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Record

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SPD staff CHIP away at their weight

Wahroonga, New South Wales

It's one thing to have the health message; it's quite another to live the health message. From caffeinated drinks through to sugary desserts, from fatty foods through to inactivity, many Adventists fall far short of converting head knowledge into life practice. And there are few places that is more obvious than in the South Pacific Division (SPD), where the abundant life has made many of the team rather abundant in size.

So, like any good employer, the SPD is doing something about it. Specifically, it's offering the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) to its employees. A third of the staff have enrolled.

"We're delighted at how the program is going," said CHIP director Paul Rankin, who himself lost 30 kilos through the CHIP lifestyle. "The level of interest and enthusiasm among the SPD team has exceeded my expectations. And the results we're getting already are very encouraging."

"I'm two weeks into it, and I've lost 3 1/2 kilos," said RECORD associate editor Jarrod Stackelroth. "I'm excited

to be improving my health with the support of friends and colleagues. Some of the information is new and startling, and some I already knew. But I think the most important thing, is that it gives me impetus to make the changes that I was putting off or making excuses about. I've always done the cooking at home and CHIP has focused me on making good food. Last night when I got home, I whipped up the CHIP creamy mushroom recipe in 15 minutes, boiled corn on the cob, and made a four-bean and tomato salad. It was delicious."

Even the very trim Mark Baines, SPD employment promotions officer, is attending CHIP. "I'm coming because I have a lot to learn," he said. "Being a good weight is one thing, but there is much more to living a healthy life. You can be trim and still unhealthy. I was raised in a healthy home—but I'm like anyone, I love chocolate, ice cream, etc. So just because I was raised healthy doesn't mean I live healthy. I'm in the CHIP program because I want to experience optimal health."

RECORD sales and marketing as-



Sharon Martin, Paul Rankin and Jarrod Stackelroth.

sistant Theodora Amuimuia agrees: "I want to improve my eating habits, so the part of the program that I'm most interested in is the cooking demonstrations. I've learned that lots of things I thought were healthy are not that good. Paul Rankin explained to us, for example, that you get six oranges worth of the fruit's sugar in a glass of orange juice and none of its fibre. Much better to eat a couple of oranges—it will fill you up more and weigh you down less."

The program runs through to mid-October. To find out about running a program at your church or workplace, visit <http://chiphealth.org.au/>.

—James Standish

Medical houseboat floats again

Ambunti, Papua New Guinea

After 10 years of lying idle and exposed to Papua New Guinea's tropical weather, a medical mission boat is once more bringing hope and health to villages along the Sepik River.

Pathfinder II was originally built in 1971 and based at Ambunti. The floating clinic was operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and served the medical needs of men, women and children along a 340-kilometre stretch of the river.

But a flood grounded the boat in 2003 and it was left to deteriorate. Australian nurse Lyn Anderson had worked on the Sepik River in the early years—about four of those years on *Pathfinder II*. "I knew the people would not be getting the medical help that they need and deserve," she said. "The villages along this river are now very populous and the people are in need of medical care. The only way of travelling between villages is via the river."

During the past five years, funds were raised from Adventist churches in Victoria and New South Wales and a number of individuals made generous donations.



The Pathfinder II about to be relaunched.

A team of nine Aussie volunteers was assembled, including a houseboat builder from Lake Eildon in Victoria and an 80-year-old electrician. Working together with locals, the team repaired and refurbished *Pathfinder II*, launching it back on to the river on July 11 to continue its lifesaving work.—Kent Kingston



Messy messages

Jarrod Stackelroth

Ever had a moment your life changed? It might be an event, a day, a loss, a year, an adventure, a relationship; but somewhere along the way, you flew the cocoon and started a new direction. A clarity hits you; something exciting, fresh and also nostalgic. Life-changing events are not always positive—sometimes they haunt us, dogging our steps, clouding our horizons or maiming us permanently. Yet they are important. Without change, we do not grow. Without growth, we die.

It took one weekend for my life to change. A friend of my wife and I (girlfriend at the time) had invited us to a “supernatural encounter”. We thought it was hype, just another church camp. They said it was hard to explain; we had to come and experience it for ourselves. So we did.

It wasn't the camp that changed our lives. There was no professional evangelist, no deep theological truths that we'd never heard before, although the messages were solid. It certainly wasn't the music. In fact, Lina took a while to adjust. She was used to very conservative worship styles.

It was the raw, heart-wrenching honesty; the realisation that all of us were sinners and struggled with the same fallen humanity; the discovery that no matter what we'd done, God's presence was with us and He wanted to be part of our lives. It was stuff I knew rationally but had never felt physically. We heard testimonies like Albert's on page 16. These were people who loved Jesus and wanted to live for Him but weren't perfect and were willing to admit it.

When God changes a life He does so with power. He doesn't expect us to cover up that mess. Look at the Bible. It's a collection of messy people with questionable characters, motives and actions, and yet God still works through them and with them to bring about His purposes. Why then, do we so often hide our brokenness? We have become deceived into thinking that everyone else is more perfect than we are, so we'd better just keep quiet. Actually, our struggles and triumphs with God's help, can be liberating for others.

Baptism isn't the end of a journey either. Life doesn't suddenly become rosy—it's still hard, it hurts and even if we are fairly “righteous”, we still face struggles and hurts. That's what makes us human.

God often chooses the least likely: younger brothers, sheep herders, fishermen, criminals, cowards. They more perfectly demonstrate His power. The truth of who we are keeps us humble, shines light in darkness and helps us relate.

We cannot wallpaper over our trials. That does not bring about true restoration. The cracks are still there underneath. True restoration is found in sharing.

Paul shares his testimony with the crowd in Jerusalem and again before King Agrippa. His letters are filled with accounts of his trials. He does not gloss over them. Instead, he uses them to glorify God.

The message of Jesus is often called the good news. It's news about an event that has already happened—the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But the reporting of it, when received, should change lives. That is how the church explodes in Acts; they are witnesses to the resurrection. When the good news changes your life (and it should on a daily basis), you become an extension of the Gospel. Your story becomes your good news and sharing it, along with the story of Jesus, is a powerful way to enter into the lives of the broken. After all, Jesus Himself has a story of brokenness and suffering to share.

I used to think I didn't have a testimony to share; no road to Damascus experience. I was raised in the Church, never felt the need to rebel.

Yet we all have pet sins, comfortable crimes, that we entertain, justify and ignore. The first step into the kingdom, preached by John and Jesus, is to repent and confess. We can share how God has helped and is helping us with these things. In doing so it can help others. Christian rapper Lecrae said recently: “In these streets, if you are inclined to listen there are a million stories. I always try to make time to listen and share my own [story]. You never know how one person's story may change another's life.”

Once I came to terms with my brokenness (God's terms) I was more effective for His kingdom. (Warning: I had to be broken first and it hurts.)

Our mess is our message but only God can redeem our mess—clean it up and refine it.

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“Albert Fa’alogo, Convicted cover story.”

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Our vision is to be a church that...
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 and shares
 our hope in Jesus Christ



Patron saint of real estate

Kent Kingston

We've left it a bit late, but at nearly 40 years old, my wife and I are looking to buy a house. Or build one. Not sure which yet. It's a leap into the unknown, the contemplation of which can cause violent swings between giddy visions of dream houses and paroxysms of six-figure dread.

It's funny how the human mind works. If we can get ourselves into a safe and stable position—a steady job, a happy marriage, reasonably well-behaved kids, stable accommodation, good health—what do we do next? We throw our lives into financial and relationship chaos and embark on a risky 30-year voyage towards the distantly glimmering harbour of home ownership.

It's almost as if we want a challenge. In the West, especially, we've got nearly every aspect of our lives buttoned down—carefully controlled. But it's not enough: we want to take risks; to live an adventure. We need more.

One of my favourite times in church is when the congregation is invited to spontaneously thank God for His blessings. (Some worship coordinators avoid this practice: you never know who's going to stand up and regale the congregation with a 15-minute convoluted semi-miracle from 1993. I think it's worth it anyway, but I digress.) I've noticed a theme emerging at these occasions. A beaming couple take the microphone and say they've been buying or selling a house and how they prayed for a particular dollar figure. In the best testimonies, there's some kind of unexpected twist at this point, where all seems lost. But then God comes through and said dollar figure is met exactly (or exceeded for the sellers; or discounted for the buyers).

