

Sonoma adjusts to “new normal”

THE Sonoma Adventist College in East New Britain has adjusted to the “new normal” brought on by the Corona-virus disease.

The college set up basins at various locations on campus and at the Sonoma Adventist Demonstration School to allow students and staff to regularly wash their hands.

After the lockdown, the college administration also shifted into five weeks of intensive programme.

This meant that there were lectures for a week and students covered two weeks of content.

Work Education was scheduled to Sundays while the 6pm-6am curfew was rescheduled to 10pm-6am.

Trips into town were monitored, with only 20 passengers allowed on the school truck. Staff took their trips on Thursdays and Fridays and students on Sundays.

Although small unit worship was encouraged, the administration made provision for combine worship to be compliant with social distancing standards.

Despite the intensive programme, students said they found the busyness somewhat worthwhile.

Meanwhile, when PNG went into lockdown, the college had a good reserve of tapiok to last several months.

Hence, it was one of the communities that donated food to the wards in East New Britain.

The Papua New Guinea Union Mission owns the college which has about 650 students enrolled in six different courses.

The courses are Advanced Diploma in Tropical Agriculture, Advanced Diploma in Building, Advanced Diploma in Business, Advanced Diploma in Ministry and Theology, Bachelor in Education-Primary and Bachelor in Education-Early Childhood.

Located 17 km from Kokopo, the college is set on several hundred hectares of fertile land.

As a result, the college farm and plantation sustain its



Sonoma Adventist Principal Dr Isako Esekia leading by example. Hand-washing is required to prevent the spread of COVID-19

cafeteria services with staple food crop like tapiok, aibika, dry coconuts and firewood.

With the lockdown lapsing into uncharted territory, one fact remains and that is God still is in control.

Our prayer should be just like Elisha's prayer (2 Kings 6:17) - to open our eyes so we see God's angel watching over us, thus we continue to press on!

– Joros Sawi

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Homeless, rejects discover Jesus

Meet Neroly Silas, a very special person in Jesus Christ, who has the heart to lead people to God.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Neroly, who lives in Boroko, Port Moresby, visited few of her non-Adventist friends on the streets in her neighbourhood. Boroko is one of the busiest suburbs in Port Moresby.

They studied the Bible together using the Discovery Bible Reading method.

The Central Papua Conference supported her with bibles and other resources, which she shared with the group.

The Discovery Bible Reading method had a great impact in their lives.

As a result, a church has grown on the streets of Boroko.

According to Central Papua Conference (CPC) Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director Pr Miller Kuso, each Bible study session ends with a meal, sharing of experiences and prayer.

Those attending the bible study sessions are homeless families, prostitutes and those rejected by their families.

Meanwhile, the Drain Discovery Bible Reading small group has brought together people living along the drain that runs from China town into parts of East Boroko.



Neroly Silas

They are studying the Bible and are eagerly sharing their new-found knowledge about Jesus with their families.

Pr Kuso said among those who are studying together are Moli, Dodo, Nopi and Koma.

They are very passionate about their new friend Jesus. They discovered Jesus when they studied the Bible during the lockdown. They now want to know more about the church that is visiting them.

Among the many groups that exist in CPC are five small groups in Kalo, Central province. The groups comprise young people.

Pr Kuso reported that many people in the conference had joined small groups that were created to study the Bible during the COVID-19 lockdown.



The small group at the Boroko drain studying the Bible together.



Studying together on Sabbath.



A group meeting opposite the Boroko police station at night.



Small group Bible study.....

Small groups grew in all local missions in PNGUM during the coronavirus lockdown. When church buildings were closed, people gathered in these groups to study the Bible, pray and encourage each other. Pictured is a group of men studying using the Discovery Bible Reading method in West Coast, New Ireland province. – Picture by Pr Richard Koro

Children learn Bible study methods

The Children's Ministries and Education Department of the PNG Union Mission are working together to nurture children in their homes, churches and schools.

Children's Ministries director Minister Jochabed Pomaleu and Associate Education director Serah Keliwin have been conducting trainings on effective Bible study methods for children and the Bible Summary project respectively.

