

SU News

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105



Freedom & Glory!



Gents Camp 2020

In this Edition...

Message from the Chair

Recently I was thinking about Jesus being described as the Word and it then took me to thinking about [\[read more - pg 3\]](#)

Welcome Alaina

About 5 years ago Cherith Harvey shared her desire to see a camp for girls in a similar vein to GENTS [\[read more - pg 3\]](#)

Freedom & Glory

We had just over 100 men and teen boys on camp with five completing the initiation, an experience [\[read more - pg's 4-5\]](#)

SUPA Club Explodes!

SUPA Clubs and ministry has been a key activity for sharing the gospel with children, especially in schools, for [\[read more - pg 7\]](#)

 Spring Edition | 2020

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

With COVID-19 restrictions decreasing in SA we are able to restart various ministry activities and also to get out of Adelaide and engage with volunteers, churches, pastors and others as we seek to see more missional activities happening in SA to reach children, youth and families.

Recently I did what I call a 'Ministry Road Trip' to Eyre Peninsula, the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula. For 8 days I met with many local pastors, SU volunteers, leaders and others to listen, discuss and explore how SU can support and partner with them in local outreach ministry. It was also an opportunity to connect with and encourage established SU ministry like the Tumby Bay Family Mission and Kids Camp EP.

The exciting thing is that passion and interest is growing to see more local outreach and SU can be a vehicle to help this happen. The challenge is how we do this with limited time and resources.

I travelled 1712 km's in 8 days... Overall, a very successful road trip for growing mission & ministry in South Australia.

While donations may be shrinking for many reasons, the opportunities for ministry are growing. If you are someone who can give more to help us reach more for Jesus, please seriously pray about what you can give. If you don't give financially at all, please pray about what you can give and act on it. Quite simply, there is more mission that SU can do but we are held back by staff hours.

In Minlaton (Yorke) a new SU ministry team has been formed with a first goal to run a SUPA Holiday Club in April 2021.

Local volunteers are part of the Port Vincent Mission and there's interest to start a new Mission in Point Turton. WOW!!

In the Kadina area there's renewed interest to get involved with Family Missions and hopefully start a SUPA Club. Very encouraging meetings held which may lead to new SU ministry in Whyalla, Cowell, Cleve, Stansbury and Tumby Bay.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



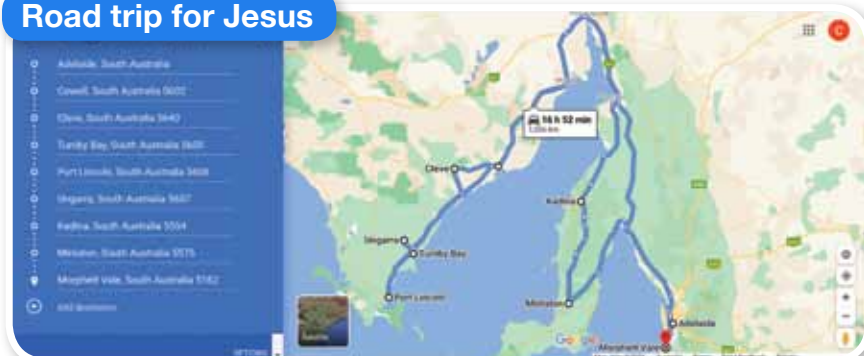
Building on the ground breaking work of the SU First Nations ministry, an initial discussion was had around SU leading a Kids Games outreach event in the Point Pearce Aboriginal Community on Yorke.

A vision for the future of SU in SA includes being a nationally based movement with the resources, expertise and experience this can offer. One key strategy will be to develop locally based ministry hubs with SU working with local volunteers and churches for local outreach and related ministry. I truly believe we can expand in these times, do more and reach more, but in order to achieve this we need people like you to show your support however you can in prayer, finances and volunteering.

Overall, it was a very successful trip building on existing connections and making new ones. I travelled 1721km's in 8 days and more ministry will mean more need to travel again, more admin support required and more time helping these brand new activities to get organized and started. Praise God, that's the kind of challenge we want.

