



CONCH SHELL

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BENEFIT OF MARGIN

Margin is the space between your load and your limit. Your load should never be heavier than your limit. But the truth is, most of us are far more overloaded than we can handle; we have no margin for error in our lives.

Dr. Richard Swenson explains, "Marginless is not having time to finish the book you're reading on stress. Margin is having the time to read it twice. Marginless is our culture. Margin is counterculture, having some space in your life and schedule. Marginless is the disease of our decade and margin is the cure."

Here are THREE immediate benefits you'll receive by building margin into your life:

- 1. Better health.** Unrelenting stress harms our bodies. We all know that, yet we let it continue day after day after day. Many times the only time we get margin in our lives is when the heart attack almost happens (or does happen) or the blood pressure skyrockets. Why do we wait until our health plummets before we make this decision? Why not realize that we need to build some margin into our lives now? The truth is, your body needs downtime in order to heal.
- 2. Stronger relationships.** Lack of margin is one big reason for the collapse of families today. When we don't make relationships a priority and make time for each other, our relationships suffer. The truth is relationships take time, and margin provides that time to sit and talk, to listen and enjoy one another, and to provide the comfort we each need.
- 3. Usefulness in ministry.** When you're overloaded by activity, you can only think of yourself. You're in survival mode, just trying to make it through another day. But being available to God for his use makes all the difference in this world. When you have no margin in your life and God taps you on the shoulder, saying, "I'd like you to do this for Me," your first response isn't joy. Your first response is, "Oh, no! Another thing to do! Sorry, God, I'd like to do that, but I'm just too busy."

We end up resenting the great opportunities God brings into our lives. But when you have margin, you're available for God to use. You don't have to live on overload. You don't have to live in survival mode. Begin this year to build a buffer around your schedule, then enjoy the benefits of margin and see what God does next!

**"One handful of peaceful repose is better than two fistfuls of worried work..."
(Ecclesiastes 4:6 MSG)**

SHELNA RHODA'S FAITHFULNESS

Shelna did her secondary school in one of the senior boarding secondary schools, known as the Vonunu Senior Secondary school. This school is owned and operated under the United Church denomination of the Solomon Islands. It is situated at the hill top of the eastern coast of Vella Lavella overlooking the beautiful ocean.

When she commenced her year 7, she prayed to attend a seventh-day boarding institution. In her continuation to year 8 and 9, a strong determination kept coming long for one day to study at an SDA secondary school. This was her yearning desire for all these years. Not only that, but she wanted to be baptized into the Seventh-day Faith.



While attending this school, worship on Sabbath was only conducted in classrooms with the help of Adventist teachers who worked under the jurisdiction of the United Church Education Authority. She longed to attend SDA boarding school so that worship is properly conducted with a spirit filled atmosphere. Sometimes, she would not bother to attend worships and stayed in the dormitory during Sabbaths. She prayed many times and in 2020 when doing her grade 9, she put this as her daily request prayer point.

Normally, students selected their best four schools as required by the Ministry of Education in order of their priority list. What school to be the top of the list is the discretion of Shelna. From her shopping list of schools, her first priority was Kukudu Adventist College. However, the principal of the school later learnt that Rhoda first's choice was an SDA school, he objected her but persuade her to put her current school as her first choice. She argued against the decision for this objection from the leader of the school. After much conversing, she decided to listen to the principal's order. This is because Shelna was an exceptionally bright achiever.

The day came for her to sit her Solomon Islands Form 3 Certificate (SIF3) (equivalent to year 9) external examination in the first week of November. With anticipation for the final results and placement to come in January 2021, she persistently went in to much prayers and faithful in her walk with the Lord. The result came not as a surprised to her, but an answer to her many prayers.

The final result mandated by Ministry of Education revealed that Shelna was ranked second in the year 10 list of Kukudu Adventist College, instead of Vonunu Secondary school. It was a joyous moment for Rhoda when she learnt and saw her name was placed to Kukudu Adventist College.



On the Sabbath of 20th February, Shelna testified the goodness of God and His faithfulness towards her life. She was so thankful that she was the only one from her previous school that was placed to Kukudu Adventist College. With a grateful heart, she was one of the 34 souls that gave her life to Jesus and went through the water of baptism on this Sabbath. To God be the glory! Great things He has done to faithful Rhoda. Shelna mum is an SDA. Her Father is a United Church member.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

Funafuti SDA Primary school in Tuvalu were honoured to welcome the prime minister Honourable Kausea Natao's first visit to the school on the 12th February, 2021.

