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# Adventist Record

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## Mamarapha College

FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS



**"God bless you in a special way as you participate in helping others to train to be more like Jesus and point them to His soon second coming"**

—Pr. Ted N C Wilson Visits Mamarapha College, 5th of May, 2016.  
General Conference President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## *Mamarapha College Offering* *27 August, 2016*

This Australia wide offering will enable the ongoing discipleship training by "the project" of faith called Mamarapha College.

Learn more about the College program and students by visiting:

**[www.mamarapha.adventist.org.au](http://www.mamarapha.adventist.org.au)**

or watching the above video at  
<https://vimeo.com/173646688>



## Partnership provides aid opportunities

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Open Heart International (OHI) is being transferred from Adventist HealthCare Limited (AHCL) to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia.

The change is being made to leverage opportunities for growth, enhance the impact of both organisations in developing countries and improve efficiencies.

Having commenced as a volunteer-driven organisation with the support of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, OHI has a mission to send skilled volunteers to provide medical treatment and training in developing countries where specialist treatment is not available. This mission aligns closely with that of ADRA Australia, the official humanitarian aid agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Chief executive officer of AHCL and OHI Management Committee chair Philip Currie said, "Sydney Adventist Hospital is well known for caring for the community here in Sydney as well as the international community through OHI. While the legal ownership alters, we will continue to be intimately involved. We are excited to be working with ADRA and we are keen to see OHI grow and flourish further as a result of this change."

AHCL has also entered into a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with ADRA, which includes ongoing financial support for OHI.

ADRA Australia chief executive officer Mark Webster is enthusiastic about the new arrangement.

"OHI has made a remarkable impact on the lives of thousands of very sick people, building the capacity of local

health professionals in many countries where ADRA delivers development and relief projects," he said. "I appreciate the trust in ADRA Australia that this change represents and I am confident that our combined efforts will be strengthened through this new relationship, further benefitting people in need."

OHI will continue to operate as a separately branded entity, retaining its two staff and its current office location on the Sydney Adventist Hospital campus at Wahroonga.

ADRA Australia will assume responsibility for all financial management, including the acceptance and processing of donations. It will work with the OHI team to further develop policies and procedures, supporter engagement and programming activity, to deliver continuous organisational improvements over the longer term.

The changes will come into effect this month. —ADRA Australia

For more information about these organisations, visit <adra.org.au> and <ohi.org.au>.



Philip Currie (left) and Mark Webster.

Credit: Luke Vodell

## Collaboration creates clean water for Vanuatu

Port Vila, Vanuatu

ADRA Vanuatu is implementing a new program to standardise and strengthen community awareness about safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Vanuatu WASH Sector, funded by UNICEF and Vanuatu's Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, was launched on July 15 by the Minister of Lands, Ralph Regenvanu, inside the Port Vila Market House.

During the launch, Mr Regenvanu presented the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials designed by the program to promote ways to keep water clean and use it properly. Special guests included head of UNICEF Andrew Parker and a representative of the John Tasarei Health Promotion Unit, Erickson Sammy.

The program pulled together a working group that included ADRA Vanuatu, Red Cross, World Vision, Live & Learn, Save The Children, OXFAM, government departments including education and health, and the National Advisory Board on Climate Change.

The information about water will be distributed on T-shirts, sarongs, tea-towels, handbags, notebooks, posters,

calendars and stickers.

The messages will also be promoted via digital media, radio spots and a music video.

During the launch, Mr Sammy explained that "the materials will be used by NGOs [non-government organisations] and government to ensure we all promote the same messages to our communities about the use of water. Before our NGOs conducted awareness on water using different messages and materials." —Adventist Media: Vanuatu

The materials are free and digitally available on the Vanuatu WASH Sector website <www.wash.vu>.



The program was launched in Market House.



## Tools of his trade

Jarrod Stackelroth

Two significant things happened in 1983. The first was my parents' marriage. This event is fairly significant to me because without it, I wouldn't be here.

The second is that, after many years of development, the first commercially available "mobile" phone was released. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000x cost \$US3995 (about \$9500 in today's terms), took 10 hours to charge and offered only 30 minutes of talk time.

Hardly worth the effort. And yet it was the beginning of a technological revolution.

No other gadget has colonised the world quite as successfully as the mobile phone.

There are now more mobile phones in both Australia and New Zealand than there are people.<sup>1</sup> And according to APNIC, the percentage of mobile phones in Pacific households rose from 49 per cent in 2007 to 93 per cent in 2014.

Phones are not just phones anymore. They are calendars, calculators and calorie counters. They are your street directory, your game console, your library. They are personal trainers, personal assistants and personal camera crews, documenting your every bite, pout and Paris trip.

When you add up all the hours, millennials spend one day per week on their phones.<sup>2</sup> A whole day! Are you as shocked by that stat as I am? But I think it's important that we realise the opportunity this presents us with.

The early church spread through Paul and others undertaking missionary journeys into communities they wanted to reach with the gospel and living with the people there. They didn't fly in and fly out. They inhabited those spaces until large enough groups were started. We must live in the digital space. We must be present in the place where many people spend one day a week living.

If Facebook was a country, it would have the highest population in the world. International borders are becoming less relevant (except in Britain) as digital messages can circle the world instantaneously. And Facebook is just one of a number of social platforms. Our digital messages can go where we cannot.

If we want to go where the people are, or "become all

things to all people" (1 Corinthians 9:22), then we have to communicate using the mediums they are using. And today that is online.

I recently attended the Church's first Digital Discipleship Conference (see page 9). The theme and the challenge presented to attendees was this quote from Exodus 4:2: "What is in your hand?"

Moses had been making excuses when God asked him this simple question. In Moses' hand was a stick. It was a tool of his trade, useful, reliable, a safety blanket, something he probably never left home without. Sound familiar?

The major takeaway point for me was that as a disciple of Christ, who wants to be used by God to find and make other disciples, I must use all of the tools at my disposal and go where the people are.

Our phones, our keyboards, our cameras, our gadgets can be tools to reach the world for Christ—if we dedicate them to God and His power.

The Media Evangelism offering on Sabbath, August 13 will go towards creating short, relevant, shareable, videos and resources that can inspire and influence our communities. But these things will have no impact if you and I don't share them. That's just the first step. These things are just tools. The individuals that we are ministering to on the other side of the screen are real people.

We can create all the videos and magazines and books and series we like. But we must be intentional about how we get these resources into the hands and homes that need them and then we must be willing to listen, to pause, to get our heads out of our phones and give our child, our neighbour, our colleague, our stranger, our full attention.

With Moses and his staff, God freed a nation. With you and your phone, God could reach the world.

1. [www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/01/02/australia-has-more-phones-people](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/01/02/australia-has-more-phones-people)

2. [www.tnsglobal.com/press-release/millennials-spend-one-day-a-week-on-their-phones](http://www.tnsglobal.com/press-release/millennials-spend-one-day-a-week-on-their-phones)

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## Lessons from Atiu

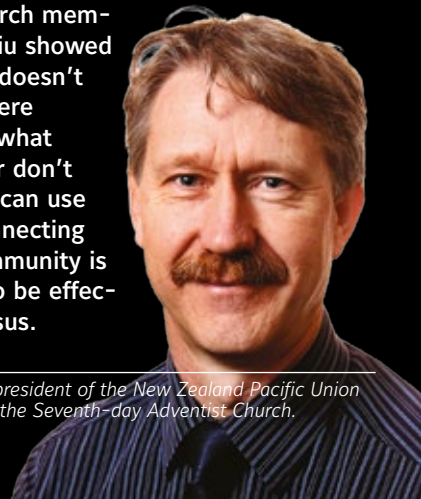
If you google "Atiu" you will find that it is a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific, only 26 km in circumference and 187 km northeast of Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands archipelago. As you approach from the air you will see that Atiu is completely surrounded by a reef. Described by *Lonely Planet* as the eco-capital of the Cooks and a haven for naturalists and bird lovers, Atiu has a population of around 450–71 of whom attend the Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath.

