

# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2022 • QUARTER 4 • SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION







# Contents

**On the Cover:** Clifton Glasgow says three ingredients turned New Zealand evangelism into a spiritual powerhouse: prayer, Total Member Involvement, and Hope TV. Page 8.

## NEW ZEALAND

- 4 Finding Hope | Oct. 1 
- 6 Unexpected TV Star | Oct. 8
- 8 Three Powerful Ingredients | Oct. 15
- 10 Robbed and Blessed | Oct. 22 

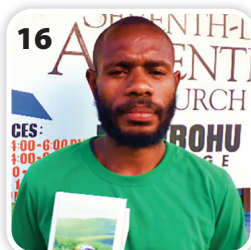


## AUSTRALIA

- 12 Prayers, Plants, and a Pandemic | Oct. 29
- 14 Hungry for Jesus | Nov. 5

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- 16 Solomon the World Changer | Nov. 12 
- 18 No More Fear | Nov. 19 



## TUVALU

- 20 Sailor Comes Home | Nov. 26


## SAMOA

- 22 Here Am !! Send Me | Dec. 3 

## VANUATU

- 24 God Qualifies the Called | Dec. 10 
- 26 A Praying Wife | Dec. 17

## FIJI

- 28 Held Captive | Dec. 24 
- 30 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath: Influential Juice Bar | Dec. 31
- 31 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 32 Map

 = stories of special interest to teens

  
Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

© 2022 General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists • All rights reserved  
12501 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601  
1-800-648-5824 • AdventistMission.org

## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney  
Editor



This quarter we feature the South Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in American Samoa, Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the Wallis and Futuna Islands. God is doing amazing things in this region of 40.5 million people with 518,016 Adventists, or a ratio of one Adventist for 70 people, an increase from one Adventist for 78 people three years ago.

The South Pacific Division has two Thirteenth Sabbath projects this quarter. One of the projects is to establish Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio in Papua New Guinea. The other project is under the auspices of the division and aims to produce King's Kids Discipleship Series, five children's series of 13 episodes each for broadcast and digital platforms worldwide. The series are based on themes and stories from Ellen White's *Steps to Christ*, *Life of Jesus-Desire of Ages/Christ Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*.

As a reminder, the last time that the division received a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was in third quarter 2019, and those funds assisted three projects: "Save 10,000 Toes," a campaign to provide health training to prevent the amputation of the toes of people with diabetes; the establishment of Hope Channel television and radio in Tonga; and the production

of Daniel Children's Series, a 13-part animated series for children aged 8-12 following the adventures of Daniel and his three friends, in Australia.

The South Pacific Division has made Hope Channel a priority, as evidenced with Hope Channel projects in Tonga in 2019 and in Papua New Guinea this year. Notably, part of the division's 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to Hope Channel in New Zealand, and the impact of that project is rippling across New Zealand and other parts of the world still today, as evidenced by several stories in this *Mission* quarterly. Read the stories on pages 4-7.

You can download a PDF of facts and activities from the South Pacific Division at [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022). Follow us at [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://facebook.com/missionquarterlies). Mission Spotlight videos are available at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight).

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

### Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the South Pacific Division to:

- Establish Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio, Papua New Guinea
- Produce King's Kids Discipleship Series, five children's TV series of 13 episodes each based on the Conflict of the Ages series, South Pacific Division



# Finding Hope

Christie

Christie grew up in a family without any religious beliefs in Asia. As a teenager, she asked herself, “What’s the meaning of life?” She thought if a person only had one life to live, then the best way to live was to eat, drink, and be merry. But such a life seemed meaningless to her.

One summer, Christie took English-language classes. The teacher was from the United States and held a doctorate in theology. At the beginning of the first lesson, he introduced himself by sharing a miracle about how God had spared his life in a car accident. His car had been damaged badly in the crash, but he felt like he had been covered by an enormous cup, allowing him to escape the wreck unhurt. Christie was impressed by the miracle story, and she shared it with her parents immediately after the class.

A decade passed, and Christie thought again about God when she went to Canada on vacation. A church was located near her hotel in the city of Vancouver. She saw a man standing at the church gate, holding a sign reading,

“Back home.” Later that day, she passed the church again and saw the same man still holding the sign reading, “Back home.” The wind was blowing strongly that day, and she wondered why the man was willing to brave the weather to hold the sign. The image of the man holding the sign lingered in her mind for months afterward. She decided that there must be something special about Christian beliefs.

Back at home, Christie enrolled in postgraduate studies. She was surprised when a teacher presented her and other students with the gift of a devotional book. She was impressed with the book because it answered some of her questions about the meaning of life. She wrote an e-mail to the teacher to thank him, and she indicated that she wanted to know more about Jesus. The teacher introduced her to another teacher who led a weekly evening worship group in her home. Christie felt loved and accepted by the worship group, and she began to read the Bible daily. After a while, she gave her heart to God.

Christie visited a number of churches and church events, but she sensed that something wasn’t quite right with her relationship with God.

Two years passed, and Christie



happened to notice Hope Channel on television during a trip to New Zealand. Back at home, she searched online and found the Hope Sabbath School program on YouTube.

She started watching Hope Sabbath School and couldn't stop. Watching Hope Sabbath School became the happiest time of her day. In just a few months, she watched three years of Hope Sabbath School — all the online episodes that were available at the time. The class participants made the Bible easy for her to understand, and she loved their smiles.

As she watched, she gained a clearer picture of God. She realized that God is full of mercy, eager to call people back to Him to save them, and always willing to forgive. For the first time, she felt complete in her relationship with God. She decided to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to be baptized by immersion.

“Thank God for bringing Hope Sabbath School into my life to grow my spirituality,” she says. “Now I am willing to give all my life to Jesus and desire to live a life that glorifies God. That is the true meaning of life.” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2016 that helped Hope Channel become a free-to-air channel that blankets New Zealand. Because of Hope Channel's wide reach, Christie was able to watch it when she visited New Zealand for a few days in 2016 — the same year that its free-to-air coverage went nationwide. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help bring Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio to Papua New Guinea.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on a first-person account that appeared in the South Pacific Division's *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- As early as 1874, an interest in Seventh-day Adventist teachings was kindled in individuals in New Zealand by publications sent from friends or relatives in the United States.
- In October 1885, S. N. Haskell, an American Adventist minister, came to Auckland from Australia and lodged in the boardinghouse of Edward Hare, who, with his wife, became the first converts in New Zealand. Within four weeks a small group began to observe the seventh-day Sabbath in Auckland.

# Unexpected TV Star

NEW ZEALAND | October 8

Graeme and Nicqui



Graeme unexpectedly became something of a star on Hope Channel in New Zealand.

When he arrived at a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, he was instantly recognized by a stranger whom he had never seen before.

“I saw you on TV last night!” the woman blurted out.

All 26 people in the group stared at Graeme curiously.

