

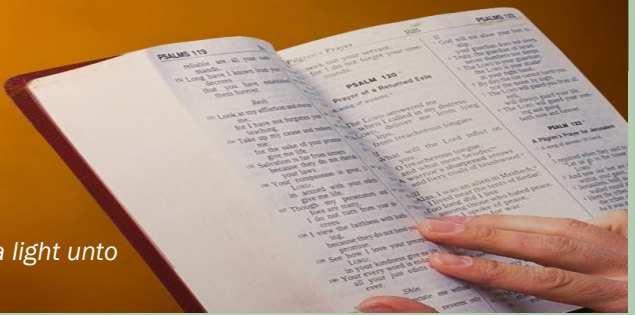
# FAITH SEED NEWSLETTER

Scripture Union's Partnership Update: SEP -OCT 2014



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



## Editorial: Scripture Union's new seasons



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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

September and October proved to be a month of breakthroughs for Scripture Union. For the first time, the Council has put together various Policies to guide the work of SU. While still in draft form, the Policies attempts to strengthen various ministry areas including *Finances*, *Privacy* and of course a *Child Protection Policy*. The Council will discuss and make a decision in their November sitting. Also these months have been consumed by various preparations for the Annual Camp. The faith of our SWG Volunteers as they stepped out boldly to raise their camp fees in the form of a *Talent Night* was truly a blessings for those that attended that event. Also this past two months saw SU engage in various activities in-



cluding school's visitation, training for our Volunteers preparing for the Camp, raising of funds to support our remaining activities and praying for students as they prepare for their external exams. In this edition, we have an exciting range of updates and we welcome you to journey the pages of our testimonies with us. Thank you for partnering with SU. Blessings Always.

## Supporting Scripture Union: [see back page]

We are now coming to the end of the year. It has been a year of blessings, breakthroughs and just witnessing the many lives reconnecting with King Jesus. There is no greater joy, purpose and privilege then witnessing a person giving their heart to the Lord and supported by a network of young people and volunteers who serve unselfishly at SU. SU has been ministering in Fiji for over 50 years. We have struggled financially and emotionally and yet our doors remain open to serve. Our people pray, fast, and plan on outreach strategies to attract young people to Jesus. That is our greatest mission. Our Newsletters are not just about sharing about our work, but they are purposed to encourage readers to join SU as a financial partner. A financial

seed helps us meet our ministry needs. There as been numerous times when we saw financial doors closed tight, wondering if we can remain financially solvent, and yet these have also been moments where our faiths have been tried and tested. Supporting SU is about praising the Lord, even if it means doing so in the hallway. *Vinaka Jisu na veivakarautaki.*

**Until God opens the next door for you,**



**! PRAISE Him in the hallway!**

## Our people serving with Scripture Union

### The full Scripture Union Council

Following a few resignations earlier this year by 4 members of the Council the SU Council finally has a full membership as of the past month. New to the Council are the ladies below with the full Council now comprising the **Chairman:** Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu; **Vice Chair:** Mr. Petero Cakau; **Treasurer:** Ms. Vanessa Quai-Hoi; **Secretary:** Ms. Teri Kempe; **Legal Advisor:** Ms. Laurel Vaurasi; **Members:** Mrs. Nancy Tikoisuva; Mrs. Joy Tonawai; Ms. Mele Marafono; Tu Sake Tuivanuavou; Mst Mika Mudreilagi; Mrs Emi Rabukawaqa and Mr. Sisa Teilai. The Council's term ends in 2015 where the AGM will elect the next Council to serve. Council's vision is to continue to strengthen SU Fiji.

Council Members, Vanessa, Mika and Teri and National Director



### Scripture Union is part of my journey: Mele Marafono



Mele Marafono recounts her high school days with great memories especially at her time with her CF sisters at ACS. After 25 years of being involved with Scripture Union,

She has come on board to be part of the SU Council. Mele is committed to the vision of transforming the ministry of SU in this new season. She is passionate about working with young

People and is involved in her church and ministries. Mele is a banker with Westpac and SU will definitely value her financial advise, leadership and guidance.

