



children's **mission**

A portrait of a young man with short, dark hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a darker blue t-shirt. The background behind him is a large, vibrant watercolor splash in shades of green, blue, yellow, and orange, resembling a rainbow. The overall tone is warm and positive.

**A Special
Decision**

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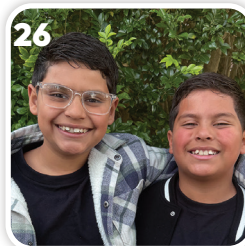
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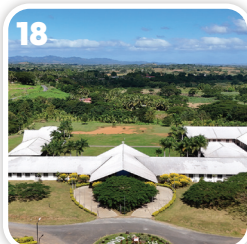
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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter, we feature the South Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 19 countries and territories: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. The region is home to 45.5 million people, including 824,647 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 55 people.

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

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we

offer photos, videos, and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story.

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

Please keep in mind that you do not need to read the story exactly as it is published. These children's stories are meant for a wide age range of 6 to 12, so feel free to adapt the language and content to the level that suits the age group in your Sabbath School class.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

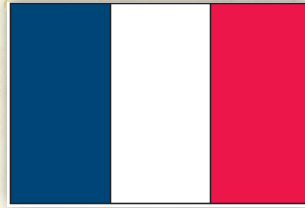
Opportunities

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

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



Hélène offers Christian books in French from her sewing shop. Read how her hobby became a mission on page 8.



WALLIS AND FUTUNA | January 3

Mrs. Valao

Shining God's Light

Mrs. Valao is a loving mother of four children and a proud grandmother of four more. She has a heart full of love for kids and has spent 39 years teaching in Christian schools—she started teaching when she was just 16 years old!

Mrs. Valao lives in the country of Wallis and Futuna on Wallis Island, a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean that is part of France.

On this island, there is a king who helps lead the people. The island also follows the rules of France. That means the people listen to both the king and the French leaders. Everyone works together to keep the island peaceful, but the king usually makes the final choice.

More than 180 years ago, Christian missionaries came to Wallis. The king at that time, King Vaimu, liked what they taught and was one of the first to be baptized! He even said that only Christians could stay on the island. Many years later, a new king named King Tomasi wanted people to learn more about the Bible. So, he invited different churches to come and tell the people what they believed. That was a big moment for the island!

During King Tomasi's time, Mrs. Valao was the principal of a Christian school and led a Bible study group for teachers. She loved learning about God's Word and helping others know Jesus better.

Then something sad happened on the island. People began arguing about who was really in charge. The king? Or the French leaders? Even the Bible study group started arguing about who was right, and many teachers stopped coming. Soon, the group stopped meeting altogether.

Then, in 2007, King Tomasi died. That same year, something exciting happened—a Seventh-day Adventist pastor came to visit. It was his first visit to the island. Mrs. Valao and her family were happy to meet him. They welcomed him warmly.

On the island, visitors who came to talk about God had to visit the king first. But there was no king anymore! So, Mrs. Valao took the pastor to meet the king's helper.

The king's helper told them, "Come back after we choose a new king."

But another wise leader said, "Why should the pastor leave and come back another



time? Remember, the king said everyone is welcome to share what they believe about God.” So, the pastor was allowed to stay.

The pastor got to work! He began holding Bible meetings, and Mrs. Valao invited many of her teacher friends to come. Even though she wasn’t an Adventist, she was curious and excited for everyone to learn more about the Bible.

At the meetings, Mrs. Valao learned amazing things! She learned that death is like sleep, that Jesus is coming back, and that the Sabbath is on the seventh day of the week—Saturday!

Then something surprising happened. One day, the king’s son walked past Mrs. Valao’s house and saw something strange—a statue that used to be inside was now outside in the yard!

“Why did you move your special statue?” he asked.

Mrs. Valao smiled and said, “I’m getting rid of it because I love Jesus. The Bible says we shouldn’t worship idols. I don’t want to make Jesus sad.”

She wanted her home to follow God’s rule, which meant letting go of things that didn’t make God happy.

Mrs. Valao was happy to find a church that, like the pastor said, “Follows the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible.” She decided to be baptized and give her heart fully to Jesus.

Some people—friends and even family—didn’t understand her choice, which made

Story Tips

- Show the location of Wallis on a map.
- Discuss with the children that God wants to be first in our lives and that some things can be “idols” when we spend more time with them than God. Exodus 20:3, 5 says, “Do not worship any god except me. . . Don’t bow and worship idols, I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love” (CEV).
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

things hard. But Mrs. Valao didn’t stop loving them. She kept sharing Jesus with everyone she met.

Today, Mrs. Valao is still shining God’s light on Wallis Island. Her children have also accepted Jesus, and she keeps praying that many more people on Wallis Island will come to know Him, too. 🌐

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will have a big impact on the lives of people like Mrs. Valao. It will help build a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists make friends with the people in the New Caledonia Mission area.

By Sapolina Valao

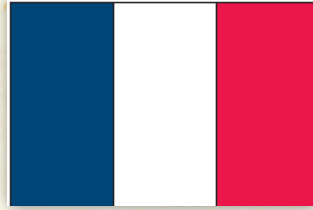


MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist missionaries to work in New Caledonia were Captain G. F. Jones and his wife who sailed from Sydney, Australia, to Nouméa, New Caledonia, in 1925.

The first Adventist member in New Caledonia was Mrs. Ada Peyras.

The New Caledonia Mission was established in 1925 and organized in 1954 by a French evangelist named Paul Nouan.



WALLIS AND FUTUNA | January 10

Mrs. Terebo

A Happy Heart

Mrs. Terebo was walking home from work when she heard something beautiful. It was music—people were singing hymns through loudspeakers in her neighborhood. As she listened, a song about trusting Jesus touched her heart.

She wanted to know where the music was coming from, who was singing, and why they were gathered, but she was in a hurry and had to get to work.

Mrs. Terebo was a busy mother of two children. She used to work as a cashier and was now a manager at a furniture store. Every day, she passed the same speakers, and every day, she heard the singing and someone preaching from the Bible. Still, she never stopped to listen for long.

One day, Mrs. Terebo found out where the singing and preaching came from—a special Bible meeting. Her neighbor Meke wanted her to go with her, but Mrs. Terebo kindly said, “No, thank you. I’m too busy.” Later, another neighbor Fiafia invited her. Again, Mrs. Terebo shook her head and replied, “I don’t have the time.”

However, Mrs. Terebo was curious about

what was happening at the meetings. So, she decided to go on the weekend, when she had more free time.

When she arrived, the preacher and his family welcomed her with warm smiles. Everyone was so friendly. She felt right at home.

At the meetings, Mrs. Terebo began to understand the Bible better. She loved learning that God wasn’t far away—that He wanted to be close to her through worship every day and be her best friend.

After six months of learning and growing in her faith, Mrs. Terebo made a big decision. She chose to be baptized! She was one of the first five people in Wallis to join the Adventist Church.

She was so happy. But her journey wasn’t always easy.

Some of her family didn’t understand and called her mean names. But she stayed kind and tried to explain what she had learned from the Bible.

