

A new season has begun!



First Nations Ministries

God has birthed something exciting and new at SUSASA. It's a ministry focussed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, communities, faith and leadership development. We have called it **FIRST NATIONS MINISTRIES** with a vision statement of 'Changing The Story Of The Next Generation Through Christ Jesus.'

We have been overwhelmed with how clear God's voice has been regarding His will for First Nations Ministries and the speed with which He brought it into being. God had spoken to several people simultaneously regarding His desire for an Aboriginal ministry at SUSASA, including the employment of *Ema Bovoro* as a ministry intern.

Through His speaking, a generous donor has funded this new project for three years, so it can have time to develop and become established.



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 Winter Edition | 2019

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA 
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

What time is it? An often asked question by many of us, but at SU in SA and nationally we have been asking that question in a different way and for different reasons.

What time is it, is about more than the clock on the wall, getting to meetings on time or time to head home. It is, more importantly, about the timing and discernment of God's plans and purposes for the ministry and mission of SU.

Recently God has led us through a significant staff and ministry restructure and even more recently God seems to be opening up new doors of ministry and organizational structure.

Here in SA we are seeing growth in the new after school SUPA Clubs, First Nations Ministries, Father & Son Camp and new school programs are being developed. All very exciting and demanding of our time and resources. In fact we really could do with more staff hours but will trust God to provide the funds we require when that time is right.

...more importantly about the timing and discernment of God's plans and purposes for the ministry and mission of SU...

Nationally God is also at work as all Australian SU movements journey together exploring the possibilities and benefits of becoming one national movement.

There are many positives such as sharing administrative, finance and governance facilities. Also putting the best people in the best places for national impact not just state by state. However front and centre is the desire to protect, empower and increase the grass roots volunteer ministries of SU around the nation. In coming months you will begin to hear more about this.

As followers of Jesus, people of His book and servants of His will, we are all part of this journey with SU locally and nationally, but also in our own lives, churches and families. It's important to keep seeking God's will for the future and being sensitive to the movement of His spirit. Please keep praying for SU both in SA and nationally as we seek to know 'what time is it?'

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



Nearly 7000 people have gathered on a wintry evening in Mount Gambier under the largest tent in the southern hemisphere. About 5000 of them are teenagers come together for the annual Generations in Jazz festival representing around 350 schools from across Australia and New Zealand.

The Saturday night gala concert is under way, with internationally renowned guests performing. The tent is filled with weary but excited school kids who have spent the day competing in jazz bands and vocal ensembles. They are an appreciative and fairly noisy audience.

Can the hearts of teenagers be touched by hearing one person's journey to meet the Risen Christ?

An Afro-American Gospel singer takes to the stage and sings a number of songs. She then introduces her next song with words to this effect 'I'm going to tell you now where I come from. Some songs are very familiar – we all know them. These songs are like a well-trodden road that many have travelled. When we travel it ourselves it becomes our own. This is my story.'

Then without a note of accompaniment she sings Amazing Grace, as you have never heard it sung before. Stunning! You could hear a pin drop. All 7000 people fall silent and spellbound as she pours her heart into this song we all know so well but now hear differently. Her story.

Can the Gospel story still speak to our young people? Can the hearts of teenagers be touched by hearing one person's journey to meet the Risen Christ?

Saturday night left me in no doubt that this most certainly can happen! Scripture Union is on a sure thing!

'So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.' Romans 10:17

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

AGM & Vision Dinner

Date: Saturday 24th August

TIME: 5:30pm to 9:00pm.

Venue: Westbourne Park Uniting Church

RSVP by Fri 2nd August.

Cost: \$30/pp (includes 3 course meal)

Seating for dinner is limited. To reserve your place it is essential that you RSVP by calling the SUSA office on 8235 9500.

SUSA

SCHOOL MINISTRY APPEAL



Shining God's light in schools

Donations received before 30th June are Tax Deductible. Call SUSA reception on (08) 8235 9500 to support our School Ministry Appeal.

First Nations Ministries

SU Welcomes Ema



Continued from front page

The goal of First Nations Ministries is 3 fold.

- To build relationships with urban and remote Aboriginal communities.
- To educate non-Aboriginal churches about Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Christian culture.

- To build and develop young Aboriginal leaders to minister to Aboriginal people.

The First Nations core team consists of Scripture Union's Ema Bovoro, Cherith Harvey and Chris Battistuzzi. Andrew McDonough is also a vital team member because of his strong relationship with, and understanding of, Aboriginal communities.

In 2019 First Nations Ministries will be visiting non-Aboriginal churches and sharing about Aboriginal faith and culture. In April Ema spoke at Hills Baptist Verdun about the diversity within Aboriginal communities and the strength of Aboriginal faith. Ema is an engaging speaker and has a passion to share insights into Aboriginal faith and culture with non-Aboriginal people.

Ema will be a key speaker and the cultural consultant at the Missions & Me children's camp (M&M Camp) in July. M&M Camp helps children discover the importance of mission while learning about other cultures.

In January 2020, the First Nations team will head up the children's program for the biennial National Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) National Conference in Port Augusta. Ema will be Director and Chris Battistuzzi will join the team taking the opportunity to connect with many aboriginal leaders during the conference.

Cherith Harvey

At-Risk Ministry, First Nations Ministry Coordinator



I became a Christian at the age of 8 and was baptised at age 15. I think being so young when I made the decision to follow Christ helped shape me into the Christian I am today.

I am a proud Aboriginal/Afghan/Fijian woman; blessed to have grown up in Adelaide, with my beautiful family. My maternal links are with the Adnyamathanha, Kuyani, Arabana, Western Arrernte and Yawarrawarrka people and paternal links to Matalobau, Naitasiri.

