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TELL THE WORLD

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION SPECIAL REPORT



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REACH UP. REACH OUT. REACH ACROSS.

Even though the territory of our South Pacific Division of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church stretches across a quarter of the globe, we're not the biggest division of the Church. Even though our missionaries are giving time and talent in service from Mongolia to America, from the farthest reaches of the Solomon Islands, into the heart of Melbourne, we're not the fastest growing division of the Church. Though Australia alone is now among the top five tithe paying nations on earth, we're not even the richest division of the Church. But there are two areas in which we are peerless in the world Church.

The first is our diversity.

Every world division of the Church is diverse. But think about this for a minute: in Papua New Guinea alone, we have 841 language groups. But it's not just language that adds to our diversity, it is topography, ethnicity and socio-economic circumstances. We have some of the wealthiest societies on earth, and some of the poorest. We include some of the most isolated locations on earth, and the most urbanised large nation on the globe. We have nations that are predominantly Melanesian, Polynesian or Caucasian and we comprise very substantial Asian, South American, African and Middle-Eastern communities.

All of this diversity makes us rich in a way that money cannot buy.

But how are we coping with such immense diversity? In a word, "well". And there's a reason for that. It's not the things that differentiate us that define our relationships. Rather, it's what we have in common. At the heart of our Church in the South Pacific is genuine love. Wherever you go across what must be the most beautiful region of our world, you will find that love binds the people of this church family together.

This love isn't just directed inward toward ourselves. It is for our families, our communities and our nations. It's the kind of love that gets us up and out of our seats to provide health, education, aid and development, and along with it, the precious and powerful message that God has entrusted to us for just this time.

The second defining characteristic of our Division is that we enthusiastically embrace innovation and creativity.

We are not a community trying to resurrect an imagined idealised age that never existed. Rather, we are embracing every means possible as we look forward to Christ's soon return to communicate the reason for our hope. That means taking risks. It means trying new things. It means talking in the language of today, morphing our methods intelligently and adeptly. It means being very much in our world today, focused on communicating a message to modern culture in a language and through the means of our time while at the same time maintaining our integrity as authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

Media, for example, is a major focus area in which our Division is leading the world Church. As reality is increasingly defined by what we see on our screens, our Adventist Media Network in Sydney is taking us to a whole new level of quality in Seventh-day Adventist media production—a level necessary to break through the clutter of today's world and reach the modern mind. Crisp, smart, fast moving and always making the point: Jesus is coming again soon!

Similarly, our emphasis on health and wellbeing is going from strength to strength. In a highly competitive marketplace, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing Company has, by the grace of God, found a way to not merely hold market share, but substantially grow it. There is simply nothing like our

healthcare food operations anywhere else within our global Church.

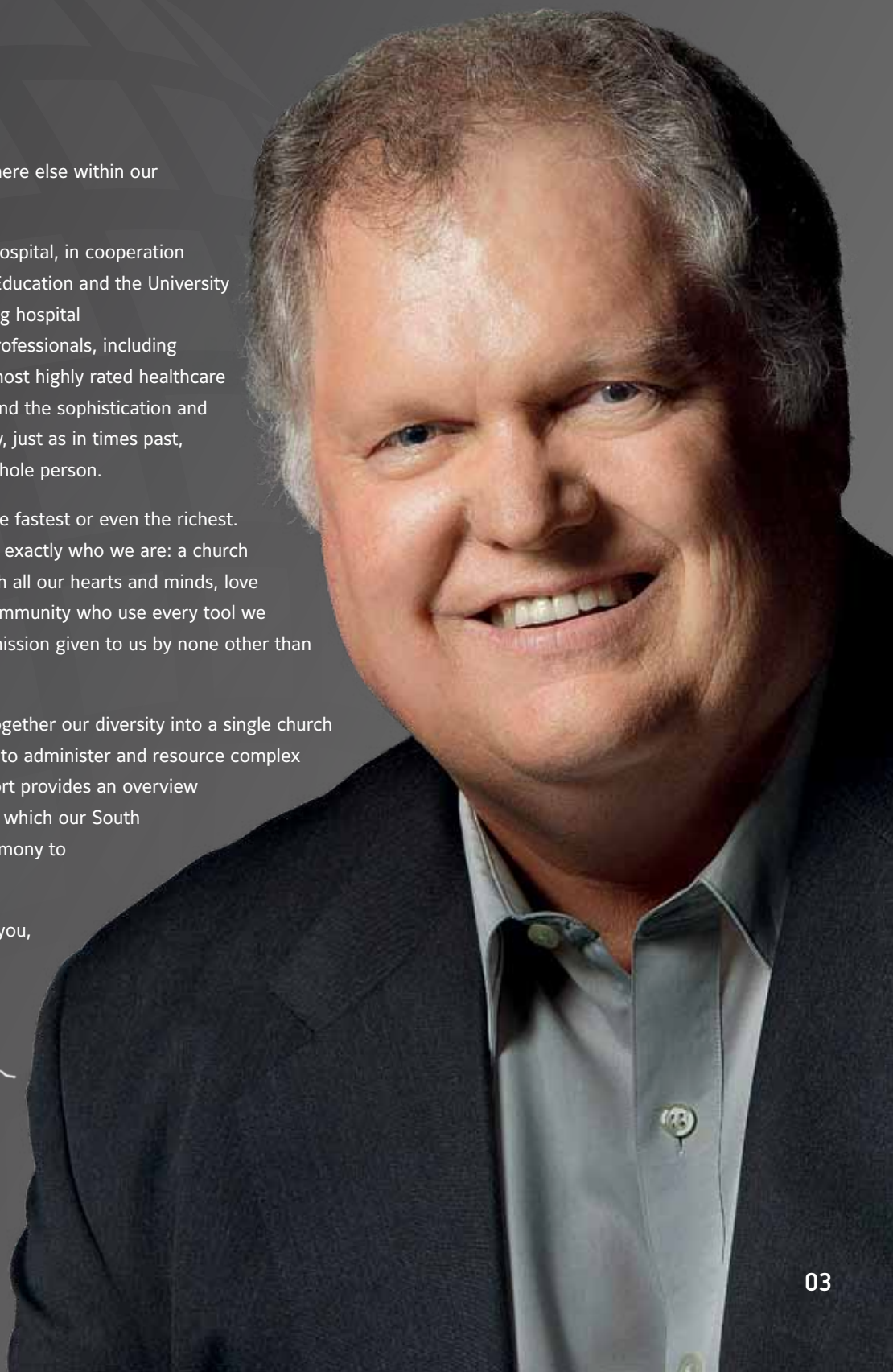
What's more, Sydney Adventist Hospital, in cooperation with Avondale College of Higher Education and the University of Sydney, is now a major teaching hospital for a broad range of healthcare professionals, including physicians, making it one of the most highly rated healthcare campuses in our Church. But behind the sophistication and growth is a simple faith that today, just as in times past, believes that we must treat the whole person.

It's true: we aren't the biggest, the fastest or even the richest. But I thank our Lord every day for exactly who we are: a church family who together love God with all our hearts and minds, love each other as ourselves, and a community who use every tool we have at our disposal to fulfil the mission given to us by none other than Christ Jesus Himself.

The South Pacific Division knits together our diversity into a single church family. The Division uses its scale to administer and resource complex and essential ministries. This report provides an overview and some examples of the way in which our South Pacific church family works in harmony to glorify God.

May our God nourish and uphold you,

Barry Oliver
President, South Pacific Division
Seventh-day Adventist Church







VALUES STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Seventh-day Adventist values are grounded in the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person is deserving of **respect and dignity** because of the infinite value that God has placed upon them. Through God's grace every person is gifted for and needed in the diverse activities of the church family.

We respect the **diversity, individuality and freedom** that come from being a worldwide body of believers. We also value unity—a family of faith engaged in representing the reign of God in our world through **ethical conduct, mutual regard and loving service**. Our faithfulness to God involves commitment to and support of His body, the Church.

*Avondale College of Higher Education's One Mission team member Mark Singh with children.
(Photo credit: Joel Slade)*



THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The **South Pacific Division Strategic Plan** has been prepared in line with the Vision, Mission, Values Statement and Strategic Plan of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 2010–2015. The key strategic themes of **Reach Up, Reach Out and Reach Across** represent the three key strategic areas as outlined by the General