The harvest is plenty. We need to send out the workers! Will you help us?

Road trip for Jesus



Chris' Missional Journey, visiting the beautiful Eyre Peninsula.



Snail mail or e mail?



If you would like to receive your SU News by email, please contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 or info@susa.org.au

From the Chair



Recently I was thinking about Jesus being described as the Word and it then took me to thinking about the power of the spoken word. There are many scriptures around this and many warnings about the use of our tongues.

“... but no human being can tame the tongue...With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.” - James 3:8-9

How can that be? We must look for the Lord's instruction through the Spirit before we speak, so that when we speak into people lives, we measure our words carefully.

Proverbs 15:1-2 by way of an example in application says:

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.”

Interestingly, the word wisdom is tied into the formula. We know that wisdom is a gift we as Christians can ask for and receive.

All of the work done by SUSA staff and volunteers involves the specific message of hope, love and peace that Christ offers to everyone, and those who are open and those who search will find that truth.

Everything is about relationship and communication as part of that. Many people say many things. Many voices are heard and as we all know sometimes things can be mis-interpreted.

When others speak to us, we should always ask this question: What is the intent behind the words? This is a wonderful tool to assist us in the interpretation, because not everyone is perfect at delivery, at putting things in an eloquent fashion or having a full knowledge of the relevant language. Unfortunately, when we speak to others, they may not ask the same question of us. So, it's very important that we think about what we say and how we deliver it. All sorts of positive meaning can be lost in bad delivery.



A year ago I found myself in exactly this situation. An old acquaintance contacted me wanting to meet up and discuss something that had troubled him for the past 10 years. He explained that at that time of sharing with me details of an unfortunate situation that he had found himself in, my interpretation of what he had said led me to respond in a way that seemingly lacked compassion, but was more practical in nature. I missed the mood and missed the opportunity. I remembered that my “intent” was not to be dismissive of the difficulty, but to be honest in what I could offer. Clearly, that was not received. Badly put words can have long lasting effects, in this case 10 years. Well, we put things right and I was forgiven I'm happy to say. Just long overdue and completely avoidable.

I encourage us all, in all of our work and play, to hand our tongues to the Lord so that the words we speak are HIS words. Words of encouragement, of kindness, of upbuilding, of loving instruction and so on; words full of good intent and of mindful delivery based on the wisdom we receive from Him.

Finally, the ultimate intent of what we do is to bring people to the Lord such that “...every tongue (will) acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phillippians 2:11)

SUSA through its staff and volunteers (all of us) impacts lives daily. May our words be the right words.

David Jenkinson
SUSA Council Chairperson

A New Chapter for Jewels



About 5 years ago Cherith Harvey shared her desire to see a camp for girls in a similar vein to GENTS. Working with some great volunteers, JEWELS

Camp was born and ran for 3 years under her leadership. Now that mission has been passed on to Alaina Frost, our new Jewels Ministry Coordinator.

We are excited to have Alaina on board and she comes from a very strong background of ministry to teen girls and young people in general. Please keep her in prayer as she learns how SU operates and becomes part of the team. Especially pray for a new leadership team to be developed and for the future of this ‘Rites of Passage’ camp.

Here's a message from Alaina herself.

It is a great pleasure to join the SU team. My passion for the Discipleship of young women has spanned over 15 years, cementing itself through my work with One50 Dance, High School Chaplaincy and in church-based youth ministry. Developing and sustaining a positive, encouraging and empowering culture is key to working with young women. I am excited to bring my experience in this space into the Jewels Ministry as we build a team focussed on flourishing young women in their Christian faith.

I've been married to Craig for 18 years and we have 8 year old twins, Tate and Kenzie and an energetic 3 year old, Levi. I'm actively involved in the kids ministry and worship team at Trinity Baptist Church, Colonel Light Gardens, and you'll occasionally find me preaching or speaking at schools, churches or

community events. I continue to compete at a State and National level in hip-hop, with my team winning a bid to the 2020 Dance World Championships (which was sadly cancelled). I love coffee, chocolate and laughing as much as possible!

