

SUSA NEWS

More Good News inside

Mission begins in your own backyard

Taking the good news of Jesus to a young generation

From the Director

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Life, Love & Hope for a young generation

susa 
Scripture Union of South Australia Inc. www.susa.org.au

From the Director



WOW! what a summer of mission. Thanks to a hard working staff team and the hundreds of dedicated volunteers SU reached hundreds of young people and families with hope of the gospel.

Exciting new partnerships are forming, administrative procedures are being streamlined, better training and wider publicity are all helping to grow the ministry we are undertaking in God's name.

After all, it's God's mission not ours.

For myself personally this is the end of my first 12 months as Director and I'm loving it. It's great to feel like you are exactly where God wants you to be. Yes our ministry is a challenge and that's as it should be. We face opposition, financial stress and persecution. But what we are doing is God's mission.

It is God's work and we serve an awesome God. Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, whatever the troubles we face and whatever the outcome, we know that God is in charge.

I cannot thank you enough for your prayers, support and involvement with SU. Together we will continue to see lives changed by the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director

From the Chair



Standing in front of a groaning table full of food at a BBQ or smorgasbord, have you ever wished you had more stomach capacity?

It feels a little like that at the moment at SU!

It seems we have been blessed with a number of ministry opportunities and a number of gifted people wanting to work with SU in a variety of ways – but our capacity to do more is limited by our ability to fund positions.

Working with children at risk, developing further the camping program, and work in our primary schools present challenges and opportunities we don't want to miss. This is a wonderful dilemma to have!

As we head towards Good Friday and Easter, encapsulating the "good news" that we wish to share with children and their families, please continue to pray for the ministries you will read about in this edition of SU News, and for people and finances to do what God would have us do in the year ahead.

God has richly blessed SU over recent years for which we give thanks and pray that will be so in this coming year! Every blessing in Christ.

Vivien Bleby | SU SA Chairperson

Girls' time to 'Shine'

Girls – now it's your turn! JEWELS Camp is a brand new initiative from SUSA. This camp is open to girls in years 7-10, with girls in years 11 & 12 welcome to attend as junior leaders. We aim to show young women their true worth, and ultimately their true identity in Christ.

Research shows that how a girl sees herself is affected by a variety of influences around her. Therefore, the objectives of the camp seek to address four specific areas:

1. Community.
2. Identity (internal & external).
3. Respectful relationships.
4. Rites of passage.

Jewels Camp, and it's subsequent program of community and mentoring, intends to help build confidence, resilience and esteem in young women through supportive networks and relationships.



These qualities are needed to address the mountain of issues facing young women in today's society.

The camp will be from 13th-16th October 2016, at Willow Creek Camp near Victor Harbor.

All girls are welcome, regardless of faith and background.

For more information contact: **Cherith Harvey** | Camp Director
Mob: 0409 540 398 or email: cherith@susa.org.au

CE-SU Kids Camp

180 campers and leaders from across SA gathered at Cornerstone College at the start of January for CE-SU Kids' Camp 2016: Mission Possible. This year our campers, or "Sacred Agents", learned that what might be impossible for us is possible for Jesus, and that He calls us on a very special mission of our own.

We managed to fit in games, sports, songs, drama and all the regular kids' camp activities. Our returning speaker this year, Steve Stokes, engaged the kids with stories and visuals as we unpacked the great commission. We learnt that Jesus has all power and authority, that He calls all people to follow Him and that He is with us always.

We were excited to see over half the campers responding during our Challenge Night session, either making a first time commitment to following Jesus or taking up the mission to go and make disciples in their schools, families and social groups!

We are thankful for sharing in the ministry of CE-SU Kids' Camp.

Samuel Pryor | Camp Leader

CE-SU Partnership



CE-SU Senior Camp

We thank and praise God for another wonderful CE camp; our 90th! Our vision for camp is that "As many young people as possible will have a genuine encounter with Jesus, being encouraged and equipped to serve Him wholeheartedly." To this end we prayed and endeavoured, and this is what we can report:

With 215 campers: 50 from the country and 90 passionate volunteers, this camp was big! Dave MacGillivray, our speaker explored the impact of the resurrection on the followers of Jesus through the book of Acts and challenged and encouraged campers to be witnesses to Jesus.