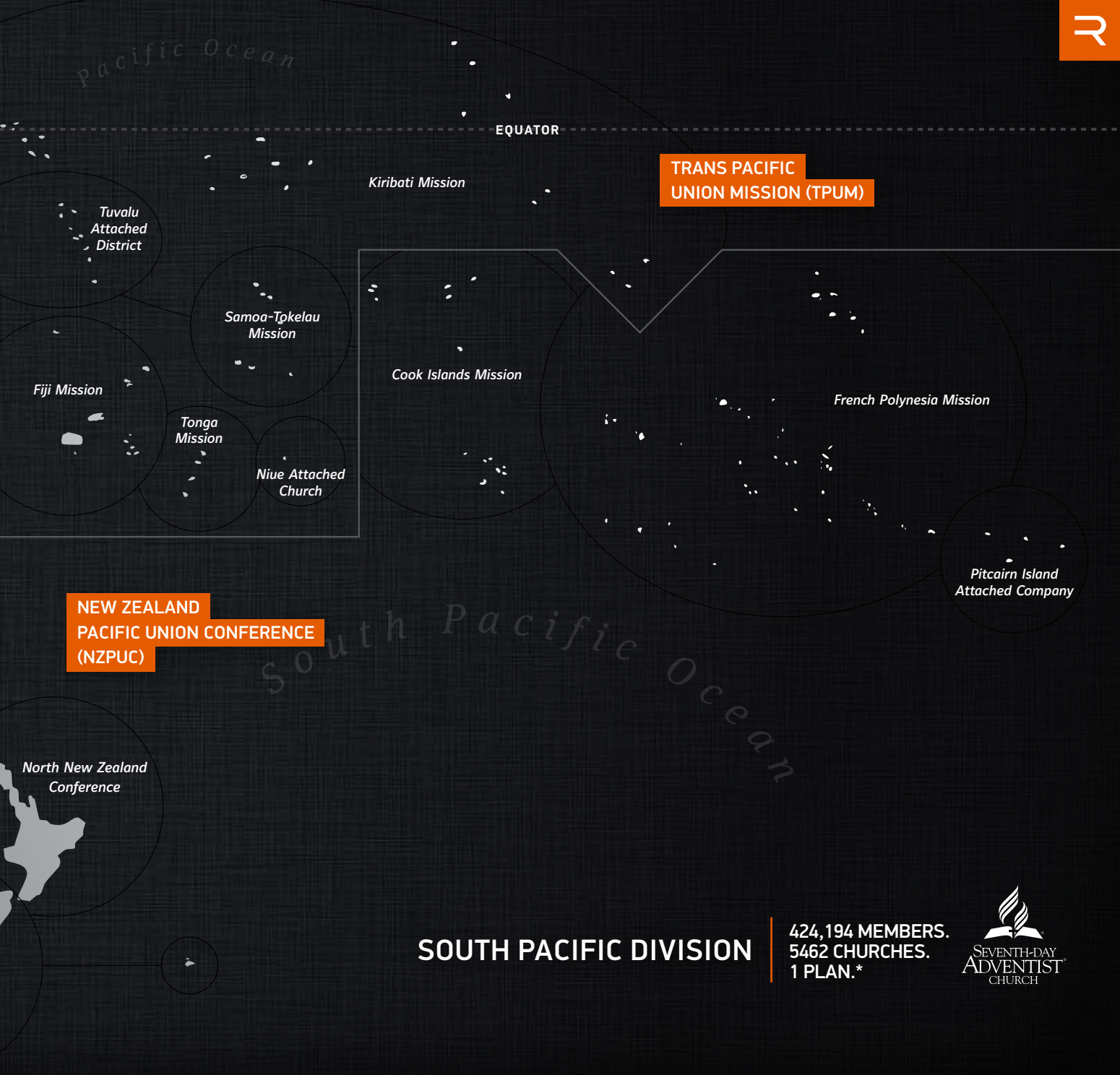
Conference under the umbrella of **Tell the World**. The South Pacific Division has developed a number of strategic priorities within these three areas in consultation with a large number of stakeholders.

It is our aim that all entities and groups within the South Pacific Division will develop strategic action plans to assist

in addressing the strategic priorities that have been set—therefore contributing to the achievement of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church vision.

OUR MISSION

To make disciples for Jesus Christ of all peoples, communicating the everlasting



NEW ZEALAND
PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE
(NZPUC)

TRANS PACIFIC
UNION MISSION (TPUM)

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

424,194 MEMBERS.
5462 CHURCHES.
1 PLAN.*



Gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.

OUR METHOD

We disciple through **Proclaiming:**

- God's sovereignty and love.
- Christ's commission to all the world

(Matthew 28:18-20), most fully revealed in His reconciling ministry and atoning death.

- The Bible as God's infallible revelation of His will.
- The second advent of Christ.
- The continuing authority of God's

- Ten Commandment law with its reminder of the seventh-day Sabbath.
- The role of church members in leading others to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour.
- The need for enriching individual and congregational worship.

*The term "churches" in this instance refers to both organised churches and companies. (Source: Archives and Statistics, June 30, 2012).



Church administrators from the Western Highlands Mission, the Papua New Guinea Union Mission and the South Pacific Division visited a church at Oksapmin, flying Adventist Aviation.

We disciple through **Teaching:**

- The acceptance of Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord and commitment to His remnant Church.
- The necessity of a spiritual community.
- The privilege of ministers and congregations reaching out to serve their communities in harmony with their spiritual gifts.
- The blessings of corporate unity and purpose.
- Holistic growth that develops mind, body and character.
- All to reaffirm their commitment to Christ as Saviour every day, and honour Him as Lord through obedience to His will.

We disciple through **Ministering:**

- So that the biblical emphasis on the wellbeing of the whole person makes the preservation of health and the healing of the sick a priority.
- So that people may experience the full life that God intended.
- So that individuals and families may embrace the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle.
- To all who affiliate with the Church, enabling and affirming their ongoing spiritual development.
- To the poor and oppressed, by cooperating with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.
- To all seekers after truth, nurturing them, leading them to baptism and to ongoing growth and maturity in Christ.

REACH UP to God for spiritual renewal through prayer and study of the Word, highly valuing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

REACH ACROSS to each other in the church family, embracing our unity and diversity, discipling, nurturing, building community relationships, improving structure and being involved in the life of the Church.

REACH OUT to others as a friendly Church, putting Christ's mission first, inviting all peoples to fellowship and making a difference through service to the community.

EVANGELISM



Welcome to the cutting edge of Adventism. It's where the Church connects with searching hearts and fulfils the Gospel commission to *"go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). There are various strategies, techniques and tools to assist in the evangelistic process but, in the end, it's how the apostle Paul explained: *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow"* (1 Corinthians 3:6). Evangelism can happen when an Adventist befriends a neighbour, when a church school disciplines a student

with grace, when a remote clinic nurse prays with a patient, when a congregation organises a young mums' group, and yes, when a preacher expounds on Revelation 13. It's not the event so much as the intent that matters. Successful evangelism requires a deliberate reorientation away from our own interests and toward the needs of those who need to know Jesus—family, friends, workmates, neighbours or total strangers. *Lord, change my heart and help me see the world through Your eyes.*



Page 09: Pastor Lyle Southwell baptizing a new member in Sydney, Australia. Pastor Southwell was made director of the Discovery Centre in 2012. There he is applying his frontline evangelistic experience to leading a team who is ministering to people who respond to invitations to learn more about Jesus. People learn about the Discovery Centre through conversations with Adventist friends and associates, tracts, literature evangelists and through the productions of the Adventist Media Network.

Above left: Celebrating new life in Jesus.



Below left: Candidates waiting for baptism at Hovi, Solomon Islands.



Below right: Pastor John Horvath (second from right) has coordinated the planting of a number of African migrant churches in Perth, Western Australia.

Right: Pastor Gary Webster in preaching made at Suva's Vodafone Arena.

Great growth and defying cultural gravity

Adventist Church growth is most spectacular in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands, which, despite their modest total populations, account for around 70 per cent of the Division's current membership and 77 per cent of its annual growth.* It isn't a coincidence. Pastors and members are working hard to gather in the harvest of hearts—conducting health outreach, evangelistic meetings and Bible studies. And while church planting is considered an innovative church growth strategy in Western countries, church workers and volunteers in PNG and the Solomons have, for some decades, been quietly establishing hundreds of new congregations in the remotest corners of their territories.

In Australia and New Zealand, many commitments come at the end of years of promptings by the Holy Spirit, ably assisted by genuine friendships, spiritual books and DVDs, local church events, painstaking prayer, Bible study sessions and reaping evangelistic events. Even decisions by young people brought up in the Church cannot be assumed, as cultural forces of secularism and materialism threaten the development and maintenance of active faith.

*Source: SPD Annual Statistic Report 2010, Archives and Statistics.

But here, too, there is growth, with the Seventh-day Adventist Church being one of the few Christian denominations resisting the trend of decline.

FIJI ON FIRE

Pastor Gary Webster is excited. He's never seen such broad support from various parts of the Church, all coming together to support Fiji's largest-ever evangelistic campaign. Pastor Webster coordinates the Division's **Institute for Public Evangelism** (IPE), which is based at the Adventist Media Network in Wahroonga, NSW, Australia. On this occasion, IPE is being supported not only by the local churches and mission office in Fiji, but also by It Is Written Oceania, Avondale College of Higher Education, Fulton College and the Trans-Pacific Union Mission. Living Ministry Media, which supports the Church's work in South Australia, is lending a hand with the video webcast. And 1000 local Adventist youth have been hard at work, knocking on doors, inviting people to the three-week evangelistic series being held at Suva's Vodafone arena. "We usually involve our youth in the music at these events, but this time the young people are frontline missionaries," says Pastor Webster.



It's a massive effort that has seen crowds of 3000 coming out each night to hear Pastor Webster present the Advent message. Organisers estimate that at least another 3000 are following the series via webcast at 40 official downlink sites around Fiji's two main islands. And there's no way of knowing how many other people are watching on the internet in private homes or listening via live broadcasts on Hope FM radio.

PREMATURE OBITUARY

Some have already written the obituary for public evangelism. "It's harder to get people to come out," concedes Pastor Webster, citing competition from the vast array of entertainment options available in the 21st century, "but public evangelism remains a powerful reaping tool when done correctly." Changes in society have driven the IPE to get systematic about how the Church does evangelism in the SPD.

