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Vanuatu gears up for major evangelism

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Hope TV Vanuatu is now retransmitting live in the capital, Port Vila, just in time for the uplinked Last Empire series, which begins on August 17.

Santo is the next region to gain access to Hope TV with technicians confirming viewers can tune in through the UHF band to catch the signal.

Testing was necessary before the installation of equipment at Joint Court (Port Vila) and Bellevue (Santo) to enable the transmission.

The installations will allow optimised Hope TV signal and coverage of most of Port Vila, Luganville and nearby islands, extending to Malekula in the Malampa province.

The next goal is to organise downlink sites for North and East Efate. This will most likely reduce transportation costs for those intending to travel long distances over 21 nights to attend the Last Empire campaign.

Churches in Efate district are gearing up for the campaign, which is expected to draw hundreds of people to Freshwota.

One-week cottage meetings have already been held simultaneously around Freshwind and Freshwota. The cottage meetings are part of a Port Vila-wide strategy designed to prepare interests and build momentum towards the major evangelistic campaign.

The four churches involved are Beverly Hills, Epauto, Mautoa and Freshwind.

Efate district leader, Pastor John Leeman, is the Nurtur-

ing Committee chairman of the campaign series.

Pastor Leeman announced recently that two sets of baptisms would be organised after the event.

"We do not want to see people getting baptised today and then leaving tomorrow after the excitement has subsided," he said. "We want to see people getting baptised because they have discovered Jesus as their true Friend and Saviour and are firmly grounded to begin their spiritual walk with Him."

In an effort to stem the tide of people leaving the Church immediately after baptism, Pastor Leeman and his team have produced up to 400 training manuals. Orders have also been placed for two different sets of Bible study guides to be used as nurturing tools for interests and the newly baptised.

The Last Empire campaign will feature international evangelist Pastor Jean-Noel Adeline. —*Pv14 newsletter*



Downlink sites will mean less travel time.



Extension opened at literacy school

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Australia's High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea (PNG) Deborah Stokes opened an extension at the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School in Port Moresby earlier this month.

Other special guests included PNG Union Conference president Pastor Leigh Rice and his wife Barbara, Central Papua Conference president Pastor Kove Tau, Operation Food For Life (OFFL) co-founders David Woolley and Dennis Perry, and OFFL PNG directors Phillip and Maureen Vaki.

Pastors Rice and Kove thanked God for His blessing upon the school, teachers and students. They also paid tribute to the OFFL team and volunteer teachers for their passion and dedication to the project.

The school project began in 2012 after OFFL volunteers were introduced to Ogasta Daniel, who was teaching literacy skills to a group of children under a house in Port Moresby.

According to Mr Perry, Ms Daniel had been teaching for two hours a day for more than two years, seeking nothing in return. "The only resource she had was a whiteboard," he said.

Through the financial support of Rob and Jan Patterson—whom the school is named after—and their family, and donations from Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing, a new school building was established in September 2013.

The school currently provides free education to 160 students, many of whom would otherwise be unable to receive an education. Ms Daniel is the principal.

The school celebrated its first graduation in December 2013, with 11 children completing their studies and gaining eligibility to attend primary school.

For more information about the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School, as well as other OFFL projects, visit <www.offl.org.au/projects>.

—*Dennis Perry/
Linden Chuang*



OFFL co-founders Mr Woolley and Mr Perry with Ms Stokes, surrounded by students.



Policy not politics¹

James Standish

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has never engaged in partisan politics, an historical fact that underlines the church's primary allegiance to a Lord whose "kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36) Indeed, Ellen White strongly condemned those who use their church positions to support political parties or candidates.²

At the same time, the Adventist Church has always been actively engaged with critical policy issues in the public square, some of which inescapably have a political dimension to them. From our earliest days Adventists fought crucial battles to preserve religious liberty,³ led in the movement for prohibition of alcohol, advocated for the rights of the poor, firmly opposed war and not only urged the abolition of slavery, but adamantly refused to obey the US Federal Fugitive Slave Law.

Ellen White went so far as to state that if an Adventist did not oppose slavery, he should be excluded from the movement.⁴ This at a time when many Christians supported slavery. Not only did early Adventists oppose slavery, they supported the most radical solution to it: complete abolition.⁵ Ultimately over 600,000 Americans died in a civil war battling in large part over this contentious issue. How could Adventists speak with such moral clarity in the midst of such powerful conflict?

Explaining the rationale for Adventist public policy activism, Ellen White wrote: "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."⁶

Put another way, by our very existence as a faith community within a society, we have an influence. With that influence comes responsibility of doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Doing nothing in the face of social evil is not neutrality, it's complicity. Passivity in the face of human need is not faithfulness, it is sinful indifference.

Adventist Christians reject complicity and indifference in favour of carefully considered public action. Our work on public policy is not an extra, grafted onto the stock of who we are, but a core responsibility of all those who follow God.

We tell our children the Bible stories of Joseph, Esther, and Daniel, who used their time on earth to exert an influence on the public policy of the societies in which they lived. But we should also be telling those stories to adults—drawing out the lesson that believers today must also exert a godly influence on our community.

But how do Adventist Christians do this today? How do we "loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free"?⁷ How do we "speak up for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute"?⁸ How do we "defend the rights of the poor and needy"?⁹

I'm privileged to have been part of a team who advocated on behalf of our church during my years at the General Conference. Issues we worked on include advocating against the use of torture, speaking up for the rights of religious minorities from Nigeria to Turkmenistan, and supporting legislation to, among other things, protect prisoners from rape, provide visas for people illegally trafficked, regulate tobacco products and to protect the religious rights of workers.

Has the church always acted with moral clarity at times of crisis in society? No. But should we should aim to? Consider what Ellen White said in describing Abraham's decisive move to free Lot and the hostages: "It was seen that righteousness is not cowardice, and that Abraham's religion made him courageous in maintaining the right and defending the oppressed. . . . Abraham regarded the claims of justice and humanity. His conduct illustrates the inspired maxim, 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'"¹⁰ Let's all aim to experience the living faith of Abraham. Let's stand up for the oppressed. Let's turn love into action. Let's be courageous.

¹ This editorial draws in large parts from an article I wrote that was published in the *Adventist Review* in 2006.

² Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, 391-396.

³ Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol 5, 713, 714.

⁴ Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol 1, 359,360.

⁵ Roy Branson, *Ellen White: Racist or Champion of Equity*, <http://www.oakwood.edu/goldmine/hdoc/blacksda/champ/>

⁶ Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, 387.

⁷ Isaiah 58:6 (NIV).

⁸ Proverbs 31:8 & 9.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 135, 136.

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Cover Credit: OFFL

"Dennis Perry, co-founder of Operation Food for Life with a Papua New Guinean woman and baby."

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



God's timing

Jarrod Stackelroth

Depending on what you're doing, a minute can fly by, hardly noticed. But when waiting for a bus or for water to boil, a minute can plod by, using every one of its 60 seconds. Together, minutes add up. There are 525,600 of them in a year.

I suppose prison is a place where time moves fairly slowly—particularly if you are innocent, truly innocent, with no date of release.

Imagine Joseph. Confined to a dungeon, no sentence to serve, no hope of freedom, just living out his existence by doing the best he could. Imagine the hope kindled in his heart when the cupbearer was released, with an interpreted dream and back into Pharaoh's service. It must have seemed like a God-ordained meeting, one step closer to walking out into the world, one more righted wrong in Joseph's charmed life. However, Joseph's plea to remember him was forgotten and the cupbearer went on with his life.

More than one million minutes shuffled by in the next two years. Hope must have turned to ashes in Joseph's chest as meal after meal came, with no release—day after day, week after week.

We don't know what Joseph did to fill in those two years. He had already showed great fortitude by rising up to run his own prison. But he endured another two years! We can only assume he continued on in hope, trusting God and making the most of his situation.

Patience may be a virtue but it's often undervalued. I know I have my fair share of short-tempered moments, causing me to say things I shouldn't, or at least think them. So a lack of patience can lead to sin. But it's more than that.

Patience is about control. If I am uncomfortable with myself, I will try to control people and things around me to make me feel safe again. If I have relinquished control or expect the unexpected, on a holiday for example, then I am quite happy to go with the flow.

If I am impatient, I want to be in control, but I am angry because that control is slipping.

Sometimes it's hard to be patient with God. When praying for a loved one to come back to Christ or for opportunities to minister or waiting for the church to grow, or even hoping for a cure—we often give up or get angry. It just seems like it will never happen. But God brings about amazing, unexpected results in His own time. Don't give up. Keep praying and working. Sometimes the seeds you plant will only grow years later.

