

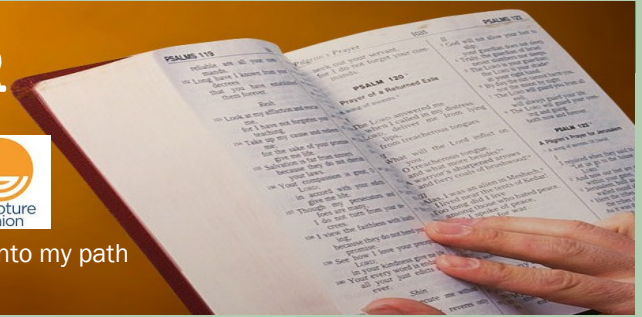
FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: JUNE 2014

Email: sufijiartnership@gmail.com



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



The way forward for Scripture Union Fiji



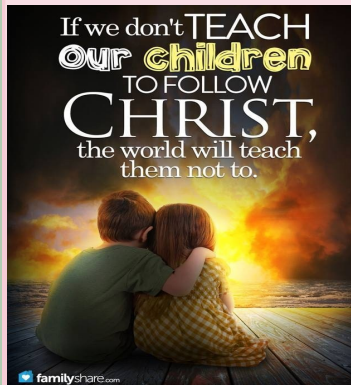
Inside this issue:

Our people serving with Scripture Union	2
Snippets of our work this month	3-4
Testimonies: Mr. Sivitveni Kalou	5
Scripture Union's July in Pictures	6
Story Corner: The Dinner Guest	7
Annual Camp 2014	8
Scripture Union Partnership: Why Not?	8

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

I love the powerful message we get from this poster. It is for many of us a crucial reminder of the importance of raising our children in the ways of the Lord. For parents, the battle with the enemy in the homes is real. Children are exposed to the demands of peer pressure, social media and other worldly influences. The way forward for us at Scripture Union is to keep preaching Jesus and to be the



bridge that young people can find a cross over to find life in Christ. We need to teach our children to follow Christ, there can be no greater legacy than one founded in Christ Jesus. At SU, we continue this month to sail the seas to Vanua Levu, Levuka, climbed mountains, cross rivers, drive to Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Tavua and Ra to share the Gospel. In serving with SU, we are reminded of the importance of introducing Christ to our children and families. Teaching them the way of Christ and ensuring that in the process, they develop not only a personal relationship with Christ but also an intimate one. Scripture Union serves to encourage children to choose Christ and we are not giving the world the chance to do otherwise. Help us reach our children [see back page]

Strengthening the work of Scripture Union in Fiji

Apart from the enormous privilege we have to serve the King of kings through this great ministry, we have many testimonies of our work. The challenges are many and yet, we continue to see by God's grace, the impact of this ministry through our students in schools and many more who have left school and today serve in different capacities. In 2013, we celebrated SU Fiji's 50 Anniversary and we reminisced about how this ministry as a vision and a dream took form and grew to where it is today because people saw that vision and supported it. Our 50 years has been mixed with powerful breakthroughs as well as great struggles particularly financial [see testimony on Pg 5] as we worked towards taking the Gospel into our schools. However God has blessed this ministry with great people. They have been our backbone and our inspiration as we serve God unselfishly with our time, wealth and talents. These are the heroes, men, women and young people who dared to serve at personal expenses, because of the outreach of this ministry into their own lives. It is the easier road to just let the churches or other people to do this work, but then we know at Scripture Union that we carry the testimony of many people who have found life, and purpose in Christ Jesus because someone at some point became God's voice, through Scripture Union. Today we continue to serve through Scripture Union, not because it is a duty or a job, but because it is a ministry that God is still using to point many young people back to the cross. It is this reason and more that we continue to strengthen our work.

Our people serving with Scripture Union

A few changes have taken place within the Scripture Union Council this month. Our long time Council Member and Chairman of two terms, Mr. Sitiveni Kalou stepped down from the position to pursue a political office come the September elections [see page 5]. Stepping into the position is the current Vice Chairman, Romulo



SWG President George Young, Interim Chairman, Romulo Nayacalevu with Ms Fine Ditoka, Council Secretary and Mr. Sitiveni Kalou (who has stepped down as Council Chairman

Nayacalevu. The Scripture Union Council' key role amongst others is to provide advise and direction for Scripture Union Fiji. Two months ago, our legal advisor, Mr. Filimoni Vosarogo stepped down from the position [see May newsletter] and has since been replaced by Ms. Laurel Vaurasi. Also stepping down is Council Secretary Ms. Fine Ditoka and Council member, Mr. Semi Momoedonu.