The multi-site concept pioneered by IPE in Adelaide in 2011 provides a new model for a coordinated, city-wide campaign. The decision to organise simultaneous events at eight different localities in and around the metropolitan area boosted attendance and involved church members from across the city. The Adelaide campaign also combined mass media outreach in arguably the most sophisticated manner in Australian history. In the audiences each evening were

many people who were invited because they had previously responded to free offers of material and Bible studies from It is Written Oceania—which airs on a major network, community TV and Foxtel in Adelaide. And, as in all successful evangelistic series, many people attended because a friend, colleague or family member who they trusted invited them. Today, just as in Christ's time, evangelism is about reaping from the seeds of love, friendship and service that have already been sown.

HOPE FOR BIG CITIES

The General Conference's *Hope for Big Cities* initiative will drive public evangelism in Sydney, Christchurch, Lae and Suva. IPE plans to be in the thick of it in terms of organising campaign strategies and supplying well-trained speakers. The same goes for 2014, when each local conference and mission in the SPD will target a particular city in its region.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Tuvalu is located half-way between Hawaii and Australia. Its reef islands and atolls sit in pristine waters—seemingly completely removed from the rest of the world. But even in this remote and beautiful place, the Gospel is going forward. In 2006, there were 88

Left: Pastor Vuniyaro (crouching, with tie) with branch church members from the remote northern atolls of Niutao, Tuvalu.

Below left: A lagoon baptism in Niutao, Tuvalu.

Below right: Group baptism by Pastor John Paul at Hovi, Santa Isabel Islands, Solomon Islands.

Opposite page: Pastor Gary Kent baptises Scott Bath in Sydney Harbour.

Opposite page, lower left: Kleber Goncalves speaks at a church planting summit in Perth, Western Australia.

Opposite page, lower centre: Global Mission funding was used to purchase the virtual real estate on which the Daystar Adventist Church stands in Second Life.

Opposite page, Daniel 2 statue: The Second Life virtual church complex includes sanctuary and Bible prophecy walk-throughs to help teach Adventist distinctives.



Adventists in Tuvalu when newlyweds Senitiki and Venina Vuniyaro arrived, not speaking the language. Pastor Vuniyaro was a recent graduate from Fulton College in Fiji with no experience in pastoring or evangelism. There was only one church—in the capital Funafuti.

Pastor Vuniyaro took risks and worked hard. He made numerous three-day boat trips to Tuvalu's largest atoll, Vaitupu, organising health seminars and visits from Adventist medical professionals. The lifestyle changes recommended during these trips produced positive health results for the island's inhabitants, which opened the way for evangelistic meetings, radio broadcasts, Bible studies and, eventually, baptisms. Similar strategies have been employed on other atolls; cleaning up public areas, painting hospitals and prison visits have all helped to build positive relations with the community and drawn people to faith. Following Christ's methods, the Church has grown.

There are now four established churches in Tuvalu, including one

house church. There are also smaller groups meeting elsewhere, which means that there is now an Adventist presence on six of Tuvalu's eight inhabited islands and a total membership of 345 people—a growth of almost 400 per cent in just six years.

GOING GLOBAL

Church planting in Tuvalu is just one of 31 Global Mission projects currently supported by the SPD **Adventist Mission** department. Global Mission's focus is on planting churches in remote areas or among unreached people groups—fertile ground for new approaches and unexpected challenges. The program has funded projects as diverse as the Maranatha Maori church plant in Rotorua, New Zealand; an evangelistic fishing club in Kiribati; a church built underground in the opal mining town of Coober Pedy, South Australia; and an internet church, using the Second Life online virtual world as an evangelistic platform.



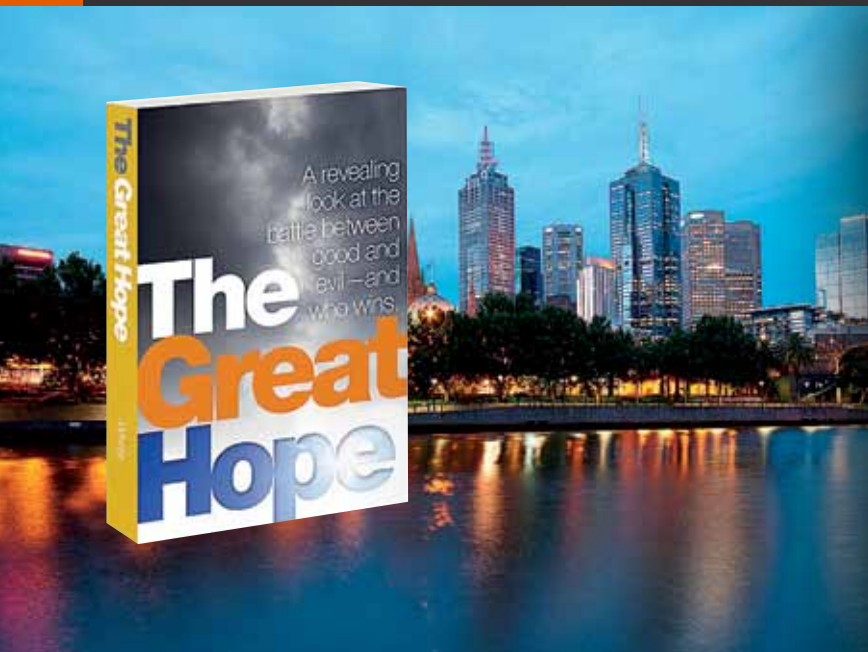
Global Mission projects saw 287 baptisms in 2011, an indicator that something is going right. One of the factors that explains the success of the program is the participation of all levels of church administration; for a Global Mission project to get up and running, funding is required from the General Conference, SPD, union and local conference/mission. It's a model that works.

PLANT IT AND WATCH IT GROW

The SPD is supporting a number of initiatives across Australia and New Zealand under the umbrella of the South Pacific Division **Centre for Church Planting**. Dr Wayne Krause heads up the centre.

"Western Australia has planted 70 churches in the last seven years," says Dr Krause, who's keen to move past perceptions that church planting is trendy, preferring to rely on hard data. *"The statistics don't lie . . . The movements that are growing are planting churches. Church plants are the most effective in reaching unchurched people."* Currently, attempts to plant new churches are achieving a 90 per cent success rate. *"Which is way above the average,"* says Dr Krause. *"It's part of our denominational strength. It's about resourcing, in terms of conference support, training, leadership mentoring and not being willing to give up on a church plant."*





GREAT HOPE!

“I can’t remember the last day when I went out the doors and a miracle didn’t happen,” says John Brereton. Leading the **Adventist Publishing** department and supporting nearly 500 literature evangelists around the SPD makes for a busy job, but he still makes time to go door-to-door himself. Mr Brereton isn’t the only person passionate about the power of the written word. Last year, a young couple, feeling a sense of urgency about Jesus’ soon return, sold their house, bought a smaller one and donated the profit. It was a one-off donation earmarked for a bulk printing of *The Great Controversy*—35,000 copies to be given away for free. In the same spirit, hundreds of thousands of copies of Ellen White books will be distributed across the SPD as part of **Project Hope**.

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Having completed their missionary training, Christy and Tina are now on the ground in Tonga. They’re the vanguard of a new crop of missionaries being sent to Pacific Island nations to connect with the growing number of Chinese migrants, many of who work in the business and retail sectors. Provided with living expenses, accommodation, office space and bicycles under an arrangement between Global Mission and the China Union Mission, Christy and Tina have begun building friendships in Tonga’s capital, Nuku’alofa. They’ve been studying the Bible in six homes and supported an evangelistic campaign featuring Pastor Terry Tsui from Hong Kong, which saw the first three Chinese migrants become Adventists and a small company established. The plan is to also plant Chinese churches in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands by 2015.

Top left: By 2014, 170 million copies of The Great Controversy and The Great Hope (abridged version) will have been distributed globally, free.

Middle left: Visiting evangelist, Pastor Terry Tsui (centre), blesses a Chinese shop in Tonga.

Bottom left: Mission volunteers Christy and Tina stand with Pastor and Mrs Tsui in the newly renovated worship space for Chinese believers. The writing reads: “Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tonga Chinese Church, Opening Ceremony”.

CHURCH LIFE



Seventh-day Adventist churches across the South Pacific are responding to our diverse, sophisticated and rapidly changing societies by finding new and innovative ways to spread the good news about Jesus. Our youth, for example, have launched the World Changers project that aims to distribute Bibles across the Pacific. Many are also speaking up bravely and passionately about their faith on social networking sites like Facebook. Through the leadership of Adventist women, our churches have become centres to nurture victims of abuse

and neglect. In order to combat the negative messages in the media about girls' body image, Adventist women have taken the lead in mentoring girls to become strong, confident women.

It's our goal that everything we do contributes to creating healthy, proactive, balanced Christians who know they are cherished by God, who confidently build and consistently contribute to strong families, and who share their love for Christ with all those they come in contact with.



“The Bible talks about every member being a minister. That doesn’t mean we all have to become evangelists. It means using our gifts to serve God within the context of a local church ministry.”

—Kevin Price, acting director, Personal Ministries

Delving deep

Sabbath School should be a time for personal spiritual growth, strengthening faith and reaching out to others. It’s a time for people to come together and learn about Jesus, to study the Bible, and to get to know each other, the community and the world around them.

NEW SERIES FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Division’s **Sabbath School** department will soon launch a series of lessons designed specifically for new church members. The idea is that churches will have a Sabbath School class where new members can be nurtured while discussing the lessons in the new series, called *In Step With Jesus New Members Bible Study Guides*.

Love to the world

Every week across the South Pacific church members are actively involved in **Personal Ministries**, from letterboxing pamphlets, to handing out books and conducting Bible studies with prisoners. There’s even some people who are setting up churches.