But mission on Atiu is not without challenges. Atiu is a community where everyone knows everyone. And everyone is set in their family faith tradition. Amazingly enough, people are still joining the Adventist church. So how do they do ministry?

Our members are involved in their community. Many hold significant roles. For example, the CEO for the island is a Seventh-day Adventist. So, too, is the Justice and Probation officer, the manager for infrastructure and the head of Public Health. Three of the five island councillors are Adventists. But the church's contribution is more than in civic matters.

When I visited, the church choir was practising an item to sing for the New Zealand High Commissioner's visit. Members are visiting their neighbours and the sick, running health-focused programs and evangelism—a program was recently run by students from Avondale College. Despite the sameness of life from week to week they find ways to influence their friends and neighbours for Christ. They are putting into action the words: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people" (Ellen White, MH143).

Our church members on Atiu showed me that it doesn't matter where we are or what we have or don't have, God can use us and connecting to our community is one way to be effective for Jesus.



Brad Kemp is president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



## Change a life

Lee Dunstan

My mother became an Adventist as a teenager in the late '30s (she's now 98), along with her seven sisters and her mother. Their departure from the local Congregational church, where they had been very active, left vacant pews and the members scratching their heads. It also produced resentment, even prejudice.

One of the first things the family did as new Seventh-day Adventists, with a duty to witness, was to share their faith. And what better way than by using *Signs of the Times* magazine? So when the *Signs* campaign of 1937 came round, they sponsored more than a few subscriptions, mostly for their Congregational brothers and sisters, whom they anticipated would love to hear the "truth".

How proud Mother was to enter the township store, which also served as the post office, and see tucked in the mail pigeon holes, row upon row of magazines they'd paid for! They couldn't wait to see their effect.

Well, they didn't have to wait long. As they left home the next morning, there strewn across their front lawn were mangled, discarded magazines, a stringent message to cease and desist!

We are all called to witness, to broadcast the gospel seed wherever we live, be it accepted or otherwise. And Christ cautioned that some efforts would fall on stony ground and fail to take root, as in Mother's case. Rejection certainly didn't quell her enthusiasm for sharing *Signs*, which nearly 80 years on, she still does. In latter years, it has been with acquaintances and friends, which when combined with DVDs, cuppas and cakes, have produced souls for Christ.

But what of all those magazines you have sent out year after year? Wasted? Or the some 300 booklets *Signs* has given out to seekers over the past year. Discarded?

An inmate in a Sydney prison recounted his experience: "I discovered several *Signs of the Times* in the [prison] library. Through the publication, I learned of the [Discovery] study courses. . . . I have particularly enjoyed the 'Taking Charge' series, as it challenges me to look into my life and make a realistic assessment of it—a change for the better. . . . On my release from prison, I would like to join a church and perhaps work in a ministry with other inmates, sharing God's love and blessings."

That's seed on fertile soil. And while not every book or magazine shared produces immediate fruit for the kingdom, eventually it may. According to Ellen White, some efforts remain dormant—like a seed in dry desert soil awaiting the God-given conditions for germination—even to the moments immediately before Christ comes: "The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence. . . . Now the rays of light penetrate . . . the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them" (*Great Controversy*, p612).

Sow *Signs*, and change a life for eternity!

Lee Dunstan is editor of *Signs of the Times*.



### Horrifying

An official statement from the Inter-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists firmly condemned the "senseless violence and cruelty" that led Mohamed Bouhlef to drive a truck through Bastille Day crowds in Nice, France, killing 84. Seven Adventists were injured in the attack; at least three were taken to hospital. —*EUD*



### Making a difference

Government representatives in Ghana, West Africa, have praised the Adventist Church's health and education work during official opening celebrations for the Hart Adventist Hospital in the city of Kumasi. Regional minister John Ackon said the hospital will help the nation reduce its high maternal and infant mortality rates. —*Joy Online*



### We need peace

Chaldean Catholic bishop Mar Shlemon Warduni said no-one is looking after Iraq's Christians, many of whom have fled the threat of Islamic State and are in refugee camps. The bishop said world leaders are more interested in selling weapons and talking rather than protecting human rights and helping refugees. —*East County Magazine*



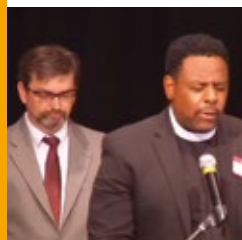
### Wrong way, go back

Victoria University's Health Tracker shows that while Australians have good access to healthcare and are global leaders in reducing smoking, many health indicators are worsening. Of particular concern: the lack of physical activity, high salt and alcohol intake, and growing levels of obesity and high blood pressure. —*Victoria University*



### Gonna keep signing

Jamaican Adventists plan to establish their first church for the Deaf and hard of hearing in October. The new congregation will launch in Portmore where 18 Deaf Adventist members already live. The General Conference is encouraging a worldwide emphasis on reaching people with special needs. —*Adventist Review*



### Standing together

Adventists worked together with Methodist and Muslim leaders to organise a July 16 remembrance service in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to mark one year since local man Muhammad Abdulazeez killed five military personnel in a shooting attack. Organisers said their community will not be pulled apart along religious, racial or political lines. —*Times Free Press*



## DEFINE YOUR DESTINATIONS

Deep inside your brain is a region known as the hippocampus, which ignites cognitive learning. Your unexpected insights and understanding are created here which translate into your individual stamp on the world.

Don't wait for your serendipitous moments. Define your destinations.

## ‘Your smiles will never be forgotten’

*Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea*

A much-loved church leader from the Port Moresby region, Pastor Barney Jack died on June 27 from renal failure and associated complications. He was 46 years old.

At the time of his death Pastor Jack had held the position of youth director for the Central Papua Conference (CPC) for just four months. Before that he was a church pastor for many years.

Pastor Andrew Opis, communication director for the PNGUM, reports that Pastor Jack would travel extensively for evangelistic meetings around Papua New Guinea, providing ministry through his beautiful singing voice. “The church in PNG will miss him in his gifted areas of music and youth ministry,” Pastor Opis said.

Descended from the proud Koiari people, famous for their role in assisting the Kokoda campaign in World War II, Pastor Jack was born and raised in Port Moresby. He is survived by his wife Poka, and daughter Christina. His son

Daniel died in 2011.

Pastor Jack’s funeral was held at a large United Church building in Port Moresby in order to accommodate the many people, from near and far, who gathered to pay their respects.

“Your smiles and good memories will never be forgotten,” said Pastor Rex Koi, CPC general secretary.

“You are unique of the Koiari people because of your compassion and smile that you always have for the people of Central Papua Conference. May you rest in peace and see you in the morning.”—*Kent Kingston*



Pastor Barney Jack.

## Famous forgivers feature at family conference

*Wahroonga, New South Wales*

Forgiveness was the theme of this year’s National Christian Family Conference held at the Clinical Education Centre on the Sydney Adventist Hospital campus in Wahroonga.

More than 100 people from across the South Pacific Division registered for the conference, now in its 30th year and organised by the Adventist Institute of Family Relations.

Professor Everett Worthington from Virginia Commonwealth University (United States) was the keynote presenter. There were also presentations from Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton (pictured) and Lindt Café siege survivor Louisa Hope.

