

Spring 2015

SUSA NEWS

Life, Love & Hope for a young generation



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

SU Welcomes refugee kids



It was a year in the making, but we finally saw Sanctuary Camp launched into action! A passionate team of leaders from four different continents and speaking five different languages all came together as we took a group of awesome teens from Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Middle East, away to Victor Harbor for the weekend.

We welcomed them to Australia with a dash of Aussie Culture ("Who's for BBQed Kangaroo Sausages?"), did some great fun activities, and let them know that in our eyes - and God's - they're wanted and valued.

We fielded some interesting questions like "Why would people living here think WE'RE stopping THEM getting welfare?", introduced them to Australia's odd way of speaking ("Who can guess what 'I'm a bit crook' means?"), and in the evenings a couple of our leaders got a chance to share a bit about themselves - and why Jesus has been so important to us!

We also sent each of them home with some awesome gifts - including an illustrated comic-book bible. Judging by how smoothly it all went - and the AMAZING weather - we think God was pretty keen to bless it all!

Massive thanks to all the churches and people who contributed financially, and for organisations like the **Australian Refugee Association** (who gave all our leaders special training to prepare them) and **Ray's Outdoors Adelaide and Modbury** (who gave us a massive discount on high quality sleeping bags for the kids).

We're looking forward to having another Sanctuary Camp in 2016!

Lochy Cupit | At-Risk Coordinator

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From the Director



Acts 2:44-47 is a detailed account, describing the habits and lifestyle of the early church. I love this description! It shows a church fully engaged with the local community.

It's a church sensitive to the needs of others. It's a generous church that gives thanks to God and it is a church that grew each day as people

witnessed how Christians lived; - they lived differently and people were drawn to Christ through that example.

At SU SA we keep working hard to be that example of God's love. As we reach out with the good news of Jesus through schools, churches, clubs, camps and holiday activities, we are just like those early Christians, living out a real faith in the real world.

But, SU is not the church. We are here to help the church reach out to the lost. We keep working with passionate believers and missional churches to take the good news of Jesus to the lost.

Currently we are going through a phase of rebuilding and renewing the work of SU. Exciting things are being developed. I believe God's hand is firmly upon us and while we face many challenges, I believe that in Christ, we can do anything and our future is bright.

Thanks for your ongoing support and please keep praying for our ministry.

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director

Welcome Vivien



It's with great joy we introduce to you our new Chairperson of the SU SA Council – Vivien Bleby.

Raised in a Christian home, Vivien married an Anglican minister and has been bathed in the faith since birth.

As a trained nurse, Vivien worked in community health and as midwifery nurse educator. Working as a Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Adelaide for over 17 years, ministry included resource centre management, adult education, family faith formation and safer ministry training programs.

The call of Ministry has taken Vivien to many places throughout South Australia; from Mt Gambier to Meningie, Kapunda, Coober Pedy and back to Adelaide. For the last four years Vivian was the Regional Officer for SA/NT for the mission organisation 'Bush Church Aid Society'.

As mother of four, her contact with SU was through Bible study notes and her children's involvement in SWOT camps. SU's encouragement and training has been significant in their lives.

"As SU SA continues to find ways to engage with young people so that they might know the love of God in Christ, be part of a community of faith, and seek to transform those around them, please pray that the Council will prayerfully discern what God would have us do in the years ahead. Exciting times ahead, I have no doubt!"

Vivien Bleby | SU SA Chairperson

New SU Camps for 2016

SUvivor Camp.

Children today are consumed and distracted by devices. There's literally, too much technology at their finger-tips! SUvivor Camp is a chance to get them away from all the distractions, and get into the life Jesus has for them.

It will be back-to-basics as we take kids from Yrs 4 to 7 out into the wilderness for an experience that will last a life-time! Tenting, open fire cooking, hiking, challenges and much, much more.

We are aiming to launch SUvivor on the long weekend of March 2016, running over Saturday & Sunday nights.

Girls Camp

Girls Camp for Yrs 7 to 10. Discovering who you are in Jesus in the midst of this crazy mixed up world.

If you're a church leader, youth pastor or an interested parent, then we invite you to attend an information night to hear more about this new camp specifically for girls, and how you can help make it a success!

Girls Camp Information Night: 7pm, Saturday 17th November, at the SU SA Office.

If you're interested in either of these camps and would like to be involved, please contact SU SA for more information.

Impact of SU Camps

Did you know that 50% of 15 to 25 year olds who grow up in church, leave their faith, with most never return?*

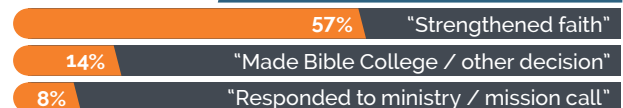
Sending your children to a Good Christian camp can really make a difference, one that can last a lifetime.

What do SU SA Camps do? They create community. Reinforce faith. Teach from the Bible. Encourage worship. Make God relevant to young people's lives. Equip and empower young people to live out and stick with their faith in Jesus...

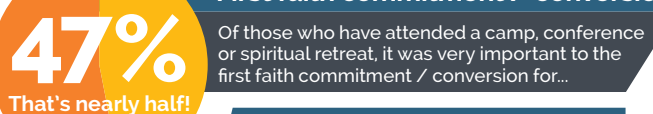
That's just a glimpse of how SU SA Camps have a positive impact on faith development.

Why not drag your kids (or your grand-kids) away from their devices (TV, computer, phones) and send them on an SU SA Camp. It could be one of the best things you ever do for their faith.

Impact of Christian camps



First faith commitment / conversion



Camp attendance results in...



