



Spring 2009

# SU news

A LIVING & ACTIVE WORD!



## From the Director

*What can we realistically expect from the Bible?*

Is it just a book for adults? Or just for Christians? Or just in churches? And what can we expect from people in a culture that has largely left reading behind?

This question cuts to the heart of SU's mission. Should we be using God's Word in our work with children, youth and families? And if so how?

My answer stems from a couple of different observations. Firstly, I have seen children and young people with no church background amazed and intrigued by what the Bible has to say. They have questioned whether it is true, why Jesus said the things he did and why people responded to it in the ways they did. These are not young people who are being forced to have the Bible drilled into them – they are keen to find out what it says and why.

The second reason is from my own experience. I remember going to a youth conference when I was 16. Like a lot of these things, it was great fun and a big buzz, but I was struck by what came out of God's Word as it was explained one night. On that night, I realised that, for me, if I was serious about following Jesus, I needed to be prepared to put my plans, my career and my hopes in God's hands. At that point, I decided that I would pursue full-time paid ministry – a decision that God has affirmed and honoured since.

The Bible is the living, active, transformational Word of God. It is a gift to shape who we are, where we will go and how we will get there from the very first day we open it.

Over the past few years, SUSA has been working at how we can help people engage with the Bible and a number of churches have taken up that challenge. Beyond that, Scripture Union Australia has incorporated Bible engagement as a key component of its strategic plan for the coming years. It is fantastic to see this being given a central part in the life of SU across the country.

This issue of SU News explores how Bible engagement is happening both for people who are just discovering who Jesus is, through to people thinking about the impact they will make in their communities. An open Bible should not just be preparing children for who they will become later on – it can shape who they are now.

**Mark Schultz**  
State Director



## Kids experiencing & responding to the Bible

**It's an age-old activity but still dearly loved today by kids of all ages. What is it? Acting out a Bible story of course!**

As I do my annual rounds of Christian Option Program visiting and involvement, I am still constantly amazed that year 7 boys love dressing up! Not only that, as I read children's responses to their involvement in Christian Option Programs, there seems to be more and more enthusiasm for the Bible-story drama activity. Children have expressed their love for the stories themselves, the fun of playing all variety of characters, the costumes (mainly very basic!), the learning about Jesus and the intrigue in regard to how it applies to life today. A curiosity is aroused and many children take home a New Testament as well as the gospel used in the program, expressing a desire to read and know more. It is not uncommon to see students engrossed in their newly acquired gospels during and after a COP session, and to return the next week announcing that they have finished reading their book!

More young people are exploring what the Bible says about issues that matter to them in their high schools. The "Global Connections" and "Hope" seminars have been used in a range of schools, public and private. There is also a new

seminar being written on the issue of what the Bible says about love. Young people are amazed that something written so long ago could have an impact on their world today.

Well over 5000 children and youth receive a gospel portion through SU's primary and youth programs each year – in schools and on camps. And they don't just receive it, they are learning about what it says and how to find out even more for themselves. What better way to encourage children in their lives today!

**Jenny Lanyon**  
SU Primary Age Programs Coordinator



## Engaging the Church

In August, over fifteen churches took on a challenge to help people in the church regularly engage with God through His word. The project, 'engage' is a joint initiative between SUSA and the Bible Society in SA to provide churches with resources and motivation to do just that during the month of August.



The response from churches ranged from having a focus on a Sunday in their service through to a church committing to 'engage' for the whole month. The resources used varied from special 'engage' bookmarks, to children's and family programs, to guest speakers in various churches.

The resources which are geared toward people encountering God in His word and being transformed through the encounter are available all year round from [www.engage.bible.com.au](http://www.engage.bible.com.au). Also feel free to call the SU office to find out more on how we can help people in your church or group get better engaged.

### Twist: Digging into the parables of Jesus

is a 4 session curriculum designed for use in the classroom or youth group, that helps young people to engage with Jesus' parables.



Exploring topics such as the power of stories, the Kingdom of God, the historical context of Jesus' ministry, and the power of media, this resource enables teachers and young people to not only get a handle on this crucial aspect of Jesus' teaching, but to think through how the message of their chosen parable can be communicated to a modern audience. Already a number of youth groups and independent schools have taken up this resource and found it helpful in getting their young people into the Bible. For more information, and to order Twist, go to [www.twist.bty.com.au](http://www.twist.bty.com.au)

## Solomon Islands Sunday School materials in Pijin

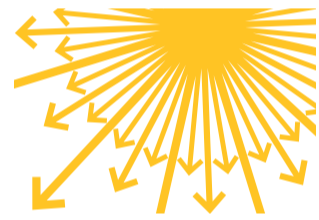
Last year, Wendy Rayner visited the Solomon Islands for the launch of the Pijin Bible. The Pijin language is spoken by 80% of the population, and this was the first book to be written in this previously oral language. As Wendy met with pastors, teachers, parents and literacy workers, the demand for children's materials in Pijin became very apparent.