Don't get me wrong; I don't doubt the veracity of God's intervention in these cases. But I have found myself muttering more than once: "patron saint of real estate". Because sometimes it seems the risk of the property market is the only area in life that we're prepared to leave in God's hands—basically because we're forced to. Everything else is tightly under our control. We don't need God to be Lord over any of the stuff we can organise ourselves, but we will allow Him the limited role of patron saint of real estate. When we're facing the chasm of the unknown that stands between us and our dream house, we presume to wheel God into position and point Him in the direction we think He needs to go.

When I first came to this realisation, of course, it was from a smug position atop my rental high horse. But now that I'm scrolling through real estate websites and chatting up mortgage brokers, it's not so simple.

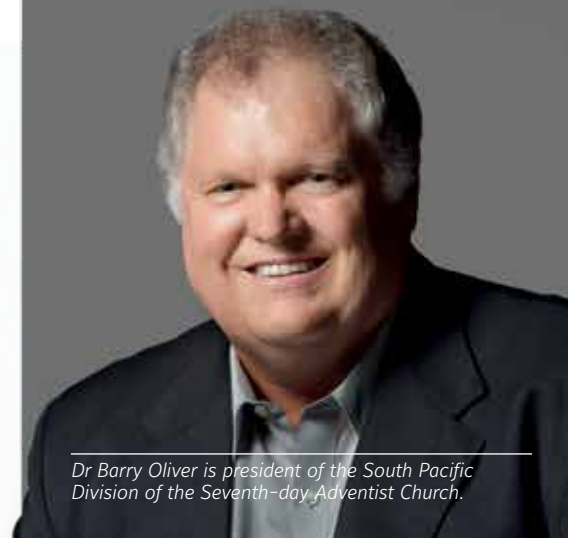
And I've realised something about God: if the only area of life you're going to let Him in is real estate, He'll use it. God wants so desperately to connect with us that He will blow in through any window we leave ajar. Of course He wants more; He knows we need Him much more than that. But He's not going to wait until we're perfectly and completely open to Him before He begins His work. I think He's hoping that if we begin to trust Him with one of life's scary unknowns—parenting teenagers, cancer scares or real estate deals—then maybe we'll begin to learn that we can trust Him with other stuff too.

Kent Kingston is assistant editor of RECORD.

The journey of faith

I have never really considered that there is anything particularly spectacular about my own journey of faith. If I were to tell the story, you would not hear, for example, of any dramatic conversion story, although I personally acknowledge a delightful sense of amazement whenever I am reminded of what God has done for me. You will not hear of a last-minute rescue from demons or the devil, although again, I am painfully aware of the remnants of a continuous battle being waged within my own heart—despite my ready acknowledgement that the war has been won by Christ on the cross. Rather, my journey of faith has been more like a growing awareness of the amazing grace of God so freely given, and of the opportunities that open up to the one who commits to a life of discipleship.

The point is that our individual journey is just that—an individual journey. It's ours alone. It's unique and special just as each of us is unique and special. It's the story of how God has chosen to reveal Himself to each of us personally and how we have chosen to respond. No-one else can diminish that story or take it away from us. And it's good to reflect on our journey of faith because really there is no option for any of us to understand God than through His Word and His action in our lives. The best way to know God is to experience Him in the daily walk of discipleship.



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



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University to mentor Avondale

Cooranbong, New South Wales

The signing of a memorandum of understanding between Charles Sturt University and Avondale College of Higher Education should help the latter seek self-accrediting status.

A ceremony held at Avondale on July 31 formalised Charles Sturt University's role as a mentor and advisor to the Cooranbong-based college of higher education. The role will primarily include "assessing and benchmarking

Avondale's governance, learning and teaching, research quality and standards and sharing resources on a cost-for-services basis".

"Avondale has a long tradition of providing quality education and programs," said Charles Sturt's vice-chancellor and president, Professor Andrew Vann, adding that many of the programs, particularly in business, the creative arts, education, nursing, science and mathematics and theology, are similar to those at the university. "Its mission and activities resonate with our values and priorities." In his speech during the ceremony, Professor Vann referred to the mottos—"For the public good" and "For a greater vision of world needs"—of both entities as having "gumption" and "soul".

Established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1897, Avondale offers undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational courses that "seek to develop the whole person", said president, Professor Ray Roennfeldt. The philosophy appeals to students, who, according to *The Good Universities Guide 2013*, continue to give Avondale one of the highest "educational experience" ratings in the country. Almost 1400—a record—are enrolled this year.

The memorandum could mean the students receive dual-badged testamurs and have their degrees recognised as if they were Charles Sturt degrees. Students may also enrol in any units of study, including majors and minors, with Charles Sturt if the courses are not offered by Avondale. "Avondale will always offer a defined number of courses, but the course and unit options for our students may increase through online study at Charles Sturt," Professor Roennfeldt said. Staff members will find it easier to collaborate with their Charles Sturt colleagues in research and research degree supervision and in teaching exchanges.

"However, it's not as if Avondale is bringing nothing to the relationship," Professor Roennfeldt said, noting how students at Charles Sturt may also enrol in Avondale's courses, "which will give them access to our service learning opportunities". This, and the collaboration between staff members, should build relationships between Charles Sturt and other Adventist Church entities, such as Sydney Adventist Hospital—at which Avondale will negotiate clinical places for Charles Sturt allied health students.

The memorandum is not legally binding but is valid for five years, although Avondale and Charles Sturt can extend—in duration and scope—or suspend it by mutual agreement. It "maps the big picture", Professor Roennfeldt said during his speech. "It means we're proactively seeking opportunities for cooperation and benefit. Let the journey begin."—*Brenton Stacey*



Professor Ray Roennfeldt (second from right) signs the MoU with Professor Andrew Vann (second from left).

PAU assists in PNG education overhaul

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) was invited to contribute to an overhaul of the education system offered in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Three PAU representatives joined delegates from various educational institutions, the PNG Office of Education, PNG's Department of Education and the Prime Minister's Office at the National Education Conference held at the University of Goroka in early July.

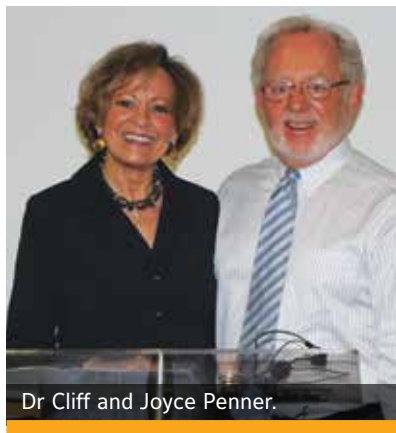
Dr Jillian Thiele, PAU's affiliation officer, presented papers, chaired sessions and was involved in many informal but influential discussions. Dr Elisapesi Manson and Beverly Kaleva from PAU's School of Education also presented a widely discussed paper.

The conference was an opportunity to highlight the education problems facing the country and provide possible solutions. Final recommendations were given to the PNG Department of Education and the Prime Minister's Office for consideration.

—*Jillian Thiele/RECORD staff*



Education is often under resourced.



Dr Cliff and Joyce Penner.

Family conference focus on sex in marriage

Wahroonga, New South Wales

The annual National Christian Family conference, organised by the South Pacific Division's (SPD) Family Ministries Department, was held at the Fox Valley Community Centre.

The conference was attended by psychologists, social workers, counsellors, pastors and students who work in the people-helping professions. The theme was sexuality and intimacy in marriage.

"This conference is designed to provide current research-based information to enhance and enrich the knowledge and skills of people-helpers from both the Adventist and non-Adventist communities," said Pastor Trafford Fischer, SPD Family Ministries director and conference convenor. "This year was no exception, and we were very pleased with the contribution made by this year's presenters, Dr Cliff and Joyce Penner, from Pasadena, California." —*Trafford Fischer/RECORD staff*

Former RECORD editor dies

Cooranbong, New South Wales

Former RECORD editor, Pastor Robert Parr, passed away at the Avondale Retirement Village in Cooranbong on July 30. He was 93.

