

Pacific News

April– June 2007



From the Pacific Regional Secretary

I commend to you this latest edition of Pacific News and trust that it will be a useful source of news and encouragement and a guide for you to hold up this work in prayer.

I do apologise for the lateness in its production. It has previously been produced by Wendy Rayner as a volunteer. Sadly, Wendy is no longer able to include this in her busy life and as yet we have not found a replacement. So I have put it together under considerable difficulty due to many demands on my time. Please forgive the lateness and other evidence of the difficulties we have in bringing this information to you.

The Pacific Executive met in February and we are now working toward the appointment of a Pacific Islands Coordinator, a position that has been vacant now for nearly 12 months. The financial position has improved slightly and we are hopeful of an appointment in the next few months. We are also planning to produce a new edition of Daily Power (Pacific Bible reading guide) in the next few months.

Please enjoy the read and more especially, the opportunity to be informed and to support the work in the Pacific.

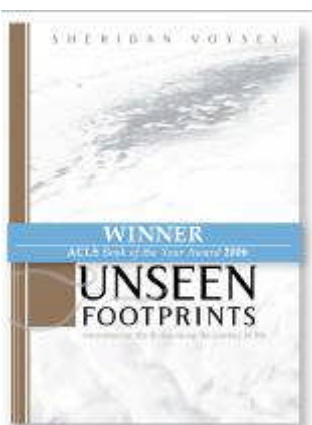
Lloyd Carter
Regional Secretary

Pacific Regional Secretary
Lloyd Carter

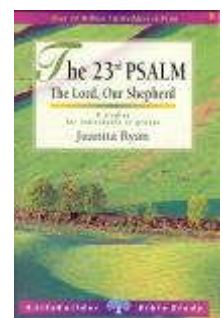
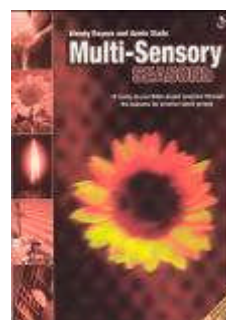
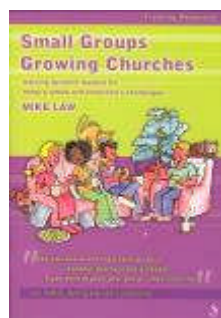
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Pacific Islands

- **Fiji**

National Director, Sisa Teilai writes, *“Fiji is now under Military control and we are uncertain about the future. But we praise God that He holds the future of Fiji. School visitations are underway and the training of new volunteers for schools ministry is also part of the visitation. We are in the process of recruiting new Council members for 2007-2010 [3 years term].”*

- **Vanuatu**



The year has begun well in Vanuatu. The new Council [pictured at right] have been active in charting a course for ministry and activities for 2007. The council has also launched new branding, reflecting the local island flavour, and is preparing to launch a new website soon. Secondary ISCF Rallies are being held each month, each time being hosted by a different high school around the island of Efate. Planning is also underway for two Easter camps: one for primary children, and another for secondary students. These camps are to be held at the SU Campsite at Pango Point. Praise God for another phase of construction at the campsite (beginning in April) being led by a team from SU NSW. Work is also continuing on developing written ministry resources targeting children, youth and families – especially in the national language, Bislama. A second workbook for Sunday School children has just been completed, and is now ready for printing. The social unrest around Port Vila from early March has now settled considerably.



- **Papua New Guinea**

SU Director, Walo Vali recently wrote: *“I am sure that it is Christ in us that give us strength to face another week of challenges and trials. As the Psalmist wrote ‘Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD the Maker of heaven and earth’. I trust that God will see you through in everything you do this week.”*

Walo spent three weeks on the road. From 11-16 March he undertook a course on governance for workers from non-government organisations (NGOs) . 19-23 March he visited all Madang’s secondary and high schools. 24-30 March, he visited all Lae schools. Lae is the second main city in PNG. Some of the places visited required long distances by road and sea transport. He gives thanks for God’s leadership and protection.

- **Solomon Islands**

SU Director Philip Vahia reports that the schedule of programs for the year is quite tight and presents a significant challenge to manage and make sure that the ministry is effective. There are Bible studies and school ministry programs every day in all the secondary schools in Honiara. Five volunteers share in the ministry and the number of students at each school is very high. The highest are Honiara High School, and King George VI schools where two of the Council Members (Mr Paul Ratu and Mr Rex Maeobia) are working tirelessly with the programs. There is a mission proposed to Isabel Province in April.

