

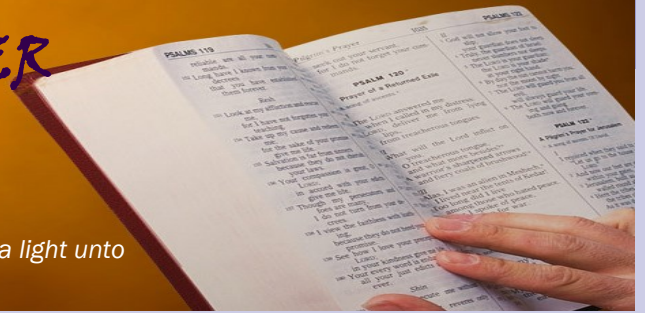
# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: MARCH 2015



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



## Editorial: Arise the Young People



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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

March was a challenging month as Cyclone Pam, a category 5 storm made its way to the Pacific. When she left, there was a trail of disaster left behind and the people of Vanuatu are slowly rebuilding their lives. The storm has taught us many lessons and an important truth; there is no certainty in life, and the only anchor in the storm is Jesus Christ. March has also seen a new SU Council voted in by the AGM though most of those that served in the previous Council were re-elected. The previous Council introduced many changes to strengthen Scripture Union [see Pg 5]. Also in March, schools vis-



*SU Volunteer Akuila does a flag dance at Youthnited 2014. Plan for YN 2015,*

itation remained high in the priorities for our schools mission calendar [Pg 3] as enthusiastic volunteers, our young people used these opportunities to encourage the students. A big part of their month was the items practice by zones for the annual SU Youthnited event. Held on the night of the Coke games finals, this ministry night

brings in thousands of young people to an event that is life changing for many [see Pg 2]. While it is known that many young people use the margins of the biggest secondary schools athletics event for socializing including parties, drinking and related activities, this outreach night provides the opportunity for SU to share to young people about the fullness of life in Christ Jesus. Isn't that what many young people are searching for anyway? Have a blessed April.

## A cyclone called Pam visits Vanuatu (SU Vanuatu)

Tropical Cyclone spared a few Pacific Countries including ours from a devastation that could have costed us much, however for our neighbouring countries of Kiribati, and Tuvalu, the impact of the adverse weather was clearly visible. For our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, the destruction caused by the cyclone was devastating. Part of the huge damage on infrastructures was on the Scripture Union Vanuatu's camp site. Though there were



*The SU Vanuatu Camp Site*



no casualties from our SU family there, the camp site is a major source of income for the ministry of SU Vanuatu. While the responses in relief supplies has been forthcoming from governments including ours, there have also been various interventions by SU office, firstly in the form of prayers for the nation and people of Vanuatu. The SU Ministry is also considering further support especially to our sister movement of



## Our people serving with Scripture Union

### Meet the New Scripture Union Council



**Chairman:**

Sitiveni Kalou has served in the SU Council for over 15 years as Vice Chairman, Member and Chairman. He has also served the Council as its Chairman for about 3 terms. Mr. Kalou is a member of the Methodist church and was a member of



**Vice Chairman/Finance Chair**

Romulo Nayacalevu has served the SU Council for 10 years as Legal Adviser, Chairman and currently as Vice Chair. A lawyer by profession, Mr Nayacalevu is a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God and was a member of SUIS in high school.



**Council Secretary**

Teri Kempe is a volunteer with Basden college. She has served SU for 2 years now and also serves in various ministries in Fiji.



**Legal Advisor**

Laurel Vaurasi has served the SU Council for 2 years now as Legal Advisor. As a lawyer Ms Vaurasi runs her legal practice under the style of "Shekinah Law" in Suva. Ms. Vaurasi is a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.



**Chair: Publications Com**

Emi Rabukawaqa is an educator and until her retirement was the Permanent Secretary for Education. Ms. Rabukawaqa is a member of the Christian Mission Fellowship.

