

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Research Title:**

## **EMPOWERING YOUTHS AND FAMILIES TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN THEIR LIVELIHOODS**

### **BACKGROUND**

Many people in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands struggle to make ends meet. Many families depend on their relatives in formal jobs to provide for their basic needs. These families are not poor; they have a lot of resources, including their land, which can help them earn a living. The problem is that they must learn how to turn these resources into gold. The children in most of these families realise that there is nothing there for them, so they team up with their peers in the community to look for entertainment and often end up doing things that get them into trouble. People in the Pacific Islands are rich in natural resources, but they need guidance to help them use the available resources to sustain their livelihood. The Empowering Youth and Family (EYF) program is the answer to helping people have a sustainable livelihood. The EYF program has helped many families and youths in Papua New Guinea (Adventist and non-Adventist) in the last seventeen years. The program was led by Pacific Adventist University and funded by the Australian government. The result highlighted that families and youth who attended the program and implemented what they learnt have pulled themselves out of poverty and are living a happy and fulfilling life today. Most importantly, tithes and offerings in many of the Adventist Churches have increased because people are faithfully returning God's portion of the blessings they receive to the church.

### **SCOPE**

The research project will include all church leaders in PNG (from the PNGUM departmental leaders, local mission leaders, church leaders and interested church members throughout the nine local missions and the conference.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- to train and empower the following departmental leaders who will oversee the work; Stewardship leaders, youth leaders and family life leaders.
- Train and empower youths and families to farm the land and earn a living to sustain their livelihood.
- To help families learn techniques of valuing and collaborating within their family.
- Train leaders to become ToTs.
- Remind Church members return God's portion of their earning (Malachi 3.10).

### **Progress of the EYF program in PNG**

The aim of the EYF program was to cover the nine local missions and the conference. The research team have conducted the training in four local missions and the conference since January this year. The four local missions are: Sepik Mission, Morobe Mission, New Britain New Ireland Mission, Bougainville Mission and Central Papuan Conference.

Many success stories have emerged, in each local mission. We are yet to do the follow ups to dig deeper into the data.

We aim to complete the project by April 2025. We could complete the project by the end of this year, but it would be good to take time to properly record all the challenges and success stories to help us revise the program to help us support the church members in the future.