

SU News

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



Breaking New Ground

Gents Father & Sons Camp 2021

Gents Father and Sons Camp is breaking new ground in the ministry and mission of SU. The Bible has a number of passages that clearly state the importance of a father's role and example to their sons. Gents Father and Sons Camp aims to grow and reinforce that relationship. This camp goes significantly further in that through education, conversation and mate ship, the dads learn, are challenged and equipped to be stronger fathers and faith leaders, not just to their sons on the camp but for their whole family. It is unique, powerful and growing in popularity. For more see inside this SU News.

In this Edition...

From the CEO

Dear SU Family, It's been just five months since SU movements across our nation and ChildSafe merged

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GENTS Father & Sons Camp

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Spring Edition | 2021

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA
Scripture Union South Australia

From the CEO

Dear SU Family, It's been just five months since SU movements across our nation and ChildSafe merged to become SU Australia - and we're already seeing God do amazing things.

Locally, In South Australia our camps and ministry in the Eyre and Yorke Peninsula regions are growing. This means many more in those communities will have opportunities to discover God's love and hope.

Work is also underway to launch several local programs, including CHAT - a cross cultural bridge building High School program. We're also seeing God opening doors elsewhere across the country.

In the Northern Territory, our Regional Manager Ox Roberts has spoken with the Chief Minister and other members of Cabinet about SU's role in helping respond to ongoing youth justice issues, while Indigenous elders are asking SU to deliver camps for their young people.

SS The future is looking very exciting.

In October we welcomed Generate into the SU Australia family. Generate is the largest provider of Special Religious Education teachers and school chaplains in New South Wales, which allows us to now serve communities in every Australian state and territory.

The future is looking very exciting.

As we look forward with anticipation to what God will do in 2022, I want to thank you for the impact you are making in the lives of young South Australians. You are a vital part of the transformational story God is writing in our nation's history.

Please also pray for us to be united as we serve God together across Australia. Pray for more trained, passionate and dedicated frontline workers to be mobilised to impact their community. Lastly, please pray that we'll create more opportunities for children, young people and families to discover life in God's big and unfolding story.

Thank you for continuing to stand with Chris and for all you will help make possible in the coming year.

God bless you and your family this Christmas.

Peter James

Peter James
Group CEO
Scripture Union Australia



From the Regional Manager



So, how is everyone? As the Mr Men picture shows us, it has been a Topsy Turvy time. Many of us continue to navigate the restrictions and issues surrounding Covid-19. Most of us have seen disruptions to work, ministry, church life and family.

For SU in SA and nationally these certainly have been Topsy Turvy times. SU in NSW, ACT and Victoria have really had it tough and still have a long way to go.

We have all seen activities cancelled, postponed or run in very different ways. Most SU states are also reporting challenges around retaining and recruiting volunteers and we are discussing how best to address this. In some cases there is a lot of work required to rebuild certain ministries and volunteer numbers.

Why so doom and gloom? Not at all. My intention is to be clear, honest and up-front with you, our SU supporters, about the challenges that lie ahead. Please consider how you can help us in this. Can you promote SU ministry in your church? We are looking for people to take on SU Advocate roles. Can you share about SU in your Home Group, Youth Group or among family and friends? We need your help in this way. If you'd like more information on how you can best help please get in touch.

But guess what? Yes, there are still many positives to celebrate and thank God for in these Topsy-Turvy times.

The national merger happened on June 1st and the transition work continues at quite a pace behind the scenes and it is keeping us busy and we believe that as we learn how to operate nationally our ministry will be stronger together.

Our BIGGEST news for SA will be that thanks to God's goodness we hope to have 3 new staff roles starting in 2022. For more on this, see the special article in this SU News.

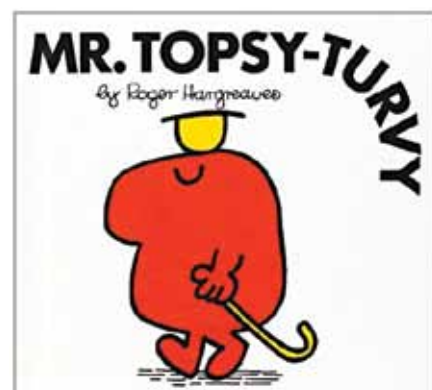
Last school holidays, GENTS and SQUAD Camps ran very successfully and continue to lead young people to Jesus while growing and strengthening the faith of other campers.

Even though ministry into schools has been 'Topsy-Turvy' SU volunteers have still been active throughout the year and there are new Christmas presentations being booked as well. For our school ministry to grow we do need more volunteers. Please commit this need to prayer as there are still many opportunities to share God's Good News in schools.

