



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 Issue 08, August 2017

Prayer – “How” or “Who”?

Many years ago, I invited a Prayer Ministries leader from another country to come and take a series of workshops on prayer at our church camp meeting in Australia. This lady was very vibrant in Jesus. Prayer was her passion. Back in her home country she was actively involved with youth in prayer.

Hungering and thirsting myself for a more deep and meaningful experience in prayer and facing some tough personal challenges; I was expecting to learn some new prayer strategies, methods and formulas on how to pray. God was real to me but my prayer life seemed to be missing something!

To my surprise and initial offense all this lady could talk about was Jesus and what He had and was doing in her life in answer to prayer! Gradually I realised that prayer is not so much the “how to” but the “Who” in your life! Faith in Jesus!

“Prayer is opening of the heart to God as to a friend”, “Prayer puts man in touch with God.” Our prayer life can get stuck if the object of our prayer becomes greater than the Who. God said to Abraham “I am your very great reward”. Genesis 15:1.

I have been challenged at times to write out my prayers and evaluate them. Am I seeking objects, things, worldly outcomes more than I am seeking Him, His character and His glory? Today, through prayer, the Holy Spirit power is still available to us individually, to our families and corporately to become mighty and effective witness unto Jesus! What are we praying for?

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...” Ephesians 3:20

Anne Norman

Prayer Coordinator TPU

China Update

Across China are thousands upon thousands of lepers who, though no longer contagious, remain shut out by society. They live in isolated government-owned villages enduring pain and permanent disfigurement. Most of all, they feel lonely. A few months ago, I was able to spend a few days at a leprosarium in China and was touched by the peace and joy exuded by those lepers who had Jesus in their hearts. Their lives had been changed by the handful of Seventh-day Adventist volunteers that lived there and served them. Just a few weeks ago, a group of theology students spent a week living in and caring for these lepers. It was the first time for nearly all in the group to mingle with lepers and to witness firsthand others who committed their lives to this type of service. Reaction papers written by the students clearly showed that serving and watching those who serve the “lowest of the low” brought about serious soul-searching. Fu Mei Li's (name changed) paper underscored the reality that serving others not only touches the heart of the receiver, but changes the heart of the giver. No wonder we, Christ followers, have been admonished to care for those in need.

Florentino's family joined the Adventist Family

Florentino's family has finally freed in Christ as they begin their new journey with Christ in the Adventist church.

Florentino Saligao and his family lived in Oreta village on East Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Florentino, who is the grandson of the paramount chief, and a member of another denomination, was unhappy about the presence of the church clinic and planted a tobacco garden beside the clinic as a sign of his protest. He also planted coconut trees to limit the clinic from any further expansion. In 2016, Florentino and his family were accused of using witchcraft to cause the death of a number of people in the nearby villages. Witnesses claimed that he and his family had bewitched the people who had died.

Despite the family's denials, the villagers called a meeting and demanded compensation for the death of the people. One of Florentino's relatives from an Adventist village visited him and his family afterwards and invited them to consider joining the Adventist church so that their lives would be changed and their family reputation be restored for the future. Oreta clinic nurse conducted bible study with Florentino's family. This followed up with an evangelistic program happened in July where 32 souls including the Florentino's family followed Christ into the baptism waters.

"We praise God for His faithfulness seen throughout the two weeks and even before during the planning stages," said Dr Silent Tovosia, TPUM Health Director.



Post Winston Rebuild

Few months after cyclone Winston destruction, Peni Tavodi Seventh-day Adventist Church members celebrate the opening of their brand new church building.

Peni Tavodi was the first Fijian Adventist Missionary to Papua New Guinea, and he came from this village. While he sleeps in his grave in Bisiatabu. His people honour his life of service and total commitment with the opening of the Peni Tavodi Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Navolau, Ra on July 25.

The opening service was conducted by Pr Luke Narabe, President accompanied by the Pr Joe Talemaitoga, General Secretary & Pr Fifita Vatulesi, Associate General Secretary of the Fiji Mission.



Volunteers at Service

A group of volunteer from Tasmania, Australia visit Mizpah Adventist High School, Vava'u in Tonga on July 11 - 22.

Last year they repair science laboratory roof, geography room, library, principal's office and painted all classroom inside. This year they water blasted exterior of buildings repaired and rust treated steel reo bars, removed old built in cupboards infested with white ants, removed white ant eaten windows and in the process of putting new windows, painting teachers' desks cupboards and 11 laptops given to the school. Apart from just helping the school, they also had time to renovate a pastor house with new roof. The District and the school especially are truly blessed with the sacrifice this volunteered group have given to Mizpah.



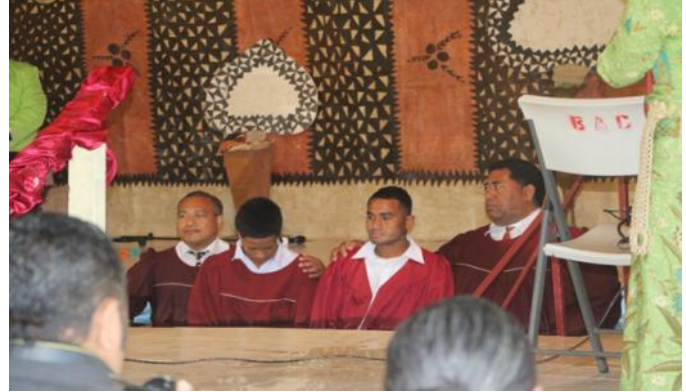
A Call to Faithfulness

Our call to duty is a call to faithfulness. That is, to just simply do what you have been called to do.

