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Record

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CHRISTMAS EDITION



**LOVE MORE: THE STORY OF
LINDEN AND BRI** page 14

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UNWRAPPING THE CHRISTMAS RIDDLE page 11

ARISE, SHINE
for your light has come
Isaiah 60:1

ARISE
NNSW

"I've learnt to
centre everything in
Jesus..."

TIM SAUNDERS, NSW

"...[the] most
spiritually-fulfilling
three months of
my life..."

SANDRA ENTERMANN, QLD

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upon the Rock
and excites you for
ministry..."

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NNSW ARISE is a ministry run by the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Avondale graduate's greater vision

Cooranbong, New South Wales

A young woman committed to helping needy communities overseas has received a top honour from Avondale College of Higher Education.

Karli Borresen, who has supported several good causes as a major in international poverty and development studies and in marketing, was awarded the Professional Advantage Bachelor of Business Prize.

Ms Borresen served as secretary-treasurer of student mission club COSMOS, which donated \$A20,000 to Tonea School in India this year and in 2011. She also completed a six-month placement with International Children's Care Australia, helping coordinate its Big Build in Thailand. And she and other students helped implement a clean water project on Atchin Island in Vanuatu as part of a One Mission trip.

The experience gave Ms Borresen a better understanding of how to encourage others to support similar causes. "Marketing connects a donor to a project," she said. "It's the bridge between two worlds."

The Avondale graduate was one of a record 349 eligible to march during year-end services on December 6-8.

Her classmates recognised the importance of service in the giving of the graduation class gift, which co-president Kaden Pepper announced during the consecration service on the Lake Macquarie campus.

The class placed 23 black granite pavers in the path surrounding the circular garden adjacent to College Hall. Each

paver lists the trips Ministry of Teaching Overseas (MOTO), One Mission and STORMCo have made in each of the years since their formation at Avondale. Attached to a lamp post in the middle of the garden are signs pointing to a city from six of the world's continents, New Zealand and the Pacific islands. An accompanying plaque includes the college's motto: "For a greater vision of world needs."

The gift will be "a reminder that service is foundational to the Avondale experience," said class staff adviser Jason Hinze, who founded MOTO in his role as the School of Education's secondary course convenor.

The class also donated \$A5000 to One Mission as a more tangible example of its Matthew 5:13-16-based "salt" theme. —Brenton Stacey



Karli Borresen.

Sanitarium NZ wins wellbeing award

Wellington, New Zealand

Sanitarium New Zealand was awarded first place in the 2013 New Zealand Workplace Wellbeing Awards in recognition of the diverse initiatives offered to employees through its "Better U" program.

The program includes weekly zumba and pilates classes, "Eat Move Live" and "10,000 Steps" challenges, and other

benefits such as a \$NZ50 on-site gym membership and an annual \$NZ100 health subsidy.

Sanitarium's People and Culture coordinator Jennifer

Manalo travelled to Wellington to receive the award, which was presented by Justice Minister Judith Collins.

The awards are run by the Heart Foundation and the Health and Productivity Institute of New Zealand, and celebrate organisations that have measurably improved their business performance through valuing the health and wellbeing of their employees.

Sanitarium New Zealand general manager Pierre van Heerden said the result is a testament to Sanitarium's philosophy of respecting and celebrating the infinite value created in every person. "We genuinely care for the health and happiness of our employees, and it's fantastic for our Better U program and other workplace initiatives to be recognised in this way," he said.

Sanitarium's Better U program has helped transform the lives of employees like Silika Senicaukava, who lost more than 20kgs by being more active and changing her diet. She attends on-site boot camp and zumba classes, health coaching sessions and challenges. "Better U has really changed my thinking," she said. —Vania Chew



Karen Daniels (OHS supervisor), Jennifer Manalo (People and Culture Coordinator), Heather Blackburne (Staff Store Supervisor).



Reckoning

James Standish

"You know what happens to your articles the day after they're read, don't you," quipped a veteran Washington journalist to me a few years back. "They end up lining bird cages!" He let out a husky chuckle and shook his head. His point? The pen may be mightier than the sword on occasion, but generally our words are like trickles into creeks that flow into rivers that flow into oceans where they settle comfortably into obscurity with all the other fragments of text ever spoken, written, sung or spun.

Christmas is upon us, the new year is creeping our way, new calendars are replacing old, life is taking a pause before the beginning of another year. But before getting swept into mirth and optimism, I can't help taking the sum of 2013. And what, if anything, the words flowing into the ocean via these editorials have shaped on the way downstream.

I should begin with a confession. In "Too Fat for Church" I promised to get fit. But if you run into me, you still won't confuse my keg for a six-pack! I have lost roughly the weight of two newborn babies. So it's a start. But in the same time, my colleague Jarrod Stackelroth has put my paltry efforts to shame by losing something in the range of 25 kilos (that's roughly six newborn babies, if you're counting). He says the "fat" editorial gave him a little extra impetus. I wonder if anyone else was inspired to get moving in the right direction and is feeling a bit lighter today as a result? I certainly hope so. And I give you this commitment: I am not finished with getting a little fitter and a little less fat every day.

Over the year I've written a couple of pieces that have caused widespread controversy and consternation. There was the vaccination piece. For all the heat, I hope there are some children who are today vaccinated, who might otherwise have not been. Why? Because without any shadow of a doubt, vaccinations save lives. If you're still confused, google "measles outbreak" and read what happened in Queensland and Wales this year.

I also wrote a piece that gave voice to a third path on homosexuality—a path that rejects destructive permissiveness on one hand, and equally rejects silence and ostracism on the other; a way forward that fully embraces unfashionable ideas like faithfulness, denial of self and obedience to

God's law. But at the same time a love that has the strength and honesty to talk about the full range of sexual impulses. Predictably, my inbox filled up with letters. But there was a second reaction; the increasing prominence of faithful women and men like Virna Santos and Daniel Laredo, speaking candidly and powerfully about their spiritual journeys. I am inspired by their courage.

When writing about the sacrifice of Adventist missionaries, I promised we would build a memorial to their memory. Assistant editor Linden Chuang has done just that. I hope you'll take a minute to visit the memorial and consider their ultimate sacrifice in God's cause: <www.spd.adventist.org/in-memoriam>. Let us know if there are names missing, facts that need updating or if you have an article or tribute you would like included.

Unexpectedly, I ran into a friend not long after the sacrifice editorial was written, and she told me she and her husband were so inspired by the faithfulness of missionaries of the past that they had decided to take the call to serve at Pacific Adventist University. That was not the reaction I expected: it was far, far better. I hope and pray they are a rich blessing to PAU and that, in return, they are richly blessed by their experience of giving to others so unselfishly.

You're right: we still have as many conferences as we started the year with, asylum seekers are still being shamefully mistreated by governments in our region and we are still flying in speakers from overseas by the plane load. But I hope that maybe, just maybe, as a result of the voices in RECORD this year, we are a community more prepared to take the hard steps necessary to protect our children, we are more courageous in defending women against brutal abuse and preventing abuse in the first place, and that we are just a little more inspired into an active faith by stories of ordinary people just like us, who are doing remarkable things for God. If so, this stream of words has not been in vain; they can now rest at the bottom of your budgie's cage, satisfied in a job well done.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

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SEVENTH-DAY
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CHURCH

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



One step at a time

Jarrod Stackelroth

My wife thinks I'm crazy. Back and forth, round and round I pace around the dining table. Every so often I stop and hop up and down or jog on the spot.

My wife watches on from the couch, puzzled.

"What are you doing?"

"Trying to get my steps up! Nearly there," I reply. I've been logging my steps with a pedometer every day, keeping track of how much activity I do—trying to reach the elusive 10,000 steps a day. Some days I go to the gym or do extra walking but other times I get there via a few laps of the lounge room.

Am I a little obsessed? Maybe. But I made a commitment—a commitment to myself—to lose weight and be more active this year. As James alludes to in his editorial ("Reckoning", left), I am succeeding. At the beginning of this year, my weight had crept towards the heaviest it had ever been. Things needed to change. I set specific goals and I've reached them. I am back down to the weight I was before I got a desk job. And I haven't finished yet.

It's been tough. Staying up and pacing, when I'd rather jump into bed and read, saying no to cheese. . . change is hard. But I'm certainly enjoying the results: increased fitness, positivity and the ability to find clothes that fit so much easier.

My guess is that you've experienced change this year. It may not have been pleasant—the loss of a loved one, a job or a relationship. But it might have been new opportunities, experiences or friendships. Either way, lessons are learnt and life changes—sometimes unnoticeably, sometimes obviously.

If we're Christians the Gospel should change us. God gives us a new heart and we are called to grow in our faith, to mature and start on the meat, leaving the milk behind.

Just as commitment and conviction can change our faith, so can hardship. Sometimes it takes a threat or a fear to cause us to change but it is how we react to these stressors that determines the outcome. One of the most dramatic changes in the Bible is the whole city of Ninevah repenting after Jonah's warning. This was change on a grand and corporate scale. It was revolutionary.

