



A vibrant **Adventist** movement **living our Hope in Jesus** and transforming the **Pacific**

TPUM 2020 Vision:
We see by God's grace in 2020
200,000 Adventist Disciples
20,000 Groups
2,000 Churches
200 Schools
20 Leaders
20 Wellness Centers

TRANS PACIFIC UNION *News Letter*

Newsletter 09, September 2016

Dedicated Disciples!

I just came back from Atoifi Adventist Hospital's 50th Anniversary. Atoifi serves as a hospital to Uru Harbour region of Malaita and at the same time train nurses from throughout the Solomon Islands. It is said that this school of nursing plays a very important role as it accounts for 50% of the registered nurses in the whole Solomon Islands.

It was a great weekend of thanks giving and reflection on how God has kept the hospital going for last 50 years. The stories are exceptional. Stories of how they ran out of money and were just about to close when somebody or an organization sent money. Stories of cases that it was beyond the Doctors knowledge and God somehow intervened and saved them. There was one story of a man who was running for his life from one who was trying to kill him and an angel pick him and threw him into the sea which saved his life. But there were stories of committed workers who died from accidents, little children who died from sickness and some were brutally murdered. We watch a video clip of an interview of Jean Gersbach whose husband was killed, it was such a sad story but also so encouraging. Let me quote the last part of her testimony:

"I don't know the reason God allowed Lance to be murdered, but one day I will. Jesus' death on the cross is proof to me that God always has a purpose in the circumstance, and that His purpose and His plan will prevail and triumph through any circumstance. In the meantime, I know He sees, I know He cares and I know He loves. The evidence is there. Has God been close these past years? Absolutely. Nothing will dissuade me from knowing that God is with us and continues to be involved in the lives of His children."

I left Atoifi so inspired with the dedication of these pioneers. I wish they could see the result of their work today. They started in the time when everyone in that place were primitive, naked, worshiping their own gods, killing any strangers but now, there are many churches being built around these places. Lots of these people are now members of God's Kingdom. I worship with many of them, in fact, I baptized some of them on Sabbath. And hearing their testimony I can feel their spirit of dedication is as strong as the Pioneers. May God give us the spirit of Dedication and Courage that our Pioneers had.

Maveni Kaufononga, TPUM President

Literature Evangelism Still Works in China



Ma is a woman from an Islamic family in north western China. She is also a librarian. The pioneer missionary team in her area recently met Ma in a library and shared *The Desire of Ages* with her. No doubt Ma's job as a librarian gives her special interest in literature, so literature evangelism proved to be a perfect avenue to her heart. After asking many questions and ultimately studying the Bible with the pioneer missionaries, Ma became an Adventist and now works on a voluntary basis as a literature evangelist. She even used her literary skills to edit a book about the natural world and took the opportunity to explain how amazing the Creator God is. When Abram LaRue introduced Seventh-Day Adventism to China at the end of the 19th century, literature evangelism was simultaneously cultivated there. Ma's story is a testament to the fact that this age-old evangelism technique still works in China.

Atoifi celebrates 50th Anniversary



Atoifi 50th Anniversary celebration service



Bamboo drum players performs at the ceremony

On August 26-28, on the eastern side of the island of Malaita hundreds of people, including the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, senior government and diplomatic figures and Adventist Church leaders, gathered together for Atoifi Adventist Hospital 50 years of service.

Villagers from the coast and mountains surrounding Atoifi also made the trek, by boat or on foot, to join the celebrations. The opening ceremonies attracted the biggest crowd, with pan-flute wielding warriors vying for attention with bamboo-drum players and a marching ensemble. The Atoifi Mix Choir and The Singing Medicos performed their first songs of the weekend, including the national anthem and the anniversary's specially written theme song, based on Atoifi's motto: A life of service; health for all. Minister Manasseh Sogovare was one of the many speakers who paid tribute to the work of the Adventist missionary pioneers who worked hard and sacrificed to bring the gospel and better health to the Kwaio people, both before and after the official establishment of the 91-bed hospital on August 25, 1966. Mr Sogovare used the occasion of his speech to announce a special donation of \$SBD0.5m (about \$A84,000) for two diesel generators that will provide back-up electricity when there is

insufficient water flow for Atoifi's hydro-electric power plant. He also announced a plan to phase in over three years an arrangement whereby the government will cover the nursing school's staff wages. "This is one of the best hospitals in Solomon Islands—one of the most respected and well equipped," said Mr Sogovare.

Health Work continues to pave the way for the spread of the Gospel in Solomon Islands Mission. As a result on Sabbath, forty eight (48) souls got baptised at the waterfront next to Atoifi's jetty by four pastors. Many were nurses-in-training as well as local students and community members, each with their own story of how God had impacted on them through the ministry of Atoifi. And also part of the program, *Anniversary attendees visit the gravesite* to pay their respects at the grave of Mary Semi, a Western Solomons Adventist missionary who was brutally killed. Please continue to pray for Atoifi Hospital and the Health work in Solomon Islands Mission.



Right to left: Pr. Mavani Kaufononga with another local pastor performs baptism.

