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Adventists attend religious freedom roundtable

Sydney, New South Wales

Australian Human Rights Commissioner Tim Wilson convened a day-long roundtable meeting on religious freedom in Sydney recently.

The purpose of the discussion was to examine a wide range of religious liberty issues, ranging from the strings attached to public funding of faith-based schools through to the tension between LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights and religious freedom.

Australian Attorney-General George Brandis gave the opening address, focusing on the rich roots of religious freedom in Western legal tradition and the interplay between religious freedom and political freedom. Australian Human Rights Commission president Gillian Triggs attended part of the roundtable.

Jennifer Price, a Sydney Adventist and senior lawyer

with the New South Wales Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and James Standish, the Church's director of Communication and Public Affairs, represented the Australian Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the meeting. Both were very active in the day's discussion. "These are serious issues, and bringing together a broad range of faith communities and secular representatives to begin a conversation is a very productive step," Ms Price said. "It's critical that we talk to each other, respectfully and thoughtfully, as we work to ensure the right legal balance."

"We are at an important juncture in Australian society," said Mr Standish, a lawyer who has worked on religious freedom issues in the US and the UN before taking up his current post in Australia. "It would be a mistake to assume the status quo we enjoy now will be preserved. There is an important national conversation underway, with profound political and practical ramifications."

Visit record.net.au/items/adventists-attend-religious-freedom-roundtable to read the Seventh-day Adventist Church's submission to the religious freedom roundtable.

"It would be good for every Adventist to read the document," Mr Standish said. "It may be technical in parts but it's a good starting point to understanding the developing religious freedom landscape and our Church's positions on the complex questions we face."—*Record staff*



Tim Wilson with Jennifer Price (left) and James Standish (right).

First female minister commissioned in PNGUM

Lae, Papua New Guinea

The Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) commissioned its first woman minister during its 15th Business Session held last month in Lae.

A once male-dominated clergy in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) has seen rapid changes in the past 10 years as women ministers continue to join up in force.

Dr Agnes Kola, who returned to the country earlier this year after obtaining her Doctorate in Ministry at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines, has become the first Adventist female minister to be commissioned in PNG.

In what was an exciting and emotional moment, delegates from all over the country attending the business session witnessed and applauded the Church for recognising the work of female ministers in the country.

Outgoing PNGUM president Dr Leigh Rice read out the policy statement on the responsibilities of ministers and highlighted what Dr Kola would and would not do as a commissioned minister. He applauded the work of female ministers in PNGUM and said the Church appreciated the great contributions they make.

It was an emotional moment for Dr Kola, who praised God and thanked PNGUM and the South Pacific Division leadership for the recognition and honour. She also thanked her husband and family for their support in her ministry and recent studies.

During the business session, Dr Kola was also appointed the Women's Ministry and Family Life director for the next five years.—*Nancy Lagdom*



Dr Agnes Kola addresses the gathering.



A special prayer was said for Dr Kola.



Different

James Standish

It was raining the day I caught a train into the city to meet with the Australian Human Rights Commission. But I chose not to take an umbrella. Why? I don't like umbrellas. They don't work well, they're poorly designed and, odds are, I'd lose it anyway.

They don't work well? If there's wind with the rain, and there inevitably is, you are sure to get wet from the midriff down as your ineffective umbrella protrudes powerlessly above you. Poorly designed? It takes the average umbrella approximately one use before a rib breaks and you're left with a sagging, dangling mess. And if you do happen to secure an umbrella big enough to be at all effective—something roughly half as wide as a city block—you end up wandering the streets poking out the eyes of every second passer-by. If there has ever been a more broadly adopted, yet hopelessly flawed device, I do not know of it.

During my three years studying in England's glorious but rather damp countryside, I never bothered with umbrellas—a hat and an overcoat did the job. And what if some moisture did get in? We are waterproof you know!

I soon realised my approach to umbrellas was a decidedly minority view. Walking through the city as the rain fell there was just the occasional member of my umbrella-free tribe: "We few. We happy few. We band of brothers . . ."

How different from what I had observed at Narrabeen Lagoon where I had the good fortune of seeing schools of fish swimming happily. I say good fortune as I love seeing wildlife of almost every sort and I find fish particularly beautiful. And they're tasty too . . . Anyway, the fish looked virtually identical. They swam in perfectly choreographed schools. Like a North Korean military parade, individualism isn't highly valued in the fish world.

And there's something to be said for that.

If you do what others do it's often safer. And if you want to be accepted, the surest bet is to go with the flow. Doing what everyone else is doing also tends to be easier—you don't have to think too much and you avoid conflict. Ape whatever the most powerful and popular are doing—that's the ticket. At least you'd think so when you look around. But there's a high price to pay for conformity. For one, you

end up walking along with a silly, outdated invention over your head, poking out people's eyes and getting awfully wet anyway. Sometimes it's just plain worth it to be different. And you've got to be different to make a difference.

Mel Gibson is currently filming a war movie. And this is the interesting thing: of the tens of millions of people who fought in World War II he has chosen to make a war movie about a soldier who didn't carry a weapon. His name was Desmond Doss and he decided to follow the Adventist teaching on non-combatancy. Being in the heart of some of the fiercest fights, shot multiple times, refusing to shoot back and saving lives instead—how different is that! So different that here we are, 70 years later, and we are so amazed by Doss we're still making movies about him.

And he's just one fellow of a different ilk. I saw a picture recently of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. All around them are people bowing down to the idol. I'm sure many of those people knew better. But rather than be different they chose to conform. It seemed like the smarter option. But of all those people with their faces to the ground, how many do we remember? And more importantly, how many are written in God's Book of Life?

Which leads me to this. Yes, being different requires more character and is often harder—at least in the short term. But being different also allows us to follow our hearts, to be who we really are and to make the unique contribution God designed us to make. And only those who are willing to be different can ever do what is really right.

After a meeting of a neighbourhood committee, a guy invited me to the pub for a drink. I declined, at which point he good-naturedly ribbed me: "You won't fit in around here if you don't share a beer!" I replied without thinking, "I haven't fit in for 50 years, I see no point to start trying now!"

I'm different. So are you. And that's a very good thing.

James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.

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Cover Credit: Ben Turner

"First commissioned female minister in PNG, Dr Agnes Kola congratulated by SPD President Glenn Townsend."

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and shares
our hope in Jesus Christ!



Six years

Linden Chuang

"So what's it like having a dead dad?"

The question might not have seemed so inappropriate if a couple of years had passed, but it had only been a few months.

"What's it like? What the h*** do you think it's like?!" I answered . . . albeit with my mouth shut. I didn't think a verbal dispute with Mr Insensitive was worth my time and energy.

But now, nearly six years to the day (December 13) since my dad—my Papa—passed away from a cerebral haemorrhage, I'd like to answer this question.

"So what's it like . . . ?"

It's hard. It still hurts. They say time heals all wounds. I say that's a load of rubbish. There's no getting over the pain of losing someone so precious and pivotal in your life. Just ask a parent who has lost a child—they'll carry that scar to the grave. Which, by the way, is more than fine. Pain isn't a sign of weakness. Nobody goes through life unscathed.

"So what's it like . . . ?"

It's normal. Not the normal I knew for 22 years, but a new normal. "Does that mean you've moved on?" The answer is yes . . . and my dad would have wanted it that way. It doesn't mean I've forgotten about him. I've turned the page and taken the memory of him with me.

"So what's it like . . . ?"

It's okay. Actually, it's more than okay—it's good . . . because God is so good. Don't get me wrong, I wish my dad was here more than anything else. But I take comfort knowing he's safely tucked away in the ground where Satan and his minions can't get to him. "The dead know nothing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5); he's resting and waiting in peace.

"So what's it like . . . ?"

