



SU news

Spring 2014

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 119:105

Access Granted - Gents Only!



"I came away . . . totally sold-out on the concept"

I went to GENTS Camp . . . I've got the bruises to prove it!

Take 60 boys (some churched, many not), add 12 male leaders, feed them lots of meat and 'blokey' food, throw in a big brown dam, nerf guns, billy carts, obstacle courses and most importantly - **NO GIRLS ALLOWED!!**

Stir it up with regular 'God Stuff' and praise times which included a mosh pit, running and shouting. Then pound it with insane Bible story telling (like you've never heard before) and cover it with prayer - **THAT'S GENTS CAMP!**

GENTS camp was developed by SU Qld and it's all about one thing; introducing Jesus to boys in a way that embraces, affirms and relates to their masculinity.

There's no pressure or coercing. In fact GENTS go out of their way to acknowledge the freedom each boy has to believe what they choose. What they do brilliantly is show through a loving and caring community, what being a Christian is all about.

Boys are loved and accepted for who they are, and introduced to a Jesus in a genuine and meaningful way that relates to their masculinity. Because of this approach many boys respond to the call of God on their lives.

After 30 years of youth and kids ministry I have seen many male friends and parishioners, whom I have led and ministered to on camps and in church, who are no longer in church today.

I came away from GENTS camp totally sold-out on the concept! We need this camp in SA. We all know our boys are struggling with various social and personal issues. There is plenty of research on the modern day struggles facing boys that supports this. GENTS is a safe and positive place where boys can deal with this stuff.

I am convinced SUSA needs to begin this camp in 2015. It will only happen with your help. If the spiritual needs of boys pulls on your heart, then please get in touch with me and let's talk. You know where to find me.

Chris Battistuzzi | Primary & Children's Coordinator

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Swotting it out!

SWOT Camp ran from the 29th of September to October the 2nd at the Aldinga Beach Holiday Park Mini Camp. We had 8 campers and 8 leaders come along, which at first seemed small, but it turned out to be a great blessing as we got to know each camper personally.

It was so evident that God picked out each person to be there for a reason. Leaders and campers got plenty of study done, and we had great sessions in the evening, including an interactive prayer session and a Q&A session. It was encouraging seeing non-believing and believing campers engaging with these activities and many campers getting on top of their study, getting more work done than they would have at home.

Phoebe Ditter | Camp Leader





From the Director

...for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)

Dear friends,

The above mentioned verse speaks of position and timing. For Esther, she was divinely positioned in the King's house at precisely the right time to do the KING's (God's) work (for such a time as this).

Briefly, Esther was to see the deliverance of Israel by speaking up (v. 14). At the time when the Nation of Israel was under threat of destruction (3:15). The cost of speaking up for Esther came at the threat of losing her own life (v. 16).

The story of Esther comes to mind when I think of the current situation, where God's people are under threat once again (not by the same comparison). This time in relation to being removed from ministering in schools.

No doubt you have all heard of the relentless attack on Scripture Union, in Queensland particularly, regarding the schools chaplaincy program. Such was the threat that the program was in jeopardy, as it was for that of South Australia's local provider, Schools Ministry Group (SMG). In fact, SMG narrowly escaped being denied continued government funding as a result, resolved only this month.

Worth noting, in the biblical story, Esther wasn't to singlehandedly gain the victory over Israel's enemies (9:2), and neither should it be the case for those leading ministries that are under attack. Furthermore, and interestingly, the city in which this biblical story took place is called Susa, mentioned 18 times in the book of Esther. Within the city of Susa, the people of God stood together in unity, regardless of tribe (Christendom: denomination). In unity, they had great victory, eventually celebrating together what God had done (9:18).

For such a time as this I believe that God has positioned certain people to speak up, that others would rally in united prayer to see the plans and purposes of God fulfilled. So friends, I ask that you would do just that: continue to stand with Scripture Union Nationally, and other likeminded ministries such as SMG. Together we will see the victory!

Regards,

Marc Wheway | Executive Director

Welcome Yashu



It's with great excitement we welcome another new member to the SUSA Staff Team - Yashu Qin. Yashu joined the SUSA team in June, succeeding Suzanne in the finance department.

In 2011, Yashu left her family in China to study and has recently earned her Master of

Accounting and Finance at University of Adelaide.

We thank God for bringing Yashu to SUSA. Since arriving, she has quickly gained a solid understanding of a very complex role. In addition, she has managed to implement new systems enabling the organisation to better understand its financial position.