Pastor Parr's daughter, Jenny, made the announcement via her Facebook account. She said her father had been in the retirement village for six years following a series of strokes.

"I was able to see him and be with him for his last two days," she said. "Many had been blessed by his ministry, his writing and his teaching. He will be remembered by many for his sense of humour, his love of music, his way with words and his enjoyment of golf."

Originally trained as a teacher, Pastor Parr served as editor of RECORD and *Signs of the Times* from 1967 to 1980.

Following his tenure with RECORD, Pastor Parr was called to the position of president for the Greater Sydney Conference—a role in which he served for five years. It was during his time as president that the John Carter Opera

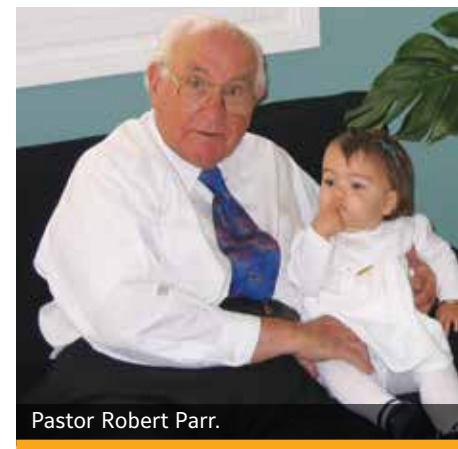
House mission was run.

Even after retiring from full-time ministry, he continued to pastor a number of churches and was actively involved in prison ministry.

A funeral service was held on August 11 at Avondale Cemetery.

Pastor Adrian Craig gave the address, while Dr Trevor Lloyd compiled the life sketch. Tributes poured in from across Australia and the world. Visit <www.record.net.au> to view Pastor Parr's full life sketch, as well as other tributes at the bottom of this article.

—*RECORD staff*



Pastor Robert Parr.

What is Global Mission? It's the passion that drives Adventist Christians across the world to reach the remotest places. It's the small bush-materials chapel in the jungles of Borneo and the volunteer "pioneer" riding her bicycle through the crowded streets of Bangkok to another Bible study. It's the secret agent in an Arab country sharing their shortwave radio with a friend to listen to Adventist World Radio, and the clinic in Ecuador dispensing love along with medicine.

Ever since 1990 when the Adventist Church realised the priority of working where we had no presence, Global Mission has intentionally targeted the unreached areas and untouched people groups of this world. It's the Gospel Commission to take the three angels' messages to every language, tribe and people group that motivates us and directs where world church funds will be spent.

Every year the General Conference spends \$15 million on some 1600 Global Mission projects around the world. Many of these are located in the 68 countries that lie within the 10/40 window. This non-Christian zone that girdles the globe constitutes our greatest challenge along with the mega cities of our world. Global Mission also helps to fund study centres that provide resources and initiatives for reaching the major non-Christian religions: Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, secular post-moderns and urban ministry.

I have just completed a visit to Papua New Guinea where once again we are sponsoring "pioneers" to raise up

churches in the remote corners of this rugged country. From the steamy islands of Lake Murray in the Western Province, to coastal villages in Madang Province; from mountain villages near the Papuan border to untouched people along the southern coast,

Global Mission drives the advance of the Gospel. And even in Australia and New Zealand, the challenge of reaching new ethnic groups that have recently come to these welcoming shores is planting Adventist churches among Sudanese, Burmese, Korean, Indonesian, Chinese, Indian and Muslim communities.

The annual sacrifice offering, which will be collected in all churches on September 14, goes totally to support Global Mission projects. Here in the South Pacific Division we benefit from these funds to the tune of \$US220,000 every year, and that has enabled our conferences and missions to support projects worth more than \$A1 million per year. Thank you for your generous support in the past. Our giving will not cease until the task is completed. —Ray Coombe, Global Mission coordinator



Pioneers in PNG reach remote areas.



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Fiji's miracle uni church

What happens when Adventist kids go off to university? Many of them leave the Church. Why?

They are often far from home for the first time. They are making new friends with very different values. Professors and peers can be very impressive and very persuasive. And, if truth be told, the local church options are often not well tailored to the types of questions and the unique needs of uni students. So students find a sense of community elsewhere—and elsewhere is seldom compatible with the Christian life.

That's what makes the remarkable developments around a Fijian church created to serve students at the secular University of the Pacific (USP) so important.

It may seem that one church in the whole scheme of things isn't much to worry about. But Pastor Joe Talemaitoga thinks otherwise: "Remember, the students at the University of the Pacific are some of the most gifted young people in the entire region," he notes. "If we lose the Adventist students, we lose an enormous asset to our church." He further observes: "If we fail to reach the non-Adventist students, we lose a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as it is during university that many will be open to new ideas and searching for their identity. Our church is designed for both groups—and it's working."

The Pacific Tertiary Evangelistic Centre, as Pastor Talemaitoga has dubbed the uni church, has become a hub that provides community and inspiration to Adventists, and is a great vehicle for them to reach out to their peers. Check it out on Facebook and you'll see what a lively centre it is. Not only is Adventism vibrant and growing at the centre, it's also out in the community serving others. Groups of students have even travelled to the new Fulton campus to assist with preparing the grounds of the new college. It's tough work in the hot sun, but when the love of God is in your heart you want to put that love into action.

But there has been a problem since the centre commenced: there has been a church, but no church. Or, to be a little clearer, there has been a church congregation, but no church building. Which may not seem like such a big

problem until you start thinking about it. After all, uni students are busy. When you start moving your church around from one lecture hall to another, trying to get the word out about where you are and what you are gets complicated. And then there's the weekly set up and tear down. If that were not enough, when you are doing special mid-week meetings or Saturday night concerts, you don't have a place to hold them.

So just build a church, right? Easily said, but hard to do. It turns out that vacant land around USP is in great demand. The Catholic Church owns much of the prime city blocks near the campus, and they're not selling.

End of story.

Not quite. You see, when you hit a brick wall, what do you do? Pray. And that's exactly what the students and leadership team began to do. And that's where the story gets really interesting.

At 10pm one evening, a group of students was walking near the campus and saw a man putting up a "for sale" sign on the perfect block of land.

Why he was posting the sign so late at night, no-one can say. But the students saw an opportunity. One of them called Pastor Talemaitoga, and the wheels kicked into high gear. By mid-morning the next day, the land was safely in the hands of the uni church, much to the dismay of the Catholic Church, which had been eyeing the property for years.

That's the power of prayer, one student and a church community with vision.

The new uni church is now under construction, with funds provided by the 13th Sabbath mission offering (remember the one about building new churches in the Pacific—incredible, isn't it, all of us who donated towards the cause are now building a church at this minute).

If all goes to plan, the church will be completed by the time the new Fulton College campus is opened next February.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.



Only by love

by Danielle Synot

I SCURRY ALONG IN THE INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL, my suitcase in tow, clipping the back of my legs, the random bursts of sting prodding me along. The handle is shorter than it should be—stuck half way. It's broken—damaged and tired, having been thrown around on my many ministry adventures. I race toward the check-in desk, trying not to trip over, and chiding myself for being so silly as to wear heels to the airport, when I usually end up running to catch a flight!

We all have "baggage" of some sort. Tired from being thrown around—we are broken. Sometimes in our brokenness we sting others; at times in our stupidity, we trip ourselves.

I travel a lot, speaking openly on life issues, sharing my own story and journey with God. I also spend a lot of time with people who share their stories with me. As much as we would like to pretend that we have it all together, behind the masks of a cheerful "Happy Sabbath" greeting each week, the truth remains that many of us are struggling.

People are struggling with marriages breaking down, depression and same-sex attraction. Some pastors are workaholics or need help setting boundaries in their

ministry. People from all walks of life are struggling with addictions—not just drugs, but pornography, cutting and perfectionism just to name a few. I talk with people who have been abused, lost a baby or had an abortion and never told a soul because they feel so ashamed. I talk with parents who are watching helplessly as the world grabs their children and spins them out of control. These are not outsiders; these are our brothers and sisters in the pews every week. You may even be one of them. I know I have been.

Something happens and there's disconnect. Perhaps it's a sense of shame, a fear they will be judged or rejected; perhaps they have been hurt and withdraw. Sometimes people don't know how to connect, or nobody makes an effort to seek them out. Whatever the case, many people are feeling disconnected and excruciatingly lonely—inside their hearts and inside the church building.

