

AUGUST 20 2016

Adventist Record

ISSN 0819-5637



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SPD church membership grows in 2015

Wahroonga, New South Wales

By the end of 2015 there were 445,590 Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the South Pacific Division (SPD), according to recently released membership data.

This means that SPD membership grew 3.8 per cent during 2015. It is interesting to compare the population growth with membership growth. In Australia, membership grew at only 1.03 per cent (2015), while the population grew 1.57 per cent in 2014. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), church membership grew 4.93 per cent in 2015, while population data suggests a growth rate of 2.09 per cent. The other unions are harder to compare as they have multiple countries within them. However, both the New Zealand Pacific and Trans Pacific Unions recorded growth rates of more than 3 per cent. So in many SPD countries the Church is growing slightly faster than the population.

"It is so good that we are growing as a Church—many [denominations] are not growing and so we can be thankful for God's blessing," said SPD president Glenn Townend. "However, if we are only growing at the rate of population growth we are not really making a greater impact on the people in the communities we live in. I am praying for growth beyond the population growth and ask others to join me."

Data from the Church's "2016 Annual Statistical Report" reveals that the SPD had 26,331 baptisms and professions of faith in 2015, slightly less than the 28,186 in 2014. This means that 72 people joined the Church across the Division per day.

"While there have been good increases in baptisms and profession of faith over past years and particularly since 2007, the membership of the Church in the SPD has not risen as dramatically," said SPD general secretary Lionel Smith. "This is mainly due to two reasons: an increasing membership loss and membership audits."

Significant membership audits the SPD has undertaken in the past five years mean that figures are more accurate, however tracking the membership is an inexact science.

"The SPD and unions are continually aiming to streamline and make reporting easier. The more we do this the more accurate the figures of membership we have," Pastor Townend said. "This gives us a more realistic understanding of the impact the Seventh-day Adventist message is having on our fellow humans."

There are 2063 churches and 3868 companies in the SPD.

There is, on average, one church or company for every 75 members throughout the SPD. However, if the unions are looked at individually, this number drops to 60 in PNG and is more than 100 for the other three unions—Australia being the highest at 113.

"We wish to see every member looking for opportunities to witness and to use their spiritual gifts in making disciples and multiplying disciples. This involves preparing the soil, planting the seed, nurturing the plants, reaping the harvest and then multiplying the harvest by continuing the cycle," Pastor Smith said.—*Jarrold Stackelroth*

See full statistics online at <record.net.au>.

Adventist aged care facility to close

Warburton, Victoria

AdventCare Yarra Ranges, a Seventh-day Adventist aged care facility in Warburton, Victoria, is set to close at the end of the year.

The decision was announced on August 3, bringing to an end eight years of viability studies. In 2008, auditors found that the building and rooms at the 51-bed facility were non-compliant. In 2009, AdventCare Victoria purchased a facility at Yarra Junction, with the thought of relocating the facility. This plan fell through and the Yarra Junction site was sold in 2013. An independent review of the Warburton site made 125 recommendations and called for a viable business plan to be developed. After consulting with the Warburton church and the community, the decision was made to close the facility.

"I can confidently say that no stone has been left unturned and we have undertaken a thorough assessment of every possibility," said Pastor Graeme Christian, president of the Victorian Conference in a brochure made available to the public. He also assured the residents and their families that the facility would not close until all 28 residents

have found suitable accommodation.

A demographic study showed that there was an over-supply of aged care beds in the Yarra Valley region and

there would be no additional demand until after 2025. Also the Australian Federal Government has cut funding to aged care, which will affect the Yarra Ranges site.

According to *Mountain Views Mail*, the residents and church members of Warburton were quite upset at the news and 50 local jobs will be lost. Some claim they will lobby to keep the facility open.

"I share your anguish that we found no viable option," said Pastor Christian. "In the meantime, AdventCare will work with the Warburton church to find a use for the building which continues to make a positive contribution to the community."—*Jarrold Stackelroth*



AdventCare Yarra Ranges.



Beat fear

Jarrod Stackelroth

Walking out of Amsterdam Centraal station and down the street, quite a few people were staring—at me. Amsterdam was our first European stop on the trip of a lifetime. The reason for the stares soon became apparent. It was early in the morning and I was wearing shorts. My wife and I had just flown in from Singapore and it was supposed to be summer—but Amsterdam was freezing! I felt like I was the only person in the whole city wearing shorts. I couldn't wait to get out of them.

After dropping off our bags and quickly changing into something warmer, we set out to explore. We fulfilled my wife's childhood ambition of visiting the Anne Frank House; we wandered along the canals, through museums and art galleries and ate pomme frites with mayo. After a delightful and short 24 hours we were boarding a train to Paris, bags packed with cheese.

Two months later, a man would board that same train, bags packed with weapons, injuring passengers until he was subdued.

The Thalys train attack took place on August 21, 2015: exactly one year ago, this weekend. You may have heard about it. For us, the proximity of the news—the fact it could have been us if our trip had been just two months later—was scary.

Unfortunately the Thalys attack is not an isolated incident. Nice, Paris, Brussels, Baghdad, Sydney, Istanbul, Baton Rouge—the list goes on.

The media-fuelled fear factory is filling our heads with anxiety and worry. Social media is flooded with violent videos.

I don't know about you but some days I find I just can't listen to the news anymore. Another headline, another horror, another headless body. I have to switch it off.

This atmosphere of terror, fear and hedonism online and in the media is the perfect storm. We've already seen that the politics of fear is winning support—in American and European politics, even in Australia.

Fear is an agent of the enemy. Fear leads to hate. It changes the way we view people and interact with them. The far right wing hates those who are different while the

extreme left hates those who think differently.

The current global conditions are both a danger and an opportunity for Christians. The danger is one the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been awake to for some time. That's why we have always been strong advocates for religious liberty and freedom. Fear creates a need in some people to impose uniformity and control. If we diverge from what the group thinks or disagree with the majority on issues like the Sabbath, creation, refugees, gay marriage, even the existence of God, sooner than we might think the conditions will be in place to restrict and even prosecute those with contrary opinions. People will do worse than stare. They'll call you names like bigot or fanatic. How will you react?

Our responsibility is to be informed but not to dwell on or obsess over an interpretation of world events. Rather we should hold on to the hope that Jesus is coming back. We should stand for the marginalised and not swallow, without questioning, the things the media feeds us. But we don't need to be drawn into a mire of conspiracy and speculation either. There is enough of that on the internet without us adding to the clamour.

Which brings me to our opportunity. The antidote to fear is not courage. It is love. James tells us that perfect love casts out all fear. To combat the unholy trinity of fear, terror and hedonism, Paul provides us with the heavenly formula—hope, faith and love. Imagine if, as Christians, we were known for these characteristics.

There are people out there who are "disaster fatigued". They are looking for something different. They are open to the idea of God but don't know what He looks like. We can show them but only by understanding the world around us through the lens of God's kingdom.

It is little wonder the Bible repeats the adage "be bold and courageous" so many times.

Stand out from the crowd. Wear shorts in Amsterdam without shame. Be a peculiar people. And do so much good in the world that people notice and are drawn to the Jesus you lift up. That is the way to beat fear.

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Subscriptions
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Cover Credit: Tell the World

Official news magazine of the South Pacific
 Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
 Vol 121 No 16

I've been a student, chaplain and board/council member at a number of Seventh-day Adventist schools. I have been the pastor of churches based in Adventist schools and a director and chair of an Adventist school system. My children have been students, my wife has been a teacher support person, bus driver and board member. My son is a chaplain now and one of my daughters is on maternity leave from being a chaplain/teacher at Adventist schools.

As a student I attended state schools when there was no Adventist school nearby and as a pastor I have taught religious education there. I have some experience of the alternatives and a reasonably broad perspective and I am a believer in the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

Adventist schools aren't perfect; the staff and students are all too human at times. Inconsistent discipline, lack of integrity in living the values, lifestyle issues . . . are all real. But our pioneers established schools so we could produce missionaries to fuel the ongoing movement around the world. Adventist schools have values, they have a mission, they uphold Jesus and they teach and model our beliefs, including service. The original dream is still alive within Adventist schools in the South Pacific.

Adventist schools rank in the top three schools academically in at least four countries in the South Pacific. Schools consistently baptise staff, students and families—I've seen and heard the stories myself. The recent in-service gatherings for teachers and school staff in most conferences in Australia upheld Jesus and were focused on our spiritual mission. The Church recently honoured teachers in their ministry with special recognition in Tonga and Solomon Islands.