When I was younger, I prayed God would show me what to do with my life. I was impatient. I wanted to know. And the answer took years. But the result was better than I could have expected.

Joseph went from the dungeon to second in the land. God's timing is perfect. Are you willing to be patient and give Him full control? God's peace passes understanding. Give Him control and follow where He leads.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Adventist Record.

A hard lesson

Recently, I found myself sitting next to Fred in a Sabbath School class. After the class finished discussing the lesson, I happened to ask him how long he had been a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. He replied that he had been an Adventist since he was 16, but not always a Christian.

"There was a time when I pretty much lost my way. I found myself focusing on all the faults I found in people in the Church. I took my eye off Jesus," he said. He told me how he allowed other people to set the agenda for his faith. Their behaviour, their decisions and their way of life all became the benchmark for him and he became just plain disillusioned.

"I just did not get it," he said. "Can you believe that I let my perceptions of how others should be acting rob me of what should have been the best years of my life and relationship with Jesus?" Then he added, "I was just plain stupid."

Providentially, Fred found his feet again and his Lord. He has been enjoying many years of strong involvement with his church family. But he will never be able to get back those wasted years, and he will never forget the hard lessons he had to learn because he let the failures of others determine his own decisions.

A hard lesson to learn. It's a shame that there seem to be so many "Freds" around!



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



Hero or villain?

A review of the Manus Island riots has found that a PNG Salvation Army worker struck the first blow in the attack that killed Iranian asylum seeker Reza Barati. The Salvation Army has denied the claim, calling the accused man a 'hero', saying he was actually defending asylum seekers from the violence. —*Sydney Morning Herald*



Inundated

ADRA is hard at work in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia after devastating floods killed more than 50 people in and forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands. ADRA Croatia has distributed more than 100 tons of emergency supplies. ADRA Serbia is helping clean up mud and debris from roads and houses. —*tedNEWS*



Say no to tobacco

The World Health Organisation is calling for tobacco taxes to be raised, saying that a 10% tax increase would cause a 4 to 8 per cent reduction in tobacco consumption. The Adventist church has supported increasing tobacco taxes since at least 1996 and continues to run programs designed to stop smoking. — *World Health Organisation*



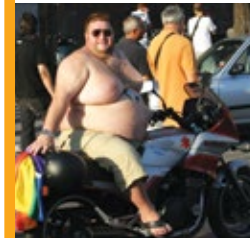
Simple solution

The Anglican PWRDF aid organisation has been awarded for a program that helps provide bicycle and boat ambulances to remote communities in Mozambique, Burundi and Bangladesh. The basic transport means heavily pregnant women don't need to attempt the long walk to a health clinic at the time when they can least manage it. —*Mission Network News*



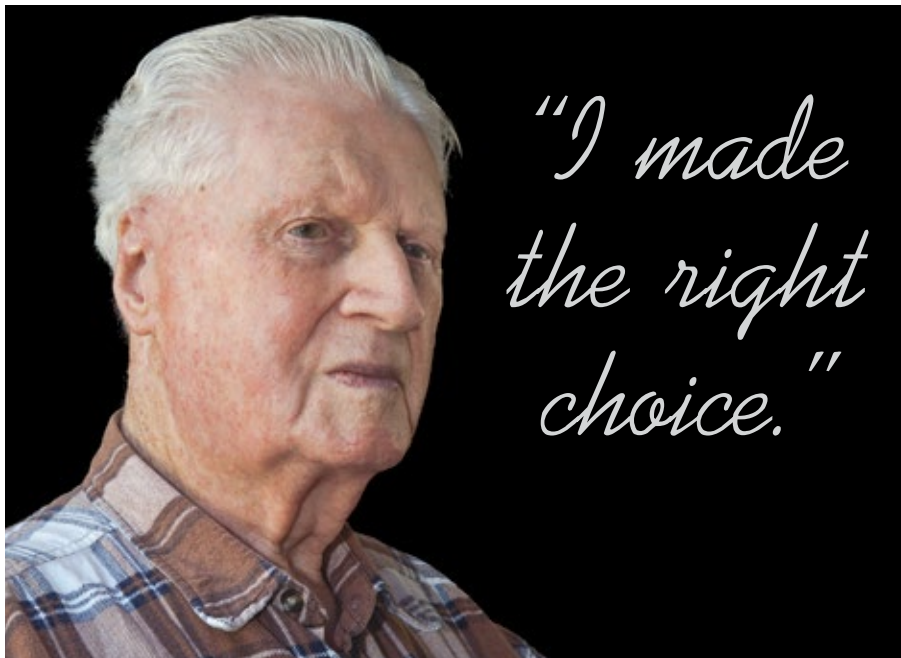
Free treatment

Around 600 Adventist medical volunteers set up two 3-day intensive health care projects in the San Francisco area, providing free dentistry, eye care, minor surgery, massage and wholistic lifestyle advice to nearly 3000 patients. Many patients accepted the offer of prayer. Organisers say there's a clear need for further similar projects. —*Pacific Union Recorder*



Survival of the fittest

Research shows 6 out of 10 Aussie and Kiwi adults are overweight. Australia and New Zealand are ranked 30th and 23rd out of 188 countries. Health experts say junk food is the problem and are calling for a reduction in sugar, salt and fat in processed food, and tighter advertising restrictions. —*The Guardian*



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Care with Love and Dignity

ACA awarded for outstanding service

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Australia's peak body for member-owned and not-for-profit private health insurers has recognised the Adventist Church's ACA Health Benefits Fund for its outstanding performance.

In addition to receiving the prestigious Chairman's Award for Overall Performance, ACA also earned awards for Member Communication and Overall Member Satisfaction Improvement in the 2014 Health Insurance Restricted and Regional Membership Association of Australia (HIRMAA) Customer Satisfaction awards.

ACA manager Jody Burgoyne said she was delighted to receive the awards and praised the commitment of ACA staff for going above and beyond the call of duty in looking after the needs of members. "As the only church-based fund in Australia, we really do care about our members," she said. "I am so pleased at the recognition that our team

has earned as it is an acknowledgment of the enormous effort they make."

HIRMAA chairman Brad Joyce and CEO Matthew Koce presented the awards to Ms Burgoyne and CEO Matthew Koce during the HIRMAA Members General meeting in Canberra on May 14.

"ACA is a leader when it comes to providing health insurance and as a member of HIRMAA, reflects the high values common to all of our member funds," Mr Koce said. ". . . these awards are a clear demonstration of ACA's outstanding commitment to delivering on the expectations of members." —*Matthew Koce/Matthew Johnson*



The ACA health team.

New motorbikes for remote mission work

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Seven motorbikes were donated to the Adventist Church in Vanuatu recently, with Mission secretary Simon Luke receiving keys to the bikes at the ASCO Motors dealership in Port Vila.

The 100CC Yamaha GA motorbikes were donated through a partnership between Vanuatu Mission, ASCO Motors and retired South Queensland Conference pastor David Lawson.

Pastor Lawson donated seven similar motorbikes seven years ago, with local ministers using them to reach areas of Vanuatu where transport is difficult.

"We praise God for the team effort of David Lawson, the South Queensland Conference,

ASCO Motors together with Vanuatu Mission," Mr Luke said.

More than 100 motorbikes have been provided to Adventist pastors ministering in remote areas of Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands since 2006.—*Jean-Pierre Niptik*



Pastor David Lawson (r) hands over the keys.

Breathing, blinking mannequins help hone skills

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Nursing and medical students at the Sydney Adventist Hospital (San) will be able to practise their skills on state-of-the-art medical mannequins, which simulate breathing, talking and even giving birth.

International experts in simulated healthcare scenarios joined San specialist Dr Adam Osomanski for a training workshop at the San Clinical Education Centre, situated on the hospital's Wahroonga campus, on May 15.

San doctors and nurses participated in programmed scenarios including birthing experiences and resuscitation, with the mannequins simulating human reactions and requiring treatment using a range of technical medical skills.

The staff who participated in the workshop are trainers of medical students at the Sydney Adventist Hospital Clinical School of The University of Sydney and nursing students at Avondale College of Higher Education.

The medical mannequins, known as "SimMan 3G" and

"SimMom", are silicon latex and simulate human responses. They take breaths, blink, bleed, sweat and talk, and are designed to acclimatise students to working on their own after completing their training. Students can even simulate taking blood and setting up intravenous lines, or amputation.

The Clinical Education Centre is a collaborative project of Adventist HealthCare and the Commonwealth and NSW governments. It was made possible due to funding made available by Health Workforce Australia and supported by the NSW Government.—*Leisa O'Connor*



Training session with the medical mannequins.