This year has been marked as the year of the Pastors in the TPUM to drive and implement the steps of the farming cycle of discipleship (from preparation to multiplication). That is why every Pastor in our region was expected to participate regardless of their Pastoral profession or expertise. Although we believe that we have been gifted differently for the edification of God's church, everyone has the ability to speak and to share God's Word in their own style and creativity. For this reason, we at the TPUM office including the President Pr. Maveni Kaufononga decided to take the lead and choose a particular church whereby we can be involved and implement the steps of the farming cycle.

To do this in a bigger scale, Tonga mission invited all the Tongan SDA Church ministers who are serving in overseas countries (USA, Australia, NZ, and Fiji), to return to their home church and conduct a public evangelistic meeting from the 16th – 30th of July. I had the privileged with the president of returning home to preach in this harvesting initiative. On the last Sabbath (30th of July) which has been identified as the "Day of Pentecost" in the TPUM calendar, history was created as Tonga Mission for the first time baptised 225 souls in 28 different sites. In fact, this is a milestone that cannot be achieved without God's divine intervention. As one of the speakers, I could testify to the power of the Spirit of God working in the hearts of the people and behind the scenes to bring about this glorious experience.

Yes, the Word from Jesus is still true today, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." This is our call to duty and we only need to respond and be faithful to it. **Ronald Stone**



37th years of Independence

On 30 July, Vanuatu citizens celebrate the country's 37th years of Independence. The theme for the year's celebration was "Strengthening the National security, accessibility to education, focus on local employment and creation of a health insurance plan . The theme reflected on the challenges and issues encountered by the people of Vanuatu. Students and staff of Epauto Senior Adventist High School sang the National Anthem with the Vanuatu Mobile Force Brass Band at the Medal Presentation at the Head Of State residence.



The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) popularity rises in Fiji.

The Complete health improvement program is a lifestyle intervention program and has been scientifically proven to reduce the risk of developing lifestyle-related diseases like Obesity, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. More than 70,000 individuals all over the world have benefited from CHIP by reducing their blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and their cholesterol and triglycerides with marked improvement in their overall health.

The CHIP program was first introduced in Fiji a few years ago and has been reintroduced in 2017. Thirteen people successfully completed the first program which ran over six weeks and ended in June. "The results are so impressive", says Dr Alipate Vakamocea, Fiji Mission health director.

The second program is already half-way through its duration and thirty six participants are already benefiting from the positive life-style changes. "CHIP is not a weight loss program but by following the new lifestyle, you inevitably lose weight and I am so impressed after trying so hard to lose those extra kilos", says a participant after just after a four weeks on the program.

The next CHIP program in Fiji will be conducted in Nadi in October.



Discipling Kids Convention

About 122 participants including couples & singles attended the 3 days Discipleship Kids Convention from the 09 - 13 August at the Fiji Mission Conference Centre to learn how to disciple their children.

The theme "Together we gather" was the main focus of the three day program where sessions included practical demonstrations of different methods of praying, the "Discovery Bible Reading" method, which can be done with children in the home, an agape feast and testimonies.



The Discipling Kids Convention ended in a high note as couples and singles re-commit their vows in the Christian nurturing of their children and spouses during the Dinner function at the Ming Doo Restaurant, Suva.

Mothers in TMI

Total Member Involvement is displaying the love of Jesus in what you normally do in your day-to-day living.

A group of mothers in Captain Cook Streets, Port Vila normally do "20 Vatu" cooking various local food and sell to bus drivers and office workers for lunch.

They surprised everyone by offering free lunch to everyone who came to their table. They packed 56 lunch boxes with drinks and gave to people including children.



TMI is doing what you normally do with Jesus and His love in it

An old lady Surrendered to Jesus

A 91 year old Indian lady, Mrs Sukh Raji, raises her hand up for Jesus. She was overwhelmed with tears of Joy, as she made her way into the waters of baptism at the Rakiraki Seventh-day Adventist Church (Hindi Speaking) Church. She was among the 5 new souls who followed Jesus into the waters of Baptism.



First Baptism in Navakavu

It's the first baptism ever to be witnessed by the district of Navakavu which comprises of the villages of Muaivuso, Waiqanake, Naivakacau, namakala and Nabaka.

Three weeks evangelistic meeting conducted by Pr Nasoni Lutunaliwa, TPUM Family Ministry Director, resulted in 12 souls publicly declared their commitment to the Lord Jesus through the waters of baptism.

It's a joy to see lives surrendered to Christ. We praise the Lord for the life of Beoni Naidike, got emotional; gazing through the lagoon with the choir singing all to Jesus I surrender. He made a courageous decision to follow Jesus. He left behind friends and relatives in the Pentecost congregation and to step forward to follow Jesus and keep the Sabbath. **Nasoni Lutunaliwa**



Northern Asia Pacific Division Tour

Representatives of the northern asia pacific division of the seventh-day Adventist church has donated \$30,000 during a recent visit to the South Pacific Division. The visitors from Korea, China, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mongolia spent their time visiting Adventist landmarks in New South Wales before travelling to Fiji. The TPUM and Fiji Mission staffs had a combine vespers and dinner to welcome the Northern Asian Pacific Division representatives at the Fiji Mission Conference Centre, Suvavou. Dr Jairyong Lee, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific

Division (NSD) with his Team was overwhelmed with the welcome presentation the Fiji Mission & the TPUM put up together.



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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