



### A month of love, Valentines and God's Grace

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#### Special points of interest:

- The SU Office has resumed operations for 2014. Feel free to drop by for a visit or encouragement.
- To volunteer with SU through one of its programs, don't hesitate to talk to us.
- To be a Partner, see back page

This newsletter captures God's grace and love as a central theme. Firstly because February is Valentines Day month, and also a great reminder of God's own redemptive love for each one of us. This has been an interesting month as we continue to see God's handiwork in many

**For God so loVed the world,  
 That He gAve  
 His onL y  
 BegottE n  
 SoN  
 T hat whosoever  
 BelievetH i n Him  
 Should N ot perish,  
 But have E verlasting life.  
 John 3:16**

us (Pg.5). And of course, the testimony of Mesu Dolokoto is another reminder for young people, that with God, all things are possible. Mesu shares his faith journey from QVS to Canberra and how God showed Himself faithful to Mesu in his season of waiting (Pg. 4). This news-

letter also introduces us to our SWG leaders in George and Esther (Pg 3) and discover their eagerness to serve as volunteer missionaries for SU. Their passion and faith is contagious. And the ingenious innovation of Council Member and Principal Mst Mika Mudreilagi to transform containers into classrooms (Pg.3). Each of the stories covered here is but a glimpse of the behind the scenes of many people who volunteer with prayer, fasting, their time, finances and to the mission field of Asia. The likes and tears. They do this because they love God and want to share that love with as many people as they can. Enjoy March.

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### Scripture Union calls for a time of fasting and reading of the Word

How far do we go for the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is it enough to just be involved for example in Ministry with a meeting or two and then walking away until the next meeting. Is our serving Christ compartmentalized or reserved for that one hour or so on a Sunday. How far do we go to get God's power through the Holy Spirit. SU Council on its first meeting for 2014, agreed that unless we are fasting and devoted to the Word of God, we will not be able to fully realize the power that comes from God through His Holy Spirit. So the SU Council has agreed that the last week of every month shall be the fasting week. Bible reading is encouraged for all as we continue in this ministry work. This challenge on how far we go for the Gospel can only be realized if we are willing to take up our cross daily, deny ourselves and follow the Master. And so SU leaders will be taking this lead with the SWG Suva Volunteer arm already commencing a Wednesday fasting with Bible Studies in the evening. Going back to basics in the Word, in fasting and in prayer are the standards we want to strengthen at SU as we continue our mission work in schools. And in this commitment, we are believing God for miracles in schools especially in the lives of our children.

#### Scripture Union News

- ◆ National Director visited the proposed Annual Camp venue at SJC in Ovalau. See story at page 2.
- ◆ SU visited Lami Secondary and Sila Secondary SUIS this month
- ◆ The Scripture Union Council is launching an SU Prayer Calendar which will be circulated to those interested in following our activities for the year in March. Let us know by email if you want a copy of the Calendar.
- ◆ SU will hold a basket tea fellowship at our office at Luke Street in Nabua on Thursday 27th February at 5:30pm. All are invited.
- ◆ SWG Suva Volunteers organizes a Bible Study Night on Wednesdays. All's invited with information on SU Facebook page.
- ◆ SU Council invites friends of SU to freely join the SU Council fasting on the last week of every month.



### ACS SUIS launch

The packed lower hall at Adi Cakabou School was indicative of the excitement of the student body and the commitment of the deaconess and teachers to host the ACS SUIS on Valentines night at the school. With items, testimonies and ice breakers, the hall was filled with the captivating presence of the Lord as Irene Drauna led the Fellowship in Praise and Worship. Cindy Waqavonovono a SWG Volunteer shared a powerful testimony of abuse, hardships and challenges and how she found God in the midst of her own personal struggles. Cindy's testimony resonated the packed hall at

ACS as people saw a confident and beautiful young woman who was once challenged by her past, now blossoming for God and standing firm in the faith. Another highlight was the sharing of the Word from Old Girl, Mrs Sereana Qoro who shared on Luke 10:38-42 about the importance of ministry before the Lord. Mary and Martha's story is premised around two key points about drawing closer to God in intimacy and relationship and also about building up our faith in Christ. The message was relevant and timely on this occasion as the packed hall absorbed God's truth that night. The



Anointed worship leader Irene Drauna, leads worship at ACS

presence of Senior old girls with the support from SWG Suva at the ACS SUIS was not only a blessings for the students but also for the Old Scholars present this night. The ACS Community and Deaconess was blessed with SU's visitation

