



# CONCH SHELL

25 EDITION | FEBRUARY

## LEST WE FORGET

Talofa lava and greetings to you all from American Samoa! Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good, and yes, He is always good.

This moment of chaos and uncertainties most of us have never dreamed of, and it is revealing itself in every corner of the world. American Samoa is no longer a COVID-19 free zone. The recorded reckoning of cases increased daily. People panic, especially those who are yet to get their first shot of the vaccine. American Samoa is now CODE RED and on lockdown. All Government Departments are closed except for essential services, schools are now online learning, shops and businesses are operated on limited timeframe. We are somehow refrained from gatherings as usual like; church, weddings, funerals to list a few. I tell you it's not normal as we used to if we look back 10 or 15 years ago. Work is done from home, social distancing is a must, and if worse comes to worse isolation is surely followed. Life is not the same as life goes on. Yet, in moments of crisis like the present, we may find ourselves wondering, "Why is God allowing all this?" It may appear to some that God is simply absent.

However, God has promised that whatever our hard times are, it is not part of his plan, nor He is intended to harm his people. His plan is to give us hope. And He has promised to listen to us when we talk to Him in prayer. He has also promised that whenever we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promises."

Count it all joy, brethren, when you meet trials of various kinds. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Covid19 and whatever is approaching will remain and continue to strike us, but God had shewed us all things and had promised to be with us in our times of trials, that He will uphold us with His right hand, Isaiah 41:10.

Friends we have nothing to worry about. God has revealed what is going to come. It is time to strengthen our relationship with God in prayer. He alone is the answer to all things and the safety of men. We should thankfully praise God, for the restored opportunity, to unite our families in an intimate relationship with Him while we still can.

Lest we forget, things will continue to happen both good and bad. Diseases will increase, wars and natural disasters will continue but we must live a prayerful life, make plans for the next 5 years and be vigilant, If Jesus comes tomorrow. Are we ready?

Kind regards

**Fu'a Iese**  
Principal for Iakina Adventist Academy



Adventist  
Education

## LET US WORK UNTIL HE COMES

Patupaele High School in the Western part of Solomon was built by the Adventist parents and communities when the government took an action to phase out the national grade six examination and allow all students to access form one in the high school sector.

The school was officially opened in May 2020 with an intake of 35 form one student; 5 paid government paid teachers and 3 ancillary support staff who volunteered.

To sustain the 3 ancillary workers, the principal gave them 1 bag rice each with soap as their rations for the first 2 months while trying to find ways to pay their salaries. For the principal this was unethical, and he was very uncomfortable about it. And the workers could notice his struggle, and would they reminded him with this words: "School blong mi tufala yia. No wari" - meaning this is our school, do not worry."

Today, they all are paid, and their commitment is still the same. Their motto is let us work until He comes. With such commitment and sacrifices, they were able to build 3 new staff houses during the holiday break last year-2021. - **Alson Vavozo (Principal)**



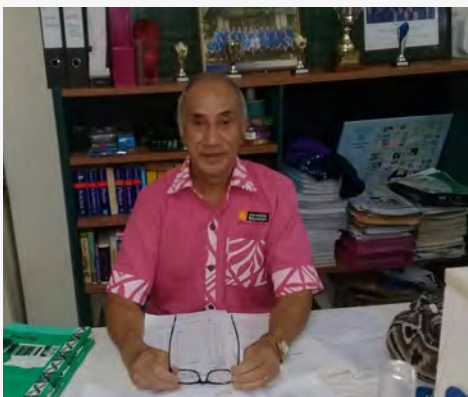
*Mr. Gara Matekalo (right), Iaovin Piakera (centre) and Max Rerese (Left). During the break they built 3 new staff houses. One special thing about them is that they are children of retired missionaries.*



*One of the 3 new staff houses*

## LIBRARY MAKEOVER

On Monday the 28th February, Samoa Adventist College in Apia school Library was officially re-opened for students and teachers to use. This reopening took place after weeks of hard work by Mr Afereti Atoa and his assistant Temukisa Iosefo. Special appreciation goes to Mrs Alakalaine Tusa and her family for taking time to help set up our library to what it is now. Mrs Alakalaine Tusa is an ex-student of the school, but now works as the Chief Librarian for our main Public Library in town. She took one whole week off work to come and assist Mr Atoa in rearranging and setting up our library. She even brought her family to help. We thank God for people like her and we thank Mr Atoa for his part in facilitating this new look for our library.- **Tepora Fuimaono (Principal)**



*Hard working Mr Afereti Atoa*



*Students smiling and very proud of their school library*

*Leadership is an*

**ACHIEVEMENT OF TRUST**

PETER F. DRUCKER



## ISLAND NATION SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITION

On the 18th February, Iakina Adventist Academy in American Samoa participated in the Science fair Island wide competition. Ten students from High School and five from the elementary. The following are the places for IAA in the Science fair Island wide competition they have had.

