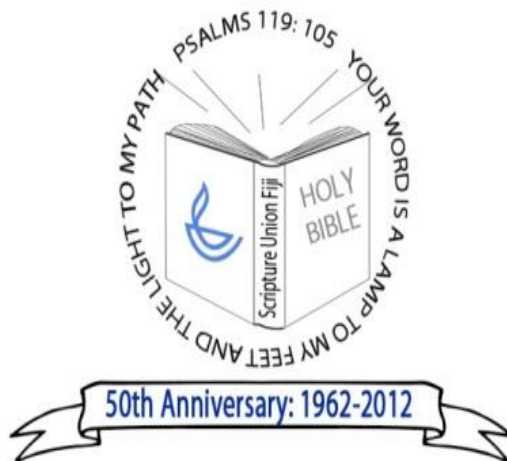


2012



One of the camp speakers, Master Peni Manulevu sharing about God's Word; the Standard



[SCRIPTURE UNION ANNUAL CAMP REPORT 2012]

Venue: Ballantine Memorial School, Delainavesi, Lami

Dates: 1-9 December 2012

Camp Theme: **GODS WORD: The STANDARD**

Camp Director: Mr Talemo Waqa

1. Introduction:

Scripture Union Fiji turned 50 this year and as part of the Anniversary Celebrations, the SU Council agreed that this year's Annual Camp would also form part of the ministry's anniversary celebrations. The SUIS ministry of which the camp is part of would run for 9 days from Saturday 1 -9 December with the location earmarked for Suva given the intentions of holding the closing celebrations at the camp.

I never serve God seriously for 18 years of my life until this year, 2012, last year's camp till now; I saw God work miracles in my life through SUIS Ministry. 19 years old, FNU Camper, Nadi

Camp committee meetings took place every Monday at 7pm since the first week of October and our young SWG Volunteers playing a major role in organising and planning the camp program, logistics, finances and other miscellaneous matters of camp. Two weeks prior to camp, meetings also were held also on Thursdays to ensure the monitoring of camp progress as we worked towards various deadlines. This is often a difficult time of the year for SWG leaders as most are university students and the month of November is often exam week. Their sacrifices to be able to make it to meetings after exams or before a night of studying are commendable and appreciated and Scripture Union as a ministry is blessed to have such commitments amongst us.

2. Camp Leaders: SWG

Two (2) Trainings were held in Suva and 1 in Nadi for possible camp leaders. Vice Chairman, Mr Kalou agreed to conduct the trainings for the Suva SWGs' and joined the western leaders to conduct the western training. Following the trainings, Camp leaders were then identified and each SWG volunteer was assigned to a Camp Committee working group. In this camp, it was a blessing to again see the work and passion of the

*Which session spoke to your life?
"There is so many to choose from but the fact that all are related, they keep going deeper and touching every time I hear something new.
Nadi Camper, 2012*

SWG Members and Camp leaders who not only faithfully carried out their assigned roles, whether it was coordinating and liaising with schools and various CF groups, cooking, cleaning, leading programs, implementing decisions around before, at and after the camp, providing security at the camp or just ensuring that the camp program was a success.

Overall, the SWG leaders demonstrated maturity, patience and wisdom for their age and their sacrifices and commitment makes them a valuable asset of the ministry.

Scripture Union is a Christian leadership ministry for young people, encouraging young people to make responsible decisions about their lives. We also encourage them to study the Word of God as a standard in and for their lives and make sound moral decisions about their lives based on the WORD. And the camp leaders most definitely exemplified not only our leadership vision but also our Christian beliefs. All of the leaders at this camp demonstrated a call of duty that was above expectations. There were only a handful of camp leaders but their commitment and sacrifices almost made it impossible to notice their numbers. In total the ratio of leaders per camper was approximately 1:20. Their life and commitment is much appreciated and camps and other SU activities are enriched, because of these leaders.

3. Camp Program:

The Camp program was designed by the Camp Committee as a program to speak to and minister to the campers by highlighting the camp theme. It was also designed to accommodate the celebrations bearing in mind, **God's WORD the Standard**. The objectives of the session as laid out in the program were to ensure that we confront some of the issues affecting our young people. In gaging media coverage and discussions affecting students, one sees that issues of sexual purity, holiness, relationships, bullying, teenage suicide, depressions etc. were areas that young people were battling with. The need to cover issues of bible reading, quite time, relationship with God was equally important and so sessions were dedicated to that.

