



MASTER GUIDE PROGRAM



A Brief History of Youth Ministry in the South Pacific



Personal and Spiritual Growth



April 2010

MASTER GUIDE

Note

The purpose of this resource is to provide participants with a brief overview of the developments of Youth Ministry in the South Pacific. It is by no means a finished work as several territories have not been included as yet. However, due to the nature of the project it will serve as a good resource. As other historical information is gathered it will be included to bring light to the hand of God on our youth and their leaders.

Youth Ministries Team
South Pacific Division

Resource for the Master Guide Program.

This resource has been produced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Ministries of the South Pacific Division (SPD) with special thanks to Pr Nick Kross, Pr Gilbert Cangy, Lee Dunstan, Pr Wilfred Liligeto and Thelma Silva.

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The Beginning

Colonization was a preoccupation of the nineteenth century so at the dawn of the 20th Century it was a much different geopolitical world to the present. Australia and New Zealand had just achieved independence, and from Tahiti in the east to Papua New Guinea in the west, the South Pacific was dominated by the European powers of France, Germany and Britain.

The so-called misfits, mercenaries and missionaries were all exerting their influence on the cultures of the Pacific Islands. In some places, head-hunters still roamed (to the post war years) and Christianity penetrated only the coastal fringes.

When the work of the church began in Australia in 1885, at the time of the arrival of the first missionaries to Australia—S.N. Haskell, M.C. Israel and J.O. Corliss from the US—there were some 700 Adventist congregations worldwide, with a membership of around 18,000. The church was first established in the colony of Victoria, with the first organized church at North Fitzroy, to the immediate north of Melbourne CBD, in 1886.

A relatively short time later, in 1891, Ellen White came to Australia, where she lived for the next nine years (including several months in New Zealand). During her time in Australia she was influential in youth ministry, nurturing young people and endearing herself to them. She was instrumental in the vision for, and establishment of Avondale College (1897) as a missionary training venue. It was during this time, while resident at Sunnyside, near Avondale College, that she penned what is arguably her best book, the *Desire of Ages*.

Youth Ministry was already developing around the globe, driven by the missionary-minded imperative to share the Third Angel's Message in the world's darkest corners. But there was also a need to nurture youth in the homelands.

In 1879, two Michigan youth, Harry Fenner, 17, and Luther Warren, just 14, had proposed a specialised youth ministry. The idea spread rapidly and in 1891 the first Youth Society was formed in the USA. By 1892, the program had already spread to Australia. The first society consisted of 20 members and was organised by A G Daniels in Adelaide. Among this group, Miss Annie Higgins, who as an 83-year-old would be the guest of honour at the 1956 South Pacific Youth Congress at Nunawading.

Ellen White gave her blessing to the ministry in its early days. "We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. . . . we want them to act a part in well organised plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honouring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified."¹ Given such encouragement, over the next few years the Missionary Volunteer (MV) societies evolved under the auspices of the Sabbath school department

Ellen White was no doubt empathetic to their cause, as she herself was just 17 when called to ministry. While resident in Australia, Ellen White penned these also familiar words: "There are many lines in which the youth can find opportunity for helpful effort. Let them organize into bands for Christian Service, and the cooperation will prove an assistance and an encouragement," wrote Ellen White in 1902.²

By the time Fenner and Warren's idea finally reached the floor of the Gland, Switzerland, General Conference committee (1907) there were almost 300 youth societies worldwide, with more than 5000 members, many in the South Pacific.

¹ White Ellen G. *Education* (Southern Publishing Association: Nashville Ten. 1950).

² White *Education*.

At that Gland meeting, the General Conference took a far-sighted action to formally establish a youth ministry, which was known as the Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers, with M.E. Kern as director.

In 1907 the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia and New Zealand was developing rapidly. Thanks to the strong missionary spirit, borne of a belief in the imminence of the Second Coming, the church had grown from the company that stepped ashore in Melbourne in 1885 to a movement of some 6000 members and 150 churches across all states.

Young people were already active in carrying forward the mission of church when the Young People's Department was established. In New South Wales, youth were supporting a missionary teacher in Singapore; Victorian youth supported a missionary in Java; Queensland youth supported a national worker in New Guinea; and in South Australia the youth were sponsoring a national Fijian minister. To raise money to build the mission ship "Melanesia" (launched in 1917), youth everywhere sold the Morning Watch daily devotional.

The Morning Watch was to become an integral part of the future Pathfinder structure. The youth Reading Course plans for senior and junior youth were first offered in 1908, to be followed by the Junior Society Lessons (1914) and Junior Bible Year (1917).

Those seminal years of the church were exciting. And the 1920s birthed many enduring aspects of youth ministry and activities. But foremost among them was a passion for mission—taking the gospel to the world. Mission and carrying the gospel ever outward was always in the forefront of the church's thinking.

Youth-related developments of significance at the time included the formal introduction of youth ministry to the outdoors, in order to teach independence and self-reliance, teamwork and leadership. Camping was introduced. It was in Australia that the first Junior Camp was run, in 1925, an idea that migrated to the United States the following year. The concept took off, and with the support of the church administration, became a worldwide phenomenon.

Under the sponsorship of the Australian Union Conference, Missionary Volunteer (MV) societies flourished, and by 1920, there were in excess of 100 in the Union. The goal of the societies was to create a mission mind-set and train young people for active mission service, both at home and abroad; it included an accreditation and award system.

