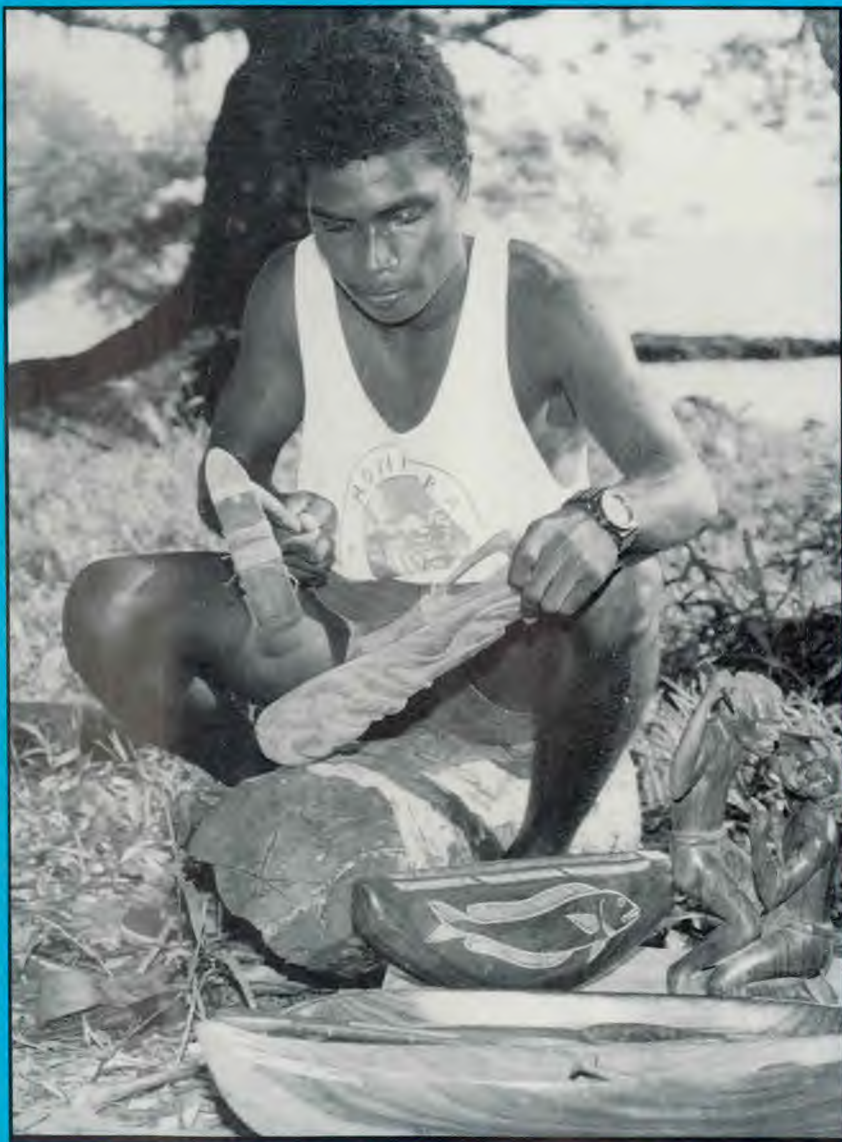


# MISSION

JUL-SEPT 1993

**South Pacific  
Division**

**A student  
who will  
benefit from  
this quarter's  
special offering**





# MISSION

REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL

JUL-SEPT 1993

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## MISSION

### Director

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### Editor

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### On the Cover:

A student at one of  
the three schools,  
which, along with  
evangelism on Santa  
Isabel Island, will  
benefit from the  
special offering on  
Thirteenth Sabbath.

### Cover Credit:

Jann Gibbs





The Editor ►

# Everyone She Met

## Editorial

**S**he considered *everyone she met*—on a bus, in a store, on an airplane—to be a potential recruit,” observed an author.

We would like to think that this same energetic statement is also said in the context of recruiting for the kingdom. The author’s observation was focused on what are known in the United States as MLM (multilevel marketing) distributors.

MLM distributors strive to make money not only on their own sales for a company, but also by commissions and bonuses of people they recruit to sell, thereby placing themselves on the top of a financial pyramid with a “downline” of salespeople below them, each trying to do likewise.

Drawing an analogy between the fervor of MLMers and religion really isn’t so original in this editorial, for the author of the article herself, Ronaleen Roha, in *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine* (November 1991, pp. 63-70), says that “MLM is close to religion.”

Roha takes the comparison even further. Describing the pep rallies that “ring with the fervor of a revival,” she quotes a professor of marketing: “Meetings often include songs, slogans, and testimonials, and the businesses require the same dedication as a religion.”

Why are the potential distributors so vulnerable to this “hyping up”? “Just imagine,” they are told, “all of these distributors [potential distributors they will recruit], each striving, working, and selling each month, and you receiving a percentage of everything they sell.”

(Stop here and reflect on how a new Adventist convert, aglow with the “first love” of the gospel, works tirelessly to tell others also of his/her wonderful discovery. Are we, like MLMers, trying to use the new recruits in our “structure” to make the new contacts and do the work while we observe from atop our pyramid? MLMers soon discover this structure is better sounding in theory than in reality.)

Why do people join MLM companies? Another marketing expert quoted in Roha’s article (Thomas Hayes of Xavier University) concludes: “They want to believe in something. They are looking for a reason to believe in something. And here it is. It says, ‘I too can be wealthy.’”

And so the MLMers go on to pursue the religion of money, working night and day to create the shrine at which they hope to worship. One set of parents reported that they scarcely saw their married children anymore once they became MLMers.

Another parent was told by her grown daughter that if she didn’t join the MLM program she would be on her own financially when she retired, because, after all, she was throwing away a chance to be independently sufficient and therefore the children would feel little sympathy for her later. (Do we dare lay out as clearly the opportunity of heaven being lost? Where do we humans muster so much more courage for money than for destiny?)

Are MLMers really that successful? Some are, provided they are willing to be available to downliners days and evenings (a full-time part-time job) and to make a complete

*Concluded on page 14*



# Leader's Planner

## Making Missions Meaningful

### ▲ Thirteenth Sabbath

A South Pacific island scene would provide an atmospheric backdrop if your Sabbath School has talented youth you could engage in preparation.

In addition to the hostess, you will need four men for the script: Winter (South Pacific Division church ministries associate director), Wilkinson, Bofanita, and Toronai. If your church is small, one man might take all three interviewees' parts.

Acronyms are seldom included in MISSION by the present editor because of the difficulty in translating. However, one is included this Thirteenth Sabbath. Large letters may be made to lift high as each participant begins. If your Sabbath School does not have enough young members, two children may present this part, with one child presenting all the letters of each word, rotating each letter to the back of the stack as finished. The next letter's phrase may be placed on the back of the letter visible to the child.

Young children will love to shine their flashlights when presenting "A Flashlight Drill." If flashlights are not readily available, pictures of light sources may be used. Or if one flashlight is available for the main presenter, the rest might hold up currency as referred to in the lines.

### ▲ Information on the South Pacific Division

For information on the South Pacific

Division territory featured this quarter, write to the corresponding tourist offices or embassies in your country. Tell them you are studying their nation and would like information about their people, climate, religion, agriculture, industry, and holidays.

In the United States, contact Solomon Islands Mission to the U.N. by phoning 212-599-6194. Requests are not taken by mail.

The last article in *National Geographic* to feature the Solomon Islands appeared in the October 1968 issue. You might obtain this from your local library.

### ▲ South Pacific Division Territory

The territory of the South Pacific Division includes Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the islands of the Pacific lying south of the Equator between Longitude 140 East and Longitude 120 West, and Kiribati north of the Equator.

### ▲ Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Fourth Quarter 1993: Africa-Indian Ocean Division. A clinic and four mini-evangelistic centers in unentered areas of Zaire; a seminary and secondary school in Burundi; 52 lamb shelters (also to be used for evangelistic meetings) in unentered areas of Burundi.

First Quarter 1994: South American Division. Projects not yet voted.







▲ Greetings from students who will benefit from your special offering September 25.

# Welcome to the South Pacific

**The author is the Sabbath School director for the South Pacific Division.**

**Eric Winter**

**July 3**

*South Pacific Division*

**New** work in an unentered territory on Santa Isabel Island and three selected schools will receive your special offering September 25.

**W**elcome, Sabbath School members around the world, to the South Pacific Division. This quarter I invite you to share with us and rejoice with us in God's blessings upon this vast mission field. This quarter we shall tell you God's leading as His love touches the lives of beautiful people.

The South Pacific Division, the largest geographic division in the world, is a place of many contrasts, from arid deserts to teeming rain forests; from hot tropical jungles to glaciers and snow fields of majestic height and beauty; from the tranquillity of tropical islands to the hustle and bustle of large cities in Australia, one of the most urbanized countries in the world.

## **Thank You!**

First, let me take you back to the first quarter of 1991 and say a big *thank you!* We desperately needed a high school and evangelistic center to serve the beautiful people of the Fiji Mission. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering given then made that dream come true.

Unknown to anyone in the church, the large Isa Lei tourist hotel and convention center had run into financial difficulties. The church was approached, and we purchased these excellent facilities for a fraction of their value. Before we asked, God had answered.

How was it possible for us to make this purchase? Through the generous giving of our Sabbath School members around the world. For this we praise God and say, "Thank you, each one." This large facility came at the right time, at the right place, at the right price. Surely our God is good!

## **Division Background**

The South Pacific Division comprises two

union conferences and three union missions. Within these three union missions, 24 missions comprise approximately 80 percent of our total Sabbath School membership. This quarter we will be looking at the Solomon Islands, part of the Western Pacific Union Mission, which will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Special Projects Offering September 25.

The island nations of the South Pacific are undergoing traumatic changes. Without the benefit of gradual progress, many regions have leaped from primitiveness into the world of high technology. From message by mouth to instant satellite exposure to the world "out there." From dependence to self-government and independent rule. Improved communications, transportation, education, and world trade have accelerated both growth and the attending challenges.

Today we see a weakening of the tribal chieftain system of control and authority, which is fraught with both dangers and opportunities for the younger and more educated generation. Changes can be disruptive and threatening. The church and its mission must constantly monitor change and even become an agent of change so as to make the gospel of Christ relevant to the present generation.

## **Solomon Islands**

In the Solomon Islands, our church membership is the highest per capita of any conference or mission in the world, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church enjoys an excellent reputation as our members, day by day, contribute very positively to both the government and community.

