



Baptist Union of NSW **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

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Morling faculty chairs Scripture Union Australia

Morling College faculty Dr Sylvia Collinson has replaced Mr David Reeve as Chairperson of Scripture Union Australia, and will work alongside National Director Rev Lloyd Carter.

Sylvia is part of an international team of writers who contribute to Scripture Union's daily Bible reading notes *Encounter with God*. She brings a wide involvement in SU to her role having had leadership responsibilities in NSW in school programs, camps and beach missions as well as serving as vice-chair of SU in South Australia and chair of SU in Western Australia.

She is currently Dean of Students and Lecturer in New Testament and Discipleship at Morling College, Sydney. Sylvia gained her Ph.D degree at Murdoch University under Professor Brian Hill on *Making Disciples: The Significance of Jesus' Educational Methods for Today's Church* (the title of her book published by Paternoster in 2004).

"Many of Jesus' methods of discipleship apply wonderfully in SU school, camp and mission activities," Dr Collinson said.

Scripture Union Australia is part of a global movement founded in 1867 and now operating in over 130 countries. It aims to work with the churches, making God's Good News known to children, young people and families and encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer.

"I am excited about the opportunities to encourage the work of Scripture Union in all states and territories in Australia," Dr Collinson said.

"Over the year thousands of volunteers in Australia engage young people and families in holiday programs at beaches and in urban or rural townships, camps, secondary and primary schools, through sports, recreation, outdoor education and school chaplaincy.

"SU also developed ChildSafe, which provides organisations working with children and young people with an integrated system of safety and care. It has received high government commendation, and is now used in many Australian denominations.

"Every state has a different emphasis. SU in Queensland will employ over 600 chaplains in schools under the current federal government funding in 2008. SU in NSW had 56 family missions this summer involving over 2000 volunteers who will bring the truth of Jesus to thousands. SU in SA has exciting Christian Option programs in primary schools. And SU in WA has a strong camps ministry," she said.

In her SU role, Dr Collinson will support and encourage State SU leaders and oversee the Resources for Ministry publishing ministry which provides Bible reading aids for all ages, graded Sunday school materials and a range of resources for those working with children and youth. Customers could order these at local Christian bookstores or through SU Resource Centres.

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