Editorial: Where has the year gone?

I ask this question simply to remind me that the days go by like a supersonic jet, where the thrills of the ride leaves one breathless at the speed of travel. The fleeting days gives the indication of the importance of utilising our time well, but especially so for the glory of God. These past two months, has been an exciting and powerful time of ministry for Scripture Union. The pages of this newsletter gives us glimpses of what the Lord is doing in our midst and especially so as our young leaders step into the mission field of schools to share, inspire and encourage young people in their own faith journey. Whether it is riding carriers to the highlands of Fiji, or crossing the waters of Vanua Levu in a ferry, or walking to schools, the journey of our young people truly reflect their zeal and passion for the cause of Jesus Christ. I am blessed to serve in this ministry, where young leaders and our volunteers often forget about their own comforts and jump right into organising, planning, coordinating and ensuring that others get the opportunity to experience the life that we have found in Christ. There are better days ahead, we need to grab the opportunities that God gives us to further His kingdom in our homes, communities, villages, work places and schools. May the rest of your 2016 be blessed and adventurous in Christ Jesus. Enjoy a cuppa, savour our stories and be blessed.

Remembering Sisa Teilai’s legacy; one year on.

A SU team visited Mrs Teilai and her family in June to reflect on the life of Mr. Teilai one year since his passing and pray with the family. Mrs Teilai shared about their journey since and how they continue to find their strength and peace in the Lord. Sisa’s life impacted many people especially in our ministry. In a Facebook tribute, Trustee, Usaia Tukana reflected on this anniversary and shared, “...moving on in the journey of life...letting go...good memories, friends are friends forever, with Jesus in the loop...” Mrs Teilai in reflection shared, “I thank God for sustaining and caring for us, the Teilai women, everyday for one year...We miss our beloved father, husband and grandfather immensely, but not a day has gone by where God has not shown Himself to us through His Word, through people around us or through His provisions. When Sisa left us to go home that night, we started the journey into the unknown by telling God that we trusted Him to take us through. His faithfulness and response to our prayer that night, has become more evident as each day passes.”

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 for details. Plant a seed into this good harvest field.
Scripture Union news

**Scripture Union Annual camp 2016 is moving to Savusavu**

After months of follow up by the Principal of Savusavu Secondary School and the recent visit of the National Director to the North, the Council at a recent meeting agreed that Savusavu Secondary School would host the SU Annual Camp this year. SU Fiji last held its camp here in 1987 and for the past number of years have moved around Fiji impacting thousands of lives that attend this much anticipated event. For the past 10 years SU Camps have been held at RSMS (06), Sigatoka Methodist (07), RKS (08), Nasikawa (09), Ra High School (10), Nilsen High School (11), BMS (12), Jasper Williams (13), Saint Johns College (14), and Navuso High School (15). The Annual camps are anticipated by students as it is a week-long, fun filled activity on the backdrop of Christian fellowship, worship and being empowered and encouraged by dynamic speakers and stimulating sessions. For SU the camps have also been a great forum for students and young people to step up their leadership skills and assist in managing the activities and the many young people in attendance. National Director (ND), Naca who returned from a weeklong mission in the North recently proposed to Council for Savusavu High School to host this camp. “It is not only time to return the camp to the north but more so, it is strategic move for the ministry at this point in time to host it there as it will encourage not just the students and the schools but the communities as a whole. I believe a camp in Savusavu will shake that region for Jesus and send a statement and shockwaves into the realm of darkness and declare His mercy and eventually usher in revival for the men, women, youth and children of the north” Naca said. The proposed camp site can host about 500 campers and is within vicinity of main government services include the hospital, police stations, banks etc. Most of the SU leaders are anticipating this northern camp too. “Let’s not only look to the north, let’s go to the north and take it for Jesus”, the ND affirmed.

**Scripture Union continues to strengthen ministry structures**

On Saturday 23 July, our ministry team comprising the Council, Trustees and volunteers gathered at the Salvation Army church hall in Suva to review the Constitution of the ministry and discuss ways of strengthening and building ministry structures. Difficult and challenging issues of today were discussed and strategies developed to ensure that as a Ministry, we remain diligent and vigilant in the ministry area that God has called us into given the issues of our time. The whole day meeting was fruitful and vibrant as the SU team recognised current and ministry challenges. The constitutional amendment process would then be finalised by the legal adviser Ms. Laurel Vaurasi before Council and then the AGM agree on the revised Constitution. The consultation then followed a SU Council meeting that welcomed all the attendees to also further discuss ministry issues and concerns. This constitutional amendment begins a process of continuing to strengthen every aspect of ministry to ensure SU Fiji remains relevant and our mission has impact in strengthening students walk with the Lord through Bible study and fellowship and other activities that will help them in their faith journey. We are excited to witness what the Lord is doing through the SU ministry. [insert: SU revised constitution]
Snippets of our ministry these two months