Since last year, both leaders visited schools in various local missions to conduct the trainings. Among their trainings this year, they visited three schools in the South West Papua Mission from March 1-8 to empower students, teachers and parents, leaders and young adults.

Min Pomaleu showed 307 students a method used to effectively study the Bible.

This method of Bible study is one way of discipling at home, school and church.

Another 176 youths and parents also attended the training.

Mrs Pomaleu said it was a wonderful sight as children excitedly searched for answers in their Bibles.

"They've taken this method with them and I expect their worship in their homes, churches and schools to be lively.

"I believe that if all take that journey to empower effective reading of God's word, we will make better disciples for Jesus," she said.

Open churches: PNGUM

The Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) has directed that all church buildings must be opened for congregations to worship.

In a circular released on June 23, PNGUM secretary Pr Henry Monape said COVID-19 restrictions on social distancing and hygiene must be maintained.

Pr Monape added that people should continue to worship in small groups.

"Strictly maintain 100 or less as a manageable number in both small groups and main worship places.

"Maintain 1.5 meter spacing with-

in each person in all our worship places," he said.

Soap or hand sanitisers must be made available, he said.

He also said the PNGUM office would continue official business from 8am to 3:30pm daily from Monday to Thursday and from 8am to 1pm on Friday.

He urged local missions and church entities to manage their office according to their needs.

Meanwhile, the PNG for Christ reaping campaign will be held from January 29- February 13, 2021.



Young people with the *World Changer* Bibles.

Lamb shelters built in Lae

LAMB shelters were built for small group evangelism in various places in Lae, Morobe province, due to the Corona Virus Disease.

Morobe Mission President Pastor Blasius Managos opened one of the lamb shelters on May 2 at Bumbu.

Called Bumbu Sand, the shelter is located near the Bumbu river.

Pr Managos encouraged the church members to maintain their faith in God and to continue to evangelise within small groups.

Cartons of *World Changer* bibles

were distributed to youths, church members and new interests.

Bumbu Sand lamb shelter elder Fidalis Guzali thanked Morobe Mission for the bibles and the dedication program. He said church members were excited about receiving bibles.

Meanwhile, Morobe Mission Youth Director Pastor Micah Akui challenged the youths to be "world changers" within small groups, Lae and throughout Morobe. - *Jermaine Thomas*



"By God's grace and power, we will become a thriving Adventist movement, living our hope in Jesus and transforming the Pacific."

<https://discipleship.adventistchurch.com/>

COVID-19 pushes leader to become preacher

Terence Lepilepi is able to confidently preach the Word of God, thanks to the Corona Virus disease (COVID-19).

After attending church for many years, Mr Lepilepi began preaching to his small Bible study group during the lockdown- something he thought he would never do.

His group from the Two Mile Seventh-day Adventist church in Lae, Morobe province, has been studying at Kamkumung since the lockdown in March.

Mr Lepilepi was baptised 21 years ago. He preached his first sermon on April 25 this year.

"For the first time after 20 years I can preach now," Mr Lepilepi said.

"For so long I have locked in my mind that preaching was not my gift so I rejected all the preaching requests.

"I have been very active for 20 in the church as clerk, youth leader,



Terence Lepilepi is now preaching God's Word after 21 years.

adventurer leader, pathfinder leader and head deacon.

"I was assisting pulpit parties and have always avoided the middle chair on the pulpit for worship services".

"This year is my 21st year after my baptism in 1999 and I can preach

now and lead from the middle and others can assist me from the side," he said.

Mr Lepilepi said he could preach at the Two Mile church in less than 20 minutes if given the opportunity after the Corona Virus pandemic restrictions are uplifted.

His small group members- Brian Asio, Gebob Baiyu and Delilah Asio confirmed that Mr Lepilepi was their leader and preacher and that they depended on him for their spiritual wellbeing.

Mr Lepilepi said: "The warning must come first for us to get ready for the big time of trouble.

"So here I am preparing. Get ready! I am ready to preach and I can preach".

"Something that is hard for you to do for the Lord, God will put it in the right time to do it for him. Just like what he has done to me."

