

EDITORIAL:

The theme for the 2013 Annual Camp is **Freedom in Christ**. So much hope, so much promises and so much truth in these 3 words. John 8:36 reminds us that "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed". There can be no greater assurance of freedom than in Christ. This may then leave us with the thought, what does freedom mean or how does it look like? Isn't freedom about not being in bondage? So what does freedom in this context mean? Simple—it is the freedom that we get from Christ through our release from the bondages of sin and its curses. It is not just a physical release but also a spiritual one. Bondages can be seen in examples. Bondages to sin, to drugs, to alcohol, to sex etc. The freedom we

are talking about at this camp is found only in the act of forgiveness that Christ alone can give. The redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the

the things of the world. They have no time for reckless living, wild parties, fornication, alcohol, drugs and other works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). Their life is dedicated to Jesus

Christ who has set them free from the bondages of sin. To recognize this means that we celebrate our lives in Christ daily. And so also begins our final journey to the end of the year. The school holidays has caught up with us and we have seen miracles and found testimonies of what God alone is capable of doing in lives that are open to Him. Through 2013, we have seen the Freedom in Christ that comes when we trust God to have His way. Oh what a blessings it is to trust Jesus Christ. This newsletter is dedicated to our preparation for the 2013 Annual Camp. Be blessed.

Freedom in Christ

cross of Calvary is a firm reminder that Christ has paid the debt that He did not owe. It was in paying for this debt, that He redeemed us from the curse and the penalties of death and eternal damnation in Hell and set us free to live for Him. And so this is the freedom that we celebrate at this year's camp. That is why a person who is free indeed does not indulge in

The Annual Camp is upon us again

Ask any past members of SUIIS who attended any of Scripture Union's Camp and they will undoubtedly have a smile across their face as the mental picture of the camps they attended flashes by. My last SUIIS camp as a student was in 1998 and I still remember that camp like it was yesterday. The spiritual experiences of that camp left a deep impact in my life, maybe because it was also my last year in high school or rather because I felt such a connection with God that I know will last a lifetime. Whatever that experience or moment was, truly Annual Camps feature on SU's calendar of activities because it is an opportunity to bring all the SUIIS groups together for a time of spiritual encouragement, nourishment and growth and for many that testimony of an encounter with God is what makes Annual Camps an important part of our school's ministry in any year. In less than a few days time, over 300 to 400 students will march into the school compound at Jasper Williams High School for the Annual Camp 2013. The camp beginning on Saturday 30 November to Friday 6 December will also discuss proposed topics such as "Relationships with God and self and others, Identity in Christ, Sexual Abuse and Dysfunctional Families, Depression and Addictions, Restoration and Renewal, HIV/AIDS/STD" and a range of group discussions and related sessions. Through its camping ministry, Scripture Union is focused on practical Christianity and Christian living as we confront some of society's ills and vices of youth. A lot of young people today are challenged by society, family and peer pressure and have various coping mechanisms to try and deal with these issues. What is certain is that teenage depression, suicide amongst young people, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, crime amongst young people etc. are all on the rise. And the church and ministries like SU need to strengthen our efforts in addressing it, speaking to the heart of young with the life changing message of Jesus Christ.



"AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." - JOHN 8:32

VENUE: Jasper Williams High School
 DATE: November 30th - 7th December 2013
 CAMP FEES: \$50^{FJD}

find us on facebook > SUIIS CAMPERS.



Supporting the vision of Scripture Union in schools



Scripture Union has a lot of unsung heroes. People who toil and tirelessly make huge sacrifices behind the scene, yet their contributions are making a huge impact in our work. They may not be seen in the frontline of our ministry work, but we realise that without them, we are a lot poorer. Meet Luisa Radaveta, the face of our Scripture Union office. Luisa has been with SU for over 15 years now and has seen SU's many testimonies, challenges and milestones. She has also seen the struggles and challenges of SU in terms of funding for our work and together with our National Director have often gone without pay often for many weeks as we look for money to pay them. Their testimony is that through these seasons, they have served faithfully and without a complaint. Luisa's life story is one of passion and dedication with a heart of service. Her smiles speaks volumes of her love for this work and for the Lord whom she serves faithfully through Scripture Union. Luisa is also a blessing to many people and through her life, we are blessed. Scripture Union is blessed to have her in our ranks as one of our heroes of the Faith.