There's a lot more great things to read about, so please give this SU News a very thorough read and keep praying. We thank God that He is our creator and sustainer and we can depend on God no matter how 'Topsy-Turvy' the times may be.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Regional Manager (SA)
Scripture Union Australia



**VOLUNTEER
WITH
SUSA!**



Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others? *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Listen to the King! Grow in your faith and be discipled as you step into a volunteer role, knowing you are 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.

Gents Father & Sons Camp



When Moses was about to send Israel into the Promised Land he gave them the Sinai covenant for this new start. It was an exciting moment after 40 years in the desert. Yet Moses knew. He could see two critical moments a generation into living the good life in the Promised Land.

So he warned "be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery". And when their sons questioned why they followed this law, fathers were to tell sons "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand... if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness".

A generation later, right on cue we are told "another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil" (Judges 2:10-11). It highlights the Achilles heel of faith before Jesus gives his Spirit. No generation back to back ever was able to follow God. Fathers were not able to teach their sons how to follow their God. People would only remember God when things hit rock bottom.

The Prophet Malachi at the very end of the Old Testament looks ahead to the era of the Messiah and sees an end to this despair. He says, "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their sons, and the hearts of the sons to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction".

Every man and village of men were commissioned by God to make sure faith successfully passed over the threshold of a generation. In Jesus and the Spirit this is possible. The early church saw this new group called Christians grow from about 12 men to approximately 40-50% of the Roman Empire by 300 A.D.

In Australia church attendance has dropped from about 60% to 6% over the past 60 years and less than 40% of these are male.

GENTS Camp Father and Sons (GCFS) has the conviction that when the hearts of fathers are turned towards their sons in Jesus, blessing and growth will follow. On Camp this is tangibly true, but we have forgotten this. Amazingly special moments between sons and Dads bring awakenings.

Because of this in 2022 GCFS is going local. The focus of ownership of this vision needs to be as local as possible to communities and households. While SU will continue to run one camp a year as a training opportunity, we are helping up to three local church networks run their own for their churches.

As local churches launch these we will support them further with the thorough transformation of their communities to carry out the whole discipleship mandate of the next generation with 'The Fathering Four Essentials' resourcing. The first of these that has already been developed is a devotional booklet for all stakeholders in young people's ministry. But there is much more in the wings. Churches that authentically have their hearts turned towards their children are exciting churches to partner with.

More information can be found at: www.wired-youth.com/gents-my-tribe

Hamilton McNicol
Gents Camp Director

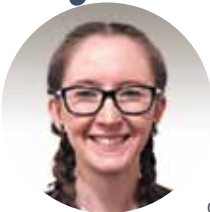
If you would like to know more about this camp or how you could run one with churches in your local area, please contact Hamilton at - hamilton.mcnicol@su.org.au / 0432913250



Squad Camp



Squad Camp is Awesome!



What can I say about the inaugural SQUAD Camp? Well, perhaps it's better that we hear straight from the girls about their experiences. As the campers shared with us their feelings about camp, the overwhelming feedback was that camp was awesome!

SQUAD Camp is designed to disciple and build girls up into the Christian women God has called them to be. Part of this is helping them to develop a toolkit to help them negotiate the challenges life throws at them as young women. Whether it's working through friendship difficulties, dealing with issues of confidence or comparison, or figuring out what healthy and unhealthy risk-taking looks like, SQUAD camp creates opportunities to explore these issues from a biblical perspective. But growing into a mature Christian woman isn't only about knowing how to deal with these tricky teenage moments. It's also about learning about yourself, your gifts and passions and discovering the way the God has called you to use these for his Kingdom and glory.

There are so many highlights of camp to share – and we'll let you read the quotes from the girls, but here's a few of mine! Our amazing speaker Kel Beames encouraged us over the course of camp that we are chosen, that we are children of God and that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Somewhere in there she taught us a dance to ward off drop bears...but that's another story. Speaking of dance, we were blessed with some of the One50 dance team sharing testimonies and stories through dance.

Our inspiring SQUAD Camp leaders, along with some of the One50 team lead us through some workshops that helped us to explore our gifts and passions. We ran a broad range of workshops including evangelism, art, social justice, dance, nature art and song-writing/spoken word. All of these helped our campers to delve into how they can share God's message, his love and his stories in a myriad of ways.

The multi-talented Dianne created some fantastic events for us across camp – a bush dance, a cluedo-inspired cross country whodunnit, and our final celebration night that saw our brave campers sharing what they had learned and created from their workshops.

There is so much to celebrate coming out of the first ever SQUAD Camp. We saw our young people find themselves in a safe space, making new friends and gaining in confidence to explore what God is calling them into. I am so excited to see how this culture of discipleship, encouragement and building up develops over the coming years.

