Thank you

In last week's edition of RECORD eNews, we asked you to support our ministry through the RECORD offering. It's therefore only fitting that, this week, we recognise your generous contributions. Thank you. Tenkyu tru. Vinaka. Fa'afetai lava. And not just for your monetary donations, but for allowing us into your churches and for giving us the opportunity to share your stories. Through your support, and by God's grace, we'll continue to do so.

Solomons tsunamis devastate Adventist village

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Wilson meet church planter in Moorea

After a very busy two days in Bora Bora, Dr Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, arrived on the French Polynesian island of Moorea on Wednesday, February 6.

Read Adventist World

Check out a heart-warming story about change, construction and faith in the latest issue of Adventist World.

Watch/download InFocus
Successful operations for burnt engineer

More than two weeks after suffering burns to 50 per cent of his body, Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) engineer Linden Millist has successfully come through his third skin graft operation.

Man or God

You're in a bind. You can't seem to find a way out of the situation, and everyday you're longing for somebody to rescue you. Who would you look for? A man, or God?
February 8, 2013 - Honiara, Solomon Islands

An Adventist village at Santa Cruz, Temotu Province, Solomon Islands, is one of five villages effectively destroyed by two earthquake-related tsunamis that hit the remote island on Wednesday.

According to Lata hospital, the official death toll now stands at eight. But the president of the Adventist Church in the Solomons, Pastor George Fafale, said the eventual number is likely to rise to 13 as bodies are found of people previously listed as missing. Two of those confirmed dead are the parents of an active Seventh-day Adventist church member in Santa Cruz.

According to Pastor Fafale, 200 Adventists are among the 2500 left homeless. “All their belongings were lost and they are now sheltered at the market open shed,” he said.

“The pastor’s office, and storage room under his house, were filled with water and all the equipment, such as PA system etc, was soaked in water. The church building was also filled with water and dirt and they lost all their church property such as furniture,” said Pastor Fafale. The children’s Sabbath School and activities shelter was also badly damaged and the church-owned outboard motor and fiberglass boat were washed away.

“The Adventist Church in the Solomon Island is praying for the people of Temotu, especially those who are affected by the tsunami,” said Pastor Fafale. “The Solomon Island Mission is organising an appeal program this weekend. We are now sending appeal notices to all the
Adventist churches in Honiara and in the Solomon Star newspaper inviting people in the city of Honiara to come and give something for the affected people of Temotu." The fundraising appeal will be held in the car park in front of Kukum Adventist church this Sunday at 7.00 am through to the next day, Monday 5.00 pm.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Solomon Islands is participating with other government and non-government agencies in the relief effort. Mr Joe Lovi, communication officer for ADRA Solomon Islands, said ADRA has supplied more than 20 bales of clothes and 1000 casks of bottled water, which departed from Honiara harbour today. There is also a need for tarpaulins and jerry cans, essential items for which ADRA is trying to secure funding to supply.

Donations to ADRA Australia’s Famine and Disaster Relief Fund can be made at adra.org.au. Donations earmarked for “Santa Cruz tsunami” will go directly to ADRA Solomon Islands for this purpose.
Moorea, French Polynesia

After a very busy two days in Bora Bora, Dr Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, arrived on the French Polynesian island of Moorea on Wednesday, February 6. Moorea is approximately 16 kilometres from Tahiti, and can be reached by ferry in half-an-hour. Although close, it has a reputation of being a slower paced island where the traditional way of life lingers.

The Wilsons were met by a group of church members lead by Pastor Ambroise Colombani. Pastor Colombani has been pastor on the island for two years and during that period has worked tirelessly to build the church. When he arrived in Moorea, there were two Adventist churches on the island; today there are three churches and one Adventist company on Moorea. This year, he plans to run an evangelistic outreach on an island four hours from Moorea.

Pastor Ambroise Colombani (left) greets Dr Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, upon their arrival in Moorea on Wednesday, February 6.

