Shalom Bula to all our readers. We are now in September and that was a jolt to me as I realized that the past two months' stories are yet to be shared with you. As I reflect on the stories of which testimonies of God's ever faithfulness is coming through them, I am reminded that time has flown by too quickly. In less than four months it will be Christmas and it was like yesterday I was wishing our readers a Happy New year. When we consign 2015 into history, we must be able to look back with thanksgiving as we experience the seasons that God has purposed for us individually and as



SU. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that life comes in seasons and we must maximize our seasons for God's glory. These past two months have been challenging and rewarding as a ministry. We continue to experience God's faithfulness and blessings in so many ways and just listening to the testimonies of our young leaders and seeing their faith grow through their own encounters with God is rewarding and exciting. So friends, thank you for your friendship and partnership with us in these two months and we look forward to sharing our stories again with you in the next newsletter. Let us continue to serve God together and one another this season. Be blessed and have a great September.

## The School Holiday is over and the final term here

# Let's let God back in our schools!



The school holidays is over and students and teachers have returned to school for the last school term. SU will continue to strengthen its schools ministry this term with visitations, encouragements and prayers for our children as they prepare for exams and other assignments this term. When schools break for the year, SU will hold its annual camp at Navuso Secondary School in Nausori. Expecting to draw in about 500 students from

around Fiji, the weeklong camp will leave many changed and impacted with the truth of the Word of God. So parents and friends, do consider sending your children, nephews, nieces, grandchildren or friends to the camp this year. While our ministry work will continue, we anticipate that a lot of our activities will be towards the planning of this anticipated annual camp. However for now, we continue to visit schools and pray with students. Volunteers are welcome to join Scripture Union and to do so, do not hesitate to call us at the SU office or message us on Facebook. We also welcome partnership, so if you feel inspired to partner with us in any of our work, ministry of projects, please see details at Page 10 of this newsletter for our contact and more information. Many young lives continue to be inspired and changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



## Our people serving with Scripture Union

### Young people serving the Lord in their youth

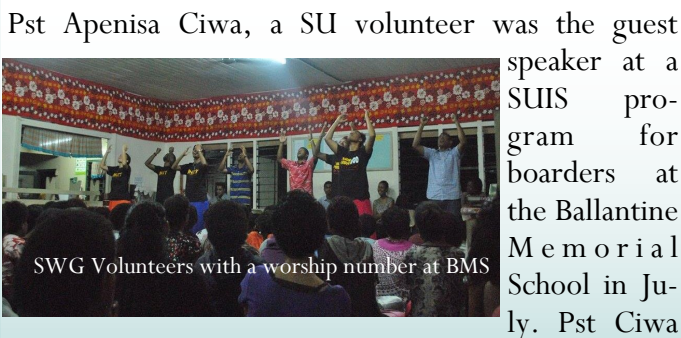


Some of the volunteers at a retreat they planned earlier this year in the West.

In Ecclesiastes 12, the Bible tells us to remember our Creator in the days of our youth. SU is in the forefront of nurturing, encouraging, inspiring and releasing our young people into the forefront of Christian ministry and church. Our interdenominational ministry encourages young people from all walks of life to come together, inspire each other and grow in the Word. These young people also play an active role in their churches, youth groups, academic groups and other areas they serve in. They are reminded, that SU is not a church but a ministry that partners with churches and strengthening the faith of these young people. We are also a leadership ministry, developing the leadership talents and creatively of these young leaders. Most of our volunteers

were impacted by the Ministry of SU during their high school days and they come back and volunteer to share the Good news they received whilst students to current students as well as young people generally. This SU legacy has spanned over 50 years in Fiji as young people minister to young people about God's redeeming power and grace.

### BMS hosts SUIS for its boarders



SWG Volunteers with a worship number at BMS

Pst Apenisa Ciwa, a SU volunteer was the guest speaker at a SUIS program for boarders at the Ballantine Memorial School in July. Pst Ciwa

and the volunteers used the opportunity to minister in the Word, share testimonies, encouragement and lead worship. The boarders responded enthusiastically to the Word for that night and this was an excited night of ministry for our volunteers. The BMS SUIS fellowship continues at the school and we look forward to greater ministry opportunities in Term 3.

### ACS hosts a SUIS for its boarders



Volunteers lead worship with Speakers Mst Mika and Pst Ralulu

Pst Apenisa Ralulu and Mst Mika Mudreilagi were guests speakers at a SUIS program for all boarders at ACS, a few weeks before the school holidays. It was a dynamic and

powerful time of sharing and encouragement with the ladies at Sawani with many committing their lives to the Lord. Most of our volunteers also shared testimonies, worship songs and encouragements for the students and the dynamic Word from the Speakers on this night was timely and impacting for the ladies.