60 BAPTISMS IN A SINGLE PRISON

Since 1997 Adventist volunteers have been visiting Bomana Prison, Papua New Guinea’s largest correctional centre, as part of a program run by Operation Food For Life. Every Sabbath more than 250 men are involved in the programs and it’s estimated that at least 95 per cent of the inmates have learned about the Sabbath. More than 60 prisoners have been baptised, and 100 are currently attending weekly baptismal classes.

Giving back

Stewardship is about being faithful with tithes and offerings, but it’s also about how you spend your time, according to acting Stewardship department director Kevin Price. “*In many ways volunteering your time is an act of stewardship,*” he says. The department’s aim is to educate church members toward a holistic understanding of biblical stewardship and provide them with affordable and practical stewardship resources.

EARTHQUAKE CAN’T STOP TITHE

After the February 2011 Christchurch earthquake, church leaders in the South New Zealand Conference braced themselves for a significant drop in tithe receipts. However, the reverse occurred. “*As we received the financial reports each month we found it difficult to comprehend that tithe receipts were exceeding*



budget,” says Conference treasurer Brigid Peddie. “*By the end of 2011 our Conference experienced an overall increase in membership and a 19 per cent increase in tithe receipts. It is my view that the increase is a response to the work of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of our people to give in faith their financial resources in spite of uncertainty and loss.*”

Page 15: Rachel Vera and Caroline Foster at the 2011 Avondale School and Gateway Adventist Church Christmas party, Cooranbong, NSW, Australia. (Photo credit: Carlos Vera).

Left: Australian Dennis Perry, co-founder of Operation Food for Life, with prisoners from Bomana Prison, Papua New Guinea.

Right: James and Imogen Topp, married June 24, 2012, Pine Rivers Adventist Church, Queensland, Australia by Pastor Wayne French. (Photo credit: tomhallphotography.com.au).

Below: Kurt Langer amidst the devastation caused by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck Christchurch, New Zealand, February 2011.



Unbroken circles

Unemployment, divorce, financial pressures and the demands of modern living are hitting families hard. In Australia and New Zealand, families are struggling with rising costs and the stresses of busy, demanding lifestyles, while in the Pacific Islands the transition from traditional village societies to the Western way of life is creating major challenges for many families. The **Family Ministries** department is tackling some of the big issues, while also promoting healthy families and providing support where people need it.

BUILDING HAPPY MARRIAGES

With one in three Australian and New Zealand marriages ending in divorce there's much to be done to support and grow healthy families. The Church holds weekend retreats where 10-12 couples spend time looking at ways to enrich and enhance their marriages. The theme is "Making good marriages better". Some conferences run a version of the program specifically for pastors and their wives because only those who experience the joy of a healthy marriage can share that joy. The Church also promotes healthy relationships through the annual National Christian Family Conference, resource manuals and an excellent DVD series called *Understanding Love*.

PUSH TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is widespread across the South Pacific and it's a major problem in Papua New Guinea where it's estimated that 67 per cent of women have been abused or assaulted. Family Ministries director, Pastor Trafford Fischer, and Women's Ministries director

Erna Johnson head to PNG next month to kick off a major push to address the problem. "Our aim is to not only build families but to protect them," Pastor Fischer says. "We will be meeting with pastors and church leaders, speaking to them about abuse and giving them training on how to deal with instances of domestic violence." It is the SPD's goal to make domestic violence history in every nation, culture and family across its territory.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is pervasive in our societies and it's distorting the way women are perceived and treated. It's promoting a host of bad behaviours from promiscuity to sexual assault. The Church is looking at new ways to tackle this problem and Pastor Fischer is writing a document on the issue. "It's for pastors and leaders and will inform them about the issue and how to minister to people who are caught up in sex addiction," he says.

All about kids

Together time is becoming a rare thing for families these days. But spending time together is essential, according to SPD **Children's Ministries** department director Julie Weslake, who is encouraging families to have at least one meal together each day. "Research shows that the 8-13 age group is the window of opportunity we have to build beliefs and values and attitudes. We are just trying to make sure that children are connected with God, and that they have a church community where they feel they belong."



Children in Kora, PNG, listen to the Kindergarten Sabbath School Bible story via Godpod audio devices while looking at the Gracelink flip chart. (Photo credit: Charlotte Ishkanian, Adventist Mission).

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Research shows that families who come together for at least one meal a day have children who are less likely to participate in risky behaviours, like using drugs and alcohol. Children’s Ministries has launched a new resource aimed at bringing families together and building faith during family meal times. Table Talk is a box containing a set of conversation starters based on the four faith themes of the

Gracelink children’s Sabbath School curriculum—grace, worship, community and service.

“I’ve had really, really positive comments coming back from this where the children are just loving them,” Julie Weslake says.

GODPODS AND MORE

Kindergarten children in Papua New Guinea are now able to listen to Gracelink



Sabbath School lessons in their own language via Godpod audio devices. They are being used in conjunction with Gracelink flip charts, which illustrate the weekly lesson, and have been distributed to thousands of churches across the South Pacific. *“The teacher can have 50 kids listening to the Godpod while looking at the picture on the flip chart,”* Julie Weslake says. *“When the story is finished they can also teach the children their memory verse from the chart.”*

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

About 500 churches across the South Pacific have participated in the Kids In Discipleship program, which is aimed at training pastors, elders and children’s leaders to equip parents and mentors to disciple their children. The program also includes a set of Bible studies for parents, called *Footprints for Parents*, and a series for children, *Footprints for Kids*. In Papua New Guinea, children are using the program to witness to villagers and church members in the Abau district. They have also been taking morning and evening worships at church and in their homes. And in Suva, Fiji, seven children and two adults were baptised at Uduya church as a result of the *Footprints For Kids* series.



“I didn’t know that the way I dressed could affect another person!”

“I now understand that God loves me no matter what.”

“I’ve learned how to take care of me as a person, both physically as well as spiritually.”

–Women’s Ministries Real Beauty participants

Left: Teenage girls who attended the Shine program at Livingston Adventist Church, Canning Vale, Western Australia.

Strong women

Women make up the majority of the membership of the Church so it’s vital that they are embraced, nurtured and treated with love, respect and dignity. Helping women reach their potential is the goal of the SPD **Women’s Ministries** department. “*Our dream is to see every woman use her potential, gifts and talents in God’s service,*” Women’s Ministries director Erna Johnson says.

“*Women’s Ministries is all about helping women find their identity and self-esteem in Jesus Christ.*”

REACHING OUT TO YOUNG WOMEN

Today’s teenage girls are under intense pressure as they strive to live up to the material and sexual ideals promoted in magazines and on websites. Many are battling body image and self-esteem issues, along with problems like peer pressure and cyber bullying. It’s inspired Women’s Ministries to launch programs aimed specifically at tackling these issues. Real Beauty weekends have been held in Queensland and French Polynesia. They aim to teach the girls how to handle peer pressure and what a Christian

daily life is all about. Shine, a similar initiative, was held in Western Australia in May, while a program called Eden has run in New Zealand. All of the programs have included non-Adventist participants.

LITERACY CLASSES IN THE ISLANDS

Women’s Ministries is bringing literacy to hundreds of people in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, using Bibles as the reading material. “*We have raised up churches that way,*” Erna Johnson says. “*One lady started a church that now has over 300 people, all as a result of her literacy school. Our women are using any tool they have to share the Gospel. It’s really exciting.*”

Church resources

The SPD equips and trains worship leaders through the **Institute of Worship**, and helps local churches organise effective evangelistic activities through the **Institute of Church Ministry**. Historical resources are available through the **Adventist Heritage Centre**, which has a collection dating from the late 1800s to the present.



More than 100 young adults from Avondale College of Higher Education donned red T-shirts and distributed roughly 2000 items of Christian literature including *Steps to Christ* and *Signs of the Times*, during the "I Will Share Jesus" youth initiative on the streets of Sydney, NSW, Australia. (Photo credit: davidgeoffreygoslingphotography.com).



"It was my first trip to Nyngan with the StormCo team this year and it was an amazing experience! The children opened my eyes to seeing the bigger picture and how the little things we do can make a huge impact!"

—Jessica Shipton, 16, was among a group of young people from Kellyville church, NSW, who took part in a StormCo program in April this year.

Keeping it real

Global trends in music, visual media and fashion are shaping young people across the South Pacific like never before. Young people are looking for clarity on many issues and that's where the Division's **Youth Ministries** department is playing a significant role. "What youth need most is a support network of people around them who are prepared to journey with them," says Youth Ministries director, Dr Nick Kross. The department's vision is to build a Spirit-filled youth community, as young people grow in wisdom, strength and favour with God.

CHANGING THE WORLD

Youth Ministries launched its World Changers project in 2011, aimed at raising \$1 million to purchase 200,000 Bibles for young adults in the South Pacific. They are already more than half-way toward their goal. "We feel the basic necessity of every Christian is to have a Bible in their hands," Dr Kross says. "We see God's blessing and leading in the whole project." A World Changers Youth Congress will be held in Brisbane in January. It will include 3000 youth from 14 countries. They will each receive a Bible and training on how to bring someone to Christ.

SHARING JESUS' LOVE

Many youth are choosing to spend their holiday time in meaningful ways serving those less fortunate. Youth are also speaking up about their faith online through social networking sites like Facebook. Traditionally young people took up roles in their local churches as a way of leading out. These days growing numbers of youth are planning their own ministry events, like the **ADRA Connections**, **One Mission**, **StormCo** and **International Children's Care** trips.