When our church administrators were selecting the most needy projects to benefit from your offerings this Thirteenth Sabbath,



they prayerfully considered God's leading in that challenging mission field. Everywhere they looked, be it local church leadership, teachers, ministers, Community Services workers, medical work, literature evangelists, or the thousands of lay ministers who are involved in soul winning, one common element came through: our schools have contributed enormously to the overall success of soul winning, nurturing of present members, and the strong national leadership as given by our people.

### **Prayer/Care Appeal**

This quarter you will hear of stories about our urgent needs at three selected schools: Afutara Adventist Vocational School, Kukudu Adventist High School, and Betikama Adventist High School, all in the Western Pacific Union Mission.

You will hear of thrilling experiences from past students who are now serving their God as lay ministers and employees of the church. September 25 you will be given an opportunity to assist these three schools and the "unentered territory" of Isabel Island in the Solomon Islands.

The South Pacific Division does not have an area of 1 million people without an Adventist presence in its territory, sufficient to constitute a Global Mission project, but the division does

have "unentered territories." Santa Isabel Island has two churches, with 154 members, all in the same area and unknown to the rest of the 200-mile-long island.

With no road of any description around or across it, only one airstrip on one end, and one boat service once a month, the only way to get around is either by walking or by canoe and paddle. There are very few outboard motor-powered canoes, so contact from village to village is very limited, except between adjacent villages.

Today we see our national workers taking a strong lead in the gospel work. In 1992 the Solomon Islands conducted hundreds of Bible seminars in an organized "evangelism explosion." Only heaven will reveal the results of such fervent outreach in these days of opportunity.

And so, dear members of the world's most unique Bible school, on behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ of the South Pacific Division, I want to thank you in anticipation as we, altogether this quarter, plan to give a large offering on September 25.

Soon Jesus will come. Then we will be able to meet each other and share face-to-face in the experiences of God's salvation in our lives. What a day! Please help that day to hasten. 🕊



▲ Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the first quarter of 1991 made possible this new day Adventist high school in Suva, Fiji.



# "Happy Isles"

**The author is the education director  
of the Western Pacific Union Mission.**



JANN GIBBS

**Ray Wilkinson**

A "Happy Isles"  
Solomon Islander ►

## July 10 Solomon Islands

**S**olomon Islanders refer to themselves as people of the "Happy Isles," and if you could visit you would be impressed how true their claim is.

This is a land that God has blessed with beauty and plenty in wonderful ways. The people laugh easily and live in peace. Nobody in these islands of hospitality needs to be hungry or to lack friends or shelter.

Most of the 320,000 inhabitants are Christians, and God's truth for these last days is now reaching many of the remaining, rather isolated groups of traditional people. The spirit of evangelism among God's people is strong. Many dedicated laymembers are giving freely of their time and talents to help carry the truth of a loving Saviour into new areas.

God's Spirit is working with us, going ahead to open the way, so that it is difficult for our people to keep up with the frequent requests for the truth coming in from new communities.

In several instances the people who live in new areas have gone ahead and built a church and *then* asked for someone to come and teach them about Jesus!

God is helping the spread of His truth with clear signs of the spiritual gifts—like the newly entered area in the island of Malaita a short time ago, where people could clearly understand the message being preached to them in Pidgin English although they could not understand or use Pidgin English outside of the meeting house!

God's good news is carried forward in a variety of ways. Many walk the rough mountain tracks. Others travel by canoe (sometimes powered by outboard motors) or the small inter-island trading ships, and still others fly in our own Western Pacific Air Service.

The evangelists are strongly supported by

teachers, literature evangelists, and medical workers.

### **Still Much to Do**

Although this nation already has one of the highest ratios of Seventh-day Adventists to the general population, about 1 in 10, according to the current census, there is still much to be done to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

In these islands where so many blessings are found, two areas of great need remain: medical care and education. Our church is active in promoting good health and operates many clinics in isolated villages and remote islands. Atoifi Hospital, with its 90 beds, three excellent Solomon Islands doctors, and a competent staff and school of nursing, is well known and respected.

However, malaria and other diseases continue to be a constant scourge. Even in the Happy Isles there is sickness and death. We are very grateful for the dedicated volunteers who come from other countries to give additional help in caring for health needs.

In the area of education, many children have no opportunity to go to school. In 1985 a UNESCO survey estimated the adult literacy level at about 15 percent, although the level would now be considerably higher than that in some areas.

One of the foremost needs of the nation is for well-educated leaders and workers who are able to meet the challenges of a very small nation making its way in a complex and troubled world.

The work of God also needs consecrated and educated workers able to take advantage of the openings God is giving us. The prayer for more workers to reap the ready harvest is a very real one in these isles. God

**The Happy**  
*Isles do not  
lack food,  
friends, or  
shelter, but  
they do  
need medical  
help and  
education.*



will answer that prayer largely through dedicated young people who will gain the necessary knowledge and skills in His schools. You may have a part in that!

### **Adventist Education Since 1915**

Adventist education began in the Solomon Islands in 1915 and, except for the interference of the war years about 50 years ago, has continued ever since.

Adventists presently have a network of 53 primary schools (many very small and isolated), two high schools, and two vocational schools, altogether serving almost 5,000 students.

In addition, young people are in training and upgrading programs at Sonoma Adventist College and Pacific Adventist College, both situated in nearby Papua New Guinea but serving the Solomon Islands.

We thank God for our schools and the success they have made possible. But there are still many urgent needs. We pray that our gracious God will provide the materials and dedicated teachers we need, especially in this time when the economy is particularly depressed.

### **Leaders and Skills**

Students from our schools are now leaders

both in government and in our church program. As one goes around government offices or the business houses of Honiara, the capital city, one is constantly meeting people whose eyes light up as they applaud the schools that prepared them for their present responsibilities.

Many active Adventist builders and craftsmen were taught their skills in Adventist schools. Recently I examined a fine concrete brick school in a remote part of Malaita Island and was told that students from Afutara Adventist Vocational School had built it as a practical exercise.

Then there is the church that was dedicated in the rugged interior of Guadalcanal. Timber had been carefully cut on site with chain saws, and the roofing iron carried for two days over steep mountain tracks so that God's house could have the best materials available!

As the Special Projects Offering September 25 benefits the work that God is accomplishing in our two secondary schools and vocational school (you will learn about these schools in the report for Sabbath, September 18), you can be confident that reapers are being prepared to gather in many precious people of the Happy Isles for a smiling Lord of the harvest! ☉

### **Global Urban Mission**

Today there are 3,450 cities with populations of more than 100,000;

330 megacities with more than 1 million;

and 12 supergiants with populations of more than 10 million.

With an urban growth rate that of the rural areas, these cities constitute one of the greatest challenges to the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### **Twelve Supergiants**

*figures in millions*

Tokyo	23.0
Mexico City	21.8
Shanghai	20.1
New York	18.8
São Paulo	17.5
Beijing	17.4
Bombay	11.8
Rio de Janeiro	11.7
Calcutta	11.7
Seoul	11.6
Los Angeles	11.5
Buenos Aires	11.5

*data provided by Sun Kwon*

*Pray for the work in the cities!*





# A Balaam and a Bull

**The author is the principal of the School of Nursing at Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the Solomon Islands.**

LORRAINE HOPE

Timothy Bofanita ►

Lorraine Hope

**July 17**

*Malaita,  
Solomon  
Islands*

**S**everal people who verified this story with Timothy believe it is true, especially since he was given the name of the pastor he was to find. (See Acts 10:5.)

Come to the Solomon Islands, to eastern Malaita, to the Kwaibaita Valley, to the village of Mutemute, and find Timothy Bofanita, who was born about 1948, the youngest of six children.

Just before Timothy's birth his parents had been converted to a Protestant religion, but Christianity brought few changes to their daily lives. Previously they had worshiped and sacrificed pigs that they had named after their ancestors.

As the son of a chief, Timothy was instructed by his father how a chief should rule. This included making decisions regarding how many pigs or how much money each person should contribute toward feasts at times of marriage, sickness, or death.

After some schooling, when Timothy was about 20, he was appointed secretary of his people; his job was to write their customs and genealogy, going back 17 generations. He also belonged to one of the two local organizations established to examine the different religions and to oppose those that tried to change the entrenched customs of the people. The organization determined that Seventh-day Adventists would not be allowed to enter their valley and that if any attempted to preach in the area, they must be killed.

Even after Timothy attended the Bible college of a Protestant church, his attitude did not change. He spoke what he had learned with his head, but it had not touched his heart. Timothy married and had eight children.

## Adventist Presence

Now the staff from the nearby Atoifi (Ar-tow-ee-fee) Adventist Hospital regularly conducted medical itineraries through Timothy's valley. The villagers came to their

clinic and noticed the medical staff looked different—they were clean, kind, worked hard, and spoke nicely.

The villagers wondered about this. On one hand, they felt they would like to be like these visiting people, but, on the other hand, they still appointed men to see that the Adventists never preached during clinic visits.

Then one of Timothy's children became sick, and Timothy took his child to the Atoifi Adventist Hospital. There Timothy heard the worships in the hospital chapel and wards and was convinced of the truth. But he felt that as a local church leader of another denomination he could not change. Before returning home, Timothy asked some of the Adventists to pray for him. For some time the Adventists did, but they gave up when Timothy did not respond.

## The Talking Bull

Some time after this, on Sabbath, June 10, 1990, Timothy went outside to repair a fence. Six cows and a bull nearby stood looking at him. Then the bull called out in a man's voice, "Timothy, Timothy!"

Timothy later said, "Mi shake. Mi frait long something." (I was very frightened.) Timothy thought it was the devil of that area talking to him and that he or someone in his family would die. He was so frightened that he fell to the ground.

The voice from the bull then went on to say, "Man, me no devil—but me Jesus." Afraid, Timothy remained on the ground as the voice went on to say that Timothy must not work on that day, as it was the Sabbath of God.

Timothy then replied that he would do whatever Jesus wanted him to. The response was that Timothy was to be baptized by



*Pastor Bata* and that his people would be changed because of him.

Last, the voice quoted Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

After the cattle had run off, Timothy returned to his wife and three sons, who had been watching the cows and Timothy from their home. His wife listened to the story and told Timothy that he had had such a hard heart that God had to send a talking animal to persuade him! Timothy was now challenged to think again about the Sabbath truth that he had rejected years before.

