Central Papua holds first session

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The first mission to achieve conference status in the South Pacific Division (SPD) held their inaugural constituency meeting in Port Moresby from August 6 to 9, and voted in the constitution of the Central Papua Conference (CPC) with a flurry of yellow voting cards on the first day of the conference.

The 215 delegates greeted the vote with applause and created history as they formed the first conference within the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) a few months after celebrating the centenary of the Adventist Church’s message coming to Papua New Guinea (“PNGUM celebrates 100 years,” News, August 2).

Following the historic voting in of the constitution, a session was held to receive administrative and departmental reports, as well as to elect officers, departmental directors and a new executive committee for the coming five years.

Dr Oliver says, “At last we have a conference in the union mission areas of our division. The constituency meeting was conducted over three days in an excellent spirit and with very healthy and informed discussion.”

Pastor Tony Kemo, who had been the (Continued on page 3)
The Bible depicts the church primarily as a body in which all members work together for its mission. And, so that all members of the body of Christ may participate in this mission, they have been provided with spiritual gifts. An individual properly understands his or her relationship to the call to Christian service only when he or she understands their spiritual gift, develops it and uses it.

God is the source of these gifts, distributing them at His discretion (see 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7). But all members of the body of Christ receive a unique variety of gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:6), given for the common good.

No individual should be exalted and no gift given priority over another. All gifts are to function in the context of the body and for its benefit, conditioned and controlled through love (see 1 Corinthians 12:31; 13:2; Ephesians 3:7). Love holds the body together and creates the context in which spiritual gifts and ministry can find their full expression.

In Romans 12, Paul lists leadership as a gift of the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 12, a gift of “administration” (NIV) is listed. The word Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 12:28 is kubernesis, a word derived from language describing steering a ship. The reference can only be to the specific gifts that qualify a Christian to be a helmsman to the congregation, a true director of its order and therewith of its life. No community can exist without some order and direction—and the grace of God equips some for government.

In Romans 12:8, Paul uses the word proistemi. The word literally means “to lead, conduct, direct, govern” but the context includes the idea of “to care for.” Putting the two terms—kubernesis and proistemi—together, we see a concept of a caring helmsman, reminiscent of the early Christian concept of Christ at the helm, steering the ship in the storm.

Ephesians 4 is the definitive passage on the role of such caring helms-people: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:11, 12*). In this ministry of preparation, the caring helmsmen were singled out for a unique function in the church body.

In these passages, we find the concept of servant leadership. While some may wish to find an authoritarian model of leadership, such cannot do justice to the nature and function of the church it serves or to the ministry of each believer participating in the mission of the church.

In fact, Christ Himself denounced autocratic leadership. Speaking to His disciples, “Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’” (Matthew 20:25-28).

In contrast to leadership in the church, leadership in the secular context is “over” others, and rulers “exercise authority over” the ruled. But leaders in the church find their leadership in servanthood, a model of leadership that permeates Christ’s relationship to the church (see Philippians 2:7), the church to Christ (see Romans 6:16-20; Ephesians 6:6-8), and the church to the world (see 2 Timothy 2:14-19; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 16:15; and Colossians 4:17).

Many of us lead in different ways and capacities. But only leadership that recognises the indispensable uniqueness of every member in a common ministry, only leadership that arises out of submissive service, is acceptable in the church: “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2, 3).

*All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

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Barry Oliver
President, South Pacific Division

Serving to lead

Leaders in the church find their leadership in servanthood.

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Morobe Mission hosts training program

LAET, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

From August 11 to 15, 17 volunteers who are planting churches in the Morobe Province attended a training program at the Morobe Mission office. The program was funded by Global Mission and was the first of its kind in the area, following on from similar programs conducted in the Western Highlands and Sepik Missions.

Guest presenters for the training program included Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Global Mission for the South Pacific Division, and Pastor Simeon Nara, Global Mission coordinator for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. Morobe Mission president Pastor Kove Tau and other departmental directors also provided training in preaching methods, Bible studies, witnessing and church planting.

There are currently seven Global Mission workers in Morobe Mission, along with 10 Volunteers in Action missionaries. During the first seven months of this year, volunteers reported a total of 79 baptisms and 373 people studying for baptism.

“It is great to see the commitment and enthusiasm of these laymen who have a passion for winning souls,” says Pastor Coombe. “Many of them have had little formal training or education but they depend on the power of God’s Spirit.

