

# 2021

# TRANS-FORM

*Trans Pacific Union*

Newsletter 01, Jan-Mar

## Be a Transformer!

On Easter weekend, I was sharing devotions for the youth camp that was held at Navesau Adventist High School in Fiji. What I saw really inspired me. These young people were not there just to have a good time, however were there to transform Navesau. They planted thousands of root crops, vegetables, painted railings and cleaned up the place. At the end of the camp, they donated many things for the school – from equipment for the computer lab, cooking utensils, fencing wire and even family household items. I am sure that it amounted to worth thousands of dollars.

I literally saw our Vision Statement come alive. I saw ***'A Vibrant Adventist youth movement, living their hope in Jesus and transforming Navesau'***. I know that there were many youth camps around the TPUM who also did similar things and I praise the Lord for the commitment our people have made to transform our Pacific.

We can work together to transform our communities, and we can also do it individually. Jesus Christ illustrates this with this Parable in Matthew 13:33: *"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast...mixed into...flour until it is worked all through the dough."* Jesus invites us to imagine the amazing properties of a little bit of yeast; it can make dough rise so that it bakes into wonderful bread. Like yeast, only a small expression of the kingdom of Jesus Christ in our lives can make an incredible impact on the lives and culture of people around us.

This transforming agent called yeast is not very noticeable. Another interesting phrase in the verse says yeast is "mixed into" which can also mean "hidden in." Our best influence and transforming is often through quiet actions of service and love by which we are not drawing attention to ourselves.

I have seen this happening throughout our region, people transforming their communities. As they quietly gather for worship and bring people into the presence of Jesus, positive influences spread out through the community, transforming behaviours, systems, and the culture of the entire community.

Yeast has a purpose to fulfill while interacting with the dough. Likewise we also have a purpose of living out the values of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ as we interact with people, institutions, and communities wherever we are placed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can have an amazing influence to TRANSFORM our surroundings for the glory of God. Are you a Transformer for the Lord?

*Pr Maveni Kaufononga*  
President - Trans Pacific Union



# HIGHLIGHTS



## New Strategic Plan for Solomon Island Ministers

The annual ministers' meetings for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Solomon Islands were held from Monday, March 1, to Saturday evening, March 6, bringing together pastors, ministers and church volunteers from across the country to inspire, encourage and develop a new strategic plan for the next quinquennium (2021–2025).

“Ministers have been trained to go back to local churches to engage members to use their God-given gifts and abilities to serve, love and care for others,” said Solomon Islands Mission president Dr Silent Tovosia.

– Adventist Record

## Hope Radio puts Kiribati President on the path to good health

The Kiribati President and First Lady are participating in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) after tuning in to the local Hope Radio station.

President Taneti Maamau and his wife Teiraeng—regular Hope Radio listeners—are taking part in CHIP after listening to the station's health messages. And they are already experiencing the benefits of the lifestyle intervention program.

– Adventist Record



## Juice bar a Center of Influence in Fiji's Tourist capital

Three churches in Fiji's western division have started what they never would have thought possible—an open bar, but one that sells natural, herbal juices to fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Votualevu, Namaka and Nadi English Seventh-Day Adventist churches teamed up to open Bitu Wellness Centre, or "Bitu Bar", as it is commonly known—a wellness bar in the heart of the nation's tourism capital, Nadi.

"It is more of a centre of influence for the community where people from all walks of life who have decided to take care of their bodies come and learn how to take care of their body, which literally is the temple of God," says Bitu Bar founder and 10,000 Toes coordinator for the Trans Pacific Union Mission, George Kwong.

– Isaac Lal



## American Samoa Youth Impact Communities – GYD

GYD for American Samoa Mission kicked off with 2 phases. On Mar 6th, 2021 the first Act of Kindness was food packages distributed to our local Tongan Community. We collected 300 food packages that were distributed on Sabbath afternoon by our local Youths & Pathfinders. This was also highlighted in the GC GYD live broadcast in the SPD segment.

The 2nd phase highlighted the GYD week and also kicked off our Week of Prayer by our youth. The 2nd phase was held at the Dept of Youth and Women (DYWA) Gym at the Pago Pago - Eastern side of the island, where 21 local church youth groups/Pathfinder clubs & Adventurers gather to distribute over 1000 food packages/baskets, clothes, and toiletries care packages for the East side of the island.