*Treasurer: Mele Marafono*



**Chair: HR Committee**

Tu Sake Tuivanuavou has served SU Council for 3 years now. He works with the B/T He serves at the Valelevu Gospel church



**Chair: Strategic Committee**

Mika Yasa is the Principal of Basden College and has served the SU Council for over 10 years. He is a member of the Methodist Church

**Council Member**

Nancy Loaloa has served the SU Council for 2 years now. She is a lawyer with the law practice of Toganivalu law. Ms Loaloa attends the Methodist Church and was a member of SUIS in high school



Semi Momoedonu has served the Council for 4 years. He works with FNU in Suva and attends the AG church at Calvary.

**Council Member-** Petero Cakau has served the SU Council for over 5 years. He was formerly its Vice chair. Mr. Cakau is a cabin crew with Fiji Airways and a member of the ANCF.

Pst Pati Leqa serves with the Salvation Army Church and he currently oversees their national youth divisions ministry. This is his first term in the SU Council.



*"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."*

— Hans Urs von Balthasar, Prayer



## Snippets of our work this month

### Scripture Union in schools [SUIS] continues

Schools ministry increased in March with the following schools being visited by our volunteers and staff in the Cenral division. ACS, BMS, Dudley High, Nuku Secondary, Navuso Methodist, RKS, SGS, Yat Sen Secondary, LMS, Dilkusha High School, Jai Narayan College, Kalabu High School, AOG High School, Gospel High School, Lami High School, Nabua Secondary School, QVS, Sila Central High School, Tailevu North, Naiyala High School, Basden College, John Wesley College, and RSMS. In the Eastern division, Levuka Public School and in the Western Division, Ratu Navula College, Nakauvadra High School to name a few. In 2013, there were 57 schools in Fiji that had an active SUIS fellowship. 22 were from the Central division; 10 schools in Nadi; 7 schools in Lautoka; 12 in Rakiraki/Tavua/Ba; 1 school in the Eastern division and 5 schools in the Northern division. Of the schools with SUIS ministries, 10 were Christian run schools, 9 were government schools, 3 were Muslim run schools, 18 were Fijian Committee run schools, 16 were Hindu run schools and 1 was a Chinese Committee run school. In 2014 this had increased to 60 schools and it is expected that SU ministry will increase this year and many more young people will come to experience the goodness and faithfulness of King Jesus in their lives. Please remember to pray for the SUIS fellowship and our ministries there.

### QVS launches SUIS at school

The Chairman of SU was accompanied by former student Isireli and Council Member, Pst



The new leaders with the SU Team and school chaplain, 4th in front from left.

Pati and Mr. Sisa Teilai to QVS towards the end of this month on the invitation of SUIS coordinator and school Chaplain Rev. Tevita Niurua to launch the school's SUIS program as well as pray for the new leaders who were elected that night. It was also an opportunity for the SU team to then encourage and challenge the new leaders on their new roles. QVS SUIS meets on Saturday evenings at the school.

### Basket tea fellowship

The SU office organises an end of the month fellowship for the Ministry family. This is an opportunity for all to come together, fellowship and be briefed on the SU's activities for the month. It is an open fellowship and all are invited to join us for this fellowship time. At the basket tea fellowship for the month, the SU was blessed to have the Minister for Health, Hon. Jone Usumate fellowship with us at the SU office. So do mark the April end of the month fellowship on your calendar and come join us for this awesome time of fellowship at the next Basket tea fellowship. It's a good opportunity to catch up and share stories of God's goodness.



### Preparing for Youthnited [YN]:



The Youthnited Fiji event is earmarked to be a powerful time of Christian ministry. To be held on 24th and 25th of April, the YN is a premier event of SU reaching thousands of young people with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. "The YN team is putting together what will be a powerful, non-stop, mind blowing and life changing four hour program that will see thousands of young people from different walks of life not only come together to celebrate God's goodness in a venue and atmosphere that is free of alcohol, drugs and rivalry..." Sitiveni Kalou said. To support the event, please call us at SU office.