I look forward to connecting with others who have a passion to mentor, disciple and grow young women. As young women traverse the adolescent period, having strong, caring and committed leaders and role models is incredibly important. The re-establishment and re-imagining of Jewels Camp gives SU the opportunity to provide young people with these key relationships. I hope that those of you reading this who have a heart for young women will reach out and connect with me over the coming weeks and months.

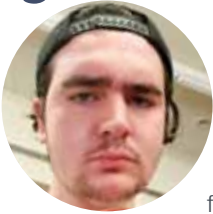
Alaina Frost
Jewels Ministry Coordinator

Jewels Info Launch Night: Tues 17th November, 7.30pm @ Trinity Baptist, Colonel Light Gardens.
Contact Alaina Frost to RSVP or for more details; alaina@susa.org.au / 0403977317

Gents Camp



Gents Camp is Awesome!



We had just over 100 men and teen boys on camp with five completing the initiation, an experience symbolising moving from being a boy to a man. The SPIT Drama (Spiritual Input) centred on how God is a loving Father who is preparing an inheritance for his sons that he will adopt (Romans 8:14-21).

There were lots of chances for spiritual reflection and many of the boys opened up about their own experiences of fatherhood, from not having a present or living father to poor fathering and those who have been excellent dads. All of this fed into how we can have a powerful relationship with God who is our perfect and always present father.

We heard twelve different testimonies, each of which helped us to see that we're all fighting similar battles together. Typically, as males, we hide our struggles as they instil shame and a sense of weakness. But God, in Jesus, breaks this and turns our testimony into an illumination for others (Eph 5:13).

Five of those testimonies came from our Year Twelve initiates, who spoke with passion, conviction and vulnerability. These were truly powerful and moving testimonies which characterised what The Apostle Paul said, "When I am weak, then I am strong". For the younger boys to hear that the confidence of their role models on camp comes from acknowledging their weaknesses, relying on God and knowing their identity is found in Jesus, was priceless.

On the last morning God was deeply at work in the campers of whom eleven responded to the call on their lives from God. They showed courage and vulnerability when asked to kneel in front of the rest of the camp to acknowledge their commitment to follow Jesus and live for Him. The whole camp then surrounded these boys lifting them up in prayer. We thank God for the work that He was doing in the hearts of all the boys on the weekend, and we honour him and give all the glory.

Connor Beaty
Gents Camp Director

GENTS Camp on EP and....



Hamilton McNicol and Chris Battistuzzi are now seriously exploring a establishing a regional version on GENTS on Eyre Peninsula. There are many young Christian men on EP with no firm discipleship. In 2021 we hope to bring some EP boys and leaders to the Adelaide camp to experience it, learn and catch the vision to establish it. As you would know, in 2019 SUSA took GENTS overseas and helped to launch it in Romania and now SA may be helping NSW to launch it in their north west. Please pray for all of this and if you are interested in finding out more, contact Hamilton.

'GENTS Father and Son Camp' is coming up in mid-November. This is the second year it will run and the numbers are at capacity. Dads are responding to the need for growing deeper faith based relationships with their sons.

Overall an entire ministry is growing around the GENTS vision and mission. It's so much more than one camp. It's mentoring, discipleship, evangelism, family and who knows what else. Pray for Hamilton especially as he leads and guides GENTS into the future God has for it.





Freedom & Glory!

GENTS Ministry: Growing, powerful and life changing.

This year I was able to be on camp for the whole time as a 'Tribal Elder'. I came away totally amazed at the depth and impact this camp can have on young men. This was the biggest Gents Camp yet and it looks set to keep growing.

I heard many stories from boys and leaders about how significant Gents has been over the years in strengthening their faith. We had powerful moments of confession, repentance, prayer and healing.

The camp leads boys into becoming the men God created them to be and does it in an affirming masculine, Christ centred way. It is quite unique and at SU we believe it is equipping young men for a life long journey of faith following Jesus.

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



On the last day of GENTS Camp 11 boys came forward, acknowledging Jesus as their Lord, saviour and friend.