The McLaren's; Our 2013 Annual Camp Directors

Kevin and Sera McLaren are this year's annual camp directors.



They are also part of our SU leaders in Lautoka. Sera is based with Youth with a Mission in Lautoka and her husband Kevin is a school teacher at Jasper. In fact until last few weeks, they were assisting Pastor Pati Leqa and his wife Lusi who were the original camp directors. However due to a conflict in schedules, the Patis' have given their apologies and in the

McLaren's have graciously accepted the huge responsibilities of leading the preparations, planning and organizing of the camp. I write about the McLerans with much bias having known them and their work for Jesus Christ. If there is a testimony to be shared, it is that the love for Jesus is something that one cannot miss when they interact with this couple. They are sold out for Jesus and do His work passionately, whether it is through Kevin's teaching or Sera's leadership at YWAM. They are missionaries at heart and are themselves testimonies of the goodness and greatness of God and their lives have impacted countless people who have come to appreciate the wisdom and their godly leadership and lifestyle. For Sera and Kevin, trusting God remains a key part of their partnership. In fact it is hard to image a YWAMer as Sera to not know the meaning of Trusting in God, for that is the very focus of YWAM. The couple teach and remind people that when we are surrendered to Christ, when our Hope and Trust is in Christ alone, then we are on the right track to finding God's purpose for our lives. In all programs that they have are involved whether it is in speaking engagements of service, the McLaren, know that they are doing it for the glory of the Lord. That is why we are excited about the Annual Camp this year. Undoubtedly through their able and godly leadership, we are bound to hear testimonies of breakthrough, power and freedom in Christ and of course a powerful annual camp for the children in attendance. To God be the glory.



Pastor Ralulu's a firebrand for King Jesus

This year, Pst Apenisa Ralulu, a young firebrand pastor with the ANCF was our guest speaker in many of our western events and also at various SUIS fellowships in the West. Pastor Ralulu's message is simple yet timely and is about empowering young people to connect with God. As part of our volunteer leadership team in the West, Pastor Ralulu shares passionately about His love for the Lord and his lifestyle of simplicity and passion inspires and encourages many people around him. Pst Ralulu will also be the Assistant Camp Director at this year's annual camp and his able pastoral leadership is instrumental in raising up the next generation of Christian leaders and youths. Truly he is firebrand for Jesus in our work in schools and he will be a key person at this year's annual camp.



Tu Sake joins the Scripture Union (SU) Council

Ratu Sake Tuivanuavou or Tu Sake is no stranger to the work of Scripture Union. In fact Tu Sake is leading the charge in encouraging and strengthening the MBHS students whose SUBS group is not recognised by the school but still meet for spiritual encouragement and bible studies. Tu Sake's leadership and support for the work of Scrip-



ture Union is inspired by his own love for God and commitment to His Word. Together with his wife and 5 sons, the Tuivanuavous have been part of many of SU's activities; challenging, inspiring and working with young people and pointing them the way to Jesus Christ. Through the school year, Tu Sake organises Bible study programs at his home with the Marist Brothers Christian Fellowship team and recent Old boys of the school who are part of our SU team. Tu Sake joins SU at an important transition time with his wealth of experience, commitment and passion for the Lord and his work. He also attended his first Scripture Union Council meeting last month and we look forward to Tu Sake's leadership in Scripture Union.

