

NARRATOR: Welcome to Mission Sonlight. During this quarter, we will explore the the South Pacific Division. When the name Australia is mentioned visions of koalas and kangaroos may come to mind. The Mission Sonlight team was able to get up close and personal with some of the unique creatures that God created. From the western shore, across this landmass to its eastern coast, is the beginning of great beauty...and great need...throughout the South Pacific.

BARRY OLIVER: (President, SPD) (INTERVIEW 6 00:09-00:17) The South Pacific Division comprises a number of different countries, different communities, different cultural backgrounds.

NARRATOR: The boundaries of the South Pacific Division encompass more than Australia. The borders extend to New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and others.

Headquarters for the South Pacific Division are located in Wairoa, New South Wales, in southeast Australia. The Adventist presence is felt in this area through the ministry of Sydney Adventist Hospital, the Adventist Media Centre, Avondale College, and other church-affiliated institutions.

(Music/montage from Avondale Memorial Church/SP scenes)

This Division is comprised of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, the Trans Pacific Union Mission, the New Zealand Pacific Union conference and the Australian Union Conference. Currently there are 1,862 Seventh-day Adventist churches in the South Pacific Division and 402,275 baptized church members.

The rich cultures of the people groups of the South Pacific and places such as Sydney

Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, or the beaches and cliffs along the Tazman Sea are easily recognizable as monuments in this area. Looking out along the horizon, we find there are other monuments that are far less noticed by the standards of the world. These monuments are the lives that have been touched, the people who have been changed through Christ and His sacrifice for the well-off and educated westerner as well as the poor and illiterate cannibal.

Pioneer missionaries to the South Pacific faced numerous hardships, challenges and at times even death. In spite of these obstacles, their mission was to bring the life-changing story of Jesus to tribes and languages, men, women and children. They worked among cannibals, headhunters, aborigines as well as leper colonies and the Anglo-speaking populations. Lives were changed as entire tribes heard about a God who loves them.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 14) It was on June 6, 1885 that a small group of pioneers came and set foot on Australian shores. We celebrated the centennial of the establishment of the Adventist church in Australia. In the South Pacific, particularly, the church has grown amazingly over those years.

NARRATOR: Ellen White lived and traveled for nine years in Australia, between 1891-1900. She instructed church leaders to build and establish Avondale College. Her home, just off of the future campus property, during her last 5 years in Australia, was made here at Sunnyside. During this time she wrote the manuscript that we know today as “The Desire of Ages”, it is believed she wrote most of the words sitting beneath this tree.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 14) This would be a special college. A college set apart, a college in a rural environment that was meant to provide a very specific environment for our young people to receive their training and education. I'm pleased to say that by and large the college has continued that tradition. It continues to remain committed to its missionary roots.

NARRATOR: Located on the same property as Sunnyside, members have built a South Pacific museum. A tribute to the missionaries who've worked in the Pacific islands and the many lives that have been changed by their efforts joined with God's hand. In this simple two room tribute, you will find years of artifacts that tell of the deep commitment of these early pioneers, some who gave their lives for Jesus. The work of missions is at the heart of the gospel command of "Go and make disciples in all nations." John Lee heeded the call of mission and served for 34 years among South Pacific islanders.

JOHN LEE: (Retired Missionary) (INTERVIEW 2:00-2:14) In 1941 when I was baptized by a missionary who had come in from the Solomon Islands—a giant of a man—Pastor Gerald Peacock. (2:23- 2:29) I think that he gave me and my brother a vision of service in the mission field.

NARRATOR: Beginning in 1952, Elder Lee served in many capacities and locations as he sought to make disciples. His work also included a task that continually reminded him of the sacrifices that were made by those who had gone before.

JOHN LEE: (INTERVIEW 4:18-5:03) I was able to see the work done by earlier missionaries. Some think we had it hard and it was more difficult than today. But then I think of some of the earlier missionaries and the hardships they had to go through. One

of my jobs was to go and care for the graves of missionaries or their families that had fallen during the years we had been in mission service. Each one of them has a special story but they died doing the thing that God wanted them to do-to carry the message.

NARRATOR: Missionaries such as Len Barnard saw entire villages change as the story of Jesus was brought to them.

LEN BARNHARD (Retired Missionary) INTERVIEW 5:07-5:18) I did a medical patrol into the Catamoui cannibals. They were active cannibals and I'd never gone into a more degraded area. **(5:22-5:30)** You saw human bones drying in the sun. All flesh had been taken off of them.