At its philosophical core, although this isn't always appreciated by the young themselves, the point of such training is the promotion of a balanced development of the physical, mental, social and spiritual aspects of an individual. Its objective was to inspire, train and organize youth for Christian service and leadership.

In the South Pacific, volunteerism epitomised the MV goals described above. Volunteerism delivered opportunities for independence and selfless service as the most important aspect of youth ministry. Specially resourced MV weeks were scheduled with the purpose of encouraging membership and awakening "the entire church for the salvation of our young people . . ." in order to "bring such as are not in the fold to a decision for Christ, and to lead others to a deeper sense of their responsibilities."

It was from such programs that the weekly MV reports grew. Youth were asked to report on "persons helped", "hours of service rendered," and "number food parcels given away," which were actually reported in the Union-wide paper (Record) for the whole church to see. This concept and idea is still real among young people today and expresses itself in other ways that are more appropriate in the context of an affluent society and a desperate world in need. In recent years the South Pacific Division has more youth volunteers, per capita, than any other Division worldwide. In addition to the high number of international volunteers, the Youth department operates STORM Co. ministry in many of

the local conferences. The number of Storm Co teams has grown and the total number of youth involved in Storm Co is well over 1,000 per year.

The interwar years were ones of growth for the church, but along with the rest of the Western world, eventually fell prey to the Great Depression. But it was during this period that many of the goals and activities of our present youth work and Pathfinding were established under the MV/JMV banner. The Bible reading plan, the JMV classes for juniors, outdoor recreation, summer camps and the Master Guide personal development program—then known as Master Comrade—were all launched during that time.

The annual Appeal for Missions public fundraiser—Ingathering as it was then known—was one of the few door-to-door charities of the time. It was adopted by the church at large as well as the youth. It was organised on a top-down basis, with conferences assigned dollar goals by their union, which in turn were subdivided among churches and institutions. Workers at the publishing house, the nurses of the Sydney Sanitarium and students at the Avondale College were also included in the process. It was an integral part of the Missionary Volunteer ethos and at the heart of its activities. ADRA Ingatherers, as they went forth to harvest, even had a theme song with musical score provided to them via the Record.

The Second World War impacted church activities in several ways. Its greatest impact on the church was to make communication and travel extremely difficult. Visits by international church leaders were curtailed. Many of the church's young men volunteered or were drafted for service, while the young women took a more active role in society, work and church.

In the post war years everything changed; with fast, easy and relatively inexpensive communication and travel. Greater wealth and material attractions resulted in a new level of sophistication. The church had to work harder to retain the youth.

In 1946, the Pathfinder movement began, with the first Conference-sponsored Pathfinder Club established in California. The movement rapidly grew worldwide. The familiar Pathfinder song, written by Henry Bergh, was introduced and was soon followed by a dedicated Pathfinder flag.

The first Pathfinder Fair was organised in California in 1950. In the same year as the first Pathfinder Camporee (1953), in Massachusetts, the first issue of Junior Guide came off the R&H press. Interestingly, it was not until 1975 that the first Inter Union Conference Camporee was held in Australia; an invitation was extended to Missions to send delegates. The first South Pacific Division Camporee took place in 2007 in Australia as well. For more information, see Appendix 1

These were flourishing years for the church in the South Pacific, with a growing number of children, due to the post war baby boom who filled Sabbath schools, JMV and MV societies as well as the newly formed Pathfinder Clubs. The first Pathfinder Club in the Division was at the Preston church, Victoria, It was established in 1953 by Pastor Kevin Silva. Pathfinding quickly took roots in Australia and New Zealand, with its conducive climate and outdoor lifestyle.

Youth ministry from the sixties onward is characterised as the era of the grand event, although the first was the San Francisco (NAD) Youth Congress, in 1947. In 1969 a World Youth Congress was held in Zurich, Switzerland. The congress caught the imagination of youth, many of whom experienced overseas travels for the first time. The arrival of cheaper and more accessible jet travel created new opportunities. The first Australian Congress was held in Canberra (1970), but it wasn't until 1996 that the south Pacific Division held its first division-wide Congress, in Brisbane.

The modern era of youth ministry began in the late sixties when youth adopted a more independent, free thinking, affluent and mobile lifestyle. The anti-establishment messages of the antiwar movement, protest music, the promotion of self-gratification were all wrapped up in the new youth pop culture. Its

music began to infiltrate and influence the thinking of the maturing baby-boomer generation. During this era a growing number of Adventists were entering Government universities, which led to other forms of ministry.

Adventist Students Association

There has always been a strong emphasis on education in the Adventist church. Throughout the South Pacific Division young people from all countries represented have entered into tertiary studies through to Doctoral level at both Adventist and government universities with outstanding results.

Adventist students have distinguished themselves in every field of study from medical, legal, humanities, educational, science, politics, agriculture, and the arts. Often the Adventist graduates have received prestigious awards from governments and State Universities.

From the earliest entrants these students often faced obstacles due to their Sabbath observance, lifestyle choices, biblically based belief system. There was very little support in the early years for these students. So they began informal friendship networks that soon blossomed into ministry centred groups who shared their faith and saw their friends embrace Christ as saviour.