Mr. Vosarogo, Mr. Kalou and Ms Ditoka are part of a new political party, *One Fiji* that have registered and will be part of the September National elections. While Scripture Union acknowledges the valuable role that these individuals have

contributed to its work and is saddened that they have resigned from the ministry, we are excited that they are standing for elections at an important time for our nation's political transition. At a time when secular State is a much discussed topic and the debates on whether we should be a Christian nation or not, we take some guidance from Psalms 33:12 " *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the People He has chosen as His inheritance.*" Because of the importance of godly people in national politics, we are excited that many who have come through SU are looking at serving in some of this country's highest national positions. Former US President Theodore Roosevelt said, " *I believe that the next half century will determine if we advance the cause of Christian civilization or revert to the horrors of brutal paganism*". We are praying for the national elections.

Betty and Johnny Tuivanuakula—Twins on a mission

John and Betty are two of our volunteers. Earlier this month, they celebrated their birthday with John using the occasion to reflect on God's many faithfulness in their lives. The twins are currently studying Physiotherapy at the Medical school (FNU).



Their lives are a testimony of commitment, passion and dedication. Despite their many challenges, such as raising their funds privately, the many miles of walking to get to SU's programs and their other sacrifices, they still find

servng God in such difficult circumstances rewarding. The twins completed their studies at Suva Grammar last year where they were also members of the SUIIS. Today, they happily serve Jesus through SU going back into schools and inspiring the next generation .

Developing Scripture Union resources



Mrs Emi Rabukawaqa spends her retirement from government with children and family ministries both at church and with Scripture Union. She also chairs Scripture Union's Resource Commit-

tee, which developed the Daily Manna Bible Study for *Primary School* students, *Daily Trust* for Secondary school students and soon the *Daily Challenge* for Secondary school students. These are also privately funded yet giv-

en free of charge as resources. To support this vision of providing Bible study materials for our students and families, please do not hesitate to contact the SU office for details on how to support this project.

Snippets of our work this month

SU volunteers continues to strengthen SUIS in the West

Scripture Union's western presence is strengthened by the dedicated and passionate team based in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba and Tavua. These individuals work through various challenges to be able to support the work of SU in their areas. These include hitching on the road, or walking in the hot sun or riding a bumpy carrier on their way to some remote schools. Further they are not paid by Scripture Union, yet their hearts are passionate about

Serving Christ through this Great Commission in schools. Schools in the west



SUIS at Rt Navula earlier this month

that have regular SUIS are *Nadi* (Korovuto, Nawai Secondary, Rt Navula, Nadi Sngam, Nadi Muslim and Nadi College), *Lautoka* (Natabua High Sch,

Jasper Williams, Ba Provincial, Lautoka Andhra, Drasa Sec, Tilak High, Lautoka Muslim,) *Rakiraki/Tavua* (Rakiraki Public, Penang High, Nakauvadra High, Ra High, Nilsen College, Tavua District, Balata College, Ba Methodist, and AD Patel). While getting the work rolling has been slow this year, the second term has been different, with school visits taking place. Also planned is a term camp in Nadi from the 16th to the 22nd of August 2014. Nadi Coordinator Bill Siqila is coordinating this event.

Koro High School receives first visit from Scripture Union

They are excited to commence their SUIS program in school and for the students at Koro High School, the visit by member of Council, Semi Momoedonu to their school in the middle of this month was an opportune time to begin



their school fellowship.

Semi reported that the students sing those anointed worship songs made famous by Hillsongs Australia during their Monday devotions and he had the opportunity to meet with the school chaplain to discuss ways of strengthening their SUI

group. Since that first meeting, the SUIS group is now considering attending the Annual Camp at Levuka in December. "Praise God for the School Principal and Management... God Bless Koro Island HS" says Semi as he reflects on the powerful sharing time at KIHS.

