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SAN HOMECOMING REUNION ALL WELCOME

Saturday 20 August 2016



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

Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church - 185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga

- Sabbath School and Worship Service at Wahroonga Church commencing 9:30am
 - Lunch at Wahroonga Church
- Tours of the Museum, LW Clark Tower and the Clinical Education Centre between 2-3pm
- Dinner at Fox Valley Community Centre at 7pm - join us for fun and fellowship with music and updates from Adventist Healthcare Ltd

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Candidates challenged on foreign aid cuts

Wahroonga, New South Wales

On the eve of Australia's Federal Election, candidates for the Sydney seat of Bradfield were challenged to take a stand against cuts to the nation's foreign aid program.

Speaking at a "Meet the candidates" afternoon tea at the Fox Valley Community Centre in Wahroonga, Micah Challenge Australia* national coordinator Ben Thurley said just 0.8 per cent of the Federal Budget goes to foreign aid.

"It's a tiny, tiny slice and it's getting smaller because of conscious decisions governments have made," he said.

The afternoon tea, co-hosted by Micah and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia, saw members of the community and local church leaders gather to meet Bradfield candidates Katie Gompertz (ALP), Adrian Jones (the Greens), Christine Berman (Independent) and Chris Vale (Christian Democrats).

Sitting member Paul Fletcher (Liberal Party) accepted the invitation but withdrew a few hours before the event. Despite his no-show, Mr Thurley said the Liberal MP would be made aware of Micah's concerns about the cuts to

foreign aid. "His government has presided over the largest aid cuts in Australia's history. A lot of us don't think that's acceptable," he said.

ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster spoke about the effectiveness of Australian aid in fighting poverty. "One of the things we can say . . . is that it saves lives," he said.

Prayers were led by church leaders for the election candidates and for those living in poverty around the world. —Tracey Bridcutt

* Micah Australia is a coalition of churches and Christian organisations, including ADRA, seeking to raise a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.



ADRA's Mark Webster with Ben Thurley.

Sanitarium: Plenty of Weet-Bix for all

Berkeley Vale, New South Wales

Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing has assured consumers there will be no shortage of Weet-Bix after demand for the product exploded in China.

When a packet of Weet-Bix appeared in a popular Chinese TV soap (pictured right), demand for "Australia's favourite breakfast" soared in China, with enterprising Aussies raiding supermarket shelves and reselling the 1.4kg "value pack" for as much as \$A51 online.

The sudden popularity of the wholegrain cereal has led to concerns that Australian shoppers will find shelves empty, as happened with a similar run on baby formula earlier this year.

"We want to assure our customers that despite increased demand for Weet-Bix, Sanitarium has capacity to continue to supply our retail partners," said Todd Saunders, the Adventist-owned company's general manager.

"My breakfast is very simple," says a female character on the *Ode to Joy* soap opera as she plunks a packet of Weet-Bix on the kitchen table. "You



don't have anything hot, like dumpling soup?" asks her guest, a male character. "I never eat things like that," replies the female character briskly, establishing her fashionable Westernised credentials while making it clear that the upcoming conversation on the status of their relationship is likely to be a tricky one.

Sanitarium has been exporting Weet-Bix to China since 2008 and has seen demand increase in that time. "Of the 42 countries to which we export Weet-Bix, China is our largest market," Mr Saunders said. "We are excited to see more Chinese people choosing Australia's most loved and trusted cereal for their daily breakfast." —Kent Kingston

Inaugural conference draws hundreds

Mt Gravatt, Queensland

A recent weekend organised by South Queensland Conference Youth drew around 300 people to the Friday night and 800 to the Saturday session.

The inaugural event, entitled "We The Church", was for young adults aged between 18 and 30, with an emphasis on living out their faith.

"It's the first time we've dedicated a whole weekend to an initiative like this," said Alina Coccetti, director of tertiary and young adult ministries.

International pastor Terrance Taylor was the main speaker. Workshops were offered by Avondale College of Higher Education and Endless Praise. The weekend finished with a Saturday night dinner for attendees interested in leadership.

"In the end, it's not about having big events—it's about equipping our members," Ms Coccetti said. "It was a special experience to see the group of young people committing this stage of their lives to God." —Vania Chew



Thanks

James Standish

My father once said wistfully, "I wonder when was the last time I put you on my shoulders?" He paused for a minute, and then continued slowly as his thoughts went back in time. "There must have been a last time . . . But when? I suppose I pulled you off my shoulders like I'd done so many times before, set you down and thought nothing of it—not realising I'd never have my little boy riding on my shoulders . . . ever again."

Sometimes change happens so gradually we don't notice it until it has long passed. Other times it happens so dramatically it's impossible to miss. The change that is about to happen in my life falls squarely into the latter category.

This is my last *Adventist Record* editorial. Ever. I know it as I write it. So does all my team. And so, now, do you.

When we arrived back in Australia it never occurred to me that I'd work for the South Pacific Division (SPD), let alone edit the *Record*. I was planning to accept a position with Amnesty International when Neale Schofield, the CEO of Adventist Media (AM) at the time, invited me to come and work with him. Both Leisa and I were impressed that I should accept the invitation. But nothing at all turned out like we expected.

I was only at AM a handful of months when, after a couple of other people turned it down, I was asked to be SPD Communication director. A few months later, Pastor Pablo Lillo, then *Record* editor, followed his call to return to church pastoring—very much missed by everyone, but most of all me. As we searched for a new editor, I pitched in as a stopgap. We offered the job to a capable candidate. He turned it down. We struggled on. And then one day Barry Oliver, the SPD president at the time, told me he'd found a new *Record* editor, and I was it.

Editing *Record* was never my ambition. Just as well. As even the most Machiavellian of schemers couldn't devise a path to the position that circuitous and improbable!

As unexpected as it was, more surprising has been the overwhelming kindness and support I've received during these years. You've proven that our community is confident enough to speak openly about complex issues, intel-

ligent enough not to be swept along even with the most persuasive of pieces and gracious enough to love even those with whom we disagree. Which, often enough over the past five years, has been me!

These years have been terrific. I've worked with an outstanding team who have only gotten better every year. I owe a debt to Barry Oliver and Neale Schofield for trusting me with such an important portfolio, and to Glenn Townend (SPD president) and Calvin Dever (Adventist Media CEO) for supporting me in the role.

And there has also been a very deeply personal benefit. Children of missionaries get a wonderful gift. But we give up something profound: a sense of place, belonging and family. These past five years have given that back to me. I've met my nan's family in West Australia and visited the Barossa where, among the vineyards, my great-great-grandfather first heard the Advent message. I've sat at the back of the small Avondale funeral chapel as my Uncle George's friends recounted their early flying adventures and I've lived in the same city as my mother for the first time since I was 15 years old. All of that, and so much more.

But I have an American law degree that has been gathering dust and a web of complex contacts in DC that are getting cold. And I need time to write the books that are bouncing around in the back of my mind. Plus we have a secret dream we're hoping will become a reality. On multiple levels, now is the time to return to Washington.

Last week my youngest child asked to be lifted onto my shoulders. I hesitated. She's almost 10 years old now; tall and strong. I hadn't put her on my shoulders in months. Then I thought back to my dad and smiled. I sat down and she climbed on. We paraded around the centre of Mona Vale as she whooped and made peace signs; my back aching, my heart singing. And then I put her down. I'm quite sure. For the very last time.

James Standish will be on the frontlines of law, faith and tempestuous US politics. To receive his candid and insightful updates from Washington, send an email to: <jdstandish@outlook.com> or friend him on Facebook.

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 Mailed within Australia and NZ
 SA43.80 NZ\$73.00
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Cover Credit: Gilmore Tanabose
 "Sue Robinson checks new prayer requests that have come in."

Official news magazine of the South Pacific
 Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
 Vol 121 No 13



Let us reason together

Kent Kingston

When I was at high school I struggled with maths. But there were aspects of it I enjoyed—drawing three-dimensional pyramids before calculating their angles and plotting parabolas on Cartesian planes was kind of fun. But I remember hearing from a number of maths geeks that they liked always having one correct answer to a maths problem. One hundred per cent right. Clear-cut. Black and white.

The temptation is to believe that the rest of life is equally simple. We take a complex social or theological issue and try to cram it into a binary structure of right versus wrong. Islam is evil—anyone who disagrees is appeasing terrorists. People with same-sex attraction are born that way—only homophobes say otherwise. The debate quickly becomes polarised; the tone is hurtful, outraged, angry; nasty labels are slapped on opponents; supporting facts and research are marshalled while the other side's facts and research are disparaged. And we stop listening.

Sadly the same adversarial spirit has raised its ugly head within our own Church from time to time. Take the women's ordination debate, for example, where some advocates for this or that view have resorted to name-calling and character assassination—whatever it takes to score another point against the opposition.

It's time to step out from behind the barricades and reason together. If the issue is important enough to get passionate about, surely it's important enough to discuss properly—with wisdom, compassion and empathy. That's not to say we should hide the truths we hold dear, but we may need to hold off on the cheap shots, the stereotypes and the sloganeering for a time.