Alaina Frost
SQUAD Camp Director

“Growing into a mature Christian woman isn't about knowing how to deal with tricky teenage moments. It's about learning who you are, finding your gifts and passions and discovering the way the God has called you to use these for his Kingdom and glory.”





Maturity in Christ

What campers had to say about SQUAD camp:

“ I am braver than I think I am.

God is real.

I want the leaders to know that I am so grateful they decided to spend their time with us.

You decide what you submit to.

We can't do what God calls us to do by ourselves but with his help and the Holy Spirit we can.

I have learnt that I can be confident and do what God has called me to do.

No one was left out. We arrived as strangers and left as companions

I am a child of God, I am chosen, I am empowered.

The camp was amazing and you were all kind and caring. Thank you!

You don't know your identity if you're not in the Word. ”

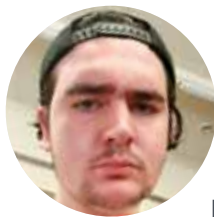
You hold me in your hands
Calling me your child, daughter and creation
You placed me here as a part of your plan
Knowing the directions and holding the map
Even when I'm lost
Just as you made each individual petal on each flower
You made me wonderfully, fearfully and beautifully
In your image
You created me to create
You know me by name
Each individual hair on my head accounted for
You know me better than I know myself
Just as all the threads weave together creating a picture and strength
You wove me to be strong in your name with beauty like an artwork
You keep me in the right path and when I stray you help me back
I search for an answer and you provide it, telling me that I can find everything in you
You created me
You provide for me
You love me
You chose me

Matilda
(year 9)



If you would like to be involved as a leader or camper on Squad 2022, or how you could run one with churches in your local area, please contact Alaina at - alaina.frost@su.org.au / 0403977317

GENTS CAMP - Director's Report!



The leaders had a really good feeling about GENTS camp this year, even before it had begun, and boy did it exceed expectations! The Holy Spirit was definitely moving through the campers from the word go, and it didn't seem like it wanted to slow down.

During our SPIT (Spiritual Input Time), we had James Baker take us through the four archetypes of a man:

Warrior, Lover, Wise man, and King. It was great to get down to the basis of our mission for GENTS Camp during these times.

Whilst on camp, we had 3 campers commit their lives to Jesus for the very first time. Praise be to Jesus! Other campers said that the camp significantly helped their faith to grow, and we're so excited to see what is to come for them all.

Tribal wars were a big hit this year, with Tribe Alism winning the camp for the first time in GENTS Camp history! They competed strongly throughout wars like Battle of Mylor Sheba, Bring 'em back alive, Salvos volunteering, and run the gauntlet. Well done to them!

It has been a pleasure running this camp for a second time, and I'm already so excited to get ready for GENTS Camp SA 2022 (YAAHHOO!!!).

Connor Beaty
GENTS Camp Director

What campers had to say about GENTS camp:

“The testimonies were amazing.

I was really amazed at how welcoming everyone was and felt that there is something really strong in men coming together to worship God.

I liked almost every part of camp.

Deep talks, lots of boy activities that were fun and hearing the inspirational testimonies.

Highlights for me were how open our small group was and how the 'SPiT' time created great conversation for tribe time. It was really special!

Gents Camp is something we look forward to each year. ”



A time to grow for SU in SA



3 New Ministry roles beginning from the city to the country

The opening of Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there are seasons and times in life of change. The journey of SU ministry in SA has been just like that. We have seen ups and downs, struggle and success throughout the years. Praise God that through the strategy of the national merger and the financial blessings of God, here in SA we are growing our staff, increasing our reach and we believe will see an increase of SU ministry in the years to come.

Opportunities on Eyre

For many years Tumby Bay has been a key centre for SU activity. Our largest Beach Mission event is held each January with up to 200 children and their families reached with the good news through an amazing local volunteer team. SUPA Club activities happen through the primary school. KCEP (Kids Camp on EP) is a very strong camp with about 140 kids and adults involved and most recently SU now oversees an inter-church youth group. There's a lot of SU going on in Tumby and these activities reach well beyond the town to other parts of EP from Cowell to Port Lincoln.

But there's also the opportunity for more across the EP and that is why seed funding is being directed to employ an SU 'Ministry Catalyst' 3 days a week on an initial 2 year contract. They will have a crucial role to connect with EP churches, schools, Chaplains and others to support existing and grow new ministry to children, youth and families.

