



youth & adult **mission**



**From Fiji to
the Frontlines**

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On the Cover: Jordan stepped out in faith when God called him to be a missionary. As challenges arose, he knew he didn't face them alone. Story, page 20.

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SEVENTH-DAY
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= stories of special interest to teens

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the South Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 19 countries and territories: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. The region

is home to 45.5 million people, including 824,647 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 55 people.

Part of a special offering collected on the last Sabbath of this quarter will go to support four projects in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. Those Thirteenth Sabbath projects are listed in the sidebar.

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will support four projects in the South Pacific Division:

- Omaura Adventist School of Ministry, Kainantu, Papua New Guinea
- Children's health project, Solomon Islands
- Children's health project, Vanuatu
- Center of influence, Wallis Island

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we offer photos, videos, and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story.

You can also download a PDF of facts and activities from the South Pacific Division at bit.ly/spd-2026. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. Download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmission and the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/adultmission. *Mission Spotlight* videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!



My Brand-New Life



NEW CALEDONIA | January 3

Hyacinthe

Mom, can we please come back tomorrow?" our two youngest children asked with big smiles.

It was our first time at an Adventist meeting. A friend had invited us, so we came to be polite. We had seen flyers in our mailbox but never planned to go. Before we left home, my husband, Bruno, and I said to each other, "We're just going to listen. That's all."

But something unexpected happened.

Our children saw their friends at the meeting and even made some new ones. They had fun!

After the meeting, we stayed and drank warm herbal tea while talking with friendly people. They told us how God had changed their lives and invited us to come back again.

As the days passed and we attended more meetings, our children said they liked the pastor's sermons. Sometimes, it looked like they weren't listening, but they always had something to say about what they learned. They really liked the talks about how God

made the world and all the amazing things in nature.

I was also touched. The choir sang powerful songs that brought tears to my eyes. And the pastor always told us not to believe things just because he said them. He wanted us to read the Bible and learn from God's Word ourselves. I liked that.

Even though I went to church and prayed often, what we were learning here felt very different—and special.

One day during the second week, the pastor asked if anyone wanted to be baptized.

To our surprise, our son said, "Dad, Mom, I want to be baptized."

We were shocked. While we were still trying to understand everything, his young heart was just excited to know God.

I told him that getting baptized wasn't like buying a chocolate bar, that it was an important decision. But I realized I didn't know his heart like God did.

God was working on my heart, too, but I



didn't feel worthy. When the pastor asked again for anyone to come forward and be baptized, I wanted to go—but I couldn't move. I didn't feel "clean" enough.

That night, I prayed and cried alone. "Lord, what should I do? I want to be baptized." As I talked with God, I felt a sense of peace and knew I was ready.

The next morning, I packed a special white dress and a towel in my bag. I kissed my husband goodbye as he left with our older kids for a boat trip. Then, I left with our two younger sons, a nephew, and a niece.

I sat by myself at the meeting, tears flowing down my cheeks. An older couple saw me and kindly came over.

"I'm going to be baptized," I began, "but no one in my family knows."

They gave me a big, warm hug. It made me feel better.

I stood up when the pastor called for the people to be baptized. I walked to the front, crying—but not from sadness. My heart was full of love for Jesus. My children jumped with joy when they saw me get baptized. They hugged me tightly after I came out of the water.

Far away on the ocean, my husband felt something in his heart. I hadn't told him about my decision, but he turned to our sons and said, "Your mother is getting baptized."

Since that day, I've grown in faith. I enjoy going to church and studying the Bible in Sabbath School. I hope my whole family will one day choose baptism as well.

I'm thankful to Jesus for the husband He gave me. He doesn't stop me from keeping the Sabbath. I recently asked him, "How do you feel about God?"

He said, "I feel like a Christian. I believe in Jesus, and your faith encourages me."

Now, I try to live in a way that shows others who God is—through my words, actions, and love. 🌎

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will have an eternal impact on the

Story Tips

- Show the location of New Caledonia on a map.
- Pronounce Hyacinthe as: HAY-uh-sinth.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Mission Post

- New Caledonia has 6 churches, 2 companies, and 1,133 members. With a population of 278,000, that is one church member for every 245 New Caledonians.
- The first Adventist missionaries to work in New Caledonia were Captain G. F. Jones and his wife who sailed from Sydney, Australia, to Nouméa, New Caledonia, in 1925.
- The first Adventist member in New Caledonia was Mrs. Ada Peyras.
- The New Caledonia Mission was established in 1925 and organized in 1954 by a French evangelist named Paul Nouan.
- Many of the missionaries who lived in or visited New Caledonia were from France.
- The territory of the New Caledonia Mission includes the Isle of Pines, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna.

lives of people like Hyacinthe. It will help establish a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists build bridges of understanding and friendship with the people in the New Caledonia Mission territory.

By Hyacinthe Santino

My Grandfather's God



NEW CALEDONIA | January 10

Stanislas

Stanislas was raised in a Christian home rich in culture, faith, and tradition. He was the second of eight children, and his early memories were filled with love and the rhythms of family life. But tragedy struck when his father died in a car accident. At the time, Stanislas' mother was pregnant with his youngest sibling.

Unable to care for the children on her own, she sent them to live with their grandparents. It was in his grandparents' home that Stanislas first witnessed deep spiritual devotion. Each morning, he would wake up to the gentle scent of a candle burning and the sight of his grandparents on their knees in prayer. His grandfather, a faithful church worker, had dedicated his life to serving God.

Yet even as a boy, Stanislas began to wonder: *If God is good, why would someone like my grandfather, who loved Him so much, suffer so deeply?* That quiet doubt would grow in the years ahead.

By the time he reached his teens, Stanislas had drifted far from his roots. He turned to smoking, drinking, and eventually, stealing. What began as small acts of rebellion led him into a dangerous lifestyle of crime. He got involved in burglaries, car theft, and drug trafficking. The streets taught him a different set of rules—ones that say only the strongest survive.

Then, one night, everything changed. Drunk and behind the wheel of a stolen car, Stanislas suddenly heard a voice in his heart. “What are you doing? Is this how you want your life to end?”

Shaken, he knew he couldn’t continue living this way. The next morning, he decided to walk away from crime and start over.

He returned to his hometown to rebuild his life. It wasn’t easy—it took a year and a half—but Stanislas was determined. At 18, he joined the military, completed training, and eventually found steady work.

Later, he met a woman, and they began



a life together. They had two children, and everything was going well for a while. But old wounds and unresolved pain began to surface, creating tension in their relationship. Eventually, the couple separated.

Not long after, the woman's father called Stanislas and asked him to give her another chance. He agreed, not knowing what to expect.

His partner had grown up in a Seventh-day Adventist family. Though she had been away from church, she still read her Bible every day. One day, she told him, "I want to go back to church."

Stanislas replied, "Why not? I've tried everything else—maybe it's time to try Jesus."

She began attending church on Sabbath, while he started going to church on Sunday. Sometimes, she joined him, but he never went with her. Still, he noticed something had changed. She was calmer and happier. There was a peace in her that he couldn't explain.