“It’s all very well to read the books about it—it’s a whole different ball game if you put it into practice,” Mrs Chamberlain-Creighton noted during her presentation on forgiveness in real life.

She briefly referred to her own experience of being falsely accused of murdering her baby daughter and the long, difficult road before she was finally exonerated more than 30 years later. However she also said she wouldn’t change what had happened if it meant losing the lessons she had learned as a result of that journey.

“That’s what made me who I am today—but I wouldn’t have got through what happened without God,” she said.

“This conference has been an opportunity for me to reflect on my need to forgive others,” said one participant. “I really appreciated being here.”—*Vania Chew*



## Record 3452 per day join Adventist Church in 2015

*Silver Springs, Maryland, US*

An all-time record 1.26 million people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2015, according to the Church’s “2016 Annual Statistical Report”.

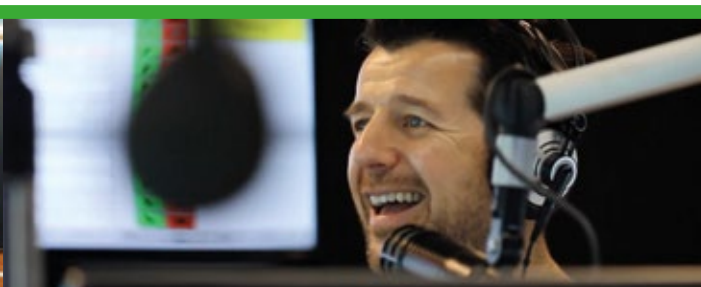
“The total of 1,260,880 people who became Seventh-day Adventists by baptism and profession of faith was a new record for total accessions in a calendar year,” David Trim, director of the world Church’s Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, wrote in an introduction to the report, which is available online.

This was the 14th year in total and the 12th year in a row that more than 1 million people joined the Adventist Church.

The Church had 19,126,447 members as of December 31, 2015—a net increase of 647,144 people, or 3.5 percent, from the previous year, the *Adventist Review* reported in April. The growth comes even as the Church, founded with only 3500 members in 1863, undergoes a comprehensive membership audit to ensure that reported statistics reflect the reality on the ground.

The “2016 Annual Statistical Report”, now in its 152nd edition, contains membership statistics for the worldwide Church as at the end of 2015. —*Adventist Review*

*More analysis of South Pacific statistics next issue.*



### Lights, camera, action

Hope Channel Vanuatu has started filming new local television programs. The team, who attended Project Hope TPUM earlier this year, has since filmed eight music shows and developed scripts for other types of programs. Vanuatu Mission hopes that by 2020 it will have a media centre. Land to build a studio for both Hope Channel and Hope Radio has been purchased. —*Adventist Media: Vanuatu*

### Praying for the media

Adventist church members around New Zealand took part in Media Prayer Day, an annual initiative of the New Zealand Christian Broadcasting Association that sees prayers offered on behalf of Christians working in radio and TV. Church members especially prayed for the team at Hope Channel NZ, who requested prayers for their work, for the viewers and the Bible School. Several churches have reported their enthusiasm for the ministry of Hope Channel, particularly those that have welcomed new people to a Sabbath service who have made the transition from viewer to attendee. Hope Channel NZ is now available in every home in New Zealand. —*Paul Hopson*



### Meeting up

Fountain in the City, an Adventist church in Sydney, has been using the social app Meetup to connect with Sydneysiders and invite them to special events. "Around 10 new people came to our free health and lifestyle seminars because of the Meetup app," said church member Christiana Leimena. "When we advertise our events, we're upfront about being a Christian group and people still come. We're running an archaeological seminar next and we look forward to seeing more Meetup contacts there." —*Vania Chew*

### Camp ordination

Family and friends gathered at the Northern Australian Big Camp to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Sigila Paleso'o. Pastor Paleso'o graduated from Avondale College in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts (Theology) degree. In 2010, he was called to serve in the Darwin area, caring for Palmerston church in the Northern Territory. He is now the senior pastor for the Darwin area, caring for the Darwin, Palmerston, Malak, Katherine, Batchelor and outlying far northern areas of the Northern Territory. It was a great afternoon of praise, fun and enjoyment celebrating the ordination. —*Rob Ellison*



### 101 reasons to celebrate

An Adventist woman living at the War Veterans Village (Collaroy, NSW) recently turned 101 and celebrated with a special function attended by family and friends. Mavis Gates grew up in Kurrajong, 75km northwest of Sydney. She married and had a son, Ross, before moving to Sydney's Northern Beaches. She was widowed in the 1980s. Ross, who lives in Cairns with his wife Evelyn, travelled down for his mother's birthday. Mrs Gates is a member of the Mona Vale church. —*Manly Daily*

### Multicultural flavour

Around 80 people attended a multicultural night fundraiser held by Concord church (NSW). More than half of the attendees were visitors. America, Tonga, the Cook Islands, South America, the Middle East and Switzerland were just a few of the variety of cultures represented on the night. Food sales and a mystery box auction raised \$3500 for the church's budding media ministry. The ministry plans to distribute DVDs of church sermons and a revival series to the community and also make the resources available online. —*Dani Piot*





# Digital disciples encouraged to share their faith creatively

by Jarrod Stackelroth

Around 150 people attended the Adventist Church's first Digital Discipleship Conference over the July 15–17 weekend.

Hosted by the Adventist Church in Greater Sydney, the conference featured international speakers, interactive workshops and great networking opportunities for Adventist "creatives" and those who are passionate about using technology to share the gospel.

Attendees came from all levels of the Church and from all around Australia, sharing ideas for new ways of reaching out to support and witness to their communities.

The theme of the conference, "What's in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2), challenged attendees to use what is most often in their hands to reach others.

"My church sponsored me to come and learn about social media," said Roven Clark, a retired missionary from Galston church. "As it is, I like sharing Jesus and the love of God, and I wanted to improve my digital skills to do so. With social media, I learned how to be more intentional. You have to engage with people. I'm going to do what I can digitally for Him."

In her workshop Morag Patton, from the YesHeis app ministry, impressed on attendees the need to engage with any responses they get back from the messages they share.

During the weekend attendees were encouraged to rethink what is possible and collaborate and come up with new ways and ideas to share Jesus.

Greater Sydney communication coordinator Rachel Aitken, who organised the event, was unable to attend as she gave birth to her first son the night before it started. We asked her where the idea for the conference came from and what is next?

**JS:** Tell me a bit about the vision behind the conference and why you decided to hold it?

**RA:** As crazy as it may sound to some people, at the beginning of 2015, God asked me what was my "big, hairy, audacious goal"? It's a term from Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

I didn't have to think long to answer that question. Since starting at the Greater Sydney Conference, I wanted to create a space where communicators and creatives could gather to explore how their talents could be used for ministry. I wanted people to understand how communications within our Church is vital and equally as useful for evangelism as it is for corporate messaging.

After sharing the idea for a conference with God, the wheels were set in motion.

**JS:** Why focus on the digital space?

**RA:** In our Church, all too often communications has been viewed as an ancillary service. As a result, we have yet to fully realise its power for evangelism, especially in the digital space. We often see local church communications as being confined to bulletins and a church website, but what if God is waiting for the photographers, videographers, graphic designers, bloggers, social media mavens and digital marketing experts to use their talents for ministry as much as He is the worship leaders?

I started having lots of light-bulb moments about how God could use digital marketing, social media, online platforms and content creators, distributors and engagers for ministry. Most importantly, I began to see how the digital space provides a place where church members are once again inspired to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

**JS:** What does the future hold for the conference?

**RA:** You can expect to see engaging content from us, as well as future events that will inspire and train our members for ministry in the digital space. In 2017, we will gather for the next Digital Discipleship Conference so we can continue the conversation about how God is moving among people in the digital space.

