



CONCH SHELL

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The TEACHER as an INFLUENCER

My last editorial. Sitting at the airport in Port Moresby as I start this editorial. My last trip to Papua New Guinea. Last time coming back to Australia from a work trip. Last time to catch up with some folk. So many lasts in these last few weeks.

I had the privilege of attending Sonoma Adventist College graduation on Sunday, November 21. I caught up with several folk who were students of mine at Mt Diamond Adventist High School in the mid 1980s. Linda was one. Now the wife of a pastor - coming to watch their son graduate. It was nice to renew friendship with Linda, met her pastor husband and her son. The next time I imagine will be in heaven.

As teachers we influence our students lives for good or bad. But we influence them! I think back over the 43 years of teaching and wonder just how my influence as affected everyone that I have taught. I can think of mistakes I made as a deputy in discipline. Of classes that could have been taught better. Of the occasions when I should have taken more time to catch up with a hurting student. Of times when I felt I was too busy to stop and encourage a fellow teacher. I cannot undo those and all one can do is determine to do better in the future.

While I don't have the opportunity to now influence students directly, I can influence them at church. I can make time for them when I do see them. And I can be a better mentor to those I interact with.

Jesus believed in the power of influence. He sent his disciples out two by two. Why? Because He saw the power of influence. We don't know which disciples were paired up together. Sometimes it would be really nice to know that.

If I had been Judas' parents, I think I would want to have known and then asked that disciple some questions.

- Why was your influence not strong enough to help change our son's priorities?
- What did you talk about as you walked and shared?
- Was our son able to heal and do miracles too? If so - why did it not change his attitude?
- Did you spend any time together in prayer?
- Did you really take the time to talk heart to heart?

As I come to the close of my teaching career, I am forced to evaluate what I could have done better. But now all I can do is ask God to take my meagre efforts and bring the best good possible out of them. Ultimately - it is what gets our attention most that indicates who or what we become.

So my challenge for all of us - is to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. To focus on Him and His goodness and grace. To Reveal a Jesus of love and grace. To influence our students by our own vibrant, thriving relationship with Him so that they too, want to have that same relationship with Jesus. I pray that your influence will be a godly influence.

David McClintock
SPD Education Director

THE POWER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CHURCH IN REACHING AND OUT

Recently, I was invited to a district meeting on the Southern part of Guadalcanal Island, the Solomon Island. We had a wonderful time together with teachers, students, and the communities. On the Sabbath we had a baptism. Twelve candidates were baptized. Eight of them are primary and high school students. What so special about this baptism? The majority are students from government schools with different backgrounds.

Who has contacted these students? The Adventist students, church family and Adventist teachers in the schools. What a great teamwork with support and power from Heaven!



Finally, there is no better and a friendlier way of reaching our neighbors for 2023 than blending I Will Go To My Family – 2022 with it. The eight students are from Veramogho – an Adventist primary school, and two government community schools - Kuma CHS and Lalato CHS. - **Joseph Pitakia**

SCHOOL REACH OUT - UNITED FAMILY



“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents;....” Malachi 4: 6 NIV

I had an interview recently with three high school students- a boy and two girls of Tenakoga Adventist High school in the Solomon Island in one of my visits. Their fathers left the church while they were very young. This deeply concerns and sadden them. But what can they do? Cultural young people find it difficult to address such issues with their fathers.

Then came the ‘I Will Go To MY Family’ theme to their school. This gave them an opportunity to address this need with their fathers, although the odds of convincing them are so great.

Realizing this they called their friends together and prayed about it. After spending many hours praying and thinking over what to say, they, with the support of the school, went to visit the ‘family missing members’ in the communities. For these three students they went straight to their family. The results? They were able to get the hearts of their fathers.

Yes, our God has thousands of ways to reach His wayward children when we all are involved. - **Joseph Pitakia**

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND. IT DOES NOT ENVY, IT DOES NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

KAUMA ADVENTIST ON FIRE

On the 2nd of November, at about 12:45am, the principal was disturbed by a loud intermittent crackling noise of a tree on fire, so he thought, coupled with loud and heavy pounding of something strange for which he could not figure out. He shook himself out of bed and went down from his little "bwia" a local hut similar to a small bungalow. As he looked toward the direction of the commotion, he saw balls of fire steaming out from the classrooms. As soon as he was sure that the administration offices and classrooms were actually on fire, he offered a sincere prayer asking God for His protection. After his short prayer, the principal went down to see the burning building but already on the site a large crowd of people, students and teachers frantically attempting to quench that wildfire.

In the absence of fire trucks, dozens of buckets with well water were hurled at the uncontrollable flames. The boys could only throw water at the fire from a distance where they could not be caught by the cruel fangs of a monster in a peaceful night of Kauma Adventist High School.