### Mobilising Old Scholars to Arise

In 2012, the SU Council agreed that as part of strengthening school outreach, Old Scholars would be invited and encouraged to re-visit their schools for the purposes of encouraging SUIS at their *alma mater*. The impact of these partnerships is that the students get to witness firsthand the spiritual and faith journey of many old scholars since leaving high school. While most of our programs have no school boundaries, we see that in encouraging old-scholars, it not only encourages the CF in schools but also former members of SUIS to re-visit this great Commission in schools. Please contact the SU office for enquiries about our schools programs and how you can be involved.

### Saint Johns College, Cawaci ready to host the 2014 Annual Camp

SU National Director, Sisa Teilai sent praise reports of the openness and joy of the Principal of SJC, Levuka to host the Annual Scripture Union Camp this year. Situated in the tranquil island of Ovalau, SJC, a catholic run institution had expressed its willingness to host the annual camp since last year. This annual event brings together students from schools around the country for a time of fellowship, bible study, testimonies and just experiencing the joy that comes with serving God as young people. Many lives have been surrendered to Christ in these camps and many more develop lasting intimacy with God as a result of their camping experiences. The proposed camp dates are Dec 1-5 and details can be obtained from the SU Office



L: Jone Driso, Deputy Headboy and SUIS Secretary and SUIS President and Head boy, Corrie



Rev Niurua and Chair laying hands on Corrie and his team

### Head boy Corrie Greiner elected SUIS President as QVS launches its SUIS Program

On Sunday the 9th of February, the SUIS members at QVS voted in then headboy elect Corrie as its next SUIS President. In an election chaired by new Chaplain and former SU Staff, Rev. Tevita Niurua, the excitement was evident as the SUIS leaders took on their new role with expectations. This was also the launching of the SUIS for the year and was led by the National Director, Sisa Teilai. Present at the launch was the SUIS Chair and Vice Chair and members of the SWG who were asked to pray for the new SUIS leaders. The following week, Corrie was installed as the school's head-boy in a ceremony attended by family and friends. QVS SUIS currently holds its fellowships on Sunday afternoons and this is the opportunity for the boys to hear, share and encourage each other from the Word of God and through their own testimonies of faith and God's grace.



Praying together, 2013 Annual Camp

For any testimonies that one wishes to share about their work with students or children in Fiji or SUIS updates from schools, please let me know and I will let others know via this newsletter







# The People who serve at Scripture Union

## Master Mika Mudreilagi's Container vision

If there is one thing God has blessed us with; it is the wisdom and vision to be able to excel on His earth. One vision that is the result of wisdom and purpose is that of turning an ugly shipping container into a classroom and which has received raving reviews from students, educators, communities and the Minister for Education, Filipe Bole. This was the vision of Mst Mika, a member of Council and Principal of Basden College in Kinoya to transform these containers into useable classrooms for the ever growing Anglican school situated in Kinoya. The Fiji Times coverage of this story on Jan 23, 2004 notes that, "One thing that sets this secondary school apart from all the other secondary schools in the country is that its Year 13 classrooms are built from shipping containers". When asked if the concept has worked, Mr. Mika replied that the transformation has meant not only a great classroom but which the students and staff themselves have "given their seal of approval" saying the classrooms are "cool, comfortable and spacious and better than conventional classrooms." Together with Australian Anglican volunteer Teri Kempe, these two inspirational visionaries began the transformative work at Basden College that has not only meant resourcing the school with gifts and resources from Teri's connections in Australia but lifting the profile of this little known Anglican school and propelling it into national attention with this ingenious use of resources and the people behind it



Source: Fiji Times

## Meet President George, Suva's School Working Group's (SWG) latest leader

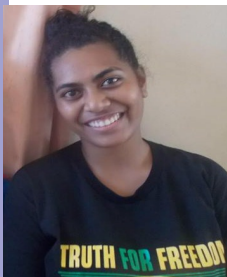
President George has a certain ring to it. And rightly so, George is a leader amongst his peers and a Christian leader at that. George Young hails from Ra and was until 3 years ago a committed member of the Marist Brothers High School Christian Fellowship group. What is peculiar about the Marist CF, is that it does not exist formally as the school runs its own religious program. However George and his friends still yearned for that moment to spend time in bible study and fellowship even after the normal religious classes and that is where the vision of their CF group was born. Often held under trees in school or other locations outside the school, these group of young men, endured challenges to be able to keep their small fel-