Penrith High School, Sydney students visit Fiji

About 30 young and excited high school students from Penrith, Sydney visited Fiji from 9 to 16 July for a cross cultural mission experience. Led by the school chaplain, Talatala George and Radini as they are fondly known, the team, with their teachers were able to visit schools, the Saint Christopher's home and other Fiji experiences. Most of them in reflection were drawn to the smiles, the warmth and the hospitality of the Fijian people. Radini noted that most of these young missionaries were touched by the smiles of many people who despite their lack were still happy and content. They left Fiji touched and empowered and we are blessed to have played hosts to our new family from Penrith. The Penrith group comes



An orphan gets a hug from one of the visitors



Talatala George with SU Team



Talatala George and SU team

every second year and they actively support our work at SU Fiji including donations made to our Camp project. It was an emotional time as we bade each other farewell with great memories built and God's kingdom extended.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. Psalm 8:2

Snippets of our work this month



Worship commencing at the rally

Sigatoka rally draws in a crowd

About 80-100 students from Nasikawa Vision College, Rt Latianara High School and Sigatoka Methodist High School converged at Nasikawa Vision College for the Sigatoka schools SU rally on Saturday, 19 July. The Speaker, Basden College Principal and Council Member Mst Mika spoke on the topic, *Jesus cares for you* and many students were not only encouraged by the message but enjoyed the Saturday program. Some felt that conviction and responded to the altar call, still many more went forward as they began to reconnect with Christ as Lord and Savior. SWG volunteers, Keni Baro, Ilisoni Taginadavui and Peni Dovi, drove down to Sigatoka to be part of the program and reported positively of this gathering. This is also the first rally for Sigatoka schools inspired by its Christian teachers who felt that leading to organize this important event. SU has also held rallies for Central/Eastern schools this year with other events planned in different zones before the main Camp.

National Director visits Vanua Levu schools.

Mr. Teilai visited schools in Bua, Lekutu, Dreketi and Labasa areas. The purpose of the visit was two fold. One to visit existing SUIS programs and the other to discuss with Principals about SUIS with the hope that they will agree to having SUIS in their schools. At Bua College, over 100



students attend the weekly SUIS program, while Lekutu Secondary commenced its SUIS a week ago. Bua, Lekutu, Dreketi and All Saints all have teachers coordinating SUIS in their schools with the school Chaplains and they are planning to have a combined rally. Further SU is looking for volunteers

and a Coordinator in the North to strengthen our ministry in Northern schools and at the same time, we are excited with what the Lord is doing with schools in the North. The National Director's visit was well received and his praise reports was one of excitement and hope with the work in the North.

National Director visits Levuka schools and discuss Annual Camp.

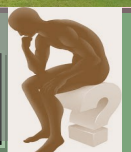
On 11-12 July, the National director visited Levuka Public School to discuss with management the progress of the Annual Camp to be held in Lavuka in December (see page 8). A Camp Committee has been formed

with the School Chaplain, Rev Qikorolevu who will chair the Committee. The Committee will network with Delana Methodist and St John Colleges to be part of this planning Committee. The Committee is also planning on its awareness and planning. The meeting was a fruitful one and it also provided the opportunity for the National Direc-

tor to visit SUIS in the school.



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



Testimonies: From Scripture Union to National Politics

On the 7th of July, Mr. Sitiveni Kalou stepped down as Chairman of the Scripture Union Council to pursue his political ambitions. From Bureta in Ovalau and vasu ni Oneata, Mr. Kalou is the eldest son of the late Minister for Education, Mr. Joeli Kalou. His interest for politics obviously stems from the influences of his late father, his desire to serve in the national arena and of course the new brand of politics he will bring with him come the elections. However this testimony is not focussed on Mr Kalou's political ambitions, rather his faith, that has seen him through some of Scripture Union's toughest challenges.

For many reading about our testimonies and the great work of this Ministry, we may think that it has always



Mr. Kalou at a recent SUIS rally this year with students, teachers and volun-

been smooth sailing at SU, however the realities has been, a lot of prayers, meetings and strategies to turn the financial situation of this ministry around. In the forefront of that is Siti, who apart from serving as SWG President was elected in Council, served as its Vice Chairman and Chairman and was involved in the planning to turn Scripture Union from debt into financial stability. His involvement with SU can be traced back to SU's Annual Camp in 1992, where as a form 5 student, he gave his life to the Lord. Since then, there has been no turning back for Siti as he continued to serve in the ranks of

Scripture Union, years on after that turning point in his life. He has also seen some of SU's most challenging years particularly as he served as Chairman. On the financial struggles of the ministry. *"I reminded myself everyday of the reason (s), I got involved in the first place. I asked God to help me see things and people through His perspective. It helped me through the good and the not-so-good times."* Siti adds about his many years of service with Scripture Union.



