

Pacific News

July - September 2007



From the Pacific Regional Secretary

It is a pleasure to again send this newsletter to share with you some stories of what the Lord is doing through SU around the region. And of course we invite your partnership in prayer.

This edition we welcome Audrey Khoo from Victoria who has provided invaluable assistance with editing and compilation. We trust that she may be able to continue into the future.

As I write this we are anticipating that we will shortly be able to announce the appointment of a new Pacific Islands Coordinator. We made a recommendation to each of the movements and invited their endorsement of this appointment. The major responsibilities of this Coordinator will be to assist Councils, develop senior staff, help with strategic planning and to promote the development of Pacific partnerships within SU and with other organisations.

The second exciting development is a plan to produce a new version of Daily Power in English in time for release and distribution in November. We have received some funding for this and it will be available for SU across the Pacific. It will again include notes for 365 daily readings but will not be dated as such.

Thirdly, we are working with Wycliffe/SIL to produce a Pijin Daily Power for the Solomons to be available by July 2008 to coincide with the launch of the full Pijin Bible. This is an exciting development in line with a decision of the Executive that we would in future endeavour to assist in producing Bible notes in local languages. Again, we have received some assistance with funding and welcome further contributions toward these projects or the ministry of SU within the Pacific.

Lloyd Carter

New Bible reading guide for 11-14 year olds

Submerge: Bible reading for a new generation is the first dated SU guide to come out every two months. That's because many young people need all the help they can get to read the Bible and having 6 issues a year rather than 4 is 50% more encouragement. *Submerge* will begin in September but subscription orders are being taken now. The first issue will have a bonus month and run from October to December. Spread the word about *Submerge* and encourage adults you know to take out subscriptions for young people. It's an investment in their future with God.

To order a subscription in Australia (\$A35) phone Freecall 1800 808 639 and in NZ Freephone 0508 423 836



Scripture Union's **Light** range is a discipleship curriculum for all ages that can confidently be recommended to churches of all denominations. For many years we've been asked by churches that use the lectionary if **Light** fits with their readings. Although there were some links, it hasn't been a very good fit - until now. **Light for the Lectionary** is coming in October and will be available from SU resource centres and national offices. Please consider how you can get let churches know about it.



There are three Luke's Travel Guides to help people improve their English using the Bible. Designed for those who have English as a second language, these books assume no Christian knowledge and are ideal to use as an introduction to the Bible. The first covers Luke's gospel, the second the apostles in Acts, and the third follows Paul's missionary journeys.

Luke's Travel guides are \$5 each in Australia and \$7.99 in New Zealand

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New Zealand

Children's and Families staff in New Zealand have been developing the camping ministry among 8–11 year olds with great results. As with all ministries, reading the Bible is central to the activities and that is having a profound impact on this age group, as well as on their families. Stories are filtering in of children who demand their parents buy a Bible so they can read it to them at home. Some places on these camps are taken by children in welfare care. Although a real challenge, the influence of this positive environment is seeing changed behaviour among these children. The frequency of these camps has increased to each holiday so that government funding can be sought, and which in turn assists with support of staff. It is hoped that these camps will multiply around the country. National staff enjoyed their annual conference in early May, when significant engagement with the Bible was demonstrated as they affirmed themselves as a 'text' and a 'mission' shaped community'.



NZ Staff Team at Annual Conference

Pacific Islands

• Fiji

On May 5th, about 3,000 youth attended the Scripture Union In Schools (SUIS) "Party in the Park" Rally in Suva, which was sponsored by Voda-phone Fiji. Kids Games were held on May 14th and about 1,000 children attended. This was a partnership program with the Bible Society. Let us praise God for the impact that these two events have had.

• Vanuatu

The IDS Campsite at Pango was host to over 150 primary and high school students during the Easter long weekend. The students came from schools around Port Vila, ranging in ages from class 5 through to students from the teachers' college. Activities ranged from Bible Studies and prayer times, to swimming and sports. It was a special time for all participants and many have been asking when the next camp will be. Refurbishment of the IDS campsite is continuing, with much appreciated help from SU NSW.

