



# ATOIFI HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

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A FATHER IS NOT JUST A MOTHER  
WITH WHISKERS

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# Multiplying Disciples

## Planting Churches

SPD church planting conference  
January 30 - February 2, 2017



### What Is It?

The 2017 SPD Church Planting Conference is for those serious about Adventist Mission.

This conference will:

- Examine Adventism's unique heritage as a disciple making, church planting movement
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- Show how to facilitate a church planting movement in our conferences
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*Avondale College will be the venue for the conference.  
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## New president's passion is reconciliation

Lae, Papua New Guinea

Pastor Kepsie Elodo was elected president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) by the South Pacific Division executive on August 30.

"I am humbled," said Pastor Elodo, reflecting on his appointment. "God has called. My motto, and my family's motto, is: 'The Lord calls, we follow.' Wherever the Church calls we believe that God is calling us."

Pastor Elodo has served as president of the Bougainville Mission for the past three years. Before that, he worked in administration at the PNGUM, South-West Papua Mission, North-East Papua Mission, Madang Manus Mission and Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, where he also served as a local pastor and district director.

At Bougainville, Pastor Elodo was instrumental in reconciliation ministry among a population still carrying the scars of a bitter civil war. He hopes to bring this emphasis into his new role.

"My passion is reconciliation," he said. "People have differences even in the Church, different thoughts and feelings,

but if they can have peace—peace with God and peace with each other—then respect and trust and unity are built."

Originally from Efogi, Pastor Elodo grew up along the Kokoda Track. He studied ministry at Sonoma College until 1989 and more recently attended Pacific Adventist University.

"His spiritual leadership has been very prayerful and people focused," said Pastor Glenn Townend, president of the South Pacific Division. "Please pray for Kepsie and his family as they make the transition to this new responsibility."

Pastor Elodo replaces Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu, who was elected in 2015 but died from health complications in July. —Jarrod Stackelroth



Pastor Kepsie Elodo.

## Motorbikes for multiplying discipleship

Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Six new Yamaha AG200 motorbikes have been presented to district directors in the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea.

The cost of the bikes to the Mission was K78,000 (\$A26,000). "The amount that was used to purchase these motorbikes is equivalent to the amount for three pastors'

annual wages," Mission chief financial officer Joshua Wambillie said. "So district directors should double their pace of work using these motorbikes, especially in disciple making."

The Mission has 17 districts. The motorbikes were given to the district directors who care for big areas—with frequent travel on rough mountain roads and bush tracks. A prayer of blessing was offered by Mission president Pastor Benny Soga and Mission secretary Pastor Danny Philip as the motorbikes were formally presented to the district directors. —Fetry Kama



Pastors with the new motorbikes.

## Currawah receives approval to reopen

Brewarrina, New South Wales

Students will once again bring life to the empty buildings and grounds of Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre as from next year.

Since the closure of Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College in 2013, Steve Piez, from the Australian Union Conference (AUC), assisted by staff from the North New South Wales Conference, Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) and a number of Aboriginal elders have been working behind the scenes to secure a future for the many marginalised and "at risk" Aboriginal children in the Orana region.

Although there were no guarantees the school would reopen, an army of volunteers worked to help Currawah meet the requirements of the local council and the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES).

The NNSW and GSC Education Departments contributed financially and as advisories while the NNSW Conference

executive approved the payment of rates, insurance and land leases until the school was operational.

"We ask for your prayers as we begin this challenging mission work in an area that is largely unchurched and is challenged with high unemployment and low engagement," said Currawah principal Peter Eddy.

Currawah is supported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries but is run by its own board of directors. It will commence years 7 and 8 in February 2017, adding year 9 in 2018 and year 10 in 2019. —Peter Eddy/Record staff



Currawah is ready to take students.





## Life lessons

Jarrod Stackelroth

My phone rang just before choir practice. I was studying at Avondale College, 14,000 kilometres from home. It was my dad. "Hi Roddy," he managed to say, using my childhood nickname. I could tell something was up. His voice, usually so strong and confident, suddenly sounded unsure. I could tell he was upset.

"What is it?" I asked, afraid to know.

A family friend who we had grown up with—barely older than I was—had died in a motorcycle accident. It was this that had shaken up my dad. He was planning to attend the funeral and wanted to tell me what had happened.

I don't remember the exact conversation. But I do remember something he said to me that imprinted into my memory.

"I wanted to tell you I love you and I'm so proud of you. Proud of who you are and proud of what you're doing."

In the raw emotion of that moment, the affirmation filled my heart and gave me courage.

Coming from my dad, this was huge. Not because he had never said that sort of thing or he wasn't demonstrative—he is. We are a close and loving family. It's hard to put it into words. This was a man I hugely respected, who had taught me to throw and to kick a ball—had always had time to play even when he was tired. He is funny, a little bit irreverent and can be the life of the party. Maybe it was the first time he had affirmed the life and career choices I was making; the first time in my somewhat independent college career that he had expressed that thought.

