



Plenary Speaker

# BEN THOMAS

Director of Technology,  
Operations, & Strategy

ADVENTIST TECHNOLOGY

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION





Adventist  
Technology  
*for mission*

*South Pacific Division*

# MISSIONAL CONTEXT



# QUESTION 1

In which hemisphere  
is the South Pacific Division located?

- A: Northern hemisphere
- B: Southern hemisphere
- C: Western hemisphere
- D: None of the above options is correct



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# QUESTION 2

How far does the SPD stretch from the westernmost to easternmost points?

- A: 4,000kms (2,500 miles)
- B: 7,000kms (4,375 miles)
- C: 10,000kms (6,250 miles)
- D: 13,000kms (8,125 miles)



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# OCEANIA





# QUESTION 3

How many languages are native to the South Pacific Division?

- A: 100
- B: 600
- C: 850
- D: 1,200



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Summit  
THAILAND



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# QUESTION 4

Which Country has the  
*Highest Median Wealth* per Capita

- A: Australia
- B: Belgium
- C: Switzerland
- D: United States

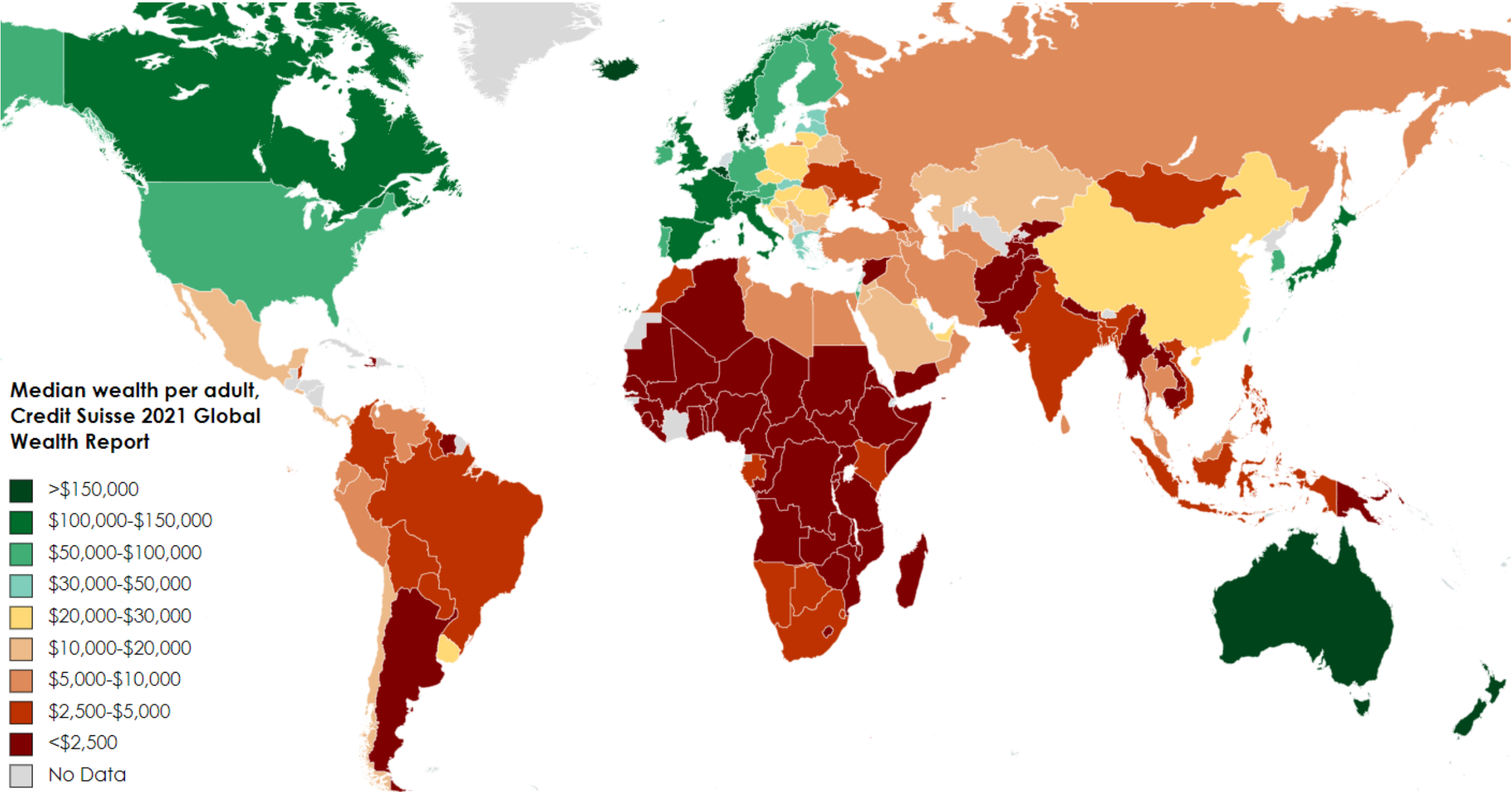


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Median wealth per adult, Credit Suisse 2021 Global Wealth Report

