



# CONCH SHELL

28 EDITION | MAY

## HEALTH AND ADVENTIST EDUCATION

In most recent years, I have noticed an occurrence that has become more and more common in our churches and schools. Health problems have in a major way impacted our education system. This has led to little factors that have contributed to the overall function and reputation of our beloved education system being tainted to some degree. Are we upholding the standards of Adventists education? Are we living by what we teach health wise? are we fostering a balanced growth in our students? These are some of the questions that we should ask ourselves.

As we prepare to celebrate 150 years of Adventist education, we need to reflect back and critically analyze where we are now in terms of upholding and maintaining the values and fulfilling the purpose of Adventist education. One of the defining characteristics of Adventist education is the commitment to excellence which promotes whole-person development. This holistic development is constructed when strong linkages are forged between knowledge and practice, supported by positive attitudes and beliefs. Here we find the three pillars of focus in Adventist education; the physical, the mental and the spiritual or moral development of an individual.

Health has been the right arm of the gospel in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and continues to bring about change in the lives of so many today. In promoting health in our schools, we need to be reminded that it is not only physical health, but also the mental health and most importantly the spiritual health of our students.

The objective of Adventist health education is to deliver knowledge in a manner that also shapes the student's attitudes regarding adopting good health habits and practicing a healthy lifestyle. This objective builds on the words of Ellen White: **"In teaching health principles, keep before the mind the great object of reform—that its purpose is to secure the highest development of body and mind and soul."**

As Adventist educators in these difficult times in the world's history, we are hereby challenged to imitate the Master teacher to our students by practicing what we teach as role models in order to foster a holistic development of the mind, body and soul.

Blessings,

**Trevor Baelua**  
Head of Secondary - Samoa Adventist College



## A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT FOR BEULAH COLLEGE



On May 26th the Prime Minister of Tonga applauded Beulah College's initiative. The Prime Minister, Honourable Hu'akavameiliku, officiated in the launching of the school's new Network Infrastructure and Technology Teaching and Learning Resources program.

Hon Hu'akavameiliku praised the school and its management for the milestone achievement.

As Minister of Education and Training, Hon Hu'akavameiliku applauded the thinking and the work put into ensuring the plan materialized for the benefit of students who study at the Tonga Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church managed school.

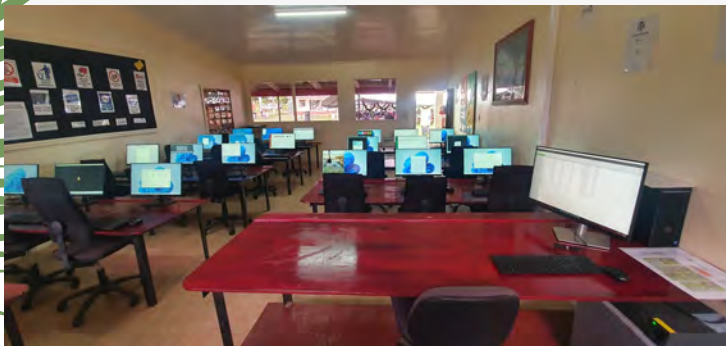
"Government's vision for education in Tonga is to offer the best education and learning to our children," Hon Hu'akavameiliku said.

"This academic year has a lot of challenges and the only thing we can do is change our presentation of education and invest in our teachers so that they have the technical knowledge to be able to assist our children.

*Honourable Hu'akavameiliku*

"We invest in our children's future as the new way of education for us and I applaud Beulah College for taking the lead in this important field." Hon Hu'akavameiliku congratulated the President and Members of the Old Scholars Association, Parents and Teachers and all those who contribute to this important milestone.

The net network infrastructure of the Local Area Network (LAN) consists of a Unifi Router that manages all wired and wireless network devices. The new TVET and Learning Resources adds new teaching and learning resources to the Home Economics and Industrial Arts classrooms. The project cost Tongan Pa'anga (TOP) \$200,000.



*One of the computer labs with the new computers*



*Resources for the Home Economic Room*



*Resources for the new Industrial Art Room*



*Pr Fanueli Mataele President of Tonga Mission, Dr. Elisapeta Manson Education Consultant, Hon Hu'akavameiliku Su'ava Beulah Alumni President*

## I WILL GO TO MY SCHOOL FAMILY

With the theme "I Will Go to My Family", the Samoa Adventist School carried out their family visitation program on the 27th of May as the original planned date of the 8th of April did not eventuate due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions which was experienced in the country then. The staff set out with a target of reaching 200 families of non-Adventist students currently studying in the school. About 46% of the total student population of 811 are non-Adventists making the task challenging as different means of covering the families were looked at.



The staff was finally allocated into groups of 3 and with 10 groups in total, were allocated different sections on the Island of Upolu to cover. Even though the weather was not favorable with scattered showers all over the island, this did little to dampen the spirits of the teachers with everyone reporting positive feedback from the day's visitation program.

