

Title: Perceptions and experiences of conflicts and reconciliation among Seventh-day Adventists: Preliminary findings of a Qualitative Study in Papua New Guinea.

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Abstract

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, recognizes increasing fear and sense of vulnerability among its members as a result of ongoing and heightened violence in the world today. This calls for active response and enhancement of the reconciliation ministry. In response to this need, a union mission (Papua New Guinea) within the South Pacific Division, is conducting a collaborative research, with Pacific Adventist University, a premier higher learning institution. This qualitative research collected data through individual interviews, field notes and activity - oriented focus group discussions to elicit Church leaders' and Church members' experiences of reconciliation.

This paper presents the preliminary findings of this study. Preliminary data shows that both the Church leaders and members perceive reconciliation as a highly desired and sought for goal in initiating and sustaining peace and good order in families, communities and Church. Data from Church members strongly indicate that there are numerous prolonged and pending conflicts among Church members which demand urgent and effective approach from Church leaders to address conflicts of differing nature. The paper also describes the The study's findings will propose a needs focused reconciliation framework for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

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