One day, he asked her, "Why do you spend all day at church? Mine only lasts a couple of hours."

She smiled and said, "Come with me. You'll understand."

He agreed—and that first Sabbath at her church was a turning point. The message touched his heart in a way he didn't expect. He didn't yet fully understand Jesus, but something stirred within him.

The pastor invited him to begin Bible studies. Stanislas accepted.

As he opened the Bible, he began to find answers to questions that had haunted him since childhood. The image of God that had been damaged by doubt was slowly healed. He realized that the same voice he had heard years earlier, in that stolen car, was now speaking to him again—this time through Scripture.

One night, after a study session, he turned to his partner and said, "I think I have faith now. I finally understand what it means to believe."

Not long after, they were married and baptized together.

Story Tips

- Show the location of New Caledonia on a map.
- Pronounce Stanislas as: STAN-ih-slahz.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- The British explorer James Cook named the island New Caledonia because it reminded him of Scotland. Caledonia was the Roman name for the Scottish Highlands.
- When the first Christian missionaries arrived in the 1840s, cannibalism was widespread through the islands, and the entire crew of a sailing ship was killed and eaten.
- In 1853, France colonized New Caledonia and in 1864, it became a French penal colony. Around 22,000 prisoners were transported between 1864 and 1897.

Two years later, Stanislas enrolled at the Adventist university in Fiji, where he earned a degree in theology. Today, he serves as a pastor in New Caledonia, the same island where his journey began.

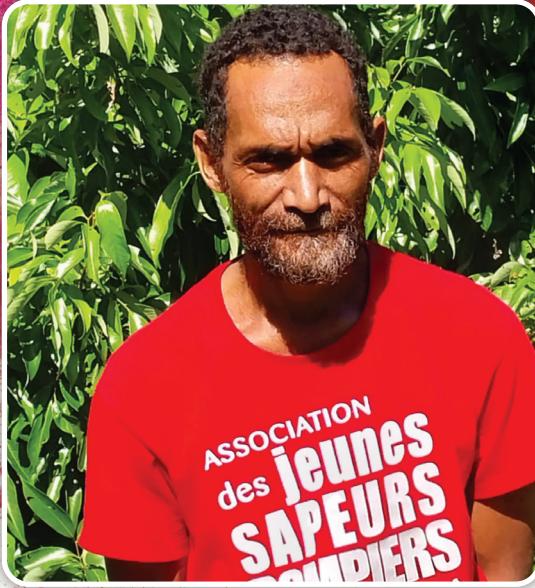
But now, he serves the God of his grandfather—not out of tradition but out of conviction, love, and a personal relationship with Christ. 

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will have an eternal impact on the lives of people like Pastor Stanislas Weneguei. It will help establish a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists build bridges of understanding and friendship with the people in the New Caledonia Mission territory.

The Turning Point

NEW CALEDONIA | January 17

Théodore



Théodore lives on the tropical island of Lifou. It is a part of the French territory of New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean. Théodore is from a small tribal village and is the youngest of twelve children born into a large, loving Christian home.

From a young age, Théodore attended church and followed religious traditions. Still, as he grew into his teenage years, something changed. The pleasures of the world and the influence of friends began to pull him in a different direction. During high school, he started making choices that he knew were wrong in God's eyes. Théodore dropped out in his second year and slowly slipped deeper into a life of addiction.

He began smoking cigarettes and cannabis and drinking alcohol. What started as curiosity soon turned into a lifestyle. His days were filled with worldly pleasures, and his nights were clouded by regret. The more he tried to fill the emptiness in his heart, the more lost he felt.

Deep inside, Théodore knew something was missing.

As an adult, he joined a small worship group. He wasn't sure what he was searching for, but he knew he needed something more

than what the world was offering. He had trusted people, but they had let him down. Now, he wanted to try trusting God.

One Sunday after church, Théodore asked around for a Bible. It took a while, but he finally found one and began to read it on his own. At first, he didn't fully understand what he was reading, but something kept pulling him back to the pages. He wanted to know more about Jesus.

The more he read, the more he searched. He began talking about Jesus with others, even though it wasn't always welcome. One day, a teacher badly beat him for asking questions about the Bible, but even that didn't stop him. At home, he kept reading God's Word, seeking truth.

Then, one day, something unexpected happened. A family member who was a Seventh-day Adventist invited Théodore to attend a series of evangelistic meetings.

Théodore chose to go, and the decision changed his life.

During the meetings, he heard messages straight from the Bible—clear, powerful, and full of love. He learned about Jesus as a personal Savior, not just a distant figure from childhood. He also discovered the truth about



the Sabbath and began keeping it as a holy day of rest, just as the Bible taught.

Théodore felt the Holy Spirit working in his heart, calling him to leave behind his old life and follow Jesus completely. With the support of kind pastors and church members, he decided to give his life fully to God.

On June 19, 2019, he was baptized. It was a day of freedom.

But the journey didn't end there. Years of addiction had taken a toll on Théodore's body and mind. He was still in treatment, still walking the path of healing. Yet, something was different now—Théodore wasn't walking alone.

God had not only freed him from his addictions, but He had also forgiven him. He had broken the chains that held him for so long. What once seemed impossible had become reality. "All these things are impossible for man," he says, "but possible with God."

Today, the young man who once depended on drugs now depends on the Word of God. He reads his Bible every day, and his greatest joy is sharing the Good News with others, especially those who are going through the same struggles he once faced.

His life has a new direction. His heart has a new purpose. And his motto says it all: "Trust in God." 🌎

Thank you for your faithful Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will have an eternal impact on the lives of people like Théodore. Your generous offering will help build a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists build bridges of understanding and friendship with people in the New Caledonia Mission territory.

By Théodore Draikolo

Story Tips

- Show the location of New Caledonia on a map.
- Pronounce Théodore as: thee-uh-DOOR.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- During World War II, New Caledonia was an important base for the Allies, and there were around 50,000 American troops stationed there – matching the number of New Caledonians at the time.
- Although there have been numerous independence movements, some of them violent, a number of referendums held between 2018 and 2021 have voted to remain part of France.
- The New Caledonian Barrier Reef and its lagoons became a UNESCO World Heritage site for its beauty and diversity of marine life.
- The world's largest tree fern, *Sphaeropteris intermedia*, is native to New Caledonia.
- The New Caledonian crow is known for its intelligence and its ability to use tools. It will poke grubs in crevices with twigs until the grub bites the twig, and then the crow will pull the twig out with the grub attached.
- New Caledonia exports metal ores, timber, coffee, coconut, and beef.
- Kula is a traditional exchange system using shell armbands and necklaces and is still used alongside the more modern money system.
- Wood carving is popular in New Caledonia and often reflects the tribal society in totems, masks, and *flèche faîtière*, a carved finial placed on the top of traditional houses.

No Failure Here



VANUATU | January 24

John

My name is John, and I come from a tiny island called Maskelyne off the coast of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is a small island country in the South Pacific Ocean. I grew up surrounded by the sparkling sea and lush rainforests.