Former SWG President and Council Member to wed his sweetheart



Pauliasi Qalinauci will wed his sweetheart Dr. Vakauta Tukana on Saturday 30 November, 2013. Pau and Vakauta are both committed Christians whose love story is woven with testimonies of student ministry, commitment to the Lord and service in His Kingdom. As a single man, Pau served as SWG President, a role that saw him coordinate and lead Scripture Union's volunteers in Suva. He then became a member of Council and was part of making crucial ministry decision. Dr. Vakauta was a key member of the medical school CF team and

is equally passionate for student ministry. It is not a coincidence, that this couple loves the Lord and working with young people found their love in each other and their common spiritual interest. Scripture Union wishes Pauliasi and Vakauta the very best in their life journey together and celebrates their special day with well wishing, prayers and good health to the couple.

SWG Leaders hold a Camp Retreat

In the last week of October, SWG leaders from both Suva and the West met in Sigatoka for a weekend retreat. Described by attendees as a “splendid weekend with brothers and sisters sharing God’s Word and Kingdom message”, the retreat provided the opportunity for Scripture Union to prepare themselves for the Annual Camp. This leadership training is an important one as it prepares our young leaders about being counsellors or just offer advise to students in need of speaking to someone. From experience, camp counsellors play a crucial role for many students who have questions or are unsure about what they have learnt from the Word of God. That is why this training is important as it equips our leaders to respond effectively and ably when dealing with issues at camp. The retreat also provided an opportunity for our leaders to bond and spend time reflecting on the Word of God and sharing leadership experiences. National Director,



Sisa Teilai has run numerous leadership trainings for camp leaders for year’s past and through the Council this year decided that this should be an ideal time for the ministry to just come together and enjoy this weekend together. Pst Ralulu who attended the retreat described his experience as, “ what an amazing retreat, where eagles from the tribe of Judah came and sharpened each other...it was amazing...without you all, SUIIS will just be a word and not a movement”. SU acknowledges the many people that come to volunteer their time and talent in our ministry work and surely we have been a people driven ministry whose common passion and joy is in serving King Jesus. These

young people know that there can be no greater substitute, no greater calling than to be called by the King of kings to serve in His vineyard. Most at this retreat will be leaders at the Annual camp.

School Working Group invited to ACS’s last SUIIS Fellowship for 2013.

Form 7 students final item



Members of the SWG were delighted to receive an invitation from the Deaconess of ACS inviting the SWG Team to come and lead the girls last SUIIS fellowship for the night. Held at the school hall, the sound of praise greeted the SUIIS team as they arrived at the gates of Adi Cakobau School on Sunday the 17th of November.



A packed auditorium

The final item from the Form 7 students was a befitting tribute to the spiritual upbringing that also formed part of their lives as boarders in Sawani. The message was shared by SU Vice Chairman, Romulo Nayacalevu titled “What’s so amazing about grace”. Pondering on the story of the famous song, Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me by John Newton, the Speaker shared about accessing God’s grace and our need for Him in our lives. An altar call that followed saw many of the young women come forward to give their heart to Jesus and experience that Amazing Grace. Though the fellowship time was short, just experiencing the beauty of God at work in repentance made the trip to Sawani a memorable one and for many of the girls that made a commitment this night, it was about recognising that Grace was an unmerited favour of God that is accessible for them that believe. This was a night of celebrations as students made this important commitment to give their heart to King Jesus asking Him to be Lord and Saviour of their lives.



Members of the SWG at ACS with Chairman of SU Council, Mr. Sitiveni Kalou on the far right



Source: Fiji Sun

QVS awards a Scripture Union leadership Award at its Prize giving

Chairman of Scripture Union recently attended the QVS prize giving and reported the awarding of a “Scripture Union leadership award” at the school’s prize giving. Awarded to the SUIIS President, this award recognises exemplary Christian leadership and was awarded to the school’s SUIIS President, and head boy, Mesulame Dolokoto. In his parting address, Mesu reminded the QVS boys to, “...remember, to always put God first in everything you do as He is able to direct you in the right path.” Mesu also won the Sportsman of the year award.