"My role is to do the day to day financial operations and to maintain the organisation's accounts....my aim is to provide the information to the team for good decisions to be made."

Outside of SUSA, Yashu fellowships with Hope Presbyterian Church where she translates Mandarin into English. She has also been involved with the ES (Evangelical Students) at university.

Please keep Yashu lifted in prayer as she serves in this very important role.



Band Against Bullying



Imagine every day going to school in fear.
Fear that when you walk around a corner you might bump into that person who always bullies you.
Fear of having ugly names hurled at you again.
Fear of being hit, again.
Fear that you are alone, completely alone... and there's no one who can help you.

It's a very lonely, scary and deeply sad place to be. But that is where many children, who are victims of bullying, find themselves daily.

Primary Coordinator Chris Battistuzzi knows first-hand what it's like to be bullied as a child. He was a victim himself. Drawing from his childhood experience, Chris has developed a new SUSA seminar that tackles the issue of bullying head on and empowers young people to stand up, speak out & BAND AGAINST BULLYING. it's called "I'm OK".

I'm OK' deals with the root causes of bullying like self-esteem, discrimination and racism by affirming clearly that we are all different and being different - is 'OK'.

Students are kept totally engaged through the use of role play, costumes, video, stories and questions. To conclude, students affirm loudly through physical and vocal expression that they will - Stand Up & Speak Out, and Band Against Bullying in their school.

In September Chris presented 'I'm OK' to all year levels at Kapunda Primary, where it was very well received. The school Chaplain said:

"As a CPSW I have been at my school for almost seven years and would have to say your 'I'm OK' presentation would be the best I have experienced."

If you would like 'I'm OK' to come to schools in your area then contact SUSA for more information. We are also on the lookout for capable presenters who can be trained to present this new style of seminar in schools. So if that's you, then get in touch.

For further information contact SUPA Coordinator, **Chris Battistuzzi**.

Godly Servant Sadly Missed

Earlier this week we received the sad news that Alan Dutton passed away on Monday, October 13th.

Alan Dutton was SUSA's state director right throughout the nineteen eighties (plus a little bit of the seventies and nineties, from memory), and I'll always remember him as the "face of SU" - he was running Scripture Union throughout most of my childhood and teenage years. He was a great man that mixed practical know-how with godly wisdom, and has been faithfully working for the gospel (both through SU and many other organisations) for many decades.

Not just a great Christian leader, Alan was never afraid to get his hands dirty in ministry either. Some of my fondest memories of Alan are from beach mission - crazy costumes, creative gospel ideas, and loud scoop singing that made the eyes water (well... nobody's perfect).

We've truly lost one of the greats, and our family - like many, many others - were greatly saddened to hear the news. Our thoughts are with Beulah, Bek, Pete, Andy and their families.

But I know for sure that Alan's now enjoying a very great reward for a faithful life of godly service, and some day I look forward to seeing him again!

Lochy Cupit | At Risk Coordinator





From the Chair

We live in a turbulent world, with religious fanaticism in the headlines on a daily basis, and a health crisis spreading fear and death in West Africa and throughout the world. In the Western world, the liberal media is aggressively pursuing a range of social agendas that directly challenge our worldview.

Even the briefest review of history, of course, shows that there's nothing new about upheaval in the world. God subjected his Son to the violence and passions of the same turbulent world to reconcile us to himself. People no longer need to live and die without experiencing the grace and mercy of a God who held nothing back in sending his Son to the cross.

As the writer to the Hebrews urges us (Heb. 12:1-3), let us "lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18). The mission of SUSAs is one of the practical expressions of that ministry. Let's together put aside distractions and boldly and persistently fulfil the calling we have been given!

Allan Packer | SUSAs Council Chairperson



Sanctuary Camp

This year the SUSAs At-Risk department is putting together something new - Sanctuary Camp. The plan? Take a bunch of teens from refugee families (facing all the normal challenges of identity and acceptance, as well as those of moving into a new culture and language), and take them away for a weekend.

The mission? Help them feel welcomed into their new home country. Show them how living here is different to what they know. Give them some mentors that can help when things get confusing. And above all, give them a taste of hope that will last no matter

where they end up living...

That's the idea behind Sanctuary Camp. In mid December (at the end of the final school term), we'll be taking a group of refugee teens away to give them a welcoming taste of their new home country. We'll be having a lot of fun, guiding the campers in what they'll need to know about Australia, and talk about the God who made us, loves us and doesn't care what language we speak.