"As a first time SUIS Camper, it can be concluded in the most simple way, "Camp 2011 rocks" and the leaders, volunteers were so encouraging to see the image of God being portrayed by this very people of God."
Nadi Camper

This year's camp was awesome and all activities were achieved with people from different denomination sharing interests and socialising with other friends from different school.
QVS Camper, 2012

In designing the program, it was also important to identify strong Christian men and women, whose testimony in the areas of their speaking commitment was a proven one. SWG leaders were invited to make suggestions on the program and speakers and the final program is a reflection of the various issues and concerns that

would speak to the campers. The Camp Theme of God's WORD; the Standard would form the basis of sharing for at least 5 days. We acknowledge thought that the body of Christ is blessed to have many dynamic speakers and we could not invite all of them.

4. Camp Budget:

With the able leadership of Ms Krystle Gavidu as the Camp Finance leader, the Finance team designed a budget that would account for the finances needed for the camp. A draft budget was tabled to the Camp Committee with an estimated revenue source of \$48,000 with (\$20,000 – Corporate Sponsors + \$10,000 from pledges + \$18,000 Camp fees of \$60 x 300 campers) and expenses of about \$27,000 (mostly covering food and administration). Pledge letters were then sent to Corporate Sponsors and Individuals. Letters were also sent to various business houses with

Actually, I had really enjoyed the camp and most of all I had met life time friends
Bucalevu Camper, 2012

responses from (Nestle; 2 Large Milos; Ram Sami (4 crate eggs), BSP (24 sulus), Hot Bread Kitchen - \$200). Bucalevu Secondary School's contribution of root crops and rourou substantially contributed to a decrease in food budget. Shekinah Law sponsored ice-cream for Saturday's desert and Nadi SWG Leaders (Bill Siqila and Petero Cakau) sponsored 2 massive and delicious Anniversary cakes.

*"Food was wananavu,
delicious...excellento"
Nadi Camper*

A total of \$5000 was received in pledges from individuals while Mr Nacanieli Takayawa sponsored for a bus to take students from Delainavesi to Nausori after the camp. While the projected revenue and expenses was inflated to provide a realistic set of financial goals and objectives, we anticipated a lesser expenses and revenue pool and with the strong leadership of our Krystle and SU treasurer, we were able to work within our budget and ensure that Camp was debt free and our campers enjoyed their 9 days at camp.

*Thank you leaders and volunteers
for the commitment and sacrifice in
organising this annual camp and
the sessions we had was really
helpful to me personally and it
drew me back to Jesus starting
another new relationship again
QVS Camper, 2012*

5. Administration and Logistics:

The Principal of BMS as the host of the school agreed to waive all costs associated with the camp. Ms Gavidu and her team drew up an administration plan including a budget for this area of camp ministry. After soliciting necessary sponsorship, Mrs Mereani Tukana of AusAid Project provided a sponsorship to the value of \$1600 for stationaries and other camp materials. Ms Gavidu's Team provided exceptional administration support

particularly in ensuring that;

- all camp forms received were signed by parents/guardians especially the legal waiver and also detailing a student's culinary and health allergies.
- all appropriate camp fees were paid
- leave forms were filled and properly endorsed for those wishing to leave the Camp venue to attend to commitments
- Incident report was filled and documented for issues arising at camp – including those that were sick and needed medical attention

The administration team were tasked with ensuring that the camping kept within budget and that it was major incident free. The logistics team was responsible for ensuring that the logistics around the camp was planned out including ensuring rooms for sessions, meals, accommodation was all in order. They performed exceptionally well in this camp. Thank you leaders.

6. Camp Awareness:

Tasked with ensuring that the Annual Camp would receive the necessary public awareness, the PRO team led by Mr Semi Momoedonu did a fantastic job in promoting the camp. The following were the awareness programs and outreach conducted a month or two before the camp;

- Promotion of Camp via Facebook page which today currently stands at over 2400 friends –

- Poster designed and circulated to all schools, and posted on Facebook and school's notice board
- Interviews on Radio Light about the Annual Camp during the afternoon drive time – 5:7pm on Tuesdays and Thursday and Saturday night.
- Release of Media Statement to the Fiji Times, Fiji Sun, Fiji TV and FBC TV – and coverage by Fiji Times –
- Design and sale of Camp- related T-shirts –

Further, the SWG Leaders own initiative saw them hold a mini-concert at FNU Samabula on the 1st week of November with various performances by various youth and Christian fellowship groups. Through Mr Momoedonu's commitment, camp was well documented in terms of daily photos of camp activities and all these photos can now be found on Scripture Union's 50th Anniversary page.

