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Record

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HOPEChannel free-to-air in FIJI

Suva, Fiji

Fijians now have a fifth free-to-air television station—Hope Channel. As of February 22, the eastern and central regions of Viti Levu, Fiji’s main island, including the capital, Suva, have been receiving the UHF broadcast.

“We are grateful to our God for His hand in securing the approval from Government for the re-broadcast of the Hope Channel free-to-air in Fiji,” said Joe Talemaitoga (pictured right), media ministries director for the Fiji Mission. “People are watching it in the villages, in the country schools,” he said. “These are non-Adventists and they’re saying they’re being blessed.”

The coming of Hope Channel adds to the growing reach of Adventist media in the island nation. Already Hope FM broadcasts to the whole island of Viti Levu and is the preferred Christian radio station for many Fijians.

And for the past 18 months, FIJI TV has been carrying the It Is Written Oceania (IIWO) program—Australian-produced episodes, but with introductory and final comments by local evangelist Pastor Tiko Kabu. According to Mr Talemaitoga, about 10 viewers respond each week to offers made on

the program; a number of these viewers have joined Adventist churches around Fiji.

It Is Written Oceania costs \$FJ800 (about \$A500) to air each week. The expense nearly sunk the broadcast earlier this year, with Church leaders informing FIJI TV that the programs would discontinue from March 31. But determination from other church members to save IIWO prompted the “fastest backflip ever,” according to Mr Talemaitoga. He told FIJI TV within 48 hours that the broadcast was back on. The weekly episodes have continued uninterrupted.

The broadcast fee is now raised on a week-to-week basis, thanks to the support of private donors. Mr Talemaitoga is looking for ongoing support from church members from around the South Pacific Division.

The next challenge is to give Hope Channel in Fiji a local flavour. Mr Talemaitoga is already investigating the technology needed to interrupt the satellite feed and insert Fijian-produced content. He’s identified local programming as well as Hindi-language content that will better target



Pastor Luke Narabe with some of the TV hardware.

the 38 per cent of the population who are of Indian descent.

“We need to go west,” Mr Talemaitoga said, referring to Fiji’s Western Division, including the town of Nadi, which does not currently receive Hope Channel. “On the mountain ridge overlooking the new Fulton college (Nadi) campus, is our transmission tower hosting HOPE FM’s aerials. Data links that are able to carry both audio and picture across the island of Viti Levu are already in place. We need a transmitter and aerials to be bought and positioned on the tower in Nadi.”

—Kent Kingston

Church marriage faces challenges in PNG

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

A recent study on marriage in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea revealed that living together was the most common relationship.

Customary marriage was second followed by church marriage. The study found that most people do not prefer church marriage as it’s either thought to be an expensive



Pastor Jeffrey Paul

exercise or is not seen as relevant in the PNG context. Another common view expressed by the study’s participants was that the church wedding is not being promoted well in local churches.

Pastor Jeffrey Paul presented the findings during a research colloquia session at Pacific Adventist University.

He said the alarming trend of cohabitation confirms that young people engage in premarital sex and try to experience married life before making a commitment to marry.

Pastor Paul explained that in such relationships, commitment to marriage eventuates if the female partner becomes pregnant but if this does not happen the couple typically separate. The study confirmed that many marriages take place outside the Church, civil and customary contexts.

“This is a great challenge for the Church,” Pastor Paul said. “Church leaders must now seriously look at the situation and make pre-marriage, actual marriage ceremony and post-marriage a priority of concern.”

He recommended the Church organise workshops, training and educational programs for young people on the importance of proper legal marriages in PNG.

Pastor Paul graduated last month with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry. His findings on marriage were part of his MA Thesis. —Clare Kokinai



A tale of two movies

James Standish

"All art is propaganda. It is universally and inescapably propaganda; sometimes unconsciously, but often deliberately, propaganda," or so said American author Upton Sinclair. I would go a step further and note that all media is propaganda. That is, all media is made from a set of assumptions, provides limited information couched within those assumptions, and is designed to communicate a message consistent with those assumptions.

Indeed, understanding the assumptions, biases, prejudices and goals that underpin the media we consume is critical. That's one of the reasons I consciously consume news from a variety of sources. Somewhere between the left-leaning *New York Times* and the right-leaning *Economist*, the essentials of a story come out.

And it's not just *how* stories are reported, but *which* stories are reported. In fact, which stories are reported and which are ignored tells you more about a bias than virtually anything else.

Which brings me to two very disparate films made about homosexuality and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

One film was made by a couple who, while living in San Francisco, became involved in advocating for the redefinition of marriage to include same-sex relationships. Their goal for the movie? "Radical and revolutionary change," said one of the filmmakers in an interview with Indiegogo.

The film was funded, in part, by the San Francisco Film Society. It features the stories of three Adventists who experience same-sex attraction—all of whom make the same decision: to become involved in a sexually intimate same-sex relationship. Why are no other options presented? The filmmakers claim the stories of those raised in the Adventist faith who decide to engage in sexually intimate same-sex relationships are more interesting than those with same-sex attraction who decide not to, based on their desire to obey God.

The second film was made by an Avondale College student. He's never been a member of any particular movement other than the Advent movement. He received

no funding, sponsorship, support or accolades. And, unlike the activists, no sponsors are flying him around the world to hold screenings.

It was made. It was forgotten. End of story.

Well, not quite.

You see, someone mentioned the film to me. I requested a link to it and I sat down to watch it. What I saw completely astonished me. In fact, I've never seen a film so utterly raw and honest. Here are three Adventists looking at the camera and talking openly and with complete candour about the most personal and painful issues.

There's the young married man who speaks about his addiction to internet porn. The young woman who discusses her search for love after her parents' devastating divorce. And there's the maker of the film, who opens up about being a youth leader at church on Sabbath and watching gay porn during the week. And wondering how the two reconciled.

I would include a link to the activists' film on the RECORD website, but the filmmakers denied my request for a link to view the film. They explained that after watching their film, viewers are required to sit through a directed discussion. I have, however, added a link to their trailer that provides an excellent summary of the film—with all the sweeping music, soft focus, tears and cinematic style a well-funded filmmaker can employ to pull at the emotions.

I have also provided on the RECORD website a link to the Avondale student's film. Simple, stark, beautiful. No big budget. Just honesty. I won't tell you how each young Adventist in the film reconciles their struggle, because I'd rather you see it for yourself. And I won't make you sit through a directed discussion after watching it, to tell you what your reaction should be. That's up to you.

You now have two alternate media pieces to consume on www.record.net.au. And you have your Bible. I'll leave it to you to decide which video upholds living a life of faithfulness to God.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

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SEVENTH-DAY
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Our vision is to be a church that...
knows
experiences
and shares
our hope in Jesus Christ



The strength of women

Jarrod Stackelroth

Clunk! She heard the dull, metallic thud as the medical staff walked away. She tried to ask the doctors what sex the baby was, tried to find out why she had miscarried. Was it a strain from pushing the car, after they had broken down between Adelaide and Melbourne? Was it something she had done wrong? Her husband was interstate. She had called and was waiting for him to fly back. The medical staff answered her questions by saying they didn't know. They told her it didn't really matter, because it wasn't *really* a baby; not yet anyway.

But to her it was. She'd heard the clunk as they dropped her baby into the pan to carry it away. They didn't understand but that made it real.

My mother had a miscarriage. Between my younger brother and I there is a three and-a-half year gap. During that time, my mother fell pregnant but lost the baby.

In preparing for this editorial I spoke to Mum about the experience. She was open and told me things she'd never really talked about before.

The pain of miscarriage is usually hidden, often brushed over. The pain of losing a child is immense; the hurt of never having children can be awkward, even ostracising or demoralising.

Now that my wife and I are married, we inevitably get the next life question: "When are you having kids?" "C'mon," people say, "we want to see your kids, they'll be cute, can we babysit?" We are at the age where all of our friends are having babies—the wedding invites on our fridge are starting to be crowded out by those for baby showers. We joke and say "we're not ready yet". But at the back of our minds is a nagging doubt—the doubt that we may never be able to have children of our own.

While we've been married for a year and-a-half and are doing nothing to prevent it, we haven't yet fallen pregnant. You see my wife has a condition called polycystic ovary syndrome, which means she will have trouble falling pregnant. We know it means we may never have our own children. Sometimes it's hard to think about, and it's always hard to talk about.

