

Winter 2015

SUSA NEWS

Life, Love & Hope for a young generation



A Vision for the Future



I have a dream - A big, bold, vision for the future of SUSA. I see an SU that is more active, more energised and more determined than ever.

We are refining and developing areas of ministry, in line with our strategic future direction, so that we can;

- See more children & teens attending Bible based, evangelistic camps.
- See more outreach and ministry into schools.
- Equip more churches to reach out into schools and their local communities.
- Help more churches to disciple and evangelise young people.
- Grow the Family (Beach) Mission as a key SUSA program to reach Australian families with the good news of Jesus.
- See Kids Clubs in partnership with local churches.
- Currently developing a mentoring program for primary school students.
- Update and develop new seminars on bullying, self-esteem, respect and more.

This is not the time to pull back, reduce activities due to financial constraints, or compromise because of secular opposition. Now is the time to do more.

It is possible!

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director

Partner with us in taking the good news of Jesus to children and young people across SA

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From the Director



An UN-OBVIOUS EVIL.
When we see news reports and pictures of war, famine, disease and violence, we can easily recognise the evil.

But what about wealthy nations like ours? I am deeply worried that Christians often miss the evils of our society.

It's an UN-OBVIOUS EVIL.

Anything that stops us from hearing and learning about Jesus is evil. But we seem to ignore it. We enjoy our wealth and lifestyle while millions of children never hear the good news of Jesus.

We allow social media, music, TV and internet to preach immorality but too many churches do nothing to share Jesus. We don't react to these UN-OBVIOUS evils and we do little to work against them.

In the end be it the evils of war, violence and disease or the evils of a wealthy indifference, it all separates us from salvation and eternal life.

We have to do more to share Jesus.

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director

Missions Report



Family Missions to go O/S!
Experienced SUFM development team, Julie and Pete Calvert are progressing with plans to establish a new Mission on Kangaroo Island.

Recently Missions Coordinator Les Dennis held discussions with the Calvert's to further explore the potential, and have made contact with

local church leaders.

The Calvert's recently handed over the Moonta Mission to new team leaders after leading it for three years, prior to this they established the Port Vincent Mission.

Both Moonta and Port Vincent continue to be blessed under the new leadership and enthusiastic volunteer teams and local supports.

If readers have contacts on Kangaroo Island who can assist with local knowledge, a venue to conduct a Mission, and a suitable place for accommodating a Mission Team with kitchen and ablutions, please speak to Les at SUSAs.

Les Dennis | Missions Coordinator

Surf's Up!

Scripture Union provides for Second Chances SA (previously Prison Fellowship) two younger children's camps and two Teen Girls Mentoring Camps.

These camps are vital and through them we are sharing God's love in both word and action. Prisoners Kids miss out on many activities that their peers enjoy.

"Learning to surf for the first time was a high-light of PK (Prisoners Kids) Mentoring Camp held recently.

These camps are made possible by the generous support of donors.



Girls Brigade

We are very excited to announce that Girls Brigade will be moving into our Adele Ave office space, by the end of June.

The Girls' Brigade is an international and interdenominational Christian youth organisation, founded in 1893 in Dublin, Ireland.

The organization was formed as the result of the amalgamation of three like-minded and similarly structured organizations in 1964.

Girls' Brigade equips girls and young women in life and leadership skills while building up their faith and relationship with Christ in a safe and secure environment.

What a fantastic organisation they are. It's great to have another ministry sharing our space that is committed to young people.



Christian Nation

High Affinity, Less Activity sums up the current attitude towards Christianity in our nation.

Australia has more churches (13,000) than schools (9,500), and more Australians regularly attend church (3.5 million) than the total populations of SA, NT ACT & Tasmania combined.

1976, when Australia's population was 13.9 million, there were 3.9 million regular church attenders.

In 1960, 2 in 5 Australians (41%) attended church at least once per month. In 1990 this had declined to 1 in 4 (25%), and today it is approximately 1 in 7 (15%).

These trends suggest that whilst Australians still associate with Christianity, there is an engagement deficit when it comes to church attendance and actively practicing their faith.

This is why we exist.

SUSA is a ministry capable of actively combining ones' faith with life changing and engaging programs that really do make a difference!

Youth Leadership Week

Identifying and Developing tomorrows leaders, today. Youth Leadership Week is fast approaching. Now in its 7th year its focus has expanded to include training for post-high school leadership.

YLW combines action oriented team based activities with input from the bible, small groups, reflection, coaching and stories from current leaders.

We aim to inspire young people to participate in what GOD is doing through Jesus, in rescuing & transforming HIS world.

The church & school neighbourhood are two meaningful places where this can happen.

Young people can do amazing things.

YLW helps them identify mission opportunities, and how to pursue these in partnership with local churches & CPS Workers.

Youth Leadership Week is run by Wired Youth Ministries, SUSA's youth ministry department.