When I read about the birth of the early church in the first five chapters of Acts, I see God's people giving and sharing with one another so that no-one was in need of anything. I read of them not only worshipping and studying but eating together, and caring and healing. In fact their reputation of love for one another was such that even

the Gentiles would bring their sick to God's people to be healed, and thousands were added to their number each day. I read those early chapters of Acts and have to ask the question, what's happened to us?

Is this pain just something I see because it's my own hobbyhorse? Part of me wishes that were the case, but sadly even our Natural Church Development (NCD) statistics confirm my observations.

According to NCD, generally our lowest rating is in the area of loving relationships, defined by the question: "Are relationships in the church Christ-like?" How can this be when the Bible clearly tells us: "By this they will know that you are my disciples, because of your love for one another"?

Daniel R Sanchez, author of *Church Planting Movements in North America*, reports that 80 per cent of local congregations have reached a plateau or are declining in attendance.

A June 2005 NCD survey among Seventh-day Adventist congregations reveals that the Church lacks an overall sense of community, "where people can share their feelings and trust each other". More recent surveys, even here in Australia, are indicating the same thing—we are lacking in loving relationships.

Do we need another evangelism fad? Another "friendship evangelism" training manual? A program? When we try to connect artificially, people see straight through it. People crave authenticity, trust and acceptance—for church to be a safe place where they can love and be loved.

We talk about a need for community within our churches, and while I agree, I think a core issue with the term "community" is our definition of it. The sad reality is that we can have community without any real depth of connection, like a nice convenience or a social club. But for real, lasting and meaningful relationships, what we really need is a deeper level of connection. By this I mean safe, authentic and vulnerable relationships within our communities, including our churches, families and friendships. We need something deeper than a church community. We need a family of God.

A church family goes deeper than attending church, Pathfinder clubs, employment, camp meetings and small groups in themselves, it's about connecting in these and other situations out of choice not tradition or obligation. It's about getting to know each other authentically, and caring for one another personally. It's scary and messy. To transition from community to family we have to step into intimacy and vulnerability.

The challenge is that you can't have loving relationships without risking rejection, and so many of us are too afraid to get hurt again or gossiped about. You have to be brave enough to allow yourself to take a risk.

People crave authenticity, trust and acceptance—for church to be a safe place where they can love and be loved.

C S Lewis said: "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

I once questioned this: loving with my whole heart, despite being loved back or not. Was I setting myself up by over-investing? Right then the Holy Spirit chimed in and said, "Did I over-invest in you when I gave My life for you on the cross?"

Don't give up

Our tendency when we feel hurt, lonely and rejected is to run, turn bitter and disconnect. Sad to say, I have done that myself. Having no Adventist family, my church meant the world to me and

when I was let down it was excruciatingly painful. I left for a time, became very bitter and sunk into a deep depression until God was able to speak to my heart. When I think of the lives God has touched through the ministries He has called me to, I shudder to think about the consequences for some of them, if I had given up. God has people for you to bless and reach. When the embers of warmth grow dim in your church, be the igniting fire; choose to be the change you want to see.

We are grieving the greatest loss in the history of the universe—it's every heart's cry—uninterrupted connection with God and one another. That's why it hurts like hell when disconnect happens, because it's not meant to be this way. But if we choose not to love, we add to the problem, instead of being part of the healing. It's not easy but it's worth it! Living with Jesus and each other in heaven, in total loving connection forever—yep, I will fight for that, even when it hurts, even though I feel like running. True love is selfless and sacrificial.

The answer is clear in the counsel we have been given; basically it comes down to this principle:

"Only by love is love awakened" (*Desire of Ages*, p 22).

"Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God . . . And when His parting words are fulfilled, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts" (*God's Amazing Grace*, E G White, p 54).

Will you choose to love?



Danielle Synot is author of Every Heart's Cry and presents on the Record InFocus television program.

When someone shares their personal struggles with me, I:

- Change the subject
- Say I'll pray for them
- Provide advice/organise a solution
- Listen empathetically
- Point out a silver lining
- Tell them to toughen up

To answer visit record.net.au

Susanna Weber

Even now, just hearing the name "Sonoma" brings back happy memories. Sonoma Adventist College is in East New Britain, Papua New Guinea (PNG). We were there from 1977-1982, when Sonoma was the only Adventist tertiary institution in PNG, just before the establishment of Pacific Adventist College (later University) in Port Moresby. We were one of eight expatriate staff families, mostly Aussies and Kiwis.



Before our arrival we were told our two children would need to be "correspondence-schooled". We'd met mothers who'd taught their children in other parts of PNG and they'd told us there were good and stressful times involved.

But at Sonoma we were surprised to find that, of the eight expatriate families, six of us had children of primary age. After several months of us all teaching in our own homes, one of the mothers said she'd had enough; we had 12 children between us, so why not set up a school?

Our church leaders in Lae said they couldn't finance even a basic "A" school (a school offering the Australian syllabus). Pacific Adventist College was getting built, some of our staff could be transferred there and building a schoolroom might not be financially appropriate. We were temporarily set back, but came up with an alternative solution. Here we were living in a country where most of the population lived in bush material homes that cost little or nothing. Why couldn't we do likewise?

And so a few weeks later, 12 fair-skinned, mostly blue-eyed blond children sat in a grass hut at repaired desks, with a blackboard and not much else. For the first year the teaching was shared between trained Sonoma staff members and mothers who covered the less technical subjects. It wasn't a formal "A" school, so, tongue-in-cheek, we dubbed it "Sonoma Z School". During the next few years, volunteer teachers came from both Longburn and Avondale and learned the "benefits" of teaching with little or no resources but with a relatively low student-teacher ratio.

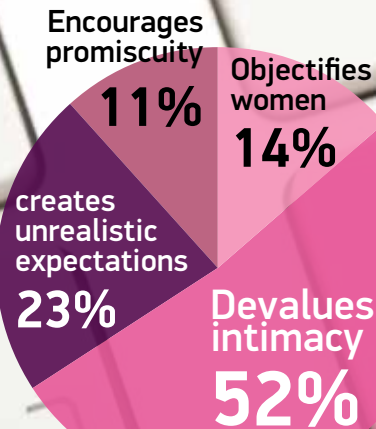
During our time there, the children put on several musicals, which involved many of the Sonoma students, national staff children, the ladies choir and other campus groups. A few years later, the original thatched schoolroom was replaced with a permanent building. Now, as the staff mix has changed and more dormitory space required, our little school is just a memory. But some of those original "Z" school pupils are now teachers themselves in our church schools in Australia.

We're planning a get-together at Cooranbong in 2014. We'd love to catch up with any of the families who were at Sonoma during the "Z" school days.

Susanna Weber is organising the "Z" school reunion. For more information, contact her at <bettyretreat@xtra.co.nz>.

OPINION POLL RESULT

What is the most damaging impact of porn? It:



REVIVED BY HIS WORD

September 7--21, 2013

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

7 - Pslm. 31	10 - Pslm. 34	13 - Pslm. 37	16 - Pslm. 40	19 - Pslm. 43
8 - Pslm. 32	11 - Pslm. 35	14 - Pslm. 38	17 - Pslm. 41	20 - Pslm. 44
9 - Pslm. 33	12 - Pslm. 36	15 - Pslm. 39	18 - Pslm. 42	21 - Pslm. 45



Top tips for going plant based

There are great benefits to be gained from adopting a plant-based diet. Research, such as the Adventist Health Study, has shown that those who follow plant-based diets are at a lower risk of chronic conditions like heart disease and Type 2 diabetes.