While it's impossible to depict every detail, name and event it is worth mentioning that while there was little back up, these students forged an identity for themselves which is now recognized as the Adventist Students Association (ASA). Through events like conventions, recovery camps, monthly meetings and outreach programs, ASA has grown into an international ministry involving approximately 20,000 students spread across the South Pacific.

The first recorded Convention was hosted at Crosslands Youth Camp near Sydney from May 19-28, 1967. Seventy Five students attended from Australia and New Zealand as well as including the Australian Division President, Pr L.C. Naden, the Missionary Volunteer (MV) secretary C. V. Christian. During this Convention, speakers presented papers on education and mission.³

From this ground breaking event, annual conventions have become a part of the program of ASA, with students meeting together for spiritual renewal, community, and outreach. There was also a need for specific events where theological topics could be discussed and dialogued, which led to the initiation of the Theological Symposiums, which have also become a regular feature of the Australian ASA chapters.

Throughout the Island fields Tertiary students have been very active in conducting outreach events which include concerts, 'Voice of Youth' evangelistic programs, health seminars, musical concerts, Choir performances, as well as service projects. The purpose of ASA has always been two fold, firstly to provide support for students attending secular tertiary campuses, and to promote the mission of the Adventist Church in reaching souls for Christ.

Some of the associations have a grand history that has spanned decades. These include:

SDA Students Society, University of NSW & Sydney University SDA Society: Early societies that we for runners of the current society.

SASS (Sydney Adventist Students Association)

QUSDAS (Queensland University Seventh-day Adventist Students)

PNGATSA (Papua New Guinea Adventist Tertiary Students Association)

NASA (Newcastle Adventist Students Association)

WASA (West-Australian Adventist Students Association)

³ Gilson W. J. *Australasian Record* 25/9/67, (Signs Publishing Co: Warburton Vic. 1967). p14.

VICASA (Victorian Adventist Students Association)

2005 ASANZ (Adventist Students Association New Zealand)

2007 FIJIASA (Fiji Adventist Student Association)

2007 Vanuatu Adventist Students Association

2008 Samoan Adventist Students Association

In 2004 Pr Gilbert Cangy initiated the ASA Round Table discussion which resulted in the move to appoint a part time chaplain at the South Pacific Division. This position was accepted by Pr Nick Kross who has been working with ASA since that time.

There have been many people who have helped to provide guidance and leadership to ASA during the last 45 years. A two will be named who have provided continued assistance to the Tertiary student cause.

Dr Philip Rodionoff began his tertiary studies in Sydney and became associated with ASA in the 1980's. Since that time, Dr Rodionoff has provided guidance and assistance to many student societies and continues to be a source of information and guidance in establishing new societies.

Dr Cedric Taylor in Brisbane has also been a long time supporter of ASA, QUSDAS in particular, and has offered advice and guidance to many students. His quiet leadership has been invaluable in the building of QUSDAS and the broader ASA ministry.

These associations have maintained a strong sense of mission over the years and have grown into mature ministries in many parts of Australia, Papua new Guinea, New Zealand and other territories in the South Pacific. The Adventist Students Association needs to be recognised as one of the grass root ministries that express the courageous attitudes of Adventist youth who want to make a difference for Jesus.

Concern over the loss of youth led to the 1990 "Valuegenesis" survey of youth in the North American Division. This research was conducted by Dr Bailey Gillespie, the director of the John Hancock centre for youth ministry. It was followed by a similar exercise in the South Pacific Division. The survey revealed the needs, lifestyle and spiritual values of young people and provided objective evidence upon which strategies could be built to retain them. There were several new initiatives which impacted the Youth department in the early 1990's. The first change was the transfer of Adventurer ministry from the Children's Ministry department to the Youth department in 1992. Following is a brief outline of Adventurer ministry history.

Adventurers⁴

World History

In the year 1930 four Pre-JMV (Junior Missionary Volunteer) classes were developed for 6-9 year old children. These classes were: Busy Bee, Sunbeam, Builder and Helping Hand. The name Pre-JMV's was renamed 'Adventurers' in 1979, though the logo (badge) was not voted in officially until 1989.⁵

PAL Class

The Pal class used a pledge and law that is almost identical to the current Adventurer Pledge and Law (the pledge had the American wording, and the law has two items combined twice to make only 8 parts). A copy of this card is on the web page. The card was printed by Avondale Press but there is no indication of the issuing authority, or date.

A Junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course certificate was also issued at Wahroonga, New South Wales by the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department of the Australasian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The signature for the Union Conference was that of Pastor E L Minchin. As Pastor Minchin moved to the British Union Conference in 1946, it must have pre dated his departure.

It plainly stated that the Pal class members were not a part of the JMV class.

Pre-JMV

The workbooks for the Pre-JMV (Junior Missionary Volunteer) class were issued by the Missionary Volunteer Department of the Australasian Division. They were identical to the Adventurer Work books later issued by the Youth Department of the South Pacific Division apart from the name and the issuing authority. Copies of these workbooks are on the SPD Adventurer web page.

Adventurers

The Adventurer class took over the pre-JMV manuals until the current manual was issued in October 1992 and revised in October 1993. It was also at this time that the Adventurer Ministry was handed over from the Children's Ministry department to the Youth department to administer.⁶

Secondly, there was an interest in reaching out to local communities to impact them for Christ.