Contact Hamilton McNicol for further information.



Percentage of Faith

A significant proportion of those who make the decision to become a Christian, actually do so before they reach the age of 20. This is the finding that the 2011 NCLS (National Church Life Survey) data shows.

The decision to first become a Christian is most likely to occur whilst young, with 81% of decisions being made before the age of 20.

A further 9% make the decision to become a Christian as a young adult when aged in their 20's, which means that 9 in 10 current Australian church attenders made the decision to be a Christian before they were 30.

Just 1 in 17 church attenders (6%) made the decision aged 30 or older. Under 1 in 20 church attenders (4.2%) cannot remember when they first made the decision.

Jesus loves children and young people. It stands to reason, that the best time to introduce Jesus' message of life, love and hope to them, is before they reach the age of 20.

To find out how you can partner with us in sharing the good news of Jesus to children and young people, contact SUSA today, or visit our website: www.susa.org.au

4 in 5 church attenders first made the decision to become a Christian before the age of 20.

9 in 10 church attenders first made the decision before the age of 30.

Jesus Steps into Suicide

Imagine a young person with a messed up past, family breakdown and chronic illness. Where is the hope? This is Tims' Story.

Years of doctors, tests and no relief. Years of painful family problems, not feeling loved or cared for had left Tim wondering if he's worth anything to anyone. One Christian family member made sure Tim attended a recent SU camp. This simple invitation was the turning point in his life!

In the beginning, Tim was distant. He didn't fit in with the rest, so he withdrew to sit alone. But hour after hour, God's love finally broke through.

Tim had planned to take his own life, and he had made previous attempts. By the last day of camp without any prompting, Tim shared his testimony.

Jesus had stepped into Tims' existence, right into his pain. Tim found hope, purpose and love in Jesus. By displaying love in action, our SU volunteers, had shown and shared Jesus with Tim.

This is what SU is here for!

Without camps like this, without the training, equipping and empowering of leaders, stories like Tims' could not happen.

It's not about SU, it's about introducing people of all ages to our loving, gracious, forgiving God. We are just here to serve.

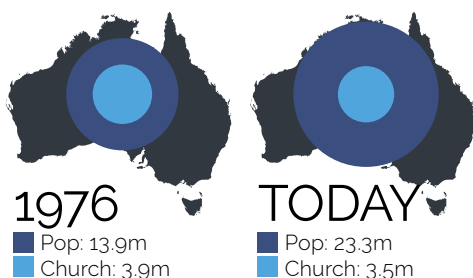
It's amazing when Jesus steps in.



above: A visual explanation showing the relationship between the age of conversion and the Australian population.

Population growing,
church attendance shrinking

Total population & church attendance



left: How Australian's engagement deficit towards active faith participation and church attendance has impacted church growth.

Catch the Vision

Vision Day & 55th SUSA AGM

It has been said that true vision is caught, not taught. Come and catch the exciting Vision and Direction for SUSA. Be inspired to live out your faith in partnership with the ministry and mission of SUSA.

It will be a day for all ages. A children's program will be operating while the Vision & AGM occur. So bring the kids for a bunch of fun, including a movie (G rated), games, colouring in & more.

This is a time to discuss, pray, celebrate and come together for the cause of the gospel.

Saturday August 1st
9am - 12.30pm

BCSA, 176 Wattle St Malvern, SA 5061

Concludes with a light finger-food lunch.

Please RSVP your attendance or apologies to:
8235 9500 or info@susa.org.au



Don't miss the News

Responses to updating details have been positive, with almost 100 people requesting a digital version of SU News.

If you have yet to respond. WE URGE YOU to please advise us of your decision. As a valued supporter we want you to keep up to date with the latest news and events. We would hate for you to miss out.

You may still opt to receive SU News by post if you prefer.

WE NEED YOU to update your email address and notify us of any changes to your contact details BY JUNE 30th.

PLEASE complete and return this form, OR call the office on 8235 9500, OR email info@susa.org.au with your details.

Thankyou for your cooperation.

Update your details by June 30th

'YES' I would like to receive a digital version of SU News by email.

Please circle **Yes** | **No**

Name.....

Address.....

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Youth & Children's Conference



Saturday 13th June

The Salvation Army,
277 Pirie St, Adelaide

Keynote Speaker:
Mike Stevens

'Intergenerational Ministry'

For session details and online registration,
scan the QR Code with your smart phone,
or visit: www.susa.org.au/yacc



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



SCHOOL MINISTRY APPEAL

Less than 4% of Australian young people have contact with any Christian ministry. Less than 2% of Australian young people belong to a church. More than 80% of Christians believe before they're 20yrs old.

Please support SU's work in schools and partner with us in taking the good news of Jesus to children and young people across SA.

Scan to discover!



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14 Adele Avenue, Kidman Park, SA 5025 T. 08 8235 9500 F. 08 8353 6400
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