

SU News

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



Mission Possible!



In this Edition...

From the Chair

Sometimes I ask "How is it that so much goes on in everyone's lives that it keeps them busy all the time?" It's [\[read more - pg 2\]](#)

JEWELS turns to SQUAD

We are so excited to announce the new name for our Girls' Rite of Passage Camp: SQUAD Camp! . . . [\[read more - pg 3\]](#)

Summer Mission Reports

This year our Family Mission teams had to make many adjustments in their particular situations . . . [\[read more - pg's 4-5\]](#)

Seasonal Pruning

With joy and excitement I'm delighted to share with you how our faithful God enabled Scripture Union . . . [\[read more - pg 6\]](#)

 Missions Edition | Summer 2021

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA 
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

Recently I heard this verse of Scripture in a new way, at a deeper level with a fresh realization. Most of us are familiar with this verse and know what it means but that's the amazing thing about God's living word, the Bible keeps teaching, revealing and changing us.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Rom 8:28

So what was this deeper level, this WOW factor? As I read and re-read this verse known so well to me, it hit me that God is so close, so involved, so intimate towards me that He has a specific purpose for my life. Little old me. Unimportant, messed up, sinful and imperfect. And yet, I am called by God to fulfil a purpose that He has for me. This is so special, powerful and well.... just WOW!!!

It's the same for you too. God has a purpose for your life - do you have any idea what it is? Are you praying, reading the Bible, worshipping and in Christian community while you journey towards God's purposes? We all need to be.

Through SU we get to meet some amazing people who volunteer, help out, support and pray for our ministry. You are part of fulfilling the purposes that God calls SU to. SU is also called by God for a purpose. Again.... WOW!!!

When I was stuck at home, during the first COVID lockdown, I decided to clean out some old files. I came across my old Yr 12 school magazine, which had a list of 'Life Long Ambitions' for each Yr 12 student. Generally these were stupid, silly or even critical things.

When I scanned the list and found my name, guess what 'Life Long Ambition' my fellow students chose for me? 'To spread the gospel truth'

Another WOW moment with God as I realized that what they meant to tease or belittle me with, was actually God's call on my life and has been for 36 years.

What's the 'Life Long Ambition' of Scripture Union? I believe that we are here to keep on showing and sharing Gods love through action and taking the good news of Jesus wherever we go.

I feel privileged that my calling and my Life Long Ambition align with and can contribute to this incredible Mission to 'Spread the Gospel Truth'. I hope you do to!

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



Sometimes I ask "How is it that so much goes on in everyone's lives that it keeps them busy all the time?" It's a bit like a cupboard. No matter how big, we manage to completely fill it, even if it is with junk.

I have been reading a book called "The Last Arrow" by Erwin McManus. In his book he is talking about us all having a quiver full of arrows and using them all in our work for Jesus on this planet, saving none for the next life. He

says we are to be forward looking and set fire to the past so that we are not constantly drawn back into it. **What do we think about that concept?**

I'm sure you will be thinking we need the past as a source of wisdom, which is true. But reliance on our past experiences might also constrain creativity, constrain stepping out, constrain moving out of our own "definition".. maybe even constrain God because we think we know how to do it, with all of our experience.

This book is about application and making it count. We can take up an awful lot of time and headspace doing things that on balance maybe don't count for a lot, or distract us from the things that do count.

In my previous job we had this thing about working out what things were urgent and important. Most things that are important can also be urgent, but not everything.... so I learnt to rank them. Not many urgent things are not important... in fact I can't think of any!

In the book, the author says that "passion" is the fuel that brings urgency, and leadership is about bringing urgency to the things that matter most. Good to think about.

So using the arrows is not so much about maximising our personal potential for its own sake, but allowing ourselves to be consumed in what God has for us and using all the arrows given to us. We don't choose where the plane will land, but we choose if we get on it in the first place...the writer says. Then we are committed. We are now moving past what we ourselves can do of ourselves, and into letting what God wants to do through us. He can create that passion in us! We can now have profound intention. We can now move to giving "all" in what He has called us to.

I am one who firmly believes I have been created for purpose and have been given the gifts, abilities, armoury, energy, strength that will allow that purpose to be achieved. I should not want to settle for average. I do have a responsibility given. Will I be able to say I gave it my best, letting that God given passion drive me? Or did I give it a bit; an average?