It's motivating. I have the enormous privilege of having my dad's name—Lin—embedded in mine. This gives me an extra incentive to make something of myself. My dad can't see it now but one day I'll get to show him. Soon and very soon.

"So what's it like . . . ?"

It's life-changing. The day Papa passed away was the day my faith really came alive. That may be an uncomfortable concept but it's the truth. I have a longing for heaven now. Perhaps I should have had it already, but I didn't. To be clear, I don't think I'm better off with him gone. Losing him, though, has allowed me to see further evidence for a God who shows up when our world caves in. That's what He does—the plan of salvation came about because of the pain of sin. God moves. God is faithful. God turns broken into beautiful.

"So what's it like having a dead dad?"

In a way I still really can't answer that question. The experience of losing a loved one is different for everyone, just as our lives are. One thing, though, is certain. Those who mourn *will* be comforted (Matthew 5:4).

So to those carrying a hurt, whether it was six or 60 years ago, I encourage you to keep your head up. Hang tight. Hold on to the One who holds on to you. Because "there is coming a day" . . . and "what a day, glorious day, that will be."

Linden Chuang is assistant editor—digital of Adventist Record.

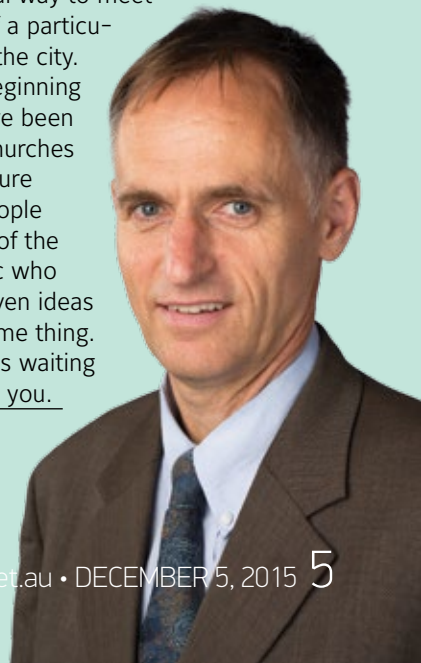
Mission to the Cities

In Melbourne there are fewer Seventh-day Adventists per capita than in any other city in the South Pacific. There is one member to every 585 people. The numbers rise dramatically if you go to Western Melbourne. Reaching the people in this part of Melbourne is what the "Mission to the Cities" focus is all about. The cities of Adelaide, Sydney, Perth, Auckland and Brisbane are the biggest challenge to the mission of the Church. How are we going to reach these people? Will big corporate programs do it? Will funding that the South Pacific Division has set aside do it?

I have been reading *It's Time: Voices from the Front Lines of Urban Mission*, a book edited by Bettina Krause and published by the General Conference Mission to the Cities Committee. The way to reach the cities from the reports and stories contained is simple: God places an idea or burden on the heart of an individual or group of people to do a certain ministry to reach a particular group of people and the Church (local churches, conference, union and division) support them.

Giuseppe, from Bergamo, Italy, had a vision to use Sabbath School groups as the basis for mission through prayer and kindness activities. The Church got behind this layman and the local church grew and has started other churches. Pastor Reylourd Reyes and young professionals in Manila (Philippines) started Simply Missions. They meet in a café in a business district and have a ministry called Café Life. Secular young professionals come and eat, socialise and discuss family, finding love, emotional health and a healthy lifestyle. Each "Mission to the City" was started by someone called by God and had an intentional way to meet the needs of a particular group in the city. From that beginning disciples have been made and churches grown. I'm sure there are people in the cities of the South Pacific who have God given ideas to do the same thing. The Church is waiting to hear from you.

Pastor Glenn Townend is president of the South Pacific Division.





Solidarity

Church leaders, together representing more than 2 billion Christians around the world—Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Adventists and others—have met in Albania in an historic first to discuss Christian persecution. Speakers urged prayer for the persecuted as well as practical efforts to reduce tension and injustice. —WEC



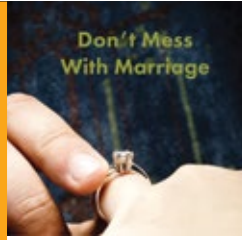
Call for generosity

A coalition of aid organisations, including ADRA, is warning that if planned budget cuts go ahead, Australia will soon be giving its lowest level of foreign aid in recorded history. The “Dear Prime Minister” campaign asks Malcolm Turnbull to invest in the Asia-Pacific region to reduce poverty and enhance stability. —ADRA Australia



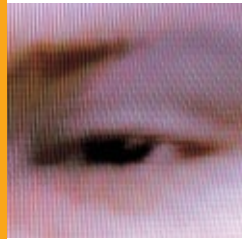
Reformation recants

Martin Luther, late in his life and in poor health, wrote harshly about Jews, calling on Christians to burn down their synagogues and drive them from their homes. The EKD umbrella group of Lutherans, Reformed and United Churches in Germany voted unanimously to recognise their historical guilt for their view of Jews. —Forward.com



Free speech? Hate speech?

Tasmania’s Anti-Discrimination Commissioner has ruled that the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has a case to answer over its opposition to same-sex marriage. Earlier this year the Bishops distributed a document, entitled “Don’t Mess With Marriage”, to Catholic schools and parishes outlining the church’s view on the importance and sanctity of marriage. —Australian Christian Lobby



Viewer beware

Despite expressions of concern from family organisations, Australian free-to-air television will introduce PG-rated programming in children’s viewing times, including references to drug use, nudity and mild horror themes. In addition, the times when M or MA rated programs can be shown will be brought forward to an earlier evening timeslot. —Family Voice Australia



What next?

The results of the first democratic elections in 25 years have seen the people of Myanmar celebrating. But Aung San Suu Kyi’s victorious party has been muted about the rights of minorities. The largely Christian Chin, Kachin and Karen minority groups have suffered under military rule, as have the Muslim Rohingya. —World Watch Monitor

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Big leadership changes in Papua New Guinea

Lae, Papua New Guinea

The Papua New Guinea Union Mission’s (PNGUM) 15th business session concluded with many new faces in leadership roles throughout the local missions and the Union.

The nine missions have seven new presidents and six new mission secretaries, while most of the CFOs remain in place or have swapped from other missions.

A number of the new presidents had been serving as secretaries of their missions and are moving into their new roles after the serving presidents retired. The outgoing presidents were honoured during the session, together with Joe and Judy Ponduk from the PNGUM education department who are also retiring. Those retiring have given a combined total of 308 years of service to the Church in PNG.

The session, held last month as part of a regional convention, was peaceful with much prayer, local mission and PNGUM departmental reports, and praise and worship.

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glen Townend and Dr Patterson Stanley from Andrews University delivered Spirit-led worship moments each evening and morning, focusing on discipleship and biblical servant leadership.

The Adventist community around Lae flocked to the evening praise and worship. The congregation grew even more for the open air Sabbath service where recently appointed PNGUM president Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu preached at the conclusion of the session.

The session ended with an exchange of the leadership baton from the outgoing PNGUM leaders to the incoming leaders together with the implementation plan document of the PNGUM Corporate Plan 2013-2020. —*Andrew Opis with Kent Kingston*

Note: the Central Papua region (president Kove Tau, secretary Rex Koi, CFO Max Lasah) is a conference and, as such, appoints its own officers.

