



New TPUM education director Talonga Pita with his wife Teeraineta and daughter Jolisa.

TPUM announces appointment of new education director

📍 Suva, Fiji | John Tausere

Talonga Pita has been appointed the new Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Adventist Education director. He replaces Mere Vaihola, who was appointed deputy vice-chancellor at Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea earlier this year.

Mr Pita's appointment is considered a proud moment for the small Pacific nation of Tuvalu as he is the first Tuvaluan to assume a departmental director's post at the TPUM.

With 38 years of experience, Mr Pita has served in various leadership, academic and ministry roles across the South Pacific Division.

According to Mr Pita, he and his family look forward to fulfilling this new calling. "For us, it's coming back home as we have served throughout Fiji and the Pacific for many years. We are now blessed to serve God through our Pacific Adventist schools as TPUM education director," he said.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said he is certain that Mr Pita will uphold TPUM's commitment to wholistic education and spiritual development.

"With his extensive experience, dynamic leadership and dedication to Adventist education, TPUM is confident that Mr Pita will continue the good work Mrs Vaihola has done," Pastor Kaufononga said. "He will play a crucial role in the growth and success of the mission of Adventist Education."

For the past year Mr Pita has been serving as head of the mathematics department at Gilson College in Victoria, Australia, where he previously served as head of the science department from 2016 to 2022.

Mr Pita is in ministry with his wife, Teeraineta Lise, and their three children Gloria, Minute and Jolisa.



Pastor Gary Webster with some of the attendees at the recent training in Goroka.

Join this mission experience of a lifetime

📍 Lae, PNG | Tracey Bridcutt

Want to join a mission experience of a lifetime? Adventists in the South Pacific are needed for a unique opportunity to bring people closer to Jesus.

An evangelistic campaign called "PNG for Christ" is set to take place in Papua New Guinea in 2024. This ambitious initiative will span across the entire country, encompassing 2000 evangelistic sites. For two weeks, from April 26 to May 12, nightly meetings will be conducted to engage and inspire individuals in their spiritual journey. While a significant number of preachers will be locals, there is a pressing need for additional volunteers from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands.

Not only pastors and evangelists are being sought, but anyone passionate about sharing the message of Christ is encouraged to sign up. Training and resources will be provided to equip all participants.

"Our primary goal is to bring people to the Lord—that is what PNG for Christ

is all about," said Pastor Gary Webster, director of the Institute of Public Evangelism at the South Pacific Division.

"We need at least three hundred preachers from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands. It's going to be an extraordinary and uplifting experience and I would encourage anyone interested to embrace this opportunity."

Recently, Pastor Webster visited Goroka in PNG to provide training to some of the preachers who will be actively involved in the 2024 campaign.

"The Spirit is moving in PNG and we know that countless souls will be brought to the kingdom through this event," he said. "So don't miss this opportunity to contribute to something truly special in bringing people closer to Jesus."

For more details and to register your interest contact Torika Laweloa at the Division office on +61 2 9847 3214 or <torikalaweloa@adventist.org.au>.