Then, something even harder happened. Mrs. Terebo had a stroke and had to leave her island to get medical help in New



Caledonia and later in Australia. It was a scary time, but she kept trusting God. She kept reading the Bible and praying.

Mrs. Terebo never gave up her faith. Seventeen years later, she's still best friends with God and looks forward to the day when Jesus comes again.

Mrs. Terebo is also excited about something special: a new center of influence will be built near her home! She hopes it will help more people in Wallis learn about God—just like she did.

She thanks you for helping to make this happen through your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering! 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will have a big impact on the lives of people like Mrs. Terebo. It will help build a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists make friends with the people in the New Caledonia Mission area.

Story Tips

- Show the location of Wallis on a map.
- Invite the children to name their favorite hymn or praise song. Remind them that singing is a way to worship God and can encourage those around them. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:19: "Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord" (ERV).
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

By Louisa Terebo

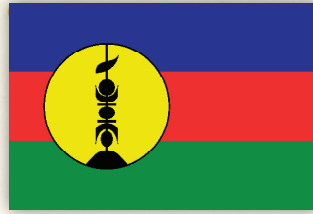


AMAZING COUNTRY

The New Caledonian crow is known for its intelligence and its ability to use tools. It will poke grubs in crevices with twigs until the grub bites the twig, and then the crow will pull the twig out with the grub attached.



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NEW CALEDONIA | January 17

Mrs. Luvant

Touched by Kindness

Mrs. Luvant had a big dream. She wanted to open a sewing shop, and one day, her dream came true! She thought her shop would bring her money and success, but something even better happened. She found Jesus.

Mrs. Luvant and her husband are from Vietnam. They live with their daughter on the beautiful island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific Ocean.

While raising their daughter, Mrs. Luvant began sewing more and more. She had learned how to sew as a teenager in Vietnam, and she knew that with her special talents, she could turn her craft into a money-making business. But it would take more than just skill to do so. It would require hard work and learning the French language, which was spoken there. Mrs. Luvant also believed that her success depended on praying to a statue in her home.

One day, something special happened. A customer named Miss Edwige stepped into Mrs. Luvant's shop and changed her life. Miss Edwige was a kind, elderly woman who went to a nearby Adventist church and loved

talking to people about Jesus.

Miss Edwige asked, "Do you have a Bible?" Mrs. Luvant didn't have one, so Miss Edwige gave her one.

The two women loved visiting. Miss Edwige became one of Mrs. Luvant's best customers and often brought her thoughtful gifts such as lemons or grapefruit. Mrs. Luvant was very touched by Miss Edwige's kindness! She always took the gifts home and placed them in front of her statue as a thank offering.

Miss Edwige gently told her that the statue was an idol, and the Bible says we should only worship Jesus. Mrs. Luvant hadn't heard of Jesus. Everything Miss Edwige taught her from the Bible was new.

Mrs. Luvant was curious. She liked how kind Miss Edwige was, and she wanted to learn more about Jesus. So, one evening, she and her daughter went with Miss Edwige to her church. Miss Edwige asked the members to pray for Mrs. Luvant and her daughter during prayer time. That made Mrs. Luvant feel loved.

After that, Mrs. Luvant kept going to church. She joined a Bible study group and



went to special meetings. The more she learned, the more she wanted to know about Jesus and His love.

Soon, Mrs. Luvant gave her heart to Jesus. She was so happy that she decided to be baptized! Before her baptism, however, she removed the big statue from her home. She wanted to worship Jesus and Jesus alone.

Now, Mrs. Luvant had a new dream. She wanted to open a sewing shop where she could share Jesus. She prayed and waited. After some months, a shop space opened in the center of town, where most of the storekeepers were Vietnamese people like her. Mrs. Luvant knew God had answered her prayer.

This new shop was different than her first store. Inside, Mrs. Luvant placed free books about Jesus and bookmarks with Bible verses on them in French and Vietnamese. Anyone who came in could take them home!

Mrs. Luvant believes God gave her this shop, not to make her rich with money, but to make her rich in faith and help others find Jesus, too. Many Vietnamese people live on the island, and Mrs. Luvant wants every one of them to meet her friend Jesus.

When someone asked her what she wanted to do most, she said, “I want to become a missionary to the Vietnamese people in New Caledonia.”

Mrs. Luvant loves a Bible verse that reminds her of her story. It’s Jeremiah 1:5: “I

Story Tips

- Show the location of New Caledonia on a map.
- Know that some 2,500 Vietnamese people live in New Caledonia, which is less than 1 percent of the population.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

am your Creator, and before you were born, I chose you to speak for me to the nations” (CEV).

A big mission project called *Christ for the South* will soon begin in New Caledonia. Mrs. Luvant is looking forward to being a part of the project and helping more people learn about God. 🌐

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will have a big impact on the lives of people in New Caledonia. It will help build a center of influence in Wallis, which will help Adventists make friends with the people in the New Caledonia Mission area.

By Hélène Luvant



AMAZING COUNTRY

Wood carving is popular in New Caledonia and often reflects the tribal society in totems, masks, and flèche faîtière, a carved finial placed on the top of traditional houses.



wikicommons.org: Chaoborus



BigStockPhoto.com

VANUATU | January 24

Mr. Joseph

No Failure Here

My name is Mr. Joseph, and I come from a tiny island called Maskelyne off the coast of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is a small island country in the South Pacific Ocean. I grew up surrounded by the sparkling, blue sea and tall, green trees.

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

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

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

Later that year, a classmate joked, "John, when you fail your exams and stay on the

island, I'll hire you to fish for me." I smiled but knew I didn't want that kind of life. I wanted something more.

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

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

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

In 2001, I moved to another part of Vanuatu. I joined an Adventist church and became part of a singing group. I shared my faith through music. I wasn't good at talking in front of people, but when I sang, I still felt like I was telling others about Jesus.

One day, I went back to my island. A



pastor there invited me to help him with some Bible meetings. I sang hymns each evening. One afternoon, he asked me to visit the grave of Norman Wiles, who was one of the first missionaries to bring the Adventist work to our island.

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

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

God answered! I spent seven years in Torres, making new friends and starting new churches.

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

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

Story Tips

- Show the location of Vanuatu on a map.
- Pronounce Vanuatu as: vah-noo-AH-too.
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God tells us in the Bible, “I know the plans I have for you,” announces the LORD. “I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come.” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIRV).

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

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help support children’s health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, where Mr. Joseph lives. Thank you for your faithful giving!

As told to Maika Tuima by John Joseph



MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist missionaries to work in Vanuatu (then called the New Hebrides) were C. H. Parker and his wife, who arrived from the Victoria-Tasmania Conference in 1912.

At first, the Parkers settled in the capital, Port-Vila, but were asked to move into a more needy area. They settled on the island of Atchin, which was notorious for its population of cannibals. They were the first missionaries to the island.



VANUATU | January 31

I Will Go

Mr. Veah

My name is Mr. Veah. I grew up on a small island called Paama in the country of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is made up of many beautiful islands in the South Pacific Ocean. The sea sparkles in shades of blue, and colorful fish swim in the coral reefs. It sounds lovely, doesn't it? But life on our island wasn't easy.