The words we say, the way we act and the things we believe can have a profound impact on young people. This is especially true of fathers. A study conducted by the Swiss Government in 1994 and published in 2000 found that "It is the religious practice of the father of the family that, above all, determines the future attendance at or absence from church of the children."<sup>1</sup>

Valuegenesis 2, a study of students at Adventist schools, affirms the fact that parents talking about their faith, and the way they treat their kids, as well as both of them sharing common beliefs, contributes to those beliefs being passed on.

Here are some life lessons I have learned from my father:

**Hard work:** When I was small, my parents didn't have much. Dad worked long hours to provide for us. He taught me that if you're going to do something, do your best at it and don't give up. While some people don't consider office work hard work, it is. Dad recently started his own business and once again, he's working incredibly hard to establish it.

**Loyalty:** Dad was very stable. Worked in the same finance job for the same company for 20 years and was very, very good at what he did (not just holding down a pay cheque); went to the same church, through good times and bad times, and stuck things out when the going was incredibly tough.

**Laughter:** I remember laughing for hours on the two Pathfinder camps my dad attended. He taught me the value of a good laugh!

**Put people first not please people first:** Dad doesn't care whether you like him or not; he will still try to get you the best outcome. He is willing to disagree with you but wants what is best for you. He will challenge you but it comes from a place of wanting the best outcome for everyone.

**Conviction:** Dad was raised vegetarian and has stuck to it. He was surrounded by friends and colleagues who drank alcohol but was unashamedly the only one who didn't. Dad modelled doing the right thing regardless of peer or work pressures.

**Take care:** Dad doesn't mind paying good money for quality. But he spends money less often because he buys things to last. He looks after his things and taught us to do the same—our own things and those of others.

There's so much more Dad has taught me, from being on time, to caring for other people's things, but I can't fit it all here. Don't get me wrong; Dad's not perfect—we often clash and have different ways of doing things. But I'm so grateful that he's my dad.

1. Read more at <[www.christianpost.com/news/51331/#PXOKwRld7xS43eyO.99](http://www.christianpost.com/news/51331/#PXOKwRld7xS43eyO.99)>.

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Cover Credit: Kent Kingston

"A colourful celebration of culture was part of Atoifi Hospital's 50th anniversary celebrations."

Official news magazine of the South Pacific  
 Division Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 ABN 59 093 117 689  
 Vol 121 No 18



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



## I am your father

Kent Kingston

*I am your father.* Even if you haven't seen any of the *Star Wars* movies you've probably heard someone quote this classic line, spoken as the masked villain reveals his identity to the shocked hero. Let me let you into a little secret: while many men scoff at the touchy-feely nature of "chick flicks", it's amazing how emotionally charged male-oriented movies are—so often they deal with themes of love, loss, grief, family and friendship. "Buddy movies" and "road movies" throw the protagonists together in unlikely circumstances, building or testing their relationship. The bonds of brotherhood come into play in cowboy and war movies as characters selflessly sacrifice themselves for one another.

And it's amazing how many movies invoke that most primal of male bonds to give the storytelling emotional punch: the father-son relationship. Driven by their need for their father's approval, superhero brothers Thor and Loki vie for supremacy in the Avengers franchise. Indiana Jones struggles to overcome his estrangement from his father as they battle Nazis together. In *Back to the Future* Marty McFly travels back in time to save his father from his own spinelessness. Even comedies like *Kenny* or *Boy* or kids' movies (*How to Train your Dragon*, *Finding Nemo*) make the father relationship central to their plot.

Absent fathers, distant fathers, abusive fathers, dysfunctional fathers, tough-love fathers, supportive fun-loving fathers. The emotional tone of a movie—and a life—is often determined by the kind of father involved.

There's something distinct and special about a father's role in our lives. Yes, mothers usually devote more hours to raising children than fathers but, to many mothers' chagrin, kids often take their mum's constancy and nurture for granted while they hero-worship their dad. Mum is safe; dad is awesome! Dads challenge kids to explore, to get dirty, to try new and dangerous things—all with the knowledge that if things go wrong *it's OK, I'll catch you, I'm right here.*

Have you ever seen your dad kick a ball so high it nearly grazed the moon? Have you ventured with him out to where great green translucent rollers grow, poise and peak before crashing towards the beach in a fury of foam? I have. For a kid, a dad is a towering, heroic figure, seemingly capable of anything. And to mystifyingly gain the love, attention and approval of such a being is nothing short of a miracle.

That's why one of the most powerful metaphors in Scripture is the idea that God has adopted us into His family: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). "The Father", "our Father"—words that convey warmth and belonging while challenging us to be the best we can be. My heart is longing for the day when I'll be in the very presence of that glorious fiery rainbow-ringed throne and hear the words, "I am your Father."

