## FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: JUNE 2014

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



## The way forward for Scripture Union Fiji



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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

These past months, we have been discussing changes for SU International, regional and national. We are excited about the prospects of those future changes believing God that we at Scripture Union are moving from glory to glory. On 28 SU Fiji held its AGM and discussed ways forward for the ministry. It was an opportunity to listen to the past activities, reflect upon them and praise the Lord for His constant provisions to SU. SU celebrates 53 years of ministry in Fiji this year and we reflect on the many who have helped built the work of SU over the years. Uncle Mesu Nainoca as he was fondly

known is one whose life's work still echoes in the halls of SU. Here was a giant of the faith, whose vision was to strengthen the mission of SU in Fiji and through the Word of God, its reading and application to build strong families. Today we still see spiritual giants serving amongst us at SU. People who give so much of themselves, their time, their comfort, their lives to keep moving God's work. Despite SU's financial struggles, our ministry challenges, and the tears and heartbreak that comes from serving with children, there are many especially young people who still

come forward to serve. To move SU forward, we need people who are passionate and who with convictions know that serving through SU is not a part time event, but a full time calling. Financial droughts will end, God will bring us to our oasis and we know that SU is a vision that wont perish. We will survive to the next millennium should the Lord tarry, and all the more, we need to ensure that our generations continue to carry the vision that birthed Scripture Union forward. We are reminded that we have the greatest privilege on earth and that is being called by the King of kings into His work...Wow.

## Second Term rally attacks a crowd at QVS

QVS was a sea of colors as s more than 800 students from 13 schools assembled at the school chapel to take part in the second term rally. Apart from the creative items, testimonies and fellowship (see pages 4-5), the Speakers, renown Fiji TV anchorman, Viliame Lega and our former SU Legal Adviser, Filimoni Vosarogo shared powerfully on personal relationships with God and living lives of purity as young people. Present at the rally were students from Yat Sen, SGS, Dudley High, ACS, LBSS, BMS, Sila Central, LMS, Dilkusha High, GHS, RKS, MBHS, RSMS, Nasinu Muslim College, Dawasamu High, MGM and the hosts, QVS. Many were challenged and blessed by the program with positive feedbacks received from those in attendance (see pages 4-5).

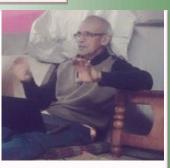


## SU Rally Pictorials

More photos from the rally can be seen on our Facebook Page (see back for details) and also on our Webpage @ Weebly

# Our people serving with Scripture Union

Sam Emery is a man of small statute but a giant of the Faith. From New Zealand, Uncle Sam is also the Pacific Regional Coordinator for Scripture Union. This past week, Sam was in Fiji to visit the movement and participated in school visitation with our Western Team as well as attended the SU AGM where he spoke powerfully about God, faith and the work of SU. On Sunday evening, Sam then had tea fellowship with Suva Volunteers and members of Council where he shared about his 39 years of being involved with Scripture Union and his 8 years of being the Pacific Coordinator. Despite his advancing years, Sam was adamant that retiring was not an option as this powerful man of the faith talked about the impact of the work of SU and on his faith. He remarked that even like Caleb at 82, he would still be asking the Lord to give him his mountains. As Sam inspired Uncle Sam sharing to volunteers those present with his wisdom and experience, his encouraging words amongst others were, "attitude determines our altitude, if you want to soar like eagles, make sure you fly like one. You have the choice to fly like an eagle or run around like a kiwi". His advice to the team was that, "when you face real challenge in your journey and when you get to a place where you start getting critical, ask the Lord what you would do in my situation." Apart from faithfully serving with Scripture Union, Uncle Sam also serves in his local church in New Zealand where recently their ministry has extended to some of NZ's local gang members. His faith and passion remains his driving force and that is why he finds newer areas of ministry as a wonderful opportunity to share about Jesus. As we reflected on Uncle Sam's challenges and inspiring words, we were drawn to his final advice, to enjoy and experience those "God moments" for our "God is full of surprises" and this is exactly what serving God is about, enjoying God's mighty presence while anticipating how God will come through for us Uncle Sam sharing at the SU when we are open, yielded and obedient and that is what Uncle Sam's life has been about. Just spending a few minutes with him and you can catch his infectious faith.