Do we really think we're going to positively influence an atheist towards faith by dismissing her morality as meaningless and without foundation? Will a Muslim be moved to accept Jesus by our harsh critiques of Mohammed? Will our guilt-ridden vegan Adventist brother be moved to accept the grace of God when we denounce him as a legalist?

If there's one thing I learnt from my decade as a social worker, it's that the first step towards change is to feel understood. That feeling only arrives when a person has been thoroughly listened to. Are we prepared to hear the full story of how a person became aware of their same-sex attraction and struggled with what to do next? Will we listen to the story of betrayal and spiritual manipulation from the atheist who is angry at the church and the God she doesn't believe in? Can we bite our tongue while the Muslim explains how he feels drawn to the merciful God of Abraham, Moses and Jesus?

And are we prepared to admit vulnerability—that we don't have all the answers; that there are weaknesses to our point of view; that the truth is not only complex but infinite? Because that's the point when we can begin journeying together, no longer as opponents but as friends.

Kent Kingston is assistant editor of Adventist Record.

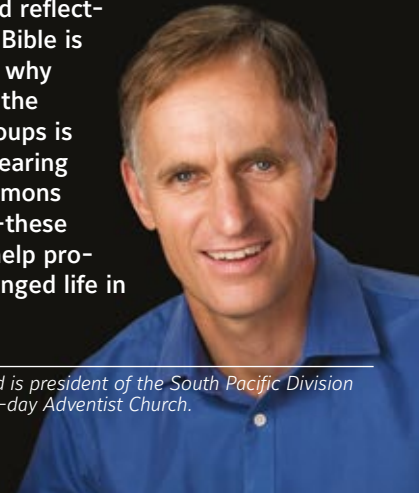
A date pip found in the ruins of Masada, the palace fortress built by Herod the Great in the Judean desert on the banks of the Dead Sea, has germinated and is producing dates. This date pip was found during an archaeological dig in 2005 and is the sub-species of a date that had been extinct—until this 2000-year-old pip germinated. This is the longest period ever recorded for a seed to still produce life.

No-one can explain the life-giving power in a small, usually inedible part of a plant. But most plants have seeds and each seed has life-giving power within. The apostle Peter records that the Word of God is like a seed with life-giving power

“... since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23, ESV).

We do not know which seed we plant will germinate and which one will not. However there is nothing wrong with the seed of God—His Word, the Bible, is eternal. If the seed is planted in good soil it will produce a harvest (Mark 4:3-20). If the seed of the Word of God is planted in a receptive heart it will produce a harvest of a changed life. If accepted, the good news of Jesus changes a person's life from guilt to freedom, from being a nobody to someone significant, from being self-centred to loving. It may not happen overnight but it will happen if the soil is good and the person is cared for. We are custodians of amazing life-changing words.

That is why sharing our story of how Jesus has and is changing our life is powerful for others to hear, why reading and reflecting on the Bible is important, why discussing the Bible in groups is vital and hearing biblical sermons nourishes—these activities help produce a changed life in Jesus.



Glenn Townend is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Sabbath claim rejected

A high court justice in India has denied an application by Adventist student Justin Josh to sit pre-university exams on a day other than Saturday. Justice Aravind Kumar disagreed with the interpretation of Scriptures submitted by Mr Josh and Church leaders and upheld as constitutional the government's refusal to move the exam. —*Times of India*



Assassination attempt

A suicide bomber disguised as a priest killed three security personnel who stopped him outside a hall in Qamishle, Syria, where an Assyrian event was taking place. It's believed the bomber intended to kill Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II Karim (pictured), head of the Syriac Orthodox Church, who was presiding at the event. —*AINA*



"Jesus' wife" fake

Four years since she alerted the world to an apparently ancient papyrus fragment that includes the Coptic words "Jesus said them, my wife", Harvard professor Karen King now concedes the document is most likely a forgery. The turning point was an investigative media report on Walter Fritz, her source for the papyrus. —*ABC (USA)*



Pedal power

Castle Rock Adventist Hospital, south of Denver USA, has put its commitment to wholistic health into action by providing 25 hire bicycles at four locations around town. Using the FreeCycle app, locals can book a bike, unlock it using a unique code and ride free for up to four hours. —*Denver Post*



Remote access

Adventist Aviation is one of 12 airline operators to receive an Indonesian government subsidy to continue servicing the rugged interior of Papua province. Many villages in Papua can only be reached on foot or by air, meaning that development is slow and any goods not made or grown locally are prohibitively expensive. —*Jakarta Post*



Sex police

Andrews Memorial Hospital, operated by the Adventist Church in Jamaica, triggered an outcry when it warned staff they could be dismissed for behaviour including adultery or fornication. Critics say the policy breaches workers' rights; others say the hospital should be able to enforce its code of conduct and protect its image. —*Jamaica Gleaner*



Jindabyne Camp for the Deaf October 28-31, 2016

Are you Deaf, hard of hearing, an Auslan, NZSL or BSL signer? If so, this camp is just for you.



Esther Doss

Enjoy fellowship, worship and fun at the Adventist Alpine Village, a sunny retreat in the Australian Alps, with guest presenter Esther Doss, a CODA with ASL as her first language. All meetings will be AUSLAN and spoken English.

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Cost \$300, early bird \$250 (by August 1)

For more information and to register online, go to www.sdadeafdu.org/camp2016.htm or SMS Lindy on 0409 711 346 (outside Australia +61 409 711 346) Email armstrong.lindy@yahoo.com.au or sdadeafdu@gmail.com

This camp is operated by the SDA Deaf Church Down Under, in cooperation with Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired.



Government CHIPs in support

Warwick, Queensland

The Queensland State Government has thrown its support behind the Complete Health Improvement Project (CHIP) by contributing \$35,000 towards a program held recently in Warwick.

CHIP in Churches program director Paul Rankin said it's great to see CHIP receiving state government funding.

"There was a competitive bidding process. They (the government) really liked the CHIP program and gave them the money, which was fantastic," he said.

Dr Rankin said Warwick was identified as a rural area of Queensland facing challenging socioeconomic circumstances, which led to the government funding. And the community embraced the program: there were 54 participants—80 per cent from a non-Adventist background.

"It has made a phenomenal difference in the community," Dr Rankin said. "Inspirational! Motivational! Life-changing! were among the comments that participants posted on a whiteboard thanking the facilitators."

CHIP is not only transforming lives in Australia, but

across the South Pacific and beyond.

The program recently launched in Dubai, where Dr Rankin conducted facilitators

training for 24 participants from six countries. This month he is conducting training in South Africa and Mauritius.

"It really is amazing to see the benefits of CHIP spreading globally," Dr Rankin said. "CHIP makes a difference in people's lives and makes a difference in communities.

"It is our responsibility to build relationships with people and it's the Holy Spirit's responsibility to use those relationships for salvation purposes. That is why God gave the Adventist Church the health message: to build those relationships."—Tracey Bridcutt



The Warwick CHIP team.

Professional couples attend marriage enrichment program

Lae, Papua New Guinea

Forty-five couples attended a marriage enrichment seminar conducted by the Family Ministries department of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM).



Rayleen and Lyndon Aturoro (right).

The theme was "Building strong, healthy relationships", with presentations by Dr Trafford Fischer, Family Life director for the South Pacific Division, Dr Kasa from the Family Support Centre at Angau Hospital, Ghani Gairo, a Lifestyle

Medicine student from Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines, and Dr Agnes Kola, PNGUM Family Life director.

Dr Kola said this was the first time the department had conducted a marriage enrichment course after previously running programs for widows, single mothers and men.

"This is a pilot project targeting professional Adventists in Lae. We plan to carry out similar programs in the nine local missions and Central Papua Conference."

Dr Kola added that there is a need for this type of program for pastors before taking it to the church membership at large. "This is a way forward for stronger families and marriages," she said.—Nancy Lagdom

84 children's ministry leaders trained and disciplined

Upolu, Samoa

Children's ministry leaders from around the Pacific gathered at the Samoas/Tokelau Mission fale (traditional Samoan house) at Lalovaea, Samoa, on June 6 for four days of intensive training.

Litiana Turner, representing children's ministries for the South Pacific Division, and Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa, Family Life leader for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, led out in daily presentations on topics such as understanding children, GraceLink updates, discipling children and intergenerational worship.

The 84 leaders learned new songs and were reminded of the importance of discipling children early in life.—TPUM Newsletter



The Pacific children's ministry leaders.

COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM MANAGER

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This is a feel good role, positively impacting lives and the broader community through community care programs including breakfast club and food and nutrition security programs.

This role requires a strategic thinker who is able to create new approaches, shifting the future of the organisation while ensuring collective and strategically aligned sustainability programs and quality community care programs are in place.