Kent Kingston is assistant editor for Adventist Record.

Right now, I'm sitting inside my home in Suva, watching on TV the biggest celebration that Fiji has ever had: celebrating our nation's first ever gold medal at an Olympic Games.

It is Monday, August 22, and today has been declared a public holiday for all of Fiji.

"Never before has the Fijian spirit soared so high as it does today," said Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama. "Never have we stood so tall as a nation." And this is evident: despite the rainy weather there are thousands of people at the national stadium where the celebration is being held. All around Fiji, people dressed in national colours and rugby jerseys carry the Fijian flag. You can't help but feel the joy in the hearts of the people of Fiji because of what their team has achieved.

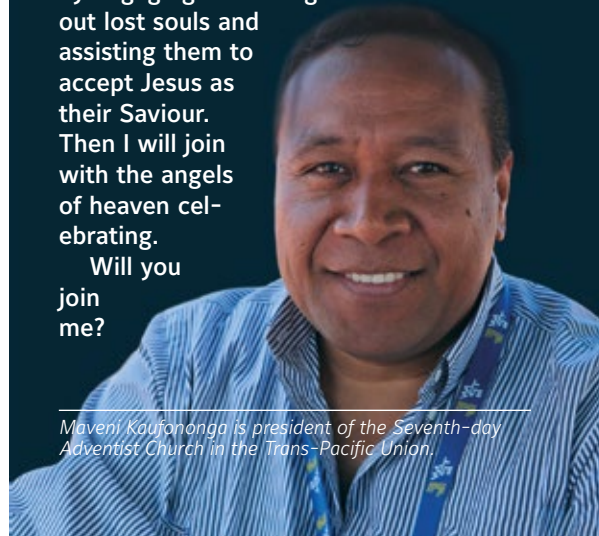
The Bible talks about a big celebration in heaven as well. It is not due to an Olympic achievement but as a result of someone who accepts to be part of God's kingdom.

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

I wonder what type of celebration they hold? Jesus in some of His stories expressed how joyful this celebration is. In the story of the lost coin and the lost sheep, it is said that ". . . he summons together [his] friends and [his] neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found that which was lost.'" In the story of the prodigal son, a big feast is held. It sounds like a big, joyful celebration to me.

I want to be part of this celebration by engaging in seeking out lost souls and assisting them to accept Jesus as their Saviour. Then I will join with the angels of heaven celebrating.

Will you join me?



Mavani Kaufononga is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-Pacific Union.



### More plants, less death

The largest study to examine the effects of different sources of dietary protein found that a high intake of protein from plant sources was associated with a lower risk of death. Dr Mingyang Song, from the Massachusetts General Hospital, says it's not only the amount of protein but also the specific food sources that are critical for long-term health. —*ScienceDaily*



### Converting Sunday school

A 109-year-old Sunday school building in Scotland is being turned into a Seventh-day Adventist health ministry and outreach centre. With the aid of a \$A180,000 government grant, the Hope Healthy Living Centre is scheduled to open in 2017. —*Adventist Review*



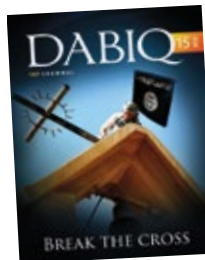
### Spreading love

More than 3000 young Seventh-day Adventists from 250 churches marched through the centre of the Dominican Republic's capital to discourage drug use and to point their peers to Jesus. They held banners promoting the Bible, health and family unity, distributed literature, and prayed for onlookers and drivers during the four-hour activity. —*IAD*



### Earthquake response

A local Seventh-day Adventist church is providing food and shelter to 16 people left homeless by the August earthquake in central Italy. ADRA Italy and volunteers from the Rieti church are cooking three meals a day for the displaced people, and offering meals to the other association volunteers who are working in the surrounding areas. —*EUD*



### Christians targeted

The official magazine of the Islamic State (IS) terror group recently dedicated an issue to denouncing Christianity and reinforcing its policy of offering Christians conversion, subjugation or death. International religious liberty analyst Elizabeth Kendal says this may trigger an escalation in attacks on churches and Christians worldwide. —*RLPB*



### Praying for Nepal

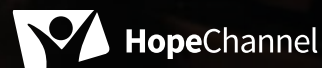
The Adventist Church in Nepal has called for prayers amid a clampdown on evangelistic outreach, including the distribution of religious literature and having a Bible in a Christian orphanage. Church leaders say it's time to reconsider their approach toward reaching other communities with the gospel. —*Adventist Review*

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## Students support rural village

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Pacific Adventist University students have made a difference in the lives of the people of Tubusereia Village in Central Province, Papua New Guinea.

The second-year students took part in a service initiative called Community at Excellence Development Training, which has been integrated into the academic program at PAU's School of Arts and Humanities.