in Suva on Sunday 29 June



AGM on Saturday 28th June

### SWG Volunteer, Siteri Ravula's online ministry.



Siteri Ravula is currently doing her foundation studies at USP after leaving high school last year. She was a member of the ACS SUIS and today remains one of the strongest supporters of the School Working Group. Because of her warm personality and maybe her size, she is often picked on by her SWG

friends but Siteri is not one to give in easily. She is feisty young woman whose personality is as pleasing as her faith and she is very committed in serving God. Siteri is also known within the SWG for her camera shots that have captured some of our powerful pictures in terms

of fellowship or just the SWG engaging in their activities. These photos have blessed many as they see the evidence of the work we do as a ministry. If ever one wants to know what's happening in SU, we can surely know by logging onto Siteri's facebook page. Through her pictures, she shares God's

## Former SWG Vice President joins the Fiji Police Force



Annie Maria completed her police training and this month joined the Fiji Police Force. Proud mother and school teacher, Mrs Mere Caucau acknowledged the impact of Anie's involvement with Scripture Union as a platform to her commitment, dedication and pas-

sion. Ms. Caucau said that, "I believe its the volunteer work that Lewa, Annie Maria did wen she left high school and doing the things of GOD that has brought her through till today...thank you for your prayers and thoughts...may God's favour overflow in the work of the volunteers and school visits that you will do and all the upcoming

events for 2014." Annie was the former Vice President of the Suva Volunteers and helped organised some of our key activities in the past years. SU joins Annie's family in this time of celebration and wish her well in her career.

# Snippets of our work this month

Council Secretary, Fine Ditoka worked closely with school leadership at MBHS and BMS to develop, organize and deliver a new program for these schools. The Christian Leadership Empowerment Program was the result of a vision. Fine shared that, " I was strongly convicted by the Holy

Spirit after much praying and fasting to step out in faith and organize/coordinate a Christian Leadership Empowerment Program specifically for

school prefects/senior stu-

dents with set aims and objectives. In obedience I stepped out in Faith and amazing how God just connected everyone together for His divine purposes - thus the successful Leadership Empowerment program for the pre-

fects of MBHS and prefects/senior

students of BMS. I must admit I did not have any budget for a start BUT God provided and revealed Himself being faithful to HIS WORDS and He took care of all the arrangements and payments!! Halleluiah!! I have learnt a BIG MESSAGE - I must always avail myself

> and step out in Faith when God calls me to partner with Him in His work.... YES so exciting when I am an employee of the King of Kings, Creator of Heaven and earth !!! Emeni levu

## Caring is sharing: SWG Suva 's home visit to members Ben and Olivia

SU's Ministry is not confined to schools for our eager volunteers. Their opportunities to fellowship, encourage and inspire goes even beyond the fellowship spaces of Scripture Union. Earlier this month, the team decided to visit the young family of SWG Volunteers

Ben and Oli Talala and their young son, Ahava. Ben also completed cadet training and is now part of the Fiji military earlier this month. In their visitation, the volunteers not only fellowshipped with the Talala's but spent time reflecting on God's faithfulness and grace. Ben

acknowledged that, without God, he would not have done



Ben relayed that he was, "humbled and blessed" to host the volunteers. Such gestures are a reminder to us of what our ministry is about. It was the late renown poet Maya Angelo who summed it beautifully, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

## Building stronger SUIS movements in Fiji



Our school ministries continues with school visitations and spiritually uplifting programs. It has been strong partnership between the SU office and a network of volunteers as we visited SUIS groups together this month. Council member, Semi Momoedonu as part of his work visited, the following schools (MGM, Ahmadiya Muslim, LMS, Baulevu High School, Cathedral Secondary School, Dawasamu High School, RSMS,) shared and encouraged students in the school's SUIS program or for schools without, to a few Christian students in the school. Pst Naibuka Vuli coordinator for Ba/Tavua schools

also commenced schools ministry in the Ba/Tavua schools. Our Nadi Coordinators, conducted their school ministries program and to date the following western schools are running SUIS programs (Nadi: Korovuto College, Nawai Secondary School, Rt Navula College, Nadi Sandam College, Nadi Muslim, Nadi College, SVC, Votualevu College, Maharishi Sanatan College, Mulomulo College; Lautoka: Natabua High, Jasper Williams, Ba Provincial Freebird, Lautoka 🕻 Andhara, Drasa Secondary, Tilak High, Lautoka Muslim College; Ba/Tavua: Rakiraki Pub- 🅍 lic School, Penang High School, Nakauvadra High, Ra High School, Tavua District, Balata College, Tavua College, Vatukaloko Junior and Nadarivatu High School).