SUIS Annual Camp 2013

ACTIVE

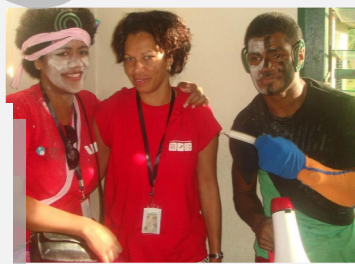
FREEDOM IN CHRIST

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”
- John 8:32

SUIS ANNUAL CAMP 2013	
Venue: Jasper Williams High School	
Date: November 30th - December 7th	
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Camp themed breakfast and young people being cool

Some young people say that the reason they don't like church is that it can be too regimented and boring. We can debate the substance of this, but what we know in working with young people, that to be able to plant a seed into their lives, we have to speak to their hearts. There are of course many ways of doing that and for us at Annual camps, we design various programs that are fun, relevant and speak into the heart of our campers ensuring that students know Christ and strengthen their personal relationship with Him. So apart from the intense Bible studies and serious moments at camp as students connect with God, there are lots of opportunities also to literally let down ones hair and have fun. The 2012 Annual Camp last year had various breakfast themes where campers come dress in different characters. These themes, show not only their creativity but their personalities with some coming in daring attire and others prefer to remain casual. In our flashback moment, we visit a



breakfast theme from BMS and journey with our campers together with their creativity, fun and just colourful display of innocence, and good fun. For Christianity to remain relevant for young people, it is important for the church to speak in a language of young people as well as in a tone they understand. The Bible reminds us that we should teach a child in the way they should go so that when they grow up, they shall not depart from it. The difference between this generation and the previous one is their exposures to the world of information at a click of a button and the changing nature of society which once frowned at sexuality to today which embraces sexuality openly. We must teach our young people that the Christ is still relevant today than He has ever been. Young people must appreciate that serving and living for Jesus is still cool and fun and not out-dated and boring. What better way than to allow young people to be creative and expressive in church rather than in the world. There is a fine balance of course, but Christianity is still way lot cooler and these pictures show it.

Unpacking the tough questions, confronting young people issues

It was a packed room as campers flocked to the Q & A session at the 2012 Annual Camp. A panel from some of Scripture Union's finest leaders, including SU Pacific Coordinator, Mr. Sam Emery, Council Members Ms Fine Ditoka and teacher, Mr. Talem Waqa, and Assistant Principal at Suva Grammar School, Master Mika Mudreilagi, USP Counsellor, Mr. Nicholas Fuata, Missionary and YWAM staff, Ms Sera Cirikeyasawa, Western SU Coordinator and flight attendant, Mr. Petero Cakau responded to these question asked by students with references to their personal testimonies of their own experiences as well as from the Word of God. Some of the questions asked by campers included;

- "After giving my life to Christ and if I sin, will I loose my salvation"
- "What can I do to improve my relationship with my parents"
- "Does the Holy Spirit exist?"
- "Is it okay to backslide?"
- "I have a really close friend who drinks alcohol and is a Christian. How can I approach her about it?"
- "How can I learn to trust God?"
- "Is it okay to date someone at 17?"
- "I once heard that we should not blame others especially God on what wrong things that we have done or the sins we have committed. But it is clearly written in the Bible that nothing happens by mistake and it is according to His plans alone. I am asking for more clarification on this which often confuses me."
- "How can you know that God is speaking to you?"
- "How can I be constant in my relationship with God?"
- "Why should Eve's sin make all mankind suffer?"
- "God is love, why should a loving God send people to Hell?"
- How can we control lust?"



- "Why are there so many hypocrites?"
- "Is it right for us girls for us to have sex?"