Mother's Day is an opportunity to celebrate some of the strongest women in our lives. But I want to also pay tribute to those who aren't mothers. I have aunts I love who have been like a mother to me and don't have their own children. There are women in our churches and communities who invest in us with their time and energy—some choose not to have children, others don't have a choice. This Mother's Day I encourage you to bring flowers to church or send a card to someone you know who may not have children to receive them from.

Like so many of life's celebrations, Mother's Day can hold tinges of sadness—for those who have lost children, those who have lost mothers, those who can never be mothers. Let's remember the mourning and the marginalised—they are close to God's heart. And at times like this, they need to be held close to ours.

I asked my mum how she felt after her experience. As she lay in the hospital, my mother felt grateful. Next to her was a woman who'd had five miscarriages and would never have another one. She had no living children. My mum already had me and hoped she could have more. She held onto hope. That is the strength of women.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of RECORD.

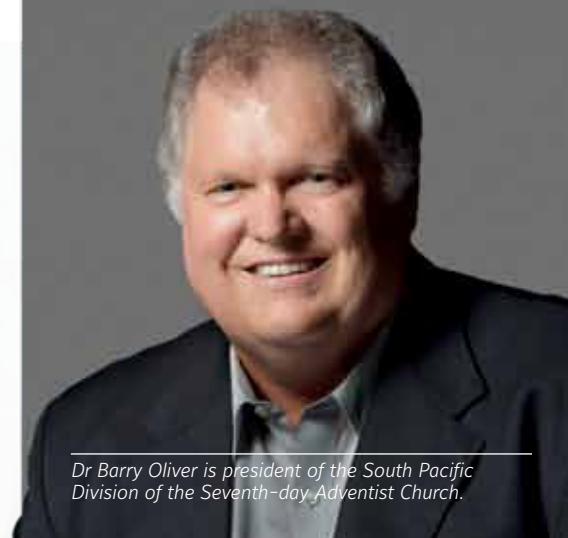
Grace is only grace when it's gracious

I was listening to a very good presentation on the practical aspects of Christian living. Unexpectedly something that was said seemed to leap out and give me a good shake. It went something like this: do not talk about grace if you do not intend to be gracious.

Grace may be a gift, but graciousness definitely has to be worked at. Grace may be free but it usually costs some of our own self-righteousness to be gracious.

Am I being too hard on us? Not at all. Of all people we should be gracious. We should be gracious to one another: not jumping to conclusions or making assumptions based on our own experiences, or worse, our own prejudices. We should be especially gracious to those who do not see things as we do. We should respect and speak well of those who are not of our faith. I do not have to agree with a person's beliefs or ideas to respect them. God forbid that we should ever give the impression that any other person is our enemy or that we disparage people because they do not see things as we do.

Christ called upon us to love God and love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Well, there it is. Don't even think of talking about grace unless you intend, with God's grace, to be gracious.



Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

New book advocates creatively

Cooranbong, New South Wales

A new photography book by Asian Aid Australia features images that aim to depict the human spirit—finding optimism, determination and hope even in seasons of hardship and despair.

Seasons of Hope displays a diverse collection of photographs and stories from everyday life in Asia.

“After visiting and living in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, and photographing people often experiencing difficulties, I was inspired by their resilience,” said Joshua Moses, the book’s photographer and Asian Aid field media coordinator. “I wanted the book to tell realistic but positive picture stories of people who often maintain joy even during seasons of hardship.”

The recent launch of the book at Manifest, the annual creative arts festival for Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific, was intentional. “Manifest celebrates the use of creative arts for ministry,” said Bruna Tawake, one of the book’s editors. “And *Seasons of Hope* is a project that breathes beauty and infuses creativity into the tapestry of advocacy for social justice. The book not only educates, but also, perhaps most importantly, encourages action. This is faithful creativity at its best.”

Whether portraying the busyness of India, the monsoon rains of Bangladesh or the social interconnectedness of Nepal, the book shares the stories of people and communities who cannot, at this season of their lives, stand up boldly for themselves.

“It’s the images crying out for opportunity, equality and order that give this book intangible importance,” said Quentin Campbell, Asian Aid Australia’s international program manager. “And that’s why we will use proceeds from the sale of the book to help victims of human trafficking in India regain dignity and hope.”

Human trafficking, with an estimated 2.5 million people in forced labour (including sexual exploitation) around the world, is a \$A32 billion annual business. And India is one of the countries that struggles most with the issue. Asian Aid’s Anti-Human Trafficking Program rescues, rehabilitates and reintegrates abused women and children, and educates communities about prevention of sex trafficking.

“Buy a copy of the book and advocate for and support vulnerable women and children in India,” Mr Moses said. “Encouraging re-creativity and fighting social injustice can indeed go hand-in-hand.”—*Sonja Larsen*



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May 4—May 17, 2013

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5 - 2 Chr. 17	9 - 2 Chr. 21	13 - 2 Chr. 25	17 - 2 Chr. 29
6 - 2 Chr. 18	10 - 2 Chr. 22	14 - 2 Chr. 26	
7 - 2 Chr. 19	11 - 2 Chr. 23	15 - 2 Chr. 27	

Language program builds bridges

Suva, Fiji

Adventists in Fiji are attending a six-month course to learn how to speak Hindustani at the Indian High Commission's cultural centre in Suva.

Eighty-four church members, including 10 ordained ministers and 28 women, have committed to learn the language in order to build relationships with the Indian community.

Pastor Asaeli Vosavakadua has been pastor of the Suva Central church for 20 years and feels this commitment will only move the church forward.

Pastor Vosavakadua, a Greek and Hebrew scholar, said this was his first attempt to learn Hindi even though he had picked up some of the language while growing up.

"We have lived together and the only barrier that we have is that we do not share the same language," he said.

"I have already taken in our friends into my home and I have seen that we have a lot in common. They value the family like we do."

He said the Church approved the program, believing it would greatly enhance its core functions, especially with those members who usually interact with Fijians of Indian descent in the course of their work.

Pastor Vosavakadua said the Church first approached the Indian High Commission's cultural centre last year with a proposal to learn the Hindi language and they were told the course had been approved.

"There's a huge gulf between us . . . that relationship can be started through conversation for as soon as we can speak through a common language then trust can be cultivated and it will be easier because we already share the same culture," he said.—*Fiji Times*



Members attend class.

Photo: Fiji Times

High take up for Adventist teaching grads

Cooranbong, New South Wales

Where do Avondale College of Higher Education students go once they graduate from their teaching course? To work.

Some 86 per cent of those wanting work got employment in Adventist schools this past year, according to figures supplied by Dr Peter Kilgour, head of the School of Education. The figure is even higher (95 per cent) for those who were willing to relocate for work.

Of all the 86 teaching graduates, 54 (63 per cent) are employed in permanent positions, 20 (23 per cent) in casual or temporary positions and eight (10 per cent) in other education related positions. Four (5 per cent) are completing further study.—*Brenton Stacey*



Final-year primary teaching student Lauren Inwood.

Photo: Colin Chuang

Notorious criminals surrender to Christ

Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea

Ninety-five people from one of Papua New Guinea's most notorious villages have surrendered their lives to the Lord after a week-long evangelistic series at Ainora village, Eastern Highlands Province.

Faifosa, a local village counsellor, expressed the community's desire for change after decades of being known as the most notorious village in the Kainantu district.

"Every hold up on the highway or any robbery in town, police knew it was my boys from Ainora who did it," he said. "This will now be something of the past."

He said the meetings came at a perfect time, and had a fitting theme: "Enough Is Enough".

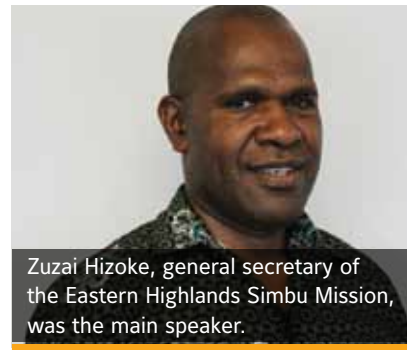
Local church elder Lamech said the impact the program has had on the community is enormous.

Neighbouring villages are planning to hold similar programs so they can build an Adventist church. "Our churches

are already running out of sitting spaces," Lamech added.

The Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, acknowledging the program's impact, has given Ainora church a mission volunteer to pastor the church in the meantime.

The program was sponsored by Wayasere Asaga, who has recently moved into the area for business. Vehicles were arranged for the pick-up and drop-off of the hundreds who turned out every night, despite heavy downpours on the Monday and Tuesday.—*Zuzai Hizoke*



Zuzai Hizoke, general secretary of the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, was the main speaker.