SU aims to visit 20 new schools before the end of the year. We are grateful to God that this ministry is progressing well, with a vision for programs for the whole year. There is a planned mission to Makira Province by the end of June. The 30th anniversary of SU Solomon Islands will be celebrated in September.

- **Tonga**

New SU National Director: We are glad to report that Mr Sitiveni Tu’ilautala has been chosen to be the new SU Tonga Director, replacing Mr ‘Alotaisi Takau, who has resigned at the end of 2006. Mr Tu’ilautala will assume fulltime duties towards the middle of 2007.

The SU staff is planning to make a mission tour of the Tongan churches in the USA in the months of July/Aug 2007, God willing. Prayer is fervently being carried out for this.

A new website is being developed (scriptureunion-tonga.com) to facilitate speedy communication with our SU friends worldwide, and we hope to complete this soon.

Normal SU activities are as usual (schools/prison/Ex-ISCF/churches)

New Zealand

At a service following their budget-setting discussion on March 9th, Scripture Union New Zealand commissioned **Wayne Fraser** as the new National Director. Wayne has already been in the role for a month and spent valuable transition time with **Mark Brown** before he left to take up the position of CEO at The Bible Society of NZ. Wayne [pictured at right with his wife **Nicola** and daughters **Chelsea** (15) and **Lauren** (10)] have lived in Nelson for the last ten years, where he pastored a Baptist Church prior to becoming Dean of Studies at the Bible College of New Zealand's Nelson Centre.



Wayne was attracted to Scripture Union by the quality team that is passionate about their ministry specialties. He believes the contribution Scripture Union makes is unique and has potential for very creative and powerful influence in the future. He says, *"We are limited only by awareness of what we can do and adequate resourcing."*

Australia

- **Victoria**

"Once we were that little Christian group somewhere in a corner at the back of the school. Now we are in the school curriculum meeting for three periods a week with the school's leaders!"

After lots of challenges from teachers concerned about Christians teaching in a "secular" school, SU was given the green light and launched *Leading Edge* at Kangaroo Flat Secondary College (Bendigo). Twenty five young people signed up for the course aimed at empowering them to change their world. These young people will link up with local business people and churches that will mentor them through the development of their progress.

It is exciting seeing the potential and dreams of these young people and the passion they have to make the world a better place! Please pray that many lives will be transformed through this program – for opportunities to share faith and for God to touch the teachers' lives.

- **Australian Capital Territory**

SU ACT is growing, with increases in donations and a successful fund raising dinner providing the platform for new ministry. The next year offers the potential for considerable growth in school chaplaincy and school ministries. Exciting developments include a new playgroup for indigenous families and some well-attended breakfast groups.

- **New South Wales**

The Schools Ministry Team has recently expanded with the addition of two Ministry Trainees to support the leaders of ISCF Groups and SUPA Clubs in the Sydney region. **Alison opdeVeigh** and **Alison Laird** will combine their passion for reaching students with the Gospel, their experience in youth ministry, and their desire to learn and grow in ministry skills to the expanding volunteer base in Sydney; partnering with the twoyear Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) program. 'The Alisons' will work alongside **Bruce Boyle** in launching and building the Leadership 4:12 program, increasing resource levels, providing practical and pastoral support, and assisting groups and their leaders amidst the everyday challenges of frontline schools ministry. For more information, visit the website at www.nsw.su.org.au.

- **Northern Territory**

It continues to be a challenging time for SUNT. However, progress is being made in terms of implementing the strategic plan and working towards appointing a Director this year. SUNT has many needs – therefore prayer would be appreciated for more volunteers, council members & financial support.

The SUNT Council has been busy improving many of the processes for the movement and they look forward to the time when a Director can be appointed to work more with the local churches & volunteers. Pray that SUNT may be able to take some of the opportunities available in the NT – such as chaplaincy. Praise God that progress is being made on using the Resource Centre more effectively and other Christian organisations are looking at using the building.

- **South Australia**

“Big Week Out” is a combined churches week-long program of young people serving others in their local communities. The event was held in five different bases across Adelaide during the summer holidays, involving 50 churches and 375 young people, many with no previous church contact.