The monthly Secondary ISCF rallies are continuing with good attendance from the CF groups around Port Vila. Many students are boarders at their schools and these rallies are a great encouragement to them. There are many items on the agenda for the new SU Council, including exploring management issues and the re-establishment of SU ministry in Primary Schools. They are considering ways that SU can expand its ministry to students and others in the outer islands of Vanuatu.

- **Papua New Guinea**

God is moving amongst the young people as the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy in Acts 2:17. In every school **Walo Vali** (National Director) visits around PNG, the students are thirsty to hear God's word. Also the prayer movement in schools is proving to be very effective. School staff are looking to Scripture Union leaders so that Christian leadership can be strengthened in a majority of the city schools. There is a need for more Daily Power Bible reading guides to distribute in other parts of the nation outside Port Moresby. Walo says, *"SU people pause to always thank God for the supporters and prayer movement within the family of SU world wide. The Gospel is reaching more young people despite the bad media publicity about the nation. There is always a reward after every trial and hardship. Glory to God."*

- **Solomon Islands**

SUSI has once again faced many challenges this year, especially with the recent tsunami and other natural disasters. The month of April saw volunteers and some students combining together to visit seven villages and three schools in Ysabel district. **Philip Vahia** (National Director) says, *"Many students committed themselves with willing hands and hearts to freely assist in the extension of the Good News to the communities and the schools. The programs included skits, drama and songs as the team performed for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel."* All three high schools have recommitted to the service of SU, as well as supporting their own churches' programs.

- **Tonga**

Sitiveni Tuilautala has replaced **Taisi Takau** as National Director, and has begun directing SU staff activities. There is a vision for a mission to the USA and this is being followed up with much prayer and preparation. Sitiveni will travel to the US in July and August to make arrangements with Tongan Churches for the coming visit. The introduction of the Annual 'pledge' appeal to ex-SU members is receiving widespread support, but much prayer is needed concerning collecting the 'pledges'. This is the sole source of funds for running SU in Tonga, other than the quarterly grants from the Pacific SU. The SU team wish God's blessing on everyone.

Australia

- **Victoria**

SU Vic is in the process of reuniting volunteers who have been involved in SUFM (SU Family Missions), formerly known as CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission) over the years. Warrnambool Mission celebrates 60 years with an afternoon on 4 August. Echuca SUFM will gather together later in the year and a Tidal River SUFM reunion is being planned for 2008. **Heather Fronsko (Lyll)**, co-chair of the Warrnambool organising committee was enthusiastic when first asked about the reunion possibility – *"My time on team in the 1980's was a powerful experience, and I've been amazed by the stories I've already heard from others. Everyone I've been in touch with is really excited"*. In the SU Vic office, staff have been encouraged by the reconnection and excitement being generated by these pending SU community events.

- **Australian Capital Territory**

Over the past year, SUACT has moved to a new level in its operations. Giving to schools ministry has grown significantly and schools have been opening up to the ministry of lunch-time groups and chaplains. The new Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy Program has created an interest in chaplaincy that the movement will struggle to meet without even greater levels of resourcing. Please pray that SU in the ACT will be able to continue to develop their capacity for ministry and for the workers who can effectively support these new ministries.

• New South Wales

ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship) Leadership Conferences are returning in 2007 with 2 new locations across the 2 weeks of the July holidays. The conferences for high school ISCF leaders will be packed with Bible talks, small group Bible studies, training seminars and electives, and great night programs. These conferences have been running for decades, but this year have a renewed sense of purpose complementing the Leadership 4:12 program and other new schools ministry initiatives. Delegates from around NSW will be given vital support and training, and will also have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with leaders from all walks of life, ministering in a diverse range of school environments. The Conferences are in Nowra and Kurrajong, running from July 1-6 & July 8-13. Please be praying for the delegates attending and the students they lead.

• Northern Territory

It has been a challenging time for Scripture Union in the Northern Territory so far in 2007. It has also been a time of change. The most significant change has been that **Kathryn Reynolds** has concluded her time of ministry with SUNT. This was a difficult decision, but one in which we believe God has guided both SUNT & Kath to make. Work continues in the background on implementing the strategic plan developed over the past 18 months and this is beginning to bear fruit. A joint venture will be starting very shortly with the Bible Society in relation to the Resource Centre. The next step in terms of staff is the advertising for a new Director of the movement in the NT. Please pray that God may continue to guide SUNT's steps. Praise God for a good time of ministry at the Katherine Christian Convention

• South Australia

"It would be fantastic if more people in our church were reading the Bible each day."