Battle lost

Despite protests from church groups, and claims the public is going sour on the idea, New Zealand's same-sex marriage laws have passed with a clear majority. The crucial second reading of the bill saw passionate debate, with Members referring to their personal circumstances, including their Christian faith. —*Stuff.co.nz*



Heart language

After 20 years of work, Americans Kathy and Neil Vanaria have finished translating the New Testament into the Mesem people, in the PNG Highlands. The Assemblies of God missionaries have also established 12 schools, teaching literacy. Five hundred PNG language groups still do not have the Bible in their own tongue. —*Charisma News*



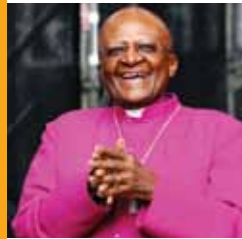
Troubled nation

The funeral of four of those killed in sectarian clashes in Khouosos, Egypt, became the scene of further violence, as a mob attacked mourners at the landmark St Mark's Coptic Cathedral in Cairo. Two Coptic men died in the five-hour siege on the cathedral grounds, and 84 were injured. —*Assist News Service*



Mouths of babes

Samuel Green has been preaching since the age of five. To date, he's delivered sermons at more than 50 churches and community events. His parents, who attend an Adventist church in Mississippi, say they're both quite shy but they've immersed their son in Scripture since he was very young. —*USA Today*



Recognition

South Africa's now retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been awarded this year's Templeton Prize and \$A1.6m for his lifetime of activism, civil service and spiritual leadership. Previous winners include the Dalai Lama, Charles Colson, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and various scientists and philosophers. —*Anglican Communion News Service*

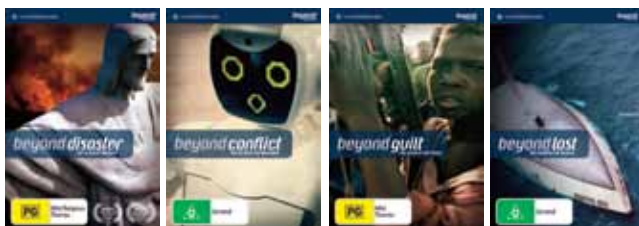


Standing together

Eleven of Tasmania's major Christian groups have joined together to take a message to state parliament. Catholic, Baptist, Assemblies of God and other church leaders released the Salamanca Declaration, expressing concern about government moves towards euthanasia, more liberal abortion laws and same-sex marriage. —*The Mercury*

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Sonoma's quiet revival

by Kent Kingston

The first rays of sunrise are tinting the rising jungle mists with gold. I've joined a group of 14 college students as they trot along a muddy track. We pass elephant ears of wild taro, brush under the delicate aerial roots of a fig tree and navigate through a forest of tall, pale trunks. After about 20 minutes we sight the first huts of a village—kunai grass thatching and rusty sheets of tin; hard-packed earth underfoot. A family sits on logs and upturned tins near a contentedly snuffling black and white pig and a small smoky fire—an old man, some women and assorted children. They're not surprised to see us as they gravely shake hands—the visitors have come to conduct the regular branch Sabbath School, one of four such outreach programs in villages within walking distance of Sonoma Adventist College in East New Britain.

"It's the culture of Sonoma," explains Jerry Ibia, a final year business student who leads the group. New students are mentored by their senior peers as they participate in various church and mission activities and take on more responsible roles. By the time they reach their final year, they're in leadership positions and are actively passing their knowledge on to their successors.

This emphasis on active engagement and student empowerment is no accident, I discover. I sit in Pastor Julius Divu's cluttered chaplain's office while he recalls his concern at the dropping chapel attendance in 2011.

"One of the major factors was that we had very few youth completing Master Guide level in Pathfinders," he says. "Because of that they didn't feel confident in taking leadership roles." Pastor Divu recounts how he put together a strategic plan and began rejuvenating the Master Guide program and laying out a structure of student groups.

In a land of tribal tension, Pastor Divu has taken the risk of establishing some of the groups along ethnic lines, representing PNG's different provinces. But both he and the students I spoke to deny that this has caused any difficulty; rather, they say it promotes identity and confidence.

Pastor Divu also ensures that students with particular needs are nurtured. An enrolling student who confesses they've been struggling with alcohol or drug addictions is placed in a support group. Similarly, the 30 per cent of students who come from non-Adventist backgrounds participate in a special Sabbath School class. "We come from a position of respect—to learn more about the students' spiritual backgrounds," Pastor Divu says. "But we also ask students to compare their church's teachings with clear Bible teaching. So far this year, we haven't got to discussing Adventist teaching yet, but 10 students have already been baptised as Adventists.

"We give opportunity for young people to become elders, deacons and deaconesses," says Pastor Divu, becoming more animated. "Last year we increased the numbers of people in these roles. First and second years as deacons; final year students as elders."

During my Sabbath at Sonoma I witnessed Pastor Divu's plan in action. The students were clearly and confidently in charge of the Friday night vespers program, Sabbath School, the church service and the afternoon AY program. Sometimes staff members were involved in preaching and teaching. There was an emphasis on broad participation, with numerous students speaking from the platform and performing music.

I ask Pastor Divu if he's had any criticism for his change of direction; a fairly radical move for Melanesia's hierarchical culture. "The principal, Dr Samson Kuku, has a pastor's heart," he says. "He has supported me all the way. The one per cent of people who originally questioned these changes are no longer critical—they've seen the results.

"We've seen an increase in the spirituality of staff and students. This is an historic year for Sonoma College—we have almost 500 students this year and we're seeing 100 per cent worship attendance."

Kent Kingston is assistant editor of RECORD.



OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster

Cloning Christ: seven life-changing portraits from Patmos

Part 2: Lord God Almighty

Revelation's first portrait of Jesus is as Jehovah God Almighty. Jesus, the Son of Man, in the midst of the seven candlesticks called Himself the First and the Last, a title of Jehovah. In claiming to be the First and the Last, Jesus was claiming to be the Alpha and Omega, the Lord God Almighty. **Read** Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 1:8,17-18; 22:12-13

This explains why John, on seeing who Jesus really was, fell down as dead. He realised Jesus, as God Almighty, could read his innermost thoughts; was filled with awesome power; could penetrate to the very depths of his soul with the sword or word of His mouth; and was filled with righteousness, as His face shone like the sun. John felt dead in trespasses and sin and fell down on his knees as dead. This is the first human response when we truly see that Jesus is God. Like Isaiah, Daniel, Peter and John we will exclaim "woe is me I am undone", "depart from me Lord for I am a sinner". Have we really seen who Jesus is? If so we will realise the depth of our sin. Like Moses and Joshua we will also worship him appropriately, reverently and attentively rather than flippantly and carelessly. It will even lift our style of worship.

Read Revelation 1:13-18; Isaiah 6:5; Daniel 10:8; Luke 5:8; Exodus 3:5; Joshua 5:14,15

But, having sensed our unworthiness in contrast to His infinite righteousness, Jesus the Almighty comes to us, touches our lives and says, "Don't be afraid, I am God Almighty. I love you infinitely and have all the righteousness, power and wisdom you need. You feel dead in sin. I who took your sin also died, but I rose again and therefore have the keys of hell and the grave." **Read** Revelation 1:17,18

Do you really understand that Jesus is God Almighty? If you don't, go to the cross right now, because it's there, in Jesus, that you will see Him to be infinite in righteousness, love and mercy—that's Jesus, that's God.

Pastor Gary Webster is director of the Institute of Public Evangelism, Wahroonga, NSW.



HEALTH WISE

Dr James Wright

Keeping abreast of the issues

Breast issues eternally worry women. With breast cancer now in the full public glare as high profile women are affected, it's a top priority. In fact, more and more younger women in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed. Regular self examination is still advised. Check each breast when showering; the best time is on the second or third day into menstruation when tissue is softest. Any hardening, alteration in feel or lump requires immediate intervention.

Regular annual mammograms from age 60 are recommended and in some areas screening is advised from 50 years. If there's a family history your doctor may recommend it at a younger age. Cancer can be detected when it's the size of a grain of sago and tiny calcium deposits are often an indicator. CT scans are now also a favoured tool. Ultrasounds for younger women with denser tissue are widely carried out.

With early diagnosis and surgery, followed by radiotherapy and chemotherapy, a complete cure is possible. This is often followed by anti-oestrogen therapy for years. If the cancer has spread to surrounding glands, then chances of a full recovery diminish. That's why early diagnosis is so important.

It's well known that smoking, being overweight and eating too much red meat and fatty foods may increase the risk, so tailor your lifestyle to minimise this. Many today believe that chemical toxins in food may play a part, with oestrogen-like substances found in the food we eat. The greater exposure to the female hormone oestrogen, the higher the risk of breast cancer.