I'd like to invite all creatives and those interested or curious about the digital space to get involved. There are lots of opportunities to engage in between conferences. We invite you to email us at [digitaldisciples@adventist.org.au](mailto:digitaldisciples@adventist.org.au) to join our mailing list and keep the conversation going!

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Jarrod Stackelroth is editor of Adventist Record.

# THE *discipleship* FAD

by Cristian Copaceanu

**F**ROM MULLETS IN THE '80s TO SPICE GIRLS IN THE '90s to Myspace in the noughties, fads come and go leaving little to show except perhaps nostalgia.

Not wanting to be left behind, our Church has done its very best to keep up with the Fad-ashians. Slide projectors in the '70s, red folders in the '80s and satellite seminars in the '90s (or songs from the Hills).

As texts give way to tweets, door-knocking is losing ground to "discipleship". Almost every new initiative, poster, flier, Vimeo or Facebook post broadcast from official Church channels sings the anthem of discipleship—unity to make the EU green with envy.

This new "fad" elicits three typical responses from members:

1. Google "discipleship"—where the top result points to a website by a prominent televangelist awaiting the imminent rapture caused by the terrifying ISIS.

2. Go with the flow—regardless of what we may or may not be doing, just slap the word "disciple" onto it and "it's all good man!"

3. Go hide under a rock—when in doubt, safest option—this fad shall pass. Why? Because we either have no

idea what a disciple is or most definitely don't like what we think it means.

What about a fourth option?

4. Go read—abandon Facebook for a few minutes and switch to "The Book" for more than a Snapchat.

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers . . . casting a net into the lake . . . 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said . . . At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).

A few verses later (Matthew 5:1) these fishermen are hashtagged "#disciples". As Jesus departs for heaven, He instructs His followers to make discipleship viral (Matthew 28:19,20). But what did making disciples mean—back then?

Two thousand years ago discipleship was not a fad but a way of life. It remained so for almost 1800 years until the industrial revolution spawned education into an assembly line for the masses. The Greek word *mathetes* translated disciple did not mean a follower of Jesus. It was a word commonly used for a common apprentice in any common trade, profession or philosophy. In case you blinked, it was "common".

The apprentice journey was an endless cycle involving:

1. Master invites potential protégé to follow
2. Protégé is apprenticed to master
3. Master trains apprentice
4. Apprentice becomes master
5. Go back to 1, repeat

An apprentice or intern is synonymous with the biblical "disciple". There's no magic or mystery to the word—which is why it has no introduction, explanation or definition in the Gospels—the locals knew what it meant.

While discipleship might be a trending buzzword in the Church today, it should be as common as Weet-Bix and haystacks. It's something that our children should associate with normal everyday life. It's a culture new believers should experience as natural when they encounter Jesus. Finally, it's the heart of Jesus' great commission—"go and make disciples . . ."

But why would I want to be a disciple of Jesus? And why try to make more disciples? In a nutshell, life is better and eternity possible with Jesus (John 10:10, 17:3).

Disciple-making involves the same basic elements that the common apprenticeship (discipleship) involved 2000 years ago, whether learning to fish for sardines or souls.

How do we reclaim the long lost art of discipleship?

### Step 1: Follow Jesus

Have you seen the bumper stickers, "Don't follow me, I'm going fishing"? We can't lead others to where we have not been. To make disciples who in turn make other disciples we must first have some knowledge, experience and success in the Christian journey. This by no means implies having attained perfection, but continuously taking daily steps towards a closer relationship with Jesus (Philippians 3:12,13).

A person can begin making disciples as soon as they take that first step with Jesus (Mark 5:19). A disciple maker simply invites others to follow them, one step at a time. I might not know how to sail a fishing boat, but if I at least know how to use a fishing rod, I can teach you that. Keep stepping forward with Jesus in your spiritual, personal, family, study or work life. Ask of God each day, "How can I know, experience and share you more?"

### Step 2: Make friends

Who will you invite to follow you? No name comes to mind? This is one of the biggest challenges we face in our Church and community when it comes to discipleship. We don't know anyone—much. Why would strangers follow someone they don't know? You can't catch fish if you're not at/by/in the water.

We will never make disciples if we don't develop genuine relationships with church members and those in the community. Spend time doing things you like with those

who like them too (eg. eating, hobbies, sports, etc). Find excuses (eg. birthdays, anniversaries, public holidays or even Tuesdays) to celebrate, eat and be together. And if you don't have time to fit in all those church programs, maybe reduce the number of them. Authentic, effective, lasting biblical discipleship occurs in doing life together not jug-to-mug spectator programs.

As we live life with each other in church and in our communities, friendship and trust develop naturally. We then become aware how our faith experiences can be a blessing to others—which in turn leads to Step 3.

### Step 3: Send an invite

An experienced minister once told a young person considering pastoral ministry: "Don't answer if you're not called." While not all are called to full-time paid ministry, all are called to discipleship. The only problem is for most of us the call got lost in the spam folder. It was so general, vague and broad that our minds auto-filtered it as "junk mail".

Jesus was focused (yes you, Pete), direct (follow me) and clear (I will make you a fisher of men) in making disciples.

And before you think that such clear, unambiguous language is the prerogative of only fully human and fully divine individuals, note that Paul (ex-hitman) made the same call: "Follow me as I follow Jesus" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

After taking one step with Jesus, we can then invite others to follow us in that one step. But we need to be focused, direct and clear. Be intentional about mentoring a young person in your local church. Offer to be a support and accountability partner for a new believer in their devotional life. Take church members with you to visit and pray for each other. Pray with a non-believer going through difficult times. Invite non-Adventist friends to experience a Sabbath with you. Run a version of *My Kitchen Rules* at home and show your work colleagues how to prepare delicious, healthy meals. And all the while bring your children, youth and fellow believers on the discipleship journey with you.

Apprenticeships or internships are not passing fads but part of everyday life—as should be discipleship. Follow Jesus, make friends, invite them to follow you. Why? Anywhere with Jesus is better than everything without (Matthew 16:26). R

*If you would like to be discipled to disciple others, visit [disciple.org.au](http://disciple.org.au) and register your interest for a two-week hands-on disciple journey with experienced disciple-makers equipping you to go light your world.*

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*Cristian Copaceanu is director of Personal Ministries/Sabbath School/Stewardship for the Australian Union Conference.*

**Two thousand  
years ago  
discipleship was  
not a fad but a  
way of life.**

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## RECORD REWIND

Lester Devine

### Ahead of his time

Louis Were (29 April, 1896–2 April, 1967) pictured with his first wife and his daughter, was a dynamic evangelist and author who worked for the Church for many years in Australia and New Zealand.

Of analytic mind, he was not convinced that some traditional Adventist interpretations of prophecy were valid, particularly those dealing with end-time events such as Armageddon, which he saw as a spiritual rather than a literal conflict.

While working as an evangelist in Adelaide, South Australia, he shared some of his views at two public meetings. This led to considerable concern on the part of Church leaders. Conference president, Pastor W M R Scragg, while not necessarily agreeing with all of Mr Were's views, staunchly supported his right to think independently. Even so, concern mounted and in the meetings called to assess Mr Were's teachings, Pastor Scragg was the only person present who spoke in his favour. In spite of Pastor Scragg's spirited defence, the Committee voted to support the traditional, Uriah Smith-based view, and soon after Mr Were was dropped from denominational employment.