Allen is a Grade 4 drop-out and the cook for Jones Adventist School in the Western Solomon Islands. Since 2005 he has led more than 500 people (mostly students) to Jesus, studied the Bible with them and seen them give their lives in service to others. Our schools are still focused on making missionaries now and for eternity.

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



Words

Linden Chuang

Thud!

No, that's not the sound of a microphone hitting the floor, a la Kobe Bryant or Barack Obama (YouTube it if you will). It's the sound of Thomas Kelly's head crashing into the concrete after he was coward-punched one Saturday night in Sydney's Kings Cross in 2012. The impact left the 18-year-old with horrific brain injuries; he passed away two days later.

Four years on and the Kelly family experienced another tragedy recently, with Thomas's younger brother, Stuart, taking his own life in his Northern Beaches home. A suicide would seem to imply there was no foul play at work, but there was.

Speaking to the *Daily Telegraph*, close friends of the 18-year-old described how he was the victim of "bullying, torment and endless hate mail" for his family's campaigns against drug and alcohol violence, which led to revised lockout laws for licensed premises in New South Wales. Stuart's parents were also abused online, with one blogger going as far as calling his father a "media whore" and accusing his mother of "cashing in on her child's death". No fists were involved but don't be fooled—for the Kelly family this was still a beating.

Stuart's death was sad—tremendously sad—yet hardly surprising given the abuse he had to endure. Words are dangerous.

"The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life . . . No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:6, 8).

I like how The Message sums up this passage: "This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue."

Solomon said words can "pierce like swords" (Proverbs 12:18). He's right. Words can kill, and sometimes all it takes is a single thrust.

"Idiot." "Loser." "Fool." "Failure."

These are some of the mild ones. I could asterisk many other things we—as people *and* as Christians—label each other. One word—just like one punch, one lie or one affair—is enough to destroy lives.

Yet a single word can also be a "tree of life" (Proverbs 15:4) and bring "sweetness to the soul and health to the body" (16:24).

"Thanks." "Sorry." "Beautiful." "Amazing." "Hello." "Yes."

Ruthie Lindsey says, "if you see something beautiful in someone, speak it". Don't stay silent. Use your words to quiet anger (Proverbs 15:1) and lift people up (Ephesians 4:29).

Words can pierce like swords but the tongue is more like a hammer. It can be used as a weapon to destroy or a tool to build. We just need to learn to use it properly. Maybe this verse could serve as our guide:

"Let your speech always be with grace" (Colossians 4:6).

Note one word in particular: ALWAYS. No breaks or buts. In other words, speak love or shut up.

Thud.

(Now that one was a mic drop.)

If you or someone you know is being cyberbullied or needs help, please contact Lifeline or Kids Helpline.

Linden Chuang is digital content manager for Adventist Media.





Toxic tippie

A New Zealand researcher says 10 years of health data clearly shows that alcohol is a direct cause of at least seven kinds of cancer—breast, colon, rectum, liver, oropharynx, larynx and oesophagus. Dr Jennie Connor, from Otago University, says there's evidence that skin, prostate and pancreatic cancer are also linked to alcohol consumption. —*The Guardian*



Tragedy

Adventists in Mexico are mourning the deaths of two Master Guides who got lost during a Pathfinder hike in the Sierra Juarez mountains. They were part of a group who took a wrong turn—three others survived. The cause of death was a combination of high temperatures and a lack of water. —*Adventist Review*



Backstory

A new movie starring Matthew McConaughey, *Free State of Jones*, retells the true story of Confederate army deserter Newton Knight who supported slaves and led a rebellion against the Confederacy. Newton and freed slave Georgiana had a daughter, Anna Knight—an Adventist pioneer, missionary, nurse and teacher. —*Adventist Today*



High profile

The long-awaited movie trailer has been re-released for Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge*, the true story of Seventh-day Adventist US army medic Desmond Doss who refused to carry a weapon during World War II. The movie, which will release in November, re-enacts the persecution Doss suffered for his stance and his bravery in battle. —*Lionsgate*



The town that plays together. . .

As a pattern of racially charged violence between US police and the African-American community emerges, an Adventist church in Mobile, Alabama, teamed up with the local police department to organise a basketball game at a local recreation centre. Organisers hope the event will strengthen police-community relations. —*AL.com*



Barbarity in a place of worship

The Adventist Church in France released an official response of "solidarity and compassion" following July's brutal knife attack on an 86-year-old Catholic priest who was killed in front of his Normandy congregation. "Despite all legitimate feelings of sadness and revolt, we must always continue to fight evil with good." —*EUD*



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Adventist heritage feature film launched

Ringwood, Victoria

The much-anticipated feature film *Tell the World* was launched on August 15 at a special ceremony at the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Resource Centre in Ringwood, Victoria.

Former AUC president and *Tell the World* executive producer Pastor Chester Stanley officiated at the ceremony with current AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz.

"This will be the first time the Church has used historical drama and re-enactment to tell our story," Pastor Stanley said. "We will get to know pioneers such as Joseph Bates, James White and Uriah Smith. We will watch as they wrestle to understand Scripture, hotly debate theology and overcome bitter disappointment. The story of the pioneers will come alive. We will be reminded of how God called a young lady, Ellen Harmon, to do a special work. It is an exciting story full of pathos, drama, joy and sadness."

The project would not have been possible without the vision and financial support of the AUC executive, leadership and staff. Additional funding and support was provided by the South Pacific Division and the General Conference.

The Union worked closely with Adventist Media, based in Wahroonga, NSW, to produce the film.



Chester Stanley and Jorge Munoz.

Principal photography commenced with director Kyle Portbury praying that God would guide and bless the work.

"And He clearly did; we didn't lose a single day of sched-

uled production due to weather or sickness of actors," said Adventist Media CEO Calvin Dever.

Photography for the project was completed in seven weeks using a studio and various locations around Ottawa, Canada.

"It was fantastic working with the 95 cast members and the 157 crew who really went out of their way to make the project successful, not to mention the hundreds of extras," Mr Dever said.

The DVD can be purchased for \$A5.00 at the AUC Resource Centre and Adventist Book Centres. The low price is due to the AUC subsidising the production costs of the DVDs, which are also available with closed captioning for the Deaf.

"We want to get it out to as many people as possible. Share it with your family, friends, churches and neighbours," said AUC Resource Centre manager Pastor Tony Knight. "Let's tell our story to the world."

Pastor Munoz said *Tell the World* is not simply an accomplishment of the AUC leadership but of Seventh-day Adventists across the country.

"I would like to thank all the church members within the AUC for praying and supporting the development of the film," he said. Visit <teltheworldfilm.org>.- Vania Chew



Cast on set in Ottawa.

First French worship service for Vanuatu

Port Vila, Vanuatu

French-speaking Adventists in Vanuatu met together for a worship service fully conducted in French, for reportedly the first time.

On July 16 francophone members in Port Vila congregated at Ernas Seventh-day Adventist Church for Sabbath School and Divine Service. The first French sermon was



Songs were also in French.

preached in the church's pulpit by Minister Leopold Toto, who formerly served in Noumea.

Vanuatu is a multilingual country with a high percent-

age of French speakers, however services have only been conducted in English or Bismala up until now. Traditionally the Catholic Church is the only group who conduct their services in French.

During the program elderly francophone members stood up and recalled how, coming from a French background, they had struggled to read and understand their Bible in English.

Under the leadership of Pastor Dorolyn Laloyer, supported by churches in Port Vila and the Vanuatu Mission, the francophone members had a wonderful Sabbath and are planning to hold future meetings to help them reach out to other French-speaking communities.

The French service demonstrates the Vanuatu Mission's commitment to have 270 new church plants and 2000 groups involved in discipleship by 2020.-Jean-Pierre Niptik

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A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD TODAY

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Hundreds drawn in by new style of evangelism

Melbourne, Victoria

Hundreds of people have discovered the Bible prophecies about Jesus through a first-of-its-kind evangelism program held in Victoria.

The Victorian Conference took a different approach to the traditional style of evangelistic campaigns by running a Christmas in July program at three sites in Melbourne last month. The inspiration was the popular *Road To Bethlehem* Christmas program that has been running for more than 20 years as a ministry of Nunawading church.

Kerina-Lee Joy, who last year was appointed as the Conference's Global Mission pioneer and Evangelism facilitator, discovered that *Road to Bethlehem* attracted more than 16,000 people annually, "however we were not reaping any significant results from this evangelism and experiencing Church growth".

"As a result, I felt extremely saddened and also challenged by this situation," Ms Joy said. "I spent several weeks agonising in prayer, wrestling with what we could do as a Church to follow-up the thousands of community contacts. Then very early one morning, the Lord gave me the idea of running a Christmas in July program based on the Messianic prophecies from Scripture."