My father was often sick, so my mother worked hard to care for our family. She opened coconuts to collect the sweet, white fruit inside. She also planted food such as taro and cassava. Then she took her harvest to our school and told the principal, "Please use this to pay for my children's school fees." Sometimes, she was two years behind in payments, but she never gave up.

I'm so thankful. Mother gave everything she had so we could learn.

At school, I loved to read. One day, my brother brought home a book by an Adventist leader named Ellen White. Called *The Desire of Ages*, it was about the life of Jesus.

When I read the book, it made me want to learn even more about Jesus.

Later, I moved to a different town for

school and stayed with another family. That's when I started making bad choices. But even though I did bad things, I still thought about going to church.

One Friday night, I spent time with my friends doing things that made God unhappy. On Sabbath morning, I felt sorry for what I did and wanted to go to church. I took a shower, got dressed, and walked into the local Seventh-day Adventist church. I sat there quietly. The room felt peaceful. I was glad I went.

A friend from church asked me, "Are you spending time with Jesus?" That simple question led to a long talk—until 10 o'clock at night! He invited me to some Bible meetings, and I went to every one of them. I gave my life to Jesus and was baptized. I felt so happy!

After that, my brother and I started praying for our mother. We wanted her to know Jesus, too. My brother asked her to go with us to some church meetings. Mum went and really enjoyed them. She even joined his Bible study group.

Mum couldn't read, but she listened carefully to the Bible stories. She learned



how God loved and cared for His people. Every day, we studied the Bible with her. We made sure she understood everything.

Then one day, Mum said something amazing: “I want to be baptized.”

Did I hear her right? I was so surprised that I asked my wife to ask my mum, “Are you sure?” Mum said, “Yes.”

We all cried happy tears.

We called the pastor, and he planned a special baptism for Mum. That Sabbath morning, our whole family came to church to watch. Mum gave her life to God, and it was one of the happiest days of our lives.

Not long after, Mum’s health began to get worse. Her blood pressure rose, and she started to forget things. Now, we take care of her at home.

Mum still loves to sing and pray. She listens to the Bible and remembers God’s love. She taught us something important—what we say matters, but what we *do* matters more. Mum’s hard work and quiet strength were like a sermon.

We try to live the same way Mum did—showing love through our actions.

Because actions really do speak louder than words. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the location of Vanuatu on a map.
- Encourage the children to ask their parents to read them a version of *The Desire of Ages*. They can also download an audiobook version.
- Know that cassava and taro are nutty-flavored, starchy root vegetables that grow in warm, tropical areas like Vanuatu.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the first quarter of 2013, helped provide Ellen White books to the South Pacific islands. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help support children’s health projects in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As told to Maika Tuima by Morris Veah



AMAZING COUNTRY

Vanuatu is an archipelago made up of 83 islands.

Only 14 of the 83 islands of Vanuatu have an area of more than 60 square miles (100 sq km).



BigStockPhoto.com



VANUATU | February 7

Only Four Yams

Stacey

My name is Stacey. I come from Vanuatu, a country made up of many islands in the South Pacific Ocean. When I was little, I lived in Beverly Hills—not the famous Beverly Hills in the United States, but a small neighborhood in my country. I grew up surrounded by my family, friends, and church.

I'm now in twelfth grade at Epauto Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School. School isn't always easy, but I've learned to trust God.

Every Sabbath, my family and I went to church. My mum helped with the children's classes, and I always joined Sabbath School. I loved singing, learning Bible stories, and going out with other church members to visit people. We would pray with them and share messages of hope. It made me feel happy to help others.

As I got older, I began to understand more about God. I saw how my mum always prayed—before we left the house, before we ate, and before making big decisions. Her example helped me grow in faith. Now, I pray, too, even more when I have to make a tough choice.

One of the biggest choices I ever made was to be baptized. That happened on Friday, October 28, 2022. I wanted to give my life to God because He had always been there for me. My family didn't have much money, and my mum worked hard to care for us. But we always prayed together in the mornings and evenings, which made me feel strong.

I also joined church clubs such as Adventurers and Pathfinders. Now, I'm part of a club for older children. These clubs helped me learn about teamwork, service, and God.

Then something really bad happened that tested my faith. On December 17, 2024, an earthquake damaged our home. The small kitchen where my mum cooked food to earn money was destroyed. It felt like everything we needed was gone. We didn't know what to do.

So, we prayed. Every day, we asked God to help us.

That same week, our church was having special meetings each night. One evening, before going to the church, I looked in the fridge. We had only four yams. I cooked one,



and we saved the rest. That night at church, a woman came up to us with a big bundle of island cabbage.

Two days later, another woman gave us a bag of rice. Later, a family from church surprised us with a shopping bag filled with things we needed like sugar, rice, soap, and washing powder. Other people brought bananas, fish, and more.

You know what's amazing? Many of the people who helped us were children my mum had cared for years ago while their parents were studying. One man even gave us money.

All of this showed me something important: when we trust God, He finds ways to care for us—even using people we don't expect.

My faith grew so much during that time. I learned that God never forgets His children. He always finds a way to help when we need Him most.

Thank you for listening to my story. I hope it reminds you that God is near, no matter

Story Tips

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what you're going through. He will never forget you. 🌐

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

As told to Maika Tuima by Stacey Joel

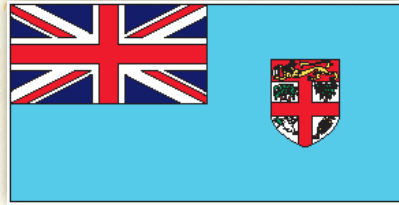


AMAZING COUNTRY

Fruits like mangoes, papayas, and pineapples are found throughout the country, and coconut is used in many traditional dishes.



BigStockPhoto.com



FIJI | February 14

Vilikesa and Neomai

A Special Decision

One sunny Sabbath morning in a small village in Fiji, a brother and sister sat quietly in church. Their names were Vilikesa, who was 15, and Neomai, who was 12.

"I love the story of David and Goliath," Neomai whispered with a smile.

"And I like the part when Jesus calmed the storm," said Vilikesa. "It makes me feel safe."

The siblings hadn't always gone to a Seventh-day Adventist church. They used to go to a different Christian church with their family. But one day, their aunt—Mum's older sister—invited them to visit her Seventh-day Adventist church.

"I was only 10 years old when I first came," said Vilikesa.

"I was eleven," added Neomai.

At first, it was just something new to try. But soon, the siblings realized they had found something special.

"I liked the singing and the warm welcome," said Neomai. "But most of all, I loved the stories in Sabbath School."

"Me too," said Vilikesa. "I couldn't wait for Sabbath to come each week."

Even though no one else in their family

went with them, the two sisters went to church faithfully.

"We were the only ones from our house going," said Neomai. "But we didn't feel alone. Everyone at church made us feel like family."

As time passed, Vilikesa and Neomai joined the children's programs. They listened to Bible stories, answered questions, and made new friends.