The powerful fire continued its journey to the school library in one direction and to the science laboratory in the other. On its way to the library it destroyed one classroom and jumped to the second one. However, the boys on the roof with buckets of precious well water were successful in retaining the advancing enemy to a halt before completely destroying the second classroom. The library was fortunate to be left intact and that raging fire finally became manageable and eventually kept quiet for the rest of that eventful night.



The Principal's office was destroyed soon after the Registrar's office was exhumed, and was further believed to be the starting point of fire. Speculations had it that the fire started from the curtains that were hanging outside the windows in the principal's and registrar's office. Both offices kept school records in filing cabinets, textbooks, printers, data projectors, and other office equipment.

The Deputy Principal's office and the Accountant's office were the next target of the invading enemy. Everything was attacked on its way, the safe for the school money, tables, chairs, chainsaw, cartons of A4 paper etc were all annihilated. The Deputy Principal's office became the grave of less than a hundred students' mobiles, including their computers and i-pads, etc.

Fortunately, God did not allow the fire to continue its path of destruction to the next classroom, the school canteen, the commerce teachers' office, the next big classroom and the science laboratory with various chemicals and apparatus and scores of science textbooks. With the help of the boys and the constant supply of water to smother the burning timber and roofing iron, it finally gave up hope. The hustle and bustle of the inexperienced but brave "firemen" reduced their momentum. They had successfully cooled the dragon's fierce anger before it could obliterate the very existence of Kauma's pride as an Adventist High School. Then the Kauma warriors were seen yarning for a while after winning the battle. We sincerely praise God for His intervention! - **Tekemau Ribabaiti**



HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL AWARDED GOLD



HILLIARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL STAFF, MR FATONGIA HOPOATE
(MISSION ED DIRECTOR)



MISITANA VEA YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Beulah Primary School and Hilliard Memorial School of the SDA Church in Tonga were amongst the few schools in Tonga who participated in an awards presentation ceremony organized and coordinated by the Tonga Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health/WHO on Wednesday 23rd November, 2022. These two schools were both awarded with 'GOLD' status as amongst the bests or the cleanest schools in the whole of Tonga.

Health Promoting School (HPS) Program was first introduced with an objective to improve hygiene/sanitation and promote healthy lifestyles in the schools in Tonga. Even though Tonga faced so many challenges this academic year, there were about 46 Primary schools still managed to participate in this important program.

The Prime Minister of Tonga was the Guest of Honor for this awards ceremony and key important donors and stakeholders who supported and funded this initiative were also present. Also, a Beulah Primary School Class 6 student Misitana Vea was given the honor to represent all students of the participating schools to recite a self-authored poem about the event. Praise be to the Almighty God for this important milestone that our two schools have accomplished which has really promoted our Church Health Messages.- [Fatongia Hopoate](#)

I WILL GO TO NON-ADVENTIST VILLAGE

Port Quimie Adventist Junior Secondary School in Vanuatu conducted their "I will go to my family to a Non-Adventist village called Forestry. The purpose to visit the old people families, widow and widowers and be a little helper by washing up dirty pots, plates, clothes, rake the yard, help clean inside the house plus blessing each household with root crops. Though the weather was not too good, was humid, cloudy and raining too, the students enjoyed the long distant walk from school and were blessed that they were of help to someone that day. They had smiles on their faces as they brushed up dirty pots, raked the yard, cut grass, did laundry, prayed and shared the root crops to each



STUDENTS WITH THEIR CROPS TO GIVE AWAY

home. The widows, old people cried tears of Joy and were thankful for what the students had done and gave. They expressed that they have never experienced this act of kindness before. We left the village with peace and joy that we have shared and reveal Jesus's love and have blessed a heart today. Jesus has shown us the way to live and if that is what Adventist Education could teach our young people to do, then Port Quimie Adventist Junior Secondary school is thankful for Adventist Education. - [Bethlyne Bule](#)

ENDING THE ACADEMIC YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE



Praise God for more souls for Jesus. Despite, the pouring rain, Betikama Adventist College in the Solomon Island, staff, students and parents gathered on the morning 3rd of December beside Lunga river to witness and celebrate the final baptism this year. 13 young students took their stand to get baptized. Bringing a total of 45 new followers of Jesus this year. Thank you, Betikama pastoral team, for the preparation work. To God be the glory. - **Partinson Bekala**

WALK FOR LIFE

A TPUM initiative has motivated and encouraged the principal and staff of Tuvalu SDA Primary school to be part of this health journey.

Some of the benefits were:

1. Feel physically alive, well and energetic. Some of our staff members have lost alot of weight.
2. Socially such a great way for team bonding releasing all the stress of the day.
3. Values such as Self-discipline, commitment, consistency and witnessing has been part of this health journey.
4. Seeing our leaders leading by example also motivate and encourage the staff.



MR KIMA PEDRO (PRINCIPAL) AND SATFF

The staff use the runway every morning for their morning walk and people are starting to ask about it and they really admire the initiative and our teamwork. The Holy Spirit deals with the rest.

