



The Conch Shell



From the Editor

When I first came to the Division to work as the Associate Director Education, I can't remember too many natural disasters affecting our schools throughout the Pacific. However, in the last couple of years there seems to have been a considerable increase in this area. At Easter time in 2008 there was a huge earthquake and tsunami in the Western Solomons, late last year there was the earthquake and tsunami in Samoa, and now this year there have been 4 cyclones affecting the Cooks, Fiji, Tonga and North Queensland. It highlights a number of issues for our schools.

First we need to use it as an opportunity to show our students that the Bible indicates that these things are signs of Jesus' soon coming. Second we need to make sure we are ready for such disasters. Our pupils should have regular drills on what to do and where to go if a fire, or earthquake or flood or cyclone should impact the school. Being prepared will save lives and help to reduce the panic that can often result. Practices should be held at school each term at least.

If ever I hear of any of our schools being affected I send out a request to our schools here in Australia and New Zealand to assist. I would have to say that the response so far has been disappointing but I hope that it will improve as time goes on.

So as you run your schools and classrooms, please keep your students safe at all times.

God bless each of you.

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Very Sad News

It is always sad when we have to say good bye to a loved one, especially when we will not see them again this side of heaven.

A couple of weeks ago Semisi the son of Ehasi Mekaele the Principal of Mizpah Adventist High School on Va'Vau in Tonga was playing with friends in the lagoon. One of his friends dived into the water and collided with Semisi striking him on the side of his head and down the side of his body. Later that evening Semisi became unwell and began to develop paralysis down one side of his body. He was flown eventually to Auckland New Zealand for medical help.

The Doctors there found that he had an aggressive brain cancer and there was nothing they could do. Semisi passed away earlier this week.

To Ehasi, all we can say is that this news makes us all very sad, and we hang on to the promises of God that clearly state that He is coming back again and He has the power to raise the dead and they along with us will be caught up together to meet Jesus in the clouds. I just wish it will happen very soon.

Please remember to keep Ehasi in your prayers and his family too.

Cyclone Pat



Earlier last month Cyclone Pat bore down on the Cook Islands and caused quite a bit of damage to our school on Aitutaki. Here are a few photos.

These classrooms were well constructed and fortunately no children were at school when Pat struck. Currently it is the cyclone season and this year there seem to be many of them being generated throughout the Pacific.

A New School for Vanuatu



The proud parents and supporters

I am always happy when I hear of village communities taking it upon themselves to establish a school in their area. Toa village just outside of Port Vila in Vanuatu is one such school in progress. The villagers have decided to build this school themselves and not wait for some other group to supply their needs. Congratulations Toa and we look forward to more photos of the school opening.



Pandanus leaves being readied for the roof.



The building commences construction



You can't build a school without gut pela kai kai.

Matafanga SDA School on Gaua

Joses Seth the Education Director of Vanuatu Mission writes the following:



Thanks to the Laymens I ran a workshop with the Ministries – USA for assisting teachers focusing on the core with our education work in the value of Christian education. I Torba Province under the leadership of Dr Mark and his wife. I had the opportunity to meet with parents of which a large number are non-Adventist. One father made a statement to the effect that we are lucky to have an Adventist school and wish it was here before.

should also make mention that the teacher upgrading program is proving positive as one looks at the performance of these teachers. Pray for our education work in the Torba Province – lots of stories as a direct result of parents sending their children to our school.

Thank you for an excellent report Joses. I must say that it is so good to see the students all in school uniform. What a smart difference it makes.

Talking about uniforms I visited the Lae Adventist School a couple of weeks ago while visiting PNG for Education Directors meetings. Here is a school with over 800 pupils and even the teachers wear the uniform as well. The whole school looks really smart and the students were so well behaved. This school is truly a star in the crown of Adventist Education.



Lae Adventist Primary School – all 800 plus of them.

