

Category 1

American Samoa



The population of American Samoa is 180,000 with Adventist members numbering 4,578 for American and Western Samoa. There are no religious freedom problems. The country follows the United States Constitution.

Australia



The population of Australia is 19.3 million with 71% Christian, including 50,394 Adventist members. Although the majority of the population are Protestant, the percentage of citizens who consider themselves as having no religion represents a third of the inhabitants. There is complete freedom in this country, in spite of very little legislation to protect religious freedom. There have been some instances of religious discrimination and intolerance towards minority religious groups, e.g., Sikhs, Jews, Muslims, which is often mixed with racial and ethnic tensions.

Some possible difficulties may exist with legislation against religious vilification and also discriminatory legislation as it affects the church as an employer. Anti-discrimination legislation in some states has been used against churches in their termination of employment of staff in schools or ancillary services which do not uphold the principles or values of the Church that employes them.

Some Seventh-day Adventists have lost employment because of their refusal to work on Saturdays. There were consultations with community groups and inter-faith dialogues through the World Conference on Religion and Peace. There is also some proposed legislation to prevent religious intolerance and vilification. Lobbying by a coalition of church groups has modified legislation to provide exemption for church institutions, advocacy with employers, and reporting to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, however there is no specific legal provision for Sabbath accommodation.



Cook Islands

The population of the Cook Islands is 20,000 with 783 Adventist members. There are no religious liberty problems. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the recognized churches. There is, however, increasing pressure from dominant churches to impose Sunday observance legislation.



Fiji

The population of Fiji is 838,000 with 449,482 Christians, including 21,560 Adventist members, 264,173 Hindus and 54,323 Muslims. The constitution provides separation of church and state and religious freedom for all. However, civil unrest, racial tension, and the recent coup have created discrimination and intimidation of non-Christian faiths.



Kiribati

The population of Kiribati is 90,000 with 1,254 Adventist members. Seventh-day Adventists are well-respected and there are no real problems in this country. There is much government cooperation.



New Zealand

The population of New Zealand is 4,336,054, with the majority being Protestant, including 16,802 Adventist members. There is full freedom of religion. There are no problems, except for a few cases concerning Saturday work expectations. One person has a case relating to Sabbath work pending before the Human Rights Commission which is handling the case. The Church has been paying the legal costs and has been supporting the individual concerned.




Papua New Guinea

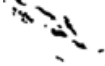
The population is 5,049,000 with 97% Christian, including 211,255 adventist members. There are no major religious liberty problems faced by Christians in Papua New Guinea, except for a few incidences where inter-

Christian denominational clashes sometimes occur. For example, in one village in Finchhafen, Morobe Province, they do not want Adventists to build a church there, because it is a Lutheran dominated area. These incidents do take place, but on a whole, there is no religious liberty problem as such. For the above situation, Adventist leaders advised their members to find a different location to avoid major conflicts and to maintain good relationships with the people. Also, there are some problems concerning Saturday employment for those who work in essential services such as the police force and the mining companies.


Pitcairn

 There is no problem in the area of religious freedom on this small island under British control. The population stands at 54 with 40 Adventist members.


Solomon Islands

 The population of the Solomon Islands is 450,000 with 23,423 Adventist members. This country gives constitutional protection to religious freedoms. Usually there are no problems, but civil tension and unrest has created difficulties for many.

Tonga

 The population is 102,321 in the Tonga and Niue, with 1,862 Adventist members. Seventh-day Adventists are well-respected in Tonga, and there are no religious liberty problems. There are strict Sunday observance laws, but Seventh-day Adventists also observe Sunday as the true seventh-day (due to the date line).

Tuvalu

 The population is 11,000, with 162 Adventist members. Seventh-day Adventists are well-respected in spite of the country having a dominant state church. There are no problems or human rights abuses.



Vanuatu

The population of Vanuatu is 206,000 with 14,019 Adventist members. There is constitutional protection for religious freedom in this country, and there are no problems practicing these rights. There have been, however, interchurch rivalries and a court proceeding took place to protect the Seventh-day Adventist Church name and identity from independent groups.

Category 2

French Polynesia

The population of French Polynesia is 236,000 with 4,400 Adventist members. There are no real problems except for some difficulties still present with Saturday schooling. Parents work with this situation and try to find cooperative solutions with the teachers. There is good financial support from the government for youth activities and the church school.



Hong Kong

The population of Hong Kong is 7,355,000 million with approximately 3,977 Adventists. Adventist presence in Hong Kong is significant with 2 hospitals, 1 college, 1 secondary school, and 2 middle schools. No problems have been reported indicating any new policy of restriction against religious organizations. Article 32 of the Constitution, which protects religious freedom for Hong Kong residents, is respected by the authorities.



New Caledonia

The population of New Caledonia is 229,000 with 344 Adventist members. There are some problems with classes that are scheduled on Sabbath. Individual principals or teachers often waive the obligation once parents/students try to negotiate with the principal or teacher involved. Sometimes it works, sometimes it does not.



Niue

The population in the Tonga and Niue Islands is 102,321 with 1,862 Adventist members. The dominant church creates some opposition to Seventh-day Adventists. There are strict Sunday observance laws.



Philippines

The population of the Philippines is approximately 76.4 million. Over 85% of the population is Roman Catholic, 8.7% other Christian denominations, including 885, 275 Adventist members, and 4.6% Muslim.



South Korea

The population of South Korea is about 47 million with 28% Buddhists, 18% Protestants, 6% Catholic, and 45% Atheists or non-practitioners. There are 161,886 Adventist members.

The government protects religious freedom when it does not conflict with its own perceived interests. Conscientious objectors are often imprisoned. In 2001, the Medical Boards test was held on Saturday, February 17. Adventist students were unable to take the test, but the Church appealed to the government authority to change the test date. The government acquiesced and changed the date to a weekday.

Under Korean law, all males are required to perform military service in the army for an average of 26 months. According to various NGOs, about 600 Korean youths are sent to jail every year for refusing to join the military, mostly motivated by religious convictions. Among them an Adventist soldier, Yoon Yung Chu. *(Correspondent)*