Schools ministry continues as SU fellowships with students in schools

Scripture Union volunteers continued to visit and hold fellowships with different schools around the country. These weekly fellowship times during lunch hours include the team encouraging the attendees with a testimony, a challenge or the Word. Some of the schools visited these months included Dilkusha High School, Sila Central, Dudley High School, Suva Grammar, ACS, Naitasiri Provincial School, Lautoka Ahndra, Ba Sangam, Savusavu High School, All Saints, Niusawa, Holy Cross, Bucalavu, Navatu Secondary, St Bedes, Uluivalili Memorial etc. Schools ministry is a crucial part of SU's work, however there is a need for more partners to assist us in this important part of our work. Through partnership contribution, we are able to send our volunteers to often some of the difficult places so they can go and encourage students in their faith journeys. [See back for details on becoming a pledge partner for our work in any of the divisions in Fiji.]

Partnership for the Gospel

An average student spends 30 hours a week in a school and 4 hours in church. It is crucial in this regard to ensure that our schools continue to be a place where young people can continue to be inspired and encouraged in their faith journey. Hence comes the work of Scripture Union in schools. While we endeavour to encourage young people from the Word, we are continuing to seek partners to develop crucial Bible study materials and resources to assist teachers and students during their Christian Fellowship programs. Resources such as the Daily Manna (insert) were developed to help students in their Quite Time. The SU Council is now putting together a year devotional, the Daily Challenge which should be available at the end of this year. This will be the first locally produced devotional.
Snippets of our services these past two months

Reflections on the work of Scripture Union in the west...

The western team continue and enjoyed their schools ministry these past two months. There activity was a mixture of schools visit by the volunteers and holding discussions with relevant school management on the SUIS activities to actually holding sessions with SUIS groups in the respective schools. Naomi and Mereoni currently work with a team of leaders including Pastor Apenisa Ralulu as they share, inspire and encourage students in their various faith journeys. The western division ministry stretches from Nadroga to Rakiraki. While visiting Nasikawa, Principal Mr. Loga thanked SU for its partnership for the past 7 years. Other schools visited by the Western team to share in their SUIS programs include Nawai Secondary School, Korovuto College, Shri Vivekananda College, Nadi Muslim College, Ratu Navula College, Maharishi Sanatan, Sabeto Secondary, Pundit Vishnu Deo School, St Thomas High School, Lautoka Andhra College, Ba Provincial Freebird College, Jasper Williams, Natabua High School etc. In sharing her key verse, Coordinator Naomi Vakawaci affirmed that Isaiah 60:1 — Arise and Shine remains a guide for her and the team.  "We rejoice in celebrating God through the faithful support from our western family, teachers and students...and we praise God for opening doors and for touching the lives of the school management and principals in receiving us” Naomi shared.

Volunteers participates in the EU organized Quiz night

The Alliance Françoise de Suva and the French Embassy in association with the Delegation of the EU for the Pacific organized a EU Quiz night on the theme, Europe and Oceania in Suva at the FNU, Nasese Campus. Close to 70 participants were in attendance at the event representing both the public and private sectors. The quiz covered sports, politics and history relevant to the EU in Oceania. Eight volunteers represented SU Fiji and participated in this event. The SU team was placed 4th in the competition.

The volunteers had prepared for the event including conducting study groups as well as visited the EU library in Suva and the USP library to do their research. It was well worth the experience for the volunteers who also received special thanks from the organizers for their participation. Some had the opportunity to hold discussions with the French Ambassador to Fiji, HE Michel Djokovic on issues.