Education Directors' Meetings PNGUM

As I was saying, I spent a great 4 days with the 12 Directors of Education for the PNGUM. Since joining the unified system of PNG they are now to be called Education Secretaries – but some names take a long time to get used to.

PNGUM is facing some interesting problems, from having to tell an MP that the school he has just built can't be run by Adventists, to a group of teachers who are teaching over 80 students in their class. One of the teachers has 250 in their class! I think each of you can imagine what that would be like.

To any teacher who is working with a class of over 80, may I say how proud I am that you have not run away but have stayed true to your duty. I know at times you must get discouraged and find the work hard and lonely, but the One who is going to give us our crowns of righteousness is also watching and He knows what is happening and sees it all. It will be worth it to hear Him say

*"Well done thou good and faithful servant,
enter in to the joy of the Lord."*

Vanuatu Teachers Upgrade



Many of our schools are only operating because we are using untrained teachers to perform the duties of a teacher. These people are to me the most valuable of our team. Without their input into our system, there would be many schools not running and many children not hearing or experiencing the love of Jesus. We are currently running upgrade programs in both Vanuatu and the Solomons. Mr Peter Roberts and his wife Glenda along with a group of other teachers are helping them. And so we salute these Graduates of 2008, the many other students who are working hard to finish assignments, Peter and Glenda and their team and the TPUM and ADRA who are assisting with the financing of this long term project.

Max Miller's Materials

We are going to reprint Max Miller's material, well, most of it anyway. While we are able to get most of the booklets to copy for printing, we are short of some booklets. If you have a good copy of the following booklets, could we borrow them please so that we can reprint them?

Primary Science	Year 2	
Primary Science	Year 3	
Primary Science	Year 4	
Primary Science	Year 5	
SPD Mathematics Teachers' Guide	Years 5 + 6	
SPD Maths Activities	Year 1	Book 1
SPD Maths Activities	Year 1	Book 2
SPD Maths Activities	Year 1	Book 3
SPD Maths Activities	Year 2	Book 1
SPD Maths Activities	Year 2	Book 2
SPD Maths Activities	Year 2	Book 3
SPD Mental Maths	Year 3	
SPD Mental Maths	Year 4	
Written English Exercises	Year 2	Book 2

Please send your books to:

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Nearly Going to New Zealand

Some of you will have heard that I was called to New Zealand as their Director of Education for the NZPUC. This happened in September last year. I had also said yes and confirmed the call. The strange thing was that in spite of much prayer I had no peace about it at all. And especially when I thought of the teachers in the Pacific and PNG and the needs that still abound, there were times when I felt sick and the thought that kept going through my head was "Ken what have you done?" The more I prayed about the decision the more uncomfortable I became. So I rescinded the call after talking it over with the President here at SPD and with Pr Jerry Matthews in NZPUC. I must say that I feel very much at peace now and I am looking forward to working with you all for a while yet. I need to be voted back in to office in September this year for the next quinquennium, but I leave that in God's hands as well.

The first term is almost over and will be for some of you by the time you receive this newsletter. I do trust that you are keeping well and that school is running well also. Stay the course, be an example to your pupils and community, and thank you again for all the work you put into educating your students for now and eternity.

God bless each of you.

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Adventist Reader	Year 1	Book 1
Adventist Reader	Year 1	Book 2
Adventist Reader	Year 1	Book 3
Adventist Reader	Year 2	Book 1
Adventist Reader	Year 2	Book 2
Adventist Reader	Year 2	Book 4
Adventist Reader	Year 3	Book 2
Adventist Reader	Year 3	Book 3
Adventist Reader	Year 3	Book 4
Adventist Reader	Year 5	Book 2
Adventist Reader	Year 5	Book 3
Adventist Reader	Year 5	Book 4
Adventist Reader	Year 6	Book 1
Maths by Ken Weslake	Grade 1	
My Spelling Book	Year 2	
My Spelling Book	Year 4	
Oral English	Year 3	
Oral English	Year 4	
Oral English	Year 5	
Oral English	Year 6	
Primary Science	Year 1	