I went to school like the other kids but didn't enjoy it. I wasn't a good student. In fact, I received the worst grades in my class. My father knew I didn't like school, but he still had a simple dream for me. He said, "Just finish sixth grade. Learn to read and write your name. That's enough."

I'll never forget one day in sixth grade. We were taking a test. My teacher looked at my paper and sighed. "John, you'll never change," she said. "You're wasting your parents' money. You have no purpose." Then, she threw my books out the window and told my classmates to laugh at me. I had to run outside to pick up my books while everyone watched.

That moment broke something in me. I felt worthless. But deep down, something told me not to give up.

Later that year, a classmate joked, "John, when you fail your exams and stay on the island, I'll hire you to fish for me." I smiled but knew I didn't want that kind of life. I wanted something more.

One day, my older brother, who had become a Seventh-day Adventist, gave me a Bible verse to learn: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). That verse changed something in me.

When I was 13, a visiting Adventist pastor held meetings on our island. I attended, and his words reached deep into my heart. I decided to be baptized. Before the baptism, the pastor prayed, "Lord, please use this young man in Your service."

After my father passed away, life got harder. But my church family helped me. And I began to help them by doing little things, such as weeding the church garden and ringing the church bell. Later, I became a deacon and then a church elder.

In 2001, I moved to another part of Vanuatu. I joined an Adventist church and



became part of a singing group. I shared my faith through music. Singing was my way of preaching. I wasn't a speaker, but when I sang, I felt alive.

One day, I went back to my island. A pastor there invited me to participate in a series of meetings. I sang hymns each evening. One afternoon, he asked me to visit the grave of Norman Wiles, the missionary who first brought the Adventist message to our shores.

Standing by the grave, I prayed, “God, I want to be a missionary, too.” I didn’t really know what a missionary was, but I wanted to help people know Jesus.

Later, I had a dream. I learned that God wanted me to go to Torres, a group of islands where no Adventists lived. I had no money and didn’t know anyone there, but I prayed, “God, if You want me to go, please make a way.”

God answered! I spent seven years in Torres, building new friendships and starting new churches.

Years later, at a concert on Malekula, I saw my old teacher—the one who had thrown my books out the window. She came to me with tears in her eyes, handed me a watermelon, and said, “I’m sorry for the words I spoke to you.” She had become a Seventh-day Adventist, too!

Today, I’m still a church elder. I keep sharing God’s love and starting new churches. I may have failed in school, but God had a plan for me.

God tells us in the Bible: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

That promise is for me. And it’s for you too! 🌟

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help support children’s health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Thank you for your generous giving!

As told to Maika Tuima by John Joseph

Story Tips

- Show the location of Vanuatu on a map.
- Pronounce Vanuatu as: vah-noo-AH-too.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Mission Post

- A number of “cargo cults” sprang up in Vanuatu, particularly after the Second World War. Cargo cults typically involve prophecies of dead ancestors returning to bring bounties of food and goods.
- One village on the island of Tanna revered the United Kingdom’s Prince Philip, believing him to be the incarnation of a spirit told of in traditional tales.
- The first Adventist missionaries to work in Vanuatu (then called the New Hebrides) were C. H. Parker and his wife, who arrived from the Victoria-Tasmania Conference in 1912.
- At first, the Parkers settled in the capital, Port-Vila, but were asked to move into a more needy area. They settled on the island of Atchin, which was notorious for its population of cannibals. They were the first missionaries to the island.

Fast Facts

- Vanuatu means “our land forever.”
- Vanuatu is an archipelago made up of 83 islands. Only 14 of the 83 islands of Vanuatu have an area of more than 60 square miles (100 sq km).
- Vanuatu’s national dish is called *lap lap*, a pudding-like meal made from taro, yams, bananas, and coconut milk. It is wrapped in banana leaves and baked underneath hot volcanic rocks.

Life Service for God

Fiji | January 31

Moape



Moape rises with the sun. Even at 77, his morning routine is the same: feet on the floor before dawn, a whispered prayer, then straight to his desk.

"I like to be first at work," he says with a grin. "God deserves my best hours."

Moape grew up on the rugged coast of Ra, Fiji. His father, a church pastor, taught him to mend fishing nets, sweep the chapel floor, and greet every neighbor by name. "I watched Dad serve people," Moape recalls. "I thought, that's how I want to spend my life."

School days took him to Fulton Adventist University College, a hillside campus where frangipani trees shaded the paths. He studied, prayed, and pushed heavy rollers in the student print shop. Ink stained his fingers, but hope filled his heart.

One Friday, he knelt beside the wooden pulpit of the Suva church and asked God for a partner in service. "Send me a woman who loves You," he whispered.

God answered. He married, Mere, a kind proofreader with whom he raised three daughters. The couple promised to follow God wherever He led.

Their first assignment was at the Trans-Pacific Publishing House in Suva. Moape loaded paper at dawn, adjusted the press, and watched gospel booklets roll out in neat stacks.

When the manager heard that Moape dreamed of becoming a pastor, he shook his head.

"Stay with the press," he urged. "Every page you print can travel farther than any sermon."

The words touched Moape deeply. "I realized a quiet man like me could still share hope," he says.

Moape worked at the print shop for nine years. Hard work led to promotions as a machinist, foreman, and finance officer. Each step felt like God's gentle push forward.

In 1978, the presses fell silent. The union closed the plant and asked Moape to handle accounts at Fulton College. The family packed their few boxes and drove up the mountain, expecting another neat campus house. Instead, they found a weather-worn cottage with a leaking roof and peeling walls.

Mere burst into tears. "Let's go back to Suva," she pleaded.

Moape wrapped an arm around her



shoulders. “We’re not here for comfort,” he said softly. “We’re here for the Lord.”

The couple scrubbed, painted, and patched the cottage until sunlight danced on clean walls. In time, it became a guesthouse for visiting leaders. “God turned our worst house into the best,” Mere likes to say, laughter in her voice.

The years sped by. Students came for advice. Children played under mango trees. And the ledger books balanced to the last cent.

One afternoon, a former student from Tahiti arrived wearing a stylish suit.

“I’m starting a business,” he announced. “Run it for me. I’ll triple your salary and give you a car and a new home.”

The offer glittered, but Moape didn’t hesitate. He lifted his eyes and spoke firmly.

“I have already chosen to serve God until I retire. Money cannot change that.”

The visitor sighed, folded his plan, and left Fiji the next day.

Moments like that strengthened Moape’s faith. “Every test made me lean harder on God,” he says. Daily prayer anchored him—early morning beside a breadfruit tree, midday in an empty classroom, and evening with his family around a small kerosene lamp.

At last, after 52 years of service, Moape closed the college safe for the final time and walked home through falling dusk. He was no longer the swift-footed youth who loaded paper in Suva, but his smile was wider. Mere met him at the door, daughters and grandchildren crowding behind her. They cooked cassava, sang hymns, and told stories long into the night.