Change is hard. It requires commitment, discipline and perseverance. But it also brings growth. As the year ends, it's a good time to look back and acknowledge the changes—good and bad. It's a time to dream new dreams and set new goals, to keep growing and developing.

I'm not saying change for change's sake. That can be damaging. But as we reach the end of 2013, I hope you will join me in looking for positive ways to improve our lives, our churches, our families, our communities and our world next year. And I hope we can stop for a moment to thank God for the changes that have come our way.

We can make a bigger difference in this world than we realise, but big changes are achieved one step at a time.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of RECORD.

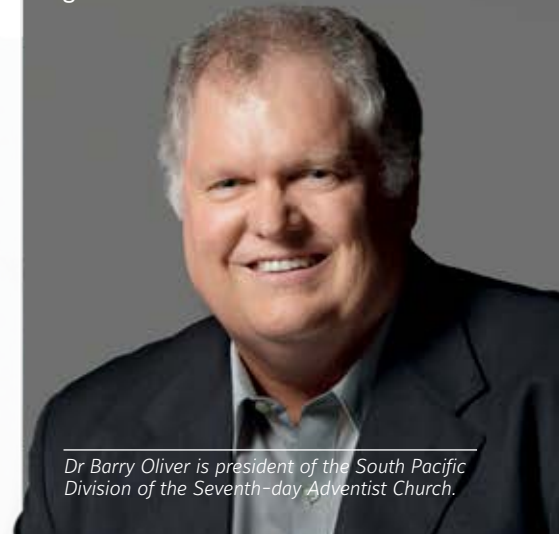
Thinking about worship . . . again

As I have been reading through the Psalms, I have realised again how much they are about worship. And it's appropriate that at the end of the year we pause to think about who and how we worship. Recently Dr Lowell Cooper, vice president of the General Conference, shared this with us in Division worship:

"Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship . . . If you worship money and things . . . then you will never have enough . . . Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid Worship your intellect, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out (Emily Bobrow, "David Foster Wallace in His Own Words" taken from his 2005 commencement address at Kenyon College. David Foster Wallace was an award-winning American novelist, short story writer, essayist, professor and atheist! A victim of depression, he died by suicide).

As Christians we choose to worship God. He alone is worthy of our adoration. We worship not because worship benefits us (although it does), not because we need to (although we do), nor because it is relevant to our daily lives (although it is), but because God *is*.

We worship God in our praise, our prayers, our ministry and our solitude. Worship is both individual and corporate. It's not simply something observed or attended. It's something we give because of who God is.



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



Adventist stamp

The contribution of Adventist World War II veteran Desmond Doss has been recognised in a commemorative stamp set released in the USA. Doss received the Medal of Honor in 1945 for saving 75 wounded men during the battle of Okinawa. He passed away in 2006. —*Adventist Review*



Time for giving

Sydney Baptists have purchased Christmas gifts for Australia's prime minister—a goat, some hens, seeds and educational supplies. The gifts will go to developing countries on Mr Abbott's behalf, but 75 Christmas cards calling for more compassion for the world's poor were delivered to his electoral office in Manly. —*Micah Challenge*



Messages of support

Adventist human rights advocates are urging church members to remember their brothers and sisters in prison. The General Conference is calling on members to send Christmas cards to Pastor Antonio Monteiro and church elder Bruno Amah who are imprisoned in Togo on flimsy charges of involvement in a blood trafficking ring. —*PARL*



Not so mega

Evangelical Christians are rediscovering the connections between physical and spiritual health, with the vegetarian "Daniel Diet" increasing in popularity. US megachurch pastor Rick Warren has led 22,000 of his parishioners in losing a combined 113,400 kilograms since 2009. High profile reverend Al Sharpton has gone vegan and lost 77 kilograms. —*The Examiner*



Ask not for whom the road tolls

Church leaders in South Africa are urging citizens to boycott a new electronic tolling system on major roads in Johannesburg and Pretoria. Methodist, Catholic, Uniting Reform and Presbyterian leaders say the government is being undemocratic by introducing an e-tag system when the public is largely against the scheme. —*iOL*



Disaster looming

The UN is warning genocide may break out in the Central African Republic. Since Muslim rebels took over in March, they've targeted Christians, with thousands fleeing their homes. 37,000 are camping around just one church in Bossangoa. Christian groups have started to fight back, prompting fears of sectarian war. —*Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

3 out of 4 poor people are women.*

Gender inequality hinders not only individual lives, but a community's ability to lift itself out of poverty.

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To make your gift today visit www.adra.org.au or call 1800 242 372.

* Gro Harlem Brundtland, 2006



Fruit Trees

\$5 - Fruit trees to help Mongolian families establish a garden and grow income-generating nutritious food.



Meals

\$13 - Meals for disadvantaged or lonely Australians living on the streets.



Sewing Machine

\$56 - Sewing machine for women in Tanzania to help them earn an income and secure their family's future.



Family Care Pack

\$72 - Family care pack for Australian women wanting to start over following abusive relationships.

To purchase these and other life-changing gifts visit www.adra.org.au/christmas-2013 or call 1800 242 372.

AUC appoints new youth director

Ringwood, Victoria

Pastor Jeff Parker has been named director of the Australian Union Conference's (AUC) Youth Ministries department.

He takes over the role left by Pastor Tony Knight, who was appointed manager of the Union's Resource Centre.

Pastor Parker has spent the past 15 years serving as a conference Youth director, firstly in Tasmania and then in North New South Wales (NNSW).

After nine years at the NNSW Conference, he's looking forward to helping young people in Australia "step up for Jesus and step up for service".

Pastor Knight was a Youth leader for eight years at the conference level (Western Australia) and 15 years at the union level (Trans-Australia Union Conference, AUC).

"I'm really excited to be stepping into the role that Tony

has set up so well within the AUC," Pastor Parker said.

Reflecting on his 23 years in Youth ministry, Pastor Knight said he has "loved every minute". However, he acknowledged, "the time has come to let another person with great gifts in ministry take the Youth department to new heights".

Despite stepping away from his role as director, Pastor Knight will still be involved in Youth ministry. One of the projects he will be working on is developing a new Australian Bible study series for juniors, teens and young adults.

The AUC oversees the operations of the country's nine church conferences.—*Linden Chuang*



Pastor Jeff Parker.

Geraldine Przybylko to lead media ministries

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Geraldine Przybylko has been named director of Adventist Media Network's (AMN) Media Ministries.

A key part of her role will be enhancing the effectiveness and integration of AMN's different ministries, including *Signs of the Times* magazine, HopeChannel, It Is Written Oceania (IIWO), Christian Services for the Blind, *Archaeological Diggings* magazine and the Discovery Centre.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the Church to develop the new strategic direction for media ministries in the South Pacific," Mrs Przybylko said. "It's important to first understand the needs of the community and then develop media and products that are relevant to them."

Mrs Przybylko joined the AMN team in February as general manager of IIWO. In 2010, she left a senior role at Barclays Bank after feeling a call to work for the Church, and served as chief financial and chief operating officer for the Seventh-day Adventist Guam Clinic in Micronesia.—*Linden Chuang*



Geraldine Przybylko.

140 million books bring Hope

Wahroonga, New South Wales

More than 140 million books have been distributed across the world as part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Great Controversy Project—560,000 of those in the South Pacific.

The project, which began with a vision of placing a copy of Ellen White's *The Great Controversy* in every home within reach of members, has more than doubled the initial distribution goal of 50 million.

"The results of such literature distribution will only truly be seen once we meet in heaven," said Danijela Schubert, Project Hope coordinator for the South Pacific Division (SPD).

The SPD also distributed thousands of copies of *Step Beyond (Steps to Christ)* and *The Desire of Ages*.

A closing ceremony for the Great Controversy Project was held at Adventist headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, in October.—*Linden Chuang*



Currawah closed

Gongolgon, New South Wales

The Board of Directors of Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College (CAAC) has closed the secondary boarding facility "with deep regret".

The decision, made at the board's August meeting, was effective immediately. CAAC was owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North New South Wales and was officially opened in June 2011. The voluntary closure was enacted following a failure to comply with a number of areas highlighted by the New South Wales Board of Studies.

"We will do everything in our power to ensure that we continue our commitment to the support and education of Indigenous students in this region," said Pastor Justin Lawman, president of the North New South Wales Conference.

Pastor Lawman also acknowledged the tremendous work done by the staff of CAAC. "I thank them for their energy and focus."—*Northpoint/Vania Chew*



MY EDGE MAG VIDEO COMPETITION

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3rd Prize Sennhesier Closed Studio Monitoring Headphones

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*for all submissions that meet the competition criteria.

Entries should be between 2-5 mins in length and should promote MyEDGEMag to an 18-25 year-old audience, in a positive, healthy way and in keeping with Christian values. Entries must be received by midnight, **January 31, 2014**. Competition winners will be contacted by mail (and/or phone/email) and the winners announced in the Autumn 2014 Edition of MyEDGEMag. Go to aucyouth.com for a full list of competition terms and conditions.

WWW.AUCYOUTH.COM

\$600,000 for Philippines relief

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Adventists have provided an estimated \$A600,000 to support the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) disaster response program.