Her vision caught the imagination of Australian evangelist Pastor Geoff Youlden, who wrote the script and played a key role in bringing it all together. "We do need to be using different approaches because we are fishing in different pools all the time," he said. "I think the good thing about this is that everyone loves Christmas and we are trying something that is secularly accepted and using it as a means of leading people into the centre part of Christmas, which is Christ."

The family-friendly program explains the true meaning of Christmas, based on the Messianic prophecies, and includes a Christmas dinner, choir, orchestra, carols, actors playing Mary and Joseph, and children's activities.

The response was extraordinary with 2250 bookings taken across the three venues at Box Hill, Tullamarine and Sunshine. According to Ms Joy, the sites were completely booked out within a matter of hours.

"It has shown that people will come out to programs like this," Pastor Youlden said. "I think what we are doing is unique. I don't know of any other group doing what we are doing. Christmas in July is not original—what is original is how we are doing it."

At the end of the programs many people requested *Beyond* DVDs and signed up for prophecy seminars.

Conference president Pastor Graeme Christian said other churches around the Conference caught the vision and ran versions of the program.

"We are continually looking for new ways of connecting with people in the community," he said.

After the success of the program, planning is underway to run Christmas in July again next year. —Tracey Bridcutt





Quality begins at home

How a local Adventist school is inspiring Papua New Guinea educators

Historically, Adventist school principals in Papua New Guinea have participated in an annual study tour of outstanding schools in Australia and New Zealand—the idea is to challenge and inspire the principals to boost their own performance and that of their teachers and students. But this year, for the first time, the principals visited an outstanding Adventist school in their own country.

Located near Mount Hagen in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, Paglum Adventist High School was recently awarded the maximum five-year accreditation from the South Pacific Division (SPD), although it is still improving its infrastructure and facilities. This award is a first for Papua New Guinea and is shared with another outstanding Adventist school, Carr Memorial Primary in Port Moresby.

That Paglum is such an exemplary school is nothing short of miraculous. In 2007 it was one of the worst performing schools in the region academically. Tribal fighting in the area had led to conflict on campus, staff and student morale was dismal and enrolments were so low that Adventist education administrators were considering closing the school down.

Today Paglum is one of the top academic schools in the province, with a new computer lab and having added Year 12 just this year. The school has a strong student work program focused on its gardens and is well on the way to self-sufficiency for its meals. Energetic young principal Robinson Lanza has initiated a strong spiritual program at the school and is enthusiastically tackling the challenges of water supply, ageing facilities and over-full classrooms.

"The decision was formally made at the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) Board of Education on May 31 to take our principals this year to Paglum so they

could see Robinson in action," said SPD assistant education director David McClintock in the lead-up to the tour. "They could be inspired and implement what he does at their schools. The principals are working in the context of the same culture and they all face similar problems. Robinson has looked at the problems and found solutions."

And from all accounts, the decision has produced the desired results. A team of nine principals, including PNGUM associate education directors Yoba Dame and Serah Keliwin, spent four days at Paglum touring the school and engaging with staff and students.

"There used to be some things unique to Adventist schools in PNG but most schools have lost them. Paglum, however, is reviving these activities and that's what makes it unique," said tour coordinator Serah Keliwin.

"Paglum has a 100 voice choir made up of students. They have a staff choir. They run a very good vocational

skills program. There is teamwork amongst teachers and students and the SRC (Student Representative Council) is doing a great job. They have a prayer house and you can sense the spiritual atmosphere in the school. That is what I want in Inonda," said Inonda Adventist High School principal Amelia Baruga.

The tour ended on a high note with the principals challenged to improve their schools with what they had learned from the tour. Kabiufa Adventist Secondary School principal Steiner Korarome said, "I have learned that I am not just a teacher but a missionary teacher. And that makes me an agent of change. I have to humble myself and listen to the voice of God to be His agent."

PNGUM is planning to take the principals on another tour next year to Devare Adventist High School in Bougainville. —Nancy Lagdom/Kent Kingston

**I have learned
that I am not just
a teacher but a
missionary teacher.
And that makes me
an agent of change.**

ADVENTIST EDUCATION

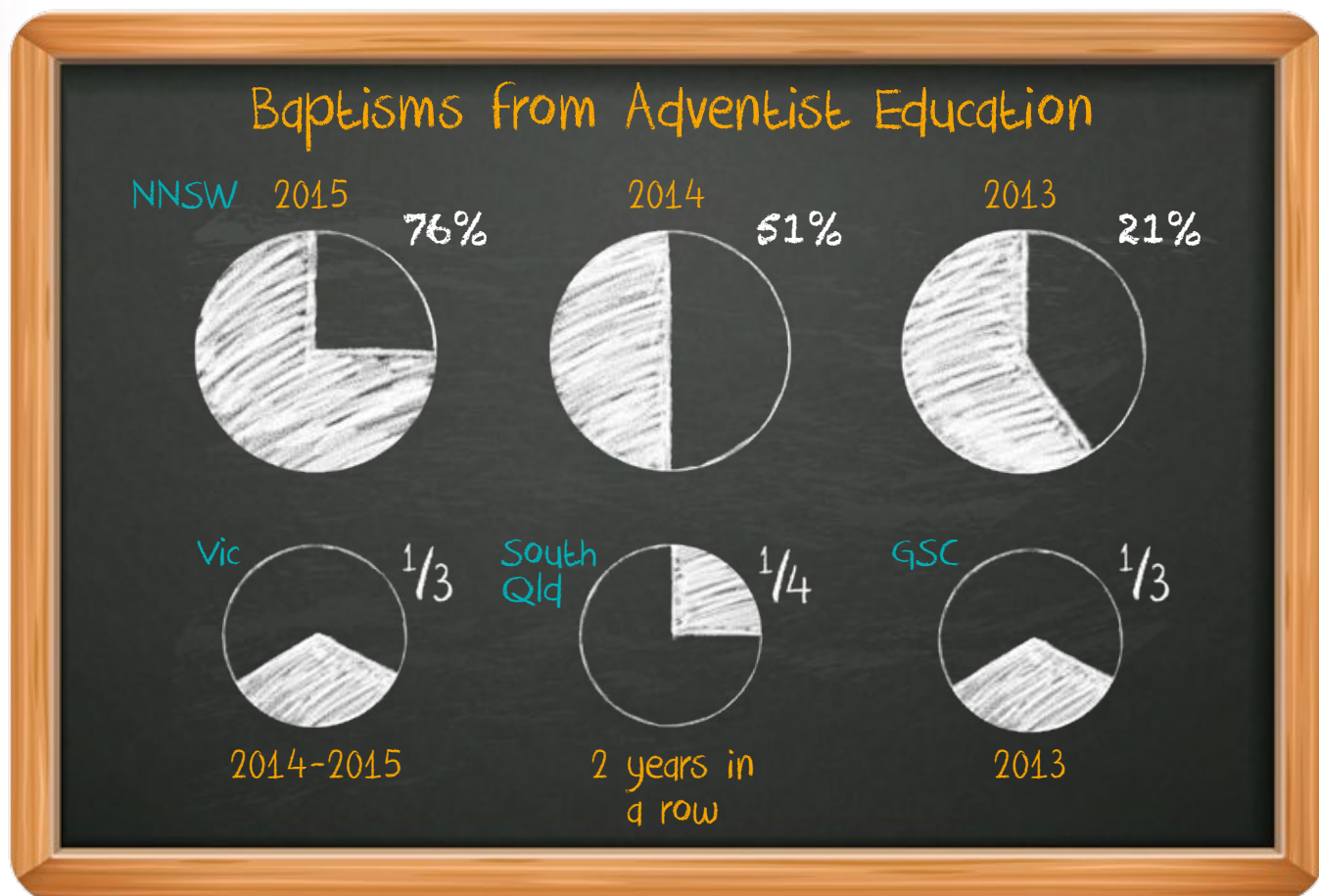
core to kingdom growth

by David McClintock

NORMALLY, STATISTICS BORE ME BUT THESE ones just jumped off the page. I wanted to ring the conference presidents. It was awe-inspiring stuff. Look what God had done this year.

Imagine being able to go to the president of North NSW Conference and say, "Over half your annual church

baptisms come from one area of ministry"? What if you could say that, in fact, three out of four baptisms came from this area of ministry in 2015. Then to show the consistency, it was one out of every two in 2014 and three out of every five in 2013. Wouldn't you want to pour your resources into a proven approach?