Timothy did not know who Pastor Bata was, so he went by canoe to Atoifi. Landing at the wharf, he saw a man loading equipment and asked him for Pastor Bata. The man told him that *he* was Pastor Bata, and Timothy said, "You are the one to baptize me!" Following an evangelistic program back in Timothy's home area, Timothy was baptized in late 1990 and began to study the Bible with his family.

Timothy says that as an Adventist, everything has changed. He now lives a clean life and is not sick all the time. He has forever discarded his former customs and feels free because the Bible has shown him the truth.

Timothy's wife has witnessed the change. Instead of ordering her about, Timothy now discusses matters with her, and she too, because of the witness of his life, plans to be baptized.

Timothy attended the year-long Laymen's Training Course in 1992 and has gone back to his people to work more effectively. He uses his own experience of the talking bull to convince some of his former church colleagues of his new beliefs.

### **The Flood**

In February 1991 heavy rain flooded the Kwaibaita Valley, washing away crops along the river and leaving several villages without food. ADRA sent rice through Atoifi Hospital to help feed the people. Adventists from some of the coastal villages went into

Kwaibaita to help replant the gardens, cut firewood, build houses, and visit the sick.

These acts of Christian love greatly impressed the villagers, who felt that they would like to be like them. One after another, different villages have requested the Seventh-day Adventists to visit and share their beliefs.

By the end of 1991, eight villages had requested Adventist preachers. Thirty-five people had been baptized, and many others were in the baptismal class.

Two of the villages changed their church building into an Adventist church, and another village had built their own church! Another village donated land, with plans to



▲ *Timothy's talking bull*

build a large central church in the valley!

### **Global Mission Plans**

Global Mission plans for 1992 included the conducting of six more evangelistic campaigns, a Voice of Youth campaign, a laymen's training program, and a Community Services center in those villages still waiting.

We expect large advances in this area, previously closed to Adventists. We praise God for His many methods to reach His people!

The needs and opportunities are great in this part of the Solomon Islands. Please pray with us and help us to meet these needs. The people are ready and waiting! 🙏





# Contacting Former Seventh-day Adventists

**The author is the speaker of the It Is Written International Television Ministry, Thousand Oaks, California.**

Mark Finley ►

Mark Finley

**July 24**

*Mission Education*

**A** practical guide in the mission of reaching former Adventists.

Reprinted from *Studying Together* (Fallbrook Calif.: Hart Publications, 1991).

**R**esearch indicates that most former Adventists do not leave the church because of doctrinal reasons. Some do, but not the majority. Most leave because of one of the four following reasons:

1. A conflict with some other church member or their pastor.
2. A perception that the church is no longer relevant in their life and does not meet their needs.
3. Discouragement with themselves over a failure to live in harmony with church standards.
4. A growing disinterest in spiritual things in general because of a lack of adequate devotional and Bible study life.

When an individual misses church repeatedly for apparently no reason, there is an indication of spiritual trouble. If they are not immediately visited, enabling them to discuss their spiritual problems, apostasy is likely to result. Warmth, friendliness, and loving concern are often the agencies that God uses to stem the apostasy.

## **Signs that an individual may be growing discouraged and/or losing interest in the church.**

1. Spasmodic church attendance/lack of prayer meeting attendance.
2. A critical attitude or general negative spirit.
3. A lack of spiritual fervor.
4. A return of old habit patterns (smoking, social drinking, worldly amusements).
5. A disregard for the Sabbath (TV watching on Friday nights, shopping on Sabbath afternoons, overtime work on Sabbaths, etc.).
6. Estrangement from church members and/or failure to participate in the social life of the church.

## **Approaches to Former Adventists**

1. Former Adventists usually do not need convincing regarding Adventist doctrines. They certainly do not need condemnation for their present lifestyle. Don't be surprised or act shocked by their lifestyle or habits. Most feel the pangs of a condemning conscience already. Further condemnation will only create hostility.

2. Demonstrate love, acceptance, and genuine concern.

3. Begin with topics of general interest by asking such questions as:

- a. Have you lived in this community for a number of years?
- b. Are you married or single? Do you have children?
- c. Do you work close to home? What is your occupation?

These general questions provide a basis for getting acquainted in a nonthreatening way. Ask them gently and lovingly, with deep interest in the other person.

4. Proceed to topics of religious interest, asking the following questions:

- a. I understand you used to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church regularly; how long ago was that?
- b. Were you a member for a number of years?
- c. There are different reasons people leave. Some experience disappointment in their own lives, others are hurt by church members or a pastor, and still others feel the church doesn't meet their needs. Would you like to share with me why you no longer attend? I am really interested in knowing.
- d. Listen carefully. Ask questions. Do not pass judgment on either the individual or the church. Make comments like "I can un-



derstand why you might feel that way!"

e. After carefully listening, share what Jesus Christ means to you. Describe His incredible mercy, His marvelous forgiveness, and His power to change lives. Use such texts as Micah 7:18, 19; Heb. 8:12; and 1 John 1:9. Emphasize the fact that, in the light of Jesus' soon return, He is calling many of His former hurt children back to His church. Have prayer together and tell the person you would like to see him/her again next week. Usually it is not wise to invite a person back to church on the first visit. Each time an individual says no, it's easier to say no a second time.

f. Be sure to return after one week as you promised. Do not let your new friend down and squelch his/her new budding faith. On this second visit, continue to listen. Share hopeful Bible promises, such as Ps. 32:8; 40:1, 2; and 32:1, 2. Invite your new friend over for dinner. Share a copy of *Steps to Christ*, particularly noting page 100 on God's wonderful love and desire to answer our prayers.

g. By your third visit, plan to invite your new friend to some church program. I usually prefer inviting the person to a social program or an evangelistic seminar or meeting before I invite him/her to the Sabbath morning church service. Offer to provide transportation. The individual will feel much more comfortable returning with you than alone.

5. On the fourth visit, share positive comments from church members regarding your friend's return. Let your friend know that former friends are really happy he/she is coming back. Personally encourage people who know the individual to call by phone and express their joy at seeing him/her again. Invite your friend to church. Former SDAs are an extremely fruitful field for outstanding results. Generally, they believe the biblical message of Adventists. They have some friends already in the church. Disappointments, conflicts, or personal problems have led them away. They await a loving, caring, and genuine invitation to return. ●

## Prayer Fellowship Around the Globe, Around the Clock

Join the worldwide Holy Spirit Prayer Watch to keep prayers ascending continuously to heaven for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pray with those in your time zone at 6:15 a.m., or with those in another zone at 15 minutes past the hour of your choice.







▲ Dedication of Leoni's bush chapel (far right: Leoni's wife)

# A God Who Doesn't Drown!

**The author is the Sabbath School director of the Eastern Solomon Islands Mission.**

Newton Galo

**July 31**

*Kolonene, Solomon Islands*

**G**od turned a natural disaster into a conversion experience. Consider other ways that disasters direct victims toward God and His churches.

**I**t was a great loss for the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific when Cyclone Namu struck the nation in 1986. Bridges, plantations, farms, gardens, and villages were destroyed by floodwaters, falling trees, and strong winds.

What the floods could not destroy, strong winds, gusting from 30 to 100 knots, and angry waves finished the job. Confusion and despair reigned. Many lives were lost.

In the pre-dawn hours the whole village of Kolonene, a lowland area of the island of Guadalcanal, was suddenly swept out to sea by angry floods from the Berande River. Leoni Muri, living with his people in Kolonene at the time, was hurled with 17 others down the unstoppable runaway river.

As Leoni found himself being pushed under the swift current of the muddy river, he knew that the others were praying to a human god they worshiped called Moro, the founder of a cargo cult group.

## **A Quick Realization**

Leoni quickly reasoned that this human god would not be able to survive the dangerous and fast-flowing flooded river that raged between the big rocks and mountains. Leoni would later find out that he was right; the other 17 people, all non-Christians, drowned.

As hundreds of floating logs from uprooted trees passed him, he called to the true Creator-God of heaven, pleading, "God, save my life!"

After nearly an hour of struggling to keep himself afloat, Leoni's hands felt a tree branch, as if handed to him by unseen hands. Quickly he pulled himself up and in a short time was lying on dry land.

In Leoni's culture, such supernatural responses are perceived as a manifestation of

the great conflict between truth and error—between a true god and a false god. *The true God heard my prayer*, Leoni believed, and he now determined to find out more about Him.

## **Finding Leoni**

Upon hearing of Leoni's experience, Pastor Caleb Rip, the mission district leader—accompanied by lay members—set out walking jungle trails and crossing rivers to find him. After some time of studying the Bible with Leoni, he was baptized. In fact, a new company of believers soon sprang up.

In January 1992 something wonderful happened in that same river that had claimed 17 lives and in which God had saved Leoni. Leoni's own wife was baptized. And more, when Pastor Newton Galo, the mission Sabbath School director, made an appeal after the baptism, 16 more people stood up to promise their lives to Jesus.

The day before the baptism, a new bush chapel made of sago palm leaves was dedicated to the praise and glory of God. When Elder Galo dedicated the little chapel, he said, "The presence of God and His angels were richly felt in the little bush chapel as these new believers worshiped and praised their new-found God, who had changed their lives and given them peace of mind."

## **Prayer/Care Appeal**

The gospel is rapidly growing among these mountain people of Guadalcanal. Already the newly dedicated bush chapel is far too small to house the new believers. We hope you will be so thrilled about the outpouring of God's Spirit on these mountain people that you cannot but offer your prayers and support! 🙏



career change gradually. The dropout rate with some companies, however, is as high as 80 to 90 percent annually. Although one leading company advertises that its top distributors average \$100,000 a year, these are fewer than .04 percent of its 200,000 distributors. (Think it over: Can your recruits be disillusioned when you covenant them for God's kingdom?)

Should you observe one human recruiting attraction by MLMers, remember that it first appeared in the Bible. It is stated by one MLM evaluator like this: "MLMers often talk about the company as family. . . . If an industry can be said to encourage a feeling of belonging, MLM is it." And if you have ever been approached by an MLMer, you have some idea of the sense of "specialness" you have suddenly acquired in the recruiter's eyes. Overnight, acquaintances become friends, friends invite you to dinner. The family invitation, however, is limited to the potential MLM family. Else, back to left field.