Speakers:

The camp speakers were identified on the basis of their expertise on their invited session's particularly technical sessions and were requested to speak on these sessions with biblical references. Others particularly pastors and church leaders were invited based on their own spiritual leadership and work with young people as well as an opportunity for SU to network with them and their ministries. Of the pastors invited, only one was not able to attend due to a conflicting schedule. Many pastors and church leaders were products of Scripture Union ministries either as members of the CF in their secondary schools or part of the camping ministries. Interestingly also, many church leaders and ministry people gave their lives to the Lord either at an SU Camp or event. Pastors and church leaders who spoke at camp included (Pst Isei Tudreu, Nadi

*The fact that we learnt some really essential lessons and advice that I think will definitely help in my walk with the Lord and also socialising with friends from all over the country was awesome.
QVS Camper, 2012*

Brethren Church, Reverend Tevita Nawadra – General Secretary elect of the Methodist Church – invited to close the camp by Reverend/Principal of BMS, Rev. Colati Ledua), Elder Nainoca of the Gospel Churches, Pst Koroi Mudreilagi, Kingdom Ambassadors and Mr. Manulevu, Mr. Yasa and Mr. Fuata as lay preachers of the Methodist Church. Each speaker also belonged to different Christian denominations (CMF, ANCF, RCCG, Baptist etc)

which are an important feature of SU's inter-denominational back-ground. Most of the speakers enjoyed the privilege of speaking at Camp and for some; this was their first SU speaking engagement.

Campers:

Student campers this year were representative of various schools with the furthest travelling school being Bucalevu High School (and also the largest camper numbers with over 20 students) from Taveuni followed by Levuka Public School (5 campers) and Nadarivatu High School (2 camper). Some CF groups had their principal/school support to attend camp while others were at camp on their own individual efforts and approved by their parents/guardians. Students from MBHS, SJSS etc. who did not have active

*"Thanks very much leaders, speakers and volunteers for the wonderful program, the encouragement and the guidance from God"
FNU Suva student camper*

Christian Fellowships in their school, came to camp as individuals. Western Schools (Natabua High School, Nadi Muslim, Votualevu College, Sigatoka Methodist etc. were all represented albeit some school there was a single student from that school) RKS and LMS had only 1 camper, ACS had 5, and SGS 5, a change from the past where most of the campers would be from these schools. QVS had the second most number of students at camp, about 15 and their camp fees were subsidised by the QVSOB who paid for half of the students' camp fees.

8.1 Tertiary Student Campers

A good number of tertiary students also attended the camp, not necessarily as camp leaders but as campers themselves. In this regard, it is important to also network with PSFC (Pacific Students for Christ) as the sister ministry that coordinates programs for tertiary students. While we encourage tertiary students from attending camp as they are potential SUIS Volunteers too, we need to design a stronger working relationship with PSFC in ensuring the link and transition of a camper from secondary to tertiary Christian fellowship.

8.2 SUPA (Scripture Union in Primary Schools) Club

There was no specific program for SUPA club members but we are grateful to Ms Fine Ditoka and others who volunteered to run special SUPA club programs for the primary school students. In this regard, it is important that the SUPA club program be strengthened so that young primary school campers can also have their own program running. SUPA club coordinators in this regard need to work with SUIS Camp Committee if primary school students intend to attend future SUIS camps. While we do not want to discourage anyone from camp, it is important that when primary school students are camping, extra safeguards are necessary including having programs that would minister to them. The 2012 was targeted for matured, secondary school students so the programs were tailored towards that. But SUPA club is equally important as these are the future SUIS members in a year or two.

Evaluation

Most if not all our campers this year thoroughly enjoyed the programs and sessions and felt that the sessions were timely and the speakers delivered powerfully. With only about two campers other campers indicated that they gave their lives to the Lord or made fresh commitments to serving Jesus. The most popular session which many campers felt addressed their concerns was a DVD session titled, "**Keep your underwear on**" by American Preacher, Pastor Jentzen Franklin. The DVD focussed on sexual purity, holiness and the biblical warnings of sex outside marriage. After this session, there was a prayer and ministry time where most responded to an altar call and just broke their heart out to the Lord. This turned out to

Comment about camp 2012

It was the best one I ever attended. I would like to thank the leaders, organisers, the volunteers, my fellow campers and most importantly the Lord...