**"As long as you do things for God, you are a Hall of Famer in heaven's list."  
— Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?***



## Snippets of our work this month

### Western volunteers hold a leadership retreat



Pastor Ralulu and the Scripture Union western team held their first leaders retreat on the weekend of 21st—22nd March. This was an opportunity for the team to just sit down and strategize on Ministry opportunity in the division. *“Believing in the principle of unity God commands his blessings. In this retreat, the west have pushed everything away and just got this retreat to analyse and strategies the vision for this year...as a Coordinator it was important I share the vision that I have for the west and be able to work with all whom God has brought...In attendance were, President—Pastor Apenisa Ralulu, Vice President, Mereoni Madigi, Secretary, Naomi Capetu, Treasurer, Apenisa Ralulu Assistant Akesa funaki, Apenisa Ciwa, Johnny William, Alipate Ni-umataiwalu, Mst Radu, Sera Cirikiyasawa, Pastor varani Joe Alipate. Our vision this year is discipleship, to make sure that we improve on the consistency of students as we identify two types of student one are those that come to SUIS but a seed is deposit and those that says yes to God and ready to commit”, Pst Ralulu shared.* The Western leaders will continue with their next leadership training focussing on counselling at the YWAM base to be led by Sera McLaren. This is part of strengthening their ministry outreach in 2015. A first team camp for Western Students is planned by the western leaders. Pst Ralulu said the team had *“a great time and just had fun.”*

### SIVA SWG Weekly Bible Study Program continues to grow

The open air Bible Study this month continues to attract young people to the SU office to share and be inspired by the Word. The proverbial hunger of young people to know God and to strengthen their relationship with the Lord is clearly visible with the attendance of many people to this weekly program. The Bible study is an opportunity for young people to also study various topics including “relationships with God”, knowing the “Holy Spirit”, The fruits of the Spirit and others. It is also an opportunity for young people to encourage one another through testimonies and their experiences in a week. Young people also pray for one another and the ministry of SU generally and the purpose of the Bible study is not just to share on the Word but also to apply the Word in their lives especially as they minister to students in schools.



### Western Volunteers commit to the Study of the Word

Western Volunteers meet at Pst Ralulu and Bill Siqila’s place in Nadi for their weekly Bible Study program and times of fellowship and encouragement. The House fel-



lowship has continued to grow as people enthusiastically pursue God through His Word. The depth and revelation of the Word is drawing young people to the study each week and for many of the attendees, this is the one opportunity for them to actually learn from the Word.

*“We never grow closer to God when we just live life. It takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness.” — Francis Chan, Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*



## Scripture Union AGM hears Ministry progress and elects leaders

At its AGM held on the 17th of March, Scripture Union heard of great progress in Ministry for the past year. Not only has the ministry been transformed by the commitment and dedication of its leaders and volunteers, but for the first time in a long while, the Ministry posted strong financial returns at the end of the financial year. This as revealed by the outgoing Chairman, Romulo Nacalevu was the result of strong policies endorsed by



*The AGM votes for its leaders*



*Outgoing Treasurer, Vanessa Quai—Hoi shared the financial report to the AGM*

the Council as well as the enormous personal sacrifices by the many volunteers who serve in the Ministry. Ministry finances, programming including schools ministry, church partnership and divisional ministry in the West and North have been strengthened significantly within the Council's 7 months of service. For the first time in 5 years, an audited account of SU's finances was also presented by the outgoing Treasurer. In the last audit report, the auditors felt that the dire financial situation of the ministry was too precarious suggesting a liquidation of the ministry assets and the closure of SU. This was a wake up call for the Council and subsequent events forced the Council to work harder and ensure a turn around of finances and ministry work generally, and this AGM heard of all the works and actions taken to make the SU Ministry what it is at the end of the 2014 financial year; a stronger ministry.