Making a

difference

in their world . . .



Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) offers a range of free services to members. It operates an audio library of denominational titles, the *Signs of the Times and Record*, and the Sabbath School quarterly, and has a range of large-print resources, including Bible correspondence courses.

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Seven ministers ordained at Big Camp

Stuarts Point, New South Wales

Seven ministers were ordained into the gospel ministry in front of a packed Big Tent on the first Sabbath of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference's Big Camp, held at Stuarts Point, April 18-26.

Those ordained were Michael Chapman (associate Youth Ministries director for the NNSW Conference), Adam Cinzio (Glen Innes/Inverell churches), Horace Evans (Bellbrook/South Kempsey churches), Rick Hergenhan (Youth Ministries director for the NNSW Conference), Peter Howard (Murwillumbah/Ocean Shores churches), Graham Stewart (Gloucester/Wingham churches) and Peter Watts (Lakeside church/Conference evangelist). Their families were also welcomed into the ministry, with the important contribution they are making acknowledged.

After a welcome by Esther Quinlin, in which the traditional owners of the land were acknowledged, Australian Union Conference president Pastor Chester Stanley gave a prayer of blessing over the service. This was followed by a video of the ordination candidates explaining "How God Got My Attention," which was full of moving, insightful and amusing anecdotes about how God spoke into the ministries of the candidates.

South Pacific Division president Pastor Barry Oliver gave the ordination charge, reminding the candidates that they were to minister as a servant, a shepherd, a watchman and a teacher. NNSW Conference president Pastor Justin Lawman preached a short sermon about "Answering the Call" as part of the service.

"It was fantastic to see so many guys ordained together," Pastor Lawman said. "It's something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. It's great to have such a good team working together in our conference too."

When asked why ordinations were conducted at Big Camp, Pastor Lawman said the Conference "wanted other pastors and the wider church community to be able to acknowledge the calling" of the newly ordained ministers.

"I personally like it when other ministers can witness and support ordinations," he said, "and it provides an opportunity for a bigger range of those considering ministry to be able to see it—they can see how God is calling them through the ministry of others, and their decision can be fortified. It's also a good chance for church members to come together in support of our ministry team." —Adele Nash/NorthPoint



The seven with their ordination certificates.

REVIVED BY HIS WORD

June 21—July 5, 2014

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

21 – Jer. 51	25 – Lam. 3	29 – Ezek. 2	2 – Ezek. 5
22 – Jer. 52	26 – Lam. 4	30 – Ezek. 3	3 – Ezek. 6
23 – Lam. 1	27 – Lam. 5	July	4 – Ezek. 7
24 – Lam. 2	28 – Ezek. 1	1 – Ezek. 4	5 – Ezek. 8



Adventist education quality in the spotlight

by James Stanidsh

Australian Education Minister Christopher Pyne was there. So was Opposition spokeswoman on Education Kate Ellis. In fact, more than 40 MPs were gathered in the Great Hall of the Australian Federal Parliament for the Christian Schools National Policy Forum dinner. Adventist Schools Australia (ASA) director Dr Daryl Murdoch and associate director Lyndon Chapman also attended.

The two-day conference focused on the federally adopted National School Improvement Tool. Dr Murdoch gave a thorough presentation to the conference on the new Quality Adventist Schools (QAS) improvement framework. "The response was outstanding. The Adventist school system is seen as a leader in implementing a comprehensive quality schools improvement program," Dr Murdoch says. "The interest is strong, in part, because our program exceeds national standards."

Dr Murdoch has been invited to present at a meeting of the NSW Association of Independent Schools, the board of a secular private school system, and is working with a number of Christian systems to explain the Adventist approach to achieving outstanding educational experiences.

"The Quality Adventist Schools improvement framework provides principals and teachers with a tool to assess their progress across a broad range of school functions," Dr Murdoch explains. "It's designed to empower schools to conduct professional conversations and reflections regarding how they are doing currently and to then lay plans for improvement. It's a 'bottom up' initiative where ownership of change strategies originates from parents, teachers and the school boards."

"We began the improvement process after thoroughly exploring the educational experiences in Finland, Singapore and Scotland," Mr Chapman says. "Finland and Singapore score at or near the very top in educational outcomes among OECD nations. Education Scotland has been outstanding in improving the educational experience of its system. We have drawn from all these models to inform our approach."

Dr John Collier, a leader of a large, prestigious Christian

school, talked openly about the struggle of maintaining a school's Christian identity. He used the metaphor of cake. In many Christian schools, Christianity is like a thin veneer of icing that never permeates through to the heart of the cake. He went on to note that no Christian school can be complacent. Harvard University, for example, was once a devoutly Christian institution. But through a process of one small compromise at a time, it became a thoroughly secular entity.

"We are very aware of the slow drift through compromise," Dr Murdoch says. "That is why the first four components of our Quality Adventist Schools program focus specifically on the spiritual mission of the school, with the first being fostering the special character of Adventist education. If our schools aren't different; if they aren't uniquely Adventist; if Jesus isn't the centre of all we do, then there is no point having them. So we are determined to keep our spiritual mission at the core of all that we do."

Adventist Identity is the first of four domains in the improvement framework and consists itself of four components:

- ▶ Special character
- ▶ Vision, mission and values
- ▶ Sharing faith
- ▶ Pastoral care

"As each school reflects on how well they are doing—as they determine how they know this in each area—and then identify what they intend to do about it, ASA expects and the research suggests that the collaboration required to come to these conclusions will support positive future directions to emerge for each campus," Dr Murdoch says.

"The exposure of the Quality Adventist Schools improvement framework in this Christian schools conference has been applauded," Mr Chapman adds. "It's exciting that every Adventist school in Australia is engaged in the implementation of the QAS improvement journey."

Information on the conference provided by Dr Murdoch and Mr Chapman.



The man who died Thrice

by Jarrod Stackelroth

HE SHOULDN'T BE HERE. BEFORE THE AGE OF 20, Dennis Perry should have died three times. Yet his firm handshake testifies to the fact that he is still very much alive. And there are many people in Papua New Guinea who are very glad he is. You see, Dennis has devoted his life in retirement to helping those who cannot help themselves. With his former work colleague, David Woolley, Dennis co-founded Operation Food for Life (OFFL).

OFFL works with the poorest and most disadvantaged. It is relief work, feeding those with no access to food and clean water, taking food to those in prison and those in hospital, patients with severe disabilities, TB or HIV AIDS.

"When I give a wheelchair or a frame, I see myself there," Dennis says. "All they need is crutches and it can change their life." When Dennis was only four or five, he was struck down with encephalitis, an infection of the brain. His recovery in hospital and intense rehabilitation took more than 10 years. Even though doctors managed to save his life, he only slowly regained full function.

Soon after he was rehabilitated, Dennis was abducted after school one day. Perhaps a little naïve, after spending most of his life in hospital, Dennis was lured by sweets. He suffered terrible things and was left for dead in remote bushland. Stripped and exposed, Dennis barely survived the night. By some miracle he was found the next day by hunters, who thought he was a dead kangaroo.

Dennis died on the way to hospital but somehow again he survived. "I didn't really know God back then but God knew me. He kept me alive for His purpose," he says. With such a traumatic start, you could forgive Dennis for seeking out a life of comfort and avoiding criminals. But you find him in prisons, serving and ministering to some of PNG's most dangerous criminals.

"My mess is my message." Dennis smiles. "After all God has done for me, I just have to share it. It's not me doing anything. It's all up to God."

You can tell that Dennis uses some of these phrases a lot. In the mouths of others, they might sound rehearsed or

clichéd but Dennis says them with genuine belief, the tone of a man who has seen firsthand the power of God change lives. He's quick to deflect any praise however.

"I didn't even finish school. None of this is me, it's all God through me. I don't do anything special. We just do what Jesus did, feed people physically before we feed them spiritually. He saved us to serve!"

And then he throws out another one of those quotable quotes, that I later find out is OFFL's motto. "Our passion is compassion, witnessed by our actions".

Compassion? I've been to the rubbish dump and seen where OFFL does its work firsthand. Compassion is definitely one emotion the place brought up. But it also came with fear, unease, nervousness and a heightened sense of being well outside my comfort zone. Yet for Dennis and the committed volunteers of OFFL, they allow compassion to drive them; the love they have for those they help outweighs all other considerations.

I know, I know. We're only up to two near death experiences. To help him recover from his traumatic kid-

napping, Dennis's father took him on a holiday. As he was running up to a counter with a heavy glass bottle, Dennis tripped and fell into the counter, smashing the bottle and suffering a deep wound. Dennis lost so much blood that, again, the angel of death was at his door.