He had been invited to the meeting to share his life story, but he had arrived with no idea about how to start. The woman’s comment about seeing him on television gave him an idea. He told the group how it was that he had appeared on television in the first place. The reason, he said, was because he was a recovering alcoholic saved by Christ’s grace. At that moment, the 26 people in the room learned about

Hope Channel television, which is broadcast to every home in New Zealand.

When Graeme tells his story, he explains how a history of workaholicism led him into a 10-year alcohol addiction that eventually destroyed his marriage. But then he found the saving grace of Jesus and, with divine help, stopped drinking. He remarried and introduced his new wife, Nicqui, to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nicqui now serves as a leader in a local Adventist congregation.

Graeme has a heart for people struggling with alcohol addiction at Alcoholics Anonymous.

“Although I haven’t had the desire to drink for many years, I have the desire to pass on the message of hope and recovery to other people,” he says.

Graeme combines a passion for Alcoholics Anonymous with his love for God. “I try to take what I learn in my Christian life into my AA life, and from my AA life into my Christian life,” he said. “I’m actually really blessed because we’ve got a church home group that is really important to both Nicqui and me, where I can share things I’ve learned from AA.”

When he shares his story at meetings



of Alcoholics Anonymous, participants quickly learn that he is a Christian. This surprises many, especially those who are atheist or agnostic, or like to cuss and swear.

“Are you religious?” they often ask.

“No,” Graeme replies.

“Do you go to church?”

“Yes.”

“Which church do you attend?”

“It’s a Seventh-day Adventist church.”

Often people are not familiar with the Adventist Church and its observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. So, Graeme explains the importance of the seventh day — and he emphasizes that he is a Christian every day.

“While our services are held on Saturday, I’m a seven-day Christian,” he says.

Two medical doctors who attend Graeme’s church occasionally refer people struggling with alcohol addiction to him. He, in turn, introduces them to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Graeme not only shares his story but also listens to other people’s stories. He takes people out on his boat and shares meals with them as he talks and listens. He loves his outreach work. When he comes home, he loves to tell his wife, “You just wouldn’t believe what God has done today!” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2016 that helped Hope Channel become a free-to-air channel that reaches every household in New Zealand. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help bring Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio to Papua New Guinea.

By Maryellen Hacko

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Graeme like “graham.”
- Pronounce Nicqui as “niki.”
- Know that Graeme shares his personal testimony as a way to introduce people at Alcoholics Anonymous to the life-transforming power of Jesus. Ask your listeners how they can share their personal testimonies in a way that the Holy Spirit can transform hearts.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on an account that appeared in the South Pacific Division’s *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Fifteen percent of New Zealand’s population are Māori.
- Although it is around the size of Japan, New Zealand has a population just over 4 million, making it one of the world’s least-populated countries.
- In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to give women the right to vote.
- The Māori name for New Zealand is “Aotearoa.” It means “the land of the long white cloud.”

# Three Powerful Ingredients

NEW ZEALAND | October 15

Clifton Glasgow



Three ingredients are credited with turning New Zealand evangelistic meetings into a spiritual powerhouse that is still yielding results. The ingredients are prayer, Total Member Involvement, and Hope Channel.

Church members gathered at 6 a.m. weekly for five months to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the meetings.

Members also took ownership of the 4 ½-week meetings, organizing them and inviting relatives and friends.

But the surprise ingredient was television ministry, propelled by Hope Channel, a recipient of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2016.

“Church members engaged families and friends, but a big component was a lot of people were engaged through Hope Channel,” says Clifton Glasgow, who helped coordinate the meetings at 15 sites

across New Zealand’s largest city, Auckland.

About 200 people were baptized through the meetings. Here are four stories.

## Tracey

Tracey, a single mother of five, was struggling with substance abuse when her mother, who had visited an Adventist church several years earlier, suggested that she watch Hope Channel.

As Tracey watched programs that uplifted Jesus, the Spirit started to speak to her heart. It wasn’t long before she and her mother went to church.

Tracey, who is in her 30s, took Bible studies and quit illegal drugs during the evangelistic meetings. Now baptized, she is studying to become a high school teacher.

“She is so positive,” Clifton says. “You can just see the joy of the Lord in her when she talks about God. It’s like He’s just there.”

## Owen and Tina

Owen, a retiree and community leader on Auckland’s Waiheke Island, and his wife, Tina, became convinced about the Advent message after watching Hope Channel and another television channel run by local Adventists. They burned the television content onto DVDs and distributed them around the island. They also prayed for a church and looked at properties, wondering how the Lord would provide a building.



When church leaders began planning evangelistic meetings for Auckland, Owen eagerly volunteered to find a community hall for local meetings and to take care of other logistics. Evening turnout reached 30 people, most of whom were not Adventists. Then Owen and Tina were baptized, becoming the first members of a Waiheke church plant that meets in a building provided by another church.

The island church is one of two churches planted through the evangelistic meetings.

## Heath and Simone

Heath, a martial arts expert who once trained elite army troops, began to watch Hope Channel with his wife, Simone. He had heard about Hope Channel from an Adventist coworker at the construction company where they worked.

Heath and Simone were convicted by the programs on Hope Channel, and a desire grew in their hearts to have a relationship with Jesus. The couple began to go to Sabbath worship services and then attended the evangelistic meetings. They were baptized at the meetings.

## Audrey and Don

An elderly couple, Don and Audrey, stumbled across Hope Channel while flipping through television channels. They were amazed by how closely the Adventist Church sought to follow Bible teachings. In their church, there had been deviations away from Bible principles. They decided to try out the Adventist Church.

Don and Audrey started attending a local Adventist church. During the evangelistic meetings, they decided to become members. At their encouragement, their adult daughters, based elsewhere in New Zealand and in France, also started

attending Adventist churches.

Don, who is about 80, actively encourages people to watch Hope Channel by handing out leaflets at hospitals and other places.

“Hope Channel has become an integral part in witnessing,” Clifton says. “It provides a wonderful platform to share the wonderful message of Jesus to a world in need of hope.” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2016 that helped Hope Channel become a free-to-air channel that reaches every household in New Zealand. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help bring Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio to Papua New Guinea.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Watch a 75-second video of Clifton Glasgow on YouTube at: [bit.ly/Clifton-Glasgow](http://bit.ly/Clifton-Glasgow).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

# Robbed and Blessed

Richard



photo: BigStock.com

An 81-year-old man who had just joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church was robbed in New Zealand. The robbery ended up not only strengthening his faith but also becoming an opportunity to share Jesus with the robbers.

The story began one night when three teens broke into Richard's home in Whangarei, the northernmost city in New Zealand.

Richard was sound asleep as one of the teens climbed through his bedroom window and walked past his bed to open the front door for the others.

Richard usually slept lightly and awoke at the slightest noise. But on that night, he slept soundly as the two 16-year-old boys and a 14-year-old boy ransacked his house.