Churches across Australia and New Zealand took up a special offering on November 23. Many churches ran special fundraising events; the Sydney Adventist Hospital ran a matched payroll-giving campaign and even ADRA's op shops donated a week's takings to the relief effort.

Although final figures haven't yet been tallied, to date ADRA Australia has processed \$A238,000 in direct donations and church conferences have reported \$A257,000 in donations through the church offerings system, \$A495,000, with ADRA NZ totals still to come in.

"The generosity of supporters will enable ADRA to implement critical emergency response and recovery programs to save thousands of lives and help thousands to rebuild and move forward," said ADRA Australia's director of public and supporter relations, Janelle Muller.

The global ADRA network has been working closely with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other aid agencies to ensure a coordinated and efficient response. ADRA was among the first to respond after the November 8 super-storm, delivering emergency food and water in the hardest hit regions of the Philippines. The second wave of aid saw ADRA distribute water and hygiene kits, shelter provisions and additional emergency food for the worst effected families on the hard-hit coastal fringe of Panay Island. ADRA has assisted 34,000 people to date.

OCHA has described the humanitarian situation in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan as catastrophic. The estimated number of people affected has been revised upward to almost 15 million, with around 4 million people displaced from their homes. Food, shelter, recovery of livelihoods and restoration of basic services are top priorities for the humanitarian community. Immediate life-saving and early recovery programs alone are estimated to require more than \$US1 billion.

ADRA has finalised a recovery plan needs assessment which will inform the next phase of the response. Additional funds raised will go towards the restoration of livelihoods and the rebuilding of shelter. —*Janelle Muller/ Braden Blyde*

For updates and further information, call ADRA Australia on 1800 242 372, or visit adra.org.au or adra.org.nz.



A young boy carries relief from ADRA.

REVIVED BY HIS WORD

December 21, 2013 — January 18, 2014

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

21 - Pslm 136	26 - Pslm 141	31 - Pslm 146	4 - Pslm 150	9 - Prov. 5	14 - Prov. 10
22 - Pslm 137	27 - Pslm 142	January 2014	5 - Prov.1	10 - Prov. 6	15 - Prov. 11
23 - Pslm 138	28 - Pslm 143	1 - Pslm 147	6 - Prov.2	11 - Prov.7	16 - Prov. 12
24 - Pslm 139	29 - Pslm 144	2 - Pslm 148	7 - Prov.3	12 - Prov.8	17 - Prov. 13
25 - Pslm 140	30 - Pslm 145	3 - Pslm 149	8 - Prov.4	13 - Prov.9	18 - Prov. 14

For each has a gift...

by Sharyn Brady/Braden Blyde

It was a meeting of hearts, minds and hands in Cambodia. A week at work like none other for 13 Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing employees who recently travelled there to serve alongside the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

In a country where more than 50 per cent of children experience stunted growth and health problems as a result of malnutrition, the team used their expertise to improve health, nutrition and education opportunities by working alongside communities in the poorest areas.

The ADRA Connections trip was undertaken as part of Sanitarium's annual Spirit of Sanitarium Awards (SOSA), an employee reward program that recognises employees whose behaviours reflect Sanitarium's values of care, courage, humility, integrity and passion. This year SOSA recipients had the opportunity to take part in a community project linked in to an existing cooperative arrangement between Sanitarium and ADRA to produce and promote fortified noodles, bread and instant rice porridge. Through this cooperative arrangement, \$A128,000 is being invested in nutritional intervention programs to address malnutrition.

"It's not a cliché to say that it is a privilege to be involved in these programs," said John Menzies, from Sanitarium's Development and Innovation team, who instigated the program with ADRA and has remained a key supporter for the past few years.

The Vissot food company in Phnom Penh mixes, packages and distributes enriched noodle flours and also uses fortified wheat to make healthy noodles. Vissot's role is also being expanded to include production of fortified instant rice porridge and nutritional bread. The Sanitarium team worked alongside Vissot staff, sharing knowledge and advice on marketing, accounting, electrical systems, packaging, importing raw materials and recipe development.

"What an amazing team at Vissot—they even came in to work on a public holiday just to be with us!" said Julie Praestiin, Sanitarium's Corporate Communications manager,

who led the SOSA team. "Their smiles were infectious and their willingness to learn and help was inspiring. It was a great alignment of Sanitarium's mission and expertise to work with a team so passionate about improving nutrition."

The Sanitarium team also spent time in Rovieng, in northern Cambodia, building shelters and play equipment for children on behalf of the Family Nutrition Project, which ADRA Cambodia conducts in 80 villages throughout the region. The team presented cooking demonstrations using the fortified noodles and Sanitarium's dietitians worked with members of local mothers' groups to cook up a delicious noodle stir-fry for sale at local markets. The team also helped install a latrine and "tippy taps" to improve sanitation and health. In addition to Sanitarium and ADRA's joint investment, an extra \$A30,000 was donated by Sanitarium on behalf of the SOSA team.

"Doing the cooking demonstrations together with the locals was so much fun and it was so inspiring to see the wonderful work that ADRA does—so collaborative in approach and so targeted," said Chris Stanbridge, from Sanitarium New Zealand's head office in Auckland.

The ADRA Connections program reflected Sanitarium's commitment to health, nutrition and wellbeing in the community, and built relationships and connections within the team and with ADRA. "For those in our team who weren't previously familiar with the work ADRA does, this trip opened their eyes to the practical ways ADRA empowers people and communities," Ms Praestiin said.

ADRA Connections are short-term volunteer trips for groups from Australia, matching skills with service opportunities so people can make a real difference in countries throughout the South Pacific, Asia and Africa.

The experience certainly made an impression on the Sanitarium team. "The selfless nature of both the Cambodian people and the ADRA staff was inspirational on a number of levels," Export manager Matthew McKenzie said. "It has made me reassess my life by challenging me to spend more time supporting others."

**"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10**

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OPINION

Brendan Tucker

Hell or high water

Misconceptions about Christianity abound in the secular world. One of the worst, and most pervasive, is that of the "vengeful deity". Whether it's the seemingly brutal actions of the God of the Old Testament or the "burning" doctrine of hell, people are falling away from God—or refusing to come to Him in the first place—because they cannot reconcile these images with that of a loving God.



But Hebrews 13:8 clearly tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" and the Jesus of the New Testament was certainly a loving, caring Character, so shouldn't it then follow that the God of the Old Testament—the same God—is also loving?

My answer: certainly!

So how can these seemingly disparate personalities of God be reconciled?

The best illustration we can look to is Noah and the ark. For years Noah laboured on this colossal boat—close to the length of two football fields! And all the while this would have been clearly visible to the people. Surely they taunted him. Surely some threw insults—and worse. Maybe some of them even began to wonder if Noah's undertaking truly was the result of something other than simple insanity. In the end though, none of them got on the boat. Even though the ark was right there, right in front of them, they did not seize the opportunity.

Then came the flood.

Today, many sceptics similarly find it difficult to reconcile the idea of a loving God with the teaching of hell. For Adventists, this seldom-talked-about event is seen more as a process of annihilation rather than a punishment of everlasting torment. Even so, utter destruction is still, ostensibly, a rather monstrous act. But there are two important things to remember.

Firstly, God is the number one Advocate of free choice. Come hell or high water (literally!), He still maintains our freedom. "Why?" you may ask. Because of love. If we don't want to be in heaven, God isn't going to force us to be there. He so desperately, desperately wants us to be there, but He loves us—and respects us—too much to intervene and break our free choice.

But He's not going to let us go down without a fight. He fought for us on the cross and now He calls for us. Continually. "Get on the boat. Get on the boat."

2 Peter 3:9 tells us God is "not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance".

And that is just as true today as it was in the time of Noah.

God was, is, and always will be, love. The very epitome of it.

Most, if not all, misconceptions about Christianity arise when people fail to realise that love is the greatest and foremost of God's characteristics.

Brendan Tucker is studying for a Bachelor of Communication degree at Newcastle University.



it is written
OCEANIA

Unwrapping the Christmas riddle

by Gary Kent

IF YOU COULD GIVE THE WORLD JUST ONE GIFT, ANY gift, what would it be? It's an obvious question at this time of year. But is it one you've thought through? What exactly would you give?

Would you give the entire world wealth—the complete and total end to poverty? Imagine if children living in desperately poor conditions could wake up tomorrow in a home with food, clean water and good shelter—all the things that go with wealth. Surely that would be the ultimate gift to the world?

But what good is wealth if you don't know what to do with it? So maybe instead of wealth, should we give the world education—knowledge, understanding, the building blocks of civilisation, science and technology? After all, if everyone was educated, wouldn't economic development surely follow?

But that just begs another question: what about health? Aussies and New Zealanders live in a society of tremendous wealth by world standards. They have universal access to excellent education systems. But it hasn't ended pain, has it? Think of all the suffering, disease and death you've heard about just this year. Imagine solving it all, forever, with one magnificent gift. Wouldn't that be the best imaginable gift?

But I have an uneasy feeling.

If people were stronger, more robust and immune from disease, what would the ramifications be? Would we use our bulletproof bodies to accomplish good or evil? Would we use our strength to lift others up or to oppress them? Would we live long lives to glorify God or to indulge ourselves?