"I remember learning how much Jesus loves us," said Vilikesa. "That's when I knew I wanted to follow Him."

One day, after Sabbath School, the two girls sat under a tree near the church.

"Do you think we're ready to be baptized?" asked Neomai.

"I do," said Vilikesa. "We know Jesus. We love Him. And we want to follow Him."

Together, they made the big decision to give their lives to Jesus. That evening, they walked home with happy hearts. But they had one more thing to do.

"We need to tell Mum and Dad," said Neomai.

"Yes," said Vilikesa. "Let's pray first."



After a short prayer, they went inside.

“Mum, Dad,” said Neomai softly, “we have something to tell you.”

“What is it, children?” their mother asked kindly.

“We’ve decided to be baptized,” said Vilikesa.

Their parents looked at each other and smiled.

“We’re happy for you,” their dad said. “It’s your choice, and we support you.”

Even though their parents weren’t Adventists, they didn’t stop them or try to change their minds.

On November 2, 2024, the sun rose bright and warm. It was a special day.

Vilikesa and Neomai stood by the pool, ready to be baptized.

“I wasn’t scared,” said Neomai. “I felt peace in my heart.”

“I didn’t hesitate,” said Vilikesa. “I knew Jesus was with us.”

That day, the brother and sister were baptized and became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Vilikesa attends the Earliteen Sabbath School class, and Neomai is in the Junior class.

“Every Sabbath, we learn something new,” said Neomai.

“And we take the stories home and share them with Mum and Dad,” said Vilikesa.

The siblings still go to church every Sabbath, and they still pray every day.

“We are praying that one day Mum and

Story Tips

- Show the location of Fiji on a map.
- Challenge the children to consider giving their hearts to Jesus in baptism. Tell them that, like Vilikesa and Neomai, they can make a special decision to follow Jesus. If any children express an interest in baptism, tell their parents about it. Pray with the children and their parents and consider enrolling the children in a baptismal class or pre-baptismal class as appropriate.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

Dad will come with us,” said Neomai.

With big smiles and hearts full of hope, they continue walking with Jesus—one Sabbath at a time. 🌍

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the fourth quarter of 2009, helped provide “Flip for Jesus” picture rolls for children’s Sabbath Schools in the Trans-Pacific Union, which includes Fiji. Thank you for your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter.

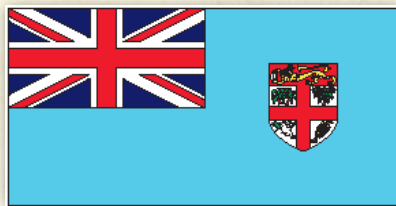
As told to Maika Tuima by Vilikesa and Neomai



MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist missionary to Fiji was John I. Tay in 1891 on the mission ship *Pitcairn*. Unfortunately, he became ill and died a few months later.

In 1895, J. M. Cole arrived in Levuka, which was the capital of Fiji at that time, and the islands were organized into a mission.



FIJI | February 21

Fulton Adventist University College

Where Faith Finds Feet

Fulton Adventist University College had been in the green hills of Tailevu for more than 70 years. On campus, students crossed rivers in little boats, hiked up muddy paths, and slept in old wooden dormitories. The wind made the buildings creak at night! But students still came because Fulton College helped them learn to think big and serve others.

One rainy day, the college principal called the teachers to meet under the leaky chapel roof.

“We have two choices,” he said. “We can stay here and get smaller—or move to a better place and grow.”

Everyone looked at each other. Move an entire college? That sounded impossible! Where would they find land? How would they build classrooms? And who would pay for it?

That night, a young teacher named Mere prayed in her room. “Lord,” she said, “if You want Fulton to move, please show us.”

The next morning, an amazing message came. The leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church had picked Fulton College

to receive a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2009. That meant Adventists from around the world would give money to help.

Mere ran across campus shouting, “God heard us!”

Soon, land was found for the college. There were coconut trees and a paved road where buses drove by. Architects came with large blueprints. They planned a new school with classrooms, a library, computer labs, a big dining hall, and nice dormitories.

But there was one big problem—there still wasn’t enough money.

Still, the builders got to work. One worker laughed, “We mix cement with prayer—and it makes everything strong!”

A kind cook named Laisa saved half her pay to buy forks for the new dining hall. “Students must eat with dignity,” she said.

On February 12, 2014, the new Fulton College campus opened under a sunny sky. Students clapped, conch shell horns blew, and everyone sang “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

Classes began with 450 students. They came to learn things like how to run a



business, how to be a teacher, how to talk with God, and other important skills.

One student was named Sera. She was quiet and shy. She stepped off the bus holding her backpack. She was worried. She had almost no money.

“I came with faith but no funds,” Sera said. “I told God, ‘If You want me here, please open the doors.’”

God did.

A church in Samoa gave her some money. She got a job in the library. Then, a surprise gift arrived—just enough to pay all her fees. Sera cried with happiness. “God always pays on time,” she whispered.

Fulton College gave Sera more than just schoolwork. Friends invited her to worship in the morning. Teachers taught her about God. One night after Bible study, Sera looked at the stars and said, “Jesus, I believe You love me.”

Sera was baptized in a small pool behind the chapel as her classmates sang.

Today, Fulton College has more than 1,000 students. Some walk past blooming flowers on campus. Others study in faraway villages. The students study different subjects, but all of them are learning to help the people on their islands.

When a big storm called Cyclone Harold hit Fiji in 2020, Fulton College became a safe place from the wind and rain. Students cooked food for families who lost their homes. Business students organized supplies. Theology students prayed with scared mothers. A village chief said, “Your college is a light in our darkest storm.”

Fulton College’s story was written by many helpers:

The widow in Peru who gave her coins in church.

The carpenter who nailed down roofs in the hot sun.

The teacher who stayed up late to grade papers.

The student who trusted God to pay for their school fees.

Sera is studying to be a teacher. One

Story Tips

- Show the location of Fiji on a map.
- Know that a conch shell has a hard outer covering to protect a large sea snail living inside it. Some cultures in the South Pacific blow into an empty conch shell and use it as a horn. The sound it makes is used to announce special events or the arrival of important people.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

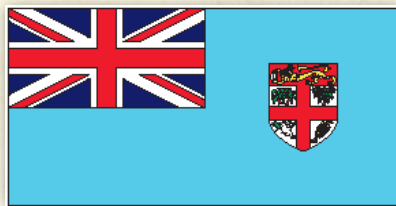
evening, she stood outside the library that she used to clean. She thought about the children she will teach someday and smiled.

“Fulton College changed my life,” she said. “Now I want to help change theirs.”

Thank you, friends around the world! Your prayers and gifts helped build more than a school. You built a place where faith finds feet and grows strong, where students learn to help others, and where young leaders discover that serving is the best thing of all. 🌍

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

By Maika Tuima



FIJI | February 28

Mrs. Finau

A New Beginning

My name is Mrs. Finau. I'm 37 years old, married, and a proud mother of three beautiful children. I was raised in a Christian home. My parents and grandparents were strong in their faith and helped me love the Lord.