This day was made possible by the support from local churches and it was a combined effort by our Youths/Pathfinders & Adventurers. This is planned to be an ongoing Adventist Community Service initiative by our Youth Dept during the months of July & November of this year for the Central and Western side of the island, where our youths & Pathfinders will gather provide and distribute food packages for our less fortunate families in the Central and Western parts of the island. – Steve Pelenato



## Vanuatu Mission planning & moving forward together

The Vanuatu Mission spent a whole week for planning and staff development during their moratorium week in February. Sharing their visions and goals for the next 5 years. At the end of the week they all spent the Sabbath together at the Portoroki Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was the first time all mission workers including directors, ancillary staff and ADRA Vanuatu staff worshipped together at a local church.

- Vanuatu Mission/Facebook



## Youth in Tonga share Youth Week of Prayer on Hope TV



Youth groups from various Adventist churches in Tonga, prepared nightly sermons and songs for the youth week of prayer from the 20th to the 27th of March, which was aired on Hope Channel Tonga at 9pm every evening. The response from the viewing public and church members was overwhelming, igniting a sense of 'wanting to be involved' by the youth. This all culminated at the District Meeting during the Easter Weekend, at the Vaka Ua hall was packed with the different youth groups participating at the closing of the meeting singing songs of praise.

- Peter Grewe | Hope Channel Tonga

## New Web Portal for Hope Bible School Fiji

Hope Bible School (Fiji) now exists online on a portal hosted by Voice of Prophecy. It was launched on the 23rd of March 2021. Voice of Prophecy have established an online portal for us to create our own local Bible school. All contacts details of interests go directly to them, but accessed as they share. Like other portals that exist with Voice of Prophecy, Hope Bible School offers Discover Lessons in English and Hindi, Focus on Prophecy, Trouble-shooters, Kid Zone, Light of the World, and Shema. Interests can access Hope Bible School on-line courses on this link - [bibleschools.com/1547](https://bibleschools.com/1547)



- QR Code Link to Bible School



- Pr Toma Naivalu | HC Fiji Bible School

## Prime Minister Visits Funafuti SDA Primary



Funafuti SDA Primary school in Tuvalu were honoured to welcome the prime minister Honorable Kausea Natao's first visit to the school on the 12th February, 2021.

He acknowledged the hard work of teachers in educating our future leaders and encouraged students to study hard-our land is very small literally. But if one is well educated-your piece of land is determined by your education and it will not be restricted to Tuvalu only. The government will try its best to assist the school in any way possible so that the school can best deliver quality education.

According to the principal Kima Pedro, "all staff are paid by government and on-going financial support from the government. Yet, we are thankful that we are able to still run the school as an Adventist school. Increase of enrollment for this year 316 and 12 staff, parents see the value and outcome from this school, 88% of our students comes from non-Adventist families, what a great opportunity for revealing Jesus in our school."

- TPU Education | Conch Shell

## 1st Adventist ECE Center in the Kingdom

Hilliard Memorial School and Beulah Primary School had reached a very important milestone in the history of the two schools for the official grand opening of their new ECE learning centers respectively. There were thirty four students for Hilliard School ECE with two teachers and about twenty two students with one teacher for Beulah Primary School ECE.



The Chief Executive Officer for the Tonga Ministry of Education and Training, Dr Tangikina Moimoi Steen was the Guest of Honor for Hilliard Memorial School and the Honorable Minister for Tonga Ministry of Education and Training, Honorable Hu'akavameiliku was the Guest of Honor for Beulah Primary School's ECE opening program. The President of the Tonga Mission, Pr Fanueli Mataele led out in the devotion and also conducted the dedicatory prayer of the facilities used for the ECE centers.

All stakeholders of the two schools were excited and overwhelmed by the program and also the initiatives Tonga now in its current Legislation has made it mandatory that all children are to enter school at the age of four through Early Childhood Education(ECE). Praise be to God for making this long awaited dream come true in a timely manner.



- TPU Education | Conch Shell

## Enrollment Increases at Fulton Adventist University College

Despite travel restrictions, and other factors that may discourage students from wanting to pursue tertiary Adventist Education, Fulton Adventist University College saw an increase in student numbers this year.

