

# *Your Will and SU's Future*



## *Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims...*

- to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families
- to encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer

so that they may  
come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
grow in Christian maturity,  
and become faithful church members,  
and servants in a world of need.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of

**MOORESLEGAL**

in sponsoring the printing of this booklet.

## Past, present, future

### 1868 Office worker shares gospel with children!

Josiah Spiers on a beach holiday in Wales breaks with convention and talks to crowds of children about Christ. He has no idea that his impulsive action will change the face of ministry to children far into the future and spark a world-wide movement, the Scripture Union.



### 1879 The first SU Bible reading card printed, and SU born in Victoria

Rev HB Macartney, vicar of St Mary's Caulfield, asks London for yearly bible-reading cards, and Scripture Union (SU) is planted in Australian soil. He could scarcely have dreamt that within a few years there would be 20,000 young subscribers in Melbourne, and a similar number in NSW. Like Spiers, he could not have dreamt that his decision would bear fruit right across the nation for more than 130 years!



### 2009 130 years later, SOAR Adventures

A young Outdoor Ed graduate Brock Gravener talks with SU Victoria State Director Dave Tolputt, and begins SOAR Adventures as a part of SU Vic's wider *ELEVATE* schools ministry. This is a response to the number of secondary students who, untouched by the churches, are dropping out of school, family and society. SOAR takes the 'most at risk' students, and works with them for a whole year. The effects are quite stunning as wayward young people join churches, and many schools are asking for help from SOAR.



### 2039 The future

We can only guess what the world will look like 20 or more years from now. What we *do* know is that Australians will still need to encounter the gospel in people who can explain it clearly and who are living it out in authentic, joyful, practical service.

Same vision, vastly different context.



You too can sow seeds for *the future* that will be multiplying beyond your own lifetime, through a bequest to SU.

## *What legacy will you leave?*

All of us will die, and all of us will leave a legacy when we die.

More than anything else, that legacy will be what we have invested in our children, wider family, workplace, church and wider community. The memory of us will conjure up our acts of kindness, our example, our foibles and our favourite sayings. We're investing each day in the people around us. So first, let's live well!

Many of us will also leave behind other 'treasure'. We've bought houses and gathered possessions. We've spent a lifetime making decisions about how we will steward the resources God has entrusted to us.

All of us can also make choices of lasting significance about the estate we leave behind. Preparing a Will is just a good thing to do, full stop. We can contribute to the lives of others, materially and spiritually, after we have died.

Leaving a bequest to SU is one way we can do that. How good is that!

**Dirk Janssen, a finance manager, and Connie, a linguist, run SU family camps. Connie has been a member of both the staff and council of SU.**

*"In preparing our will, it was important to us to look after our family, even though we expect that by the time they inherit they will be self-sufficient. We also have the capacity and desire to resource worthwhile endeavours after our death, just as we have during our life.*

*Our involvement with SU is long term and we value the work they do in creatively bringing God's good news to children, young people and families. We take the Great Commission seriously, and want SU to have the resources to continue its mission work in to the future. That is why we have included SU in our will."*

*Dirk and Connie Janssen*



## A Good Will

Whether your Will includes SU or not, it's good to make sure it is a *good* Will. Given its finality and importance, your Will deserves your careful and early attention. The reality is that we don't know what the future will bring.

A good Will is one that, among other things,

- *expresses your will.* It might seem obvious, but a poorly written Will can mean that your intentions are not fulfilled;
- *is valid.* There are legal requirements for preparing, signing and witnessing Wills. The fee charged by a lawyer is a worthwhile financial investment when considering the value of your estate and the possible consequences of an incorrectly prepared Will.
- *provides for your family.* This includes guardianship arrangements for your children while they are under 18.
- *is clear and unambiguous.* It reflects your life and your intentions in what it says about where you want your estate to go.
- *names your executor.* This is the person you appoint to ensure your wishes and instructions are carried out.

Homemade Wills are often flawed, and it is wise to get professional help to ensure that your Will does do what you want it to do. This booklet is not legal advice and it is recommended that everyone should have a legal adviser check their Will. But it does explain how you can help SU continue to be life-giving for thousands of Australians.