Over on Yorkes & the Mid North

Easter Camp held at Melrose has been a strong camp leading teens to Christ for many years and is a strong presence in the Mid-North. In Port Pirie churches work together to run several SUPA events from the SU Halloween 'Light Party' to a 3 day holiday club. On Yorkes SU have well established Beach Missions at Port Vincent and Moonta. In Minlaton on SYP a new SUPA Sports holiday outreach began in 2020. In Kadina SU connections led to a new national based training day, 'Amplify' a Children, Youth & Families Ministry Conference'. So as you can see there's lots we can grow and build on in this region.

But wait there's more..... a new 3 day role based in Adelaide to grow and support SUPA, schools and other ministry.

This new role will work across the whole mission of SU but have certain Coordinator responsibilities. We have more opportunities for growth than we have had staff capacity to undertake. We are hopeful this new role and the person who fills it will enable us to do more and therefore reach more for Jesus.

How can you help?

- 1. Pray for these new roles and for all they will need to cover.
- 2. Consider if you can help us fund one of these new roles.
- 3. Can you be involved as a volunteer to support any of these ministries?

Contact us for more information or to offer support; info@susa.org.au



Living Water Mens Conference



Wow..... just, WOW!!! I was invited to come and experience LWMC held on October 8-10 and I'm so glad that I did.

Imagine if you will, a large paddock sparsely covered with trees with tents, caravans, swags and cars. Over 100 men camping out in God's glorious bush under the majesty of a star filled sky. Even seen so much better when in the country just 10km outside of Balaklava. In another nearby paddock a large white marquee has been erected to fit the 150 men who came from all ages, 15 to 85.

Great food, fellowship and sharing around a roaring bonfire was a powerful and enjoyable part of the whole experience. Now throw into this a fantastic worship band of young men with 150 male voices praising God with Amazing Grace, Way maker, How Great is Our God and many more. It made my skin tingle.

But wait, there's more. An incredible speaker who spoke passionately about the Father Heart of God and pulled no punches for the men when it came to God's call on our lives. Plus testimonies of faith from guys of all ages. It was motivating, convicting and challenging and the kind of thing I believe our men need more of as they follow Jesus.

So if you would like know more about it go to – www.livingwater410.org.au and I hope to see you there in 2022.

Chris Battistuzzi
Regional Manager (SA)
Scripture Union Australia

Preparing the way of the Lord



Saturday October 23rd the annual Missions Training Day took place. This was a day for volunteers from all missions to gather together to be equipped, trained and encouraged.

Training on 'Maintaining the Mission Passion' and the how to of 'Constructing and Writing your 3 minute Testimony' were sessions on offer.

We shared a pizza dinner together and concluded the day with a Celebration and Commissioning service. Ian Dow provided a message focused on how we as volunteers on a Family Mission are preparing the way for Jesus to be made known to the many kids, young people and families we interact with.

John the Baptist prepared people for the arrival of Gods Kingdom and the message of repentance Jesus proclaimed. John the Baptist was a sign post; He pointed people to Jesus the one who said "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me." John 14:6 & 7 (Message).

As followers of Jesus whether we volunteer with a Family Mission team or not we can point others to Jesus. As we build relationships and share with others in their joys and struggles we help make straight the path and smooth the rough places to prepare them to know and receive Jesus...we partner with God to help prepare the way for the Lord.

Is there someone you know that you can prepare the way for Jesus to bring his healing and wholeness into their lives?

Julie Calvert
Missions Coordinator



Summer Family Missions for 2022 will be hosted in the following townships:

Victor Harbor: 27th Dec 2021 - 5th Jan 2022

Moonta: 1st - 8th Jan 2022

Port Vincent: 1st - 8th Jan 2022

Tumby bay: 4th - 7th Jan 2022

Mannum: 9th - 14th Jan 2022

For more information on how you can be involved in a Family Mission, contact the Missions Coordinator Julie Calvert on: julie.calvert@su.org.au or info@susa.org.au

Choose Your Mission

VICTOR
HARBOR

PORT
VINCENT

MOONTA

TUMBY
BAY

MANNUM

KANGAROO
ISLAND

Children, Youth & Families Ministry Conference.

Date: Saturday March 5th. Mark your calendar.

Venue: To be held at several venues across SA.

Who is it for? Anyone involved with ministry to children, youth or families.

Suitable for school Chaplains, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders/pastors and basically anyone with a passion to help young people know Jesus.

There will be a choice of Elective topics, lunch provided and great speakers. Not to mention time to chat, meet new people and grow ministry connections.

In SA we intend to run Amplify at different venues across the state so more people can get to it. Come along and be encouraged, inspired and equipped.

More info TBA. Watch the facebook pages of CMN SA for more info and links to register early in 2022. Bring your whole team.

An event hosted by the Children's Ministry Network of SA.

AMPLIFY
CONFERENCE

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