Then he woke up to use the bathroom. The boys paid no attention to him as he walked to the bathroom and returned to his bed. He didn't notice them, either. He was back in bed, fast asleep, when the boys jumped into the car in his garage, and drove off, tires screeching, into the night.

However, a neighbor heard the noise and

ran to Richard's door to check on him.

*Bang, bang, bang!* the neighbor knocked on Richard's door.

No answer.

*Bang, bang, bang!* the neighbor knocked some more.

Finally, Richard woke up.

"Did you know that your car has been stolen?" the neighbor asked.

Rather than being upset, Richard felt a sense of relief when he saw the empty garage. He was glad that God had protected him from harm.

Twenty minutes later, the police arrived. They had found Richard's car with the keys inside and then used sniffer dogs to track the scent of the boys to a house located about a mile (2 kilometers) away. The police handed over Richard's stolen possessions: an electronic tablet, an electronic razor, and the contents of his wallet.

But that was not the end of the story.

Richard met three times with the three intruders as part of their punishment. He was astonished to learn about their backgrounds and see that not one of their parents attended the meetings. The boys lived with grandfathers or aunts. Richard's heart was touched when each boy apologized without a trace of arrogance.

"It's your first offense," he told them. "I don't like what you did, but I don't hold



anything against you. I forgive you, and I hope you will learn from this. I don't want reparation."

But the boys tried to right their wrongs. One of them cleaned black mold and moss from Richard's sidewalk. He also baked a cake and gave it to Richard.

Another day, a police officer arrived at Richard's house with an envelope containing 10 fifty-dollar notes, or about U.S.\$360.

"I don't want reparation," Richard told the police officer.

But the officer explained that the money was from the boy who had hugged him and his grandfather. It was *koha*, a gift, according to New Zealand M ori custom.

Richard wrote a very long thank-you letter in which he praised the grandfather for his good parenting.

After the three meetings, the boys were no longer in trouble with the authorities and their crimes were erased from the police record.

Richard, who joined the Tikipunga Adventist Fellowship church shortly before the robbery, said the ordeal revitalized his faith.

He said the fact that he did not notice the intruders during the robbery was a miracle. He has a weak heart after suffering a heart attack two years earlier.

"I normally wake up at the drop of a hat," he said. "Living on my own and in my 80s, I take note of everything at night. I can't dispute that God was there in all His glory and love and tenderness because if I'd seen someone at the bottom of my bed, I would have freaked out."

He also said he was blessed by the chance to interact with the boys and to encourage them.

"It was so beautifully done by the Lord," he said. "Since then, I've grown leaps and bounds in my Christian walk." 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help boys and girls in New Zealand and across the South Pacific Division and the world know more about Jesus through a series of animated films based on *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and other beloved books by Ellen White.

By Maryellen Hacko

## Story Tips

- Know that Richard was able to be a witness to three boys and their relatives through a negative experience. Challenge listeners to find ways to be witnesses through negative experiences.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on a first-person account that appeared in the South Pacific Division's *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

# Prayers, Plants, and a Pandemic

AUSTRALIA | October 29

## Emmy



Emmy faced the real prospect of homelessness when a COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne, Australia, caused her husband's company to reduce his hours to part time.

But she had faith. She and her husband, Jonathan, had recently been baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She began to pray for a job to support Jonathan and their three sons.

Several challenges loomed. Emmy did not know how to drive, and the job market was extremely difficult. When she went for a first job interview, she took a friend along with her, and job interviewer ended up offering the job to the friend.

"Don't worry," Jonathan reassured her. "If you didn't get that job, it was not God's will, and it was not for you."

Emmy kept praying. As she prayed, she found joy in raising succulent plants. She took selfies with the plants and posted

them on Facebook. She joined a Facebook group for succulent-plant growers.

One day, she was inspired by a video posted in the Facebook group by a plant nursery.

"I wish I could work with you guys," she wrote below the video. "I really love succulents."

"Where do you live?" came the reply.

When she gave her location, the plant nursery wrote back with an invitation to call its director.

The man who answered the phone was waiting for her call.

"Would you like to come to see me at our nursery at 4:30 this afternoon?" he asked.

Emmy jumped at the opportunity. "Of course!" she said. She was delighted because the nursery was within walking distance of her house. She wouldn't need to find a ride.

But she wanted God's will to be done.

"Lord, if this job is not for me, do something to stop it," she prayed.

Not wanting to be late, Emmy left her house at 1:30 p.m. She arrived at the nursery in just 30 minutes, far too early for her appointment. As she waited, she tried to hide surreptitiously in bushes, not wanting to be seen.

But the nursery director spotted her quickly. "Are you Emmy?" he asked.

When she nodded, he invited her into his office, and he described the nursery's business. Then he introduced her to each



employee and showed her the nursery's plants. Seeing her enthusiasm, he gave her a full-time job on the spot.

Emmy was amazed that God had used her comment on Facebook to give her a job so close to home in the middle of a pandemic. She and her family would be able to afford to keep their house.

Emmy soon learned all areas of work in the nursery, and she could fill in wherever she was needed. She enjoyed the variety of work. She also was interested in how the succulents propagated because she wanted to propagate her own plants at home. With permission from the nursery, she began taking cuttings home to start her own collection. Time flew by as she worked. God had truly answered her prayers.

Or so she thought.

On payday, Emmy was bewildered. While everyone else received pay that Friday, she got nothing. When she asked about it, she was told that she would not be paid because she had been taking plant cuttings home.

Emmy could hardly believe it. Yes, she had taken cuttings home, but with permission. Nobody had said anything about the cuttings being in lieu of wages.

At home, her husband, Jonathan, encouraged her to take the matter to God. "Don't worry," he said. "We'll just pray about it."

And they did all weekend.

On Monday morning, Emmy received a pleasant surprise. When she arrived at work, before she could even ask more questions about her pay, the director's wife walked over to her with a beautiful cake and a sincere apology. She said that there had been a big misunderstanding and Emmy would receive full pay.

Relief and joy filled Emmy's heart. Once again, God had answered her prayers. She and her family would be able to keep their home amid the pandemic. 🌍

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help spread the hope that Emmy has in Jesus across Australia and the South Pacific Division.

By Maryellen Hacko

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](https://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on a story that appeared in the South Pacific Division's *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- In 1885, the first missionaries to Australia, all from the United States, were Stephen N. Haskell, John O. Corliss and family, Mendel C. Israel and family, a printer named Henry Scott, and William Arnold. The first Seventh-day Adventist church in Australia was organized with 28 members during the first evangelistic series of meetings, which concluded on January 10, 1886, at North Fitzroy, an inner-city suburb of Melbourne.