The packages along with a newsletter and few other materials supplied by the Mission were well received by the parents who expressed gratitude and appreciation for the time set aside by the school for the visitation. For many of them this was a first as teachers prayed and shared with them what Adventist Education was all about.

The Principal of the school, Mrs Tepora Taala-Fuimaono thanked all the staff and families involved in the program and also to the Trans Pacific Union Mission's Education Department for initiating the program which was a success. -

**Trevor Baelua**

## LIMITED SPACE IN ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Olwie SDA Primary School is situated on the south east of Efate Island and away from the main city Port Vila. The school enroll children from Early Childhood Care up to Grade 6. At the beginning of this year the enrollment reached 300 plus and therefore the school principal Mrs. Leah Mahit has to close the enrollment because more parents are demanding space for their children but the rooms are very small to occupy 40+ children. "We have to turn away students and I can see the disappointment on their faces, but I pray that our good Lord will help the landlords to allow us to extend our buildings and these is our greatest challenge," states Mrs Mahit the principal.



Therefore, the school Handyman Kerol has to build more desk to use in classrooms because and I praise God for his talent who is able to build more desk for the children to use inside the classrooms.

Majority of the students are non-Adventist but they are involved in visiting old people's home prayer and share with them goods they can bring with them to support the families. We have more opportunities to share God's love to others but this pandemic of Covid-19 has stop us from going to school but we just pray for our non-Adventist students in our school who are interested in taking Bible study. - **Leah Mahit**



## E-LEARNING AT HOME



Burns Creek SDA Primary Staff

Representatives from the Solomon Island mission Education Department, Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development Stakeholders, school principals witnessed the launching of the online learning for Burns Creek SDA Primary School in the Solomon Island, on Tuesday the 10th of May 2022. This new technology is the first ever medium and platform the school established to enhance students continuing learning at home whilst facing the COVID- 19 pandemic. The initiated online program is a creative educational teaching approach done by

the school so that students are not deprived from learning during disaster and lock down. I salute the former school administration who had a vision to promote a more innovative and creative approach to students. The school has 3 options for students learning during this Covid 19 pandemic firstly, supplied course materials, face to face and now the introduction of e- learning. The closure of school during lockdown will not disrupt the learning of student. Indeed, online learning as a platform will boost student with innovative and creative learning.

The school administration would like to sincerely thank Fuzionnet Company who have facilitated the program and training teachers in putting resources and work plan into the school Web page. Furthermore, the school appreciated the support the Solomon Island Mission Education Authority towards the e- learning initiated program.

Finally, we would like to give glory to God for the provision of having the e- learning. It is a successful medium of learning for our student despite financial challenges. We believe Burns Creek SDA Primary School is Gods institution. - Reynold Sikepitu (Principal)

## MY STORY

Everyday at home I would observe my parents striving for a prosperous future and especially for my spiritual life with Christ. Every Sabbath morning I will always see my parents doing the morning watch to give our little family more protection. Seeing this everyday really challenged me. Our guest speaker for our one week evangelism in my local church conducted by Pastor Levi Epafara Lagaaia challenged the young people on the theme "A recipe for Salvation."

My name is Fu'a and I attend Samoa Adventist College, and currently I'm in grade 9. My decision to follow Christ on the 29th May at my local church Afega SDA Church, was not an easy one to make. It took a lot of time for me to finally made that decision. Everyday I was challenged by my parents and the Bible lessons at school about God's love for me. I wanted to witness His love displayed for me through my friends and staff at school and the welcoming environment at school, gave me the confidence to boldly make that stand for Christ.

Out of the 9 candidate who got baptized in our local church, including me a student of Samoa Adventist Church. I thank my family, Pastor Levi, my Bible teacher and my school for their contribution to my faith journey. - Fu'a Laola Mase



Fu'a Mase & Pr Levi

## NOTHING TO FEAR



Septimus W Carr and his family

In 1898, the Suvavou Adventist Primary school opened with Susie Fulton as teacher. In 1903 the Buresala Training School for Fijian workers on Ovalau was established by Septimus W Carr. In 1926, Vatuvonu Central School opened in Buca Bay, Vanualevu.

In 1912, Mrs Ellen Meyers who was the first missionary to work for the Fijian Indians opened a school for Indian boys at Samabula, Suva; later on in 1920 the school was also opened for the Indian girls in Suva.



In 1947, John Howse pioneered the work on both countries, (then known as Gilbert and Ellice Islands). The work of the church faced challenges and expanded gradually, with the first baptism in 1949.

John Howse and his family

A third baptism in 1950, included Binabina, who was later ordained and translated the Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons. He also provided land for a school to be established at Kauma on the island of Abemama.



The Samoan people quickly realized the value of Christian education and moved to establish an elementary school. The enterprise was initiated in 1951 with a few grades taught by Saunoa Afamasaga in the basement of the Apia Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1952, Richard and Jean Thompson taught and then Fred and Marie Thompson replaced them for 1953 and 1954. The number of students, 150 in total, outgrew the capacity of the basement, so funds were raised locally to purchase land in Lalovaea, suburban Apia, on which to build proper premises.

