

# Editorial: Celebrating life, journey and ministry



#### Inside this issue:

Our people serving with 2 Scripture Union

Snippets of our work 3-4 this month

Scripture Union fare- 5 wells Sisa Teilai

The end of an era-

SU Term 2 rally at RKS

Inspirational Corner

June in Pictures

News and Prayer Cor- 10 ner, Partnership

### 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

The month of June was a moving one for our SU Family as we bid farewell to our National Director, Sisa Teilai. Sisa was a visible figure, a giant in student ministry and had served in Scripture Union for over 30 years. Tributes poured in from the world over for a man that had touched many lives and what a befitting farewell with ministry, church and blood family and friends filling the Nadera Methodist Church to say their farewell. I remember a story I heard in one of the Scripture Union camps I attended, where a woman in preparing for her death in hospital called her family to bid farewell. To all her children, she ended her sharing with "Good Night". To her youngest, she said Good Bye. Her youngest with tears asked his mother why she said Good Night to his siblings and Good Bye to him. With tears streaming down her face, she said to her

son, "I love you with all my heart, but I know for a fact, that all your siblings have Christ in their heart, so when we meet again after this short sleep, it will be a reunion, but as for you son, you have refused to surrender your heart to Jesus, so this is farewell for us. That's why I use the farewells that I did, so I wish you well in life son, and Good bye". The young boy hugged his mother and said, I want you to say Good Night to me, I want to accept Christ as my Lord and Savior. The whole family prayed the sinner's prayer for the young man and he opened his heart to Jesus that day. His mum, smiled and him, said Good Night and passed on. We know in our heart, that we are saying Good Night to Sisa, because we will see each other at that glorious reunion on the Resurrection Morning. Through Sisa's legacy, we are reminded to celebrate life, our journey of faith and ministry as we serve His purpose in our lives on His earth. Good night National Director.

### Will Hold on—Scripture Union tribute to the late ND

Fiji One Anchor-man and SU ministry sang the song at the Nadera Methodist See it This powerful song, a tribute and an en- Christ. What a tribute. couragement was sung again at the funeral of SU Fiji's national director recently. The chorus says,

"Will hold on, through the storm, to the rock, Unfailing Word, till all works is through and your face at least behold."

The song itself is a testimony of the struggles of ministry and the assurances of holding on to the rock, Jesus Christ through the ministry's journey. It was meant to inspire the work of SU 50 years on, having achieved this milestone of student ministry in Fiji. As the volunteers

supporter Viliame Lega, composed a Church, the lyrics came alive as it was powerful song, "Hold On" for Scripture singing the life of the late National Direc-Union's 50th Anniversary celebration in tor who seems to be reminding the minhere (http://istry he served and loved to Hold On, no scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/what-we-do.html). matter the storms to the Rock, Jesus



Heavenly Echoes with Bro. Vili singing on at the SU 50th Anniversary in 2012



# Our people serving with Scripture Union

### Ilisoni Taginadavui steps in as SWG Suva's President

Ilisoni Taginadavui was the Vice President of the Suva volunteers (School Working Group Team). Towards the end of last month, serving President, George Young resigned this position to take up a job offer in the western division following the successful completion of his tertiary studies at the Fiji National University. George who studied forestry now hands his position to Ilisoni, a public health student also at the FNU. Two years ago Ilisoni was the Deputy Headboy of QVS and in that role was also instrumental in his school's SUIS fellowship. Ilisoni is also a member of the CF executive team at the FSM CF group. The role of the SWG President is to coordinate the activities of the SU volunteers and support the National Director in visiting schools as well as carrying out other SU activities such as rallies and camps. Volunteering is open to all students who have been impacted by the work of SU and in turn want to be a blessings to many others about the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ. SWG Activities are held weekly at the SU Office.



### School's ministry continues to intensify as volunteers serve in schools

The SU Volunteers continued their visitations this the visits. In QVS on a Friday night this month, SUIS month with schools in the Suva-Nausori and Tailevu teacher, Mr Waseresere stressed after the fellowship SUIS groups. The volunteers ministry includes either



sharing Bible Study with students, an encouragement and just sharing in worship and praise. Teachers and students alike were both blessed and encouraged by

corridors hosting the volunteers at their respective that it was a time of encouragement for him and the boys and they were encouraged by the sharing. Most of the boys made a commitment to serve Jesus that night. The stories of students being inspired and encouraged continues to be the testimonies of our volunteers as they march into schools with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.