Program	2019	2020	2021
Foundation	30	26	38
Education	185	181	222
Theology	70	69	78
Early Childhood Education	13	8	13
<b>Total Undergrad (Enrolment)</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>429</b>

We praise God for the increase in student enrollment, however are now challenged with facilities, such as dorms and classroom space.



- Linda Brook | Student Services FAUC

## Successful CHIP for Staff at FNPF – Hope Clinic



The Hope Clinic team in Fiji ran another Successful Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) from the 8th of March to the 8th of April for HOD staff at the Fiji National provident fund. A total of 20 participants all enjoyed the program losing a combine total weight of 123kg in 30 days. The group has made such an impact to other staff who now also want to join in the next available CHIP program.

- Sofaia Vodosese | Hope Clinic

## SAC Community Service

Samoa Adventist College kicked off its community service outreach program for the year on the 26th of February.



A not-for-profit organization, Goshen Trust was selected as the focus of the community service outreach program with the staff and students contributing in cash and in-kind. This organization was established in 2009 with the primary objective of supporting people living with mental health issues. The program was led out by the school's spiritual committee, headed by the school chaplain Evander Tuai-faiva together with the help of the senior class (year 13) who represented the school. The students and teachers performed songs and interacted briefly with the residents housed at the charitable facility.

The handover ceremony for the donations took place at the end of the program with the school donating a cheque of \$1,500 SAT with a few other food baskets. The Chief Executive Officer of Goshen Trust, Naomi Eshraghi, who was on hand to receive the donations, responded with thanks and gratitude for the act of kindness shown by the school.

- TPU Education | Conch Shell



# Adventist Education *Moving Forward*

- Mere Vaihola | TPU Education Director

The COVID 19 pandemic suddenly surfaced and brought with it changes that challenged us to re-think unusual approaches and re-design best practices. But through it all one thing for sure that remained unchanged in such unprecedented times was God's faithful leading. The increase of discipleship making and community involvement, outstanding public examination results in 2020, the increase of student enrollment Adventist schools in 2021 are a few to mention of God's faithfulness and goodness. The new quinquennium 2021-2025 begins with a new team of Adventist educational leaders moving forward with God in revealing Jesus in our schools, and empowering our schools to be vibrant Adventist schools, living our hope in Jesus and transforming the Pacific.

## 4 Pillars for this Quinquennium

### 1. *Adventist Identity*

Distinctive Adventist teacher professional envelopment trainings which started in the previous quinquennium remains a timely resolution in promoting the Adventist ethos and identity in all Adventist schools in the region. The COVID 19 pandemic disrupted the progress of this significant strategic pillar but praise God it is already starting to pickup in this new quinquennium with new approaches, insights and dimensions.

### 2. *Quality Leadership & Governance*

Leadership and governance is one of the four strategic pillars for the new quinquennium in ensuring quality Adventist schools in the region. Professional development trainings

and leadership mentorship paramount to effective leadership and governance have been challenged by various factors including the pandemic COVID 19.

### 3. *Quality Institution*

Ensuring thriving quality institutions in the region is the third strategic pillar for the new quinquennium that is influential on the outcomes of Adventist education in the region.

### 4. *Systemic Support*

The final strategic pillar addresses the increasing need for improved and effective systemic support in Adventist education across the region. Changing times such as these unprecedented times requires stronger systemic support than ever before.

## Adventist Education 2021 Theme: *'Moving Forward'*

The uncertainty of the COVID19 pandemic affirms the Creator God of Adventist Education is still in control regardless. Thank you to the SPD Education Department for their valuable support and strength in empowering the TPUM Education Department to move forward and make a difference. I am ever grateful to the former education directors in the previous quinquennium for the work you have done bringing us thus far. To all staff and teachers, parents and church members, thank you for your prayers and support and for your perseverance during these difficult times. I also would like to invite the new team members for this quinquennium to aspire to God's divine calling to educate for now and for eternity.