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

# Feedback from the Eastern/Central Rally



# Whatanbe Sho; QVS SUIS

I'm from Japan and a Form 6 Science Student at Queen Victoria School.

This is my 4th year at

QVS and my first time at SUIS Fellowship/Rally.

I really enjoyed the program at the Rally today and I met a lot of friends from other school.

I wish to continue to join the fellowship till I complete my Form 7 next year.

NOTE: The QVS SUIS meets at the school chapel on Saturday evenings at 7pm led by SUIS Coordinator and Chaplain, Rev. Tevita Niurua, a former staff of Scripture Union.

# Sonia Reddy; LMS SUIS

Praise the Lord. My name is *Sonia Reddy*.

I am a Form 7 (Arts) Student at Lelean Memorial School. I attend Suva SDA Church and



am so proud to be here.

I love the way we worship today especially the Praise/Worship Team but I want to encourage other students to worship the Lord in spirit and in Truth. Its my first time at the SUIS Rally and all I can say is Awesome...

NOTE: The LMS SUIS Meets at the school every day at 12pm for prayer sessions and encouragement. The SUIS group is very active according to our latest reports.

#### Meli Nabau: LBSS SUIS

Bula, my name is *Meli Jay Nabau*. I am a Form 6 (tech science) student at Laucala Bay Secondary School. I have been attending the SUIS rally for the past years and this year

its being encouraging as we at Laucala Bay students lent a helping hands to some of our students who were not able to pay for their bus fares to attend this rally.

We have students who



don't stay with their parents, yet looked after by relatives and we share food/clothes together as it states in our item today. But we are desperate for God and I will continue to join the SUIS fellowship till my form 7.







You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian Church in years to come. Charles

Spurgeon



#### Feedback from the Central/Eastern Rally

#### Parayame: RKS SUIS

Bula..My name is *Parayame* and a Form 3 student at *Ratu Kadavulevu School*.

This is my first time at SUIS Rally as I enjoy the program especially the Ice - Breaker (*Peel the Bana*-

na..peel). I met so many new friends today and its my first time to meet Fiji 1 News Presenter (Guest Speaker) Mr Viliame Leqa and Legal Officer (Guest Speaker) Mr Vilimoni Vosarogo. I normally see them on Television and today we meet face to face. I wish to attend all SUIS Rally till I complete my Form 7 as Gods Word today was very encouraging about our individual lifestyle. Thank you..

NOTE: RKS SUIS is held at the School Chapel.



Imagine if we started raising generations of children who stood uncompromisingly on the Word of God, knew how to defend the Christian faith, could answer the sceptical questions of this age, and had a fervour to share the gospel from the authority of God's Word with whomever they met! This could change the world.

<u>Ken Ham</u>



Bula..My name is *Kitione Aisea* and I am a class 6 student at Namara District School (Tailevu). I play Guitar as you can see today with Sila Central High School Students. My sister is a member of SUIS

Group at Sila School and I've been practiced Item with them for the past weeks. I am a talented guy and I recognised this since I was 4 years old. I will continue use my talent for Gods Glory alone.

This is my first time at the Rally and if possible for the SUIS to visit my school as we have so many students who wish to attend this rally as well..

Vinaka SUIS..Vinaka QVS

## Central Eastern Rally in pictures



### **Testimonies**

Apenisa Ciwa is one of our Western Volunteers, a young man who on a first meeting will come across as shy and very quite, a thinker to say the least. However as we get to know him we will discover a passionate and committed young man who is zealous about his faith and committed to the Cause of Jesus Christ. Earlier this year, Apenisa decided to respond to an earlier calling and is today a missionary in Cambodia. He shares his journey with us as a young man stepping out in faith

#### Please tell us a bit about yourself and your involvement with SU?

Bula, my name is Apenisa Ciwa, I'm from the beautiful paradise of Lau. I joined SU in 2005 while I was still studying at FIT; I do not regret it because I have passion to work with young people. If you want to change the future for our nation; we have to impact the lives of the young people with the gospel of Jesus Christ because many young people are leaders today and many more will ascend into national and church leaderships tomorrow. Now looking back it has been an amazing journey and it was only possible through Christ Jesus who have given me the strength.