Bible Study wins Souls

A small group bible study was organized by Pr Anthony Sharma resulted in a baptism.

Families to Sisters, in laws to husbands and wives, young and old, even in disability these were the twenty three (23) souls that have said YES to Jesus in the pool of baptism at the Lautoka Indian Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 27. Majority of the candidates that were baptised were brought up from a Hindu belief background

and the oldest age that was baptized was over 80 years old.

"Through this baptism every member is challenge to use their spiritual gifts and talents to reach out to the lost and the needy," said Pr Anthony Sharma. Pr Sharma also stated that our goals are to baptise 20 souls for each Indian church by the end of the year. We are praying for the Holy Spirit and seeking God's leading and we believe God is going to open more doors for small group bible studies. **Anthony Sharma**



Pr. Anthony Sharma with the 23 baptism candidates.



Pr. Anthony & Pr. Talemo performs baptism

Discipleship in the Family

On August 12 -20, Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa, the TPUM family life director visited church members at Nukualofa English, Fahefa and E'ua church. We spent most days with a group of ministers and their wives, Elders and church family life coordinators. It was a time of sharing, praying, listening and learning. At the end of our trip we were able to allow our team to realise the importance of discipleship in the model of the Harvest Cycle. We were reminded that the family is the basic building block of a society and that discipleship needs to begin in our families. As

Ellen white states that "one well ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached" RH 1889. We were also prompted of our vision for this quinquennial. It's a challenge to keep on focus with our journey in the midst of all the challenges that bombards us. How can we know and understand our vision and Mission? As I entered the Nukualofa Church, my eyes caught the writing above the platform wall. I tried to read the Tongan tongue etched boldly, I was able to understand what the writing was, It is the vision and mission statement in tongan. Our vision translated into each country's main dialect and etched beautifully upfront will allow for people to know, understand and move accordingly towards that direction. I know for sure that members of the Nukualofa church are challenging themselves to become a Vibrant Adventist Movement Living Our Hope in JESUS and Transforming Tonga, the Pacific and the World. **Nasoni Lutunaliwa**



Pr. Nasoni with the church elders, ministers, and their wives

Birth of a New Adventist School



Edwin standing next to Enarawia Adventist School

Enarawia Adventist School is the new Adventist school. The school started when Edwin, the head teacher of Lowenata Seventh-day Adventist Primary School began teaching young children in his remote village on Tana Island. Edwin noted that a little way away there was a village that had never had a school. He talks to them and suggests that he could run an 'Adventist' school in their village, knowing full well that he will be following up with a church plant later. Enarawia Adventist School has four Adventists teacher missionaries teaching ninety two (92) non Adventist students. The focus is teaching about Jesus and His love, educating the children and their community for life here and eternity. Currently they are seeking a new school site on which they can build a permanent Adventist School. **Bev Norman**

Youths took a Bold Stand



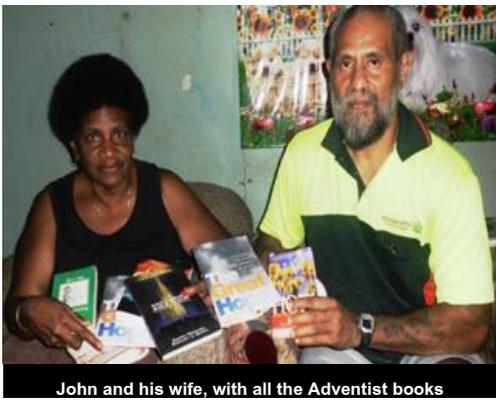
The Sisters: Salanieta & Kinisimere

Youths took a bold stand after a 3 week evangelism meeting in Tagitagi Settlement, Sigatoka on September 03. They were a total of fifteen (15) youths that were all new converts, majority of them come from a Pentecost Christian background. Among the fifteen youths who got baptised two were sisters who got the hiding and growling from their parents. They were banned from attending the meeting so they ran away from home and stayed at the



Pr. Inia Tui with the baptism candidates

place where the evangelism meeting was held. At the end of the meeting, they also stood at the water bank to be baptised. God's Spirit is surely working and moving in this time of age. "My father and mother may abandon me, but the LORD will take care of me. Psalm 27:10" **Inia Tuinakelo**



John and his wife, with all the Adventist books

The Great Hope

John is an engineer and he is always out at sea travelling to many countries of the world. He does not believe in going to church from the time they got married. The wife was the only one taking the children every Sunday and she always pray with the children that God will touch his heart and give his life to the Lord. A couple of months ago the wife notice changes in his life when he starts reading the Bible. This happened when John read a book called 'The Great Hope' and learned about the changed of the Sabbath to Sunday so John searched the Bible for prove if the book is telling the truth.

As soon as he learned about the truth he told his wife that he is going to keep the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. John told his wife that the wife always wants me to go to church, and now I have found the truth and I want you to know and follow the truth also." John is prepared to be baptised but is praying that when he comes he will be baptised with his wife. We praise God that now John has come to attend church once with his wife and the church elder Savenaca (student LE) is conducting Bible studies in their home with two other interests.

