



# CONCH SHELL

32 EDITION | OCTOBER

## Going THROUGH Difficult Times

**Ps 23:4** “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you're with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me”

Did Jesus suffer? Was Jesus sometimes lonely? Was he tempted to be discouraged? Was he misunderstood, maligned and criticized unjustly? The answer to all these questions is YES.

And none of us are exempted from suffering, or loneliness, or discouragement, or unjust criticism – because God is developing within us the character of Christ, and in order to do this, he must take us through all of the circumstances in life that he took Christ through.

This means God is more interested in your character than your comfort, and he's more concerned about your holiness than your happiness. So, the question is not if you'll go through dark times in life, but when you'll go through them.

Now, does this mean God causes tragedies? No. God is good, and he will not cause evil or do evil. But God can use dark and stressful times for good; heal them to build a Christ – like character within us.

So, what should you do when you go through difficult times?

**Refuse to be discouraged.** David said, “I will fear no evil” (Ps 23:4). His use of the word “will” implies a choice, an act of decision. In the final 12 hrs of Christ's life, we can clearly see he made a choice to follow God's will; He made a choice to face down fear; he made a choice to ignore despair.

**Remember God is with you.** David said, “For you are with me” (Ps 23:4). God not only promises his power; he promises his presence. We will never go through a dark day alone. Jesus knew he wasn't alone as he walked out his Passion.

**Rely on God's protection and guidance.** David said in Ps 23:4 that God's rod and staff comforted him. The rod and staff were basic tools to protect and guide the sheep. God will be with you, and he'll protect and guide you. Jesus could have called down 10000 angels; he could have called his disciples to arms' instead he relied on God to protect and guide him.

We all go through difficult times. The difference for those who believe in Jesus is not the absence of the shadow but the presence of the Light.

## SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO MAKE DISCIPLES



Samoa Adventist College has an enrolment of more than 800 students from Primary to High School. More than 70% of these students are Non-Adventist students. A Bible study was conducted by the two school chaplains for 2 months and ended with a school week of prayer focused on the theme "A recipe for Salvation". The day before baptism 33 students made a stand to be baptized.

However, on the day of baptism, some students were not permitted by their parents to be baptized. Fortunately, most students who were convicted by the Holy Spirit made a bold decision to follow Christ. We praise the Lord for a wonderful harvest a total of 42 students baptized stated Levi the school chaplain. What an opportunity to share Jesus to the Non-Adventists within our school. The students have been allocated to the nearest local church and have the pastor and local church members to continue to support their spiritual journey outside of school. - **Levi Epafara Lagaia (School Chaplain)**

### A Higher Level Through His leading

The Spiritual Emphasis Week Programs at Navesau Adventist College in Fiji, always ends with a commitment to follow Jesus and to have a personal relationship with Him. During the Education Week of Prayer on August 13th-20th staff and students recommit their lives to follow the Master Teacher Jesus our Saviour. 40 students decided to join the Bible study class for nurturing of their faith, and some decided to prepare for baptism.



The Bible study classes went for 3 weeks culminating with one-week amazing prophecy series which happens in the morning and evening worships.

Seeing teachers and students committing their lives to the Lord brings joy and happiness which demands celebration, states Leone the school chaplain. The school celebrated on the 1st of October, the last Sabbath of the second school term when 11 students gave their lives to Jesus by following Him in the waters of baptism. The school was privileged to have the Hope Media Team from Fiji Mission to witness this special celebration.

Thank you for your prayers for Navesau Adventist High School. The Lord is good and we're going a level higher through His leading. - **Leone Tabuna (School Chaplain)**

**"Let the youth first give themselves to God, and then let them in their early experience be taught to help others. This work will bring their faculties into exercise and enable them to learn how to plan and how to execute their plans for the good of their associates. Let them seek the company of those who need help, not to engage in foolish conversation, but to represent Christian character, to be laborers together with God, winning those who have not given themselves to God."**

**Testimonies on Sabbath School Work, 47, 48.**



## SCHOOLS CONTINUE TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Betikama Adventist College in the Solomon Island concluded its Creation Week with a baptism of 32 students. The baptism was the highlight of the week. This resulted from Bible study classes conducted by the church pastor, elders and teachers after the Covid break. Among the baptized were two non-Adventist students. The boy (Augustine) is a Form 3 student who struggled with the decision since last year. Despite opposition from his family, he finally decided to take the stand and was baptized. We praise God for these students who got baptized. Another 21 students responded to the baptism appeal after the program.