For some people, adopting a plant-based diet can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Here are some of our top tips for making the switch:

- > **Don't just eat side dishes**—One of the common mistakes people make when switching to a plant-based diet is to just leave the meat off their plates and only eat the same side salads or vegetables they always did. While meat isn't needed in a healthy diet, it does contain some nutrients, such as iron, zinc and protein, that are necessary for good health. Make sure each meal has a good source of protein, such as legumes or tofu, to make up the difference. Including foods like wholegrain breads and cereals and nuts throughout the day can also help top up these nutrients.
- > **Be smart about B12**—Vitamin B12 is an essential nutrient that is naturally found only in animal products. Those following a completely plant-based diet can regularly include fortified foods in their diet, such as some soy milks, to help meet their needs. B12 supplements are also available and can be useful.
- > **Keep a sense of adventure**—Ensuring there's plenty of variety in the diet is one of the best ways to help these new choices stick. No matter how you eat, we're all at risk of getting stuck in a food rut and losing some of the real pleasure of preparing and enjoying food. A great way of avoiding boredom is to explore multicultural foods: Thai, Indian, Mexican and Italian are just a few traditional cuisines with great plant-based options.



Mushroom, choy sum and cashew stir fry

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 8 minutes Serves: 4.

- 450g pkt quick cook brown rice
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 1 red onion, cut into thin wedges
- 200g small cup mushrooms, sliced
- 150g oyster mushrooms
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 bunches baby choy sum, stems chopped, leaves separated
- 100g sugar snap peas
- ¼ cup salt-reduced vegetable stock
- 1 teaspoon finely grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon tamari
- ⅓ cup unsalted roasted cashews
- 1 medium chilli, deseeded, thinly sliced (optional)

1. Cook rice following packet directions.
2. Meanwhile, heat oil in a wok until hot. Add onion. Stir-fry for 2 minutes until just tender. Add mushrooms and garlic. Stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add choy sum stems. Stir-fry for 1 minute.
3. Add choy sum leaves, stock and ginger. Toss until combined. Cover and cook for 1 minute. Toss through tamari, cashews and chilli. Serve with brown rice.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
1400kJ (330cal). Protein 9g. Fat 12g.
Saturated fat 2g. Carbohydrate 43g. Sodium 350mg. Potassium 535mg. Calcium 130mg.
Iron 2.2mg. Fibre 5g.

TIP:
When buying mushrooms, choose firm, dry, undamaged mushrooms.

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



Convicted

by Jarrod Stackelroth

IF YOU SAW HIM ON THE TRAIN, HE MIGHT BE THE type you'd avoid. Shaved head, tattooed knuckles, intense gaze. The seat next to him—empty. But if you took that chance, if you sat in that empty seat, you would hear an amazing story—a challenging, gritty, redemptive story from a man unashamedly in love with his Saviour.

You'd be surprised to hear how he helps little old ladies and picks them up for church and how he goes around the neighbourhood servicing people's cars to show them that love. He sets and packs up all the equipment at his church and loves to "labour for the Lord". And he's ready to share his story with anyone who's willing to listen.

"It's really the Holy Spirit who convicted me to get out of my hiding spot," he says. "Satan had me in a hole for years, but I praise God, I'm opened up and able to be real to people and also be real about my feelings."

But before the Holy Spirit convicted him, Albert Fa'alogu spent years being convicted by the law.

Born in New Zealand in 1974, Albert's parents split up soon after he was born. His mother suffered a breakdown so Albert and his brother, Ray, were cared for by their

grandmother until, at about 5 years old, they were shipped off to Australia, to an acquaintance of the family to get a better education and a better life. Instead, they ended up in a three-bedroom house with up to 30 islanders brought over to work for the woman who took them in.

"I stopped going to school at 15, started hanging out with the crowd. I was stealing cars and breaking into shops.

"I'd just do anything to fill the void that was missing, as a young man." Here Albert pauses.

The void. Dark, deep and insatiable, it was consuming Albert from the inside. It started with a child, lonely and longing for a family, longing to belong. It was compounded by the beatings and sexual abuse from his guardian.

"Any little thing and she would beat us with extension cords."

Little wonder he ended up in the juvenile justice system. "My father and stepmother came looking for us. They got us out and we moved back to Samoa." But it was too little too late for Albert.

"I didn't feel the love for them because it had been so long. I didn't really know them so they sent me to America

to my stepmother's brother. I planned to join the military."

Another fresh start on another continent—only the void came with him. At about 17, Albert began to work.

"I made a couple of friends through work and they asked me if I wanted to be blessed." Not knowing the street lingo in America, Albert wasn't sure what they meant so he asked them. "They said 'You want to be in the family'. To me this was cool. Growing up with no family, I felt like this was family, we became tight."

Turns out Albert's new family was a gang and Albert became an enforcer, a foot soldier, selling drugs and taking orders. He began to use—heavily.

But the gang was like family; he would take a bullet for them and he knew they would take a bullet for him.

"Life was rough but I was trying to get the American dream of having money, looking good, driving nice cars and also having power, as in, no-one messes with you or they'll get it back. I wanted all that."

But it was never enough. He kept chasing more and eventually the law caught up with him. His house was raided at 4am one day and he was thrown into the federal penitentiary for immigration fraud.

"In there it was kinda rough, time stood still. Prison sucks." With a wry smile, Albert shakes his head. "I thought I was a tough guy going in there, but inside it was a totally different story. You've gotta live by the rules." Albert had to join a gang inside the prison. For his protection, he joined the Mexicans (his wife is Mexican). But it wasn't the kind of life he wanted.

"I started reading the Bible but wasn't solid. The only time I needed Jesus was when I was in trouble." Albert was in and out of prison, breaking his probation with drug use. Before his last court case, in 2005, he prayed: "God if I get out, I promise I'll change." He won his case but didn't change.

He was still struggling with drugs, violent towards his wife, Lisa, and his marriage was breaking down. He had had enough of life and was ready to leave the woman who had stuck by him during his dark times.

"I'm fed up with this," he thought. "I need changes in my marriage, I need changes in my life."

On the other side of the world, in Sydney, Australia, Albert's brother, Ray, was being encouraged by the Xcell church plant he had recently joined, to pray for his family and friends. Albert and Lisa were on the bottom of Ray's list of 10. After all, they were so far away and so far from God, deep in a world of anger, gangs and drugs. But God "flipped the script". In God's Kingdom, the last shall be first.

Albert found himself in Australia for his grandmother's birthday. His brother invited him to a men's group at Xcell church. At first he thought it was silly. But slowly things

changed. He moved back to Australia and Lisa came too. They attended a "Conquering Conference" and they were baptised, their lives changed.

Neat story right? Only that's not the end of Albert's journey.

After 13 years of trying, Lisa fell pregnant. Albert told everyone how it was a testament to God's glory. Then she lost the baby. That was a dark time. The doctors told them they couldn't have another baby. They almost walked away from God at that time but they somehow pulled through and in the same month the next year, Lisa fell

pregnant again, this time giving birth to a healthy baby girl. Albert told the doctors and everyone else about God's miracle. "That's why I believe man can go so far but God's power can go beyond."

He wants his daughter to grow up to know God. "My prayer every morning is 'Lord, please help my daughter not

to be like me but to love you'. I still struggle with teaching her the ways of the Lord and how life is because as a young man I wasn't taught. I praise God what he had planned for our marriage and our life because we weren't ready to have kids back then but now I think He said we're ready."

For Albert, his journey requires daily recommitment and the Holy Spirit's infilling. He still struggles with losing his temper and was suspended from the church leadership team for a short time as he battled with it. But he's not bitter. "I got pruned," Albert says with a chuckle. "So I could have some good fruits. Cause if you've got rotten fruits man, ain't nobody gonna pick that . . ." His laugh is full and loud this time, and it dances in his eyes. "The leadership saw my fruits weren't growing and the roots weren't solid so the brothers told me to step down for awhile, start growing again and ask the Lord to prune you. We can't have rotten fruits so the world sees rotten fruits on us. They're already eating rotten fruits."

As he looks back, Albert can see God's hand in his life. He should have died many times. He's been shot at, blown a hole in his stomach through a drug overdose and been electrocuted during a robbery, but through it all his life was sustained. Now he gets excited to share his new life with people, even going back to the juvenile facility he was once locked up in to share his testimony with the inmates.

"You need to wake up with the Lord and go to sleep with the Lord," he says. "Sometimes I want to give up. I just want to walk away and go back into the world but my heart will never do that. Even though I fall I will always come back. I will never give up on the Lord, after what He has done in my life. He gave me a new name."

Albert's surname, Fa'alogo means listen or obey in Samoan. He who has ears, let him hear.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of RECORD.



But it was never enough. He kept chasing more and eventually the law caught up . . .