Yes, we do want to give every person on earth health. And we want to give education. And we don't want even one person left in poverty. But there's still a huge—unsolvable—problem. No matter what gift we give, it will only ultimately benefit the world if it comes with an essential ingredient: a new heart.

What am I talking about? Even good health is a curse if our heart is in the wrong place. Adolf Hitler was a veg-

etarian who didn't smoke or drink—he had good health. He had wealth. He even had enough education to write a book (unfortunately). But what an ultimate curse all of that was to our world! All of it combined when sin lurks at the centre can never be a blessing. Giving the world wealth, education and even health, without giving the world a new heart, is only setting us up for even greater pain.

So what is the ultimate thing we can give? I have to believe the best, the most important, the gift we should give before all others, is the gift of the Gospel. Why? Because the Gospel brings wealth. Don't believe me? The OECD recently ranked the "happiest" countries on earth. The ranking was largely based on economic indicators. Every nation in the top 10, every single one, had one thing in common: a Protestant Christian heritage.

If the Gospel brings economic development, what of education? It's no coincidence that wherever Protestant Christianity has gone, education follows. Even today, every university ranked in the top 25 in the world by the Times Higher Education rankings is located in a nation with a Protestant

Christian heritage. Every single one!

Think about that! Protestant Christianity, even generously defined, makes up about 12 per cent of the world's population but has produced 100 per cent of the world's best nations to live in and 100 per cent of the world's best universities!

But the Gospel isn't just about temporal blessings—it's about eternity. It's about being restored to the heart of God. It's about hope and faith, love and belonging. It's about healing us in our entirety. And nothing could be a better gift than a balm for all our wounds, a light for all our longings, a solution to our every problem. The best gift to give this Christmas, the gift that exceeds all others, the gift that goes on giving for eternity, is the hope found in Jesus. Let's use this Christmas season to give the Gospel to everyone we love!



Pastor Gary Kent is speaker/director for It is Written Oceania.

Every nation in the top 10, every single one, had one thing in common: a Protestant Christian heritage.



Merry occasion in Malo

A team of six pastors from the South New Zealand Conference hosted a two-week "reaping campaign" on the island of Malo, Vanuatu, in October. It was held at two sites and included a number of children's programs. Eight people were baptised at Amapelao Seventh-day Adventist Church on the last Sabbath of the program, with a further 18 people committing themselves to future baptism. —*Joseph Snyder*

Fish and farming

Seventh-day Adventist Lau Pepese (pictured right) was recently elected mayor of Fusi-Safatoa (Samoa). With the help of the Samoan and Australian governments, Mr Pepese has set up the Tilapia demonstration farm. Primarily a fish farm, the development also grows coriander and other crops, including giant cucumbers, to help feed and support the local area and church. —*Jarrold Stackelroth*

Celebrating you

Canberra National Seventh-day Adventist Church (ACT) recently held a luncheon for the "oldies" (60-plus) of the church, with "the youth of today" serving "the youth of yesteryear". The event featured printed invitations, a wedding-style table arrangement and a three-course meal. Each guest also received a special memory verse from the youth team. —*Erwin Wegner*



Great commissioning

Dr Danijela Schubert and Pastor Kristina Mazzaferri were commissioned at Fox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wahroonga (NSW) on November 9. Family, friends and a number of church administrators and Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) officials gathered for the special event. Dr Barry Oliver, president of the Adventist Church in the South Pacific, gave the address, while SPD field secretary Dr David Tasker offered the dedicatory prayer. Former Australian Union Conference associate ministerial secretary Carole Ferch-Johnson, who has long supported women pastors, also spoke at the ceremony. Dr Schubert, originally from Croatia, has been involved in the ministry of the Adventist Church for many years, serving in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea before joining the SPD administration team in 2011. She received her doctorate of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary (US) in 2012, and in August this year was appointed associate division secretary of the SPD. Pastor Mazzaferri completed her studies in Theology at Avondale College in 1998. She has worked as a chaplain in a number of hospitals in the United States and Australia, and currently serves as senior chaplain and manager of SAH Spiritual Care Services. —*Linden Chuang*



Lollies for LifeStraws

A Junior Outreach Project (JOP) fundraiser at Lismore Adventist Church (NSW) has provided eight family LifeStraw water filters to people in need of clean water. The event featured a closing Sabbath worship service and a movie, with juniors offering soup and buns, popcorn and lolly bags for a donation. —*Lynde Waldron*

Worth the ride

Glenvale Adventist Church (Qld) held its third annual Bike2Church Day in October. The ride was conducted a few days in advance of Ride2Work Day as a way of adding publicity and local enthusiasm to the national initiative. Daniel Eddy and Bruce Bazley rode round trips of nearly 30km as part of Bike2Church Day, travelling an hour each way from their Highfields home to church. —*One Church News*

Christmas cheer

Christchurch Adventist School primary students spent two weeks in November visiting a total of eight rest homes around Papanui (NZ), performing Christmas songs and presenting the Christmas story. The teachers and children received fantastic feedback, with some elderly residents moved to tears by the children and their performances. —*Tracey Ling*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald
Board Director, Lifestyle Medicine Institute

My CHIP journey

It's amazing to hear the stories of how lifestyle medicine can bring priceless benefits. Sue and Allan from Morisset are just one example of how the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) is changing lives for the better:

I was once again sitting in the chair at my doctor's asking for my barrage of prescriptions when he showed me a pamphlet about a program called CHIP. I knew both Allan and I needed to do something—we had chronic conditions heading in the wrong direction with no sign of improving—so we thought we may as well attend the information session.

At the information session we doubted whether this primarily plant based program was for us; after all we were raised on a diet of meat and three veg. So with a great deal of hesitation we decided to give it a try and made a commitment to follow the program as best we could.

Wow, what a difference it has made. Three months ago I had a blood pressure reading of 150/95; it is now 130/78. I've lost more than 10kg and still going, but my greatest change has been to my reliance on insulin for my diabetes. I have changed my dosage from 78 units per day to 50 units a day and I have no doubt at all that over the coming year I could actually be free of insulin. My three-month level HbA1C has moved from 7.2 down to 6.3 while using 28 units less of insulin a day. Allan also had staggering results with his weight down almost 5kg and still steadily dropping. His blood pressure has also dropped from 146/90 to 123/70, but the most noticeable difference with Allan has been increased energy and an amazing improvement in his complexion, particularly a reduction in purple discolouration of the lips and forehead. All achieved with a lot of laughter and very little strain.

The support and information this program affords you is invaluable and the added bonus of the friendships you make with people who share this journey with you is priceless. For anyone wanting to make positive changes to their health and lifestyle we thoroughly recommend CHIP.

—Sue & Allan Bullock
Morisset NSW



Chia and oat pudding

Preparation time: 10 minutes
Chilling time: 2 hours Serves: 4

- 1 ½ cups soy milk, more as needed to thin out
- ¼ cup chia seeds
- ½ cup oats
- 2 tbsp cocoa or carob powder
- 1 tbsp pure maple syrup, honey or agave nectar
- Shaved chocolate for garnish (optional)

1. In a large bowl, starting with the milk, whisk together all of the ingredients. When the mixture is smooth and all lumps are gone, place it in the fridge for 1-2 hours or until thick.
2. Give the mixture a good stir, adding more milk if desired and serve chilled.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 935kJ (224cal). Protein 8g. Fat 10g. Carbohydrate 24g. Sodium 92mg. Potassium 453mg. Calcium 204mg. Fibre 9g.

To learn more about the Complete Health Improvement Program check out www.chiphealth.com or contact your local office on: Australia: info@chiphealth.org.au; + (612) 4348 7777, New Zealand: info@chip.org.nz; + (649) 250 1770, Trans Pacific -Fiji: TransPacificCHIP@gmail.com; + (679) 332 1711, USA: office@chiphealth.com; + (1909) 796 7676. For information on Depression Recovery, visit www.nedleyhealthsolutions.com



LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
INSTITUTE



love mo

The story of Linden and Bri

by James Standish

WHEN SHE WALKED INTO THE LARGE, AIRY aircraft hanger at Goroka Airport, Papua New Guinea, she was certain of one thing: the guy she was about to meet wasn't for her.

It was obvious. After all, Bri's mum had flagged the handsome pilot and aircraft engineer as a love prospect, and nothing kills a romance like a parent's recommendation! If that were not enough, Bri promised herself one thing early in life—she'd never get serious with a guy in the mission aviation business. There were shadows there. Shadows no-one outside her family could fully understand.

Linden was hunched over an engine he was rebuilding when Bri walked in the hanger. He'd seen pictures of her. Heard stories. But nothing prepared him for Bri's sky blue eyes, her fine features and her effortless elegance. She was breathtakingly beautiful. But, he reminded himself as he wiped the grease from his hands, there's a lot more to a person than beauty.

It was no secret that taking the job with Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) wasn't going to do much for a young bloke's love life. For the years he'd been in Goroka, Linden hadn't been in a single romantic relationship. And he wasn't looking for one now. Growing up as a kid in PNG, he learned early how to be emotionally self sufficient; he was content within himself. Still, it was hard to ignore the beautiful American girl with her carefree style and exotic African and South American history.