One of the service projects involved building an incinerator—the first of its kind for the village, which had previously struggled with a lack of waste management facilities. It also included the donation of two welded cages for the recycling of soft drink cans—one for the village and the other for Tubusereia Lower Primary School.

Village environment officer Felix Daroa and councillor Dika Peruka said waste management was an urgent need for the village and the incinerator and recycle cages would greatly assist in establishing rules for waste management

and holding the villagers accountable.

A second project has benefited the 700 children enrolled at Tubusereia Lower Primary School, where nine PAU students catalogued and set up a library of more than 100 books donated by the School of Arts and Humanities.

The students also spent nearly three weeks teaching phonics to 300 elementary and grades 3 and 4 children. The aim was to assist rural children with their reading and speaking skills. —*Dr Jennifer Litau/Tracey Bridcutt*



Dika Peruka with project team and village leaders at the waste facility opening.

## Adventist radio leads the way

French Polynesia

A Seventh-day Adventist radio station is not only the number one religious radio station in French Polynesia but also ranked first among all radio stations for connection time with French Polynesian listeners.

*La Voix de l'Espérance* or The Voice of Hope (LVDL) has been broadcasting Christian songs and

preaching in the French language since the late '90s. Recently, Alvea/Mediametrie, a company specialising in radio audience measurement, met with LVDL's board and shared the news with them.

"After 10 years of rich and fruitful ministry, we really didn't have any idea of how the radio program was being received. We had no measurable data about LVDL's impact," said Pastor Josias Teuira, communication director for the French Polynesia Mission. "What a surprise we got. May our mighty God continue to bless the work of media all around the world."

To listen, visit <[www.lvdl.pf](http://www.lvdl.pf)>. —*Record staff*



The station broadcasts Christian songs and preaching in French.

## Victorian pastor dies unexpectedly at overseas mission

Kisumu, Kenya

Adventists around the world have been shocked and saddened at the sudden passing of Pastor Stenio Gungadoo, who collapsed on Sabbath, August 20, in the Kenyan city of Kisumu.

According to Kenya's *Standard* newspaper, Pastor Gungadoo, 71, arrived in Kenya to deliver a week-long series of meetings for the Migosi Adventist Church. After complaining of severe chest pains on Sabbath morning he collapsed in his hotel room and couldn't be revived.

Originally from the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius, Pastor Gungadoo served the Adventist Church for 47 years as a pastor, evangelist and administrator in Africa, as Mission president in New Caledonia, as Union president in Fiji and as a church pastor in the Victorian Conference from 2001 until he retired at the end of 2014.

Seventh-day Adventist Church world president Dr Ted

Wilson paid tribute to Pastor Gungadoo, describing him as "an extremely capable department director and dedicated administrator" and recalling the privilege he had of serving with Pastor Gungadoo at Church division headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

"Many lives were impacted in Victoria through Stenio's preaching, teaching, pastoring, administering, mentoring and leadership," says an official statement released by the Victorian Conference.

Pastor Gungadoo is survived by his wife Maryse and son Daryl. —*Kent Kingston*



Pastor Gungadoo.

## Australia-wide women's conference supports abuse survivors

Melbourne, Victoria

More than \$A12,500 was raised for domestic violence survivors during a recent conference for Adventist women in Australia.

"Are you generous or are you generous?!" exclaimed Erna Johnson, a South Pacific Division representative for Adventist women, as she presented a cheque to Sallyann Price, director of Southlakes Refuge (NSW).

About 420 women and a few select men attended the three-day Release Conference at the Bayview Eden Hotel in Melbourne. Hosted by the Australian Union Conference, this event is the first for Adventist women to be run Australia-wide. Southlakes Refuge was chosen as the recipient for their project offering.

"Our mission is to be a Christian ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe place to call home," Mrs Price said. She noted that the refuge operates solely on funding generated from op shop and community donations. "It is only by the grace of God that Southlakes Refuge has remained open and has supported thousands of women and children for over two decades."

The theme "Release" was chosen for the conference to remind its participants that they could experience freedom in Jesus.

This message rang true for attendee Jane Gibson

who made the trip from Sydney to attend the conference. "It's amazing how an event such as this can catapult a person to live out their faith more intentionally, enjoy a sense of liberation through sharing experiences and fall more in love with God as a result," she said.

Raquel Arrais, General Conference associate director of Adventist Women, was the main speaker for the event.

"I thank God for each one of you and for what the Lord is doing through you," she said to the participants. "I believe that this is a great moment—the Lord is inviting us to be recharged for the great work He has appointed for women in the South Pacific Division." —*Vania Chew*



Photo credit: Charmaine Patel

## Selfless giving at Homecoming

Cooranbong, New South Wales

Alumni at Avondale College of Higher Education's Homecoming weekend responded generously to offerings collected to support lifestyle medicine and student mission.