Continuing connection

Fifteen students and four teachers from Christchurch Adventist School took a break from the freezing New Zealand weather by going on a service trip to the Fijian island of Mana in July. While there, the team performed a number of repairs and maintenance tasks at the local church and Mana Adventist Primary School, which was built by a Fly 'n' Build team from Christchurch in the early-mid '90s.—*Tracey Ling*



Experts in education

Four Pacific Adventist University (PAU) staff members were chosen by Papua New Guinea's Office of Higher Education to serve on its Registrar of Experts. Dr Tracie Mafile'o, Dr David Thiele, Dr Jillian Thiele and Dr Lalen Simeon (not pictured) join a select group of people who will assist the office in its accreditation process of higher education institutions in PNG.—*PAU*



Know your heroes

The old-fashioned Bible quiz is now an app. "Heroes" pits the player's wits and memory against the clock to see just how well they know at least seven major Bible characters. The app has clocked up early success, with 3000 downloads in the first 48 hours of its release. "Heroes" is the brainchild of London (UK) Adventist man Sam Neves and is available free for Apple mobile platforms.—*RECORD staff*



Journey to manhood

Three Adventist teenagers, together with their adult supporters, are sailing more than 20,000 kilometres—from Florida, USA, back home to the island province of Jeju in South Korea. Since leaving the Americas, the young sailors have stopped in at the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, Samoa and Fiji, with eight more countries on their route before completing their journey. At each stop, the sailors are completing a mission project. The official goal of the trip is "to help teenagers to find their vision of life and identity through experiencing various languages and cultures".—*RECORD staff*



Looking northward

Adventist HealthCare (AHC) has submitted an Expression of Interest to the NSW Government for the Northern Beaches Hospital proposal. According to AHC representatives, the government's vision for a facility that will provide healthcare services to both public and private patients "is an opportunity for us to showcase the excellence and quality of care Adventist HealthCare already provides at Sydney Adventist Hospital, Dalcross Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby". A total of four hospital operators have submitted an Expression of Interest. The government will make its decision later in the year.—*Leon Clark*



Eagles soar at uni games

Avondale's improved performance at its second Eastern University Games saw the college of higher education finish third in per capita rankings. The men's basketball, indoor cricket and touch football teams all qualified for but were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals. The games, held in Wollongong, July 7-11, featured 2800 participants from 16 universities and TAFEs across NSW and the ACT.—*Brenton Stacey*



Book blessings

Sydney Portuguese church member Marcelo Bussacarini recently met with Brazilian ambassador Rubem Correa Barbosa, presenting him a Portuguese version of *Steps to Christ*. The gift was just one of the 10,000 copies of the book the church has committed to distributing amongst the Portuguese-speaking community in Australia.—*IntraSyd*



Twice the impact

Darling Downs Christian School (Qld) recently sent its senior students on two service trips. Nine students spent almost two weeks in the Solomon Islands where they held kids' clubs in two different villages and helped re-paint a large girls' dormitory. Fourteen students and four teachers also visited the tiny township of Duaringa in North Queensland, with the team running kids' clubs, garden blitzes and other events.—*Elissa Dowling*

To vote or not to vote?

by James Standish

APPARENTLY THERE ISN'T A POLITICAL PARTY for me. I say that after taking the ABC's Vote Compass and finding myself pegged somewhere between political no man's land and electoral outer Siberia. So what to do? Hold my nose and vote for the party closest to my views on everything from abortion to asylum seekers, the economy to education? Or, because there is no perfect party, should I just not vote at all?

It's not a new question in Christianity in general, and Adventism in particular. Early Adventists first completely abstained from involvement in political campaigns, believing Christ's soon coming made voting irrelevant at best, and a distraction at worst. But as the Church became involved in the temperance issue, attitudes changed. Still, it can be hard to make sense of Ellen White's advice on voting if taken in isolation.

Talking about politicians who were agitating for Sunday laws, she stated:

"We cannot safely vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot safely take part in any political schemes. We cannot labour to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath . . . *The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office*" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 475, emphasis added).

Unsurprisingly, some have read this quote, and others like it, and concluded that voting is a dangerous proposition. After all, most of us have enough of our own sins to be concerned about, without "partaking" in the sins of the politicians we vote for. But, it turns out, refusing to vote isn't a safe course of action either. Ellen White states we are responsible if we fail to use our vote to address the wrongs in our society:

"Many deplore the wrongs which they know exist, but consider themselves free from all responsibility in the matter. This cannot be. Every individual exerts an influence in society. In our favoured land, every voter has some voice in determining what laws shall control the nation. Should not

that influence and that vote be cast on the side of temperance and virtue?" (*Review and Herald*, Oct 15, 1914, emphasis added).

But Ellen White went even further. She prayed Adventists would vote:

"Men of intemperance have been in the office today in a flattering manner expressing their approbation of the course of the Sabbath-keepers not voting and expressed hopes that they will stick to their course and like the Quakers, not cast their vote. Satan and his evil angels are busy at this time, and he has workers upon the earth. May Satan be disappointed, is my prayer" (*Temperance*, pp. 255, 256).

And were that not enough, she even approved, in some circumstances, of voting on Sabbath:

"[P]erhaps I shall shock some of you if I say, *if necessary, vote on the Sabbath day* for prohibition if you cannot at any other time . . ." *Ellen G White, Volume 3—The Lonely Years: 1876-1891*, by Arthur L White, Page 160 (emphasis added).

So what can we take from all of this? It turns out that voting is not altogether different from anything else we face in life. There is culpability for actions that are bad, but no less culpability for inaction that fails to do good or stop evil. And, sometimes knowing what is right, what is wrong, when to act and when not to, is not simple.

At elections we aren't faced with a clear choice between a party of all things good and pure, and another that is evil. And there isn't just one moral question per election—there are many profound issues at stake and a party that may be good on one issue, may be equally awful on another. Balancing or prioritising the issues is complicated.

So should we quiver in a corner paralysed by indecision? Better to treat voting like every other complex moral decision we face on a daily basis. Put our lives in God's hands, asking for His guidance as we prayerfully consider how to vote, and trust in His grace should we fail to comprehend His guidance. After all, nearly every nation in the South Pacific is what Ellen White termed a "favoured land" in which every voter has a voice. Let's prayerfully and humbly cast our votes to advance the common good. ✻

James Standish is director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the South Pacific Division.

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MYSTERY HISTORY REVEALED



June 1, 2013

This photo is from the mid '60s to early '70s (1967, 68).

Back row: Dr Saleem Farag (from US, originally Egypt), Mr Jake Metlighter (had come from Kabiufa College to set up vegetable gardens at Sopas), Marlene Broad (later married Alfred F J Kranz, June Broad (2).

Front row: Dawn Benham (married Burnside, returned from Botswana in Africa, passed away 09/03/2010), Olive Fisher, Ionie Markey, Lorraine Morton, Pastor Joeseeph Ollie, Garth Wilton (maintenance at Sopas, deceased), Dr Robert (Bob) Wood (From USA and doctor in charge for some years. Also a pilot and flew the mission plane occasionally).



July 6, 2013

(Left to right)

Back row: Martin J Ward (principal), Mrs Olga Ward, Pastor J Percy Holmes (Eastern Solomon Islands Mission president), Mrs Bette-Joy Lock, Glyn Lock.

Middle row; Mr Joseph Mage Onorio, Joini Tutua, Pastor Titus Rore, Lester Tutuo, Kiko Haro.

Front row: Mrs Joyce (Tutua/Tati? or Sataboy), Mrs Hilda Rore.

This photo was taken on June 26, 1968, by Pastor Dickens, Education secretary at that time visiting Betikama from Victoria, Australia.



July 20, 2013

Meeting of SHF workers/ personnel. Administrators, reps and head office staff. Annual meeting. 1962 in Adelaide.

Back row (left to right) Clarrie Lane—Melbourne retail manager, Carl Eiszzele, Gordon Salisbury, Fred Pinford, George Haydon, Maurice (Morrie) Earles—Western Australia manager,

Ivan Whittaker—retail manager, Doug Calvert.