### Continuing the Family Legacy: Joy Nainoca Tonawai

Joy Nainoca Tonawai is not stranger to Scripture Union. In fact we can be bold enough to argue that Scripture Union is in her DNA. Joy Tonawai remembers with fond memories Scripture Union as he dad served with SU as



its first national director. Married with children who are now part of SU too, the Nainoca legacy within Scripture Union continues. Joy currently works with UN Women in Suva and did not hesitate to re-

turn to SU to serve with the Council when the opportunity arose. Joy is married to Jonetani a former member of the SU Council. Their many years of involvement with SU will definitely be a blessings in her term in Council

### Nancy Tikoisuva Loaloa Joins the Scripture Union Council



Nancy Tikoisuva was the CF President at Gospel High School in 1998 and can describe her life as nothing short of experiencing God's

ever redemptive love and grace. Last month, the mother of 4, a community worker and lawyer by profession joined the SU Council. Nancy said that she was blessed and privi-

leged to have been given the opportunity to serve in a Ministry that shaped her formative years as a young woman especially in her walk with Christ. Nancy brings her own enthusiasm and passion into SU Fiji.



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, Col 3:23

## Snippets of our work this month



### Northern Schools opening up

In August, our National Director toured the Northern schools with the hope of discussing with Principals and heads of schools of the possibilities of allowing SUIs into the schools. Our challenge in the North is the difficulty of finding volunteers to be able to strengthen our work in the North, visit SUIs members in Labasa and Savusavu schools. And earlier last month, the Lord opened a door of ministry when North based lawyer Kelepi Ratule agreed to assist us in the North by visiting a few schools there. This was the open door that was needed and within two days, Kelepi was sharing to students and teachers at Bulileka Central School. In his praise report, Kelepi said that as he shared with the Principal about Scripture Union, he was adamant that Kelepi return the next day to share to the whole school. Kelepi's praise report was well received at SU and we look forward to strengthening our Northern presence with Kelepi and the team that the Lord will bring his way, come 2015.

### Praying @ Breakfast

With the theme, "Being Relevant as a Christian in a Changing World", the attendees were challenged that being relevant as a Christian is related to our identity as a Christian. The Prayer Breakfast in Suva on 25

October was an opportune time to fellowship and pray with partners about the work of SU. Representatives of churches and especially many young people attended the fellowship. Nancy Tikoisuva our organiser said it was a powerful time of ministry. We expect to hold more PB in the future.



### SWG Suva stages a talent Night

Fundraising for their Annual Camp fees, the Suva SWG Volunteers staged a talent night at the Yarawa Methodist Church in Suva. The group put together their items within two weeks and blessed attendees with powerful items, songs and various expressions of worship and adoration for King JC.



### SU Sunday at the Valelevu Gospel Assembly

The SU Council agreed in its last meeting to begin strengthening SU's work with churches. On Sunday 26 October, SU was invited by the Valelevu Gospel Assembly to lead its church service and share to the church about

our work in schools. Council Member, Mr. Mika spoke on the work of SU and shared powerfully following from the Prayer Breakfast on the subject of relevancy of our ministry and our calling as Christians. This was the first time this year for the SU to be invited to lead a church service and we are extremely grateful to the leadership and elders at

the Valelevu Gospel Church who also blessed our remaining activities for the year.



*One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbour; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us. — John Wesley*

## Testimony

### Touring Israel and experiencing the Jordan River

For most of our volunteers serving in Ministry, Scripture Union is one of the ministries that they volunteer their time and devote their service to the Lord in. For 3 Council members, Mst Mika Mudreilagi, Teri Kempe and Romulo Nayacalevu, serving as National Executives with the ministry of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) comes with its own testimonies and joy in service. Mst Mika is the National Director of the ICEJ Fiji, Teri serves as its Assistant Secretary and Romulo Nayacalevu as legal adviser. Each year ICEJ organises a trip to Israel to attend the Annual Sukkoth or Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. This year with a team of 19 women's ministry members of Yarawa Methodist Church, 3 from the Assemblies of God Church and the ICEJ Team, ICEJ received one of its biggest delegation from Fiji.