Out of the Goroka hanger, AAS brings supplies to remote clinics spotted throughout PNG; conducts med-

evacs in emergencies; and transports pastors, teachers, aid workers and building supplies to places that would otherwise take weeks to trek in and out of. And it provides an economic lifeline to the poorest people by hauling produce to market in the cargo pod of the planes. Grass landing strips, steep mountains and the unpredictable weather so prevalent in the region are all part of the daily rhythm of service. It was where Linden believed God wanted him and he was the rare kind of person who thrived on all of it. Working with him was Bri's dad—an experienced mission aviation pilot.

As the two months of Bri's visit passed, bit by bit, day by day, word by word, look by look, something started to build. Eventually, Linden couldn't resist any longer and asked her out on a date.

"There are only two places to take a girl in Goroka," he laughs, "so I didn't have to think too hard!" They became regulars at these places, rode dirt bikes in the nearby hills and spent hours upon hours hanging out in the aircraft hanger after work. Somewhere between the grease, engine parts, noise and fumes, something very precious and just as fragile began to grow. When Bri flew out of Goroka in August 2009 to complete her last year of studies at Union College in Nebraska, she took Linden's heart with her.

Not that he said too much about it. "I'm not a big talker," Linden says simply. For the next few months, he played the waiting game. Patient. Unflappable. He knew that what had started was unstoppable. At least he thought he knew.

When Bri arrived back in Goroka after graduating the

re:



following year, Linden beat a trail to her door. He walked in the front gate carrying a large bunch of bananas. "It's Goroka," he recalls, "not a lot of fresh roses around, so you have to make do." However, the woman he found waiting for him on the front steps was strangely different. She was reserved, uncertain, the smiles and the bounce were gone. After some awkward pleasantries, she blurted out, "I don't think this is working anymore."

Linden couldn't believe it. He pulled back, a thousand things going through his mind. But all he could say was "OK." After a minute's silence, he turned and walked slowly back home.

He spent the night tossing and turning. It all seemed so improbable. What about the past 12 months of long distance communicating? What about the Christmas break spent together? What had happened in those months in Nebraska? Why the change? How could she be so completely cold and withdrawn?

What he didn't know was that Bri was up all night as well. Crying her eyes out. How could she be so totally in love with a guy who couldn't verbalise anything? It's one thing to be strong and silent, it's quite another to be indifferent. "I had just broken up with Linden, and he had simply acknowledged it and walked off," she remembers. "Where was the fight? The depth? Where was the driving desire to be together? Obviously I didn't mean that much to him after all."

Linden couldn't accept the break up. It seemed so vague. So totally random. A few days later he mustered

the courage to go back and see Bri. This time he was there to talk business. He spoke from the heart and heard her concerns, writing them down in a list. Over the next few days they sat together working through the list of Bri's concerns and Linden's list of all things important to him, to determine what they each wanted out of life, what they needed and where they could find common ground. "The intensity in his eyes gave me the assurance he was serious about me," Bri remembers with a smile. Linden, sitting next to her, looks on silently. But she's right—there is intensity in the way he's looking at her.

Love had died, been reborn and life was on track—even if it was a very uncertain one divided down the middle by 12,000 kilometres that were soon to separate them again. After Bri graduated she applied for 30 different jobs in the US. She didn't get a single offer. Linden encouraged her to move to Perth (WA), his Australian base. Within three days of arriving, Bri got the first job she applied for. And a few months later she accepted a job in the service department at Lexus. Linden came home to Perth every other month, and on a September evening in 2012 he asked Bri to marry him. She said yes, and they began dreaming and planning for the day when they would marry and begin life together.

Everything seemed so perfect. Hopes were high. Linden had gone back to Goroka to complete his commitment; Bri was enjoying life in Perth and looking forward to a wonderful future.

But then it happened.

Bri was at work when a call came. But she was

wrapped up with a customer. The receptionist sent her an urgent email. And then another. And then another and another and another.

All the echoes of the pain in Bri's childhood were about to catch up with her. Her grandfather's death flying mission planes in Mexico when her dad was only 16. Her aunt and uncle's disappearance a few years ago flying mission planes in Venezuela. The fear her mother had every time her father took to the unpredictable PNG skies in the single engine turboprop plane. The unrelenting grief her father carried with him for the father who never came home and the survivor's guilt he lived with for his missing brother. She had promised herself she would never repeat the life her parents lived. Love had forced her to be untrue, first to herself.

By the time she got back to her desk, Bri's inbox was full of urgent emails. Her heart fell through the floor. This was what everyone in her family expected, sooner or later. As soon as she looked at the screen, she feared she was the next widow of mission aviation even before she was married.

When she returned the call to Linden's father, the news was as bad as she had anticipated. "There's been an aviation jet fuel explosion in the hanger at Goroka. Linden's been terribly burned and he's being airlifted to Brisbane."

While doing maintenance on AAS's newest P750XL aircraft, a tool malfunctioned and let off a tiny spark. That tiny spark ignited fumes in the empty fuel tank. And in a split second, Linden had been bathed in white-hot flame.

With help from her kindly manager and a co-worker at Lexus, Bri was on a plane to Brisbane a few hours later. When she arrived at the hospital, she was warned, "We aren't sure if he'll pull through. Be prepared, when you see him you will be shocked. He's been burned over 50 per cent of his body . . ."

Linden was bloated, bandaged and unconscious when Bri walked into the ICU. But he was alive. And with life, there was hope.

For five long weeks, Linden remained in a coma.

During those weeks, Bri flew back and forth from Brisbane to Perth, working three days a week and spending four days at Linden's bedside. "The worst part for me," remembers Bri, "is I just missed him so badly. I would sit by him and talk to him every day but it's really hard to have a one-sided conversation day after day."

Three weeks into Linden's coma, Valentine's Day arrived. "Because of our bi-continental relationship, we only managed to be together on Valentines once, but Linden faithfully sent me flowers and chocolates every Valentines and every birthday," remembers Bri. "He is amazing at remembering special dates. I'm absolutely shocking—if his

birthday wasn't on New Year's Day I'd probably forget it! On 2012 Valentines he sent me beautiful orchids at work. I happened to be back in Perth at work on Valentine's Day 2013. Coincidentally, there was another girl named Bri at the dealership and all her flowers kept getting delivered to my desk. So I'd call her and she'd come and get them; there must have been at least five bouquets. It was really hard.

"Finally these beautiful roses arrived, and I called her to come and collect them," Bri recalls. "She picked them up and looked at the tag and said: 'No, these are for you.' I knew she must be wrong. But I had a look and sure enough, they had my last name on them. I was really baffled because Linden is the only person who has ever sent me flowers and of course he was in a coma. I opened the note and it had the most beautiful message from him saying how much he loved me and was looking forward to seeing me soon. I ran into the bathroom and cried for an hour. When I came back to my desk, I burst into tears every time I looked at them. It was so sweet and totally unexpected. I later found out Linden organised them just a few

days before his accident.

"Linden was really smug when he finally woke up and I told him that he had sent me flowers on Valentines even though he was in a coma," laughs Bri. "I don't think many guys can top that!"

But it wasn't easy when Linden came out of the coma. "The first

thing I can remember on the acute burns ward is when I realised I couldn't do anything. My mind was working perfectly, but I was trapped in a completely disabled body. It was terrifying," remembers Linden. "I've always been an active person. In the matter of a split second, I had everything I took for granted snatched from me."

After months of painful treatment, skin grafts and rehabilitation, Linden was informed by his medical team he would be discharged. He was still profoundly disabled. He couldn't dress himself. He couldn't cook for himself. He had difficulty walking. He couldn't drive. But all of that wasn't going to be a problem. The woman who had broken up with him because she thought he didn't need her, was waiting for him with arms wide open.

"I couldn't move in with Bri without being married," says Linden. "I wanted our lives together to start off the right way. We were planning a full-blown church wedding with her family in the US, but the accident put all of that on hold. So when I was ready to leave the hospital we had a simple service with a few friends and family members. Unexpectedly, several of the retired pastor/pilots from Adventist Aviation organised a little wedding reception. A civil wedding isn't my idea of a proper wedding. But you deal with what is dealt to you. I moved from the hospital to the little apartment Bri organised in Brisbane. That's how our married life began."

She feared she was the next widow of mission aviation even before she was married.

Today Bri sits, her bright blue eyes, refined features and slight frame poised delicately in her chair as she talks easily. Her husband of three months sits next to her, wrapped in compression garments covering his arms, legs and entire head except for his eyes, mouth and the lower part of his nose. The garments are designed to help his skin heal without ugly raised scars. In a way, Linden and Bri are like any newly married couple. Laughing together, tender touches, sharing stories and planning their future. In other ways, they are profoundly different.

Life hasn't been easy. Linden needs Bri to button his shirts as calcification in his joints has made it impossible to bend his elbows and difficult to bend his knees. Joint calcification can occur in extreme burns cases as part of the body's distress reaction to trauma. Linden's joints are continuing to calcify, but the reaction is expected to stop eventually, and when it does he will be able to have corrective orthopedic surgery. Bri also changes his compression garments every night. And does the 101 other time-consuming things needed to keep a burns patient's recovery and the family on track. "I've always been the one taking care of others," says Linden. "It's been really hard to be on the receiving end and to accept the generosity of others. It's been a good lesson to learn. But I have to think there must be an easier way to learn it!"