These questions reveal a deeper longing for Truth amongst young people. At this camp were students struggling with addictions, smoking, alcohol, drugs, relationships, Christianity and sexual issues. Suffice to say, that most if not all were Christians from strong Christian backgrounds and yet, faced these challenges that go to the root of their faith. The Panel dissected the issues and were able to answer some of these tough questions with references from the Bible. Evident from this session is that many young people are struggling with these issues and need to sit down and talk with someone who can hold them accountable to themselves and especially to God.

The rise in teenage pregnancies

Hospital statistics show that teenage pregnancy is on the rise. A November 4 2013 news article in the Fiji Times stated that, *sexual assault amongst teenagers is a major contributor to high rate of teenage pregnancies in Fiji*. This week, the Fiji Times again confirmed that a total of 57 teenage pregnancy cases have been reported to the Ministry of Social Welfare. And a 2011 new article by the Fijilive website records a similar concern by the Ministry of health expressing their concern with the increase in number of girls below the age of 15 getting pregnant. MOH statistics showed that 15 girls under the age of 15 fell pregnant in 2009, 9 for 2008 and 2007, 13 for 2006, 18 for 2005 and 8 for 2004. This triggers the question of how can we as the church and ministry address this glaring concern of children becoming parents. SU as a ministry is also concerned and has played a role in its camps and fellowship times to remind students about the importance of making right decisions and choices. The importance of seeking God and living for Him, shunning pre-marital sex until marriage and keeping the marriage bed undefiled and are empowered to say No.



Prayer and Quite time: Two key ingredients in growing in Christ

Master Mika Mudreilagi, the current Principal of Basden College, shared about Prayer and Quite time at the 2012 Annual Camp. Challenging young people about the value of their Christian life and to really grow into spiritual maturity, the importance of reading the Bible and praying cannot be overemphasised. Apart from teaching on prayer and quite time, early mornings are dedicated to campers having their own quite time. Some of the campers found that this was the first time for them to really pray and read their Bible or just spending Quite time with the Lord. Parents and Guardians must realise that family devotion and prayer times are crucial if not important time for the family to get together and encourage each other on the importance of prayer and the Word on any Christian's life especially in their children's life. Unless we realise the importance of quite time and practice it as a daily habit, we will not grow into spiritual maturity. Master Mika discussed this topic from a practical Christianity point of view and was well received by the students. This session or its practicality will be a feature again in this year's camp as campers are required each morning to do their Quite Time before the day's program begins.

The Internet and Pornography; Public Prosecutor shares about the dangers of the internet if left unchecked.



Photo Source: Fiji Sun

DPP lawyer, Seini Puamau shared about the dangers of an unguarded internet usage that leads to pornography and its lure of false pleasure at the expense of ones spiritual death. Including this topic at the 2012 Annual Camp, the camp leaders felt that the abuse of the internet and its easy accessibility endangers a lot of young people who are often left exposed to these unwarranted site. According to the BYU Edu statistics, pornography is a US\$57 billion dollar industry with child pornography generating \$US3 billion annually. Pornography has a way of capturing young minds. It is a known fact that with mobile phones and internet accessibility, students are now sending pornographic images around through their phone. Tragic and sad, this will continue to be a real threat amongst our children, unless we start speaking about its dangers, from the pulpit and in the classrooms. The greatest tragedy is that pornography can strangle one's Christian life and kill them spiritually if they are not grounded in the Word. As a lawyer, Seini's talk provided the perspective of not just the spiritual dangers of pornography but also the legal implications around it. It was a great session and campers shared that they were encouraged and blessed by the presentation. The main question now for parents is do you know what your children are doing on the internet and if not, then they must be extra vigilant about it?



Devotional

Our Daily Bread—Dennis Fisher

As I shopped for groceries one day, I was perceived as a thief by one person and a hero by another.