Western Wall or the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem

For our 3 Council Members, the journey to Israel was a spiritually uplifting and blessed time. It was also the first time for Mst Mika to travel as the National Director of ICEJ following his appointment at the ICEJ Fiji AGM last year. From the spiritual experiences at the Old City of David including daily



From the Mount of Olives looking into the Old City of David

devotions at the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), visit to the Garden Tomb, Golgotha, Mount of Olives, Galilee, Capernaum, the town of Jesus Christ, Nazareth, the Dead Sea and many other sites we read about in the Bible, the team also visited the baptismal site at the Jordan River. Master Mika has conducted numerous re-dedication of baptism which the Baptismal site offers especially for Christians the world over who have already been baptised. In 2011, Romulo Nayacalevu re-dedicated his baptism at the Jordan while this year, Teri Kempe was one of the 5 from Fiji that embraced the golden opportunity of following the footsteps of Jesus Christ to be baptised at the

Jordan River and Master Mika officiated the baptism of our Fiji team at the Jordan River. Similar experiences for those getting baptised would be the overwhelming feeling of baptism and the experience that Christ himself went through as He was baptised by John the Baptism along this river. Teri Kemp shared that there was no proper adjectives to describe her experience of being immersed in the Jordan river. For the Chaplain, deaconess and church elders who also got baptised, the feeling of excitement was mutual and as they were ready to be immersed, tears of joy flowed from their faces to demonstrate their readiness and willingness to be part of this sacred and holy sacrament.



Teri Kempe ready to be baptised by Mst Mika as the rest of those getting baptised witness this solemn occasion at the Jordan.

Words cannot properly describe the feeling of joy as our team toured the land of the Bible. Our journey is captured on "Purpose Travel" blog and on Facebook under the same name.



*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"...*

## Strengthening the Work of Scripture Union

Like any organisation, Scripture Union continues to evolve. With over 50 years of ministry presence in Fiji, we must adapt, pray and believe that God is giving us a new vision for our work in the next 50 years. Otherwise, we risk being relevant in a fast changing environment. Young children today are often termed the technology generation, Generation X, and a few other adjectives that best describe our generation. And so the challenge of ministry includes responding to the demands of a generation whose exposures to a circular world is way different from that most of us encountered growing up. Further SU as a ministry has gone through a lot of challenges in terms of its own organisation. The current Council is picking up from the previous efforts and work done by its predecessors in an



*Various Policies like Child Protection Policy is targeted towards protecting children attending our events.*

effort to strengthen the work of Scripture Union. For the first time, SU now will have a strong Financial Policy that will govern its financial resources. Finances remains a challenge as we try and raise funds to support our mission work in schools. With a small partnership program that is sustaining the financial needs including paying of rent, bills and allowances of our two office volunteers, this is an area that we hope to strengthen especially in the financial transparency and processing of collecting funds for Scripture Union. The other key policies include a **Child Protection Policy** that will govern our work with children below 18 including appropriate responses when dealing with abuse etc., **Human Resources Policy**, a **Privacy and Confidentiality Policy**, **Leave Policy**, **Sexual Harassment Policy** etc. These policies are in response to the Council's commitment to strengthen Scripture Union as ministry. It is also the first time for Scripture Union Fiji to have policies that will govern its affairs. The benchmark of our ministry has always been our Constitution, but we find that there is now a growing need to address crucial issues that will make us stronger, effective and transparent. These good governance practices need to be adopted to ensure that Scripture Union is steered into a direction of strength, relevancy and accountability. Author **Mark DeVries**' in his new book, [Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It](#), (IVP Books, 2008) argues 16 points of strengthening Christian ministries. Three of his key points are especially relevant for us;

**Look at your system before your content.** *While the content of your youth ministry is important, it can't be delivered properly if your ministry's system is flawed. Focus on the system first: whether staff members trust each other, whether staff and volunteers are working with clear expectations, whether the ways people typically get things done in the ministry are productive, etc. Keep in mind that systemic changes must be built deliberately over a course of years for even the best content to reach students well.*

**Change the Vision** *(The best time to consider a new initiative or trajectory in youth ministry is just before the momentum of the current focus has peaked. Every five years or so, bring key stakeholders together to cast a fresh vision for the ministry. Dream boldly and ask God to breathe new life into the ministry.)* and **Change the Culture** *(If the culture of your youth ministry isn't healthy, change it before it changes the people working within it.)*

**Transformation is a process, and as life happens there are tons of ups and downs. It's a journey of discovery - there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair.** Rick Warren