But God always has a plan. Volunteers now provide physical and spiritual support to the poor and forgotten, giving each one dignity and hope. The Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy school that OFFL helped establish educates children to break the cycle of poverty. They count national politicians as their patrons. All because a boy who nearly died has dedicated his life to others.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36-37.

Visit www.offl.org.au for more information.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of *Adventist Record*.

I don't do anything special. We just do what Jesus did. . .



Worship in a Box

Adventurers from Nunawading and Lilydale churches (Vic) recently packed 30 "Worship in a Box" kits to be sent across the South Pacific islands. Children enjoyed decorating the boxes and filling them with Bible-themed toys, crafts and music CDs. "Worship in a Box" is part of the South Pacific Division Children's Ministries "Serve Him IN Everything" (SHINE) project. —*Katherine Darroch/IntraVic*



Pastor drops in

Pastor Brock Goodall literally dropped in at Macquarie College (NSW) on May 19, parachuting in for the first day of the junior school's Fun Learning About God (FLAG) week. The theme for the week was "Wilderness Escape—Where God Guides and Provides", with Pastor Goodall sharing stories of how God guided the children of Israel on their journey through the wilderness. —*Macquarie College newsletter*



Flying high

Operation Food For Life (OFFL) was featured in the April-May 2014 edition of *Paradise*—the in-flight magazine of Air Niugini. The three-page spread highlights several OFFL projects in Papua New Guinea, including the organisation's work at the Baruni Dump in Port Moresby and the success of the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School. To read the feature, visit <offl.org.au>. —*Record staff*



New beginnings

Tu'apa Lapale 'Anau and her three children—Deborah, Commontime and Fisi'itotoa ['Ahotau]—were baptised at Garden City Fellowship (GCF) in Christchurch, New Zealand, on May 17. The 'Anau family are the first people baptised from GCF's Tongan congregation, which meets weekly at Aranui High School. Bob Damodran and Steven Chong, from the English congregation, were also baptised. The six newly baptised members attended The Last Empire series in Christchurch in August/September last year. They began doing Bible studies with Pastors Saiosi Kei and Ben Rea shortly after. —*Ben Rea/Record staff*



Toowoomba pastor preaches in Thailand

Asia-Pacific International University (AIU) in Thailand recently invited Glenvale Adventist church (Qld) pastor Casey Wolverton to speak to its 600-plus students and staff members. Despite being an Adventist institute, the majority of the students at AIU are Buddhist. "Speaking about Christ to people who don't know much about him was challenging—all the more so because I had to do it through a translator," said Pastor Wolverton. "But many people were praying for this event and I am grateful for their support. I could see the Holy Spirit at work, especially by the end of the week." —*Casey Wolverton*



Making a stand

There was much to be excited about at Christchurch Adventist School (NZ) at the end of May, with 26 students requesting baptisms at the conclusion of the school's Week of Worship. Forty-three students also asked to begin Bible studies. The theme for the week was "Hope", with Adventist Youth Ministries associate director Litiana Turner serving as guest speaker. —*Tracey Ling*



Silent sermon

John Dose delivered a sermon without words at Raymond Terrace church (NSW) in May. The theme of the presentation was "The Bridge", with Mr Dose—donning a workman's dustcoat and hat—using carpentry tools and other props to show how the cross is a bridge between earth and heaven. Not a sound was heard throughout the sermon, except for some sawing and hammering. —*Mary Fedorow*



Revive on TV

Jeremy Dixon, founder of Auckland's Revive Cafés, made a guest appearance on TV ONE's *Good Morning* in May, presenting a recipe for a "Revive Raw Salad". Mr Dixon also appeared on the show in March, providing a demonstration for a chickpea-base pizza. Mr Dixon's cookbooks are available at Adventist Book Centres. For more information about Revive Café, visit <www.revive.co.nz>. —*Record staff*

Group dynamics

by David Cowell

TEACHERS AND PREACHERS, HAVE YOU EVER wondered how you could make your Sabbath School or sermon more relevant and engaging? I've spent 40 years in the teaching profession. And during those years I learned a few techniques to not only keep interest, but also effectively convey the substance of the material. One of those methods, "group dynamics", I've transferred from the classroom to the Sabbath School room to great impact.

Here's an example of how it works. In Sabbath School, each member was supplied with a question with five possible answers. But the answers were not multiple choice. Rather, every answer was correct and the participants were asked to choose the answer that impressed them and share with the group their reasons or comments. This is a non-threatening way to involve every member of the group.

What does this look like specifically? In a recent class we used the following question: What difference did these recent events make in Peter's life? (All these answers are correct, choose ONE that impresses you and share why with your group.)

- a. "Again he denied it, salting his denial with an oath."*
- b. "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." "Feed my lambs."
- c. "And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us."
- d. "The Chief Priest said, 'Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name?'"
- e. "Peter said, 'God set Him on high at His side, Prince and Saviour, to give Israel the gift of a changed life and sins forgiven. And we are witnesses to these things.'"

Open-ended questions with multiple answers are just as effective during sermons. Particularly if the congregation is asked to share their answers with each other periodically during the sermon. Imagine how engaging that is! No more naps, no more zoning out, no more disengagement—what the pastor is preaching is directly relevant to me, and I will soon have a chance to explain why to my friends.

The group dynamics approach encourages people to make a decision on a spiritual matter, then to join in the discussion. It gives the teacher or preacher the opportunity to move around to each group, listen to each person and join in the discussion. It also draws out members of a class or congregation who may be generally reticent to participate. When there is no right or wrong answer, even the tentative feel confident to answer.

Not surprisingly, there is educational research that supports employing group dynamics:

- ▶ "The typical small-group discussion can serve intellectual, emotional and social purposes. Emotionally, the participants may have some sort of personal involvement in the issue they are discussing, making it important to them" (Brewer, 1997; Brewer et al, 2001).
- ▶ "Socially, group discussion builds a sense of cohesion and trust with one another" (Lee & Ertmer, 2006; Sweet & Michaelsen, 2007).
- ▶ "A well-conducted group discussion will end in acceptance of different opinions, respect for well-supported beliefs and improved problem-solving skills. Overall, it will promote the sharing of information and all members will gain insight concerning the thoughts of others before reaching consensus on a topic" (Young, 2007).

In a world where we are constantly told we are right or wrong; where the opinions of the strong dominate those of the weak; and where providing our viewpoint may come at personal cost, providing a safe environment where people can come and not just listen, but also express their unique perspective is of tremendous value. And, it turns out, when we give people the respect that comes with listening to their voice, we substantially increase our sense of community, our long-term learning and engagement with the material. And isn't that what every preacher and every teacher wants?

* Texts from The Message Bible

David Cowell is an educator who attends Fox Valley Adventist Church, Sydney, NSW.



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Back to basics

Recently, Australia received a worrying result on a scorecard comparing 15 countries for the physical activity their children undertake. With a score of D-minus, Australia came second last, while New Zealand and Mozambique topped the list. Less than 20 per cent of Australian children aged 5 to 17 reached the recommended minimum 60 minutes of moderate exercise every day.

Despite the fact that Australia does well for organised sport and performed at the top of the group for facilities and environment, Dr Natasha Schranz, who managed the Australian leg of the study, said this was not enough, with children needing to do sport more than two or three times a week.

In response to the results, Associate Professor Trevor Shilton of the Heart Foundation said Australian children are getting too much screen time and not enough exercise. "They sit in cars to get to school. They sit at school. They sit getting home from school. And then they sit in front of screens and while doing homework," he said.

It's a reminder that as we move forward, we should not ignore the things from the past that provided so much benefit. Another key finding of the study was that every developing country got better results than Australia. Dr Schranz explains why: "The underdeveloped countries are racing ahead because children have to walk and do chores around the house." Whether it's walking down to the shops rather than driving or going to the park instead of watching a DVD on the weekend, we need to start remembering that we have simple opportunities for physical activity every day.



Cannellini bean and zucchini triangles

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 30 minutes Serves: 4

- 2 cups grated zucchini**
- 1 small onion, finely diced**
- 310g cannellini beans, drained and rinsed**
- ¼ cup grated reduced-fat cheese**
- ½ cup self-raising white flour**
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**

1. Place zucchini, onion, cannellini beans, cheese and flour in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. Combine eggs and oil. Stir into zucchini mixture.
3. Pour mixture into a greased and lined 17 x 27cm lamington tin.
4. Bake in a moderate oven, 180°C, for 30 minutes or until golden. Cut into 16 triangles.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
1040kJ (250cal). Protein 11g. Fat 15g. Carbohydrate 22g. Sodium 21mg. Potassium 313mg. Calcium 16mg. Fibre 4g.

