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## Reflecting on God's faithfulness

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we draw near to the end of 2025, our SPEA family is thankful for God's faithfulness over our region.

In summary...

SPEA held its Inaugural Regional General Assembly in Papua New Guinea at the end of March. God's timing was perfect, as two weeks earlier, PNG's Parliament had officially recognised PNG as a Christian Nation. SPEA regional leaders were pleased to be on PNG soil to pray for the Nation, acknowledging more than 90 per cent of its 11 million citizens identify as Christian. PNG also celebrated its 50th Independence Day, gaining sovereignty from Australia in 1975.

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) hosted its 14th General Assembly of the WEA in Seoul in October, where the SPEA family was represented at a global level. Following the business meeting, we are pleased that two of our SPEA members, Jude Simion and Nataliya Osipova, have been elected to the WEA International Council. And, Sarah Scott-Webb, has been appointed as the incoming Executive Director for the SPEA Women's Commission. Praise God! SPEA

continues to work collectively in unity and love to ensure the prayers, concerns and voices of our region will be heard.

Finally, 6 years ago, SPEA only had two WEA members/national evangelical alliances, and in 2025 SPEA is pleased to have eight nations: NZ, Australia, PNG, Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands. SPEA will continue to support and build for the region.

Thank you to our Communications Executive, Esther Tredoux, who has led behind the scenes, over and above to support SPEA. We at SPEA are graciously appreciative. Thank you everyone for your prayers and love.

We continue to seek God's guidance and wisdom praying with expectant hearts for a faith-filled action 2026 year ahead. May the Spirit of God's peace, joy and goodwill overflow for you, your families, churches and our region during the Christmas season. Rest well and we'll see you in 2026.

Kilisimasi fiefia. Merry Christmas.



**Rachel Afeaki**

Regional General Secretary

South Pacific Evangelical Alliance

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## **United Nations General Assembly & Women's Commission**

### **United Nations General Assembly**

Recently, Sarah Scott Webb (NZ) had the incredible opportunity to speak at the United Nations General Assembly, and advocate on behalf of our Pacific region. She was part of a team representing the World Evangelical Alliance and its anti-trafficking arm, the World Freedom Network, at a high-level appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to

Combat Human Trafficking. Sarah was one of only 4 civil society participants selected to bring a 3 minute 'intervention' from the floor during a panel discussion on 'Emerging Trafficking Trends.' In her 3 minutes she spoke of the need for stronger victim identification and highlighted 2 rapidly increasing areas of concern – forced criminality and scamming compounds, and transnational organised crime throughout the Pacific.

Sarah called on the United Nations to stop hiding Pacific data within Asia-region statistics and to commit to Pacific-specific data and resourcing, enabling nations to properly identify victims and support their communities.

For Sarah the highlight was seeing the Lord at work in such a secular environment. 15 years ago she was given a prophetic word that she would speak at the UN, and she gives all praise and glory to the Lord for fulfilling His plans and purposes.

[Click here to watch Sarah's UN talk.](#)



### **Womens Commission**

At the WEA General Assembly in October, Rachel Afeaki handed over the role of leading the SPEA Women's Commission to Sarah Scott Webb. Sarah sees this appointment as a natural fit with her long-standing passion for strengthening women in leadership, encouraging gender equality, and advancing advocacy and justice across the region. She is deeply committed to equipping and empowering women to lead with confidence, faith, and impact in their churches and communities. Sarah looks forward to building on the strong foundations laid by Rachel Afeaki and working collaboratively to see women flourish throughout the South Pacific region.

## **First Steps in the Holy Land: A South Pacific Pastor's Journey**

- *Lynette Reed*

Visiting Israel for the first time was one of those experiences that stays with you long after you return home. For Richard and I, stepping into the Holy Land felt like stepping into the living pages of Scripture. We were blessed to travel as part of the AIJAC clergy study tour, representing Aotearoa New Zealand alongside five Australian pastors from various denominations. The journey offered not only learning, but rich cross-cultural fellowship that deepened the entire experience.

As pastors from the South Pacific, we were deeply moved to find that the stories we preach each week were no longer only words on a page; they had become landscapes, streets, voices, and faces.

### **Scripture Becoming Real**

Walking where Jesus walked, standing in places connected to the prophets, and seeing the rugged beauty of the land brought a depth to our faith that we did not anticipate.

These moments did not replace belief; they strengthened it. The passages we read in our homes, churches, and communities now hold a renewed weight because we were able to glimpse the land where God wove together so much of His redemptive story. Israel reminded us that the gospel we carry is rooted in real history, real people, and a faithful God who continues to move in His time. It is humbling to realise that the same God who shaped the story of Israel is shaping the story of our villages, our islands, and our region today.

### **Encouragement for Ministry in the Pacific**

For pastors and missionaries across the South Pacific, ministry can at times feel lonely, slow, or exhausting. Yet travelling through a land marked by both breathtaking beauty and ongoing conflict reminded us that God preserves His witness in every season. If He is at work in Israel in all its complexity, then He is certainly at work in our own communities.

Whether we are preaching in a village hall, sharing His goodness, or visiting families facing hardship, the same God who walked the dusty roads of Galilee walks with us still.