Front row (left to right)

1. Cecil J (Ces) Howell, Ron Gray, Lawrence (Laurie) A Piper—advertising manager, Robert (Bob) W Groom— sales manager, Burtram O Johanson—general manager, Frank C Craig—New Zealand manager, William (Bill) Edwards.

It also happened to be published in the book *"What God Hath Wrought!" The Sanitarium Health Food Company Story* (pub 1996 by SHF Co by Pastor R Parr and Glyn. However, controversy arose in that the first two names in the front row (Howell and Gray) are accidentally in the wrong order in the publication.

Kids' SPACE HI KIDS!

God spoke to Moses and gave him the 10 Commandments to help the Israelites live happy lives

CROSSWORD

Rule a line through the words as you find them. Mark the letter the lines cross over.

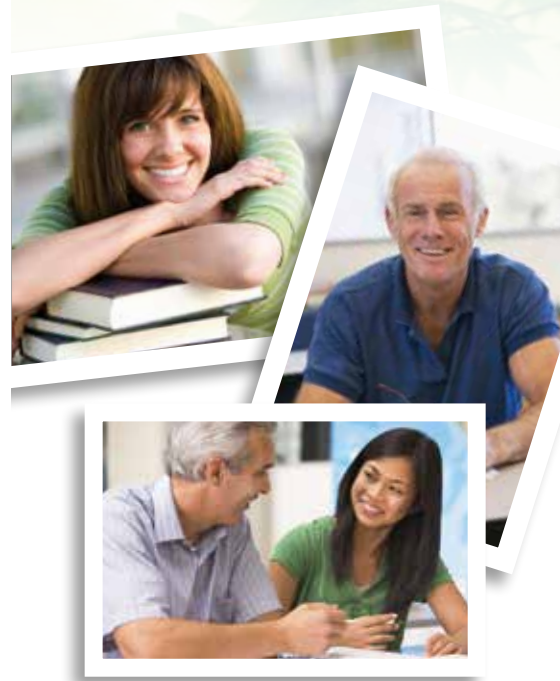
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| SEVENTH | WORSHIP | SABBATH | MURDER | TESTIMONY | ADULTERY |
| IDOL | TEN | MISUSE | REMEMBER | HOUSE | LORD |
| HONOUR | LIE | NAME | MOTHER | FATHER | LOVE |
| GOD | WIFE | FALSE | LIVE | STEAL | HATE |
| LONG | COVET | NEIGHBOUR | HOLY | KILL | |

WORSHIP MESSAGE: We thank God for showing us how to live.

MEMORY VERSE: "We will do everything the Lord has said"

Exodus 19:8



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LETTERS

RESTORATION

Steve Cinzio, Qld

Graham Hood's brave, open and poignant confession ("Porn addict's journey", August 3) is in reality our story as we strive for wholeness in our walk with Christ. Michelle's response to her husband's fall from the high standard to which they are both committed was truly a "Jesus response" as Graham mentions. Those who live with a "righteous" attitude—prone to be harsh and judgmental who manage to keep their slate clean before others—need to clearly listen and respond to his heartfelt appeal for mercy.

Our church system of governance needs to heed the call to be gracious to those ministers who have been caught in the devil's snare. Yes, the Bible tells us that all manner of sin will be forgiven [Matthew 12:31]. Ellen White's letter to a repentant minister who had broken the seventh commandment [Letter 41, 1886] is redolent with understanding and compassion: ". . . God is merciful; He pities our weakness; He forgives our transgressions . . ." With encouragement to this man who had fallen she says ". . . go forth to labour in meekness and humility, redeeming the past errors of your life, God will accept you". And with these comforting words she suggests that he relocate and continue his work, calling on him to ". . . work as Christ worked, zealously, disinterestedly, to save sinners and enlighten those in darkness".

There is no better way to demonstrate that we have understood the message of the Gospel by patiently and lovingly offering hope to those who fall into temptation. Michelle has championed the cause of the Saviour by

responding to Graham's cry for mercy, thereby demonstrating exactly what Jesus has done for everyone who comes to Him for help.

ADDICTIONS

Rads Pop, via email

Graham Hood ("Porn addict's journey") said: "We don't have to get rid of the internet, put blocks on computers." I'd say get rid of the TV and phones and whatever else is standing between God and you. What is more important to us—keeping all the gadgets and hoping to get over addictions or getting rid of them and being with Christ forever?

OPEN DOORS

Rhyll Lister, NSW

In the introductory part of "Indecent Exposure" (Editorial, August 3) Linden and his friend laughed about what a hypnotist had caused the friend to do while the hypnotist was in control of the friend's mind and body. I tried mental telepathy, and I feel impelled to tell you that anything that gives another being access to your mind opens the door for demons. The penalty for me has been seven years of demon harassment, night and day. You don't want to know the details. I am still not free. It is far from being a joke.

Demon harassment is not just a mental condition. They seek to control every part of your mind and body. So don't do mental telepathy, hypnosis, blanking or blocking. I didn't know mental telepathy opens doors for demons, but ignorance didn't make any difference to the results.

SPIRIT OF UNITY

Eddy Knopper, NSW

I was disappointed and

ashamed of my countrymen when I read "Not waiting" (News in brief, August 3).

It states the Netherlands Union's stance that "equality outweighs unity" when it comes to ordaining women to the ministry. Is this the way that we are going to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as part of the promised latter rain? I read about the disciples in Acts 1:14 (found in the lesson for August 4) that before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the early or former rain that, "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplications." I believe when certain decisions have been made at a General Conference session, the worldwide Church should abide by and support these decisions "with one accord".

At this rate we will never receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which we need so much, individually and as a Church. May God help us despite our many failings.

LET GOD LEAD

Lynette Rowland, via email

With the discussion on ordaining woman, I just wish that both sides not leave themselves open to misinterpretation of the Bible. Bill Gates' argument in point 3 (Letter, "Seek to Please God", August 3) was lacking when he says that Miriam tried to usurp authority when it was actually both Aaron and Miriam—Aaron of course being a male! So that argument just went out the door. Funny how we all have our prejudices.

Also, congratulations to "Out of date?" (Letter, August 3) putting it so well. Maybe we should not ordain anyone as ministers and just let God lead and all do His work.

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.

APPRECIATION

Parr. Fern Parr and family wish to thank all those who expressed their condolences on the passing of Bob. We all look forward to the resurrection morning when our sorrow will be turned.

ANNIVERSARIES

Chapman. Friends and family celebrated the diamond wedding anniversary of Mel and Sylvia (nee Slight) Chapman at their country Busselton home on February 17. The couple enjoyed an afternoon tea with 35 guests to mark 60 years since their wedding on 18.2.1953. Mel and Sylvia have three daughters, four sons, three sons-in-law, four daughters-in-law; nine granddaughters; eight grandsons; two granddaughters-in-law; and a great-granddaughter.



Eastwood, John and Esme Eastwood celebrated their

50th wedding anniversary on 5.5.13. They are active members of their local church at Blacktown, NSW, where the day was attended by approximately 80 church members, friends and family. In addition to family and friends who travelled interstate, they celebrated with their three daughters, Dot (Edmed), Allison and Kayleen (Watson); their son-in-law Lowell Watson and three grandchildren, Brianna Watson, Jeffrey Watson and John Edmed.

WEDDING



Dolley-Watkins-Patrick. Tim Dolley-Watkins, son of Sandra

Watkins and David Dolley (both of Gold Coast, Qld), and Kirsty Patrick, daughter of Carol-Joy and Dave Patrick (Springwood), were married 28.10.12 at The Broadway Chapel, Brisbane. Both Tim and Kirsty are living and working at Newbold College, England, Tim is digital marketing and promotions coordinator and Kirsty is student recruitment coordinator.

*Brad Melville
Catherine Longworth*

OBITUARIES

Batcheldor, Raymond George,

born 29.5.1925 in Canowindra, NSW; died 6.2.13 in Wyong Nursing Home. On 25.5.1948, he married Rita Carter, who predeceased him on 6.11.12.