Call and arrange to 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). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND

by Josh Dye

Editor's Note: The apostle James has something odd to say. Rather than pure religion being about elaborate services or even particular rituals, he tells us pure religion is about helping the vulnerable in their time of need (James 1:27). We might be tempted to disregard his counsel, but we find Isaiah says the same thing (Isaiah 58). And then there's Jesus' description of the sheep and the goats, which is pretty hard to ignore (Matthew 25). However, all of that turns into irrelevant aspirations if we don't apply the principles to our world today. But how can we?

Australia and Papua New Guinea are, at this very moment, holding innocent people—accused of nothing other than seeking refuge—in deplorable conditions. Surely, as Christians, we cannot in good conscience turn a blind eye. Surely, if the words of the gospel are to have any meaning at all, we cannot be silent. "Do not forget to entertain strangers," Hebrews 13:2 tells us. But our societies aren't entertaining strangers; we're brutalising them. And if we have any doubt, Josh Dye's confronting piece below lays out some of the facts that are leaking out of Manus Island.

JUNGLE COVERS MOST OF MANUS ISLAND, WHICH IS just 100km long and 30km wide. Currently a PNG naval base and previously the site of an Australian World War II base, Manus is home to about 50,000 people. The island is also home to one of "Australia's Regional Processing Centres", used to detain asylum seekers who arrive by boat. This centre, resurrected under the Labor government in 2012, is the same one that was used between 2001 and 2004 during the Howard government's Pacific Solution.

Recently, the centre went under the microscope following the death of 23-year-old Iranian man Reza Berati in February.

Mr Berati was killed during violent confrontations between locals, camp staff and asylum seekers. It is alleged that Mr Berati was thrown from a balcony before being beaten to death. According to PNG police, he died from a blood clot in his brain following multiple blows to his head.

Liz Thompson, a whistleblower and former Manus Island migration agent, said there had been protests every day for

months leading up to the tragedy, including demands for a resolution to the indefinite detention.

Ms Thompson's role at the centre, where she worked in August 2013 and February this year, was to assist detainees putting together claims for asylum, a process she described as "fake". She was the first person to publicly resign from Manus Island following Mr Berati's death.

According to Ms Thompson, asylum seekers became upset on Sunday, February 16 after being told by Australian Immigration officials they would be resettled in PNG, despite PNG having no provisions for resettlement. "Protests started up again on Sunday night and were brutally suppressed by the riot squad," she said.

Contrary to reports that the asylum seekers initiated the violence, Ms Thompson believes otherwise: "What has been described to me by detainees is that on Sunday they were attacked . . . On Monday, many of my young clients had broken hands, defensive wounds from shielding their heads from rocks thrown by guards."

Ms Thompson described the incidents as "a coordinated

assault by security staff and locals". "Monday night has been described to me as an organised attack: the attackers went room to room in some compounds; guys were attacked in their rooms as well as outside of them."

Azita Bokan, an Iranian translator working for the Australian Immigration Department at the centre, was the first person to speak out about the attacks, leading to her suspension by the department. She described the scene as "horrific" and alleged that PNG locals, including employees of security contractor G4S, initiated the attacks.

"There was blood everywhere. The number injured was horrific; people with massive head injuries, at least one with a slashed throat," Ms Bokan said, adding that detainees had only plastic chairs to shield themselves.

Since the outbreak of violence, Ms Thompson holds grave concerns for the asylum seekers remaining at the centre. "People are in despair," she said. "They are frightened and sleeping in shifts, keeping guard over their sleeping quarters in fear of another coordinated assault."

Another source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said eyewitnesses to the murder had received death threats and were fearful for their lives. Some detainees have asked for protective custody, but are yet to receive it.

Ms Thompson concurs: "Those who witnessed Reza's death fear reprisal.

The killers know the witnesses very well. While [the witnesses] live with no protection from reprisals from outside the centre and under the threat of being resettled in PNG, they don't feel safe to speak."

The anonymous source described the mental health of detainees as "absolutely dire" and said there had been multiple suicide attempts, instances of self-harm and mass hunger strikes.

While the Australian Government is conducting an inquiry, it has refused to make the results public and Australians will be denied the opportunity to learn the truth about the violence.

At the time of writing, no arrests had been made in relation to Mr Berati's death. Two human rights inquiries into Manus Island, set up by PNG judge Justice David Cannings, have been blocked. Ms Thompson said the level of interference by the Australian Government into the inquiry was "extraordinary".

"Australia is responsible for what happened," she said. "The [detainees] want that acknowledged and they don't want to stay on PNG."

Ms Thompson is not only concerned for the detainees' safety but also about their living conditions. "The conditions are extremely hot and humid, disease spreads easily [and] whole compounds have zero internet access so they can barely keep in contact with family. Guys spend hours

every day lining up for everything in the hot sun."

Detainees are stripped of their dignity, too. "They don't have a change of clothes—they met with us in their pyjamas, which some people found deeply humiliating," Ms Thompson said.

The conditions described mirror those detailed in an Amnesty International report into the detention centre from November last year. The report asserted that asylum seekers in one compound were denied sufficient water, with each detainee receiving just 500ml per day.

In an example of the punitive rules in the centre, detainees are only allowed to go on excursions outside if they are wearing covered shoes. But despite requests for covered shoes, no-one receives them.

However, the issue is not the conditions the asylum seekers endure; it is the existence of detention centres in the first place. "Those inside the camps don't want nicer cages—they want freedom," Ms Thompson said.

Refugees are entitled to Australia's protection under the Refugee Convention, which Australia was one of the first countries to ratify in 1954. Consistently, over 90 per cent of asylum seekers arriving by boat are found to be genuine refugees in need of protection. The fact that just one asylum seeker from Manus Island has

been processed since the centre reopened in 2012 is both a travesty and a disgrace.

Successive government policies of mandatory detention have created a system where people are simultaneously punished and denied their rights. "Offshore processing is inhumane, deliberately cruel and a breach of our obligations under the Refugee Convention," Ms Thompson said.

The tough, uncompromising policy on asylum seekers only exists because a majority of Australians either support it or don't make enough noise criticising it.

Ms Thompson's advice on how to achieve change is simple: "[Find] a way, where you are, to do something practical to dismantle the camps." ➤

Interview with Liz Thompson & interview with anonymous source (identity protected)
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/someones-son-someones-brother-reza-barati-an-architect-who-had-hopes-for-a-better-life-20140228-33r4n.html>
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-04/g4s-employee-contradicts-png-police-report-into-manus-riot/5295740>
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/12/manus-island-unrest-sparked-riot-squad-preparation-weeks-before-asylum-death>
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/03/05/truth-or-not-about-manus-island-riot>
 Amnesty International Manus Island report pdf
<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/f/rhp-time.php>
<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/overwhelming-majority-of-boat-arrivals-deemed-to-be-refugees-20130519-2juty.html>
<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/manus-island-violence-interpretor-claims-detainees-attacked-by-locals-there-was-blood-everywhere-20140219-3315g.html>

Josh Dye is currently studying for his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communication at the University of Technology, Sydney.

The fact that just one asylum seeker from Manus Island has been processed since the centre reopened in 2012 is both a travesty and a disgrace.



The Checklist

by Vania Chew

WHAT QUALITIES ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A future spouse?

"Single, male and breathing," 38-year-old Rebecca* replies promptly. "I used to have a really long checklist when I was in my twenties and early thirties. Now I've narrowed it down to those three."

"What if he's single, male, breathing and has a lot of emotional baggage?" I question.

"We can work through it," Rebecca says confidently. "We

can go to a therapist."

"What if he's single, male, breathing and a compulsive gambler?"

"I would send him to Gamblers Anonymous," she says. "Also, maybe he gambles because he's lonely and he'll stop once we're married."

I begin to wonder if anything can dissuade Rebecca from her goal.

"What if he's single, male, breathing and doesn't believe

in God?" She pauses. Have I finally stumped her?

"Well," she says slowly, "as long as I could still go to church, I guess that's OK."

Natalie* on the other hand has no intention of shortening her checklist. She has been waiting for her prospective husband a long time. The 36-year-old is not going to lower her standards now.

"He has to be a dedicated Adventist," she says firmly. "That's not negotiable."

"What does 'dedicated Adventist' mean?" I ask.

"You know, he's involved in church, has daily devotions, keeps the commandments, believes in the Spirit of Prophecy, can preach, give Bible studies, play an instrument . . ."

"Does he have to be attractive and intelligent too?"

"Yes, of course—that's a given!" Natalie exclaims. "Plus he needs a 9-5 job."