Sitiveni Kalou was re-elected as Chairman of the Council while Romulo was elected the Vice Chairman. Replacing Treasurer Vanessa Quai-Hoi is Mele Marafono a banker with Westpac. Teri Kempe and Laurel Vaurasi retained their positions as Secretary and Legal Adviser respectively. Board Members, Mika Yasa, Emi Rabukawaqa, Petero Cakau, Tu Sake Tuivanuavou and Nancy Tikoisuva also retained their positions while Pati Leqa and Semi Momoedonu were elected to the Board [see page 2]. SU is grateful to Joy Tonawai and Vanessa for their exemplary service to the Lord in the Council during their tenure. Their support remains unwavering. The AGM also discussed crucial issues for the new ministry year and it is envisioned that 2015 will continue to be a great year of ministry for Scripture Union. Part of the plans for 2015 including strengthening schools ministry programs, ensuring staff are recruited with a contract of employment, more working policies to govern the ministry as well as strong financial outlook for SU. In accepting the chairmanship of the ministry, Mr. Kalou acknowledged the great work of the SU Council and assured the AGM that Council will continue to build on the work of the previous Council and he was excited with the prospects of a building the ministry together, Council, Trustees, volunteers and with SUIS, the school's ministry arm of Scripture Union.



Team West

*"God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life." — John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life*