lowship growing. It has been making impacts as one sees the involvement of old scholars within the ministry of SU especially SWG. George was elected the President of SWG in January this year. On his election night, George's passion for the ministry was evident. He argued that whilst the ministry has a lot of potential given its existence for over 50 years, more needs to be done to enlarge the work of God and reso-

nate its impact in Fiji. George affirmed the group, that if God called him into this position, he was ready. And ready he is. Seeing him lead a group of young, dynamic people through the SWG, one can see the heart of a servant leader. George laid down as part of his vision that SU Volunteers take advantage of its strategic ministry position by ensuring that through its programs and activities can bring about unity in the body of Christ. George already has a macro vision for the body of Christ and he knows that to realize this, it is important that he holds on firmly to God. (George's full interview—Pg.7)



George conducting an SWG Meeting in Suva



## Esther Ditoka follows mum's footsteps but finding her own voice

Esther Ditoka is a young, vibrant woman whose making her own mark in Christian ministry. Growing up in the shadows of her mother, Fine Ditoka (see January issue) can be difficult especially as Fine is also a committed and passionate woman involved in various ministries including as National Secretary for the SU Council. So when Esther was nominated as a Secretary for the SWG Suva, she gladly accepted the role and has since shined into this new role in liaising, coordinating and recording the work of the SWG. In answering three questions Esther had this to say; **Why do you serve as an SWG with SU?** I grew up in the SU family because of my mums involvement and through all the testimonies and influence of the members I wanted to experience God in every way they did. **2) What can you tell us about your role as the SWG secretary?** At first I was scared and unprepared to take the role but thanks to the committee and family I actually enjoy being the secretary. Its tough work due to all the writing of minutes and being a leader to the volunteers but all I can say is everything is Possible through God. **3) Why do you volunteer with SU?** I volunteer because I want every teenager and child in Fiji to get to know Christ and to experience all the blessings and amazing things He has given and done to me.



Esther and mum, Fine

# Testimonies

## Mesulame Dolokoto's faith journey to Canberra

In various sports headlines on the Fiji Sun and Fiji Times in December and January 2014, Mesu's story was covered extensively, particularly as he heads to Canberra to begin his new season as a student of forensic science at the University of Canberra and a groomed rugby player for the Brumbies Rugby Club under the Super 15 Franchise. But Mesu's journey to Canberra like the dreams of many Fijian school boys, is not orchestrated only by his brilliance in the field but by his own reliance and confession of his deep faith in God. Mesu was the head boy and SUIS President at QVS last year. He then captained the Fiji school boys last year that defeated the NZ school boys in a historic tri-nations event in Sydney, Australia. His testimony is one of passion, of a young man venturing into the world of uncertainties yet promising future because of his dependency in God. Mesu's life as young as he is already having a profound impact with his peers at Scripture Union and this resonated in various Christian fellowships during the annual school holidays. Just sharing with Mesu and listening to him



Mesu and Henry Speight ready for Mesu's first training session with the Brumbies

talk about King Jesus, one can extract a heart that is searching not just to know God but to have a deeper, meaningful and more personal relationship with His Saviour. I asked Mesu to share his testimony and I have reprinted it below without edit. His heart and love for Jesus clearly comes through and Mesu is certainly a young man to watch as he exalts God through his rugby and academic talents. For Mesu, despite the attention, he knows that life is empty and meaningless without Christ.



Welcomed to Canberra by fellow Old scholar and Brumbies winger, Henry

My name is Mesulame Dolokoto and I just recently came to Canberra after receiving a scholarship from The University of Canberra (UC) and to enter the Brumbies Super Rugby team system.

In November last year I was undecided which offer to accept as there were offers from France, West Tigers in Australia and a full scholarship from Hamilton Boys High School in New Zealand. The offer from Brumbies was not concrete at that time so I asked God to help me choose the best. It was a time of waiting and praying. At the end of December the scholarship from UC came through and God told me to choose it. The deal came with a full scholarship to the University of Canberra, payment of visa applications, my airfares and the arrangement for my accommodation. God always has the best in store for those who trust Him.