HEALTH

From the Sydney Adventist Hospital's physician training program, which is operated in cooperation with the University of Sydney (consistently ranked among the best universities in the world in the field of life sciences), to Adventist Health's major new initiatives on the cutting edge of preventive health, the South Pacific Division is leading the world Church in adapting the Adventist health message to our modern world. But it's not just about high-tech healthcare. The SPD also

operates a hospital and 56 clinics spread throughout the Pacific islands—many of them providing the only healthcare available in their region—and sends out medical teams across the Pacific and Asia to perform advanced medical procedures and training. Adventists also remain a major voice for alcohol and tobacco control, providing key support for the world's first cigarette plain paper packaging mandate, which is scheduled to come into effect this year in Australia.



"My life is just beginning again!" Mark McNeill, who saw his weight, cholesterol and blood pressure drop dramatically after completing the CHIP Program.

Lifestyle Medicine Institute

DISEASE FIGHTER

The World Health Organisation estimates that one billion people on earth are overweight, and the number is only going to increase as obesity rates explode in nations like China and India. The South Pacific Division recently acquired the worldwide rights to a clinically proven and globally tested program to fight obesity and reverse lifestyle diseases like diabetes: the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). The SPD is working to combine its substantial expertise in the region of marketing, media and healthcare to revamp the CHIP materials and relaunch them to a much larger global audience. The CHIP program provides the perfect means for local Adventist churches all around the world to bring Christ's ministry of healing to the contemporary challenges facing our communities.

Adventist Health

GOT A LIGHT?

*"Smoking rates are dropping in Australia and New Zealand because of dramatic changes in public attitudes led, in part, by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and in particular by the work of Dr Harley Stanton," reports Kevin Price, director of **Adventist Health**. "It's great to see the progress now that cigarette advertising is banned, and tobacco products carry large, graphic warnings about the health damage. We're looking forward to the end of this year when Australia is scheduled to become the first nation on earth to require cigarettes be sold in plain paper packages. We are delighted that New Zealand is also considering similar legislation. But with alcohol we are still back where we were 40 years ago with smoking. To help shift community opinion we are running the 'Think, Don't Drink' campaign across our territory to educate children, youth, parents*





and government leaders about the devastating effects booze is having—and we are calling for concerted action to attack alcohol abuse. Smokers used to ask ‘got a light?’ Today, our answer is a firm ‘yes’—a spotlight is being shone directly on the exploitation of our communities by the powerful tobacco and alcohol conglomerates!”

HOPE FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist Health, was visiting the Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea when he saw a little girl sitting quietly. It was her big brown eyes, staring at him in hope and wonder, that touched his heart. “She had scabies on her hand, and her expression called out ‘Can you help us?’” Dr Kuma remembers. She isn’t alone; across the Pacific there are thousands of communities that don’t have access to even the most basic healthcare.

But through a program called Adopt-a-Clinic, the SPD connected Avondale Memorial Church with the village, and working together,

a clinic has been established. Today, our clinics are providing life-saving treatment to patients from across the South Pacific. “They are making a huge difference,” Dr Kuma says. “Now they can have treatment for infectious diseases, mothers can receive antenatal care, children can be immunised and men treated for injuries. It’s a wonderful blessing.”

The little PNG girl who touched the heart of Dr Kuma. Her village now has a clinic thanks to the Adopt-a-Clinic program.





Sharing Health and Hope

The Health Food Department and Sanitarium

Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing Company goes head to head in the marketplace against multinational corporations like Nestlé and Kellogg's. It's a challenge that few domestic companies have survived. But Sanitarium has more than met the challenge. Sanitarium produces the #1 and #2 products in the breakfast aisle in both the Australian and New Zealand markets, is a market leader in soy milk and vegetarian foods and exports its products to 38 different countries around the world. Yet despite Sanitarium's success, it has never lost sight of its mission to share with our community a message of health and hope for a better life.

Sanitarium is wholly owned by the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and returns its profits to the Church. Hence its twofold blessing to the Church and the community—first by providing outstanding healthy foods and cutting-edge wellbeing services, and then reinvesting its profits in community service provided through the Adventist Church.

THE UP&GO STORY: STAYING A MARKET LEADER

Many Australians and New Zealanders regularly skip breakfast, but still want nutrition and convenience. Faced with this trend,

Sanitarium executives had a tough choice: either adapt quickly or see their relevance disappear. In response they developed Up&Go, a product designed to provide the protein, energy and fibre of two Weet-Bix, milk and 10 essential vitamins and minerals, in a tasty beverage. Up&Go has enjoyed outstanding sales growth. Today, it is the number one brand in the breakfast aisle in Australia, and number two in New Zealand (second only to Weet-Bix).

WHOLE SOME FOOD FROM OUR KITCHEN

Kitchen Sanitarium, located in the bustling Brisbane CBD, is a café that serves delicious, wholesome plant-based meals to busy city workers. Kitchen Sanitarium represents in many ways a return to the Sanitarium cafés that operated in capital cities across Australia and New Zealand until the 1970s. The Kitchen team served almost 60,000 customers in 2009, its first year of operation. The figure has now increased to more than 85,000 customers annually!

Through the Sanitarium brand, the **Health Food Department** has also recently expanded into innovative health and wellbeing services such as Sanctuary Sanitarium and Cultivate Sanitarium.



A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY

Based on Sydney's beautiful waterfront, **Sanctuary Health & Wellbeing Village** provides coordinated "whole person" healthcare to address the diseases and pressures of modern urban life. For example, its popular 12-week weight loss program includes consultations with a physician, a dietician, an exercise physiologist and a psychologist, with access to massage and other services. This integrated approach produces exceptional results. "My life is back in control," states one thankful client.

CULTIVATING HEALTHY WORKPLACES

Cultivate Sanitarium operates in Australia and New Zealand as an innovative program that brings a truly whole person approach to employee health and wellbeing. With the recent purchase of three companies across Australia and New Zealand that operate wellness programs, flu vaccination services and corporate wellbeing services, these entities offer a broad range of health and wellbeing solutions for all industry types. Employers who invest in an employee health and wellbeing program enjoy a happier, healthier and more productive workforce. Cultivate's program provides the return on investment every savvy business is looking for.

LIFE HEALTH FOOD

Some of New Zealand's best-loved food brands are produced by **Life Health Food** (LHF), which is also owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. LHF produces delicious, contemporary plant-based foods, and its brands include Lisa's, Naked Organics, Bean Supreme, Olive Grove and Kato. All share the same vision of enriching lifestyles through fresh, innovative and healthy cuisine.





Welcome to the Sydney Adventist Hospital

The **Sydney Adventist Hospital**'s mission statement is "Christianity in Action" and that is precisely what the hospital provides, whether treatment involves a complex array of cutting-edge procedures or the joy of a routine birth. As a result, it has a national reputation as a leader in innovative medicine and patient care. But it's not resting on its laurels.

AMBITIOUS EXPANSION

SAH has embarked on a \$181 million redevelopment, which includes 12 additional operating theatres, a new integrated cancer centre and 200 extra beds. "It is one of the most significant private hospital redevelopments ever undertaken," CEO Dr Leon Clark says. "We look forward to celebrating the completion of the project in 2014—shortly after we celebrate our 110th anniversary." The ambitious project has been praised by many of Australia's leading citizens, including John Howard, the second-longest serving prime minister in Australian history.

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

SAH is also becoming a leading teaching hospital. In partnership with the University of Sydney, which is ranked among the top universities in the world in the field of life sciences, SAH has opened the first fully-fledged private hospital clinical school in NSW. The school will offer training for future doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists and other health-related professions. SAH also operates one of Australia's premier nursing programs in cooperation with Avondale College of Higher Education.

LIFE-SAVING SERVICE

One of the jewels of SAH are the teams it organises to provide free critical care across Asia and the Pacific. These volunteer teams provide everything from open heart surgery through to complex plastic and reconstructive surgery in places as diverse as Nepal, Tonga, Mongolia, Rwanda, Cambodia and Fiji. More than 1700 medical professionals have volunteered through SAH to perform these life-changing surgeries, and train local teams to become self-sufficient after the volunteers depart.

WHOLE PERSON CARE



"When I was ill, I was feeling sick and dealing with the aftermath of treatment . . . I had no idea what I was going to do. I felt like I was 'lost in transition' . . . on the edge of a huge abyss. Luckily, after that I found SAH. You come here and your body can be treated but people here are also interested in you as a human being . . . it really did save my life in many ways."

—Jane Ewins, cancer survivor



EDUCATION

Seventh-day Adventist education focuses on developing the mind, the body and the spirit for service to others here on earth, and for eternity with Christ. Today more than 66,000 students attend Adventist schools across the South Pacific Division. With 373 schools from pre-schools to tertiary institutions, and 2900 full-time equivalent teachers, the

Adventist education system covers a vast territory and includes a great diversity of students and staff. From New Zealand to Tahiti, Papua New Guinea to Australia, from the Solomon Islands to Samoa, Adventist education is united in the single goal of providing the best possible holistic education, with Christ at the centre.



Primary and secondary education

Adventist primary and secondary schools are scattered all across the Pacific, providing not only an alternative to state education, but a completely different take on education. Yes, Adventist schools provide a rigorous academic curriculum, however that curriculum has, at its centre, a holistic view of the person that comes from our knowledge that every student is a unique creation of God, and is of inestimable value to Him.