⁴ Note: *The chapter on Adventurer ministry was written by Norman Tew.*

⁵ General conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church Adventurer web site: www.gcyouth.com

⁶ Note: *Norman Tew has worked with the Adventurers in the Greater Sydney conference for many years and is currently the administrator of the Official Adventurer section on the SPD Youth website. For more information on Adventurers and helps please visit www.spdyouth.com.*

STORM Co. Ministry

In 1992, Jerry Unser with a group of secondary students from Brisbane Adventist College in Australia, dreamed of 'doing something' to display their faith. Looking for an opportunity to serve smaller towns in the outback of Australia, they decided on Moree in New South Wales.

They saved up money, prepared teams for drama, music and games then headed out calling themselves the 'SWAMP' team (Students With A Missionary Purpose).⁷ The trip was such a success, another trip was planned for the following year to Charleville in Queensland. In 1993 the name was also changed to 'Storm Co' (Co is short for Company) with the anagram: Service To Others Really Matters, which has become the trade mark of this ministry.⁸

Since that first team initiated the concept of serving rural western communities the Storm Co ministry has become an international service ministry conducted by the Youth department in conjunction with ADRA, the Education department, and 'ATSIM' the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island Ministry.

Storm Co has five foundations which make up its ministry philosophy. These are: Listen (No Agenda) meaning the team will listen to the needs of the community which informs the service they provide. Engage (No Walls) meaning the team will support all faith communities in their aim to encourage all in their walk with God. Serve (No Expectations) meaning their goal is to serve without expecting anything in return. Pray (No Fear) meaning teams base their ministry on prayer and worship of God. Return (No Limits) meaning the teams will return to the community and be an ongoing positive influence.⁹

With well over 1,000 Adventist youth serving annually through Storm Co, this ministry is a thriving part of the SPD youth department Mission to an unsaved world.

Before Storm Co ministry was initiated in Australia, other outreach movements were growing internationally especially during the 1980's. The spirit of the youth of the time (independent, risk-taking, adventurers passionate about Christ) Adventist youth leaders, took evangelistic teams of South Pacific youth behind the fallen Iron Curtain into former communist bloc countries. This youth impact project on the cities of Eastern Europe was the result of forward thinking youth leadership, who saw a short window of opportunity to offer salvation to youth in these countries, to fill the vacuum left by the downfall of communism before Western materialism did so.

Another aspect of Adventist youth ministry more closely affecting Australia and New Zealand was the rise of new policies affecting the rights of volunteer groups who wanted to take groups into the outdoors.

⁷ Unser, Jerry. *Storm Co Guide Book* (Bundall Printing: Southport QLD, 2001), p 5.

⁸ *Storm Co Guide*. P 6.

⁹ Unser, Jerry. *Storm Co Journal 09* (SPD Youth Department: Sydney NSW, 2009), p 5-9.
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Adventist Outdoors

The Youth department places a high value on taking young people into the outdoors so they can experience the joy of God's creation. Through ministries like Adventurers, Pathfinders and several outdoor activity clubs like QWAC (Queensland Wilderness Adventurer Club) many adolescents have seen God's handiwork revealed in nature.

Early in the 1990's, SPD Youth Director Barry Gane and a group of Adventist outdoor leaders were made aware of shifts in government policy that could have had a negative impact on the churches ability to take groups into many of the most pristine nature parks in Australia and New Zealand.

As a result of these policy changes, a committee was established to develop a training package which would be recognised by the outdoor industry in Australia and New Zealand. This committee was named NAOATAC (National Adventist Outdoor Activity Training Accreditation Committee) which met over several years in an attempt to create a government recognised training package that outdoor leaders could teach in house.

This process of developing an adequate training package spanned the next decade. The end result was the upgrade of the existing Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) into an internationally recognised training scheme that was released in 2009. The new PLA has replaced both the original PLA and the Basic Pathfinder training package. In addition to the PLA a second level of training, the Pathfinder Specialist Award (PSA) has also been developed and will be released in 2010. This new second level of training replaces the original Advanced PLA, which was the early second level of training for outdoor leaders.

The Original name NAOATAC was replaced by the name 'Adventist Outdoors' in 2003. This committee's role is to continue to update and maintain the outdoor training process across Australia and New Zealand to ensure that leaders who take groups into nature will do so in a safe and professional manner.¹⁰

¹⁰ Note: For more information on the current PLA or the Adventist Outdoor committee, please see the SPD Youth department web site: www.spdyouth.com

History of Youth Ministry in Papua New Guinea & The Solomon Islands.¹¹

Prior to World War Two there was little, if any, youth work conducted in PNG or the Solomon Islands.

In 1944-45, Mrs Marie Pascoe, following a request from the Australasian Division, conducted JMV classes in Bougainville. Her assistant was Pr Papaol. Mrs Tutty was asked to conduct similar classes in Manus. Whilst waiting to return to PNG after the war, they were given instruction at the Division on how to teach the classes.

In Bougainville about the same time, a Young Peoples Meeting was held each Sabbath afternoon at five o'clock leading into closing Sabbath. At these meetings anyone who had something to contribute could stand up and share with the other young people. There was no real structure.