As one school principal passionately shared with me: "Schools are actually making a difference in mission. The young people learning music, studying Encounter, joining baptismal classes ARE THE FUTURE of the Church and without them the CHURCH HAS NO FUTURE!"

The home, the church and the Adventist school working together maximise our opportunities for king-

dom growth and nurtured faith. I am just so grateful that I have been blessed to be part of this core sector of kingdom growth and would love to see many more of our church members benefit from actively supporting Adventist education and the Adventist Church with their own children in attendance. R

David McClintock is associate director of education for the South Pacific Division.

R EDUCATION WEEK



"In 2015 Carmel Adventist College, located in the Hills of Western Australia, celebrated 17 baptisms! iCHOOSE is an after school Bible study program that works to link Carmel Adventist College and Carmel church.

iCHOOSE is made up of a team of volunteering Carmel church members who are passionate to serve and assist others to get to know the Jesus they fell in love with. iCHOOSE utilises some of the Jesus

essentials of food, fun, discussion and prayer to model and grow disciples.

As part of iCHOOSE 2016, we have some previously baptised iCHOOSE students learning how to do Bible studies with others. May we all remember we have all been called with the authority of heaven to make disciples, baptise and teach others about Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). The most awesome part is knowing that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our education system too."

—Miranda Leijser, Carmel College chaplain

Catch the excitement from some of our chaplains as they exuberantly share the way God has blessed over the last year or so in Adventist Education and Kingdom growth and discipleship.

Paul Katope, church pastor at Kabiufa, PNG, spoke of praying with every room filled with boys in the crowded dormitories this year. "We are expecting to baptise 126 students next term."

Daryl Murdoch, national education director for Adventist Schools Australia—"In the interests of partnership, we need to also work with conference presidents in building stronger links between home, school and church. Value-generation Research highlights that when the three are working together young people are more likely to accept Christ and be baptised. We are doing some really valuable heavy lifting in Adventist education; however, we are often not doing it alone and this needs to be recognised. Let's keep flying the flag for Adventist education and building a stronger recognition of the powerful ministry for Christ occurring through our schools each and every day."

"Another amazing response from these children we have been entrusted with! Now to honour those commitments in our classrooms, in our Bible study groups, in our worship and in our faith-filled service as we walk alongside every child in our school through the rest of this year," reflected Mel Lemke after the recent SWOMP (Super Week of Mega Praise) for Years 4-6 at Avondale Schools.

Imagine again with me if you were attending an evangelistic series and had a response like the one from SWOMP:

- 181 students (96 per cent) know that God loves them and that He is their Creator, Provider, Protector, Saviour and King!
- 168 (89 per cent) accepted God's gift of life for them
- 102 (54 per cent) want to join a Bible study group
- 88 (47 per cent) want to be baptised
- 41 (22 per cent) want to talk to their teacher or chaplain about God



Amy Turner, the chaplain at Landsdale Christian School, WA, shared: "As a result of our school baptism at Easter camp, two kids in our Year 10 class who only came to our school last year, not from Christian homes, now want to be baptised and are starting baptismal studies at school."



Joshua Soso, former Kabiufa student and now the CEO for all of the health services provided in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, expressed it eloquently: "We should be putting more resources into Adventist education. That is where we get our strongest Adventists from."



Methodist minister makes a stand

A Methodist minister was among 35 people who were baptised following a three-week evangelistic campaign at Labasa (Fiji). Cama Vakarau (pictured right) had been observing the seventh-day Sabbath for three weeks in his home before receiving an invitation to the campaign from members of a Pathfinder club in Labasa. "My family and I have seen the truth and we are not returning," Mr Vakarau said. He and his family now attend the Labasa Seventh-day Adventist Church and his children are members of the Pathfinder club. —*Na Kaci*

Family life

More than 1000 women gathered in the Omaura District of Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (PNG) to attend a week-long Family Life program. It included workshops on food preservation, nutrition, lifestyle diseases, women's ministry, discipleship, adult literacy and rehabilitation for abused women. Evening sessions were taken by Papua New Guinea Union Mission women and family ministries director Dr Agnes Kola, who encouraged the participants to build a covenant relationship with God and not tolerate abuse. —*Nancy Lagdom*



Kitchen upgrade

Members of Gladstone church (Qld) are delighted at having secured a grant to upgrade their community hall. A \$A16,236 grant from the QGC Communities Fund enabled the group to complete the refurbishment of the hall's kitchen. "We believe upgrading this kitchen will benefit the local community who will be able to access activities, including cooking classes, health presentations, community meetings and children's projects," said church pastor Ernie Wojnar. —*Roseanne Chan, QGC Communities Fund*

College credit

A win for best research paper at an international literary journalism studies conference has earned an Avondale lecturer academic and financial credit. Dr Lindsay Morton presented her paper at the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies Conference in Minneapolis (Minnesota, USA). Judges named the paper as the conference's best research paper and Dr Morton received the Greenberg Prize in recognition. She is assistant dean in the Faculty of Arts, Nursing and Theology at Avondale College of Higher Education and describes winning the prize as a "gratifying experience". —*Avondale News*



Empowering

Leaders from all districts in Gulf Province (PNG) recently assembled to prepare for the upcoming Southern Region Youth Congress in December. The meeting was conducted by Luke Gorah, youth director for South-West Papua Mission. It was a blessing for the leaders to meet each other and discuss the importance of empowering young people for ministry. —*Baimuru District Mission Spotlight*

Award-winning aged care

Cooranbong's Adventist Senior Living retirement village is celebrating its status as a multi-award winner, scooping four of the major awards on offer at the inaugural Hunter Aged Care & Disability Achievement Awards. Dominating the field of more than 50 contenders, Adventist Senior Living was named winner of the Residential Aged Care Facility of the Year, Residential Aged Care Employee of the Year (Georgie Schofield), Aged Care Innovative Project of the Year for the Avondale Intergenerational Design Project and Highly Commended for the Aged Care/Disability Sector Manager of the Year (Marlene Moodie). —*Felicity Pittaway*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Get active every day

We're incredibly fortunate to live in a region with such amazing environments to enjoy. Beaches, bushland, rainforests and images of people exploring them are synonymous with the South Pacific, so you'd think we would have really active populations. But the statistics unfortunately don't back this up, especially when it comes to young people.

In Australia, for example, *Australia's Health Tracker* reports that 91.5 per cent of young people aged 12-17 are not meeting physical activity recommendations. That's less than one in 10 people in this age group hitting the recommended amount of exercise for general good health. Why is this so important? Physical activity has been shown to reduce the risk of developing a range of health conditions like type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

We know exercise can be an important tool in tackling the rise of chronic disease and we know that the healthy choices we make while we're young can have a huge impact on our future quality of life. It's more important than ever that we take advantage of opportunities to be active and get the younger members of our family involved as well.

So look for family pastimes that are an opportunity for activity. Get out and explore the environments we've been blessed with and let's start making activity a regular part of everyday life.



Acai breakfast jars

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 5 minutes Serves: 2

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 100g frozen unsweetened acai, roughly broken | 1 tablespoon honey (optional) |
| 2 cups frozen berries | Toppings |
| 2 frozen bananas, chopped | 2 tablespoons homemade granola |
| 1½ cups Sanitarium Unsweetened Almond Milk | 1 kiwi fruit, sliced |

1. Place acai, berries, bananas, almond milk and honey (if using) in a blender and blend until thick and creamy.
2. Pour mixture into glassware and top with granola and fruit of choice.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: Kilojoules (265 cal). Protein 5g. Total fat 6g. Carbohydrate 42g. Sodium 90mg. Potassium 600mg. Calcium 175mg. Iron 0.1mg. Fibre 8g.

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



NOTHING *without God*

IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES OF MY LIFE. I WAS AN actor, soloist, sportsperson, scientist, researcher, essayist, poet, politician, leader . . . you name it I was trying my hand, achieving good results and becoming more confident as I mastered new skills and searched out my life purpose. No, I wasn't dreaming—I was at high school.

Now I know that for some people, their high school experience isn't great. I get that. I had my share of pressure, teenage uncertainty, angst and challenges. I witnessed bullying (although there was nothing like the online issues teenagers face today). All of these experiences shaped me into the man I am today. And all of them were had at Adventist schools. Am I thankful I attended Adventist schools? Absolutely.

I am familiar with the arguments against Adventist education. It's too expensive; it's limited in its subject options (so it's not expensive enough?); it's sheltered; my kids are too bright for an Adventist school. I've heard it all. And yet I think Adventist education is definitely worth another look. Need proof?

I was recently speaking with Gavin Williams, education director for the South Australian Conference, and was blown away by the things happening within our school system in South Australia. Let me share some of them with you.