Hormonal therapy in women past menopause has been linked to a higher risk, but only after five years of continuous use, and even this is disputed. The essential issue is to maintain constant vigilance.



The worldwide Church has designated Sabbath, May 18, as a day of prayer, remembrance and recommitment to mission. Each local congregation is encouraged to mark the 150th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Resources are available at www.adventist.org/150, including PowerPoint slide shows on different aspects of our history, which can be used in church services, both leading up to May 18 and for the rest of this sesquicentennial year. For those who want to dig deeper into Adventist history, many more resources can be found at www.adventistarchives.org. But with 150 years of global history, where to start? The best place is with your local church history. At the adventistarchives.org site you can find historical periodicals and official records, in which you may find your church. Go through your old membership books, committee minutes and other records. And talk to your senior members and include a time for them and their memories of God's leading, on May 18. —David Trim, Adventist historian, General Conference

All that I am and all that I desire in my life comes from the passion, love, humour, faith and selfless dedication I have experienced from my mother and grandmother. Mum taught me how to laugh, love, enjoy life, make plans, dream big and never give up. My grandmother taught me the value of hard work, persistence, humility, service to others and unwavering faith in God's plan for my life. Their unshakeable confidence in God planted a seed of faith in my own heart from a very early age, and their example continues to strengthen and inspire me in my own Christian walk.—*Alexandra Momcilovic*



*Milena Momcilovic (mother)
Mara Maric (grandmother.)*



Kristina Tan

She always told me to chase my dreams, even though it meant I would end up thousands of kilometres away. Her incredible love, patience and quiet strength gave me the courage to face challenges, the opportunities to experience great joy and the privilege of knowing Jesus. I love you Mum.—*Melody Tan*

I love my mum, because she is the strongest woman I know. She is my rock, my inspiration and I look up to her. She supports and encourages me to continue to chase my dreams. She is the type of person who will always make time to listen, even when she is really busy. She never gives up on me.—*Jessica Shipton*



Lesanne Franklin

My mum is great because she is loving, caring, kind. When I was little, Mum would just take me and her out in the school holidays to a movie. I remember when she came to snow camp and we went tobogganing and we watched a group of kids learn how to ski without the ski poles.—*Melissa Starkey-Franklin*



Cathy Shipton

I love the women in my life. My mum; she is selfless, she is compassionate and strong. I know that despite all the fights and disagreements I might have with her, she still loves me and would do anything for me! My grandmothers; they are the very reason my parents are who they are. I could decide to do anything and I know they would support me. They always have a word of encouragement and are ever willing to pass on sound advice. I have been blessed to have such amazing God-fearing women in my life and I love them all!—*Annali Baxter*



Rochelle Baxter



Ghislaine Dholah

She is my role model and my best friend. She is a woman of strong spiritual character with a remarkable personality. She is beautiful inside and out. Mami places her children first and continues to do so. She gave up her life in Melbourne to come to Sydney and help raise my children. I love you Mami.—*Gilda Roddy*

[My mum] was a beautiful and humble woman of God. She was the heart of our family and always softly spoken. We praise God for the memories we've shared together and the hope we have in Jesus Christ to see you again. We love you, Mummy. See you in the morning (1 Peter 5:7).—*Anapu-Penese family*



Lagi'a'atafa Anapu Penese



Frances Mkurazhizha

I love my mother because she is very funny and kind. I also love my mother because we pray together, and also because she bought me a bike and a piano. My mother is God's special gift to me and I thank God for my mother.—*Ruva Mkurazhizha*



Super mums

by Revona Grice

THE SMELL OF CRABTREE AND EVELYN HAND cream tickles my nose as I walk past my local gift shop; my eyes are drawn to carefully handcrafted mugs with the letters M U M on them. I remember how much Mum cherishes Mother's Day so I buy a card in case the day creeps up on me and I can't find that perfect gift.

One day a year I have the opportunity to remind my mum of how much I love her, and to thank her for feeding me and driving me everywhere I need to go (though mostly I drive her up the wall). That one day a year I also get to tell both grandmas how much I appreciate their force feeding me home-made treats, giving me nanna cuddles and for their continuous love growing up.

So what do we do on this day? Do we need to do extra chores? Show an extra amount of love? Cook a three-course breakfast? Or rekindle relationships we've let slip in the year?

Sounds busy, but on this one day I can scream at the top of my lungs from the deepest hole in the ground, "Love you Mum!", without sounding like a mummy's girl, and "Come save me", without sounding like I rely on her too much. I know she would drop what she's doing, drive to where I am, throw a rope down and pull me up while saying, "It's OK Sweetie, Mummy's got you". We see our mothers with a huge, pink super mum "S" stitched onto the front of their floral aprons, their eyes and ears everywhere, with a bandaid ready to go, and a tissue or lace handkerchief in their pockets ready to wipe away our tears.

The Bible gives us a host of incredible mothers who all played a different role in the lives of their families. I think of Hannah, an obedient mother who only wanted the best for her child; Jochebed, a courageous woman who had

incredible faith and trust in God when she gave up her son to protect him; and Rachel, a mother who struggled to conceive but never lost faith in God.

One of the most incredible mothers would have to be Mary, the mother of Jesus, for her bravery, love, compassion and strong heart. I'm 100 per cent sure no mother would want to witness her child going through that sort of pain and mockery, or see them die such a horrific death. To me Mary was selfless; a woman who lived her life for her Son.

I would also include Eve on my list of incredible mothers. I know that might come as a shock to some people, but remember Eve had no-one to look up to. She was the first mother and grandmother; she was Adam's companion and fulfilled God's purpose for creation. She was made in God's image. Although not as perfect as God intended her to be, without her none of us would be here, and through her we learn that God can redeem all our mistakes—even the huge ones.

Mums, even though, for Mother's Day and throughout the year, you may see us pinning that "S" for super mum on your apron, we don't expect you to be perfect. But we know that you love us unconditionally; that like Rachel you will continue to pray and never give up on your children; like Mary, you are a selfless, God-fearing woman; and like Jochebed, when things get really rough, we can count on you to show incredible bravery in order to protect us.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her . . . Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31: 28, 30). ✎

Revona Grice writes from Sydney and is looking forward to completing her journalism degree this semester at the University of Western Sydney.



Top tips for plant-based eating

There's a huge amount of research that shows plant-based eating can provide amazing health benefits, but just like any other way of eating, there are good and not so good choices we can make.

Simply eating a plant-based diet does not necessarily mean we are eating a healthy diet, but by following some simple tips it's easy to get the most out of a plant-based diet.

1. Go for whole foods. Whole plant foods or plant foods that have been minimally processed come naturally packed with the most nutrition. Wholegrains are a great example of this: they're packed full of fibre, vitamins and minerals that are removed from their highly processed counterparts, making them more nutritious and harder to overeat.

2. Load up on legumes. Legumes should form a key part of any diet, not just a plant-based one. They're packed full of protein, iron and phytonutrients and regular consumption has been associated with increased longevity. Lentils, chickpeas, kidney beans and any of the other dozens of choices available are all nutritious options and provide a great range of flavours and textures that can bring variety to a range of meals.

3. Enjoy the large range of choices available. A really important part of a balanced diet is variety. Eating a range of different foods not only helps keep meals fresh and interesting, it provides a range of vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients that could be missing in a limited diet.



Head to Sanitarium's website to find a lentil or bean recipe that suits your taste and sign up for the free recipe of the week.

Pumpkin and chickpea soup

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 20 minutes Serves: 8

- 750g peeled butternut pumpkin, cut into 4cm thick pieces
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 8 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 leek, finely sliced
- 2 x 440g cans chickpeas
- 4cm knob of ginger, peeled & finely chopped
- 2 litres low salt vegetable stock

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Place garlic whole with skin intact into a roasting tray with pumpkin.
2. Scatter thyme over the pumpkin and drizzle with 1 tbsp of olive oil. Cover loosely with foil and bake for 30 minutes.
3. With the leek, make an incision with a knife half-way through it from top to bottom, slightly open and wash thoroughly and thinly slice. Place leeks into a heavy based pot with 1 tbsp of olive oil and fry over a low heat until they are soft and translucent.
4. Squeeze garlic out of its skin into the pot, add the roasted pumpkin, chopped ginger, chickpeas and vegetable stock.
5. Bring to the boil with a lid on. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Puree soup with a blender and serve.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 920kJ (220Cal); Protein 9g; Total Fat 8g; Saturated Fat 2g; Carbohydrate 24g; Total Sugars 6g; Sodium 880mg; Potassium 135mg; Calcium 75mg; Iron 4.7mg; Fibre 7g.