For more information about this exciting opportunity or to apply, please visit the Sanitarium Careers opportunity page at www.sanitarium.com.au

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
7 AUGUST 2016**

Prayer ministry reaches world

Wahroonga, New South Wales



Hundreds of prayer requests from around the world are received each week by a volunteer ministry operating from the Adventist Media offices at Wahroonga.

PrayerOnline was set up a number of years ago but last year received an upgrade that has enabled volunteers to respond individually to those requesting prayer.

Volunteer Sue Robinson said they receive about 200 requests each week from people living in places such as India, the US, Great Britain, Norway, the Netherlands, parts of Africa, even as far as Alaska.

"I remember a lady from Alaska who was quite depressed and lonely," Mrs Robinson said. "She started her prayer request by saying, 'Thank you so much for praying for a stranger.' That really touched my heart.

"One of the interesting things is when I first started there were hardly any requests from Australia and I was really curious about that. Lately the Australian prayers have increased and so that has been really heartening."

Volunteer Andrew McQuillan said the requests are most often related to relationship breakdowns, depression, financial challenges and illness. Responding to these situations is not an easy task.

"It's sobering to think of the desperate plight of the people because you do find that people are in terrible relationships, very lonely or depressed, and feel there's no future," he said.

Mrs Robinson similarly encounters many heartbreaking stories. "I have been very touched with a lot of requests that have come from India from women in arranged marriages who have been very mistreated," she said. "I have been sad to see some of their situations and how they have been made like slaves with no love, and all the family expecting them to do everything."

In her responses, she usually incorporates a Bible text she feels is relevant to the situation. "The other thing we do if appropriate is direct them to one of our Discovery courses or to literature that is online. In particularly difficult situations, we encourage people to get professional medical help.

"After I have responded to them, then I go privately and pray individually for each of the people."

Encouragingly, the volunteers will every so often hear back from the people for whom they have prayed. "Since we have started I have had about 300 people come back to me from the prayer requests, just to say thank you," Mrs Robinson said.

"The other thing that has been nice is that with some of the people we have developed an ongoing relationship."

PrayerOnline is a volunteer ministry supported by Hope Channel. To find out more go to prayeronline.org.au. —Tracey Bridcutt



Something quite unusual

by James Standish

There are nine Seventh-day Adventist conferences in Australia. All have schools. All have baptisms. What is curious is that some have lots of baptisms associated with schools, and some do not. By "baptisms associated with schools" I'm referring to baptisms of students in, teachers at, or parents of children attending an Adventist school. The large variance isn't just in raw numbers but also as percentages of total conference baptisms. And it doesn't seem to matter if there are lots of baptisms or few baptisms in a conference.

The national average is that almost one-third of total baptisms in Australia are associated with our schools. But there is an outlier. In 2015, 72 per cent of baptisms in the North NSW Conference were associated with our schools. And that pattern has been repeated over the past three years. When there's a statistical outlier like this, there are at least three possible explanations. First, NNSW could simply be over-reporting. Second, all the other conferences could be under-reporting. Or third, maybe NNSW is onto something that we can all learn from.

So I called Dean Bennetts, CEO of Adventist Schools NSW, to pick his brains. It turns out there are a lot of brains to pick. I hadn't talked with him in any depth previously and was, frankly, very impressed. Mr Bennetts served as principal of Central Coast Adventist School for 17 years prior to becoming CEO of the NNSW school system. During that time, the school grew from enrolments in the mid-100s to just under 900 students. This is what I learned from our conversation.

The NNSW statistics are likely accurate

Mr Bennetts has taken special care in collecting and reporting accurate baptism statistics. "Unless we have

accurate information we can't track how effective we're being," he says. "So this is a very high priority for me. We go through the data carefully. If there's a number that looks odd, we check it out. Accuracy is what we value.

"The skills and support of Dr David McClintock, associate South Pacific Division Education director, in 'number crunching' has been a vital accuracy and validity test for the data."

Vision

This focus on reporting is driven by Mr Bennetts' vision. "When I first started at Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS), our goal was to operate safe environments for our Adventist kids, to ensure they weren't tainted by the world," he says. "The economics of keeping the school system afloat, however, made relying exclusively on Adventist children unworkable. That is why we began to accept a higher proportion of children from non-Adventist families. Of course we cared for and nurtured these children. But they weren't our primary focus. I had been at CCAS for almost a decade before I had an epiphany: these children are our mission field. And that changed everything. From that point on, reaching all our students with the gospel became our number one priority.

"My greatest fear is that when I meet Christ, He'll look me in the eye and say 'Dean, why'd it take you 10 years before you saw the harvest was right in front of you?' I wonder how many kids who were open to the gospel we missed. My number one goal at NNSW's schools today is to ensure we don't ever miss a single child ever again."

Results aren't a fluke

It is, of course, one thing to have a goal; quite another

continued on next page

to do anything about it. And this is where the NNSW approach is interesting. There are five practical things they are doing to ensure they reach their objective.

First, they set the goal explicitly and communicate it repeatedly. And this goal isn't just communicated to all the teachers and principals; it's explicitly repeated to parents and students. Non-Adventist parents are told when they are considering enrolling their children in NNSW's Adventist schools that their children may decide to join our faith community.

Second, there is adequate and appropriate staffing. "It isn't just about having chaplains, it's about having the right chaplains and associated staff," Mr Bennetts says. "For example, at CCAS we had a staff member allocated about two days a week to work on worship music. Music is so essential when kids are high school aged. Having highly professional, beautiful worship music is therefore essential to reaching their developing spiritual identity. We also work very hard to ensure our chaplains are our most talented, dedicated and equipped pastors for the role. We need our best talent ministering to our most precious flock."

Third, chaplains are present. "Our most effective chaplains are there in the morning to greet parents and students, play soccer and cricket with the kids at lunch time, have office hours during the day so that kids can come and talk with them about anything at all," Mr Ben-

netts says. "Chaplains run Bible studies for students—and their parents. And they are there at pick-up time, talking with the parents and helping with the kids. They are fully integrated into the community. This breaks down barriers, builds relationships and trust naturally follows."

Fourth, chaplains are part of school leadership teams. "Our chaplains aren't just an add-on to school life; they are critical components of our school leadership teams with the principal and vice principal. That makes an enormous difference."

Fifth, churches and schools are integrated. "We are working very hard to ensure there are no walls—administrative or cultural—between our schools and our churches," Mr Bennetts says. "A number of our schools have churches that meet on campus. My goal is to start more campus churches because they have proven a very powerful means of reaching our school families. Even when we don't have a church on the campus, we work very hard to integrate the nearest church with the school, and the church pastor into the life of the school. Our schools are our churches, our churches are our schools. We are one team, with one goal. This is a vital and ongoing work in progress," he concludes. "The harvest is not when, it is now—the harvesters are not who, they are us."

James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.



RECORD REWIND

Les Devine

Restless revivalist

Arch Hefren walked large across the educational and pastoral scene in Australia and beyond, and lived every one of his 82 years with vigour and restless enthusiasm.

Pastor Hefren spent eight years as a government teacher prior to being recruited into denominational teaching ministry by W J Gilson in 1935. He then spent 16 years as a headmaster, 17 as a lecturer at Avondale, four as an evangelist and five and-a-half as a church pastor—a total of 42 years.

In retirement he taught at Solusi in Zimbabwe and often served as a volunteer pastor or revival speaker in various places, including Samoa (pictured). While his wife, Bernie, was calm and wise, Arch was "restless and thrusting" and conversation was never tame in his presence!

Synopsis obtained from: Life Sketch in *South Pacific Record*, May 17, 1986.



CREATIVES NEEDED

ARE YOU A VIDEO PRODUCER, photographer, animator, singer, songwriter, podcaster or artist? Are you looking for a way to use your God-given gifts to bring people to a relationship with Jesus?

If so, then I want to offer you a way to contribute. In my recent *Record* article, "A new vision for media" (February 26), I said we want to "democratise our media". That's a fancy way of saying that we want you involved. In the article I talked about deliberately targeting the young family demographic and the fact that doing so would mean some tough decisions about how we use our limited resources.

We've made some tough decisions already. We've ceased production of the *Record InFocus* program, suspended *Archaeological Diggings* magazine and are applying significant effort in refocusing both the content and style of our Discovery courses. We are producing a new show, *InFocus Recouched*, featuring *InFocus* interviews from the past few years and we have commenced preproduction on a new show targeted specifically at families. We've also appointed a full-time content manager, Linden Chuang, who is responsible for curating the content for our websites. And yes, we are putting all our content on YouTube, including *Beyond the Search* and *Masterstroke*. Those are some pretty big changes but we are excited about the future possibilities.

One of the biggest challenges is having enough new content. A TV channel needs 168 hours of content a week, newspapers need thousands of words each day, and a website needs lots of audio, video and pictures to build long-term relationships with consumers. We can create some of the content needed but we simply cannot create all of it. That's where we need you to be part of "democratising" our media. We need your help. We need to work together as a team focused on winning souls for Jesus.