- >\$150,000
- \$100,000-\$150,000
- \$50,000-\$100,000
- \$30,000-\$50,000
- \$20,000-\$30,000
- \$10,000-\$20,000
- \$5,000-\$10,000
- \$2,500-\$5,000
- <\$2,500
- No Data



# QUESTION 5

Which Union is experiencing the highest membership growth?

- A: Australia Union Conference
- B: New Zealand Pacific Union Conference
- C: Papua New Guinea Union Mission
- D: Trans Pacific Union Mission



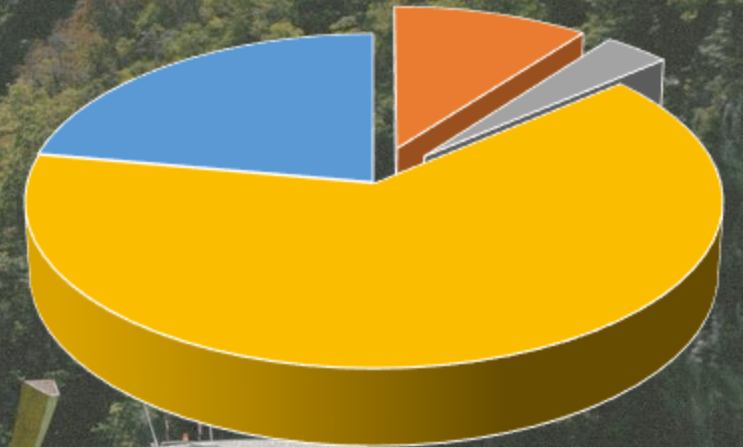
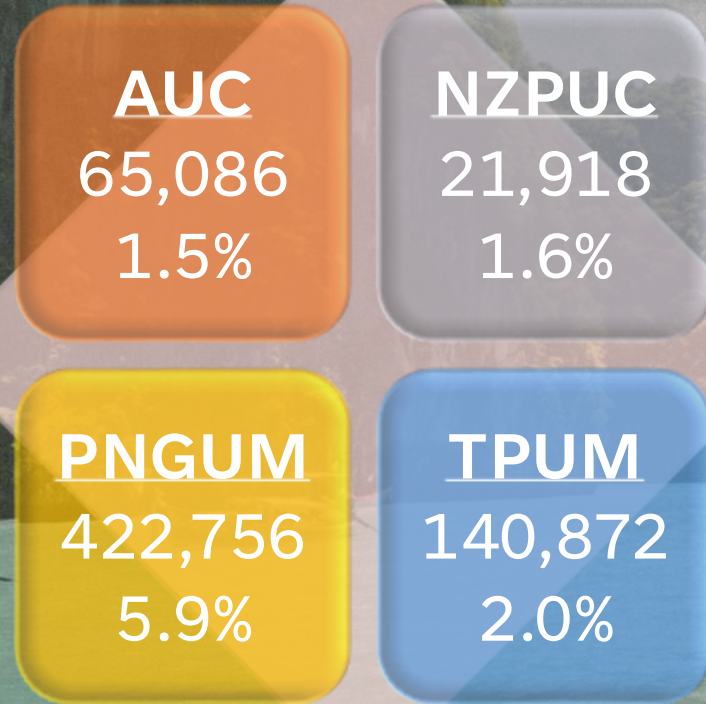
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# MEMBERSHIP BY UNION 2023