During camp the youth were engaged, fun, respectful, courageous and kind. The culture and atmosphere of camp is a special thing that is hard to find elsewhere; it was a true joy to minister to and with them!

We partnered in mission again this year with a community in Copley, Central Australia and saw 5 Aboriginal boys join us. We began a new partnership with Scripture Union - Vanuatu. It was great to see so many campers get on board with supporting mission.

This year 9 campers decided to follow Jesus for the first time and a large number made recommitments to Jesus; many indicating a desire to read their bible more, pray more and share Jesus more with their friends.

One camper put it: "I can't wait to restart my life with Jesus" and another: "I've decided to go throughout my life and take any chance to spread the Word about Jesus."

We are excited to see how God might continue to bear fruit in these young lives!

Oliver van Ruth | Camp Leader

Family Beach Missions

How will they know if no one tells them?
Romans 10:14.

95% of Aussie kids are growing up without any church involvement. What an incredible opportunity our Beach Missions have to share and show the love of Jesus to those kids and their families.

Around 150 volunteers across five sites presented the gospel and connected in relevant ways with children and families. SU remains faithful to God's call and purpose for us. With the pressures of finances, busy lives, fewer volunteers and spiritual opposition, we remain committed to our mission: 'Introducing children, young people and families to Jesus, the Bible and the local church.'

There were so many great stories and the seed of God's truth was planted in many hearts. Such a wonderful opportunity for entire families to experience being on mission together and young people learning what it means to lead and to evangelise.

Well done to all our teams.



On a Mission

Moonta

New leadership and many new faces were the backbone of the largest Moonta Mission Team yet. A new initiative to visit local churches on the Sunday was a huge success as team members spread themselves across six different church services sharing about mission and participating with worship.

While no longer in the caravan park, it may have been divine intervention to be invited into the park to promote our program while serving free pancakes.

The outreach was great and we have gotten to know many of the kids and families who keep coming back each year. Our own community experience was powerful. Strong teaching times, praise and prayer were a foundation for all of us.

And let's not forget our amazing cooks who kept up our strength and stamina.

January 2017, bring it on! Why not come and join us?!

Pt. Vincent

2016 was a great year for Family Mission at Pt Vincent. Many new families brought their children to the program for the first time, and we had the privilege of sharing the good news of God's great love with them.

One of the highlights was the 'Community Lunch and Mission Celebration' event that ended the mission. Children invited their families to share in a delicious lunch, and to celebrate the week we had spent together.

The event finished with a slide-show presentation of the week's activities. On hearing one of their favourite songs the children spontaneously jumped to their feet to do the actions whilst singing along with the words, "Build it solid on the Rock. God is strong, God is sure. Put your faith in Jesus Christ and you'll be building on the Lord."

What a heart-warming moment!

At the conclusion, Pastor Rob Morgan prayed a blessing on the families as they all go out into their new year.

Darren Sanderson | Family Beach Missions Leader

Kangaroo Island



"I didn't think it'd happen," said one local pastor. "Ministry people talk about coming to K.I., then they do the numbers and it never happens." But in January 2016, the first ever Kangaroo Island SU family mission went ahead.

For a week, the SUSA team would gather every afternoon at the Kingscote School and show a group of local (and tourist) kids who Jesus is, and how He loves them. The group was small, but had almost doubled by the end.

"I've never seen my kids so excited about God stuff!" said one parent.

The mission was supported by local churches and the K.I. community. And now they've seen an SU Mission in action, there's considerable buzz about 2017. People are keen to spread the word.

"I'll have to chat with the leaders about how to reach local families," said one Kingscote church member.

Looks like Kangaroo Island Family Mission is here to stay!