“They help establish an Adventist presence in new areas and untouched people groups. They’re supported with a small stipend to help cover some expenses but they represent the ‘frontline’ of church growth in many countries around the world.”

Pastor Nara says, “We need more training programs like this in all missions. Global Mission is currently funding 30 church-planting programs in Papua New Guinea but much more could be done.”—RECORD staff/Ray Coombe

◆ About 40 theology students from Fulton College, Fiji, moved into tents during the recent mid-year break to run an evangelistic series in a large tent in a rural area of Viti Levu (see News, July 5). The attendance averaged 300 per night, with about 600 attending the baptism at the end of the series. The local people requested more transport so even more could attend. Pictured left are Pastors Aisake Tiko Kabu and Mike Farrell, baptising two of the 29 candidates. Pastor Keperi-eli Duana, youth director for Fiji Mission, also assisted. A further 20 people have requested baptism, while 50 are continuing Bible studies. People from the area have requested another series next year, and a nearby region has made a similar request. Dr Khamsay Phetchareun, head of theology at Fulton, says he is excited by the response and has committed to repeating the outreach in the future.—Bruce Potter

◆ Correction: We apologise for any misunderstanding and to Avondale education lecturer Bev Christian, who was referred to as Dr Bev Christian in RECORD (News, August 16—“Adventist educators serve with strength” and August 2—“Fiji hosts worship conference”). Sadly, honorary doctorates bestowed by RECORD staff are of little value.

◆ Te Kao church members, with support from Kaitaia, Kaeo and Kaikohe, had an opportunity to share the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) at Waiora Marae, Ngatika, in far north New Zealand. A total of 50 people paid $NZ10 each to share in a specially-prepared meal that included three types of soup, a main meal and dessert. Funds raised will help send a delegation from the northern churches to attend a workshop with Dr Hans Diehl, the founder of the CHIP program, to be held at Tui Ridge in December. “For the Maori people, heart disease, obesity and diabetes are too common a scourge. By eating wholesome foods along with keeping active, we can reduce these health risks,” says Pastor Frank Toa. —Errol Murray

Central Papua holds first session

(Continued from page 1)

ministerial association secretary for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, was appointed as president of the conference. Pastor Andrew Lukale, who had been the stewardship director for the Central Papua Mission, was appointed as general secretary. Max Lassah had been the chief financial officer for the mission and continues in his role for the new conference.

The new officers of the conference, elected by the session, were introduced to church members at a combined Sabbath gathering in the indoor stadium in Port Moresby by PNGUM president Pastor Thomas Davai, on August 9.

Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the SPD, attended the session as a representative of the division. “It is clear that this new conference has a wealth of talented church members and business professionals, who are committed to the mission of the Adventist Church,” he comments.

“A number of other missions are progressing well down the path toward conference status, with French Polynesia most likely to be our next new conference,” adds Dr Oliver.—RECORD staff/Ray Coombe/Barry Oliver
Solomon Islands Mission appoints first female minister

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

Aureen Jekah’s appointment at the beginning of the year as youth pastor of the Kukum Seventh-day Adventist church in the Solomon Islands has made her the only female Adventist minister in the South Pacific nation.

The appointment is supported not only by Ms Jekah’s family but by the Solomon Islands Mission as well. Pastor Andrew Kingston, president of the Solomon Island Mission, believes Ms Jekah will allow for a complementary ministry to what the men in the church are currently providing.

“I have discovered from experience that women can do things and go places that we men can never dare to venture,” says Pastor Kingston. “Women in this country are smart and talented. They may be marginalised but Women’s Ministries is starting to impact the church, and women are doing a lot more in the church than they did before.”

After completing her secondary school education at Kukum Adventist College in the Western Province, Ms Jekah went to Sonoma Adventist College in Papua New Guinea. She was then the only female in the theology program as well.

As a woman in a male-orientated culture, Ms Jekah’s appointment is not without its challenges but she accepts it in a positive way. “I tell those who may not support me that even if they don’t recognise what I do now, there is always Someone who does,” she says.

“It’s time to challenge our church, widen our thinking, grow our perspective, and realise the positive contribution women can make to the growth and development of our church,” says Pastor Kingston.