Last year SUSA was approached to assist in the development of a Bible engagement resource that could be used on each base to ensure a consistent and quality level of biblical input into the morning training times. The partnership included the Bible Society and Hisown Productions www.hisown.com.au. The end result is a DVD resource and small group discussion materials that enable young people to explore what it means to follow Jesus based on Mark 10:13-11:11 and Revelation 7:9-12. This package was used with great success at this year’s Big Week Out, and after some more trial runs in different settings, will be published and made available for use in churches, youth groups, camps and home groups.

- **Queensland**

While chaplains have a significant presence in secondary schools, primary-aged students and their families are also sorely in need of chaplaincy services. Fortunately, primary school chaplains such as **John Brereton** are keen to assist and advise where they can, sharing high fives, games and tears where they’re needed most.

“Domestic violence, substance abuse, depression, suicide and other nasty things aren’t restricted to high schools,” he said. “And by the time kids reach high school, they have already formulated much of their self-image and many of their life-coping strategies are already in place. Little ones have to deal with so much, but God gives me comforting words to say in the most difficult moments and the heart to go on and see things through.”

While John acknowledges the fact that he encounters some sad situations, he also shares plenty of happy and fun-filled moments with the students. *“Seeing little faces light up always makes me feel like pure gold,” he said. “My days are filled with high-fives, thumbs ups, peace signs and offers to share half-sucked ice-blocks. I treasure the reward that comes from turning tears into smiles.”*

- **Tasmania**



Tasmanian staff and volunteers have been working hard over the last three months to cover the State Director vacancy. They are thankful those who prayed for the interim leadership team and for the continuing blessing of God on the work in Tasmania, especially the chaplaincy work that is creating lots of interest and excitement and is set to grow at an impressive, perhaps even a little frightening, rate.

The new State Director, **Ruth Pinkerton** [pictured left], has now arrived and is settling into a new life and new job. Ruth is from Scotland and has worked with SU Scotland in their camps ministry for the last seven years. She is looking forward to seeing how God wants to shape and direct the ministry in Tasmania.

- **Western Australia**

Laura Jones, Schoolzout Camp Team Member,

writes:

“Considering this was my first SU camp, let alone my first Schoolzout, I was a little apprehensive as to what I should expect. Although my first impressions of the camp seemed to be a 12-year-old’s idea of paradise (sun, sand and sports), to me it looked like I would be in for a very difficult week of dirt, spiders and frogs.


Despite the initial “shock” of what I was expected to be involved in for the next 6 days, I soon learned to rely on God’s strength (physically, mentally and emotionally) and wisdom. I endeavoured to relate to this group of young people in a way that was relevant to them and brought glory to God.

The response from the campers was incredible. Unlike me, they weren’t fazed by the primordial concept of cold showers, and sunstroke was no concern of theirs, but what was overwhelmingly gratifying was seeing their eagerness and excitement towards God’s Word and their willingness to put into practice what was being learnt and discussed.

All the leaders are very grateful to God for His constant willingness to provide for us, despite our earlier concerns that our need for more leaders and a cook wouldn’t be met. God did graciously provide us with the resources we needed to run an exciting and effective camp. He was, and still is, at work preparing and nurturing the hearts and minds of the campers as they begin a new phase in their lives.


I know that I, and the other leaders, had to claim verses like Samuel 22:33 (It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect) with all our hearts and minds in order to be able to see out the end of the week. The opportunity to minister to God’s children is not an opportunity that should be easily passed up. Our prayer, therefore, is not only that the 2006 campers will continue in their knowledge and understanding of the Lord, but that others will be inspired to answer and accept God’s call to lead in this ministry and serve alongside other SU leaders in 2007. With God’s help we can build Schoolzout, and all other SU camps, to their full potential.”