# From Coma to Christ

AUSTRALIA | November 5

## Peter



When Peter was 7, he was hit by a car as he crossed a crosswalk outside his school. He was on his way home from school in Brisbane, Australia.

The force of the impact threw the boy more than 50 yards (meters), and he landed on his back. He was in a coma for six months.

While Peter lay in the coma, his grandmother worried about his salvation and arranged for him to be baptized. Following her religious tradition, a priest sprinkled the unconscious boy with water.

When Peter regained consciousness, it became clear that the car accident had affected his mind. He had to relearn basic skills such as eating and using the toilet. He also struggled to read and to understand what people were saying.

Despite the challenges, he persevered in his learning for the next eight years.

During that time, his grandmother sometimes took him to her church.

Peter liked going to church. He recognized a God-given hunger within him, and he longed to fill it. He embarked on a spiritual journey to try to satisfy that hunger.

When he was 16, he asked his mother if he could attend church more regularly, not just on the occasional Sunday with his grandmother. Mother agreed, and Peter began attending his grandmother's church five times every weekend: once on Saturday evening, three times on Sunday morning and once on Sunday evening.

Over the next decade, Peter attended many worship services and visited many churches. He got married and had two daughters. He was working as a cabinet maker when he heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church from an Adventist customer.

Time passed, and Peter moved into a house located on the same street as an Adventist church in a suburb of Brisbane. He saw the church as he walked to and from the train station every day, and he wondered what it would be like to worship there. One Sabbath morning, when he saw cars arriving at the church, he decided to



go inside and find out.

Church members showered Peter with acceptance and friendship. He was invited to join a Sabbath School class. He made new friends. After church, someone even offered to drive him home.

Peter returned to the church the next Sabbath and then the next.

“I found the church people to be so friendly and caring,” he says. “This is one of the things that has kept me coming to this church.”

Peter studied the Bible with the church pastor. As he read, Peter sensed that his spiritual hunger for righteousness was being satisfied. He found all his needs met in Jesus for the first time. He resolved to give his heart to Jesus through the biblically taught method of baptism by immersion. He had been in a coma during his first baptism, unaware of what was happening. Now he wanted to be baptized by his own choice.

On a Sabbath day in 2021, members of Caboolture Seventh-day Adventist Church burst into spontaneous applause as their friend Peter came out of the waters of baptism. His journey of spiritual seeking had reached a beautiful end and an equally wonderful beginning.

Jesus says those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled — and they will be happy. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6, NKJV). 🌐

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help spread the joy that Peter has found in Jesus across Australia and the South Pacific Division.

By Lynette Ashby

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on a story that appeared in the South Pacific Division’s *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

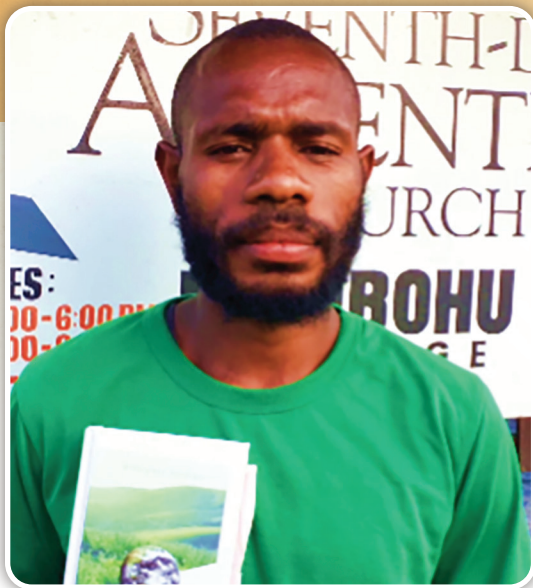
## Fast Facts

- Australia is both the biggest island and smallest continent in the world. Most of the interior of the country is desert and is known as the “outback.” The name Australia comes from the Latin word “australis,” meaning “southern.”
- The Aboriginal people of Australia arrived thousands of years ago. They probably traveled from Asia across land bridges that were exposed when sea levels were lower.
- Gold was discovered in Australia in 1851, and a gold rush, similar to the one in California in 1849, resulted, bringing thousands of new immigrants to the country. By 1859, there were six separate colonies, and, in 1901, these colonies joined to form the Federation of Australia.
- One of Australia’s most iconic sites is Uluru, or Ayers Rock — a natural rock sacred to the Aboriginal peoples of Australia — that rises more than 1,000 feet (335 m) out of a flat desert called the Red Centre and is one of the largest rocks in the world.

# Solomon the World Changer

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | November 12

## Solomon



Solomon thought that he knew the Bible rather well. He listened to the preacher read from the Bible at the village church in Papua New Guinea. He believed in the God of heaven as represented by the Bible. But he hadn't really studied the Bible for himself.

One day, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary showed up in the mountainous village and presented Solomon with a white book titled *World Changers Bible*.

"I've come to share the Word of God in your village," the missionary said.

Solomon was pleased to own a Bible. The name intrigued him: *World Changers Bible*. He wondered what it meant to be a world changer. He examined the Bible closely. It was the New Living Translation. He saw that the words were easy to read. This also pleased him. He, like many of the other villagers in their 20s, was still in school.

The missionary saw Solomon's interest

and invited him to join a Bible study group.

"We will read about Jesus," he said. "The Bible study lasts 15 or 20 minutes."

At the first gathering, the missionary invited Solomon and the others to open their Bibles to Mark 1. Before they read, the missionary prayed. "Dear God, please guide us. Thank You," he said.

After the prayer, he asked Solomon to read from the first chapter of Mark. Solomon read about John the Baptist, a preacher clothed in camel's hair who ate wild honey and baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. When he finished reading the story, the missionary asked another person to read the story again. After that, the missionary asked someone else to retell the story without looking at the Bible. Then the missionary said they were going to discuss it. "What did you hear that was new to you?" he asked.

After discussing what was new to them, Solomon and the others were asked what had surprised them about the story and if there was anything that they had not understood. Then the missionary asked if the story offered any information that they could obey or apply to their lives. Someone said it seemed important to get baptized. Jesus had gotten baptized in the story.

As the Bible study wrapped up, the missionary asked, "What will you share from this story with someone this week?" Then he prayed, "Dear God, thank You for Your Word. Help us to follow You. Amen."



Solomon liked the Bible study. He felt like he had caught a new glimpse of Jesus.

Over the year, Solomon's love for Jesus grew as he attended the Bible studies. Each Bible study followed a similar format. The group began with a short prayer. Then two people read the same story from the Bible, and a third person retold the story in his or her own words. Then the missionary asked if they had learned something new, been surprised by anything, or were struggling to understand something. He asked what they could obey or apply from the story and challenged them to share the story during the week. Finally, he or someone else prayed.