Mission	President	Secretary	CFO
Bougainville	Kepsie Elodo (remain)	Zuzai Hizoke (new)	Kylie Paul (remain)
Eastern Highlands Simbu	Benny Soga (remain)	Danny Philip (new)	Joshua Wambillie (new)
Madang Manus	Garry Lauke (new) Benjamin Hap (retiring)	David Kiak (new)	Ken Waleh (new)
Morobe	Pastor Blasius Managos (new)	Enosh Enopa (remain)	Dick Harry (new)
New Britain New Ireland	Peter Yambe (new) Makau Daroa (retiring)	Jeffery Tangea (new)	Roger Nori (new)
North East Papua	Leonard Sumatau (new) Peter Yoria (retiring)	Mathias Foxsy (new)	Calvin Sio (remain)
Sepik	Samuel Silas (new) Joel Makau (retiring)	Martin Sungu (remain)	Thomas Ariku (remain)
South West Papua	Nime Bane (new)	(vacant)	(vacant)
Western Highlands	Allen Akili (new) Peter Oli (retiring)	Samuel Mollen (new)	Bray Yomba (remain)

Hundreds celebrate creation at Port Macquarie

Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Port Macquarie church hosted approximately 400 people for a Creation Sabbath service recently.

Families from several Adventist churches, including Wauchope, Telegraph Point and Kempsey, were present as well as people from other Christian congregations and some seekers.



Children perform a special item during the Creation Sabbath service.

The “Dinosaur” themed program involved 45 children who sang songs about creation and shared information about dinosaurs, answering questions such as “What hap-

pened to dinosaurs?” and “Are dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?”

Resources such as DVDs and books about creation were also handed out.

“The program lasted for 85–90 minutes but the kids didn’t get restless or bored,” said program organiser Margaret McKay. “I have never seen young children so focused.”

Adults in the audience were similarly enthused. “This program should go to every Adventist church and school in Australia!” commented a visitor from Lismore.

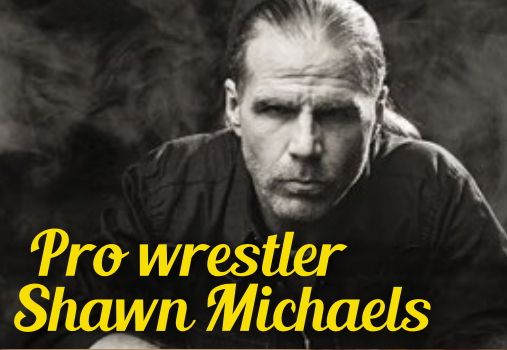
Mrs McKay has been running creation programs for children at her church for the past 10 years.

“The Bible is under attack like never before,” she explained when asked why she ran these programs. “In this day and age, we have to be able to not only know the Bible but know how to defend it.” —*Vania Chew*

Why Jesus came to earth



Pro wrestler Shawn Michaels



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Kimbe evangelism series sees 424 baptised

Kimbe, Papua New Guinea

More than 420 people were baptised in Kimbe, Papua New Guinea (PNG), earlier this year following a 12-night evangelistic series in the West New Britain Province.

Retired evangelist Pastor David Lamb from Sunshine Coast Adventist Fellowship (SCAF) in Queensland hosted the campaign, which saw 6000 people attend on the first night of the program. That number increased to 14,000 towards the end of the series, with some even making the journey from offshore islands to attend.



Candidates waiting for baptism.

Locals said it was the largest gathering of people they had ever seen in the district, with the size of the crowd even outnumbering the region's football matches.

On the final Sabbath of the program, those gathered witnessed the baptism of 424 people. Other attendees have since commenced Bible studies in preparation for baptism, while local churches are seeing a "flood" of new visitors.

The idea for the evangelistic series was conceived two years ago by PNG pastor Steven Moses, who visited SCAF during his studies at Sunshine Coast University.

Pastor Moses encouraged the company's leaders to run a campaign in Kimbe—his home province—as most of the programs previously held in PNG had taken place in the nation's capital, Port Moresby.

SCAF members took up the challenge and purchased six data projectors and DVD players to be given to the six district directors in Kimbe.

Pastor Lamb delivered the equipment in late 2013 and also conducted a training program for all pastors and Bible workers in the region.

Over the next 18 months, local church leaders hosted their own outreach programs in preparation for the larger campaign.

The event was organised by West New Britain Province director Pastor Kingsley Supa, with financial support coming from local church members and retired Australian businessman Bob Meyers.

"We would especially like to thank the Provincial Governor for his support by officially opening the program and being present at the last meeting to close the series," Pastor Lamb said.

The retired pastor also thanked his fellow SCAF members and the Ourimbah church (NSW) for their support.

"We want to praise and thank God for this united effort of our faithful people, and give our Father God the honour and glory for what has been accomplished," Pastor Lamb said.—*Warren Somerville*



L-R: Pastor Kingsley Supa, Pastor David Lamb, Provincial Governor Sasindran Muthuvel, Bob Meyers and volunteer AV supervisor Weng-On Hung.

JPW storm Palm Island with the gospel

The Indigenous community of Palm Island, off the coast of Townsville (Qld), came alive in September when 54 Joy Prayer Warriors conducted the first multi-faceted evangelistic campaign of its kind to be implemented by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The campaign included street evangelism, a vacation Bible school (VBS), community service, door knocking with literature, hamper deliveries and choir performances.

Northern Australian Conference president Pastor Brett Townend said he was pleased to see the results of the program, especially as six people were baptised there last year. "I think it's great for Palm Island to get that kind of ministry happening out there," he said.

The Palm Island community has struggled with a range of serious social issues since its establishment in 1918 as a penal colony for Aboriginal "troublemakers".

Throughout the week, approximately 70 children attended the VBS, which included action songs, Bible dramas and stories, Christian craft, face painting, sports and puppets. God's Word was shared in songs at a funeral of a pastor and also at the rehabilitation centre, after which a staff member escorted a client to an evening meeting, gave prayer requests and invited male team members to visit a men's group.

In the evenings, locals from the communities came together to listen to the open-air evangelism and some were in tears as they experienced God's Word through songs, prayers, testimonies and skits. Each method used to share the gospel under God's guidance was a means of inspiration in the people's lives and helped to bridge the gap between the Joy Prayer Warriors (JPW) and the Palm Island residents.

Believing that "seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" was paramount to success, the JPW Fijian and English groups connected via conference calls to worship and pray at 4am each day.

This was the first major evangelism project by the JPW group, which operates under the umbrella of the Fijian-dominated Mount Isa Adventist Church. Participants also came from other parts of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

According to JPW core member Liane Radrodro, the journey began when Christian leaders in Palm Island invited the group to visit. After prayer and a feeling of conviction that this was the right time to give expression to the gospel

commission of Matthew 28, Mrs Radrodro and the JPW group told God they were ready to answer the call.

God was involved from the outset: as the team members scattered over Australia were fasting, praying and discussing their plans via phone and internet, unsolicited personal donations started pouring in prior to the scheduled departure to cover food, the printing of the JPW uniforms in Fiji and other expenses. Group members were amazed to witness how God opened doors to make the program a reality. The Northern Queensland Conference also assisted with STORM-co shirts and funding for the VBS activity and community service work.

JPW members shared testimonies during the week; one member received a free flight after missing her scheduled flight. Others received favour with their employers following earnest prayer by being granted work leave to go on the trip and guaranteed work on return.

"Jesus is coming soon and God is counting on everyone to be involved in spreading the gospel through personal witnessing, small group evangelism or public evangelism in its various forms," Mrs Radrodro said. "The Joy Prayer Warrior group members have pledged to take this calling from God personally and seriously, working closely with Church leaders and pastors to do something for Jesus and for others."

The group has been invited back to Palm Island and is hoping to return before the end of the year. —*Liane Radrodro with Kent Kingston. For more information visit Joy Prayer Warriors on Facebook.*





Balancing rights¹

by James Standish

WE ARE NOW SEEING PLAYED OUT IN THE United States and Canada a triumphalist approach to the imposition of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) rights in which there are winners and losers, with the religious community being the obvious losers. In most cases, the conflicts could easily be resolved without undue friction.