Batcheldor, Rita (nee Carter), born 12.8.1926 in Harden, NSW; died 6.11.12 in Avondale Retirement Village. They are survived by his sister, Vernie Dacker (Blue Mountains) and her sister, Heather Paynter (Hervey Bay, Qld); their children, Ruth Callan (Cudal, NSW), Helen West, Judith Batcheldor (both of Yarrowonga Park), Robyn West (Darwin, NT) and Peter Batcheldor (Cessnock, NSW); and grandchildren, Peter, Lynette, Kyran, Kellie, Katrina and Jaden. Ray, a "country boy" at heart and life member of the Royal Agriculture Show, never faltered in his love for Rita and his God. He preached many sermons and remained active in his church until the last few years. He supported the construction of four churches utilising his building skills. Rita, a talented pianist and singer, was incredibly hospitable and highly creative—talents that she put to good use in the various church offices that she held. Whilst living on farms she was the bush nurse to many. She will be remembered for her kindness, compassion and charity work right up until early 2012.

*Aaron Jeffries, Justin Lawman
Ray Baird*

Benham, Faye Grace, born in Ayr, Qld; died in Redcliffe Hospital. She was predeceased by her sister, Dawn Burnside, in 2010. She is survived by Val and Malcolm Long (Narangba), Gwen Thorne (Perth, WA), Beverley and David Thorpe (Perth), Roy and Cheryl Benham (Toowoomba, Qld); her brother-in-law, John Burnside (Beverly, WA); and foster brother, David Ruddick, and wife, Chris (Townsville, Qld). Faye was born with a severe hearing impairment. She loved her Lord and

looked forward to the wonderful day when Jesus returns and takes her to heaven and gives her fullness of life, where she will be able to hear and speak and give praise to her Heavenly Father.

David Lamb



Bidmead, Wallace

Duncan, born 28.6.1928 in Wellington, NZ; died 7.1.13 in Bowral, NSW. On 18.12.1951, he married Margaret Bowers. He is survived by his wife; their children, Catherine, Karene, Barrie, Lyndon and Alistair and their spouses; his grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Wal started his teaching career in Auckland, NZ, and continued teaching for 43 years in Adventist schools. He taught in Christchurch, NZ; Sydney Adventist College, NSW; and was principal of Sonoma College in PNG. Wal had considerable intellect and a great breadth of knowledge. He had a very real and constant love for Jesus that empowered his marriage, his love of family, his love of life, his commitment to teaching and to the Church, to which he gave his life's work.

Tony Moala

Bolst, Pastor Noel Eliot, born 25.12.1921 in Rangoon, Burma; died 28.5.13 in Melbourne, Vic. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joan, on 3.6.1990. He is survived by his wife, Leah (nee Samuel); his daughters, Muriel Langer and June Billings-Greenham, and son, Eliot,

their spouses and families; his brother, Hugh, and sister, Delysia Fehlberg. Noel first learned the Adventist message at the age of 17 through an evangelistic series in Bangalore, India. He was captivated by his Saviour's love for him, and motivated by these new found truths, felt compelled to share what he now believed. And share he did: through pastoral work and literature ministry from 1942 until recently. Noel's unwavering faith in God's saving grace and love for him was a great comfort in recent months when failing health took its toll.

David Riley, Mike Mohanu

Bushby, Ruth, born 7.5.1921 in Mannum, SA; died 25.3.13 in Malanda, Qld, where she was cremated. She had requested the family to later bury her ashes in the grave of her husband, Wilfred, who had been buried in the Cooranbong Cemetery (NSW) seven years previously. On 24.6.13, family and friends gathered at Wilfred's grave to honour her request. She is survived by her three sons, Peter, John and David and their wives; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Ruth was a dedicated Adventist Christian who longed for the second coming of Jesus. She sleeps in Jesus.

Claude Judd

Ivin, Ronald Edward, born 16.9.1926; died 14.6.13 in Gosford Hospital, NSW. In 1982, he married Cheryl. He is survived

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Public relations/editorial assistant—AMN (Wahroonga, NSW).** The South Pacific Division Communications Department is seeking a highly motivated, multi-talented person to assist the communications director in working with the national media, and to work on a wide variety of writing and online media projects. For more information visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. Applications close **September 15, 2013.**

■ **Church pastor—Norfolk Island.** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney Conference) Limited is seeking suitable applicants for the position of church pastor, Norfolk Island. Based on Norfolk Island, the role involves pastoral care of the church and ministry to the local community. The position is for commencement in January 2014, subject to negotiation. This position requires a commitment to the teachings, values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastoral ministry experience is preferable. For more information, or to apply, please contact Pastor Adrian Raethel (02) 8876 5288 or email <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **September 27, 2013.**

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by his wife; and their five sons, Gary, Graham, Robert, Leigh and Glendyn and stepdaughters, Leah and Melissa. Ron was well known for his love of music and skill in playing the piano and organ, including the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ. It was in the past year or so that Ron experienced a deepening relationship with his Saviour and experienced the joy of the assurance of salvation in Christ, rejoining the Erina church family in January 2013. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. He was committed into the arms of a loving heavenly Father at the Palmdale Crematorium, Ourimbah.

Ron Evans, Vern Parmenter

Kimpton, Shirley Edith, born 10.4.1924 in Morgan Hospital, Burra, SA; died 16.5.13 in Box Hill Hospital. On 20.11.1943, she married William Lawrence "Larry" Kimpton in Adelaide City church. She was predeceased by Larry in 1997 and her grandchild, Clinton Kimpton, in 2003. She is survived by Clive Lawrence Kimpton (Tyalgum, NSW); and Raymond Kimpton (Donvale, Vic). Shirley was a faithful church member and for many years was a very successful literature evangelist.

Tony Campbell

Parr, Robert Henry, born 9.5.1920 in Brisbane, Qld; died 29.7.13 in Adventist Aged Care Facility, Cooranbong, NSW. In 1968, he married Fern Butler. He was predeceased by his first wife, Aleathea, in 1966, and son, Greg, in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Fern (Cooranbong, NSW); his daughters, Mareta (Sydney) and Jenny (Baltimore, USA); and grandchildren, Nicki, Kylie, Melissa, Ashley, Clinton, Chris, Dean; and great-grandchildren, Charli, Cody and Tyler. Bob gave many years of service to the Church in varied capacities. He wrote numerous books and magazine articles, including a book of high school poetry which was used in NSW state schools for many years. He had a heart of compas-

sion, and with voice and pen he never failed to direct to the Lamb who takes away the world's sin. Read the article on page 7.

Adrian Craig

Moe, Pastor Rex Vernon, born 9.6.1930; died 26.6.13 in Port Macquarie Hospital. He was baptised by Pastor Abbott and later went to Avondale College to study theology. There he met and married Maureen Peacock. He was predeceased by his wife in 2000 and his son, Gary, earlier this year. On 21.1.01, he married June Snow. He is survived by his wife, June; and his son, David. Wherever he ministered, Rex was proactive in evangelism and personal visitation. He was involved in the construction of new church buildings, the new NNSW and WA Conference offices, and the Stuarts Point campground. These remain a living tribute to his foresight and management.

*Ross Goldstone, John Lang
Justin Lawman*



Read, Lesley, born 1.9.1915 in Brisbane Qld; died 10.6.13 in Melody Park

Retirement Village, Gold Coast Qld. She married Bill Read in Brisbane; he predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by sons, Max and Neville, daughters-in-law, Thelma and Wanda; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Lesley was a faithful member of the Adventist Church for many years and will be greatly missed by family and church family members alike. Lesley loved her Lord to the end.

Wayne Humphries

ADVERTISEMENTS

100th anniversary celebration at Mona Mona Mission. Mona Mona Mission 100th anniversary celebration will be held at the mission from September 20–22. Photographs and other memorabilia appreciated. All welcome. For further details, contact Sandra Levers by email:

<sandravers@gmail.com> or phone 0400 491 839.

Kellyville church 120th anniversary—November 2, 2013.

A celebration of God's leading and generosity to our church at Kellyville will be held on Sabbath, November 2, 2013. All past members and friends are warmly invited to gather at the Spurway Drive church for the program, commencing at 10am, followed by lunch, an informal afternoon program and an old-fashioned social in the evening. For further information and to register your interest in coming, contact: Dulce Ferguson <dg.ferguson@hotmail.com>, (02) 9680 1250; Ken Long, <ken_long100@me.com>, 0449 901 600. Website: <www.kellyville.org.au>; <facebook.com/kellyvillesda>; <twitter.com/kellyvillesda>.

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