The Creation Week also concluded with show case of creation corner, presentation of poems and composed songs by each class. The enthusiasm and creativity shown by the students was overwhelming. - **Partinson Bekala (Principal)**



2 Non-Adventist Students Augustine in the picture



Adventist Education is more than just the pursuit of Academic excellence. It is also to lead our students into a saving relationship with Jesus.

On the 28th of October, the Vanuatu Mission president was honored to officiate the baptism of 23 students at Epauto Adventist School in Port Vila. Another 100 plus students stood up indicating for Bible Studies. Praise God! Our Adventist Schools are our greatest evangelism field states Pr Charlie Jimmy. - **Pr Charlie Jimmy (President for Vanuatu Mission)**



After going through Bible studies with the School Chaplain, on the 8th of October Kauma Adventist High School the only Adventist High School in Kiribati celebrated 61 students accept Jesus as their personal Saviour through the water of baptism. Three pastors officiated the baptism including the Mission President Pr Taabua, Pr Temaea the School Chaplain and Pr Karebwa the church pastor for Abemama Church. - **Morimai Tekeinang**



## BUILDERS OF COMMUNITY CONFERENCE



Teachers participants

Teachers in the Western Province of the Solomon Island attended a teacher's conference organised by the TPUM and SIM Education department for this region, hosted at Kukudu Adventist College. This event purposely to unite the primary and secondary school teachers where they could come, listen, and contribute ideas of what's next for Adventist Education system in our mission.

The SPD Education Director, Dr. David McClintock was the guest speaker for a long week meeting and professional development training (PDT) on 10th – 16th October, 2022 before he retires at the end of the year. His main address each evening worships centered on our theme, "Adventist School Teachers: Builders of Community." Stemming from the theme were reminders for teachers to build lives of students, preparing them for the work in this world and for Christ's saving grace heavenward bound.

During registration, 52 schools were registered which comprised of seven (7) high schools and 45 primary schools, having a total of 334 teachers. One of the highlights was featuring of eight (8) retired teachers whom they contributed most of their lives in Adventist Education. The mission recognized these retirees with an award of a medallion for their commitment and dedications toward supporting Adventist Education for the long years they served in the teaching ministry.



The 8 Retirees to receive their Medallion

Connecting Adventist teachers to Adventist church communities was the climax on the Sabbath day, where our teachers were allocated to 13 churches in the Central Kolombangara District to participate by conducting Sabbath school and Divine service worships for the church members. Many church members really appreciated the courtesy, spiritual empowerment, and total member involvement of our teachers. Our teachers were really blessed with the in-reach program they rendered to the churches. A reflection during sabbath afternoon was a reminder for teachers to take courage and work faithfully in whatever line of responsibility they are engaged in schools.



Sabbath Community Outreach

A primary school teacher reflects and said, "I will try and set a good example for my students in my actions and words."

Corinthian by Apostle Paul "For we are labourers together with God." (1 Cor 3:9). - **Andriane Kele**  
(Western Province Region Associate Education Director)



## PRESIDENT VISITS TO KIRIBATI



Pr Maveni Kaufononga at Beito Pre School

On a chartered flight, Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, the TPUM president, accompanied by Pastor Taabua Rokeatau, the local mission president, together with his team of District Directors, Executive Committee and School Board Members, paid a special visit to Kauma on Sunday, 30th October, 2022. This is the first visit ever to Kauma by the TPUM president.

The school principal, Mr Tekemau Ribabaiti, staff members and students all waited patiently for the visitors. This was a rare occasion of having an influx of important visitors to the isolated school.



Pr Maveni and Pr Taabua and students at Kauma

"I could feel that this is certainly an Adventist school", Pastor Maveni mentioned in his address to the school body. This is my first visit here, and I am so happy I came." Pastor Maveni then challenged the teachers and students of the importance of 'today', in making choices in life and in choosing who to serve.

"With TPUM president's visit, we feel we are part of the SDA global family. The visit means there is an interest in us at the top level. It brings so much elation and positive energy," an Executive Committee member reflected. "Further, his tour of the campus and some staff homes means he's interested not only on the progress of the school, but also on the needs. The visit, although short, is very sweet, and we're all encouraged by it"

The president's input and advice during the combined committees meeting was greatly appreciated. Thank you Pastor Maveni for the inspiring messages.