In order to do so, however, it must first be recognised that no two rights are the same, and that every right requires sensitivity and wisdom when defining its parameters. LGBT advocates often draw a parallel between race and sexual orientation, with the imperative that every precedent applicable to race should be applied to sexual orientation. But a rigid application of the precedents pertaining to race to other rights does not work. For example, racial and gender equality are dealt with quite distinctly in a number of ways. While it is an odious reminder of prejudice to segregate toilet facilities on the basis of race, for example, it is wholly acceptable, and in many cases essential, to segregate toilet facilities on the basis of gender. Similarly, while racially segregated professional sports leagues are generally unacceptable, sports leagues segregated on the basis of gender are generally acceptable.

This distinction is not because gender rights are of lesser importance than racial rights, but that the underlying nature of the rights protected are distinct and carry with them commonsense differences in the way they are protected.

Similarly LGBT rights and racial rights are distinct, and blindly applying the analysis of one to the other leads to unnecessarily divisive, harmful results that fracture our society. It ignores the immense importance of religious freedom rights in the building and progressing of a stable, peaceful and harmonious multicultural society.² It also ignores the innate importance of religious freedom as a fundamental right necessary both for individuals to explore and understand the meaning and purpose of their lives, and for the building of community that supports and nurtures us. And it further ignores the immense good religious freedom provides in a wide variety of aspects of society, including mental health,³ family life, building social capital⁴ and economic progress.⁵

In the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths marriage is defined as a heterosexual union. While there are some within each faith tradition who have changed their doctrine on human sexuality, it does not obscure that this is very firmly and broadly the view of the vast bulk of adherents in all these faith traditions. We can choose to criminalise these sincerely held religious beliefs or we can

work to ensure that as a society we can agree to disagree.

Towards that end, any statutes that redefine marriage to include same-sex couples must provide robust protection for Australians whose faith teaches against the practice. In Australia, we do not want florists subjected to punitive fines from the state, bakers driven out of business for their beliefs and people fired from their jobs, just because their sincerely held religious views have remained steady. All when a simple respect of religious freedom rights would avoid all the heartache, pain and friction involved. People of good faith, recognising our differences and valuing our diversity, can avoid the temptation to use the law to penalise and marginalise those with whom they disagree.

A little bit of consideration and commonsense will avoid Australia descending into the intractable culture wars that grip the United States . . .

A little bit of consideration and commonsense will avoid Australia descending into the intractable culture wars that grip the United States and have created enormous societal friction in Canada. The choice is ours. To maintain commonsense religious freedom protections, or to spend the next five decades in a political and legal civil culture war that harms everyone. Australia can be an example of what is possible when sensible compromises based on mutual respect are made. **R**

1. This is the second excerpt from the Adventist submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission, published in *Adventist Record*. The first was the editorial on "Hiring Rights". A link to the full text of the submission is available in the electronic version of this piece posted at record.net.au
 2. See *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge Studies in Social Theory, Religion and Politics), Cambridge University Press (2011).
 3. See, eg, Rev Dr Michael Jensen's recent piece summarising some of the overwhelming research data on the benefits of religious faith to children's mental health: "If you want kids to be happy, try religion," *The Drum*, ABC, <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-24/jensen-if-you-want-kids-to-be-happy-try-religion/6797634>
 4. See, eg, Professor Robert Putnam of Harvard University, author of *Bowling Alone*, and one of the most influential academics of our time, who demonstrates the importance of religion in building social capital. Austen Ivereigh, writing in *The Guardian*, summarises Putnam's work this way: "The point that Robert Putnam's research brings out is that (self-) giving is closely linked to organisation and membership. Networks of participation deepen involvement with others: most people get involved because someone they trust suggests it. While this is as true of religious as non-religious people, it is simply a fact that religion generates networks of participation that are far stronger, more lasting and more committed than secular civic organisations are capable of. Think of the organisational capacity of the Catholic Church in England and Wales—2300 schools, 3000 parishes—and the wealth of activity that it generates (19,000 volunteers, 9000 employees, spending some £170m a year in the service of approximately 800,000 people); and contrast this with, say, the British Humanist Association. It's not a question of one-upmanship, but of recognising the capacity for generating participation and engagement—what we call 'social capital'."
 5. See, eg, Brian J Grim (Georgetown University), Greg Clark (Brigham Young University), and Robert Edward Snyder (Brigham Young University), "Is Religious Freedom Good for Business?: A Conceptual and Empirical Analysis", *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, 2014, Volume 10, Article 4.

James Standish is director of Communication and Public Affairs for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.



Keeping Porirua beautiful

Members of Wellington Samoan church (NZ) took part in the "Great Porirua Beaches and Harbour Clean-Up" in September. Armed with high-visibility waistcoats, gloves and bags, the team worked with local volunteers to clean up all the beaches in the area, much to the appreciation of the Porirua Council. Church members have expressed their enthusiasm to get involved in more community projects in the future. — *Taima Jeacock*

ALP leaders visit Adventist university

Australian Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, some of his ALP colleagues and Australian High Commission officials visited Pacific Adventist University (PAU) on November 1. Mr Shorten, his deputy Tanya Plibersek and ALP immigration spokesman Richard Marles addressed the nursing students during their visit, and also inspected the campus buildings that were funded by the Australian Government. PAU vice chancellor Professor Ben Thomas presented the visitors with information about the university, current initiatives and partnerships with Australian institutions. "We praise God for the witnessing opportunities He provides us," said PAU Administration, Planning and Policy director Roxy Steljic. — *Roxy Steljic/Record staff*



Church swelling

Asau church in Savaii, Samoa, witnessed 37 baptisms across two services after an evangelistic outreach earlier this year. On the final Sabbath, November 8, a couple who were baptised were also married during the church service. Asau pastor Victor Vaifale had all his family visiting from Australia for the occasion, which was a high day for the church. — *Jarrod Stackelroth*

Changing of the guard

At the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) business session (see page 7), husband and wife team Joe and Judy Ponduk retired from the education and women's ministry portfolios, respectively. Newly commissioned pastor, Agnes Kola, will replace Ms Ponduk in women's ministry as well as taking on family life. Jim Yawane is the new education director. — *PNGUM*

Sowing seeds

Literature evangelists and members of the Alligator Creek church in Honiara recently spent a Sabbath afternoon handing out more than 300 items of literature to the Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Limited community. "The seed has been sown," said Joshua Labuvolo, area manager for the Solomon Islands Mission. "Now the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts as they read." — *SPD LE newsletter*



Fundraising for Hope

Churches in the Western Highlands Mission of Papua New Guinea have raised more than 163,500 kina (\$A77,782) for the downlinking and retransmitting of HopeChannel to their region. Three churches (Hagen, Ialibu and Wabag) began their fundraising efforts in July, with Wabag raising more than K131,720. The fundraising efforts will continue as the church looks to start building broadcasting towers in the Mission's seven provincial headquarters. Two of these sites already have towers but their equipment is in need of an upgrade. Church leaders in Hagen are negotiating with the national broadcaster in a bid to share a broadcasting tower. — *Jim Wagi*

Junior journals

While you can learn something from watching television, you can learn a lot more by making it! Years 3 to 6 students at Avondale School's Toronto campus (NSW) are involved in producing a school news program as part of their studies. The program, *Toronto Campus News*, airs on the Avondale School's website, at the church on campus, and at special events. Each student takes part in the production, through script-writing, reporting, directing, editing or sorting out the wardrobe. — *Kerrie Howells*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Sun smart

There's nothing quite like an Australian summer. When many of us think of the season, our minds wander to long, hot days and holidays spent outside near the water with friends and family. That scorching sun that seems to dictate our plans for three months of the year comes with both benefits and concerns.