2012 Nadi Camper

The camp was
awesome,
awesome,
awesome...

Suva Camper 2012

The best camp, I've
ever attended.
QVS camper, 2012

be almost an hour and ½ of weeping with children making themselves right before the Lord. Others silently standing by as tears streamed down their faces. This was one of the most powerful moments at camp as individuals connected with the Lord in their personal and most private of ways. The Lord was moving powerfully.

Most campers came on the first day very reluctant and unsure about the decision made to come to camp. For some, this would be the first time to be out of the comfort of their homes for 9 days while for others; they have already been to a SUI Camp. In terms of evaluation, questions were asked on various aspects of the camping program and of the camp evaluation forms returned, this was the 125 response received.

1. Was the accommodation acceptable: 117/125
94% found the accommodation acceptable
2. Was the food okay? If not what should have been included or taken away? 123
98% found the food okay with recommendations of juice at every meal
3. Were the camp leaders helpful and why? 123/125
98% found the camp leaders very helpful with strong reviews of most of the leaders.
4. Did the 2012 camp meet your expectations? 122/125
97.5% felt the camp met their expectations.
5. Did you enjoy the camp sessions? 125/125
100% of the students enjoyed the camp sessions with suggestions of shorter and some suggested longer time allocated for sessions.
6. Did you enjoy listening to the Camp Speakers?
Most said yes
7. Do you think there was not enough/more than enough/just enough or too much sessions? 122/125
97.5% disagreed that there was too much sessions with most agreeing that the sessions was just or more than enough.
8. Did you give your life to Jesus or made a fresh commitment to Jesus at camp? 120
96% of the campers gave their life to Jesus or made fresh commitments.
9. Would you like a follow up after camp from SU or any SWG Leaders?
Most said yes
10. Would you come back to SUI Camp 2013 or wish to volunteer for camp? 122
97.5% of the campers wish to return to camp in 2013 with most high school leavers wishing to join the SWG next year.
11. Did you enjoy BMS as a camp venue? 117/125
93.6% enjoyed BMS camp venue with most complaints just the bathroom facility.
12. Was the camp fee affordable? 119/125
95% agreed that the camp fee was affordable
13. Did you enjoy 2012 camp? 120/120
100% enjoyed Camp 2012

The evaluation form allows us to capture the impact of the camp on the lives of the campers but we are mindful that the real impact will definitely need to be seen in the months and years to come. However the memories and impacts of such programs are not likely to be forgotten overnight by the campers especially for the many at camp that gave their lives to Jesus or made fresh commitments to serve the Lord or live their lives with a purpose and not wasted in the vices of youth. This would not only be the highlight of their camp but for us as organisers, we can all applaud our efforts, commitments and sacrifices for precious it is when a person gives their life to the Lord and finds their purpose in Jesus.

This was one of the best camps because I really got the opportunity to know my friends from the other schools and this camp was very fruitful
NHS Camper. 2012

Camping Ministry is an important program for SU. In any given year, many students find distractions or experiment sex, alcohol, drugs. That is why the camping ministry must remain an attractive option for young people, especially during school holidays. Prayerful considerations and responses to the Holy Spirit are therefore fundamental if we are to respond positively to the new world of a young child in this day and age. SU

should in this regard develop its camping ministry like running mid-year camps by divisions, i.e. Western, Northern and Central. This should be entrusted by leaders in these divisions with oversight from the SU office. These camps could be for 3-4 days (i.e. first weekend of the school holidays) with the Annual Camp to bring them together at the end of the year for lengthier sessions and

Another camper said that the session that really spoke to his life was the one against "having sex before marriage" because "that was what I usually did" when I was on holidays.

fellowship as a ministry. SU cannot remain relevant if it is to keep on doing things as in the past. Times are changing so fast, and we have a duty to the Lord through our children to remain relevant and open to options for strengthening our ministry work.

*I never expected camp to be this enjoyable and fun!
Awesome
ACS Camper 2012*

One of our advantageous is that we are probably the only Christian inter-denominational ministry in Fiji doing this work, so we need to be more vigilant and responsive in our ministry approach especially around camping and responding to the spiritual needs of students.