Before 1949 there was only one headquarter. It was called the New Guinea Mission. Due to many factors, not least of which, was the long distances missionaries had to travel to visit the field, two unions were formed. The Bismarck Solomon Union Mission had its headquarters in Rabaul and cared for the New Guinea Islands including Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. The Coral Sea Union Mission cared for mainland New Guinea and Papua plus a few surrounding islands.

Youth work was overshadowed by the need to advance the growing education work. Every youth leader held a number of portfolios, usually Education, Youth, Public Relations, Temperance and sometimes Sabbath School. When youth work started it must be remembered that the majority of the "youth" were in fact, adults. ---anything from 15 to 70 years of age! Young children had not yet been enrolled in the schools.

Coral Sea Union Mission

From 1949 to 1951 Pastor Ken Gray was Education and Youth leader for the Coral Sea Union Mission (CSUM). It could still have been the New Guinea Mission in 1949. Some sources say that CSUM began in 1950. His assistant was Pr Lyn Thrift. He started JMV classes and prepared and taught some local honours. In 1952 Pr Rod Ellison was appointed the new Education / Youth leader. He held this position till the end of 1956. His assistant was Tutuo, from the Solomon Islands. He continued to establish the JMV work. He also held JMV classes for the few expatriate children living in Lae at that time.

Those appointed to assist the Youth Leaders in the Local Missions in the 1950s were: Guibau, Pr O. Speck, Pr J Martin, Vave, Gapi Ravu, Koiv Hanaia, Wari Kai, John Lee, Jack Aitken, Alf Chapman and Vavepitu. Some of these men were either the Presidents of the Local Missions or Headmasters of the Central Schools.

Pastor Ken Gray returned as Education/Youth leader for the CSUM in 1959 and held this position till the end of 1961. His assistant was Kitara Moyes. During this time Pr Gray prepared more honours, helped by Pr Hugh Dickens. Youth assistants in local Missions through to 1964 were Col Frazer, Pr Sasa Rore, Golo, David Galo, Joseph Gakara, Wari Kai, Jonathan Lave, Kila Kai, Apusae Ben, Alwyn Campbell and Joseph Bates.

Pr John Lee had been the Principal of Kabiufa High School from 1958 – 1964. He was appointed Education/Youth/Public Relations/Temperance leader for CSUM in 1965. He held this position to the

¹¹ Note: *This chapter was written by Thelma Silva, wife of Pr Kevin Silva.*

end of 1967. His Assistant was Pr Alpheus Rore. During this time he encouraged the young people to study local honours which had been prepared by Pastors Gray and Dickens.

Pr Lee transferred to the Bismarck Solomon's Union Mission in 1968.

The assistant youth directors in the Local Missions from 1964-1967 included Pr H.Dickens, Apusae Ben, Eric White, Yori Hibo and Merv McLaughlin. The Presidents and Central School Principals were still assisting with the youth ministry.

Pr Ray Richter held the Education/Youth portfolios in the CSUM from 1968-1973. Education was still the main thrust and youth ministry was still growing slowly. Pr Richter's assistant was Ruga Luga from Papua. His assistants in the local missions included Alwyn Campbell, Timothy Pakovai, E.P.Watson, Don Menkens, Brian Faull, Kev Silva, Tana Patovaki, Benny Riva, Kala Ulali, John Newman, A.T.Smith, Daniel Kuma, Leon Miller, Reuben Sau, Pr H.Harker, Jonah Pinggah and Ronga Paul. In 1972 the Coral Sea Union Mission was dismantled and replaced.

Bismarck Solomons Union Mission

In June 1948, Pastor Hugh Dickens was appointed to Bismarck Solomon's Union Mission (BSUM) in Rabaul as Education/Youth/Sabbath School/Temperance Leader. He was also the Manager of the Printing Press. His assistant was Pr Elisha Gorapava.

Pr Dickens held these positions until the end of 1961. As in the CSUM the assistant youth leaders in the local missions were often the Presidents of the local missions and the Principals of the Central Schools.

During Pr Dickens years, from 1948-61, the Assistant youth leaders in the local missions included Pr Golo (Bougainville), Pr Roy Harrison (New Britain), Benjamin Lipavozi (New Britain), George Wilson (Bougainville- Principal Rumba Central School), Pr C Pascoe (President, Bougainville), Levi (New Britain), and Pr Nathan Rore (Bismarck Archipelago Mission).

In the small printing press in Rabaul Pr Dickens printed a simple English Sabbath School pamphlet and a book of stories suitable for Mission Stories. He also prepared and printed a programme for the youth which was used in Young Peoples Meetings. By this time Young Peoples meetings were being conducted in many places on Sabbath afternoons.

Using the limited materials available he moved around the field and with the assistants help, introduced JMV classes in a few churches and in the schools. Some camps were held where activities including local honours which he had prepared were studied. Little else was done for youth at this time, as the establishing of schools took up most of the youth leader's time.

In 1957 Kev Silva was appointed as head of Teacher Training at Jones Missionary College, Kambubu. He had earlier (1953) started the first Pathfinder Club in Australia and was keen to start a club at JMC. Club members were Teacher trainees and Ministerial students. A number of them were married men with families. He also introduced a Master Guide class for the students. The first class of Master Guides to be invested in 1958 were equipped to start JMV's and Pathfinders in places where they were appointed after graduation. Miss Edna Luke (later Mrs Peter Valeriani), a teacher at JMC, was among the first class of Master Guides to be invested.

