



CONCH SHELL

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WHAT'S IN MY BASKET?

Advocating social responsibility in an Adventist Education system must be a glowing ember within our hearts. In this pandemic era, the ideology of vaccination brought people into tumult, confusion, and fear. As Adventist educators, be at the plateau in observance to the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of our people. From where we are, zero down to their comfort zone and make a check list of their innermost needs. Get a closer look and use the eye of our heart to see where we can offer to give something that we do have.

What's in my basket that I must share to the people? It is mandatory by the scripture to induce unselfish act of sharing. There are items in our basket that we could bless others with. But what exactly is inside his basket? In reference to John 6:1-15 is an amazing miracle ever narrated. The content of the little lad's basket were five barley loaves and two small fishes. Does he must share his minimal content among so many? This is incredible and does not fall in line with the concept of proportion in mathematics, a direct proportion which describes that if one quantity (x) increases, another quantity (y) increases and vice versa. The logic is more fish and breads are needed to feed 5000 men.

A classical example of stewardship of giving. He gave ALL his best to Jesus despite limited resources he had. The Hymn 572, "give off your best to the master" echoes God had first loved us, and we ought to love him in return by giving the best that we have.

The lad had no negotiation or to compromise the request from the Lord whether to keep one fish and one bread while Jesus take the rest. Ellen White (1940, p. 292) advices youth that "when we are willing to put away our selfish desires, and give the powers of heart and mind to the work of the cause of God, heavenly agencies will cooperate with us, making us a blessing to humanity." Little is much when things are get hold on Jesus hands.

As we all advocate for authentic Adventist Christian education, let love leads the way. Our greatest motivation to love God is that He loved us first, "and given Himself for us" (Eph. 5:2), even before we existed. Make it as a personal commitment that I must love MY God with all MY heart, with all MY soul, and with all MY strength. We got to share that kind of love that God had already loved us first. Give your time, talent, resources, and treasures that God had already blesses you with to bless others.

What is in our heart that we would want to share today? Bring it to Jesus what is inside of us. Sometimes I wonder that my commitment, dedication, heart of worship, and integrity rendered to God are inadequate. Too often many would feel the negatives of their life; anger, distrust, frustration and impatient make them too far from salvation. Jesus responded to Andrew is our hope, "Bring them here to me" (Matt 14:18). We have hope in Jesus. He will turn our lives upside down to the one He rightly deserved.

Teachers, you may have inadequate subject content and pedagogical knowledge being exposed that bogged you down as you quest for being an effective teacher every now and then. When you are faced with an impossible situation, Jesus says, "Bring them here to me." He knows your limitations and He is willing to give you what you need to deal with any situation. Surrender your need and trust him to see you through.

Blessings

Andriane Kele

Associate Education Director for Western Solomon Province

Reference:

White, E. (1940). Counsel on stewardship. Washington DC, USA: Review and Herald.



EARTHQUAKE STRIKE GATEKAE ISLAND

on Friday, 15th of October 2021 at 2:00pm a 6.6 magnitude struck Gatokae Island in the Western Province, Solomon Island. Thus impacted particularly on of our school Bekabeka Adventist Community High School (BACHS). Bekabeka is a boarding school that consist of more girls (141) than boys (108) with a total of 249 students at present. The current teaching establishment post is 18 teaching faculty members: 8 marrieds and 10 singles. Generally, the building infrastructures, especially staff houses are very old and not to standard. The houses have wooden posts decayed based with further aggravate the current situation. There are 6 staff houses that were built few years ago that withstand the exacerbate shook of the earthquake.

It is preparation day, which is Friday and the busiest day for the school to man the weekend activities such as motu, cooking and cleaning up on campus. Every school program run as usual on that day when the unexpected thing happened. The 6.6 magnitude earthquake shook the earth such that its epicenter is 47 kilometers from Gatokae Island. It was felt that the earthquake shook for at least 30 - 40 seconds. The effect was quite devastating on the school vicinity with due respect to the school buildings.

There were 23 out of 28 houses have been damaged. The effect of the quake left 9 houses to be tilted, swayed and uninhabitable. These houses were uninhabited due to tilted posts and detached noggings, braces, and bearers from each other. Only two buildings; Principal's house and school canteen were completely fell down to the ground.