The offering during the worship service on Sabbath (August 27) exceeded \$A7000. Staff at Avondale had been praying for \$6000. "God blessed," said financial controller Lavinia Ontanu. "Our application for university college status will stretch us financially, so we're taking our fundraising much more seriously. And that has meant taking God with us. It was as if He was saying, 'Thank you for including Me, I'm just waiting and wanting to bless and bless abundantly.'"

The money will support the Lifestyle Research Centre at Avondale as it helps to reduce the "crippling" burden of chronic disease in the South Pacific islands. The centre is offering seed money to Pacific Islanders so they can begin postgraduate study in lifestyle medicine. This Pacific Partnership should empower those with influence to share knowledge with their communities.

"We even cut our Homecoming budget so that every dollar given to the offering went to the Lifestyle Research Centre rather than to covering expenses," said Public Relations officer Brenton Stacey. "The Pacific Partner-

ship is that important to us. Teaching someone how to manage and treat chronic disease using lifestyle

medicine interventions could, as our lead researcher says, radically transform lives, relationships and communities."

A \$1500 offering during vespers on Friday evening also exceeded expectations. The money will fund three service/leadership scholarships for returning students. The recipients will be those leading trips organised by student club One Mission.

"Service is one of the most powerful ways to share Christianity because it's Christianity in action," said chaplain Dr Wayne French. "It's not just talking about Christianity but living Christianity. That's why we offer these scholarships."

For more information on citations visit <record.net.au.> —*TK Magazine*



Avondale class of 2006.

Photo credit: Ann Stafford





### Fun for all at Little BIG DASH

More than 5000 children and adults swarmed Penrith's Regatta Centre to participate in Sanitarium's Little BIG DASH, where family teams tackled 10 fun obstacles over a 3km course. Sanitarium said the event was about "forming part of our long-standing mission to bring families together and help improve health and wellbeing". It's the second year the event has run in Sydney. —*Sanitarium/Maritz Brunt*



### New principal for Hills Adventist College

Dr Malcolm Coulson has been appointed principal of Hills Adventist College (Sydney) for 2017. Dr Coulson has worked extensively in education in a variety of roles, including education director for the South Pacific Division. He is currently the principal of Edinburgh College (formerly Lilydale Academy) in Victoria and has been there for the past four years. —*Ralph Luchow*



### Nurses reunite for San Homecoming

Seventy-five past and present members of the Sydney Adventist Hospital community reunited at the annual San Homecoming on August 20 at Wahroonga Adventist Church. Adventist Health Ministries leader Dr Chester Kuma was the guest speaker. Claude Douglass Judd (pictured with his wife Yvonne and former San CEO Dr Leon Clark) received a citation celebrating 75 years since he graduated from the San. —*Leisa O'Connor*



### Student baptisms in Western Solomons

Chaplain Garry Manele of Kukudu Adventist College recently organised a baptism of 52 young people. It was an exciting time for teaching staff and auxiliary workers, including members of the Western sub-office of the Solomon Islands Mission. A further call was made after the baptism with more than 70 students responding positively. —*WSSIM News*



### Health program tested first in Australia

Adventists in Western Australia have been among the first to test a new program from California's WEIMAR Institute. A team from WEIMAR spent nine days at the Busselton Campground, introducing the "Powered-Up Plus" (PUP) program—an initiative designed to train people for health evangelism—to 65 participants. WEIMAR is best known for its "NEWSTART" health recovery course, a scientifically researched program based on eight fundamental lifestyle principles designed to prevent and reverse disease through natural methods. —*Newswest*



### STORMCO Toomelah 16 years strong

The July school holidays marked the 16th year Geof and Trudi Chilcott have led a STORMCO team to the Aboriginal mission in Toomelah, NSW. This year the group ran a kids' club in the morning and youth nights in the evening. Geof and Trudi have built strong, positive relations over the years at the mission, and each year they have new members who join the team. —*Sheree Merrit*



### FaithFM changing lives

Church members establishing new FaithFM broadcast sites in towns in western Victoria are receiving encouraging news. A Mortlake couple opened their home to broadcast and became Adventists as a result of FaithFM programs. Despite facing personal struggles the radio station in their home kept broadcasting. As a result two other couples joined Warrnambool church. —*Michael Engelbrecht*



### Seek and save mission outreach

More than 20 Adventist Student Association (ASA) Fiji members participated in an outreach in Suva City. They provided 36 food packs and distributed Glow tracts and invitations to an evangelism seminar to street dwellers. "Seek and Save is our theme for this year," said ASA Fiji president Maikeli Qalotaki. "I am always reminded that whatever our efforts are towards God's work, little is much when God is in it." —*Na Kaci*





Hundreds of people, including the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, other senior government and diplomatic figures and Adventist Church leaders, gathered over the weekend of August 26-28 for the 50th anniversary of the 91-bed Atoifi Adventist Hospital on the remote eastern side of the island of Malaita. Cultural performances, speeches, music, worship services and shared stories were all part of the celebrations.