# Pacific Women of Prayer

## *International Women's day of Prayer*

The International Women's day of Prayer was celebrated on the 6th of March, 2021. Women leaders prayed and prepare for the celebration of this special day. Reports were sent to the TPUM from leaders around the Union to show that churches celebrated this day with different activities like Prayer Breakfast, Prayer Walking, Prayer Retreats, combined zone church Services for the whole day, Inter-Church Women's group fellowship, Praying and fasting, inviting Non Adventist friends/-women to Prayer fellowship, inviting women leaders in the local community to the Prayer fellowship, running Prayer workshop/seminar, a church had crafts and cooking demonstration on Thursday in their local community to promote and invite women to join the celebration on Sabbath and many more.

Women around the TPUM were challenged and encouraged to answer God's call where ever they are. It was a great time of praying and feasting upon God's word, It's my prayer that

God will continue to empower and enable everyone with the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to always answer "I will Go", when He calls.

We give the Glory to God for the great work that He is doing through the Holy Spirit in the lives of women in the TPUM and we look forward to more that God will still do through their humble Ministries to touch lives and lead people to Jesus.





# New Appointments

## ***Vanuatu Mission***



Pr Charlie Jimmy  
Mission President



Pr Kaio Timothy  
Mission Secretary



Mr Tom Noka  
Mission CFO

## ***Solomon Is. Mission***



Pr Silent Tovosia  
Mission President



Pr David Filo  
Mission Secretary



Mr Geoffrey Samuel  
Mission CFO

## ***Fiji Mission***



Pr Nasoni Lutunaliwa  
Mission President



Dr Ronald Stone  
Mission Secretary



Mr Apisalome Seru  
Mission CFO

## ***Samoa & Tokelau Mission***



Pr Sione Ausage  
Mission President



Pr Neru Nuualii  
Mission Secretary



Mr Ben Tofilau  
Mission CFO

## ***Kiribati Mission***



Pr Taabua Rokeatau  
Mission President

## ***American Samoa Mission***



Pr Kenneth Fuliese  
Mission President

## ***Tonga Mission***



Pr Fanueli Mataele  
Mission President

## **TPUM Executive Committee Members**

Pr Tiko Kabu - Fiji  
Mrs Jean Rose Seth - Vanuatu  
Mr Fremden Shadrack - Vanuatu  
Mr Felise Sam Chong - Samoa  
Mrs Barbara Kiere - Solomon Is  
Mrs Litia Vateitei - Fiji  
Dr Kathy Uriam - Kiribati  
Pr Steve Aquila - Solomon Is  
Dr Raelyn Esau - Tonga  
Mrs Emey Toa - A.Samoa

## **TPUM Region & Fields**

### ***Niue Field***



Pr Titau Tavita  
Niue Field Pastor

### ***Nauru Field***



Pr Joe Navakalomana  
Nauru Field Pastor

### ***Tuvalu Region***



Pr Vaguna Satupa  
Tuvalu Region Pastor

# Faithfulness

## In Tithes & Offerings

In Malachi 3:10 (NIV), the Lord says to "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

The Lord asks each of us to return a faithful tithe and offering, and when we do, He blesses us. The positive results of tithes and offerings in our Union is testament to this promise by God. It then becomes the responsibility of those of us as treasurers, deacons, elders and leaders in all levels of our organisation to demonstrate a faithful stewardship of the blessings God has given us to support His work.

Recent report from our world church (GC) shows that world mission offerings went down by 18% in 2020 and tithe fell 11% for all other divisions as a group except for NAD and SPD with increases of 1.7% and 2.33% respectively. We praise God for this result in our area despite the economic downturn caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

In our Union, over the past five years, the annual tithe has increase 21.2%, growing from \$17.27 million in 2016 to \$20.94 million in 2020. Total Union-wide planned giving offerings also saw an increase over the quinquennium, increasing 18.6%, from \$5.53 million in 2016 to \$6.56 million in 2020.



We express our gratitude to God for His provisions in the last five years with the steady growth in tithes and offerings in our Union.

When Covid-19 hit us in 2020, we anticipated our tithes and offerings to fall as churches temporarily closed and economic activities disrupted.



\*all figures are in FJD

We pondered how the finances of our missions and entities would manage. Initial results in the first and second quarters of last year had already showed a drop in tithes and offerings for some of our larger missions which was expected.