## Young and Serving; a passion for the lost, a passion for His Cause



All parents dream of their children becoming somebody someday. However many more feel like the best parents in the world when they see they children mature and become responsible adults, and, at Scripture Union, we see many of these young people maturing as young men and women in Jesus Christ. While these young people could have easily chosen the world, the fact that they spend their young adult life serving Jesus Christ is truly inspiring. These young people give time, money, talents and passion to take the Gospels to schools, Most were transformed by the work of SU whilst they were in high school and they are now in tertiary institutions or working and still serving Jesus Christ to the next generation. Psalms 1 says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, or sits in the counsel of the ungodly, but his delight is in the Word of the Lord." As our young people serve the Lord in schools, they are testifying of God's manifestations in their lives. This is the legacy of our work in schools as they serve.



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 take time out to plan, energize, inspired and ready to serve

The backbone of the SU Ministry in schools is our volunteers. These young people on the margins of leaving high school and stepping into the various tertiary institutions in Fiji are full time volunteers for Scripture Union planning weekly bible based fellowship to encourage students in high schools in their own walk with the Lord. In the last weekend, these volunteers organized their own fundraising activity to raise funds to support their weekend retreat in Ba. Their retreat was held at the residence of SWG President, Soni's sister's home and the 20 plus volunteer were blessed with a time of refreshment in the Word, fellowship and just enjoying each other's company. Pastor Apenisa Ralulu, SU's Western Coordinator was the keynote speaker for the weekend and challenged these young leaders on their own journey with God. The volunteers were impacted, refreshed and left the retreat home with much reluctance but deeply blessed. Since these past two years, Scripture Union has been en-





couraging these young people to look to God as their source and to trust Him for His provisions in their lives and God has so far not disappointed them. They are energized and inspired and we will certainly see school's ministry going to the next level of His Glory as our volunteers serve.



### His Word remains relevant

Suva Volunteers continue to hold their weekly Bible Study at the SU Office drawing a crowd of young peostudy ple to Word. Scripture Un-



ion premises its theme on Psalms 119:105- Your WORD is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Olivia Melissa said of a recent Bible study that, "speaker of tonight's bible study challenging us to love as Jesus loved." For the young people in attendance, the Bible Study is an opportunity to learnt the Word and to clarify their issues based on the Word. It is always a refreshing time soaking in the Word.

### When Ministries combine

Our volunteers are young missionar- Volunteers at ICE ies in action and they have a lot of opportunities to share their faith and the Word of God on many occasions. SU Volunteers are instrumental in their church young groups and other ministries including Pacific Students for Christ and also the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem. They



have been the link of Scripture Union to the larger body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us of the importance of the body of Christ working together for His glory and as our young people become the bridge for ministry support, we continue to witness lives being blessed and encouraged by their ministry. Most of our volunteers also serve in other Christian ministries and youth groups apart from their own commitment to their respective studies.

### Term 2 rally for Central/Eastern Schools

RKS was a sea of colours as students from about 15 secondary schools attended the Term 2 Central-Eastern rally. The rally was about Naiyala SUIS students bringing students from schools together to share in fellowship and in the Word. Students from Naiyala in- es and the consequences of wrong



spired the attendees with a powerful choices. Other schools came with challenge about putting their trust in items that ministered and encouraged God while the ACS girls shared a dra- each other while the speaker, Pst ma and an action song themed around Kolinio Boila, then delivered a dythe importance of making right choic- namic word on Taking Charge of ones

life. RKS Chaplain and Principal were both encouraged by the attendances of many young people and thanked SU for allowing RKS to host the event. See more photos on page 7.





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

# Scripture Union leaders plans for the months ahead

The Scripture Union Council and Trustees called an extra ordinary meeting at the end of this month to discuss contingency plans for the ministry following the death of the national director. It was a powerful gathering as the leaders were first addressed by Mr. Teilai's widow and long time ministry confidante and supporter Mrs Iva Teilai. In her address to the SU leaders, Mrs Teilai asked the leaders to continue the vision of Scripture Union's work including strengthening our ministry in schools. Council again thanked Mrs Teilai for the life and service of Mr. Teilai. It was also a time of reflection and encouragement from Mrs. Teilai to the leaders to continue the

legacy and work left behind by Sisa. Council then discussed temporary arrangements which will be announced later including the temporary replacement for the position of National Director. It was recognised that the SU must continue to strengthen its ministry into schools and this has continued to date [see stories within]. Leaders





especially agreed that there be a prayer meeting organised to pray for the Lord's continued leadership and direction in the work of Scripture Union during this time of transition. Please stand with us in prayers.