I have a passion for looking for the lost sheep. It's in me and it's not going away. I know it's been given to me for God's purposes. However, I was once told by a mature Christian that it was a complete waste of time. Not encouraging really, but of no consequence because that was the understanding that God and I had, and I understood his call to me. The Christian had his own call(s), his own passion to work with. Comparisons were not important.

Because God is merciful, loving, forgiving and empowering we can use that as a stable platform from which to go boldly to complete HIS purpose(s) passionately. (ref Romans 8:28 NIV)

As Erwin McManus puts it, before you die (here on earth), live the life you were born to live!

Maybe we can ask ourselves a few questions in context of our contribution to the work of SU, or just in general:

What are the passions God has given me and am I using all of my arrows?

Am I respectful of His call on me? What am I doing about it in terms of urgency?

Is my passion limited to what has been, as opposed to what could be?

'Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.' Colossians 3:23,24

David Jenkinson
SUSAC Council Chairperson

Jewels Camp is now SQUAD camp



We are so excited to announce the new name for our Girls' Rite of Passage Camp: SQUAD Camp!

We have begun the process of meeting together as a team of leaders to vision and plan this exciting new ministry. There will be some familiar faces from the days of Jewels Camp, as well as some new ones.

Our first SQUAD camp will be over the October long weekend. Our vision is to see teenage girls grow alongside one another, supported by a cross-generational sisterhood of women, being spiritually, socially and emotionally equipped for the transition into womanhood.

Why SQUAD?

Well, your SQUAD are your people, your team – those who are in your corner, cheering you on and supporting you.

A SQUAD is active. It has focus, purpose and drive and works towards its goals together. In the SQUAD everyone is welcome, valued and accepted. Just like the body of Christ, everyone has a role to play! The SQUAD are working together to train in godliness (1 Tim 4:7), run the race with perseverance (Heb 12:1) and press on toward the goal to win the prize (Phil 3:14).

This camp is about finding your SQUAD; the friends and mentors who can be in your corner, championing you, building you up and helping you to follow Christ and become the woman God has created you to be. It will be fun, it will be active and it will give you a chance to explore your gifts and passions in an atmosphere of support and love.

There will be stories from women who have walked the journey you are currently on and have wisdom to share. There will be time for worship and time to explore what the Bible has to say about life for you right now and for the future. For those entering into adulthood there will be the opportunity to take part in a Rite of Passage event.

This Rite of Passage will, as the years of SQUAD camp progress, become the culmination of a journey that has been built upon all the way from years 7 to 12.

If you are a girl in year 7 to 12 and would love to find out more about coming along to SQUAD Camp, or if you're a woman who is passionate about investing in the spiritual, social and emotional growth of teenage girls, then we would love to hear from you. Email alaina@susa.org.au or call 0403977317 to get in touch.

Prior to our first SQUAD Camp we will have some single day regional SQUAD Meets in your area where we can have a taste of what SQUAD Camp will be like and get to know some friends before camp.

Keep an eye out for more details!

Alaina Frost

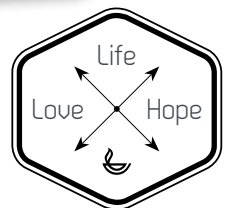
Girls Ministry Coordinator



Save the Date!

Our first SQUAD Camp will be over the October long weekend, from Friday 1st - Monday 4th.

More details to come.



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.



SUSA 

Summer of Mission

SCRIPTURE
BEA
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Victor Harbor

Victor Harbor Family Mission, or Big Tent, is such a fun and full on Mission. From the structured morning programs to the more relaxed afternoon activities and then the evening programs which are fun for the whole family, The Big Tent strives to share God's Good News and shine his light to the whole caravan park.

When you ask about great moments of Mission, you probably have visions of wondrous miracles, answers to prayer, and great conversions. We have seen many of these in our years of mission, but what can be seen that made this year's mission great was actually the opposite. People hurting, people alone, people crying out to a deaf universe. A woman in tears because her brother will not connect to anyone after the death of his wife. A broken family who see no way to repair the fracture. People who have no job and are desperately without hope.