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## We are going Camping



**Destination:** Saint Johns College, Levuka, Ovalau will host the 2014 Annual Camp. The



Annual Camp poster

months of discussing and planning will culminate in hundreds of young people coming to Levuka for the much anticipated Annual Camp. The Camping Ministry is always Scripture Union's featured event for the year and is also an opportunity for young people to come together and just be young while discovering the Bible, exploring godly relationships and laying foundations to their journey into adulthood. Camping ministry remains an important activity in SU's calendar because of the impact it has had in the lives of many young people. This year's theme is "Know God, Pursue God, Do Exploits" and we are praying for an anointing that will touch and impact the lives of the campers. The theme is purposed to ensure that campers not only know God but pursue

Prayers and Ministry times



Sports and leisure

Prayers and Ministry times



Praise and Worship



*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.  
SUIS Camper, 2012*

a lifestyle of dependency on Him. While many students may struggle to pay for their camp fees, the faith taken to prepare for the camp is impressive. In Suva, the Vol-

unteers put together a talent night to raise funds for their camp fees. While the Organisers seek camp sponsorship, it is expected that many students from around Fiji will be in attendance at the Annual Camp. In the west, our team of volunteers are conducting leadership and discipleship training to be able to minister to young people are the camp. The program will include in-depth study of the Word, Praise and Worship, Ministry times, sports and leisure and opportunities to fellowship and build old friendships while forging new ones. To support our Annual Camp, please do not hesitate to contact us on;

Scripture Union: [sufijiartnership@gmail.com](mailto:sufijiartnership@gmail.com)



*"No one has ever become poor by giving." — Anne Frank, Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi occupation*



## Scripture Union's September/October in pictures



Pst Apenisa Ralulu officiates the dedication service for Form 7 students sitting exams at the Sigatoka Methodist High School.



Council Members Mst Mika Mudreilagi and Nancy Tikoisuva at the Valelevu Gospel Assembly Church on Sunday 26 October 2014 after Mst Mika preached at the church. Story at Page 3



SWG Volunteer Akuila Nasau and our youngest attendee at the SWG Weekly Bible Study in Suva these past two months



Volunteer, Senirusi Savumiramira (above) doing an item at the SWG Talent Night held in Suva. Other items are on the right and below. See story at Pg 3.



SWG Semisi, Kata, Jack and Ace also members of the USP CF doing an item at the FNU Combine CF.



FSM CF President and SWG Council Member Peni Dovi, hands over the Medical school CF presidency to Keni Baro, current Vice President of the SWG at the FSM CF handover ceremony and left and below are the Western SWG Team having their weekly Camp training



Let brotherly love continue. SWG Boys attending Synergy in Suva



*"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him"*  
— John Piper



## Story Corner: B.U.S.Y Meeting



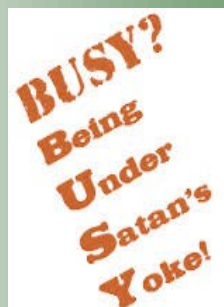
Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Saviour. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, but steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from gaining hold of their Saviour and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogues, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes."

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!" It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there, having little time for their God or their families and friends. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives. I guess the question is, has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge! Does "busy" mean: Burdened Under Satan's Yoke?



**BUSY?**  
Being  
Under  
Satan's  
Yoke!





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Scripture Union 50th Anniversary

SWG Central Tukutuku; SUIS Campers

SUIS Lautoka SWG; Western Fiji SUIS

## Scripture Union Publications

Mrs Emi Rabukawaqa, coordinates the publication work of Scripture Union. One of the biggest project today is the writing of a Devotional for Young People to help them with their devotions and quite time in 2015. The *Daily Chal-*



*llege* is divided into 12 key themes with a Scripture and a narrative for each day of the year. This huge project is part of SU's vision of encouraging young people and families to study the Bible together. The project will cost approximately \$15,000 and Scripture Union is encouraging friends and partners to sow a seed into this devotional. The Devotional will bless and impact its readers— that's a guarantee. Please talk to us today.

## 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 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.

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

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

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

cured 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 to the sacrifices and commitments to allow us to go into schools. Thank you for your partnership and for giving to the Lord through Scripture Union Fiji. May you be blessed.

*"I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him." — William Carey, Baptist missionary to India*