Call and speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). Don't forget to order our free cookbook, *Food for Health and Happiness*, by visiting our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



Real me

by Linda Marshall*

IT'S A STRANGE THING. WHEN GOD HAS WASHED YOU and made you a new person, all you want to do is tell the world about the difference He's made in you. That's me! I feel so totally new that, like the apostle Paul, I want to tell the world all about it. I grant you that my story is complex and maybe even confronting. But it's true. And I hope it may help our community and maybe some readers as we struggle with an issue that is itself controversial and painful.

I was once your typical Adventist mum. I had two beautiful daughters, a great husband and an excellent career as a nurse. I helped out in Sabbath School and did all the right things at home. I suppose we were the dream family and I was, more or less, the dream wife.

But like so many things in life, it wasn't exactly as it appeared. You see, some very terrible things happened to me when I was a teenager. They were so traumatic, I pushed them deep, deep, deep down. No-one ever talked about

the things I'd gone through, so I assumed I was all alone. I felt ashamed. I felt isolated. I felt I had no-one to talk to. So I hid it all. And determined to get on with life like nothing ever happened.

And it worked—more or less. I repressed any thought of it. And everyone I knew thought I was just a regular suburban woman—reading *Women's Weekly* with my greatest worry being which brand of dishwashing liquid to purchase.

But then all hell broke loose. I was doing some further study and I enrolled in a class entitled: "Society and culture and the underlying cause of domestic violence and sexual assault on drug and alcohol clients". I was stunned as I learned about other people who had gone through the trauma I had. And it brought everything I'd tried to push down for all those years, bubbling right back up to the surface. I began to have nightmares and lost my trust in men—all men. I was terrified and traumatised all over again. I was hurt and I was very, very angry.

Even though I had a good husband, I stopped looking at him as my best friend and partner, and started seeing him as just another man. And like all men, I couldn't trust him anymore. Naturally our relationship disintegrated.

During this time of intense pain, I came to the conclusion that if men couldn't be trusted then maybe women were safer and, within a very short time, I left my family for a relationship with a woman. I felt like running a million miles to get away from everything that had happened to me, and everything I was. Not long after moving in with a girl I cut myself off from my old life, my church, my family and my friends. I wanted nothing to do with anything and anyone who I associated with my intense pain.

I joined the thriving gay scene and made new friends. The girl I was living with was heavily into drugs and before long I was drinking and regularly taking drugs with her. Between the alcohol and drugs, I was trying to block out everything around me—especially my memories, my pain and my guilt.

Not surprisingly my work began to suffer, as we drank and took drugs until the early morning. I would struggle to get up and go to work. My dependency problem became another lie I was trying to hide. But like everything else, I couldn't keep it up. I had to stop work and ended up in rehab several times.

The trauma resurfacing did something to my mind and body. I developed gender dysphoria or transgenderism. This can happen for a variety of reasons, including when someone feels intensely vulnerable in their gender. As a result they take on the appearance of the opposite sex for protection. I've subsequently learned from a psychiatrist that this is not unusual after someone experiences the kind of trauma I did.

The feelings were very strong. I literally felt like a man trapped in a woman's body. I would have showers very quickly and wouldn't look in the mirror so that I didn't have to see my body. I visualised myself as having a man's body. I cut my hair off, started wearing men's clothes and strapped my chest to make it flat. I tried to look tough by adding body piercing. I used men's bathrooms and no-one knew the difference. In my heart and mind I was a man and only my body got in the way of it.

When the feelings didn't go away I was referred to a gender centre to see a psychiatrist. He offered to give me counselling for two years prior to a sex change. During this time I had to live as a man and then I would be assessed for a sex change. I changed my name, and through Eastern meditation I endeavoured to change my voice, my expression and deal with the stress it was causing in my life.

At the end of the two years, I had my first operation: a total hysterectomy. At the hospital they referred to me as "he" and "him" and I felt comfortable with that. I set up an

appointment for my first testosterone treatment, and I was still having counselling while preparing for breast removal in the near future.

At the same time, my new life was turning out to be no panacea. My girlfriend's drug abuse was spiralling out of control. She was particularly fond of various forms of amphetamines that made her very aggressive. When she was high, she became enraged and violent at the slightest thing. One day when I returned home and put some food in the microwave, something about the sound of the microwave door closing set her off. She attacked me with her full force and broke a number of my bones. Exactly the kind of brutality I was trying to avoid by leaving men, I was now experiencing at the hands of the woman I had hoped would love and nurture me. I was devastated and dying inside all over again.

About that time a friend from church called to see how I was doing. She had heard I had moved to Sydney and asked if I'd like to get together for coffee the next week. I think it was a bit of a shock for her at first to see me, but she was really accepting. The way she treated me was very comforting. I felt safe, loved and completely accepted while I was with her. She talked to me for a while and suggested a group she had found that I might call up and have a talk to. They were from the Baptist

church and had a ministry focused on meeting the spiritual needs of gay and transsexual people.

I was at a crossroads and I felt God calling me. So I made the call and I started meeting up with their minister. He read a text to me from Genesis 1:27—such a simple text, just a couple of sentences, but it had an impact: "God created man in His own image, male and female He created them".

I sat up and thought about it: who was I to change something that had originally been created perfectly in God's image? I went home and cancelled my testosterone treatment, sat on the lounge and cried all day. I felt physically sick that I had believed I was physically, emotionally and spiritually male. It felt like I was dying. I was as confused as I'd ever been. I had to believe God would give me a new life.

I began going back to my Adventist church. It was on and off at first. I also tried giving up the drugs. It was a huge battle. Finally I got baptised and it was a wonderful experience.

With the support of a couple of Bible workers God helped me cross my comfort zone and begin to trust Him for protection. I realised my thoughts and outer appearance did have to reflect God.

As Jesus has become the source of my protection and Someone I trust, I have a peace inside that I haven't felt

(continued on page 16)

I sat up and thought about it, who was I to change something that had originally been created perfectly in God's image?

(continued from page 15)

for a very long time. I have a deep sense of happiness that I've been given a second chance. I choose to be the complete woman that God created me to be. I feel a wholeness I never felt living in the shambles of my lesbian/transgender years.

I'm not going to lie or pretend—I did that enough in life and paid the price for it. The truth is that I continue to struggle with drugs from time to time. And my walk with Christ has highs and lows. The terrible things I experienced are in the past, but the traces linger on. And the damage to my family and many around me is still there and I can't undo it. That's the reality of living in a sinful world in which we are all victims of victims. It's not a pretty picture—that's why I can't wait for the new world where all tears are wiped away forever.

None of us know the future, least of all me, but I've been in love with Jesus for five years now and I hope and pray I never slip back into the horror and the darkness I came out of. Every day I reach up my fragile hand to His, and ask Him to carry me through the day. That's all I can do. And every day for five years now, I've found His arms wrapped around me before I even asked.

One of the passages of the Bible that's very precious to me now is:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [active]¹ homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. *But* you were washed, *but* you were sanctified, *but* you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, emphasis added).

Thank God for all the "buts". I have been washed, sanctified and justified by God. I'm not running away any longer. I don't need to pretend. There's just the real me, trusting in our real God. ✠

1. While the NKJV does not include this qualifier, the NIV translates this phrase as describing sexual acts.

Linda Marshall is a pseudonym. Linda attends church in Sydney, NSW.



Talking about sex

by James Standish

As you are aware, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues are the focus of substantial attention in our society today. This includes in our Church. As with everything else we say and do, it's critical that Christ's spirit of love and care is not only present, but seen to be present when we discuss these sensitive issues. As you consider how to deal with the issue in your church, the following five guidelines, which many of you display without thinking about them, will be helpful:

▶ We should avoid emotive or demeaning language to describe lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people. God made each of us, died for each of us, and loves each of us. Every person is His most precious creation and must be treated with the respect that comes with that.

▶ The Bible teaches that all sex outside of heterosexual marriage is sinful. Homosexual sex is no more sinful than premarital sex or extramarital sex. Teachings on sexual morality, therefore, are best when they are inclusive of sexual temptations that apply across the congregational spectrum.

▶ All people, irrespective of the temptations they struggle with, who want to live the Christian life should be embraced in our churches with joy, love, acceptance and spiritual encouragement. We are all sinners, and we all need the grace of Christ to cover our sins and His power to form our character in His likeness.