Well, that cuts out policemen, fire-fighters, shift workers, pastors . . .

"Someone who can cook and do housework, speak more than one language and is athletic. And he needs to make enough money so I can quit my job."

She's not kidding.

Maybe I'm being cynical, but I feel like Natalie's pool of possibilities is shrinking by the minute.

And it's not just the ladies who have checklists.

"She needs to have a sense of humour," says 27-year-old Harry*. "I can't imagine marrying someone who was always serious. Someone who can cook because I can't. She has to care about her appearance and put effort into looking good. Someone who has an adventurous spirit and likes to travel. I hate it when people are late, so she'd have to be punctual."

Interestingly enough, I haven't yet met a man whose checklist is restricted to "single", "female" and "breathing"! But I have met a lot of people, male and female, who would rather marry a person who raises red flags than never get married at all. They're tired of waiting. They're tired of being alone.

For the most part, I personally appreciate and take advantage of the freedom that comes with being single. But occasionally I do find myself thinking about what my future holds—usually after weddings and visits with the relatives.

It helps me to remember Abraham and his decision to take God's plans into his own hands. Was God able to bless Ishmael in spite of the iffy decisions that brought about his birth? Sure. But could a lot of pain and heartache been saved if Abraham had chosen to wait patiently and trust in God's promises? Definitely.

As for checklists with too many characteristics, one thing stands out. Now there's nothing wrong with having preferences. But these checklists are often more than just prefer-

ences—they list non-negotiable characteristics that their future spouse must have. For the most part, they describe perfect men and perfect women—you'll never find "leaves dirty dishes in the sink" or "tends to forget important dates" on the list.

But guess what? Perfect men and perfect women don't exist.

Just ask the newlyweds who are living together for the first time. Suddenly he realises she doesn't look like a model at every moment of the day and suddenly she realises he's a bit of a slob. Uh-oh. The honeymoon is officially over!

"What about you?" I asked Natalie. "Have you got a checklist for yourself?"

She looked confused. "What do you mean?"

"Well, what qualities do you have that would make someone want to marry you?"

Another thing I've noticed about checklists—the people with high standards don't necessarily set the same standards for themselves. Should you be aiming for Jennifer Lawrence if you're an ordinary Joe Schmo or Ryan Gosling if you're a regular Plain Jane? Is it fair to expect your spouse to be a spiritual leader if your own spiritual walk isn't a priority?

When it comes to perfection, there is ultimately only one Person who can meet and demand the highest standards—and that's Jesus.

Now I'm not advocating the "Jesus is my Boyfriend" concept. But if the average checklist is an indication of what people expect from their future partner, they'll soon become discouraged and disillusioned. Searching for a perfect husband or wife to fulfil your life isn't going to satisfy you. Only a perfect Saviour can.

Funnily enough, He doesn't demand the highest standards from us before we can enter into a relationship with Him. Our greatest attempts at righteousness are just filthy rags. Jesus asks us to come to Him just as we are: miserable, wretched and broken. He offers to heal us, mend us and carry our burdens. Having a relationship with Jesus isn't about what we can do for Him, simply because we can't do anything for Him.

When it comes to our love lives, settling for "single, male and breathing" isn't the answer and neither is expecting standards of perfection from an imperfect human being.

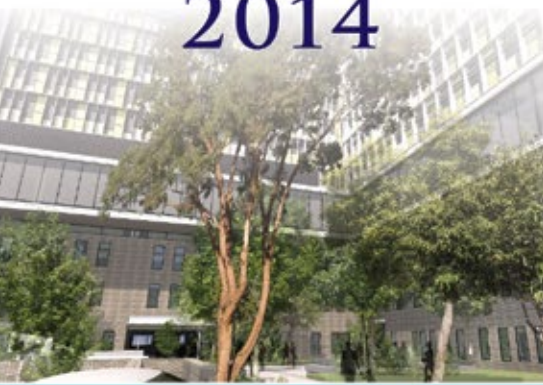
Perhaps it's time we change the way we view things—not just potential romantic relationships but also our relationships with family and friends. Maybe it's not about what they can do for us. Maybe it's about what we can do for them.

* Names have been changed.

For the most part, I personally appreciate and take advantage of the freedom that comes with being single. But . . .

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.

SAN HOMECOMING 2014



**Saturday 16 and
Sunday 17 August 2014**

Wahroonga Seventh Day
Adventist Church



A warm invitation to all nursing graduates, former and current staff, friends and family of the San. Join us for a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and reconnect with friends.

Saturday 16 August

- Sabbath School - Wahroonga Church
- Worship Service
- Engaging dinner with interviews, music and Hospital Developments - Fox Valley Community Centre

Sunday 17 August

- Embark on tours of our fascinating museum, the new state-of-the-art LW Clark Tower and Clinical Education Centre.

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R MY STORY

Fleur Duke

Though I hadn't had any connection with the difficulties confronting girls in the sex industry, I felt the call to reach into my area on the NSW Central Coast with God's love. "Lord," I said, "I have little experience and minimal education to qualify me but I am willing to answer your call. Use me." I spoke with my pastor husband and my teenage children, sharing the ache in my heart for these beautiful daughters of the King of Kings. My first practical step was to engage with others who were already ministering to prostitutes in Kings Cross (Sydney, NSW).



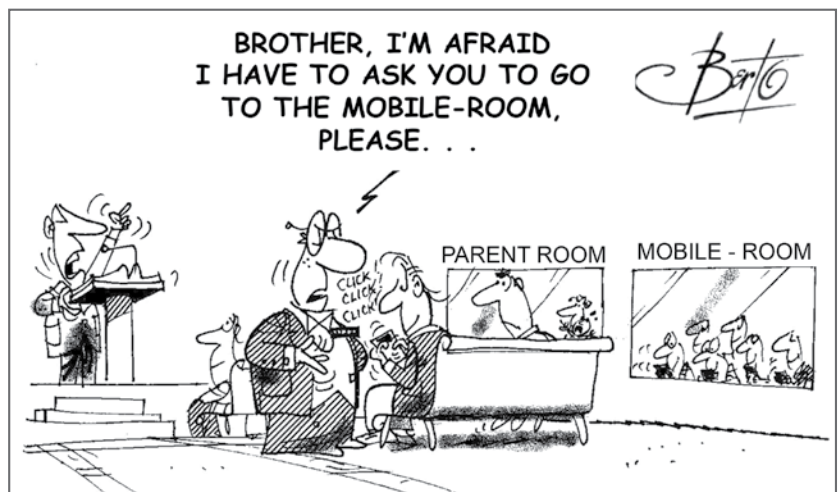
We started the Rahab Ministries outreach in February 2012, partnering with Rahab South Australia. The team of about 30 meets together and prays before and during our visits. Once a month each brothel is visited by a group of two or three of the girls on our team. We introduce ourselves and explain that we are Christians and we come to offer support through prayer and conversation, building relationship with the girls, offering Bible studies and English classes and leaving a contact card.

One response to this was, "Do you know where you are?" There is no confusion for the Rahab team as we talk and share our love for God and His care for every person we come in contact with. For our first Christmas the Rahab Ministries team set out with 30 large gift baskets. Each girl receiving her gift showed her emotion through tears and found it difficult to understand that this gift was for her and it was free. It was our privilege to pray with each one asking for protection and care for them and their families.

The reality for me is that each girl we meet could be your sister, daughter, friend, aunty or mother. In their souls they are calling out to be heard and respected. Their wish is for someone to remember they have real needs connected to their real names. Many of the girls have shared their longing for their home and family in China or Thailand. God's Holy Spirit speaks through the language barrier and His love reaches each one in their darkness.

I treasure the smile as the Rahab Ministries team is recognised at one of the brothels and a girl runs to receive her free gift with a Bible text and a copy of *The Father's Love Letter* DVD in her own language. All this topped off with a hug and a prayer shows that God has not forgotten her.

At first I thought our aim was to take God into these places, but it was not long before I realised that God was already there. My part in this journey is to meet Him in the women who have struggles just as I do. —Fleur Duke coordinates Rahab Ministries' work on the NSW Central Coast. For more information visit www.rahab.com.au.



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.

CHURCH CULTURE

Brian Lemin, NSW

My wife and I have done about eight years of mission service for the Church in Africa.

Samuel Pitapapa (Letters, May 31) is right: missionaries (and teachers are missionaries) often bring a religious colonialism to their work. It is easier to hide behind a power base than to trust those whom we are teaching, serving or converting.

Adventism is different in every country, particularly in various local customs that seem to have taken on the position of rules of faith. Why should people want to teach those we serve to be copies of whatever culture we come from is a mystery to me.