In 1955, William Miller became the principal. He reported of the first full year, 1956, that 220 students had been in attendance, spread over the elementary levels and on to the matriculation year. Five young people were accepted to advance to Fulton College in Fiji.

David Hay arrived in 1958 to replace Miller. National missionary Tavita Niu conducted baptismal classes, and approximately 40 students joined the church as a result of his evangelism. At this time, the school was officially known as the Apia Central School.

Captain Griffith Frances Jones and his wife, Marion, both from Wales, pioneered the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Solomon Islands. The Joneses moved into the Marovo Lagoon and settled at Sasaghana village. Results from their work included commencing a school in 1915. At the first baptism, 1918, 11 people were baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, the Sasaghana site was limited because of restrictions imposed by the size of the land available to them. After further negotiations Jones moved to an island village, Telina. The school was moved from Sasaghana to Telina in 1920, and the first church was organized in the same year, with H.B.P. Wicks joining as superintendent.



Griffith and Marion Jones

Batuna (head, in the Marovo language) became the focal point for the church in the Solomon Islands. The Batuna Training School was established in 1924 after several years of preparation.

## LEST WE FORGET

Edward and Ida Hilliard were the first resident Adventists, arriving at Nuku'alofa on August 30, 1895, during the fourth voyage of the "Pitcairn." They were joined by Edwin and Florence Butz in addition to Sarah and Maria Young from Pitcairn Island in August 1896 when the Pitcairn called during its fifth voyage.

In the 1920s efforts were made to establish a co-educational senior central school with the express purpose of training mission workers. A site was established near Vaini, on Tongatapu. Classes in the new premises opened in January 1926 with Bessie Smith in charge and Joni Latu assisting. It became known as the Beulah School. After five years of entering successful candidates for public examinations, and official recognition by the government Education Department, the institution was renamed Beulah College in late 1937.



Edward and Ida Hilliard



Aore Adventist Academy is a coeducational secondary school in Aore, Vanuatu. It first opened in 1927 as 'New Hebrides Training School.' Its educational status varied over the decades. In 1974, the Aore School was upgraded to that of a high school, and was renamed Aore Adventist High School.

The new school commenced in 1927 and was originally named the New Hebrides Training School, comprising an elementary school and ministerial training school. The first head teacher was J. Ross James, who was also the New Hebrides Mission superintendent

Joseph and Mabel James

## TODAY

### American Samoa

SCHOOL	01
TEACHERS	17
STUDENTS	209



### SOLOMON

SCHOOL	145
TEACHERS	922
STUDENTS	16511



### FIJI

SCHOOL	14
TEACHERS	114
STUDENTS	2428



### TONGA

SCHOOL	04
TEACHERS	44
STUDENTS	1158



### KIRIBATI

SCHOOL	01
TEACHERS	24
STUDENTS	345



### TUVALU

SCHOOL	01
TEACHERS	11
STUDENTS	288



### SAMOA

SCHOOL	02
TEACHERS	35
STUDENTS	808



### VANUATU

SCHOOL	39
TEACHERS	258
STUDENTS	4592



# 150 YEARS OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Theme: *We have nothing to Fear For the Future*



Join us on this special Sabbath as we celebrate 150 years of Adventist Education worldwide!  
**Sabbath 4 June 2022**

The purpose and focus of Adventist Education have always been twofold; training for mission and leading to redemption. Today Adventist Education spans the globe and is the largest Protestant educational system in the world but our strength lies not in our size but in our focus; practical education that is both redemptive and evangelistic.



## Don't Miss Out

# BE PART OF THIS CELEBRATION

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Re-opening of Schools after Covid19 lockdown
- Solomon island teachers vaccination issues
- Kiribati increase enrolment impacts on infrastructure
- 150th Year of Adventist Education 4th June
- Fulton Adventist University College Sem 1 Exams



## 6 REASONS FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATION

1. IT INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE BIBLE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THINKING AND EVALUATING.
2. IT INTRODUCES YOUNG PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOUR.
3. ADVENTIST SCHOOLING AT ITS BEST LEADS A PERSON TO A LIFELONG DEDICATION OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.
4. ADVENTIST SCHOOLING HELPS STUDENTS TO VIEW EVERY TOPIC FROM THE PHILOSOPHIC PERSPECTIVE OF SCRIPTURE. (VALUES)
5. ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION OF ADVENTIST SCHOOLS IS TO BRING YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS AND MEET SPOUSES WHO SHARE THEIR VISION OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE.
6. THE INFLUENCE OF GODLY TEACHERS AND OTHER ADULT ROLE MODELS IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT. LESSONS ARE BEST LEARNED WHEN STUDENTS HEAR THE SAME MESSAGE AT SCHOOL, HOME, AND CHURCH.

### FINALLY

DO NOT FEAR FOR I AM WITH YOU.

Isaiah 41:10

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