### SUIS Leaders participates at the National Youth Parliament



The government team



SUIS leaders from both QVS and Basden College respectively served as Minister and the Prime Minister respectively in the Youth Parliament convened by the Ministry of Youth. The young leaders were part of an impressive cadre of leaders from various high schools in Fiji who took on roles of parliamentarians and argued topical issues of national interest. Jone Tawake the Youth Prime Minister and CF leader at Basden College said his experience was an eye opener for him and he was blessed to have been part of this experience. The Youth Parliament is a government initiative to strengthen youth leadership and for the many leaders including our two Suis leaders, this may be the beginning of national leadership.



QVS Headboy and Suis President address parliament



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

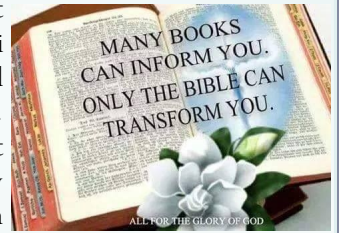
## Snippets of our work this month

### Developing a culture of the Word—see more write up on Page 7



Scripture Union children ready for their weekly Bible Study earlier this year, at the SU office car park.

The weekly Bible Study at the SU office continues to draw in young people to share the Word and encourage each other with their testimonies. In line with Scripture Union's vision the Word culture is encouraged and emphasized to our young people as they strengthen their Word knowledge and practice. These Wednesday weekly events are open to young people and many use that opportunity to share their testimonies and encourage their peers. Held at 7pm, this allows university students to finish their lectures and join their peers at the study. At the moment, the current study is done by Pastors Pati and Lusi Leqa looking at different topics and teaching methods of sharing the Word.



One of the attendees acknowledges that through the Bible study, they have experienced growth in their own spiritual life and they enjoy the program because it is by young people encouraging each other in their faith

### Preparing for the Annual Camp

The annual Scripture Union camp is planned for 30 November—4 December at the Navuso Secondary School in Nausori. It is expected that 500 students from various high schools in Fiji will converge at Navuso for this weeklong camp. The confirmed speaker is Master Mika Mudreilagi the Principal of Basden College in Newtown. A camp committee now meets every Monday for prayers and planning at the Scripture Union office from 6pm. These leaders are prayerfully considering the program to ensure that it not only ministers but will impact the lives of the attendees. Last year's annual camp was held at Saint Johns College in Levuka and attracted a crowd of 200 young people.



Campers in Praise at the 2014 camp

### A culture of gratitude

Scripture Union leaders hosted a “thanksgiving tea” for its volunteers to celebrate the successful FAITH LIKE JOBS’ production, staged in Suva on August 14, 2015. The sacrifices put in by the volunteers was recognised as crucial to the success of the production. The production ministered to many people in attendance and especially for the young people who put heart and soul into this ministry opportunity. In thanking our volunteers, SU reminded them, that while we are unable to pay them for their time and services, their lives and giving are tremendously appreciated by the ministry. We all enjoyed our “vakavinavinaka” fellowship with our SU family.



### Fiji School of Medicines' Faith Camp draws a crowd

Keni Baro, the President of the FSM CF is also an ardent member of the Scripture Union's School Working Group (SWG). Illisoni, the current President of SWG is an active member of the FSM CF and so are a



few of the current SU volunteers who also serve in leadership position with Working in the Medical School's Christian Fellowship group. These young leaders organised and ran a free camp as a form of their outreach program to medical students at FNU. Held annually the camp saw leaders draw from their faith, their creativity and their talents in raising all the funds needed to run the weekend camp. This camp grew the faith of these leaders and was held in Sigatoka, with about 80—100 people in attendance. Such great faiths

*“As long as you do things for God, you are a Hall of Famer in heaven's list.” — Rick Warren*



## Snippets of our work this month

### SU Council continues to discuss ministries progress

The Scripture Union council meets every month to discuss ministry progress as well as to agree on actions to be taken to strengthen ministry activities. In his role as Acting National Director, Sitiveni Kalou is responsible for ensuring that ministries activities including schools visitations and liaising with schools SUIS groups continues. Council continues to hear of great ministry advances as well as the challenges that remain. This new school term, the ministry is hoping to strengthen its ministry in schools and try and revive two key ministry areas, being Teachers Fellowship as well as SUPA club which is the Scripture Union in primary age. Further council is also in the process of finalising the recruitment for a new National Director and once the recruitment process is completed will be announcing their decision to Ministry partners and friends. Please continue to stand with us in prayer for this term's ministry and for upcoming ministry opportunities.