#### 2. Were you part of SUIS in school?

Yes, I was part of the SUIS when I was in form 6, My Scripture teacher was Ms Jackie Savu. The first time I heard about SUIS I thought it was the name of a Christian dance competition. I never asked anyone what it meant, we were preparing for the SUIS Concert after sharing from the Word. And I remember Mr. Sitiveni Kalou was telling us about the meaning of SUIS and what their vision is! And from then, I was inspired and challenged to come and be part of the SUIS especially in its vision of impacting the life of young people in this nation.

#### 3. What motivated you to volunteer as a SWG volunteer?

My Scripture teacher motivated me, to be part of the SWG, however when I reached tertiary level, I was distracted for a while with other things, what encouraged me was the strong Christian network in Scripture Union and I am so blessed that I have really good friends that are always there to help me especially my sister in the Lord, Naomi Vakawaci. She introduced me to the young vibrant volunteers then and I have never looked back and I have enjoyed my time of serving with them in western schools.

# 4. You are now a missionary in Cambodia, please tell us about how you came to be a missionary?

I never dreamt in a million years that I would become a missionary. My plan was already set; I will go work overseas and support my family. I had my list of 20 things I need to do before I get married. We have our own plan but is the Lord that has the final say. After I finished school I lost the desire to work, however the passion to serve Christ was brewing by the day and I started going out with the SWG West Team to do school visitations and just sharing about the Lord. I heard a sermon once that your life is not your own, but that we are encouraged to live it for others and was inspired by the Lord's Word, that no greater love than this, than for a man to lay down his life for his friend. I also remember Cambodian missionary, Pastor Moses O'Connor at a dinner prior to his departure for the mission field was challenging young missionaries to rise up and he said those words that had inspired me earlier one that "your life is not for you, but it's for others" Just like Jesus said Love your God with all your Heart, with all your Soul and with all your strength, Love your neighbours as you love yourselves. God just brought the right people in my life to motivate me and inspire me and that is why I prayed and sought the Lord on whether I am suppose to come to Cambodia. This year after much surrender, raising funds, faith, prayers and seeking the Lord, the door opened for me and now I am here, a few months on, serving with fellow Scripture Union volunteer and a close brother, Meli Tui and Pastor Moses in Cambodia's mission fields. I am loving this experience and thanking God for entrusting me in this mission work.

#### 5. What do you think about the work of SU?

For the work of SU to really advance, we really need faithful people that can work together for the Glory of God. The harvest is plenty but the labourers are few, and also support the works and the workers weather it is financial or through prayer!

#### 6. Anything else you want to share with our readers?

I would like to take this time, to acknowledge few people before I share. I would like to thank the Council Members of the Scripture Union for the job well done; Sitiveni Kalou, I salute this man for being there for the young people and encouraging them. And also I would like to thank Pastor Jacob Masiyaka and family ,not forgetting Pastor Apenisa Ralulu and Petero Cakau. Thank you so much for laying down your lives for others. **John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this, which he laid down his life for his friends.* Thank you to everyone that has been supporting the SUIS ministry. Young people the life that we now live in Christ is not our own! But for the people that are watching us. At the end of the day it's not about us, but it's all about God. Enjoy life to the fullness because Jesus is already victorious and He has given us the victory that we need to soar with Him. Enjoy your life as a young person but live it for the Lord and trust Him daily to lead you.











Ciwa as Group Leader at the SUIS Annual Camp 2014



## Scripture Union's Month in Pictures



SWG Volunteers Sisters designed and personally raised funds to pay for their *kalavata* to the Central/Eastern SUIS rally earlier this month.



SU Council Member *Tu Sake Tuivanuavou* shares an encouragement before Marist Brothers CF students do their item at the SUIS rally. Marist Brothers does not have a SUIS group, but these students meet at their own time for Bible Study.



Volunteer and SWG Treasurer, Bro Ilisoni baked this amazing birthday cake for the Volunteers May and June babies.



SU Legal Adviser, Ms Laurel Vaurasi presents legal issues around a land gifted to the Ministry in 2011 at the AGM



Lelean Memorial School Students in prayer. According to SU Council Member, Semi Momoedonu, during a career session at the school, at about 12pm, the lali sounded and students asked for 5 minutes break, which they then bowed and prayed. LMS invited National Director and Council Member Semi, to hold SUIS with them





National Director presents report of SU's work in schools. Todate SU has active programs in 57 secondary schools in Fiji. We still need to reach 128 schools.



Treasurer, Vanessa shares SU's financial position at the AGM. We need \$36,000 to support our ministry work in 2015



Chairman of Council, Sitiveni Kalou shared his report of the activities of Council and the areas that need strengthening in 2015.