Just to let you know I am a little biased. My siblings and I attended these schools, my father attended the high school, my mother still teaches there. The Prescott Adventist primary and high schools in Adelaide have been an important part of our family for years. And I believe they are a big part of why all of us are still attending church. But more about that later.

When I started school at what was then Northern Districts Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, there were less than 60 students. For combined worships we would meet in the room of Mr Christian, one of the teachers. Now known as Prescott Primary Northern, it's the largest stand-alone Adventist primary school in Australia with more than 370 students.

South Australia's largest Adventist school system also includes Adelaide's fastest-growing independent school. In recent years, Prescott Southern expanded from being a primary school to include a high school with 670 students. There is now quite a waiting list.

This year, the total number of students at Prescott schools is 1200. Not so impressive when measured by the size of some private schools, you might say? But let's look at it in a different way. According to church membership data collected by the Australian Union Conference, there are around 3000 church members on the roll in SA, but only about 1500 attend weekly. That means for every regu-



lar church attendee in SA there are 0.80 students. Almost 1:1. And as Prescott Southern grows, this ratio will improve even further. Only 16 per cent of all Prescott School students come from Adventist homes; most come from nominally Christian or non-Christian families.

"So this is our mission field," Mr Williams says. "Presenting Christ to those who have never even heard His name, except maybe as a swear word."

There are annual weeks of spiritual emphasis with the resulting Bible and baptismal classes. But the real focus is on the schools' day-to-day interactions with the students. As one of the non-Adventist staff said, "I feel so blessed; this is a wonderful school. If I had children young enough, they would definitely be attending this school . . . it is like a little taste of heaven on earth!"

But the school system does face challenges. Firstly, it has struggled in the past to attract young Adventist teacher graduates. Adelaide was seen as a bad career choice and too far from the bright lights of the east coast. But the Prescott system is turning these notions around.

"We employed nine Avondale graduates in 2015 and five the year before," reports Mr Williams. "We attempt to provide a caring and professional environment for our young teachers and it seems to be working."

Indeed young teachers from interstate are trying out the Prescott School system and, consequently, choosing to stay.

"I came to South Australia because I felt wanted. I have found the support for me as an individual to be exceptional. I am enjoying a positive work environment and a leadership that empowers graduate teachers and challenges them to excel. Everyone is working together as a close-knit team," says third-year Prescott College teacher Carlos Vera (pictured right).

Not only are young grads from interstate now looking at Adelaide as a viable option but those who previously attended the schools are keen to teach there.

"I came back to SA because this is where the dream of being a teacher started for me. I attended all three Adventist schools as a student and had wonderful teachers. They inspired me to be a teacher and I wanted to come back to the state where I was taught. I felt called to be here. Things are going really well for me and I am enjoying my ministry at this school," says third-year Prescott College Southern teacher Kaden Pepper (pictured left).

Another challenge relates to the areas in which the schools are based. Two are in low socio-economic areas, while the original high school, Prescott College, is tightly squeezed into an inner-city suburb with no room to grow.

However, according to Mr Williams, "morale is high and the school continues to provide high quality teaching and

learning as evidenced by the Year 12 results each year".

Prescott College is one of the longest-running Adventist schools in Australia and is the Church's only remaining inner-suburb high school, operating at Prospect since 1906.

"Our biggest school (Prescott College Southern) is based in one of the lowest socio-economic areas in the city, yet parents are prepared to financially sacrifice to have their children attend an Adventist school and receive a quality education," Mr Williams says. "The school has extensive waiting lists and offers a fully differentiated curriculum as it caters for mainstream students as well as those with learning challenges."

But what has made the schools in South Australia so successful? Mr Williams puts it down to the long tradition of Adventist education in South Australia, dating back to the early years of last century. "Traditionally church folk in SA have been very supportive of Adventist schools. The smallness of our Conference means that we have the friendliness that comes from knowing most folk or at least knowing a little about them. This translates into our schools and even though most community people support-

ing our school system do not have an Adventist background, they regularly comment on the caring family feel of our schools."

Mr Williams also credits the strong leadership and vision of the teachers, as well as the stability. Many of the longest-serving teachers have been there for 20 years. Christine Clark has been principal of Prescott Southern for 26 years. In 1990, when Mrs Clark began, the school had 28 students.

Now it has around 670 students and offers education to Year 12.

"People who have a passion and have invested a lot of time into this Conference have helped to make our school system a strong one," Mr Williams says.

Currently almost 100 full and part-time teachers are employed. In addition there are two full-time and three part-time chaplains and more than 50 teaching and school support staff employed between the three schools.

I do not know what my life would have turned out like if I had attended a public school. But I do know the influence that going to an Adventist school had on my spiritual life. The speakers at worship, the teachers and chaplains who pointed me to Jesus, the easy access to vegetarian food, which made me feel normal, the good friends who weren't into partying and the small classes where everyone had the chance to have a go: all these things helped a shy, chubby kid with low confidence to achieve all that stuff I listed at the start of the article. I wouldn't swap it for anything. **✉**

"This is our mission field, presenting Christ to those who have never even heard His name, except maybe as a swear word."

Jarrod Stackelroth is editor of Adventist Record. He attended Adventist schools in South Australia from 1990-2003.

A close-up, profile view of a man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard, wearing dark sunglasses and a white and blue striped t-shirt. He is smiling broadly, looking out towards the right. In the background, a woman with blonde hair, also wearing sunglasses, is visible in profile, looking in the same direction. The setting appears to be the interior of a boat, with a window showing a bright, sunny outdoor scene. The overall mood is relaxed and happy.

Personal revival:

My journey from lukewarm to
Spirit-led by Colin Hone

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO I WAS SITTING IN my office at St Kilda Road, Melbourne, with \$1 to my name. I had been searching for meaning and purpose all my life through many different religions, denominations and lifestyles. That night I cried out to God in tears to reveal Himself to me, and to tell me where His true church was. Two weeks later, while I was walking on Bondi Beach in Sydney, some young people gave me a book on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and their predictions about the kingdoms of the world until the end of time. I was challenged by what I read and was eventually led to receive Bible studies from a local Adventist pastor in Victoria. I was convinced by my discoveries and six months later I was baptised.

I joined a church that was mainly lukewarm. I sat in the pews weekly, paid my tithe when it was convenient, and even took a Sabbath School lesson occasionally. There were very few victories over the besetting sins in my life. I prayed and read the Bible occasionally but never led one person to Jesus in 12 years. I thought I was OK because I was in God's remnant last-day Church. I didn't realise that I was in Laodicea.

It took another crisis for God to get my attention. I left the Church for 12 months but I knew deep down that this Church had been raised up prophetically. I started coming back to church but then something amazing happened. I reluctantly went to a revival weekend about our need for the Holy Spirit. I hadn't heard much about the Holy Spirit from the pulpit apart from the dangers of the counterfeit. Pastor Dennis Smith, from the US, was the presenter and I was challenged to study about this wonderful Gift—prayed for by Jesus to His Father in John 14:16. I began reading Pastor Smith's 40-day devotional book, which challenged me to ask daily for the Holy Spirit. Initially I thought I had already received it and it was a one-off filling when I was baptised in water, but as I read the book of Acts and in Ephesians 5:18, where Paul commanded us to ". . . be filled with the Spirit" or "let yourself be continually and repeatedly refilled with the Spirit", I came to a new understanding.

Everything changed from then on. I had a greater desire to pray, a greater desire to read God's Word and the writings of Ellen White, a greater desire to witness and to lead people to Jesus, and even a desire to preach about the things I had learned. There was a new desire put in my heart for lifestyle changes and, as Jesus promised, He began to give me victories over the besetting sins in my life. I could

relate to Paul, who said about himself: "I die daily" (Galatians 5:18-21).

I always remember a friend of mine saying that Satan can counterfeit the gifts of the Holy Spirit but not the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23 and Ephesians 5:9). I believe that we as Seventh-day Adventists must seek and focus on receiving the true daily baptism of the Holy Spirit of Christ. When we do this, the Spirit's fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, righteousness, goodness, etc will be seen in the lives of God's people and the Church.

Adventists have been preaching for more than 150 years on our need for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit in Revelation 18:1-4 in order to share the three angels' messages of the everlasting gospel in power. But the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy plainly tell us that unless we grow into the likeness of Jesus

through the early rain of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18) and are transformed into His image from glory to glory, which has been available since Pentecost, the latter rain will not fall and many of us will miss out.