When the recruiter's motives are uncovered, the reaction may be adverse: "Your friends and relatives start running for the hills whenever you approach them after you've become a dreaded MLMer," one person reported. (Can we spawn a similar dread of religion by superficiality and pushiness?)

Last, as with false doctrine, some MLM myths are repeated so often that it seems repetition will make them true. Five myths uncovered as false in the article include the untruth that 20 percent of all United States millionaires made their money by MLM. (The church member's responsibility transcends merely *recruiting*; it includes recruiting to true doctrine rather than winds of doctrine.)

The MLM article presents a challenge to the church. Is everyone we meet—the barber, the optometrist, the metro passenger beside you, the supermarket checker—a potential recruit for the kingdom? Will our "self-renouncing love" (see *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 1-3) lead us to give others something to "believe in" without a payback of money? To paraphrase Hayes: "They want to believe in something. They are looking for a reason to believe in something. And here it is. The convert to Christ can say, 'I too can be saved.'"

*J. Leigh Kangas*



Left: This war god, Nguznguzu, was placed on the bows of war canoes to give direction, power, and victory. From the Marovo Lagoon district of the Western Solomons. Above: This Western Solomons war canoe could carry up to 30 warriors. On the bow is the war god Nguznguzu.

PHOTOS BY ERIC WINTER





George Fafale ►

# From Devil Priest to God's Priest

**The author is the church ministries director of the Malaita Mission in the Solomon Islands.**

George Fafale

**Aug. 7**  
*Malaita,  
Solomon  
Islands*

**Note in**  
*George*  
*Fafale's story,*  
*the important*  
*role of*  
*Adventist*  
*schools in the*  
*South Pacific,*  
*three of which*  
*are Special*  
*Projects*  
*Offering*  
*recipients this*  
*quarter.*

**M**y name is George Fafale, and I was born at Foueda, a heathen village on the northern coast of the island of Malaita in the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific. In this area the worship of certain sea creatures, such as the shark or octopus, is still common practice.

Many of today's customs are a carryover of earlier years when there was little contact with Western civilization, as the use of a piece of sharpened bamboo to cut the cord of a newly born baby and the use of a single side of a huge clam shell as a bathing dish.

A year after my birth there was an outbreak of dysentery in my area, and many parents lost their children. I too was affected and in a very critical condition, at the point of death. An ancestral feast called a *maoma* was hosted for my suffering. A *maoma* is a sequence of separate feasts, mainly of pigs, taro, and yam. The sequence cannot be postponed for any reason.

Believing I would die anyway, my parents were forced to take me out of the village to be buried elsewhere when I died because of the seriousness of my illness. My father, mother, and grandfather paddled me by canoe to an Anglican village some distance from home.

A week later I was healed, after some local treatments there. Upon reflection, I believe the healing had to be a miracle.

After I gained some physical strength I was baptized into the Anglican Church and my name was changed from Ulame to George Fafale. A few months later I was taken back to our heathen village, not knowing that I was now a member of the Anglican Church by virtue of sprinkled baptism.

## **The Devil Priest**

In my village I lived most of the time

with my uncle Lakwai, a devil priest. I was very close to him in boyhood. Often I went with him on special fishing trips and watched him pray with a highly scented shrub called *riji* shaken in his hands, pleading with the devils to provide his net with more fish. I also saw him fully naked before the sacrificial altar with a young pig ready to be offered as a burnt offering.

My father was very proud of my association with the high priest and encouraged me to follow him. I too was also proud and very happy, thinking that this was what real life and happiness were all about.

## **Ropa School**

When I was 10, my father thought I should attend school for an education, as did other children. Fortunately, I was sent to attend the Ropa Adventist Primary School because it was the nearest school to our home. Our teachers were men from the Western Solomons, the area Adventism first arrived in this nation.

I remember that the Bible was always the first subject each morning. We children always loved the Bible stories because they caught our interest just like our old custom stories as told around the fire in our villages.

Soon the power of the Word began to drive the Bible truths into my heart and mind. I attended several Adventist primary schools, including Afutara Adventist Primary School. I began to see new truths. I learned a new way of living, a new way of worship—a new God to be worshiped, and that His day is the Sabbath.

I made my decision to follow and serve a new High Priest called Jesus, and I enrolled in the baptismal class. Again I was baptized, this time by immersion. I shall never forget that day.



### **Week of Prayer at Betikama**

Following this, I attended the Betikama Adventist High School. Here another unforgettable life experience happened to me during the Week of Prayer meetings. The guest speaker was Pastor John Gate, who was the director of the Ministerial Department at the Sonoma Adventist College in Papua New Guinea. The theme was Jesus, and the theme song for that special week was "We Recommend Christ." He also promoted Sonoma College. I listened with keen interest.

That week Christ became more real to me, and I can still remember the night I knelt behind our classroom in the dark and gave my life to Christ. I felt more joy and more peace. I also heard Jesus call me to train for the gospel ministry at Sonoma Adventist College.

Two major obstacles presented themselves, but God solved both problems within a week. My brother sent me a letter saying that the problem of our parents' opposition to my working for the church was resolved, and I learned that if I served as a student missionary for two months first, my college fees would be paid, which solved my financial problem.

### **Nobody Said Goodbye**

I still remember the day I flew to Sonoma College with a man called Wayne Fowler. Nobody said goodbye to me. I felt so alone

in a new country, starting a new direction in my life. I surely needed the God of heaven to guide me.

My years of training at Sonoma were challenging. At the end of every year I went out as a student colporteur, selling books and magazines for the next year's college fees and clothing. I graduated in 1979 and was called by our union mission to be an evangelist on my home island of Malaita.

Recently I conducted an evangelistic campaign right in my heathen village. In spite of opposition, we were privileged to baptize 38 people. Today, three-fourths of the population of my home village are Seventh-day Adventist Christians!

Along the way I married a lovely nurse, and God has blessed us with two fine boys. I'm ordained now, still serving as a minister on my island of Malaita in the Solomon Islands. God is so good to me, and it is a joy and privilege to work for Him.

### **Prayer/Care Appeal**

Today there are many more young people from other denominations and even from heathenism who are attending our Adventist primary schools and Afutara Vocational School. They are finding the new life in Christ as I did.

May God bless you as you plan to give toward this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to assist the work in the islands of the South Pacific. 🌿



▲ Staff housing like this at Betikama Adventist High School will be improved with your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.





# Flying Jesus' Ministry

**The author is the manager of Western Pacific Air Services ("SDA Airline") in Honiara, Solomon Islands.**

**Leroy Kelm**

▲ Water and air provide the only interisland transportation in these South Pacific settings.

**Aug. 14**

*Solomon Islands*

**The work**  
*God has for you may not be as adventurous as a flying mission. But if you are not already busy for Him, have you asked Him today for a new creative idea?*

**S**ome years ago the Western Pacific Union Mission, with headquarters in the beautiful South Pacific country of the Solomon Islands, operated its own twin engine Aztec aircraft named the *J. L. Tucker*.

Unfortunately, because the needed subsidy was not available, this project was not able to continue. We were about to lose this important air link with our mission stations scattered throughout this large field.

The wise man said: "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). In 1986 pilot Gary Clifford envisioned that the dilemma for the Western Pacific Union Mission could be solved.

Clifford launched a commercial venture of scheduled air services into Seventh-day Adventist mission airstrips. This provided the church with a viable revenue structure for travel and freight movement. Now no subsidy was necessary.

The new plan also contributed visibility for the demonstration of a caring church to the surrounding villagers. As people on other islands, without airstrips, learned of the service being provided into the existing ones, they asked if the air service could come to their island and help them build an airstrip so that they too could be included in the flight schedules.

From just three employees working out of a basement office under the pilot's house, with one plane and flights into just a few airstrips, the company has now grown to be a significant influence in the community. In fact, many people refer to it not as Western Pacific Air Services, but as the "SDA Airline."

Western Pacific Air Services now has a fleet of three aircraft making scheduled

flights six days a week. It involves a commercial charter business with three full-time pilots. What does the air service accomplish?

## **SDA Airline's Mission**

Six mornings a week a plane flies to the Adventist hospital at isolated Atoifi (Ar-toe-ee-fee), many times bringing in sick people in a matter of minutes who otherwise would have to travel several days if they had to come by canoe. The aircraft brings supplies and mail from Honiara, the capital, to the people on this island.

Another airstrip is on Malaita Island. The air service transports people to and from the mission headquarters for the Malaita Mission.

A third airstrip at Afutara is used to service the Adventist vocational school located there. By the time this mission report is read in the churches, a fourth airstrip, paid for by the air service itself, should be in operation to support the Adventist Laymen's Bible School and its populous surroundings.

One of the projects currently under development is the Karfarumu airstrip, which is a day's walk and seven mountains from our Atoifi Hospital. A clinic with a nurse's aide has been established, serving an area of approximately 300 people.

Presently, Atoifi Hospital staff visit this clinic once a month, and patients who need more frequent medical assistance are piggy-backed for eight hours over a rough track through the mountains.

When the airstrip is completed, quick medical assistance—a three-minute plane ride—will be available for the people of Karfarumu.

Four days a week the plane flies to the



Western Province, bringing mail and supplies to the Adventist high school. A vocational school is also a scheduled stop in the large Western Solomon Islands Mission. Runways are partially completed at two other Adventist areas, and many other people are requesting the building of airstrips in their areas.

### **Prayer's Impact**

Our pilots ask the assurance of God's presence as they fly. Most passengers really appreciate the prayers that are offered before each flight. One lady, whose husband heads one of the largest commercial firms here, had flown several times with the air service and was familiar with the prayer before each flight.

The pilot didn't know how she was reacting to this procedure until one day he saw the lady and her friend sitting in the airport terminal, waiting for another commercial airline's flight to take them to a place to which Western Pacific Air Services does not go.

Captain Leroy walked over to the ladies to talk a moment before their flight was called. "Do you know if the pilot for our flight is a good and safe pilot?" they asked. Leroy assured them, "I know the pilot, and indeed he is good."

Then the lady surprised Leroy by asking, "Would you have a prayer with my friend and me before we fly? We would just feel much better if you would." So right there in

the airport waiting room Leroy prayed for the safety of these ladies and the plane in which they were to fly!

Opportunities for compassionate care occur on the many funeral charter flights that are made. The traditional land ownership and the wish to be buried at home means that many families charter a plane to carry the coffin and close family members home after a death.

