



A vibrant **living** **Adventist** *our Hope* **movement** *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 09 | September, 2017

A disciple is a follower

When my eldest son Harry was around 10 years old, I asked him what he wanted to do in the future. I want to be like you, he replied. Now he is 19 and is studying accounting at the university as part of his character development, and hopefully he will decide to become a Pastor later.

Three years ago, I asked the same question to my youngest son, Stephen David. Again, his response was, I want to be like you. You mean to be a pastor. I want to be a rugby player first then become a doctor. But I am not a medical doctor. He said, I want to be a doctor like you. Whether that is what he will do in the future or not, one thing is clear that when a child is still young and does not have much exposure to the outside world, he would follow what he sees and experience every day. When they are exposed to more things in life and are influenced by it they have more options and they would most probably go for those options as what Harry is doing now.

Although the word discipleship is not found in the Bible, the concept is imbedded in it. From a historical perspective, the word disciple was first used in reference to the 12 disciples in the NT. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt 4:19). The idea of following was detrimental to being a disciple. Jesus wanted them to see and experience Him every day to establish and strengthen their faith before they are sent out to the world.

The more they spent time together, the more they behold Him, the more they listen to His voice, the more they feel his love and compassion, and the more likely they would become disciples for real.

What you see, feel, touch, and experience every day could become the most influential factor in your life.

Dr Ronald Stone, TPUM Ministerial Association Secretary

China News

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.



Discipleship through Circumcision

Circumcision is a very popular and exciting custom in the island of Tanna in Vanuatu, where all villagers come together to dress up in colorful traditional costume and painting faces, dancing custom dances.

Elder John Nakat had asked his elder brother who is attending the Presbyterian Church to let his youngest son, Sam join Elder Nakat's youngest son Gideon to be circumcised together. As common in their culture, all freshly circumcised boys have to be hidden in a camp for a week or two in order for their sore to heal. During this hide out period, Elder

John Nakat took the privilege of sharing God's Word to the other little children who were visiting the camp. When the two boys were in their hide out, it attracted all the other children in the village. So Elder Nakat's wife would make them lunch every day and invite them to stay for dinner. Every afternoon before dinner, Elder Nakat would take their evening devotions and tell them about Bible stories using picture rolls. The village kids were so interested that they stayed in the camp for the whole week.

When the time came for Sam and Gideon to leave the camp and be dedicated in the church on Sabbath, Elder Nakat invited all the village children to come to church on Sabbath for dedication services for Sam and Gideon.

To our surprise, the children came with their parents on Sabbath together with the chief of the village. After lunch, the chief gave out his speech thanking the church for being a light to Lamnatu village and also helping to teach children about the importance of going to church. **Joshua Esau**

Adventist Education Week

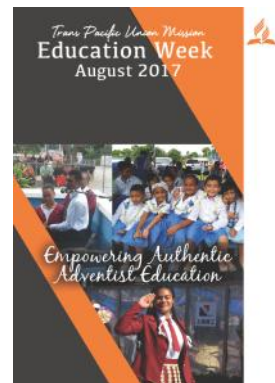


"Empowering Authentic Adventist Education" was the theme for this year's Adventist Education week of emphasis. There was a special reading compiled for all our schools in the union as they promote Adventist Education to their church members and community.

Beulah staff and students were able to visit 14 churches on 20th August, having teachers and students allocated to various churches to promote

Adventist Education. Staff and students conducted the whole day Sabbath program by preaching, singing, lesson discussion, drama. Student's parent were also invited as well and it was a special Sabbath of great fellowship but most of all promoting our Adventist Education to our church members and parents.

Special offering were collected for the school in order to assist with the school needs and we thank the church members for their sacrifice they collected \$11,000. Staff and students are grateful for the great support shown by the church members and parents toward Adventist Education in Tonga. **Mele Vaihola**



Presbyterian lady found the Sabbath Truth

One morning, before I start my walk and sell literature books, I prayed for God's leading while I was walking I met a Presbyterian lady named Magreth. She invited me to her home and said "I know God sent you to me because I have a problem in my home". I started canvassing and in my basket I have some magazine with me, "The Lost Day In History" was one of my magazine I gave to her before leaving. The following week, I met her husband and he thanked me for visiting his wife. He said after returning from the garden his wife told him all that happened. While he was sharing his experience, his wife walked in with their kids and started to contribute on our discussions and said they did not attend church on that Sunday.

They both have read the free literature and found the truth about Sabbath. After reading, they are convinced that they are on the wrong path. They both invite my husband and I to visit them on Tuesday afternoon and we all had the opportunity to share from God's word. After worship that evening they said our visit to them is not the last but we are most welcome to continue and visit them. Please pray for the Ministry in West Coast Santo, Vanuatu. **Susan Nasak**



Church Plant in Lotofaga

Lotofaga, a village situated on the south coast of Upolu Samoa recently opened its new church plant. A groundbreaking ceremony was conducted by Pr. Kenneth Fuliese, Samoa Mission President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This marks the place where the new temporary church shelter be built.



Lau Pepese is the head elder of Fusi Safata local church and served as a mayor for Lotofaga village for two years, because of his faithfulness and hard work in the village, the village was very supportive of his request for his faith and church to be established in their village.