A curriculum of Sunday School lessons in Bislama (a similar language, spoken in Vanuatu) has been written by a team in Vanuatu, led by SU Vanuatu staff Jon and Lyndell Paschke. Wendy is now coordinating an exciting project to translate this curriculum into Solomons Pijin.

The curriculum uses materials local to the children and leaders (sticks, coconuts, seeds, sand drawing), and the activities are culturally relevant for island communities. The first book contains 30 lessons for children from pre-school through to junior high school. The positive response to this from church leaders in the Solomons has been overwhelming. Tim Matzke (Wycliffe/SIL Literacy Advisor to the Solomon Islands) says, "I first heard about these Sunday School books in 2001. I've wondered all this time when someone would be able to produce them in Pijin. The time is ripe for this project."

Some funding for the project has come via SU International. Wendy has a great passion for the children of the Pacific and skills in teaching, program writing, editing/publishing and is learning the Pijin language. The Wycliffe/SIL workers in the Solomon Islands have generously offered help with translation, proof-reading and trial lessons.

Wendy will visit the Solomons (October 28 – November 13) to meet with key church and education leaders, to trial the lessons, and to work closely with the SU family there to develop a strategy for the books' distribution, and a training program for children's workers.



## Identifying & developing young emerging leaders

Youth Leadership Week (YLW) aims to assist local churches in the sometimes difficult work of encouraging and equipping their young people to be involved in ministry in and through their church. In July, thirteen young people braved the Winter of the hills to come aside for five days of Bible teaching, workshops, coaching, team building activities, Bible study and discussion, all designed to help them explore what it means to be a leader in God's world. Out of the thirteen, five were returnees from YLW08, one as a Team Member – a testimony to God's work

of growth in them over the last year. Now back in their local communities, they are involved in a twelve month mentoring program based in their local church.

At the heart of the YLW approach are six key values: Bible engagement, prayer, mission, service, relationships and maturity. We believe these are important in equipping the next generation of leaders who will be devoted to serving both the church and the world.

For more information about YLW, and free downloadable resources, go to [www.su.org.au/sa/wired/ylw.html](http://www.su.org.au/sa/wired/ylw.html)

## For Those Who Have Ears...

**We may sound a little like the IOC Chairman, but we wish to declare the fourth annual SU concert on Saturday August 22nd "The best SU Concert yet"!**

450 people gathered for an evening of high calibre musicianship, and as usual the broad range ensured something for all tastes.



Smooth jazz sounds from Dan Brunner's band (with gifted vocalist Sophie Zerner), flowed into Nick Parnell's (pictured right) virtuosity on the vibraphone and intriguing "Clapping Music" by Reich. Immanuel College's Senior String Orchestra brought us everything from Coldplay's "Clocks" to Rimsky-Korsakov's Fandango ... until a band of Pirates of Penzance crept up on host Kari Seeley and launched into a swash-buckling rendition of "With Cat-Like Tread"!

**\$12,000** was raised for SU's ministry, thanks to generous sponsorship and strong ticket sales. This event also raises SU's profile and is a great connection point for SU friends. We're already considering the next concert, likely to be in September 2010. Stay tuned!



## A night in Zimbabwe



On 17th September, over 30 people came to Tabor College to hear from Dr Leonard Makoni, National Director for Scripture Union Zimbabwe. The evening was a joint event held by TEAR SA and Scripture Union South Australia.

It was an inspiring evening as Dr Makoni led us on a journey to inform and challenge us on the essence of mission to disadvantaged children and young people in a confronting context. He also showed us just how crucial it was for God to work in a young person's heart in order to pursue something better for their own life.

MP3 recordings of the talk are available through the SU office. Please call or email to arrange for your copy.



## Thank You!!!

**We want to take the opportunity to say "thanks" for your support of SU's ministry through the Schools Ministry Appeal this year.**

This year has been a challenging one financially. The economic climate had an impact on our cashflow and we have had to set plans in place to extend the support of SU's work. However, we were surprised and blessed by the extent of God's provision through the response to the appeal.

In addition to supporting SUSA's ministry, the SUSA Council felt strongly that it was an opportunity to offer support to our Pacific partner, SU Fiji, which has struggled with the changes underway in that country. While we have not "bailed them out" we have been able to lend support where they most needed it.

Challenges are still ahead of us and we need support to sustain and grow the work in the future. But we want to thank you so much for blessing us and enabling God to bless SU Fiji through us. Please continue your much-needed support for the work of SUSA.