As the number of schools increased, the students enrolling were younger. It was now possible to start organized JMV's in each school, having children in the correct age bracket for each JMV class.

Pr Kevin and Thelma Silva transferred to the Solomon Islands beginning their work at Betikama Adventist College in 1959. They had worked previously at Kambubu where they had also developed

youth ministry. It was at Betikama that the first ever Pathfinder Camp was carried out at the bank of Lunga River. The event attracted about 1000 spectators with 8 events as part of the fair activities.

The Pathfinder Youth Ministry, which started slowly due to a lack of resource materials, soon became increasingly popular. It included some of the JMV classes but new classes such as Voyager and Ranger were added. The Pathfinder activities included some which could not take place on Sabbath. Another day, usually Sunday was set aside for Pathfinders. In schools, an afternoon during the school week became Pathfinder time. Headmasters in schools such as Kambubu, Pisik, Boliu Bautama and Rumba were able to start Pathfinder Clubs.

Pr Dickens transferred to the CSUM at the end of 1961. In 1962 Pastor Ray Richter became the new Education/Youth/ Temperance Leader for the BSUM. He held this position till the end of 1966. His assistant was Pr Elisha Gorapava followed by Pr Alpheus Rore. At a later date Verenga was Asst Youth Director.

JMV work continued to grow but youth work progressed slowly. The Kambubu Choir under the direction of Pr Doug Martin toured the East coast of Australia in 1965 and attended the Youth Congress in Melbourne from 24th to 29th December 1965. Other young people from PNG also attended the Congress.

Music has played an important part in the Youth Ministry with choirs and singing groups in the churches and schools. It has been used as an outreach tool over many years.

Those given the responsibility of youth leadership in the local missions during the 1962-1967 period were Pr Joseph Mave (E. New Britain), Pr Papaol, Pr Cornelius, Jonathan Lawa, Pr Nathan Rore, Apusae Ben, Pr Joel Panda, Pr Gapi Ravu and Samuel T.

The year 1968 brought another change. Pr Richter transferred to the CSUM and Pr John Lee became the Education/Youth/Temperance /Public Relations Leader for the BSUM. During this time he encouraged the growth of Pathfinders and JMV's.

In 1971 Pr Colin Winch became Youth Leader for the BSUM. Young people from PNG attended another Youth Congress from 27th December 1972 to 2nd January 1973.

At the end of 1972 there were big changes. The BSUM ceased to exist. The two unions combined to become the Papua New Guinea Union Mission in 1973, with headquarters in Lae. The Solomon Islands was no longer administered from PNG.

Papua New Guinea Union Mission

Pr Ray Richter was the first Youth Leader for the PNGUM. His assistant was Pr Alpheus Rore. Kev Silva was appointed Assistant Education/Youth Leader for the Islands Region, based in Rabaul. Graham Barnett was the Assistant Education/Youth Leader for mainland PNG and Papua.

Kev Silva started training programmes for youth in the island local missions. Pathfinder Clubs were formed in many schools and churches where there were no schools were encouraged to start Pathfinder Clubs. Graham Barnett did a similar work on the mainland.

With the introduction of Pathfinders young people to the age of 16 were catered for but there was little for older youth. Kev Silva commenced training programmes for the youth. These programmes included Master Guide and Leadership training. This training helped youth 16-30 to start Pathfinder Clubs in churches where there were no schools and to become active assistants in Pathfinder Clubs in schools.

Pr John Hancock from General Conference visited around this time and Pr Richter took him to many parts of the field giving a boost to the youth ministry.

New Start for Youth Ministry

In 1975 specialized attention to youth ministry commenced when Pr Lewis Lansdown was appointed as Youth Director for the PNGUM. Unlike previous youth leaders who had been 'encumbered' by holding several portfolios, Pr Lansdown was full-time Youth Director. Well-experienced in youth ministry he was able to concentrate on building up the youth ministry in PNGUM. The introduction of Pathfinder Fairs and camps added to the interest of Pathfinders. A Camporee was also held at Emira with Elder Ranzolin and Elder Dick Barron as special guests.

There had been a lack of resource material for youth ministry. Kev Silva began preparation of manuals for all facets of youth ministry for PNG. See Appendix 2 for a partial list of resources developed by Pr Kevin Silva.

In 1981 Pr Kev Silva was appointed Youth Director for the PNGUM. He left an indelible mark on the Youth Department and will be remembered for his enthusiastic leadership. He is remembered by many, as 'Mr. Pathfinder'.

Pr Silva enlarged on the training programmes for the youth and introduced outreach programmes encouraging the youth to go out into the community and villages to hold evangelistic meetings. Small group ministry was introduced and as the youth took part in activities they did so in small groups. This gave every young person an opportunity to participate. He continued to produce many manuals and resource material for both Pathfinders and Youth.

The Week of Prayer program was renamed "Week of Praise and Joy." For several weeks prior to the Week of Praise and Joy, the youth held evangelistic meetings inviting their friends of other faiths to attend. These meetings were most successful. At the end of the series the new interests were invited to attend the Week of Praise and Joy. The week ended with a baptism. These meetings were held in various parts of the PNGUM giving as many youth as possible an opportunity for soul winning.