Air Services now employs 20 committed Adventist Christians. Their ministry of bringing healing to the sick and bereaved, the quick delivery of urgent supplies, and the transportation of mission personnel all contribute to the unique ministry of the Western Pacific Air Services.

### **Jesus' Ministry Extended**

This service extends the ministry of Jesus, as recorded in Isaiah 61:1, 2—preaching the good news to the poor, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming freedom for the captives, releasing the prisoners from darkness, and comforting those who mourn.

Although Western Pacific Air Services is not subsidized, your weekly offerings to mission work around the world and this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to the Solomon Islands is greatly appreciated. Your regular sacrifice provides essential means for the ongoing preaching of the gospel and the soon coming of Christ. ●

Ratio of SDA Membership to World Population			
Year	SDA Membership	Ratio	World Population
1888	26,000	1:58,000	1,500,000,000
1929	300,000	1:6,837	2,000,000,000
1940	505,000	1:4,549	2,300,000,000
1960	1,200,000	1:2,425	3,000,000,000
1970	2,000,000	1:1,280	3,700,000,000
1980	3,500,000	1:1,279	4,400,000,000
1989	6,183,585	1:846	5,234,000,000
1990	6,661,462 <i>Increase 7.7%</i>	1:798	5,321,000,000 <i>Increase 1.6%</i>
1991	7,097,661 <i>Increase 6.5%</i>	1:758	5,384,000,000 <i>Increase 1.1%</i>

*Figures provided by Charles Taylor.*



*Kukudu Adventist  
High School,  
an offering recipient  
September 25,  
trains students to  
"grow one." ►*



JAWN GIBBS

# "Grow One"

**All three authors are Solomon Islands pastors.**

**Aug. 21**

*Choiseul,  
Solomon  
Islands*

**T**he "Grow One" strategy for church growth has met with great success in Papua New Guinea and other mission territories of the South Pacific. This concept of a mother church reaching out into an unentered area to establish a satellite church has also been implemented in the Western Pacific Union Mission over the past three years with outstanding results.

The island of Choiseul, lying at the northwest end of the Solomon Islands archipelago, recently witnessed a "Grow One" church in the large village of Pangoe with a population of more than 1,000 people.

The work at Pangoe was begun by Shadrach Galotaba, a native of the area and a previous convert while he was in the capital city of Honiara.

On his return to his home village in 1988, Shadrach was very enthusiastic about his new-found faith, especially the truth about the good news of the Sabbath, which he had discovered in his Bible. He began sharing his new faith with his family and relatives, whose interests began to grow. The seeds for a "Grow One" were being planted.

## **First Branch Sabbath School**

By the end of 1988 Shadrach had organized the first Branch Sabbath School in Pangoe. He enrolled his immediate family in the Branch Sabbath School and provided an opportunity for them to meet and study the Bible and pray together on a regular basis.

News of this interesting development reached the mission office at Kukudu (Kookoondoo), and in January 1989 Pastor Mathaias Manovaki was sent to work with Shadrach and the little group. After a year of Bible study, Shadrach's wife and father were baptized.

The Holy Spirit continued to work as

more interests developed. By the end of 1989 the village chief, Scott Galo, was baptized. This was hailed as a "victory baptism" for the new group of believers.

Shadrach's mother soon made her decision for Christ and on November 9, 1991, she too was baptized. Now the seeds were shooting into life and a visible presence was seen. The little church now had six baptized adults, who attracted a large number of others to meet for worship every Sabbath.

## **Not Welcome**

This interesting development, however, was not welcomed by the leaders and members of the area's already established church. They put forth every possible effort to discourage people from attending the Adventist meetings. In their desperation, they tore down the little thatched church house in which the group had been meeting.

The handful of believers did nothing in return but continued to pray for God to take control of the situation. The faithful group began to build a new church house.

But as this new church house was nearing the final stages of its completion, the angry mob cut it, too, down to the ground. Although the little Adventist group was disappointed by this strong opposition, they continued to ask God to care for their lives and to intervene in their situation.

## **Lightning Strikes**

One day some members of the opposing group were out on the sea fishing from their dugout canoes when suddenly lightning struck their very spot. Two men were killed instantly. This frightening phenomenon left a lasting impression in the minds of the people who read the tragedy as an omen from God for them to not interfere anymore with

**H**ow would  
your members  
react if two  
churches were  
torn down,  
especially if  
there were  
only six of  
you?



the Adventists in their work.

Today, another 21 people are studying the Bible with the new minister, Pastor Kiko Gamana. And some of these new interests had taken part in the destruction of the two previous church houses!

Despite the strong opposition, the church at Pangoe continues to grow, and the result is the strengthening of the faith of the believers.

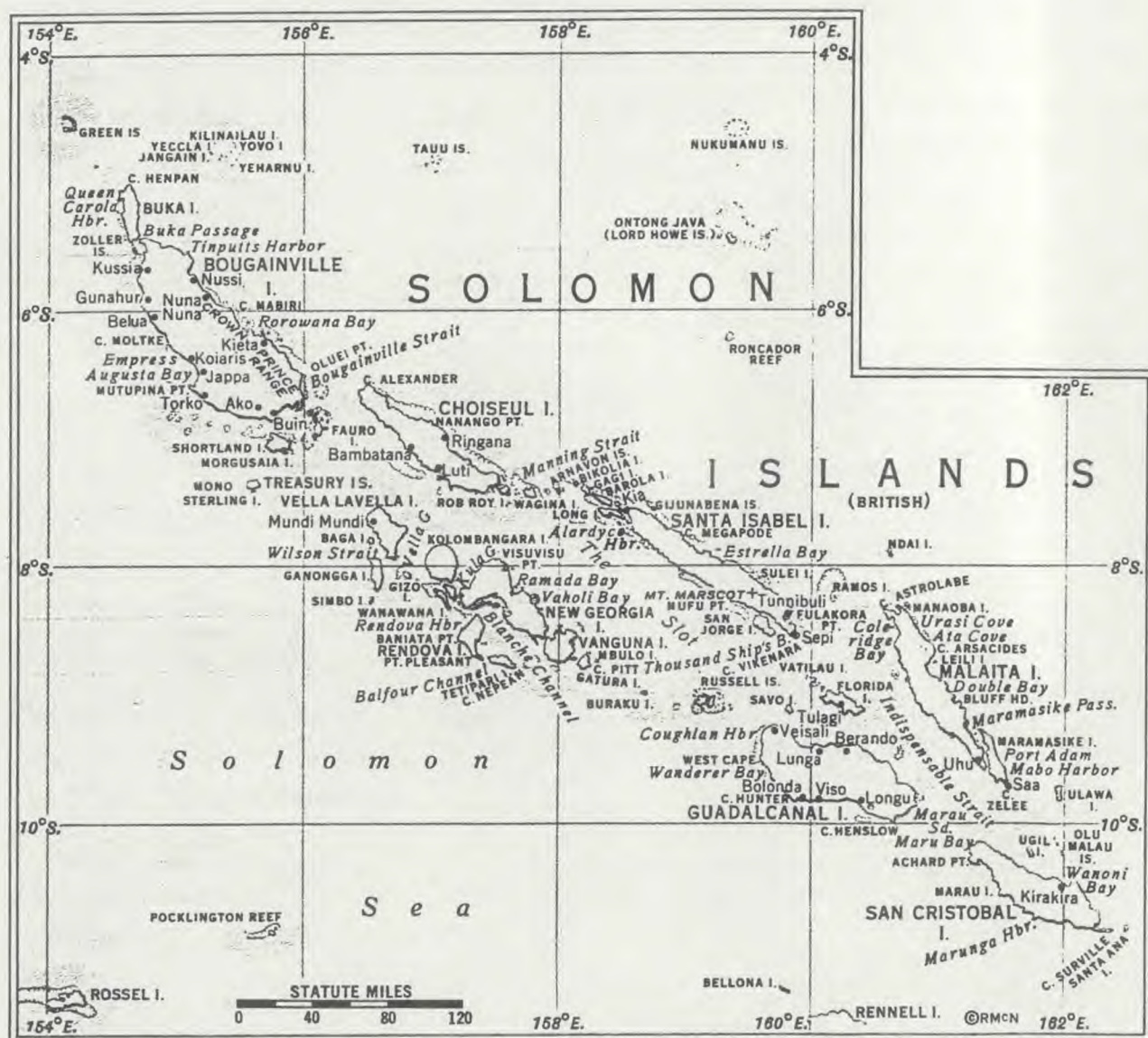
### Prayer/Care Appeal

A crying need exists for more pastors, teachers, and dedicated persons to nurture

the spiritual needs of our growing churches. Our youth are willing, but they need the opportunity to be trained to serve the Lord.

Kukudu Adventist High School in the Western Solomons aims to prepare these young people for such service. We thank our fellow Sabbath School members around the world for your generous support on September 25 to make this undertaking possible.

If only you could visit these missions you would see that your offerings are an investment in the Lord's work. The results are changed, born-again people. ☉





Nguznguzu,  
a war god.  
See page 14. ►



ERIC WINTER

# "Devil Worship Costs Too Much!"

**The author is the director of youth ministries at Malaita Mission in the Solomon Islands.**

**Mauta Kemuel**

**Aug. 28**

*Malaita,  
Solomon  
Islands*

**T**he Seventh-day Adventist Church has long been challenged. Its organization, leadership, membership, and the preaching of its fundamental beliefs all have been challenged in one way or another. The evil one is angry with the church of God. Some challenges come from within, some from without. The challenges in this report were from without.

In 1989 I was posted as a Bible teacher at Afutara Seventh-day Adventist Vocational School on the island of Malaita in the Solomon Islands. I was also the local church pastor and the evangelist for the Dorio district.

Like any Adventist pastor, I meditated on what to do spiritually for our school and for the mixed religious society that surrounded us. A joint committee of the church and school decided upon a plan. We would begin each day with a Bible class and conduct a religious survey in the community.

At the end of the school year we baptized 12 students, seven of whom were from non-Adventist homes. In addition, the religious survey conducted resulted in more than 60 Bible study interests.

## **Alarua**

Part of the target of the Afutara Evangelism Plan was the village of Alarua. In the past, a few people had been baptized, who remain faithful. Among the new-found interests in Alarua was the devil priest's son, Ricky Toronoai. Ricky accepted the truth and was baptized at the Kwailabesi camp meeting in November 1989.