***'However, we praise God for our members' faithfulness that tithes and offerings have bounced back close to annual budget levels by the end of 2020'***

# Faithfulness

## *In Tithes & Offerings*

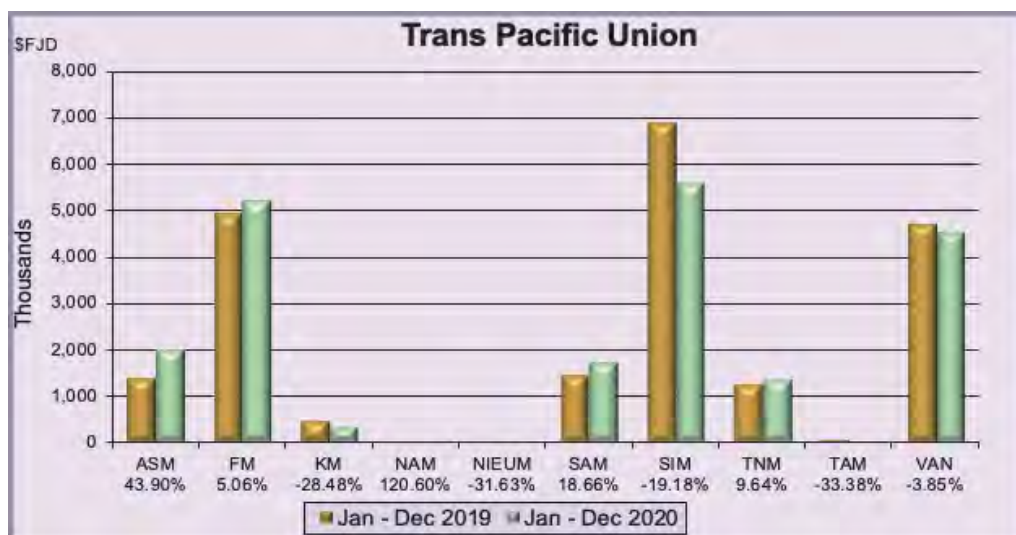
However, we praise God for our members' faithfulness that tithes and offerings have bounced back close to annual budget levels by the end of 2020 for some of our Missions.

American Samoa had the biggest increase in tithe with 43.90%, which is quite an achievement for an Attached Region that just became a new separate Mission at end of 2020. Fiji Mission (5.06%), Samoa Mission (18.66%) and Tonga Mission (9.64%) also have increases in tithes in 2020. On the other hand, Solomon Mission (-19.18%), Vanuatu Mission (-3.85%) and Kiribati Mission (-28.48%) had drop in tithes in 2020. We anticipate tithes and offerings will slowly pick up again this year onwards as countries start to recover from the economic effects of Covid-19.

Overall, our comparative year-to-date combined tithe fell by 1.91% from 2019, which is a very good result, better than what we anticipated.

Again, we praise God for our members' faithfulness in tithes and offerings despite the challenges they go through, in supporting God's work and mission.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude and thanks to our faithful treasurers, deacons, elders and church leaders for combined efforts in ensuring tithes and offerings reach the storehouse. To God be the glory!



*'We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to our faithful treasurers, deacons, elders and church leaders'*

# In Preparation of *HIS COMING*

– Phalguni James | Health Director, Vanuatu Mission



As we move towards the close of earth's history, we look forward to the second coming of Jesus. We look forward to that day when there will be no sickness, sorrow or death. God has given us help and direction in His Holy Word, to prepare us for life eternal. We as a church, have been given the Health Message recorded and written by God's inspired messenger Ellen G. White. The Adventist Health message is very relevant in time and age. Evidence-based practical and wholistic healthy lifestyle behaviours can protect us from many lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension and infectious diseases caused by various viruses and bacteria.

With the current pandemic we face now, there are many issues and confusion that may arise in our local churches. We would like to clear this as much as possible and help our members live abundant lives. Here are a few statements from the General Conference Department of Health Ministries, General Conference Biblical Research Institute, and Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health to help our understanding. "Adventist Health Ministries is firmly based on the Bible, the instruction of the Spirit of Prophecy through Ellen White, and is in line with peer-reviewed, evidence-based health science. We rely on these foundations in formulating health approaches and advice.

With millions infected, and many dead, and global infections on the increase, a number of vaccines have been developed in record time. There are many questions people are asking regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. As a church, while we support evidence-based public health recommendations, we are also careful not to make statements that may be seen as replacing national and international public health guidelines.