### **Working in law and health care respectively, Tim and Jenny Nethercote are very aware of issues of future planning.**

*"We have been involved with SU over a long period – as children attending camps and missions, SUFM leader, team members, camp parents and Council membership. SU has offered us, and thousands of others, the opportunity to grow our faith and share it with children and families in schools, holiday locations and the community.*

*We decided some time ago that one simple way that we could support SU's ministry in the future is by making a bequest in our wills."*

*Tim and Jenny Nethercote*



## Your will and SU

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'*  
(John 10:10 NIV)

We in the West have surely proved for all time that material affluence does not bring life in all its fullness. Instead our culture all too often seems to steal, kill and destroy. So often it gives rise not to happiness but to depression, destructive behaviour, broken relationships, and suicide even amongst the very young.

By contrast there seems to be something lasting and life-giving in the very DNA of Scripture Union. A look back at page 1 tells us that after 140 years, the same passion, vigour, mobility and vision is evident. Why is this? Three reasons have been suggested.

1. the unchanging focus on thoughtfully **reading the whole Bible** has kept SU from idiosyncratic theology and narrowness. People from different Christian traditions experience unity among believers and a balanced approach to faith on mission together. By God's grace, people hear about Jesus and find life in him.
2. **local empowerment** has allowed SU to adapt to the demands of different cultures. From children's refuges in the cities of Peru to school chaplaincy in Queensland, or the ELEVATE schools program in Victoria, SU responds to the specific challenges and opportunities of its own context.
3. the **volunteer character** of SU not only equips and enables countless people to learn mission and evangelism, but brings constant refreshment and newness.

### **Jenny Turnbull is one of those very active 'retirees' who maintain a vital connection with SU.**

*"After many years of voluntary involvement in SU as a young beach mission and camp leader, regular giving to support the ongoing work of SU became my practice. Now, by remembering SU in my will, I can continue to help to ensure that SU is resourced to keep doing what it does so well: children and young people being helped to know Jesus, to read the Bible thoughtfully and to wrestle with what it means to be a faithful Christian today."*

*Jenny Turnbull*



## *Your will and young lives*

Scripture Union's ability to adapt its strategy and methods to changing circumstances while maintaining its clear mission focus is obvious at a glance. As the decades roll on there is constant adaptation. SU Victoria's work among secondary students in recent times is a great example.

Some of us can remember when there were leisurely school lunch hours in which voluntary groups could run weekly programs for the encouragement of Christian students and witness to others. Most people knew that David and Goliath were in the Bible, and families were more stable. SU holiday camps filled with students for whom paddling a canoe was an exciting adventure.



The Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) linked school groups across the state and SU schools staff invested most of their time in nurturing Christian young people and encouraging them to be witnesses to others.

Today the situation is very different. In the 1980s ISCF was re-conceived as a broader concept of SUI (Scripture Union in Schools) and the Christian Option Program saw SU staff engaging with students and curricula in the classroom. Then in the first decade of the 21st century, ELEVATE became the powerhouse for an almost unlimited range of 'models' of ministry to secondary students.



The ELEVATE concept embraces a great range of activities in which the gospel is revealed in actions as well as words. Individuals and groups of young people are engaged by volunteers mentored by able staff. But in places there is also has an impact on whole year levels and even whole schools.

SOAR Adventures sees SU staff heading up teams of volunteers, parents and school chaplains to do intensive and challenging activities with young people nominated by their schools as 'most at-risk'. Almost half these young people have begun attending a church, and they and many others are in constant contact with their SU staff member.



## *Your will and young lives continued...*



In the western suburbs Charlene Delos Santos spent 6 years building up creative ministry in a whole range of schools. Building on the work of SU's Tri Nguyen, she has done the hard yards and is seeing the benefits. 18 churches are partnering with and supporting ELEVATE in metro-west.

Meanwhile long-term SU staff member Naomi Swindon has pioneered ministry at an outer suburban school with the entire Year 9 student group, in response to a request from the school for help with this year level. Working with the school chaplain and a team of volunteers, they are responsible for the whole Wednesday program each week, as part of Year 9's 'Global Classroom'.