When Ricky returned home his devil priest father was afraid to talk to him. He told his son not to come near him, lest the devil would get angry, for the father himself

was then the head of all the devil priests in Dorio district.

Ricky didn't give up. Instead, he prayed for his father and the whole family.

In 1990 the church at Afutara decided to send Ricky and his cousin Abraham to the Kwailabesi Laymen's School.

When Ricky and Abraham returned home at the end of the school year for their two-week holiday, they decided that they would like to build a church! The church members helped them clear the land, but other missions soon noticed the new church plan, and they were not happy. I was called to see if I could discourage them.

Instead, I prayed with them and encouraged them to keep on with their new church plan.

## **Chased Out Twice**

Opposition began to rise. The other mission brethren in Alarua destroyed the framework of the church building. Ricky and Abraham didn't give up. Instead, they selected a new site and transferred all their bush materials to a new area.

Once again they were chased out and strongly warned not to build their church—the third time. That was a real challenge for God's work, but we remembered that the work is God's work and we are only His workmen!

Then our Afutara members decided that they should conduct an evangelistic campaign or cottage meetings to share their faith with their brothers and sisters in Alarua.

As is the custom in the South Pacific islands, you are not allowed to conduct religious meetings in another village unless you are invited by them. This was done and cottage meetings were arranged. I was invited

**D**o you  
sometimes feel  
the Adventist  
world mission  
program costs  
you too  
much? Read  
on!



to be their presenter, and the meetings proceeded for a week.

Then during one meeting, to our surprise, I was arrested and summoned to court! Here the work of God was further challenged. We had done nothing wrong.

### **A Secret Meeting**

Toronoai, the head devil priest, heard what happened to us and he immediately asked us to meet him in the jungle. I set out at once, with the elder of Afutara and several school staff members. It took us three hours to reach his garden area. When we met, we sat in a circle to talk.

The devil priest went first. "I have had enough of devil worship. I spend too much money on unnecessary things like compensation, devil sacrifice, devil healing, and many other works of deceit as taught by the devil. I realize now that nothing is good about the devil. One thing I do know—I have been insecure and have had no peace while I do the devil commands."

Mr. Toronoai went on, pointing to a piece of land, "This is my land. If the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the true church, worshiping the true God who is more powerful than the devil I am worshiping, why don't you build your church on my land?"

Toronoai waited for our answer. Our little group decided at once that we must build a church. Hearing the decision, Toronoai said, "If you Seventh-day Adventists don't fulfill your promise to build your church on my land, then that is a sin of lying." Again, we were being challenged to be true to what we preached.

A week later we returned and cleared the bush, ready for the building. The priest was with us all the time throughout the work program. It is his land, and with his blessing and challenge, the work proceeded successfully.

Last year our church at Alarua was completed by the staff and students from the Afutara school.

### **New Challenges**

I have been moved from Afutara school to the Malaita Mission, where three times I have been brought before the magistrate at Auki as a defendant of the truth and the church. At the third hearing, the court acquitted the case. The church again was chal-

lenged, but God turned it into a victory for His kingdom.

Back at Alarua, the Bible interests are looked after now by Mr. Evan. The devil priest is now happy. His family goes to church, and sometimes he even goes himself. He has promised that he will join as a member as soon as he is ready.

Will you pray for this man? He has shown great favor toward our work, and in return we want to give him Jesus, and him to give his life to Jesus Christ, the true high priest of heaven.

Looking at these challenges, I can say that they are only challenging God Himself. This is God's business, and we are His workers. He is on our side. ☺



▲ The eagle god, a symbol of strength, speed, and conquest, is on the shoulders of the warrior, showing itself as conqueror. Found throughout the Solomon Islands, but predominately on Guadalcanal Island.





▲ Missionary nurses who make stories like this possible.

# Breakthrough at Harisi

*The author is the principal of the Atoifi Adventist School of Nursing.*

Lorraine Hope

**Sept. 4**

*Harisi, Solomon Islands*

**T**he Solomon Islands consist of hundreds of islands and, like many areas in the South Pacific, cover a wide area with a relatively small population. This can make the advance of the gospel difficult.

The Adventist Church first entered Malaita, one of the larger Solomon Islands, nearly 70 years ago, and Atoifi (Ar-toe-ee-fee) Adventist Hospital was established on the east coast of Malaita in the 1960s.

Malaita was often the scene of violence, with massacres of government officials by the local people. In 1965 an Adventist missionary, Brian Dunn, was speared to death only 11 days after his arrival in Atoifi. Len Larwood, another Adventist missionary, was killed in a tractor accident after 12 years of service there. National workers and children also have tragically died.

The advance of the gospel has been very slow in the surrounding areas. Although the work of the hospital has helped to break down resistance and has brought healing and love to thousands of people, progress is slow.

A two-and-a-half-hour journey by motorized canoe along the coast from Atoifi is the Seventh-day Adventist village of Raeau, but nearby villages had resisted any approach by Adventists.

## **Honoa Village**

Honoa village, a half hour journey south, was nominally Christian. For many years the Honoa people had asked the government for a health clinic because when they were very ill, their only help was to come to Atoifi by canoe.

Finally the chief asked Atoifi hospital administrators if they could put a clinic in the Honoa area. In 1988 the hospital began

sending health teams to hold monthly clinics. In 1990, when the village people built a clinic and two houses, a full-time registered nurse was sent with student nurses from Atoifi, who rotated for clinic experience.

Sabbath School and other meetings commenced in the houses, and the interests continued to grow.

## **Harisi Village**

Two hours of steep mountain walk above Raeau is the village of Harisi. Like many villages in the hills, the people were heathen with no profession of Christianity at all, although some surrounding villages belonged to a Protestant church.

Pigs and ancestors were worshiped in Harisi, and Adventists were not allowed to enter the area. However, when the people of Harisi were sick, they went down to the new clinic at Honoa, and an interest was aroused in the Seventh-day Adventists. They wondered if they, too, should have a clinic. Later a doctor and nurse from Atoifi toured the area. Sad to say, no decision was made at this time to admit Adventists.

Early in 1991 a layman named Jimmy held revival meetings in Raeau. Lay workers usually receive a year's training at a layman's school and then go into their own villages to preach. Payment is small, as the villagers are expected to supply most of the speaker's needs from their own gardens.

## **Raeau Reaches Out**

As the members of Raeau met with Jimmy, they discussed the idea of entering a new area and starting another church. They wondered if the interest in Harisi was strong enough.

First they conducted a survey in Harisi, determining how many believed in the sec-

**T**wo entering wedges in the "Happy Isles" (Solomon Islands) are medical help and education. See report of July 10.



ond coming of Christ. Then they asked the people if they wanted a church and a Christian school in their area. The paramount chief and devil priest was quite sure they did not.

The chief's daughters, however, had a relative down in Raeau who had learned to read a little, and had learned some Bible texts. The people in Harisi thought this was a good thing, and insisted that even if the chief didn't want a school, they did!

Under pressure from his daughters, the chief changed his mind, and four days after the survey he called a meeting of about 20 leaders and chiefs from the surrounding area. The men discussed that Harisi would be central for the surrounding villages and decided that they wanted a school in their area.

The next day work started on the chosen site for the school and the ground was cleared. The classroom was built from local bush materials and completed within 10 days. A house was repaired.

### ***Evangelistic Effort***

In August an evangelistic program was held in Harisi by staff from Atoifi Hospital and helpers from other villages. Each night more than 300 people came from eight villages, with 48 showing interest in further studies.

At first Jimmy visited two days a week, teaching them memory verses starting from the very first—Genesis 1:1. Nine people attended, regularly learning these verses, and they soon brought others to come and learn also.

By the beginning of 1992, the people of Harisi had gardens ready for the two laypeople who went to the village to live. A school with more than 30 people was

started. Dickson, the son of the chief, was very interested in health, and he was brought to Atoifi to learn simple treatments so that he could return to the village to help the sick with common illnesses.

### ***"Adventist Place"!***

Morning and evening worship, and Sabbath services, are regularly held in the church. Although no one is yet ready for baptism, the people declared that their area is a "Seventh-day Adventist place"!

No one is allowed to work on Sabbath, and people from other areas cannot carry pigs or betel nut through the area. Instead, they must go around. While Adventists once were not welcome, now five of the surrounding villages have asked for Adventist members to enter and preach!

Harisi is just one of 21 new villages around Atoifi Adventist Hospital who have asked for Adventists to help them during 1991 and early 1992! Some of these villages are many hours' walk or canoe ride away, and the needs are great.

### ***Prayer/Care Appeal***

The Atoifi staff, however, are committed to Global Mission with its goal to enter previously unentered areas. They ask that you will pray for the people here, and they also ask for your financial help for the Western Pacific area this Thirteenth Sabbath. Your investment

through giving to missions each Sabbath will reveal its dividend when Christ comes, and that presents an urgency

to share Christ with these beautiful people who have not yet heard the gospel! ☺







# Hard Nut to Crack

**The author is the stewardship director of the South Pacific Division.**

Wilfred Bili ▶

Wilfred Bili

**Sept. 11**

*Far Eastern Division*

**N***ew work in unentered territories of Santa Isabel Island, along with three selected Adventist schools, will be a Special Projects Offering recipient in two weeks.*

**T**he people in the Solomon Islands wish that an unfounded legend were true. The legend has it that in 1568 the Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendaña de Neyra, the first European to reach the islands, not only found gold there but also discovered where the biblical King Solomon obtained the gold for his Temple in Jerusalem.

Thus the Solomon Islands, a chain of more than 10,000 square miles of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia, acquired their name. The Solomons are known to have been inhabited as early as 2000 B.C. and were declared the British Solomon Islands Protectorate in 1893.

The first missionaries—Roman Catholics—arrived in the 1840s, but failed to establish any Christian community until a later attempt in 1898. Anglican missionaries who began taking islanders to New Zealand for training began to settle in the Solomons in the 1870s.

The first Adventist in the Solomons, Captain G. F. Jones, arrived in May of 1914. Adventism now ranks fifth in the islands, with 23,000 members of the population of 328,000. (The Church of Melanesia, Anglican, is first with 76,000 members, followed by the Roman Catholics, South Sea Evangelical Church, and Methodists. The rest are Jehovah's Witnesses, Assembly of God, Pentecostals, Bahá'ís, and pagans.)