We're well aware of the damaging effects sun damage can have on our health. Statistics show that at least two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer before the age of 30, with skin cancer causing more deaths every year in Australia than car accidents.

But sun exposure also comes with an important benefit: it's our main source of vitamin D—vital for maintaining good health and strong bones.

So what does this mean when it comes to sun protection this summer? Well the Cancer Council advises that in summer months, most people can reach adequate vitamin D levels through incidental exposure to the sun. Just a few minutes of exposure to the face, arms and hands daily outside of peak UV times is enough to meet our needs. Most importantly, they tell us it's not necessary to deliberately seek UV exposure during summer.

So while we should be aware of the importance of vitamin D this summer, we should feel comfortable knowing we can meet our needs without having to abandon important sun protection like a good sunscreen, a broad brimmed hat and a pair of sunglasses that meet Australian standards.



Pumpkin and Passionfruit Scones

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 15 minutes Serves: 18.

250g pumpkin, peeled, diced and cooked

2 tablespoons sugar

3 tablespoons margarine

1 egg, lightly beaten

½ cup So Good Regular soy milk

4 passionfruit, pulped

2 ½ cups wholemeal self-raising flour

1 cup white self-raising flour

¼ teaspoon salt

1. Place warm cooked pumpkin in a bowl and mash with sugar and margarine until smooth. Stir through egg, soy milk and passionfruit.

2. Sift flour and salt into warmed pumpkin mixture and stir through.

3. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly. Pat dough out into a 17 x 27cm lamington tin. With a floured knife, score dough, almost through, into 18 squares. Brush with extra soy milk.

4. Bake at 220°C for 15 minutes or until risen and golden.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 488kJ (107cal). Protein 4g. Fat 3g. Carbohydrate 19g. Sodium 133mg. Potassium 163mg. Iron 1mg. Fibre 3g.



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LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



How to save a snake catcher

by Vania Chew

THE EARLIEST MEMORY LES HAS OF GOD IS Scripture classes in primary school.

"We had to memorise the Lord's Prayer," he recalls. "We were told that God was listening and we had to get the prayer just right."

Fast forward 20 years and Les was no longer memorising Scripture. Instead he was drinking, smoking, gambling, fighting and dealing drugs.

"I was doing my own thing and God wasn't a part of it," he admits. "In my mind, God was someone who hated and punished people for doing the wrong thing. I was doing all the wrong things so I thought God must hate me."

But despite Les's feelings, God still found ways to remind him of His presence.

Brown snakes are the leading cause of snakebite deaths in Australia and are considered the world's second most venomous land snake. Most of us would deal with this danger by staying as far away from them as possible! Being a professional snake catcher, Les doesn't have the same luxury.

"I was bitten by a brown snake twice in my early twenties," Les remembers. "I was sure I was going to die. As I stumbled home I said a small prayer—'Please don't let me die, God. Not today.'"

He credits his survival to God.

In his late twenties, he stole a whipper snipper from a store and was chased down by the owner, who threatened to kill him. For more than three hours, the man continued

to terrorise and torture him, while Les pleaded for his life, to no avail. Convinced there was no way out, he whispered in a broken voice, "God help me."

The man immediately snapped to attention. "What did you say?"

"Don't worry, it was nothing," Les whimpered, not wanting to repeat himself.

"What did you say?" the man demanded again, gripping Les a little tighter.

"God help me," Les repeated, tears streaming down his face.

The man looked at him silently. "Well, He just did," he said, and let Les go.

"That man would've killed me without divine intervention," Les says with certainty. "How do I know? Because he's now in jail for committing murder."

That incident shook Les greatly. "I couldn't believe what I'd said," he says, shaking his head slowly. "I decided I would start going to church after that. But I didn't end up going."

He did occasionally watch religious shows, however—remembering one show in particular. "I'd be flicking through the channels and I'd see Pastor Lloyd Grolmund on Wahroonga TV and watch his show," he says. "He caught my attention because he was an Aussie pastor."

Meanwhile, however, his life continued to slide downhill. Les was married and then divorced. None of his subsequent relationships worked out. He continued to drink,

gamble and take drugs, eventually growing marijuana. And by New Year's Eve 2011, he was in a deep spiral of depression.

"I made a resolution that New Year," Les confesses. "That if my life didn't get better, that if I didn't have an opportunity to turn my life around, I would kill myself by the end of the year."

He didn't want to live another year in the same condition.

2011 moved quickly and soon it was October. And things hadn't dramatically improved in Les's life—in fact, they seemed worse than ever.

"I was fighting with my sister but that turned out to be a blessing in disguise," he says. "I was a door-to-door salesman at that time, selling cleaning products. I was storing the products at her place up until this point. Now, since we weren't on good terms, I had to start going home earlier and catching the bus."

It was at the bus stop that he met an 11-year-old girl who would change his life forever. He'd noticed something different about this girl and her brothers. They didn't fight with each other. They didn't swear. And they were always polite, kind and respectful.

One day, Les struck up a conversation with the girl, whose name was Hannah. Again, he observed how different she seemed from other kids.

"Do you go to church?" he blurted out impulsively.

"Yes, I do," she said. "Why don't you come to church too?"

Les chuckled at the idea of going to church in his condition. "I'm going to hell—it's too late for me," he joked.

"It's never too late," she told him.

The next day, at the bus stop, Hannah handed Les a Bible. "I told my dad you want to go to church," she said brightly.

Again, Les declined. But God had other plans.

Les went to the local markets a couple of days later. As soon as he entered the markets, a stranger said to him, "Jesus loves you, man." Les thought it was a strange greeting but brushed it off. He then observed a market stall he had never noticed before that was displaying pictures of Jesus. And as he left the markets, someone handed him a religious pamphlet.

And in each instance, he remembered Hannah's invitation to go to church.

That afternoon, he ran into a friend of his sister's whom he hadn't seen for 20 years. Again, he was reminded of Hannah, because that happened to be this woman's last name too. And when he got home and turned on the TV, where he didn't think he'd be reminded of God, a stand-up comedian was talking about Adam and Eve.

To Les, these were all signs that he needed to go to church. "Tell your dad I'll go to church on Sunday," he told

Hannah when he next saw her.

"No, it's on Saturday," she corrected him.

The next Sabbath, Hannah's dad picked Les up for church.

"Everyone was really friendly," he remembers. "They were all giving me hugs. We went to sing at the nursing home that day and I thought that was really nice."

Les continued to attend church but he clung onto his old habits. He continued to take and deal drugs. And then the police raided his house and found the marijuana he had been growing. He was sent to jail.

"The first thing I got in jail was a Bible and my reading glasses," Les says. He read the Bible from cover to cover.

"I had a lot of time to think in jail," he reflects. "I remembered that pact I made to kill myself if I didn't get an opportunity to turn my life around. I realised that God had offered me an opportunity to change but I didn't take it."

He would take it now. "I decided I was going to clean up my act."

After two months, Les was released from jail and he stuck firm to his decision to turn his life around. He began attending church again and was baptised.

"I went to some seminars on Revelation by Pastor Lyle Southwell and I learned so much," he says.

Gradually Les gave up the bulk of his addictions and habits but still struggled with smoking. He had cut down to just one cigarette a day instead of six, but was still finding it difficult to let go.

Recently, Les attended a Bible retreat in the Blue Mountains (NSW), run by HopeChannel's Discovery team. To his surprise, there he met Pastor Lloyd Grolimund, the preacher he had watched on television long before he had turned to God.

"Lloyd did a sermon on overcoming and it has inspired me," he says. "I do believe Jesus can help us overcome whatever we're holding on to."

When Les talks about Jesus his eyes shine. "I love Jesus and I love talking to people about Him," he says. "He saved my life—I want to share what He does to save others." **R**



**"I do believe
Jesus can help
us overcome
whatever we're
holding on to."**

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.