Lochy Cupit | Family Beach Missions Leader

n from God!



Tumby Bay

Scripture Union Volunteers again presented a week of wonderful fun and opportunity for children in their families living or holidaying at Tumby Bay.

The theme for the morning was Mission Rescue as Bible stories about Moses in the Old Testament were linked with the accounts of Jesus in the New Testament with more than 100 primary aged children participating.

Afternoon activities were enjoyed at the beach and town oval. Unfortunately there was no youth program during the evenings this year because of a lack of leaders.

Discussions are underway regarding this and how next year's Scripture Union SA Family Mission could look. There are many contributions and a lot of support from the community and this is much appreciated by those who organise the event.

Glenys Sauturaga | Family Beach Missions Leader

Kangaroo Island

A small team of 15 from Adelaide and Kingscote took up the challenge of starting a Family Beach Mission on Kangaroo Island.

Despite many locals being away we had over 20 primary school age children attend the afternoon program, and close to 50 attendees at both the movie and concert nights.

Most encouraging were the large number of pre-school age children who enjoyed the Fun in the Park activities, and whose parents were very much looking forward to having their children join the main program in the next few years.

The small and inexperienced team worked hard and were exhausted by the end of the week, but were also richly blessed by seeing how God had worked through them, keeping them healthy, making new friends, and forming relationships with the children and locals.

It's early days, and the joy of the locals when they found out that this mission was not a 'one-off event' is testimony to the work that is still to be done.

A healthy foundation and a community looking to become more engaged in future missions is already having us looking forward to what God has planned for Kangaroo Island in the coming years.

Pete Calvert | Family Beach Missions Leader

Victor Harbor

What a great team and what a blessing it is living as a Christ centred community in the caravan park among the many holidaying families. A great addition to this year was our purpose built coffee cart, thanks to the skills of Colin Sweeney.

The program was diverse including storytelling, talent night, craft, water slide, movie night and more.

This story from one parent is especially powerful. Paul shared how he, his wife and 4 daughters have returned every year 'for 14 years' to that same caravan park, and they keep coming back because we are there. His girls have grown up with the beach mission and he said that it would be part of their lives forever.

What a testimony to the impact of Beach Missions! It's why we keep doing it every year.

May God's light continue to shine through us all

Yes, we are in schools

But we could be in so many more!

As most of you are aware, SU SA train, equip, resource and support many volunteer teams to go into dozens of schools every year.

Our teams take the Christian message into state schools through seminars, clubs and Christian Option Programs (C.O.P.'s).

In the lead up to Christmas, approximately 11,000 students in dozens of schools were taught the true meaning of Christmas.

As Easter approaches many volunteers will take the good news of Jesus into schools through presentations about the very first Easter.

Throughout the year C.O.P.'s will teach on relevant topics using the Bible and Christian principles.

But we could be in more schools reaching more students if more volunteers would take up the challenge. If you are interested please contact Chris Battistuzzi at SU. Maybe your church could create a team or join with other local churches.

If you find the people we will do whatever we can to equip you for the ministry and mission of taking God's life, love and hope to South Australian students.

Chris Battistuzzi | Director



Ride for Faith

The Ride for Faith is a ride like no-other! It's a ride so the good news of Jesus can be shared with this young generation.

The 142.4km ride began at 6:30am leaving Norwood heading towards Victor Harbor.

After 122km's of riding, a gruelling 3km climb just a few km's south of Pt Elliot awaited. It was one of the toughest hills I have ever ridden! If the first kilometre was tough, the final 800 meters were brutal!

All I could think to myself was "Shut-up legs! I'm not walking. I'm not getting off! I'm not walking. I'm not getting off! - just keep pedalling!"

Crossing the finish line at Victor Harbor brought a wonderful sense of achievement. Thank-you to all who sponsored me.

Arthur Economides | Marketing & Communications

The opportunity to sponsor 'post-ride' is still available.

Visit our SU SA Website: www.susa.org.au/donate-online

Complete your online donation by selecting 'Fundraising Appeal', then 'Ride for Faith'.