Freed from any limitations on sharing his new beliefs, he soon began a long period of independent publishing—releasing a new tract or book almost every year. To the considerable concern of the Australian Church leadership, it soon became apparent that the North American Adventist theological community had similar views to Mr Were. It was clear the General Conference administration did not share the concerns of the Australian leaders, who were distressed by Mr Were attending denominationally sponsored conferences in America, including the 1950 Bible Teachers Council. While he did not speak at those meetings, he did have a number of private conversations and, with time, received many sympathetic letters from prominent Church teachers there.

Mr Were continued to publish and he lived long enough to see the acceptance of many of his positions by the Church, and his views being taught at Avondale College and internationally. While presenting his views so publicly in Adelaide would seem in retrospect to have been unwise, one is led to conclude that Mr Were was a man ahead of his time. He remained fiercely loyal to the Church and continued as a local elder to win converts, unlike some of his contemporaries who also challenged some traditional teachings of the Church.

Late in life Mr Were was offered a position back in ministry but declined the invitation. In his conduct, he was a splendid example of grace under pressure, continuing to promote the cause of Christ and work for the mission of the Church as a layman while under continuing duress from his peers, and thus a splendid example many years later for the rest of us.

*Source: Louis Were—a Dr Milton Hook paper on file at the Ellen G White Research Centre, Avondale College.*



Credit: The house that Were built



# R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

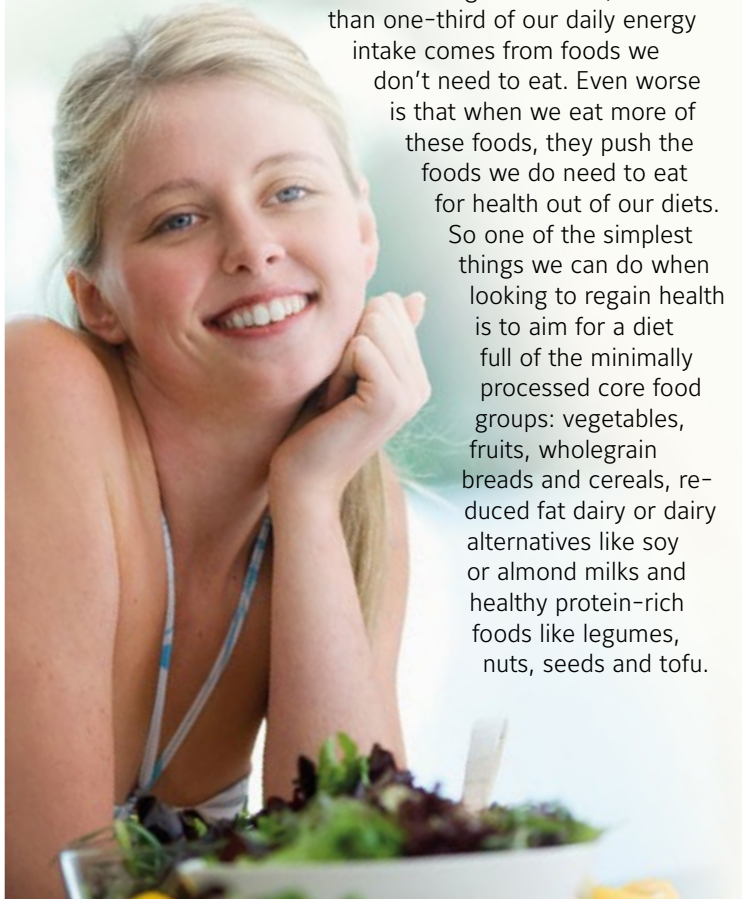
## A weighty issue

The recently published Australia's Health Tracker found that 63.4 per cent of the non-Indigenous adult population and 71.4 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult population is either overweight or obese. This makes Australia's obesity rate one of the highest in the world amongst high-income countries. Worryingly, data also shows overweight and obesity have been steadily tracking upwards over the past eight or so years in spite of wide-range awareness of the issue.

The problem is so big that the target proposed by Australia's Health Tracker is to get the rate down to 61.1 per cent by 2025.

While there are many factors that play into this worrying trend, the most obvious one—one that we all have the power to change—is our food choices. Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that, on average, 35 per cent of total daily energy consumption comes from "discretionary foods". As the name suggests, they're the foods that we don't need to eat as part of a balanced healthy diet. Foods like biscuits, pastries, cakes, ice-cream and chips, along with soft drinks and alcohol. Foods that are high in energy and not high in other nutrients vital for health.

For the average Australian, more than one-third of our daily energy intake comes from foods we don't need to eat. Even worse is that when we eat more of these foods, they push the foods we do need to eat for health out of our diets. So one of the simplest things we can do when looking to regain health is to aim for a diet full of the minimally processed core food groups: vegetables, fruits, wholegrain breads and cereals, reduced fat dairy or dairy alternatives like soy or almond milks and healthy protein-rich foods like legumes, nuts, seeds and tofu.



### Warm spinach, pear and walnut salad

Preparation time: 10 minutes  
Cooking time: 8 minutes Serves: 4

- 1/3 cup walnuts, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 Corella pears, halved, cored and cut into 1cm-thick slices lengthways
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon macadamia oil
- 100g baby spinach leaves
- 50g parmesan cheese, shaved

1. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add walnuts and toast, tossing often, for 2-3 minutes until golden. Transfer to a plate. Set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in the pan over medium-high heat. Add pears. Cook, tossing often, for 3-4 minutes until golden. Stir in maple syrup, balsamic vinegar and macadamia oil. Reduce heat to medium. Cook, tossing occasionally, for 1-2 minutes until bubbling. Toss through walnuts.
3. Arrange spinach on serving plates. Top with warm pears and walnuts. Sprinkle with shaved parmesan and serve.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** 760kJ (180cal). Protein 5g. Fat 14g. Carbohydrate 8g. Sodium 125mg. Potassium 190mg. Calcium 116mg. Iron 0.9mg. Fibre 2g.

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**Sanitarium** LIFESTYLE MEDICINE SERVICES

# Running FOR THE PRIZE

by Natalie James



**W**HEN I FIRST STARTED ATTENDING REEDY CREEK church on the Gold Coast (Qld) a few years back, I noticed a young man who always sat towards the back of the church. He would sit quietly in the corner, alone, with his head bowed and his Bible securely in his hand. Today that young man sits in the front pews of our church and if he's not there, he'll be up the front doing what he loves best: joyfully singing. Something has changed. His name is Vinjaria George Molisingi (known as George). This is his journey.

George, 20, is an elite athlete from Vanuatu. In Australia on a sports scholarship with Oceania Athletics, he has been training for the Olympics. I wanted to hear his story: about being a professional athlete and how he responds to the challenge of competing on Sabbath. After spending time with him, I found out that there is a lot more to George than just being an athlete.

George grew up in an Adventist home. He also grew up with the right athletic genes and was coached by his father, also a runner and a professional coach. By grade 10, George knew he had what it took to be a professional runner so he entered the Pacific Games in New Caledonia. Due to his success he made it through to the Oceania Championships in Cairns (Qld). George knew that if he performed well he could be selected for a sports scholarship and train overseas.

This was an opportunity that George had dreamed of so he prayed to God in the hope his prayer would be answered. However, after the championships, George wasn't offered a scholarship. He accepted the decision and put the idea to the back of his mind.

By grade 11 things had changed for George. He was caught up with the wrong crowd. He found himself drifting and his priorities had changed. His mum continued to work hard to put food on the table. Her strength, endurance, love and Adventist beliefs remained steady and left a lasting impression on George. During this time he heard a distinct voice: "George this is not the right way" and he knew that God was speaking to him. By grade 12 he was baptised and became a committed Adventist. On the very day that George was baptised he received a phone call, offering him a sports scholarship with Oceania Athletics in Australia. God had responded to George's prayers.