"I'm a procrastinator," laughs Bri, "and Linden worries I'll forget something or let another slip. So he makes lists. He's a firm believer in lists! Between the two of us, and the support of family, friends and local church members, we're making it all work. So many people have stepped up to the plate to help us out financially, physically and emotionally, and our families have been so encouraging and supportive. God has been very close, looking after us through His people, and we feel very blessed.

"We love being married—it's our excuse to stay home," Bri continues. "Most couples get a week or two of honeymoon. Because of what we've been dealt, we have had a year together, just focusing on each other. It's wonderful. We've gotten to spend more time together this year than the previous three combined."

But didn't she think twice about marrying Linden after the tragedy? "Not once. True love is a choice. You stick by the person you love. You want to spend every day with them. They become your best friend. Being married is fantastic. Our relationship just keeps on getting better, the more we've chosen to commit. If we'd known how good it would be, we would have gotten married earlier! I signed up to live my entire life with my best friend and ironically, this has been the best year for us—I've finally gotten to spend as much time with Linden as I want. He's stuck with me and I'm taking full advantage of it! Life is what you make it. Linden's first thought was that it was a terrible way to start our life together, but I told him 'It can't get worse than this, so it's all up from here!' And it is. It



gets better every day," Bri says, as she lightly touches Linden's arm.

"What happened to me isn't so exceptional," observes Linden. "I got conditioned to tragedy in PNG. Life is very raw. You deal with life and death all the time. My story is only one of thousands every year, all around the world."

"Tragedy like this is just part of life on this sinful planet. It's not always nice," adds Bri. "We really are in the battle of good and evil. When something like this happens, you know you're on the frontline of that battle. We've seen God work in so many ways. He's been so good to us through all of this."

"You have a choice," concludes Linden, "let something like this destroy your faith, or you can use the experience to go on trusting God and allowing Him to work in your life. Faith is like physical exercise—and we're running an ultra marathon right now. But when we've finished this phase of our lives, as tough as it is, our faith will be all the stronger for it. Just like our relationship." R

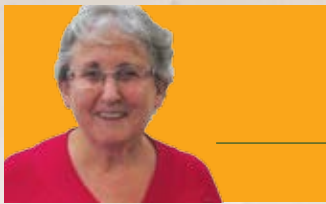
To financially support Linden during his rehabilitation, go to:

www.gofundme.com/1wssao

To follow Linden's recovery, go to:

www.facebook.com/PrayerForLindenBri

James Standish is editor of RECORD.



RECORD REWIND

Marian de Berg

Ellen's Australian farm manager

Iram and Christiana James accepted Adventism in Kellyville, Sydney, in 1893. On accepting the Sabbath Iram's wife suggested he run the stage coach on Sunday instead of Saturday but he soon lost this work. Reverting to farming again, he could not make ends meet with so large a debt on his land and a family of four children. His farm was sold from under his feet.

Ellen White was also living in Sydney at this time and became acquainted with the family—charter members of the Kellyville church. She was concerned for them and many other families in a similar situation. Writing to her son, William, she wondered if these families could be set up in tents on the school estate until work became available. In 1895, however, Iram was provided work, with a home attached, on Schowie's farm at Pennant Hills.

It was also in 1895 that Mrs White was settling up plans for her house, "Sunnyside" at Cooranbong, and setting out an orchard and garden. Moving in on Christmas Day, she soon realised she needed additional helpers to care for her property. She promptly called Iram and Christiana James to come and set up house on her land. In 1897 Mrs White had a four-room home built for the family with the option of buying it for \$A40.

Iram worked tirelessly for the community. He was involved with medical missionary work around the area and often accompanied Sara McEnterfer in her nursing role. He was very interested in the people at Martinsville where he would conduct small group meetings, hoping a church would be built there. He served his church at Avondale as an elder, and in 1899 he was elected a board member of the college.

Mrs White and her family left for America at the end of August 1900. "Sunnyside" was sold. With no specific idea of where to settle upon arrival, she was assured in a dream that God already had in mind the right place for her to live. An acreage property of mixed fruit trees and a large prune

orchard, that she later named "Elms-haven", was soon purchased.

Realising the need for an efficient farm manager her thoughts turned to her trustworthy Australian farmer. Sara McEnterfer was requested to write to Iram, asking him to consider working again for Mrs White. William White followed up the letter with a property and job description.

What a hard decision it was. Agonising to know God's will, the family prayed to determine whether staying in Australia they might still influence their extended family for Christ. They put God to the test by listing their cottage on the market at a price higher than what they thought they could get. The home sold immediately and a telegram was sent to Ellen White.

The family of eight left Sydney at the end of 1900, making the three-week journey by boat to San Francisco. Mrs White wrote to friends back in Australia on their arrival: "I need not tell you that we were as pleased to see them as if they were members of our own family" (Letter 15, 1901).

To call a man and his family to move to the other side of the planet was very unusual. Mrs White must have really appreciated the work of Iram James. And for Iram to move to a new country to live and work, especially for a 73-year-old lady, equally says that he and his family must have really loved Mrs White.

Marian de Berg is administrative assistant for the Ellen G White/SDA Research Centre.



MYSTERY HISTORY



Do you know?

■ The people in the photo. ■ The date the photo was taken.
Send to heritage@avondale.edu.au

Kids Space



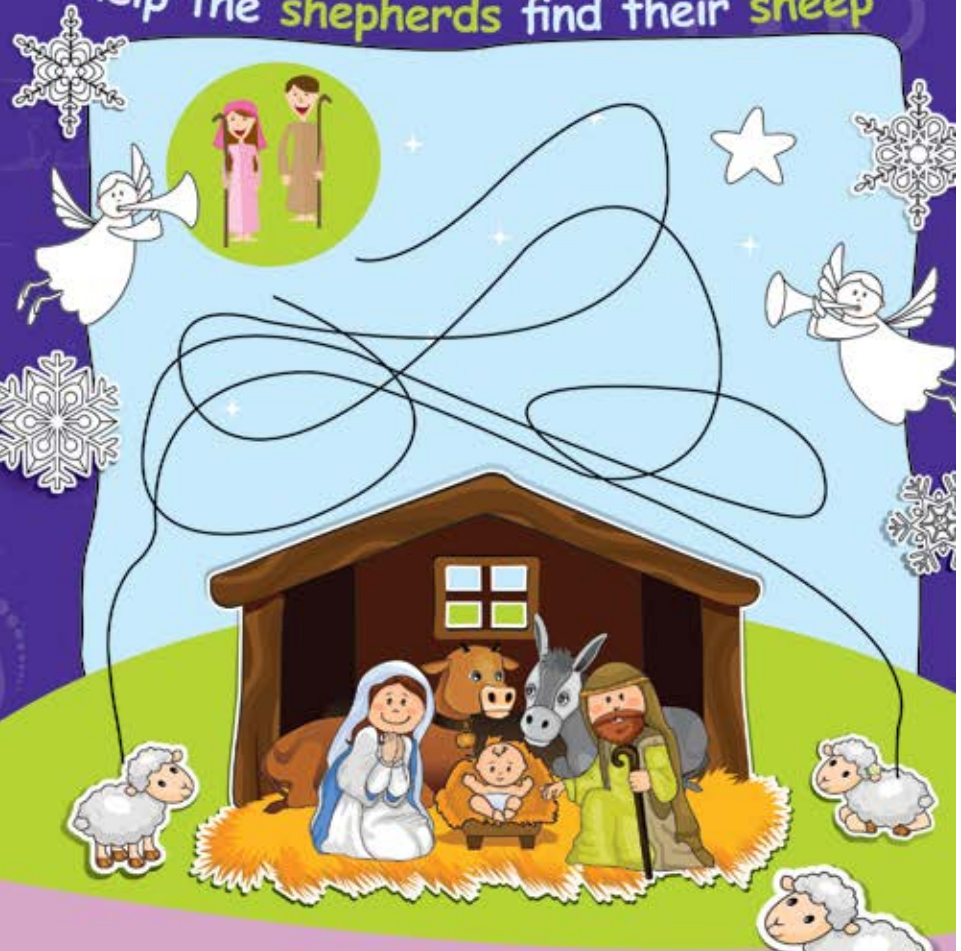
Joseph and Mary were happy to be parents. Angels were happy that Jesus was born and they blew their trumpets and sang songs in praise. The shepherds and wise men that came to visit also praised and worshipped baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph knew that this baby was truly God's own Son.

CROSSWORD

Put the green words above into the boxes below



Help the shepherds find their sheep



WORSHIP MESSAGE
Jesus is the best gift.

MEMORY VERSE
"Today... a Saviour has been born." Luke 2:11

*hello in Czech Republic



TOP 5

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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.