Pastor Colombani gave a welcome speech to the Wilsons soon after they alighted from the small plane that brought them from Bora Bora. In the speech, he expressed his delight at the Wilsons taking time to visit Moorea and offered them his most heartfelt welcome.

Dr Ted Wilson commented on the remarkable hospitality he and Nancy were receiving in
French Polynesia, and the exquisite natural beauty they were enjoying. The Wilsons will return to Tahiti today, where Dr Wilson will give the first of three sermons at a large rally.
More than two weeks after suffering burns to 50 per cent of his body, Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) engineer Linden Millist has successfully come through his third skin graft operation.

Deslie Green, Linden’s sister, posted the update on the “Prayer for Linden Millist & Bri Norton—His fiancé & family” Facebook page yesterday (February 6). She also said doctors are pleased with Linden’s progress, and anticipated he will need just one more operation to complete the grafting process. He remains heavily sedated and in stable condition.

Linden was burnt after a fuel tank ignited during a routine maintenance check in the AAS hanger at Goroka airport, Papua New Guinea. AAS is currently working with the Accident Investigation Commission to determine the cause of the fire.

On Tuesday, Linden’s father, Roger Millist, chief executive of AAS, visited his son at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

“When I prayed with and for him, just before I left, the ICU nurse said, ‘He heard that prayer’,“ said Roger in a post on Facebook. “When I asked her how she knew, she said that while I was praying his breathing changed and the monitors registered a response from him.”

“Keep praying; it is bringing results.”
Mark 12:35–37

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? 36 David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord:
   “Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
   under your feet.”

37 David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

The large crowd listened to him with delight.

Jesus has been tested over and over again by the establishment. He has answered their questions with options they didn’t foresee, poked holes in their knowledge and undermined their authority with the people. The gospels tell us that at this point, they give up asking. But Jesus isn’t finished. Now He sends a question their way. “Why do the teachers of the law say the Messiah is the son of David?”

In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus is recorded as asking them who the Messiah is. When the Pharisees answer “The son of David,” He then poses them this scenario saying, “If David calls him ‘Lord’, how can he be his son?"
The expectation of the Jews was that the Messiah would be a descendant of David who came and re-established the “golden age” of Israel. Like King David of old, the messiah would destroy Israel's enemies and make Israel a great nation. It would be some kind of paradise on Earth, with Israel in charge (and no doubt, the Pharisees in charge of Israel, under the kingly power).

The messiah was expected to crush his enemies under his feet. If you look at this passage from Psalms 110, who is it that subjugates Israel’s enemies? The Lord. And David rightfully attributes the action to God. God is the one who is going to crush Israel’s enemies. Therefore, the promised one, the messiah, the one who will put down his enemies, is . . . God. They were expecting a man messiah but Jesus points to God. He is taking them to a new level of understanding. When you feel oppressed and surrounded, don’t expect man; expect God. You can’t always help yourself and others can’t always help you, with their wisdom or their human ways. Turn to the true Messiah.

The Jews of Jesus day were waiting for the messiah to come in glory and power and mystery. They were waiting for the wrong thing. They should have been waiting for God.

They were putting their belief in a man, who was to save them physically. They forgot about the God-Man, who would save them spiritually.

When I take my problems to God, I often do so in a sense of desperation. I have tried everything and it's not working, or I’m overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness. I should approach Him with a sense of expectation and faith.

Even King David acknowledged that it was the power of God that would save him from his enemies. All he had to do—all God instructed him to do—was to sit at His right hand. Do we look to God for our spiritual salvation, or are we more caught up in the physical?

This concept should have blown the Pharisee's minds. The messiah they were waiting for was God Himself. He was standing before them and they missed Him.

This concept should blow your mind. God became man and dwelt among us. He came not with a sword but to seek and save the lost: us. He came that we might have life more abundantly. He came so that His will would be done on Earth as it is in heaven. He came just for you. Don’t miss Him.