GATEWAY TO THE GOSPEL

Pauline Whiting has seen her family transformed in the three years since she enrolled her son, Jack, in Year 7 at Avondale Adventist School. *“We were quite comfortable,”* she says. *“Nice house, nice car; but something was missing.”* She and her husband, Bill, have some church background but, as she says, *“We’d lost our way a little bit in regards to religion.”*

After Jack said he wanted to go to the campus church with friends during Year 7, the rest of the Whiting family began to attend; first sporadically, but now nearly every week. Pauline has nothing but praise for the church. *“Gateway is awesome,”* she says, *“We found it welcoming and non-judgemental. It didn’t matter if we didn’t have an Adventist background. We felt we weren’t treated differently to anyone else.”*

In January, Jack, now in Year 10, was baptised. Pauline says her younger daughter, Samantha, is likely to follow suit this year. And, referring to herself and her husband, Pauline predicts, *“I would say, probably, we’ll get done too.”*

LOVE IS THE ANSWER

In exceptional circumstances, Adventist schools hire non-Adventist Christian teachers. It’s not ideal, but it’s turned out to be an unexpected blessing. Since 2008, 17 non-Adventist teachers working in Adventist schools across Australia have been baptised. Among them is Prescott College (South Australia) teacher Nicholas Ellis, who was formerly the headmaster of an Anglican school in South Africa. He was influenced by the school’s Christ-centred approach and the friendly welcome he received. He and his family started attending Para Vista Adventist Church at the invitation of one of the other teachers. *“We visited the church as strangers and walked away feeling as though we were family. They were caring, friendly and shared their love for Jesus with us,”* he says. He and his wife, Ann, were baptised in June 2010.



“I am extremely proud of our school leaders and administrators for their management of all the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution funds. Government authorities have been amazed at how available funds have been stretched through the use of volunteer support and careful planning to achieve outstanding outcomes.”

— Daryl Murdoch, Australian Union Conference Education director



Far left: Enjoying a healthy snack at Wahroonga Adventist School, Sydney, Australia. Second from left: Avondale School, NSW, Australia. Year 5 student Ben Evans poses with his proud parents on the occasion of his baptism, which he requested be held in the school quadrangle in front of the students and staff. Third from left: Theology student Arta (centre) with enthusiastic school aged children from Nailega Village, near Fulton College, Fiji. Above: Adventist schools aim to help each student fulfil their God-given potential in terms of their academic, physical, social and spiritual development. Above centre: Avondale School (NSW) has a strong sporting program, which includes competitions with other independent schools in the region. Above right: Friendships formed at school can influence the direction of a whole lifetime.

WALKING THE TALK

Service to others is an integral part of Adventist education across the South Pacific. Not surprisingly, an increasing number of students are rolling up their sleeves to help others. Each year students from many Adventist schools and tertiary institutions are volunteering to give up their time, often during holidays, to help those in need. It's all about walking the talk!

Longburn Adventist College (Palmerston North, New Zealand) students, for example, have participated in successful service trips to Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to do building and maintenance work, run Bible schools and other outreach activities. On their most recent trip to the Solomon Islands, 18 students spent three weeks helping to build a church on the island of Kolombangara. In sweltering conditions, they lugged bags of cement, buckets of water and timber beams to the construction site, and dug holes for the foundations, but their spirits were not dampened. There's something inspiring about living for others. After all, that's what Christianity is all about!

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me. I loved the environment, the routine we had every day, and the people were so friendly and hospitable." – Longburn student Benjamin Brungar

"It was absolutely awesome. I loved it." – Longburn student Sara Greenfield

A BUILDING REVOLUTION

When your name is Charisma you have a lot to live up to! And Charisma Maua is more than up to the challenge. He is the school

captain of Macarthur Adventist College (MAC) on the outskirts of Sydney. Since he started at MAC in 2000, the school has grown from a few classrooms to a combined K–12 school, with a library and new auditorium. *"We at MAC see this hall as a reflection of our journey and it is set as a monument of things to come,"* says Charisma. And MAC's new auditorium is hardly alone. Adventist schools in Australia have received close to \$64 million from the Australian Federal Government initiatives, including Building the Education Revolution, School Pride and Primary Schools for the 21st Century.

MUSIC BRINGS HARMONY

Just a 10 minute walk from Fulton College in Fiji is the village of Nailega, whose residents are Methodist. The village has many school aged children. During the 70 years of Fulton's existence there has not been a lot of contact between the college and the village. Then last year one of our Theology students decided to rent a house in the village rather than live in the men's dormitory. Arta, from New Caledonia, is a very talented musician. When he arrived in Nailega the children asked Arta to teach them some songs from the DVD he was playing to them. Since then he has become a popular part of village life, even taking part in local church services. Music has brought harmony between the college and village. Today, Fulton students conduct prayer meetings every Tuesday evening in the village.



Avondale College of Higher Education

Avondale College of Higher Education is dedicated to excellence in teaching and research that prepares students for lives of service, and it shows. The 2012 edition of *The Good Universities Guide* gives Avondale its highest rating (five stars) in eight separate areas. Maybe it's no surprise then that Avondale has seen its enrolment grow to almost 1400 students. At the heart of Avondale is a dedication to excellence, spirituality, nurture, service and balance.

HEALTHY CHIP

The *American Journal of Cardiology* recently published an article by an Avondale research team documenting the "significant reduction in cardiovascular disease risk factors" in 5070 participants in the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). Dr Darren Morton,

a senior lecturer at Avondale in health and exercise science, is leading the team of researchers studying the health benefits of CHIP. The team includes Pastor Paul Rankin, the CHIP in Churches program director for the South Pacific Division, who is completing his PhD at Avondale.

Dr Morton, one of three presenters on a new CHIP DVD series, also presented a CHIP paper at the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference. The paper received equal highest audience evaluation.

ONE MISSION: SERVE!

Avondale students organise their own mission teams under the name One Mission. One Mission teams visited Botswana and Zambia,





Far left: After years of hard work, fun and friends, graduation is a welcome recognition of a milestone achievement. Second from left: Avondale senior lecturer, Dr Darren Morton (centre), is an enthusiastic advocate of a healthy, holistic lifestyle both on and off campus. Below left: Avondale students Max Souradeth, Brett Carlsen and Colin Chuang at Jerusalem's Western Wall on a Bible lands tour, a study option offered at Avondale. Above left: One Mission participant. Above centre: Chaplain Alina Coccetti. Above right and below: Pacific Adventist University students.

Cambodia and Mongolia during the mid-year break. The African team distributed HIV/AIDS test kits, established mobile medical clinics, and presented health education and evangelistic programs in the capitals of both countries. In Cambodia, they helped the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) build a toilet block to provide sanitation for local communities. During the break, Josh Dye, an Avondale student leader of One Mission, and his team worked with ADRA to build a fence around agriculture crops in rural Mongolia to improve food security for local communities.

SOMETHING NEW

Avondale is one of the first higher education providers in Australia to offer degrees in chaplaincy, and it's proving popular with students. Fifteen students are enrolled in the initial chaplaincy unit and 21 in the initial counselling unit of the new program. "Australian government entities now insist chaplains are qualified, and Avondale is one of the only places where chaplaincy is available in a bachelor's degree," says Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Theology. Graduate Alina Coccetti, who now works at Brisbane Adventist College, notes "my vision for chaplaincy is to empower students and their families to deal with the challenges life throws at them".



Pacific Adventist University

In 2011, Papua New Guinea (PNG) was among the top 10 fastest growing economies on earth, just slightly behind China. That rapid rate of growth is expected to continue. As PNG races toward modernisation and grapples with the rapid changes in its society, **Pacific Adventist University** (PAU) is producing Christian leaders for the Church and society who are up to the challenge. In the past five years, enrolment at PAU has more than doubled, from 493 students to 1003. In a country with around 1000 church members for every pastor, and with the demand for skilled local talent with integrity at an all time high, PAU is doing its part!

UNITED FOR EXCELLENCE

Fulton College, Fiji, and Sonoma Adventist College, East New Britain, PNG, have become affiliated under PAU's umbrella to create a united academic tertiary system. Both campuses benefit in terms of high academic standards and best teaching practices as well as support and professional development.

DYING FOR SPIRITUAL FOOD

Tragically, PNG is plagued by high rates of crime—including one of the highest rates of sexual violence in the world. It's a good reason to stay well within the walls of the PAU campus, but that's not happening. Instead,



Above: Opening ceremony of the academic year. Flags and national costumes of different nations represented in student body.
 Below: PAU welcomes students and their families from across the South Pacific. These Tongan students were celebrating their team's participation in the Rugby World Cup.

every Sabbath PAU students gather at 6 am to load onto buses, which leave the campus in different directions to run branch Sabbath Schools. Some of these church plants take place in settlements that are seen as extremely dangerous. But PAU students are dedicated to taking church to those who have no churches. After his parents were converted, one young man poured out his heart: *"I am glad that PAU students are taking the initiative to visit people like us, who are dying for spiritual food."*

BEAUTIFUL FEET

When you know the spirit of sacrifice is alive and well at PAU, it's not so hard to understand how the Adventist Church has grown so large in PNG. PAU theology students have undertaken their four-week practicum in some extremely remote places. For example, Pastor Allen Akili and Lindsay Kanawi were dropped off by mission plane, before taking a three-hour canoe trip and half-day walk to reach the village where the church is located. After conducting a 10-day program there, they walked another full day to the next church. When was the last time you went to such lengths to spread the good news?

FRESH AND GOOD

PAU's campus is a hive of activity every Sunday morning as the PAU fresh food market gets underway. All of the produce grown on PAU land is sold at the market to the local community, students and staff—and is very popular. From sweet corn to paw-paw, green beans, eggplant, tomatoes and watermelons, the produce is snapped up along with evangelistic books. The farm, which doubles as a research project for PAU, is steadily growing and has an annual turnover of K3 million.



