



CONCH SHELL

16 EDITION | MAY

EVEN IN CRISIS, GOD LEADS

Welcome to you all. So grateful to be given the opportunity to contribute to this month Newsletter Editorial and to highlight few Education News from Solomon Islands. You see, as I continue to read Adventist News updates online and other news platforms I am truly amazed seeing God's leading and His manifestation of power working through our Adventist Institutions in the midst of COVID-19 fear that is overwhelming us. It just makes me wonder how this new terror would play out in the long run, but we are profoundly grateful to God that in such times as these we are still able to operate our schools and continue to grow strong. Many wonderful and captivating stories of resilience are happening in our educational institutions that continue to drive us in fulfilling our vision and mission.

I understand, in reference to scripture and end time events, our work on earth in these last days will be going through difficult and trying times because the enemy will continue to bombard and contest every effort to break our spirit. But I am appealing to teachers and parents that we must press more faithfully than ever. In these days of crisis, true education of our children must be diligently sought for it is of vital importance. In the statement of Ellen G. White,

“Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children. The Church should arouse and manifest a deep interest in this work; for now as never before, Satan and his hosts are determined to enlist our children under the black banner that leads to ruin and death.” (Counsel to Teachers p. 165)

So there is a vital responsibility that parents and teachers shoulder together in these end times, more especially in times of crisis. In Solomon Islands, new Adventist schools were opened and some more will be opened later this year. What makes it more interesting is that some were opening in Non-Adventist locality on requests from enthusiastic non-Adventist folks. We praise God for what is happening here and around our region in spite of crisis. Our triumph and success depend upon the Almighty God.

**“Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge, by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that are perish.” 2
Corinthian 2:14, 15.**

Thank God for raising Adventist Education and we are His workmanship. May God continue to lead Adventist Education and help us keep our vision ever so clear during this time of crisis; remembering that we “Educate for now and eternity.”

I wish you God's blessing in the months ahead.

Regards

Plimmer Viva
Solomon Education Director



A CHEERFUL GIVER

On the 30th of April, the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) for Beulah College, Tonga, organised a fundraising night as part of their allocated support (of \$10,000 towards the school). The program for the night was called 'FOAKI FIEFIA' in English 'CHEERFUL GIVING'. According to the head tutor of the school Siaso Masila, "this is the first time ever the school has organised such fundraising with free willing offering and songs of praise." Normally, PTA fundraising was done through parents 'bring n buy' of food items or some sort of concert such as the involvement of the school brass band in order to try and raise the annually \$10,000 PTA contribution to the school budget.

The PTA committee with much fasting and prayers decided this year to do what the Bible counsels in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, the tenet of cheerful giving. To God be the glory within less than an hour after the school chaplain Pr Akuila shared a powerful message and a special music from the school choir. The school collected through giving of offering a total of \$95,167.45TOP. The program was broadcasted live on Hope Channel Tonga and a few handful of Alumni in overseas donated online also an offering of \$30,000TOP. The chairperson for the PTA Mrs Ilaise Taumoua presented \$82628.35 to the school principal Mr Lemani Matui and \$12,539.10 remained with the PTA hence other projects for the school.



The Education Director Mr Fatongia Hopoate states, "the success of the program indicates how much the church members, parents and Alumni value and support Adventist Education."

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible."
BARACK OBAMA



A spelling bee competition was held on the 1st of May as part of the school's social program, at Tenakoga Adventist College in the Solomon Islands. 16 students participated in two categories juniors and seniors. Students did extremely well but the overall winner spelt all his words correctly! namely David Monty a Year 7 student who did his primary in Nela Adventist Primary School won the competition. Ms Chareen Simbe a teacher of the school proudly exclaimed, "In his primary days he would read 500 books and this year 20 books from our school library". The competition obviously challenges the rest of the school to read more and the program too is an eye opener for our students hence the importance of reading, says Ms Simbe. The English department is planning another spelling bee competition for the new semester.

CHAPLAINS VIRTUAL DAY OUT

CHAPLAINS DAY OUT
26.05.2021
Professional DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
LIVE VIA ZOOM

TOPICS:
9:00 am - 'Called & Commissioned for Content & Contact'
>Pr Murray Hunter
10:00 am ->Sharon Kele "An Investigation into the effectiveness of Chaplaincy Services in Secondary Schools in the Solomon Islands."
>Dr Leeroy Elisha - Responding to Trauma
11:00 am - 'Covid can KILL: Keeping Calm & Keeping Conscious'
>Pr Murray Hunter
12:00 am - 'Developing FAITH in schools'
>Pr Linray Tutuo
2:00 pm - 'Teaching best practice from the Master teacher'
>Mele Vaihola
3:00 pm - 'From Success to Significance'
>Pr Murray Hunter

Murray Hunter Mere Vaihola Linray Tutuo Sharon Kele Leeroy Elisha

More than 100 school chaplains, counsellors, principals and Bible teachers joined the first professional Development workshop day out for chaplains on the 26th May via live zoom. The main guest speaker for this special program was AUC's Ministerial Association Secretary for Education and Media Murray Hunter.

Joseph Pitakia, the TPUM Associate Education Director states "this is the first time to bring and connect school chaplains together using this new platform. It is totally new for our participants from the Solomon Island but we have to accept that this is the way forward during this pandemic. We had our remote schools connected from their various schools and it was just amazing how technology could reach far and near. " One of the participants states "it was a great day out for us chaplains and we were inspired by the presenters." The TPUM education department is planning on another chaplains day out in September.