Farewell Lisel



It was with great sadness that at the end of last year we said farewell to our Admin Coordinator, Lisel How.

With young children growing fast, Lisel decided that this was the perfect time to take a step back and concentrate her much needed energies on the day to day activities of raising a family.

Lisel started her long association with SUSAs as a volunteer, and in 2001 became a staff member. As a young person, Lisel grew into the role of Administrator, and took on the challenges without fuss. Her level of responsibility grew as she became a valued part of the leadership team.

Although she helped equip and support the many ministries of SUSAs, she ensured our staff and volunteers were all cared for and valued. Lisel will always be remembered for her calm, friendly, and no-fuss presence.

We will miss Lisel's presence at SUSAs, but our Admin team will continue the great work of serving our staff, volunteers and supporters in the work God has trusted us to do.



BWO & SU Partnership

BIG WEEK OUT

2016 saw a new exciting partnership develop between SUSA and Big Week Out. For 15 years BWO has been running to help young people get out, get their hands dirty and express their passion for Jesus through service.

Over 190 young people across 3 sites, from January 18th to 22nd, shared God's love to their community through doing everything from backyard blitzes, free car washes, painting schools and clowning.

This year was an undeniable success with the highest level of excitement BWO has seen in recent years. There's something very powerful seeing High School kids blessing people's lives in such a distinct way.

Stories and examples of God's at work during the week are coming to light every day, however, one Backyard Blitz this year saw 30 kids over 4 days transform an elderly gentleman's backyard from an overgrown hazard to a functioning veggie patch. At the end of the fourth day, he asked 5 kids to pray for him, for his health and for him to rediscover God.

"A simple act of spontaneous kindness stopped people in their tracks, and had them questioning why..."

"Because Jesus did, so do we." – Participant

James Lee | Team Leader



YACC

Keynote Speaker:

Terry Williams

Terry is a gifted and highly sought after international teacher and speaker on ministry to children, youth and families. Working with both SU Qld and SU International he serves on a small global training team, helping to train and equip leaders in ministry across the world.



Saturday 18th June

A Youth and Children's Conference unlike any other!

Elective sessions covering a range of topics from children to youth, creative arts to intergenerational ministry.

9am - 4:30pm | Adelaide Christian Centre, 27 Sturt St, Adelaide CBD.

For further information, and to register visit: www.susa.org.au

Date Claimer

**Mark these events in your calendar today
and bring your whole team!**

SUPA arvo

Are you an SU volunteer and involved in any of the Following?

- Schools
- C.O.P.'s,
- Easter and Christmas presentations,
- School clubs and seminars

THIS DAY IS FOR YOU!

Training Sessions include:

- ChildSafe Team Member
- RAN - Responding to Abuse and Neglect (DECD requirement),
- Team Leader updates
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Legislation and DECD
- Teamwork and Boundaries
- Update ALL forms in one go

1pm - 5:30pm | Sunday 6th March

**St George Anglican Church
43 St Bernards Rd, Magill.**

RSVP by Monday 2nd March.

Call SU Office: 8235 9500

\$5 includes a new ChildSafe handbook and refreshments.

Primary Age
SU-VIVOR
12-14 March 2016

High School
EASTER
25-28 March 2016

Youth Leadership
Y.L.W.
19-22 July 2016

Refugee Kids
SANCTUARY
Date TBA 2016

ADVENTURE
Let's Go
CAMPING
In 2016
AWAITS YOU

Yr 8-10 Boys
G.E.N.T.S.
Spring Holidays

Yr 7-10 Girls
JEWELS
Spring Holidays

High School
M.A.D.D.
17-21 July 2016

Yr 12 Study Camp
S.W.O.T.
Spring Holidays

High School
SENIOR
TBA Jan 2017

Primary Age
JUNIOR
TBA Jan 2017

For more info call 8235 9500
or check out our Wired Youth Site:
www.wired-youth.com

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