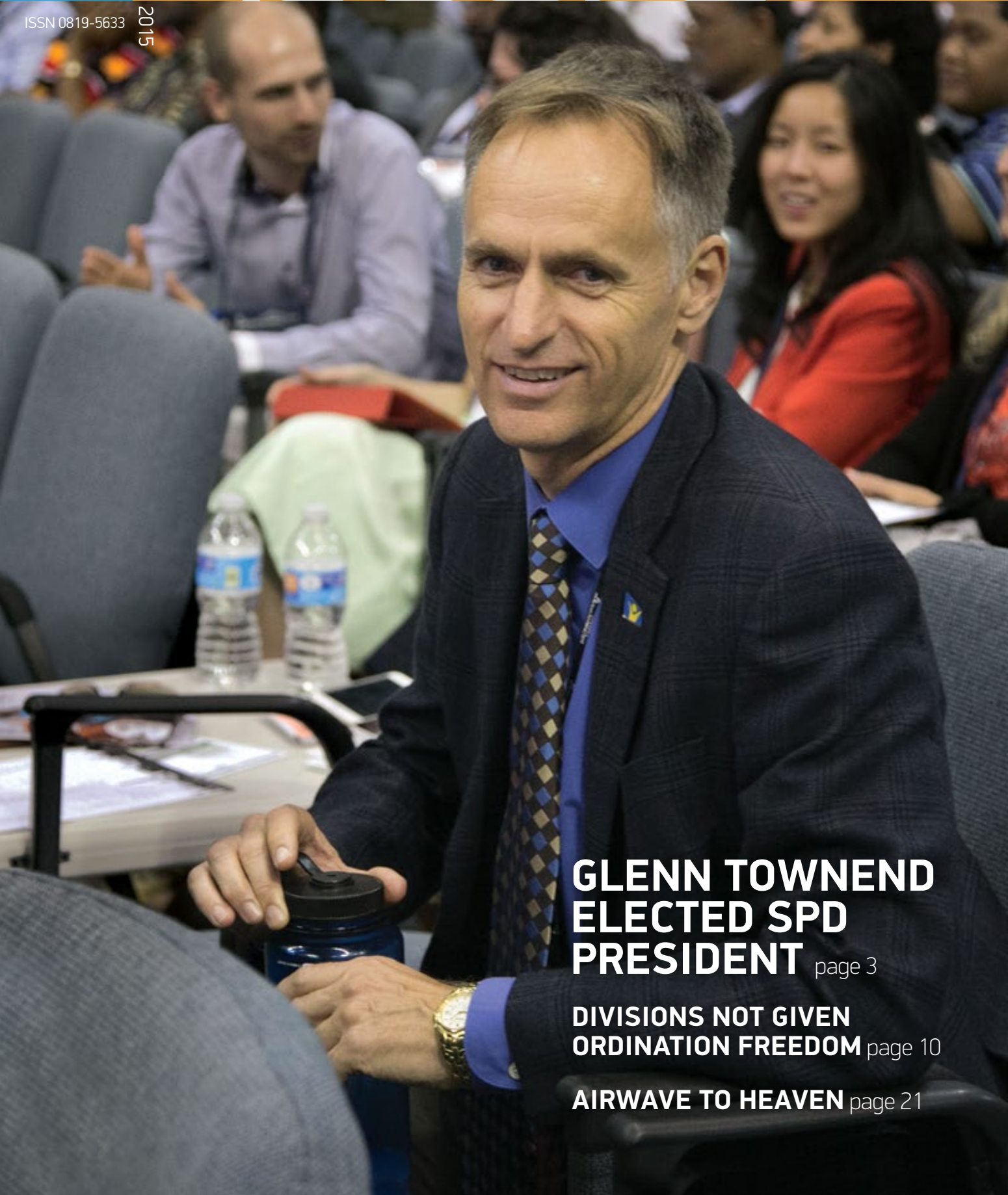


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**GLENN TOWNEND
ELECTED SPD
PRESIDENT** page 3

**DIVISIONS NOT GIVEN
ORDINATION FREEDOM** page 10

AIRWAVE TO HEAVEN page 21

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Glenn Townend elected SPD president

San Antonio, Texas, USA

Pastor Glenn Townend was elected president of the South Pacific Division (SPD) during the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 60th General Conference (GC) Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Pastor Townend was voted overwhelmingly to the position by GC delegates on Monday, July 6. Twelve other world division presidents were also elected or reelected to their positions.

The announcement was made after the SPD Caucus met on Sunday, July 5, to recommend a new Division president to the GC nominating committee to replace Dr Barry Oliver, who retired after nine years in the role.

Pastor Townend spent years of his youth in Papua New Guinea as the son of missionaries and speaks Melanesian Pidgin. He has served in a number of different roles during his 29 years of ministry, most recently as the president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission—a role he stepped into in May 2013. Prior to this, Pastor Townend served for 10

years as president of the Western Australian Conference.

A number of other SPD officers were re-elected to their positions during the Session.

General secretary Pastor Lionel Smith and treasurer Rod Brady were voted back to their positions on Thursday, July 9. Associate chief financial officer Kelvin Peuser and associate general secretary Dr Danijela Schubert will also continue to serve the SPD for another term in their respective roles.—*Record staff*



New SPD president, Pastor Glenn Townend, and his wife, Pamela, wait to be introduced to the GC Session delegates.

GC delegates approve updates to Fundamental Beliefs

San Antonio, Texas, USA

Delegates at the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, approved a milestone update of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs that, among other things, underscores the church's teaching of a recent, literal Creation week.

The core statements of the Church's Fundamental Beliefs had not been touched since they were first adopted in 1980, with the lone exception an additional belief in 2005. The delegates' approval on July 7, after two days of discussions, marked the end of a five-year revision and vetting process.

None of the revisions change the essence of any of the Fundamental Beliefs, and many simply update and tighten the text, General Conference president Dr Ted Wilson assured delegates at the start of the discussions.

"We are not changing our Fundamental Beliefs," Dr Wilson said. "We are simply trying to enhance them and make them more understandable."

The review committee modified 21 of the 28 beliefs, and

Dr Artur Stele, a General Conference general vice president and chair of the Fundamental Belief Review Committee, presented the proposed changes to the delegates.

Many of the

proposed changes were minor, such as the replacement of "which" with "that" to reflect modern usage. Instances of "man" and "mankind" were changed to "people" and "humanity" to make them gender inclusive.

Delegates overwhelmingly backed revisions that clarified that marriage is between a man and a woman in belief number 23.

The delegates considered and approved revisions to 24 of the Beliefs on July 6, voting on them one by one. A two-thirds vote was required to refer an item back to the revisions committee.

But recommendations about four beliefs—on the Holy Scriptures (number 1), Creation (number 6), the Great Controversy (number 8), and Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary (number 24)—were sent back to the review committee for further work.

The review committee returned to delegates on July 7 with amendments that took their concerns into account.

Most of the discussion centered around "Creation," where the text was revised to add the word "recent" to describe when the Earth was created and "six literal days" to explain the length of Creation week.

The inclusion of "six literal days" received quick support from James Standish, a delegate from the South-Pacific Division, who said the revised text reflected the very definition of "Seventh-day Adventist".

"If the first six days were not literal days, why do we rest on the literal seventh day?" he asked.—*Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review. Read more at <www.record.net.au/categories/news>.*



Delegates hold up vote cards during a meeting at the GC Session.



Thoughts

James Standish

Walking through San Antonio the day after the General Conference Session feels eerily like the day after the apocalypse. The life that appeared so real has vanished. The streets are empty. The booths are dismantled. Silence has descended on the Alamodome. But not for long. Ironically, Motley Crue, the hair metal band from LA, will soon replace the Adventists on the big stage.

Soon, it will be like we never were here. A blip in time. A bump on the road. An ethereal mist that dissipated.

There are men and women who left elated. Their views confirmed. Their anointing recognised. Their faith rejuvenated. And I am very, very glad for them. I wish I was one. I'm not.

I hope you don't mind this level of candour. I also hope you don't mind me sharing my concerns as just one of possibly 18.5 million Adventists.

I say possibly, as the reports from the GC secretary's team made clear, our membership numbers are so deeply unreliable that all we know for certain is that we have no idea how many members we really have. We have an inbuilt incentive to exaggerate. A disincentive to clean up numbers. And no global independent audit. This produces predictably distorted results.

One of the incentives to inflate numbers is that the number of delegates does, in part, turn on membership count. But that isn't the only problem in the way delegates are selected. Globally, we desperately need a far more transparent, democratic process for selecting delegates. We also need fewer ex officio delegates. A large number of ex officio delegates are ordained pastors and therefore male. There is something troubling about a room of almost 2600 delegates debating the role of women in the Church, where only 17 per cent of the delegates are women. And the result of the vote, by its nature, ensures that is the way it will likely continue as so many of the ex officio positions are reserved exclusively for the ordained. This produces a self-confirming circularity that is both unwise and unfair.