NARRATOR: God can even change the hearts of hardened cannibals and bring them into a saving relationship with Him. When Len revisited the area he was thrilled with the results that he witnessed after missionaries had worked among the cannibals that he first treated.

LEN BARNHARD: (INTERVIEW 6:43-6:51) The contrast in the area was absolutely phenomenal. There were churches everywhere.

NARRATOR: Much of the work in the South Pacific could not have been accomplished without the use of aircraft. This was a vital part of reaching the people of the islands and the remote areas where many of them lived.

COLIN WINCH: (Retired Missionary) (INTERVIEW 1-0:07-0:22)- I had the privilege of opening up the work of God on the West Irian border. The aircraft enabled us to take workers into Pargay, right next to the border of West Irian.

NARRATOR: Missionaries leave a part of their heart in the countries in which they serve. When they hear of tragedies and sometimes war occurring in the fields where they have labored it causes them sadness and they pray that the members of their adopted home will stand firm for truth and the gospel.

ADRIAN CRAIG: (Retired Missionary) INTERVIEW 17 (00:06-00:15) We had the privilege from 1973-1977 of working on the delightful island of Bougainville.

(00:16-00:24) Bougainville is at the back door of Papua New Guinea. You go from the south of Bougainville and you move over into the Solomon Islands.

(1:07-1:14) Recently during the 1980's Bougainville suffered from Civil War.

(1:16-1:23) The latest figures would indicate that between 15 and 20 thousand people actually lost their lives.

(3:03-3:10) War did not diminish the commitment and the enthusiasm of the people for the Lord Jesus and the mission of the church.

(2:36-2:42) The crisis and the loss of life and the war did not retard the operation of the church.

NARRATOR: Each of these missionaries has miracle stories of their own. They've seen God heal an amputated leg, fly planes through impossible storms and heal a child who has been severely cut in an accident. Their full stories are featured on the bonus section of this DVD.

Today the work in the South Pacific Division is moving forward but there are still challenges.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 6) The church is growing. The church is vibrant. We are this year conducting a Festival of Mission where people from all over the Division will come together to celebrate mission to be inspired, to plan and to think of strategies, going forth so that the church can continue to grow and be strong in this part of the world.

NARRATOR: The 13th Sabbath Mission offering will fund two vital projects for the young people of the South Pacific Division. Fulton Missionary College has played a vital role in educating students from many of the islands throughout the South Pacific.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 13) Fulton College has been the senior tertiary institution for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific for many, many years. Recently it became obvious that we had to relocate Fulton.

NARRATOR: During this quarter you will learn about the important role Fulton College has played and what major changes are needed at Fulton in order for it to continue as a mission and ministry to young adults from around the world. You will also learn of the sacrifice of one young boy who gave all he had. One red tile reminds all who see it of his special sacrifice and the difference one can make to many.

Not all education and ministry occurs in a school setting. Telling the story of Jesus happens in informal ways among the islands. Bible picture rolls have been important ministry tools in the past.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 7) Many of our communities in the South Pacific have struggled with providing an education for our young people over the years. In those communities it is very important, as we seek to teach concepts, that we have visual

materials, which the people can refer to. That's why we are committing a large part of the funding that we receive from offerings towards providing these flipcharts for our people.

JULIE WESLAKE: (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, SPD) (00:01-00:12)

The project is called "Flip For Jesus." It will enable them to have a beautiful picture for every lesson in the 2-year cycle of the Kindergarten Sabbath School lessons for children.

(00:13-00:23) We've already taken some of these up through Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. These children are just engrossed because they have never had anything to focus their study of the Bible before.

BARRY OLIVER: (INTERVIEW 15) Let me just say how we in the South Pacific very much appreciate the assistance of our church family right around the world. We realized that mission is something that we're all engaged in together. In this quarter in the South Pacific we're especially appreciative that the whole world family is working together, contributing together to see these projects up and running in the South Pacific.

NARRATOR: Sacrifice has been a large part of our church history and of the missionaries who have served in the South Pacific Division. We believe that Jesus is coming soon. We believe that telling the story of Jesus is our most important task on this earth. On December 26, will you sacrifice whatever it takes to tell the children, men, and women of the South Pacific Division that Jesus loves them and that He is coming soon?

(Music from Hillview Church and pics montage from Avondale College shots).

Reporting from the South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists, this is Mission Sonlight.