Why, why would this be a wonderful thing for mission? Because this is who mission is for. These are the people who need to hear about the saving hope of Jesus, and we are there to share it. Moreover, they are coming to us, knowing in some way that there are answers, hope, new beginning. We are not just childcare for the youngsters, we bring a mysterious answer to their hearts.

It constantly surprises just how much these kids take in and how it can spread to their hearts and the hearts of their family. Mission brings many families back to this caravan park year after year for support and encouragement and to start the year off close to God.

Abigail Grocock

Victor Harbor Team Member



This year our Family Mission teams had to make many adjustments in their particular situations due to COVID restrictions, but praise God it happened! In fact the challenge to do things in different ways is leading to new ideas and perhaps better ways to do things in the future.

As I visited the Missions I saw many great new ideas being tried out and the teams kept learning through it all. They did an incredible job to go ahead with some form of Missions and above all, the Good News was shown and shared throughout it all.

Port Vincent

The Pt Vincent team decide to do a one day visit to the town on Monday 5th January, 2021. The COVID pandemic presented big challenges but the team's desire was to continue their connection with this community.

The intention was for the team to travel to the town to hand out 'goodie bags' as they connected with the community. The day saw 80 'goodie bags' handed out to about 40 families plus valuable connection with both old and new families.

It was a day very different to previous Missions but the visible nature of the team engaging with locals and those on holidays by the beach and on the streets of Pt Vincent reinforced the need to keep showing and sharing Jesus on the York Peninsula.

The future of Pt Vincent Family Mission is uncertain. Please pray God would raise up team leaders to continue His Kingdom work through Scripture Union in this beach side town.

Julie Calvert

Family Missions Coordinator



Moonta

It was an absolute privilege to serve our LORD Jesus Christ at Moonta Family Mission 2021. What always stands out to me is that not only does God use us as vessels to love the kids and show them Christ through fun and games, music, drama, craft and His word – but we show Him to each other living in Christian community for a week.

The team serves each other, from the cooks who give up their week to provide for people who begin as strangers but end as friends, to the directors who spend great amounts of emotional and mental energy in running the show. Thanks be to our loving God who provides all and works in all for this to happen.

As a member of the junior and senior teen group, I benefitted greatly from the discussions with my amazing team on grappling with the hard question of why do we suffer? Not only did we minister to the kids but to each other.

Many of the teens were familiar with our themes of God as the Creator of the universe, Jesus as the light of the world and the whole gospel message.

We explored how we live to serve others and learnt from the Prodigal Son (and his brother). Despite their familiarity we received comments that they benefitted from the new depth with which we explored these, and the different emphases we placed upon each. - God's Word does not return to him empty!

I thank God for Joel Cottrell and Shannon Bubner - Directors of Moonta Family Mission this year, the opportunity to serve alongside a fantastic team, the team itself, and the staff of SUSA. Thank you and what a joy to be a part of God's work.

Cale Amos

Moonta Team Member



VICTOR
HARBOR

PORT
VINCENT

MOONTA

TUMBY
BAY

MANNUM

KANGAROO
ISLAND

Tumby Bay

Tuesday Sand Castle Competition

The usual morning program may have been cancelled but children and their families still gathered along the beach last Tuesday for the Scripture Union Sand Sculpture Competition. Lots of locals and quite a few visitors to our district – some even from interstate enjoyed some fresh air and got creative in the sand. It was obvious that some had collected shells and put plans in place. Families worked together and individuals focused their efforts to impress judges. Mainly it was a wonderful time of interacting and reconnecting.

Thursday Family Night

There would usually be an inside concert but instead our Tumby Bay Town Oval was covered with activities including cricket, hoops, water play and woodwork craft. Free sausages (thanks Foodland) were prepared and shared. And a short presentation on the back of the Smiths Transport trailer was a great way to spend the evening. We were in awe of the magical illusions by Tricky Yippy and Paul Chester shared some reflections about what is real and important in life. The music team and their technical support made sure that children could still sing some of their favourite family mission songs.

Let's hope that next year Scripture Union Family Mission can go ahead safely so that children, young people and families can enjoy this positive and exciting annual event.