# School's Ministry and reaching out to our young people

With an average of 35 hours in a the world of social media, a sex school week, our schools are a har- driven culture and a society that

vest field of young people whose places a lot of expectations on formative years are characterised young people, this means that the by peer pressure, need for con- need to share the Gospel of Jesus formity and other issues that often Christ as the anchor in life is releshape their choices. At a time vant if not crucial. As such SU ture Union's weekly programs in



when young people are exposed to continues to look at ways to schools is planting a faith seed in strengthen its school's ministry the lives of young people and which depending on SUIS groups many testify of the impact of SU's offers Bible Study, encouragement ministry in their lives. Help us in and fellowship for students. Scrip- reaching out to young people.



# Our Social Media Ministry







people communicate, share and encourage one an- Pauls' using social media to bless their world.

Social Media is often viewed negatively by many be- other from the comforts of their home. For one post cause of its contents and the amount of time we on our Scripture Union Fiji page, we can have over "waste" on them. However young people have taken 1000 views on them with comments on how blessed to using social media as an encouragement tool. SU the viewers are. We live in a time when we can has 4 main Facebook pages, (Scripture Union Fiji, evangelise, minister and encourage by typing on our Scripture Union 50th Anniversary, SWG Central, keyboards. Paul blessed the church and the world SUIS Campers etc). Through this pages, our young with his many letters, imagine today's modern day



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"...



# The end of an era: Sisa Teilai's student ministry journey



It is difficult to quantify Sisa Teilai's 30 years of ministry in one single page. However his whole life of serving in student ministry can be summed up in one word, Passion. Sisa served the Lord Jesus through Scripture Union with passion. It was a passion that drove the National Director despite Scripture Union's roller-coaster ride navigating financial challenges, leadership changes, school and government priorities and other factors that are part of student ministry. He would often serve without receiving a salary, yet he served. He knew that student ministry had its fair of heart

aches, disappointments and challenges, yet he embraced his calling as a high one, knowing that it was God who called him into the ministry and "only God would take me out, and when God takes me out of Scripture Union, it will be difficult to remain", the passionate National Director once shared. To truly understand why he labored for the Lord in Scripture Union, despite the obvious challenges and the financial struggles of the ministry, one only has to hear the tribute from his wife Mrs. Iva Teilai to understand Sisa's heart. Mrs Teilai as a single woman, had prayed that the Lord

bring her a life partner who would love him more than he would ever love her. In Sisa, she found the answers to her prayer as he served the Lord faithfully in this call at Scripture Union. Student ministry is a 5 days a week service and often in the weekend too. It is about visiting high schools and being part of SUIS programs in school. It is also about being part of SU's hectic ministry programs from rallies, weeklong camps, to Bible Study programs and raising funds for ministry work. It is about knowing that you might not get a salary at the end



of a working week, because funding into the ministry is from those the Lord convicts to give and support the vision of school's ministry. That was a life that Sisa knew too well since being challenged by the Lord through Uncle Mesu Nainoca to serve in SU. Sisa often says that when Uncle Mesu challenged him in serving SU, he had no doubt that this was where God wanted him to be and he served the Lord through SU for 30 years. His good friend who served alongside him in student ministry during some of its financial turbulent time, is Reverent Tevita Niurua, now the school chaplain at QVS. Rev Niurua said that Sisa could have taken any job as he had ministry qualifications from Sydney, Australia, yet he choose to stay and serve in Scripture Union because he knew in his heart that this was where God wanted him to be. Such was the legacy of our National Director. From all over the world, tributes were pouring in for a life that made such a tremendous impact in the lives of many. Sisa understood what selfless service was about. He knew that giving to the Lord meant giving up comforts and security to trust in the all provision hands of the Almighty. He often served in difficult leadership environment through the Council but he served the Ministry with the same passion. In the past two or so years, we were all excited with how God was beginning to strengthen the work of Scripture Union. There were definitely silver linings and through it all Sisa remained optimistic and never lost sight of his original calling in serving God through Scripture Union. He did not make a song and dance when he served God, but he surely made a thunderous impact not just on earth but in eternity. William Wilberforce said, "If there is no passionate love for Christ at the center of everything, we will only jingle and jangle our way across the world, merely making a noise as we go" . Sisa Teilai has left a godly legacy for his family and a godly inheritance for Scripture Union and the many who have been blessed by his life. Till the resurrection morning National Director, rest well.