The first camp is slated for Victor Harbor, and will hopefully include some summer beach time!

But we've still got a lot to do before it can all happen. And we'll need help!

Is Sanctuary Camp something you're excited to hear about? Does your church have contact with refugee families that might want to send kids along? Is the ministry something you'd like to support financially (given many refugee families don't have much money to send kids on a camp)? Or are you even interested in getting involved yourself? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

It's a big job to support refugee teens and show them some hope. But we've got a pretty big God, and he likes a challenge!

Lochy Cupit | At Risk Coordinator



It's MADDness!

Families applauded as the surprisingly pleasant sounds of 30 recorders finished their rendition of 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' at the Mid North M.A.D.D. Camp concert on Thursday 2nd October.

The recorder choir was only one of the many activities campers were to enjoy on one of the largest M.A.D.D. Camp's yet at Halbury's Emmaus Campsite. Tie dye, hiking, potato stamping, and sending postcards were also included in the camp program.

Workshops incorporated song writing in Music, pillow-case painting in Art, group movement in Dance, and modern day parable telling in Drama.

Meanwhile camp speaker Lochy Cupit, took an old school storytelling take of the gospel of Mark.

Thank you's go out to the leaders that worked so hard to make camp possible; the cook for feeding more people than was expected, the speaker for going above and beyond the call, our prayer partners for taking the time to keep us in mind, the sponsors that provided all the arts and crafts needed to make camp as messy as we like it, and our Heavenly Father for making it all possible.

Camp was a pleasure and we look forward to getting MADD again next year.

Steph Clapp | Team Leader



Ride for Faith New Website for SUSAs



Each year, thousands of children get to hear the Good News about Jesus through Scripture Union SA programs

in schools, camps, beach missions and youth related activities.

On Friday 23rd January Arthur will ride 151.7 km in BUPA's annual cycling challenge, to raise funds and the profile of Scripture Union SA, so more children can hear about God's love and purpose for their lives. He says it's a 'Ride for Faith'.

In 2014 he raised over \$3,000. This time he's believing for more. You can support him by filling in and returning the sponsorship form found in this edition of SU News.



susa

Each edition of SU News is a great way to keep up to date with all SUSAs is doing, but you may be interested to know that it's not the only way...

...VERY SOON, our NEW website will be launched and it will be the best place for anyone wanting to read the latest news about SUSAs. The impressive thing about this site is that it will be 'responsive'. This is tech speak which means that it will adapt to whatever device is being used - from desktop computer to mobile device (iPad, tablet, smart-phone) - it will adjust accordingly.

You will be able to donate online and select whom you wish to support, as well as read a history of the origins of SU. There's also a page for our volunteers and supporters (*that's you*) where you can download a form, a previous edition of SU News, or our latest Annual Report.

November 1st is the 'GO-LIVE' date. On that day, grab your smart phone or switch on your tablet, open-up your browser and type: **www.susa.org.au**

Every blessing,

Arthur Economides | Marketing & Communications





SU Diary

As our calendar grows, so too does our need to adapt and change. This time we're trialling a different approach to the SU Diary.

All SUSAs events are listed in the SUSAs Prayer Diary. It's a detailed outline of what SUSAs is doing month by month, with specific requests for prayer for SUSAs ministries.

If there's an area of interest you would like to find out more on, then please consult the Prayer Diary.

We value your support in prayer as we partner together in ministry.

SUSA has a Fantastic Legacy



Since our last edition of SU News we have had more opportunities to promote the ministry of SUSA: The Children's Ministry Network, held at Parkside Baptist Church, and the LifeWell Conference - HOPE, held at Edwardstown Baptist Church. Having a presence at conferences is part of our ongoing drive to promote the ministry of SUSA to the body of Christ, to increase our presence and raise awareness of the ministries and programs which we offer.

Before I continue, you need to know that I'm still 'fresh' to SUSA. Which is why I'm continually astounded as I come in contact with the many people who used to be involved with SUSA: a beach mission, a camp or a school program. I'm astounded and I'm encouraged to hear their stories.

Attending these events gives them a chance to re-connect and re-live their past SUSA experiences. For most it's a nostalgic trip down memory lane, but it's always a happy one. We have a fantastic legacy and much to be thankful for as we continue to build now, and grow into the future.

Arthur Economides | Marketing & Communications



An error in the previous edition of SU News attributed the title of 'CRC National Director' to Peter Gillard. It should read 'CRC National Administrator'. Sincere apologies to Peter Gillard and the CRC for this error.