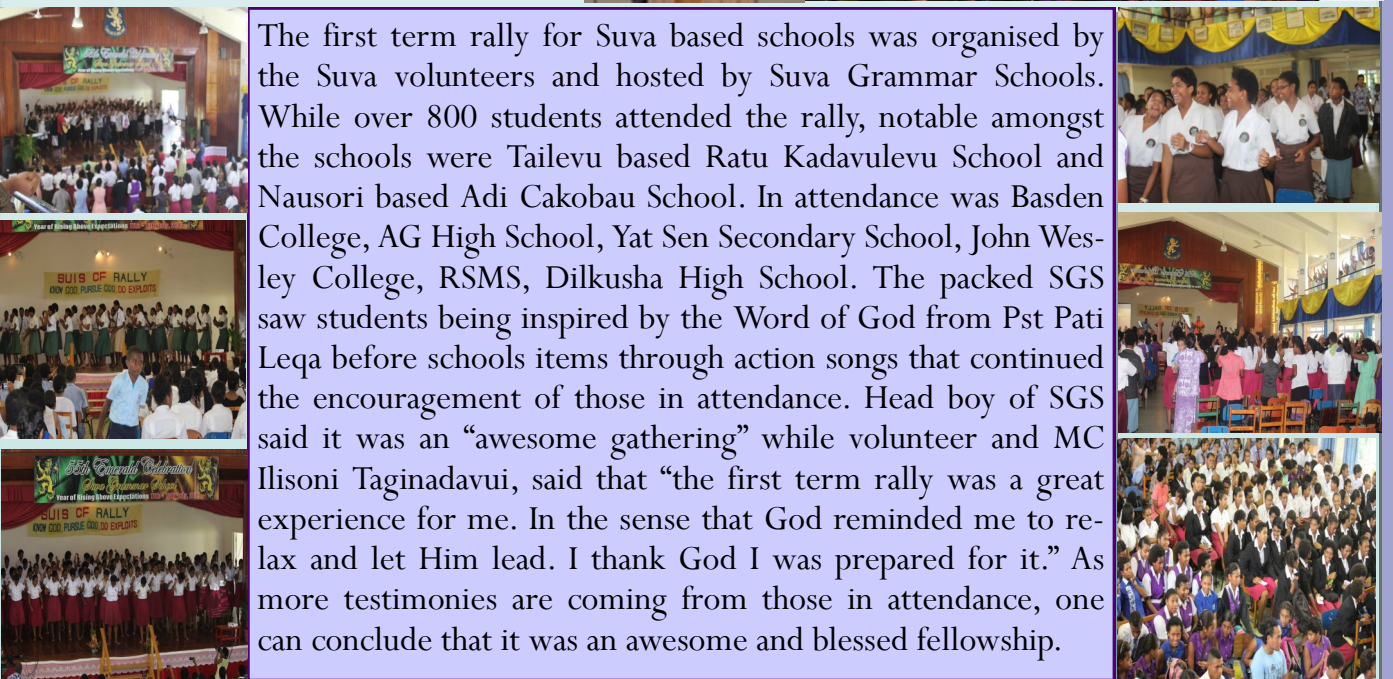


# Pictorial Testimonies

## Suva Schools Term 1 Rally at the Suva Grammar School



The first term rally for Suva based schools was organised by the Suva volunteers and hosted by Suva Grammar Schools. While over 800 students attended the rally, notable amongst the schools were Tailevu based Ratu Kadavulevu School and Nausori based Adi Cakobau School. In attendance was Basden College, AG High School, Yat Sen Secondary School, John Wesley College, RSMS, Dilkusha High School. The packed SGS saw students being inspired by the Word of God from Pst Pati Leqa before schools items through action songs that continued the encouragement of those in attendance. Head boy of SGS said it was an “awesome gathering” while volunteer and MC Ilisoni Taginadavui, said that “the first term rally was a great experience for me. In the sense that God reminded me to relax and let Him lead. I thank God I was prepared for it.” As more testimonies are coming from those in attendance, one can conclude that it was an awesome and blessed fellowship.





*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"...*

## Benjamin Savu volunteers with WA SU

Benjamin Savu left for Australia a month ago to spend time with his family but he ended up volunteering for Scripture Union Western Australia. Benji as he is also known is no stranger to Scripture Union. He was a SUI member at high school and still volunteers with SU Fiji. He is also a youth leader at his local church at the Wesley Butt Street and is a passionate young man for the Lord. His journey with Scripture Union Western Australia (SU WA) and the camp itself was a divine opportunity. "The camp was an Adventure Rafting camp where the Teachers wanted



Benji at the camp site, ready to begin the adventures

*the students of Christian Foundation Collage to Experience some life lessons and spiritual training from SU WA! The theme for this one week water rafting camp was " Who do they say I AM". We had five of us SU Leaders and*

Tents all ready for its campers



*five teachers from Christian Foundation Collage! the total number of year 9 students was 40! we had 10 students per leader". Benji shared. So how did our*

*Suva volunteer find himself serving in an adventure camp in Australia. For Benji, this was all part of a divine orchestration in his life. A touch rugby enthusiast also, having been a team member of the church touch rugby team, Benji's engagement with SU and touch rugby as*

*"I led 7 out of 10 of my boys to the Lord through this wonderful Outdoor camp. That is my highlight of the whole rafting camp and I thank God for bringing me to Western Australia for these boys" Benjamin Savu*

Benji and his friends



*part of his ministry led him to meet Laurence who also serves with SU Western Australia. "Well I had the great honour in joining the SU through a sports ministry friend who happens to be part of SU here in WA! the camp was organized by SU for a Christian school here (Christian Foundation Collage) and lead by my good friend Laurence who has been actively serving in SU WA for more then 3years...This camp was very different from other camps I've been too be-*

River adventures about to begin



*cause it was outdoors and very adventurous and plus we all slept in tents and we took our food ration for 1 week with us! we also built our rafts with our team and transported all our gears on the raft to the different locations for our pit stop for the day!" Benji said. Further Benji was able to lead a group of young men to Christ. "I led 7 out of 10 of my boys to the Lord through this wonderful Outdoor camp. That is my highlight of the whole Rafting Camp and I thank God for bringing me to Western Australia for these boys" Benji said. Since*

being in Australia this past month, he has been trained in their chaplaincy service, completing level 1 which has given him not only a perspective of Christian ministry in Australia but equipped him well for this camp which he stressed has been a blessings and eye opener for him. Benji shared that, "I have learnt that we can learn more by serving schools with the vision to help students learn more about themselves and who they thought Jesus was to them. The camp was for them to have some team building and spiritual training experiencing the activity challenge and connecting them to spiritual development and faith in Jesus." Benji summed up this amazing camping experience in three words, "it was amazing".