## **Santa Isabel Island**

One of the islands of the Solomons, wholly Anglican in faith (Church of England, Roman Catholic in practice and belief, but does not accept the pope) and comprising 17,370 people, is Santa Isabel Island. Over the years all the Christian churches working in the Solomons have

tried to enter Santa Isabel, to no avail.

The Adventist Church began work on Isabel in 1929, and four Adventist ministers allegedly have been murdered since then. The first and only church on the island was Anglican. Every person on the island is an Anglican member except 154, with some children, who have accepted Adventism.

Only 154 members in 63 years! With but two organized churches, one company, one medical clinic, and one primary school. The workers are one ordained minister, one teacher, two volunteer workers, and a few nurses.

## **New Day**

The first real move the Adventist Church made was the establishment of the medical clinic in an area without an Adventist presence. The second move was Dr. Doug Easthope's voluntary dental ministry in villages around the island. The third influence was the Adventist school, even though it existed only by name with very few students. Yet the influence was persistent.

Now the glaring evidence of a very high illiteracy rate is stimulating a desire for the Adventist Church to establish primary schools on the island, stemming from the success of the Adventist education system in other Solomon Islands.

The year 1992 saw the first public evangelistic campaign ever conducted on the island, held in Buala, the province's main center. Many converts are being prepared for baptism from that effort, and another public effort will be conducted in Buala soon by the mission publishing director.

## **Establishing a "Stronghold"**

The two Adventist churches already on Santa Isabel Island are in obscure villages.



Also, the Anglican Church has not allowed another church building belonging to other Christian bodies on the island. But under God's leading, the Adventists will soon have a stronghold on Santa Isabel Island. How can this be?

Caroline Maetia, the daughter of a chief on Santa Isabel Island, became an Adventist a few years ago. The chief's family used to own all the land that the provincial center now occupies. Some years back, when the government wanted land for its center on the island, the chief and his family wanted to sell all that land to the government.

But Caroline begged and pleaded to retain a portion of the land for her own use, which was granted. Thus she is the perpetual owner of this land. When the Adventist Church wanted land for a minister's house and an evangelistic center, Caroline and her family reflected on how God has led and blessed them, and *offered* the land to the Adventist Church!

This donation was in total contradiction to

the Anglican Church's plans and wishes. From that perspective, one could say it is providential that we are able to obtain this land, because without this gift, there is no way the church could obtain any land in the place. Why did she beg to retain a block of the land in the first place, when her family has acres of land farther inland?

A center on this land will be a "stronghold," because it will be in the township, in the main center of the government and province! In other words, it will put the Adventist Church on the map.

### **Prayer/Care Appeal**

It will be a dream come true when we obtain the money to build an evangelistic center and a minister's house there. The Eastern Solomons Mission and those on the island request, "God has opened the way. Please pray for us as we endeavor to fit into His plans for the advancement and finishing of His work on the island." ●



▲ The coat of arms of the Solomon Islands, depicting various gods: the sun undergirded by a cross section of a war canoe, a shark (right), and a crocodile (left). Inner shield depicts black messenger birds, a shield, and arrows. Below is a black albatross.



▲ The club, originally used for warfare, is now a ceremonial piece. Inlaid mother-of-pearl shells here have replaced the sharp stones embedded in the spiked head. Up to a meter long, it was a very effective weapon.





JANN GIBBS

# Three Special Schools

**Galoghasa is principal of the school in Afutara and Viva is principal of the school in Kukudu. The third author (promoting school in Betikama) is unknown.**

Gandly Galoghasa and Charles Viva

▲ Josephine is happy to tell you her story. Her school needs a new girls' dormitory.

## Sept. 18

*Solomon Islands*

**N**ext week is Thirteenth Sabbath. In addition to evangelism on Santa Isabel Island, these three schools will receive part of your special offering.

**N**ext Sabbath is Thirteenth Sabbath, when the Special Projects Offering will go to the South Pacific Division. One project is evangelism on Santa Isabel Island, an island in the Solomon Island chain, which was featured last Sabbath.

Three other projects are included, all involving schools in the Western Pacific Union Mission. What is needed is a boys' dormitory at Afutara Vocational School on the island of Malaita, staff housing at Betikama High School on the island of Guadalcanal, and a girls' dormitory and chapel at Kukudu High School.

Today's report features glimpses into the three campuses by students who will benefit from your thoughtful prayers regarding your offering next Sabbath.

### **Afutara Adventist Vocational School**

My name is Kalesto. I attended Afutara Vocational School in 1986-1987 and became a furniture maker. Afterward, my uncle bought me some tools and I returned to my own island, where I became a furniture maker of good reputation. My father was so impressed that he has given 280 acres to the Seventh-day Adventist Church on which to build a clinic, school, church, and to develop an agricultural program.

In 1989 my younger brother, James, returned home from the Honiara government hospital following unsuccessful treatment for his bleeding nose. My father then took James to a devil priest for healing, but after the priest was paid with a string of shell money worth \$120, James had not improved.

The next day saw another visit to another spirit healer, but this time the fee was two fat pigs. Again, no success.

Then father remembered the stories of

healing from the Adventist Atoifi (Ar-toe-ee-fee) Hospital. After I sold some of my chairs we had enough money to pay the fares for my father and brother on the mission plane.

At Atoifi James was advised to see a specialist with access to appropriate medical equipment. The Adventist doctor, Dr. Kuma, in cooperation with government financial support, was able to send James to Sydney Adventist Hospital in Australia. Two months later James returned home healed.

This ministry of love and healing helped me decide for baptism. Now my family is showing real interest in the three angels' messages, and I hope they soon will join the church too.

The school, begun in 1964 as a junior primary school and recognized by the government as a junior high school in 1976, enrolled 108 students in 1992. Of these, 66 were from non-Adventist faiths, with a large baptism expected. In 1991, 11 students were baptized.

Now Afutara Adventist Vocation School, which caters to young people who have not completed their secondary schooling by training them in practical skills (thereby raising the standard of living at the village level), needs a new boys' dormitory. Thank you for praying this week about your special offering next Sabbath for Afutara Adventist Vocational School.

### **Betikama Adventist High School**

I am a student of Betikama Seventh-day Adventist High School, situated on nearly 2,000 acres of hills and lush tropical jungle that were once the prime battle sites of the Second World War. The evidence is still with us in the form of battle relics and the occasional exploding bomb.



Now the battle is against Satan and the forces of evil. More than half of our 380 boarding students are members of our ministerial league, which takes the gospel into surrounding villages every Sabbath. Getting up as early as 5:00 a.m. and traveling in the back of open trucks, we hold Sabbath Schools, evangelistic efforts, or conduct all the Sabbath meetings in the different Adventist churches we visit.

Once last year a truck broke down on our way to a Sabbath appointment, and the only place nearby was a prison. So we went to the prison administrators and asked permission to put on our program for the prisoners! Permission was given, and by the end of the day some prisoners said they believed that God had made the truck break down so they could have the blessing of our visit!

We students help support the school budget by each working 14 hours on our farm or dairy, or in our wood carving, pottery, or copper works. However, this is not enough support, for our buildings are very old. In fact, we are still using a World War II hut for our manual arts room and some of our staff are living in the original mission houses that date back to the war. These timber buildings in this very humid climate are now falling apart. And there are not enough of those, either. Last year one of our single workers got married and had to leave because we did not have a house for him and his wife.

We need houses of concrete block. Please help us to support our workers' needs by giving a special offering next Sabbath so

that God's work may continue to go forward in the Solomon Islands.

### **Kukudu Adventist High School**

My name is Josephine. I am one of many students of a non-Adventist background attending Kukudu Adventist High School on the island of Kolombangara. This island is about eight miles from the famous "Kennedy" island named after John F. Kennedy, whose PT 109 was sunk on collision with a Japanese destroyer during World War II.

After two years at Kukudu, I joined the Revelation Seminar conducted by the school chaplain. Then I keenly desired to be baptized. My father was furious and ordered me not to. Although very sad, I changed my approach. Rather than fight against him, I asked him to study the Bible with me each holiday that I am home. I want to lead him to the new light I discovered at Kukudu.

At Kukudu, where each year about 30 students of the 280 enrolled are baptized, we urgently need girls' dormitory space. The "magic number" the dorm can hold is 80 girls, so if 20 complete their education, only that number can be taken in. Others who meet the national criteria to enter high school must be turned away.

Next Sabbath, will you support our need for a bigger girls' dormitory at Kukudu? Kukudu, along with Afutara Adventist Vocation School and Betikama Adventist High School, is crying for your generous support. May the Lord touch each heart as you prepare this week to give willingly and generously! 🙏



▲ These six girls are standing near their crowded sleeping area at Kukudu High School. Your offering next Sabbath will provide them a bigger girls' dormitory.





## THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

# Spiritual Gifts for Mission in the South Pacific

Janet Leigh Kangas

### Program

Congregational Song	"Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," <i>The SDA Hymnal</i> , No. 359
Welcome	Hostess
Prayer	Youth or children's division leader
Script	Spiritual Gifts for Mission in the South Pacific
South Pacific Acronym	Kindergartners or primaries
"A Flashlight Drill"	Kindergartners or primaries
Offering	Kindergartners
Offering Song	"Father, Accept This Gift," <i>Sing for Joy</i> , No. 147
Gratitude Prayer	Junior or teen

### Spiritual Gifts in the South Pacific

**Hostess:** Happy Sabbath morning from the South Pacific Division, the largest geographic division in the Adventist world, a place of many contrasts—from arid deserts to teeming rain forests; from hot tropical jungles to glaciers and snowfields of majestic height and beauty; from the tranquillity of tropical islands to the hustle and bustle of large cities in Australia, one of the most urbanized countries in the world.

And islands. The Solomon Islands alone, where today's Special Projects Offering is going, claim hundreds of islands, scattered throughout more than 10,000 square miles!

We are with Elder Eric Winter this morning, the Sabbath School director of the South Pacific Division. How would you like to greet the Adventist world Sabbath School, Elder Winter?

**Winter:** First, let me take you back to the first quarter of 1991 and say a big *thank you!* We desperately needed a high school and evangelistic center to serve the beautiful

people of the Fiji Mission. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering given then made that dream come true!

Unknown to anyone in the church, the large Isa Lei tourist hotel and convention center ran into financial difficulties. We purchased these excellent facilities for a fraction of their value! Before we asked, God had answered.

How was it possible for us to make this purchase? Through the generous giving of our Sabbath School members around the world. For this we praise God and say, "Thank you, each one!" This large facility came at the right time, at the right place, at the right price. Surely our God is good!