One programme which was most successful was an evangelistic programme in which only folks who had backslidden were invited. Some former members, from all walks of life, who had been out of the church for twenty years and longer rejoined the church. There was great rejoicing. Among the group were former church school teachers and lawyers.

The youth were also trained to go out in their small groups and conduct Branch Sabbath Schools. Many of these branch Sabbath Schools became organized churches.

Seminars and workshops were held at regular intervals, not only to train the youth but to give extra training to the Youth Directors of the Local Missions to keep them up to date with the youth ministry work. The Youth Directors were taken to Australia for special events such as Camporees and Youth Congresses. On these occasions they also received up to date training on trends in the youth ministry. Many PNG youth also attended youth congresses in both Australia and New Zealand.

The highlight of youth Ministry in 1985 was the PNG Youth Congress which was held at the University of Technology in Lae. Special Guests included the King's Heralds, Pr Ken Martin SP Division Youth Director, and Mr Tom Mitchell a musician from Australia. The congress saw many youth who had backslidden, return to the church and become faithful church members.

Later in the 1980s Pr Malcolm Allen from the General Conference visited PNG to take part in the 25th year of Pathfinding Celebrations which were held throughout the Union. In 1985 Pr Kev Silva was awarded the PNG Independence Medal for his services to the youth of PNG.

More changes came in 1985 when the Church Ministries Department was introduced. Pr Kev Silva was appointed the Church Ministries Director and held the position till he retired at the end of 1990. The Youth Department now came under the umbrella of the Church Ministries Department. The first youth Director appointed was Pr Tomita Sumatau and later Pr Levi Namaloi.

Youth ministry continued to successfully grow as youth worked with the youth directors in each mission, to carry the work of the youth ministry to all parts of PNG. Pr Silva's work was to train the new Union Youth Director and to provide good resource for both Pathfinders and youth.

Many Pathfinder Fairs and Camporees were held throughout the country and the Fairs were a real mission outreach. The Youth also formed Youth clubs holding their own activities, including their own flag and uniform.

Those who have had an important part in the success of the youth ministry in PNGUM since 1975 include Sam Kawona, Thomas Pasiu, Sakani Kila, Alfred Talo, Havao Isabel, Benny Sulum, Peter Pondek, Timon Masagula, Ray Frazer, Alu Laka, W.Walua, Peter Pokarup, Zebedee Aisla, Benson Kotaveke, Matthias Matua, Bella Paul, Puiki Tasa, Silas Bokum, Eric Oronga, Tauku Gagari, Kila Vagi, Paul Api, John Wagi, Walter Mase, Jonah Pinggah, Simon Vetali, Nick Papilai, Kingsford Ilagi, Bill Vetala, Richard Rikus, Peter Oli, Karua Roa, David Toata, Jonathan Wera, Alu Laka, Levi Maima, Pei, Joshua Parungki Timothy Sup sup, Reuben Roawe, Timothy Sandau, Charles Kakapotri, William M. and Wilfred Liligeto. Most of these men were ordained gospel ministers. There are others whose names could be added to this list.

The youth ministry in PNG and the Solomon Islands, has been a real force in the growth of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the PNGUM and the TPUM. To the present day the influence of the youth is strong and healthy and the fruit of their work will not be fully known till Jesus comes.