John C Maxwell

"Leadership is not about titles, position or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another. People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision."

In 2015 a new Adventist Primary School in Temotu Province in the Eastern Solomon Island was established, with only 6 teachers and 81 students. In 2017 the school held a Book Week and from the 24th-28th May 2020 the school held its second book week. According to the principal Mrs Nester Rex "We planned to hold such event annually, having seen its impact on our children." Activities involve speeches from the school principal, chairman of the school board and the Provincial government (Education Rep). The school chose the theme for this year's Book week: God In Literacy." Students activities for the day involved: children read on stage, children display the story books they have created, children display their writing through stories , poems and rhymes, Children put on special items and visiting of students stall.

GOD IN LITERACY



After the activities , guests, parents, guardians , students and visiting friends had their lunch together at the school. Every one enjoyed the days programme and activities .The programme was closed with prayer. The main goals of the even were to build team work between teachers and students and to create stronger bonds between children and parents but ultimately geared to motivate the children to love reading.



Luke 24:45

HE OPEN THEIR MINDS SO THEY COULD UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES



The school administration of Betikama Adventist College in the Solomon Islands organised an afternoon of professional development on the 25th of May and invited Ben Thomas the SPD Director for Mission Development as the speaker of this program. One of the main goals of this PD was to encourage and support their teachers during this time of crisis. Samatha Valetina one of the teachers states, "it was a timely and interesting presentation. Its about time we take that next step in our schools, so that Adventist education preparing students for heaven can continue come what may." Betikama administration did not limit the PD to their staff only, but also invited other schools to join in this PD . The principal Partinson states "this is the first PD session via zoom and opened up a new chapter and approach to teaching and learning for staff and students of BAC."

IAA WELCOME NEW PRESIDENT

At the end of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission Quinquennial Session from November 18th to 20th, 2020, Pastor Kenneth Fuliese was called to serve as the new Mission President for the American Samoa Mission. COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible for the new appointee to travel to the eastern Samoan island, but immediately began lending his help through zoom meetings, video conferences and so much more. However, in the Lord's favor, President Pastor Fuliese and family were allowed to travel to American Samoa on April 27th, 2021.



Port restrictions due to the pandemic made it impossible for church members of the AS Mission to welcome the President at the airport as customary. Therefore, the ministerial staff of pastors under the leadership of District Director Pastor Uili Solofa, the American Samoa Adventist Media staff, along with a few teachers and 25 students of Iakina Adventist Academy lined up the driveway from the airport to the main road with posters and banners to welcome our new president. After 5 months following the appointment, American Samoa at last prepared to welcome its first President under the new mission. Students cheerfully waved with posters that stated, "Welcome Pastor Fuliese and Family", and "Finally, we meet!" Pastor Fuliese and family waved from the shuttles as they were transported to their quarantine site for three days. On May 9th, 2021, Pastor Fuliese along with first lady Linda and children officially met with the American Samoa Mission, and today, we all work together for the glory of the Lord. The faculty, staff, and administration of Iakina Adventist Academy looks forward to what God has in store for us as we have transitioned from a district to a mission, under the leadership of Pastor Fuliese and family. Despite of COVID restrictions, limitations and cutbacks, Pastor Fuliese has reiterated to all that God has called us to GO, and it is now our turn to pick up ourselves, prepare for the work, and GO for the Lord! (Jessebeth Ropeti)

ISAIAH 45:2

"I WILL GO BEFORE YOU, AND MAKE THE ROUGH PLACES SMOOTH."

A TRIP TO THE NORTHERN ISLANDS OF VANUATU

I Jeffesen Trief the mission education director was fortunate to be part of a team of four traveling to Banks on the 30th of April, for a week, to run the first district meeting at Motor-lava Island. A hidden paradise with friendly and kind people. The island located among the group of islands called Banks and Torres group.

The community still kept the respect that was lost in most of the Vanuatu communities. The whole village community, Anglican, Assembly of God and Adventist, all continue to contribute in cleaning the compound twice each week. That includes male and female, young and old. Secondly stealing is not common in this community. I had a pleasant surprise to leave the four supported windows open 24 hours at the Bungalow where I stayed and nothing went missing. Thirdly, we came to realise that all loud noises subsided at 9pm to respect the privacy of everyone who wishes to have a quiet evening. I wish it could happen in other communities in our Seventh Day Adventist communities.



I had the privilege to fly on the wings of hope on Tuesday to Gaua with Dr Mark who has contributed enormously to the medical needs in the province. I visited Matafunga Adventist junior Secondary school supported by Dr Mark, Mrs Naumi and their friends. The community at Motorlava are looking forward to register a French primary school and junior secondary school under the Seventh Day Adventist Education Authority. Let us continue to pray for the challenges and request for their children trained in Adventist education system. (Jeffesen Trief)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Fiji and Kiribati schools on lockdown
- Vatuvenu awaiting court case decision and the work the school chaplain is doing in the school
- Navesau and Kauma financial challenges
- Fulton Adventist University College for a safe campus during the pandemic
- Chaplains and the spiritual work that they are doing in our schools
- Vanuatu awaits MOA with Ministry of Education
- Schools Mid-Year Examination Preparations and Examinations

FINALLY

TITUS 2:7

"And you yourselves must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching."

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

For your stories please forward it to:

Mere Vaihola
Education Director

or

Joseph Pitakia
Associate Education Director