***"The only expenditure, and all its outworkings, for which God can be held to be responsible is that which He directs." — Amy Carmichael***



## Inspirational Corner

### The Pastor's son- Author Unknown

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her was evident. As time went on she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children. It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans. This is when the problem began. You see, about one half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand. The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife to be. He began to speak and his statement was this:

*"My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin."*

"My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?"

*If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble.*

The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble. What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. -- Psalm 55:23



*"Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ"*



Suva schools rally, term 1



*"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." — John Wesley*



## Scripture Union's MARCH in pictures



SWG Women leaders at the Suva 1st term rally at Suva Grammar



Praying for the Pacific as the storm brews



Suva schools rally



West Team at their Retreat. Seen here they praying for Bro Pate as he heads off to PNG. —see retreat story, Pg 4



National Director and Western Coordinator Pst Ralulu officiating the elections of the new Council Members for Scripture Union at the AGM held on 17 March 2015.



Western Leaders Retreat. See Page 4 of Newsletter.



Western Volunteers above farewell Volunteer Apakuki Kurusiga (right) who moved to Australia to consider further studies opportunities in the land down under. Kuki (see Jan newsletter) recently graduated with an aircraft engineering qualification from FNU.



Suva Zone 2 leaders learning item preparing for the Youth-Nighted event scheduled for the closing night of the Coke Games next month. The Youth Nighted is SU's main outreach program for secondary school students on the night of the biggest athletics game in Fiji. In 2014, the volunteers staged the first Flashmob that was shown to all of Fiji TV's viewers.



Western Bible Study at Pst Tululu and Bill Siqila's flat are held on Wednesdays. See story at Page 4.



Pst Tululu sharing at the Ratu Navula School Assembly in Nadi. He also visits the school and preaches at their SUIIS program.

*Deuteronomy 15:10—Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*





# Scripture Union

## Scripture Union Office

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

## Prayer Wall

- SUIS groups present in 62 schools. And pray that all schools will be open to SUIS.
- Volunteers and Leaders of SU in our work in schools
- Abigail Nainoca serving her DTS in the US and her mission assignment to India
- SU movements regionally and globally.
- SU Vanuatu in its rebuilding efforts following cyclone Pam
- SUIS in the 62 schools in Fiji.
- Youthnited Event from the 24-25 April 2015

## News Board

- SU will host the YouthNited event on the closing night of the Coke Games from 24-25 April 2015. If you wish to support the event, please give us a call.
- Mark your calendars also for the end of the Month Fellowship at the SU office and come to our April gathering.
- 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 who prayerfully consider giving to support our work in student ministries. Unlike the church or organisations whose funding is from established sources, SU has to rely on the good will of friends to be able to meet its financial obligations such as paying rent, bills, programs such as rallies, camps, schools visitation and a range of activities to encourage our children in schools on a monthly basis. Every year the cost of student ministry increases and so are the challenges and struggles that young people are dealing

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

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

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

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

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

To see lives change is a blessing. Scripture Union is in the forefront of impacting the next generation of young people for the Lord. By investing in Scripture Union's work, we are investing into the next generation of Christian leaders, pastors, civil servants, NGO workers and the nation as a whole as we challenge and raise up the next generation of champions for Jesus Christ. This investment is probably the best one can make as we partner together in this Great Commission in schools and especially so in our nation. Our partners have a choice to give a one of sum, give weekly, fortnightly or monthly. A seed varies from a widow's mite of \$10 to a family's annual pledge of \$1000. To date there are about 30 pledge partners supporting SU's ministry in Fiji and we are grateful for the sacrifices and commitments made, allowing us to strengthen our outreach and missions to schools. Thank you for your partnership and for giving to the Lord through SU Fiji. May you be eternally blessed.

*"It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving." — Richard Braunstein*