COMPLEX ROLE

Bruce Manners, Vic

I'm not sure why "How to be a successful pastor" (November 16) was published in RECORD when it was aimed specifically at pastors. However, it should have been titled, "My memories of how to be a successful pastor." While there is much of value in the article, it does show a lack of understanding in several areas of today's church and how pastoral ministry has changed.

As a current church pastor who graduated only 40 years ago from Avondale College (compared to the writer's "more than 60 years"), I find I learn much and need to learn much from those who are more recent graduates. Our Church and society is becoming increasingly complex—the pastor's role with it—and these younger pastors are often far better equipped to handle this.

The same problem would occur if RECORD ran a "How to be a successful . . ." series where other church retirees (former administrators, teachers, principals, hospital and retirement village CEOs, and so on) were invited to write. There would be much to value, but some of it would be dated.

Editor's note: Bruce Price led a congregation that experienced extraordinary church growth in the '80s and '90s in Sydney's wealthy North Shore - one of the toughest territories in the world.

We are similarly interested in the advice from other church leaders with stellar real world results. By sharing the secrets of success, we become a stronger community.

PULLING TOGETHER

Elizabeth Serra, NSW

In response to the article "US conference elects first female president" (News, November 16).

1. Is it right what the South-eastern California Conference has done in ordaining a female conference president? No, the RECORD stated, "Despite a request from the General Conference to wait until the GC session in 2015 . . ."

2. Is it okay for the church to not follow the policies and procedures of the organisation? Does that cause division and disunity? Paul says, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

May God guide the Church and help us to submit to church leadership. Let's pull together in unity.

FLYING FACTS

Graeme Humble, PNG

Thanks for the Omaura airstrip article ("Highlands airstrip rededicated", News, November 2).

It is great to see that the airstrip is functioning again. I know it will be a real blessing to the students and staff there. It will mean easier access when transferring staff and students in and out of Omaura and less exposure to the vagaries of the weather and security issues of that road that I have bumped and crashed over many a time.

However, if you had checked with Pastor Gordon Stafford—principal of Omaura when the

hostilities occurred, and currently principal at Mamarapha in WA—he would have given you a more accurate history. The airstrip was certainly in use prior to the hostilities that are said to have closed it.

I know, as I was president in Goroka at the time. I have landed at Omaura a number of times as a passenger in the mission planes.

Furthermore, on a lighter note, a box of Rabaul mangoes en route to me at Goroka via Omaura on the mission plane went missing. The delicious aroma of the mangoes filling the plane resulted in the box being seconded by the Omaura staff. The K20 they sent me was poor compensation!

ASK WITH A SMILE

Gennaro Cozzi, Vic

I agree with "Holy Sanctuary" (Letter, November 16) about noise in holy places but with a reservation: sometimes the adults' silence is noisier than the children's noise, becoming, in the end, dangerous. On the other side there is the adults' muttering—as the outcome of friendship and brotherly love, resulting in the joy of getting together.

I understand the "sanctuary" needs to be respected like everything belonging to the Lord. But ultimately, what is true respect?

Keeping with the writer's feelings, probably a good course of action would be to address those—who in our opinions do not show respect—with a spirit of prayer and a smiling face, asking their opinion on the matter. Who knows, perhaps their reason would show to be quite reasonable. Otherwise make the elders or minister aware of the situation.

ANNIVERSARIES



Ibbott, Barrie and Vernita (nee Roberts) were joined by family and friends at Cooranbong to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married 7.10.1963 in the Wahroonga church, NSW, by Dr Gordon McDowell. A great time was had by friends and family including two of their three children, Locky and Randall (Angus is currently studying in France), and five of their nine grandchildren.



Schick, Pastor Lyndon and Ollie Schick recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with close family members at the Terrigal Crown Plaza, Terrigal, NSW. They have three sons, nine grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Granddaughter Jodi and husband, Jason, who are missionaries in Zambia, also attended with new great-granddaughter, Joella. The surprise party was organised by eldest son, Alvin, and his wife, Judith.



Wosley, Glen and Roslyn were married 10.9.1962 at the Brisbane Central church, Qld, by Pastor L J Kent. They have three children, Bettina (Jimboomba), Paul and Belinda (both of Sunshine Coast); and six grandchildren. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with family and friends at Landsborough church where they now attend. They are thankful for God's leading in their lives and look forward to many years together.

WEDDINGS



Bonanno-Orchard. Matthew Anthony Bonanno, son of David and Jill Bonanno (Forrestfield, WA), and Jacinta Rochelle Orchard, daughter of Terry and Suzette Orchard (High Wycombe), were married 26.3.13 while on holiday in Bali. On 3.11.13, they renewed their pledge of love for one another before family and friends in a

formal ceremony overlooking Swan River at Blue Water Grill, Heathcote. Matt, an accounts manager for a promotions firm, and Jacinta, a pharmacist, attended Carmel Adventist College in different years but met again through mutual friends in 2012. The rest is history!



Kim-Cho. Joemin Kim, son of Guun and Heesoo Kim (Mt Colah, NSW), and Jiyeon (Annie) Cho, daughter of Yong-Chan and Gil-Joo Cho (South Korea), were married 9.6.13 at Chowder Bay, Mosman, NSW, overlooking Sydney Harbour on a beautiful sunny morning. They plan to set up their home in Sydney.

Daniel Przybylko



Millist-Norton. Linden Roger Millist, son of Pastor Roger and Carol Millist (Goroka, PNG), and Briana Lynn Norton, daughter of Bill and Bonnie Norton (Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA), were married 16.7.13 in Brisbane, Qld. The official exchange of vows was followed by a delightful marriage supper at the home of Pastor and Mrs Travis Manners where Pastors Roger Millist, Warren Price and Eric Kingdon shared a spiritual blessing and prayer for the couple, seeking God's leading in their future life together. Linden and Bri have set up their home in Brisbane while Linden continues rehabilitation therapies at Royal Brisbane Hospital's Burns Unit, following a jet fuel explosion in January at Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) PNG, where he had been working since 2005 as aircraft maintenance manager.

Roger Millist



Nachmann-Lapitan. Saul Nachmann, son of Colin and Agnes Nachmann (Dakabin, Qld), and Elaine Lapitan, daughter of Wilfredo Lapitan (Manila, Philippines) and Rosalinda Flores (Caboolture, Qld), were married 28.8.13 at Flaxton Gardens, Flaxton. Saul and Elaine are active members of the Pine Rivers church youth group where they met. They look forward to starting their lives together.

Scott Wareham



Takac-Fraser. Stephen Micheal Takac, son of Milan and Ljiljana Takac (Sydney, NSW), and Lisa Janelle Fraser, daughter of Peter Fraser and Robyn Sheman (NSW), were married 24.9.13 at Hunter Valley Gardens.

Danny Milenkov

Uhila-Morunga. David Samuela Ma'afu Tupou Esau Uhila, son of Pastor Sekope Uhila and Ilisapesi Taiamoni Uhila (Auckland, NZ), and Kathleen Morunga, daughter of Craig Douglas Morunga and Wendy Aketerei Porea (Auckland), were married 3.11.13 at Parramatta church, NSW.

Pablo Lillo



Uprichard-Hilas. Benjamin Uprichard, son of Gavin and Lois

Uprichard, and Melissa Hilas, daughter of Christos and Leonie Hilas, were married 29.9.13 at Yandina Station, Yandina Creek, Qld. Ben and Melissa met through mutual friends and they are now living at Bondi Beach, Sydney, renovating their home. Ben is an intensive care unit nurse manager, and Melissa, an advertising manager.

Johnny Murison



van Rensburg-Thomas. Martin Andries van Rensburg, son of André and Margaret van Rensburg (Brisbane, Qld), and Brooke Carmel Thomas, daughter of David and Carmel Thomas (Ipswich), were married 3.11.13 at Coolbah Downs, Nerang, Qld. They were surrounded by family and friends in a beautiful garden setting as

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their "label" changed to married. As they journey life together as one, we wish them joy and the fulfilment of their hearts' desire.

André van Rensburg

OBITUARIES

Bevan, Stanley William, born 6.3.1915; died 1.8.13 in Adelaide, SA. He was predeceased by his first wife, Doris. He is survived by his wife, Alice (SA); and his children and their families, Colin and Kerryn (Vic), Alan and Sue (SA); his grandchildren, Chris, Nicole, Jeremy, Romayne, Michael and their partners; and six great-grandchildren. Stan was much loved by his Wistow church family. He now rests in peace awaiting the resurrection.

Raymond Carlsen



Brinsmead, Laurence McPherson, born 30.11.1925 in Nhill, Vic; died 22.5.13 in Murwillumbah, NSW. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Verna (nee Emmett); and four

children, Calvin (Dubbo), Nereda (USA), David and Jenny (both of Murwillumbah) and their spouses; 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and five siblings. Laurence was a farmer, pilot and breeder of champion Arabian horses, winning awards at major shows in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. He was also a great gardener, sharing his produce with many friends. Laurence was a diligent student of the Word of God and served as an elder and Sabbath School teacher at Bray Park church. He had a close relationship with his Lord whom he loved deeply. He shared with all his conviction of a wonderful Saviour.