Many of you already create content and publish it in various ways, including on the internet. But here is the challenge: it often doesn't lead anywhere. It doesn't allow the

consumer to connect with a community or to browse across other content on the same topic. Don't misunderstand me: what you're doing is great but wouldn't it be good if all our creative people had a space to exhibit their content in a way that was intentionally evangelistic?

So if you are willing, send us your content and we'll check it out and see if it can be included on our websites in a way that allows it to be linked with other similar content. You might be a professional or an enthusiastic amateur. You might have years of experience or you might still be in school. It doesn't matter. If your content engages our target audience—young families—we can use it. Most importantly, you will be playing a significant role in our evangelism efforts.

Please send an email to Linden at <content@hopechannel.com> with a link to your content.

Oh yes—before you ask, there is some fine print.

The fine print

We have legal responsibilities in relation to the content we use as part of our websites. Our responsibility is to ensure that we only publish content where we have the appropriate permissions to do so. These responsibilities exist regardless of how well meaning and mission-minded the content is. Please ensure that you only send us content for which you have the necessary permissions in place.

Unless you specify otherwise, any content given to us may be used for any of our ministry activities. This includes on the hopechannel.com website as well as in the TV broadcast ministry around the South Pacific Division and potentially the world.

For the above reasons we need to be certain that you, as the producer, have the necessary permissions in place for the music, images and video clips used, people included and locations featured, where that is appropriate. **R**

Kalvin Dever is CEO of Adventist Media.



Finding the Silva lining

by Jarrod Stackelroth

ON MEETING MICHELLE SILVA, YOU WOULD never realise that just five years ago she had reached rock bottom. She is warm, friendly and outgoing—and passionate about Jesus. But back then, she tells me, she was angry all the time. She blamed others for her rapid downward spiral—something didn't seem right.

Eventually, she found herself at the doctor's office. The doctor diagnosed her with depression. "I didn't understand what was happening to me. It didn't seem like this was who I really was. I thought to myself, the only way to go from here is up." The doctor suspected the depression was a side effect of her birth control injections and, after talking with her husband, she stopped the injections and decided to change the way she saw life.

"I wanted to get myself out," she says. "Unfortunately I didn't turn to God. I changed my life in a godly way but I didn't know God yet."

Michelle made the decision to change her negative thoughts to positive. She changed the way she talked and the way she saw her circumstances.

"Things started changing. God says to think about good things. It really changes the entire world around you." And it did.

When Michelle was going through her dark times, she would turn to alcohol. Even her close family struggled with the changes in her life and didn't want to be around her. But slowly, as her outlook changed and she came off the hormone injections, life grew brighter. "I noticed I was feeling happier than before but felt something missing in my heart, a void there."

In December 2015, her husband came home with a movie, entitled *War Room*. When Michelle asked to watch it with him, he responded that she probably wouldn't like it because it was a Christian movie. "Just put it on," she told him. "I want to watch."

"I was in tears by the end of it—it moved me that much. I wanted to be a prayer warrior!"

However, that presented a problem: she had forgotten how to pray and didn't know where to start. But it hadn't always been that way. Michelle had grown up in a Samoan Congregational Church in her hometown of Auckland, NZ.

The issue, she says, is that she never really understood the formal, religious version of the Samoan language that was used in the services and could never really connect with it until she was older. By then, it was too late. She gained her independence from her church-going parents and weekends were filled with house parties, clubbing and hanging out with friends. "I hadn't been back to church since," she says. It had been more than 20 years since she attended church.

So here she was, a fired-up prayer warrior, ready to go into battle, but she realised she didn't know enough



about God to be effective. So where did she go? The internet. Michelle went online and ordered her first Bible. She also ordered a book of 100 Bible verses to memorise and another book to learn how to pray.

She would read these books and start being equipped as a prayer warrior. "When I received the books I was so excited but where to start?" She decided to flip open the book of Bible verses and memorise the first verse she landed on. It was Philippians 4:6,7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Michelle realised that she did not know the God who promised peace. But as she prayed morning and evening and learned more from Scripture, she could avoid it no longer. She said: "God, you've got my attention, lead me back to the true church."

Michelle wanted her faith to grow and to know God more. She started telling people at work that she was going back to church. Her husband was a Catholic. He said, "If you're going to church, you'll have to come to my church." So Michelle agreed to go to church with him.

That week, as she prepared to go to church, she was surfing the internet and found some YouTube videos about the Catholic Church. She discovered they prayed to Mary, that priests took confession and that they had changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. "I was shocked. It was almost midnight but I was wide awake, with chills down my spine." She investigated further and discovered that Saturday is the seventh day. "I had always thought the week went from Monday to Sunday. I never thought to question it. I felt brainwashed. What a revealing thing to find out because I had prayed to find the true church."

So the next question presented itself. Who did worship on Saturday?

She felt disappointed. She couldn't think of anyone who went to church on Saturday, except the Seventh-day Adventists. "I thought they were like a cult," she laughs. "I thought I would be disappointed."

Michelle had previously had some contact with the Adventist Church through a cousin but had never been very interested. However, upon looking at the local Adventist church's website, she was pleasantly surprised. Everything was pointing back to the Bible. She noticed that the nearby Werribee Multicultural Church (Victoria) ran a weekly prayer meeting. She had wanted to be a prayer warrior so this was her chance! She rang the website's contact number and spoke to Pastor Nikola Trajkov. Pastor Trajkov said she was welcome to attend but they weren't running the prayer meetings that week. They were instead running a whole week of discipleship meetings. So Michelle went along.

"There were quite a few people that first night," recalls

Michelle. A pastor from the other side of Melbourne was teaching and Michelle felt happy. "Within the first five minutes I was holding back tears. I didn't want to cry because I felt like I was home. It has been that way ever since. It's all the way for the kids and me now for sure."

On the Friday night of the program, the visiting pastor was stuck in traffic, so Pastor Trajkov led some hymns. Then he pointed out Michelle and her family to the congregation in order to welcome them as new attendees. Before she knew it, Michelle was up the front sharing her testimony with her new church family—telling them how happy she was to find God's church. She has since shared her testimony to many people.

But what about her family? "When I told my husband I wouldn't be coming to his church he was fine," she says. "But my parents, they were another story."

Michelle's parents were still attending their traditional Samoan church. They had been praying and telling Michelle for 20 years to find a church, any church, to attend. But when she told them she was going to a Seventh-day Adventist church, they were upset.

"What are you trying to do to me?" asked her dad, in Samoan. "You told me to go to a church, as long as it's a church," Michelle protested. "So I am." Her reply helped to break the ice and her parents gained some peace with her decision.

Since then Michelle has been passionately sharing her faith on Facebook and with friends and family. Her teenage children, Raven and Tyron, have been attending the church with her and she is so excited about what the future holds.

"I just want people to know how loving our God is. It is so amazing when you have that relationship with Him. And it can only grow through powerful prayer. I've tried the repetitive prayers but now my prayers are on point! I feel like I've got a relationship with Him and He works wonders. He's such a loving God."

What would Michelle like people to learn from her story? "It's a bit weird but the first thing that comes to mind is that people need to open their eyes and research. Just because you were born into a particular church and raised that way, you must find the truth for yourself. I felt strongly that God showed me the truth. I know I'm still a rookie. All I know is that I love God for sure. He has filled the void in my heart and I'm happy as Larry these days!" R

Michelle's story was shared at this year's Victorian Camp meeting. She was excited to experience camp for the first time and to share her love for Jesus there. She was baptised on July 9.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Adventist Record.



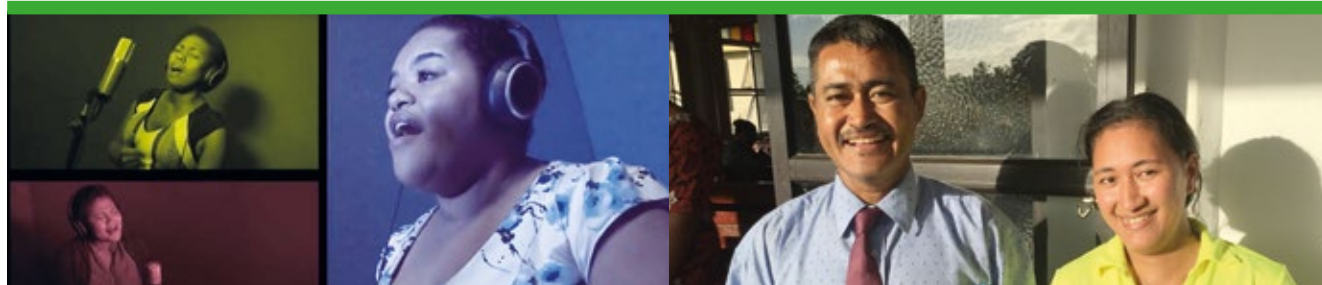
New centre for Fijian school

Community members assembled on June 14 to celebrate the opening of the new Early Childhood Education (ECE) block at Naqarawai Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. The new centre was opened by Dr Mahendra Reddy, Fiji's Minister for Education, Heritage, Culture and Arts. Dr Reddy thanked the Adventist Church community members for their foresight in establishing the school and providing teachers. —*Fiji Sun/Vania Chew*