▶ Issues of human sexuality are complex. Hence it's important for us not to hypothesise on the causes of various sexual impulses. Rather, as with all temptations, our call is to uplift the grace, power and redemption of the life of Christ for everyone. And in the process live out lives of genuine grace.

▶ Proclaiming the grace of God does not involve excusing sin. Just as Jesus instructed the woman caught in adultery to "go and sin no more", we are called "not [to] sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (1 John 2:1). Having an Advocate in heaven is something every one of us must be eternally grateful for.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

Richard Anderson

I grew up in Western Queensland, mainly around Toowoomba. My mum was Catholic but my dad never really liked Christianity. I started to smoke and drink at the age of 12; by the time I was 19 my lifestyle had degenerated. I was an alcoholic. But I thought I was invincible and continued on, marrying my wife, Maureen, around this time and having a child together.



But when our baby was only eight weeks old, tragedy struck—cot death. Our grief drove us to look for support, and since Maureen also had some church background, we started attending a Baptist church. It was “The Old Rugged Cross” that clinched it—they played that song one Sunday and I accepted Jesus. In 1982 we were both baptised and I haven’t drunk or smoked since.

Our faith sustained us through some tough times. Maureen had a number of miscarriages as well as a brain tumour and a heart attack. I had a bad fall from 6 metres up, which left me in hospital and paralysed for quite a while. But God blessed us with healing and children and we continued our active involvement in the church, even moving to Sydney where I took a construction job with New Tribes Mission for two years.

Some Adventist friends of ours mentioned a job was going at Karalundi, a remote school run by Adventists in the Western Australian desert. I followed up and found myself chatting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries director Steve Piez at Rooty Hill McDonald’s in Sydney. Turns out it was a job interview!

I’ve been working at Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community for 10 years now. It’s my dream job and involves putting my practical skills to work around the campus and long drives through Australia’s desert areas. The staff have always been friendly and accepting towards us, even though we weren’t Adventists.

God finally got through to us four years ago and asked us to take the next step in our journey. We were accepted into the Seventh-day Adventist Church by profession of faith.

Our lives have been hard at times but I’m starting to learn that every problem you end up with is another stepping stone to where God wants you to be.—as told to Kent Kingston

OPINION POLL

Who is the most interesting woman in the Bible?

- Jael
- Mary Magdalene
- Esther
- Deborah
- Rahab

Visit record.net.au to answer this poll.

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Mother's Day tears

by Tabitha Krznar

YOU'D HAVE TO BE LIVING UNDER A ROCK TO miss all the telltale signs: there's the sales spike of Elizabeth Arden Red Door perfume, and, all of a sudden, shops have potpourri and crockpots in their display windows surrounded by flowers. And then there's the rush to buy vouchers for foot spas. Yes, it's that time of year again—time to celebrate all things "mum".

The touching cards, sentimental movies, and maybe even a tearful testimony or two at church, remembering just how much we appreciate the self-sacrificial love of our mums, are all on the way. All this love and reflection inevitably leads to tears—and more tears. Not the bad kind—the good kind. And these tears are hardly alone. Birth, the first day of school, college graduation, marriage and grandchildren are all tied together by mum's moist eyes and a box of tissues.

A collation of studies on crying by the German Society of Ophthalmology found women cry on average between 30 and 64 times a year, while for men it's between 6 and 17 times per year. I wonder if it's because women have more things to cry about?

You don't have to look far in the Bible to find tear-stained accounts and the fervent prayers of women. The tears began with Eve after the first bite of the fruit, continued with the tear-stained kisses of Naomi after the loss of her family (Ruth 1), and reached their apex with Mary weeping at Jesus' tomb (John 20:11).

Besides the fact that we love and cherish the women who have brought us into existence, there's something profoundly evoking about witnessing their emotion. As scary

as it may be, mothers' tears resonate with you, me and with our Lord. But sometimes it can be seen as an affront, even in church.

In 1 Samuel we meet an unrestrained "crier", berated for her expression of emotion in God's house. Hannah was praying so earnestly that the priest Eli mistook her for being intoxicated, but she replied: "I am a woman who was pouring out my soul to the Lord". As offensive as Hannah's weeping was to Eli, God heard her heartfelt prayer and it was her son, Samuel, who went on to become one of the greatest prophets in history.

Make no mistake, the tear-filled intercessions of a mother are heard and answered by the Lord. They have made the world go round since the beginning of time and have followed us through dark places in life where we thought we were walking alone. We are at our most sincere and vulnerable point when we let the true emotion slip out of our eyes and onto our cheeks. And even more beautiful is the fact that someone like our mother, whom we may not have always treated as the divinely appointed angel that she is, puts her heart and dignity on the line because she cares and loves us for what we are, and loves and accepts us even for what we aren't.

As I write this and think of all that my mum means to me, I have to confess, a lump has come up into my throat and a mist has formed over my eyes—and I'm not ashamed to admit it.

Tabitha Krznar is a PR assistant for the Communication Department, South Pacific Division.

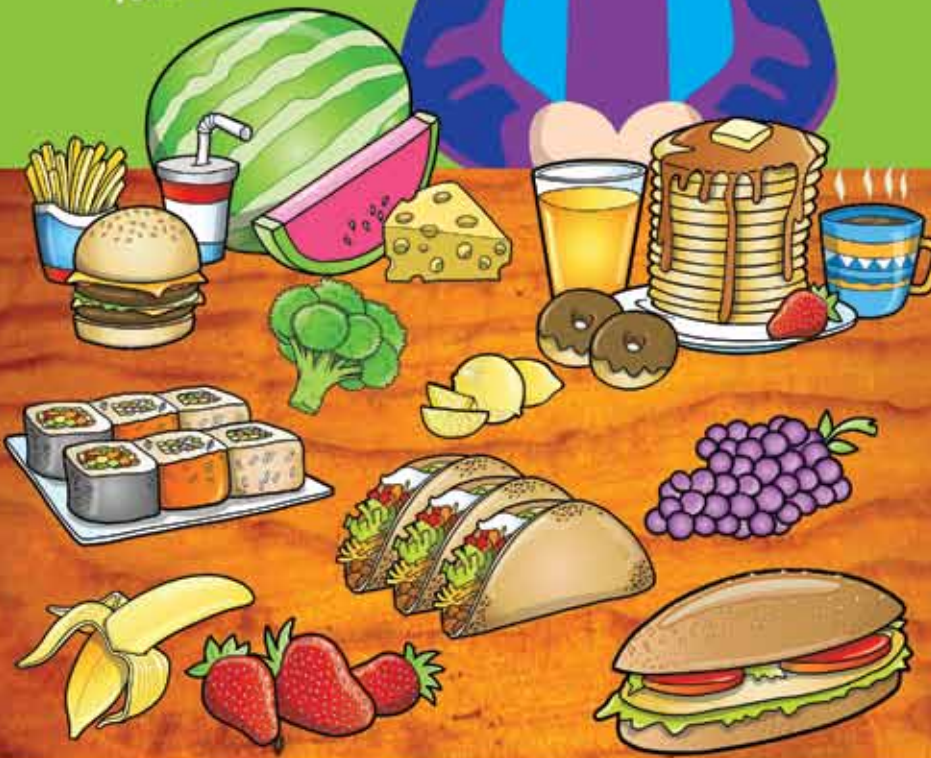


NI HAO* KIDS

Daniel and his 3 friends just arrived in Babylon. They were slaves to the king.

When it was time to eat, they said no to the food offered to idols and yes to the good food.

HELP DANIEL CHOOSE THE HEALTHY FOOD
CIRCLE THE FOOD THAT IS GOOD FOR YOU TO EAT A LOT OF



WRITE DOWN ALL THE LETTERS TO SEE THE MEMORY VERSE



Remember Kids, we worship God when we choose good things!

* Hello in Mandarin (China)

COMPASSION FOR KIDS

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LETTERS

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

JIGSAW PUZZLE

Gerry Blum, WA, via website

What a fascinating article ("Worm or man?", Feature, March 30). I was amazed at the amount of information Eunice packed into it—all relevant.

I had to read it twice in order to grasp all the concepts. It all fits together like a jigsaw puzzle and tells me, too, how little we know. Well done Eunice and thanks.

PLANE THOUGHTS

Nerolie Dever, NSW

As a frequent flyer, the title of the Insight article "Thoughts on a plane" (April 6) caught my attention.

Reading the article I smiled as I agree wholeheartedly with the writer's plane thoughts.

Yes, God deserves our best, no matter what we do. Nothing frustrates me more than last minute thrown together church programs and board meetings. It disappoints me that we often don't put the same effort into our church management and programs that we put into our business life.