# Atoifi celebrates

Text and photos by Kent Kingston



**A time for worship:** The campus church was full for Sabbath services, with the big-screen overflow area itself spilling out onto the road. Special music was provided by The Singing Medicos and the Atoifi Mix Choir (pictured), who performed a specially composed song based around Atoifi's motto: A life of service; health for all. Sabbath School focused on making sense of the suffering and death that have marked Atoifi's history, featuring thoughtful video clips produced by Atoifi staff and students and comments from representatives of the many stakeholders involved in the hospital.

**Key message:** Pastor Mavani Kaufononga, who, as president of the Trans Pacific Union Mission chairs Atoifi's administrative committee, preached the main Sabbath sermon, challenging the congregation to accept Jesus' invitation: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).



**Local colour:** Friday's opening ceremonies attracted the biggest crowd, with pan-flute wielding warriors, bamboo-drum players and a marching ensemble all vying for attention. "Usugani lea!" (good morning) was an expression that prefaced many of Friday's 15 opening speeches. The greeting is in the language of the local Kwaio people, the traditional landowners and one of the key stakeholders in the continuing success of Atoifi Adventist Hospital.



**Tribute to pioneers:** Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogovare paid tribute to the work of the Adventist missionary pioneers who worked hard and sacrificed to bring the gospel and better health to the Kwaio people. "I can testify to the contribution this Church has made to building the capacity of Solomon Islands," Mr Sogovare said. "Models developed by Atoifi and the [co-located Pacific Adventist University] school of nursing have proven appropriate to roll out in rural areas . . . This is one of the best hospitals in Solomon Islands—one of the most respected and well-equipped." Mr Sogovare said church organisations have together provided more medical assistance to Solomon Islanders than the nation's government. "Shame on me," he added before announcing a donation of \$SBD0.5m (about \$A84,000) to the hospital.



**New life:** A dawn service saw 40 white-clothed baptismal candidates assemble at the waterfront next to Atoifi's iconic jetty—some with faces beaming, others with heads bowed in penitence. As the sun broke over the horizon, wave after wave of candidates waded into the warm tropical waters of Uru Harbour to be baptised by four pastors awaiting these newest members of the kingdom of God. Many were nurses-in-training as well as local students and community members, each with their own story of how God had impacted on them through the ministry of Atoifi.



**Their legacy lives on:** Dr Kelvin Larwood is an obstetrics/gynaecology specialist on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. During the weekend he recalled happy memories of growing up at Atoifi before the untimely death of his father, Lens Larwood, in a tractor accident. Mr Larwood was a nurse by profession but as Atoifi's administrator from 1966 to 1979 he coordinated key infrastructure projects, including the only airstrip in eastern Malaita and the nation's first hydro-electric scheme. Lens and Betty Larwood also worked hard to reach out to the wary Kwaio mountain villagers in culturally appropriate ways. "It's not so much what my parents did that matters," said Dr Larwood during Sabbath afternoon's meeting, "it's how they did it and why they did it."



**Pioneer:** Ellis Gibbons working in the Kwailibesi area in a local village before the establishment of Atoifi. Photo: *Journal of Pacific Adventist History*.

**All smiles:** Atoifi CEO Peggy Kendall (L) with Solomons Prime Minister Manasseh Sogovare and the South Pacific Division's Dr Chester Kuma (R) in front of a new commemorative plaque that reads, in part, "The leaders of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church honour the commitment and sacrifices made by the Hospital's pioneers and those who followed. We acknowledge the outstanding service given by the staff since 1966 and pay tribute to all who have worked, volunteered, donated and supported Atoifi Hospital in its mission to provide healing and hope to this community and to the people of the Solomon Islands."





## DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

### Pergamos and the devil's language

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell's father, in his desire for his son to light the world for Christ through his running, tells him: "Don't compromise. Compromise is the language of the devil."

Surrounded by numerous pagan temples, rituals and beliefs—like the Israelites enticed by the greedy prophet Balaam—and while claiming God's grace, the church of Pergamos allowed pagan practices to creep into God's church. Her light was fading.

#### Read Revelation 2:13-15.

So why does compromise creep in? The answer lies in how Christ addresses this church.

#### Read Revelation 2:12,16; Hebrews 4:12.

Just as Satan used the prophet Balaam to lead Israel to compromise, and Peter to try to cause Christ to compromise His mission, so he uses those of us who are parents or church leaders, and our spouses. If we speak, eat, drink, watch, read, wear or go to places without reference to God's will as revealed in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, then rest assured our children and members who look to us will follow our compromised lives.