When George arrived on the Gold Coast, he met with management who advised him that he had his first competition on Friday night. At first he agreed to compete but he knew it was not right. George asked God for strength and courage. He came back to his management and told them it was against his beliefs to train and compete on the Sabbath. He told them to send him home as he would not dishonour his God. Management offered George three months of training with no obligation to compete, so long as his times continued to improve. A reassessment would take place in three months.

Everyone knows that competing is an essential part of improving and making the Olympics, but George trusted in God. Three months came and went. Six months came and went. Then six months turned into one year and nothing was said about George over-extending his three-month stay. Management still wanted him to compete and reiterated that he was "training fit" but not

"competition fit". George continued running well, helping his peers and gaining a positive reputation among his sports community.

In May 2015, George was selected for the Oceania Championships in the 100m and 200m races. The races were being held on Saturday.

George prayed, "Lord you've got this in Your hands. I am weak and slow in speech. Please put words in my mouth." A meeting was held with the executive director and George said he could not compete. He left the meeting with the expectation he was not going to the championships. Within 24 hours, George discovered the whole timetable had been changed and he was now able to compete. God's mighty hand was at work. George proudly carried the Vanuatu flag in the opening ceremony of the championships and made first place, achieving his personal best in both races. George was considered a hero among his sporting community and within his country. He humbly thanked the Lord for everything.

George was selected for the 100m World Championships in July 2015. But the 100m was being run on Sabbath.

Management anticipated George would say no to competing but gave him the weekend to decide. George already knew in his heart that he would say no.

Management offered him an invitation to race in the 200m instead. George prayed, "Lord I am not fit to run the 200m against the best in the world; please give me a way out." He had pulled a tendon in the Oceania Championships so his coach suggested that he should not run the 200m. God had given him a reason and answered his prayer.

George recovered well and he was also training well. In January, the Olympic timetable was published. George was invited to compete but the 100m was being raced on Sabbath. By March a final decision had to be made. George received a lot of pressure from the National Olympic Committee in Vanuatu to race.

George gave his answer: "No." "There are plenty of young people hungry for this opportunity," was the message he received. "Opportunity and talent are given from God," George replied. He was advised that if he could not compete in Rio his scholarship would be terminated.

In his decision not to compete, George is happy he has taken a stand for God. "The whole host of heaven is with me," he boldly proclaims. "Everyone is in God's hands. My Father is the King of the universe."

George's management offered him the opportunity to stay until July. George was undecided. He prayed, saying to God, "If You want me to go home, let it run smoothly. If You don't want me to go, complicate things." George went to his management with a notice date of May 1. When he arrived at the executive director's office she was not there. George wondered if this was a sign. He continued to pray. When he returned the executive director was there. She



## Opportunity and talent are given from God.

expressed her sadness at his decision but accepted it.

But George still hadn't received his passport from Vanuatu. It had been sent there for renewal two months earlier and it had been four weeks since Vanuatu officials had said they had returned it to Australia.

His flight home was booked for May 1. That day came and went and George still hadn't received his passport.

When he looks back, he ponders what has been the real purpose of his time in Australia? He prays: "I have been here for three years but I don't compete. Have I come to represent my country in athletics or am I here to do your service, Lord?"

While George has been a remarkable athlete for his country, he has also been a wonderful ambassador for Christ. He has shared the Bible with his athlete flatmates who have opened their lives to God and are now going to church. He has given them Bibles and they have come to him asking for explanations about Bible verses. His peers say, "George is a godly man." George is asked to pray after training, to say grace over food and was even asked to pray before the start of the athletics Christmas function. He admits that his time in Australia has given him the opportunity to learn so much about the Bible and he is happy to share it.

Once, as he was reading his Bible on a train, he was approached by a lady who wanted to follow him on Facebook because he was reading his Bible! God is working in George's life and George is working for God. This is a man who walks, no runs, with God and is motivated by the knowledge that he is accountable for sharing Bible truths with those he comes into contact with.

George's personal best is 11.02 seconds in the 100m and 22.53 seconds in the 200m. However, right now he is putting his best foot forward for Christ and can aptly be described by 1 Corinthians 9:24: "Did you not know that in a race all the runners run. But only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." George has his eyes on that heavenly prize and nothing is going to take it away from him.

*Natalie James is communication coordinator for Reedy Creek church, Qld. This story appeared in the church's June 1 newsletter. George has since returned to Vanuatu.*

# Keys to revival:

## from Scripture and history part 2

by Dr Kayle de Waal

**I**N THE PREVIOUS ISSUE WE DISCOVERED THAT PRAYER and the Word were crucial to revival and creating church movements. But revival has historically required a change in the structure and shape of the church to be effective. Here we look at keys for a multiplying movement to emerge that is sustainable over the long haul.

### Small groups (fellowship groups, house churches, café meetings)

Wherever new movements occur the church is found in small gatherings rather than traditional buildings. This is universally true. Small groups—whether meeting in someone’s home, a café or in a park—provide new people with a place where they can search for answers to their questions and fulfil their hunger for spiritual things. Small groups provide the structure to facilitate the rapid changes that

come from dynamic movements. In a small group, people matter and every new person can receive personal care. Meeting at church on Sabbath every week is only a partial witness! We need to meet during the week in homes or local cafés—a revolution of structure based on a hunger for more of God in our lives and obedience to His Word.

An important figure in the Protestant Reformation, Martin Bucer, advocated a radical church reformation, which was to begin with groups or small communities. Bucer taught that partaking in such communities based on the New Testament model was the only way to keep the Ten Commandments. Each community remained connected to other groups and leaders met regularly. Every month or so there would be a district-wide meeting.<sup>1</sup> Two hundred years later, the Methodist revival would follow the same pattern.



Our Church was formed in a similar manner. Early Adventists met in believers' homes for fellowship and study. Ellen White spoke often of the social meeting—where testimonies, fellowship, Scripture reading, singing and member training took place.<sup>2</sup> When Mrs White travelled to Europe in 1885 and discovered that the saints there knew nothing about small groups, she introduced them. She knew how critical social meetings were to the spiritual life of the local church.<sup>3</sup> We need to recover our Adventist identity in the shape of these meetings—not by copying them but re-contextualising them for our contemporary times.

We can learn a lot from comparing the Russian and Chinese Communist revolutions. Both of these revolutions were bloody. The military was used to deal with any opposition, churches were closed, missionaries removed and church leaders imprisoned. The church in Russia focused her worship on the cathedral led by local priests. The church was disconnected from everyday life. When the Soviets came to power and seized the church and her assets, the common people had nothing to hold on to.

In China, on the other hand, leaders such as Watchman Nee had already trained and mobilised thousands of Christians and let these members form churches in their homes and places of business. These were lay-led groups that focused on Bible study, witnessing to neighbours, fellowship, worship, prayer and communion. Nee led a movement called the Little Flock in Shanghai. During the last few years of his ministry before the revolution, the Little Flock became involved in migration evangelism, based on the scattering of the church from Jerusalem in Acts 8. This tactic involved moving an entire house church into an area that was unreached. This bold move was blessed by God. Although some of Nee's time was spent preaching to a large church in Shanghai (5000-7000 attendance), the main result of his work was the founding of hundreds of house churches throughout China. The cultural revolution of Mao Zedong that sought to eliminate religion from society in China instead had the opposite effect.<sup>4</sup> The church grew from two million in 1949 to more than 80 million today.<sup>5</sup>

### Church planting—rapid reproduction

God's will is that His church grow (2 Peter 3:18) and He has supplied the Power (Acts 1:8). Ellen White encouraged church planting: "New churches must be established, new congregations organised. At this time there should be representatives in every city and in the remote parts of the earth." Further she said: "Place after place is to be visited, church after church is to be raised up."<sup>6</sup>

A church planting movement will have self-replicating units of people at every level of development—disciples,

leaders and churches. Every unit of church life is capable of reproducing itself without persuasion or manipulation. The church multiplication rate is accelerated as the Spirit of God moves to fill and empower members who are ready to proclaim and live the gospel in all its fullness.