This truth has become a quiet source of courage for us, and we hope it encourages others who serve in our region.

### **A Renewed Call to Prayer**

One of the most significant gifts of the trip was a renewed call to prayer. Throughout history, believers have turned their hearts toward Jerusalem as they lifted their concerns before God. Being physically present there reminded us of the importance of steady, hopeful intercession whether for Israel, for the global Church, or for our own South Pacific nations.

We returned home with a deepened commitment:

- \* to pray for the peace of Israel,
- \* to pray for unity and healing in our region, and
- \* to pray for a fresh spiritual awakening across the Pacific.

### **A Journey That Continues**

As we continue our work at Aukilani Community Church, Israel is no longer just a destination we once visited. It has shaped how we read the Bible, how we preach, and how we carry God's people in prayer. The trip has become part of our ministry story, a reminder of God's faithfulness and a spark for renewed passion.

Our hope is that these reflections encourage other pastors and missionaries to keep loving God's Word, keep trusting His timing, and keep sowing the gospel across the South Pacific with fresh courage, vision, and joy.



## Announcements

**Congratulations to Nataliya and Jude for being appointed on the International Council (IC) of the WEA.**

The International Council (IC) is the governance board of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA). It consists of one representative for each region and a selection of members-at-large that complement the diversity of gender, age and skills. IC members are elected by the representatives of regional and national Evangelical Alliances at WEA General Assemblies, which generally take place at least once every six years.

## [Learn More About the IC](#)



"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve through the ICP. This appointment is both a privilege and a responsibility, allowing me to apply the gifts, education, and skills God has entrusted to me for the strengthening of the global Body of Christ, so that Christ's Kingdom may enter homes, communities, and nations across the world. I step into this role with humility, faith, and deep expectancy for what God will do." - Nataliya Osipova



"I am humbled and privileged to be elected to serve on the WEA International Council. I hope this opportunity will open doors to build strong collaboration with Evangelical communities across Oceania, uniting the church to transform the nations where we live and serve. I look forward to working closely with every EA's in our region." - Jude Simion

## **'Every tribe and nation': the global gathering in Korea of the World Evangelical Alliance**

– *Stuart Lange and Malcolm Falloon*

In October, 1,000 delegates from 125 nations have been meeting together in Korea, for the General Assembly of the World Evangelical Alliance, for a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, listening, discussion, and praying together. This inspiring event takes place every six years.

SaRang Church, a vibrant Korean Presbyterian church drawing over 60,000 worshippers each week, hosted the assembly in close partnership with Yoido Full Gospel Church, the Pentecostal church once led by Yonggi Cho. For the first two days the WEA Assembly was joined on site by 5,000 Korean pastors, with many shared sessions which were extraordinary for the worship, fervour, unity, and prayer.

The central theme of the General Assembly was 'The Gospel for everyone by 2033': encouraging a massive new worldwide emphasis

on evangelism, reaching many more people for Christ in the lead-up to the 2,000 year anniversary of the birthday of the Church on the day of Pentecost, 2033.

We also heard from Christians in many nations where there is horrific persecution of Christians, and many other major problems. Many of those countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, where there is obviously a concerted and intensifying campaign of terror by Islamic groups such as Boko Haram in northern Nigeria, systematically kidnapping, killing, and destroying Christian populations. But none of this is adequately exposed by international media, or effectively combated by governments. In many countries there is also famine, political instability, deep corruption, civil war, massive displacements, and overwhelming public health crises.

In the mix of nations there were 25 people from the South Pacific region. These included people from the evangelical alliances in New Zealand (ten of us, connected with NZCN), Papua New Guinea, and Australia, and also from the emerging new evangelical alliances in Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Marshall Islands. The South Pacific region met together, with a great sense of unity.

The WEA welcomed a new General Secretary, Butros Mansour. Born and raised in Nazareth, and an Israeli citizen, Butros is an Arab Christian, and clearly a man who puts faith in Christ and the unity of believers above all else. He speaks with grace and humility, and with a global perspective, and will no doubt give good leadership.

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## **A few Highlights from the WEA General Assembly**



[View all the photos](#)

## 2026 dates to diarise

*Copy and paste the below text when adding the events to your calendar.*

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6495250949?pwd=WitzSTQ3ejhKZINPTzl...>

**Meeting ID: 649 525 0949**

**Passcode: 5968**



**SPEA MEETINGS**

**6 May 2026**  
10:30 - 12:00 (GMT +13)

**7 October 2026**  
10:30 - 12:00 (GMT +13)



**SPEA**  
SOUTH PACIFIC  
EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

2026  
**SPEA PRAYER MEETINGS**  
10:30 - 11:30AM NZ TIME

JOIN US VIA ZOOM

**DATES**

**4 MARCH**  
10:30 - 11:30AM (GMT+12)

**3 JUNE**  
10:30 - 11:30AM (GMT+13)

**3 SEPTEMBER**  
10:30 - 11:30AM (GMT+13)

**2 DECEMBER**  
10:30 - 11:30AM (GMT+12)

The New Zealand Christian Leader's Congress is organised by the New Zealand Christian Network, the New Zealand National Evangelical Alliance.



**South Pacific Evangelical Alliance**

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