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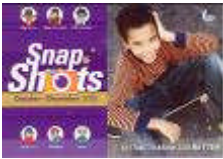
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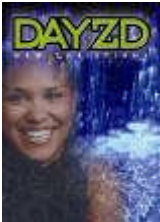











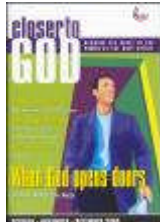












Pacific Region Prayer Diary April – June 2007

April		
1	Executive	The Executive met in February. Pray as we follow through on plans for appointing a Pacific Islands Coordinator.
2	NSW	Please pray for the SU NSW Board, meeting tonight & welcoming Simon Flinders as the new Chairman.
3	SUA	Recently the Directors, Chairs & Finance Managers Networks met & discussed several key issues. Thank God for the leadership of all the Aust. movements & pray as we continue to work together in key areas.
	Tonga	For the coming USA 2007 Mission. For fruitful harvest of souls to the Kingdom.
4	SUA	A major discussion centred on a review of our Resources For Ministry publishing & distribution unit. Pray now as this work is reshaped for a great future resourcing ministry in SU & promoting Bible engagement.
5	Vanuatu	Pray for the primary school children & secondary students, & their leaders, participating in the two camps over the Easter weekend.
6	NT	This is the first year in a decade that SUNT is not running an Easter Camp. Pray for others as they run a camp this year. Pray for SUNT as they review what is appropriate for young people in the NT.
7	Qld	Pray for the various ministry events over the Easter holidays & for the directors, leaders & campers involved.
8	Easter	Pray this Easter mission season will see many lives transformed & safety for everyone involved.
9	WA	The autumn camping season starts today in WA. Pray for Wild Hiking Camp, Forest Fun Adventure Camp (Primary age camp) & Go for Broke Canoeing Camp.
10	Fiji	Pray that the Council members will become actively involved in the ministry.
11	SUI	Clayton Fergie, SUI Youth Ministries Coordinator, will be working with SU leaders from Central & South America, as well as the former Soviet region, on the development their youth ministry strategy.
12	NZ	Pray that SU would strengthen its relationships with local churches so that they may more effectively serve & that the National Director Wayne Fraser would have rich opportunities to build networks.
13	NSW	Today Bob & Margaret Coombs travel to Vanuatu to commence the third & final stage of the campsite redevelopment. Pray for safety, the supplies required & continuing good support from local SU people.
14	Vic	Council Retreat takes place today & tomorrow. Pray for wisdom & guidance.
15	NT	Pray that SUNT may be able to work through the process of appointing a new Director relying on God & trusting Him for the necessary provision. Pray that the Council would have wisdom in this process.
16	Qld	Chaplain Development Day in the Brisbane North Region. Please pray for Russell Mann (Regional Manager).
17	ACT	Pray for the success of the outreach camp, Wild Wee Jasper from 16-20 April.
18	SUA	Recent discussions included the review of our approach to Networking. Pray as a small group of network leaders work together to shape the approach that will benefit the ministry the most.
19	SUI	Wendy Strachan is in Lebanon & Syria for children's ministry training & to explore ways in which SU might support local Christian initiatives in the Middle East. Please pray for wisdom & safety for all.
20	FSR	19-24 April: staff & volunteers conference in Crimea - pray that it will be a time of real mutual encouragement & learning. Pray for the delegates from Israel who will join them for the conference.
21	ACT	Please pray that schools seeking funding to start new chaplaincies or to expand existing ones will be successful.
22	Honduras	22-27: A special group is meeting in Honduras to work on future strategy for the Americas Region. Please pray for SUI & Regional participants as they consider plans for development of the Region.
23	WA	Pray for Wendi Kirwan-Elliott in her role as Performing Arts Coordinator & as a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Pray for God's blessing in her professional & personal life.
24	Vanuatu	Praise God for the appointment of a new Council, & for the dedication already shown in this new year. Pray for clear vision for the future, & please pray for the families of all the Council members.
25	Tonga	For our Ex-SU Christians who are overseas on studies, official duties to Churches and govt, and who have migrated.
26	Tasmania	Pray for Ruth Pinkerton, the new State Director, that she will quickly settle into her new role & for the staff as they adjust to new leadership.
27	SA	A new youth leadership camp will be run this weekend by SUSA & the Riverland Christian Pastoral Support Workers (School Chaplains). Pray that this will be an enriching time for the young people & that they will live significant lives as witnesses to Christ in their schools & communities.
28	Fiji	Pray for the election of a Chairperson & the Council Members during the AGM.
29	Executive	Executive continues to develop plans for the future. Pray for Lloyd Carter as he works with others to bring these together.
30	SUI	Pray for Janet Morgan as she leads the SUI Staff team – Pauline Hoggarth, Wendy Strachan, Clayton Fergie & Ross Henshaw.