Multiplication is God's will for us! We must not focus on addition no matter how appealing it is. Addition produces incremental growth while multiplication produces exponential growth. Paul goes to the heart of the matter in his letter to Timothy: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2). There are four generations in this verse: Paul, Timothy, "faithful men" and "others". True multiplication occurs when leaders are raised from the third and fourth generation because of the faithful teaching of the first generation.

Although multiplication is the highest order of growth that God desires for us, we are often seduced by addition. Multiplication begins slower than addition, which may discourage us from attempting big things for God. In Australia and New Zealand, where it is so tough to do traditional evangelism, we are quite happy with addition. Don't get me wrong; we

are overjoyed at addition but God calls us to multiplication. While multiplication starts slower, in the long run it gains such significant momentum that it leaves addition far behind.

Church multiplication is the process of churches planting churches, which in turn plant new churches even as the mother church continues to plant churches. Here is an example of what God can do when a movement of multiplication takes place. If one church planted one church every three years:

- First three years—2 churches
- Second three years—4 churches
- Third three years—8 churches
- Fourth three years—16 churches
- Fifth three years—32 churches
- Sixth three years—64 churches
- Seventh three years—128 churches
- Eight three years—256 churches
- Ninth three years—512 churches
- Tenth three years—1024 churches

In 30 years more than 1000 churches would be planted.<sup>7</sup>

Within the first 30 years, the church in Acts grew from 120 believers to tens of thousands of believers and multiplied congregations. The six directional statements that Luke makes cover a span of 30 years (Acts 2:47; 6:7; 12:24; 13:48,49; 16:5; 19:20). They begin with the Lord adding to the church and then the disciples multiplying it. Churches are then being added and increasing in number

**Although multiplication is the highest order of growth that God desires for us, we are often seduced by addition.**



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# Keys to revival: from Scripture and history part 2 (continued)

until in Acts 19, tens of thousands are being added to the church. What a movement! Can God do this in Australia? In Solomon Islands? In New Zealand? In Papua New Guinea? Yes, a resounding yes (Zechariah 4:6)! "The forward-moving expansion of the gospel into Gentile communities, empowered by the Holy Spirit and resulting in changed lives and local communities, is God's intent for the local church today."<sup>8</sup>

## Creative and adaptive methods

Soccer is my favourite sport and is the best illustration of an adaptive method I can think of. Soccer is the world's game played by hundreds of millions and watched by billions and I believe it will be played in heaven (just kidding). Why? I think it's because you can drop a ball at the feet of a four-year-old and he or she can have fun right away. It may take years to master the game but only an instant to begin enjoying it. Now you can't do that with Australian or American football (smile).

Adaptive methods are flexible, simple and transferable. For a movement, the only thing that doesn't change is their core message and beliefs. Everything else can change to get that message out and get the job done. There is an openness to try new things for the sake of advancing the gospel. There are fresh expressions of outreach.

## Conclusion

God moves in response to the desire or hunger of His people (Matthew 5:6). If the local church is going through the routines of worship Sabbath after Sabbath, yawning in the face of God, then I doubt that God is going to move in might and power in that local church. We cannot manipulate God but we can begin to sincerely ask His Spirit to begin a work of revival. We need to create structures in the local church that can facilitate God drawing near. Are you willing to pay the price for a revival? Am I willing to seek God as never before (2 Chronicles 7:14)?

True revival is costly. God desires to do great things through the local church. The local church is the hope of the local community and can be the catalyst for a movement of disciples that can impact the world and hasten the coming of our Lord (2 Peter 3:11-13).

God's great desire is for the local church to experience revival and for it to be the catalyst, under the guidance of the Spirit, to launch a new movement of disciple-makers and prepare the world for that day (Titus 2:13). I suggest that earnest prayer, the life-changing Word of God, creative evangelistic small groups, rapid multiplication and creative adaptive methods are some of the key ingredients to bring God's dream to your local church. As the local church meets to worship God in earnest prayer, crying out for revival and burdened over the lost, God will begin His sovereign work in His time. ➤

1. Peter Bunton, *Cell Groups and House Churches: What History Teaches Us* (Lititz: House to House Publications, 2001), 14.
2. Ellen White, *Manuscript 29* (1887): 267; *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 16, 251.
3. Russell Burrill, *Recovering an Adventist Approach to the Life and Mission of the Local Church* (Fallbrook: Hartbooks, 1998), 187.
4. D. Garrison, *Church Planting Movements* (Midlothian: WIGTake Resources, 2004), 21.
5. *Ibid.*, 172.
6. *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 24; *Evangelism*, 19.
7. Gene Getz and Joe Wall, *Effective Church Growth Strategies* (Nashville: Word, 2000), 121.
8. Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993), 101.

*Dr Kayle de Waal is head of the Avondale Seminary.*

# THE *Pregnancy Diaries*

## The dilemma

You know those ultrasound pictures proud parents-to-be post on Facebook? I have never been able to make sense of them. Not the why but the what—I can probably tell you more about what I can see in an inkblot test than an ultrasound photo!

And that was my exact experience at our own ultrasound. I spent the entire time squinting and tilting my head, wondering how the obstetrician decided this one particular white dot was a life form.

I was expecting much of the same when I saw the obstetrician again a month later, but instead, our little white dot had grown tiny arms and legs, and what looked like a ginormous head! My husband obviously saw the same thing—his eyes had welled up and he started sniffing in a matter of seconds.

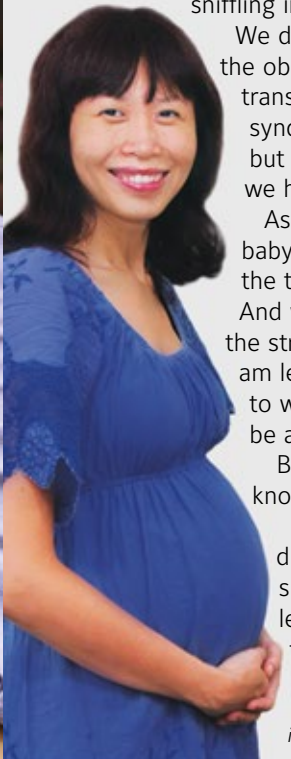
We didn't have long to bask in the wonder, however, as the obstetrician then started talking to us about the nuchal translucency test to determine the baby's risk of Down syndrome and other birth defects. It wasn't compulsory, but it turned out to be one of the more difficult decisions we have had to make.

As Christians, we trust that every gift from God—the baby especially—will be good. What does deciding to take the test say about our faith and our view of disabilities? And what if the baby were disabled? While I deeply admire the strength and courage of parents with disabled children, I am less confident of my own fortitude and fear my inability to withstand the temptation to abort. And if I did, would I be able to live with that decision?

But if the baby were disabled, wouldn't it be better to know now, to prepare for the challenges ahead?

We ended up taking the test, earnestly praying we didn't need to consider all the difficult decisions the results may bring, but hoping an early diagnosis would at least give us time to formulate a plan of action. Thankfully, our baby's risks for disabilities were low.