Scripture Union is very dear to me as my grandfather worked with Scripture Union Fiji to help develop Fijian Bible translations. Working with Scripture Union and following in his footsteps is very exciting and special to me. I give all thanks and praise to God Almighty for making this possible.

It broke my heart to see my people not knowing anything about God

Both my parents are Bible College graduates and involved in ministry. Their influence set a solid foundation of God's Word within me. Growing up in a Christian home I just assumed all Aboriginal/Islander people were Christians or had some belief in God. When I became a church leader, I realised this was not the case.

It broke my heart to see my people not knowing anything about God; it baffled me. It was then that my heart to help my people through the Word of God first began to weigh heavily.

Most Christians tend to think missionary work is something that is done overseas. It's ironic when all you really have to do is look in your own back yard.

It is a privilege to be part of SUSA and a small part of what God is doing for the First Nations people of Australia.

Ema Bovoro

SUSA Ministry Intern
First Nations Ministry



Front Page: Ema & Cherith, Ema speaking. Left to Right: Ema & her Sisters, Ema's Parents

PK Mentoring Camp

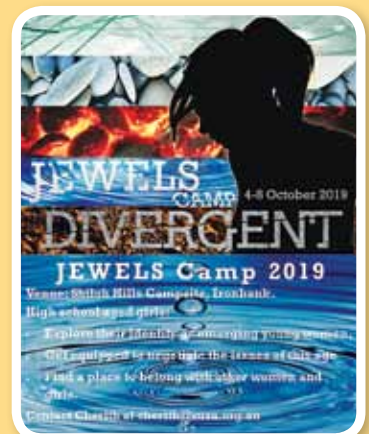
The latest Prisoner's Kids Mentoring Camp with Second Chances was held at Wirraway Youth Camp. Children of prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime.

In addition to all their normal growing up challenges, they can have extra complexities in their lives, such as trauma, domestic violence, involvement in the foster care system and of course having absent parents.

This camp had children who have never heard of Jesus asking many deep questions. Leaders both shared and showed God's love with these precious campers through drama, discussion and activities which explained the gospel.

Many children conquered their initial fear of new activities like horse riding and rock climbing. Watching their joy and pride after overcoming these fears and achieving success is priceless.

Children enjoying themselves the Prisoner's Kids Mentoring Camp.



Thousands of students hear the Easter message



In the lead up to Easter, SU and church teams across the state were busy presenting the gospel message through the Easter story. It's encouraging to know there are many school staff that believe it is important for children to know the heritage of Easter.

Our Adelaide West team showed amazing drive to present before thousands of students over the weeks prior to Easter. While in the Burnside region, kids learnt about Easter through puppetry. SU remains active in schools and keeps sowing the seed of the gospel to all who would hear.

The Christian Option Program keeps sharing Jesus and the Good News with primary aged students. Our dedicated volunteers keep knocking on school doors, and through topical lessons like 'Beliefs and Values' and 'Friends', are able to share from the Bible about Christian beliefs. SU reaches thousands of children each year through C.O.P's.

To help SU stay relevant in schools, we are revising much of our material and bringing it up to date. It's taking a while to complete due to low staff time and resources but we are getting there. The brand new 'Beliefs and Values' COP will be ready for use in Term 3 and revision of 'Friends' has already begun.

SUPA Clubs continue to grow.

We are getting more interest about the new after school and holiday formats of SUPA Club. I will travel to Port Pirie in June to meet with pastors and leaders to help expand their SUPA ministry. I'm also working with several metropolitan, hills and regional churches to see how they can begin a SUPA ministry.

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director & SUPA Coordinator

Father and Son Camp



An exciting new addition to the Gents Camp ministry has been the launch of our new Father & Son camp this April.

35 men and boys spent a weekend growing closer, learning about each other and exploring faith. Dads spoke of how special it was to strengthen the relationship with their sons.

There were many fun activities like archery tag, the Amazing Chase and team challenges. Dads told stories that connected faith with real life experiences, laying foundational truths within the campers that will influence their life and faith into the future.

Plans are also underway to have a Dads and Daughters camp.



Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Coordinator



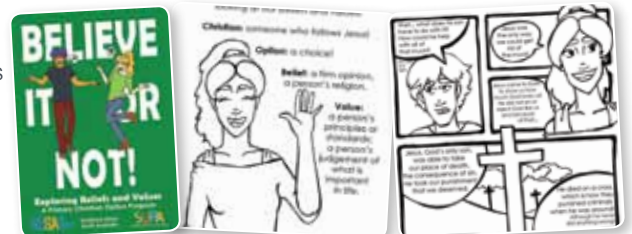
Melrose Easter Camp

Mid North Easter camp keeps impacting young lives for Jesus! This camp has always had great denominational diversity. Their focus on Christian unity continues to bear fruit.

78 campers and leaders met to explore the love of God shown on the first Easter and the implications of following Jesus today.

Three teenagers came to faith in Jesus, and many others re-centred their lives on him. Praise God!

Well done to camp directors Natarnia, Janae, and Nathaniel Nieass.



What's up with Missions?



While the Mission teams enjoy a well earned break the Missions Support and Development team (MISSUP) are hard at work.

MISSUP provides support, training and development to all the Missions teams ensuring they remain relevant and accessible.

The next annual training day is scheduled for Saturday 2nd of November at the Bible College of SA, 176 Wattle St, Malvern.

Following the training event we will be holding a Celebration and Commissioning service, beginning at 6.45pm. This will be open to all who support, pray for or are involved in Missions.

Please come and celebrate with us as we worship God and acknowledge all He does through SU Family Missions in SA. We hope to see you there.

Julie Calvert | Missions Coordinator



MISSUP Team Left to Right: Colin Sweeney, Emma Shaw, Petra Hunt, Alison Borgas & Julie Calvert (pic top left).