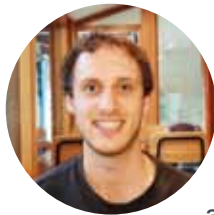


What people said about camp:

- “ We greatly appreciate the camp. Our son said he had an amazing time. We are grateful for all the effort put into it.
- “ My son gains a greater sense of confidence and enthusiasm to live out his faith. He really enjoys Gents and it's healthy for him to have good male role models in addition to those already around him.
- “ Thank you for offering such a great camp for our son. He has thoroughly enjoyed attending these last 2 years.
- “ The worship on Gents was the best! It was easy to sing loud and from the heart with other awesome males.
- “ I loved the camp and had a lot of really good role models in my tribe. I found it really great and fun. It gave me a lot to think about. It was life-changing. Just knowing that the camp exists and this incredible community.

Where are they now?

An interview with Matt Peters.



Through Tragedy to Leading SA's Biggest Youth Ministry

Matt Peters is the Coordinator of XS Youth at Seeds Church. XS has a youth ministry of about 200 youth,

which includes 60 leaders. Matt Peters attended SU Youth Leadership Week in 2011 when he was in year 12. He returned in 2012 to help lead a cohort of emerging leaders as a facilitator.

What challenges were you facing prior to YLW?

My dad who was a pastor started to get sick when I was starting high school. He was later diagnosed with early onset dementia. That was really hard for me over my high school years, I was wrestling with my faith and how a good God could allow suffering in the world.

How was God at work in you through YLW?

I was nominated to go by my youth group leader – Pete Riggs. I had to trust him as I had no idea what it was about. I immediately loved being pushed outside my comfort zone leading in my small group. Having to think for myself more and lead. I hadn't been in any leadership role that much before.

I was wrestling with questions about suffering and had great conversations with my facilitator on YLW about this. It was really foundational for how I lead now and helped me, as the passage in 2 Corinthians (1:4) says, comforting others with the same comfort that you have received.

How did YLW help in your journey afterwards?

Going along as an emerging leader helped me identify that leadership was something I was passionate about. And then going along as a facilitator, to be honest really stretched me. It started in me a passion for leading and developing leaders. Learning how to draw strengths out of people is a passion I have found in leading a large leadership team. I can look back now and say that YLW was the start of my journey.

One of my passions with youth is to have a space where young people feel like they belong and can wrestle with tough life questions. The answer is Jesus, but how do you work that out when the rug gets pulled out from underneath you. I used to think I only needed to hear one sermon that would give me all the answers and then I would be sorted. But no! That's for me to work through and it's not just one thing that straightens you out.

What would you say to the generous supporters of SU who have given so that camps like Youth Leadership Week were able to run?

Their giving has definitely been worthwhile in my life. But that fruit has been multiplied for other people who I lead. Youth Leadership Week helped me be a better leader. For example I'm meeting with three year 11 and 12s tonight to help them prepare to tag team preach next week at youth. I love that. Youth Leadership Week helped me see how to help raise others up.

How do you see the local church partnering with Scripture Union in mission and discipleship?

I would say equipping leaders to lead others. Leader training and resources for them to use with youth. Young leaders know how to do relational, but lack knowledge of what it means to disciple young people. We want to have fun and we want to enjoy our time together, but what does it look like to do life together and disciple along the way.

VOLUNTEER WITH SUSA!

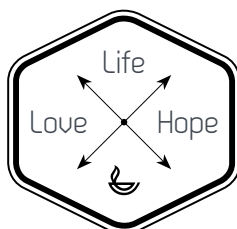


“Life's most persistent and urgent question is; What are you doing for others?”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Grow in your faith and be discipled as you step into a volunteer role, knowing you're a part of God's plan for this world.

To find out how you can volunteer with SUSA and help us share the life, love and hope of Jesus, call the SUSA office on 82359500 or email volunteer@susa.org.au.



SUSA
Scripture Union South Australia

SUPA Club Explosion



SUPA Clubs and ministry has been a key activity for sharing the gospel with children, especially in schools, for several decades. Teams usually comprise volunteers from several local churches, all working together to reach local children and families.