Cooking up fun for kids

An Indonesian church plant in Sydney has reached out to the community by offering free cooking classes for children. Approximately 28 children enrolled in the classes, which were held by the BISA church plant that meets in Auburn Adventist Primary School. For three consecutive Sundays, the children prepared simple vegetarian recipes, listened to health talks and even participated in a cooking competition. —*Vania Chew*



Streaming the gospel

Both HopeFM Fiji and HopeFM PNG are being streamed via satellite and are now available to all South Pacific Division (SPD) countries. "This enables us to enter into some of the Pacific's most remote villages," said Pastor Wayne Boehm, SPD Hope Channel director. "Radio is the most widely used medium in the SPD. This is our opportunity to communicate the gospel and help change people's lives." —*Vania Chew*

Exciting chapter for colporteur

A recent visit to Samoa was an opportunity for John Brereton, publishing director of the South Pacific Division, to hear about the wonderful work being accomplished by literature evangelists there. One colporteur recently re-connected with a young lady who had purchased books from him many years previously and had consequently become a Seventh-day Adventist. The colporteur had no idea that she had become an Adventist until he saw her at church on a recent Sabbath. "God is blessing abundantly with fantastic experiences and many miracles!" said Mr Brereton. —*John Brereton*



Contribution

Pastor Rob Steed (pictured far left) from the Victorian Conference was recently made a life member of the Christian Research Association in recognition of his contribution to the association. He represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1998-2005 and was a co-opted member on the board from 2006-2016. He has been chair of the board for the past eight years. —*Rob Steed*



Students serve prisoners

Recently 100 children from Koiari Park Adventist Primary School (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea) assisted Operation Food for Life (OFFL) volunteers in their regular visits to Bomana men's prison in Port Moresby. Children participated in the divine service program, which was led by OFFL director Phillip Vaki, and helped serve a healthy fellowship lunch to the prisoners. The students later talked about their experiences during a special program at Pacific Adventist University. —*Dennis Perry*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Wholegrains for whole health

It's not unusual to see headlines about nutrition based on a small study with a controversial or seemingly amazing finding. Unfortunately, often the media run stories without considering the evidence base for the topic. A study following five people that has some unusual findings doesn't disprove what could be decades worth of other investigations and evidence, but the headlines don't tell us that. This is one of the reasons nutrition science gets accused of constantly changing its mind on what's good for us. The truth is evidence-based practice only changes when the evidence base does and the evidence base does not change with every headline.

So when large, well-conducted nutrition studies are published, it's important we give them the attention they deserve. A recent review of studies published in the journal *Circulation*, looking at more than 780,000 study participants, found that higher intakes of wholegrains

were associated with a lower risk of death from heart disease, circulatory disease and cancer.

Large studies like these looking at the current evidence base may not generate the provocative headlines like those looking at low carb or paleo diets, but it's hard to ignore this much data telling us that wholegrain cereal

foods are an important part of a healthy, balanced diet. Like all nutrition advice, the power is in the details.

Wholegrains are an important part of a healthy diet, while refined grain foods should be minimised. Look for ways to add who-

legrains to your diet by choosing breakfast

cereals with a high percentage of wholegrain ingredients and choosing wholegrain and wholemeal breads and pastas and unrefined grains like brown rice instead of white.



Wholesome bircher muesli

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: nil Serves: 6

- 1½ cups rolled oats
- 1½ cups apple juice
- ½ cup flaked almonds, toasted
- ½ cup hazelnuts, toasted and chopped
- ¼ cup raw pepita seeds
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 cup low fat Greek yoghurt
- 10 lychees, peeled, deseeded and halved
- 2 passionfruits, pulp removed

1. Place the oats into a bowl and pour the apple juice over.
2. Cover with cling film and refrigerate overnight.
3. When ready remove from fridge and add the rest of the ingredients. Mix until all ingredients are combined.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
1300kJ (300cal). Protein 9g. Fat 15g.
Carbohydrate 33g. Sodium 40mg. Potassium 410mg. Calcium 115mg. Iron 2.2mg. Fibre 4g.

Call and arrange to speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



VALEDICTION

by James Standish

IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME, I'D LIKE TO DO A LITTLE WRAP-up of five big ideas I've tried to share through *Adventist Record* over the past five years.¹ That is, one big idea for every year I've edited this fine publication. This is, I suppose, my valediction. Not a parting shot of vindictiveness, but a shot of unabashed love—a summary of things I've already said, in the hope it wasn't all in vain. Lot's of v's. So let's venture forth . . .

Oh dear, things are good²

I hate to be the one to break it to you, but our Church in the South Pacific is astonishingly healthy. Surprised? Not as surprised as I am. I suppose my view of our Church was largely formed when I was a kid back in the '70s—when everyone seemed to be at each other's throats fighting about whether we should be gracious or whether we should be good. I've now had a chance to travel the length and breadth of the South Pacific Division (SPD), and I think we can say with some confidence that the theological wars ended with a truce in which the consensus is that being good and being gracious are both unmerited gifts from God, and we all need a lot more of both.

A healthy theological equilibrium is one thing but what about life in the real world? It turns out there might be a connection between good theology and good results. Christ taught that where our treasure is, there is our heart. And on that note, it's hard to ignore the incredible growth in tithe across the SPD. Yes, our economies are growing. But tithe is growing faster than economic growth.

For example, last year the average Adventist in Australia gave 23 per cent more in tithe and offerings than the average North American Adventist. Friends, that's a big deal—particularly when you consider that America's GDP per capita is roughly 18 per cent higher than Australia's.

Put another way, average Adventist giving as a percentage of average GDP per capita is almost 50 per cent higher in Australia than it is in the US, and that's before you take into account the relative weakness of the Australian dollar against the American dollar (all the figures used in these calculations were stated in American dollars). Something profoundly good is at work in the hearts of our community and we see it every week in the most tangible way possible.

And it's not just giving money, it's giving of ourselves. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven," said Jesus. If ever there was a community those beautiful words apply to, it is the SPD church family. Every Adventist I meet is doing something astonishing. There's StormCo, Volunteers in Action, ADRA volunteers, Adventist Yacht Ministries, Adopt A Clinic, fly'n'builds, Asian Aid, Food for Life, Medisonship, International Children's Care, South Pacific Allied Health—thousands of people helping the vulnerable everywhere from Cambodia to Kenya, and in projects around the Pacific. This Church is on fire with good works!

Consider how the people I'm proud to call my colleagues at *Record* spend their spare time: running a church plant (Vania), spreading the gospel to prisoners (Jarrod), volunteering as church clerk (Tracey), helping the kindies at church (Dora), volunteering to teach migrants English (Kent), and leading youth Sabbath school (Linden). And each of them does much more than that. One of the most touching examples of giving I've come across were students in Vanuatu raising money to help those struggling after Cyclone Winston hit Fiji. Everywhere I look I see a church alive with good works. And I praise my Father in heaven for it.

And our community is growing. Yes, the Church is growing around the world. But remember next time you hear of a mass baptism here, or a great story there: the SPD has

the highest ratio of Adventists to the general population of any division, anywhere on earth. Period. End of story. Ka-boom. And that's after rigorous membership audits. We are likely the only division where national censuses routinely report we have substantially more members than we claim. God is doing something very powerful right here among us. And it's a beautiful thing to behold!

Focus on the kids³

It was one of those rather cold days and everyone—I mean everyone—was absent from church. My family was at a church where I was preaching. Another family was on holidays. Yet another slept in. Another had to go to a different church that Sabbath, and so it went on. When Jarrod and Lyna Stackelroth arrived at our little church plant, there was only one family in attendance. Just one.

Imagine preparing a sermon and getting all ready for the big moment. And finding out no-one was there. Well, except that one solitary family. But Jarrod went ahead and gave it all he had.

I know this, not because he told me, but because my wife told me. How did she know? Because two of the children in the church that Sabbath attend her school. And when chapel time came, these little missionaries got up and performed Jarrod's sermon illustration down to the last iota. In front of more than 100 children, about 80 per cent of whom are not Adventists, and many of whom never go to church.

The point? If you reach a child with the gospel, you reach the future. And, as Jesus observed, we are most open to God when we are young. Yet our church services, our evangelism and our media are generally aimed at people in their middle to later years.⁴ We need to change this. Research indicates that children make decisions that impact the spiritual trajectory of their lives very early.⁵ And turning those decisions around later in life is extremely unlikely. So we need to focus our resources on reaching children when they're open to it.

I wish for the day when every school is thoroughly integrated with our Church (see: "Something quite unusual", p 9). I wish for the day when every church service is as child-friendly as our church plant. I wish for the day when our limited media and evangelism resources are focused on children and their parents. Why? Because there is nowhere we are likely to make a bigger impact—in quantity, quality and longevity—than if we focus on children.