Volunteer Palu Soqiwa discussed her subject interest at the University with the Ambassador while Broderick thanked the Ambassador for the invitation to the group for this successful event. Joe Waqavolavola Jnr, stated that the event was an unforgettable experience for him. The French Ambassador expressed his appreciation to the young people in attendance and reminded young people to be active agents of change in their community.
Snippets of our ministry these past two months

**Term 2 rally for SUIS groups in the central and eastern division**

What does a television anchor-man, our Fiji sevens rugby captain, a young CEO of the Pacific stock exchange and a Ms World contestant have in common? Their love for Jesus obviously. The second term rally for the central-eastern division saw over 700 students gather at Suva Grammar School for a fun packed, spiritually uplifting program. Students in attendance were from RKS, QVS, ACS, Sila Secondary School, Dudley High School; Yat Sen Secondary School, Ratu Sukuna Memorial School, and hosts Suva Grammar School. These SUIS members were introduced to a panel comprising Mr Viliame Leqa (Fiji One News Anchor-man), Mr. Osea Kolinisau (7s Captain and Fiji’s flag bearer to the Rio Olympics), Ms Brittany Hazelman (Miss World (Fiji) 2015) and Ms Latileta Qoro (SU Council Member and the young CEO of the South Pacific Stock Exchange). Each of the panel member shared about their faith and journey with God while reminding the packed room about the importance of keeping God first in their lives. They linked their success to the fact that it was through God’s grace and blessings that have seen them achieve so much at this juncture of their young lives. The rally was based on the theme, “Facing the Giants” and the speakers shared about how they had to or still have to face their own giants but what has seen them through is the Hand of God. It resonates that famous preaching or inspirational line, “It doesn’t matter how you START but how you FINISH!” For each of the speakers, theirs was not just a testimony but an inspiration for the many young people at the rally and the many “selfies” taken with the group was just a ripple on the surface to what the Lord was really dealing with in their own lives. Everyone walked out of the school impacted, challenged and blessed by the testimonies of these young but dynamic spiritual giants whose testimony is matched by their own faith journey. Those at the rally then prayed for Captain Osea and the Fiji 7s team on their gold campaign at the Rio Olympics next month. There are a lot to celebrate for when people understand their purpose and identity and that they can face and overcome their “giants” with Christ in their lives.

“T’d had Goliaths in my days; alcohol, shoplifting, lying, abuse, drugs, etc. None of them were easy battles either! My Goliaths chased me for 40 years before I had the courage to fight back. When I was at the lowest point of my life, when I had nothing to lose, I finally realised that I had everything to win, God. — Max Lucado — ‘Facing your Giants’
Psalms 119: 105 — Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

“All David had was faith and a rock...and he defeated the giant. All you need is faith in the ROCK to defeat yours.”
In a celebration of firsts, Scripture Union celebrated the first ever combined SUIS fellowship of schools in the province of Naitasiri at Naitasiri Provincial High School on the 16th of this month. The rally brought together students from Naitasiri High School, Lomaivuna High School, Wainimala Secondary School and Waidina Secondary School. Daiana Sofina described the rally as “an awesome one” as it combined the sharing of the Word, items and the opportunity to fellowship with the students. The rally provided the opportunity for our SU team to encourage the youngsters in their journey with the Lord whilst enjoying their student days. Our volunteers also shared their testimonies and encouragements for the hundreds of students and families gathered at this fellowship. There were tons of smiles as both the students and our team enjoyed their time of fellowship, reflecting on the Word and encouraging each other on their faith journey. National Director, Naca Tikoduadua shared that, “the rally was a real encouragement for the schools and the teachers present. SU has been assured of continued support from the community and staff and they have also assured us that they will not miss any of our events in the future.” The event was hailed a success, as the National Director then thanked the Principal and chaplain of the school as well as those in attendance especially the volunteers who put together a spiritually packed program for the Naitasiri students and community. In reminiscing the past, we reflect on the life of our first local National Director, Mesulame Nainoca whose stories of riding horseback and swimming across rivers form the legacy of SU Fiji and our ministry to schools.

Medics Christian Fellowship Group holds first CF with their graduates

Many of these medical school graduates now hold leading and crucial positions in our Pacific hospitals and health sectors, some have become deans of universities and others work in international organisations like the WHO, returned to the Medical school Christian Fellowship to hold their first ever combined Christian fellowship with current medical students. Current student President of the fellowship, John Tuivanuakula who is also a committed SWG member and his team assisted in the organisation of the event. Others CF members include Daiana, William, Betty, Osea, Seveci (circled) etc. also serve within the SWG. In between classes and committed to the work of the Lord at the campus Christian fellowships, these volunteers continue to advance the Gospel through SU's ministries. Most of them were SUIS members and hearing the stories of their alumnus at this combine fellowship certainly inspired them to keep on in their journey with the Lord.
Scripture Union Suva based volunteers took to the hills of Naitasiri, braving the morning chill to spend a weekend of planning, praying and team bonding. SWG Suva President, Olivia Melissa in reflection shared that, “...More than 30 Volunteers attended this retreat. The main purpose of this activity was to bring volunteers together for a get away treat; away from Nabua or Suva and spend the weekend together while reflecting on the past 6 months of service in the ministry through a SWOT analysis. We also focussed on refining our own walk with God. There were also team building exercises and other activities that focussed on teamwork like painting the school lab, harvesting Ota in the bush and on Saturday night, had fellowship with the villagers. On Sunday we attended the village church service and we were super blessed to be part of it. My encouragement for the team was to remember that God is Good and is so faithful. And we should not focus on problems but keep pressing on, keep fighting the good fight of faith! And we must pursue God in everything we do.”