What lesson does he pass to younger hearts? He answers without pause, quoting a verse he learned as a boy: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Then he adds his own simple challenge: “Put God first—every morning, every choice. You may start in an old cottage or a noisy printshop, but He will carry you exactly

Story Tips

- Show the location of Fiji on a map.
- Pronounce Fiji as: FEE-jee.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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Mission Post

- The first Adventist missionary to Fiji was John I. Tay in 1891 on the mission ship *Pitcairn*. Unfortunately, he became ill and died a few months later.
- In 1895, J. M. Cole arrived in Levuka, which was the capital of Fiji at that time, and the islands were organized into a mission.
- Around 1900, the Australasian Union Conference took responsibility for the South Pacific Island field.
- The first Fijian foreign missionary was Beni Tavodi, who was sent to New Guinea in 1908.
- Fulton Adventist University College was established, as Fulton College, to train church workers in Fiji in 1940, near the capital city of Suva.

where you need to be.”

The sun sets over Ra, painting the sky orange and gold. Tomorrow, before the first rooster crows, Moape will rise again—ready, as always, to be first at work for the One who led him all the way.

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering from the first quarter of 2000 helped to enlarge the Fulton Adventist College University library. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter which will support children’s health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Moape Vuloloa

Fiji

God Never Let Me Go



FIJI | February 7

Sera

My name is Sera, and I am from the beautiful islands of Fiji. I'm a second-year education student at Fulton Adventist University College. My journey here has been anything but easy.

I grew up in a broken home. From a young age, I had to take care of myself. There was no one to lean on—no safety net. Life felt like a battle I had to fight alone. In high school, I turned to alcohol and smoking. They became my escape, the only comfort I knew.

I fell into the same routine week after week: work, get paid, and spend all my money on things that only hurt me. I was stuck in a cycle that felt impossible to break.

My first wake-up call came when I got mugged while drunk. But even that didn't stop me. I kept going back to the same destructive habits.

Then came the car crash.

That night changed everything. I could have died. Deep down, I knew my survival wasn't luck. The accident had been a

warning to save me.

That was in 2018, when I came to Fulton College to study business. But I couldn't handle what I thought were the strange beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. I argued with my teachers. Eventually, I ran away. I thought going back to my old life would be easier.

But after the crash, I sank into depression. Guilt and suicidal thoughts engulfed me.

And yet, even in that darkness, there was still a small voice, a whisper: "You're going to be okay." I didn't know it then, but now I believe it was the Holy Spirit.

I wasn't reading my Bible or going to church, but I never stopped praying. Prayer was the only thing I had left. It was the one belief I carried from childhood—that God was listening.

My aunt and uncle, both Adventists, had always tried to show me God's light. When I was younger, they would invite us to the old Fulton College campus for the holidays. They never forced us—just gently encouraged us



to explore God's Word for ourselves.

Looking back, they were a big part of my journey. They planted the seed.

At first, I resisted. My heart was hard. People used to call me "anti-Adventist." I remember saying, "Where in the Bible does it say the Sabbath is on Saturday?" I couldn't accept it.

But slowly, through Bible studies, things started to make sense. One day, a pastor asked, "Do you know anything about the second coming of Jesus?" That question shook me. It was the turning point. I started to see everything differently.

Returning to Fulton College was nothing short of a miracle. I had no plan, no money, and no idea of how I would pay my school fees. I just said, "God, I want to go back to school."

The day before I returned, my sister and her husband offered to pay my fees. They said, "You don't need to pay us back. We just want to help you get started."

God opened doors.

Over time, He provided for my studies, gave me leadership opportunities, and brought people into my life who guided me toward truth.

And the biggest miracle? I got baptized. I chose to follow God—not because someone forced me, but because I found the truth for myself.

It hasn't been easy. Spiritual life can be harder than the life I left behind. But it's worth it.

Before, I thought the world could give me peace. But now I know only God can satisfy the heart's deepest needs.

Today, I read my Bible more than ever, take prayer seriously, and try to share my story with other students, especially those who don't know about God's love.

Fulton College is more than a school. It's a place where students like me can find truth, healing, and purpose. Here, we're not only preparing for careers but also for eternity.

If I could share one message, it would be this: Never give up on God.

Story Tips

- Show the location of Fiji on a map.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- The nation of Fiji is made up of more than 300 islands, but only about one third of them are inhabited.
- The original inhabitants of Fiji called it "Viti," but Captain James Cook heard Tongans pronouncing it as "Fisi," which turned into Fiji.
- Fiji was a British colony for almost one hundred years, from 1874 until Fiji gained independence on October 10, 1970.
- Fiji is one of the most developed economies in the Pacific Ocean region.
- The Fijian national animal is the Collared Lory, a rainforest lorikeet that local people call "kula."
- Around 1,500 species of fish and more than 300 species of hard corals can be found in the Fijian coral reefs.

Even if you fall or lose your way, get up. Keep walking in the direction God wants you to go.

He never gave up on me.

And He won't give up on you either. ☺

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the fourth quarter of 2009 helped build the new campus of the Fulton Adventist University College. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter which will support children's health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Sera Wilson

Fiji

Called Through Pain



FIJI | February 14

Milo

My name is Milo, and I come from the beautiful islands of Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean. Growing up wasn't easy for me. I was raised in a home where love was often hidden behind pain. My father struggled with alcohol, and many times, small disagreements would end in violence. I remember how he would hurt my mother over the tiniest issues. My siblings and I grew up in an atmosphere of fear and confusion. It wasn't just hard—it broke something inside me.

As I got older, I often found myself asking God deep questions. "Is there a future for me? Do I have a purpose?" I kept telling God that I was ready to listen, ready to follow. I prayed, cried, and begged for answers. But it felt like God was silent. I became angry and started blaming God for everything that was happening in my life.

Still, something kept pulling me closer to Him. I began attending Bible studies on Wednesdays and going to church on

Sabbaths. Through it all, my mother became my rock. Even though she was going through her own pain, she stayed strong and always encouraged me to do what was right. She hadn't allowed me to attend camps or church activities when I was younger, but now something unexpected happened.

When she learned about the 2024 Youth Congress in Samoa, she said, "You should go." I was surprised. She told me this congress would change my life—that it would make me a better person. Her words touched my heart, and because of the deep respect I had for her, I decided to register.

Before the congress started, I began praying again. This time, I asked God for a sign. I needed to know whether He really had a calling for me. During one session, the presenter asked whether anyone wanted to volunteer for one year of mission service. At that moment, I felt something powerful in my heart. I knew it was God. He was finally speaking to me. I signed up for mission work. I realized



then that all those years of silence weren't rejection. God had been preparing me.

But just as everything seemed to come together, tragedy struck. Right before I was about to travel to Fulton College for mission training, my brother passed away. We had spent 16 years together, and suddenly he was gone. It felt like a knife had gone straight through my heart. I was crushed. I lost hope. I felt like I had failed because I hadn't been there for him. I felt completely useless.

It was then that my mother came to me again. Even in her own pain, she reminded me of the calling God had placed on my life. Her words gave me strength again. I could feel the Holy Spirit working in me, guiding me, lifting me up when I couldn't carry myself.