As I exited the supermarket, an employee said, "excuse Me, sir. There are too many unbagged items in your cart". This is evidently a strategy used by shoplifters. When he saw that they were products too big to be bagged, he apologised and sent me on my way. In the parking lot, a woman glanced at my gold embroidered sportsman's cap. Mistaking it for a military hat, she said, "thank you for defending our country"! The she walked away. The supermarket employee and the woman in the parking lot had each formed hasty conclusions about me. Its easy to form opinions of others based on first impressions. When Samuel was to select the next king of Israel from the sons of Jesse, he too make a judgement based on first impressions. However, God's chosen was not any of the older sons. The Spirit told Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature (1Sam16;7). God choose David, the youngest, who looked least like a king. God can help us view people through His eyes, for "the Lord does not see as man sees;...the Lord looks at the heart" (v7)

First impressions can often lead to wrong conclusions

SWG's and the work they do.

The School Working Group (SWG) are volunteers of SU. Comprising mostly of young adults, most were members of SUIS at high school and now are at tertiary institutions (USP, FNU, U o F) or working and come back to give to Scripture Union their time, talents and resources. Every year SWG grows and changes as some move on and other new faces join the group. The SWG is often described as the backbone of the ministry as they complement and support our programs in schools and through the public. These dynamic young men and women are encouraged and inspired to be role models to students in their lifestyle, purity and leadership.



Some Suva SWG Members at an event this year

SCRIPTURE UNION Monthly news

- ◆ Praise God for our financial partners this month and their consistency in giving to the work of SU.
- ◆ The Annual Scripture Union starts on Saturday 30 November running for a week. Camp Directors are Sera and Kevin McLaren [see inside story on page 2]. Buses leave the Suva Civic Center on Saturday 30 November at 1pm for Lautoka
- ◆ Scripture Union office will remain open till a week or so before the Christmas holidays, so students who need prayers, counseling or just talk to somebody, please do not hesitate to call our office on the contact details below.
- ◆ SU welcomes its latest addition to Council, Ratu Sake Tuivanuavou. He replaces Pastor Jo Tamani whose heavy church schedules has kept him occupied.
- ◆ Congratulations to Mr. Pauliasi Qalinauci [Page 2] for his marriage on Saturday 30

Scripture Union Financial Partnership Project:

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. This is the work of Scripture Union in schools and despite the many financial challenges over the years, we hold onto this important part of our work and go into schools to minister to young people

about making right choices in their lives. This is where your faith seed will go into. It is about investing in the life of our children and if one makes that decision to follow Jesus Christ, then our financial and other investment 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 challenging, inspiring and encourag-

A personal letter to our Scripture Union Financial Partners

Scripture Union Office,
c/Bible Society Building, Nabua.

Dear Partners,
Calvary Greetings to each and every one of you from our Partnership Desk and pray that All is well with you and your family and all that concerns you in our Saviour King.

We send you this public letter in acknowledgment of your faith seed sown into the work of Scripture Union, fortnightly, monthly or annually. These seeds are making a difference in so many ways. It allows us firstly to keep our offices open so we can serve our children. And through your seeds, we are going into schools or coordinating that work with a goal that all secondary schools in Fiji make SUIS a part of their programs. We thank you for your partnership this year. Those seeds you sow, are multiplying and one day we hope you will be able to see those fruits in a life radically changed for our King Jesus.

Yours in Partnership for His Cause,
Scripture Union Partnership Desk



BE A FINANCIAL PARTNER OF

Scripture Union Fiji

Please email:

Partnership Coordinator: Romulo
Nayacalevu on
rnayacalevu@gmail.com

ing our young people in schools in their personal relationship with Christ is an investment whose rewards are numerous." 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 you can make as we partner together in this Great Commission in our schools. With Scripture Union, your financial seed goes to changing a child, a student, and tomorrow's leaders today. Just to hear the testimonies of people saved because someone cared enough to give and visit them makes us excited to keep serving God in our schools. Thank you for being our source of blessings through your partnership....and from our heart to yours, Thank you for your giving.

Faith-Seed acknowledges the Administrator for SUIS WESTERN facebook page for the stories and photos of the West for this edition.

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