Glenys Sauturaga

Tumby Bay Team Leader



Mannum

This year at SUPA Summa Fun was my second time being a family mission team member. This year was a new experience for everyone on the Mannum team, whether this was their first year or if they have been going on missions for years.

We held our program on the banks of the river at Mary Ann Reserve and set up a festival type of event. This idea worked really well because parents and other members of the public were able to see and hear what was going on. At the start of each afternoon we sang songs, told stories, taught memory verses and showed dramas to all the kids who were there. We also repeated this at the end of each program to reinforce the teaching to the kids who were there at the start and to show kids who came during the middle of time.

In between those two teaching times all the kids chose what they wanted to do. They chose from five activities; craft, S.T.E.M, chilling out, asking questions about the Bible and games. I helped lead the chill out zone where the kids could come and colour in, play with bubbles or play uno.

About twenty kids came to the four day long program and we had the joy of being able to give three of them Bibles and seeing them eagerly looking in them for the memory verses and stories they had learnt. On the last night we held a celebration event and invited all the families who came to the afternoon programs and people from Mannum to come.

That night we saw a clever magic show that incorporated an explanation of the gospel that was engaging for both children and adults.

Evie Dow

Mannum Team Member



Kangaroo Island

The Kangaroo Island Family Mission was due to run in April 2021. However, after consultation with church leaders along with the continued recovery of the community from the bush fires the heart-breaking decision was made to cancel the 2021 Mission.

This community needs our help but we will be unable to run a program under the usual SU ethos where we partner with the local church. Our efforts will be a gift to the Island where the people need hope.

Planning is in early stages and if it is God's will we would like to provide something in the October school holidays of 2021.

Please pray God will clearly show how He wants us to best minister to the needy community of Kangaroo Island and, for Him to be stirring the hearts of the leaders He wants to raise up to help.

Julie Calvert

Family Missions Coordinator



Finding Faith... Online

During the COVID pandemic we have all become much more familiar with the internet. Did you know there are many great ways you can engage with the Bible and faith through websites and apps?

Check some of these out for yourself, your family or your children. These are just a few there are many more if you take some time to look for them.



Guardians of Ancora

Developed by Scripture Union UK this App based game involves bible stories, reading and even quizzes to make sure kids are reading the Bible and learning from it. Up to date graphics, very interactive and trustworthy.



The Bible App for Kids

The Bible App for Kids is a great way to get kids engaging with the gospel and stories of the Bible. There's lots of activities and they are developing more content regularly.



Bible Gateway

Fantastic App with Bible study resources, reading plans and you can also listen to the Bible using the Audio option.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/app>



Word Live

Many people have used SU daily Bible reading notes for decades. It has been foundational to their faith. If you want to keep that daily practice going or start it for the first time then try out Word Live from Scripture Union.

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive>



The Daily Audio Bible

The Daily Audio Bible is accessible from website or as an App. It has become a fast favourite of our SU Director, Chris Battistuzzi. Here's what Chris had to say about it:

"Each day you are taken through the O.T, N.T, Psalms and Proverbs with brief insights and commentary. I find it particularly good because I drive a lot for ministry and can listen as I drive. It has become part of my regular Bible routine."

<https://dailyaudiobible.com>

Seasonal Pruning



With joy and excitement I'm delighted to share with you how our faithful God enabled Scripture Union Family Missions to safely run during the COVID Pandemic. Three Missions ran programs and two engaged with the

community in new ways. Overviews of each Mission are separate to this article. My congratulations goes to all Team Members and Team Leaders who showed immense perseverance and resilience to show and share Jesus to communities throughout SA.

To plan and prepare a team and a program for Family Missions is not easy but when you add the unprecedented COVID pandemic to the mix it becomes almost impossible. In faith we believed God would make the impossible possible. His work began in the hearts of each team. Each Team Leader and team were given the passion and desire to want to connect and engage and keep building on past relationships. They wanted to tell of the love and hope found in Jesus. This was fundamental to the process and the outcome. It would have been easier to say 'it's all too hard let's give mission a miss, people will understand.' But they didn't give up. They rose to the challenge with tears and COVID safe plans and adherence to government regulations.