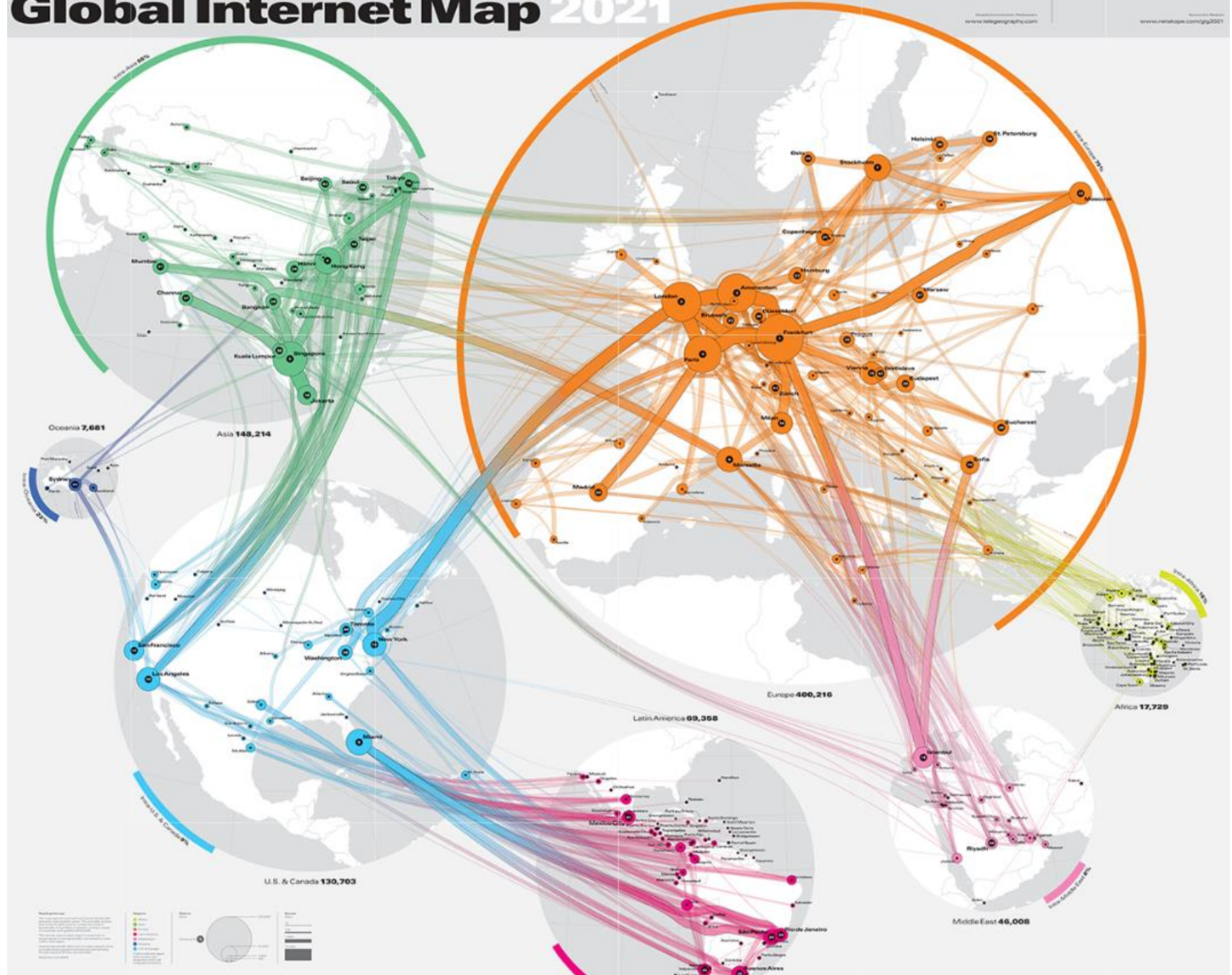


*In May this year*

*PNGUM ran the PNG4CHRIST campaign resulting in significant baptisms.*

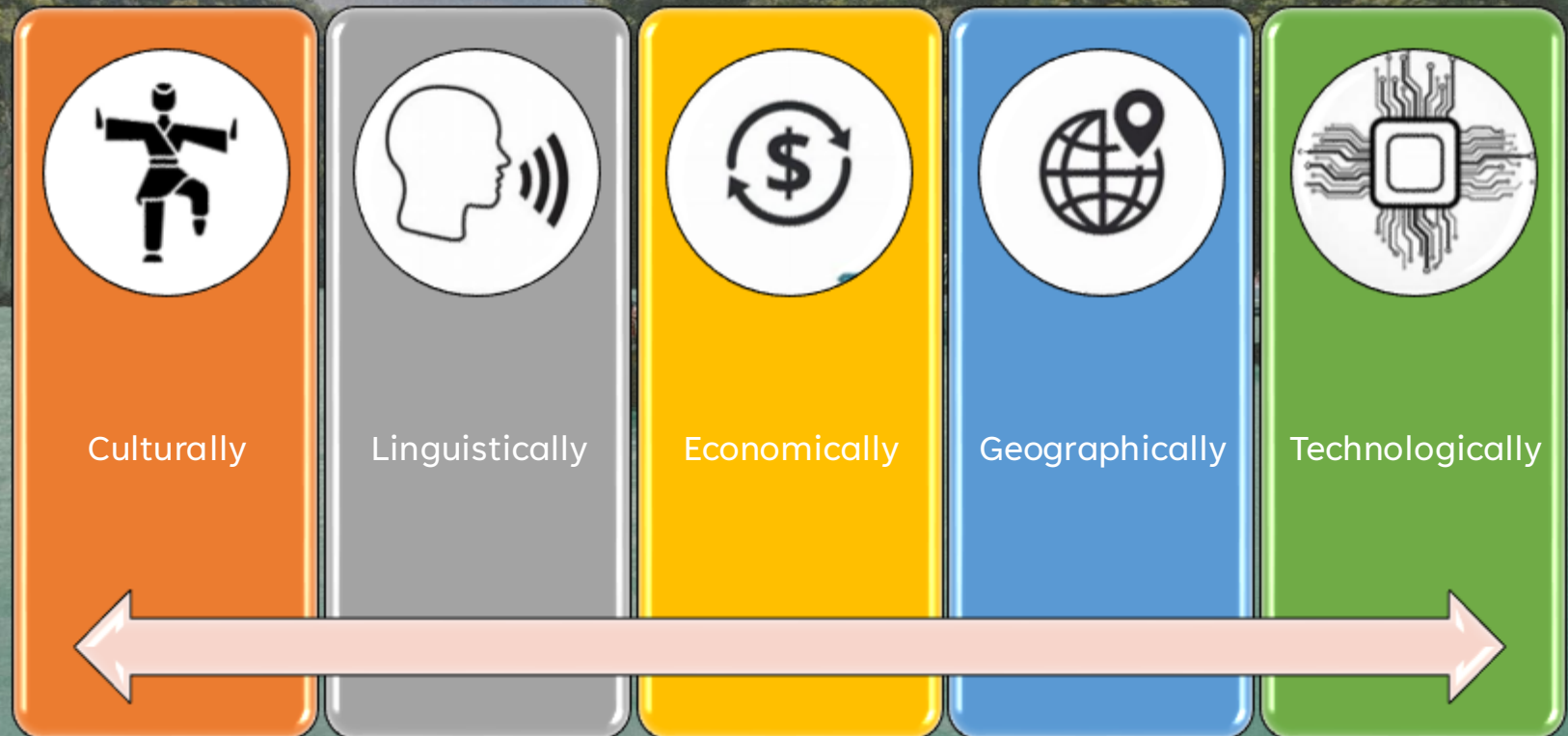


# Global Internet Map 2021





# SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION IS *VERY* DIVERSE





# THREE KEY MESSAGES

Prioritizing Mission

Working as One Church

Relying on Divine Guidance







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# PRIORITISING MISSION



# IT DEPARTMENTS

## Historic

## Recent Years

### Connected computers

- File saving
- Printing

### Applications

- Publishing/word processing
- Spreadsheets
- Accounting

### Connected computers

- Internet access
- Cloud file storage
- Cloud messaging
- Online meetings
- Online applications
- Teamwork
- Security

### Applications

- ERP
- Risk Management/Policy/Compliance
- Databases
- Notes
- Dashboards/Analysis tools



# FOR MISSION

- How can we use technology as a strategic enabler of mission?
- Requires a mind shift

How can we support the ministry team in fulfilling the gospel commission?

We think about supporting SYSTEMS.

Intentional

How can **we** use technology to fulfil the gospel commission in **collaboration** with the ministry team?

We become part of the SOLUTION.  
We do so in COLLABORATION.



# STEPS FOR PRIORITISING MISSION

Make mission  
an integral  
part of your  
Strategic  
Plan

Invest in  
mission

Brainstorm  
ideas for  
achieving  
missional  
outcomes

Prioritise  
mission on  
technology  
roadmap

Include  
mission in  
branding



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# EXAMPLES

## HopeVA

- How can we use technology to make disciples?
- How can we reach thousands more cost effectively?

## Partnership with worship team

- What can AdTec do to make SPD worship more meaningful?
- How can we improve the use of technology for a deeper worship experience?
- Focus on “own back yard”



# ADVENTIST TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN



## Vision



## Mission



## Values

*Adventist Technology* is a trusted solution provider to denominational organisations across the South Pacific Division.