We are grateful for such initiative because, our homes, schools and churches should be a health promoting institutions. According to the principal Mr Pedro being part of this TPUM Walk4life group is truly a blessing. - **Kima Pedro**



MR TREVOR BAULELUA

SAC FAREWLL MR TREVOR BAUELUA

On Friday the 9 December, Samoa Adventist College held its graduation for 2022 and it was a bitter sweet experience for the school as it farewells its leader, the Head of Secondary School, Mr Trevor Baelua.

Originally, Mr Baelua is from PNG but has been serving in the Samoa Adventist School for 11 years.

We want to thank Mr Baelua for his service to the Samoa and Tokelau Mission and we wish him much of God's blessings in his next port of calling, wherever that will be.

The school presented him a long service medal and sincerely thanked him for all he has done for Samoa Adventist School. We will miss having him around – faafetai tele Trevor Baelua! From staff and students.

- **Tepora Fuimaono**

MY STORY - MICHEL WILLIE



MICHEL WILLIE ON HIS BAPTISM DAY

Michel Willie is a non-Adventist student from Forestry village who attends Port Quimie Junior Secondary School in Vanuatu. Michel is this young man who always like to follow Pastor Shane Bule, after school hours, to any Adventist church programs in nearby villages. He would help carry the projector, laptop and keep the Pastor company. They would even go to the ends of south Epi island. He would voluntarily follow Pastor with no complaints. In August 2022, the School church Pastor organized a week of evangelism in the school and Michel took his stand to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized alongside five other non-Adventist students. After baptism he told Pastor that now I am in a better position to be helping you out with evangelism now after school hours.

On the 5th of November 2022, the church Pastor conducted a baptism again in the school of 17 students and 6 out of the 17 students were the result of Michel's faith influence.

Michel went back to his village and his father asked him questions. "Michel, did you get baptized to SDA church yesterday?" Michel replied, "Yes father I did!" "What about your pigs in the fence and your kava plantation?" asked his father. He replied "I am now an Adventist. I have learnt that pigs are unclean, and kava is a no touch substance. I have nothing to do with pigs and kava now. You can have them all." - **Shane Bule**

NAQAQA CELEBRATE STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT



GUADUATING CLASS OF 2022

Naqaqa SDA Primary School in Fiji on the 7th of December completed the 2022 academic journey by awarding their students achievement by celebrating it with families and friends. Fifteen Year 8 students graduated and Mrs Vaihola the TPUM Ed. director was the chief guest challenged the students with their chosen and launching their theme for 2023 title SOUR based Isaiah 40:31. She encouraged the Class of 2022, "you were born to fly. You were created by a loving God to soar. He has called you to live in the heights, so don't be like many huddled together in the barnyard and become content and comfortable with crumbs."

Many parents and friends came to witness the special happy occasion and adding another milestone for the school.

THE GREATEST WANT OF THE WORLD IS THE WANT OF MEN – MEN WHO WILL NOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD, MEN WHO IN THEIR INMOST SOULS ARE TRUE AND HONEST, MEN WHO DO NOT FEAR TO CALL SIN BY ITS RIGHT NAME, MEN WHOSE CONSCIENCE IS AS TRUE TO DUTY AS THE NEEDLE TO THE POLE, MEN WHO WILL STAND FOR THE RIGHT THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL. – ELLEN G WHITE

TO OUR YR 12 & YR 13 STUDENTS DON'T MISS OUT - APPLY NOW!!

Fulton Adventist University College
"Others" | EST 1905

APPLY NOW!
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...an Institution of Hope

2023 TRANS PACIFIC ADVENTIST SCHOOLS TRAINERS' WORKSHOP

Theme: I WILL GO - Quest for Integrity

Date: 26-29, Jan 2023

Venue: Fulton Adventist University College, Nadi, Fiji

Registration Fee: \$250 FJD

Due Date to Register: 2nd December, 2022

Download Form

Scan QR code to Download form or go to: www.tpum.org/adventist-ethos-trainers-training
Complete this registration form NOW and email to merevaihola@adventist.org.fj
NO LATER than Friday, 02 December 2022.

FINALLY

Imparting great knowledge of yours, you have transformed Adventist Education in the Trans Pacific for the better. Merry Christmas teachers. You truly deserve every good thing on this earth. We wish you all a very happy holidays and want to say Vinaka vaka levu for the priceless support and for revealing Jesus conveyed to our children in their academic life. Enjoy this holiday to the fullest. You have done a great job for our children! Thanks for being the best! and Nappy New Year.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Schools 2023 Staffing
Kauma Adventist School in Kiribati - Rebuilding
Navesau Adventist College in Fiji financial status challenges
Enrollment for Fulton Adventist University College 2023
Teacher's Trainers' Workshop

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

Joseph Pitakia
Associate Education Director