#### Read Revelation 2:14; Matthew 16:21-26.

Christ's solution is for us to repent of our compromise by returning to His Word. When we do, that Word, like life-giving bread or manna from heaven, nourishes us, for at its centre is the flesh or life of Jesus, given in love for us. Decide now to feed on God's Word in order to receive the very life of Christ to follow His will.

#### Read Revelation 2:17; Matthew 4:4; John 6:33,35,51,56,58.

# R MY MINISTRY

## Hope Channel TV bearing fruit

Kerikeri is the largest town in Northland, New Zealand. It's around three hours' drive north of Auckland. Offering beautiful gardens, gourmet markets and a colourful history, it's a popular tourist destination. But until recently, there were no Adventist congregations worshipping there.

"We're not officially a church, we're a church plant," says Kerikeri pastor William Arama. "We've been here for three years . . . and it has been hard." During that time only one other family was regularly worshipping with the pastor and his wife Freda each Sabbath. Efforts to reach the community seemed fruitless. Nothing seemed to be working.

But in the past few months, things have changed.

In May, Colin Horsfall was watching a Hope Channel New Zealand program. It was hosted by a man at a gym who was talking about the importance of spiritual health.

Mr Horsfall noticed that the gym was in Kerikeri—the very location where he and his wife Robyn would soon be moving. He emailed Hope Channel NZ, explaining that he was moving to Kerikeri and was looking for a church to attend. He also wondered if there was any way to contact the man at the gym. The man happened to be Pastor Arama.

Pastor Arama told Mr Horsfall where the church met and invited him to visit.

"He was the first one there—he was keen," says Pastor Arama. "I thought he was an Adventist but he and his wife were Anglicans."

However, Mr and Mrs Horsfall began faithfully attending church every Sabbath and prayer meetings on Wednesdays.

"They say that this is their church now," Pastor Arama says. "And this is all because of Hope Channel."

Dr Brad Kemp, president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) and Hope Channel NZ manager, says he's encouraged by these stories.

"Hope Channel NZ was an initiative of the NZPUC to help finish the work of the gospel in New Zealand," he says. "How else can we get into every home? We have to reach people where they are, in their homes, and in a way they find attractive."

Since the April launch of Hope Channel NZ on free-to-air television, the channel has been broadcasting advertisements offering free correspondence courses on topics such as biblical prophecy, health and relationships. More than 220 people have already called to request a free course.

"Plans are underway to produce *Hope Church* and children's programs as well as practical programs on health, lifestyle and other topics," says assistant manager Pastor Paul Hopson.

"The donations from last quarter's Sabbath School offering will go a long way to help turn these production ideas into reality."



Pastor Arama with Colin and Robyn Horsfall.



The Pergamon altar of Zeus at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. The altar was possibly part of the Temple of Athena, whose satanically inspired rituals impacted church members.





# R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

## Don't sleep on sleep

We need sleep. That's not a surprising statement but what you might find surprising is that sleep researchers are still trying to work out why we need it. Anyone who has missed a night's sleep knows that it's not a pleasant experience and chronic lack of sleep has even been linked to increased rates of overweight. But the exact reasons the body needs to take a break every night are still a bit of a mystery.

A recent German study aimed at shedding light on the topic has found some pretty startling results. Scientists looked at various tests conducted on 20 participants after they had experienced a good night's sleep compared to when they had little sleep. They found that lack of sleep seemed to lead to higher brain excitability. It also resulted in poor performance in memory tasks and high blood levels of a hormone that regulates how well neurons communicate. The poor memory performance might be due to the fact that a sleep-starved brain is less competent at rewiring itself, which harms our ability to learn new skills and form memories.

The more we learn about sleep, the more we learn how important it is to overall health and wellbeing. Getting adequate sleep helps us to be the best version of ourselves in all areas of life and even reduces our risk of chronic disease. And that's something we should all be prioritising.



### Hot bircher porridge

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 5 minutes Serves: 4

- 3 cups (270g) rolled oats**
- 2 cups (500ml) Sanitarium So Good unsweetened coconut milk**
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup orange juice**
- 2 tbsp honey**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins, roughly chopped**
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (45g) chopped dried mango or dried apricots**
- 2 tablespoons LSA (linseed, sunflower seeds and almonds)**
- 1 medium apple, peeled, grated**
- 1 medium pear, peeled, grated**

1. Combine oats, milk, juice, honey, raisins and dried mango in a large bowl. Cover. Refrigerate overnight.
2. Next morning in a saucepan add the soaked oats, LSA, apple and pear and a little more coconut milk or water if mixture is too thick. Heat slowly over a low heat, for about 5 minutes.
3. Serve in warm bowls topped with strawberries, blueberries, slivered almonds and extra Sanitarium So Good unsweetened coconut milk.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** 1280 Kilojoules (305 calories). Protein 8g. Total Fat 7g. Saturated Fat 2g. Carbohydrate 53g. Total Sugars 27g. Sodium 31mg. Potassium 550mg. Calcium 133mg. Iron 3.9mg. Fibre 6g.