Solomon learned that the missionary was following a Bible study program called Discovery Bible Reading, which was developed by the South Pacific Division. He also learned that his new white Bible came from a South Pacific Division program that sought to distribute 200,000 Bibles to young people. He finally learned the meaning of the Bible's title: *World Changers Bible*. He learned that a world changer is a disciple of Jesus who desires to live as a disciple and to make more disciples.

After a year of Bible studies, Solomon decided that he wanted to become a world changer. He followed Jesus' example in Mark 1 and got baptized.

Today, Solomon is a 26-year-old tenth grader who is leading a group of young people in constructing a new Adventist church in his village. He also is a missionary, using his *World Changers Bible* to give Bible studies to family members and other villagers.

"Now that I am an Adventist, it is my great desire to see more of my family join God's church," he says. 🌍

## Story Tips

- Know that World Changers Bible Project began as an initiative of the South Pacific Division's Adventist Youth Ministries Department under the leadership of Dr. Nick Kross. His dream was to provide 200,000 young people aged 15 to 23 in the South Pacific with a Bible and discipleship kit at a cost of more than 1 million Australian dollars (U.S.\$736,500). Today, more than 225,700 Bibles have been distributed across the division as missionaries entered new villages in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji, and elsewhere. Read more: [bit.ly/worldchangersbible](http://bit.ly/worldchangersbible).
- Read more about the Discovery Bible Reading program: [bit.ly/discoverybiblereading](http://bit.ly/discoverybiblereading).
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

Thank you for your mission offering that helps spread the gospel in Papua New Guinea and across the South Pacific Division.

By Andrew McChesney



# No More Fear

Jack

Meet Jack. He is a member of the Baimankanem tribe in Papua New Guinea.

For as long as Jack can remember, he and his people have lived under a shadow of fear and neglect in Jiwaka Province.

Now there is nothing wrong with the province itself. The centrally located province is a beautiful place to live. Situated in a very fertile valley, it has a long, flowing river that provides for the needs of the people. Its rich soil grows an abundance of crops, mainly coffee and tea.

But life was particularly difficult for the people of Jack's tribe. The livelihoods of many relatives and friends were torn apart by a seemingly endless cycle of hatred, violence, quarrels over land rights, and other internal conflicts.

Because of the rampant strife, the tribal people did not receive basic government services. No one received healthcare from medical doctors and nurses. Tribal children did not go to school. No police officers enforced law and order in the

area. Roads were not maintained and fell into terrible disrepair.

Living in such conditions became normal for Jack and his people. They lived under a long shadow of fear and neglect.

But then Total Member Involvement entered the area. Total Member Involvement is an initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist world church that encourages each church member to lead someone to Jesus.

Church members arrived in the area and led Bible studies among Jack and his people. The Bible studies paved the way for evangelistic meetings. As Jack and his people read the Bible, grievances were laid aside, and people gave their hearts to Jesus in baptism. The Adventists organized a special peace ceremony to unite once-warring clans.

Jack was surprised at the results. He says, "I praise the local Seventh-day Adventist Church for a successful program of one-week evangelistic meetings, Sabbath baptisms, and a colorful peace ceremony that moved the



hearts of many, especially the mothers and sisters, who wept tears of joy as they stood alongside their brothers, husbands, and sons. The peace ceremony that will go down in the history of my people.”

Jack appealed to his people to, like the apostle Paul, put aside the past and look ahead with hope. He said, “I’d like to conclude with an appeal to my people: Let us all embrace the change and together build and restore peace and normalcy in our community. Like Paul, I am the worst of sinners, but God is changing me, and I am now looking forward to going in the direction He leads.”

Jack could say with Paul, “Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:13-17, NKJV). 🌐

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help bring Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio to Papua New Guinea, allowing people across the country to learn about Jesus’ ministry of reconciliation, hope, and peace. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know that Total Member Involvement brought peace and hope to Jack and his people. Ask your listeners, “How can you participate in Total Member Involvement to bring hope and peace to people in your community?” Read more about Total Member Involvement at: [tmi.adventist.org](http://tmi.adventist.org).
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story is based on a first-person account that appeared in the South Pacific Division’s *Adventist Record*.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach . . . among unreached and under-reached people groups,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- In 1907, Septimus and Edith Carr, teaching at the Buresala Training School in Fiji, were chosen to begin Adventist work in Papua. They took one of their students, Benisimani “Bennie” (or “Benny”) Tavodi, to assist them. They arrived in Port Moresby in June 1908. Septimus traveled by packhorse to the Sogeri Plateau northeast of Port Moresby, where the climate was cooler and the soil better. He arranged for the government to purchase 150 acres (60 hectares) from the local people so that he could lease it long-term, which was completed late in 1909. The property, named Bisiatabu, was located at an altitude of 1,600 feet.

# Sailor Comes Home

TUVALU | November 26

Barry



A Seventh-day Adventist aunt took Barry to church every Sabbath on a tiny reef island in the middle of the South Pacific. But on Sundays, Barry's mother and father took him to another church.

Perhaps understandably, Barry grew up confused in Tuvalu, a small nation comprised of 11,000 people living on nine tiny islands between Australia and Hawaii. The nine islands of Tuvalu cover a total land area of only 10 square miles (26 square kilometers).

It is the custom in Tuvalu for children to be raised by the mother's younger sister. So, after Barry was born, he was raised by his aunt, Pena.

Now Pena loved Barry dearly and treated him as her own son. Every Sabbath, she took him to the Niutao Seventh-day Adventist Church, the only Adventist church on their reef island of Niutao.

Barry's mother had no problem with her son going to the Adventist church. Like her sister, she was a baptized member of the church. But her husband belonged to another Christian denomination. So, while Barry went to the Adventist church on Sabbaths, his mother and father took him to another church on Sundays.

As Barry grew into a teenager, he decided to attend a maritime school and become a sailor. With Tuvalu surrounded by ocean, many of its inhabitants work as sailors. So, Barry ended up working as a sailor and sending money back home to help his family. After getting married, he continued to work as a sailor, sending money to his wife and four children.

After growing up in two churches, Barry wasn't sure what to think about God. His wife, Taufua, belonged to the same church as his father. His sea life kept him far from church, so he stopped going to church services, and his life sank into chaos. He became addicted to tobacco, and he drank heavily. His drinking led to three serious motorcycle accidents while visiting home on shore leave in the country's capital, Funafuti. Each time, he was rushed, bleeding and unconscious, to the country's only hospital.

Barry found little joy in being with his



family. His wife, Taufua, who worked for Tuvalu's government as a civil servant, found little joy in being with her husband. Their four children also found little joy at home. The family rarely prayed together.

A sudden illness shook the family. The oldest child, Liena, fell ill with the mumps and had to be flown to a hospital in Fiji for urgent treatment. Barry and Taufua accompanied their 14-year-old daughter on the two-and-a-half-hour flight on Fiji Airways.

At the hospital, Barry began to think seriously about God for the first time in years. He remembered his aunt taking him to the Adventist church as a boy. He began to pray.