Most of the campers this year, had revelations from sessions on sex, STI's, pornography, and the value of holiness and purity amongst others. It must be emphasised, that this is a generation that is exposed to a whole new world; a world of drugs, peer pressure, crime, sex, pornography, trafficking, depression and suicide. Our taboo church and cultural norms can no longer stand in the way for open and frank discussions around these issues. Children are searching for answers as they respond to peer pressure and other worldly distractions and it is hoped that they learn spiritual values and morals

A camper said that that what he liked most about camp was "I know a lot more about good teaching that we really do not know especially about sex"...

in church and camps as this, than having to learn about sex, drugs and alcohol by experimenting with them or watching it from movies or the internet.

Moreover, the most popular session according to student's evaluation forms was a DVD preaching session by Pastor Jenzen Franklin titled, **Keep Your**

Camp 2012 was more awesome than last year's camp. Also the topics discussed during sessions were more realistic to teenagers' life in this era
Nausori Camper

One camper said, "I just want to say that on this camp, I gave my life to Jesus and was born again. So I just want to say that this is the best camp ever!"

Underwear on. A lot of the campers felt that the DVD spoke volumes into their life because of the frank discussions around sex, purity and related issues. Dr Rachel Devi's session on STI/HIV exposed students to understanding the importance of the disease and many students felt that this was a very valuable session for them.

One exposition of the camp was that there were so many broken lives and emotional traumas affecting young people. When we hear their stories and testimonies of brokenness and pain, it makes us realise that camp is not just an opportunity to have fun but a divine opportunity for most to be healed, spiritually and emotionally, to be empowered and for young people to find their purpose in the midst of their searchings. While SU as a ministry may not be sufficiently placed to adequately deal with emotional or counselling concerns, it is important that we have trained people on stand-by, or volunteers who are licensed counsellors or pastors to be able to offer these counselling services to student campers. We simply cannot discount these issues on the premise that we are not a counselling ministry, when by our very nature as a student support ministry, we must be able to offer that services. Issues around bullying and dealing with depressions and brokenness was considered an important issue to be discussed at camp and the speakers being trained counsellors and motivation speakers, were able to dissect values and important learning lessons in their sessions based on their experiences and primarily on the Word of God. We find that for students, camp is often the first place of healing...because they not only meet people who love the Lord and find supportive group of friends or matured student leaders, but most importantly meet the Lord Jesus Christ, the source of peace.

Conclusion

Camp 2012 has come and gone. There have been learning experiences in the planning and carrying out of the camp. One thing that is certain about camp is that it is an important component of Scripture Union's ministry arm. It is an opportunity to bring a range of students from a variety of schools to break down traditional school barriers, denominational divides and personality differences to share common goals, knowing Christ and making Him known in their lives and to those around us.

However, this is now an opportunity to re-look at our camping strategies and suggest ways to improve on it. We must remember that to be relevant, we need to speak the language of our current youthful generation and camping is still that one opportunity to be relevant; by bringing our young people together and taking them back to the Bible. As a ministry, our work is crucial and important; we are in the forefront of reaching out to a generation of seekers and we need to be showing them, Christ as the best option in life. Moreover, camping is about empowering young people to make responsible

decisions about their life and to make positive changes in their surroundings, home, schools and community.

Scripture Union remains an important ministry, often serving as a bridge for our children in connecting them with God and equally important is the role we play in empowering our next generation of leaders. Often the strength of a family lies in its moral compass with Jesus as Lord and the children being raised to love the Lord, and as a ministry, we encourage young people to maintain godly standards in their lives and be a light in their own homes. To build strong families, we need strong children who love the Lord, respect each other and strive to be better people in their own homes, community, schools and eventually in the nation.

We are grateful to the Lord; to those that gave an investment into the lives of our children through financial and in kind sponsorship and to the parents who allowed their children to attend camp this year. Our work is changing families, communities and our nation, even if it's just small, almost invisible steps we're taking. The eternal dicta from the book of Proverbs 22: 6 reminds us of the valuable work Scripture Union in Fiji does; ***"Train a child in the way he should so, so when he is old, he will not turn from it."***

We were blessed with Camp 2012 and we look forward to the testimonies of many other camps and especially the lives that will be changed for the King in those subsequent camps. Our current SU ministry team all carry testimonies of SU's camp and for many the memories and that decision to follow Jesus Christ will remain the single most important life-changing decision about their camp experience. And that is why, our camping journey continues many years on....To God be the Glory, great things He is doing....

Thank you Lord for Scripture Union

.....*Romulo Nayacalevu*.....

Romulo Nayacalevu (Mr)
2012 Camp Chairman

***It was a wonderful camp; my horizons were broadened in many ways. I learnt many things about the Lord and about the difficulties faced by each other.
Suva Camper, 2012***