"Sometimes I find myself wondering whether that is what the Bible is really trying to say."

"There have to be other ways to help people get into God's Word."

In July, Scripture Union and the Bible Society are joining forces for **engage**.

Engage is a focus on helping churches and individuals to better interact with God through His Word. This will be done through providing a range of resources for children, youth and adults to assist local churches in this. These will include:

- ◆ programs for services encouraging Bible reading,
- ◆ discounted Bible reading guides for all ages,
- ◆ all-age activities and programs (eg. quiz nights and service outlines), and
- ◆ multi-media promotional resources.

Please pray that God will use this time to mould people as He meets them in His Word.

• Queensland

A school chaplaincy explosion is about to occur throughout Queensland.

More than 400 schools applied for seed funding for school chaplaincy services through the Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP). This is one of the most exciting developments in Christian mission in Queensland for years.

It has taken 17 years for SU Qld to create 200 school chaplaincy services – now this number is set to nearly double in the next nine months! Through these extra school chaplaincy services, 200,000 more young people will access the message of Jesus Christ's love.

Principals who previously displayed contempt for school chaplaincy are now lining up to speak to SU Qld about gaining this service. Local churches are engaging with each other and with school communities more than ever to work out the most strategic approach to covering a number of schools in their area. State Director, **Tim Mander** says, *"Please pray for us for the recruitment of additional Christian workers and for God to provide for SU Qld as it builds an infrastructure to sustain such rapid growth."*

- **Tasmania**

Many people expressed doubt that SU Tasmania would be able to find enough suitable candidates for school chaplaincy posts, especially since the Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy Program funding initiative looks likely to double the numbers of chaplains in Tasmanian schools. However, the interviews already held with people have been extremely encouraging, with many high quality, godly candidates coming forward. Give thanks to God who has not only acted to fulfil SU Tasmania's financial needs, but to meet the need for the right personnel too.

- **Western Australia**

Allison Day responded with compassion to the experiences of a refugee family and got to know them, seeking to help them settle in Perth. Her life has never been the same since. Allison visited with them weekly, tutoring them in English and school work. A deep mutual bond was formed and both Allison's and the family's lives have been deeply affected and changed.



This involvement and seeing the result, began a burning desire in Allison to see other people link with newly arrived refugees and support and love them. Now, around ten such relationships exist in her informal network and this activity is linking with SU. Allison states; *“With this program, we aim to build positive, trusting relationships with a whole family (of refugees) through the teaching of English skills and consistent visits in the home environment. Through this, we aim to foster a strong sense of community, encourage self-belief and develop a sense of preparedness for a new future in a new country. In the context of sharing our lives and in relationship, we also aim to share the love and hope of Jesus.”*

A story from England and Wales: God breaks through. Ruth has been on numerous Scripture Union holidays. They were an escape – always great fun, always helping her to feel closer to God, but when she returned home, her self-esteem problem was still there. Last summer the Curtains Up! holiday was just as good, but this time God broke into Ruth's life amazingly. *“I felt really close to God,”* says Ruth. *“On the second night, I was helped by two leaders who enabled me to finally understand that after years of misery I wasn't defined by the way I looked. I can now see that evening was one of the most important steps for me in escaping from the eating disorder that had held sway over me for more than a year.”*

Here's one way to switch on a light.



