

SPD Mission Facts: Primary

1. This quarter's offering is going to the South Pacific Division of the world church. There are many beautiful islands with sandy beaches spread across the South Pacific. These include the big islands of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. It also includes the smaller islands of Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Pitcairn Islands and many others.
2. In Papua New Guinea, it can be very hot. Some churches are just an iron roof held up by poles. This means that the wind can blow through the church, which makes it cooler for the people. Kids have their own Sabbath School classes outside under a tree. Some kids have their own World Changer Bibles, which they are very proud of.
3. Australia has many different places of great beauty. There are rainforests, mountains, deserts, sandy islands, and beautiful beaches. There is a very famous red rock in the middle of Australia called Uluru. It's the biggest single rock in the world! Australia also has reefs called the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo where you can go snorkelling and see coral and colourful fish. There is a big desert in the middle of Australia, and beautiful pink lakes.
4. There are more than 332 islands in Fiji so most children in Fiji grow up by the sea. Children in Fiji love swimming in the ocean and lagoons, and fishing. They also enjoy playing games with balls. They like to play rugby, rugby league, and netball. Tag is popular, as is Pani, a traditional game that's similar to hopscotch or skipping.
5. Children in the cities in Papua New Guinea usually have Bibles. However, many children in country villages do not have their own Bible. That is why our church is sending many World Changer Bibles to Papua New Guinea so that children can have their own Bible.
6. New Zealand is a country of two islands: the North Island and South Island. Its most famous bird is a kiwi. This curious bird is covered with long hair-like brown feathers, has a long, thin beak, and can't fly. The kiwi's body is close to the ground, but it has strong legs like an emu that help it run. New Zealand has many beautiful big parrots, like the green kea, one of the world's most intelligent birds. They also have more types of penguins than any other country.
7. Children in Papua New Guinea love sharing Jesus with others through their church programs. Groups like Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Youth take part in community activities and special church events. These programs are very popular, and people easily recognize the children by their bright, colourful uniforms. During these events, they often march down the streets, while inviting people to come to church and learn more about God. Their joyful spirit and teamwork help spread kindness and faith in their communities.
8. The Solomon Islands are a collection of six main islands and 992 smaller islands. That's a lot of islands! It can be hard for people on little islands to get to church and for pastors to travel between islands to share the Good News about Jesus. Some travel by boats, others by sea planes. Most people speak Solomon's Pijin, but there are around 80 other languages. Even though they are spread out, the people stick together. In the Solomon

Islands, children and adults live together as a community. When a family is struggling, their friends, relatives, and neighbors—called "Wantoks"—share food, clothes, and even their homes to support them. Everyone looks out for each other, making sure no one is left alone in times of need.

9. In Papua New Guinea, most people learn about God from their parents and by going to church and listening to a pastor preach about Jesus. They go to Sabbath School to learn about what the Bible teaches. Some of the challenges that people in Papua New Guinea have about learning about God is that many people do not have enough money so that they need to sell drugs like cigarettes and betel nut to get money. This makes them feel bad and they drift away from coming to church on Sabbath.

10. Children in Australia love to eat many different types of food. This is because people from many different countries have moved to Australia over the years. Australian children enjoy pasta, pizza, sushi, Mexican burritos, burgers, and Asian noodles. When children go down to the beach, they often enjoy having hot potato chips wrapped in paper. There are also many tropical fruits like mangos. Macadamia nuts are a special food grown in Australia. Macadamia nuts are very smooth and taste a bit like butter.

11. Vanuatu is a country with a chain of around 80 islands, including 13 larger islands. Its capital city is Port Vila. More than 100 languages are spoken here. That's a lot of languages to say, "God loves you!" The islands are mainly mountains, covered with rainforests. Some of the islands are active volcanoes. Sadly, many people in Vanuatu have lost their homes, schools, and churches in recent earthquakes.

12. Kiribati is a country of islands spread over large parts of the ocean near the equator—the centre of the earth. The people here are the very first people in the world to welcome the new year each year. Island life is difficult; there is little land, and the soil is no longer good for growing food. People in Kiribati are worried about their homes and future. As sea levels rise around the world, the islands here are beginning to disappear under water. One has already been covered by the sea.

13. Some children in the cities in Papua New Guinea can catch a bus to go to school. Others may have to walk to school. Children in villages in Papua New Guinea have to walk a long way each day to get to school. There are many children in a classroom in a school and there are not a lot of teachers. Often, there is only a blackboard and desks in a classroom.