Jarrod spoke to one family. And reached 100 families. I dream for the day when we are reaching hundreds of thousands of families across our Division every day. All by focusing on children.

Identity⁶

One morning recently, I woke to the question: "Did you

watch *QeA* last night?" No, as a matter of fact, I didn't. Instead I sat like an extraordinarily obedient husband and watched the Jane Austen-ish *Doctor Thorne* on ABC iview while researching absurdly impractical cars I want to buy within 5 minutes of arriving back in the US. "You should have watched *QeA*," my friend said, "because you were mentioned to the Prime Minister on national television."

Naturally enough I scrambled to see what all the fuss was about. It turns out I wasn't mentioned at all. No "James". No "Standish". No "balding, slightly scruffy looking 50-something male with an indefinable accent". But *Adventist Record* was mentioned. And when I heard that, I felt a very warm feeling indeed.

You see, not all that long ago we added the word "Adventist" to the title of *Record*. We did it for two reasons. It turns out there's another *Record*—put out by the Catholic Church. And second, we decided it was time to stop hiding our identity. We're Seventh-day Adventist Christians. And we're proud of it. And we aren't going to hide any more. People can accept us. Reject us. Or ignore us. But it won't be for not knowing about us. And there was the nation's Prime Minister on national TV hearing not about the generic *Record*, but the *Adventist Record*. That's right, Adventist and proud of it!

It's painful to see so many Adventist entities hiding who we are: schools that have discarded the Adventist name, media created under every name except ours, even local churches who are obscuring who we are. We're at a tipping point. Either we rebuild the Adventist brand in a way that we can all be proud of, or there won't be much left to rebuild.

The irony is that there has never been a better time to be an Adventist. Schools with Adventist in the name are bursting at the seams all around our Division. The prejudice against Adventists from other Christians is declining as people of faith increasingly huddle together in the face of the secularist onslaught. And the Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing relatively rapidly across the SPD. It's time to lose our insecurities and be proud of who we are. It's time to shine like a light on a hill, not cower under a bushel. God gave us our name; let's use it with strength, dignity and consistency. Divided we're weak but together under the grace of God, using the name He gave us, we're strong.

Too much is too much⁷

We're moving to Maryland, on the edge of Washington, DC. It is a very Adventist sort of place. How Adventist? Consider this: it's where my former employer, the General Conference, is located. If you drive 16 minutes north, you'll see a local conference building on your left. Another 10 minutes or so north on the same road and you come to the turn-off to the Union office. If you do a U-turn, head south,

Continued page 18

If you reach a child with the gospel, you reach the future.

and then a little east, you come to an entirely separate building that is the new Division headquarters. That's four Adventist administrative offices within a 20-minute radius. If that strikes you as a little bit of administrative overkill, don't forget there are three more conferences located in nearby states that also administer parts of Maryland.

So, let's review: one GC, one division, one union, four conferences—that's seven different buildings, filled with seven different teams, all with a president, a secretary, a treasurer, and heads of this, that and the other departments; all providing administration in one way or another to our church in Maryland.

You might be tempted to imagine Maryland being an immense place. But it is less than one-third the size of the North Island of New Zealand. And its total population is just a little more than greater Sydney.

With all this administration, our work in Maryland must be shooting ahead in leaps and bounds, right? I decided to find out for myself. So I researched church growth in Maryland. But I couldn't find any numbers on our total membership there, let alone our growth. Assuming I was a bit dim, I contacted the General Conference. They responded that they couldn't find any numbers either. Or, more to the point, they were awash in numbers from the various entities but none of them actually totalled the membership in Maryland. They contacted the Union, but the Union, too, lacked information on the total membership in Maryland.

So in a state covered by seven different Adventist headquarters, all with their own teams and office buildings, no-one knows how many members we actually have. I suppose it must be a few just to cover the cost of all this church admin! Is our church shooting ahead in Maryland? Falling behind? If we are growing, is it because of immigration or because of evangelism? If it's evangelism, what kind of evangelism is working best? Are there some ethnic groups we're managing to reach, while others we are missing entirely? If so, why?

No-one knows.

And this shouldn't surprise us. The multiplication and balkanisation of our church administration substantially decreases our effectiveness. Each separate entity has a mind of its own; people have philosophies, priorities and egos. And these differences often turn into barriers to coordinated action and intelligent administration. The simple question of membership illustrates what is multiplied a thousand times in every conceivable area of church administration. Rather than adding capacity and effectiveness, our excess of administration is drowning us in a sea of our own unnecessarily Byzantine complexity.

And, ironically, by replicating administrations, we've built a Church where most administrative levels are inadequately staffed. How could we both have too much, and too little, administration? Let's examine education administration as an illustration.

Running a modern education system is a complex busi-

ness. You have to comply with every evolving state and federal regulation and meet church and secular accreditation reviews. There are policies on everything from sexual abuse to salary structures and retirement. And that's before you even start with curriculum requirements and professional teaching standards. All the regulations and corporate compliance is only getting more complicated. But our little school systems can only absorb so many overheads. And so each conference has its own inadequately staffed team, where the director has to try to be adequately competent in everything. If we consolidated our teams, we could have a national team of professionals with the depth of specific expertise necessary to excel.

And what about the cost? Every dollar spent on administration is a dollar not spent on frontline missionary work. Imagine little Maryland with seven administrative headquarters to support. It's amazing there's any money left for anything else!

Of course, it's easy to see the problem in Maryland. But what about closer to home? Do we really need a union in Ringwood (Victoria) and, 10 minutes up the road, a whole conference team? In New South Wales, do we really need three conferences and a division—all with their own teams with overlapping titles? And how about in Fiji, where we have a union in one part of Suva and a mission in the other? Can that level of administrative duplication really be justified?

It isn't an academic question—Christ made it clear that we're held to account for our stewardship. Is this the way to be the best stewards? A rough estimate of the cost of administrative offices in Australia is that we are spending in the range of \$A20–25 million a year on administration. That's roughly 25 per cent of our total tithes and offerings! And it's not just the cost. Administration is absorbing much of our best talent who could be making massive contributions at the coalface. Some of the most impressive people I've had the privilege of meeting, work in church administration; we need to deploy their exceptional talents in a more productive way.

Of course, we need some administration, but compare the multiplicity of church administration with Sanitarium's approach. Sanitarium has just one administrative headquarters for the whole of Australia. I've visited Sanitarium's Australian headquarters and it is modest and located in a relatively low cost of living area. If Sanitarium can run an amazingly successful and complex business that manufactures, markets and delivers a wide range of diverse products to virtually every supermarket, petrol station and convenience store in Australia, why can't we administer our rather small Church out of one national office? Not only would we reduce barriers to coordination, we would consolidate our teams to ensure we have the depth of professionalism necessary to excel, and we would achieve massive efficiencies in the process—savings that can be ploughed back into frontline evangelism and service.

So what is stopping us from doing this? You and I. Because whenever the idea of consolidating services or conferences is breathed, we become a little paranoid and a little intransigent.

Our paranoia is that it will somehow result in us losing influence. But it doesn't have to. What if the national headquarters has representatives from around the country who come together quarterly to pass budgets and make plans? If we want to keep nine representatives from the various regions in Australia, for example, that is no problem. The cost of getting nine representatives together quarterly would be a small fraction of the cost of employing just one conference official.

Friends, for our Church to reach its potential, we need an administrative revolution. But only you can lead it at the local level. Our bloated administrative structure harms, not helps, our mission. We can do better. Sanitarium has already proved it. If it were our personal funds being spent on admin, we would have made efficiencies long ago. Why are we less diligent with God's funds?

Missionaries⁸

I was recently asked what I think is the most important piece I've written over the past five years. The most important piece actually isn't one I wrote. Rather, it's a piece I commissioned that Linden Chuang diligently and capably brought to reality. The piece is the "In Memoriam" page on the SPD website where we commemorate all those who died while actively serving the Seventh-day Adventist mission in the South Pacific.

There are, for example, seven missionaries either to or from the tiny island of Mussau in far north Papua New Guinea remembered. One of them, Kuka, was the first Adventist missionary murdered in PNG.

The list also includes Dr Arthur Ferch. I recall when Dr Ferch was tragically killed in an accident in Samoa. What I didn't realise was that he was only 51 years of age at the time. I'm 51 myself now. What an enormous sacrifice he and his family made!

For me, the most heartbreaking stories of all are those of the many children of missionaries who died from diseases and accidents while their parents laboured to spread the gospel. In Mark 10:29,30, Jesus talks about the reward those who give up home, family, everything for Him, will receive. I can't wait to see those missionary parents receiving their precious little children returned to them by Jesus, and seeing them honoured gloriously for their immense, heart-rending sacrifice that those who haven't suffered can only just begin to imagine.