The team mentor groups of students devising projects to 'elevate' their school, the local community and beyond. Experiencing Kingdom of God values, and confronting issues like not giving up, and keeping right relationships, is an eye-opener and heart-warmer for many young people. Their first taste of 'God's way being the right way'.

The Year 9 coordinator, herself a very skilled mentor, has said more than once – *'We could not have done anything like this Leading Edge/ ELEVATE program without Naomi and the team of volunteer mentors. They have brought most of the highlights... and are with us in the difficulties, working alongside students in ways teachers just can't be.'*

## *...and that's just in schools*

Changes have occurred in *all* SU's ministries. This dynamism and freedom to try something new has kept SU at the cutting edge of effective mission and evangelism. Different contexts, same vision – sharing Jesus through relationship, and helping people engage with the Bible. In other words, *inviting people to life in Jesus.*



## *A life-giving bequest to SU*

While the future holds no guarantees, this 'DNA' of vitality inspires confidence that years after we have passed on, our successors will be as committed and creative as ever in bringing the Good News to coming generations of Victorians. Wouldn't you like to be part of that?

### *Options*

There are three ways in which you can choose to leave a bequest to Scripture Union. These are described below. We suggest that you discuss with your legal adviser which option is best for you.

#### **Residuary Bequest:**

Residuary bequests are simply a gift of whatever is left of your estate (or a percentage thereof) – after all of your other gifts, taxes and debts have been fulfilled.

As they are not specific amounts of money, this sort of bequest keeps its value regardless of inflation over the years. It means that the gift you include today is worth just as much when the time comes to put it to work for the mission of Scripture Union Victoria.

#### **Pecuniary Bequest:**

Pecuniary bequests refer to leaving a gift of a set dollar amount determined by you at the time of drawing up or altering your will.

#### **Specific Bequest:**

This is leaving a gift of an item of value to be passed on to Scripture Union Victoria in order to generate funds.

Another area of choice is that of designating your bequest for a particular area of ministry.

**To allow SU the maximum flexibility in responding to future needs simply leave your gift to 'Scripture Union Victoria'.**

However if you do wish to designate a specific ministry area SU will make every endeavour to use your gift as requested. Please see the note on suggested wording on page 8, or talk with SU State Director Justin Simpson on (03) 9482 5700 about the best wording.

SU has several funds with Deductible Gift Recipient status, which may be an advantage to your estate if Capital Gains Tax is an issue.



## Suggested wordings

Can you think of a better way to leave a lasting legacy?

SU's ministry to children, young people and families has made an eternal difference to thousands.

Your bequest will enable us to reach many more with the Good News of Jesus.



**Justin Simpson**  
State Director

### A suggested wording for a Residuary Bequest:

*I give, Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, the following \_\_\_\_\_ percent OR the residue of my estate and declare that the receipt of the Bequest Officer or State Director, for the time being, of Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors / Trustees for such gift.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### A suggested wording for a Pecuniary Bequest:

*I give, Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and declare that the receipt of the Bequest Officer or State Director, for the time being, of Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors / Trustees for such gift.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### A suggested wording for a Specific Bequest:

*I give, Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, the following item/s)*

\_\_\_\_\_

*and declare that the receipt of the Bequest Officer or State Director, for the time being, of Scripture Union Victoria Ltd, shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors / Trustees for such gift.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Designating a gift for a particular SU ministry area

It is suggested that wordings be kept general in order to obviate potential difficulties in the future. For example:

*I wish this gift to be used for...*

*introducing children to Jesus*

*(or) ministry with teenagers and young adults*

*(or) training volunteers for effective outreach and leadership*

*(or) holistic social work with young people*

*(or) helping people engage with the bible*

*(or) Camp Coolamatong*

## Two simple steps

### 1. Including the words

#### Existing Will

If you already have a Will made out, and you wish to include SU in your Will, your Will can be amended by codicil to include one of suggested wordings set out on page 8. The preparation of a codicil must comply with the same legal formalities as the Will.

#### A new Will

If you are making out your Will for the first time, and you wish to leave a bequest to SU, a suggested wording from page 8 can be incorporated into the document.