The school canteen on the left and the principal's house on the right that fell down



Houses that has tilted posts



Temporary families residing in the school hall

THE AFTERSHOCK

The feeling like during and after the earthquake is something that the school may still recalled. Many students were panicked, shocked and at a state of fear. The following were currently experienced by many.

1) Panicked (shocked) among staff members, immediate family members and students. In particular, the principal, Mrs. Encie Dionie who was directly victimized just escaped her fallen house. According to the principal, there was also a female student who looked after a canteen on that Friday had fallen unconsciously onto the floor when the canteen fell to the ground. She was rescued at the very instant.



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- 2) Some families expressed their fear after seeing their houses tilted and sway as they entered.
- 3) Student lack of concentration in classes due to being traumatized
- 4) Absenteeism among students due to being panicked and fear.
- 5) Staff members evicted from their homes to live in temporary shelter.
- 6) Teachers were affected in their lesson preparations and attending classes. Worrying about their family's safety.
- 7) Staff that were victimized started to put brace to their tilted and swayed houses. A lot of work needs to be done at this time and onward.

Having the aftermath of the earthquake being felt, heard and seen in such a time like this, the school administration is requesting permission from the SIM as the controlling Education Authority to close the school in 15th November prior to the official closing date in December 10th December 2021. The urgent needs that the school considers closing on this date is such that the teachers and support staff could do some maintenance work. Activities such as fixing houses, bracing, renovation, and building news ones with the help of experience builders/carpenters from surrounding communities or islands are considered effective. The school administration resort to this decision so that the school is well prepared before the commencement of the academic term in 2022. Otherwise, if the school is not addressing the currents needs will have a repercussion to start school late next year. At this juncture, consider the feelings of the students as well with fear, panicked, shocked and traumatized. Further the teaching staff are uneasy working between classes and worrying about the safety of their families. This early closure does not mean that the teachers are to have early holidays to their respective homes. When all students are to vacate the campus and return to their respective homes, teachers will remain on campus. It is a time for staff members to work collaboratively with whatever resources that is available to put the tilted houses into safety again. This is a time where the surrounding communities are to lend their support.

The Western Sub-Region Education department would like to thank the SIM for the many prayers, and especially continuous support from the head office in one way or the other. To God be the glory that no major fatal accidents that could cost lives of staff and students happened. Only houses that are tilted and swayed needs to be addressed and take immediate actions. Overall, the classroom buildings are solid and can be used for the upcoming national examinations. Please, remember Bekabeka Adventist Community School in your prayers. - **Andriane Kele**

"The Lord will FIGHT for you; you only need to be STILL."
EXODUS 11:11

SCHOOL WORK EDUCATION PROGRAM A SUCCESS



The school has integrated Community Service into its weekly and termly timetables. All the eight classes has one community service period each in a week. We staff also has one afternoon in a week set aside for community service. The whole school has 2 community services planned in a term (one in the beginning and another one towards the end of the term). We usually use the activities from our Bible curriculum for our reaching out activities. The activities varied from home visitations to the sick, the elderly, disabled, new born babies, to prison and hospital to cleaning campaigns around the community.

According to the Principal Mr Pedro, "over the years I have come to know our community needs better through this program. Our school invest in such program because we are not only reaching out to the needy-but it is also a great practical learning experience for all of us staff and students-being the hands and feet of Jesus around our community." The School Motto and Purpose Statement sums it all up perfectly. "Educate to Serve" "Inspiring hope and wholeness of life in our community" - **Kima Pedro**

SCHOOL CELEBRATE CREATION SABBATH WEEK

On the 30th of October, Betikama Adventist College in the Solomon Island concluded Creation Week with the baptism of 8 students. This is the final baptism for the year. So far this year 73 students have been baptized. We are very happy that we have reached 70 as a target per year for this quinquennium. We believe that by the end of the quinquennium, Betikama would have contributed at least 350. We praise God for what is happening at Betikama in terms of preparing souls for the Kingdo- **Vince David**



FIJI SCHOOLS REOPENING

The school has reopened for Years 12 and 13 on November 1st for all schools in Fiji, including Navesau Adventist College. According to the new principal Josua Qalobula, "It took us one and a half weeks to prepare the school for reopening. The Ministry of Education sent a Reopening of Schools Guideline and the ministry of Health sent a Checklist that schools must adhere to before approval for reopening.

