



Pastors listening and taking notes during the media training in Togoba which led to the launch of the new website and newsletter for Western Highlands Mission.

Paglum takes more students

THE Paglum Adventist High School this year experienced an influx of students. School chaplain Pr Kovah Gideon said at the start of the 2012 academic year, more students enrolled at the school. The school enrolled 518 students. Its usual intake is 350 students.

According to Pr Gideon, the high enrolment figure was history for the school. He said many students had been turned away as the school could not cater for their needs.

A village councilor who wished to remain anonymous said has blamed the political leaders for turning a blind eye to people's need for education.

The school administration was unable to comment as it was not in a position to do much with limited resources.

"Hold on to instruction, don't let it go for it is your life," Pr 4:13

Rakamanda revisited

By MINISTER MAX SAMUEL KAILA

A team of pastors and church leaders of the Western Highlands Mission visited Rakamanda Seventh-day Adventist church in Wabag on January 25.

Led by mission president Pr Max Zachheus, the team's visit was to pave way for the rebuilding of the church there.

The church, school, aid post and other government facilities were destroyed during a tribal war in 2003.

Pr Zachheus asked the locals to cooperate with the church.

"To rebuild Rakamanda, the people must work together with the church," he said.

Meanwhile, Rakamanda Rehabilitation Foundation Inc chairman Kelly Pellen said the locals would cooperate to rebuild Rakamanda.

Mr Pellen also apologized for the destruction caused and said plans were in place for rebuilding to occur.

"The people already have plans for a second Rakamanda.

"It will cost more than K29 million. The project will start when funds are ready," he said.



Locals watching a plane land at Sisimin airstrip in Oksapmin, Sandaun.

Adventist Aviation opens airstrip

By Minister Ronald Luke

The people of Sisimin in Oksapmin, Sandaun province, welcomed 2012 with the opening of a new airstrip by the Adventist Aviation Services (AAS).

Captain Bennet, who is one of the AAS pilots, cut the ribbon to

officially open the airstrip in early January.

The Sisimin people began building the airstrip in 2009 using modern and traditional tools. The whole village was involved in celebrating the opening of the airstrip.

Among the local villagers were

the president for Western Highlands Mission Pr Max Zaccias, Sandaun District Director, Pr Luke Tanop, other church leaders and people from villages around Oksapmin.

The old airstrip was closed when the village was relocated due to some unknown reasons.

Members learn how to write reports

Members of the Kota Seventh-day Adventist church can now be able to do proper reporting of Sabbath School activities and reach out to others in small groups.

They gained these skills during a training session conducted by the Western Highlands Mission Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director Pr Luke Nathan from February 17-18.

The training was focused on cell groups and the Sabbath School reporting system.

Pr Nathan said the training was an eye-opener for many.

“Most of the presentations were done in small groups and participants were involved in both sessions.

“The training was more transformational as many mistakes were realized and corrected,” he said.

Pr Nathan also said the cell group would act as a “bilum when we go into One-on-One evangelism in the next training”.

300-plus support church

More than 300 youth, pathfinders and Adventist Community Services members participated in the Mendi Town church opening ceremony on February 18.

The church pastor Minister Bosco Manda declared that all departments should resume duties after the festive holidays.

He also lit a candle which represented Jesus the light of the world and the spirit of Mendi Town Church.

Members registered the next day.

Niugu church begins tasks

The Niugu church in Laiagam district, Wabag, opened its church activities with an orientation programme early this year.

During the programme, church leaders gave speeches and shared their experiences. Pastor Philip from the Laiagam district lit the candle to signify the start of activities. He challenged the church to work together as "one body with many parts".

Pastor Philip said the church members were impressed and willing to take the challenge to move the district forward. More than 150 church members and 34 new interests attended the programme.

Togoba opens 2012 activities

Work at the Togoba Seventh-day Adventist church began on February 18 with an opening ceremony.

Pathfinders and Adventurers lit candles while members of other departments uncased their flags as a sign that work had resumed for the year. Departmental leaders said they were happy to work together again this year.

The theme for this year is "United we stand, divided we fall."

Church pastor Benjamin Tau opened the working year.

Togoba church members perish in ferry disaster



A file photo of the sunken ferry Rabaul Queen which Enoch and his family were onboard when it sank.

By Aaron Laka

Two Togoba church members are among the many that are still missing from the recent Rabaul Queen ferry disaster. Togoba church senior elder Enoch Kit, his wife Gweneth and seven year old son Geshon were returning home from Kimbe via Lae on the Rabaul Queen ferry when disaster struck off the coast of Finchafen in Morobe Province.

Enoch survived but sadly his wife and son could not make it. He said, "I saw them going into the sea with the ferry and all my strength was gone and I was just floating help-

lessly on the sea. But suddenly a thought came to me that you will see them very soon and that gave me the strength to hold on for the seven hours until we were rescued."

Through his grief he encouraged his six hundred church members to hold on to their faith in God because Jesus is coming very soon. He said he will continue to serve until His soon return as he wants to meet his loved ones.

There were other Togoba church members on the ill-fated ferry as well who managed to survive and were later rescued.

"Doing the same old things and expecting different results is the definition of insanity," Albert Einstein.

College church prays for latter rain

By Aileen Pakao

Mt. Hagen Technical College's SDA church has gone through a week of fasting and praying followed by the Upper Room program. The week of fasting and praying ran from 4th – 14th January with the theme Operation Global Rain which was set by the General Conference, Revival and Reformation Commission. The program involved all church members and leaders who gathered at the church daily to study the bible and pray together. Prayer points were collected and distributed to everyone who prayed on them.

One of the highlights was from a young lady who attended as a result of photocopying the program booklet. She was able to attend the program for six days and participate in the program. The Upper Room program followed the week after as church members requested for another week of bible study. For the first two nights members were divided into groups and did small group bible study and prayer and then gathered at the church for prayer and bible study for the next three days. Prayers and confessions were made as church members prayed for the out pouring of

the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the program a bond fire was made as church members brought in secular CD's and DVD's and other secular items and burnt them all in the bond fire. The church Pastor then made a commitment prayer for all the church members who gave up their secular items. The program ended with a combined meal for all church members who participated in the two-week programme. The church is currently continuing the prayer program where they gather at the church from 4:30 – 6:00 am to pray every day.

New church opens at Keluwa

By Pr Ben Pakau

Lazarus Memorial Church of Kewula No 1 in the Mul Baiyer district was opened and dedicated on the 22nd of December last year. The church was officially opened by President of Western Highlands Mission, Pr. Max Zaccias. He thanked the people for their commitment and hard work in completing the new church building. He acknowledged church members who made God's business their business by investing their time and resources into building the church. Special mention was made of Ms. Yang Rut, a local business woman who contributed much into



Pr Max Zaccias

the construction of the church. There were well over three thousand people who attended the program to witness the opening of the new church building in the District. The Keluwa No 1 Lazarus Memorial Church now adds onto the branch churches under Maip organized church in the Mul Baiyer

Ebuga to become organised soon

Ebuga branch church will be organized from May 20-26 this year. Church pastor Minister Janet Kupal said Volunteers In Action has donated some materials for a lamb shelter. She also said carpenters had laid the foundation for the lamb shelter, adding work may end at the end of March. She said church members were working together and preparing for the church's organization.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." Mt 24:14

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