COVID forced us to change what we had always done. We were forced to re think what we do and how to do it. Change is hard. We often resist it but as you keep looking to Jesus to endure and persevere it brings more fruit and incomparable joy. Jesus says to his disciples in John 15:2-4 "The Father cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.....Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." Family Missions has been fruitful but we were in need of making some changes, to undergo pruning and so the COVID shake up was God's perfect timing for some of the Mission teams to do exactly that.

The teams began thinking, planning and preparing early. New and different options were suggested, talked through and implemented. This journey helped unite and strengthen the teams. More evidence of God at work. Some teams decided to run for one or two days and others a full program. Each Team came to their decision after much prayer and discussion. God had guided them and revealed how best to proceed. I think this season has shown the teams that they can change and do things differently and while it may have caused temporary challenges and frustrations, the outcome was positive and fruitful. Our faithful God has again proven Himself bringing about what seemed impossible to be possible. The timing of circumstances has led to pruning and I'm confident that the benefits of future promised fruitfulness will come as we keep looking to and trusting in the saviour of the world, Gods only Son, Jesus Christ.

Julie Calvert
Family Missions Coordinator

Gents Camp Father & Sons



Covid did everything it could to try and hijack Gents Camp Father and Sons in 2020. Initially the camp had to be rescheduled from its April date to November. Then one week after camp, Covid returned to bring everything into lockdown again. What a relief! Camp was a super success in its second year and booked out with sixty fathers and sons.

Douglas Scrub campsite proved to be a great venue again.

A few activities have started to establish themselves as permanent features of camp including the Friday Night Feast, Fatherhood 'Fire Up' with a guest speaker, The Greatest Story Ever Told, Survivor, amongst numerous other things. Archery Tag was again a stand out this year, but no-one will forget the mid-size trebuchets we made that could launch a 'bomb' 100 metres.

This year we consolidated our ethos for camp and set this framework up as the beginning of a much bigger suite of Gents Ministry resources to help dads and communities of dads be intentionally involved with sons in weekly and daily ways. This framework has much support in education, sociology, psychology, and even anthropology, which is why the camp works for dads and sons from all sorts of backgrounds. However, the main influence on this framework is biblical. God the Father is the one most interested in how faith is passed on to "your children, and their children after them may fear the Lord your God" (Deut 6:1).

Much of the traditional ways that fathers have been involved with sons has been diminishing and replaced by schooling, screens, and mothers. Though mums are great, boys need more than mums!

The Old Testament finishes with a summary with how deep the problem of Israel was before Jesus and the essential foundations of the new movement. The prophet Malachi says, "The hearts of fathers will be turned to their sons and the hearts of sons to their fathers".

We had a lot of great fathers on camp with their sons, but the shared sentiment of these dads was clear. This is a really important kingdom thing that we've drifted from in Australia. It's not a peripheral matter. This is core business for the church.

This year interest in the camp has increased significantly. Many will miss out, unfortunately! SU plans to use camp in May as an apprenticeship opportunity for teams of dads. Camp packs and resources developed by SU will help these dads run the camp themselves for their local area. We know that shifting the ownership of camp to the local scene will see many more dads and sons get involved; Christian and non-Christian. And that's exciting!

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects Coordinator



New Mission Experience for Young Adults and teens (16+).
Join our SUPA Serve team on a mission adventure to Broken Hill. Be part of a brand new outreach ministry to children and families.

Learn leadership skills, take responsibility for running games and activities. Enjoy daily Christ centred community, devotions and worship. Special excursions to local sites.

Places are strictly limited so get in touch ASAP!

If you are up for the adventure contact SU Director Chris Battistuzzi: chris@susa.org.au / 0433067769 to find out more.

An interstate SU partnership working with local churches.



Scripture Union
NEW SOUTH WALES



CLUB 100

Could you be one of our very special sponsors? We are looking for churches and individuals willing to partner with us in sharing the gospel.

If you share our heart, passion and purpose for discipleship then please join CLUB 100 by donating \$100 a month, every month.

Contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 for more information.



New Outreach on Yorke!



Contact SU for more information, or if you are interested in holding a SUPA Sports in your area.



SUSA uses the ChildSafe system of safety and risk management for all our programs. We provide training for churches and groups who minister to children. For more information on ChildSafe visit: www.susa.org.au/childsafes



SUSA is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. For more information visit: www.acnc.gov.au



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