“Serving my generation with excellence will in turn mean, my generation can lead with excellence” Onyi Anyado; Leadership Speaker
Snippets of our ministry these two months

**SU Volunteers heads to Ghana for the international Christian dance conference**

Scripture Union volunteers Keni Baro, Ruth Mudreilagi, Peter Specs and Council Member, Mst Mika Mudreilagi took a leap of faith and headed to Ghana to join Christian dancers from around the world gathered for this international dance conference. Council Member, Mst Mika is also the Coordinator of Christian Dance Fellowship and was instrumental in Fiji holding the then World Festival of Praise. Mst Mika’s passion and natural gifting in the area of Christian dance and ministry has seen him over the years invest in the lives and talents of Christian dances from all faith walks in Fiji. Joining him for this conference was his daughter and gifted dancer, Ruth who currently studies in Australia, Keni former CF President of the Medical School CF and current SWG Volunteer and Peter, a youth and dance leader with the Harvesters dance group.

"It was an awesome trip with its excitements and challenges all gearing me up to what God has for me. For me the journey to Ghana was simply Trusting God in good and bad times, in comfort and uncomfortable situations and simply knowing who God is when there seems to be an impossible situation. God reminded me that my seasons may change but My Saviour will remain the same. I am blessed with opportunity to be part of the conference and I give back all the glory and praise to be His and His alone," said Keni as he reflected on this experience.

Ruth Mudreilagi added that it was "safe to say the trip was a testimony in itself and one where God reminded us again of His faithfulness and that surely, Where God guides, God provides. Praise God for this trip, despite the great battle we faced as a team, it only taught us to continue to fight the good fight and if anything, we walked away with a rejoicing heart and a steadfast faith."
Volunteer Broderick attends a youth leadership conference in Busan

SU volunteer Broderick Mervyn this month attended a youth leadership workshop in Busan, South Korea. Here is his story.

The 2nd Youth Leadership Workshop on Global citizenship Education (GCED) held at Busan, Republic of Korea was an enriching and humbling experience for me. It was the first time that Fiji was represented in this Summit and it was indeed an honor for me to not only be the first representative from my home country but to actually put Fiji on their map.

As a Volunteer with the School Working Group under Scripture Union Fiji and also the President of the Fiji National Youth Parliament Alumni, it gave me an opportunity to share my experiences with young leaders who are also working towards changes for a better future in their own countries.

The workshop provided a dynamic programme that combined inspiring presentations, lively discussions, group work, simulation exercise, intercultural events, and local visits and networking with the local youth. It left unforgettable memories which has inspired and empowered myself as a young leader.

It was a platform where we were given the opportunity to communicate with other young leaders from 50 different countries. This workshop helped young leaders to understand how creative, interactive and inductive global citizenship education could be. In this Summit we learned how to be competent global leaders and how we can contribute to the global community starting locally. It was a rich exchange of ideas and knowledge with so many different countries, nationalities, with a diversity of ethnicity, region and experience.

GCED Summit brought together young leaders who have changed their communities and presented opportunities to engage with other leaders from around the world and explore GCED and its key priority areas to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals. One of the highlights of this trip was our visit to the one of a kind US Peace Memorial Hall and UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea. The US Peace Memorial Hall, served as a place to pay tribute to the fallen U.N. soldiers who served in the 1950-1953 Korean War, as well as a venue to inspire patriotism among their destinations from 21 U.N. allied nations that participated in the conflict. The building featured four exhibition halls, a 4D theatre and convention hall, all of which help raise awareness about the importance of ‘World Peace’. It marked the first museum in the world to commemorate war veterans of the U.N. forces. The UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea honors UN soldiers from 16 countries that were killed in battle during the Korean War from 1950-1953.

Transformative power of education is absolutely a requirement to build a better future for all. It is not just enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to encourage mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge just, inclusive and peaceful societies.