SU Chairman and Vice Chairman pray over Mesu

My walk with the Lord was not always easy. Sometimes I would fall at the hands of temptations from my peers but I'm thankful to the Lord for Scripture Union because the camp last year and the fellowships after that really engraved Jesus into my life. I would also like to thank God for the S.U.I.S volunteers and the friends for the midnight fellowships, early morning prayers and the hikes to Mount Korobaba for such events have played a huge role in the growth of my spiritual life. To young people out there, there is no sin God cannot forgive. If you fall, get back up for he has died on the cross for you and I. Being chosen as the SUIS leader last year was

really mammoth task considering the fact that it was a boarding school. Temptations would come and without someone to give you the right advice, it was entirely up to you, and as some would say, it was your "will power". I look back at that season of my life and now I know that God was preparing me for this season. He was moulding me to be a strong Man of God that can conquer temptation even though I'm miles away from my parents, SUIS friends and leaders and the Fellowship groups.

To the young people out there, just put God first and he will give you the desires of your heart. Your academic, scholarship, employment, you name it, God will help you through it, only if you trust Him and put Him first. I wish to end with these Bible Verses: *Matthew 6:33* - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. *Jeremiah 29:11* - **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

God bless you all.  
Mesu, Canberra



Mesu farewelled by SU Family on his last night in Suva

“What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.”

— [Hans Urs von Balthasar](#), *Prayer*



**From the sun baked western division to the mission fields of Cambodia**

For Meli Tui, Apenisa Ciwa and Saimoni Rotabuatolu, the idea of travelling to Cambodia was a prayer point and faith realised. It began as a passion, and a dream and on the 10th of February 2014 they boarded a Korean flight from Nadi en-route to Cambodia to join Pastor Moses O'Connor, his wife Catherina O'Connor and their three children who are serving in Cambodia as missionaries. These young men have dedicated their life to God's calling in their life and have served Scripture Union faithfully as missionaries in schools. Their faith journey that took them to Cambodia was possible through the support, encouragement and prayer of many but especially led by our Scripture Union family in the Western division. This was evident in the various fundraising events such as a missions dinner, a basket tea etc that was organised to raise much needed funds to send these Champs to Cambodia. Their faith and commitment saw them abandon their trust in God and believe that His calling in their lives would come to fruition as they walk in obedience to this mission calling in Cambodia. For these 3 men, their mission journey began with their involvement with our SUIS western schools as they organised visits to schools and encouraged many of our children in their walk with the Lord. Their passion and commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ is clearly manifested in their own service and

*...For these 3 men, their mission journey began with their involvement with our SUIS western program as they organised visits to schools and encouragement many of our children in their walk with the Lord...*

willingness to serve despite the lack of bus fares



Photo Credit: Bill Siqila, Nadi SU Coordinator



Biscuit for Cambodia



Ciwa, Josefa and Meli boarding Korean Air



Our Scripture Union Team of volunteers bid each other goodbye at Nadi Airport

or lack of proper support. However it was their heart that caused them to pursue Christ wholeheartedly.



Their impact was witnessed as many supported them in their travels and a full Nadi airport of friends farewelling them. Youth pastor and SU Volunteer in the West, Pst Tululu summed it well when he said, "Thank you SUIS EXEC COUNCIL, WESTERN SUIS, Pastor Jacob & ANCF English Nadi, Church of God, Sabeto AOG, and everyone in the wider body of Christ who prayed, supported in kind and rallied behind these troopers mission prep!...Again Thank you for releasing them into the mission fields of South East Asia!". Scripture Union continues to remember these firebrands in their prayers.

"Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us." — [David Platt, Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream](#)





**A spiritual giant amongst us; a Tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Tuikilakila Waqairatu**

In 2012, Scripture Union in Fiji celebrated its 50th Anniversary of ministry in Fiji. What a long and blessed history of impacts, commitment and passion as we reflect and pay tribute to the many men, women and young people whose lives are intertwined with our history. On such person was the late Reverend Dr. Tuikilakila Waqairatu, the President of the Methodist Church who was called to glory on Tuesday 11 February 2014. The late President Waqairatu was a Christian leader of his time in our nation. He was zealous, passionate and committed to the cause of Jesus Christ, manifested by his own style of humble Christian leadership and willingness to engage with the Christian movement in Fiji. He was not afraid to be God's voice in the "wilderness" challenging thinking, cultures and in the process mobilising the Methodist Church into its own Spiritual Awakening. In the recent past years, Scripture Union's involvement in Methodist