Here's another



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Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Pacific Region Prayer Diary July – September 2007

July		
1	Fiji	Perith College Group visiting schools in Fiji (Jul 1 – 4).
2	Vanuatu	There is a group from Gilgandra, NSW visiting schools around Port Vila. Please pray for this group as they seek to witness in both English and French speaking schools. (Jul 1 – 7)
3	Solomons	Pray that the Govt will confirm SU's participation in the 30 th Anniversary celebrations.
4	Vanuatu	Pray for the ongoing development of the new SU Vanuatu website, due to be launched in July. It will be a helpful tool for linking Secondary CF groups in remote island schools who have internet access.
5	SU Qld	Tim Mander visiting PNG and speaking at their fundraising dinner. (Jul 5 – 8).
6	PNG	Tim to visit schools with the Director and corporate dinner (Jul 6 – 9).
7	PNG	Pray for the partnership with SU Queensland. In July 7 PNG will host a fundraising dinner addressed by Tim Mander, Director of SU Queensland. The purpose is to raise support for SU operation and a vehicle.
8	NSW	Two ISCF Leadership Conferences (1 st 2 weeks of July for training snr high school students in leadership, evangelism and discipleship. Missions Training Day in Sept for volunteers (up to 2200).
9	ACT	Pray for safety and life changing experiences at our two winter camps, Chill Out for primary school students and The Great Escape for secondary students (9-13 July)
10	Internat'l	SU International Director Janet Morgan is at the IFES World Assembly in Canada. We are thankful for the opportunity to share in this special occasion (Jul 11 – 19)
11	PNG	Walo will travel to Highlands region for school visit, talk with church leaders & form area committee (Jul 11 – 30).
12	SUSA	SUSA is working with the Bible Society, Bible College of South Australia, denominational networks & others to encourage Bible engagement across the churches & individuals through the "Engage" project.
13	Solomons	Confirmation to the new tenant for SU House to be accepted.
14	Victoria	Pray for this weekend when Camp Directors come together for celebration and training. (Jul 14 – 15)
15	NT	Praise God for a joint venture with the Bible Society in relation to the Resource Centre to be dedicated today. Pray that the relationship may continue to be strong and that the Centre will be a blessing to those in ministry in the NT.
16	Tasmania	The SU Tasmania staff are meeting together today. Please pray for safety in travel and a really productive and encouraging time together
17	India	Thank God for the faithful services of Rajasingh and Gnanam who worked with Scripture Union for 29 years and retired on 31st May 2007. Pray for Rajasingh and Gnanam as they will continue to work among young people and families.
18	Tonga	Prison ministry today.
19	Mongolia	Continue to uphold our staff team and volunteers in your prayer. The Lord has opened doors for some ministries at the border amongst the Dali people of Afghanistan and the Kazak people.
20	WA	White Water rafting camp finishes today. Pray that the campers have had an amazing week and that their lives have been changed by Jesus.
21	NSW	Pray for the Mission Director's Training Day – over 100 Beach and Urban Mission directors will be gathering together for training, fellowship and encouragement.
22	Tonga	Please pray for planning of a SU Missions team visiting the United States later this year.
23	NZ	Annual General Meeting of the NZ Staff & volunteers (21 -22 July). Senior Staff gather for encouragement & inspiration & will discuss important marketing and leadership issues (20, 23 & 24 July)
24	Fiji	For staff travelling and visiting schools.
25	Regional	Pray that this process will see the person of God's choosing inducted and commencing this role over the next few months. Pray that good relationships will develop with great benefit to the SU ministry in each Pacific Island movement.
26	NT	Kath Reynolds has concluded her service as a schools worker. We thank God for her ministry over 10 years. Pray for the Council as they seek a Director and the finances for this sole staff position.
27	Regional	Camping ministry is becoming a strong focus for Pacific Islands. The Vanuatu campsite will be completed in July. Fiji and Tonga are considering developing their land. Pray for resources and vision for this ministry to children and young people.
28	Fiji	Hillsong group and SU Fiji workshop & rally @ 9.00am-10.00pm today
29	Tonga	For ISCF Leaders' training.
30	Fiji	Finance Committee for partnership project to raise 200 partners in July – December 2007.
31	Malawi	A FrontLine team from England and Wales will spend 3 weeks at Scripture Union's camp site in Kande during August to help host children's camps & help with minor building, decorating and maintenance tasks to enhance the site for the future.