One important lesson my family taught me was to put God first in everything. Whether I faced struggles or joys, I was taught to praise and respect God. That simple teaching stayed with me through the years and helped shape who I am today.

My life began to change when I met the man who would become my husband. He was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family. At first, we did things differently when we worshiped God. But we loved each other and built a happy life together. Now we've been married for 10 years!

In 2022, we lived in a good neighborhood in Fiji. That year, something special happened—meetings about Jesus were held in our neighborhood. They lasted for three weeks. Every evening, people gathered under the open sky to listen to messages

from the Bible, sing songs, and pray together.

Our family decided to go. We went the first night, then the second. Before long, we hadn't missed a single evening. The stories about God's love touched my heart. I learned many things about God and His Word that I didn't know before. My husband, sitting beside me quietly, was praying. I knew he was asking God to help me make a decision to be baptized.

Then came the third week. As the speaker invited people to give their lives to Jesus, I felt the Holy Spirit whispering in my heart. I knew what I had to do. I stood up and chose to follow Jesus in baptism.

I have never regretted that decision.

After my baptism, I wanted to do more to help people at my church grow closer to Jesus. I started helping out in the children's classes. I loved working with the little ones!

In 2023, our family moved when my husband was asked to work in another area. I continue to help out in the children's classes at our new church. I welcome children from



all around the neighborhood. I share Bible stories, songs, and simple lessons about God's love.

But more than that, I give them something I never really had growing up: feeling like part of a family.

You see, I didn't grow up with both of my parents. I felt like something was missing. Maybe that's why I care so deeply for the children I work with now. When they walk into my class, I give them a warm hug and treat them like my own children. I want them to feel seen, heard, and loved, just like Jesus makes me feel.

Not everyone in my family was happy that I got baptized. Some of them even said mean things to me. That hurt, but it didn't scare me.

Every time I felt weak, God helped me be strong. Every time I felt alone, I read my Bible and was reminded He was by my side. He fixed my broken heart.

Do you feel weak sometimes? Do you feel alone? Does your heart hurt? If so, I want you to know this: God sees you, He

Story Tips

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

hears your cry, He knows what you're going through. Trust Him, and He will help you. Just like He did for me. 🌍

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the third quarter of 2006 helped build a center in Fiji where people could learn more about Jesus. The offering this quarter will build a center of influence in Wallis Island, which will help Adventists make friends with the people in the New Caledonia Mission area.

As told to Maika Tuima by Pasepa Finau



AMAZING COUNTRY

A popular dish in Fiji is a raw fish salad known as *kokoda*. The fish is "cooked" by marinating it in lemon and lime juice.

BigStockPhoto.com





PAPUA NEW GUINEA | March 7

Dennis

Rescued from the Streets

Dennis was a teenager living in the big city of Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. One night, he came home late after spending time with his friends out on the streets. Mother was waiting for him, worried and upset.

Dennis didn't want to listen. *Who are you to tell me what to do?* he thought. He was angry. Deep inside, he felt sad and alone.

When Dennis was three years old, he went to live with his grandparents. Mother loved him, but she was having a hard time taking care of him. Dennis' father didn't provide the attention and support his family needed. When Mother had another baby—Dennis' sister—she made the sad decision to leave him with her parents.

Dennis' grandparents were kind Seventh-day Adventists. They loved Dennis, but Dennis missed his mom and dad.

By the time Dennis was 11, he was spending a lot of time on the streets. He tried alcohol and drugs. He even sold drugs. He thought his new street friends made him feel like he belonged.

A few years later, Mother came back into Dennis' life. She, her new husband, and Dennis' younger sister all wanted to help him. Mother gave him food, money, and clothes. But Dennis didn't want her help. He was still angry.

Mother didn't give up. She tried everything—even shouting and spanking—but nothing worked. The more she tried, the more Dennis argued.

"What do you want me to do?" Mother shouted. "What did I do wrong with you?"

Dennis felt hurt inside. *You left me. Why should I listen to you?* he thought.

That's when God spoke to Mother's heart. She felt Him say, "I gave you this child, and I alone can help him."

So, Mother stopped scolding Dennis and began praying for him instead. She made his favorite meals. When Dennis stayed out late, Mother would wait and pray for him. When he came home, he would find a plate of warm coconut rice and chicken—the best pieces saved just for him.

Something began to change in Dennis'



heart. After many meals and prayers, he began to feel loved. When he was 26, he returned to worshipping God and was baptized. Although his stepfather had since passed away, Dennis was glad he was alive to see his baptism.

One year later, Dennis' uncle, a church leader, invited him to help lead a small church. Dennis worked for three years. Then, a pastor asked him to study at the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry. There, Dennis learns ways to teach villagers to grow food and prepare meals. He is also learning more ways to share Jesus with others.

Dennis grew up in the city, so village life is new for him. "I had to learn how to garden and cook my food," he said.

Now, Dennis wants to help other families be strong and full of hope. "As a child from a broken family, sometimes I didn't have enough food or money to go to school," he said. "But now, I want to help others have happy homes—both in this life and in heaven." 🌍

You can help people, like Dennis, by giving to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering,

Story Tips

- Show the location of Papua New Guinea on a map.
- Ask the children to name positive peer groups where they could find a sense of belonging. Encourage them to join a youth group such as Adventures or Pathfinders, a church choir, Bible study group, or after-school program.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. This special offering will help students at the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry learn how to serve Jesus and others in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your faithful offering!

As told to Gracelyn Ban Lloyd by Dennis Lului



MISSION RECORD

The country of Papua New Guinea is located on the island of New Guinea. The arrival of Adventist work began in 1902, when Edward Gates sailed to ports along the island. He handed out literature among the Englishmen and learned information about the people who lived there.

The first financial support for the new Papua New Guinea mission field came from the third quarter 1906 Sabbath School offering.

Building the Efogi station on a mountain range of Papua New Guinea was one of the most difficult missions attempted by Adventists in the South Pacific field. For six days, a team of missionary families and 41 Koiari natives, including some women with babies, carried supplies through 50 miles of forested mountains in the heat and rain.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA | March 14

Sam

The Man with One Leg

Sam lived in a neighborhood where there were a lot of bad things happening, such as people stealing, taking drugs, and fighting. Sam started getting into trouble when he was young. He began drinking alcohol, using drugs, and hanging out on the streets.

When Sam was 15, he joined a gang—a group of kids who did bad things. His new friends taught him to steal and sell what he stole. As the years passed, his family, especially his wife, asked him to attend church—but Sam said church wasn't for him.

Then, on May 19, 1995, something very bad happened. Sam got hurt. He had broken the law, and the police were chasing him. They shot him in the leg. His leg was so badly hurt that the doctors had to remove it to save his life. He started asking himself, *What if I had died? I couldn't have gone to heaven without giving my heart to God.*

Sam wanted to change, but he kept hanging out with friends who used alcohol and drugs. One night, he got drunk at a friend's house. He was listening to music when he heard a song called "Jesus, Take the Wheel."

The words touched his heart. Tears came

to his eyes. He got up and quietly walked away from the house. He was ready to let God change his life.