Mission Control

Over past months Scripture Union Family Mission Teams have been meeting, planning, being trained and checking gear preparing to proclaim and share the Good News of Jesus

to holiday makers and locals, young and old, believers and not yet believers.

In South Australia, Missions will run at Port Macdonall, Victor Harbor, Moonta, Port Vincent and Tumby Bay with the Port Elliott team exploring options for their continuation either at Port Elliott or another location. It is also exciting that SUSA volunteers are scouting for a new SUFM location for the year after next.

SUFM's have been a flagship activity of Scripture Union since its inception; Mission Teams do this through big and small events, fun activities for kids and families, family nights, quiz nights and through walk-up sharing the Good News about Jesus. It has been interesting to sit in on some team meetings and watch the creative minds working how things can work better and be innovative.

Missions have, over the years, developed relational strengths with camping areas, local communities and, of course, the kids who look forward to catching up with team members from previous holidays.

Les Dennis has received email enquiries from interstate and local families asking where missions will be held so they can plan their family holidays to include a mission.

The people that make up SUFM teams can be drawn from many church gatherings and have a mix of ages including young families, young adults, and even the wise and old. There are also the unsung heroes who cook, cart gear, repair things, and get the electronics working, cook and bake for special mission events and many other jobs that make missions work.

The Mission Directors report that their SUFM teams grow together through their work, through training events, fellowship around mealtimes and mission accommodation from tents, vans, hostels and sleeping in the big marquees. Each Mission has an appointed Pastor who leads a daily devotion and encourages teams to be bold in mission.

If interested in serving on future missions, financially supporting missions, or visiting a mission contact the Missions Coordinator Les Dennis at the SU Office or email missions@sa.su.org.au.

Please pray for the mission teams as they prepare, and head for their respective mission venues after Christmas.

Les Dennis | Missions Director

Wired Youth



Wired Youth has been working alongside SMG and with our Christian Pastoral Support Workers in local schools, promoting

one of our key programs helping young people with the transition from youth to young adults leading into adulthood.

The program is called CHIC & Bloke and runs over a 10 week period. It helps develop maturity and wisdom in these challenging years with good role models working in the program through SMG or volunteers from the local church.

Quite a few schools in the Riverland have been running CHIC & Bloke for a number of years and have been seeing the fruit of this program spilling over into everyday life in their midst.

Dean Clifford | High School Coordinator

It's a Boy!



We are delighted to announce the arrival of: Ilisoni Sauma Melvin Sauturaga.

Illy was 3.83kg and 54cm long at birth! He is now gaining weight and has grown about 2cm longer.

Ilisoni was Maika's Dad's name, the Fijian version of Wilson.

Melvin is my Dad's middle name and was also my Grandfather's first name. We're calling him Illy for short.

We've been inundated with visitors and overwhelmed with so many gifts. Thank you everyone for your support and prayers

Maika & Glenys

Glenys Tiller Sauturaga | Tumby Bay



SUSA Super Summer Sale!!

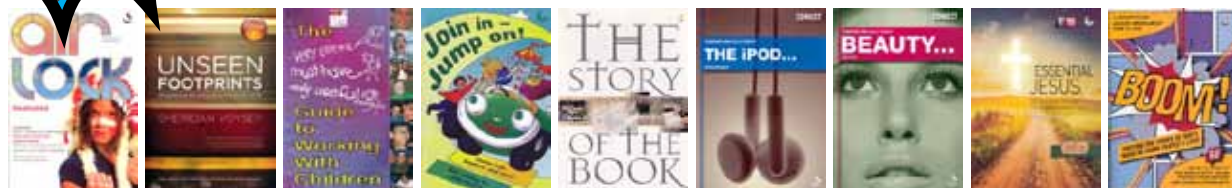
This is the opportunity you've been waiting for! Our shelves are overloaded with excess stock and must be cleared - It all has to go! THIS IS the perfect time to grab yourself a bargain. With Christmas fast approaching we have many resources that would make excellent gift ideas for family or friends.

Sale from Monday 1st to Sat 6th December.

Opening Hours are 9.30 to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

6th December 10.00 - 3.00pm with sausage sizzle and drinks.

SUSA Resource Centre, 14 Adele Avenue, Kidman Park 5025



*Discounts from 10% up to 80%. Applies only to items on sale at 14 Adele Ave, Kidman Park, SA, 5025. E&OE.