May		
1	India	SU staff & volunteers are involved in hundreds of Vacation Bible Schools across during this quarter reaching thousands of children & young people. May they come to know God's purposes & make positive responses.
2	Mexico	Although significant progress has been made by the rescue team headed by SUI, we need to keep praying for new leadership for the movement, & that their Board be encouraged as they envisage their own new future.
3	Fiji	Pray for the welfare of the staff & their families.
4	NT	Pray for the 40 th Katherine Christian Convention. Thank God that SUNT has been asked to do the children's program again – pray that the program may be well received by the mostly indigenous children.
5	Victoria	Today & tomorrow, Camps Development Group Retreat. Pray for new initiatives to be birthed.
6	PNG	HIV AIDS presents a very large threat to PNG. Pray as SU works with other organisations to develop strategies to combat this, especially through school & village based programs.
7	Malawi	Thank God for a successful writers' workshop in January. 26 church leaders were equipped to write theologically sound & relevant notes in two local languages, Chichewa (the national language) & Tumbuka.
8	SUA	Federal government funding for chaplaincy will see many more chaplains serving in schools. Pray for a successful implementation of this program & for Tim Mander (SU Qld) as he represents SU in discussions.
9	WA	The SU Cabinet (Council) meet tonight to set the 07/08 budget. Pray that they are sensitive to God's leading.
10	Fiji	Please pray for God's protection for students & teachers during the holiday season.
11	Tasmania	Pray for the council meeting & AGM - that there would be a real sense of vision for God's work & Kingdom to develop in Tasmania, with a unity of purpose & wise decision making.
12	SA	SUSA, Bible Society, Bible College SA & Life FM present a Bible focus for this month across the churches. Pray that God will bring this together well & that it will make a great impact on the church as it listens to God.
13	Fiji	Please pray for staff travelling during visitation to schools & village communities.
14	Africa	National Directors' Conference is planned for May 14 to 19. The conference is for fellowship, envisioning & training in holistic & transformational ministry. May God meet with them in a special way & provide the resources.
15	Solomons	Please pray for the mission to the Savo district over the weekend.
16	PNG	Graeme Aldom (SU Qld) is assisting with a newsletter (Touch) to encourage PNG teachers in Bible reading & school ministry. Pray that this will be effective in growing student groups & ministry.
17	NSW	Please pray for the annual Schools Ministry Appeal, the largest & most important period of fundraising activity on SU NSW's calendar.
18	SA	Tomorrow, SU with the Uniting Church, Tabor College & Interserve will run "Bridging the Gap" to equip & resource people reaching out to those who have newly arrived in their neighbourhood from non-English-speaking countries. Pray for those who attend & the many people who could be affected by their ministry.
19	ACT	Pray for Terry & Margaret Williams who will be leading a Christian Worker's Training Day on 19 May.
20	Vanuatu	Pray for the children & families around Port Vila who have been directly affected by the social unrest & violence of early March. Some students have lost personal items such as clothing, books, etc.
21	Solomons	Please pray for the mission to Isabel Province to be successfully managed & programmed.
22	NZ	National Executive meets to discuss issues around budget shortfalls & future directions. Pray for clear thinking, good relationships with staff & for real vision.
23	Tonga	Schools ministry is a very important part of the ministry in Tonga. Pray that student groups will be strengthened in their faith and witness in each school.
24	Greater Pacific	Volunteers promote Bible notes in Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Kiribati & Western Samoa. Pray that they will be encouraged & many will grow from a new discovery of the power of God through His Word.
25	SUA	The Management & Development Group (SUA Executive) meet this weekend. Major items for discussion include the future shape of Resources For Ministry RFM & budgeting for the next year.
26	Resources	Pray for excellent sales, especially of stock held in the Gosford warehouse. But more importantly, pray that many will rediscover the profit in engaging with Scripture & its transforming power in their lives.
27	Vic	Give thanks for Bible Reading Notes reaching into the hearts of people bringing challenge & meaningful engagement.
28	PNG	Pray for Walo Vali as he reaches out to the various provinces & encourages volunteers in local ministry.
29	Switzer/d	German speaking: During the Spring quarter there are children's missions in churches & they prepare intensively for the camps in the summer. Please pray that they will find enough helpers.
30	Solomons	Please pray for the preparations for the National Convention in Makira Province to be finalised.
31	Tonga	For the new SU Tonga website, that it will be a blessing to all Christians in need of the ministry of SU.