Great Story Books impacts Children's Life

"My eldest son Sisa was 2 months old when I was visited by two men selling books. The set of Great Stories for Kids (Volume 1-5) caught my attention and so I decided to buy it. These set of books were kept at home and sometimes I used it for morning devotion in the schools where I am teaching. The moral of the stories were easily understood by the students. I made sure I read the story to them in a interesting way that captivated their attention; these were high school students. When Sisa started attending Primary School, he was always given a book to browse and even practice reading. He is now in class 8 and his younger sister Eleni is in Class 6. They are now using these books to help them academically. They read a chapter each and had to retell the story in English before writing a summary essay on it. Apart from that they are able to pick out the moral of the story which I believe is helping in their character building. Eleni is always admired by the teachers in school for being different. Along the way she has been able to practice the few things that she has learnt. When she was in Class 4, I had, one day, forgotten to give her lunch money, so I called her teacher to ask if she could lend her two dollars which I would repay her through her son who was in my Form 3 Basic Science Class. On the very next day, her son came and told me that his mother was impressed with what my daughter Eleni did. She wrote a note to her teacher, thanking her for the two dollars she gave and pray that God would bless her and her family. Her class teacher was touched by this simple thank you note. These Great Stories books have made an impact on the lives of my children, and I praise God for the lives of his faithful servants who are out there spreading the gospel through the sale of these books."

Talei Mavi



Mrs. Talei Mavi with Great Stories and LE Jope Penaia

Moose Stories Author visit

The head teacher introduced Mr Shaun Hepworth by saying, "Children this is a lifetime experience. In life we read a lot of books but we have not met the authors. We have purchased these set of books "The Moose Stories" for our school and before you read them, I would like to introduce to you all, Mr Shaun Hepworth who comes all the way from Australia and he will share with us his testimony of writing these stories. After Shaun's testimony he read "The Boy and the Giant" with the kids responding with the rhyming words towards the end of each page. The moral of the story with the rhyming words was appreciated by the head master because it captivated the children interests. He also supports the challenge given by Shaun encouraging children on the importance of reading which will assist them to excel in their studies. We praise God for Shaun's visit and the literature ministry that will influence children not only to read but also to know that our loving God and Saviour have great plans for them and their future.



Shaun among the kids

Tennis for a Better Health

"Tennis for a better health" was the theme of the tennis tournament that was organized at Victoria Parade tennis court, Suva on the August 28, to promote healthy living among tennis players. This was sponsored by the Trans Pacific Union using Hope Channel to promote one of its strategic goals that is comprehensive health ministry. There were about 30 participants from different professional background gathered together to support the initiative, to enjoy the fun, and watched the different tennis skills displayed on the court. These professionals include medical doctors, lawyers, managers, business owners, directors, and tennis coaches. As part of the promotion, all of them were given free Hope Channel T-shirts and a cap. Free health check-ups by Dr. Alipate Vakamocea and healthy breakfast and lunch were also provided. Most of them commended positively and are now aware of what types of programs that are shown in Hope Channel. A follow up tournament will be held early next year. This is one way of promoting Hope Channel and our health message," said Dr Ronald Stone, TPUM Ministerial Director. **Ronald Stone**



Tennis Players with Dr Ronald Stone

Jesus our Only Hope

Jesus our only hope was the theme of a two (2) week evangelism meeting by the school chaplain Pr 'Unaloto Moala. Mizpah Adventist High School is located in the outer island Vava'u of Tonga. Beginning of this year we started with 82 students and 8 teachers. 70% of the students are from non-Adventist families and Mizpah is a great place for evangelism. After the evangelism meeting, on August 28, eight (8) students accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour through the water of baptisms as we promote Adventist Education with our guest speaker Mrs Piula Fukofuka, the Tonga mission education director. **Mere Latu**



8 students were baptised

Baptism at American Samoa

On August 27, forty seven (47) souls were baptized at the culmination of a two week evangelistic meeting at American Samoa Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The meeting drew members of the church along with their invited friends from its various branches at its lakina temple in Iliili, as they have been deposited with the Word of God under

the theme of "KNOW THE EXACT TIME IT IS NOW". Members and those who were able to hear the Word was informed of how to detect and stay alert of the critical times that the

world it is based on the Prophecies in the Bible. The Evangelistic were conducted by Pastor Uili Solofa, American Samoa district director. **Kome Masoe**



47 baptism candidates

Pr. Uili Solofa performs baptism

Man with a Mission

Michael Turner, a student of Suvavou Adventist High School was on a mission on the streets. Every Friday, the Suva city is a busy place with people shopping, eating at the restaurants and market vendors selling their products and all the Adventist schools close by 1pm to allow the students and staff to prepare for the Lords Sabbath while this young man was on a mission giving out glow tracks and sharing the word of God. **Inoke Rura**



Michael Turner gives out GLOW Tracts

TPUM needs your stories. Please send 2-4 paragraphs and at least 2 photographs to pnavosailagi@adventist.org.fj or MaveniKaufononga@adventist.org.fj

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