Ideology and mission

by Terry Johnson

KIMBERLY AND I WERE ON A MISSION. WE WERE going through the pre-start selection of items for the home we were building. After nine years of renting we finally had enough money to begin the process and it was exciting!

We'd decided on building, and knew enough about it having built two churches together, so we were interested in the whole process and experience. The objective, or the mission, was to have a home built to the specifications that we'd love to live in. However, ideology did sometimes get in the way. The reason: Kimberly and I don't see eye to eye on home décor and thus the conflicts on ideology. I'm a modern minimalist and quite eclectic in my likes. Kimberly, while being modernist in architecture, still likes more traditional home décor. The stage was set for some interesting, passionate conversations if we were going to let ideology get in the way of our mission.

A friend of mine, Pastor Justin Lawman, president of the North New South Wales Conference, made a statement that caught my attention recently. "Whenever ideology is the focus, mission will fail. When mission is the focus, then ideology works hand in hand with mission," he said. That quote fitted perfectly with our home building experience. Kimberly and I decided early on in the process that the mission was to have a home that we'd love to live in. Everything else was going to be part of the journey but would not prevent us from finishing the home.

While we did not always agree on ideology and had to negotiate on bathroom fittings, kitchen fittings, floor coverings and the like, none of it made us argue or fight because we knew that the mission was more important than what we actually put into the home. We agreed in principle with what outcome we wanted and then the whole process fell into place because the mission was always central . . . a home that we'd love to live in.

Remember the essence of Pastor Lawman's quote: when ideology is the focus, it gets in the way of finishing the mission. But when we focus solely on mission, it's incredible how ideology falls into line and supports mission.

That begs the question: What is the mission of the church in your area? The answer for us in Western Australia is to make disciples for Jesus of all people in our state, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:1-12. As long as we focus on this mission in every decision we make, our ideology will fully support our mission. The moment we start to focus on ideology, then our mission and our impact dies.

Let me ask you a question? What is the main focus of your local church board or school? How about your Sabbath School committee? ADRA committee? Your latest meeting of elders, deacons/deaconesses? Was the focus on ideology or mission? When was the last time you spoke about the reason for "existing" in your church?

If you do some church historical minutes research you'll find that the majority of time put into committees (all of which are wonderfully helpful) is focused on ideology and very little time is spent on mission. What would happen if mission became the reason

for each meeting we had in church? I personally believe that we'd see a focus on people and winning souls for the kingdom. We'd see a focus on sharing the everlasting gospel every chance we got. We'd see our churches focusing on the few truly vital matters and not the many trivial ones that take so much of our valuable time. We'd see churches that were influential because of renewing the Adventist movement in creating significant lives and transforming communities for Christ. That excites me no end!

When ideology takes up our time, energy and passion, mission loses. What's it going to be in your church and your life?

Kimberly, Kyrstin, Alec and I moved into our home on August 19. There are a few things that we'll do differently for the next house build but it's a home that we love to live in. The mission was a success and the ideology supported the process. Let's make our church a church we love to be part of because mission is the most important thing. **R**

Pastor Terry Johnson is president of the Western Australian Conference.

Kids' Space



HI KIDS!
GOD'S GIFTS OF
LOVE FILL ME WITH
HOPE AND JOY.

PRIEST ZECHARIAH IS AN OLD MAN. WHILE WORKING IN THE TEMPLE HE IS VISITED BY AN ANGEL. THE ANGEL PROMISES HIM THAT HE WILL HAVE A SON WHO WILL DO SPECIAL WORK FOR GOD. ZECHARIAH DOESN'T BELIEVE THE ANGEL. BECAUSE OF THIS HE IS UNABLE TO TALK UNTIL THE BABY IS BORN.

MATCH THE PHOTO AND WRITE DOWN THE LETTER TO FIND OUT THE NAME OF THE ANGEL



THE SAME ANGEL VISITS MARY AND PROMISES HER THAT SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE ANGEL ALSO SPEAKS TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM. WHAT IS THE ANGEL'S NAME?



FILL IN THE BLANKS

EACH OF THE ANGELS HAS A WORD THAT FILLS IN THE MEMORY VERSE BELOW. WRITE THE WORDS IN THE BLANKS BELOW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

" [] MIGHTY [] HAS [] GREAT THINGS FOR [] - [] IS [] NAME." LUKE 1:49, NIV



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GING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

Digging up assurance

The Lord is the only God, our Creator, Redeemer, Righteousness, Saviour, Helper, Forgiver of all our sins, who never forgets us. But how can we know all this with certainty? **Read** Isaiah 44:6,8,21,22,24; 45:17,21,22; 46:13.

In the midst of these statements about God and what He does for His people are some amazing predictions about Cyrus. God not only named him 100 years before his birth, but 150 years beforehand predicted he would set free God's people from Babylon, and rebuild Jerusalem and its temple. **Read** Isaiah 39:3-7; 45:1,4,13; 44:24,26-28. Ezra informs us that these things took place under Cyrus, and the Cyrus Cylinder confirms them, thereby demonstrating both the historical accuracy and prophetic reliability of the Bible.

Read Ezra 1; 6:14.

Predictions such as these, clearly made before their fulfilment, are God's signature that guarantees that all He says He is and all He does is absolutely true.

Read Isaiah 46:9-11.

So next time you think your problem is insurmountable, that God has forgotten you or that your sin is too deep to be forgiven, remember the Cyrus Cylinder.



The Cyrus Cylinder informs us that Cyrus allowed nations captured by the Babylonians to return home and rebuild their temples, thereby testifying to the historical accuracy and prophetic reliability of the Bible.



RECORD REWIND

Lester Devine

First Adventist educator in California

Alma McKibbin (1871-1974)

Alma McKibbin is remembered as the first Adventist school teacher in California where she organised the first church school at Centralia in 1897. She also taught at Pacific Union College and authored the first Bible textbooks for church school students. These were known as the Shoestring Bible Textbooks because she used shoe laces to hold them together. These curriculum materials were used for many years throughout the United States and Canada and in many other countries as well.

In her retirement years Alma was in constant demand as a seminar presenter and public speaker—well into her mid-nineties. Even at that age she spoke clearly and without notes to large audiences. Her outstanding contribution to Adventist education covered more than 75 years. Throughout her life Alma kept a "Book of Remembrance" in which she listed the names of all the students she ever taught—some 3000 in all.

On July 16, 1974, and well into her 103rd year, Alma died in her sleep. "Without premonition or pain she simply ceased breathing. Those who went to awaken her in the morning said her face glowed with the peace of God."



Synopsis: Adapted from *My Sister and I* by Alonzo Baker PhD.

MYSTERY HISTORY



Do you know

- The people in the photo?
- Where/when the photo was taken?

Send to heritage@avondale.edu.au

LETTERS

HEROES

Michael Were, NSW

I particularly enjoyed reading the tribute to Lens and Betty Larwood (Feature, November 7) and their great work at Atoifi Adventist Hospital.

Dr Warren Millist, Dr Bert Clifford and their medical teams to Atoifi in the 1970s were the precursor to what is known today as Open Heart International (OHI), which is Sydney Adventist Hospital's humanitarian outreach initiative. More than 1500 volunteers have played a part in transforming in excess of 5000 lives in 14 different countries, through 155 (to date) short term medical mission teams like theirs. Certainly the working knowledge and insight gained by Dr Millist and Dr Clifford's teams was instrumental in assisting the founders of OHI, as the organisation was set up only a few years after their second visit to Atoifi.

So often we think of missionaries as those who dedicate long periods of time to far-flung locations. When you consider these medical pioneers on short-term assignment in difficult and challenging situations, and the snowball effect that resulted, they are in my opinion as equally heroic as Lens and Betty Larwood.