Liena recovered.

Back in Tuvalu, Barry quit his job as a sailor. He wanted to get away from the evil influences of his old life and to start a new life with God. He began to study the Bible with his wife and Liena at the Adventist church every Sabbath afternoon. On Sabbath mornings, he and his family worshiped together at the church. As they worshiped, their desire to know more about the Bible grew, and they became involved in other church activities.

In 2021, Barry and his wife and oldest daughter followed Jesus' example into the waters of baptism. Barry and Liena were baptized at the Funafuti Seventh-day Adventist Church in April, while Taufua was baptized two months later in June.

Today, joy has filled the home as the family regularly prays together. The four children have found joy in the home. Taufua has found joy being with her husband. And Barry has found joy in being with his family — and with God. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help record and produce children's programming based on Ellen White's books *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and others. The programming will be distributed on Hope Channel and the Internet to children in Tuvalu and across the South Pacific Division and the world. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Vaguna Satupa

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Tuvalu as: TOO-va-loo.
- Pronounce Niutao as: NI-oo-ta-o.
- Pronounce Taufua as: TA-oo-foo-a.
- Pronounce Liena as: LEE-yena.
- Pronounce Funafuti as: FOO-na-foo-tee.
- Know that the photo shows Barry with his family.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](https://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org)

# Here Am I! Send Me

SAMOA | December 3

## Asiata



Asiata, a father of three adult children and grandfather of three grandchildren, did not know the meaning of the acronym ADRA when he arrived at the ADRA office for a job interview in Apia, the capital of the South Pacific nation of Samoa. But he knew that he was jobless and desperately in need of money to support his family.

During the job interview, ADRA's country director explained the meaning of the acronym: Adventist Development and Relief Agency. She explained that ADRA wanted to hire someone to help prepare the community for cyclones and other natural disasters.

Asiata liked the idea of helping his family and neighbors to better prepare for cyclones. A fierce cyclone seemed to strike Samoa every few years, destroying homes, washing out roads, toppling electricity

lines, and endangering lives. He was well suited for the job of community facilitator. Although Asiata had only recently returned to Samoa after spending some time in Australia, he had deep roots in the local community. His family had founded a village church, and he held positions on its board and in his religious denomination.

Asiata got the ADRA job.

But when he was summoned to start work, he faced a dilemma. The ADRA director wanted him to begin work on the same day that he was scheduled to take an exam to qualify to preach for his religious denomination. He really wanted to work. He really needed the money. But he also really wanted to take the exam. He loved God. He explained the problem to the ADRA director.

"That's fine," the ADRA director told him. "Go ahead and take the exam. You can start work on Monday next week."

Asiata felt greatly relieved. He appreciated the flexibility of the ADRA director and her respect for his faith. He passed the preaching exam and began his new job on Monday.

Several months passed, and he learned that the Seventh-day Adventist Church would hold special meetings in Samoa. An evangelist was flying in from Australia to speak at a large convention center. The meetings would be broadcast live on screens in Adventist churches across



Samoa. Asiata received an invitation to attend the main meetings at the convention center.

He invited his wife, two adult children, a daughter-in-law, and other people from his village to attend the meetings, and they agreed. He sat in the front row, nearly in front of the podium, for every meeting of the 14 nights. He stood up in response to every altar call. When the evangelist asked who would like to be baptized, he stood up again. Asiata joined his wife, their two adult children, and their daughter-in-law in being baptized on the last Sabbath of the meetings.

Three years passed and, in late 2020, another two-week program was organized in Samoa. The speaker was the president of the Adventist Church in Samoa. He asked Asiata to give a 15-minute health presentation at the start of every meeting. Among other things, Asiata could teach listeners how a healthy lifestyle could prevent diabetes. Diabetes is a common health condition that results in many Samoans undergoing toe amputations.

Asiata invited his neighbors to attend the meetings. Every day after work, for 14 nights, he picked up neighbors in his van and drove them to the meetings. Six of them were baptized.

Then in 2021, the Adventist Church organized another series, and Asiata again invited his neighbors. Two were baptized.

Asiata couldn't be happier. "I believe God guided me to ADRA," he says. "God gave me this work and opened a window for me to grow spiritually."

Asiata loves Isaiah 6:8, "I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me'" (NKJV). 🌐

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that supported "Save 10,000 Toes," a campaign to prevent toe amputations by teaching better health practices in Samoa and other countries in the South Pacific Division.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Asiata as: ah-SEE-atta.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](https://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples," and Spiritual Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." The "Save 10,000 Toes" Thirteenth Sabbath project illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Samoa has many whales, dolphins, and porpoises in its waters. There are 82 species of bird, of which 10 are native, five have been introduced by humans, and 23 are rare or accidental. Seven species are endangered.

# God Qualifies the Called

VANUATU | December 10

## Frank



Frank was raised a spoiled boy in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu.

The only son from his father's second marriage, he was favored by his parents, just like the boy Joseph was favored by his father, Jacob, in the Bible. And, like the story of Joseph, sibling jealousy led to problems with older half-brothers from his father's first marriage.

Unhappy at home, Frank found joy studying at the local Aore Adventist Academy. He made many friends and enjoyed attending church on Sabbath.

However, while in high school, he fell ill and was hospitalized. His parents, worried that he might die, decided to keep him at home when he left the hospital. That was the end of Frank's education. He never finished high school.

Frank joined other village boys in becoming an ordinary village boy. He lacked skills to get a job. When Father died, his older half-brothers inherited the

property, leaving Frank with nothing. Frank became a lost village boy with no purpose or meaning in life.

One thing that Frank had enjoyed at Aore Adventist Academy was carpentry class. He had learned how to make furniture. Remembering the carpentry class, he began to make a living by constructing small pieces of furniture and small houses in his village.

The years passed, and Frank got married and had children.

He gave up making furniture, relying instead on his mother and in-laws to support his family.

He and his wife argued constantly, with his wife telling him to find work to support their children.

There seemed to be no way out.

In desperation one night, Frank fell on his knees and pleaded with God for help.

"Please give me a chance to prove myself," he prayed.

A short time later, an older half-brother, Ken, offered Frank a carpentry job on a coconut and cocoa farm. Frank, thanking God for the job, quickly put his skills to use by repairing farm buildings.

Later, a cannery hired him as a maintenance worker. His skills caught his supervisor's attention. When the cannery went bankrupt, the supervisor started his own business and hired Frank to work with him in making furniture and constructing commercial buildings.



Frank became successful, and he forgot about God. He forgot about his desperate prayer for work.

Until one night.

As Frank slept, he dreamed that he saw his grandmother delivering a divine message. His grandmother promised that he would become a prominent businessman and own his own company. But, she said, for that to happen he had to be faithful to God.

The dream astonished Frank, and he decided to give his heart to God. He began to go to church every Sabbath.