For this reason, it is important for our comments to be understood within the framework of our official church position on immunization.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church places strong emphasis on health and well-being. The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writing of E. G. White (co-founder of the Church), and on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

As such, we encourage responsible immunization/vaccination, and have no religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our members to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunization programs. We value the health and safety of the population, which includes the maintenance of 'herd immunity.' "The church cannot control a personal choice. These are exercised by the individual. The choice not to be immunized is not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

It is my deepest desire that our church members take the time to read the counsels on health from the spirit of prophecy. Some of the books that we would like to recommend to help you understand the Adventist Health Message are Counsels on Diet and Food, Ministry of Healing, Counsels on Health, Health Food Ministry, Medical Ministry, and Healthful Living & Temperance. These books can be downloaded on your mobile device or tablets for free from the EGW Writings app or you can buy yourself a copy from the Adventist Hope Book Store.

For concerns regarding the vaccines, talk to your local health professional to explain to you or clear your concerns with regards to the vaccine. It is my earnest hope and prayer that through the help of the Holy Spirit we continue to keep our eyes on Jesus and continue to participate in fulfilling the Gospel Commission by answering to the call in the affirmative, "I Will Go".

# 'On the Mat'

## Communication Post-COVID

-John Tausere | TPU Communication Coordinator



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many things have changed on a world scale. The Pacific has also been majorly impacted. From border restrictions, social distancing, to the cancellations of many major social and public events. Even worship and church services have changed. The Trans Pacific Union had to also make changes. Especially with borders closed, meetings and events that were supposed to have been done in person, now had to be done using video conferencing technology via Zoom and other digital platforms available.

Despite the negative impact and disruptions to the 'normal way' of how we used to do things, many positives were also discovered. 'New-normal' scenarios were developed and implemented. One of which was the inception of **"on the Mat"**. An on-line 'Live' interview show from the Trans Pacific Union office featuring guests from around the Pacific and even the world. 'On the Mat' concept is very Pacific in nature, where conversations, ideas and stories are usually shared. This time however its on a 'digital Mat'.

The weekly episodes are hosted by Meri Vuloalua (TPU Admin Secretary) and John Tausere (TPU Communications coordinator). They hope that these conversations will not only inspire Pacific members, but also resource them in a way where they can also be empowered to share important information and news to their local churches and communities.

The team so far has had the opportunity to interview and talk to guests from the General Conference, The South Pacific Division and throughout the Trans Pacific Union mission, from the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and American Samoa. The weekly episodes can be found on the TPUM Facebook and YouTube pages.

We believe God has given these digital tools for us to work with during these interesting times. Allowing us to continue sharing the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ, transforming the Pacific in readiness of His soon return!





*Trans Pacific*

*'Trans-form' is the official quarterly newsletter of the Trans Pacific Union Mission. Feel free to send news worthy Stories and testimonies to [JohnTausere@adventist.org.fj](mailto:JohnTausere@adventist.org.fj)*

## Important Events 2021

### April

12th - 17th | Stewardship Week of Prayer  
12th - 14th | Education director's Advisory (Fiji)  
28th - 2nd May | Ministerial Advisory

### May

5th - 10th | TPUM Executive Mid-Year Meetings  
15th | Adventurers day  
16th | Fiji Mission & SIM Mid year meetings  
19th | Samoa & Tonga Mid year meetings  
20th | Am.Samoa Mid year meetings  
23rd | Vanuatu & Kiribati Mid year meetings

### July

3rd | GC Prayer & Fasting Day  
5th - 8th | SPD Executive committee meetings

### August

7th - 14th | Adventist Education Week  
30th | TPUM Excom Meeting

### September

18th | Pathfinder Day

### October

2nd | GC Prayer & Fasting Day  
15th - 17th | ASA Weekend  
25th - 30th | TPUM Professional development week

### November

6th - 13th | Adventist World Week of Prayer  
14th | Fulton Education Board  
17th - 22nd | TPUM year end Executive meetings  
21st | Fulton Graduation  
28th | Fiji & Vanuatu year end meetings

### December

1st | Samoa & Tonga year end meetings  
2nd | Am.Samoa year end meetings  
5th | Kiribati & SIM year end meetings