Seventh-day Adventists have been given the last message to give to the world and we all want to go home but we have

work to do. Just like the early disciples we need the power of the Holy Spirit to witness and finish the work: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8 NKJV). It always amazes me what Jesus said in John 14:12: we will do the same works as Jesus. He then goes on to explain that He and the Father will dwell with us and in us through the Holy Spirit so we will be able to do the same works as Him.

I believe God is preparing us now to receive the true early rain daily baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27), to prepare us for the latter rain and the harvest. We have a choice to be either the wise virgins of Matthew 25 who had the extra oil in their lamps and vessels or the foolish virgins who miss out on this blessing out of fear of being deceived by Satan's counterfeit spiritual activities or by their Laodicean attitude of "I'm OK and in need of nothing". We must trust God's Spirit and His Word to guide us into the truth of the Spirit's working. I have been praying daily for the promises in God's Word for seven years now and everything has changed. R

Just like the early disciples we need the power of the Holy Spirit to witness and finish the work.

Colin Hone is a lay evangelist and the prayer ministry coordinator for the North NSW Conference.



In God's hands

Image: LAC head girl and head boy, Jade and Jerome.

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours" Mark 11:24.

BELEAVE THAT ATTENDING LONGBURN ADVENTIST College (New Zealand) was definitely God's plan for me. I had always wanted to be a student there. A lot of my extended family had gone to LAC and there was no question that I wanted to go there too. The money was a big problem though because my mum has been a single parent since I was about two. Thankfully, God sorted this out for me with a scholarship and opened doors that meant it was possible for me to attend as a boarding student. I am now in Year 13, my third year at LAC, and I'm also the head girl. Every time I stop to think about it, I'm blown away by the way God has worked in my life.

Mum did a really good job raising my two older brothers and me. Since my dad left, she struggled emotionally and financially to make it all work. Mum was the main influence in my life but she had to work long hours so we could live comfortably.

I used to think that my life was pretty normal but the older I get, the more I realise that I'm good at subconsciously pushing my deep, raw emotions right to the back and not really dealing with the big things in my life that hold me down. Things like never dealing with the fact that I deeply missed spending time with my mum when she worked such long hours. Subconsciously, I felt a bit angry at her for not being there for me. She would usually get home from work late in the evening, and then we would rush to get the bedtime routine done and not spend proper time together.

I have recently found out that my love language is spending quality time with people. This may explain some of this deep buried resentment. It's not that I didn't feel loved or anything—I know she tried really hard and that she sacrificed the time she wanted to spend with us so that we could afford things—but none of that meant anything to me when I was growing up. For me, I just really needed my mum to be there.

I think it was especially hard because my dad didn't have much to do with us. I always felt that I wasn't good enough for him to love me and that's why he left and didn't want to be a part of my life. It made me feel really insecure. How can I be good enough for others, if I'm not good enough even for my dad? Despite all of this, somehow through God's influence in my life and the relationships with my mum and brothers, I grew up knowing that I was very blessed.

Being at LAC has really strengthened my relationship with God. There was never a defining moment growing up when I started to believe in God; I just always remember believing that He was real. We started to go to church when I was about 11; I didn't grow up in an Adventist family. My first year at LAC was the first time I properly gave my life to Jesus. I had Bible studies with my brother and the school chaplain, Mr G, and I was baptised with my brother. It felt very right and very natural.

Even though I was in a new relationship with God, I was still plagued with negative thoughts and negative self-talk. I remember being at Big Camp with one of my LAC boarding friends and we talked about it heaps. I felt really emotional about heaps of things that I hadn't dealt with in my life and

my emotions were constantly up and down. I remember feeling that I was unworthy and wasn't good enough to even be worshipping God. It became a real barrier between me and God, to the point that I couldn't even stand in the worship tent.

I'm so glad for the support that my dorm friends have given me because it has really helped me to see things from a new perspective and to be honest with myself. When you worship together, pray together and live together you get to know people really well.

I was talking to a friend about how even though all the stuff with my dad has impacted me in a negative way I have still been pretty blessed in my life. They told me that once you start working for God, that is when Satan will start attacking you. And they were certainly right. During this time a bunch of things started to happen. I got injured and couldn't play any sport or do any physical activity for eight months. I found it really hard to adjust to not being active. This made me extremely moody and I just didn't want to deal with life. I wanted someone to blame and ended up taking it out on myself. I became depressed.

Another significant issue was that my two older brothers, who were in Australia, were experiencing major health and lifestyle issues. Their circumstances couldn't have come at a worse time, with my own depression and health problems. But in spite of all the stuff I was going through, I knew I could call on God and truly let Him into my life. One of the most important things I realised was that sometimes He is the only One who can comfort us.

There was so much more to it all that's hard to explain; deeper feelings and real sadness that came with all of this. The hardest thing to do was to trust God through it all. It's hard to believe that "it's all in His hands" when everything is a mess. But I continue to tell myself that every day it is all in His hands. I'm still struggling with internal battles. But I do know it's in His hands. I believe that.

Last year, I began really asking God for His leading in my life. I wanted to fully trust Him. When it was time for the school prefects and head girl and head boy to be chosen, I really felt like I wasn't good enough to be selected. I had always believed that I wasn't good enough, but I think being short made me feel like I was less than everyone else too. I know that sounds crazy but I honestly felt that no-one ever really took me seriously. Anyway, I prayed about it a lot and I asked God to lead me, and that if by some miracle I did become head girl, He would prepare me for the job. So when I was actually selected, it was totally unexpected! It was a real answer to prayer. It was God proving to me that I can trust Him to lead in my life completely!

My story is still being written. I am still telling myself daily that "it's all in God's hands" and that I can completely trust Him. I don't even know when to stop writing because my story keeps changing every day. One thing I do know for sure is that LAC has played a massive part in my story. I wouldn't be who I am today if I had not attended Longburn. R

Longburn Adventist College boarding (LAC House) has a growing number of children and young adults in its family we are up to 72. Each of them have their own unique story and many require financial support to make it possible for them to come. It is impossible to measure the value of what happens in LAC House as so many of these young people are changed people. Growing together becoming one in Christ. We would appreciate any financial support to help us in this mission. Come and be a part of the LAC story and let Christ be the reason why we do what we do.

Jade is the head girl at Longburn Adventist College. The New Zealand Pacific Union offering on August 27 will go to the school.

Comment? Go to record.net.au/comment

BE AN EXAMPLE

Chris Howard-Bath, via email

So Kent Kingston has a bike! ("Ride of my life", Feature, July 30). Glad to see you went with the shaft-drive option. You have a bike from my era!

Please make sure you do a course such as "Stay Upright". Invaluable! That course has saved me many times. My first [bike] was a 1982 Honda CB750F, traded later in 1984 for a 1982 BMW R100RT. Current bikes now are a 1979 BMW R100RT and a 2014 Victory Cross Country Tour.

I have done my fair share of touring and have loved every minute of it. I read your article and I get the point. You can still appreciate your bike and "love" it without being materialistic.

My old BMW (historic rego) is awesome. My Victory too. It's what you do with the bike that counts. You are now in a unique position, similar to mine. As a bike rider you will turn heads, but then to be an example as a good Christian for God helps to work the bike in your favour too.

I am now 56 and one of the main organisers for Adventist Motorcycle Ministry Victoria. This is what I do with my bikes. Come for a run if you're ever down our way.

WORDS OF COMFORT

Andrew Opis, PNG

On behalf of the Union Mission in Papua New Guinea, we would like to thank every person who sent in condolence messages, words of comfort, encouragement, prayers and hope ("PNG pays respects to Adventist president", July 30). We thank God for the wonderful Christian family network we have in the Church within the SPD and the world Church.

Your prayers have truly comforted the immediate family, the leadership and the membership through the mourning period.

Once again, thank you so much.

Correction: The letter "A broader view" (July 30) was written by L S Weber (retired pastor) not by Les Hardy as published.

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HI KIDS!

God's grace includes everyone.



Kids' Space

The Christians are still preaching only to the Jews. But in Antioch some believers begin telling the good news about Jesus to the Greeks. The Lord blesses their efforts and a great number of people believe and turn to the lord.

HELP BARNABAS FIND SAUL

Barnabas discovers how God is at work in Antioch. He finds Saul (Paul) and brings him to Antioch to become a part of the growing community.



MEMORY VERSE PUZZLE

Use the double letters below to fill in the blanks.

od es no ho ou sm bu ce en om ry na

"G o o d o r i t s w
f a v o r i t i o n t
a c c e p t s m f r
e v e n t i o n." Acts 10:34-35 NIV

THE *Pregnancy Diaries*

The diagnosis (part 1)

"It's slightly abnormal" is probably the last thing you want to hear from your obstetrician at your monthly check-up. My amniotic fluid level—the protective liquid around the baby that aids its development—was higher than average.