LEST WE FORGET

Heather Hagen, Qld

Dear Mary, thank you for sharing your story ("Moving forward, going back", Feature, November 7). In 2014 I compiled my San nursing colleagues' life journeys for our 50th reunion. Classmate Brian Dunn's widow, Val, shared with us in the same way you have

shared with *Record* readers: the pain of loss, the joy and trepidation of visiting the scene of Brian's death, and his re-established grave site. Betty and Lens Larwood were also classmates—Betty shared her story and her visit to Atoifi. It goes without saying that your story touched the tear ducts of our eyes too. We, with you, look forward to a day without pain—a morning that dawns for the last time on this dark planet. Come, Lord Jesus!

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

John Ralston, via email

The article "When politics is no longer an excuse" (Feature, October 17) requires a response. The author starts by trying to create in us feelings of sympathy for children in detention centres. That is very easy to do—to provide good solutions is much harder.

A more forceful effort to change government laws is urged, citing the success of such efforts from our Church history. Two statements are also included: 1) ". . . the role of governments [is] to serve the needs of the governed"; 2) "States have a responsibility not only to protect all those living within its borders but also . . . to provide a haven to those fleeing persecution."

First some definitions: An asylum seeker is a person fleeing acute danger to a closest place of safety. When he or she leaves this place to a better one they become refugees. What do they become when they pay a smuggler to illegally get them into another country?

Would not Statement 1 require that they be somewhere detained to discourage others from doing the same? Is not the situation in Europe at pre-

sent a clear illustration what happens if both statements are followed?

What practical Christian solution would the author of this article propose: The removal of these children from the detention centres without their parents (not Christian) or admitting them as well and so start another stream of smuggler boats?

We should remember that God-given-love and God-sanctified-intelligence are compatible.

THE END?

Don Halliday, NSW

Benediction or Mini Sermon? At the close of our services, we offer what we are pleased to call a benediction. My dictionary defines a benediction as the uttering of a blessing at the end of a church service. But my experience is that the "benediction" takes a long time to get to the blessing, if at all. May I suggest that our preachers and other leaders model their benedictions on the excellent examples given in hymns 907 to 920 in the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.

RELEVANT MAGAZINE

Marina Ellis, NSW

We love the *Record*—it's relevant, it's encouraging, it's really great. There's a real freshness about it. And the stories!

To me, they're the heart of the gospel. *Record* is relevant to all ages—my 20-year-old daughter loves it. Thank you for what you do.

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.

Red light, green light

by Tanya Fulwood



WHILE DRIVING HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU are getting all the red lights? I have! By number three or four, I have started feeling like something is seriously amiss. I mean, why on earth is every single light turning red just when I arrive? Has the entire traffic system turned against me?

As I sit agitated behind the wheel I try to salve my irritation by thinking of a time when I hit all green lights. But I can't remember one. Was it because it had never happened? Of course not. It was just that, when it did happen, I didn't pay any attention. Good times just seem like they should be the norm. Why stop and make a big deal when everything is going right? Isn't that the way life is meant to be?

I'm not alone. I was in the car with a friend of mine when he commented on how he was hitting all the red lights. I agreed and we kept on driving. I then decided to instead focus on how many green lights we encountered. I started to point out each time we got a green light. We were actually hitting just about as many green lights as red ones. Sometimes we even got a row of green lights. We were just not noticing the green lights because it was so easy to drive through them with little attention to the light. When we had to stop at a red light, though, it gave us time to pause and reflect on how

many red lights we were getting. We could brood on how unlucky we were.

As we travel through life we go through different experiences. Some are good and others are bad. However, it is very easy for us to focus on the bad experiences because they often stop us in our journey of life and make us wait before we can keep going, just like those pesky red lights. Further down the track of life, we often go through more of these kinds of experiences where patience and perseverance are needed. If we keep our focus on the stops, we can often run out of energy to keep moving forward when we finally get the green. Our focus needs to change from the red lights and the bad experiences to the green lights that come in between the hard times. Every time we sail

. . . we should learn to appreciate [a green light] for what it is: a remarkable, undeserved result of God's grace.

through a green light in life we should learn to appreciate it for what it is: a remarkable, undeserved result of God's grace.

When you're at a green light moment in your life, I challenge you to slow down enough to notice the good things and to celebrate and praise God for them. In this way you will remember that God is also with you when you do, inevitably hit one of life's red lights.

R

Tanya Fulwood writes from Cairns, Qld.

ANNIVERSARIES



Chilcott. Calvin and Marie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with relatives and close friends at the House With No Steps restaurant in Alstonville, NSW. On 21.9.1955 they were married by Pastor Tom Kent in the Lismore church. Calvin and Marie have four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Both have been active members of the Church for many years. They acknowledge the success of their marriage to the support of their family and friends, and above all to the enduring grace of God. They were congratulated by the Queen and members of government.



Godfrey. John Vincent and Violet of Greenbank, Qld, were married 1.9.1955. They recently celebrated 60 years of happy marriage with their four children: Suzanne, Robyn, Karen and Ken and their spouses. The family has grown over the years to include 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Their anniversary was made extra special by visiting their newly born fifth great-grandchild. We pray for God's continual blessing upon them.



Howe. Robert John and Catherine Ann Olsen were married 20.9.1975 at St Christopher's Army Church, Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW. They have two children: Dean (Sydney) and Renee (Port Macquarie), and two grandsons: Brayden and Corey. In 1987 they moved to the country and found the Lord through a friendship with the pastor's wife, while living across

the road from an Adventist church in Laurieton. They have been active members of the church for more than 24 years, serving in a variety of roles. Robert retired from aged nursing in 2014 while Catherine continues to enjoy retail work. Their anniversary was spent on holiday in Tasmania.

OBITUARIES

Baldwin, Melva Valmai, born 2.6.1919; died 4.7.15. Her husband Stan Baldwin predeceased her. Val was a much-loved member of Castle Hill church and well respected in the local community. Val and Stan were charter members of the church. Val served as secretary of Creative Activities, an outreach program that has ministered to the needs of the community since 1979. She is survived by her children: Beverly, Lynette, Malcolm and Graeme. The funeral service at Castle Hill church celebrated her long and wonderful life, and provided words of comfort to family and friends. She was laid to rest at Castlebrook Cemetery, Rouse Hill.

Peter Jack

Dixon, Frank, born 25.3.1928 in Ashberry, NSW; died 13.9.15 in Flinders View, Qld. On 21.12.1979 he married Dianne in Tamworth, NSW. He was baptised in 1942 at Enfield Baths, Ashfield. He is survived by his brother Laurie and Betty (Gosford); his wife Dianne (Flinders View, Qld); eight children: Heather and Lyndon James (Penrith, NSW), Malcolm and Eden (Kempsey), John and Glynis (deceased) (Cooranbong), Chris (Kingswood), Wendy Foster (Cooranbong), Dean and Samantha (Brassall, Qld), Nigel (Camira) and Sarah Dixon (Camira); 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren and extended family. Frank printed many leaflets for missions for Pastor George Burn-

side, Pastor Metcalfe and Pastor Geoff Youlden. He loved playing hymns and being involved in Sabbath School classes and preaching at Murgon church. In his younger years he played the trumpet with the Sydney Advent Band.