The following Friday, a quiet voice in Sam's heart said, "Go to church tomorrow." So, on Sabbath morning, he got ready but didn't want anyone to know where he was going. He left the house in his regular clothes but changed into Sabbath clothes on the way. He went to church and then changed back into his regular clothes before going home. That Sabbath was November 25, 2013.

When his wife found out he had accepted Jesus and started going to church, she was so happy!

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

His life was completely different. Instead of being in a gang, he became a missionary—someone who tells others about Jesus. In 2024, Sam helped to care for a new Adventist church. In 2025, he became a student at Omaura Adventist School of Ministry to learn even more ways to serve God.

Sam is thankful every day to be alive and



free. Many of his old gang friends are now either in prison or have died. But Sam chose a new life through Jesus. And because of his story, many of his old friends have also given their lives to Jesus!

Because people trusted Sam, he was asked to do an important job. He was asked to help keep everyone safe during a big church event called *PNG for Christ* in his hometown.

At one of the meetings, the speaker, Pastor Don Fehlberg, asked whether anyone wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior. A gang member in the crowd said to his friends, “I don’t know what you’re going to do, but I’m going forward to accept Christ.” His friends replied, “We’re coming with you!”

That night, they all gave their lives to Jesus.

On the last night of the meetings, Pastor Fehlberg met a man named Ronnie. Ronnie told the pastor that he had been baptized during the meetings. He also shared that he had lived a hard and troubled life. Then, he pointed to Sam, saying, “I was with him.” Pastor Fehlberg, who had already heard Sam’s story, told Ronnie he understood.

Now, Sam and Ronnie have teamed up to tell others about Jesus. They are a powerful team for God.

“Looking back,” Sam says, “I’m so thankful for my Adventist family. They were different from everyone else. They lived by the Bible, and I respected them more than anyone in my old gang.”

But even more than that, Sam is thankful to God.

“God taught me the best way to live,” he says. “Even though I walk with crutches and

Story Tips

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

only have one leg, I know God still helps me.”

And God is helping him—in a big way!

Sam is now a church leader and a missionary. He prepared 95 people for baptism during the *PNG for Christ* meetings! God is using him to change lives—just as He changed Sam’s life.

Sam shared from his heart: “I hope my story helps people like me. If you are struggling, don’t give up. I want you to know that no matter how bad you are, God still loves and cares about you.” 🌍

You can help people, like Sam, by giving to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. This special offering will help students at the Omaura Adventist School of Ministry learn how to serve Jesus and others in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your faithful offering!

The original version of this story by Don Fehlberg was published in the March 28, 2025, issue of *Adventist Record*, the official news magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. Adapted with permission.



AMAZING COUNTRY

Papua New Guinea’s tropical rainforest is home to tree kangaroos.

BigStockPhoto.com





SOLOMON ISLANDS | March 21

Tiroa

The Runaway

Tiroa wandered down the dirt road. Tears streaked his dusty face. Some women saw him as they returned to their village.

“You’d better hurry home,” one woman said. “It will be dark soon.”

“No!” he said fiercely. “I won’t go back there. They’ll beat me.”

The boy’s fierce defense surprised the women. They learned that his name was Tiroa and that he was about 10 years old. He had run away from his aunt and uncle, who lived in a village in the mountains.

The women couldn’t just leave him there. One of the women, named Enta, offered to take Tiroa home with her.

“Some food and a bath will make you feel better,” she said, smiling at him.

Tiroa sensed he could trust her and followed her home.

Enta prepared some potatoes, cassava, bananas, and papaya for dinner. The boy ate it hungrily. Then he washed his face and fell asleep on the sleeping mat that Enta had placed on the floor for him. Tiroa awoke to find more food to eat. Tiroa smiled a shy “thank you” at his new auntie, Enta. He liked

her!

It was Friday, and that evening the family gathered to pray as the sun set. Tiroa watched the others kneel on the hard, wooden floor and fold their hands. He did the same. After a meal of pineapple and bananas, the boy curled up on the sleeping mat and fell asleep again.

On Sabbath morning, the family ate breakfast and dressed for church, but Tiroa didn’t want to go. Auntie Enta sensed that he was afraid and allowed Tiroa to stay home.

During the following week, the family gathered for worship every evening. They sang a song, listened to a Bible story, and prayed. By the next Sabbath, Tiroa was willing to go to church with Auntie Enta. Tiroa liked Sabbath School. He liked hearing the stories and singing the songs. He had begun learning some songs in worship and joined the children as they sang.

Tiroa’s family learned where he was and came to see him. Tiroa was afraid they would make him go back with them, but Auntie Enta convinced them that he was better off living with her. They agreed to allow him to



stay in her village.

Tiroa has never been to school, and he cannot read or write. Auntie Enta wants to send him to school. Meanwhile, there are other lessons to learn, such as trust and obedience.

Although Tiroa had heard of Jesus before he ran away, he didn't know that Jesus loves him. In fact, he didn't know what love was until Auntie Enta and her family took him in. Now, they are teaching him that they love him, and Jesus loves him, too. 🌐

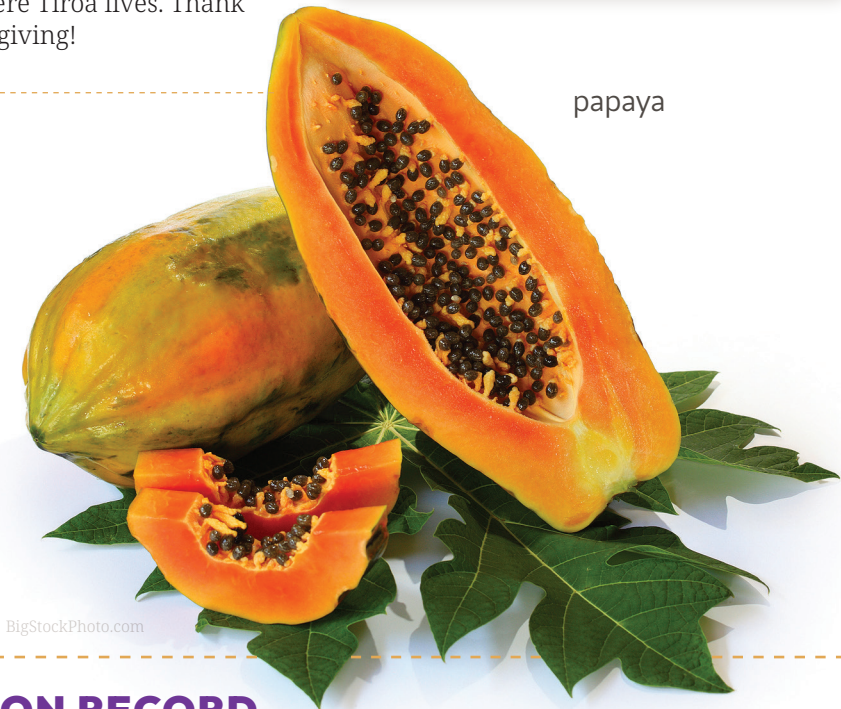
Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help support children's health projects in Vanuatu, as well as in the Solomon Islands, where Tiroa lives. Thank you for your faithful giving!