Within a few years, his dream came true. Frank became the owner of a successful construction and joinery company with a team of employees.

Remembering his desire to be faithful to God, he returned to his home village to reconcile with all his older half-brothers and to make peace with the rest of his family. He found that his half-brothers had constructed a small Adventist church using local building materials. Maranatha ASI had donated materials to build a larger one-day church, but the structure remained unfinished. Frank stepped in to help, designing and building a bigger church.

Frank felt good about building a house for God. He longed to do more. So, he started a ministry to repair and complete unfinished churches across Vanuatu's 83 islands. Today, he helps fund many church projects through his business and is the head elder in the Bora Bora village church on the island of Santo.

Frank says he has found purpose and meaning in life.

"I am so grateful to God for lifting me from being an unqualified village boy to a qualified commercial carpenter," he said. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help families in Vanuatu and across the South Pacific Division and the world know more about Jesus through a series of animated films based on *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and other beloved books by Ellen White.

By Max Zenebe

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- In 1911, Calvin and Myrtle Parker and nurses Harold and Clara Carr were appointed by the Australian Union Conference to pioneer a mission base in Vanuatu. They took with them a portable home. The men went ahead to Port Vila, arriving on June 10, 1912. Their wives waited at Norfolk Island until the home was raised and then they proceeded to Port Vila, arriving on August 11.

# A Praying Wife



VANUATU | December 17

## Damatui

Damatui and Stelline had a rather unusual worship arrangement.

Every Sabbath, Stelline went to the Seventh-day Adventist church with their three sons on the island of Efate in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu.

Every Sunday, Damatui went to another island church, where he served as an elder.

The husband and wife never went to church together. At home, they never talked about religion. Any discussion about the Bible was sure to spell trouble.

While the couple was satisfied with the arrangement, Stelline had a desire deep in her heart for Damatui to join the Adventist Church. Every time the church organized a special program, she invited him to go with her and the children. Every day, she prayed earnestly for God to somehow show her husband the Sabbath truth that she had found in the Bible.

One day, she learned that the Vanuatu Seventh-day Adventist Mission was

organizing a marriage seminar, and she invited her husband to go with her. Damatui attended the seminar and used the event to renew his marriage vows before God. Their marriage improved after the seminar, and hope filled Stelline's heart. She sensed that God was leading her husband forward one step at a time.

The next year, the Vanuatu mission organized a men's conference, and a local church elder invited Damatui to attend. Damatui was hesitant at first but accepted the invitation to the weeklong event on the campus of Aore Adventist Academy on another island. The church elder visited again later and handed Damatui a plane ticket to fly to the men's conference. Damatui was surprised at the generous gift.

While Damatui participated in the men's conference on Santo Island, his wife remained at home with their children, praying for God to touch her husband's heart. When the conference ended, Damatui returned home, filled with excitement about the men's conference.

More time passed, and the Vanuatu mission organized an evangelistic program that would be broadcast over national television and Hope Channel. Stelline's church was among the sites where people could watch the three-week program. Damatui, who owned a bus, was hired to



drive people to the church.

He faithfully transported people every night for the first two weeks, but he never stayed to listen. During the final week, he decided to stay and listen. The preacher made a baptismal appeal that touched Damatui's heart. He decided that night to be baptized. But as people went to the front at the preacher's appeal, Damatui remained seated. In his heart, though, he was determined to be baptized.

On Friday afternoon, Damatui went to his church pastor and announced that he wanted to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On Sabbath morning, Damatui was baptized with dozens of other people. Stelline might have been the happiest wife in the crowd. Their three sons also were overjoyed.

Leaders from Damatui's former church were not happy. They tried to persuade him to return, but he refused. He told them that he had found God's true church.

Today, Damatui is an assistant elder at the only Seventh-day Adventist church in his village of Erakor. The small church plant is growing fast and hopes to become a full-fledged church soon.

"Looking back, I realize that I made one of the best decisions of my life, not only for myself but also for my entire family," Damatui said. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help families in Vanuatu and across the South Pacific Division and the world know more about Jesus through a series of animated films based on *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, and other beloved books by Ellen White.

By Max Zenebe

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Damatui as: DA-ma-too-ee.
- Pronounce Stelline as: ste-LEEN.
- Pronounce Aore as: a-OO-re.
- Pronounce Efate as: EE-faa-te.
- Know that Damatui and other Adventists in his village are grateful to the Adventist Church's South Queensland Conference in Australia for supplying their first Adventist church building. The evacuation center donated when Cyclone Pam battered Vanuatu in 2015 became their first church building.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- The first missionaries to Vanuatu, Calvin and Myrtle Parker, settled at Atchin in 1913. They had hardly moved in when the Atchinese advised foreigners to leave, and traders fled. Only the Parkers remained. A few months later, seven Christian teachers were killed and eaten on a nearby island. The government retaliated, killing an islander but losing four men, including two who were cannibalized. Calvin Parker negotiated a peace treaty between sides.

# Held Captive

Salote



photo: BigStock.com

Pain cut through Salote's heart as the media reports began to reach Fiji.

Far away in the Middle East, 200 armed militants had seized 45 Fijian peacekeepers and were holding them captive in an unknown location in Syria.

Salote's 34-year-old son had recently left home for a tour of duty with United Nations peacekeepers in the Middle East.

The names of the abducted Fijian peacekeepers were not released immediately, and Salote wondered whether her son was alive and well. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 sprang to mind: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (NKJV). Salote remembered that she had been praying for her son even before he had been deployed. Surely, he was safely in God's hands.

The next day, the phone rang. It was Salote's daughter-in-law. Weeping, she confirmed that her husband, Salote's son, was among the 45 captives. He was the commander of the peacekeeping force.

Salote was ready for the news. "Don't

worry," she said. "God has allowed this to happen, and He has done it for His own divine purpose. You and I are to accept this and to pray for God's help in the release of the 45 men."

Her words strengthened both of their faith, and they joined the mothers and wives of the other captives in prayer, fasting, and claiming God's promises.

As Salote prayed and waited for news during that dark period of 2014, she grew closer to God. She realized that when the future seemed dark, the darkness could be reduced or totally removed by having peace of mind. She claimed Isaiah 26:3, which says God will keep in perfect peace those whose minds stay on Him because they trust in Him. Verse 4 adds, "Trust in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

Salote also found stability of mind and strength by accepting the reality that her son might die. She claimed Philippians 4:6, which says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God" (NIV).



Being realistic reminded her of her prophetic understanding of the time in which she was living: the very last days of earth's history as prophesied in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue in Daniel 2. This reality gave her strength and hope.

Fourteen days after being taken captive, her son and his fellow peacekeepers were freed.