*Melody Tan is associate editor of Signs of the Times and is expecting her first child.*



## DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster



### Ephesus: ignited with love

While the seven churches outline seven periods in the history of the church, their messages apply to each person in every age. This series will concentrate on how to shine for Christ in a dark world.

The church of Ephesus had excellent qualities. It was hard working, did not give up the fight of faith, and could not tolerate those who: knowingly practised evil; peddled false doctrine; or who appealed to grace to continue in sin (Nicolaitans). It had however lost its first love. Such love is revealed by an ardent desire to: listen to God from His Word; talk to Him in prayer; share Him with as many people as possible; gather often to worship and pray to Him with others who love Him; and to care for those inside and outside His family.

**Read Revelation 2:2,3,4,6; Acts 2:41-47; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.**

To reclaim the first love we must:

1. Remember the incredible height from where we have fallen—that of being the very bride and body of Jesus, loved by Him even to death;
2. Repent, by honestly acknowledging we have lost (or maybe never experienced) that love;
3. Re-do the first things—cast our helpless selves on Christ by faith alone so that His love is again poured into our hearts. Won't you follow His counsel right now and burn like a flame for Him yet again?

**Read Revelation 2:5; Ephesians 5:25-32; Hebrews 6:1; 1 John 4:19; Romans 5:1,5.**



The baptistry at the ancient Church of Mary at Ephesus.



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God never stops loving us.

**Kids' Space**

On his way to Damascus to find and imprison Christians, Saul is stopped by a bright light from heaven. Saul is blind. Jesus tells Saul that he is no longer to persecute His followers.

## FIND THE DIFFERENCES



**MEMORY VERSE** "I have loved you with an everlasting love."  
Jeremiah 31:3, NIV



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.*

**TOO MANY LEVELS**

Wayne Davey, Qld

I read with great interest "Valediction" (Feature, July 16). Whilst I have not always agreed with James' opinions, I agree 100 per cent with the content of this article, in particular the section entitled "Too much is too much".

It is time that we as a Church undertook a total review of our structure, administration and entities from General Conference to local conference level. There are too many levels of governance. It is also time we took a greater advantage of modern technology within our administrative processes. In doing so, we could afford to employ many more pastors and Bible workers on the front-line.

As God's remnant people, we have a great work to do in these last days. Let's use our God-given resources to greater advantage so more men and women, boys and girls can hear about Jesus and decide to walk with Him.

**UNDER A BUSHEL**

Robyn Colquhoun, NSW

I have been dismayed over the past years at how few of our churches and schools have retained the Adventist name on their signboards.

I grew up in a town where "all" churches were known by their signboard names.

I attended Longburn and Avondale colleges in the mid-'50s. I know we have changed their names but I applaud "Longburn Adventist College" (LAC), NZ, for still letting people know who we are.

Quite a few Christians in the area send their children to LAC as they know we have a good philosophy of education.

We are much closer to the kingdom now than we were in the '50s and we should be letting people know "who" we are and "where" we are.

My daughter lives in a town in NZ and the church has a large sign across the lawn: "Rangiora Seventh-day Adventist Church". While there recently I asked several people in the town where the church was, and in each case was directed to the street.

The Catholics put their name on all their churches and schools!

Don't let your church or school show you are hiding our name "under a bushel" and not "letting it shine" or have you let "Satan blow it out"?

**OUR NAME**

Daryl Murdoch, Vic

I admire the passion and vision to retain our identity in the article "Valediction" (Feature, July 16). I hope the author will be encouraged to know that the National Board of Adventist Schools Australia voted in March that all new Adventist schools or schools seeking to rename in the future include the word "Adventist" in their title.

Further, the South Queensland School Company has recently taken action to rename schools that do not currently have the name "Adventist" in their school title. Adventist Education values our identity and is proud to serve the mission of the Church.

**GOODBYE**

Jeff Crombie, via email

It was interesting to read James Standish's parting *Record* article, entitled "Valediction" (Feature, July 16).

In the article he revealed that *Adventist Record* was mentioned on the ABC's *Q&A* program, but he didn't go into details of what was actually said. I am sure many readers would be interested in knowing a little more, so I hope you can reveal that to us.

As usual James' parting words were frank, insightful and informative; and his articles will be sadly missed.

Editor's note: Watch the video called "Manus treated 'worse than animals'" at <[www.facebook.com/abcqanda/videos](http://www.facebook.com/abcqanda/videos)>.

**BALANCED TENSION**

Shelley Poole, via website

Re: "Fundamentalism, Liberalism or authentic Adventism?" (Feature, July 2).

"Both" or "and" is a decidedly metamodern concept [Rather than reacting to postmodernism with a full pendulum swing, metamodernism oscillates between and beyond "a modern enthusiasm" (we're flying to the moon!) and "a postmodern irony" (there is no truth).

More discussion along these lines will be essential in reaching people living out of a POST-postmodern paradigm. Postmodernism is dead.

I would question this about the article though—is perfect balance ever achievable? Or even desirable? When we try to please everyone we end up pleasing no-one with on-the-fence, neutered, even vanilla ideas of God.

Could the best we can muster between fundamentalism and liberalism be a healthy tension? A striving for paradox rather than an impossibly perfect "balance"?



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■ **Assistant editor—Adventist Media (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking an assistant editor to fill a maternity leave position. The position will be based at Wahroonga, NSW. The successful applicant will work as part of a team producing magazines, newsletters and other digital content for our websites. It involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the South Pacific Division. Interested applicants should send a resume and a letter of application to the Office Manager at Adventist Media at the following address: [corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au](mailto:corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au) or call +612 9847 2222. Applications close **August 12, 2016**.

■ **Executive care manager—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd.** Our not-for-profit organisation is seeking a Christian-centred professional to head up its Clinical Aged Care/Community Care Team. The executive care manager is a key member of the executive team who is responsible for the implementation of the organisation's vision and mission into all that we do. They have direct oversight of all clinical aspects of the organisation, the development and monitoring of consistent policies and procedures, and ensuring local care managers deliver the best possible care. A very good understanding of the aged care Accreditation Standards and an ability to ensure that they are exceeded is critical. Possessing excellent communication skills, which you use effectively to engender confidence in decision making and to inspire those around you, will be trademarks of your prior experience in similar roles. Having gained significant prior experience in a previous senior aged care clinical role, you will have a comprehensive understanding of the Commonwealth Government funding instrument for residential aged care. The successful applicant will have relevant tertiary qualifications and have current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or be able to achieve such registration. Detailed position profiles available on request. Send applications, including CV and referees, to the CEO, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Limited, PO Box 577, Spring Hill, QLD 4000, fax (07) 3218 7790 or email [ericanderson@adventist.org.au](mailto:ericanderson@adventist.org.au). Applications close **August 19, 2016**.

### SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Principal—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community**, a remote co-educational K-12 Christian boarding school which serves the Aboriginal people of Western Australia, is seeking expressions of interest for the position of principal to begin in January 2016. The successful applicant will be an experienced principal who has an interest in the development and training of Aboriginal young people; have experience in curriculum design/policy development and implementation; have experience managing at-risk students; have cross-cultural experience together with a willingness to learn from others; be a hands-on operator with the ability to promote and connect the school to surrounding communities; be a self-motivated, energetic Seventh-day Adventist who has a passion to share Jesus and His Word; be a team builder and have excellent problem-solving and conflict management/resolution skills. For further information please contact Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ministry Australia, [stevepiez@adventist.org.au](mailto:stevepiez@adventist.org.au) or 0409 357 701.

### Next RECORD August 20

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