I love what Moses reminds the people in Deuteronomy 10 "... serve God, your God, with everything you have in you" (The Message). If all of us (myself included) served God with everything we have within us, then what a difference it would make! I know that He doesn't expect perfection from us, but He wants us to give Him our best, in our personal life, church life and work life. After all, He gave us His best—His Son.

The attitude I have often heard that "God will bless it; it doesn't matter if something isn't done quite right" bothers me. God doesn't want us to be

mediocre—He wants us to go all out for Him ... risk it ... remember the parable of the talents! Let's go for gold and give God our best—always.

SHOULD WE ORDAIN?

Graham Mitchell, via email

Having just read Jan Knopper's article "By the Word not the world" (Feature, April 6), which purports to be "... part of a series providing perspectives on the parameters of ordination", it's obvious he is confusing the issue of leadership with that of ordination.

If we are to accept the Bible and the Bible only as our rule, the question we should be asking is not "should we ordain women?", but "should we ordain?"

JUST TO BE CLEAR

J T Knopper, NSW

An addition I requested to my piece "By the Word not the world" (Feature, April 6) was not included. I want to ensure it's clear that my piece is not aimed at denying women a place in ministry. There is plenty of room for women in ministry. My point is about church headship.

KICK IN THE GUTS

Kylie, via website

Regarding "Too fat for church" (Editorial, April 6).

Wow, for someone who has struggled with weight issues since the age of eight, and has been teased, made to feel unattractive, unworthy and less of a person as a result, to now have it suggested that church isn't a safe place for those with faults or a place to find acceptance based on weight is to be frank, a kick in the guts.

Is it healthy to be overweight? Of course not. But the day I have to pass a "test" to

be a part of this denomination is the day I leave for good.

I am so thankful that I am secure in the knowledge of God's love for me and that He looks at my heart and knows me totally and loves me even with my shortfalls and struggles. No matter what weight I am I know my Beloved is mine and I am His and His banner over me is love!

HIGH HEALTH

Gavin Rowe, via website

Congratulations on your decision, James (Editorial, April 6). I agree with your comments and it would be good if all of our church leadership took this issue seriously. Many of our highest leaders are setting a poor example in this area, sorry to say.

I myself, have enjoyed good health all my life, and have never been overweight but have still found huge improvements in my health recently after being confronted with the negatives of processed foods and learning more about food combinations, and the excessive amount of wheat that's in most people's diets.

I'm currently training for my first marathon and though I'm in my 50s I've never felt healthier.

HEALTH SCANDAL

Brenden Cooke, via email

The author of "Too fat for church" has finally brought to light the health scandal in the Adventist Church. We destroy any credibility we have on health matters as an organisation by sitting back smugly pointing a pudgy, self-righteous finger at those who smoke, drink or eat meat, etc. Perhaps point 10 of the baptismal vows should include "... and maintain a BMI of 20-25!"



Hilux in the Highlands

Earlier this year, local Adventist businessman Chris Kandeng donated a Toyota Hilux to the Western Highlands Mission in Papua New Guinea. The vehicle was delivered to mission headquarters in Kimininga, Mt Hagen. Mission administrators were grateful for the donation as it will, among other benefits, help minimise the delay of tithe and offering reports coming into the office. —*Jim Wagii*



Centenary celebrations

Ourimbah Adventist church (NSW) celebrated its 100th birthday on March 15—exactly 100 years after the first sermon was preached in the then tiny weatherboard church in 1913. The Friday evening service, and church service the following day, were a time of celebration and festivity, with past and present church members coming together to reminisce and share stories. —*Central Coast Express Advocate*



Power-Up

Members of Reedy Creek Adventist church joined Gold Coast Central Adventist church in Nerang (Qld) for a special “Power-Up 13” program in March. Dr Barry Oliver, president of the Church’s South Pacific Division and guest speaker for the program, shared his vision for a “Church that knows, experiences and shares its hope in Jesus Christ”. Dr Oliver’s son, Brendon, also sang a special item. —*Faye Garrick*



Worth the trip

Pastor Iorangi (Rangi) Eiao and his wife, Zey, were ordained at Goulburn Adventist church (NSW) in late December. Friends, church members and pastoral colleagues gathered together to welcome Rangi into the ministry. The event was made extra special with the presence of Rangi’s family, who flew in from the Cook Islands to celebrate his ordination. Another highlight was when Pastor Athol Tolhurst—a mentor and close friend of Rangi—offered the dedicatory prayer. Rangi has been serving with the South New South Wales Conference for the past five years. —*ImPrint*

Accepting the call

Pastor Aymond Burdett and his wife, Nicki, were welcomed into the ministry during the Great Southern Regional Day at Albany Adventist church (WA) earlier this year. After leaving the Church for a number of years, Aymond felt God speaking to him through a series of dreams and, with the added encouragement of a number of church members, brought his family back to his home church in Midland. After completing his studies at Mamarapha College (where Nicki also attended), Aymond was called by the Western Australian Conference to serve at Mount Barker and Katanning churches. —*NewsWest*



Learning to lead

About 150 university students gathered for the 2013 Adventist Students Association (ASA) camp at the Sabeto Christian Campsite in Nadi, Fiji, March 22-24. The theme was “Designed to Lead”, with former Pacific Adventist University vice chancellor Dr Nemani Tausere serving as guest presenter. The camp was part of the ASA’s “Reclaim your Campus for Christ” initiative for 2013. —*Joe Talemaitoga*



Cricket legend visits Carmel

Australian sporting icon Brett Lee visited Carmel Adventist College and the Carmel Sanitarium factory on March 20. During a special assembly at the school, the former cricketer and current Channel Nine cricket commentator talked openly about his life, passions and cricket career. Lee also stressed to students the importance of setting goals and working hard to achieve them. —*Adele Bergmann*



Clean up Australia

Sanitarium employees joined forces with Mars Food to remove approximately 750kg of rubbish as part of “Business Clean Up Australia Day” in late February. The team of 29 Sanitarium and 10 Mars staff gathered more than 40 bags of rubbish and 16 bags of recyclable materials across 7km of roadway in Berkeley Vale, New South Wales. —*Sharyn Brady*

APPRECIATION



Afoa. On behalf of Dr Vailele Afoa, Luatoloa Sila, Louisa Teo Teo and their families, we wish to thank all those who lovingly offered their condolences through prayers, phone calls, letters, cards, flowers, money, food and visits. In loving memory of our beloved wife, daughter, sister, aunty, cousin, the late Mrs Fanaua Afoa (nee Teo Teo). May she rest in peace until that blessed morning.

ANNIVERSARIES



Bradford. Graeme and Faye (nee Davey) recently

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family members. They were married on 27.1.1963 in the Prospect church by Pastor Claude Judd. They have two children, Linley and Lorin, who are both married with children. Linley has two sons, William and James, while Lorin has a daughter, Amity, and a son, Layne.



Deed. Noel and Dawn (nee Keitley)

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Port Macquarie, NSW with family. They were married on 6.1.1963 by Pastors Ross Piper and Frank Slade (Noel's uncle) at Warburton church. They spent 30 years of their married life in Wonthaggi/ Cape Paterson, Victoria, and were very active in the Leongatha church. They have five surviving children, Angelena, Kimberly and Mandy (Central Coast, NSW), Melinda (Barossa Valley, SA) and Merrese (Narrawarren, Vic); 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Grubb, Yvonne and John celebrated their 50th wedding

anniversary on 24.2.13 at the Old Teahouse Gallery, Springbrook, Qld, with friends and family. They were married on 12.2.1963 by Pastor Austin Cook at Papanui church, Christchurch, NZ. They have two children, Kerrylea and Michael Sampson in New Zealand, and Michael, Angela

and Cailie in Canada. After a light meal, guests were pleasantly surprised to witness a marriage renewal service conducted by Pastor Sean Berkeley.

WEDDINGS

Abera-Linney. Joseph Abera, son of Andrew and Tetaa Tangata Abera (Porirua, NZ), and Leanne Linney, daughter of Stan and AINU Linney (Melbourne, Vic), were married 27.1.13 at the Porirua church, NZ. Joseph and Leanne will set up their home in Melbourne, Vic.

Jake Ormsby



Bevan-Schubert.

Timothy Bevan, son of Warwick (Byron Bay, NSW) and Mary Bevan (Casino), and Gemma Schubert, daughter of Elisabeth Schubert (Lismore), were married 6.1.13 at Eureka Uniting church. Tim and Gemma met at Lismore church. They are establishing their home in the Dubbo region.