The Bible records the trials and triumphs of our spiritual ancestors from long ago. Ellen White's most famous volume recalls the sacrifices of the Reformers. Our "In Memoriam" page reminds us that men, women and children of immense

faith exist today among us, and of the price our community has paid to make the SPD what it is today. "We have nothing to fear for the future," wrote Ellen White, "unless we forget how God led us in the past . . ." A vital part of our past is found here. I invite you to visit and reflect: <<http://www.spd.adventist.org/in-memoriam>>.

One final thought on missionaries: as a community we need to do a far better job ensuring their sacrifice is adequately honoured when they return home from service. I recently met an old friend—a highly skilled, humble and gracious Christian—who had returned from mission service. It has been a very tough experience for her and her family. And not just her. I have a friend whose father had a nervous breakdown when he returned from mission service. Another highly qualified friend struggles to find a job, so is working at a supermarket stocking shelves.

Missionaries inspire us. They motivate us. They challenge us. We need to remember and honour the immense sacrifice of our missionary families. And care for them when they return. This Division is what it is because of what God has accomplished through them.

Conclusion

A friend asked if I ever ran out of ideas for *Record* editorials. The truth is that I have more ideas now than when I began. I love our Church. I love what I see God doing among us. I love the vitality and the vigour. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific has lots of problems, challenges and difficulties. But friends, it's a pretty amazing community. And we are all very fortunate to be a little part of it. I have treasured my time here. And thank you for it. R

For our Church to reach its potential, we need an administrative revolution.

1. In this piece, I'm focusing on the themes impacting our Church, not the themes focused on society in general or on critics of Christianity; either of which could easily fill another essay or two.
2. For more, see the following article in the *Record* online archives: "Fear and Self-Loathing", "Tough Assignment", "So Far, Some Good," and "Glad to Be Different".
3. See in the *Record* online archives: "Churches Paradise", "Spare the Rod, Cherish the Child", "Shorter, Smarter, Better", "Just Kids", "Anger is the Answer" and "Baptizvah".
4. I appreciate Jared Madden first pointing this out to me.
5. I appreciate Julie Weslake and Darren Pratt helping me understand this.
6. See in the *Record* online archives: "What's in a Name?", "Strong & Proud" and "Church Made Visible", along with the branding resources located at <www.spd.adventist.org/branding>.
7. See in the *Record* online archives: "Too Much of a Good Thing".
8. See in the *Record* online archives "Remember" and <www.spd.adventist.org/in-memoriam>.

James Standish will be on the frontlines of law, faith and tempestuous US politics. To receive his candid and insightful updates from Washington, send an email to: <jdstandish@outlook.com> or friend him on Facebook.



DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

Roof rollers and the assurance of salvation

I first read the biblical story of the paralytic man in Signs of the Times magazine. Chunks of the roof were falling around Christ as the man began to be lowered through a hole dug in the roof. **Read Mark 2:3,4; Luke 5:17-19.**

Seeing the faith of this sin-burdened sufferer, Jesus proclaimed, "Cheer up son, your sins have been forgiven." I said to myself, "this man did nothing but come just as he was, and Jesus forgave him on the spot. If Jesus did it for him, He can surely do it for me." So I said, "Lord take my sin," and I knew He had. **Read Matthew 9:2.**

Perhaps you're thinking, "But my sin is too deep and I've been at it too long, too many times. God couldn't forgive me." But to think that is to be somewhat like the Pharisees who questioned Jesus' authority and ability to forgive sin. To assure them of His power to forgive, Jesus immediately healed the paralytic. **Read Mark 2:6-12; Luke 5:21-25.**

If you're carrying a burden of sin, why not give it to Jesus right now because "The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned" (Ellen White, SDA Bible Commentary, vol 6, p 1071).

Photo credit: Ferrell Jenkins/BiblePlaces.com.



Roofs in the first century AD were often made of layers of plaster and mud laid down over reed mats and placed over branches and logs. Stone rollers compacted the mud. It was through such a roof that the paralytic man was lowered.

Kids' Space



Jesus sent His Holy Spirit like tongues of fire on the disciples who begin to preach about the wonders of God. Those visiting Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost could hear the message in their own languages! Peter tells the crowds of people about Jesus. Three thousand people gave their hearts to Jesus that day.

MATCH THE FIRE

Find out the memory verse & colour in the disciples below.



I _____ pour _____ my _____ on _____ people. _____ 2:17, NIV



God gives us skills to serve Him.

LETTERS

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

MOTIVATION

Shirley Mathieu, WA

I would like to express my appreciation for Daniel Matteo's article "Legalist or lovely-ist?" (Feature, June 4).

As a comparatively new Seventh-day Adventist I had often got confused into thinking that we are a Church of rules and regulations. The article beautifully expresses why we do the things that we do; we are motivated by our love for Christ.

I have marked much of the article with a felt pen and have put it with my special devotional reading to be read and re-read. Thank you for publishing this beautiful article.

NO EVIDENCE

Roger Christian, NSW

Re: "Legalist or lovely-ist?" (June 4). Could legalism be broadly defined as a failure to believe "the gospel of your salvation" (Ephesians 1:12)? The good news that Christ is indeed "the Saviour of this world" (John 4:42, 1 John 4:14)?

The denial of this gospel universal inevitably leads to some sort of merit system, often along the lines of Catholicism's *gratia infusa* (infused grace). Christ came not to condemn the world but to save the world (John 3:17). On the cross, Christ knew "that all things had been accomplished" (John 19:28). That is, Christ had completed the work the Father had sent Him to do; namely the world's salvation.

Of course, in the final analysis, only those who believe this gospel and gratefully bear fruit, especially in deeds

of kindness, will be saved.

Paul says that righteousness or the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking (Romans 14:17).

Therefore, differences between "weak" and "strong" believers on these issues are not to result in a judgemental milieu or prevent Christian fellowship. Paul concludes: "accept one another . . . as Christ accepted you" (Romans 15:7).

THE NEXT STEP?

Terry Bottrell, Qld

I appreciated the article by Dr Brad Kemp on the role of women in ministry ("Restoration", Feature, June 4). It expressed very well what people in our Church have been saying for years.

Similarly, James Standish's recent editorial "Radical" (June 4) highlighted areas in the operation of our Church organisation that are inefficient and hierarchical.

In recent times our new South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend has expressed similar ideas in *Adventist Record*. Most notably soon after the recent General Conference session.

We are blessed with capable and insightful leaders. The next step is to act. What do the leaders of our Church plan to do to move our Church forward in a way that honours our history but prepares us for ministry in contemporary Australia?

My fear is that it will be like another camp meeting where we talk a lot but do little.

RADICAL

Paul Cameron, via website

I have very much appreci-

ated your recent editorials, including the most recent pointing to our radical reformation tradition ("Radical", June 4), although I do agree that we are unfortunately much more Methodist than Anabaptist.

I am unsure, too, about the extent of your critique of a creed, given the persisting sharp criticism of any who might feel compelled to accept a more mainstream Christian position on the doctrine of Creation. It is as if you agree with a statement by one minister that Adventism primarily arose to fight against the scientific theory of Darwinian evolution.

A BROADER VIEW

Les Hardy, via website

For the sake of historical accuracy in regard to your call to be radical (Editorial, June 4), can I suggest that you and your readers read Cohn's (1957) *The Pursuit of the Millennium-Revolutionary Millenarians and Mystical Anarchists of the Middle Ages*?

I am not sure anyone would aspire to join with such people. The religious civil wars of Europe during the period of religious upheaval were truly horrendous and did little to advance the claims of Christianity.

As Macaulay's *History of England* shows, "people quickly tired of government by the saints", referring to similar religious movements in England.

As much as we might not like to accept it, the religious tolerance we enjoy comes from the like of Anglican Latitudinarians who took a much broader view.

OBITUARIES



Adams, Pastor Cyrus Southey, born 21.3.1920 in Gisborne, NZ; died 6.5.16 in Adventist Residential Care, Rossmoyne, WA. On 2.1.1947 he married Nola Agnes Timmins at Longburn College. He was predeceased by his wife on 12.12.12 and his son-in-law Chris Chapman on 20.12.07. He is survived by his children: Robert and Rosemary Adams, Rosalind and George Maxfield and Janice Chapman (all of Perth); grandchildren: Judd, Shea, Brett, Caleb, Joshua, Luke, Rachel, Ryan, Neroli, Adele, Lorena and Verity; and nine great-grandchildren. Pastor Cyrus and Nola served the Church and community in full-time ministry for 40 years, followed by a further 25 years in retirement. He started as

a colporteur team leader in Queensland in 1946 and then spent 16 years in Fiji as a district director, Mission president and Bible teacher at Fulton College. In WA he served as local church pastor for six years and then Conference president. He also served as president of the Tasmanian Conference and Samoan Mission before returning to church pastoral work in WA. Following retirement in 1986, he served as a church pastor, hospital chaplain, teacher at Mamarapha College, consultant on WA Church history, and mentor to many pastors and presidents. Pastor Cyrus was a man of many talents and his encouragement, ready smile and keen sense of humour will be missed by many throughout the South Pacific.