With solutions for administration and mission, *Adventist Technology* is driving digital transformation to empower God's church to prepare for His soon return.

To provide technology services that enable discipleship

- Evangelise the use of technology as a strategic enabler for mission
- Provide robust, secure and viable IT services
- Promote good IT governance and cyber security

Faith

Care

Teamwork

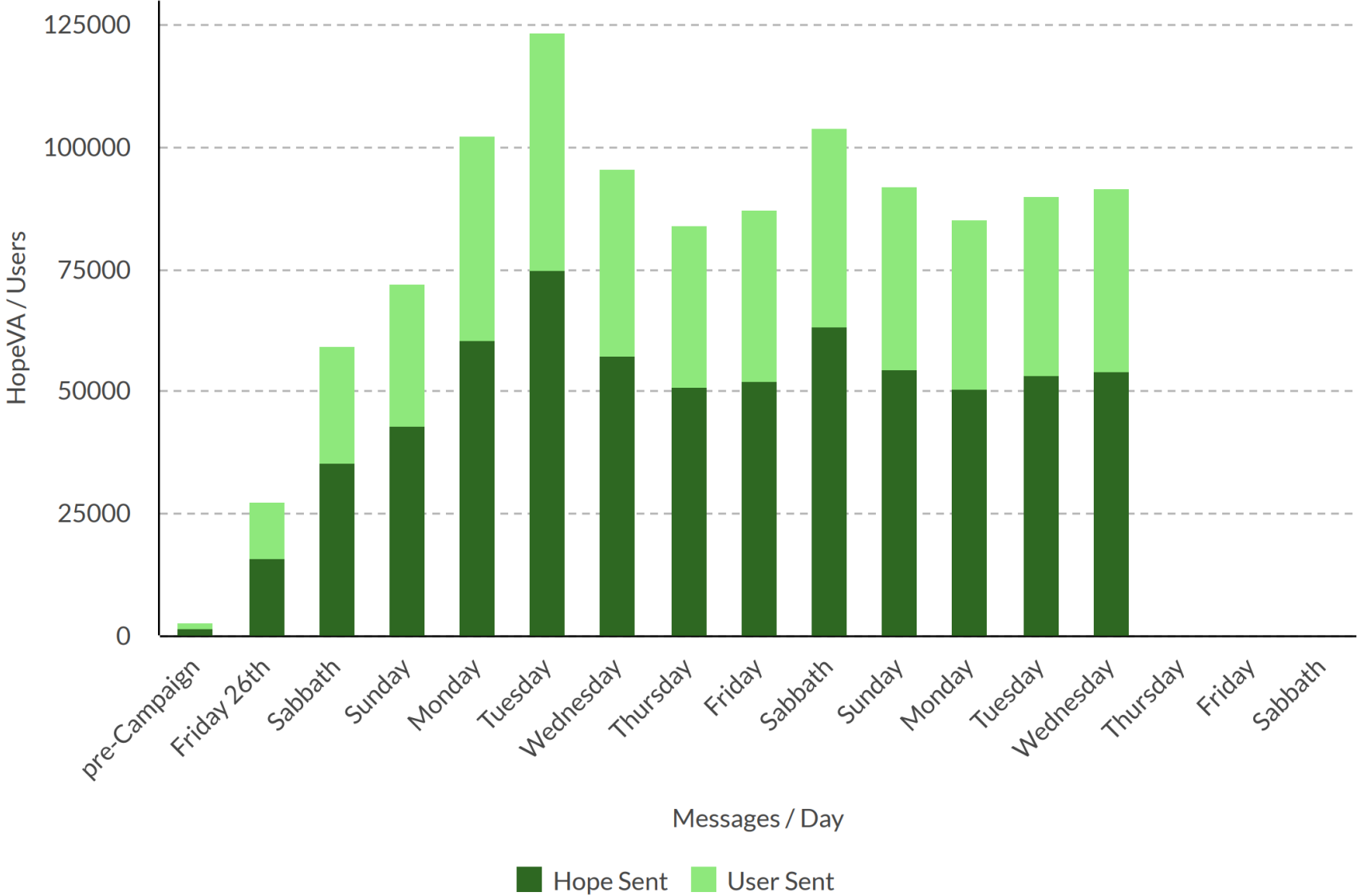
Integrity

Passion





# Conversations and Messages





Thanks Russ,

I found these online Bible courses very impactful because I could access the contents so easily via WhatsApp at my own pace. I have grown closer in my relationship with Jesus as I was doing the courses. It also motivated me to introduce these courses to my family WhatsApp group and few friends too.