The Ministry of Education has given the approval for Navesau to open and the Education Director Mrs Sukanabulisau thank the principal and his team for the preparation to enable to get this approval A total of 33 students has resume back to school and the school on the 4th of November, hosted a welcome dinner for the students sponsored by the staff. - **Josua Qalobula**



ISLAND MINISTRY INITIATIVE

ISLAND MINISTRY is one of the special Ministry initiatives Kopia Adventist Community School Church in Solomon Island "I will Go Impact East Tasimauri" strategy. Each year at least one or two mission trips to the Islands. Currently the School have established relationships with Marauia Island Communities with the help of our man of peace, Pr. Joel Keniroa and Pr. Obed. Both are SSEC pastors.

This year on the 17-19 of September two Ministerial league groups (Blue A and Blue B) were given the positive response to spend the weekend on the Island. The trip involves few evangelistic focused activities that students were involved in:



Students participating in public preaching and home visitation

1. **Two nights of public preaching** in which the school chaplain shared two studies with the communities from Revelation 4-6, based on a familiar theme "Christ for Crisis." The students engaged in assisting and singing
2. **Home visitations:** Since there was no SDA congregation on the Island. A short group worship together during early part of the Sabbath (9am-10am). The school spent the rest of the Sabbath doing home Visitations and meeting people in the communities and visited 20 homes before returning to the camp for closing Sabbath and preparation for final night's message. People's responses was just heart moving. Some old people have even highlighted that since the school last visit that was in 2019, no one payed them such visits until now. The school shared encouragement from God's word, sang songs, prayed with and for them and shared gifts with them.
3. **Friendship evangelism:** to be able to build relationships and internationally sharing the truth is also an important aspect of this trip.
4. **Community service:** the students did some cleaning up around the primary school compound.
5. **Sunday Service:** the school also had the opportunity to do some sharing during their Sunday Service held at Antioch Community hall, where members from Antioch and Jerusalemi SSEC Local Churches held a combined service.
6. **Promotion.** The trip is part of promoting Kopia High school and Adventist Education.

The outcome of this Island Ministry, one lady visited said, "This is History, I have never had such visit my whole life. Thank you for visiting me and for sharing words of encouragement from God's word with me and my mother in-law. Also, Pastor Obed (South Sea Evangelical) highlighted that the Bible has truly spoken for itself during each night's messages. He urged his congregation, it's about time we study God's Word and allow the Bible to speak for itself.

the school praise God for the successful missionary endeavour and for traveling mercies. They have all arrived safely back to school. The school are working on follow up plans, please remember them in your prayers as most of these Bible study interests are influential people in their respective communities. According to the school chaplain Jason "I personally believe that God is surely with us in all these. He will never fail us in ensuring the seeds planted will eventually bear fruit." - **Jason**

**YEAR 12 &
13 APPLY
NOW!
DON'T MISS
OUT**

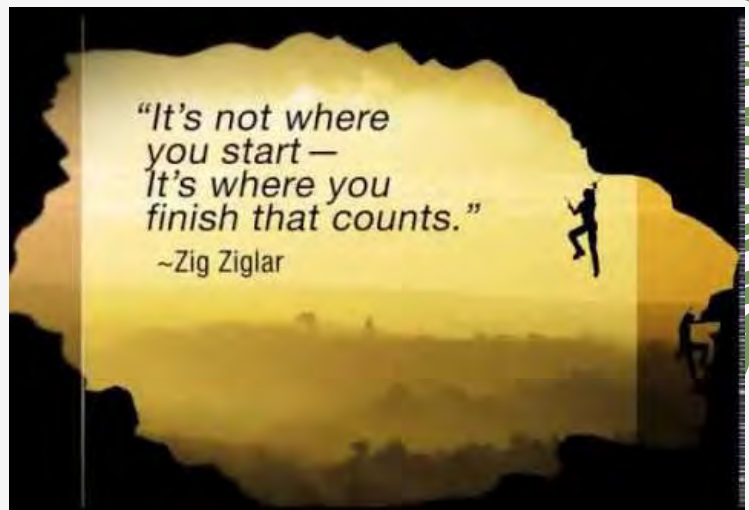


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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Navesau and Vatuvonu Challenges
- Tenakonga Adventist High School Rebuilding
- Bekabeka Adventist Community School Aftershock earthquake
- Kauma Adventist High School with challenges
- Fulton Adventist University College Graduation
- Schools examinations
- Plans for the rest of the year
- School staffing 2022

FINALLY



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