August		
1	Solomons	Final Preparations for the National Convention for SUSI.
2	Internat'l	SUI staff Janet Morgan and Pauline Hoggarth meet in Melbourne with the FOBAI (Forum of Bible Agencies International) Scripture Engagement Development Group.
3	WA	Pray for promotion to schools of seminar program EPYC - Emerging Peace Makers in Your Community. EPYC encourages students toward non violent approaches to conflict including teaching from the gospels.
4	Victoria	Give thanks for the Warrnambool SUFM / CSSM 60 th reunion being held today.
5	SU Qld	The SU Qld staff conference will be held 6-10 August - all 250 staff and chaplains will be in attendance. Pray for the expected and quite dramatic growth in chaplaincy services due to federal government funding.
6	PNG	SU student camp about 300 students in Port Moresby (Aug 6 – 8).
7	NT	SUNT plans to be involved in School chaplaincy. Pray that God would provide both schools seeking to have a chaplain and for suitable chaplains to be found.
8	Internat'l	Paul Hidayat (GD Indonesia) & Pauline Hoggarth (Internat'l Bible Ministries Coordinator) are working together at the ON Institute in Malaysia - training for new staff in the East Asia Region. (Aug 8 – 17)
9	SA	Ministry Committees have been a strong part of the growth of SUSA ministries in the past. Pray for the Youth & Primary Programs Departments, that God will raise up godly people to support the wider ministry.
10	WA	Transform07 the main training event for all SU volunteer leaders. Pray that this event will equip and prepare the SU leaders.
11	Tasmania	The SU Tasmania Council meets today. Please pray for new members who are joining for the first time to feel very much part of what is going on and able to contribute as God leads.
12	ACT	Pray for the staff and finances needed to take up all of the opportunities for ministry in our schools.
13	SA	This month, SUSA will extend its premises into the recently purchased building next door. Praise God for this ability and resources to do it. Pray it will enable the growth of SUSA's ministry and not distract from it.
14	Solomons	Savo & Tangarar island missions are being considered. Pray for warm relationships between Council and the Staff as colleagues in the Ministry.
15	Tonga	Visitation ministry to the local Prison today
16	Solomons	Strategic plans and Project proposal for the site development to be ready for Council's perusal.
17	Fiji	Safety for children during the Holiday programs.
18	India	Pray for the AGM of the National Council on August 18-19 when important decisions on future leadership will be taken.
19	WA	Pray for Family Mission Team Leaders as they increase their preparations for the Christmas season of Mission activities.
20	NZ	Gordon Dewar, Financial Manager of 26 yrs, is retiring in December. Pray for decision-making about his replacement.
21	NSW	Please pray for the senior high school students on the new Leadership 4:12 program to learn and grow from this.
22	Tonga	ISCF Monthly Combined Fellowship Meeting
23	Victoria	Pray that more churches might be aware of chances for young people to experience service through missions/camps teams.
24	ACT	Pray for wisdom for our Council, staff and key volunteers as we meet for a planning weekend which will determine the future directions of SU ACT. (Aug 24 & 25).
25	Tonga	SU Schools' Weekend Camp at 'Eua early next month.
26	SUA	Pray for many subscribers for the new youth Bible reading guide, SUBmerge which starts in October.
27	RFM	SU Australia is conducting a strategic review of its Resources For Ministry Publishing Unit. Pray for good sales that effectively resource for ministry and spiritual growth.
28	Ukraine	Pray for the camps programme running at Vorzel, near Kiev, Ukraine. Thank God for Timofey Stupak and Oksana Khimich who help to run the extensive programmes here, and in Yevaptoria, Crimea.
29	The Gambia	A successful Jesus March was organised by SU Pilgrims Fellowship with YFC during Easter. Thank God for those who accepted the Lord as Saviour especially for two of the policemen who accompanied us and accepted Christ. Pray for their follow-up programme.
30	India	Pray for guidance to make the best use of the 10 acres gifted to SU in the state of Manipur. Stephen Abraham & Pankaj Sahu were present when the gift deed was registered with the government in May.
31	Northern Ireland	Thank God for Rick Hill's work with high school kids – using music as a way in to the Bible. Pray for Rick as he plans for the new school year. Pray for Anita Adrain – Schools Manager in N Ireland who had a serious accident in 2006 and is now planning her return to work.