Now, I want to speak to anyone who may be going through something painful or uncertain. Don't give up. The enemy wants you to stay hopeless, broken, and lost. But God is still working, even in the silence. He is preparing you for something greater. Keep praying, keep believing, and keep listening. God's calling may not come when you expect it, but when it does, you will know. And you will never regret saying "yes" to Him.

Jesus once said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10). Hold on to that promise. God takes care of His people.

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in the first quarter of 2013 helped provide 15,000 Bibles and reading guides in South Pacific islands so people like Milo could learn more about Jesus. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help support children's health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Milo Ethanie Fevaiaiai

Story Tips

- Show the locations of Samoa and Fiji on a map.
- Pronounce Samoa as: suh-MOW-uh.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- The capital of Fiji is Suva, with a total population of nearly 200,000.
- The official languages of Fiji are English, Fijian, and Fiji Hindi.
- A large proportion of Fijians are of Indian extraction. Many Indians came to work in Fiji, particularly in the sugar cane fields.
- More than half of the country's land area is made up by Viti Levu, Fiji's largest island.
- The national symbol of Fiji is the canoe and the national color is light blue.
- Fiji's motto is "*Rerevaka na Kalou ka Doka na Tui*" ("Fear God and honor the King").
- Fiji was settled by Austronesian peoples sometime between 3500 and 1000 BC, and Melanesians arrived around 1,000 years later.
- In the tenth century, Fiji came under the influence of the Tu'i Tonga Empire, which introduced Polynesian customs and language to Fiji.
- The largest Hindu temple in the Pacific is located in Nadi on Viti Levu.
- The main agriculture in Fiji is sugar cane, cassava, and coconuts.

A Home for Worship

Photo: Presley Yavu



FIJI | February 21

Alice

My name is Alice, and I'm from the Solomon Islands. I spent many years as a high school teacher, but I work as a freelance educator and researcher today. I love planning youth programs and reaching out to my community. And in all I do, I carry a deep gratitude for a place that helped shape my faith—the Pacific Tertiary Evangelistic Centre or PTEC.

PTEC is more than just a building. It's a spiritual home for young people from the Pacific who study in Suva, Fiji. And its story began with a dream.

In the early 2000s, our student worship groups moved from one place to another for meetings every weekend. We used university lecture rooms or community halls. We carried heavy musical instruments and sound systems in taxis. Sometimes, drivers would charge extra for the load. Other times, we braved the rain with flower vases, communion utensils, and table covers tucked under umbrellas or plastic sheets.

"Every Sabbath was an adventure," one of our members once said with a smile. "We never knew whether the room would be booked or if we'd get wet getting there."

We faced many challenges—lack of space, limited booking hours, and poor weather that often disrupted our programs. But more than the physical strain, we longed for a place we could call our own—a welcoming place where young Adventist students could gather, grow, and worship freely.

Church leaders saw the need and prayed for a solution. The vision was clear: build a center near the universities in Suva. A place where students would be nurtured, empowered, and encouraged to become ambassadors for Christ, wherever their studies might take them.

It wasn't easy, but many hands and hearts made it possible. Each played a part, whether through leadership, encouragement, or faithful giving.

Then came a breakthrough—the Thirteenth



Sabbath Offering for the third quarter of 2006. The leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church chose our project, and members around the globe gave generously. That offering laid the foundation for our future. The land at 7 Grantham Road in Suva was secured with the funds. In time, the structure rose—a new home for worship and ministry.

Today, PTEC stands as a vibrant community of faith. We're known for our Contemporary Choir ministry, which brings joy and meaning through music. The IMPACT Outreach team regularly visits local communities to serve and share. The Adventist Students Association (ASA) creates a space where students can lead and grow in faith. But more than the programs, the people make PTEC what it is. Many have found their calling here. Others have formed lifelong friendships. Some, such as Sandra Dausabea from the Solomon Islands, say PTEC changed their lives.

“The climax of my spiritual life happened at PTEC Church with the PTEC family,” Sandra shared. “It will always be PTEC. God is faithful and good.”

At PTEC, students are supported on their spiritual journey. They learn to lead, serve, and share their faith with confidence. They are given roles and responsibilities that shape them—not just as church members but also as future leaders.

For us, this building is more than concrete and wood. It is a living testimony of faith, generosity, and unity. A reminder that we are not alone in this mission.

I want to thank the world church. Your gifts have created a place where young people find purpose and connection. You've helped build more than a church—you've helped build a home.

God has blessed us with different gifts. Let's use them with gratitude, humility, kindness, and a heart for mission. Yes, there may be times of sorrow or failure. But may the golden thread of God's love bind us all together—and may His light continue to shine through the lives we touch wherever we go. 

Story Tips

- Show the locations of Solomon Islands and Fiji on a map.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- Fiji's national drink is called Kava and it is made with the ground root of the kava plant, which is in the pepper family.
- Rugby is the most popular sport in Fiji. Their national team is one of the best in the world and won gold at the 2016 Summer Olympics.
- Fire walking was introduced around 500 years ago by the Sawau tribe and is now a popular activity in Fiji. Visitors to the country can watch the ceremonies at many hotels and resorts.
- Fijians traditionally use *lovo* pits, dug underground and filled with hot stones, to prepare large feasts.
- A popular dish in Fiji is a raw fish salad known as *kokoda*. The fish is “cooked” by marinating it in lemon and lime juice.

F I J I

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the third quarter of 2009 helped build the Pacific Tertiary Evangelistic Centre (PTEC). Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help support children's health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Alice Rore

From Fiji to the Frontlines



It all began with a fire in my heart, a calling I couldn't ignore. In 2023, after sharing my story on a podcast, I believed I was on the cusp of something great. Just months later, I graduated with a degree in theology, hopeful and eager to serve wherever God would send me.

My first application was to the Tonga Mission in response to a chaplaincy vacancy. When I received a positive reply two weeks later, I packed with excitement and prayed with confidence, believing this was it—my first official missionary post. But just as quickly as the door opened, it closed. The mission reconsidered its decision, and I was no longer needed.

I applied for mission positions at other Adventist organizations, but nothing worked out. I was discouraged. I felt invisible and forgotten. But then, a quiet word of wisdom changed everything.

One of my former teachers, Dr. Tabua Tuima, looked me in the eyes and said, "Start your ministry in Fiji before stepping out into

FIJI | February 28

Jordan

the world." His words took root in my heart.

Not long after, I crossed paths with the ministerial secretary of the Fiji Mission. He encouraged me to send a formal request to the mission office. With a humble heart, I submitted a simple resume, expressing a desire to serve among native Fijian speakers and work in the field of communication.

In late March 2024, God opened a door I hadn't expected. I was assigned to oversee three churches in the city. I had no title or salary—just a calling, a willing heart, and a mission.

From day one, I faced steep challenges. The language barrier was a mountain I had to climb. I had to learn quickly how to preach, pray, and minister fluently in Fijian. One day, an elder's wife quietly confessed, "Some of our members don't like our new pastor because he preaches in English." Others questioned why the mission had sent someone so young. I was only 22.