**Hostess:** You have other evidences, too, that God is answering before your members ask. In fact, the South Pacific Division can scarcely keep up with the evangelism explosion. Can you give us some examples illustrating how God keeps pulling you ever upward and onward?

Sept. 25

**P**lease refer to Leader's Planner on page 4 when preparing this program.



**Winter:** How right you are that evangelism is exploding. The ratio of Adventists to the population is already 110 to 1, the highest ratio of any of the 11 Adventist world divisions. By the Global Mission criteria of an unentered territory being an area of 1 million or more population without an Adventist presence, we don't have any. But we desperately need schools in which to educate all the incoming members.

As for how God is working, please allow a few people I have brought along to tell you firsthand. Here is Ray Wilkinson from the Western Pacific Union Mission with an exciting report.

**Wilkinson:** God is helping the spread of His truth with clear signs of the restoration of the spiritual gifts in the church. In a newly entered area on the island of Malaita recently, the people could clearly understand the message being preached to them in Pidgin English, although they could not understand or use Pidgin English outside of the meetinghouse!

**Winter:** Now let us hear from Timothy Bofanita, who has a "last days" version of Balaam and the donkey! This report reminds me of Cornelius' experience when he was given Simon Peter's name and told to find him [see Acts 10:5]. The naming of the pastor, unknown to him, verifies this unusual story. Tell us what happened, Timothy.

**Bofanita:** It was natural for me to take my sick child to the Atoifi Adventist Hospital, for their staff had set up a clinic once a week in my village in the Kwaibaita Valley (eastern Malaita). This they were allowed to do, but if they ever tried to preach, they would be killed! At the hospital, however, I did hear preaching—and believed what I heard.

I did not act upon my conviction, though. And one Sabbath in 1990 I went outside to repair a fence. Six cows and a bull stood nearby watching me. Then the bull called out in a man's voice, "Timothy! Timothy!"

I was very frightened; I thought it was the devil, and I fell to the ground. The voice continued, "Man, Me no devil—but Me Jesus." I was told I must not work on that

day, as it was the Sabbath of God. I told the voice I would do whatever Jesus wanted me to. The response was that I was to be baptized by *Pastor Bata*, and that my people would be changed because of this. Then the voice quoted Jeremiah 1:5 and stopped. My wife told me that I had had such a hard heart that God had to send a talking animal to persuade me! I found out who Pastor Bata was and was baptized late in 1990. I attended the Laymen's Training Course in 1992, but I have also used my experience of the talking bull to convince some former church colleagues of my new beliefs.

**Winter:** Let's share another vignette, about the converted son of a devil priest. His name is Ricky Toronoai. He was baptized at the Kwailabesi camp meeting in 1989.

**Toronoai:** After my baptism, my father was really afraid to talk to me for fear of the devil, because he was the head of all the devil priests in Dorio district. The church kindly sent my cousin and me to the laymen's school, and when we returned on vacation we wanted to build a church. Other missions in Alarua didn't like this idea, and destroyed our framework. When we transferred everything left to a new site, they ran us out again!

And **then**, when our evangelistic speaker was arrested, *my own father* notified him to meet him in the jungle, and offered us land on which to build our church! He admitted, "I have had enough of devil worship. I spend too much money on unnecessary things like compensation, devil sacrifice, devil healing, and many other works of deceit as taught by the devil. I realize now that nothing is good about the devil. One thing I do know, I have been insecure and have had no peace while I do the devil commands."

**Winter:** Ricky's father attends church occasionally, and says he will join as soon as he is ready. Please pray for this brother, Mr. Toronoai.

We could share many more vignettes, but I'm sure our Sabbath School superintendent needs time left to continue the Sabbath School program. The most important item is still to come!



**Hostess:** Yes, that is the offering! After hearing the father of Ricky Toronoai say that devil worship costs too much, I wonder if we can consider how we feel about the cost of our Adventist world mission program. The money this devil priest gave all went for "works of deceit," he testified, and brought "no peace."

Aren't you grateful that your offering this morning for the Solomon Islands' three schools and the new work in the unentered territory on Santa Isabel Island is for the works of God, and everlasting peace?

## A Flashlight Drill

Caroline Eells-Keeler

*One child recites the first three paragraphs, flashing the light when it is mentioned. As many as you desire can repeat the last paragraph.*

I have a little flashlight here  
That Daddy gave to me;  
I like to flash its little light  
Wherever I may be.

But Mama says, "Be careful, son,  
Just flash it where it's dark,  
Then it will last a long, long time  
And keep its shining spark."

There are many little children  
Living where it's dark as night,  
For they've never heard of Jesus.  
They need my little light.

**All:** (flashing lights)  
We boys and girls will send our lights,  
And do you ask the way?  
By giving many dollar bills  
On Thirteenth Sabbath day.

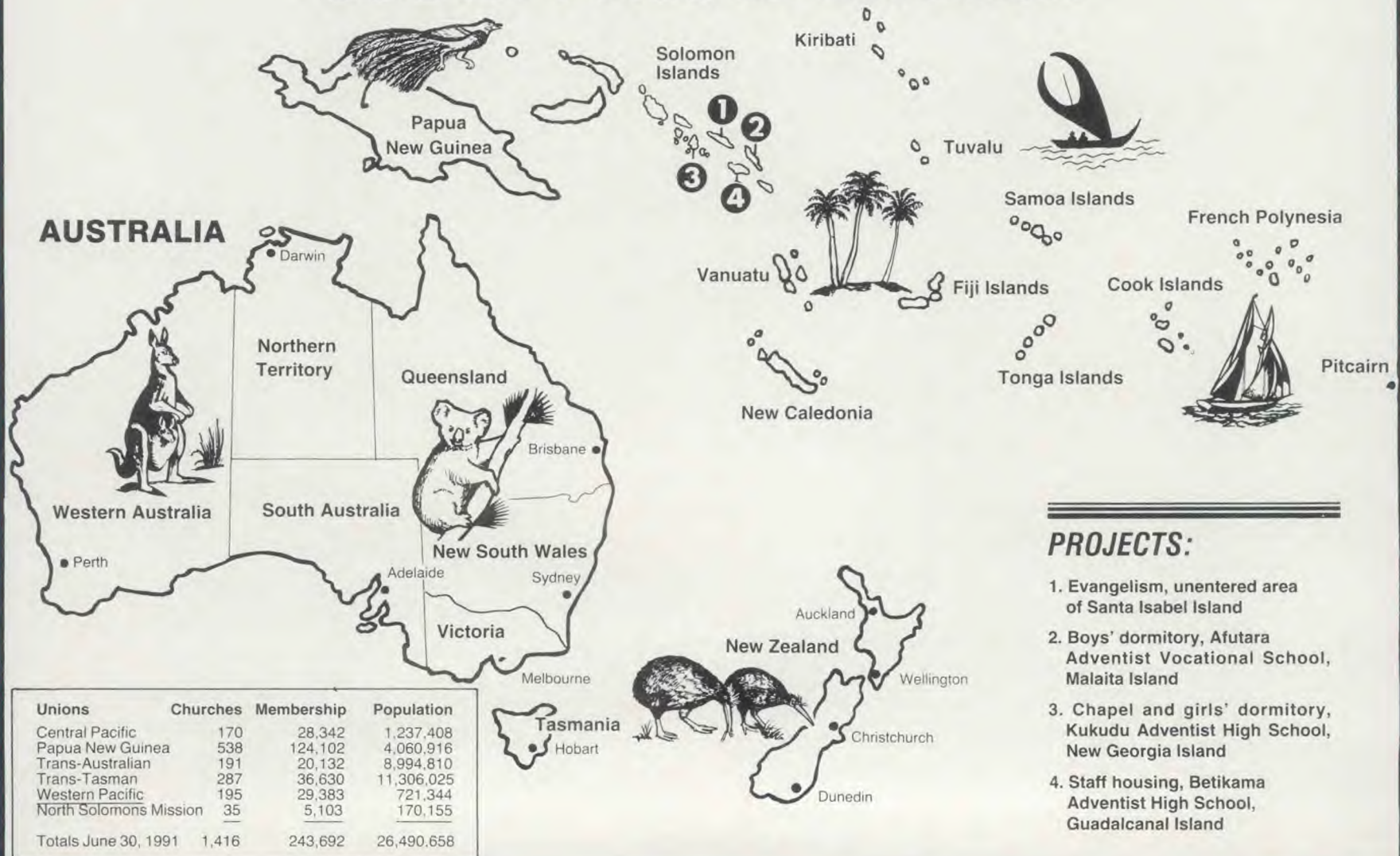
*Reprinted from adult Mission Quarterly,  
second quarter 1940.*

## South Pacific Acronym

- S** S is for King Solomon in the Bible, for whom the Solomon Islands were named. Also, for the three schools that will receive today's offering.
- O** O is for the Opportunity of accomplishing Global Mission so that Jesus can come!
- U** U is for the Unentered territory of Santa Isabel Island, where the chief's daughter has donated land for a church to be built from today's special offering.
- T** T is for the Trust God has in you to transfer the money He has put in your purse or pocket from your corner of His mission field to another.
- H** H is for the "Happy" Isles, where today's special offering will make the isle people even happier when it provides housing for the staff of Betikama Adventist High School.
- P** P is for the Pacific Ocean, dotted by the Solomon Islands.
- A** A is for Afutara Adventist Vocational School, which will receive a boys' dormitory with the offering you give today.
- C** C is for the Chapel your offering today will provide for Kukudu Adventist High School, and a girls' dormitory, too!
- I** I is for the Island, Santa Isabel, where today's offering will bring evangelism to the unentered areas!
- F** F is for the Fiji Mission, where the last Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to the South Pacific Division built a school and evangelistic center. Thank you from Fiji!
- I** I is for the Invitation to visit the Solomon Islands in the warm South Pacific breezes someday and see what your dollars today accomplish!
- C** C is for the Conviction of the Holy Spirit upon your heart just now as you meditate on the impressions made by today's offering appeal.



# SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION



## PROJECTS:

1. Evangelism, unentered area of Santa Isabel Island
2. Boys' dormitory, Afutara Adventist Vocational School, Malaita Island
3. Chapel and girls' dormitory, Kukudu Adventist High School, New Georgia Island
4. Staff housing, Betikama Adventist High School, Guadalcanal Island