Gents Camp 2015



Gents Camp SA ran for the second time this October with 48 people up at Woodhouse Activity Centre, Piccadilly. Boys doing physically challenging activities in tribes, like 'Laser Skirmish', 'Fortresses', 'Bubble Soccer', 'Archery Tag', makes a unique bonding environment where boys can talk

about issues they can't elsewhere.

"Unless a young male is shown real power through a community of wise elders, he will always seek false power and likely will spend much of his life seeking prestige, perks, and possessions." - Richard Rohr

Having a camp with early teens, older teens, young men, middle aged men, and older men engaged in so much together it was clear to see this principle of Rohr's at work. It was powerful and encouraging having all ages present while being able to bring the person & manhood of Jesus into the mix.

During the camp several boys came to know Christ and others made significant commitments in their faith journey. All assisted through older men's wise guidance and role modeling.

GENTS Camp will now be an annual event on the SU SA Calendar, held every Spring School Holiday.

Hamilton McNicol | Camp Coordinator



MADD Camp 2015

Another year of MADD Camp has sped past at an alarming rate. Campers spent their time making art in every possible form. Camp speaker Andrew Joppich, explored the creative side of our Heavenly Father who doesn't make junk.

Campers were able to solve mysteries and have battles of knowledge all the while having access to MADD-twitter.

Much fun was had before saying goodbye to friends for another year. Particularly to the group of year twelves who have been faithfully coming to camp over the last five years. We will miss you, good luck on your journey to adulthood, and thank you for making MADD such a wonderful place.

Steph Clapp | Camp Leader



SU Camps Change Lives

"My child has attended the excellent SUSA MADD camp over the past 5 years I would just like to express my gratitude for the amazing difference it has made.

We have faced many difficulties with them growing up, focused around self esteem, depression, and purpose.

As a "different", arty, Christian it is rare for them to be truly happy. In fact the only time I have seen them truly happy and at peace is that one week a year with like minded individuals at MADD Camp.

The excellent work that the leaders and the team have done to improve my child's outlook is astounding.. The camp is a credit to your organization. There is nothing else like it and I am sure given even more internal support many more parents will witness the wonders it can do for the lost and disassociated.

They too can look forward to seeing a rare genuine smile on their precious children's faces when they pick them up at the end of MADD camp".

Father of one very 'Happy Camper'

Don't Miss This Event!



**Saturday
18th June
2016**

**Mark this event in your calendar today!
Bring your whole team!**

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#3

Volunteer Initiative



It's with great pleasure that I announce the addition of our new staff member, Cherie Jaeschke.

Cherie has officially joined the SU SA team as a volunteer with a specific role description and contract. She volunteers 1 day a week as a 'Special Projects Worker'.

Currently she is working in cooperation with relevant staff on a full review of our Christian Option Programs. She has many great ideas & I thank God for bringing her to us.

Thanks Cherie, and welcome to the SU SA team.

In this new initiative at SU SA Cherie is the first of (what we hope will be) many more volunteers who desire to serve God with their talents at SU SA.

If you are (or know someone who is) interested in using your skills, gifts and talents for building God's kingdom we would love to hear from you.

Mission Doors Open

When one door closes God opens two more. We are excited to announce the launch a new SUFM on Kangaroo Island this January! Huge thanks to Peter and Julie Calvert who have worked hard to make this happen. This SUFM will be different in format, and hopes to connect more with local young people and families.

Port Elliot SUFM is back & has found a new home in the Port Elliot Uniting Church. After a recent church visit by SU staff, there is much excitement about this new opportunity to reach children who are on holiday or living locally.

Both of these new Missions need financial support. If you feel led to support them then please send your specific donations to SU SA.

Tumby Bay Mission has the wonderful problem of so many kids attending that it is pushed to capacity. But they are seeing God open new doors and provide for their needs. A truly dedicated team reaching out to local and holiday families.

The structure of our SUFMs is undergoing transition. While we still reach kids and families who are on holidays, we are beginning to focus on the local population, where we can work with local churches to follow up. It's a significant shift, but nothing has changed about the heart of missions.

We have many dedicated volunteers and some great Team Leaders who are going above & beyond, serving God through SU missions. With *Port Vincent, Moonta, Port McDonnell* and *Victor Harbor* all getting into planning, please keep our Beach Mission teams in your prayers.

Some teams are still looking to fill volunteer roles. So why not jump in to missions and get involved? Help us reach more people than ever before with the life, love and hope of Jesus.



#4

Spring 2015

YaCC 2015 A Success!

To anyone who wanted to attend YaCC 2015 but thought this would just be 'another conference' ...
You should have been there!

YaCC 2015 was an amazing day for anyone involved in youth and children's ministry. Over 150 people attended and were overwhelmed by the diversity of electives and the depth of knowledge shared by each presenter.

An overall feel-good buzz of energy and excitement was experienced by all who attended. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thanks to everyone who participated. You all helped make YaCC 2015 a huge success!

**Book your diary NOW for Saturday June 18th, 2016.
Bring your whole team!**



In Memoriam

David Crawley passed away on Tuesday 4th August, 2015. He was a long-time SU SA volunteer.

During his lifetime he was President of SU SA, served on SU SA Council and Executive subcommittee, Beach Missions, Bible Reading Representative, was an office volunteer and a generous donor.

His funeral was held on Monday 10th August at Holy Trinity Church. It was fitting to have SU SA represented by numerous staff on the day. A card was sent to his wife (Kay) and family on behalf of SU SA.

The family requested donations to SU SA in lieu of flowers. Donation slips are available at our front office, or can be made online at: www.susa.org.au/donate-online

R.I.P. David Crawley, a beloved and faithful servant.

* Page 2 Infographics: Christianity in Australia Today
Social Shifts and Spiritual Trends - 4 Decades of Change.
Christian Venues Association / mccrindle research

SU News is published by Scripture Union of South Australia Inc.
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