...

I am looking forward to some more online Bible courses and this time if you can offer the Bible prophecy studies especially on Daniel and Revelation which I really want to understand better so I can be confident with the prophecy truths so I could share with family members and friends too.

...

Thank you and God bless the work you do by helping other Pacific brothers and sisters to have a relationship with Jesus and be saved in God's Kingdom.

Have a pleasant afternoon.

Kind regards,





ACMS  
Convene  
Office 365  
Teams

Zoom  
BI reporting  
ELMO  
PSR

MYOB Advanced  
CMF Online  
GLv2  
SUN Systems

MD Portal  
MD Lite  
Thrive  
Hope VA  
ELIA  
eGiving



Information Governance  
Strategic Software Projects  
Cyber Security  
Digital Transformation  
Enterprise Architecture

Service Desk  
Hosting and Infrastructure  
Security Operations

Custom Applications  
Product Management

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# POWER TOOLS

*for mission*

SEARCH • CONNECT  
ENGAGE • EMPOWER



**Hope VA**

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDIES

**thrive**

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

*md*

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT





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# YOUR PARTNER IN MISSION

Supporting IT initiatives across AUC, NZPUC, PNGUM and TPUM, and delivering key productivity solutions as well as a range of finance and business solutions.



ROLLED OUT TO OVER  
**500 PASTORS**

MD Lite  
ROLLED OUT TO  
**120 PASTORS**  
(FIJI & LAOS)

IMPLEMENTED  
HOPE VA  
IN PNG WITH MORE THAN  
**3000 STUDENTS**

**24 M**  
EMAILS  
RECEIVED  
**5/6**  
MALICIOUS

**27 STAFF**  
OVER 3 COUNTRIES

**62 DENOMINATIONAL ENTITIES**

**3500+**  
INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS

MANAGEMENT AND  
SUPPORT OF OVER

**1000+**  
COMPUTERS

**200+**  
SERVERS

NEW ZEALAND  
**8.6M**

AUSTRALIA  
**56.4M**

ACAS

EGIVING  
2023-24

SPD CONTRIBUTED  
**\$4.2M**  
OVER 4 YEARS TO  
**ADTEC.**  
THIS HAS ALLOWED  
ADTEC TO FULLY FUND  
**\$2.3M**  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE ACAS\*  
WITHOUT PASSING THE  
COSTS ON TO THE  
CONFERENCES.

SPD Operating Appropriation	2022: \$1,208,509
	2023: \$1,223,665
Digital Transformation Funds	2022: \$58,000
	2023: \$448,000
Other Funds	2022: \$60,000
	2023: \$141,000

\*ACAS REPLACES THE TITHES AND OFFERING SYSTEM



## Application:

- Imagine what God could achieve in your mission, conference, union, or division if technology became a strategic enabler of mission?
- How can technology reach people groups in your territory that would otherwise remain unreached?







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**WORKING AS  
ONE CHURCH**



# WORKING TOGETHER

Collaborating, NOT competing

- Not building own empire, but strengthening overall church

Doing what is best for global church rather than own entity

- Even if it costs you a little more
- Letting a staff member go, even if it causes you grief

Supporting each other

- Making a tithe of time available to a struggling entity

Standardising

- Using the same technology stack or solution
- Centralising purchasing



# APPROACH TO SYSTEMS

Implement ACWP



Change processes to suit ACWP



Resource adaptation/additional features for ACWP



Develop in-house



Outsource development



Purchase other solution



## Application:

- Imagine what would happen if all missions, conferences, unions and the GC (with its divisions) collaborated on all aspects of technology?
- Imagine how much more effective we would be at fulfilling the gospel commission if we shared resources?
- ✨ What is something that you excel at, that you could share with the world church?







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**DIVINE GUIDANCE**



# LEST WE FORGET HOW HE HAS LED IN THE PAST

PRE  
2020

- Introduced eGiving
- Introduced Zoom

During  
COVID

- eGiving and Zoom and carried the church



## Application:

- Imagine how developing a God ordained plan could change the future of your mission, conference, union, or division?
- What technology is God impressing on your heart that will make a significant difference to fulfilling the gospel commission?





# SUMMARY

## PSALM 133

<sup>1</sup> **How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live [work] together in unity!**

<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.

**For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.**

Prioritize Mission

Work as One Church

Rely on Divine Guidance



## QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: `benthomas@adventist.technology`