T Johnson, L Burton, R Millist

Aukino, Ngamata, born 6.8.1944 in Aitu, Cook Islands; died 2.4.16 in Wellington Hospital, NZ. Ngamata married Viriaere Aukino and they had nine children. Many grandchildren followed, each one very special in the heart of their beloved grandmother. Ngamata was raised an Adventist by her grandfather and became an early childhood teacher and the founder of the Cook Island language nest in Porirua. She also chaired two Vaine Tini groups. Ngamata loved her Porirua Cook Islands Church and served as its treasurer. She was passionate about her faith and will be greatly missed. See you in the morning Mama. *Koe e kite i roto i te Mama ata.*

Jake Ormsby, Nani Tou

Barber, Marjorie Grace (nee Gilmore), born 19.1.1921 in Christchurch, NZ; died 23.3.16 in Christchurch. She was predeceased by her husband Charlie, and her son Graeme. She is survived by her daughter Jennifer; grandchildren Helen and Michael; and great-grandchildren Caleb, Katelyn, Emma and Luca. Marjorie and her twin brother Lawrence graduated from Avondale College in 1940. She then devoted many years to teaching in Adventist schools throughout New Zealand. Marjorie loved her God and her family. She was laid to rest beside her husband and son in the Rotorua Cemetery.

Jenny Barton, Gordon Gosset



Beaumont, Roy Richard, born 4.9.1927 in Dorrigo, NSW; died 26.4.16 in the Dorrigo Multi Purpose Service regional hospital. Roy spent all of his life in the local farming district where he and his late wife Doreen raised seven children: Maxine, Mark, Christine, Richard, Douglas (deceased), Craig and Danny. Roy assisted with the building of the Dorrigo church hall in the 1980s and was a leading elder of the church for many years. He is

sadly missed by his children, their spouses, and his grandchildren. He now awaits the glorious resurrection.

Bob Manners, Don Sforcina



Bibby, Jennifer, born 6.12.1929 in Maryborough, Vic; died 15.4.16. On 7.12.1953 she married Gordon Bibby, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children: Richard, Lynda, Jeffrey and Cherie; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. As a child on the family dairy farm at Cobrico, Jennifer would ride a horse 8km to school. She attended Avondale College and then worked at the Wellington Sanitarium Restaurant, NZ. Jennifer and Gordon lived in Wanganui and then moved to Lismore, NSW, in 1998, and attended Alstonville church. After her husband's death, Jennifer relocated to the Alstonville Adventist Aged Care Facility where she was much loved. She was an ever caring, gentle, patient lady who loved her Lord, her family and numerous cats.

Beth McMurtry, Cranville Tooley



Jones, Maverick Elad Rain, born in Inverell, NSW; died in Bundarra. He is survived by his parents Dale and Jess Jones; siblings Zari and Zed; grandparents Lyle Jones, Kaye and Ross Mayhew, and Greg and Judy Service; and extended family. Maverick was tragically killed on his dad's farm in a horrific accident. He was a little boy who loved being with his dad, helping wherever he could. He was tenderly laid to rest on the home property at Honey Hills, Bundarra, and awaits the call of the Master on that great resurrection morning. Maverick's favourite Bible verse was Proverbs 28:1: "The wicked run when no-one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions." RAAAAAAAAA!

John Lang

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Prison chaplain—Greater Sydney Conference (Long Bay Correctional Centre, Sydney, NSW)** is seeking to appoint a prison chaplain in conjunction with the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee. The successful applicant will be a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and preferably be a licenced/ordained minister. This position encourages and supports inmates and their families as well as staff at the above mentioned facility. The prison chaplain needs to be adaptable and spontaneous in his/her response to the often changing conditions and situations that occur within a correctional centre. Your ability to work in an inter-faith framework, together with experience in conflict resolution, and, general grief and trauma counselling would be a distinct advantage. The position reports to the Conference President with a functional reporting line to the Corrective Services Chaplaincy Coordinator. It is a newly created position which has been offered to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is an exciting new dimension for the church. If you would like to join in a different challenge to witness for Christ, then this could be the position for you. For more information and a position profile, please contact Ian Low (Human Resources Officer) on (02) 8876 5240 or email <ianlow@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **July 20, 2016**.

■ **Assistant Manager—Watson Park Convention Centre (Brisbane, Qld)**. Full time position commencing August 2016 as part of the management team of our Watson Park Convention Centre. Should be a practicing member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, have extensive maintenance/ground keeping experience, hold relevant qualifications/licences in the use and operation of machinery and heavy vehicles. Applicant should be able to demonstrate good communication and relational skills and a clear commitment to the mission of the church. Job description available on request email <scotthopkins@adventist.org.au>. Written applications for this position, including detailed resume and references, should be forwarded confidentially to: Chief Financial Officer Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited PO Box 577, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004. Australian and New Zealand residents need only apply. Applications close **August 1, 2016**.

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



VOLUNTEERS

■ **Two assistant chaplains (one female, one male)—Avondale College**. Start date August 1, 2016, for 10 months. Must be single, 20-30 years old, have a heart to see God work in the lives of the college students and staff, be flexible with work hours and fluent in English. Food and accommodation are provided on premises and a stipend will be provided. See <www.adventistvolunteers.org> and search for SPD.AVON.2016.01 (females) or SPD.AVON.2016.02 (males).

Macarthur, Raby Muriel (Rae), born 10.2.1923 in Coogee, NSW; died 21.4.16 in Autumn Lodge Aged Care, Armidale. She was predeceased by Donald Macarthur. She is survived by her daughter Wendy Greenshields and son Paul Prenter. Rae loved her garden, especially the flowers, and she always had a sweet tooth. She will be remembered for her kindness and faith in God during difficult times. She is resting in peace, waiting for the great day of resurrection—the best is yet to come!

Abel Iorgulescu



Moore, Freda (nee Schumann, formerly Coulston), born 26.5.1924 in Mackay, Qld; died 20.4.16 in a car accident near Rockhampton. She was predeceased by her first husband Alwyn Coulston in 1976, second husband Leon Moore in 1986 and son Evan in 2009. She is survived by her children: David Coulston (Rockhampton), Rosalie Fulwood (Innisfail), Gordon Coulston (Monto) and Margaret Hollingsworth (Washington State, US); 18 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Freda was a faithful and vibrant member of the Rockhampton church. She will be remembered for her sincere faith and infectious smile. A lifetime of memories cannot be captured here but her legacy remains with her extensive family.

Mark Turner, Ray Hobbs

Roberts, Ufagalilo Willie Saupaea Tuitama, born 27.6.1928 in Faleasiu, Samoa; died 29.11.15 in Blacktown, NSW. On 30.12.1950 he married Litia Salanoa. He is survived by his wife; children: Henrietta and Sioutu, Lily, Lampa, Anae Willie and Palepa, Charlotte, Leitu and Chris, Ruby and Poulava Aotoa, and Shahn and Nicole; 35 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Willie attended Vaialele and Vailoa Theological College. Migrating

to Auckland, NZ, in 1953, he was a founding member of the New Lynn Samoan church. Willie was an accomplished trumpet player, bandmaster and choirmaster and served as an elder. He will be remembered for his love and dedication to God, his wife and family, and to his church.

*Asofitu Leatuavaao,
Gideon Okesene*

Tyack, Norman James, born 19.3.1932 in Sydney, NSW; died 13.4.16 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle. On 23.4.1961 he married Gladys Webber in Warburton, Vic. He is survived by his wife (Raymond Terrace, NSW); children: Rosemary (Canberra, ACT), Heather (Muswellbrook, NSW) and James (Kilsyth, Vic); six siblings; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Norm was Personal Ministries leader and Pathfinder director in Warburton church for many years and was employed by Signs Publishing for 37 years. He later ministered to the Nelson Bay and Raymond Terrace churches, NSW. Norm was a gifted Christian gentleman who gave unstintingly of his time in sharing the gospel.

*Roger Nixon, Esava Koro
Warren Fedorow*



Ward, Cedric Charles, born 9.4.1936 in Macksville, NSW; died 31.5.16 at home in Collegedale, Tennessee, USA, after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Jeanie; children Eldean and Cherry-Lee and their families (USA and Australia); brothers Martin (Cooranbong, NSW), and James (Philippines), and sister Margaret (Townsville, Qld) and their families. Cedric graduated from Avondale College in 1958 and after eight years of teaching in New Zealand he gained a PhD in history in the US. For some years he was Professor of History at

Andrews University. After Cedric's 25 years outside the Adventist Church, he was re-baptised on 7.3.09 in Nambour, Qld (pictured).

Lionel A Smith



Webster, Marvin Gerald, born 29.3.1944 in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK; died 18.1.16 in Moe, Vic. He is survived by his wife Petra (Moe); children: Natalie Toben, Randal and Blaise Webster, and Nadine and Jay Tullett; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Marvin touched the lives of many people through fly'n'builds, volunteer mission work, Pathfinder camporees and 4WD safaris. He will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

Gavin Grosser

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Finally . . .

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Next RECORD July 30

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