**Mark Schultz**  
State Director



Photos taken from Camp for Kids and SMUGE Camp this year

## Camps

**Recently, I've been challenged by the question, "What good are camps?" People have questioned the role camps play in today's world. It's not always an easy question to answer; the benefits of camps are infinitely varied and not always immediately evident. Two stories from recent SU Camps will hopefully shed some light on why camps are important.**

**PRISON FELLOWSHIP KIDS CAMP** allow children, who have experienced having a parent in prison, to be encouraged, supported and hang-out with strong Christian role models. The camp leaders have a genuine concern for the children and a desire for every child to understand how much God's loves them. The fact that there are people who freely give their time and effort to come and help at camp, and want to get to know each one of them, surprises many kids. The camp has grown to almost 30 participants over 3 years and there has been an obvious improvement in the kids' behaviour and expectations from camp. So great has been the impact on these children that a youth camping program is now underway to support them through their adolescence as well. Giving the camp participants a change from their everyday environment and opportunities to face new challenges, allows them to develop a realisation that God has given us a choice, and that there is an opportunity for people to change.

**SMUGE (pronounced "smudge") CAMP** is a fantastic opportunity for schools to connect with their local church communities. This year's camp allowed primary schools in the South-West Area, including

Brighton, Glenelg, Paringa Park and St Leonards, to develop and strengthen relationships between Christian Pastoral Support Workers (CPSWs), local churches, local volunteers and students. The camp is substantially shaped by the CPSWs and the students are referred to the camp by them. The benefits of Smuge are not only limited to CPSWs being able to get to know their students on a deeper level. CPSWs are supported and encouraged as they see the local community becoming involved in schools ministry. Students are also able to see real, young, enthusiastic leaders from their own communities modelling Christian leadership.

Camps offer an amazing opportunity to fulfil Scripture Union's mission: 'introducing children, youth and families to Jesus, the Bible and the local church'. With the pressures of everyday life removed for even a weekend, it's easier to encourage camp participants to explore the person God wants them to be. Scripture Union camps are not about the program, the location, the number of people, the food or the activities; they are about developing relationships that may in time be life-changing.

**Amy Hinton**  
Youth and Primary Age Camps Coordinator



## From the Chair

In recent months our church has run a series of Bible Challenges. Participants follow a Bible reading program and share responses and insights by email and through

a Facebook group. Some share in church how it's affected them. The testimonies from our youth have been especially encouraging.

It started with a 'Read the Entire Bible in 90 Days' challenge – my wife completed it, and it's not for the faint-hearted! Subsequent challenges have been more modest, but the feedback has been consistent: God speaks to people who set aside time to read His word! It's no surprise – God said His word will accomplish the purpose for which He sent it (Is.55:11).

Interestingly, ours is not the only church taking new initiatives around Bible engagement. God seems to be stirring His people to return to His word. And further opportunities to engage with the Bible are offered through interdenominational programs like Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) and Know Your Bible (KYB), and ministry organisations like the Bible Society and Gideons International.

Scripture Union has a lot to offer, too, quite apart from the much-loved daily reading notes that cater to all ages. An emerging resource is the E100 Challenge, a focussed Bible reading program offering a big picture of God's Word. I can personally attest to its benefit. E100 might be just the right Challenge for your church - check it out on the SUSA web page at [www.su.org.au/sa](http://www.su.org.au/sa) under "Training and Resources".

**Allan Packer**  
Council Chairperson

# Diary

Nov 2009 – Jan 2010

## NOVEMBER

- 2 COP at Wynn Vale
- 6 Wired Seminar at Oceanview
- 9 COP at Edwardstown
- 11-15 Elizabeth Big Good News Concerts Crusade
- 16 Western Suburbs Christmas Seminars begin
- 17-18 COPs at Keithcot Farm
- 20 M&D Meeting
- 21 Strategic Planning Day
- 21 Northern SUPA Night Out!
- 24-25 COPs at Keithcot Farm
- 23 MISSUP
- 25 Council Meeting

## DECEMBER

- 1-2 COPs at Keithcot Farm
- 5 CE-SU Training
- 10 SUPA Thank you Afternoon Tea
- 11 School Term 4 ends
- 14 MISSUP
- 18 Office Closure
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26-5 Jan Victor Harbor SUFM
- 27-5 Jan Port Elliot SUFM
- 28 Proclamation Day holiday

## JANUARY

- 3-8 Tumby Bay SUFM
- 4 Office reopens
- 4-8 Moana SUFM
- 4-8 CE-SU Kids Camp
- 8-10 Port MacDonnell SUFM
- 10-15 Port Vincent SUFM

## The BIG Good News Concerts

At Elizabeth Oval  
November 11th - 14th 2009  
7pm every night  
Sat 14th Nov at 4pm Free BBQ

Churches across Northern Adelaide and *Living Waters Crusades for all Nations* are partnering together for this week of evangelism and outreach into these suburbs.