MEDIA



Imagine if the Adventist message was never more than an arm's length away—to anyone, anywhere, anytime. That vision is at the core of the Adventist Media Network (AMN) strategy. And today, we're closer to achieving our goal than ever before. AMN uses the creative arts—film, literature, music, web design, the spoken word and visual arts—to break through the clutter of today's world with the power of the Gospel.

Today, the Adventist message is as easily available through

a smart phone in Samoa as it is through a 55" flat-screen TV hanging in a penthouse apartment in Sydney. God's final message of love is streaming on the iPad screens of commuters in Auckland and flowing out of the earphones of joggers in Suva. It is being played on Godpods in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and being read in homes on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu. Today, the dream of anyone, anywhere, anytime is quickly becoming the reality.



WHAT'S GOING ON?



NEW!

Beyond the Search

From a chopper flying over Rio to walking the Las Vegas strip, from exploring the vaults of Jerusalem to riding a bull in the Aussie Outback, and many places and adventures in between, the *Beyond* series captures the pace and vibe of our world today. The 14-part film series is a brilliantly fresh approach to presenting the Adventist message to the contemporary world.

And our world is responding. *Beyond* has already won eight prestigious awards from secular organisations, and is getting rave reviews from those who've seen it. *Beyond* brings a whole new level of cinematographic professionalism to the Adventist story, and is set to be used as a key integrated evangelistic tool globally. Along with the film series are 29 video Bible studies featuring some of the most engaging minds in Adventism, a book, tracts and a ground-breaking website. *Beyond* isn't the end—it's the start of a new era in Adventist film.

CINE GOLDEN EAGLE
PROFESSIONAL NON-TELECAST
NON-FICTION DIVISION: MOTIVATIONAL
ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
GORDON BROWN
ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK
ACCOLADE COMPETITION

PRESTIGE BRONZE AWARD
SHORT DOCUMENTARY
ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK
PRESTIGE FILM AWARDS

AWARD OF MERIT
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, ETHICS, RELIGION
ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK
ACCOLADE COMPETITION

AWARDS OF MERIT
CHRISTIAN, CINEMATOGRAPHY,
DIRECTION & EDITING CATEGORIES
ADVENTIST MEDIA NETWORK
BEST SHORTS COMPETITION



HOPECHANNEL PRESENTS "BEYOND THE SEARCH" PRESENTERS GEOFF YOULDEN DANNIELLE SYNOT JOHNNY MURISON ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY MICHAEL PRICE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GORDON BROWN EDITED BY MARCEL EISELE DAVID FLEMMING KATIE PAGE RICHARD EWING SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR DALE WILLIS
STORY BY KYLE PORTBURY JARED MADDEN NEALE SCHOFIELD JOHN GATE JOTHAM KINGSTON LYNNETTE LOUNSBURY GEOFF YOULDEN AND CLIFFORD GOLDSTEIN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NEALE SCHOFIELD JOHN GATE LINE PRODUCER NEAL ALLEN PRODUCED BY JARED MADDEN DIRECTED BY KYLE PORTBURY





Above: Pastor Gary Kent on location at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for the ANZAC program. Below: Mal Hamilton, *It Is Written Oceania* cameraman.

HopeChannel

What makes **HopeChannel** exceptional is its emphasis on locally produced programming. Why? Because there is overwhelming evidence that people respond best to programs that tell the Adventist message in their own language and culture. That's why today HopeChannel in the South Pacific features locally made programming from across the Pacific. And local content is scheduled to skyrocket as studios get into full swing from Papua New Guinea to Samoa, New Zealand to Western Australia. Today, HopeChannel airs free-to-air in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Pitcairn Island and American Samoa, and on satellite TV across the Pacific.

Love in our lingo

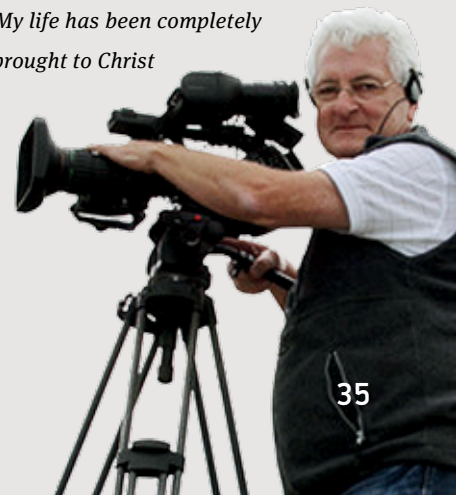
Every week ***It is Written Oceania*** (IIWO)'s programs are shown across Australia, New Zealand and some nations in the Pacific on free-to-air TV, on satellite TV and streamed over the web. It has become a cherished part of mainstream society. For example, this year on the most important secular holiday in the Australian

and New Zealand calendars—ANZAC Day, when our war dead are remembered—an IIWO program on one of the best loved chaplains of World War I was featured as part of the commemoration on national television in Australia.

Featuring local stories and a local presenter has proved to be a winner in a Christian media market dominated by American televangelists. After switching to a local host and presenting genuine Aussie and Kiwi stories, requests for material and Bible studies from IIWO viewers tripled.

One viewer recently wrote: *“My life has been completely changed as a result of being brought to Christ and having accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour . . .*

This probably would not have happened if not for the It Is Written TV program and the invitation to ask for the courses that you have.”





Above left: Sharon Martin at the Discovery Centre provides insight and care to those seeking to learn more and connect with Christ. Above right: Eric and Monique Johnson take a break from recording an album of fresh, inspiring music in the AMN studio.

Connecting real people to Christ

It is all well and good to create cracking media productions, but there has to be a way to take the step from video, web, print or app, to a deeper understanding of the Adventist message.

There is.

It's called the **Discovery Centre** and all our media contacts who want to speak to somebody about Jesus, learn more about our message or better understand the Bible are directed to the centre. Every year the centre receives close to 10,000 requests for Adventist material and Bible studies through phone calls, emails and mail.

The Discovery Centre connects people to a deeper knowledge of Christ and refers them to a local Adventist church. Contacts also receive invitations to live evangelism events in their local area. The Discovery Centre is key, by the grace of God, to turning media interests into Adventist Christians.

Soul music

Music reaches a place in people's hearts that words alone cannot penetrate. It can turn people's minds in an instant, shape attitudes and motivate behaviour. Tragically, much of the music pulsating in iPods and blaring from boom boxes is designed to pull people away from God. But not the music produced under the South Pacific Division's own music label: **Psalter Music**. Psalter seeks out and develops partnerships with Adventist songwriters and recording and performing artists, showcasing in a professional way, fresh, original and unique music that uplifts God and explores how as humans we relate to Him.

“With the support of the Church, our album—Pilgrim—and its Gospel centred message has spread to many countries around the world since early 2011. We can't wait to get back into the studio to record our next release.”

— Eric and Monique Johnson, husband and wife team, Psalter Music





The Record InFocus Christian News team on the set in the AMN studios (left to right: Kent Kingston, Dannielle Synot and James Standish). Right: The ground-breaking RECORD app.

Busting out of church

For more than 100 years, the **RECORD** has been a fixture in Adventist churches in the South Pacific. Not any more. Yes, it still appears in paper format in local churches, but its contents are now spreading around the world via social media. The **RECORD** website allows easy sharing of news, views, videos and graphics. But does anyone care? Apparently they do. A **RECORD** article recently posted on Facebook generated over 100 comments from young people across Australia, the US and, remarkably, Nepal. Other pieces have generated comments from across Europe, South-East Asia and the US—from church members, ex-members and people who have never set foot in an Adventist church. **RECORD**—it's not just for church anymore . . .

AMN honoured for cultural contribution

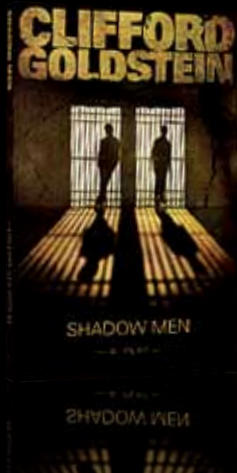
The Australian Federal Government recently recognised **Adventist Media Network** for its contribution to the culture of the Australian people. It's a significant and rare honour, and requires the approval of the Prime Minister's office. Due to the cultural significance of AMN productions, donations to the AMN Cultural Trust are now tax-deductible.

The new news

The "Machine Gun Preacher" stopped by; so did the official Australian Olympic chaplain. The reverend, the priest, the preacher and prelate have all been on. People who have done remarkable things—and people who think astonishing thoughts. Artists, writers, musicians and visionaries. They've all sat in the **InFocus** "hot seat" for arguably the best Christian TV news show in the world. It's translated into French—and into Arabic! **InFocus** news is broadcast on Foxtel and HopeChannel, it's featured on the **RECORD** iPhone and Android apps, and seamlessly streams from www.record.net.au. Want a candid, confronting, humorous and inspiring view of current events? You now know where to find it.

Getting the word out

"Just show her the books." That was what the Holy Spirit said to literature evangelist Adam Weal. He had just met Tania, a professed Satanist, and her angry pitbull, Psycho. Following the Holy Spirit's prompt, Adam showed her the books, and she loved them. Tania isn't alone. From our book depots in the Solomon Islands to *Steps to Christ* distributed by our **Literature Evangelism** team in Western Australia, print media remains a living, vital ministry.