As their grateful families thanked God, Salote learned that the love of God had penetrated the militant camp. Her son and his men had been forbidden from worshiping God, but they had decided on the third day of captivity to start praying and fasting anyway. They had prayed silently, one by one, as they were lying down and holding hands. When one man finished praying, he tightly squeezed the hand of the next man. Over the 14 days, the captives befriended their captors to such an extent that several militants even shed tears saying goodbye. The captives left, unharmed, to their own camp.

In *The Desire of Ages*, Ellen White says, "We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience" (page 347).

This is Salote's testimony. This is a story of God's grace. "He is certainly present where His love is demonstrated," she says. "He will provide the means for sharing His love and message of redemption even under the most difficult circumstances." 🌍

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help spread the hope that Salote has in Jesus across Fiji and the South Pacific Division.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know that Salote is a retired teacher in Suva, Fiji. This story is based on a morning worship talk that she gave at Pacific Adventist University and was published in the South Pacific Division's *Adventist Record*.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South Pacific Division: [bit.ly/spd-2022](http://bit.ly/spd-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- The Adventist missionary ship *Pitcairn* arrived at Suva, Fiji, on August 3, 1891. John and Hannah Tay disembarked at Suva to sell medical books, while the boat sailed on. Albert and Hattie Read and James Russell McCoy were well received by the Europeans, sold their entire stock of books, took orders for more, and preached at times in public halls.
- When the *Pitcairn* visited on its second voyage, in the summer of 1893, Dr. Merritt Kellogg concluded, "We ought by all means to place workers on the Fiji Islands. I have great hopes of the native people." Three years later, John and Susie Fulton joined Kellogg on Suva. Roads were poor, or non-existent, so they bought a boat, the *Loughborough*, to travel the safer waters inside the reef. It was the first Adventist mission boat stationed in the South Pacific, the *Pitcairn* being based in California.

# Influential Juice Bar

13<sup>th</sup> SABBATH: FIJI | December 31



photo: BigStock.com

Wailoaloa Beach is a popular tourist destination known for its affordable accommodation, restaurants, and especially its bars and night spots in Nadi, Fiji.

When COVID-19 struck Fiji, many small coffee shops, fast food outlets, and restaurants lost business along the beach. One such place was the Bamboo Resort.

Sensing an opportunity, three local Seventh-day Adventist churches teamed up with Bamboo Resort to open Bitu Wellness Bar, a juice bar offering wellness and health programs such as free biometric screenings, exercise programs, fat-loss challenges, and personalized meal plans. The bar, whose name *bitu* means “bamboo” in the local language, quickly gained popularity among the locals, who streamed in for healthy fresh juices.

Church members prayed that the bar would serve as a center of influence to encourage Fijians to take a more holistic and natural approach to their health in a region where people struggle with lifestyle

diseases, particularly diabetes. The bar, supported by the South Pacific Division’s 10,000 Toes campaign, a recipient of a 2019 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also sought to raise awareness to healthy alternatives to alcohol.

But then a second wave of COVID-19 struck Fiji, and the authorities ordered that the Bamboo Resort close along with the juice bar. For two weeks, customers called daily to find out when and where the juice bar would reopen. What happened next was unexpected.

The married couple who managed the neighboring Beach Escape Resort had watched daily crowds pouring in and out of the Bamboo Resort and had noticed that more people visited the juice bar than the liquor bar. They also noted a decrease in alcohol-related incidents on the street.

The couple contacted church members and offered the use of their liquor bar and other premises as a wellness hub. Church

## Story Tips

- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God’s Word worldwide and that one-fourth of this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish Hope Channel television and radio in Papua New Guinea and to produce a series of children’s programs based on some of Ellen White’s most-loved books for distribution throughout the South Pacific Division and the world. The projects are on page 3 and the back cover.



members initially turned down the offer, not wanting to offer fruit juices in the same place as alcohol, but the managers explained that they wanted to stop selling alcohol altogether.

Alcohol was cleared out from the bar, and bar equipment was replaced with juicing machines, blenders, and fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The Bitu Wellness Bar was up and running again.

Church members expressed amazement at the marvelous way that God leads. The juice bar managed to not only influence the regular patrons of the Bamboo Resort, but it also has transformed the Beach Escape Resort into a center of influence that is bringing hope and healing to the community. 🌍

Thank you for your 2019 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that supported the South Pacific Division's 10,000 Toes campaign in Fiji and other South Pacific countries. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today to support new projects to spread the gospel in the South Pacific Division and beyond.

By George Kwong

## Future 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the East-Central Africa Division to establish:

- Dormitory, Mugonero Nursing School, Mugonero, Rwanda
- Faculty housing, School of Medicine, Adventist University of Central Africa, Masoro, Rwanda
- Youth agricultural training center, Nchwanga, Uganda
- Multipurpose hall, Ethiopia Adventist College extension campus, Nekemte, Ethiopia
- Dormitory and multipurpose hall, Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children, Mwata, Kenya
- Multipurpose hall, University of Arusha, Tanzania

# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

## EDITORIAL

**Andrew McChesney** Editor  
**Wendy Trim** Editorial Assistant  
**Emily Harding** Layout Editor

## OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

**Gary Krause** Director  
**Rick Kajjura** Communication Director  
**Jeff Scoggins** Program Director

## COMMUNICATION TEAM

**Andrew McChesney** Editor, *Mission*  
**Laurie Falvo** Editor, *Mission 360*  
**Kayla Ewert** Projects Manager  
**Ricky Oliveras** Video Producer  
**Caleb Haakenson** Video Producer

Special thanks to: Tracey Bridcutt (SPD), Christina Hawkins (SPD), John Tausere (TPUM), and Cameron Wari (PNGUM).

Website: [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org)

**Mission** (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2022 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

Fourth Quarter 2022  
Volume 111, Number 4

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Permission is granted to reproduce material from this quarterly for use in local Sabbath Schools and children's ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of this material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized in writing by filling out the online form located at: [bit.ly/AMpermission](http://bit.ly/AMpermission).

For subscription inquiries, e-mail [Rebecca Hilde](mailto:Rebecca.Hilde@pacificpress.com) at [rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com](mailto:rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com) or call 1-800-545-2449 or 1-208-465-2527. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, U.S.\$7.50; international, U.S.\$14.50. North American Division churches can receive a complimentary subscription by contacting the above telephone numbers or e-mail address.

# SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

# PROJECTS

- 1** Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio, Papua New Guinea Union Mission
- 2** King's Kids Discipleship Series, five children's TV series of 13 episodes each based on the Conflict of the Ages series, South Pacific Division

CONFERENCE	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Australian Union Conference	434	112	63,277	25,759,000
New Zealand Pacific Union Conference	152	47	21,130	5,589,000
Papua New Guinea Union Mission	1,073	3,205	392,813	8,950,000
Trans Pacific Union Mission	552	660	135,056	2,437,000
<b>Division Totals</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>612,276</b>	<b>42,735,000</b>