To get involved as an adult or children's counsellor, security, staging, prayer or administration, please get in contact with Melissa: 8371 0811 or melissac@sa.su.org.au

## Wondering what to do next year?

### How about doing an internship with SU?

SU Internships are a great way of getting some hands-on experience in local mission, learning about leadership and gaining an accredited qualification\*. It will also help you to grow personally and deepen your own faith.

Internship programs can be tailored to your ministry interests and time availability.

To find out more, contact Anita Fraser on 8371 0811 or email to [susa@sa.su.org.au](mailto:susa@sa.su.org.au).

\* Scripture Union SA is a Registered Training Organisation offering Certificate IV in Frontline Management.

# Bits & Pieces



## Farewell & Thanks!

After nearly ten years in and around the staff team, James will be finishing in his role as State Youth Coordinator at the end of November to work toward full-time employment as a staffworker for Evangelical Students (ES) at Flinders University.

James came into the role having been involved on staff previously with roles in Camps and SUPA ministries and has been in his current role for four years. In that time, he has developed a range of school seminars and training materials, created Youth Leadership Week, developed Bible engagement initiatives for youth and been a vital part of our team.

Thanks, James, for your humble service and leadership. We trust that God will continue to use you well and provide for you in your ongoing ministry.



## Amy's Grown!

Amy Hinton has been growing... in her areas of responsibility.

With Ian Roberts moving on, our Primary Age Camping area needed staff support. Amy has

agreed to increase her time to cover both Youth Camps and Primary Age Camps. Her oversight of both areas will allow her to look for areas where these areas cross-over, such as the Camps for Kids which have now branched into youth camps as well.

Feel free to contact Amy about getting involved or supporting the camps ministry.

## POSITION VACANT

### State Youth Coordinator

2.5 Days per week (0.5 Full-Time Equivalent)

Scripture Union of South Australia Inc (SUSA) seeks a person to take on the role of SUSA State Youth Coordinator. The person will be a team-builder and networker with a strong background in opening the Bible with young people.

The successful applicant will work with the SUSA Youth Committee to support existing SU ('Wired') ministries in secondary schools, oversee the development and running of Youth Leadership Week, work on Bible engagement projects for youth, train and equip leaders for these ministries and pursue opportunities for future growth and innovation for SU's youth ('Wired') ministries.

The successful applicant will commence work early in 2010. For further information please contact the **State Director, Mark Schultz**, at the Scripture Union offices.

Applications close 1st December 2009



## Need a holiday?

### What about a holiday with purpose?

Scripture Union Family Missions are opportunities to share holidays with children, youth and families and help them discover Jesus.

Teams are looking for people of all shapes and sizes now. Can you be involved?

Call Steve Burnett at the office on 08 8371 0811 or email [missions@sa.su.org.au](mailto:missions@sa.su.org.au)

#### Mission dates:

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Victor Harbor   | 26 Dec 09 – 5 Jan 2010 |
| Port Elliot     | 27 Dec 09 – 5 Jan 2010 |
| Tumby Bay       | 3 – 8 Jan 2010         |
| Moana           | 4 – 8 Jan 2010         |
| Port MacDonnell | 8 – 10 Jan 2010        |
| Port Vincent    | 10 – 15 Jan 2010       |

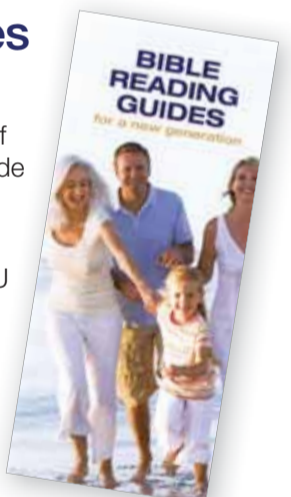
## Bible Reading Guides for a new generation

Please find enclosed with your copy of SU News a current Bible Reading Guide Brochure.

You will find information on the great range of Bible Reading Guides that SU has to offer.

The brochure includes an order form for annual subscriptions or alternatively if you would like to see the guides, you are welcome to visit the SU resource centre at Keswick.

Please call Anita or Lisel at SU on 08 8371 0811 for more information.



## Give a child a great Christmas gift this year!

You are warmly invited to join us for dessert and coffee and a great **SUPA NIGHT OUT!** on **Saturday 21st November 2009, at Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, Cost \$10.**

Be part of our celebration of God's work in SA's primary schools and bring others along to be enthused and inspired. Here is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds and to increase awareness and support for SUPA ministries. Give a child a great Christmas gift – the opportunity to meet Jesus!

RSVP: Scripture Union office, p/ 8371 0811, e/ [melissac@sa.su.org.au](mailto:melissac@sa.su.org.au)