Sandor Gazsik



Gallop, Peter Harry, born 16.2.1940 in Albany, WA; died 21.9.15 in Perth. He is survived by his wife June (nee Chester); daughter Nicola, her husband Michael and son Zebadiah; and Pete's son Daniel, his wife Dana and children Jordan and Ike (all of Perth). Peter was well known and loved by many people both at church and in his local community. His passion for the gospel and for children and the disadvantaged was inspiring. He advocated a healthy lifestyle but he also lived it. Peter's unique sense of

humour connected well with Aussies but most of all his life was a sermon about Jesus' love.
David Price, Andrew Skeggs, John Horvath

Henry-Magnor, Doris (nee Skuse), born 6.10.1926 in Fremantle, WA; died 14.9.15 in Texas, USA. She was predeceased by two husbands, Will Ray Henry and George Magnor. Doris was the eldest of five children to James and Doris Skuse. She had five children. She attended Bickley school and Carmel Adventist College, WA. Doris loved to learn and was an avid gardener. She has two younger sisters still living: Marie Thompson (WA) and Laurel Sargeant (Vic).

Lawson, Pastor Robert "Neil", born 7.10.1936 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 19.2.15 in Canberra hospital, ACT. He is survived by his wife Frances; daughter Shel-

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Supervisor—Adventist Book Centre (Epping, NSW).** The Greater Sydney Conference is seeking to appoint a full-time supervisor for the Adventist Book Centre, based in Epping, NSW, which currently operates across two locations. The successful applicant will have proven management ability in a retail environment, a high level of customer service, a proven ability to meet deadlines, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Working under the direction of the chief financial officer, the ABC supervisor will oversee the operations and day-to-day running of the ABC and staff. For more information and a position profile, please contact Adrian Raethel on (02) 9868 6522 or email <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **December 14, 2015.**

■ **Business manager—Mountain View Adventist College (Sydney, NSW).** Seventh-Day Adventist Schools (Greater Sydney) Ltd is seeking to appoint a qualified business manager for Mountain View Adventist College situated in Western Sydney. The successful applicant will be a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and have a degree/diploma in business or accounting, together with a minimum of five years of experience in a senior finance role, preferably in the education sector. We are seeking a person with strong interpersonal skills, along with technical accounting capabilities, including financial analysis, reporting, accounts receivable, accounts payable and cash flow management. You will have highly proficient computer skills, especially in accounting software and the Microsoft Office Suite of programs, and have significant experience in Excel. Experience in MAZE would be highly regarded. The position reports to the principal with a functional reporting line to the chief financial officer of the company. For more information and a position profile, please contact Maxine Su on (02) 8876 5251 or email <maxinesu@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **December 14, 2015.**

SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Maintenance/handyman—Cedarvale Health & Lifestyle Retreat (Fitzroy Falls, NSW).** A full-time position is available to work as part of a team and in a health ministry environment. For more information phone (02) 4465 1362 or email <info@cedarvaleretreat.com.au>. Applications close **December 31, 2015.**

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ley, son Andrew and daughter-in-law Sonya; and grandchildren Brayden, Kaitlan, Jade, Amy and Zack. Neil graduated from Avondale College in 1959 and served as a pastor in various places across New Zealand and Australia. He was also president of the conferences in Tasmania and South New South Wales—the latter for more than 15 years until retiring in 2002; the longest serving president in any conference. Neil was faithful, kind and wise and didn't tolerate injustice. Approaching retirement, he was asked to share with other presidents what he'd learned. He'll long be remembered for saying, "There should be a course in common sense at Avondale College." Just as everybody started nodding, he added, "but who would teach it?" He had a good sense of humour!

Graeme Christian, Lorrie Landers, James Toogood

Mead, Lyndon; died in Nelson, NZ. He was the loved husband of Janice (nee Wastney) for 44 years. He was adored by his children: Anthony and Michelle (Melbourne, Vic), Caroline and Martin Harvey (Nelson, NZ), and Jeremy and Rebecca (Brisbane, Qld). Lyndon was a devoted grandfather ("pa") to Sophia, Boston and Zion. He was a much-respected master builder whose faith in his Master influenced many people. His big hands were matched by his big heart for family, friends and church.

Jerry Matthews, Bob Larsen



Pearce, Pastor Frank Gilbert, born 27.12.1919 in Croydon, NSW; died 29.8.15 in Alstonville. Frank's family moved to NZ when he was four years old. As a young man he became interested in farming and rugby. He served in World War II. At the age of 28 Frank married Kathleen

Banievich in Dargaville, NZ. Their daughters Sharon and Eleanor brought great happiness to their marriage as did their future grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Frank attended Longburn Adventist College and completed his ministry training at Avondale College, NSW. During his 30 years of service, he pastored churches in Victoria, SA and NZ, and served as president of the Samoan Mission. He then ministered to the indigenous people in Qld, and finally at Alstonville church, NSW, where he used his vision and skills to support the establishment of the Alstonville Adventist Senior Living Village and nursing home. We salute you Frank as a man of integrity, eminently sensible, compassionate and entirely proper in your demeanour.

Beth McMurtry

Platt, Anthony (Tony) Horace, born 15.8.1924 in Carcoar, NSW; died 18.10.15 in Orange. On 5.4.1950 he married Nancy Romero in Concord, a union that lasted 65 years. He is survived by his wife (Lyndhurst); sons Leon (Mullumbimby), Dean (Lyndhurst), Perry (Errowanbang) and Warren (Byron Bay); daughter Coralee (Ocean Shores); grandchildren: Jonathan, Stephen, Karyn, Rachel, Melanie, Justin, Bradley, Kylie, Pamela, Dallas, Ryan, Christopher, Daniel and Dylan; great-grandchildren: Jensen, Aynton, Elise, Sienna, Odis, Elston, Jacob, Leo, George, Jed and Luca; and his brother Neville. Tony was a lifelong, faithful member of Mandurama church, where he served many years as a deacon, elder and musician. A farmer all his life, he loved shearing and gardening.

Colin Richardson, Leon Platt

Stocken, Beryl Betsey (nee Johanson), born 22.9.1917 in Sydney, NSW; died 9.10.15 in Sydney Adventist Hospital,

Wahroonga. On 19.12.1943 she married Sydney Arthur Stocken. She is survived by her husband (Normanhurst); four children and their families: Leonard (Forster), Alwyn (Brisbane, Qld), Warina Walker (Sydney, NSW) and Delmae Bower (Melbourne, Vic); seven grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and siblings: Bruce, Merle Ferris and Phyllis Frauenfelder. Beryl graduated from teaching at Avondale College. Her life-long commitment was supporting her missionary husband. At age 90 she spearheaded a new project with Syd recording the Gospels in Tok Pisin and raising funds for 200 Godpods. With the project taken over by It is Written Oceania, the whole Bible was recorded and 14,700 Godpods put into circulation. Beryl's focus in life was always on others. She was a gentle, caring person who was loved and respected by all.

Barry Wright, Bob Saunders



Ward, Olive Mary Kathleen, born 23.8.1910 in Albury, NSW; died 13.10.15.

Olive grew up in Albury, and later married and moved to Parramatta where she lived until 1989. She then moved back to Albury to the Riverwood Retirement Village, which the church members there loved. In 2011, at the age of 100, Olive moved to Western Australia to live with Heather and Max Smith and she attended Bickley church. We will miss a vibrant and cheerful lady who never missed a Sabbath with us, even past her 105th birthday. Olive said, "The success of a long, healthy life was Darrell Lea Ginger Chocolates and best of all, trust in God!"

Tharren Hutchinson

ADVERTISEMENTS

A history of Advent Brass Band –Melbourne is being researched and written by Dr Milton Hook. If you have information to share, especially pre-1970 (more particularly pre-1940), please contact Ray Boehm on 0404 024 045 or email <del.boehm@gmail.com>.

Armidade Adventist church 75th anniversary. Join us on December 11-12, 2015. Speaker: NNSW Conference president Justin Lawman. All former members/

attendees are invited. Contact Judy Williams: phone (02) 6778 1132 or email <craftygran@internetsat.com.au>.

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Finally . . .

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

—Proverbs 22:6

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