Obviously the most divisive issue discussed was the ordination of women. The distinction between the ordination of deacons and elders, and the ordination of pastors,

is not biblical; it is administrative. At what point, when we deal with a question that is not a fundamental belief, is not an issue of salvation, where the distinction is administrative and where dedicated, Bible believing, faithful Adventists see things differently, do we agree to respect the conscience of others?

Which goes to my greater concern—our drift from our radical Reformation roots. We believe God speaks to all. But we voted to shut down the conscience of others. We have no creed but the Bible. But we spent an inordinate amount of time debating jots and tittles in Fundamental Beliefs. As a movement, we are drifting very dangerously into the hierarchicalism, formalism and dogmatism that our pioneers explicitly rejected. As a friend quipped, "we criticise the Catholics for their traditions and dogmas built up over the 1700 years since Constantine co-opted Christianity, but look how many we've built up in just in the last century!"

Finally, after doing a little number crunching, I came to a rough estimate that it costs in the range of \$A30 million for the organised Church and at least another \$15 million from associated ministries to stage the GC Session. So that is in the range of \$45 million funded by Adventist giving. If we break it down to a per member, per year, over five years basis, that isn't very much. But every GC Session leaves me wondering if this is the best possible way to spend our time, money and energy.

Imagine if we had a far simpler Session, and every five years we spent \$45 million on coordinated evangelism in one of the largest cities in the world. Imagine us competing for souls, rather than positions and donor money. Imagine 60,000 Adventists converging for converting on Paris, Lagos, Shanghai or Melbourne. With a \$45 million budget backing us up! Alternatively, imagine us using the \$45 million to feed in the range of 25,000 hungry children, every day, for five years. It's our choice. And I have to wonder what Christ would have us do?

I love our Church. I love it enough to take the career risk to talk openly about my concerns. And enough to do my best to be part of the solution to them.

James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.

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Cover Credit: Lyna Stackelroth |
 "New South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend."

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Reach the nations

Jarrod Stackelroth

A roar went up around the stadium. It was louder than the cheer for Jamaica, filled with life and enthusiasm! It beat the sustained roar for Mexico, coming from all directions. As countries were announced and their flags were presented, people clapped and cheered but these countries stood out! They had showed up in numbers, with flags and T-shirts, scarves waving and arms raised. But the best cheer went up for the country of Cuba. For the first time that evening, vuvuzelas rang out. Behind me, in the back left corner of the stadium, was a concentrated Cuban corner crammed with colour, a seething celebration of life and membership. But this was no sporting event, it was the "Mission on the Move" program—the conclusion of the 60th GC Session of Seventh-day Adventists in San Antonio Texas.

Two people, sometimes dressed in traditional costumes, represented each country, waving their flag and walking out onto the stage before lining up around the stadium. Apparently in years past, they had been organised according to Division. This time, the order was determined by the year the Adventist message had reached their shores. It was interspersed with a video detailing the history of mission, and how, at different times, the mission had spread. There were so many countries, so many Adventists represented by the people onstage. According to the Adventist yearbook, Cuba, even though it's been a communist country for many years, still has 31,744 Adventists in a population of 11.1 million. The Adventist work there started in 1905. Two big screens at the front showed where each country was on the world map as well as their membership and population numbers. It was interesting to see those numbers and how they compared, in countries of similar size and also in comparison to each other.

But I noticed something. Those countries that weren't well represented, or had very small to no Adventist presence, weren't being cheered or clapped in the same way. Places like Syria, Iraq and Azerbaijan. My heart went out to the countries with tiny Adventist (even Christian) populations who struggle to survive and continue. If anyone deserved applause, it was them but their announcements were often lost in the cacophony.

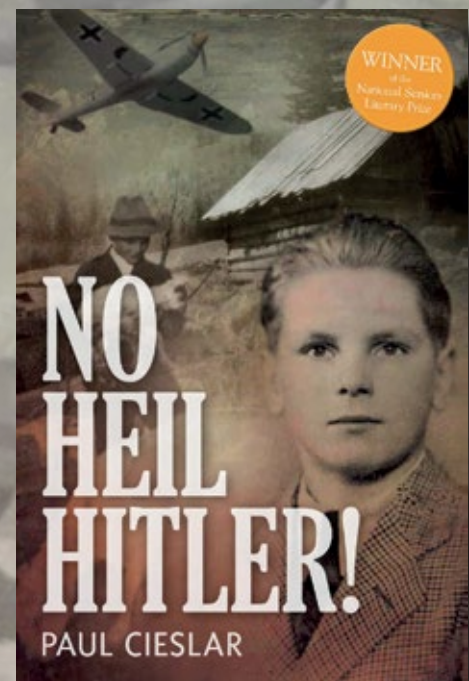
Closer to home, Wallis and Futuna islands, with only three Adventists representing 100 years of Adventist presence.

There is still so much work to be done. At the beginning of GC Session, they announced that people from 168 nations were represented there. It is amazing to worship with such a diverse group, but the numbers aren't good. Some of the largest populations of Adventists are in Africa, South America, and the islands of the world. These are places we've traditionally focussed on in mission.

But according to the numbers, it seems we need to change our focus. While the work started early in Western Europe, it has stalled. Places like Australia have faithful but stagnant memberships. The Adventist Church faces huge hurdles in the Middle East and North Africa. These places need prayer, a strategy and committed members to start sharing Jesus' kingdom.

It was humbling to realise how much work still needs to be done around the world. It is time we all looked at the very city or town we live in as a mission field. It is time we lived the Adventist message in such an appealing and contagious way, that those around us want to follow Jesus as well.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Adventist Record.




Paul Cieslar was just 10 years old when the Nazis invaded his native Poland. But in the midst of the fear and the persecution of his Adventist church and family he saw the power of God.

Earlier this year Pastor Cieslar's memoir of the war years was awarded Winner of the National Seniors Literary Prize.

Watch his interview with InFocus host Kent Kingston:
vimeo.com/132987441

Purchase at your local Adventist Book Centre or online at hopeshop.com



as seen on  **FOXTEL**



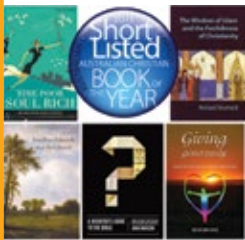
Camp misery

Major political parties combined to change laws so Australia's controversial offshore immigration detention program could avoid being declared illegal by the High Court. Inquiries, reports and leaks reveal abuse and rights violations in detention centres. Christian groups say the legislation change only serves to smooth over the injustice. — *Love Makes A Way*



Spate of hate

In what appears to be a series of deliberate and racially motivated attacks, up to six church buildings used by predominantly African-American congregations were burned in a 10-day period. The churches are owned by a variety of denominations, including Seventh-day Adventist, and are mainly located in America's south. — *Baptist Press*



Best books

The shortlist for the 2015 Australian Christian Book of the Year has been released. Among the possible winners at this month's awards ceremony in Melbourne, are Michael Gladwin's history of Australian army chaplains, *The Doubter's Guide to the Bible* by John Dickson, and Anne Winckel's spiritual handbook for staying strong through busy times. — *SparkLit*



Sweet poison

New research suggests that around 184,000 deaths per year globally can be explained by the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. The immediate causes of death are diabetes, followed by cardio-vascular disease and cancer. The highest death rates are in Mexico. Researchers say the implications are simple and obvious: stop consuming soft drinks. — *American Heart Association*



Tree church

New Zealander Barry Cox has put his tree transplanting skills to work and bent five varieties of living trees over a light steel frame to construct a 100-seat chapel. Visitors are asked to treat the church and grounds like any other venerable site and to enjoy the nearby "Jericho" labyrinth. — *TreeChurch.co.nz*



Remember the prisoners

Dr Ganoune Diop, newly elected director of the Adventist world Church's Religious Liberty department, has warned that appreciation for religious freedom as a fundamental human right is waning. Dr Diop says the cause of people imprisoned for their faith has been particularly neglected by human rights organisations, the media and even the Church. — *Adventist News Network*



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- Worship Service at 11:00am
- Tours of the Museum, LW Clark Tower and the Clinical Education Centre between 2-3pm
- Dinner 50 year theme with Sound of Music a fun evening held at Fox Valley Community Centre at 7pm

This is your invitation to a very special event.
RSVP to San Foundation on (02) 9487 9405 or foundation@sah.org.au

EG White papers released

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

A collection of letters and manuscripts written by Seventh-day Adventist Church cofounder Ellen White went public on the Ellen G White Estate website on July 16, the 100th anniversary of her death.

The collection, previously only available to researchers at White research centres, contains about 50,000 pages of materials dating from 1845 to the months before White's death on July 16, 1915.

The materials were not made widely available earlier because many are of a personal nature and make reference, sometimes in strong terms, to individuals by name, said James Nix, director of the White Estate at the world church's General Conference headquarters.

But those people and their close relatives are no longer alive today, prompting the White Estate to decide in 2013 that the value of the materials outweighs those sensitivities and to release them during centennial commemorations of White's life and ministry.

Nix said the unpublished collection includes family letters, letters addressed to individuals and institutions, diary materials, and manuscripts written for publication in books and periodicals such as the *Review and Herald* (now *Adventist Review*).

Nix said he didn't expect any surprises to emerge from the documents.

"The materials have been gone over by researchers for years," he said. "The portions that I have read were fascinating but not surprising." —Andrew McChesney with Kent Kingston



Adventist founder Ellen G White.

PNG pastor makes history at GC Session

San Antonio, Texas, USA

Pastor Zuzai Hizoke, general secretary of the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, made history in July by becoming the first Papua New Guinea (PNG) author to conduct a book signing at a General Conference Session.

It was a special event for church members from PNG and the rest of the South Pacific, with Pastor Hizoke signing copies of his new book, *Keeping connection: rediscovering the power of prayer*, and writing notes of encouragement for Session attendees.

The Session's Adventist Book Centre had sold out of copies of the book prior to the day of the signing, so more books had to be sent over. It wasn't long before those books were sold as well.

Among those who purchased a copy of *Keeping connection* were two PNG women, who bought the book as a donation for a school in the Marshall Islands where one of them volunteers.

Pastor Hizoke's book is thought to be the first book published by Signs Publishing by a PNG author. —Record staff



Pastor Hizoke with fellow GC Session attendees from PNG.

Adventist organises asylum seeker debate

Melbourne, Victoria

Nearly 300 people attended a public meeting in Melbourne in June entitled, "Business, Faith, Law and Morality: The Asylum Seeker Debate".

The meeting was organised by Ruth Bungay, a business consultant and economist who attends Wantirna Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"I organised the meeting so that our congregations in Melbourne could hear facts that are often absent in the political press and also have the opportunity to ask questions," said Ms Bungay.

Several prominent speakers were featured including Julian Burnside QC, known for his legal work and advocacy for asylum seekers, the Rev Prof Andrew Dutney, president

of the Uniting Church in Australia, and Pamela Curr from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

The meeting examined the role of faith and a united faith community in the asylum seeker debate, with speakers responding to questions from the floor after the presentations. —Vania Chew. To listen or download the debate visit <www.gwuc.org.au/as2015>.



The asylum seeker debate panel.



DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

The Cyrus Cylinder—a good reason to hang on

Ever felt that all hope was gone? That God didn't care? That He couldn't be trusted, or perhaps He didn't even exist? Maybe you're about to give up. Thank God, the Cyrus Cylinder can help you.

Ezra informs us that King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem and its temple. The Cyrus Cylinder reveals that such was indeed the policy of Cyrus to the nations taken captive by the Babylonians. Over and over again discoveries such as this demonstrate that the Bible is not about myths and legends. God's word can be trusted.

Read **Ezra 1:1-3; 6:14**

But the cylinder also witnesses to the fulfillment of an amazing prophecy made by Isaiah some 150 years before in which he predicted Cyrus would rebuild the temple. Interestingly, this prophecy, in naming Cyrus before he existed, was given for three reasons: 1. So Cyrus would know the Lord was the God of Israel; 2. To bring hope of deliverance to the Israelite captives; 3. So the nations would know the Lord was the living and the only God.

Read **Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-6, 17; 46:3-5, 9-13**

My friend, this Cylinder helps us know there is a God and, as with the Israelites in their darkest hour, He is with you! He cares about you! There is hope! Right now grasp His nail-scarred hand, outstretched even to you.

Find out more about the Cyrus Cylinder in *Archaeological Diggings* magazine.



Disaster-prone countries raise Pacific concerns

Auckland, New Zealand

Cyclone Raquel bore down on Solomon Islands early last month. A cyclone in the South Pacific is nothing unusual but the timing was—it's one of the first winter cyclones recorded in the region.

Organisers of the World Humanitarian Summit could not have planned a more appropriate time to hold Pacific consultation meetings in Auckland.

"Four of the 10 countries most at risk to disasters are from our own Pacific region," said Simon Lewis, an International Program manager for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) New Zealand, who attended the consultation.

ADRA was one of only 10 Australian and New Zealand non-government organisations to attend the event, held from June 30 to July 2. The agency has a large humanitarian and community development program across the globe, including the Pacific region.

"It is imperative that we reflect, learn and plan for the future—not only in the way that we respond but the more important work of protecting vulnerable communities from future disasters," Mr Lewis said.

The consultation in Auckland, which saw more than 1400 people from 35 Pacific countries and territories give feedback, is an important step in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit, which will convene in Istanbul in 2016 to help shape how the world responds to disasters and crises around the globe.

"The meeting in Auckland will ensure the unique recommendations for the Pacific region are incorporated into the global decision-making process," Mr Lewis said.

"The most significant aspect to this meeting was the range of people who were involved. The president of Kiribati, prime minister of Tuvalu, premier of Niue, two foreign ministers, three United Nations leaders, many Pacific government ministers, regional leaders, donors, non-government organisations, leading university researchers, private and corporate business leaders and local community representatives, were all working together."

This kind of collaboration was one of the key recommendations from the meetings.

"Only 14 per cent of the requests for emergency response by the UN have been met in the past year. We have to find new ways to fund these life-saving responses—and we have to find new ways to prepare for disasters and provide relief to those in need," Mr Lewis said.—*Braden Blyde*



Simon Lewis.



Attendees at the World Humanitarian Summit in Auckland, NZ.



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Media Evangelism Offering August 8

adventistmedia.org.au



Divisions not given ordination freedom

by Andrew McChesney and Marcos Paseggi,
Adventist Review/ANN

DELEGATES AT THE 60TH GENERAL CONFERENCE Session turned down a motion that would have allowed each division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to decide whether to ordain women to the gospel ministry in its territory.

By a secret ballot vote of 1381-977, with five abstentions, delegates ended a five-year process characterised by vigorous and sometimes acrimonious debate.

General Conference president Dr Ted Wilson appealed to church members to unite in the mission of the church after the vote at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

"Now is the time to unify under the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and His power, not our power," Dr Wilson said after the ballots were counted on tables at the front of the Alamodome stadium. "Now is the time to unify in our mission as Christ's church."

He thanked delegates for the "careful and prayerful manner in which they carried themselves and addressed the subject" during six hours of discussion.

A secret ballot system was used that General Conference officers said offered the most secure and fair voting process possible.

The ballots were printed on special paper, cut to the size of a half sheet of letter paper, and divided in half. One half contained the word "Yes", printed in five languages, and the other the word "No", also in five languages. The languages were English, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese.

Dr Wilson, who opened the morning session with an appeal for all church members to abide by the vote's outcome, underscored both then and after the vote that decisions made by the General Conference in session carry the highest authority in the Adventist Church.

The daylong discussions, which began at 9:30 am and broke for a two-hour lunch at noon, stopped nearly a dozen times for prayer.

Both Drs Wilson and Michael Ryan, a retiring general vice president of the General Conference who chaired the Wednesday (July 8) discussions, voiced delight at the "sweet spirit" that permeated the proceedings.

Dr Ryan made sure proper meeting decorum was maintained, chiding attendees several times for applauding during the discussions. Delegates agreed earlier to refrain from applause in an effort to keep emotions under control.

Dr Ryan, who announced the final vote results, sharply admonished a group of Alamodome attendees who broke into applause at the outcome.

"There is nothing triumphal about this," he said. "There are no winners or losers."

A total of 2363 ballots were cast in the vote on a motion prepared by senior General Conference officers and division presidents and approved at the 2014 Annual Council, a business meeting of world church leaders. The motion read in full: "After your prayerful study on ordination from the Bible, the writings of Ellen G White, and the reports of the study commissions, and; after your careful consideration of what is best for the church and the fulfillment of its mission, is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No."

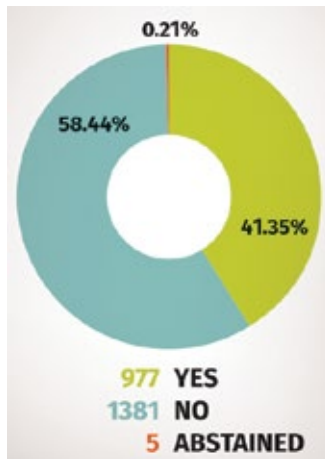
A total of 40 delegates—20 who supported and 20 who opposed the motion—took to microphones to express their positions on the motion. The discussion was stopped 35 times by delegates who wished to make "points of order", objections to how some aspect of the proceedings was being carried out.

General Conference executive secretary Dr G T Ng indicated during Wednesday's discussions that the General Conference hoped for full compliance from all church entities.

"We are one church," Dr Ng said.

Read more at <www.record.net.au/categories/news>.

NEWS FEATURE



Vote by the numbers

There are many ways to view the vote to disallow world divisions to determine whether to ordain women in their territories.

The first is the vote itself: 41 per cent for, 58 per cent against.

On its face, it's a solid defeat. But there are two factors that help put the number in context.

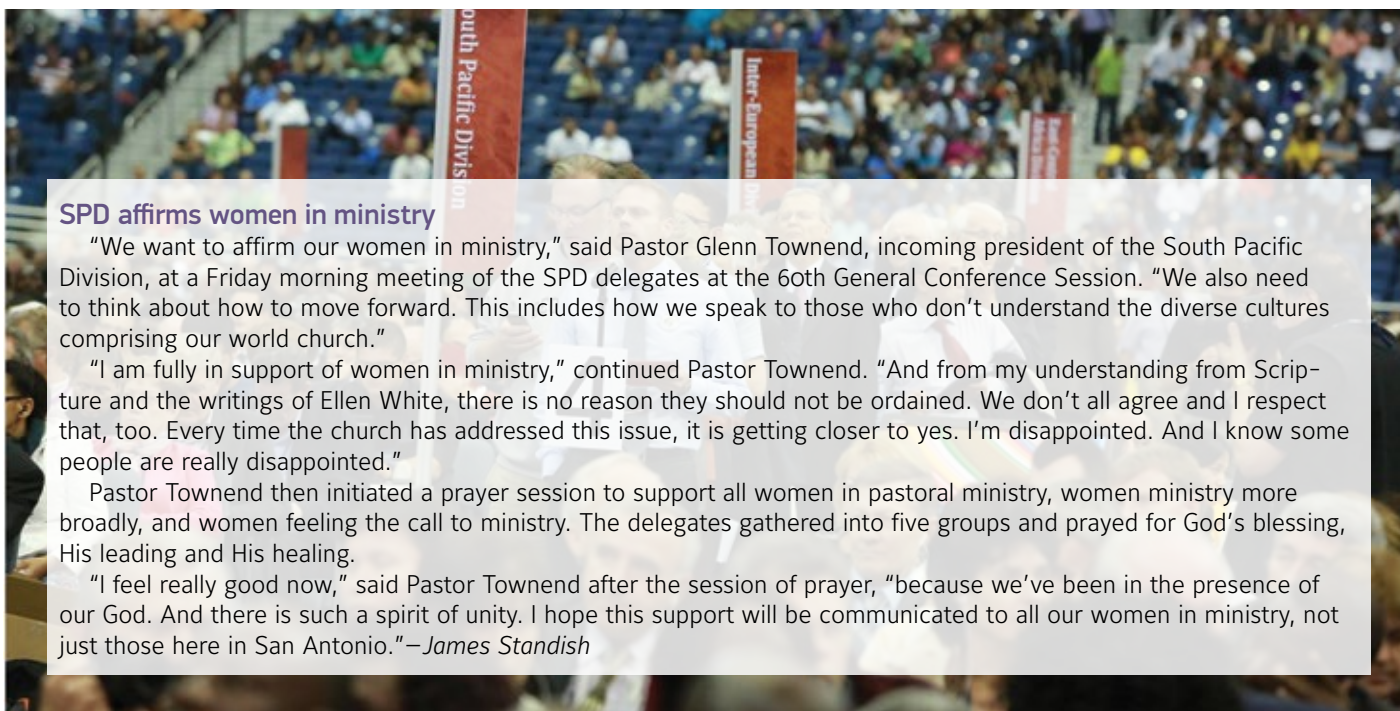
First, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing CEO Kevin Jackson points out that if it's assumed that the two geographic regions that overwhelmingly spoke against the freedom of divisions to choose, also voted against the proposal—and earlier open votes strongly indicate the likelihood of this—then in the range of 80 per cent of the remaining delegates from all other regions of the world voted in favour of the motion.

Dr David Trim, director of the General Conference's Office of Archives and Statistics, provides a historian's perspective, noting that votes on the underlying issue of ordination at General Conference sessions are changing:

1990: 24 per cent
1995: 31.2 per cent
2015: 41.3 per cent

"To be an Adventist is to be a person of compassion and conviction. To stand for the Sabbath, the state of the dead and to hold distinctive doctrines takes compassion and conviction. I have felt the overwhelming power of God as people explain passion for mission, but I think if the Church for the last 40 years has been discussing women's ordination in various ways, and haven't come to a consensus, it's not something that unites us. We don't need to be uniform in everything . . . All of our theologians cannot agree. The regions of the Church who have allowed women deacons and elders has not split us."

—SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend, speaking in support of the motion prior to the vote on Wednesday, July 8.



SPD affirms women in ministry

"We want to affirm our women in ministry," said Pastor Glenn Townend, incoming president of the South Pacific Division, at a Friday morning meeting of the SPD delegates at the 60th General Conference Session. "We also need to think about how to move forward. This includes how we speak to those who don't understand the diverse cultures comprising our world church."

"I am fully in support of women in ministry," continued Pastor Townend. "And from my understanding from Scripture and the writings of Ellen White, there is no reason they should not be ordained. We don't all agree and I respect that, too. Every time the church has addressed this issue, it is getting closer to yes. I'm disappointed. And I know some people are really disappointed."

Pastor Townend then initiated a prayer session to support all women in pastoral ministry, women ministry more broadly, and women feeling the call to ministry. The delegates gathered into five groups and prayed for God's blessing, His leading and His healing.

"I feel really good now," said Pastor Townend after the session of prayer, "because we've been in the presence of our God. And there is such a spirit of unity. I hope this support will be communicated to all our women in ministry, not just those here in San Antonio."—James Standish



Buzzing at the booth

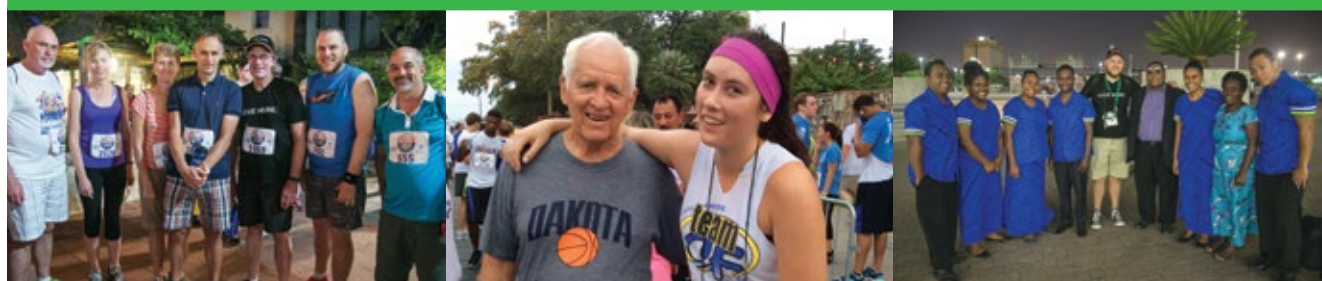
A crowd gathers around the South Pacific Division (SPD) booth at the 60th General Conference (GC) Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Antonio, Texas. Among the entities featured at the booth were Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing, the Complete Health Improvement Program and Avondale College. The booth itself included a conference room and a 6x3 metre LED screen.

Featured product

Esperanza TV (Hope Channel) interviews Sanitarium (Australia) Corporate Communications manager Julie Praestini about Weet-Bix. Throughout the 10-day Session, Sanitarium provided breakfast and other meals to attendees passing by the SPD booth.

Tell the World

A young German visitor enjoys the display promoting the *Tell the World* movie. In a panel discussion during the GC Session, church historian Dr George Knight called the film "the best production the Church has done". Snippets of *Tell the World* were shown during worships at the GC Session, much to the delight of the gathered delegates. "*Tell the World* is the greatest hit of the Session—no doubt about it," said Adventist Media CEO Neale Schofield.



Ready to run

Leaders from the SPD prepare for the GC Session's "Instep4Life" fun run on Sunday morning (July 5). Hundreds of runners from the Session and the local community took part in the 5 km fun, which was organised by Adventist Health Ministries to raise awareness of childhood obesity and the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health message.

Winning effort

Cliff Morgan, from Brisbane, Queensland, was awarded the first place trophy in the 80+ category of the "Instep4Life" fun run. Cliff finished the run in a time of 33 minutes 57 seconds. His 21-year-old grand daughter, Deanna Morgan, from Dayton, Ohio (US), also took part in the run. Cliff is the founding director of Volunteers in Action, which has led to thousands of baptisms across the South Pacific.

Music miracle

The Miracle singers from Solomon Islands (pictured with *Adventist Record* associate editor Jarrod Stackelroth) provided a special item on Wednesday of the GC Session. A quartet from Papua New Guinea, called Footprints, also took to the stage on Wednesday, singing a song prior to the showing of the SPD video report.



Speaking up

SPD Communication director James Standish became a trend on Twitter during the GC Session for his comments at the open microphone prior to the women's ordination vote. Speaking to the noticeably larger crowd, Mr Standish asked "where all of us were when this body discussed mission, the character of God and youth ministry when so many seats were empty?"

Young delegates

Some of the South Pacific Division's young delegates inside the main hall of the Alamodome after the church service on Sabbath, July 11. The SPD was one of the divisions with the greatest number of young delegates at the GC Session..

Thank you

Dr Barry Oliver and his wife, Julie, wave to the GC Session crowd after their years of service were acknowledged by Seventh-day Adventist world Church president Dr Ted Wilson. Earlier in the Session, Dr Oliver received a standing ovation and calls of "don't retire" from SPD delegates after announcing the meeting to select the Division's nominating committee will be the last meeting he chairs.



Slowing down the ageing process

If you believe the marketing teams behind moisturisers and eye creams, ageing is something that becomes a concern only when we pass a certain age. It's easy to spot and apparently easy to fix with the contents of an expensive tube or tub. But the truth is ageing has a bigger impact on our daily lives than just the wrinkles we might see in the mirror. Researchers study ageing and longevity to help us live not just a long but a healthy life.

A recent study of 1000 people born in Dunedin, New Zealand, aimed to shed some light on the ageing process from a new angle. Rather than looking at elderly participants, the researchers followed 18-year-old subjects for 20 years. They measured 18 different health indicators to assess the biological age of the participants over this time.

At the beginning of the experiment, the biological ages of most of the participants were fairly similar but there was a significant change over the 20 years. At the end of the study, the 38-year-old participants ranged in biological age from 30 to almost 60 years old. The researchers believed that a participant's environment played a huge role in their rate of ageing, estimating only 20 per cent of the differences were caused by genetics.

So what environmental factors played the biggest role? The researchers advise those who want to slow down their ageing process should eat a healthy diet that's low in fat and salt, stay at a healthy weight, manage stress levels and get regular exercise. Sounds like a great, evidence-based approach that doesn't come in an expensive tube or tub!



Very berry smoothie

Preparation time: 5 minutes Cooking time: nil Serves: 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ½ cup cranberry juice | 1 scoop Sanitarium So |
| ½ cup Sanitarium So Good | Good Vanilla Bliss Frozen |
| Lite soy milk | Dessert |
| ½ cup mixed berries (fresh or frozen) | |

1. Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 720kJ (130cal). Protein 8g. Fat 2g. Carbohydrate 26g. Sodium 85mg. Potassium 855mg. Calcium 230mg. Fibre 2g.



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Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



Two worshippers, two sinners

by Ben Turner

WE MIGHT WANT TO BE LIKE MOSES BUT most of us won't lead 1 million people into battle. Esther's life must have been amazing but it's unlikely we'll marry into royalty and then save the lives of an entire nation. David's killing of a literal giant? Improbable in our lifetime. Balaam's argument with a talking donkey? Chances are slim. Elisha's floating axe head? Not any time soon.

But every now and then a Bible story comes along that makes us think, "Wow, that is me, I can relate to that." Almost like spiritual *déjà vu*, you read the story and it's like reading your own story. I experienced this recently during a deep Bible discussion. We were going over the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in the temple (Luke 18).

The story was familiar to me so there were no surprises when examining the Pharisee, in all his boldness, proudly standing there, thanking God for his many blessings. He is a decent person, well respected, and he has no trouble pointing to the areas of society that don't measure up to his life. He fasts twice a week so he has control over his impulses, he pays tithes on all his income so his responsibilities to God are complete, and he is thankful to God.

Nor was there anything astounding when Jesus then shifts the focus to the tax collector who, knowing his unworthiness, can't raise his eyes up to heaven and instead begs God for forgiveness because he knows he's a sinner and his life isn't as it should be. He was right. He probably was ripping people off, causing great harm and, worse than that, he was part of the machine that kept pagan Rome's

stranglehold on Israel. He was a collaborator of the worst kind and everyone knew it—including himself.

However, when putting these two characters together and re-examining the story, a different picture emerges than simply good tax collector/bad religious leader. A picture I had never seen before. In his boasting the religious leader is targeting the tax collector's failings. He compares the tax collector's indulgent parties with his spiritual act of fasting. His charge of other sinners as "swindlers, unjust" shows his disdain for the tax collector's act of robbing the people of God by taking taxes for the Romans, while he himself pays a full tithe in all he earns to God. Effectively, the Pharisee is comparing his life to that of the tax collector.

But why would the religious leader bother to compare his life to the tax collector? The reason doesn't seem obvious. He seems to have a complete life, a righteous life even, so why would he compare himself to someone so different? Comparison is generally done when objects are at least similar, but listening to the Pharisee's prayer it would seem that there are no similarities between the two of them at all.

Here is where I could clearly see my life in the story. When I was younger my thoughts and prayers were perfectly aligned with those of the Pharisee. I would compare myself to my peers and those around me, feeling fully justified in my superiority. Sure I had a slightly different list than the Pharisee but my attitude was much the same. Any aspect of my life I would compare to others and feel better,

superior even. Yet even at this time deep down I knew that my life was not perfect. But when I felt inadequate I would look to the lives of others and feel better again.

What if, without saying it, and almost imperceptibly, the Pharisee's underlying cause for his boasting and lavish comparison to other "sinners" is because he himself feels inadequate? He may not even realise it but his feelings of inadequacy could have caused him to look at others, even seek out those less spiritual, for the sole purpose of justifying himself and making himself feel better. How do we know that his life wasn't actually perfect? Jesus' reflection is that he didn't go away justified so there were indeed problems in his life.

But this realisation changes the story: instead of two totally different people coming to the temple to pray, we have two identical people coming to the temple to pray. Two sinners who feel inadequate about their lifestyle, choices and religiosity. The Pharisee has simply chosen to deal with his feelings of inadequacy by comparing himself to those he sees as inferior, finding comfort and peace in his superiority. The tax collector, on the other hand, has simply bared his heart before God, begging for mercy from the only Source that can give it. This is why Jesus said the tax collector leaves justified.

Here we have the story of two worshippers; both were acquainted with God and the sanctuary service but neither yet knew Jesus' power to change hearts and lives. And only the tax collector chose to cry out to the One who

could do something about it.

As it was in my life, I believe the conclusion of this story is best played out in the next chapter of the Bible. In Luke 19 we are presented with the meeting of the tax collector Zacchaeus and Jesus at the fig tree. The meeting with Jesus changed Zacchaeus's life so much that he vowed restoration of all he'd done wrong. So marked is this incredible evidence of his meeting that Jesus said salvation had come to his house that day.

But salvation couldn't come unless those deep down feelings of inadequacy were dealt with by confessing them to God; not hiding them behind the veil of others' faults. That's what it was like when I finally met Jesus and traded my life of comparisons for a life filled with Him.

Although laying yourself bare before God isn't easy, and for a man it's really uncomfortable, it's the only way true restoration can come.

If you look around at the lives of others in your church—leaders, elders, youth—and instead of feeling compassion and genuine love for them you feel your life is better than theirs, maybe you should ask God to show you your own heart so you can lay it bare before Him. Then Jesus will change your attitudes and life, just like He did with Zacchaeus.

R

Ben Turner is an IT professional working for the South Pacific Division. His passions include preaching, small group Bible study and photography.

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Escape from ice island

by James Standish

I KNOW A GIRL. SHE IS TALL. SLIM. HAS FRECKLES. AND the most beautiful long, dark red hair. But this isn't what is so special about Rachel. You see, Rachel is fast. I know this because she once challenged me to a running race once. I said yes. That was my mistake.

Right from the start she was ahead. And about half way to the finish line, she turned around and called "hurry up slow poke" and giggled! Not a mean giggle. A funny giggle. So funny that I had to giggle too. Which made me even slower!

Rachel doesn't have a mean streak in her. She is even nice to her younger brother. Almost all the time. I know, because I stayed at her home. During winter. In America. And while I was there, the most amazing thing happened.

You see, it doesn't always snow where Rachel lives. Even in winter. But this winter, on this day, it snowed. And did it ever! Not little dabs of snow here and there. No. This was real snow! It felt like an avalanche falling straight from the sky. Soon you couldn't see the lawn. Then you couldn't see the road. Then you couldn't even see the cars parked by the side of the road. All you could see was white. White. White. Everywhere.

For some people, all this snow was a right bother. They closed the schools. Hrumph said the parents! They closed some roads. Hrumph said the parents! They even closed the government down. Hrumph! Hrumph! Hrumph!

But Rachel wasn't saying "hrumph!" She was yelling "hurray!" And doing her "snow day dance". You see, one of Rachel's favourite things in the entire world is to go out and play in the snow. And her favourite way to play, is to go sledding.

"Please daddy, please take us sledding," she and her brother said. And their dad, who happens to be an awfully nice daddy, said, "Sure, why not?" He even called up and arranged for one of their friends to meet them.

Now, when it comes to sledding you really only need three things. Snow, of course. Then you need a sled. Rachel has a sensational sled. And, of course, you need a good hill. It turns out the perfect sledding hill is a short drive from Rachel's house.

Rachel's dad got all the snow off the windows of his 4x4. He dug the snow out from his driveway. He even dug a trail on the path from the house to the car. And by the time he had done all of that, it was time to go.

There are two ways to ride a sled. You can put your feet out in front and sit up. It's a very sensible way. Or you can lay down with your head first and your face only inches above the snow as it rushes by underneath you. It's a very fun way. Rachel, of course, chose the fun way.

Down she sped. It seemed like she was going 100 miles per hour. The snow flew by her face, her heart pounded, she hit a bump and the sled felt like it might flip over! And at the end of it all, she jumped off her sled and yelled, "Let's do it again!"

It was on her third run down the hill, however, that things took a startling turn.

The perfect sledding hill overlooks a lovely little lake, which in summer is perfect for sailing toy boats and even wading. But in winter it gets very cold. In fact, on this day, it was so cold it was frozen over.

So why not go ice-skating on it?

You see, where Rachel lives it gets cold enough to freeze water, but not cold enough to freeze it deep enough to make it safe to skate on. If you tried skating, you'd soon fall through the ice. And into that terribly cold water underneath. And if you fell a little way down, you might find it hard to find the hole you fell through to come up. And even if you did manage to get back to the hole, it is very hard to get out of icy holes because the thin icy edges tend to break when you try to climb back up. And they are slippery as slippery can be. And even if you do get out, the water is so, so cold that if you don't get to the hospital very quick smart . . . well, I don't want to say, but it isn't good.

So every boy and girl knows this—even when a lake is covered in ice, don't you dare go walking on it. No. No. No.

I tell you all of this, because you need to know it to understand what happened next.

Rachel got to the top of the hill. She lay face first on her beautiful sled. She yelled, "Bombs away!", and shot off down the hill.

Just like the last time. And the time before. It was brilliant fun. The snow, the wind, the bumps!

But this time, something was just a little different. The sled slid ever so slightly to the right. And that put the sled on a slightly different trajectory. It caught just the wrong bump which flicked it a little more to the right. And that sent it shooting over the edge of a very sharp slope. And then. Oh no! The sled was shooting straight towards the lake.

Rachel wanted to jump off, but before she could even think, the sled flew over the edge and onto the thin lake ice.

She screamed, "Help me, Daddy, help me!" Her daddy was running in the snow as fast as he could. But the sled

was moving far too fast.

The sled hit the ice with a terrible thud. But its rails didn't break it. The sled kept rushing on. Further and further out into the middle of the lake.

Rachel's dad was terrified. At any moment the ice might give way and his precious little girl could fall through into that freezing water. And if she did, what could he do? He would rush out on the ice, of course. But then he would fall through the ice himself. Maybe far away from his little girl. And then what?

He called out to God in his heart, "Please save my precious little girl!"

The sled kept speeding along on the ice.

It didn't stop. It kept going. And going. And going.

And Rachel's dad kept praying and praying and praying.

Until the sled ran right up on the shore of an ice covered island in the middle of the lake.

Rachel got off the sled. Her dad was shaking with fear. But not Rachel. She gave a big smile and waved. She felt good to be on solid land.

But then she realised she had a problem. You see, there was a large sheet of thin ice between her and her dad. And she did not want to go out on that ice again. She knew exactly how dangerous it was. How on earth could she traverse that enormous gulf between them?

It turned out that the friends Rachel's dad brought sledding with him were Russian. And if there's one thing Russians know a lot about, it's snow and ice. It wasn't long until the Russian dad set up a rope between the island and the shore. Then he did about the hardest thing any dad can do. He sent his little boy, Martin, over to the island to get Rachel and bring her back.

The ice creaked. The wind blew. But the little boy didn't flinch. He was on a mission, and he would not be diverted.

For what seemed an eternity, Martin and Rachel inched their way back from ice island using the rope.

Eventually, they arrived on the snowy banks of the lake. Rachel's dad grabbed her off the ice and hugged her closer and harder than he ever had. "Dad!" cried Rachel, "that's too tight!" But her daddy wasn't listening. He was too busy thanking God for protecting his precious little girl.

When I heard the story that night as we sat around the fire at Rachel's home, it made me think of another story I know. You see, I know a Daddy who was willing to let His Son come across very dangerous territory to save me when I was marooned on an island without any hope.

Can you think of who that Daddy might be? Do you know the name of His Son?



James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.



The journey home

by *Coral

I GREW UP IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN THE 1930S, IN A family where you did not talk about politics or religion. Until I was seven, I had never seen a Bible and didn't even know what it was until I attended a local Catholic school for five months.

I was married in my 20s and one night, I had a dream. I saw poor people lying on our kitchen floor, dead. I began to walk away from the house with my husband and children, but then I turned around and realised I was looking at us!

Before I could react, my husband took my hand and said, "We have to keep walking."

Where were we going? I didn't know, but we walked for kilometres on the most beautiful green lawn, with a little rippling river on one side of it. It was so peaceful and lovely. And then there was the light—I had to put my hands over my eyes to stop them from burning—it was like the sun was rising straight in front of us!

As we got closer, it got brighter and as my eyes became accustomed, I saw a large, golden city. Its pavement was gold, and there were monstrous golden gates with a Roman soldier standing on either side.

We peered inside through the gates and saw people dressed in white. There were children and animals and everybody was so happy. In the middle of the pavement there was a beautiful, huge fountain with water coming out of it and people sitting around it; it was such a beautiful scene.

Then the gates opened. I was so amazed, taking it all in, I didn't realise my husband and children had entered. As I started to follow them into the golden city, the gates slammed shut in front of me!

"This is not for you," a voice said. The two soldiers at the gates took each of my arms, turned me around and then in front of me, the ground opened up. For a long time after, I could smell molten sulphur and hear the same voice saying, "This is for you, if you do not do what you must do."

I woke up screaming and crying, thinking I was going to be thrown into a sulphur pit. My husband was shaking me, telling me I was dreaming—but I felt I was really there.

I carried that dream with me for a number of years. I couldn't get rid of the feeling that I had to do something. It

was so frightening, it was so real; that voice telling me I had to do what I had to do. But what did I have to do? I didn't have a clue, but I knew it had to do with religion.

At that time, I didn't go to church and I never read the Bible, and so my quest began. I went to the churches of a number of faiths—the Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, Methodists, Catholics, Church of England . . . all the churches that I could find—to see if I could find the answer, but I always ended up with absolutely nothing. I was an empty shell.

After my husband died, I couldn't stay in the family home as it was too big for me. So I found a one-bedroom unit in a suburb about 10–15 minutes away. I had moved in not quite five months when there was a knock on my door.

"Hello. I'm the new Bible worker in your area and I'm delivering a free magazine to your home," the lady at the door said, handing me a copy of *Signs of the Times* magazine. We started talking. The Bible worker, Joan, then asked if she could call again and I agreed.

Joan did visit again and when she did, she invited me to attend a baptism at a Seventh-day Adventist church. I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists before and didn't even know they existed! Which was amazing, as the church was just across the road from me!

I went with Joan to the church that Saturday and sat there with my eyes wide open. I took in everything that went on, thinking, "There's something here, I can feel there's something here". The "something" felt like an awakening and I was so comfortable, a feeling I had never had with the other churches, but I had to continue attending to be sure. It took a year-and-a-half of Bible study, and then I knew I was home.

I was baptised in the ocean into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and that was when I felt complete and knew I had reached the end of my journey. Today, I no longer have that dream haunting me. I believe I've done what I'm supposed to do, that I've still got work to do and I'm doing it now!

R

*Only the author's first name is used for privacy reasons. August is Signs of the Times rally month. Sponsor Signs or give a gift subscription and change a life (see more details on back page).

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.

NOT A CRITERION

A E Hobbs, via website

Re: News story, "Delegates vote "no" on ordination issue"

The GC, led by the Holy Spirit, has spoken. Wouldn't it be good if that was the end of the debate? Sadly, it won't be: "Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest" (*Selected Messages*, 2:114, 1896). What happens now in those divisions that have gone ahead and ordained women without the explicit approval of the GC? I fear we will have a groundhog day on this issue for some time to come. Mark Finley hits the nail on the head when he says, "Ordination is not a criterion for service, witness, or proclamation." So let's get out there and evangelise our homes, community and the wider world.

HIGHER CALLING

Robin, via website

I am still amazed. No-one has ever stated that women cannot have a "ministry". Women are vital to the ministry of the church as a whole. Yet, what was being done to "show gender equality" was re-wording the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy in the "name of culture". "For I am the Lord, I change NOT . . ." (Malachi 3:6). We have no right to change what God has established. We need to listen to Him, not to others. He created us and knows the end from the beginning. The whole church in all areas makes up the ministry. Men and women are equal, yet for anyone to think that I am not treated equally if I do not have the job God set aside for the

man, well, that speaks against women everywhere who know their high calling as a mother and wife. Ellen White speaks of this role as being higher than that of minister. We all need to do a heart search. Christ is returning soon, and we need to get ready!

GO ON

Bernice, via website

Re: News story, "South Pacific affirms women in ministry"

Praise God we can go on doing whatever the Lord calls us to do. Sometimes even more because we are free of certain human instructions and rules. "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God" (*Desire of Ages*, p 250-251).

AFFIRMATION

Carole Platt, via website

Thank You Pastor Townend for affirming women in ministry. I am so glad you are the next president of our Division. God bless you for standing up and being counted.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

John Pocock, via website

Ted Wilson made it very clear that the current policies will remain. Having women in ministry is authorised by Church policy and women will continue to graduate and be employed as ministers in this Church. Also research the principal of headship thoroughly and you will see that it is a recent addition to the Adventist Church that was the result of Calvinist influences. Headship is not

a doctrine of our church and it is not one of the 28 Fundamentals. Why don't we all focus on spreading the gospel?

BLESSINGS, BARRY

Jeff Downs, via website

Re: Feature, "On reflection", July 18

Dr Oliver, Thank you for giving of yourself in these many years of service to the Lord and the people of the South Pacific. The short time I've known you and the few meetings I've had with you have encouraged me to lift high the Cross. Thank you for your commitment to missions, and specifically the needs of rural Papua New Guinea. May God bless you and your family as you refocus your ministry in new ways.

THANK YOU

Hannah Chong, via website

Dr Oliver, Thank you to you, your wife and family for being a servant and spiritual leader for SPD. We should thank and express our appreciation to our leaders all the time and not just at retirement! But thank you for your ministry and leadership and for having a strategic plan for the church for the next five years. May God bless you and your family as you start a new chapter!

ADMIRATION

Harold Peters, via website

Re: Editorial, "Barry", July 18

This profile definitely captures the Barry that I knew during the five years that I spent at PAU! I definitely admire all the things about him mentioned in this article; to them I would add that I always found him to be a true friend, one who was trustworthy and loyal.

ANCIENT WORDS PRESENT HOPE

What the Old Testament teaches us about Revelation

KAYLE B DE WAAL



**Sabbath,
August 15, 2015**

Avondale College
of Higher Education

A symposium and book launch with
Avondale Seminary head Dr Kayle de Waal.

Morning sessions include reflection and
sermon by Kayle and worship led by Dr
Lyell Heise from the Institute of Worship.

Afternoon session includes panel
discussion and launch of *Ancient Words*,
Present Hope and dedication.

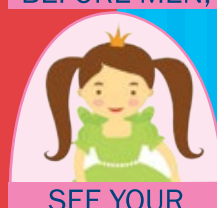
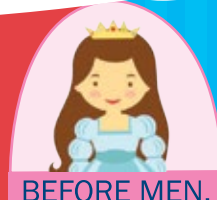
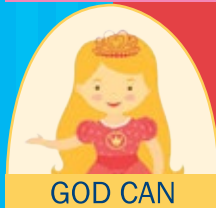
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& MEMORY VERSE

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Matthew 5:16 NIV

The king invites young women throughout the kingdom to come before him so he can select a new queen. The king chooses Esther to be his new queen. God has great plans for Esther.

Airwave to heaven

by Cristian Copaceanu



IS THIS ABC RADIO? BECAUSE YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE ABC radio." Jim, a retiree from Tasmania, went on to explain his confusion. Every morning after breakfast, he and his wife would sit on their recliners and listen to ABC Radio National.

This particular morning was no exception—turn it on, sit down, enjoy. The station as always was tuned to ABC Radio—no-one had changed the frequency for years. Except that today it didn't sound like ABC Radio. There was someone talking about hope, a new life in Jesus, forgiveness for the past. And at the end, they announced a phone number offering a Discovery Bible study course. So Jim rang. To this day, no-one knows who re-tuned the radio.

Starting out as a mission project of several churches in regional Victoria, the Faith FM radio network has expanded to more than 100 radio stations across the country, transmitting the gospel message 24/7 to a potential audience of more than 4 million people. Over the next few months, Faith FM will evolve into HopeChannel radio, allowing greater synergy between the Church's various media ministries. Radio, TV, web and print will share content and work together to increase the impact and exposure of HopeChannel across the SPD.

Ben, a young mechanic in his early 20s, rang to say he enjoyed listening to the station at work and after doing so for three weeks, had been convicted to quit smoking. Another listener, a middle-aged sales representative from Adelaide, continues to ring regularly, requesting copies of programs aired.

And that's only the beginning. Over the years dozens of people across the country have walked in to Adventist churches and become disciples of Jesus as a result of listening to Faith FM.

Rob and Natasha, who were both heavily involved with the occult, stumbled across a sermon about the Sabbath on Faith FM. The next day they attended an Adventist church and today they are active members of their local congregation.

Berren and Tamara, who both run successful businesses, listened to the radio for eight months. They closed their

businesses on Sabbath, made significant lifestyle changes and finally walked in to an Adventist church one morning asking for baptism.

Gary stumbled across Faith FM while terminally ill in hospital. At his request, and several weeks before he lost his battle with cancer, he joined the Adventist Church by profession of faith.

A listener from Tasmania wrote, "Just to let you know that I listen to your station in my house 24/7 and in my car. It is so nice to hear teachings about the Bible . . . Thank you. Your radio programs are very powerful . . ."

Wheelchair-bound in a nursing home, Jan-Marie's main source of company was the radio by her bedside. She stumbled across Faith FM, listened regularly and even started sending tithes to the local Adventist church long before she joined it by profession of faith.

Chi dropped her son off at work and turned the radio on while waiting for him. She heard a talk on prophecy, went home and studied further, before turning up to her local Adventist church. Today she is a baptised member and actively involved volunteering with Adventist Aviation around Australia.

These are not stories from ages past or distant lands but from our very own backyard, showcasing the tremendous power and influence of media to reach the unreachable. And just as exciting is the ability for Adventist churches to produce and broadcast local programs. Faith FM uses infrastructure allowing each individual radio station around the country to play content specific to its area.

Australian Union Conference president Pastor Chester Stanley has spearheaded the development of radio in Australia and sees exciting possibilities ahead.

"There are parts of Australia with absolutely no Adventist presence—radio can get us there," he says. "It is also a wonderful opportunity for our young people to use their media skills to reach the community."

R

Pastor Cristian Copaceanu is Radio Network manager for HopeChannel in the South Pacific. Proceeds from the August 15 AUC offering will go towards supporting the Faith FM ministry (see more details on page 2).

APPRECIATION

Gordon, Wendy, Kathy, Faye and Sharon wish to thank you for your prayers, support, cards, words of encouragement and gifts following the loss of Jean Speers, our dear wife and mother. A better day is coming.

WEDDINGS



Charlie-Beutel. Tairi Charlie, son of Taamo Charlie (Aitutaki, Cook Islands) and Vaine Charlie (deceased), and Sonya Lee Beutel, daughter of Glennis Watt (Meadowbank, Qld) and Glen Watt (deceased), were married 31.5.15 at Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba.

Mike Brownhill

Kapsin-Talanoa. Christian Kapsin, son of Apineru and Save-liga Kapsin, and Malia Talanoa, daughter of Aukuso and Petesa Paletasala, were married 17.5.15 in Endeavour Hills, Vic. Christian and Malia showed their commitment to each other and to God by entering into the commitment of marriage in the home of Pastor Kanela Alefaio, surrounded by friends and family.

Darren Croft, Kanela Alefaio



Gregg, and Sharon Trindall,

Robbie-Trindall. Aden Robbie, son of Melvin Robbie and Janelle

daughter of Mervyn and Tracey Trindall, were married 31.5.15 in Crystal Creek, NSW. Aden and Sharon met at Avondale as they were both studying nursing. They work at the Sydney Adventist Hospital and plan to live in the Wahroonga area.

Johnny Murison



Roche-Atkinson. Anthony Roche, son of Michael and Colleen

Roche (Hamilton, NZ), and Heidi Atkinson, daughter of Stephen and Carolyn Atkinson (Cambridge), were married 26.1.15 in Cambridge. Heidi and Anthony were surrounded by many family and friends as they committed their lives together in a beautiful ceremony.

Benjamin Martin, Michael Falzarano



Smart-Rebadulla. Paul Joseph Smart, son of Joyce

Smart (Woody Point, Qld) and Joseph Smart (deceased), and Catalina Padilla Rebadulla, daughter of Benjamin Padilla (Samar, Philippines) and Petra Padilla (deceased), were married 1.5.15 in Redcliffe church, Qld.

Mike Brownhill

OBITUARIES



Argent, Deborah Christine (nee Barry), born 9.2.1959 in

Sydney, NSW; died 2.6.15 in Mount Gravatt, Qld. Deborah was a remarkable, hardworking single mum giving her son plenty of opportunities and love. She helped others without them knowing. The last few months she struggled with her health but her faith in Jesus remained strong. Deborah was greatly loved and will be missed by her only son Daniel and her friend Michael Martin. She is now at peace awaiting the Lord's return.

Andre van Rensburg

Beyers, Pastor James Donald, born 16.3.1932 in Mount Morgan, Qld; died 14.12.14 in Rockhampton Base Hospital. He was predeceased by his wife Beryl and son Stephen. He is survived by his sons Jeffery and Glen (Qld), and daughter Donna Cleverdon (NSW). Jim pastored several churches in the North New South Wales Conference from 1971-1982 before finally returning to his beloved Mount Morgan in 1983. Upon retirement, Jim took up residency in the Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village in Yeppoon (Qld) in 2006. Jim now rests in the blessed hope of the return of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Colin Friend, Joseph Ryan

Jones, James, born 28.7.1941 in Charlestown, NSW; died 2.6.15 in The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. On 8.1.1967 he married Pam Minett. He is survived by his wife (Bendigo); their sons: Tony and wife Barb (Canberra, ACT) and Steve (Leeton, NSW); and grandchildren Dylan, Jordan and

Alisha. Jim was a much-loved husband, father, poppy, uncle and friend who will be missed for his mischievous sense of humour and enjoyment of life.

Moxon, Marjorie Betty (nee Cornwell), born 1.1.1925 in Pennant Hills, NSW; died 2.6.15 at home in Galston. In 1950 she married Keith Moxon, who predeceased her in 2006. She is survived by her sister Anne; and three sons: Douglas (Sydney), Gregory (Sydney) and Stuart (New Zealand). Betty trained as a nurse at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. She furthered her study at Loma Linda and Walla Walla College in America, and after further studies in Canada she returned to Australia in 1957 as a triple certificate nurse with a science degree. She was a faithful member of Galston church. Betty had a quiet confidence in God and His power in her life, so made the best of her circumstances and was content with what she had.

Barry Wright

Stone, Joy Louisa (nee Munro), born 2.2.1914 in Hay, NSW; died 14.5.15 peacefully at her son's home, aged 101. She was predeceased by her husband, and her son Frank Geoffrey. She is survived by her children: Joan Pamela, Margaret Ann, Robert Edwin, David Henry and Ruth Lorraine; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. For many years Joy was a member of Kanwal church, NSW. She was active in church work, particularly

VOLUNTEERS

■ **Vanuatu fly-n-build team volunteers required.** A group of 20 volunteers are needed to help build three churches in Port Vila mid-October 2015. We need people skilled in construction or who can assist with construction of pre-fabricated buildings. You will be assisted and supervised by a team of experienced builders who have designed the cyclone-rated building. Final details are yet to be confirmed and accommodation—it could be a little rough! Contact: Maryanne Jakovac at AVS. Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au> to register your interest in either this build or future planned trips.

■ **Children/youth work—Kaitia Adventist Church (New Zealand).** Position available for 12 months starting September 1, 2015. Run after-school programs, youth Friday nights, organise activities Sat/Sun afternoons, sports, craft and assist children with particular or special needs. Suitable for individual or married couple (age 21-30). Minimum education—Bachelors, must have experience working with children. Must have a driver's licence. See more details at <www.adventistvolunteers.org>. Search for Call ID: SPD. KAI.2015.01 or contact AVS <volunteers@adventist.org.au> or phone +61 2 9847 3275.

POSITION VACANT

■ **ICT systems manager—Adventist Schools Victoria (ASV).** ASV requires an ICT systems manager to put in place a support structure for the administration of the various ICT systems across our school system in collaboration with local ICT support staff. Qualifications required: several years of experience in performing systems administration or ICT management in a team environment. Qualifications preferred: have completed, or working towards completing, Apple Certified System Administrator (ACSA), Microsoft qualifications, Virtualisation (VMWare) or similar; ITIL Foundation Certificate; degree in ICT; experience in working in an educational environment performing an ICT operational role; and be a practising baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission. For a full position description/details, please contact Adventist Schools Victoria <fionathomas@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **September 5, 2015.**

Sign up for job updates and find more vacant positions at <adventistemployment.org.au>



with Dorcas. She now rests in peace beside the grave of her husband in the historic Lisarow Cemetery.

*Lyndon Schick, David Hay,
Aaron Brett, Danny Milenkov*

Wade, Rachel Southey (nee Adams), born 21.5.1918 in Gisborne, NZ; died 3.6.15 in Napier. She was predeceased by her husband Keith Wade. She is survived by her children: Robyn and Matt Edwards (Napier), Russell and Shona (Auckland); and grandchildren: Paul and Cecilia, Simon, Dean and Estelle, Kelly and Taryn and Rochelle; and great-grandson Matthew. Rachel is sadly missed and was laid to rest in the Gisborne Taruheru Cemetery, peacefully awaiting the resurrection morning when she and Keith will rise together.

Anton Van Wyk, Phil Laws

Williams, Rudi, born 20.2.1941 in Apia, Samoa; died 20.3.15 in Torbanlea, Qld. On 17.12.1965 he married Luana. He was predeceased by his son Rupert in 1995. He is survived by his wife; and their children: Tania Wills (Townsville), Trina Saunders (Mackay) and Jay (Sydney, NSW). Rudi was the eldest of nine children born to Ralph and Anna Williams (nee Winterstein). He migrated to Christchurch, NZ, in 1962. In 1989 Rudi, Luana and son Jay moved to Australia, eventually retiring in Torbanlea. Rudi was a respected and valued deacon at Hervey Bay. He passed away peacefully at his acreage home surrounded by loved ones. He had an enduring faith.

Alan Saunders



Wright, Gordon, born 24.9.1918 in Bethel, Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wairoonga, NSW; died 20.5.15 in Wairoonga. On 23.10.1944 he married Louisa Jane Taylor, who predeceased him. He is survived by his

daughters and their spouses: Jillian and Denis Jenkins, and Annette and Adrian Smith (all of Sydney); his grandchildren: Anita Smith and Vincent Gurra, Christopher and Kathryn Jenkins, and Carla and Ryan May; and great-grandchildren Charlotte and Madeleine. Gordon completed an apprenticeship in plate making for printers at White & Gillespie. During World War II he served as a sergeant in the Northern Territory and then returned to White & Gillespie for another 25 years. He helped build Cabramatta church and was a longtime, faithful member of Fairfield and Thornleigh churches. Gordon was dedicated to God, family and the Church.

Alex Currie

ADVERTISEMENTS

Glenorchy Seventh-day Adventist Church 50th Anniversary. 19.9.1965–19.9.2015. Our church invites you to join us for Sabbath, September 19, for a day of thanksgiving and celebration

Hillview church celebrating 40 years—October 2 and 3, 2015. Join us for fellowship, memories and inspiration. For more information, email: <iescale@yahoo.com.au> or phone: (02) 4977 2255.

Notice is hereby given that the Fifth Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, will be held in the Spencer on Byron Hotel, Byron Avenue, Takapuna, Auckland, from the 18th to the 20th of September, 2015. The program will commence on Friday, 18th of September, with registration at 2:00pm, followed by a praise and inspirational program including the opening of Sabbath. The seating of

delegates and the Constituency Meeting, to include proposed Constitutional changes, the presentation of administration and departmental reports and financial statements for the years 2010 to 2014, will commence at 7:00 pm on Sabbath and will continue on Sunday, 20 September. The Officers, Executive Committee and Constitution Committee of the Union for the next quinquennium will be elected at this Constituency Meeting.
*Graeme Drinkall FCPA, Secretary
Treasurer, NZPUC*

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Avondale College Church invites you to "The Dance" women's conference on

September 19–20, 2015. Guest speakers include Lola Moore and Litiana Turner. Register online <collegechurch.org.au/the-dance>. Email <bighouseconferences@gmail.com> for more information.

Avondale College Church invites you to "Game On" men's conference, October 17–18, 2015. Guest speaker Sam Leonor along with our own local speakers. Email <bighouseconferences@gmail.com> for more information.

Finally . . .

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. —Henry Ford

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