By Charlotte Ishkanian

Story Tips

- Show the location of the Solomon Islands on a map
- Pronounce Tiroa as: tee-ROH-ah.
- Pronounce Enta as: EHN-tah.
- Know that this story was originally published in the *Children's Mission* quarterly for the fourth quarter of 2022.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

papaya



BigStockPhoto.com



MISSION RECORD

Pioneer Adventist missionaries to the Solomon Islands were G. F. Jones and his wife, sent by the mission board of Australasia. Landing on the island of Gizo on May 29, 1914, Jones obtained a local crew for his boat, the *Advent Herald*, and sailed for Viru on the west coast of New Georgia, where he established headquarters for the mission work and opened a school.



13th SABBATH | March 28

Orlando and Nathaniel

Orlando and the Big Rescue

How old do you have to be to make a difference for God?

Orlando is a boy who lives in Australia. He's the big brother in his family. His younger brother is named Nathaniel, and the boys enjoy playing together and learning new things. Orlando especially loves adventures, stories, and learning about God.

One day, something amazing happened—Orlando was asked to help with a special project called *The Rescue*.

The Rescue is a fun and exciting show made for kids and families. It tells the story of a family that finds a special book. This book reveals that a big battle is happening all around them—a battle between good and evil—even though they can't always see it. Right in the middle of all this action is Someone special Who is watching over them and ready to help. That Someone is called the Rescuer. The Rescuer is strong, kind, and full of love. He wants to save everyone and help them choose the right path. The Rescuer is Jesus!

In the show, both animations and puppet characters tell the story. Orlando had a cool job—he became the voice of a puppet

character named Jono. That means that when Jono talks in the show, it's actually Orlando's voice you hear!

Being the voice of Jono wasn't always easy. Orlando had to go into a recording studio and speak into a microphone. He had to say his lines again and again until they sounded just right. Sometimes, it took lots of tries to get it perfect. But Orlando didn't give up. He worked hard and kept going. He even got to sing some songs for the show, which he really enjoyed.

But something even more special happened while Orlando was working on *The Rescue*. He began to learn more about God—not just in his head, but in his heart. As he acted out Jono's story, Orlando discovered ways to face challenges in his own life, too.

In one episode, Jono was blamed for something he didn't do. That felt really unfair! But instead of yelling or getting upset, Jono talked to his dad. His dad listened and helped him understand that something like this had happened before—to someone in the Bible named Joseph. Joseph was also blamed unfairly, but he trusted God anyway.



Jono and his dad read Joseph's story together and then prayed, asking God to help them stay calm and strong.

Another time, Jono was being bullied. Someone at school was being mean to him. This made Jono feel sad and confused. But Jono learned that he didn't have to handle it alone. He could ignore the bully, ask an adult for help, and most importantly, talk to God about how he was feeling.

Orlando said these stories helped him in real life. He learned that when something goes wrong, he can take a deep breath, talk to someone he trusts, and pray. "I've learned that even if people do the wrong thing, God still loves them," Orlando said. "And He still loves me."

When people asked Orlando why he wanted to be in *The Rescue*, he smiled and said, "Because I want other kids to know about God, too. I want them to know that Jesus loves them."

Orlando's mum said she noticed a big change in him. He was more confident and

Story Tips

- Show the location of Australia on a map.
- Watch *The Rescue* at TheRescue.au and hear Orlando voicing the character of Jono.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share facts and activities relating to the South Pacific Division: bit.ly/spd-2026.

more patient. "He's learning to trust God," she said. "And he's starting to see that he can do big things—even as a kid."

So, how old do you have to be to make a difference for God?

Just ask Orlando. You don't need to be grown-up. You just need to be willing to say, "Yes, God! I want to help." *The Rescue* is produced by Abide Family Ministries and was created to help children and families around the world learn about Jesus in an



Before 13th Sabbath

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

interesting and entertaining way. And thanks to kids like Orlando, the message is spreading far and wide. 🌐

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the fourth quarter of 2022 helped make the The Rescue series possible. Thank you for your continued support of Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.

By Kimberly Houliston



MISSION RECORD

In 1884, a teenager named Henrietta Johnson, who later married evangelist and editor Robert Hare, sold all her jewelry to help send colporteurs to Australia.

On May 10, 1885, Stephen Haskell sailed with a group of missionaries from the United States to Sydney, Australia, arriving on Sabbath, June 6, 1885.

The Avondale School began in 1897 as an important part of the Avondale School for Christian Workers. It later became the Australasian Missionary College and, eventually, Avondale College.

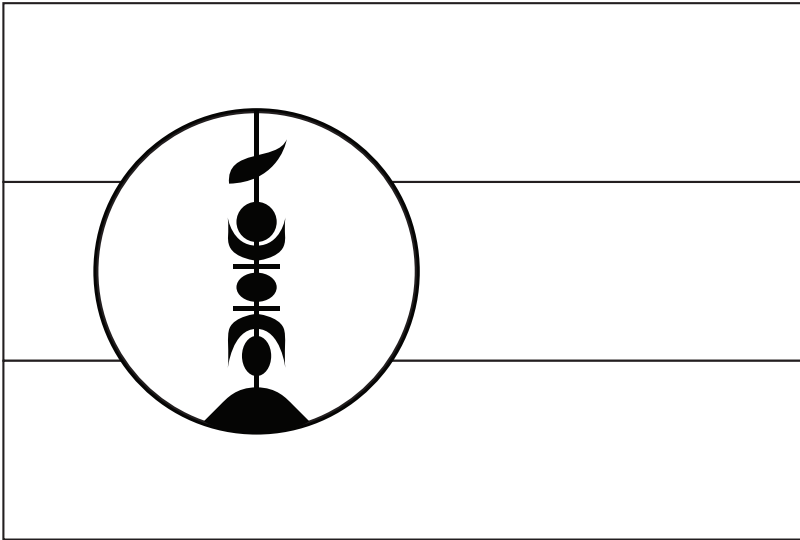
The first graduating class of the Avondale School (1902) was made up of two education and three business students.

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

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

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

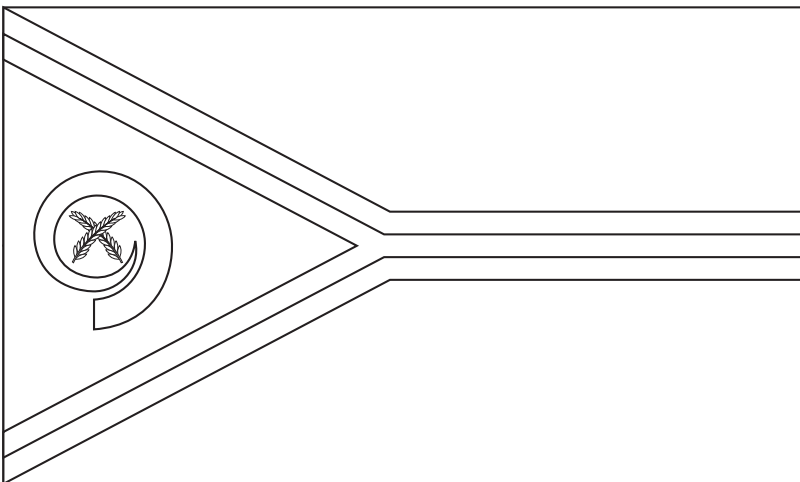
Color The Flag



NEW CALEDONIA

DIRECTIONS:

The top third of the Vanak flag is colored dark blue, the middle third is red, and the bottom third is green. The circle is colored yellow, and the figure inside it is colored black.