Council Members, Mrs Emi Rabukaeawa and Mrs Mele Marafono listens to a discussion point.



Council Members, Ms Teri Kemp, Ps Leqa, Master Mika and Mr. Kalou in discussions

### Kingdom Economy: When Faith opens doors

Mrs Sereana Qoro delivered a powerful Word at the August prayer breakfast (PB) of SU. Based on Matthew 6: Mrs Qoro reminded attendees that in pursuing the God's Kingdom and His righteous; in putting God first, we inherit rulership and dominion in every areas of our life. She shared dynamic testimonies of the truth of God's Word in application especially in her own life and ministry. "Restful lifestyles demands complete dependence...and it is complete rest" in God, she said. She further de-



scribed God's economy from His Word and showed the current failing of worldly economic systems. God's economy does not fluctuate (Mark 10) but runneth over (Luke 6:38) she said. Living by the Word unlocks God's prosperous economy over our lives and that we must "sow according to what the Word says. Your harvest will come. It cannot be delayed and don't eat all your harvest, keep sowing." Attendees were blessed by the Word that morning and inspired in their giving. Mark your diary for our next PB.

### Resourcing the ministry with the Word

If Scripture Union stands for something, it is the importance of the Word of God. With our theme based on Psalms 119:105, it is not difficult to see why. This is why the Council is working hard to deliver Word based resources to assists our children and families with their study of the Word. The ministry is currently developing a devotional with the hope and prayers that it will be available in January

2016. The Devotional is the product of prayers and inspirations from God as different writers pen in their revelations of the Word. From January to December there is a Daily Manna for the reader. However we are currently praying for people to come in and partner with us in publishing this resource. For more information of this project please contact us at Luisa Radaveta, [see SU details at the last page]

*"If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God."  
— Dwight L. Moody*

## Faith like JOB's—the Scripture Union Production

*Scripture Union 's women of faith—volunteers doing a worship number at the Faith like Jobs' production*



How does one begin to describe the pain and struggles of Job (Book of Job 1- 42). A righteous man who lived in honor and servitude of God became the vicious target of Satan, whose sole purpose was to discredit Job's faith. And yet as Satan ravaged Job's life with pain, sorrow and loss, this man remained steadfast in his faith and trust in God. The book of Job while an inspiration is also a painful book to journey, as one encounters the different torments that Job endured (Job 1-2). He lost all he had because of the devil's position that Job only served God, because he was blessed by God. (Job 1:9-10). While the Lord allowed Satan to take everything but Job's life, we see a man so broken, that his only response was worship. Worship was a natural part of Job's life. Job 1: 20 says that Job, tore his robes, put on sackcloth and worshipped God with the statement, "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return, the Lord gives, and the Lord takes, May His name be praised". This is certainly a WOW moment as we see a faith so steadfast and yet so overwhelmed by his own pain and loss. **Faith like Job's** production was birthed out of a prayerful planning process by the young volunteers of Scripture Union. They wanted to depict God's ever faithfulness and his boasts on His children who serve him in the midst of pain, struggles, challenges and tears. Faith like Jobs' was a brief look into Job's own faith and testimony of hope



*Some of our young leaders and volunteers at SU*

It was a powerful production that overwhelmed even the volunteers as they prepared to stage it that night. For most of them Job's faith was a revelation in itself of how faith must be rooted in God rather than in the temporaries of life. Sadly many put their faith in things that are here today and gone tomorrow and when that happens, their whole world shatters and they let go to faith or even their lives. At a time when the highest cause of death amongst young people is suicide, **Faith like Jobs'** is a message especially for young people to hold on to Christ through life's turmoil. It is an encouragement

for all, that God is in control despite the temporary experiences around them. It was a powerful and memorable ministry opportunity for our young leaders. If you missed the Production, don't despair, the Production video is on sale at the Scripture Union office so:

**Call us or email us today for your copy. (see page 10 of this newsletter for our contact details)**



*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"...*

# Faith like Job's production pictorials



Master Mika, a member of the SU Council blows the shofar to open the production,. The shofar mentioned in the Bible is blown as a call to the people to prepare for a Word or a journey. This

*We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available. But this kind of trusting doesn't come naturally. "It's a spiritual crisis of the will in which we must choose to exercise faith." Charles Swindoll*