Granted, we might have every personal reason to believe that what we are teaching or doing is best practice and "good" for those recipients. However, it will not change the culture.

Regarding culturally divergent differences in the practice of our faith, if there is something that our culture is not ready to accept . . . don't accept it. Neither should we force that cultural difference onto the Church at large.

Finally, some examples of my colonial attitudes: I wore a full suit every Sabbath on the platform and perspired profusely, because I thought God wanted us to be dressed the best in church! We dressed school pupils in uniforms that represented my background rather than the culture of their country. I could go on.

I'm sure missionaries have the best intentions but the tendency towards colonial presentation of our teachings is very real.

UNCLEAN FOOD

Terry Bottrell, via email

Here are some short thoughts on "Should Adventists wear blue

tassels?" (Feature, May 31).

Sometimes our Adventist cultural interpretations of the Bible detract from the message of Scripture and lead us to miss out on the real messages being shared. Acts 15 is a beautiful example of opposing groups in the early church reaching a compromise on issues that are peripheral to salvation.

The article takes these verses and God's command to Noah about clean animals to propose that avoiding unclean meats is a minimum position for a Christian to avoid sin. You could just as well build an argument from God's command to Noah that we should still be sacrificing these animals and the statements in Acts 15 make no mention of unclean foods.

For the Christian, salvation is about a "new heart" not what goes into our stomachs. Finally, Paul clearly demonstrates in 1 Corinthians 10 that these commands are not set in stone. The command relating to "food sacrificed to idols" was not about food and it wasn't a sinful act to eat the food per se. The issue was more about the example you set to others by your association with idolatry. Unclean foods is a cultural practice not an issue that affects our relationship with God.

SINGLE MINDED

Daniel, via website

Great and very simply explained theology in "Should Adventists wear blue tassels?" (Feature, May 31). Much better than some of our older publications' explanations saying the law of Moses is nailed to the cross.

One thing: marriage is also pre-fall and therefore lifted up to a high position in the law. However, I also think that in our sex/romance-obsessed culture we often de-emphasise the

significance placed on a person choosing a life of singleness, in the NT especially. Both Paul and Jesus (themselves single) applaud those who choose a life consecrated to God alone.

SOLID TESTIMONY

Trevor Mawer, via Facebook

Commenting on "The (other) lost son" (Editorial, May 31). As an eleventh hour entry [to the Church] I find the testimony of those who have always followed their faith and the Lord of more weight than the "glamour worldly" testimony. It is the perseverance despite all the temptations, the sticking despite the distractions, that I find great value in. It gives me hope that I too can endure.

HOIST THE COLOURS

A E Hobbs, via website

One way to cure "Adventist amnesia" (Feature, May 17) is to reinstate the full and proper name to those churches, schools and institutions that have assumed a less prominent identity (eg "Christian school", "Adventist fellowship", "community church").

We are Seventh-day Adventists. Our name contains the essence of what distinguishes us from the world. It describes the characteristics of God's people and bears the signature of the message we need to be broadcasting throughout the world until the close of probation.

This is not a time to haul down our colours or be ashamed of our faith. We dishonour God if we hide the unique name He has given us. It embodies us as the remnant people who John describes as "they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

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RECORD REWIND

Lester Devine

Edith Graham

Treasurer and administrator Edith Graham was a leader in the early work of the Church in Australia.

Graham accepted the Adventist faith during a voyage from England to New Zealand. In 1895 she became treasurer to the forerunner of the Australasian Union Conference, continuing in that role for at least the first decade of the 20th century. In 1911 she became secretary-treasurer of the New Zealand Conference. While visiting the General Conference headquarters of the world Church in 1913, she was called to head up the Home Missions Department.

She died suddenly on July 15, 1918, just after being unanimously re-elected to her position at the General Conference.

Edith Graham's service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church illustrates the reality that in the pioneer years many women successfully held senior leadership roles.



Lester Devine is director emeritus of the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College of Higher Education.

OPINION POLL

Which
characteristic
would/do you most
appreciate in a
spouse?

- Sense of humour
- Shared interests
- Romantic
- A friend
- Adventurous

Visit record.net.au to vote.

HI KIDS!

Ten bridesmaids take their lamps and go to meet the bridegroom. Five of them have enough oil and five run out. The five that run out of oil run to get some more. It's so sad, they missed the wedding because they weren't ready.

Kids' School

MEMORY VERSE

1. watch 2. therefore 3. not 4. keep 5. now 6. the day 7. do 8. because 9. the hour. 10. you

Find the sad bridesmaids. Use the numbers to find the missing words.

_____ ,

 _____ or _____"
 Matthew 25:13

Find the happy bridesmaids. Use the numbers to find the missing words.

_____ ,

COMMUNITY MESSAGE



People in God's family can _____ be ready for Jesus to come.

unscramble this word and fill the blank

Declared clinically dead three times

Dennis Perry's story



How can one person go through so much trauma in their life and yet remain so consistently upbeat? Dennis Perry shares his story of pain and victory with Record InFocus host Kent Kingston. In his first interview, Dennis outlines his work with Operation Food for Life. The second focuses on his personal story.

Both interviews are available now at www.infocus.org.au click My Story under channels

ANNIVERSARIES



Hall. Ariel and Errol Hall recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married 25.4.1964 in the Kyogle Catholic Church, NSW. Forty years ago Ariel joined the Adventist Church and prayed for 22 years that Errol would join. They now are faithful members of Lismore church. Celebrations included a trip to Lord Howe Island and dinner out with friends.



Strahan. Edward Thomas and Barbara Jean Strahan (nee Sleight) were married 13.1.1954 in Warburton, Vic, by Pastor Ron Pavitt-Brown. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at their home in Bundaberg, Qld. Tom and Barbara have five children, 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Their eldest son, Martin, and his wife, Jeanne, hosted a garden party for the family. A lovely, happy time was enjoyed by all.

WEDDINGS

Ten—Chen. Dr Nyuk Siong Joel Ten, son of David and Evangeline Ten (Donvale, Vic), and Stella Chen, daughter of Harry and Sue Chen (Wantirna South), were married 23.3.14 in the Polish Wantirna church, Wantirna.

John Chan



Farrugia—Curnuck. Luke Farrugia, son of Samuel Paul and

Lyn Farrugia, and Sarah Curnuck, daughter of Kathleen Miari Curnuck, were married 8.12.13 in Hervey Bay church, Qld. Luke and Sarah met through much answered prayer and have been a blessing to each other, their family and churches.

Kwan Matautia

Fraser—Reid. Brett Fraser, son of Garry Alan Fraser (Perth, WA) and Beverly Gail Benson (Manjimup), and Natasha Reid, daughter of Malcolm Charles Reid (Lilydale, Vic) and Annette Anna D'hondt (Mooroopna, WA), were married 23.11.13 in Rivendell Winery, Yallingup. Brett and Natasha met in high school but it was some years later at a social occasion that they struck up a friendship. They are setting up their home in Balcatta, Perth. Brett is currently looking after a couple of ovals and cricket pitches and Natasha is working as a child counsellor with Anglicare. We wish them all of God's happiness and peace.

Malcolm Reid



Lemke—Townend. Blair James Lemke, son of Pastor Mel

and Gina Lemke (Bonnells Bay, NSW), and Emma Jane Townend, daughter of Pastor Brett and Rae Townend (Townsville, Qld), were married 6.1.14 in Frangella Park, Murwillumbah, NSW, followed by a reception in Tyalgum Community Hall.

Brett Townend, Mel Lemke



Newitt—Young. Andrew Newitt, son of Colin and

Joy Newitt (Logan Village, Qld), and Beverley Young, daughter of Dennis and Jean Stubbs (Gold Coast), were married 18.5.14 in West Mount Cotton Nursery and Gardens. Andrew and Beverley met at Flagstone Adventist church. Their friendship blossomed and they were married before family and friends. They plan to live in Greenbank. Andrew, an IT specialist, and Beverley, an artist, have devoted their skills and talents to serving God.

Steve Cinzio, Daniel Cinzio



Perik—Harrison. Joel Perik, son of Zelko and Brigitte Perik, and Julie

Harrison, daughter of Shane and Kerry Harrison, were married 1.3.14 at All Saints Anglican Parish. Joel and Julie met at the age of four at Ashfield church. They started dating in 2012 and Joel proposed to Julie one year later on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This beautiful young couple have faced many challenges together. They were surrounded by family and friends in celebration of their wedding.