Gestational diabetes was the most likely cause but it could also mean foetal abnormalities. My appointment for the glucose tolerance test (offered to all pregnant woman to check for gestational diabetes) was hurriedly brought forward by a month.

With a healthy BMI, an active lifestyle and a vegetarian diet consisting of plenty of vegetables, fruit and wholegrains, developing gestational diabetes was the last thing I had expected. Hours were spent consulting Dr Google—if not gestational diabetes, then what? The day for the test couldn't come soon enough.

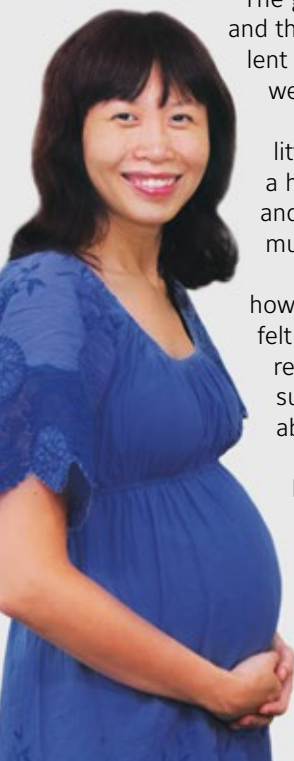
The glucose tolerance test involved fasting the night before and then drinking a sickly-sweet liquid containing the equivalent of 75 grams of glucose the next morning. Blood samples were taken before, and one and two hours after the drink.

By this stage of my pregnancy, I had been feeling the little one moving within me for a month. My husband got a high-five (or a kick) a week after I felt the first flutter, and from that time on every little movement was met with much fondness and delight.

Less than a minute after I drank the glucose mixture, however, baby danced around so violently in my stomach I felt more concern than joy. At least the nurse was there to reassure me that things were normal. But with this much sugar, if I didn't have gestational diabetes, the drink probably gave it to me!

Nine vials of blood and two hours later, I was sent home none-the-wiser, with the promise that the results would be sent to my obstetrician. In the meantime, I was simply left floundering in the dark, full of worry and unsure what to do or how to cope with "maybe diabetes". It would be one of the more trying periods of my pregnancy. *(to be continued . . .)*

Melody Tan is associate editor of Signs of the Times.



DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

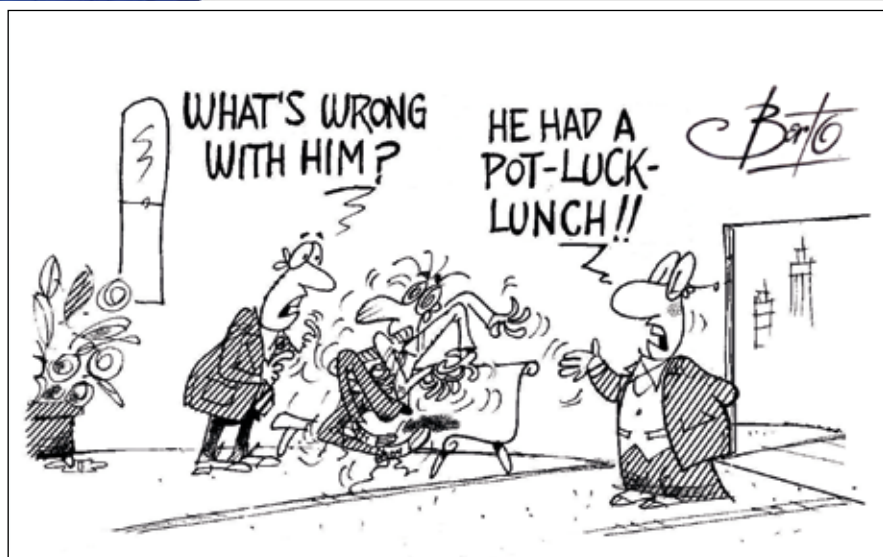


Smyrna: how to hang on when your world falls apart

The devil throws all sorts of trials at us—financial loss, broken relationships, loss of a job, ill health—all trying to influence us to give up on God and put out our light. When the church of Smyrna was in danger of giving up under the trial of persecution, Christ called them to be faithful unto death. But how do you do that when your world is falling apart? The answer is found in the description of Christ as the First and the Last. **Read Revelation 2:8,10.**

The First and the Last, or the Alpha and Omega, reveals that Jesus is Jehovah, God Almighty in human flesh. As such, He has not only faithfully pledged to help us get through our trials, but He will not even let us go through something we could not stand up to. What a God! Hold onto His unchanging hand. **Read Revelation 1:8,17,18; 22:12,13; Isaiah 44:6.**

But more, as the First and the Last, Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. To hang on under trial we must fix our attention on Christ in His final trials. He endured the cross by looking forward to the joy that lay ahead—the joy of souls saved eternally. So, too, our trials are not the end—the best is yet to come. The horizon is filled with hope. Trials will come but when they do, let us hang on by looking back to the cross and forward to Christ's coming when He will give us the crown of life. **Read Hebrews 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:12; 4:7,8.**



Inscribed base of a statue of Claudius Aristophanes Aurelianus, Neocorus of the cult of the emperor. Christians were persecuted in Smyrna for refusing to worship the emperors as gods.

ANNIVERSARY



Relihan. Les and Irene celebrated their 50th wedding

anniversary on 3.4.16 at Avondale Memorial Church's fellowship hall with family and friends from their homeland, South Africa, and adopted land, Australia, arriving in a loaned 1956 Rover 90, similar to the one they owned and travelled in to their first appointment in the Congo, Africa. Les and Irene were married by Pastor G S Stevenson in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Their first employment was in the Congo Union Mission, followed by conference and union work in South Africa. They emigrated to Australia in 1995, firstly to Warburton (Vic), followed by employment in New Zealand and then at the South Pacific Division office. Retired in Cooranbong,

they are members of Avondale Memorial church and continue in church and community work.

WEDDINGS



Deacon–Branster. Riley James Deacon, son of Scott

Deacon and Suzanne Ross (Sunshine Coast, Qld), and Raquel Alice Branster, daughter of Terry Branster (Gold Coast) and Bev Benard (Sunshine Coast), were married 3.5.16 at the House of Laurels, Maleny. They continue to live on the Sunshine Coast.

Mark Pearce

Fitzpatrick–Donaldson. Leathan Fitzpatrick, son of Adrian and Glenda Fitzpatrick, and Stephanie Donaldson, daughter of Steven Donaldson and Lana Collins, were married 21.3.16 at Ecostudio Fellini wedding centre, Mudgeeraba,

Qld. They are living in Bellmere, where Leathan is associate pastor at Caboolture church and part-time chaplain at North Pine Christian College, and Stephanie works at the Adventist retirement village at Caloundra.

Joe Webb



van Rensburg–Cocchetti. Martin Andries van Rensburg, son of

André and Margaret van Rensburg, and Alina Shonel Cocchetti, daughter of Fred and Chris Cocchetti, were married 27.6.16 in Alamanda chapel at Palm Cove, Qld. They exchanged vows with the beautiful ocean in the background. They will establish their home in Brisbane where Alina is director of Young Adults ministry at South Queensland Conference and Martin runs his own business.

André van Rensburg



Wyles–Venter. Matthew Wyles, son of Graham and Henrietta

Wyles (Caboolture, Qld), and Birgitte Venter, daughter of Andre and Maureen Venter (Mackay), were married 7.2.16 in a beautiful natural setting with close family and friends at Mt Glorious, Qld.