For Ms Jekah, her main focus is to help young people in the Solomon Islands to know Jesus and enter into service for God with a willing heart. “I have a passion for the young people,” she says. “Our problem now is that a lot of young people are leaving the church. If we don’t work well with them today, they will not be in the church in the future.”

Kukum Adventist church is the largest Adventist church in the Solomon Islands.

Pastor Kingston is anticipating another female theology graduate, currently studying at Fulton College in Fiji, to return to the Solomon Islands at the end of the year.

—Melody Tan

More @ http://tinyurl.com/6p8jlb

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General secretary of CPM passes away

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The church in Papua New Guinea has been shocked by the “untimely” death of Pastor Gilbert Egu, general secretary of the Central Papuan Mission, on August 4. President of the South Pacific Division Dr Barry Oliver says, “Pastor Egu was the one responsible, perhaps more than any other, for coordinating the progress of the mission toward conference status.”

Pastor Egu died suddenly of kidney failure in Port Moresby General Hospital two days before the constituency meeting that saw the mission become a conference.

Pastor Thomas Davai, president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM); Pastor Neone Okesene, general secretary of PNGUM; Dr Oliver; and Dr Branimir Schubert, vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University, along with other staff members and students from the university, joined with the family and friends of Pastor Egu for a special worship service on August 5.

“It’s so hard to lose one who is so close,” says Dr Oliver. “Our hearts and prayers go out to Jeanette and the family. We thank God for the hope He has placed in our hearts.” —RECORD staff

◆ Avondale School, Cooranbong, NSW, student Trent Houliston has commenced a Cisco certification course in the area of Information Technology. The certificate is an internationally recognised qualification and is now offered as a senior IT subject at secondary school levels. Students acquire knowledge of PC networking, and gain skills in computer hardware and software. These are based on workplace requirements and prepare participants for the IT industry, or for completing further study with CISCO. Trent is currently in Year 12 at Avondale School and is completing his CISCO Certification with outstanding capability. His current average is 96.2 per cent. The skills he is focusing on are aimed to enhance his future career and accelerate the qualification process necessary for an IT occupation. — Susan Rogers

◆ Longburn Adventist College, NZ, has introduced a program for its students to become pilots. Provided through STAR (Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource) and starting at level 2 (Year 12), aviation is a subject that any senior student wishing to go into the aviation field can take. Taken as a subject working toward a level 2 National Certificate in Aviation and supervised by the STAR coordinator, students qualify for STAR funding, which provides flying lessons toward solo flying licenses. STAR funding provides up to two hours flying lessons toward achieving a solo pilot’s license. In 2007, Jodi Devine, Jordan Fransen and Christopher Rampton each achieved level 2 flight and Jordan has continued toward gaining a solo pilot’s license, while Jodi continues in her own time. — Julene Duersken-Kapao

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ SEPTEMBER 13—ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING (GLOBAL MISSION)
Life is full of surprises and changes. You’ve heard all the stuff, right? Embrace change. . . Go with the flow. . . If you’re green, you’re growing; if you’re ripe, you rot! So making life better really is all about getting better at accepting change.

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▲ Supervisor (20 hrs/week)—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Community Centre (Blacktown, NSW) is seeking expressions of interest from a highly motivated and professional that will play a key role in the strategic growth and development of this cutting-edge ministry. This opportunity combines skills in leadership, clinical practice, program development, research and evaluation. Applicants should have a demonstrable commitment to ADRA’s mission, values and goals, as well as a broad understanding of health systems, expert clinical social-work skills, high-level professional supervision skills and an interest in quality improvement initiatives and research. Enquiries to Pastor Michael Worker on (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>.

▲ Church Pastor—Lord Howe Island. The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney Conference) Limited is seeking suitable applicants for the position of church pastor, Lord Howe Island. Based on Lord Howe Island, the role involves pastoral care of the church and ministry to the local community. The position is for commencement in December, 2008, or January, 2009, subject to negotiation. This position requires a commitment to the teachings, values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastoral experience is desirable. For more information, or to apply, please contact Pastor Michael Worker (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>. Applications close September 22, 2008.