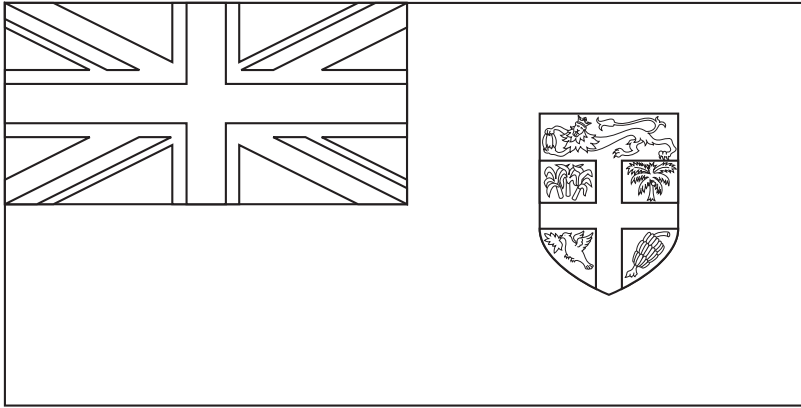


VANUATU

DIRECTIONS:

The sideways Y is colored yellow, as is the symbol within the black on the left. The triangle on the left, as well as the stripes above and below the yellow Y are colored black. The top half of the flag is colored red, and the bottom half is colored green.

Color The Flag



FIJI

DIRECTIONS:

Color the background of the flag light blue.

For the Union Jack in the top left corner –

The center of the + shaped cross is colored red; the outside is white. The main part of the X shaped cross is white, the thin stripes inside the cross are red. Color the triangular shapes on all sides of the + cross dark blue.

For the shield on the right –

Color the cross and the background of the lion red. Color the lion yellow and leave the ball in its paws white. Leave the backgrounds of the four small pictures white. Color the leaves of the tree, the sugarcane, and the leaves in the bird's mouth green. Color the trunk of the tree, the stalks of the sugarcane, and the stem of the banana bunch brown. Color the bananas yellow. Leave the dove white.

Make a Craft

VANUATU

WOOD CARVING - MASKS

One of the popular crafts of Vanuatu is wood carving in the shapes of animals, birds, fish, and canoes. They also carve masks, which can be painted. Below is a drawing of a carved mask from Vanuatu. You can download a printable version at bit.ly/spd-2026 and have the children color it in with crayons, colored pencils, or paint.



Play a Game!

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS SHELL GAME

Played by two or more players. Suitable for children aged five and older

EQUIPMENT:

Four small shells of similar kind and size for each player. Any type of shell can be used as long as there is an up-side and a down-side.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To start the game, each player throws all four shells like dice on the floor. The aim is to get all the shells to land either upward or downward. If all four shells land facing upward, the player starts the game with eight points. If all four shells land facing downward, the player starts the game with four points. It may take time for all the players to get their shells to land in one direction.
2. Once everyone is ready, each player draws a line so they have two shells on one side and two on the other.
3. Flick one of the shells across the line and try to hit a shell on the other side to score a point. Repeat with the remaining two shells. If a player misses hitting the shell, they lose the turn. Each player takes a turn to flick their two shells and try to score the maximum two points each time.
4. The winner is the player with the most points when everyone is finished, or the first one to reach an agreed number of points.

<https://cdn.wellbeing.sa.gov.au/downloads/Children-Game-Fiji-Shells.pdf>

Speak a Language

| ENGLISH | FIJIAN | FRENCH (NEW CALEDONIA) | BISLAMA (VANUATU) |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| boy | <i>gone</i> | <i>garçon</i> | <i>boe</i> |
| girl | <i>goneyalewa</i> | <i>fille</i> | <i>gel</i> |
| mother | <i>tina</i> | <i>mère</i> | <i>mama</i> |
| father | <i>tama</i> | <i>père</i> | <i>dadi</i> |
| brother | <i>taciqu</i> | <i>frère</i> | <i>brata</i> |
| sister | <i>taciqu</i> | <i>sœur</i> | <i>sista</i> |
| Jesus | <i>Jisu</i> | <i>Jésus</i> | <i>Jisas</i> |
| church | <i>lotu</i> | <i>église</i> | <i>Jioj</i> |
| happy | <i>marau</i> | <i>heureux/ heureuse</i> | <i>happy</i> |

Let's Cook!

FIJIAN DAHL

Makes 6 servings

Fijian Dahl is a thick lentil stew that is delicious with flatbread.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup (210 g) yellow split peas
6 cups (1.4 l) water
1 tsp turmeric
1 tsp salt
½ onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced

2 tsp mustard seeds (black if available)
1 tsp chili powder
1 tbsp oil
¼ cup (60 ml) coconut milk (optional)
½ tbsp fresh coriander, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bring the split peas, water, salt, and turmeric to a boil in a large saucepan, then reduce the heat and simmer until they are soft (45–60 minutes).

While the peas cook, sauté the onion and garlic in hot oil until they turn golden, then add the mustard seed and

chili powder. Fry for another two to three minutes.

When the split peas are cooked, stir in the onion mixture. If desired, stir in the coconut milk for a creamier texture. Sprinkle the chopped coriander onto the top. Serve with flatbread.

<https://boondockingrecipes.com/fijian-dahl-recipe/>



BigStockPhoto.com

Leader's Resources

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

Online Information

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

Websites

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Fiji: government website | fiji.gov.fj/Home |
| BBC Country Profile | bbc.in/3BLEq38 |
| Fiji Travel | fiji.travel |
| New Caledonia: government website | gouv.nc |
| New Caledonia Travel | au.newcaledonia.travel |
| WikiTravel | bit.ly/WT_NewCal |
| Vanuatu: government website | gov.vu |
| Vanuatu Travel | vanuatu.travel/en/ |
| BBC Country Profile | bbc.in/4g096ad |

Seventh-day Adventist

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

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

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children's mission

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Children's Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2026 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

First Quarter 2026

Volume 115, Number 1

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SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

PROJECTS

| UNIONS | CHURCHES | COMPANIES | MEMBERSHIP | POPULATION |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Australian | 450 | 112 | 65,477 | 27,304,000 |
| New Zealand Pacific | 158 | 48 | 22,291 | 5,945,000 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,203 | 3,662 | 595,786 | 9,690,000 |
| Trans Pacific | 579 | 962 | 141,093 | 2,525,000 |
| Division Totals | 2,390 | 4,784 | 824,647 | 45,464,000 |

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