### 2. Informing SU

If you have left a bequest to SU in your Will, either as a result of reading this booklet or previously, please let us know. We would really appreciate the opportunity to thank you and we'd like to include you in our *SU Visionaries circle* and invite you to the Annual SU Visionaries luncheon.

All information received by Scripture Union will be treated in the strictest confidence and we will of course respect your wishes if you choose to remain anonymous.

Please complete the response form on page 11, *'Just letting you know...'*, and return it to Scripture Union Victoria if you wish to inform us of a bequest.

If you would like to speak to someone about anything in this booklet please contact:

Tom Slater  
Wills & Bequests Officer  
Scripture Union Victoria  
455 Springfield Road  
Mitcham VIC 3132  
Tel: 9482 5700  
Email: [toms@suvic.org.au](mailto:toms@suvic.org.au)

or

Justin Simpson  
State Director  
Scripture Union Victoria  
455 Springfield Road  
Mitcham VIC 3132  
Tel: 9482 5700  
Email: [justins@suvic.org.au](mailto:justins@suvic.org.au)

*Please complete and detach the response slip on the following page if you have included SU in your Will, or wish to talk to someone about that.*

By way of thanks we want to send you, free of charge,

### *The Fingertip File*

an attractive ring binder which contains

- **My Personal Record**  
This is an exceptionally useful 16-page A4 booklet to help you organise your personal records and leave a detailed personal profile for your executor and family. This booklet is in the form of ready-made forms in which you can record important personal details and the location of key documents.



If you have already received a copy with this brochure, this extra copy will be useful for a spouse or friend.

- **Your introduction to SU Visionaries**  
This, a group of bequestors and key supporters who receive an annual report on progress in the ministry of SU Victoria and an invitation to an annual luncheon.
- **A place to file key documents** with dividers to help you easily locate key documents
- Other **useful resources** such as
  - The Bible in a Year plan
  - SU Gift Catalogue

## *Privacy*

Protecting your privacy and the confidentiality of your personal information is important to SU. A copy of the SU Privacy Statement or detailed policy can be obtained from the SU Victoria website or office.



*There are more and more young people who realise that serving Christ sacrificially is more fun than anything the world has to offer.*

**Tony Campolo**, in  
*Who Switched the Price Tags?*

Detach here

## Your response

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

*Just letting you know...*

- Yes, I have included Scripture Union Victoria in my Will in the form of a
  - Residuary bequest     Pecuniary bequest     Specific bequest
- Yes, I have included Scripture Union Victoria in my Will and would like to receive further information on the work of SU
- I am interested in learning more about making a bequest to Scripture Union Victoria. Please contact me on telephone number (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb / Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Your legacy** — making it count for eternity

*Detach here*



Please use the Reply Paid Envelope to send to

Wills and Bequests Officer  
Scripture Union Victoria  
455 Springfield Road  
Mitcham VIC 3132

## *SU statement of belief*

As the Scripture Union family throughout the world, we accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith including the following:

### **A. GOD AND THE HUMAN RACE**

**We hold that the Lord our God is one:**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that he fulfils his sovereign purposes - in creation, revelation, redemption, judgment, and the coming of his kingdom - by calling out from the world a people, united to himself and to each other in love.

**We acknowledge that though God made us**

in his own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to himself: we now are members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of his glory.

**We believe that the Father**

has shown us his holy love in giving Jesus Christ, his only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to his wrath and condemnation; and has shown his grace by putting sinners right with himself when they place their trust in his Son.

**We confess Jesus Christ**

as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin: as Victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with his Father; one day returning personally in glory and judgment to establish his kingdom.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit**

who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment; who makes the death Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must turn to Christ in repentance and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ; who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present to all believers, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them his fruit, granting to them his gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.

### **B. THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed, since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are utterly trustworthy in all that they affirm; and are our highest authority for faith and life.

### **C. THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION**

**We recognise the Church**

as the body of Christ, held together and growing up in him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world, and as the local congregation in which believers gather.

We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey him; and

**We acknowledge the command of Christ**

to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression, and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world...

...until he comes again...



*Our children and  
grandchildren  
need a relationship  
with God through  
Jesus...*