It was said that when Lau Pepese presented his request to the village council, one of the village high chief commented to endorse the request and said, "The Seventh - day Adventist church is far better than the church I attend, this is because they are everywhere, Samoa and abroad! They help others before they help themselves..." This speaks volume to the life and witness of Lau Pepese and his family in their village.

According to Pr. Sione, the director of Church Planting for STM, and Mission Secretary, the new church plant will officially open for worship in the month of October. **Kenneth Fuliese**

Fiji Pathfinder Fair Day



This year's Pathfinder Fair was a special one because the Western, Central & Northern Fair all happened simultaneously on September 17.

Parents, Supporters and friends turned up in numbers to support their pathfinder clubs.

There were 57 Pathfinder clubs from all over the western region congregated for the annual western pathfinder fair day. They marched out onto dry ground and had to brave

temperatures more than of 25 degrees. It was great to witness the different clubs showcasing what they have been learning for the past few months. Events for the pathfinder fair day included Marching Drill, Coconut Relay, Speed First Aid, Public Speaking, Rope Relay, Blindmen's Drill & Log Bridge. The clubs performed exceptionally well, with all managing to score in the A and B grades respectively. I would like to thank all the Judges, Facilitators, District Pastors, Parents, Supporters and all the clubs for your dedication to keep the spirit of Pathfinding alive, said Pr Fifita Vatusesi, Fiji Mission Youth Director.

Pete Navosailagi

Triple Blessings



On August 7 during lunch I rushed home to check my wife and son. A brother saw me near the Special Need's Office in Nambatu and ask for 1000 vatu. I only had 3000 vatu with me. I realized his need was genuine and so, I gave it any way. I then walked to the bus stop trying to catch a bus. I stopped four buses that came my way but they all were not going to my destination. Then finally I stopped the fifth bus, I asked reluctantly, "Epauto?" The bus driver noted in agreement, so, I hopped in.

As I took my seat a woman said, "Hi pastor, how are you?" I said, "Fine" then she said, "Pastor, I'll pay for your fare and here is your 3,000 vatu." I was speechless, because few minutes ago I had just given 1000 vatu away.

As the bus was moving I was still reflecting upon what had happened I said to myself, "Men! God has been real to me this very moment, for, here I am sitting in the bus and God gave me three times what I have given away." I have just experienced triple blessing. **Kaio Timothy**

New Church plant in Kiribati

In Kiribati, the Kauma Church in conjunction with the Taribo Church planted a new local church at Kariatebike, on a piece of land belonging to Loran Boata. This new church has been opened and church members are worshipping there every Sabbath.



There was a verbal agreement with the landowner to build the church on that land so the mission will be asked to formalize the agreement with the landowner so that the land is secured properly. Some of the ex-Kauma students, working at the Abemama Island Council, who need encouragement, have been invited to attend church services each Sabbath. Some of the Kauma students have just completed a one week voice of youth program at Kariatebike. The school chaplain, Kareba is now doing the follow up Bible study with those interested in the message. Kareba reported that he is now studying with a couple interested in our Adventist message. The first baptism conducted this year in supporting our harvesting program on 29 July saw 13 students baptised.

Nu'u Church Plant

The story of Nu'u church plant, on the island of Upolu Samoa, is a story of mission and sacrifices all for God's great purpose. I vividly remember the resolution by Pr. Junior Gaia and the Falelauniu church plant after seen their new church plant grew to full capacity. This growth comes as a result of small groups' bible study, prayer walk, and community service projects.

Pr. Gary Webster's city evangelism also helped with the reaping of the seeds they sowed last year. The Day of Pentecost provided them with the opportunity to multiply their harvest; a program ran by the pastor and the disciple of Falelauniu. As the new church grew, they resolved, to plant another church rather than building a mega church. A church member who wants nothing in return saw the need and gave his land to build the church.

On Sabbath, September 24, saw the fulfillment of this vision by Pr. Junior and the Falelauniu Church plant. The Nu'u new church plant is officially open for worship, with a new church shelter with 8 families to worship and disciple there. **Kenneth Fuliese**

Waves Across the Pacific Conference

Fulton, a University College, in collaboration with the Journal of Pacific Adventist History was thrilled to host the second "Waves Across the Pacific" Conference on September 7 - 10.

The conference brought together men and women sharing stories and experiences of the past that helped trace the roots of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Pacific and its growth and development to the present time.

Former Youth Director for Fiji Mission and Central Pacific Union Mission, Pr. Keperieli Duana was the guest speaker of the conference.

The papers presented have one thing in common; despite the challenges and difficulties experienced by the expatriate and national pioneers, they were faithful to God's mission no matter what the circumstances. We thank our pioneers for paving the way for us today as we continue the mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church across the Pacific. **Mele Vaihola**



Each One, Reach One

Prior to the commencement of the Revelation of Hope Seminar, young people were encouraged to reach out to a friend in the hope of winning them to Christ during the seminar. The majority of church members in Fiji are made up of young people. And majority who got baptised on September 2 were young people.

During the two weeks Revelation of Hope Seminar by Evangelist Taj Pacleb, young people have been taking the lead in organizing, coordinating, singing, praying. The church in Fiji is grateful for their involvement with such an army of youth. The church is in God's hands.

It was through God that the Revelation of Hope Seminar resulted in 186 souls being won for Jesus Christ.



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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