Those words cut deep, but I didn't let them define me. I stayed. I prayed. I persisted.

My schedule was intense. Sabbaths were a marathon: Sabbath School in one church, divine service in another, and Adventist Youth in the third. Weekdays were filled with prayer meetings, youth programs, and small group ministries. But something beautiful happened amid the busyness: I began to understand my people. Their language became my language.



Their trust became my reward.

Then, in May, a new chapter unfolded. I was invited to host our church's *Coast to Coast Breakfast Show* on Hope FM Fiji. At first, I was terrible. I stumbled over words, fumbled with equipment, and battled exhaustion from late-night ministry. Negative messages came through texts and emails. But I didn't quit. I studied. I listened. I grew. Slowly, my voice became familiar, not just in Fiji, but also across the world.

On air, I shared testimonies, explored church principles, unpacked scripture, and encouraged listeners. Off air, I was fighting a personal storm.

I had no income, yet I carried a burden to help others. I supported my 16-year-old sister's education and offered the same opportunity to my cousin, who had dropped out of school due to hardship. I promised to cover their fees for three terms, trusting God would provide. It was difficult, but I never went hungry. My head elder would give me lifts, sometimes slipping me a small gift. I've never forgotten his quiet generosity.

Even my one day off—Monday—wasn't mine. I spent it volunteering at a home for the elderly, praying that God would teach me humility. And He did, through the wrinkled hands and wise eyes of those I served.

Later, I enrolled in a basic sign language course, attending twice a week for six months. I graduated in November 2024, the same month I paid off the school fees for both girls. A miracle, truly.

Today, I'm in Indonesia, far from home, yet exactly where God wants me. I teach English at an academy, mentoring students toward Christlike character in a place where declaring Jesus publicly isn't welcome.

I struggle. I feel alone. There is no church in sight. Yet every day I'm reminded: this is your mission field. I cling to the truth that Jesus is my constant Companion, my best Friend.

I am honored to be part of the I Will Go initiative:

I will go to my family: God answered my prayers and delivered my mother from addiction.

Story Tips

- Show on a map the locations of Fiji and Indonesia, where Jordan is serving at the academy.
- Pronounce Tonga as: TONG-uh.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

I WILL GO

- The I Will Go initiative is a rallying cry for total member involvement. It's a call for every church member to become actively involved in reaching the world for Jesus using their God-given spiritual gifts in witness and service. Explore the I Will Go plan and find your place in this global movement! Visit IWillGo.org.

Fiji

I will go to my neighbor: I helped my cousin return to school.

I will go to my workplace: I offered my voice and time to serve through media and writing.

I will go to the ends of the earth: And now I serve in a land where I can't speak His name freely, but I can live it out boldly.

This is my journey of faith, service, and surrender. From Fiji to Indonesia—God has led me every step of the way.

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings from earlier years have helped support Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio ministries in the South Pacific. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help support children's health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Jordan Weatherall

Hope Restored

FIJI | March 7

Mereseini



In the heart of Suva, Fiji, the Hope Clinic stands as a symbol of transformation. Established through the support of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, the clinic offers more than medical services—it provides a lifeline. For many, it's a place where broken bodies and weary hearts find restoration. One person who found healing was a 53-year-old woman named Mereseini.

For years, Mereseini battled high blood pressure. She visited doctors, took her medications faithfully, and followed instructions. But the numbers never improved. The fatigue lingered. Her strength slowly faded.

"I felt stuck," she recalled. "Nothing worked."

One day, driven by curiosity and hope for change, Mereseini walked through the doors of Hope Clinic.

"I didn't know what to expect," she said. "I just wanted to feel better."

Inside, she met staff who didn't just treat symptoms—they listened, encouraged, and educated. Among them was Dr. Akuila, whose calm confidence gave her courage. He explained how natural, simple lifestyle changes could help her body heal.

"No salt, no meat, no processed food," he said gently. "Eat what grows from the ground. Your body can recover, but it needs your help."

Mereseini nodded, absorbing each word. It sounded hard, but something inside her stirred. She felt seen. She felt hope.

Determined to try, she returned home and cleared out her pantry. The salt shaker went first. Out went the meat, white rice, cassava, and taro. In their place, she filled her kitchen with sweet potatoes, plantains, and leafy greens.

Then came the real challenge. Dr. Akuila suggested a 10-day water fast—just water, with lemon for support. Most would hesitate, but Mereseini looked at her reflection and said aloud, "I'm going to do this. Not for anyone else—for me."

She began the fast quietly, with no fanfare or complaints. At every mealtime, she slipped away to her room while her children sat at the table.

"I cooked their food like usual," she said, "but I prayed instead when it came time to eat. I asked God to help me through this."

Days passed. Her children started noticing.



"Mum, you're losing too much weight," one of them said, concern in his voice. "You need to eat."

"I will," she replied softly. "Just not yet. I'm almost there." Mereseini felt stronger than she had in months, so she pushed forward.

"I didn't feel hungry," she remembered. "I didn't feel weak. I cleaned the house, walked around, and prayed. It felt like God was carrying me. I used to fast for one day and count the hours until I could eat," she laughs. "But this time was different. This time, I had purpose."

On the last day of her fast, Mereseini returned to Hope Clinic.

The nurses looked at her in surprise. She smiled and let them read her test results. One by one, they checked her weight, pulse, and pressure. All were normal.

"I haven't taken my medication once during the fast," she told them. "And I haven't needed it since."

Mereseini no longer needed to take her medication. Her diet is now a deliberate choice: no salt, meat, or processed food. She eats sweet potatoes, plantains, vegetables, and fruits. The transformation has touched every part of her life.

"I go to church again," she said. "I pick up my grandchildren from school. I walk without feeling tired. I live again."

She speaks with quiet confidence, not just about her own healing, but also about the lessons she's learned.

"We have to choose wisely what we eat," she said. "God gave us food to heal us, not harm us. I'm not telling people what to do, but

Story Tips

- Show the location of Fiji on a map.
- Pronounce Mereseini as: mer-uh-SEH-nee.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Mereseini at: bit.ly/Mereseini-SPD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- Cannibalism was an important part of Fijian culture until Christianity came to the islands. The last known victims of cannibalism in Fiji were Thomas Baker, a Methodist minister, and his seven Fijian followers in 1867. Records say that Thomas was killed because he touched a chief's head, which is disrespectful in Fijian culture.

I've lived this. I've seen what happens when we trust God and take care of our bodies."

Hope Clinic gave Mereseini more than information—it gave her a new way of living. A path she walks proudly every single day.

Her story reminds us that true healing often begins when we're willing to listen, believe, and change.

"Hope is real," she says. "And I found it when I walked through that door."

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for second quarter of 2016 helped build the Hope Clinic in Fiji attended by Mereseini. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help support children's health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Mereseini Galuvakadua

Editor's note: Extended fasting should not be attempted without consultation with a medical specialist.

Taking the Gospel to the Jungle



Deep in the lush, rugged heartland of Papua New Guinea, a young man named Andrew heard a call that would change his life forever.