▲ Health course coordinator—Mamarapha College (WA) is seeking a full-time coordinator for the health course. The successful applicant will have a deep commitment to Christ and the Adventist Church; a balance in theology, health and personal lifestyle; be friendly, empowering and honest; sensitive to Indigenous people, issues and cultural values; not patronising or racist; able to withstand cultural pressures and maintain confidentiality; adaptable; willing to learn; able to work on a small team; and with formal qualifications in health science and health promotion. The position will involve liaising with government, cross-cultural teaching, tendering for funding, using computers and developing health resources, among other things. Commencement date negotiable, no later than mid January, 2009. Send resume, referees and membership details to Human Resources, Mamarapha College, School Road, Karragullen, WA 6111, fax (08) 9397 7244, email <mamarapha@webace.com.au> or call (08) 9397 7233. Applications close October 6, 2008.

▲ Chaplain—Sydney Adventist Hospital (Wahroonga, NSW). An opportunity exists for a pastorally-gifted person to join the chaplains team at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. The San has a reputation for the care of the whole person and values the contribution of its chaplains in meeting this goal. The chaplains team is a dynamic group with an ethos that encourages the spiritual formation of its members and growing competence in the practice of pastoral care, as well as developing leadership capabilities in a number of areas. If this sounds like an environment and goal that fits your aspirations, we invite you to visit the hospital’s website on <www.sah.org.au> for further information. Enquiries to Roger Henley, Senior Chaplain (02) 9487 9291. Applications close October 10, 2008.

hr.adventistconnect.org

Anniversary

Matej, Edward and Maria, were married in Germany on 6.7.1948 and have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Maria was 13 when she became an Adventist and was baptised at 18. The couple arrived in Australia on Australia Day, 1957. They have attended Prospect and Adelaide City churches, SA.

Weddings

Hughes—Baines. Jarrod Hughes, son of Geoff and Dorothy Hughes (Ballarat, Vic), and Luana Raines, daughter of Ross and Elizabeth Baines (Murrumah Dovne, Qld), were married on 10.4.08 at The Sheraton, Moorooa, French Polynesia. Mark Baines, Ross Baines Smith—Klein. Milton Smith (Canberra, ACT) and Sherrin Klein (Olive, BC, Canada) were married on 7.10.08 before family and friends at the Shaka Lake Ga zebo, Pentinton.

Dave Laughton

Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, $A55; each additional word, $A2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

Galahon church centenary. Sabbath November 30, 2008, 10 am. All former members and friends are invited to celebrate with us. Bring any memorabilia. Luncheon will be provided. Enquiries, Glen Grady 6653 1106 or <glen@gldilaps.com.au>.

Are you a painter looking for a holiday? Why not visit Tasmania? We are undertaking renovations on the Devonport Campgrounds and seek a professional painter. We will supply accommodation and paint. The campgrounds are located 15 minutes from Devonport, close to many tourist attractions. For further details, please contact Pastor Wayne Bochm on (03) 6234 2344 or <wbochm@adventist.org.au>.

Frankston church reunion. All past and present members of the Frankston church, Vic, are invited to a reunion on November 15, 2008. This will be a day of fellowship, with lunch provided and an afternoon program to share the experiences of past and present. Program begins at 9am. Please RSVP by November 1 to Brigita Klop on (03) 9704 1084.

Missionaries’ Lunch—Avondale Graduation, Sabbath December 6. We will be having our annual lunch immediately after the church service, in the Education building, for missionaries and ex-missionaries, families and friends. Please bring a plate of food, friends. Please bring a plate of food, and join us as for this exciting experience onboard the Holland America cruise line, MS Zuiderdam. Connect with other Christians and encounter God’s power firsthand through music, speaking and nature. We depart Fort Lauderdale and our ports include the Bahamas, Aruba, Curacao, enter and exit the Panama Canal at Cristobal, then on to Costa Rica, and return to Fort Lauderdale. Your musical hosts will be the former King’s Gales, Golees Murphy, Marc and Andrea Judd, Shani Judi–Diehl, Leonardo Goncalves, Connie Vandeman Jeffery, Church and Dana Fulmore, Joe Pearles and Sandy Wyman Johnson. Our featured speaker will be Mark Finley of the General Conference, with presentations by Dr Hans Diehl of the CHIP program, and Jo Ann and Richard Davidson from Andrews University. Fred Kinsey is our sponsor for the North American Division. Come and be spiritually nurtured. For information and a free cruise DVD, call 805 955 7714, email <lance@ampstudios.com> or go to <www.familyreunionmusic.com>. For reservations, call 805 585 6099, ext 0, or go to <www.classixtravel.net>.

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