# Pictorial Testimonies

# Scripture Union Term 2 rally at Ratu Kadavulevu School





# Inspirational Corner: Father's Love Letter

### By Barry Adams

The words you are about to experience are true. They will change your life if you let them. For they come from the very heart of God... He loves you...and He is the Father you have been looking for all your life. This is His love letter to you...My Child...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you ... Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down and when you rise up ... Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways ... Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ... Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image ... Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and have your being ... Acts 17:28

For you are my offspring ... Acts 17:28

I knew you even before you were conceived ... Jeremiah 1:4-5

I chose you when I planned creation ... Ephesians 1:11-12

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book ... Psalm 139:15-16

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live ...Acts 17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made ... Psalm 139:14

I knit you together in your mother's womb ... Psalm 139:13

And brought you forth on the day you were born ... Psalm 71:6

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me ...John 8:41-44

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love ... 1 John 4:16

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you ... Simply because you are my child and I am your Father: 1 John 3:1

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could ... Matthew 7:11, For I am the perfect father ... Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ... James 1:17

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs ... Matthew 6:31-33

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope ... Jeremiah 29:11

Because I love you with an everlasting love ... Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore ... Psalms 139:17-18

And I rejoice over you with singing ... Zephaniah 3:17, I will never stop doing good to you ... Jeremiah 32:40

For you are my treasured possession ...Exodus 19:5, I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul ...Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and marvelous things ... Jeremiah 33:3

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me ... Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart ... Psalm 37:4

For it is I who gave you those desires ... Philippians 2:13

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine ... Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager ...2 **Thessalonians** 2:16-17

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles ...2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When you are broken-hearted, I am close to you ... Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart ... Isaiah 40:11

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes ... Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth ... Revelation 21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus ... John 17:23

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed ... John 17:26

He is the exact representation of my being ... Hebrews 1:3

He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you ... Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins, Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you ...1 John 4:10

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love ...Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me ... 1 John 2:23

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again ... Romans 8:38-39

Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen ...Luke 15:7

I have always been Father, and will always be Father ... Ephesians 3:14-15

My question is...Will you be my child? ...John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you ...Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad... Almighty God

My question is...Will you be my child? ... John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you ...Luke 15:11-32 Love, Your Dad...

Delight in me and I
will give you the desires
of your heart ...
Psalm 37:4
For it is I who gave you
those desires ...

Philippians 2:13

# scripture union

# Scripture Union's June in pictures



Volunteers at the SU Office having late night tea and waiting for their retreat in Ba at the end of this



Volunteers lead worship at an

ICEJ gathering this month.



Volunteers doing a bible study and encouragement session at their retreat in Ba. See story at Page 3. Bible studies are also a weekly feature of the Volunteers program. See page 3 for more stories.



Volunteers at their Retreat in Ba at the end of this month. It was a refreshing time for them and the volunteers returned from the retreat energised.



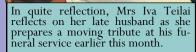
to the Teilai girls at the RKS Term 2 rally this month.



Chairman of Trustees briefs SU Family on funeral plans



Suva volunteers busy preparing basket tea fellowship meal at the SU office, The volunteers baked, cooked, made sandwiches and a range of confectionaries and savouries for the many guests that came to their organised fellowship. The volunteers raised \$500 plus



Sisa's overseas friends and SU Family at his funeral service as they reminisce his life and its impact.







towards their weekend retreat.

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 Office**

**Bible Society Buildings, 8-10 Luke** Street, VATUWAQA



Phone: (679) 3383322 sufiji@connect.com.fj sufijiartnership@gmail.com Postal: P. O. Box 1278, Suva.

### Check us on:

### scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com/

Facebook 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.
- Scripture Union's Ministry in Term 2 including finances to support our ministry
- SU Office for wisdom and leadership as we expand our ministry

### News Board

- Planned Ministry Prayer Breakfast for this month. Venue to be advised in due course
- SU will be registering volunteers soon with the TRB. All volunteers to please give your details to the office.
- School visitations resume. Let us know if you wish to join our volunteers team
- For any visits to schools 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 In considering whether to partner with Scripture Union 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.

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.