Thank you Kauma (Pastor Maveni's GC username) for the hospitality, the commitment and teamwork. Thank you Principal for the special item, an inspiring message in song. - **Morimai Tekeinang**

On Friday, 28th October, 2022, Trans-Pacific Union Mission President, Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, accompanied by the local mission president, Pastor Taabua Rokeatau, visited the three largest pre-schools in Kiribati: Korobu, Bairiki, and Betio SDA Pre-schools. The teachers and parents were excitedly involved in preparing for the visit.

The union president in his address to the schools, encouraged the teachers to foster the spiritual growth of the little ones in their charge. He emphasized that this is the chief purpose of the existence of our schools.

"We were honoured that such a high-profile church leader would want to visit us in our humble schools," a couple of teachers reflected. Apparently, this is a sentiment shared by all teachers of the three schools.

And the children willingly paraded for the distinguished visitor. My own grandchild couldn't stop talking about the visit, and she said she behaved herself!

Thank you Pastor Maveni for making the teachers and children's day. You have certainly touched their lives. - **Morimai Tekeinang**



Guard of Honor to welcome the TPUM President Pr Maveni



## BETIKAMA HOMECOMING

Betikama Alumni Committee recently organised a Home Coming Sabbath on October 8th 2022. Ex-Betikama students took the Divine Service, Sabbath School and AY. The day concluded with a Sabbath evening concert program. The Home Coming program attracted a lot of ex-students from Honiara and other provinces as it was a first Home Coming Sabbath ever organised. It was indeed a joyful time of reflection, singing and sharing. The earliest year student that attended the program was a student from the 1949.

During the concert program a segment was given to the Betikama Alumni Committee to pass the Constitution and also free will cash were given as funds towards preparation of the Betikama 75th Anniversary Celebration in November 2023. More than SBD\$50,000 was collected during the night. Various classes over the years presented songs and also shared interesting Betikama early experiences. The concert concluded at I am with words of thanks and acknowledgment from the principal. - **Partison Bekala**



Ex-Students and Staff of Betikama

## DIRECTOR'S 1ST COUNCIL MEETING

For the first time since the lockdown, the Education Directors came for a face-to-face Meetings in the head office TPUM Fiji Suva on the 26th - 28th of October. Starting off on the 26th with the Board of Education Meeting. A sessions of PD with the directors on the 27th and Interviews. 28th a school visit to Navesau Adventist College, where the school principal leads out with a school tour. And a Chapel program with the school. The team was overwhelmed with the school choir singing and a presentation by the team to the school encouraging and affirming the students in their studies in Navesau and their up-coming exams.



The school leaders were very impressed with both the dormitory. The neat white bed sheets in all the beds. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. The program finished off with a visit to Fulton Adventist University College, where the Directors were able to speak to their cultural group to affirm and encourage them in their studies at FAUC. According to Fu'a lese she was blessed to be part of this training, to help her and encourage her in work in American Samoa.



# FINALLY

## BE THANKFUL

POET UNKNOWN

BE THANKFUL THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE EVERYTHING YOU DESIRE.  
IF YOU DID, WHAT WOULD THERE BE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?  
BE THANKFUL WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING,  
FOR IT GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN.

BE THANKFUL FOR THE DIFFICULT TIMES.  
DURING THOSE TIMES YOU GROW.  
BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR LIMITATIONS,  
BECAUSE THEY GIVE YOU OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT.  
BE THANKFUL FOR EACH NEW CHALLENGE,  
BECAUSE IT WILL BUILD YOUR STRENGTH AND CHARACTER.

BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR MISTAKES.  
THEY WILL TEACH YOU VALUABLE LESSONS.  
BE THANKFUL WHEN YOU'RE TIRED AND WEARY,  
BECAUSE IT MEANS YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

IT'S EASY TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE GOOD THINGS.  
A LIFE OF RICH FULFILLMENT COMES TO THOSE WHO  
ARE ALSO THANKFUL FOR THE SETBACKS.  
GRATITUDE CAN TURN A NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE.  
FIND A WAY TO BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR TROUBLES,  
AND THEY CAN BECOME YOUR BLESSINGS.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Schools 2023 Staffing
- Schools harvesting programs
- Up-coming preparation for National Examinations
- New baptized students
- Non-Adventist Teachers and Students in schools
- Navesau, Vatuvonu and Kauma Schools



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