Born into a Christian family, Andrew grew up with stories of God's love. But everything changed the day Pastor Tom Carawah arrived in his rural village. With stirring messages about Jesus's return and the truth of the Sabbath, the pastor awakened Andrew's curiosity. He attended every meeting, hungry to understand more about the Bible and the God who calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Soon, Andrew was active in the local Adventist community. For two years, he studied Scripture with growing passion. His heart burned with a desire to do more than just believe—he wanted to lead, preach, and serve.

Then God opened a door. The district director of the local Adventist churches recognized Andrew's potential and offered to

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | March 14

Andrew

send him to layperson training. If he agreed, he would become a volunteer pastor in one of the country's remote regions.

Andrew said yes—and walked into a life of challenge, faith, and miracles.

Andrew's mission took him deep into the jungle. Some villages were so remote that it took three days of walking, river crossings, and sleeping in the bush to reach them. He trudged through, driven by one mission: to share the good news of Jesus.

But the challenges were not just physical.

"There were times I would spend days with villagers, praying and teaching," Andrew said. "Some would accept, others would reject. I learned to move on but never give up."

Spiritual opposition was real. Some communities were suspicious of Adventists, and Andrew sometimes faced harsh words and cold shoulders. But he kept going, comforted by the lives that were changing. He saw the sick healed, hearts opened, and



truth take root in the unlikeliest places.

Life as a jungle missionary wasn't just hard—it was often heartbreaking. There were days when Andrew and his wife had no food, money, or help. One week, they went without a single meal. Sitting in the jungle in the missionary house, they turned to the only source of strength they had left—worship. They began to sing.

In the middle of their singing, a stranger appeared.

"He asked us to look outside," Andrew remembers. "We didn't find food. But we found money. God had sent provision."

Moments like that became the pillars of Andrew's faith.

In 2012, God opened another door. Thanks to the sponsorship of an Australian Adventist pilot, Andrew enrolled at the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry. He recalls that the institution was much smaller then, but like today, it served a significant purpose. Andrew trained for a year, learning how to share biblical truths and practical skills, before being assigned to serve a church of more than 200 members. In just one year, his efforts led to 120 baptisms and the construction of a brand-new church.

However, Andrew's most unforgettable moment came during *PNG for Christ*, a nationwide evangelistic campaign involving General Conference President Ted Wilson. In a remote jungle village, Andrew humbly helped baptize 874 new members into the eternal family of God.

This life-changing experience deepened Andrew's calling. A few months later, God provided another opportunity to develop his spiritual leadership. The Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea sponsored Andrew to return to the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry for advanced training. He's preparing for whatever mission lies ahead—whether a jungle path or a city street.

"I've prepared my heart to go wherever God sends me," Andrew says resolutely. "Wherever I go, there is always a blessing in doing God's work." 

Story Tips

- Show the location of Papua New Guinea on a map.
- Pronounce Papua as: PAH-poo-uh.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Mission Post

- The arrival of Adventist work in New Guinea began in 1902 when Edward Gates sailed to ports along German New Guinea, distributing literature among the Englishmen and gathering information about the indigenous people. Griffiths Jones made a similar trip in 1904, and George Irwin sailed into the same ports in 1905.
- John Fulton, president of the Australasian Union Conference, made a one-day stopover in Port Moresby on July 11, 1910, organizing the first Adventist church in Papua.
- The first financial support for the new Papua New Guinea mission field came from the third quarter 1906 Sabbath School offering.
- Building the Efogi station in the Owen Stanley Range of Papua New Guinea may be the most strenuous enterprise ever attempted by Adventists in the South Pacific mission field. For six days, a team of missionary families and 41 Koiari natives, including some women with babies, carried supplies through 50 miles of forested mountains in the heat and rain.

Your generous offering for this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry equip men and women to share the good news in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your faithful giving!

As told to Gracelyn Ban Lloyd by Andrew Sipiai



Street Preacher

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | March 21

Peter

Peter often wondered about God's plan for his life.

When he was a child, his parents—both primary school teachers and Christians—taught him about God and how to pray. As a teenager, however, his friends influenced him do to things that led him away from God.

Later, when Peter was an adult, he lived alone on the coast. He began questioning God about why He had led him there. For seven months, he repeatedly prayed, "What is your plan for my life?"

One Friday, Peter decided to fast as well as pray. Instead of relying on food that day, he focused entirely on seeking God. He longed for a clear response.

Around sunset, he saw three young men walking down the street. He felt a voice whisper to his heart, urging him to approach them. He obeyed the prompting and introduced himself to them.

"We are street preachers," one of the men said. Peter learned their names were Thomas, George, and Junior. They were evangelists who felt led to share the gospel in the coastal towns.

Peter watched them preach daily—on the

street, at the market, wherever they could find an audience.

On Saturday night, Peter again asked God to reveal His plan. He fell asleep with his Bible on his chest and envisioned an angel taking his hand and opening the book to Matthew 10.

When Peter woke up, he turned to Matthew 10 and read about the amazing things Jesus did through His disciples once they decided to follow Him.

Peter didn't just read it once. He read it again and again. Then he heard the same small, quiet voice say, "This is my plan for you."

Incredulous, Peter fell on his knees and cried, "Who am I, God, that You would call me?"

He thanked God for His clear answer. Like the disciples in Matthew 10, he knew he was being called to follow Jesus and preach from town to town as a street evangelist.

Soon after, Peter was baptized and supported the three preachers in their mission. He traveled with them, carried their bags, and preached beside them in the streets.

A year later, Peter attended a two-month training course, during which he learned how to share the beliefs of the Seventh-day



Adventist Church as a layperson for the South West Papua Mission.

One of his first assignments took him to a remote village in the rainforest, which took him three days to reach on foot. He walked through heavy rain, slept in the bush, and survived on biscuits.

In the thick of the rainforest, he arrived at a small Adventist church. A middle-aged woman who had been ministering to the congregation told him they had no pastor. The church had been operating for 25 years and had long prayed for one. She asked Peter whether he would help.

Peter agreed and served as a volunteer leader for one year. While ministering there, he continued praying about God's next step in his life. He had the impression that it was time to attend a ministry school.

Peter returned home one Friday evening to find a church member waiting for him. The member handed him a receipt showing his school fees had been paid. He would attend the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry.

At Omaura, Peter is learning skills to help churches grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. He looks forward to using gardening and carpentry to teach members how to sustain themselves and provide for widows and orphans. He finds Hebrew class difficult but believes that with God's help, he can succeed.

"With God," he says, "everything is possible." Although he is unsure of his next assignment, Peter is committed to following the One who led him to Omaura. "I will always follow His voice." ☺

Your generous offering for this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry equip men and women to share the good news in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your faithful giving!