Speaking at a recent SU rally



A life of service, Chairman with Secretary Fine Ditoka and President SWG, George

As Vice Chairman, he has had to represent SU in court to answer charges of the financial woes of the ministry. But going through that experience and with the determination of Council members, the work of reversing the debts of SU really began about 3-5 years ago. As Council Chairman, Sitiveni continued to lead the ministry's efforts to ensure that SU is debt free. In 2012 the ministry's debt stood at more than \$5,000. When he resigned, the ministry's bank account was recording a healthy balance

of \$5000 which will allow us to meet the ministry costs at least for the next 3 months. *"Whatever the present or the future challenges, I believe that God has placed people in the Ministry who is able to meet them"* Siti adds. The impact of the work of Scripture Union is felt by many who were part of SUIs. Many, like Siti remember when they gave their heart to Jesus Christ through SU's programs and these are the testimonies of the impact of this Ministry as it takes



Mr. Kalou with SU Team and Pst Manasa at a youth gathering in Suva

the Great Commission into schools and to families. Further partnership with local churches is important and Siti believes that, *"the development and maintenance of a strong, committed and engaged partnership with the wider Church and its members is key to the viability and sustainability of SU; not only as a going concern but more importantly as an effective vehicle for the Great Commission."* Stepping into national leadership is an obvious path for Sitiveni Kalou whose own life is a testimony of godly leadership, commitment, passion and integrity. SU wishes Mr. Kalou well in his endeavours.

Mr. Kalou's full testimony can be read on: <http://scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/testimonies.html>

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." Obama

Scripture Union's JULY in Pictures



Koro High School students holds SUIs. This was the first time for them also to receive a visit from Scripture Union through Council member, Semi Momoedonu



Western Volunteer, Pst Ralulu leading SUIs at Ratu Navula College in Nadi.



SWG President George and Secretary Esther, discussing strategies at their weekly SWG Meeting in Suva.



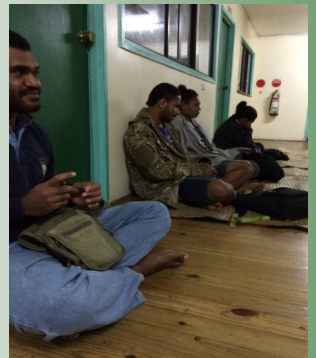
Students of Penrith High School enjoying their cross cultural mission experience in Fiji. The team were hosted by Scripture Union Fiji and seen here after their visits to schools, orphanages and villages is the team doing an impromptu item at the Sukuna Park



Pastor Ralulu after delivering a powerful word at the SUIs gathering at Tavua District School. Photo Credit: Bro Varani



SWG Volunteers Sony and Peni on their way to Sigatoka for the Sigatoka schools rally this month



Suva volunteers at their weekly Bible studies in Suva. The SWG also have their fasting program once a week.



SU Council Members hold their monthly meeting at the SU Office.



SWG Treasurer, Sony shares to a packed lower hall as SWG lead SUIs in Sawani earlier this month. Many young women re-committed their lives to King Jesus.



Celebrating Council Member, Tu Sake's 40th, Surprise birthday.



Former Chair and Office Admin Luisa at a monthly tea fellowship at the SU office.



Scripture Union hosted Penrith students and their teachers and leaders to a lovo dinner at the residence of SU Trustee Mr. and Mrs Usaia and Mariana Tukana. They enjoyed their Fijian feast and time in Fiji.



SUIs continued in most schools this month

"We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it." P.F. Bresee

Story Corner: The Dinner Guest; -Author Unknown

Ruth looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter one more time...

Dear Ruth, I'm going to be in your neighbourhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit. Love Always, Jesus



Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer." With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Seven dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least." She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with a grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt satisfied as she headed home, her meagre offerings tucked under her arm. "Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. "Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it."