Paul Geelan



Mattingley-Stayt.

Brett Glenn Mattingley, son of Glenn and Shirley Mattingley (Brisbane, Qld), and Katie Maree Stayt, daughter of Martin and Gregory Stayt (Gold Coast), were married 6.1.13 on the beach at Cabarita, NSW. It was a magnificent day for a beautiful wedding.

Sean Berkeley



Mattner-Kuchel.

Paul Mattner, son of Ralph and Alison Mattner (Perth, WA), and Monique Kuchel, daughter of Ashley Kuchel (London) and Carol Michel (Brisbane, Qld), were married 3.1.13 at Coolibah Downs reception centre, Nerang, Qld.

Paul and Monique met at Avondale College and are teachers at Gold Coast Christian College.

Brett Townend

OBITUARIES



Crevar, Samira (nee Buni), born 25.9.1937 in Baghdad, Iraq; died 28.2.13 in the Mathew

John Nursing Home, Erina, NSW, after a long illness. She married Nicholas Barlas while still in Iraq and gave birth to Steven and Bianca. After migrating to Canada, Jenny was added to the family. Nicholas died soon after. Samira married Paul Crevar in Hamilton, Canada, in 1972 and Elia was added to the family in 1973. In 1978 the family moved to Australia and lived in Hornsby, NSW, before relocating to the Central Coast. In 1980 Samira's son, Steven, died at the age of 23. Her siblings include Samir, Suhaila, Suhail, Sulaf, Selwa, Nabil, and Helal. She was a loving mother and grandmother to her children and grandchildren, Alex, Rochelle, Eli and Sari. Samira loved her family, her church at Erina and above all, her God.

Vernon Parmenter, Russel Stanley

Nurzynski, Jerzy, born 25.4.1926 in Brzesc, Poland; died 23.2.13 at home in Varsity Lakes, Qld. He was predeceased by his wife, Herta, and son, Jan. He is survived by his sons, Marek and John, their wives, Grace and Beata; four grandchildren and spouses; and one great-grandson. Jerzy completed a masters degree in economics and theological studies at the Adventist Theological College and served in Poland as a part-time literature evangelist, part-time teacher in the theological college, in church administration, public evangelism in Krakow and other pastoral assignments. The family

POSITIONS VACANT

Administration assistant-It Is Written Oceania (Wahroonga, NSW). Flexible working arrangements are possible. For more information about It Is Written Oceania visit <www.itiswritteneoceania.tv>. The successful applicant will assist the activities of the IIWO ministry. The position involves day-to-day management of the database system for recording donations, creating reports and mailing lists; providing frontline communications by handling phone and web enquiries; coordinating the ministry resources of DVDs and other printed material; providing general administrative support with filing, documentation, minute taking, and other administrative support activities as requested from time to time; and coordination of projects. The successful applicant must be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and be fully committed to its message, mission and lifestyle. He/she should have an interest, skills and experience in working within a small team of dedicated staff and volunteers; effective communication; MS Office applications including Word, Excel and Powerpoint/Keynote; coordinating projects to ensure deadlines are met; attention to detail and accuracy; willing to take the initiative to develop the role's responsibilities; public and personal evangelism; passion for soul winning. Overseas applicants should ensure they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for this position. Adventist Media Network reserves the right to fill this vacancy at its discretion. Applications and enquiries should be directed to Kalvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <kalvin@adventistmedia.org.au> Applications close **May 13, 2013.**

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Cedarvale is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.

then moved to Canberra, Australia, and as no Polish pastoral employment was available, Jerzy worked as a graduate clerk and was eventually promoted to the position of finance director in the Health Department. Jerzy could speak several languages and on retiring to the Gold Coast the General Conference invited him to work with the newly-formed Division office in Moscow. He was a godly man with a pastor's heart, and was an ever present blessing to all.

*Peter Colquhoun
Wayne Humphries*



Patrick, Arthur Nelson, born 23.2.1934; died 8.3.13. He is survived by Joan (Howse), his wife of more than 50 years; his children and their families, daughter, Zanita Johnson, with sons, Braden and Kelsey; daughter, Adrielle Britten, with partner, John, and children, Jack, Jedda, and Tom; and son, Leighton with partner Emma (New York City); and his brother, John. Arthur commenced life in Cooranbong, NSW, in a family who had experienced direct connection with Ellen White and the earliest pioneers at Avondale College. He was a son of the Australian bush—as much at home with a horse and an axe, as with a pen, a computer and a library. His lifetime of service since graduation from Avondale College included pastoral ministry in New Zealand, the United States and Australia; lecturing in theology, ministry and Adventist history in Australia and the US; directing the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre; college administration; and senior chaplaincy at Sydney Adventist Hospital. A prolific scholar, Arthur authored more than 100 articles. His life was characterised by a passion for fairness, justice and honesty, caring pastoral concern, and a tireless scholarship on behalf of the Church and the gospel he loved.

*Lyell Heise, Allan Lindsay
Lynden Rogers*

Simmons, Helen Ruth (nee Lambert), born 16.11.1936 in Sydney, NSW; died 2.3.13 in Brisbane, Qld. On 22.12.1959, she married Warren Alfred Simmons at Auburn, NSW. She is survived by their sons, Glenn, Kelvin, Rod (all of Sydney) and Trevor (Brisbane,

Qld); daughters-in-law, Sharelle and Fiona; grandchildren, Steven, Nadine, Kia and Declan. Helen was deeply loved by family and friends. She was a teacher and librarian within the Adventist school system for almost 30 years and was highly respected by her colleagues. "We will miss you and your infectious smile, but we will see you in the morning."

Bob Possingham



Tinworth, Loren Ross, born 25.3.1928 in the Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San), NSW; died 6.3.13 in the San. He is survived by Noeleen, his wife of 62 years; his children and their spouses, Ros and Geoff Judd, David and Sue Tinworth, and Judy and David Harwood; and his much-loved grandchildren. Loren's desk had a sign on it which said: "There are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wondered what happened." Loren was very much in the first group. He was a doer and a giver. He gave much time and energy to denominational enterprises, including the Fox Valley Community Centre, but one of the most significant was the creation of the Adventist Alpine Village at Jindabyne. The council named the road leading to the village Tinworth Drive in recognition of his relentless efforts over 22 years to accomplish his vision.

Garth Bainbridge, Horrie Watts

Turner, Bill, born 7.5.1929 in Merewether, NSW; died 22.2.13 in Toronto. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; children, Geoffrey, Dixie Anne and Lloyd, their partners and their children; and his siblings, Bert, Jim, Elsie and Lillian. Bill was a competent sportsman, school teacher, lay preacher and musician. He initiated a school soccer competition which grew from a local level to Australia-wide, and which bears his name—Bill Turner Cup. For many years he was a regular lay preacher in the North NSW Conference. His contribution to music spanned more than 50 years as a chorister, song leader and choirmaster. He had a fine bass-baritone voice and sang in churches, regional meetings and various productions including the *Messiah* on several occasions. Bill

was laid to rest in the Avondale Cemetery on 25.2.13.

George Drinkall

Vitiello, Dino Felice, born 7.7.1935 in La Spezia, Italy; died 5.2.13. In 1958, he married Raffaella at the Adventist College, Collonges-sous-Saleve, France. He is survived by his wife; their five children and their spouses, Gildina and Paul, David and Lea, Millie and Brian, Leo and Donna, Richard and Trudi; and grandchildren, Raffaella, Lydie, Simone, Dean, Tamika, Gisele, Matt, Brendon, Jourdain and Christopher. Dino attended the Theological Seminary, Villa Aurora in Florence, Italy. In 1962, he answered a call to minister to migrants in Australia and in 1967 he graduated from Avondale College. Throughout his battle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease, Dino demonstrated amazing endurance, cheerfulness, quick wit and inner-strength. His faith in God and his peace in the face of death were noticed by all. He was ministering till the end.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village. October 7–13, 2013. Calling all Grey Nomads! Be part of the inaugural Grey Nomads camping experience at Adventist Alpine Village. Come together at the foot of the Australian Southern Alps and enjoy a feast of spiritual enrichment and social fellowship. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options please contact Robyn Howie. Phone: (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

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50th anniversary—Mitchelton church, Brisbane, Qld. We invite all previous members and friends to join us for a special Sabbath service, luncheon and afternoon program on June 29, 2013, from 9.30am. Cnr of Ruby and Blackwood Sts, Mitchelton. Inquiries to 0412 280 549.

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Finally...

A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

—Proverbs 11:25

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