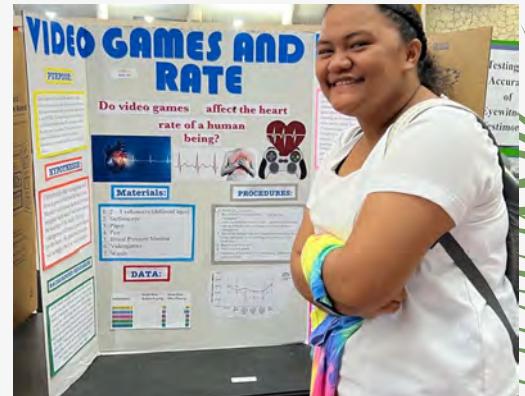
Grade 8 - 1st place - (Topic: Eno vs Elka Seltzer tested on three different oils)

Grade 7 - 2nd place (Can growing plants reduce soil erosion?)

Grade 5 - 3rd place (Topic: Which of the following local filters can turn lemon tea soda to purified water?)



*Tavillacollin Puni 1st Place overall Engineering Category*



*Harmony Leo 2nd place Behavioural Science Category*

Grade 12 - 1st place - (Topic: Will placing a roundabout at the Nuuuli airport road intersection help ease the traffic during the busy hours?)

Grade 11 - 2nd place (Topic: Do video games affect the heart rate of a person in a bad way?)

Grade 11- 3rd place (Topic: Are Gallus Gallus domesticus able to identify people and manifest feelings of prior improper reception?)

Six were successful and received awards in the conditions as indicated. The credit goes to God for all He has done but IAA remains committed to testifying for Him wherever possible. **-Fu'a lese (Principal)**

## ADVENTIST SCHOOLS IN HIGH DEMAND

In Tuvalu the SDA primary school had to stop registration because of the limited space and resources. The school roll is now maintained at 300 for the second time. As a result, the school ran out of chairs. A request for assistance was then sent to the Ministry of Education. However, a non-Adventist parent discovered about the school's need and acted without hesitation. According to Mr Pedro "We praised God for acting in miraculous ways that we could not imagined. The need however was met, and no student has to sit on the floor. The school is truly thankful to have such willing and supportive parents. Praise the Lord!"

This year has been a different one in terms of enrolment for Samoa Adventist School in Samoa. The enrolment now is 793 students but parents are still coming despite the 'no vacancy' signs posted on the office doors. The principal Mrs Tepora Fuimaono states "We have to turn away students because of the availability of spaces in the different classes and it is hard when you see the disappointment on the parents faces. This is our record enrolment for many years and we praise God for His blessings. Most parents have testified about the difference our school is making in the lives of their children and they spread the word. The majority of students are non-Adventists and we have more opportunities to witness to them about our faith."



**"WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE, EXCEPT AS WE SHALL FORGET THE WAY THE LORD HAS LEAD US AND HIS TEACHING IN OUR PAST HISTORY." - EGW**



Maranatha Adventist Junior Secondary School in Vanuatu enrollment is over 100 students. Handy man had to cut some wood to make extra beds for the students.

## AUSTRALIA CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS



*Unloading container at the Maranatha Hall by volunteers*

The schools, children, parents and churches are indebted to the continuous support coming from families, individuals and retirees - including non-Adventist supporters.

A good number of our schools both primary and high schools have benefited from this support that has been going on for many years. All supports went to improve quality in the schools.

The education department of the Solomon Islands Mission continues to acknowledge all the supports and sacrifices. Thank you all for valuing our children and invest in our Adventist Education.

We acknowledged the leadership of Dr. Alex Currie, Pr. Eaton Ray, Brett Partridge, Anthony Chaffey, Allan Pike, Barry Lumby and Dr. Ken Long and many others whom we cannot name them all, but they are dearly remembered by so many school children whom their lives and education has been positively affected. - **Joseph Pitakia**

## 8 PILLARS OF TRUST



## FINALLY



1. **Clarity.** Clarity starts with honesty. People trust the clear and distrust the vague. Communicate clearly and frequently.
2. **Compassion.** Think beyond yourself. There are four key ways we show we care: listen, show appreciation, be engaged, and serve others.
3. **Character.** Have high morals and be consistent in your thoughts, words, and actions. Always ask, "Am I doing the right thing?"
4. **Competency.** Humility is the first step in learning. Create a regular plan for staying competent and capable.
5. **Commitment.** Great leadership demands sacrifice. The people who stick with you when things are tough are the ones you can really trust.
6. **Connection.** Trust is about relationships. In every interaction we increase or decrease trust. Be genuine, be grateful and avoid gossip.
7. **Contribution.** You must deliver results to be trusted. Give attention, resources, time, opportunity, and help.
8. **Consistency.** Probably the most important pillar of all as it gives meaning to all of the other pillars. You will never get one big chance to be trusted in your life; you will get thousands of small ones. Just one inconsistency can change people's perspective. - **David Horgager**

**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:*

**Mere Vaihola**  
Education Director

or

**Joseph Pitakia**  
Associate Education Director