Phillip Bradford

OBITUARIES

Christian, Desmond Earl, born 18.12.1937 on Pitcairn Island; died 18.3.14 in Wellington hospital, NZ. He is survived by his loving wife, Pearl; his children, Mark and Vicki, Jan and Tanga, Shelley and Bobbie (all of Wellington), Sharon and Rick (Calgary, Canada) and Sheree and Christian (Napier, NZ); and grandchildren, Melissa, Jonathan, Jessie, Nicola, Matthew, BB and Andrew. Desmond was a faithful member of Porirua church for many years, and served with gentleness and humility. He was a very practical man and willingly used his skills as a carpenter to train dozens of trainee apprentices in the wider community. His carpark sweeping skills have yet to be matched. Des will be sadly missed.

Jake Ormsby, Elmer Breedt

Hastie, Rhoda Betty, born 27.11.1928 in Brighton, Vic; died 14.4.14 in Maroondah Hospital, Ringwood. She was baptised by Pastor Athal Tolhurst in Whyalla in 1968 and enjoyed the comfort, assurance, strength and vitality of the presence of God for her remaining years. Betty's two

daughters, Heather Hebron (Wonga Park) and Jean Bates (Wangaratta), are a reflection of their mother's faith and fortitude. Betty is also survived by her two sons-in-law, Colin and Andrew; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandsons. In her youth, Betty was trained in the arts of drama, elocution, ballet and recitation. The culture of these arts remained with her for the rest of her life.

Ian H Royce

Heise, Winsome Joy (nee Koop), born 29.7.1923 in Berri, SA; died 8.4.14 in Loxton. On 10.11.1952, she married Gordon Arthur Heise, who predeceased her in 1985. She is survived by her children and their families, Chris and Sharon Heise (Kempsey, NSW), Elizabeth Heise (Loxton, SA), Phillip and Cathy Heise (Arcadia Vale, NSW), Susanne Laidlaw (Evanston Gardens, SA), Merrilee and Tim Wallis (Rostrevor) and Mark and Narelle Heise (Rathmines, NSW). Winsome was a loving lady, known for her hospitality, kindness, drive and determination. She has left her imprint on the world and now awaits the call of her Maker in whom she trusted so faithfully.

Glynn Slade

Jeynes, Rosemond Yvonne (nee Hennig), born 6.5.1923 in Horsham, Vic; died 2.4.14 in Aminya Nursing Home, Caloundra, Qld. On 26.10.1942, she married Colin Frederick Jeynes, who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by her children and their families, Keith and Wendy (Kureelapa), Fay (Cooroy), Cheryl (Woombye) and David and Glenda (Dulong); eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Rose loved the Lord and was faithful until the end.

Scott Wareham

Kross, Varse Alfred, born 3.4.1918 in Brisbane, Qld; died 28.4.14 in Caboolture. On 18.9.1937, he married Queenie Beatrice Hillier who predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his four children, Brian, Gary, Gail and Julie, and their families. Varse was gifted with the ability to design and construct fishing boats and during the course of his career, constructed some 25 trawlers for the local fishing industry. He and Queenie were baptised in 1950. He was heavily

VOLUNTEER

■ **Volunteer builders needed for fly'n'build to Solomon Islands.** Atoifi Hospital is looking for experienced builders to construct a church hall on its premises. The purchase of the materials will be fully funded so Atoifi is just in need of a building crew to complete the project before the end of the year. For more information or to express your interest please email Peggy via <peggykendall9@gmail.com>.

■ **Volunteer tradesmen needed for adopt-a-clinic in PNG.** Builders/plumbers/skilled labour volunteers needed for a mission trip to PNG where we will be building a medical clinic in a remote area of the Eastern Highlands. Approximate dates are July 9–27, 2014. If interested please contact Allen on 0478 706 054 or Peta on 0402 676 528.

For more information or to express your interest please contact Anna Downing, Adventist Volunteers, South Pacific Division (02) 9847 3278 or email <annadowning@adventist.org.au>.

involved in the establishment and construction of the Central Church in Brisbane and a new local church for Sandgate. Varse faithfully served the Church in many roles including senior elder.

Gary Cross

Laughlin, Hilda (Peggy), born 9.5.1923 in Kent, England; died 20.4.14 in Toronto, NSW. On 23.1.1945, she married Ronald Thomas Laughlin in the East Prahan church. Peggy was a faithful supporter of Ron's ministry in various centres where they worked. She was an excellent cook and served the needs of campers both at Crosslands and Sawtell for the respective youth departments of both conferences. She is survived by her husband; daughter, Rhonda and Laurance (Joe); and her grandchildren. Another saint sleeps in Jesus awaiting the resurrection morning.

Raymond Baird



Lewis, Elsie Gwendoline (nee Humphries), born 25.5.1931 in Carrum Downs, Vic;

died 6.1.14 in St Augustine Nursing Home, Coffs Harbour, NSW. Elsie attended Warburton Adventist School and then Avondale College where she met her husband. On 27.2.1950, she married Lionel Herbert Lewis, who predeceased her in 2011. She is survived by four children, Dallas, Diane, Shama and Deborah; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Elsie was strong in her faith and looked forward to the resurrection when she will meet her Saviour along with her husband and the rest of her family.

Bob Manners, Abel Iorgulescu

Morris, Keith Kenneth, born 9.7.1941; died 25.4.14 at home in Gympie, Qld. He was the dearly loved husband to Lornalyn and loving father to Bradley and Bevin. Keith loved gardening and his flower and vegetable gardens were a delight to observe. During his last illness, Lorna and

his children barely left his side, testament to his dedicated role as husband and father. Keith's hope in the coming of Jesus buoyed him during the last weeks of his life. A large crowd of relatives and friends were present to say farewell at the Gympie funeral chapel and then at the Gympie church hall.

Ted White



Were, Ivan Raymond, born 1.8.1929 in Cooranbong, NSW; died 5.5.14 in Baringa

Private Hospital, Coffs Harbour. Ivan studied business and accounting at Avondale College, then later turned his hand to banana growing, trucking, bricklaying and building. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne; their three daughters and sons-in-law, Robyn and Robert Green (Brisbane, Qld), Kerry and David Wood (Coffs Harbour, NSW) and Joanne and Dave Martin (Newcastle); and their grandchildren and spouses who affectionately knew him as "Grandy". Ivan was a gifted singer and one of his favourite songs, sung at his funeral, was "Soon and very soon—we are going to see the King", which depicted his absolute trust in Jesus, his Lord and Saviour.

Bob Manners, Abel Iorgulescu

Wright, Josephine (nee Spratling), born 12.4.1931 in Camberwell, Vic; died 19.4.14 in Ballarat. On 22.10.1956, she married Edward Evelyn Wright, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by Maxwell Spratling. She is survived by David and Valda Wright (Sale), Rosemary and Vaughan King (Beauty Point, Tas), Brian and Val Spratling (Sebastopol, Vic), Wilma and Donald Watkins (Ballarat, Vic) and Ivan Spratling (Wendouree); and grandchildren, Hailey and Christopher. Josie was a long-standing member of the Springvale church. She was treasurer, kindergarten teacher and taught English to migrants. She loved horses and cats and

was a very strong, determined lady. Whatever she set her mind to do, she did.

Malcolm Reid

ADVERTISEMENTS

2015 Reformation Lands tour.

The next AUC sponsored Reformation Lands tour departs mid-May 2015. Direct enquiries for this pre-GC travel opportunity to tour leader <russelstanley@adventist.org.au> or phone 0405 181 047.

Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village, October 6–12, 2014.

Calling all Grey Nomads! Join us again in 2014 for a spiritual feast and social fellowship at Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. Join us in the beauty of the Australian Southern Alps. Numbers are limited to 200 attendees. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options please contact Robyn Howie, phone (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

Law firm in Melbourne:

McMahon Fearnley Lawyers Pty Ltd. Areas of law include the sale and purchase of property, litigation, commercial transactions (including shareholder and partnership agreements, franchising and leasing), wills, estates and probate applications. Adventist lawyers include Lloyd McMahon and Michael Brady. Please call (03) 9670 0966 or email <mb@mcmahonfearnley.com.au>.

80th anniversary, Dargaville, New Zealand. October 24–26, 2014. Seventh-day Adventist Church, 108 Normanby Street, Dargaville. To register your interest contact Ivy Vincent by email <ivy.vincent@xtra.co.nz> or phone Barbara Liggett (09) 439 1343.

120 year celebration (1894–2014) of Palmerston North Church. To be held August 15–16, 2014. We are collecting photos & stories now! To book and/or share photos and stories email <sdapn@xnet.co.nz> or phone 06 359 0977 before August 4.

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Finally . . .

Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.

—Blaise Pascal

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