-Pr Enosh Enopa

Henganofi district supplies food for city

The Henganofi District in Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission is supplying food to Port Moresby residents affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

As part of its Total Membership Involvement (TMI) programme, the district organized 84 churches, which contributed 104 kaukau (sweet potato) bags, 16 cabbage bags, 11 assorted vegetable bags and 121 bananas.

The food was brought to Lae on May 24 and sent to Port Moresby in a container. The shipment was the first of four shipments planned by

the district.

Some food was shared with workers at the PNG Union Mission office.

Minister Samuel Natina of the Avani Seventh-day Adventist Church said the district's goal was to feed the hungry through Prime Minister James Marape's Helpim Wantok initiative for the COVID-19 lockdown.

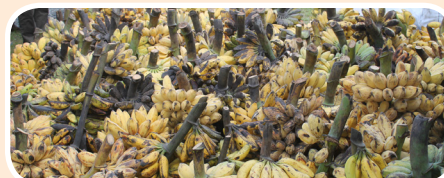
"The idea is to maximise and fully utilise the five- year TMI concept introduced by General Conference.

Henganofi district has 84 churches and the Highlands Highway runs right through the district.

"Feeding and touching a life for

Christ is our greatest drive behind the mobilisation of the four containers of food," Min Natina said.

Below: Henganofi district members with the food supply in Lae.



House churches effective in NBNIM

HOUSE churches were established throughout the New Britain New Ireland Mission (NBNIM) during the COVID-19 lockdown.

According to a report compiled by the NBNIM Stewardship Department, the lockdown forced families to conduct worship services in their homes and neighbourhoods.

The local mission directed its pastors and local churches to ensure that Sabbath School was conducted for an hour (8:30am-9:30am) with families and neighbours, Discovery Bible Readings were done each week, people were nurtured for baptism and offerings were received.

Some house churches conducted the Lord's Supper service too.

House churches in East New Britain

and other small groups in New Ireland used the Discovery Bible reading method among other tools to study God's word.

Local mission directors, pastors, elders and group leaders in both provinces reported increased memberships, closer ties among members, a hunger for God's word, the return of former members and a need to maintain small groups for its effectiveness in extending the gospel.

The mission's Women and Children's Ministries director Dianne Pelap said the pandemic did not stop the gospel.

"The church members scattered into their homes and block groups for worship.

"The lockdown was a very powerful

means for church growth and nurturing," she said.

Education Director Richard Waikite said: "We thank God for the spiritual impact in the lives of our church members but especially for those who need more attention.

"Most of them appreciated such a great opportunity to come back to church and effectively involve in spiritual development activities."

Meanwhile, the area supervisor for New Ireland province Pr Richard Koroï reported that a garage and unused buildings were turned into house churches.

Pr Koroï said drunkards, drug dealers, youths with problems and non-believers were attending bible study sessions with Adventist families.

House church draws family closer to God

New Britain New Ireland Mission President Pastor Danny Philip and his family had a wonderful experience while worshipping in their house church during the Corona Virus Disease lockdown.

Pr Philip said: "It wasn't an experience that we normally felt when attending corporate worship services at the church.

"House church provided an opportunity for my children to honestly express how much they felt about God and their commitment to becoming His disciples and being disciple makers while at their respective schools.

"House Church experience also drew my family to a closer relationship with each other and to God. "My children and other students who were with me began to feel home church worship services brought deeper and intimate relationships to their God. It was an opportunity to make life-long decisions."

When the National Government announced the State-of Emergency,



Pr Danny Philip (right) and family.

Pr Philip and his family worshipped God in their home at Kenabot, Kokopo, East New Britain.

"Every Friday evening, everyone in my home would be involved in acting out the Kindergarten Sabbath School story for that week since we had a kindergarten in our home. It was fun with lasting values and memories.

"We looked forward to Fridays and Sabbaths as they were the best days of the week," he said.

On Sabbath mornings, the family listened to Children's Sabbath School Stories on *Hope FM*.

"They (children) would follow through their stories and its pictures on the lesson pamphlet while listening to their stories on the radio. "It was a fascinating experience for them to hear and see Bible stories come alive."

The family studied the first quarter Bible study guide and the Gospel of Mark using the Discovery Bible Reading guide.

For divine service, they studied the 28 Fundamental Beliefs and other topics.