Into every home

Ellen White predicted, “*More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.*” Around our world today, that prediction is a reality. And **Signs Publishing** is one of the reasons why. They publish the highest quality books, magazines and other materials that feature and uphold biblical themes, Christian values and a healthy lifestyle in a way that appeals to today’s world. Proclaiming the good news of Christ’s soon return is at the heart of everything Signs Publishing does.

Good news for everyone

The Gospel is for everyone and that’s where the Adventist Media’s **Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired** (CSFBHI) comes in. Thousands of people across the globe download weekly Bible study podcasts from the CSFBHI website, or are sent audio books and other audio programs in the mail through a partnership with Vision Australia.

Signs of the times are everywhere

“*No thanks. I don’t watch TV or DVDs; I love to read,*” or so said a young man in turning down Adventist DVDs in favour of a **Signs of the Times** magazine recently. It may seem an echo from the past, but whether it is the physical *Signs* in your hands, or the web version on your screen, we’re finding that many people still have “the need to read”. There is nothing quite like slowly absorbing a message through text. And after 125 years, *Signs* remains a vital, contemporary vehicle to spread God’s love whether online or in hand.

Jacky Yang accepted Christ in 2010 after stumbling upon a *Signs of the Times* magazine in the prison library where he was serving his sentence. So convicted of the truth, Yang even led a group of seven inmates in Bible study and he was baptised. After completing his sentence in New Zealand, Yang was sent home to China in 2011. Members of the Cambridge Adventist Church in New Zealand still regularly visit Yang’s original Bible study group. One of them—Yang’s former cellmate—was recently granted parole and has requested baptism.



“Words cannot express how much I enjoy listening to the programs.”

— Pearle Hart, Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired listener, New South Wales, Australia

A young girl with dark curly hair is shown in profile, drinking water from a tap. She is wearing a light blue, perforated mesh top. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and flowers, including a large red and orange hibiscus flower in the foreground. The word "ADRA" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image.

ADRA

"The work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) within this Division is changing lives," says Greg Young, director of ADRA South Pacific. In the nations of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, ADRA is bringing hope and life through a range of community development projects and emergency management activities. Throughout Australia and

New Zealand ADRA is supporting individuals and families in need, while also raising funds to support life-changing projects around the world. The work of ADRA in Australia and New Zealand is supported by a network of thousands of volunteers. Across the Division the name ADRA is not only widely known, but highly regarded and admired for the work it carries out.



“The work of ADRA within this Division is changing lives.”

—Greg Young, director of ADRA South Pacific.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PACIFIC CHURCHES

ADRA has joined forces with governments and churches in both Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu to form the Church Partnership Program (CPP). Through CPP, church administrators and members are offered a range of training and support programs that not only assist them individually, but provide them with the confidence to be a positive force in their community. Junior Ginos* was so motivated by the HIV/AIDs prevention training offered through the program that when he returned to his home in the Eastern Highlands of PNG, he formed a travelling youth group to spread the messages he had learned to surrounding churches and villages. As a result, the district Education Department handed over its HIV education program in the district’s schools to him. The CPP program also provides training in areas including literacy, agriculture and income generation, and assistance in improving hygiene and access to clean water.

NEW IN SAMOA

The ADRA office in Samoa is the newest in the ADRA South Pacific network. Although ADRA was part of the local mission office for many years, it was the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2009 that provided the impetus for new projects and the new office. In the months following the tsunami, an ADRA New Zealand funded project assisted families to re-establish their crops. ADRA New Zealand has also funded a three-year project, started in March, which is offering training and support to 10 villages, and providing opportunities for the establishment of family-based businesses to grow vegetables and produce handicrafts for sale at local markets. ADRA Samoa country director Julia Wallwork and project manager Fuatino Ah Wai are looking

forward to making a positive impact on 1000 households, especially on the women and children.

RAPID RESPONSE TO FIJI FLOODS

ADRA Fiji, with financial support from ADRA Australia and ADRA New Zealand, launched an immediate response to meet the urgent needs of people affected by the devastating floods, which struck Fiji’s main island, Viti Levu, in March. On the first day of the floods, ADRA Fiji distributed 214 packs of food at evacuation centres. Each food pack provided sufficient food for a family of five for two weeks. A further 376 food packs were distributed the second day. In addition, 200 water kits and 600 hygiene kits were distributed.

BEYOND THE SPD

ADRA Australia supports projects in: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, East Timor, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania.

ADRA New Zealand supports projects in: Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Mongolia and Bangladesh.



*Name changed to protect privacy.

SERVICES



Support services provided by the SPD are essential for the Church to operate effectively in the vast and diverse South Pacific. Without committed teams engaged in caring for people and property, the Church could not fulfil its mission. The People Services team provides vital support through Employment Promotions, Human Resources, Leadership and Professional Development, Expatriate Support, Adventist Volunteer Services and Sustentation Support (retirement).

Risk Management leads the Church in managing risk both to people and property within the Church. ACA Health Benefits Fund provides health insurance to employees and their families. Corporate Services, Financial Services, Information Technology and the General Conference Auditing Service all provide fiscal discipline and accountability essential to being good stewards of God's resources. The remarkable success of the Church in the South Pacific is built on the infrastructure these support service teams provide.



A Fly'n'Build mission to Vanuatu saw volunteers re-roof and paint the Sarakatu Church in Luganville, and complete a number of other projects.

Volunteer power changes lives



“Go on Make a Difference” is the motto of **Adventist Volunteers** and an increasing number of Adventists are taking up the challenge. Last year almost 700 people volunteered on Fly’n’Build missions to places like the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. There they built churches, schools, did maintenance work/repairs, taught, preached and, most of all, provided genuine Christian love.

And it’s not just Fly’n’Build teams. The Church also supports a number of long-term volunteers who are involved in teaching, nursing and other roles across the SPD and beyond. “Every person makes a difference, every person leaves a footprint

that creates a path for the next person,” Adventist Volunteers coordinator Maryanne Jakovac says. “Volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They are heroes—it’s not about money or ego, volunteering is about giving a part of yourself away, and being surprised by the results.”

A WORLD OF SMILES!

A team of 51 volunteers travelled to Vanuatu for two weeks in May as part of a Fly’n’Build project. They were able to re-roof and paint the Sarakata church in Luganville, build a one-day church for a community in Lathie, run a Vacation Bible School at the Lathie school and paint classrooms at a local school on the island of Aore. “The team worked well together,” team leader Warren Bailey says. “Everyone was happy. You can’t go on that sort of trip without building lifelong connections. A number of people had never been on a Fly’n’Build before and most of them want to return on another.”

Join the team!

The greatest asset of any entity is its people. Through the **Adventist Employment** service, employment promotions officer Mark Baines facilitates opportunities for potential employees to find a career working for God. *“Obviously the biggest reason to work for the Church is that we are working for a cause that we actually believe in and contributing to the mission of the Church.”*

Human Resources strives to support employees working for the Church and contributes to its mission by ensuring that Adventist employers treat their people fairly and compassionately, and are also fostered to achieve their very best for Christ. This is done through resourcing and developing our leadership to be better managers of people.

Mentoring great leaders

The greatest need of the Church is inspiring, Spirit-filled, visionary leaders. But great Christian leaders don't just happen—they are fostered, mentored, challenged and their skills are honed through instruction, experience and coaching. **Leadership and Professional Development** was created to do just that. *“The challenge is not just to have people who are managers, but people who are leaders, who can provide the vision and direction and move the organisation forward,”* says department manager, Dr Branimir Schubert, who leads the effort.

Missionaries on the move

The South Pacific is an immense territory containing some of the most isolated cultures in the world. Vanuatu alone has 65 inhabited islands, and Papua New Guinea has more than 800 language groups. It takes tremendous love, fortitude, courage and Christ-inspired

persistence to spread the Gospel to every “*kindred, tongue and people*” in the region.

Expatriate Support Service (ESS) provides critical support to dedicated church workers who make big sacrifices to serve in remote and sometimes dangerous places. *“Our aim is to make their lives a bit easier,”* spokesman Gary Chapman says. *“They are out there working under difficult conditions most of the time. Our service ensures they have somewhere to go, they have support, they are not alone.”*

Essential protection

ACA Health Benefits Fund offers top-rated private health insurance to church employees and their families, **Risk Management** covers travelling staff, and **ACAST Superannuation** ensures our retirees are cared for in a way we can be proud of.

Information and institutional memory

Corporate Services and the **Information Service** maintain state-of-the-art systems. **Archives and Statistics** pulls together the information necessary to track our progress, and recall how, under God's grace, we've gotten here.

Accountability and fiscal responsibility

Fiscal and property management are essential to an organisation as large and diverse as ours. **Division Financial Services, General Conference Auditing Service, Property Development** and **Risk Management** all play critical roles in this management.

ADVENTIST EMPLOYMENT



“I got lots of one-on-one help from my supervisor, got given a lot of responsibility and have travelled throughout the South Pacific – for work.”

– Kirsten Dunlop, staff auditor, Wahroonga, NSW, Australia



“The nurturing within the Church is beneficial to professional growth . . . everyone is willing to take the time out to teach you and help you wherever you go.”

– Tyson Koziol, assistant accountant, Wahroonga, NSW, Australia



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Our vision is to be a church that...

knows
experiences
and **shares**
our hope in Jesus Christ!

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*Pictured left: Tominap Adventist Church
(Papua New Guinea) elder Anton, and his
wife Anas, carrying timber 20 kms to build
their church.*



TELL THE WORLD

MATTHEW 28:19-20