The traditional lunch time clubs had been gradually decreasing over the years due to shorter school lunchtimes and challenges to get available school hours volunteers, but with some vision, innovation and effort a whole new field of SUPA Ministry is starting to take hold. It's a SUPA Explosion!

After School SUPA Clubs still link directly with their local school, but hold their club offsite after school. This might be directly after or later, like a Friday evening. But wait there's more!

A few years ago Chris Battistuzzi, working with churches in Port Pirie, developed SUPA Holiday Clubs and other outreach activities under the SUPA banner. Port Pirie now runs 5 SUPA events each year. Their most recent being an SU LIGHT Party, which uses Halloween as a way to share about the Light Jesus is and brings into the world.

Lately Chris has been catching up with all our Clubs as they seek to restart under CCoVid19 restrictions. He has travelled to Birdwood and Springton to meet with, train and encourage our teams. Visits to other clubs including a trip to Bordertown, are being planned.

During his recent trip to EP and Yorkes, Chris spread the word about SUPA and a new SUPA Team has been formed in Minlaton which intends to hold a SUPA Holiday Club In April 2021. There's also keen interest for SUPA Club activities in Cleve, Kadina and Stansbury.

Our newest lunchtime club is set to start next year at the combined campus school or Pilgrim, Aberfoyle Park and Thiele.

Coming in 2021 will be some combined SUPA events like SUPA Arvo and SUPA Camp, held on a weekend.

If you would like to know more and maybe you are ready to jump in and start something SUPA, please get in contact with Chris Battistuzzi to find out more.



Keep the flame alight

Many people whose lives have been touched by SU are so deeply grateful for it's ministry that they couldn't imagine a world without it.

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to SUSA in your will? By leaving a bequest you provide opportunity for ongoing ministry, enabling future generations to hear about God's love for them. Please consider including SUSA in your will.

Contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au for more information on how you can leave a bequest to SUSA.

Beautiful Feet



“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Rom 10:15b

Feet - those appendages that enable us to walk upright and transport our bodies to many and various places.

What do yours look like? Pristine and perfect with straight toes, well-manicured toe nails and smooth heels or are they worn, with distorted toes, ingrown toe nails and cracked heels or maybe they're something in between.

I imagine the apostles' feet were filthy, worn, full of callouses and quite grotesque. They wore sandals and walked many kilometres on dusty, dirt roads to share the good news of Jesus with all those they met. Their feet represented the sacrificial, servant life style they lived to bring life, love and hope to those they met. Their feet by the worlds standards were ugly and unsightly but Paul describes them as 'beautiful'.

The eternal significance and life altering transformation in response to hearing the good news is the most beautiful outcome a follower of Jesus can participate in. Whatever your feet may look like you can participate in the telling out and sharing of the good news. Your feet can be beautiful despite their appearance.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the life transforming good news that the SU Family Mission teams endeavour to share and show in 5 destinations over January. All the teams need more volunteers. It's not too late to get involved so you too can have beautiful feet as you serve sacrificially impacting the lives of kids, teens and families with the good news of Jesus.

For more info email info@susa.org.au or to join one of the Family Mission teams go to <https://susa.joinateam.org>



Shout Julie a
COFFEE!!

TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT
HER AT SCRIPTURE UNION



The Kangaroo Island Family Mission, after consulting with local KI leaders, is shifting to run in April. An exciting change that will hopefully lead to more outreach. Pray that God provides the leaders and team members needed across all our Family Missions.

Julie Calvert
Missions Coordinator

Rites of Passage Jewels Camp Info Night



An information night is being held for the upcoming Jewels Camp, "Rites of Passage" to be held in 2021.

Tues 17th November, 7.30pm
@ Trinity Baptist, 8 Bedford Square, Colonel Light Gardens.

To register your interest in this event please contact Alaina Frost to RSVP on 0403 977 317, or email: alaina@susa.org.au.

Please join us. We look forward to seeing what God will do among us in 2021.