Mark Pearce

OBITUARIES

Anderson, Cheryl May (nee Eichmann), born 17.8.1954 in Brisbane, Qld; died 13.6.16 in Brisbane. She is survived by Martin and Reece Anderson (both of Brisbane). Cheryl had many faiths over the course of her life, but none as important to her as the extended family of the Park Ridge Adventist Church. Despite her long illness she walked in the footsteps of Jesus, always think-

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Lecturer (New Testament), School of Theology–Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby, PNG).** A completed PhD or equivalent degree in New Testament and the ability to teach Greek is essential. Experience in postgraduate supervision and a record of research will be highly regarded. For further information on the position please contact: Professor Jeff Crocombe (deputy vice-chancellor) +675 328 0223 or email <jeff.crocombe@pau.ac.pg>. For position descriptions or submission of applications please contact Geoffrey Matainaho (director of Human Resources) via email <Geoffrey.Matainaho@pau.ac.pg>. Applications must include a cover letter that addresses each of the selection criteria listed, a complete CV and the names of three referees: two of whom must be professional. Applications close **August 31, 2016.**

■ **Director, Centre for Adventist Research in the South Pacific (CARSP) and lecturer in Theology (0.5/0.5 shared load) (Port Moresby, PNG).** The CARSP director is responsible for the effective management of the centre, including financial, resource and human resource management. As a lecturer in Theology the appointed candidate is to provide innovative, motivating and challenging teaching based on sound scholarly activity that maximises learning and reflects a commitment to the philosophy, mission, objectives and values of the School of Theology and Pacific Adventist University. For further information on the position please contact: Professor Jeff Crocombe (deputy vice-chancellor) +675 328 0223 or email <jeff.crocombe@pau.ac.pg>. For position descriptions as well as the submission of applications please contact Geoffrey Matainaho (director of Human Resources) <Geoffrey.Matainaho@pau.ac.pg>. Applications close **August 31, 2016.**

■ **Dean, School of Health Science–Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby, PNG).** Responsible to the deputy vice-chancellor for the academic leadership and management of the school, including financial, resource and human resource management, the dean is a senior member of the university's academic staff and is expected to work closely with other senior staff in a collegial manner to promote the overall development of the university. For further information on the position please contact: Professor Jeff Crocombe (deputy

vice-chancellor) +675 328 0223 or email jeff.crocombe@pau.ac.pg. For position descriptions or submission of applications please contact Geoffrey Matainaho (director of Human Resources): <Geoffrey.Matainaho@pau.ac.pg>. Applications must include a cover letter that addresses each of the selection criteria listed, a complete CV and the names of three referees: two of whom must be professional. Applications close **August 31, 2016.**

■ **Food coordinator/chef–Stuarts Point Convention Centre and Yarrhapinni Adventist Youth Centre (Stuarts Point, NSW).** Our facilities cater for a variety of guests, with groups ranging from 30 people up to 3000 people during our annual convention. This position is to coordinate all meals for all events at both locations. The successful applicant will be required to design menus for events, manage inventory and stock control, be self-motivated, well-organised, hardworking, dedicated, disciplined to their craft and have experience in leading and managing a team. They should have a passion for healthy cuisine with skills in preparing and cooking vegetarian and kosher meals. Relevant certification and a current working with children check required. Enquire or apply to Glenn Housenloge (02) 6569 0576 or <glennhousenloge@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **August 31, 2016.**

■ **Accountant–Avondale College (Lake Macquarie campus, NSW).** A fantastic opportunity exists for a suitably qualified and experienced accountant to support the financial controller in the operation of the financial and business services department in the delivery of financial support to the college's various faculties, disciplines and departments. Avondale College is a Seventh-day Adventist organisation. If you share the passion for delivering Christian tertiary education and can align with our Christian-based principles, then we would love to hear from you. The job description and selection criteria are available at <www.avondale.edu.au/information/employment>. For further information phone Lavinia Ontanu on (02) 4980 2106. Applications, addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications close **August 26, 2016.**

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



ing of others. She will be missed by her family, her church, her many friends and the staff of the soup kitchen. "In as much as you have done to others, you have done to Me."

Adrian Ebens, Bob Possingham

Barnard, Hazel Jean (nee Jakes), born 15.6.1939 in Gladstone, Qld; died 5.7.16 in Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Brisbane. She was baptised by Pastor David Down in Gympie. She is survived by Dean, Etsuko and Joshua (Heritage Park, Qld), and Janelle and James Kop (Chambers Flat). Hazel completed her nurse training at the Sydney Sanitarium and hospital. After obtaining midwifery qualifications she served as a missionary nurse in Papua New Guinea. There she met Arthur Barnard and they married in 1969 at Kingaroy, Qld. He predeceased her in December 2012. They lived in Mairangi Bay, NZ, for 30 years and had two children. They moved back to Australia in 1999. We look forward to your waking up when Jesus comes.

Mark Pearce

Davy, Joyce Alletta (Aunt Joy), born 14.5.1921 in Stratford, NZ; died 14.6.16 at Te Aroha. She is survived by her daughter Brenda; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by a loving family and many friends. Joy loved her Lord and is awaiting the coming of Jesus.

Rex S Jackson

Duffy, Delma (nee McPaul), born 18.5.1932 in Murwillumbah, NSW; died 29.5.16 in Newcastle. She is survived by her husband Melvin; daughter Sharon; granddaughters

Kristy and Lashaye; sons-in-law Andrew and Mark; and great-grandchildren Sophie, Tiahna, Logan and Jonah. Delma was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, a talented artist and a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist serving as a deaconess for many years. During a long illness Delma was an inspiration to her family and others, demonstrating positivity and resilience in the face of adversity.

Brock Goodall, John Denne



Esau, Charlie, born 2.1.1939 in Mullumbimby, NSW; died 21.11.15 in Morisset Park. On 4.10.1964 he married Phyllis Harrison. He is survived by his wife (Morisset Park); daughter Jodie (Fountaindale); son Paul (Wauchope) and Tamara (Cooranbong). Charlie lived God's grace, knew God's peace and we saw God's generous heart in his life. He loved his family more than his own life and he knew hard work.

Murray House

Madden, Rose Hazleen Jane (nee Pearce), born 10.3.1928 in Mackay, Qld; died 17.6.16 in Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Brisbane, after a short illness. On 20.11.1948 she married Kelvin Basil Skinner, who predeceased her on 28.4.1960. She was predeceased by her second husband, Roy Madden, in 1992. She is survived by Darrel and Margie (Alstonville, NSW), Rhonda (Casino), Ronald and Kerry (Sydney) and Wayne and Leanne (Brisbane, Qld); 14 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren. She now sleeps in Jesus.

Mark Pearce

Martens, Geoffrey Thomas, born 20.4.1949 in Grenfell, NSW; died 20.5.16 in Calvary Hospital, Wagga Wagga. He was baptised at Grenfell by Pastor W Scragg. On 31.12.1973 he married Janine Kammermann in Smoky Bay, SA, in a service conducted by Pastor E Davey. He is survived by his wife; his sons Jarrod (Melbourne, Vic) and Dylan (Wagga Wagga, NSW); and his grandchildren: Chloe, Levi, Evangeline, Sunny and Coco. Geoff was a gentle giant who loved his Lord and his family. After a lengthy illness, which he bore with characteristic good humour and resignation, he is finally at rest. He will be missed by all.

Laurie Landers, Jeremy Taituave Tharron Hutchison,



Pascoe, Dorothy Elaine (nee Stone), born 29.12.1930 in Kellerberrin, WA; died 17.5.16 in Perth after a major heart attack. On 14.3.1952 she married Norm Pascoe. She is survived by her husband; her children: Peter and Kim, Elaine, Austin and Darien, Carolyn and Jeremy, and Neville; her grandchildren; and great-grandson Oska. Dot was a keen gardener who regularly blessed the East Narembeen church with her beautiful floral displays. She is greatly missed and we look forward to meeting her again at our Lord's return.

Clark Riggins, Malcolm Eastwick

ADVERTISING

Nunawading Adventist Church new facility official opening

All welcome, especially past members. September 10, 2016. 9:30am Sabbath School. 11am Official opening service. 1pm Fellowship lunch. 3pm Musical concert. 169 Central Road, Nunawading, Vic. See <nunawading.adventist.org.au>. Email <nunawading@adventist.org.au>.

South New Zealand Conference constituency meeting notice. Notice is hereby given that the 66th constituency meeting of the South New Zealand Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the period 2013 to 2015 will be held at Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Christchurch, October 29-30, 2016. The program will commence with registration on Saturday, October 29 at 6.30pm, and continue on Sunday, October 30 at 9am.

Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village, October 3-8, 2016.

Plan now to attend the South New South Wales Conference Grey Nomads camp for a spiritual feast and social fellowship at Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. Set in the beauty of the Australian Southern Alps, numbers are limited to 150 attendees. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options please contact Robyn Howie. Phone: (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynowie@adventist.org.au>.

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Finally . . .
One man practising sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it.—Knut Rockne

Next RECORD Sept 17

SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

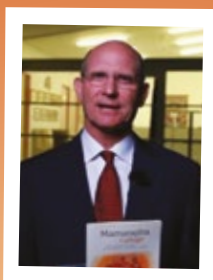
■ **Principal—Karatundi Aboriginal Education Community**, a remote co-educational K-12 Christian boarding school serving the Aboriginal people of Western Australia, is seeking expressions of interest for the position of principal to begin in January 2017. The successful applicant will be an experienced 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 and Torres Strait Islander Ministries, <stevepiez@adventist.org.au> or 0409 357 701.

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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.

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www.mamarapha.adventist.org.au

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