He acknowledged the hard work of teachers in educating our future leaders and encouraged students to study hard-our land is very small literally. But if one is well educated-your piece of land is determined by your education and it will not be restricted to Tuvalu only. The government will try its best to assist the school in any way possible so that the school can best deliver quality education.

According to the principal Kima Pedro, "all staff are paid by government and on-going financial support from the government. Yet, we are thankful that we are able to still run the school as an Adventist school.



Increase of enrolment for this year 316 and 12 staff, parents see the value and outcome from this school, 88% of our students comes from non-Adventist families, what a great opportunity for revealing Jesus in our school."

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

It is no secret that COVID-19 has impacted the world greatly. For students of Iakina Adventist Academy, restrictions due to COVID-19 halted classroom instructions, and made it difficult for teachers and students to communicate, let alone continue with instructions. Immediate intervention called for hybrid learning to go into effect. Students were trained to utilize web services such as Google Classroom for assignment submissions and discussions, and Zoom for daily lectures. To support this newly adapted learning flair, Iakina Academy was greatly blessed with CARES Act funding for its students and teachers. Here are some improvements to enhance the safety of students through this funding included the following:

1. Paid training sessions for parents and teachers: Because hybrid learning will require much of the parent's involvement, IAA hosted several paid training sessions for parents to learn more about ways in which they may help their children at home. Parents were compensated as an incentive of this program.
2. School supplies: At the beginning of this school year most parents were laid off work due to the impact of COVID-19. School supplies were usually provided by parents, but as for this school year, IAA was able to provide all the basic necessities a child may need within the classroom. Each registered child received a package of materials funded by the school.



Iakina Adventist Academy is truly fortunate this year to be supported by the Government of American Samoa. COVID-19 funds have enabled students of IAA to learn comfortably and freely in our COVID-free island. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the American Samoa Government for reaching out and for helping us provide for our students in the best way possible. As David claims in the Book of Psalm 69:30, "I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving." **Thank you Lord for your provision, thank you Lord for Your protection.**

MOVING FORWARD WITH GOD

On the 15th - 19th of February, God's anointed, Talatala Melisa Vakaloloma the school chaplain during the 5-days of prayer clearly defined the real meaning of 'Moving forward with God.' Mrs William one of the teacher states "by the final day the whole school students and staff have reached the consensus and conviction that our One purpose in life, as we live daily, where ever God may send us, is 'to move forward with God'.



On the 5th day a feast of manna for the Suva Adventist College was spread out specifically for the school by the Heavenly hosts. The main courses delivered by the school chaplain as part of the week of prayer program, the Fiji Mission General Secretary Dr Ronald Stone whom arrived as the special guest - with 'moving forward Jesus's style, empowered through the function of our knees kneeling in prayer, and from associate Pr Amini Kotobalavu with the reminder that 'we have crowd of witnesses around us, so we must run forward, with endurance, looking always to Jesus, the author and finisher of our race.'

The feast was prepared specifically to celebrate the calling and the induction of 24 student leaders/prefects and thanksgiving to God for His blessing received through the outstanding performance of the students in the external examination 2020. From the Suva Adventist College family, it is their hope and prayer that you will all join with them in this movement: "Moving forward with God."

1. 10th March - Directors meeting
2. 15th March - TPUM Executive Committee
3. 21st - 26 March - TPUM Professional Development
4. 24th - 25th March - SPD Education Meetings
5. 28th March - Fulton Adventist University College Board

UP-COMING EVENTS

PRAYER FOCUS

"Watch and pray so that you will NOT fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
Mathew 26:41

1. Navesau in Fiji – Privatized
2. Vatuvonu in Fiji—court case
2. Kauma in Kiribati—financially challenged
4. Non Adventist teachers and students
5. School leaders



FINALLY

"We can't wait for the storm to blow over. We have to learn how to work in the rain." --- Author unknown

We would love to hear from you, your stories and challenges could be a means of blessings and encouragement to others. So, please share!

For your stories please forward it to:

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or

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