## Challenging times; with the Word



A few weeks ago these photos of children in prayer appeared on Facebook and was shared by many. It is a powerful picture capturing faith, passion and zeal in the lives of these young children. We are certainly living in challenging times and many look around them for answers to some of life's problems. We see a culture that promotes alternative lifestyles and people self destructing in a world of drugs, alcohol, depression, pills, sex, and the vices that define today's society. However when we see pictures like this, we are reminded of one solemn truth. That while the destroy, God in its abundance of the Word of God blessed to by the minis-



devil comes to steal, kill and came so we can have life and life dance (John 10:10). In these times, we are reminded that the still remains relevant. Scripture Union Fiji has been have witnessed over the years, many lives changing try of the Word of God. Often in their vulnerable young people are either exposed to or have been abuse which triggers a coping mechanism whether drugs, sex, or other things. However in activities rallies or just bible study, we hear of young people whose lives are restored by the Word of God and in the saving Grace of Lord. Their coping mechanism shifts from destructive habits to desiring and loving the

years, a lot of victims of in alcohol, like camps,



things of God. I often share a story of a young woman who was changed by the ministry of the Word. She would dance every time she was overwhelmed by God's grace. In one of my conversations with her about this, I asked her why she would dance in solemn moments of worship or ministry. "it was distracting" to some I added. She looked at me and said, "if you knew how deep the hole I was in, when God reached out and pulled me out of it, you would understand the reason why I dance when His grace overwhelms me. He saved me, I dance because He loves me" I looked at her and said, "continuing dancing, no matter what people say". In this day and age, it is the Word of God that provides the answer to life's challenges and that changes people completely . We can only discover God's best for us, if we start opening the Word, reading it and applying it to our lives.



## Inspirational Corner: An Egg, A Carrot, or Bean

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft and mushy. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hardened egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee.

The daughter smiled as she tasted its deep flavour and inhaled its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What's the point, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water - but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin, outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong? But with pain and adversity, do I wilt and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit but, after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water - the very circumstance that brings the adversity, the pain, the hardship – into something quite wonderful. When the water gets hot, it releases its fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better, and change the situation around you for the better.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity?

ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?

(Somehow, wake up and smell the coffee takes on a whole new meaning)

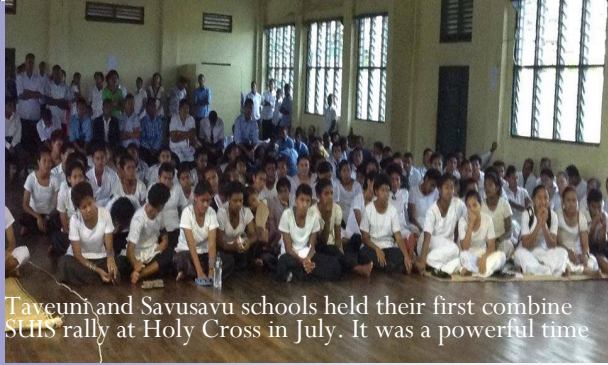
*When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity?*

**Editors Note:  
Remember Job**





## Scripture Union's July-August in pictures



Taveuni and Savusavu schools held their first combine SUIS rally at Holy Cross in July. It was a powerful time

A packed Chapel at ACS as students respond to the Word ministry on this night. Many made a commitment to the Lord



Worship practice at the SU office. It was days of learning and sharing in worship talents by our volunteers



Akuila encouraging volunteers



Students of Holy Cross with a worship number at their first rally in July of this year



A packed BMS fellowship room



*Serving Christ and one another*



Lead choreographer Akuila Nasau and Dr Sereana Wood leads a free worship with members of our Volunteers team at the Faith like Jobs concert.



SU Volunteers, Bill, Daiana and Asena leads worship at a July Prayer breakfast for SU held at the RCCG Church in Suva.



Mrs Iva Teilai prays at the SU Prayer Breakfast



Volunteers preparing jaffles at the vakavinavinaka tea at SU office.



Volunteers Ilisoni, Semisi and Esther hold a basket tea at SU office to support their mission trip to Israel next month

*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.*





# Scripture Union

## Scripture Union Office

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Scripture Union Fiji



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

## Prayer Wall

- SUIS groups present in 62 high schools. And pray that all schools will be open to SUIS.
- Volunteers and Leaders including Council and Trustees of SU and our work in schools
- SU movements regionally and globally.
- The new National Director for Scripture Union Fiji.
- Scripture Union's Ministry in Term 3 including finances to support our ministry
- SU Office for wisdom and leadership as we extend our ministries

## News Board

- Annual Camp will be held at the end of this school year at Navuso Secondary School in Nausori. Annual Camp Committee meets every Monday at the SU office
- School visitations resume. Let us know if you wish to join our volunteers team
- 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.

## 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.

*"If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life." — Billy Graham*