September		
1	Burkina Faso	Our Secretary has been poorly for some time. Pray for quick/complete recovery. Thank God that Joseph is now fully recovered
2	Solomons	Exchange students from Tonga to arrive for a three months mission.
3	Internat'l	Clayton Fergie asks to pray for the Americas Region as it develops initiatives to help Spanish speaking movements strengthen existing areas of youth ministry as well as develop new ones in some countries.
4	Fiji	Preparation for the Annual Camp in Labasa.
5	Tonga	ISCF Monthly Combined Fellowship.
6	Victoria	Give thanks for the community involvement in the Bendigo Elevate House project.
7	Cambodia	Thank God for a partnership with a Korean mission to translate, edit, produce & distribute SU Notes bi-monthly. Pray for Mrs Changsook Kim as she travels the country to promote Bible reading.
8	NT	Pray for the SUNT Council as they hold a planning day & seek to build on the strategic plan in place. Pray for involvement from other SUNT members and that God may guide the discussion.
9	Vanuatu	Praise God for the dedicated work of the new Council. Pray for their regular meetings, and that a clear vision for the future unfolds. The Council members are busy people; please pray for their families too.
10	Mongolia	2007 is the Bible Focus Year for the East Asia Region. In your prayer, uphold the various activities organized by some of the National movements to highlight the importance of the Bible. Pray for the East Asia Region in their planning of organizing a computer programme writing on "Discovering the Treasures of the Bible" competition.
11	Internat'l	The International Team and Council meet in London
12	Sri Lanka	Pray very specially for the choosing of a General Secretary for SU Sri Lanka. Pray for the "One Day Programmes" organized for the year and for necessary funding, for Preethi, Ayomi and Manori – the staff of SUSL and their team of volunteers as they continue to serve during time of war.
13	Qld	Natioanl funding for chaplaincy. Pray for additional funding to support the influx of chaplains from (Fed Govt) funding.
14	Tonga	SU Camp at Tupou College (Toloa). (Sept 14 – 17)
15	SA	SUSA will hold its planning day for Council, staff and key volunteers. Pray that God will continue to grow the ministry.
16	Solomons	Pray for overseas ministries that can assist SUSI in leadership training and on other special needs.
17	Tasmania	Pray for Ruth Pinkerton, State Director of SU Tasmania. This is her first year so she is constantly meeting new people and doing new things. Pray she will have energy & wisdom to meet the challenges.
18	Vanuatu	Praise God for the ongoing development of the SU Campsite. Give thanks for the dedication and hard work of the work party from NSW. Pray that the camp centre will be a place where a lot of young people will find Christ .
19	SUNT	Pray for SUNT as they advertise the position of Director for the movement. Praise God that there is harmony within Council concerning the position description and way forward in relation to advertising the position. Pray that God may provide the necessary funds and guide the selection steps.
20	Internat'l	Uphold the Regional Leadership of SU East and West Asia in your prayer. Remember too, all the National Councils, the National Directors/General Secretaries and Team Leaders before the Lord. Pray that in the midst of all the challenges they face daily, they will come out as better leaders.
21	ACT	Pray for the success of the children's festival, <i>Y shine</i> .
22	NSW	State Volunteer Training Day – Potentially 1500 mission volunteers will be attending this new event aimed at building up mission teams and providing a forum for training and networking.
23	Internat'l	SU International Council meets in England from 21-24 and the Team & Executive from 26-28.
24	Tonga	All Christians to be faithful for their commitment to the word of God and prayer
25	NZ	National Executive meeting to review ministries and staff issues.
26	Malaysia	SU Peninsular Malaysia has a very good ministry with children. Primary School Children Fellowship, children's camps, magazines, clubs & Sunday school teachers' training are some of the main activities.
27	Tonga	Pray for the development of SU Office and the project to build our new Campsite. Pray for moresupporters, especially with finances & prayer, and for their own spiritual growth.
28	PNG	Pray for Walo as he visits each centre of the 4 regions to establish area committees, networking and sister ministries. Prayer for wisdom for the Council members in making decisions on sensitive issues.
29	NT	Pray for SUNT as it investigates and plans to be involved in School chaplaincy. Plan for opportunities & that God would provide both schools seeking to have a chaplain and for suitable chaplains to be found.
30	PNG	Walo will attend the SU camp in Madang and Kavieng.