June		
1	Fiji	Please pray for the Executive Committee of the ministry.
2	SUI	Wendy Strachan reminds us that this is the annual Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk. We can join people around the world in crying out to God for vulnerable & exploited young people.
3	Tasmania	SU Tasmania runs camps in the June holidays. Pray for the children, young people & teams to have a real sense of God's presence with them. Pray for changed lives.
4	NT	Pray for Kathryn Reynolds who has given many years service to SUNT. Pray for her as she works with the youth of the NT. Pray that her health may improve.
5	Korea	Uphold the new General Secretary, Rev. Hyung-Kook Oh & the new ministry director, Rev. Ju-Ho Tak. Pray the Lord will enable them to face the challenges of these two key positions. SU Korea is celebrating its 35 th Anniversary today.
6	Israel	Pray for Ora Guler & her team of volunteers as they plan for the summer's work. Especially, pray for a family ministry camp to help Christian parents pass on their faith to their children. Thank God for SU's ministry in Israel.
7	Victoria	Pray for new ways of lifting the profile of SU Vic in our society.
8	Central Asia	Responses to the SU Bible Notes have been very encouraging. Pray for our staff in Kyrgystan who has started to introduce the Notes in Kazukhstan & Uzbekistan.
9	Pacific	Please pray for Lloyd Carter traveling to France for SUI meetings, and spending the weekend with his son in London.
10	WA	Pray that the girls program CHIC will be picked up by a large number of WA high schools.
11	Tonga	There are plans to develop a campsite. Please pray for the planning and funds required.
12	Intern'l	The SUI Team/Exec Council meet today through to Thursday. Pray for good discussions & clear outcomes.
13	Intern'l	Pray for Colin Sinclair (Chair) as he leads & facilitates the discussions. He asks for wisdom in this.
14	Intern'l	Pray for Janet Morgan & the staff team as they present reports & proposals for developing SU globally.
15	Fiji	Please pray that the financial needs of Scripture Union in Fiji will be met so that ministry can be strengthened.
16	Chile	Today SU in Quebec will celebrate God's goodness in providing Donald Tardif to take over leadership of the movement from Noel Aubut.
17	Qld	Pray for Roy Devine, Debbie Mears, Steve Forward & Alan Whitchurch as they work in the area of at-risk youth ministries through the 'Connect' program.
18	ACT	The growth of chaplaincy as a result of Federal government funding will invigorate ministry, but will also bring many demands on the small team. Pray for effective fund raising to build a strong support team.
19	Solomons	Please pray for the mission to Makira Province this month.
20	Scotland	18-29: Basecamp & Lead-up are 2 of SU Scotland's most important training events for young people, helping prepare many for service in camps & Holiday Clubs over the summer as well as witness in their schools.
21	Vanuatu	Praise God for the ongoing development of the SU Campsite. Give thanks for the dedication & hard work of the work party from NSW. Pray that the camp centre will be a place of blessing for many people.
22	England & Wales	SU publishing editors in England have been researching fresh ways to use the Bible. The challenge is to use new technology effectively to provide a wider range of ways to meet God in the Bible text. Please pray for them.
23	SUI	June 23-July 3: The SUI staff team is meeting in Scotland for a time of reflection, prayer, training & planning. Please pray that they will be open to all that the Lord wants to say to them.
24	PNG	Pray for the Council with Rava Taviri as Chair, especially as they face the challenge of HIV AIDS & to provide effective youth ministry.
25	Bangla/sh	Pray for Shopon Kumar Das who is in charge of publication of notes & development of ministry among children. Pray also for the members of the Council to guide & encourage him in his role as the only staff.
26	FSR	A new SU camp site at Starinki, Belarus - please pray for good progress on the building work to enable the first camp to be held there at the beginning of July this year. Thank God for the site, & the volunteer helpers.
27	Fiji	Pray for God's assurance & protection for the people of Fiji.
28	Solomons	Pray for the establishment of the next 6 month schedule & its presentation to the Council for their blessings.
29	NZ	Today & tomorrow the National Schools Policy group meets to consider new initiatives in schools ministry under Andy Banks' leadership.
30	SA	Today is SUSA's annual general meeting. This will be a great time of celebrating all that God has done & will do through the ministry. Pray for a wonderful time of celebration & God's anointing on the new Council.