Picture source: Fiji Times

Photo credit: Pauliasi Qalinauci



run schools has been limited by the fact that these schools run their own religious classes and therefore there was no need for SUIS to operate. However Rev Tuikilakila's leadership saw an open door for Scripture Union through its SUIS programs to return to Methodist schools. In 2012 as an invited guest to Scripture Union's 50th Anniversary, the late Reverend Tuikilakila who then was the Church's General Secretary reminded the gathering of the significance of the work of Scripture Union as it supports reli-

gious values and education in schools. In good faith, SU then held its annual camp at BMS with the General Secretary coming to speak to campers a church service with the BMS community. In the September edition of Islands Business, with the heading "Winds of Change Blowing", President Waqairatu expressed his vision for the Methodist Church in Fiji. While his vision was for the church he led, it certainly is a powerful message for the body of Christ generally and primarily the church must remain relevant in today's day and age. To bring reforms, he argued that, "There have been

Photo credit: Pauliasi Qalinauci



Rev Waqairatu with Minister for Sports, Mr. Naupoto and representatives of Scripture Union's ministry ready to cut the Anniversary cake

**Brief Bio** (Source: Methodist Church in Fiji FB)

Place of Birth: Naroi, Moala, Lau  
Married with one daughter

**Traditional Title:** Turaga na Tui Nasau

**Theological Education**

- 1971-73—Diploma in Theology—Davuilevu
- 1974-76—Bachelor in Divinity (PTC)
- 1985-97—Master of Theology (Melbourne College of Divinity)
- 2013—Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Vision Uni, California

*mistakes in the past and we have not remained abreast with the changes, we have not evolved but it is time to change."* Rev. Waqairatu was certainly a Spiritual leader of his time, who was not afraid to challenge the *status quo* and bring changes to the church. His passing is a huge loss to the body of Christ in Fiji though we have been enriched that God has blessed us in this lifetime, with a leader as Rev. Waqairatu. SU Chairman, Sitiveni Kalou in reflecting on Rev Tuikilakila's life

*remarked, the very few conversations I was privileged to have with Rev Tuikilakila always focused on the mission of those who have been called to His purpose, and the importance of the Word of God in our daily lives. He was supportive of the vision and logic behind ecumenism or inter-denominational cooperation. The Church of the Living God, united; is the greatest force on earth. It has the potential and the capacity to effect positive change in all spheres of life; be it economical, social or political. As we farewell Rev Tuikilakila; I thank the Lord for giving us a great leader, mentor and moral authority. Scripture Union family bids farewell to Rev Waqairatu till the resurrection morning.*



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An Interview with SWG Suva President, George Young



What is your vision for SWG?

In order for someone to lead he/she has to have a vision, without any vision it is impossible to know where you're heading and the purpose of your existence. As a president of the SWG (central) which I am greatly honoured and privileged about, My ultimate vision for SU volunteers this year is to take the initiative or the advantage to make use of the available resources that the ministry has to outreach to the youths of today. Scripture Union is a strategic ministry, which can use its influence to bring together youth churches, Christian ministries and schools in Christian Fellowships.

These will enable us to reach out to young people who don't know Christ or has no idea at all about His love and grace. That will set the standard and bring about unity "where their is unity God commands his blessings"

Why do you Volunteer with SU?

From my personal experience, I have come to know this great God more intimately through my involvement in SU ministry activities like rallies, camps, CF fellowships. I have seen the advantage of involving and being part of a great ministry, it is a character building ministry (founded by the word of God), encouraging and also enabling me to explore my real potential. I have seen its goodness and how it has impacted my life and my family in return this is my way of thanking God and the ministry for the huge impact. One thing I always remind myself of being a volunteer is not about hierarchy and popularity, its all about a life of service and obedience to the work of God.

What is your advice to young people out there who are still seeking?

My only advice would be "try God" (Psalms 37:4) Delight yourself in God, he will grant your heart desires. "Place God first in everything you do and he will take you places you never dreamed off".

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

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

Contact Partnership Coordinator:

Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu for any enquiries on how you can be a partner today;

Email: rnayacalevu@gmail.com

Account Details

ANZ
Account Name: Scripture Union in Fiji
Account #: 1320622
BSP
Account Name: Scripture Union in Fiji
Account #: 8046276

ers. It is about investing in the life of our children so that they can know Christ and make His 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 our schools.

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 oth-

JANUARY 2014