Peter Howard, Warren Price

Chambers, Joseph William Charles, born 1941; died 30.10.13 in WA, a few weeks after being diagnosed with aggressive pancreatic cancer. Joseph was raised in the farming district of south-west WA and graduated from Avondale College in 1964 with a BA (Theology). He married Veronica Phillips and two children graced this

union, Rayden and Lyndell. He successfully ministered in Victoria, south New Zealand and South Australia before returning to farming and, later, working as a real estate agent in which he excelled as top salesman of the year on a number of occasions. His church ministry grew into one characterised by salvation through Jesus Christ alone by our faith alone and God's grace alone.

Milton Hook, Brian Mullany

Chater, Archibald Foster, born 20.7.1928 in Brisbane, Qld; died 7.11.13 in Caloundra. He is survived by his children, Julie, Jennifer, Lana and Nathan, and their spouses and children. Arch, an electrician, was known as Mr Fix it, spending many volunteer hours at Sonshine Sanctuary woman's refuge fixing anything and everything. He was very active in Adventist Singles ministries for many years and also served the Church he loved as elder, deacon, Pathfinder leader, preacher, teacher and Mr Fix it. Arch was loved and respected by all who knew him. He studied himself into the message he so loved. He fought the good fight and is greatly missed.

Eric Hursey, John Rabbas

Cooke, Rosslyn Isobel (nee Coulston) died in Castle Hill, NSW. She was a devoted partner to John. She is survived by her only son, Corey, and his wife, Kendall (Dundas); two grandsons, Hamish and Nathan; and her siblings and their families, Lynette and Milton Gray (Perth, WA), Heather and Kenneth Wade (Lilydale, Vic) and Murray and JulieAnne Coulston (Pakenham). Rosslyn was a devoted mother, a sister who will be sadly missed and loving aunt to her nieces and nephews.

Gary Koo

Creed, Margaret Alice, born 17.6.1921 in Gloucester Shire, England; died 29.10.13 in Akooramak nursing home,

Warwick, Qld. On 18.5.1942, she married William Leslie Galloway, who predeceased her in 1972. On 26.2.1978, she married Alex Creed. She loved the Redcliffe church and was the organist for many years. She is survived by eight of her children and their spouses, Graham, John, Phillip, Malcolm, Robert, Douglas, Barbara and Brian; three step-children, Peter, Malcolm Creed and Debbie and their spouses; 41 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Margaret was a very loving and caring lady. She loved Jesus, her family and her friends. She was faithful, sweet and gentle and very much appreciated by the Akooramak staff.

Humberto Rivera

Davison, Yvonne Joy (nee Atkinson), born 18.3.1930 in Sydney, NSW; died 11.10.13 in Brisbane, Qld. On 2.5.1951, she was married to Graham in Sydney, NSW, by Pastor Scragg. She was baptised in the Alban church. She is survived by her husband (Indooroopilly, Qld); and her children, Andrew and Charmaine (Mount Ommaney), Nikki Bellet (The Grange), and Malcolm and Margaret (Chapel Hill); eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Yvonne was a highly respected member of the South Brisbane church where she attended for a number of years. She was very gracious and influenced many through her loving and thoughtful manner. Although she loved people she was a private person and fittingly a private service was conducted at the Centenary Memorial Gardens, Wacol.


Ray Fraser



Kallio, Leila Mirjam (nee Punke), born 22.9.1932 in Ayarapaa, Finland; died 18.8.13 in

Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic. On 2.8.1954, she married Arro Kallio. She is survived by her husband; her son, Yori Kallio (Melbourne); her daughters, Saara and Michael Burt

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(Melbourne) and Sonja Kallio (NSW); and her grandchildren, Jake, Nathan and Amy. Leila faced all the challenges in her life with determination and grace. She was always happiest when helping and serving others. She was greatly loved by her family, church family and friends and is sadly missed by everyone.

*Murray Thackham, Terry Goltz
Owen Maunder*



Kennedy, Daphne (nee McCartney), born 22.1.1931 in Brisbane, Qld; died 17.10.13 in the Avondale Nursing Home, NSW. In August 1953, she married Morriss Kennedy in the old college chapel, Cooranbong. He predeceased her in 2008. She is survived by her children, Sharon and Victor; her grandchildren, Carlie and Ryan; and great-grandchildren, Hayden and Bear. At a time when most people accepted retirement Daphne studied law and was admitted to the Bar as a practising solicitor. The respect she held in the church and community was indicated by the representation of her many clients at her funeral.

Ross Goldstone, David Fitzgibbon

Knopper, Reintje, born 20.7.1927 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands; died 6.10.13 in Cooranbong, NSW. In 1953, she married Pastor Jan Knopper. She was predeceased by son, Peter. She is survived by her husband; sons, Reyer, Eddy, Willem and their spouses, Julie, Corinne and Raewyn; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. With her husband, Reintje faithfully served God in many parts of the world including Europe, Africa, Australia and Russia. She enjoyed reading the Bible, was a strong believer in prayer and had a close relationship with God. Reintje was very much committed to being of service and care to others. She loved her husband and family and adored her sons. Reintje will be greatly missed.

Len Tolhurst, Roger Nixon

Mann, Joyce Ella, born 8.12.1925 in Warwick, Qld; died 22.8.13 in the Alstonville Adventist Village, NSW. On 1.11.1947, she married Reginald, who predeceased her in 1955. She is survived by Beverly Stuckings (Newcastle),

Roslyn Camps (Wollongbar), Kevin (Wanilla via Port Lincoln, SA) and Gregory (Brisbane, Qld). Joyce's life encountered many situations that would have discouraged or destroyed many but she was the most gracious and assured person you could ever meet. Many would call it resilience but her secret to a contented and hope-filled life was found in four enthusiastically repeated words: "I love my Jesus". Joyce was the epitome of a Christ-filled life. Her family, friends and community miss the smiles and constant encouragement.

*Alan Saunders, Ernie Krause
Beth McMurtry, Tim Kingston*

Miller, Iye Ling, born 6.3.1952 in Raub, Malaysia; died 9.3.13 on the Gold Coast, Qld. She is survived by her daughters, Priscilla, Stephanie and Jacqueline; her mother, Seow Ying; and her siblings, Linda, Carol, Sandra, Louis and Larry. Iye Ling had an international outlook in regard to the Church's mission and activities, and she gave generously of her business skills and resources towards the work of the Church at home and overseas. She had a passion for prayer and the memorisation of Scripture and encouraged her fellow members in both of these areas of the Christian life. Her sudden passing leaves a huge gap, and she will be greatly missed by her family and her church family at Parramatta.

*David McKibben
Jean-Pierre Martinez*



Scoines, Fergus Robert, born 18.8.1923 in Bundaberg, Qld; died 22.18.13 unexpectedly in Hervey Bay. On 5.4.1958, he married Mary Scoines. He was baptised in Gladstone in 1965. He is survived by his wife; and his children and their spouses, Robert and Andrea Scoines, Karon Scoines, Linda and Errol Briant, Barry and Sylvie Scoines; and his grandchildren, Jared, Nathan, Jim, Lola, Katelyn, Jackson and Will. Fergie served his country in World War II. Upon retirement in the early 1980s, Fergie and Mary moved to Hervey Bay. Fergie held several local leadership positions within the church over many years. His life of committed service reflected his love for country,

family, his church and his God. He is forever in our hearts.

Gary Roberts

To'ofoho, Paea Imuli, born 28.8.1973 in the Kingdom of Tonga; died 8.6.13 in Sydney, NSW. Paea was a member of the Auburn church, Sydney, NSW, where she liked to help out with children's ministries. She was baptised in 2009. Having been on her own prodigal journey as a young person, she always had some serious, yet good humoured advice to give to the youth at church. She will be fondly remembered and now awaits the coming of her Lord.

Daniel Przybylko



Veitch, Nell (nee Edwards) born 21.9.1917 in Coffs Harbour, NSW; died 15.10.13 in Wyong. In March 1939, Nell married Albert Fairfoul who was killed in a car accident in 1958. She married Bill Veitch in December 1966 and he predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by Robert (Bob) and Pam Fairfoul and Margaret and Bob Johnston, and step-son, Dalton and Lin Veitch; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nell was a nurse and a teacher. She taught primary, high school, Avondale College and correspondence school students. Her special field of education was needlework and sewing. Nell sought out people who were in need and was renowned for her generous hospitality and sensitive care especially for Avondale College students. She is remembered for her strong faith and devotion to God and the Church, her love for her family, her students and the community.

Allan Lindsay, Richard Anderson



Ward, Evelyn Frances, born 28.2.1936 in Gundagai, NSW; died 9.10.13 in Sydney. On 26.3.1961, she married Harry Charles Ward. She was predeceased by her husband and son, Max. In 1961, Ev married Harry, a widower with three young children. They established their home in the Coffs Harbour area where two more children were added to the family. She was a loving mother and mother-in-law to Colleen and Ron, Wendy and Bill, Lesley, Allan and

Vicki, and Lauren. Ev served as church clerk for several decades and was well appreciated by the church members as well as friends in the community. She died with full assurance of meeting Jesus at the resurrection.

Bob Manners, Abel Iorgulescu

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