BA SUIS Coordinator, Pst Naibuka Tavui and SWG Suva Treasurer, Bro Soni visited Ba Mathodist High School and shared SUIS with them and below ,Bro Soni sharing at AD Patel in Ba.



SWG young men at the AGM on Saturday 28th June. Volunteers continue to strengthen their mission work in schools in June and most of them are on semester break right now from Uni studies

"Many of us are missing something in life because we are after the second best, I put before you what I have found to be the best

– one who is worthy of all our devotion – Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour for the young and the old. Lord, here I am" – Eric

Liddell, Olympic gold medalist and missionary to China

## Praying for and supporting our work in schools

Our schools ministry continues this month and in many ways, we remain blessed with the desires and need by students in schools to strengthen their Christian fellowship programs. We recognise that there are many challenges to schools ministry particularly in schools where there is no Christian Fellowship program or where there are no Christian teachers to facilitate or coordinate their fellowships. In other schools, there are active

student fellowships with strong support from school management and leadership. These dynamics reflects in part the challenges we face in students ministries and the barriers we work with as we share HOPE and LIFE through our ministry programs. Despite these barriers, we see still an avalanche of young people attending programs and just absorbing and reflecting on the life changing messages from the Word of God and through



the testimonies and encouragement from our large network of missionaries. We are not referring to only full time missionaries, but those that serve in government, civil society, business sectors and a range of professions

who share about their joy and experiences in serving and living for the King.

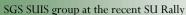


At a time when young people are looking for options, and most, answers to some of life's challenges and cross roads, Scripture Union is able to provide that through leading them or pointing them to a life of fullness in Jesus Christ. I remember a conversation with a School head once, who said rather reluctantly, that " we have tried everything to bring back discipline and control, I believe that the answer now is in Christ". That assertion was made on the basis that the people who was now sharing with him from SU are themselves living testimonies of the work of SUIS ministries and especially the real

change that only Christ can bring. However despite the evidences of change, school leadership still work with enormous challenges when it comes to Christian ministry. It is important in this regard to pray for our work in schools. Pray for the teachers, the government, the students and parents and ask the Lord to keep the doors open for our schools ministries and especially to touch the lives of our students and teachers through the message of Jesus Christ. We are mindful that our role is not to convert people rather in love and through testimonies to share Christ to all and that choice to follow Christ is theirs to make.

Scripture Union Fiji carries out its work through the volunteers, young people with their dynamic energy and experienced and seasoned professionals who give their time, money and energy to serve God through SU. We have laboured in some of this ministries challenges but we are rest assured that though we may sow in tears, we will certainly reap in joy the harvest that is bountiful in our schools. Young men and women who are in the formative years of their lives, learning and taking on the world, and with Scripture Union's ministry are helping them see the world through empowered lens. In our ministries, we see school divides get healed, students finding common identities in Christ and lives reconnecting with the King. Our work in schools will yield a harvest, if not today, in years to come and together we will build a generation that serves God passionately.







RKS SUIS performing an item at the recent rally



Marist SUIS performing an item



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Facebook Scripture Union Fiji

Scripture Union 50th Anniversary

SWG Central Tukutuku; SUIS Campers SUIS Lautoka SWG; Western Fiji SUIS

#### What about the Annual Camp?

The Annual Camp will be in Levuka, Ovalau this year in December. Annual Camps have always been powerful ministry times for Scripture Union as students from all walks and background come together for a few days to study the Bible and be challenged in their Choices for Jesus Christ. I remember attending my last camp as a student in 1998 and just the spiritual expe-



rience of the camp was for me, surreal. At that camp, I remember getting a deeper spiritual connection with the Lord and it ultimately prepared me well for my life in University, my journey as a young man and to who and where I am today, still loving the Lord as if it was just yesterday. I remember the fellowships with

students from different schools, the camp leaders, SU volunteers then and their passion in serving Jesus and just an environment of praying, worshipping, studying the Bible, team sports, empowerment programs, food (a notch up from boarding school food) and the rest of the camping experiences that linger on in my memories today. The Annual Camp is an event that no student should miss. So my advice to parents and students, mark the dates on your calendar, start saving and join us in Levuka, Ovalau for this life-changing experience. Talk to Scripture Union office today for more information. (contact on left)

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

The work of Scripture Union is privately funded by those who cured in eternity. In considering whether to partner with prayerfully consider giving to support the work of student Scripture Union one of our current partners stated that, 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-

"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