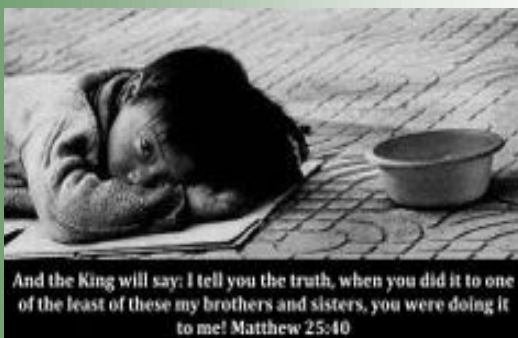
Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him." "Yeah, well, OK lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the

alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag. "Thank you lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street . . . without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you lady! Thank you very much!" Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth,

It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you too, for the beautiful coat. Love Always, Jesus



The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

When the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:37-40

"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in." — Mother Teresa



Scripture Union Office

Bible Society Buildings, 8-10 Luke Street, VATUWAQA



Phone: (679) 3383322



sufiji@connect.com.fj

Postal: P. O. Box 1278, Suva.

Check us on:

scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/



Like us on Facebook Scripture Union Fiji



Scripture Union 50th Anniversary

SWG Central Tukutuku; SUIS Campers

SUIS Lautoka SWG; Western Fiji SUIS

What about the Annual Camp?

Official Countdown: Approximately 122 days.

Come the Annual School holidays and we will be on that board to the old capital for the Annual Scripture Union Camp. The impact from these camps are often lifelong for many and for others, they often leave the camps refreshed, energized and excited that they have made new friends. Last year, at Jasper Williams High School, about 200 students attended camp. The biggest SU Camp was probably about 1000 students in Vanua Levu in 1994. Since then camp has varied in attendance, but the consistent theme has always been about encouraging people to deepen their personal relationship with God. A parent from Lautoka who recently heard about the great work of SUIS was eager to involve her two children with SUIS and have pledged to send them to the Annual Camp in December. Another Suva student is already planning on attending and the Suva Volunteering team are already excited about the weeklong program. The Camp will most certainly inspire.

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

The work of Scripture Union is privately funded by those who prayerfully consider giving to support the work of student ministries. Unlike the church or organisations whose funding is from established sources, SU has to rely on the good will of friends to be able to meet its financial obligations such as paying rent, bills, programs such as rallies, camps, schools visitation and a range of activities to encourage our children in schools on a monthly basis. Every year the cost of student ministry increases and so do the challenges and struggles that young people are confronted with.

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

The pressure to raise children who know God through the Bible is not complete without introducing young people to the Lord Jesus Christ as personal

Lord and Saviour. This is the work of Scripture Union in schools and despite the many financial challenges over the years, we have held onto this important part of our work by going into schools to minister to young people about making right choices in their lives. This is where your faith seed will go into amongst others. It is about investing in the life of our children so that they can know Christ and make Him known. We know that our financial investment in this regard is se-

cured in eternity. In considering whether to partner with Scripture Union one of our current partners stated that,

"I believe that the few dollars I put into the work of SU may not be much, but I am inspired to know that this investment will change a life and that for me is an eternal investment worth making."

To see lives change is a blessing. Scripture Union is in the forefront of impacting the next generation of young people for the Lord. By investing in Scripture Union's work, we are investing into the next generation of Christian leaders, pastors, civil servants, NGO workers and the nation as a whole as we challenge and raise up the next generation of champions for Jesus Christ. This investment is probably the best one can make as we partner together in this Great Commission in schools and especially so in our nation. Our partners have a choice to give a one of sum, give weekly, fortnightly or monthly. A seed varies from a widow's mite of \$10 to a family's annual pledge of \$1000. To date there are 21 pledge partners giving to support SU's ministry in Fiji and we are grateful to the sacrifices and commitment to allow us to go into schools. Thank you for giving to the Lord through Scripture Union Fiji. May you be blessed.

Your children should love the Lord, work hard, and experience the joy of trusting God. More important than leaving your children an inheritance is leaving them a spiritual heritage. If you left your children money they didn't need, and if they were thinking correctly, wouldn't they give it to God anyway? Then why not give it to God yourself, since He entrusted it to you? Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle