



## **YOUTH CONGRESS REAPS HARVEST IN PNG** page 3

**NEW GREAT CONTROVERSY  
A TOOL FOR SAMOAN  
CHURCH** page 9

**CHATting WITH THE NEW  
SPD PRESIDENT** page 16

# faithFM

Today, over 4 million Australians can tune in to Faith FM and hear of Jesus and His messages of hope. Faith FM is the official radio network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with over 100 stations broadcasting 24/7. This year, the radio network expanded to reach another 1.5 million listeners.

The mission of Faith FM is to make disciples for Jesus. Many people have been baptised after listening to Faith FM while hundreds more have made contact with the Church and thousands listen weekly. Your offering will enable Faith FM to expand its reach into busy cities and remote towns where there is no Adventist presence.

Each FM station costs \$4000 to establish and less than \$100 a month to operate. Every dollar you give helps make disciples and carry forward the gospel to Australia.

So please partner with us today in making disciples for Jesus. For more information on how to partner with FaithFM, please contact us at **1800 324 843**.



**Faith FM Offering August 15, 2015**



Powered by

View the Faith FM testimony video on [www.hop.ec/radio](http://www.hop.ec/radio)  
or contact us for more information [www.faithfm.com.au](http://www.faithfm.com.au)



## Solomons group helps Vanuatu

Honiara, Solomon Islands

A group of 115 volunteers belonging to a lay self-supporting and outreach ministry from Honiara, Solomon Islands, has returned from Vanuatu after completing rehabilitation work on the island of Pele.

Niuleni Community Music Ministry (NCMM), with the help of members of Freshwind Adventist Church, Port Vila, spent almost a week on the island rebuilding 24 houses (sleeping, eating and cook houses) belonging to families affected by Cyclone Pam. The project involved the building of Natagura (sago) leaf houses. Sago is scarce on the island and iron roofing is expensive. As a result of the cyclone, all bush materials for building houses in the villages were destroyed.

The sago leaves were bought from Malo, near Santo, and shipped to Pele. Financial assistance came from some generous Australian families through Chris Cavilla of Perth, and the rest was raised locally in Honiara.

Pele Island has a population of about 500 people and five different denominations—with Adventists being the smallest, numbering less than 20. The local church has found it difficult to make inroads into the hearts of the villagers. It's hoped that this project, although small in monetary terms, will open doors for the Adventist Church

on Pele. Along with building the houses, the women taught some simple cooking methods and recipes, and handicraft skills like cloth dyeing. The group also did gardening, weeding, general cleaning around the island community and church repairs.

The NCMM group comprised children, young people, women and men who played with the local children, swam together, shared stories and lived alongside Pele's inhabitants.

A child who was born on the island on July 1 was named Niuleni after the ministry. Tragically, a Freshwind mother and Dorcas lady who accompanied the group had a severe stroke and died on the day the group returned to Port Vila.—James Bouro



The group worked with locals to rebuild houses.

## Youth congress reaps harvest in PNG

Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea

The World Changers "Harvest 15" Regional Youth Congress in Mendi lived up to its name, with 357 people baptised on the final Sabbath of the program.

A further 1000 people responded to a call for baptism, much to the delight of church leaders and the 10,000-strong crowd who came together in the Southern Highlands from nine different provinces in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to attend the seven-day congress last month.

South Pacific Division Youth Ministries director Dr Nick Kross served as keynote speaker for the event, with Holy Spirit Ministries International director Colin Hone running seminars during the week.

Local ministries directors from the Eastern and Western Highlands missions also hosted seminars throughout the congress.

The baptism is the latest success story for the World Changers Bible initiative in PNG.

Another story

is that of Joyce Kandawok, a district youth coordinator from Enga Province. Since attending the World Changers launch at Mt Hagen in April 2013, Ms Kandawok has initiated a number of youth groups from Adventurer-aged teams to young adults. These teams go out into the community to doorknock and conduct Bible studies.

A group of Pathfinders even visited a local army base to offer Bible studies.

The result after 12 months of outreach has been amazing, with 214 people baptised and several new churches built in the district.

Nine-year-old Jomaney Joseph also shared her testimony during the youth congress.

Jomaney is the leader of her Adventurers group, and with the help of her team—and the support of her parents—has been giving Bible studies to children her age.

Several families have now been baptised as a result of this group. Jomaney continues to support the new believers by praying for them with a prayer team at 4am every Sabbath.

"It is humbling and amazing to see this young girl give her testimony to 10,000 people with the crowd applauding her," Dr Nick Kross said. "What the Bible says is true—you're never too young to be a witness and a leader for Christ."—Linden Chuang/Nick Kross



Dr Nick Kross (far left) leads out at the baptismal service on Sabbath, July 11.



## Speak

James Standish

Animals don't speak. Not even in the Bible. Not after sin, anyway. Not ever. Well, except once. And it's such an odd story that sceptics often cite it as justification for treating the entire Bible as a fanciful fairytale.

The story is found in Numbers 22 and at first it reads as depressingly familiar reality. A white-collar worker is corrupted by cash and sets off to do precisely what he is sworn to avoid. He is no different from the physician who overcharges his patients, the lawyer who subverts justice, the accountant who cooks the books or the pastor who crosses the line with a parishioner.

But then the story becomes a lot more interesting when the donkey begins to talk. This is the stuff of TV sitcoms, fantasy films and comic books. And it's not surprising that critics focus on this strange story. But in their mirth they miss the point. A very important point. A point I got loud and clear this week.

I found myself on my way to Alexander's home, running on spiritual empty. Alexander and I go back; way back. But somehow, despite being very close in our youth, we completely lost contact. It has been decades since we've seen each other. A lot has happened in between.

Not long before I show up out of the mists of time, Alexander was released from prison. And, I learn when I arrive, his family is moving out of the state in two days' time. And no-one knows if Alexander is coming.

Alexander's unemployed. Things are difficult. And the outlook appears bleak.

In a moment together, Alexander's wife confides my visit is "an answer to prayer". I look at her and feel a complete fraud. How could my visit be an answer to anything? I had no idea I was coming at such a complex time. And I have no idea what to say or do. The next day I see Alexander's mum. She also tells me, "God sent you here for just this time." It certainly doesn't feel like it. I'm not riding high, full of faith, walking the earth with spiritual swagger.

After a couple of days, Alexander and I end up parked in his driveway talking. I leave the next morning. As do his wife and kids. We aren't retelling our favourite stories or swapping updates on lost friends. That has all been done.

Alexander wants to talk about other stuff. Serious stuff. Real stuff.

And so we do. For hours. And it is heavy. If you think going to prison is a small thing, it isn't. If you think losing your career along with it is just a minor setback, you're wrong. If you believe when you are knocked flat on your back at 50 it's easy to bounce right back, you are far off the mark. Alexander is in serious territory. But he isn't alone.

All our friends have faced an existential crisis by now. For some of us it is the end of our marriages. For others it's a death or dreadful illness in our family. Some of us have gone broke. Others are in the grip of alcohol or drug dependency. This world grinds everyone down, and if it hasn't happened to you, it just means it's coming your way.

But there's hope. With faith in God we can be resilient. We can claw our way back. We can thrive again.

We talk about all of this and much more. But it is what Alexander says at the end of the conversation that leaves me stunned: "God sent you, man." Why so significant? Because just that day I learned that Alexander felt utterly abandoned by God.

But God had another idea. After 30 years he brought me to Alexander's home. At exactly the right moment. I look at my friend with tears running down his cheeks and it sends chills down my spine.

Which brings me back to Balaam's donkey. The point of the story is that God can use anyone to witness for Him. He can even use a donkey. And He can even use you and me. Not because we're brilliant, wise or the strongest people on earth. And not because we're on some kind of permanent spiritual high. But because through our complete weakness, insufficiency and inadequacy, He is made strong. God used a donkey. And God can use us.

Believe it. I just saw Him do it.

*James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.*

Glenn Townsend Senior consulting editor  
James Standish Communication director  
Jarrod Stackelroth Associate editor  
Kent Kingston Assistant editor  
Vania Chew PR/editorial assistant  
Dora Anuimuia Sales & marketing  
Tracey Bridcutt Copyeditor  
Linden Chuang Assistant editor—digital  
Lulu Lim Graphic designer

Letters [editor@record.net.au](mailto:editor@record.net.au)  
News & Photos [news@record.net.au](mailto:news@record.net.au)  
Noticeboard [ads@record.net.au](mailto:ads@record.net.au)  
<http://record.net.au>  
Mail: Adventist Media Network  
Locked bag 1115  
Wahroonga, NSW 2076  
Australia  
Phone (02) 9847 2222  
Fax (02) 9847 2200

Subscriptions  
Mailed within Australia and NZ  
\$A43.80 \$NZ73.00  
Other prices on application  
[subscriptions@record.net.au](mailto:subscriptions@record.net.au)  
(03) 5965 6300

Cover Credit: Nick Kross

"Baptismal candidates wait with a copy of the World Changers Bible." |

Official news magazine of the South Pacific  
Division Seventh-day Adventist Church  
ABN 59 093 117 689  
Vol 120 No 15



[twitter.com/RECORDadventist](https://twitter.com/RECORDadventist)



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



## Like a child

Linden Chuang

“Stop acting so childish!”

I guess it was an appropriate response to my jumping in puddles in my church clothes. But to this day I stand by my actions, for three very good reasons:

- 1) I was nine. Boys will be boys, right?
- 2) It was hot. There was no ice-cream.
- 3) It was fun. Umm . . . it was fun.

These won't seem like valid reasons for some people. If you are one of them, allow me to revert to my nine-year-old self for a moment and do what comes naturally . . .

:p

That was me sticking out my tongue at you, just so you know.

Okay, yes—I'm being a little immature. But I honestly think we adults could stand to be more childish at times.

That's not an invitation to start throwing tantrums at church board meetings (although I'll admit that would be somewhat hilarious—well-dressed men and women stomping around the room). After all, the Bible says we are to put away “childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11).

But growing up doesn't mean we should lose the essence of being a child. Because when we really think about it, children do the best things in life *better* than us adults—things like expressing joy and sorrow, finding peace, making friends and having fun.

Loving.

Is there any purer form of love than that of a child? Kids love who and what they love, without the complicated mess we adults seem to infuse into everything.

I recently attended a one-year-old's birthday party. It was amazing to watch the little guy do what one-year-olds do—crawl where he crawls, laugh when he laughs and love who he loves. There was no agenda and no need for analytics. I could just watch. Because he just was.

It's here where I see the essence of what Jesus was talking about when He told the oldies of His time, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Our love for Christ needs to be like that of a child—pure, innocent and true.

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1 NIV).

Notice the exclamation marks (those are legit)! The greatest thing we can be called is a *child* of God. So to my fellow educated, domesticated and complicated “grown ups”—it's time we reclaimed the childlike spirit we abandoned long ago.

Where should you start? Well, perhaps where I started this editorial. If you happen to see children jumping in puddles in their church clothes, don't call them out for being “childish”.

Join them.

“You will find more happiness growing down than up.”—Unknown

---

Linden Chuang is assistant editor of *Adventist Record—digital*.



## SPD statement on ordination

The South Pacific Division leadership rejoices that both our women and men are responding to God's call to the gospel ministry. As Joel 2:28, 29 makes clear, it is only when young and old, male and female, are together filled with the Holy Spirit and are reaching out to our dying world, that God's work is completed.

After careful study of Scripture and Ellen White's writings, we believe women who serve faithfully as pastors should be eligible for ordination on the same basis as their male colleagues. We are, therefore, disappointed by the vote at the General Conference Session on July 8, which has prevented world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from deciding this question within their territories.

The South Pacific Division is thankful for the women already serving as pastors in the South Pacific, and we sincerely appreciate and respect their faithful spiritual leadership. We will initiate plans to increase the numbers and the support of women in various kinds of ministry. However, the South Pacific Division intends to remain in harmony with the world Church. This includes continuing to hire, promote and commission women pastors who are, under existing Church policy, free to perform nearly all the functions of their male colleagues.

We hope that in time the world Church will recognise gospel equality in regard to women's ordination. The SPD will work toward that purpose while respecting those with alternative perspectives. The evidence from General Conference Session votes over the past 25 years, shows that support for women's ordination has increased steadily from 24 per cent to 41.3 per cent. We hope and expect that the freedom for the Church to ordain all who God calls to gospel ministry will be the reality soon.



### Cheap and nasty

Health experts say Australia's most damaging drug is not ice, it's cheap alcohol. Cask wine has been identified as a particular culprit—it's the preferred beverage of many problem drinkers. But the political will to hike taxes or toughen alcohol laws appears to be weak—some hospitality industry representatives are political donors. —*New Daily/SMH*



### Large scale

Hume Ridge Church of Christ in Toowoomba, Queensland, is planning an ambitious mission trip to Gandep, Papua New Guinea, that involves upgrading an airfield, constructing two bridges and running 15 kilometres of road through the rainforest. The \$A2 million project will improve transport access for about 20,000 people. —*Gandep Project*



### Thank you

George Weidenfeld, who holds a seat in the UK's House of Lords, is funding a rescue mission that will see up to 2000 Syrian and Iraqi Christian refugee families airlifted to Poland. In 1938, Weidenfeld, then a teenager, was assisted by Christian groups to escape Nazi-occupied Austria. Now he says it's time to repay the debt. —*Catholic Herald*



### Hope remains

Pakistan's Supreme Court has given Christian woman Asia Bibi what may be her last chance to appeal against her death sentence. Ms Bibi is the first woman sentenced to death under Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws. Even if she was released, however, she would be in danger from Muslim extremists. —*BBC*



### Print your own

Wycliffe Associates is supplying Bible translators in restricted countries with quality high-speed computer printers, along with binders, laminators and paper cutters. Once translations are completed, hundreds of Scripture portions can be printed from a USB stick—a lot easier than smuggling pallet-loads of Bibles across international borders. —*Wycliffe Associates*



### Unholy violence

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan was marked by deadly extremist attacks around the world. But in Indonesia's Papua province hundreds of Christian rioters attacked a mosque, setting fire to it as well as dozens of nearby buildings. The violence was sparked when church worshippers were disturbed by the mosque loudspeakers. —*GlobalPost.com*

## eGIVING

An online giving portal for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

- Tithe
- Donations
- Offerings

**Convenient, safe and easy!**

**egiving.org.au**  
**egiving.org.nz**

Support your church through online giving



Freely you have  
**received...**  
freely  
**give**



**NEW IOS app  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

## New association for Adventists in public office

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

Some 21 leaders from 10 countries—including several from the South Pacific Division—came together for the first meeting of the World Adventist Public Officials Association (WAPOA) last month.

The association was formed after it was recognised that Seventh-day Adventists can find holding high public office an isolating experience.

At the July 8 meeting, ambassadors, government ministers, members of parliament, a senator, a deputy chief justice and high-level officials within international organisations discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Adventists in the public realm.

They spoke frankly about the need for better networking between Adventists who serve their governments, and about the loneliness that often comes with serving in a political or civic role. Some expressed their disappointment that holding elected office is sometimes seen as “off limits” for faithful church members—a sign someone has compro-

mised their integrity. All spoke of their desire to carry their spiritual values into the public realm and reflect Christ’s character in their service.

Senator Floyd Morris, Senate President of Jamaica, was elected the first president of WAPOA.

Philippine Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Bienvenido V Tejano, was chosen to serve as the association’s secretary.

According to Senator Morris, the first order of business will be to identify more Adventist public officials—whether they serve their national government or their local city council—and invite them to join the association. The group plans to communicate regularly and to organise a meeting in 2017. —*Bettina Krause/ANN*



L to R: Hon James Marape (PNG Minister of Finance) Ray Paul (PNG Commissioner of Customs), Deputy Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Silika.

## Couples trained throughout Pacific

Lae, Papua New Guinea

A new project will assist pastors in Papua New Guinea and other Pacific territories to prepare couples for marriage.

Most pastors care for numerous churches and do not find it easy to provide the necessary time for effective pre-marriage counselling.

A number of couples in various missions and territories will now be selected to receive training that will provide them with the knowledge and resources to coach pre-married couples towards marriage.

“We believe this will make a great improvement to marriages in our region,” said Dr Leigh Rice, president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

A resource manual is being prepared to assist the couples get ready for their new role. Dr Rice, who initiated the project, said that “as these couples gain expertise and confidence we would encourage them to receive further training to provide enrichment programs for married couples in our churches”. —*Trafford Fischer*



Family Ministries directors: Pastor Fraser Reuben, Solomon Islands Mission; Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa, Trans Pacific Union Mission; Dr Agnes Kola, PNGUM; Dr Trafford Fischer, South Pacific Division.

## Family-focused conference challenges

Wahroonga, New South Wales

About 105 people from across the South Pacific Division attended this year’s National Christian Family Conference, held at the Clinical Education Centre at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

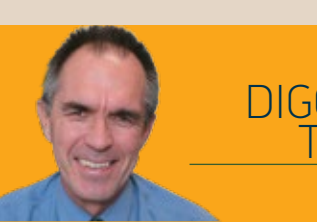
The theme of the two-day conference was adolescent mental health and parenting skills. Presenters included many key researchers and specialists in the field of parenting and adolescent health, including Dr Ross Grant, head of the Australasian Research Institute; Dr Andrew Campbell, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University; and Dr David Bennett, head of the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health. Session topics ranged from building resilience and wellbeing in young people to cyberpsychology and the internet.

“[The conference] has encouraged me, enlightened me and challenged me to see that there is still so much work to be done in this area,” said Papua New Guinea Union Mission Family Life director Dr Agnes Kola.

“This is the longest-running forum for Christians in this field,” said SPD family ministries director Dr Trafford Fischer. “2015 marks our 29th conference.” Dr Fischer acknowledged the contributions of Dr Bryan Craig, who started the National Christian Family Conference in 1986 and has been involved in every conference since. —*Vania Chew*



Dr Agnes Kola, Papua New Guinea Union Mission Family Life director.



## DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

### Assurance in a nail

There is nothing so wonderful as the assurance of sins forgiven, of experiencing peace with God and having a new life of power. It's all yours—thanks to the prophecy of the nail.

Two prophets, one around 1000 BC and the other around 700 BC, predicted the Messiah would be crucified. These prophecies are remarkable considering that crucifixion was not practised during those times, but occurred from 500 BC until AD 337.

**Read Psalm 22:16; Isaiah 53:5**

The New Testament reveals these prophecies were fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion. However, ancient non-Christian writers such as Tacitus (AD 116) and Josephus (AD 93) also mention that Jesus was crucified.

**Read Matthew 27:35; John 20:25-27; Acts 2:23,36**

Prophecy was given to build faith and confidence in God and His Word. The fulfilment of the prophecies of a crucified Christ assure you of three things right now, if you have accepted Him: 1. Your sins ARE forgiven—He bore them 2000 years ago; 2. You ARE reconciled to God so live in peace now; 3. Christ now lives in you victoriously. **Read John 13:19; 14:29; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20; Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20; 6:14**



Photo: Elise & Jad

That crucifixion was practised during Christ's time is seen by the discovery in 1968 of this ankle bone with a nail in it of a man crucified in the First Century AD.

## Children open doors with Bibles

Western Province, Solomon Islands



Pastor Herrick Pentani.

Pastor Herrick Pentani and three children recently travelled to Niniveh, a Methodist village in Western Province, Solomon Islands, with boxes of illustrated children's Bibles.

He received the Bibles at the "Shaping Faith Expo" in Honiara in June. The Bibles were the result of a worldwide 13th Sabbath offering collected in 2013, with 33,000 Bibles now being distributed to children in missions across the South Pacific Division.

Pastor Pentani reports:

"When we arrived, the village leader took us to the chief and introduced us.

He asked me the reason we were there. I said, 'We are coming to your village to distribute the Word of God.' As soon as he heard this, he straight away told the village leader to ring the Sunday school bell.

"As soon as the kids heard the bell they all ran to the community hall, even some with their parents, primary school teachers and their Sunday school teachers.

"The leader introduced us to the children and the reason why we were there. In his little introduction he said, 'It was my longing desire that one day these little children will own a Bible which they could read and also carry to the church. Your coming is not an accident. God sent you here at the right time.'

"After offering a word of prayer, I opened the box and took out a Bible. As soon as the children saw the Bible they were excited. I opened the Bible to the first chapter of Genesis as well as John 1:1. Then I said, 'I am here today to give you Jesus who is the Word; by reaching out your hands you also receive Him.'

"At the end, the church leader said, 'From now on we are opening a door to you to come and conduct any program in our village. For so long we have been waiting but you never came. Please come and help us and our children to know the Word of God.'

"The three little disciples [Zendrick Pentani, Zebebrick Pentani and David Pitiri] that I took with me were so happy. For the first time they shared Jesus to such a large number of children. These three disciples have already requested to be part of the team again. In the same way Jesus started with the three."

—Herrick Pentani/Julie Weslake



Pastor Pentani's helpers with the Niniveh village elder.



Children with their new Bibles.





## New Great Controversy a tool for Samoan Church

by Nathan Brown

A new translation of *The Great Controversy* by Ellen White has been produced in the Samoan language in a partnership between the Samoas-Tokelau Mission, Samoan churches in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and Signs Publishing.

*O Le Finauga Tele* was last published in 1991 and has been out of print for many years. The 2015 edition features a new translation overseen by Dr Kuresa Tagai, a retired Samoan schoolteacher and pastor, based in Brisbane.

Pastor Eddie Erika was working in Samoa in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in 2009 when he was asked by Samoan church leaders to coordinate this project with Signs Publishing in his hometown of Melbourne. As well as working with the translating and language editors, Pastor Erika has also coordinated fundraising for the initial print run of 20,000 copies.

"The Samoan people are always evangelistic in their thinking and their work," he reports, "so many churches have donated from their evangelism budgets but many individuals have also contributed, as well as financial support from other donors, the Samoa Mission and the South Pacific Division."

Dr Erika Puni, director of Stewardship for the General Conference, has worked to support and coordinate this project among Samoan congregations internationally. "By nature, Samoans have a strong affiliation with their families, irrespective of where they live in the world," he explains, "and this project has pulled us together as an Adventist family for God's mission."

More than just another book, Dr Puni says that the new *O Le Finauga Tele* "provides for our church members globally an invaluable evangelistic tool that they can share with their families, friends and neighbours, given the unfolding of world events in the political and religious contexts of our world".

Pastor Erika agrees that this new edition is particularly significant for the Church's work among Samoan people.

"Most Samoan people are Christians and we want to share with our people where we come from in our Adventist faith," he explains. "One of the things that identifies us is our understanding of last-day events, the history of the Christian church and where we are headed."

He says he has re-read the book three times while working on this project. "When I was asked to do this, I went back and read the whole book because I wanted to make sure that I shared it with genuine enthusiasm. It has been a great encouragement to me and I am so thankful that God has given us this message to be shared prayerfully with our people."

According to Pastor Kevin Geelan, sales manager for Signs Publishing, Signs and a number of its donors were excited when approached by Pastor Erika about the possible project. "This demonstrates what the mission of Signs Publishing is all about, providing spiritual resources that will build the Church, as well as placing evangelistic tools in the hands of our church members," Pastor Geelan says. "We also believe that when this book gets into the hands of the Samoan people, it will inspire them to show what can be done with concerted effort and will add impetus to their dreams for other printing projects that are in the hearts of our Samoan leaders."

Pastor Erika agrees. "We want to thank Signs Publishing for their contribution to enable the Samoan people to have this book," he says. "But now we have a process in place for good-quality translations, we are going to continue pushing our people to work on *Steps to Christ* and *The Desire of Ages*. We have shown that this can be done and our people have the opportunity to do more."

The new *O Le Finauga Tele* will be used by Adventist churches in Samoa, as well as Samoan communities in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, including Samoan churches in Hawaii and Alaska.

*Nathan Brown is editor at Signs Publishing in Warburton, Victoria, Australia.*



# The Great Charter

by Barry Harker

**I**MAGINE YOU LIVE IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH RELIGIOUS freedom and due process of law are absent. You are subject to forced service, arbitrary levies and fines. Dispossession and seizure of your property is common, severe limitations on movement and economic activity are routine, and there are no standard measures or inheritance procedures. These conditions apply to you as a member of a tiny privileged minority. Most, including women, do not enjoy your meagre rights. Welcome to England, June 14, 1215 AD.

The following day, an event took place at Runnymede, near Windsor, which began the long process of transforming English society and that was destined to have a major impact on the world. King John and the English barons signed an agreement known in Latin as Magna Carta or the Great Charter in English. Hastily assembled by the barons, the 62 clauses of Magna Carta were written to obtain concessions from King John on issues that were vexing them, including those listed above.

You would not have noticed much change following the signing, and many of its clauses were soon outdated. The document went through changes over almost a century.

But Magna

Carta was a revolutionary agreement that marked a major turning point in English history and the development of English laws and freedoms. It contained several clauses that introduced timeless principles of justice and liberty. These principles have been immensely influential.

The most famous of these was contained in Clauses 39 and 40. It was the principle of due process of law. The clauses read, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice."<sup>1</sup> Clause 38 is complementary in that it excludes self-incrimination.

In the fourteenth century, Parliament, appealing to

Magna Carta, guaranteed trial by jury. This was a major improvement over trial by oath, contest or ordeal.<sup>2</sup> Parliament appealed to Magna Carta again in 1640 to introduce the Habeas Corpus Act, which meant that no-one could be held without charge. It upheld individual liberty over despotism.

Magna Carta inspired the English Bill of Rights in 1689 but, even then, the principles of Magna Carta were finding wider acceptance. The colonialists of America took the principles of Magna Carta with them, where they were eventually embedded in the American Bill of Rights in 1791. Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights and the American Revolution heavily influenced the French Declaration of the Rights of Man, written in 1789. The English Chartists of the nineteenth century were influenced strongly by Magna Carta, as was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

That's stunning influence for a medieval document. There's much to inspire in the story of Magna Carta as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of its first signing this year. Yet, there are storm clouds on the horizon too. Terrorism is challenging our commitment to Habeas Corpus. Hard-won freedoms can be lost easily in the name of security.

There are challenges at other levels. Guy Standing, Professor of Development Studies at the University of London, is concerned that the principle of due process is being undermined in the home of Magna Carta. He writes, "Yet today we have numerous sanctions without due process, and the principle of proportionality has been lost. Successive governments have multiplied the number of acts that can be deemed criminal or misdemeanours, constructing a regime of unaccountable discretionary decisions that blight people's lives."<sup>3</sup>

So, while celebrating the signing of Magna Carta, we need to be alert to the erosion of principles that have given us our freedoms and lifestyle. The Reformation fuelled the desire for religious freedom and civil liberties that was awakened in medieval England. With the declining influence of the Reformation, we should expect to see more pragmatism and less principle in response to contemporary issues.

This is also to be expected because the issues at stake in Magna Carta have never been fully resolved. They have a strangely modern feel when we examine them in the light of our prophetic understanding. The historical context in which Magna Carta was signed is instructive.

The last successful invasion of England was made by William the Conqueror in 1066 AD. The seizure of lands by the Normans and loss of many ancient freedoms were felt keenly in England. Pope Gregory VII initiated the Investi-

ture Struggle with *Dictatus Papae* in 1075 AD. Who would invest church officials? Would it be pope or king? By the early twelfth century, the answer was clear. It would be the pope.

That was the case with Henry I of England, who had issued his Charter of Liberties in 1100 AD, an agreement between himself and the prominent barons and earls that was reached in similar circumstances to that which applied more than a century later in Magna Carta. The difficulties for monarchs were exacerbated by the crusades, which created an enormous demand for funds. Competing externally with popes for influence and money and internally with barons for sovereignty made life difficult for English kings during the twelfth century.

When King John came to power in 1199 AD, the simmering tensions between the barons and the king were aggravated by John's high level of demand for money. After the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury in July 1205 AD, a dispute arose over the appointment of a successor between the king and the clergy. Pope Innocent III rejected both candidates and nominated his own, Stephen Langton. John barred Langton from entering England.

Innocent responded by placing England under interdict, excluding the English people from the rites and services of the church. The dispute dragged on from 1208 to 1213 AD when John was forced to capitulate. The barons were incensed when, as part of the lifting of the interdict, John offered England and Ireland to the pope in perpetuity. John's defeat in France in 1214 AD was the last straw for the barons.

In early 1215 AD, papal letters arrived in support of John, the baronial revolt developed and, ironically through Langton's mediation, the Magna Carta was signed on June 15. Innocent annulled the Magna Carta on August 24, 1215 AD, placing himself on the wrong side of history and triggering the First Barons' War. John died in October 1216 AD.

Magna Carta removed the king's absolute power. It was the first document to show a monarch's dependence upon his subjects. It introduced fair and just processes in law and administration. The limited freedoms given to the free men of England would eventually trickle down to all English citizens, although social justice issues remain. This year's anniversary challenges us to preserve freedoms and advance the cause of fairness and justice in our generation.

## Terrorism is challenging our commitment to Habeas Corpus. Hard-won freedoms can be lost easily in the name of security.

1. <<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item95692.html>>

2. Personal communication with David Fitzgibbon.

3. Guy Standing, "Celebrate 800 years with a new charter", *The Guardian Weekly*, January 30, 2015, p 20.

*Barry Harker is a retired educator who writes from Lake Macquarie, NSW.*



### Fitter and healthier

In a recent ride with the Fiji Cycling Association, Pastor Glenn Townend (now South Pacific Division president) won the 44 km race over the hilly roads outside Suva, beating many younger and more experienced riders. "I thank God for the Adventist health message," he said. "I have followed this all my life but much more closely in the past few years. The other riders know this. I feel fitter and healthier than I did 15 years ago. I'm glad that comprehensive health ministry is one of the key strategies of the South Pacific Division this quinquennium." —TPUM



### Commitment and confidence

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea has reaffirmed its commitment to and confidence in the Bible as God's Word. This affirmation follows an incident in the city of Mt Hagen where two men burnt a Bible in the city streets, claiming it was just an ordinary book. The Church stated that the Bible is its only source of belief. "We want to disassociate the Church from the burning of the Bible in Mt Hagen," said Dr Leigh Rice, president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. —PNGUM



### Running the race

An elder at Canberra National Adventist Church (ACT) has become the 47th person in Australia to complete 100 certified marathons. Chris Gamble (third from left), who will turn 64 soon, has run 102 marathons and aims to complete another three this year. Along the way he has run 21 ultra-marathons, including several 100km races and a 100km charity run that raised \$A4000 for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. —James Toogood



### Whakatane winners

Whakatane Seventh-day Adventist School (NZ) recently participated in the Eastern Bay Gymnastics Club's annual interschool competition. The school had great results, winning the team sections for Years 3-5 and Years 6-8. Student Jonathan Mulhane also placed first in the Years 3-5 boys' competition. —Bay Weekend.



### Ready for the Final

Pastor Gary Kent was the presenter at a city-wide evangelism campaign held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. The theme was "Ready for the Final" and Pastor Kent spoke about the Sabbath, the second coming and God's love. More than 50 people were baptised as a result of this campaign. —It Is Written Oceania



### Mesmerising music

Students at Avondale School (NSW) enjoyed a performance by the Washington Adventist University Orchestra and Chorale. The 50-plus member ensemble recently visited the school's Cooranbong campus as part of their Australian tour. The musical group was led and directed by Dr James Bingham, who began his musical career at Avondale College before starting his teaching career in the United States. Dr Bingham addressed the students and described the changes to the school and the township of Cooranbong since he last visited nearly 50 years ago. —Kerrie Howells



### Dormitory dedication

Pacific Adventist University (PNG) held a simple but significant ceremony in May to dedicate a 72-bed dormitory for male students. Acting vice chancellor Dr Jeff Crocombe provided the keynote address. The dedication was officiated by spiritual services director Pastor Lucas Marley and witnessed by the administration, students, staff and PAU community. The dormitory has three levels, 24 rooms and is the tallest building on campus. —Glennies Anis



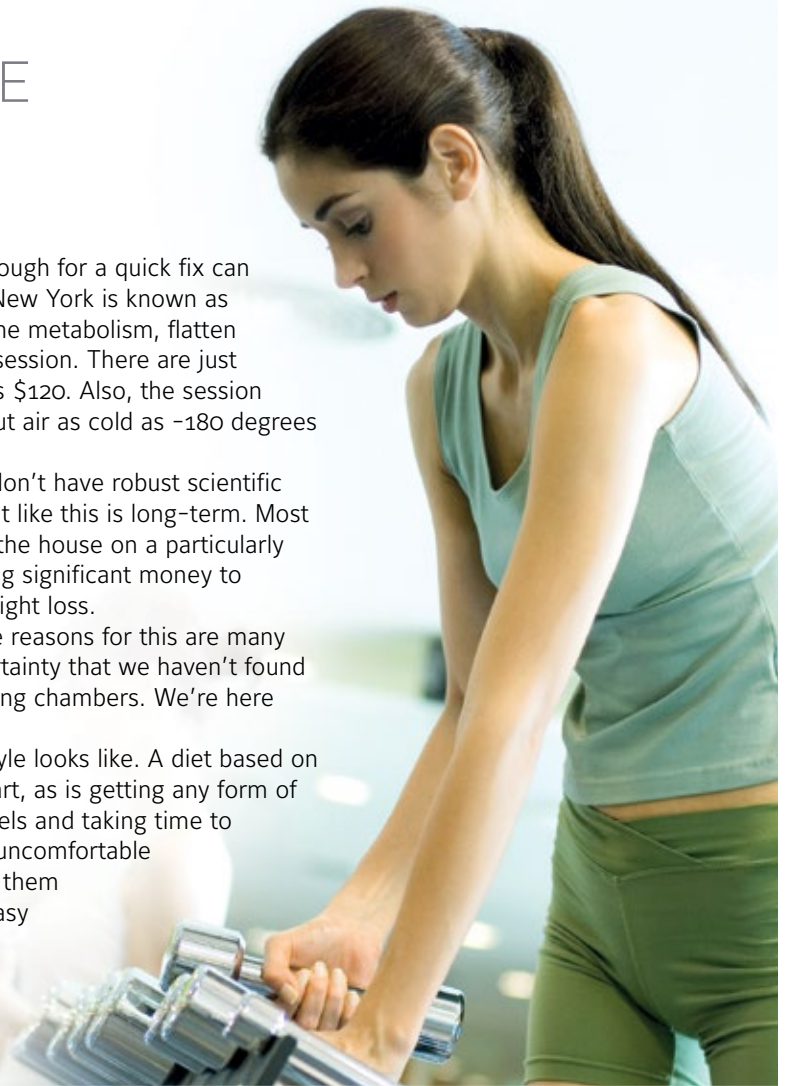
## Freezing for health

The discomfort some people are willing to go through for a quick fix can be amazing. The latest weight loss trend sweeping New York is known as cryotherapy, a treatment that is said to help boost the metabolism, flatten stomachs, reduce cellulite and burn up to 3200kJ a session. There are just a couple of catches. A three-minute treatment costs \$120. Also, the session involves standing in a 182cm machine that pumps out air as cold as -180 degrees Celsius onto your exposed body.

There's also the catch that the claimed benefits don't have robust scientific backing and there's no data on how safe a treatment like this is long-term. Most of us have a hard time taking that first step outside the house on a particularly cold winter's morning, but people are willingly paying significant money to experience much worse than this in the name of weight loss.

We're in the middle of a global obesity crisis. The reasons for this are many and varied, but we can say with a fair amount of certainty that we haven't found ourselves in this situation because of a lack of freezing chambers. We're here because of our lifestyles.

We know a great deal about what a healthy lifestyle looks like. A diet based on minimally processed whole plant foods is a great start, as is getting any form of regular activity, good sleep, managing our stress levels and taking time to invest in relationships. At the start, it can be a little uncomfortable trying to make these changes in a world that makes them the more difficult course of action rather than the easy option. But it can't be any more uncomfortable than being blasted with freezing air, and the catch, in this case, is that the benefits are proven and don't just change looks, they change lives.



### *Baked stuffed potatoes*

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 15 minutes **Serves:** 4

- 4 medium potatoes, cut in half**
- ¼ cup red lentils**
- 1 celery stick, diced**
- 1 carrot, finely diced**
- 1 cup reduced-salt vegetable stock**
- ¼ cup So Good Regular**
- ¼ cup cashew nuts, toasted and roughly chopped**

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Wrap each potato in foil and bake for 15 minutes or until cooked through.
2. Place lentils, carrot, celery and stock in a small saucepan and bring to the boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook for 10 minutes.
3. Scoop out flesh of potatoes leaving a hole for filling. Mix potato with lentil mixture and So Good Regular then return to potatoes.
4. Sprinkle with cashews and serve with a green salad.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** Kilojoules 436kJ. Calories 105 Cal. Protein 3g. Total fat 4. Carbohydrate 14g. Sodium 104mg. Potassium 433mg. Calcium 22mg. Iron 1.2mg. Fibre 2g.

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](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.com.au) (Australia) or [nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz) (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website [www.sanitarium.com.au](http://www.sanitarium.com.au) or [www.sanitarium.co.nz](http://www.sanitarium.co.nz)

**Sanitarium**

LIFESTYLE  
MEDICINE  
SERVICES



# Scientist and creationist?

by Christiana Leimena

I WAS 18 WHEN MY SISTER AND I MOVED INTO A ROOM at the home of a retired Presbyterian pastor and his wife in Seaforth, Sydney. It was part of growing up. I was in uni. And life was great.

I loved my undergraduate science studies. I loved my uni friends. And I loved going clubbing. My favourite music was American R&B, soul and dance music. If you can dance to it, it's a good song. I was a Christian. But I didn't see a big conflict between my lifestyle and my faith.

One time we were out at a pub and a Baptist friend joined us. We were doing rounds of shots. I said to him, "have a shot." And I couldn't figure him out as he turned it down. I pressed him again. He said no. So I coaxed him a little more. And he turned to me and said, "You know, Christiana, you are like the devil tempting me."

It really shocked me. I still think of that guy sometimes. I don't think he realised the impact he had on me. Though a long time has passed I wish I could tell him now, "sorry!"

I had another friend who invited me to a campus Bible study. But I wasn't interested. I always went to church every week. Even when I got home from the clubs at 5 am Sunday, I'd still be in church by 10 am. But studying

the Bible? That wasn't my interest.

Of course, during my studies I learned evolutionary theory. One day I asked the kindly Presbyterian pastor who had become like a grandfather to me, how to reconcile the Bible and evolution. He was a lovely man. And a very godly man. He calmly explained that in the past, people thought the Genesis account literally described how the world was created. However, as scientists studied the question further, we learned that evolution was the actual creative mechanism. And so we realised the Genesis account was a metaphor and shouldn't be taken literally. It made sense to me, and I didn't think about it anymore.

I saw myself as a very balanced Christian. I believed in Jesus and went to church. But I also knew how to have fun. I sort of tried to have a foot in both worlds. I couldn't understand why Jesus says you can't love the world. Why not? I loved the world! It was only later it became clear to me that I had to choose between the two.

After uni I got a plum job as a researcher at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. It had taken me a little while to find a job so when that came through I was incredibly thankful. The Institute is among the premier

medical research entities in Australia—and a global leader.

In the interim, my parents had migrated back to Australia and I moved in with them and we eventually—providentially—settled in Wahroonga. One day a flyer came in our mailbox for a meeting at the Sydney Adventist Hospital focusing on prophecy. My parents were enthusiastic Presbyterians and so they decided to go.

They enjoyed the meetings and encouraged me to go. So that Friday night I went along. The young people from Waitara Adventist Church running the meetings were very friendly. But that night they presented the Sabbath and I thought, “This is really off.”

To my chagrin, we started having Bible studies with these two guys named Neale and Kevin. I warned my parents, “They are trying to brainwash us!” My mum said, “Christiana, keep an open mind. Don’t worry about these men, let’s look at what is actually in the Bible.” I took her advice and I was shocked at what we found.

Part of the Bible study focused on the interdependency of Scripture. I’d never thought about it before. But now I wondered how Genesis could be discarded and the rest of the Bible kept? What is the point of the Sabbath if there was no creation week? And that’s just the beginning of the problems. Romans 5 focuses on Christ being the second Adam. But how could there be a second Adam if there wasn’t an Adam in the first place? And if there was no fall how did sin enter the world? And if there was no Adam and Eve, why did Jesus Himself refer to them?

It was clear to me that Christianity without creation made no sense at all. So, either evolutionary theory was right and Christianity a myth from start to finish, or Christianity was right and evolutionary theory a man-made myth. The only way to decide was to look at the evidence.

And that’s exactly what I did. I talked to many of my fellow researchers. I explored the question thoroughly. And I was astonished at what I found. The longer I looked the more evidence for creation I found and the larger the holes in evolutionary theory. Let me give you just one example.

For DNA to synthesise a new protein there has to be a pre-existing protein in order to copy the DNA into RNA. That synthesis can’t happen until all three—that is DNA, RNA and protein—are in existence. Can you see the problem? In order for life to replicate we must have at the cellular level three interdependent building blocks. And one of those building blocks—RNA—cannot exist without the other two. But protein can’t exist without RNA and DNA. So where did the first protein come from? All three must have, at the start, been in existence together or none of them could exist. And without that very complex basic building block no life can exist. So it’s clear at the cellular

level that life was created as a complete unit. If not, it simply could not exist. So why the resistance among scientists to accepting a designer? First, many scientists do believe in some kind of creative input from God. Second, scientists are just like the rest of humanity—sinful and proud. Many would rather believe there is no God than to acknowledge Him and thereby acknowledge their responsibility to Him. But maybe the most startling reason is that many haven’t thoroughly investigated the question.

One of my fellow researchers said to me one day, “If I were to walk into a church I’d have to take out my brain and leave it outside.” “You’re exactly wrong,” I replied. “We were taught evolution explains the origins of life on earth. And we unquestioningly believed it. We are the ones lacking critical thinking. We are accepting as true the orthodoxy we are taught. But when you look at the evidence it doesn’t hold up. The truth is, my faith confronted my lack of critical thinking. And it is through that challenge that I’ve really learned to critically evaluate the world around me.”

I’ve now completed a PhD in biomedical science at the University of New South Wales. Along the way I’ve seen so many evidences of creation in science. And my life has been thoroughly blessed by the God behind that creation. Today I love being part of the Fountain in the City church plant in inner Sydney. And remember those Neale and Kevin guys I mentioned? That’s Neale Schofield, my boss at Adventist Media, and Pastor Kevin Brown, who also attends Fountain.

We have to be open-minded as we search for the origin of life. The evidence points towards creation. I was blind. When I really looked into it, the evidence was overwhelming. What I find disappointing as a scientist are theologians who buy into evolutionary theory and try to bend the Bible around it. In doing so, they show a complete disregard for science, theology and logical reasoning.

Since coming to know the truth my life has turned upside down with a new desire and purpose. I’m not proud of my past. I no longer crave for the old entertainment and night life. I crave now for God’s presence, a daily feeding from my Saviour, yearning to meet people to share about the God behind the creation and Jesus who died to set me free from my old self. Neale preached a sermon on the day our whole family was baptised together—saying that the old husband of self has to die and be buried before we marry the new husband Jesus. With God’s grace I’m now a new creation as I walk on a journey with Jesus. ✠

---

*Dr Christiana Leimena works for the HopeChannel Discovery Centre at Adventist Media in Wahroonga, New South Wales.*

## What I find disappointing as a scientist are theologians who buy into evolutionary theory and try to bend the Bible around it.

# Chatting with the new SPD president

by Adventist Record

*Adventist Record* sits down with Pastor Glenn Townend, newly-elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

**Adventist Record:** You were elected as the SPD president on July 7 in San Antonio. How did you feel about that?

Glenn Townend: Initially I did not feel anything—I was numb. Even now the role and its enormous responsibility is slowly becoming a reality. I feel honoured, excited, daunted, empowered, challenged, inadequate . . . a real mix of emotions and thoughts. I am glad there is such a good team of people in the SPD who I can go to for wisdom and courage.

**AR:** True. There are some who know you well but many who don't, so tell us about your family.

GT: I have spent all of my life in the SPD, except a few months at Camp Blue Ridge summer camp in the USA in 1984. I am a pastor's kid and my father is a pastor's kid. I am the eldest child of Calvyn and Dawn Townend, born on Sabbath morning on Bastille Day in Port Pirie, South Australia. I have a brother, Brett, married to Rae, who lives in Townsville, and a sister, Kerilee, married to Nic Bolto, who lives in Melbourne.

We moved a lot as pastor's kids. The longest stay was five years in Lae, Papua New Guinea from 1973–77. It was in PNG that I heard the heavenly Father's call through my earthly father and accepted Jesus. I was baptised in 1976. I remember playing the guitar on the back of a truck in Chinatown as part of street preaching, holding a picture roll up in the Bumbu settlement telling Jesus stories to mums and kids, and helping in evangelistic programs—all of which helped to raise new churches. It was in Lae where I sensed the call to ministry and knew that the Church could grow. Later I left home in Murwillumbah and went to Avondale

College to study ministry.

**AR:** So what happened at Avondale?

GT: Basketball, a good social life and some study. After three years I was unsure of my life direction and so worked in the building industry and then went to the USA. It was at Camp Blue Ridge that I knew I had to be a pastor and committed myself to that. (Actually I met a friend, Ken Weiss, who is vice president of Maranatha International, in San Antonio, who I had not seen since Camp Blue Ridge in 1984). I also found my wife at Avondale, or maybe I should say my grandfather did. I have thanked him many times for this.

**AR:** What?! You believe in arranged marriage?

GT: Sort of. Pamela Berry (who likes to be called Pam), daughter of John and Helen from Victoria, was only at Avondale for one year. She went there at the recommendation of her cousin to do Pastor WA Townend's Bible Survey Class. Each year my grandfather would recommend that I look over the girls in his class—each year I told him I did not need any help but he persisted. In 1985 he suggested a Pamela Berry. Even though I had another girlfriend at the time, he started to pray that Pamela and I would get together. In his cun-







ning way he arranged that, and 29 years of marriage and three adult children—Amy Turner, Megan and Travis—later, we are still very happily married. Pam is strong, capable, quick-witted and very committed to Jesus as well.

**AR: Tell us more about your family.**

GT: My family is so important to me. Without their love and support, ministry could be lonely. When you shift from place to place so often it is hard to set down roots. Saying goodbye is never easy so having a family that understands is so good. Most Christmases we get together with either Pamela's or my family and we can just be ourselves. All the kids come to be together. My daughter Amy is a chaplain and Bible teacher at Landsdale Gardens Adventist School in Perth and is married to Scott Turner, an emergency nurse. Megan is an administrator for Open Heart International that works out of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, and Travis is planning on graduating from Avondale College of Higher Education from Chaplaincy this year. Like their parents they all studied at Avondale.

**AR: Avondale trains people for service. How have you served God in those years?**

GT: I have tried to follow God's call on my life all that time but we had a twisted start. Just before graduation in 1985, Bryan Ball, the president of Avondale College at the time and later an SPD president, passed on a call for me to go to Dunedin in South New Zealand. I was pleased to get a job. Pamela, my girlfriend, was going to Melbourne to be the Youth secretary in the Victorian Conference Office. Pastor Harold Harker, the Trans-Tasman Union president, called us to the office and said he would help us keep the relationship going. In a few days I received another call to the Greater Sydney Conference. I went on holidays and worked with Pam's dad and brother, Graeme, in the building industry in Melbourne until the New Year. During this time Greater Sydney had changed presidents and I was phoned just before Christmas and told I was no longer needed. But early in the New Year I was asked to go to South Queensland and so I started ministry as a single man on the Gold Coast. After three conferences and four presidents I had a job. Pam and I married on the Anzac weekend that year (1986).

**AR: So have the calls been clearer since and where has God taken your ministry?**

GT: I have learnt to hear God's voice through the Church system and also in my heart. After all, ministry is about serving Jesus. After two years on the Gold Coast I ministered in outback Queensland, based in Roma, for three years. Amy and Megan were born there. Then we pastored

in Hobart for five years and did some Conference youth and communication work. Travis was born in Hobart. Then we pastored in the Geelong district in Victoria for five years. We started the church at Gilson College while being ministerial secretary for the Conference. This was my ideal job and I wanted to do it forever but it only lasted three years. I look back on the sermons I preached and some of the decisions I made and thank God for the patience of the saints. These church people really grew me!

**AR: You have done more than local church pastoral ministry. So what changed after 18 years, if I am counting correctly, of pastoral ministry?**

GT: A phone call from Chester Stanley, Australian Union Conference president, one Sunday night in September 2003. My brother was a pastor in the WA Conference and I talked to him about once a month, however I didn't even know that the WA Session was being held. But that night I was asked to be president. It took me four days to confirm God's leading. We had a great 10 years in WA and saw God and His people start 60 new churches—most of them still growing today.

**AR: Since then what has happened in ministry for you?**

GT: More recently we have had two wonderful years in the Trans-Pacific Union, where I served as president. I was very nervous as, although I grew up in the Pacific, I had never worked there. I pulled the leaders aside to pray, study the Bible and consult. Out of this process we built a vision and strategy on discipleship, groups and church planting. Again, working with God's people is a real privilege—I am humbled when I see youth sacrifice holidays to go to an unentered area and serve the people there or give two nights a week to run a Bible reading group and visit people. There are so many good stories that have not been told.

**AR: So is this your vision for the SPD? You have a reputation for being a visionary.**





# MISSION CRUISE

BOOK TODAY FOR A HOLIDAY THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



ENJOY A QUALITY P&O CRUISE AND SUPPORT THE MISSION OF MEDISONSHIP 1 AND 2\*

**10 DAY CRUISE**

**FIVE PORTS ON P&O EDEN**

Visit beautiful Melanesia; Alotau, Kitava Island, Rabaul, Gizo, Honiara

**DEPARTS CAIRNS 24 SEPT 2016**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!**

Enjoy Sonship-hosted morning worships, information programs, day trips to SDA mission stations at each port, visit Sonship headquarters and Kukudu rural medical clinic, whilst enjoying quality P&O service, accommodation, meals and entertainment.

**LIMITED SPACES, BOOK TODAY!**

## P&O PACIFIC EDEN FARE

(Twin share/per person)

ROOM	FULL \$	SONSHIP \$
Suite/Mini-Suite	\$4,199	\$3,799
Balcony	\$2,949	\$2,549
Oceanview	\$2,099	\$1,849
Interior	\$1,949	\$1,699

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Pauline on 0419 632 945  
 Sonship.org.au | [facebook](#) Medisonship  
 sonship@bigpond.com

\*Sonship is a registered supportive ministry of the SDA Church



GT: Thanks—not sure about that. The vision God has for the SPD will become clearer as we consult with many stakeholders and key people. God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be a prophetic movement—that is our heritage. Our pioneers did not want to be just another institutional church. Whatever vision the SPD adopts in the next little while, I know the focus will be on developing a discipleship movement ready for when Jesus returns.

Back on vision. Early in 2003 I had a work performance appraisal. The report said a lot of nice things about me: a good listener, evangelistic, energetic. However, it did point out a few challenges, the biggest one was that I was hard to follow. People were not clear where I was going. They were right—I had no clear vision. Then later that year I was asked to be WA president. Now I was to lead a whole conference without knowing where I was going! God must have a sense of humour. It was at this time I read many books on vision, especially the Bible and *The Great Controversy*. Vision is seeing God's preferred future. I hope the SPD can keep discovering God's preferred future and run with it.

**AR: Agreed, so where do you see the SPD now?**

GT: The SPD has had good, stable leadership for many years. It is financially secure and has developed a good focus on discipleship and using media, health and other ministries with this focus. I am sure we can build on this and am looking forward to the journey with God's people and meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

**AR: Is there anything that you want the Church in the SPD to do for you as you start your new role?**

GT: Yes, pray for me. While in San Antonio I was talking to a friend, a president of an Australian conference, and I mentioned that I noticed that being in leadership there are more direct attacks of the enemy. He agreed and then told me how each of his family was challenged in one week when he accepted his new role. We are in a great controversy. However, the devil is a defeated foe, for Jesus has triumphed over the devil, sin and death, and in Jesus we have the victory. Prayer claims that victory in Jesus' name. So when I ask for prayer I really mean it. Pray that the whole of the SPD can have the victory and be led to Jesus' preferred future for us.



# LETTERS

## FIRST LOOK!

Kerry Howard, NSW  
Macksville Adventist chaplain  
"A Second Look at  
Adventist Education" (Feature,  
June 20) struck a chord.

I live in a small, rural valley and work at Macksville Adventist School. Even though it is a small school, 75 per cent of our 39 students come from community families. What do they see in us? Why do they trust us with their children?

I'll be both bold and confident and say that it is because of our outstanding teachers. It is how we teach students the model of true service to others. It is our values education program that focuses on growing resilience in our students. It is because we offer students the opportunity for a well-rounded education that upholds God's love at the school's heart.

Evidence indicates that these students see a Christ-like love and value system. This permeates into their hearts and minds, transfers to their immediate and extended families, and then falls onto our wider community. They then see the support from our local churches, which treat them as important, precious gifts.

In Ephesians 3, Paul says it is a privilege to tell others about Christ. If this is Adventist Education's core business, combined with quality education in a fun, safe environment, then it is 10 times more than I ever had as an Adventist student with a non-Adventist education.

Knowing what I do now as a parent, my children won't miss out. We shouldn't be taking a "second look". If it's feasible, it should be our first.

## ADVENTIST PETITION

Pauline Ind, via email  
I appreciate the editorial "Asylum" (July 18). I agree that Seventh-day Adventists should stand up against the mistreatment of asylum seekers in our region, and that it is time we had the courage to be a voice for morality and justice; and also, I believe, for freedom of speech.

A new law means that doctors who speak out against inadequate care of asylum seekers may face imprisonment. In Australian history, Adventists collected petitions in favour of freedom of religion when the Australian government was in the process of writing up our constitution.

Is it possible for *Adventist Record* to start an online petition that Adventists and others can sign?

If we do not stand up now as a people for freedom of speech, we may soon lose our own freedom of speech.

## WHITE WRITINGS

Dr Kayle de Waal, NSW  
Head of Avondale Seminary  
"Important Step" (Letters, July 18) stated that many Avondale ministerial graduates downplay or disregard the writings of Ellen White. The letter questioned whether Avondale Theology lecturers have any confidence in her writings.

Avondale Theology lecturers uphold and cherish the writings of Mrs White. Her writings are taught in a unit called "Seventh-day Adventist History and Ministry of Ellen White" and her writings are used in a range of classes in Biblical Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology and Church Ministry. Having

said this, the Avondale Seminary trains our pastors to preach the Word of God. And this is not to say that Ellen White's writings are disregarded—rather we do what she exhorted us to do: to go to the Bible!

## TRIBUTE

Peter Roberts, NSW  
Thank you for "Barry" (Editorial, July 18). I first met Barry in 1970 when we both started at Avondale and roomed together for nearly two years. We were both starting our road to service—he in ministry and myself in teaching. While our paths do not cross as much as I would like, the respect and friendship is still there 45 years later.

When my wife, Glenda, and I graduated (again) from Avondale in 2012, Barry paid tribute to us in the graduation address for the work we had been doing in the Pacific with untrained, practising teachers. It did our hearts good.

Within the Adventist Church in Australia we do not often acknowledge enough the great work that Church employees do, especially those in leadership. Thank you for doing this for Barry because he deserves the recognition.

I also acknowledge the smartness of the guy. When some of us studied for hours at Avondale, he seemed to fly through the work.

Keep the intellect working Barry. The Church still needs your wisdom and spiritual guidance.

I would like to wish Barry and Julie well for their retirement, godspeed for travels and continued connection with the Church.

*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.*



# CATCH THE NEWS!

Watch InFocus news from anywhere, anytime!

View at

[www.infocus.org.au](http://www.infocus.org.au)

as seen on



**FOXTEL**



**HI KIDS! With God's help, I have the courage to do what is right.**

**IN THE STORY OF ESTHER:** The king asks Haman how he should reward someone for a great service. Haman suggests that the person should be led around the city wearing the king's robe and riding the king's horse.

## SPOT THE 15 DIFFERENCES.



The king tells Haman to go and do this for Mordechai. Haman is very angry, and is even more determined to kill Mordechai and his people.



## Memory Verse

**"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:6 NIV**



# Battle on a mountaintop

by Joseph Pitakia

**T**UCKED AWAY IN THE GUADALCANAL HIGHLANDS of Solomon Islands is a primary school called Valasi. On the surface, the school doesn't look like much—just a few timber buildings and a couple of straw huts. Yet Valasi is so much more than that. It's a beacon of hope in the midst of a spiritual battlefield.

Many people have had a hand in the establishment of Valasi. The school started out as a Volunteers in Action outpost designed to reach the people in the remote mountain region. The project was then picked up by ADRA and the Solomon Islands Mission Health department, which helped to construct a piped water system and two new dormitories.

Despite these developments, the school still has a tremendous amount of need. Valasi needs nurses to work at the school's clinic, as there are no health services available to those living in this area of the highlands. It also needs qualified teachers—individuals trained to not only educate the local students but to stand up to the evil forces that lurk in the mountain region.

Thankfully, one such man is already working at the school as a volunteer. His name is Caleb.

Earlier this year, Caleb conducted a 10-day spiritual program at the school. One particular evening he preached about the true Sabbath. As the meeting ended and the students got up to leave, a very bright light shone out of the darkness towards the group. Out of fear, a student grabbed his torch and shone it towards the light. There in front of everyone stood a tall figure of a man. The spell that came over the group was so overpowering that all the students fainted like they were breathing poisonous gas. Their eyes were red and they could not move.

Caleb, quickly realising the presence of evil, called his wife beside him and together they prayed to God for His

protection and deliverance. When they opened their eyes, they saw another very bright light hovering around the school before disappearing into the darkness. It was only then that the students felt a surge of power flowing through their muscles, giving life to their bodies.

Following the incident, 20

students gave their lives to Jesus and committed to Bible study—a testimony of the power of the real Light over darkness.

In another turn of events, the torch Caleb had been using that night to preach suddenly stopped working. Upon inspection, he found the inside wires were cut into small pieces—something Caleb also attributed to the work

of the evil one, who was not happy for the students to hear the message of the true Sabbath.

Despite the terrible incident, the students were grateful to witness the battle between good and evil—and they are happy to know they are on the winning side.

Caleb knows the battle is not yet over. As he makes plans to host a similar program at a neighbouring village (a two-day walk inland from Valasi), he has asked his church family to remember him and his family in prayer. Whether the evil one shows up again or not is an unknown. However, there is one thing that is certain—God's power over evil. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). **R**



**The spell that came over the group was so overpowering that all the students fainted . . . Their eyes were red and they could not move.**

*Joseph Pitakia is Adventist Education director for the Solomon Islands Mission. To learn more about Caleb's work at Valasi, visit <[www.record.net.au/items/praise-from-a-priest](http://www.record.net.au/items/praise-from-a-priest)>.*

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Donaldson,** Gordon and Audrey (nee Hawkins) were married 11.4.1955. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their children Christina, Yvonne and Stephen. Gordon and Audrey have always been active members of the church and were involved in Pathfinder leadership roles for many years. They have seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Recently retiring to Woodford, Qld, they put the longevity of their marriage down to always doing everything together.



**Malycha,** Kevin and Lilly have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple were married on 13.6.1965 in the Stirling Church, SA, by Pastor Ray Bullas. The music was provided by Brian May and Wendy Blucher. Lilly, from Staffordshire, England, met Kevin from Whyalla, SA, at a regional youth meeting in

Nuriootpa—the rest is history. They have three children: Jody (Mildura, Vic), Todd (Rockhampton, Qld) and Bradley (Melbourne, Vic). Best wishes and God's blessings to you both.

**Wadd,** Cecil and Barbara (nee Burdett) were married on 31.5.1955 and celebrated 60 years of marriage on 7.6.15 with their three children Graham, Bruce and Nelda and their spouses; seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, friends and relatives. The much-loved couple are long-term residents of Valla, NSW, and are members of Nambucca Heads church. Church service has been integral to their lives, being key members of the building team for both Macksville and Nambucca Heads churches and being involved with fly-and-builds. They have travelled to more than 80 countries and well wishes were received from many.

## WEDDINGS



**Gigliotti-Higgins.** Tommy Gigliotti, son of Tomas and Lynette Gigliotti

(Ravenshoe, Qld) and Jessica Higgins, daughter of Leo and Lori Higgins (Mackay), were married on 30.5.15 in Atherton at the Baptist church. Mackay will be home for Tommy, who is in building, and Jess who is an accountant. Building had to be the theme of the wedding talk as Tommy is in building, Jess's father (Leo) and grandfather (Denice) as well as Tommy's father (Tom) and the minister were all registered Builders.

*Dana Howard*

## OBITUARIES

**Coombs,** James (Glen), born 29.2.1916 in Melbourne, Vic; died 23.6.15 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 11.5.1941 he married Ella (Nona). He was predeceased by his son, Max Coombs. He is survived by his son Rob Coombs (Queanbeyan). James (Glen) passed peacefully in his sleep after a long and fruitful life.

**Gane,** Gwenneth (nee Davis), born 30.9.1929 in Sydney, NSW; died 7.2.15 in Cooranbong. On 17.3.1949, she married Alva Gane. She is survived by her husband (Cooranbong); their children: Doctor Barry and Marilyn Gane, Stephanie Archer and Julie Kozioi; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Gwen freely gave of her many talents to shower love on those around her. She was an adored wife, cherished mother, loved grandmother and hospitable, loyal friend.

*Wayne French*

**Keene,** Peter George, born 9.1.1922 in Timaru, New Zealand; died 27.4.15 in Tauranga. He was predeceased by his wife Lyall in 2014. He is survived by his daughter Margot and Rob Peters (Brisbane, Qld), his son Tim (Singapore); four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. Peter was a true Christian gentleman who was kind and helpful until the end. Using his woodworking skills to benefit others, Peter was a constant source of blessing and encouragement to his friends, neighbours and Church community. He died in the blessed hope of Jesus' soon return.

*Pat Downey*



**Hamilton,** Lesley Anne, born 22.10.1939; died 7.5.15 in Ballina Hospital, NSW. She married Alexander (Lex) Hamilton on the family farm at Wardell by their friend Pastor Tom Kent. She is survived by her husband; four children: Stephen, Leanne, Jon and Tony; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Anne was a vibrant, loving Christian who was always helping others. She was a member of the Ballina church where she was much loved and appreciated for her contribution to the Lord's service.

*Laurie and Beth McMurtry  
Jim Hamilton*

**Lugg,** Leonard Owen, born 15.2.1928 in Melbourne, Vic; died 1.5.15 in Perth, WA. He was predeceased by his wife Dorry Schognwille. He is survived by

## VOLUNTEERS

■ **Vanuatu fly-n-build team volunteers required.** A group of 20 volunteers is 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 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 trips.

■ **Children/youth work—Kaitaia 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.

■ **Assistant boys' dean (volunteer)—Longburn Adventist College (Palmerston North, NZ).** Start date September 30, 2015 or ASAP for 12 months. Must be single 21 to 30 years old, have a heart to see God work in young people's lives (age 11-18), be flexible with work hours and fluent in English. Stipend \$NZ330 fortnightly, food and accommodation provided on premises. Local transport included. See <website www.adventistvolunteers.org> and search for SPD.LONG.2015.01 for details or contact Adventist Volunteers <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

## 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 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>



his sister Elaine Morrison (Melbourne, Vic); his sons: Rikki (Gold Coast, Qld) and Perry (Perth, WA); and nine grandchildren. In 1998, Len joined the Nunawading church after attending a Bible seminar conducted by Pastor Tony Campbell. He greatly enjoyed Sabbath Bible study class and confirmed that he had found his spiritual home. Throughout his life he was an ardent supporter of the Melbourne Audio Club, and served as president for the last six years. He was also a long serving member of the audio-visual team at church, and will be sorely missed.

*Walton Pitt, Tony Campbell*

**Luke**, Yvonne (nee McLeod), born 25.7.1947 in Mt Morgan, Qld; died 15.2.15 in Caboolture Hospital. On 23.11.1966 she married Ken Luke in Rockhampton. She is survived by her husband (Elimbah); their children: Jenny and Steve Curtis (Kallangur), Deanne and Stephen Wong (Narangba), Kerri Luke-Brimfield and Mike Brimfield (Sydney, NSW) and Martin Luke (Sydney); grandchildren: Madison and Morgan Wong, Carissa and Sienna Luke and Charlotte Brimfield; and siblings, Ken McLeod (Bonnells Bay), Brian McLeod (Rockhampton, Qld) and Chris Bosomworth (Narangba). Yvonne loved her Lord, her family and her Church and worked tirelessly for them. For many years she door-knocked her area to share Jesus. She was a modern-day Dorcas, working for the church and helping the needy.

*Russ Willcocks*

**McBean**, Eileen Patricia (nee Cooper), born 30.7.1924 at Macknade Sugar Mill, Nth Qld; died 27.4.15 in Manilla Hospital, NSW. Following four years service as sergeant during World War 2 and then nurse training, Eileen married George McBean in 1948. She was predeceased by her husband, daughter Helen and grandson Darren. She was mum to: Judith Simpson, and John and Tracey McBean; and Narnie to Rebecca and Wayne Hawken, Isabella and Caleb. A literature evangelist and neighbour who shared her faith were instrumental in Eileen's baptism in 1952. She was a foundation member of Yeppoon, Qld church and served in many roles despite unrelenting opposition from her family. Eileen was an

accomplished musician and an avid gardener who loved to surprise people with a bouquet and a happy smile.

*Gabriel Ontanu*

**Morrow**, Bernice (nee Jacobs) born 18.11.1916 in Melbourne, Vic; died 13.1.15 in St John of God Hospital, Warrnambool. She was predeceased by her husband Wally Morrow in 1993. She is survived by her three sons: John, Phillip and David and their families. When her Adventist mother died Bernice was so impressed by the pastor who conducted the funeral that she decided to join the Adventist church. Since then she has been a faithful and active member of the Warrnambool church and found great comfort and strength in her relationship with her beloved Jesus whom she looked forward to spending eternity with.

*Nikola Trajkov, Judy Gilchrist*

**Nowland**, Michael Vivian Alfred, born 21.5.1993 in Monto, Qld; died 15.6.15 in Monto. He is survived by his parents Robert and Leanne Nowland; and his siblings, Gail, Clinton and Rebecca. Michael died before his expected time. He loved cooking, country music, animals and the bush. His desired occupation was to be a health care worker.

*Phil Downing*

**Twist**, Grenville John, born 18.1.1946 in Hobart, Tas; died in Wangi Wangi, NSW. He was predeceased by Pastor Oliver Twist, Ettie Twist and Marilyn Twist. He is survived by his brother Owen Twist (Central Coast); his children Nicole Conroy (Central Coast), Sheridan Roberts and Darren Twist (both of Balcolyn); and seven grandchildren. Grenville led a stellar career as a scientist and educator at Hunter TAFE. He was an active member of Toronto church and a board member of the school. He fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith.

*Brock Goodall*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**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 September 18-20, 2015. The program will commence on Friday, September 18, with registration at 2pm, 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 7pm on Saturday and will continue on Sunday, September 20. 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*

### High quality satellite kits for Adventist television and radio.

Full instructions for easy DIY installation, technical support available. \$275 plus freight. Australia only. Call (02) 6361 3636.

**Projectors, screens, wireless microphones, amplifiers, speakers etc.** Lower prices for Adventist churches etc. Australia only. Email <admin@masterantennasystems.com> or (02) 6361 3636.

### Glenorchy Seventh-day Adventist Church 50th Anniversary.

19.9.1965–19.9.2015. Our church invites you to join us on Sabbath, September 19, for a day of thanksgiving and celebration.

### 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.

**Absolute Care Funerals** is an Adventist family-owned and operated business caring for you in Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy, on 1300 982 803 or mobile 0408 458 452. Call us even if you have already prepaid your funeral. <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>.

### Notice is hereby given that a special constituency meeting of the Greater Sydney Conference

of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held in the auditorium of Mountain View Adventist College, 41 Doonside Road, Doonside on Sunday, September 6, 2015. The program will commence with registration at 8am. The seating of delegates and the constituency meeting agenda, which consists of one item, that is the proposed development of the Conference Office site (2–4 Cambridge Street, Epping), will commence at 9am. —AJ Raethel, secretary

## Finally . . .

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, I will try again tomorrow.—MA Radmacher

## Next RECORD Aug 29

**Note:** Neither the editor, Adventist Media Network, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A68 +GST; each additional word, \$A2.26 +GST. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. All advertisements, appreciation, anniversary, wedding and obituary notices may be submitted via <ads@record.net.au>. Please note all notices should be a maximum of 80 words and may be edited in accordance with Record style. Record reserves the right to shorten notices due to space constraints.

# NURTURE FOR TODAY



# LEARNING FOR TOMORROW



# CHARACTER FOR ETERNITY



Hills Adventist College (Castle Hill): 02 9634 2199 (Kellyville): 02 9851 5100

Hurstville Adventist School: 02 9580 5794

Macarthur Adventist College (Macquarie Fields): 02 9605 3200

Mountain View Adventist College (Doonside): 02 9622 2424

Sydney Adventist Schol Auburn: 02 9649 5279

Wahroonga Adventist School: 02 9487 2100