It is clear that creating global citizens goes beyond education. To have a long lasting impact, we need to engage across multiple sectors, actors and levels. It is not only the education sector that should work on this, it’s everyone. It is a joint effort of all stakeholders to make sure that the youth and the young generation can have the learning, so that they can have work and make a better future for tomorrow.

“The authority by which a Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve” John Stott
Why Should You Forgive?

“The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.” (Matthew 18:27 NIV)

God’s Word gives us three reasons why we have to let go of our hurt and resentment and why we have to forgive. We’ve got to release it instead of rehearsing it. There are three reasons we must forgive.

1. **Because God Forgives you.** In Matthew 18, Jesus tells the story of a king who forgives his servant. Verse 27 says, “The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go” (NIV). Just as the king cancelled the debt of this servant, God sent Jesus Christ to pay for your debt. Everything you’ve ever done wrong in your life has already been paid for. Jesus took your rap. He paid your jail time. He took your offense and paid the wages of sin. Jesus Christ died for all of your sins.

2. **Because resentment is self-torture.** It is a self-inflicted wound. Whenever you’re resentful, it always hurts you more than the person you’re bitter against. In fact, while you’re still worrying about something that happened years ago, they’ve forgotten about it! Your past is past, and it can’t hurt you any more unless you hold on to it. When we forgive, we set ourselves free from the prison of guilt and shame.

3. **Because you need Forgiveness every day.** The Bible teaches very clearly that we cannot receive what we are unwilling to give. Do you want to be forgiven? The Bible says you need to be forgiving. Matthew 6:12 “Forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive our debtors (those who sin against us). When we forgive, we transfer the person from our own system of justice to God’s. He is the best judge.

Forgiveness is a lifestyle. It’s not just something you do one time. You need it every day of your life. You’ve got to ask for forgiveness. You’ve got to accept forgiveness from God and from others. And you’ve got to offer forgiveness. Forgiveness must be continual. It must be enjoyed, and it must be employed.

**Think This Through and Talk It Over with Somebody.**

- Who is the first person that comes to mind if you were asked about the greatest hurt in your life?
- Do you ever find yourself reacting to somebody because they remind you of somebody else?
After living what I felt was a decent life, my time on earth came to the end. The thing I remember is sitting on a bench in a waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defence table. As I looked around I saw the prosecutor. He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat my attorney, a kind and gently looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me. I felt I knew him.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off Him. As He took his seat behind the bench, He said, “Let us begin.” The prosecutor rose and said, “My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell.”

He proceeded to tell of lies that I had told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat, I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defence at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life—couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I’d done? Satan finished with a fury and said, “This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.”

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendour and majesty. I realised why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Saviour.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, “Hi Dad”, and then He turned to address the court. “Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I wont deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.”

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, “However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as His Saviour, so he is Mine.” My Lord continued with, “His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, rather mercy.”

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His father and said, “There is nothing else that needs to be done. I’ve done it all.” The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips… “This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed.” As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and having, “I wont give up, I will win the next one.”

I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, “Have you ever lost a case?” Christ loving smiled and said, “Everyone that has come to Me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, “Paid in full”.

Forgiveness is most Christ like when it is given to the undeserving.” Jim George
“Rule with a heart of a servant, serve with a heart of a king.” - Bill Johnson, Senior Pastor, Bethel Church
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 with. The pressure to raise children who know God through the Bible is not complete without introducing young people to the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. This is our work as Scripture Union and despite the many financial challenges over the years, we have held onto this important part of our work by going into schools to minister and inspire young people to make right choices about their lives.

“I believe that the few dollars I put into the work of SU may not be much, but I am inspired to know that this investment will change a life and that for me is an eternal investment worth making.” To see lives change is a blessing. Scripture Union is in the forefront of impacting the next generation of young people for the Lord. By investing in our vision, you are investing into the next generation of Christian leaders, pastors, civil servants. We are raising the next generation of champions for Jesus Christ. SU is leading the Great Commission in schools and you can partner with us to keep this going. Our partners have a choice to give a one off sum, weekly, fortnightly or monthly. It all depends on them. A seed varies from a widow’s mite of $10 to a family’s annual pledge of $1000. We have about 30 pledge partners supporting SU’s ministry in Fiji and we are grateful for their sacrifices and commitments allowing us to strengthen our outreach and missions to schools. Thank you for your partnership and for giving to the Lord through SU Fiji. Talk to us about being an SU partner today.

“All Christians are but God’s stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.” John MacArthur.