These studies helped three young people who have been worshipping with the family. Of the three, two young boys have decided to be baptised. They are also helping some of their friends at school to know Jesus.

"Simon Aliape and Moses Kamb are looking forward to confirm their decision for baptism and be disciple makers for Jesus," he said.

Love: The basis of healthy relations

A book review by John Gunua Nebare

Crafting Authentic Love is a book every family should read.

Dr Kay Kuzma addresses the most important emotional need of every person in a family- that is love. The author is a family life and parenting educator for many years. This book is considered to be the crowning achievement of her work over the years. Her biggest contribution is to the singles, parents, couples, and grandparents about building strength of characters and having meaningful relationships.

The key to learning how to love well is understanding the principle of the love cup.

When you are full of love, you tend to treat others lovingly. You fill your loved ones by showering them with love, care, respect, acceptance, forgiveness, and trust (p.11).

In this book, you discover the practical and creative ways to keep your family love cup overflowing. You will also learn how to discover if the love cup is running dry so you can fill it up quickly in order to avoid potential negativity and frustrations taking over. You will also discover where to source that love.

This book is primarily written for families. It addresses one of the most important elements in family - love. It talks about how to give and receive love. The author believes that love is the basis of healthy relationships, which must at all cost never run low in the love cup. The love that is stressed in this book is the agape love, which forms the bedrock or springboard for care, respect, acceptance, forgiveness, and trust (CRAFT).

In the next five sections of the book, Dr Kuzma discusses how to care for, respect, accept and forgive one another and learn to trust each other.

It must be done with love whether it is practised in public or private. The way the family treat each other will inevitably demonstrate the level love they have and the type of relationships it builds.

This book is highly recommended for families, as it addresses poignantly what is missing today in the modern family. It is a very practical book, which families can practice right after reading it.

It is written in plain English for general readability. Some extra gems you find in this book are inserts of

love principles and famous quotations from other writers, which make it a tasty bite. The sections and chapters in the book are supplied with biblical references to provide biblical principles to her writings. The short questions and activities after each page are invaluable for exercise. The personal testimonies in this book also speak of real time family issues, which I believe will help deal with our children and family.

There are 37 short chapters in this book.

Love covers multitudes of sin and I believe this book speaks of it in terms of relationships. However, the author does not deal in depth some serious relational issues.

For example, how can a couple coming from dysfunctional families who never knew parental love relate to their own children? How can incest in home be dealt with? Can it be easily forgiven, or accepted, and trusted anymore? What about spousal infidelity?

Christian families are facing these critical issues today. I believe if the author had further talked about such critical relational issues, she could have provided some guidelines on how to deal with them.

It is easy to apply CRAFT in minor relational issues but for critical relational issues it is often difficult and sometimes families

fall apart.

While it is an excellent book to read, I wish the conclusion is done well. The last section of the book does not end well. The author lists 101 things on what love is and finishes with a quote from Martin Luther.

Since the book is written as a counsel and guide to family, there is a lack of supportive references that should add weight and credibility. There are less than four references to each chapter, which I think should be improved on. Otherwise, it is an excellent book as I have benefitted from it too.

Crafting Authentic Love: A Family's Guide to Healthy Relationships (2019) by Kay Kuzma is published by Pacific Press Publishing Association.

John Gunua Nebare lives in Port Moresby and works with the Central Papua Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church in PNG.





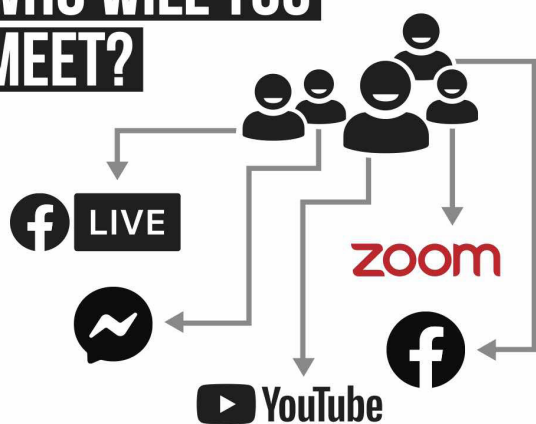
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