As told to Gracelyn Ban Lloyd by Peter Giwi

Story Tips

- Show the location of Papua New Guinea on a map.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- The country consists of the main island of New Guinea, four larger islands, including New Britain and New Ireland, and about 1,000 smaller islands.
- Papua New Guinea's official languages are *Tok Pisin*, *Hiri Motu*, English, and sign language. *Tok Pisin* is a Melanesian pidgin language.
- The country's highest peak is Mount Wilhelm, which is 4,509 m (14,793 ft) high. Due to its high elevation, many of this tropical island's highlands experience snowfall.
- Papua New Guinea is one of the least urbanized countries, with only about 14 percent of Papua New Guineans living in cities, and most living in the rural areas of the highlands or coastal regions.
- Papua New Guinea is one of the most megadiverse countries in the world, meaning that many animals and plants are only found there. Scientists are also still discovering new species in remote regions of the country.
- The hooded pitohui, one of the world's few known poisonous birds, lives in Papua New Guinea and produces a toxin in its feathers and skin to protect itself from predators and parasites.
- There are 37 volcanoes in Papua New Guinea, 14 of which are active. Mount Ulawun in northeastern Papua New Guinea last erupted in November 2023 and is one of the world's most dangerous volcanoes.

The Man with One Leg



13th SABBATH | March 28

Sam

Sam lived in a neighborhood in Papua New Guinea where drugs, extortion, prostitution, and stealing were common. So, at an early age, he began drinking alcohol, using drugs, and spending most of his time on the streets.

At the age of 15, he joined a gang. He began robbing, stealing, and selling what he stole. All the bad things he did brought many problems for his family and himself. His wife and family tried to get him to attend church, but he wasn't interested.

On May 19, 1995, he got shot in his right leg by the police, who were trying to stop his criminal activities. He lost the leg and knew that if he had died, he wouldn't have been ready to meet his Maker. So, he decided to change.

However, not long after that, he spent a week with young people in a house, drinking alcohol and smoking drugs. By 3 A.M., he was dead drunk, listening to pop music through his earplugs.

In the middle of the playlist, Carrie

Underwood's song "Jesus Take the Wheel" came on. The words touched Sam, and with tears in his eyes, he left the group. The song kept ringing in his ears and began his spiritual transformation. He didn't tell anyone, though.

The following Friday, a voice kept saying to him, "Go to church tomorrow." He got up on Sabbath morning, and—so his wife wouldn't know where he was going—went in his usual clothes. Before he got to the church, he changed into Sabbath clothes. That Sabbath was November 25, 2013.

When his wife found out he had accepted Jesus, changed his ways, and was going to church, she was so happy.

Sam was baptized on April 19, 2014, and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Popondetta.

Sam became a missionary, and in 2024, was caring for a newly organized church in Popondetta that had seven church plants. In 2025, he began training at the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry in the



Sam attends the evangelistic meeting with another church member.

Eastern Highlands to prepare himself for further ministry.

Sam says he is “so grateful to be alive and to live in freedom.” Many of his former friends are dead, and others are serving long prison sentences. The good news is that because of Sam’s witness, many of his former friends have also accepted Jesus, changed their ways, and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He is a highly respected Christian, and even gang members who haven’t accepted Jesus respect him—his word carries a lot of weight with them. So, it was fitting that Sam be appointed head of security for the *PNG for Christ* meetings in Popondetta.

Apart from a few gunshots at the back of the crowd one night, there was no trouble. The night the appeal was made to accept Christ as Savior, one gang member was

Story Tips

- Show the location of Papua New Guinea on a map.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Fast Facts

- Papua New Guinea’s tropical rainforest is home to tree kangaroos.
- Papua New Guinea’s national dish is *mumu*, a one-pot dish that contains sweet potato, rice, pork, and vegetables. Chicken pot, a chicken stew with coconut milk, is also popular.

heard saying to his mates, “I don’t know what you are going to do, but I am going forward to accept Christ.” His mates replied, “We are coming with you.”

On the last night of the program, Pastor Don Fehlberg, who was speaking in Popondetta, met a man named Ronnie.

Ronnie told Pastor Don he had been baptized during the meetings. He told him he had had a pretty rough life, and then, pointing to Sam, he said, “I was with him.” Pastor Don, who had already heard Sam’s story, told Ronnie he understood.

Now, Sam and Ronnie have teamed up, working to win souls for Jesus. They are a powerful team under the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

“Looking back, I am most grateful to my Seventh-day Adventist family,” says Sam. “They were willing to be different, to live by the Bible’s principles. I grew to respect them more than anyone in the gang.”

“Above all, I thank God for teaching me the best way to live.”

God has not only helped Sam to change his ways and live a life to glorify Jesus, but He is also using Sam in a mighty way to lead



Sam and church members visit a family home in a nearby village.

people to Jesus. He had 95 people prepared for baptism for *PNG for Christ!*

Sam concludes, “May this story bless and encourage a brother like me. No matter how bad you are, God still loves and cares about you.”

Your generous offering for this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry equip

Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that our mission offerings are gifts to spread God’s Word around the world and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will help four projects in the South Pacific Division. The projects are listed on page three and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn’t need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar with it.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the places in the South Pacific Division—Wallis Island, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu—that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

men and women to share the good news in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your faithful giving!

The original version of this story by Don Fehlberg, former remote area senior pastor for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries of the Australian Union Conference, was published in the March 28, 2025, issue of *Adventist Record*, the official news magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. Adapted with permission.

Next Quarter’s Mission Projects

The East-Central Africa Division will be featured next quarter, and the special projects will include:

- Mega media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, social media evangelistic center, and call center, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Nursing School, Adventist University of Lukanga, Lubero, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Buganda Dispensary, Buganda, Burundi
- Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, Ongata Rongai, Kenya
- Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, Zanzibar, Tanzania

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free *Mission Spotlight* video featuring video reports from around the South Pacific Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit:

Websites

Fiji: government website	fiji.gov.fj/Home
BBC Country Profile	bbc.in/3BLeq38
Fiji Travel	fiji.travel
New Caledonia: government website	gouv.nc
New Caledonia Travel	au.newcaledonia.travel
WikiTravel	bit.ly/WT_NewCal
Vanuatu: government website	gov.vu
Vanuatu Travel	vanuatu.travel/en/
BBC Country Profile	bbc.in/4g096ad

Seventh-day Adventist

South Pacific Division	adventistchurch.com
New Zealand Pacific Union Conference	nzpuc.adventist.org.nz
New Caledonia Mission	adventiste.nc
Trans-Pacific Union Mission	tpum.org
Fiji Mission	adventist.org.fj

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will be collected on March 28. Remind the children that their regular weekly mission offerings help the missionary work of the world church and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the South Pacific Division. On March 21, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage the children to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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youth & adult mission

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SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

PROJECTS

UNIONS	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Australian	450	112	65,477	27,304,000
New Zealand Pacific	158	48	22,291	5,945,000
Papua New Guinea	1203	3,662	593,786	9,690,000
Trans Pacific	579	962	141,093	2,525,000
Division Totals	2,390	4,784	824,647	45,464,000

- 1 Omaura Adventist School of Ministry, Kainantu, Papua New Guinea
- 2 Children's health project, Solomon Islands
- 3 Children's health project, Vanuatu
- 4 Center of influence, Wallis Island