Appendix 1 - SPD Pathfinder Time Line

- 1953 First Pathfinder club in Melbourne at Preston Church April 16. (Led by Kevin & Thelma Silva assisted by W. Thorsen, Miss V. Thorsen, W. Wilson and H. Hall).
- 1956 Sale Pathfinder club commenced at Gippsland, April 15.
- 1958 Pathfinding introduced to Betkiama Solomon Islands by Kevin & Thelma Silva.
- 1959 By the 17th of October there were 32 clubs in Victoria, with over 400 members.
- 1959 First Union Camporee: Trans-Commonwealth Union Conference, Dec 24-29, George River, Lorne, Victoria, Australia. (60 Pathfinder and staff attended mostly from Victoria).
- 1962 Pathfinding introduced at Pisis School Manus Island by Pr Kevin Silva.
- 1964 Pathfinding introduced to Boliu School.
- 1964 First Pathfinder camp opened which is now called Camp Ranzolin
- 1976 First Victorian Expedition: Mustering Flat, Mt St. Phillack (near Mt Baw Baw), March long-weekend.
- 1980 Pioneer Class renamed to become Rangers.
- 1982 Voyager Class added.
- 1983 Inter Union Camporee: Brisbane River, QLD,
- 1985 A statistical report in PNG read as follows: Clubs 533, Membership 18,211.
- 1987 'Friends Forever' TTUC Camporee Tui Ridge Rotorua, New Zealand, 26-12 to 11 Jan.
- 1990 'Specialist Pathfinder Program' introduced to Australia and New Zealand.
- 1991 'Treasure Bend' Inter Union Camporee: Bairnsdale, VIC
- 1993 'Preparing for the Promised Land' PNGUM Camporee: Warangoi River, Papua New Guinea.
- 1995 'Make A Difference' TTUC Camporee: Stuarts point NSW, Jan 4-9.
- 1995 'Conspiracy' TAUC Camporee: Kilarney Waters, Albany, WA.
- 1996 Basic Staff Training (Basic), Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA), & Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA) GC, Advanced Pathfinder Leadership Award (APLA) SPD developed.
- 1996 National Adventist Outdoor Activity Accreditation Council (NAOATAC) established for outdoor curriculum development in Australia and New Zealand. April 16.
- 1997 'Way To Go' Activity based Program introduced to Australia and New Zealand.
- 1999 'Century's End' Inter-Union Camporee: Tabulam NSW, Jan 5-10.
- 2000 'Entering the Promised Land' PNGUM Camporee: Samatoga, Papua New Guinea.
- 2002-3 'Cast Your Net' First NZPUC Camporee: Tui Ridge New Zealand, Dec 31-Jan 4.
- 2002-3 'Courage to Conquer' First AUC Camporee: Riverland Waikerie SA, Dec 31-Jan 4.
- 2002-3 1st Pathfinder Camporee in the TPUM.
- 2003 Adventist Outdoor Committee became the new name for the previously known NAOATAC, Aug 27-9.
- 2007 12th Gate SPD Camporee: Stuarts Point NSW, Jan 9-13.
- 2007 'Faith On Fire' PNGUM Camporee: Manus Island, Dec 17-23.
- 2007 Ambassador Club curriculum introduced in the South Pacific Division.
- 2008 'Faith On Fire' First combined Solomon Island Mission Camporee: Kukudu Dec 9-15.
- 2009 Revised Pathfinder Leadership Award introduced in the South Pacific Division.
- 2009 Revised Master Guide introduced to SPD.
- 2010 Pathfinder Specialist Award introduced in the South Pacific Division.
- 2011 'Under Oath' AUC Pathfinder Camporee: Toowoomba, Australia.
- 2011 'Power Up' NZPUC Pathfinder Camporee: Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Dec 28 - Jan 2 2011.
- 2015 'iThirst' SPD Pathfinder Camporee: Toowoomba, Australia, Jan 6-11
- 2018 'Chosen' First PNGUM Pathfinder Camporee: Bautama, Papua New Guinea, Jan 9-14.
- 2019 'Unstoppable' AUC Pathfinder Camporee: Molesworth VIC Australia Jan 2-6.
- 2019 'Illumine' NZPUC Pathfinder Camporee: Jan 9-13
- 2019 'Hear The Call' TPUM Pathfinder Camporee: Honiara Solomon Islands Jan 17-22

Appendix 2 - Resources created by Kevin & Thelma Silva¹²

Pr Kevin Silva and his wife Thelma, were Pioneer Youth Leaders in the South Pacific Island territories.

The list of books below, demonstrate some of Pastor Kevin Silva's resources developed for the island field, while he served as Youth Director of PNGUM.

1. Youth Coordinators Manual
2. Adventurers Student Work book Busy Bees
3. Adventurers Student Work book Sun Beams
4. Adventurers Student Work book Builder
5. Adventurers Student Work book Helping Hand
6. Daring Dolphins Student Work book for 5 years old
7. Pathfinder Student Work Books Friend
8. Pathfinder Student Work Books Explorer
9. Pathfinder Student Work Books Companion
10. Pathfinder Student Work Books Ranger
11. Pathfinder Student Work Books Voyager
12. Pathfinder Student Work Books Guide
13. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Friend
14. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Explorer
15. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Companion
16. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Ranger
17. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Voyager
18. Pathfinder Hand Book Papua New Guinea Guide
19. Practical Pathfinder Yearly Program
20. Planner Club for each year
21. Master Guide Manual (Book 1)
22. Basic Staff Manual (Book 2)
23. Pathfinder Leadership Resource Manual (Book 3)

¹² Note: *This list of resources was provided by Pr Wilfred Liligeto, current Youth Director of the Solomon Island Mission as at 2009.*

24. Orienteering Honour Manual
25. Youth Handbook (PNG)
26. Youth Handbook: Melanesian Perspective (SI)
27. Fair Manuals ('90)
28. Ideals for Juniors: Islands Edition
29. Silver Award Manual
30. Pyramids & Gymnastic Manual
31. Tumbling and Balancing Manual
32. Combination Marching Manual
33. Track and Field Honour Notes
34. Time to Celebrate Commitment Day Manual
35. Roll Call booklet for each Pathfinder classes and Adventurers
36. Bible Marking Honour Notes for each Pathfinder Classes
37. Local Church Youth Leadership Training flow chart
38. Flatten your Stomach
39. Report forms for Coordinators
40. Report forms for Local Church Youth/Pathfinder/Adventurers Secretaries.
41. Baptismal Rolls
42. Pathfinder Ranger Daily Exercise plans
43. Some harmful plants in PNG (Advance outdoor Rangers)
44. Sabbath Pathfinders Yearly Program for Pathfinder Ranger
45. Friend Requirement Honours – Cat, Seed, Mammals, Bird Pets.
46. Sabbath Pathfinders Yearly Program for Pathfinder Friend
47. Explorer Requirement Honours – Weather, Poultry, Amphibians, Trees and Shrubs, Stars
48. Sabbath Pathfinders Yearly Program for Pathfinder Explorer.
49. Adventist Youth and Pathfinder Drill Marching and Flag Ceremony Manual for PNG
50. Marching Girls
51. Pr-AJY Yearly Program
52. Spiritual Gifts PLA Requirement