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Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE  
MEDICINE  
SERVICES



## a mother with whiskers

by Scott Wegener

**I**T NEEDS TO BE SAID: A FATHER IS NOT JUST A mother with whiskers. In addition to all the parallel responsibilities there is actually a lot more pressure on being a father than being a mother.

Granted we miss child-birthing experiences, from obstetrician visits, to morning sickness, epidural needles, stretch marks, caesareans, 20-hour labours, nine-pound (4 kg) babies . . .

I fully appreciate all of this—OK, so not FULLY, but certainly enough to feel faint just musing about it.

The ultimate pressure arrives from a father being used as an analogy of God, being our Father in heaven.

Now that's unfair pressure! No? How can any earthly father live and love even close to the amazing love God has towards His children (us)?

It's said that fatherhood is not for everyone—particularly if you're a woman—some guys just shouldn't be fathers. On one hand there are those who can't tell a bad joke well, a mandatory requirement of being a father (see what I did there?). On the more tragically serious side, there are fathers who cannot control themselves and abuse their kids, ranging from the horrifically physical and emotional abuse, down to the simple but hurtful abuse of disinterest in their children.

For many, their mother may have been far more loving than their father. So perhaps in that case an analogy of God being a loving mother in heaven actually portrays God better. But still, you can have mothers who are by no means loving either.

If every son or daughter had a loving father (or mother), then the world's picture of God would benefit immensely.

Even so, I think there's a more powerful understanding that can come from the thought of having God as our Father. It is when you personally have the chance to live the

role of a loving father or mother to your offspring. This takes the meaning and comprehension of how loving God is to a far greater level.

As a loving parent, think of this: how much do you love your child? It doesn't matter if you're met with tantrums, arguing, whinging, disobedience, backchatting, lying and sometimes just plain inattentive silliness; at the end of the day, literally, you love them so dearly. You melt as they call out "I love you" in return for your declaration of love for them.

Sometimes you want to constantly spoil them with gifts but you know that might hurt their character, or you might even have to let preventable hard times roll, because if you don't, it might hurt their character. So sometimes the love you provide is not in the form of giving lollies but of taking them away—but the ultimate goal is always their wellbeing, because you love them.

Think about what you'd do for their ultimate happiness despite their sometimes foolish actions. You'd most likely give your life for them.

This is how the God of our universe feels about you. OK, that's not quite true. God loves you even more than your love for your child, no matter the misbehaviour you've fallen into.

There's not an inkling of abuse in God's character, not a skerrick of disinterest, not a teaspoon of sourness. Just a 100 per cent loving Father. Your Father.

I invite you now, as a parent or imaginary parent, to spend a moment meditating on how much love you share towards your children and what you'd do for them. Then flip it over and realise, all that love and infinitely more is how God feels towards you. R

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*Scott Wegener is a creative writer from Sydney, NSW, who blogs at [scottpublished.com](http://scottpublished.com).*



# THE BEST THING ABOUT *being a Dad is...*



“Seeing the heavenly Father work in the lives of my children.”  
Pr Glenn Townend, President,  
South Pacific Division  
with Megan, Travis and Amy



“To see my boys grow up and to know that they are in God’s hands.”  
Pr Michael Faber, President,  
South NSW Conference  
with Marcel and Daniel



“Experiencing a new personal spiritual life through your children’s eyes.”  
Pr Terry Johnson, President,  
WA Conference  
with Alec and Kyrstin



“Being able to help your kids enjoy their life with Jesus.”  
Pr Mavani Kaufononga, President,  
Trans Pacific Union Mission  
with Tapaeru and Siaosi



“Being able to journey through life with my girls, watching them grow and develop into adults who are now making their own decisions and making a contribution to society.”  
Pr Michael Worker, President, Greater Sydney Conference  
with Madi and Brianna



“Being able to witness and guide the growth of my boys into uniquely talented and godly young men.”  
Kent Kingston, Assistant Editor,  
Adventist Media  
with Caleb and Levi



“Seeing my children grow in all areas of life, but particularly seeing them grow in their relationship with Jesus.”  
Pr Jorge Muñoz, President,  
Australian Union Conference  
with Roberto and Maritza



“All the extra smiles in my life, especially when I come home at the end of the day or after a work trip.”  
Mark Webster, CEO, ADRA Australia  
with Lucas and Willem



# WHERE WERE THE ANGELS?



**M**Y FATHER WAS MY HERO. I SUPPOSE IT'S THAT way for many boys. But in my case, I thought I had a little more reason for his exalted status in my mind.

He was smart. Really smart. The smartest person I've ever met. And I've met plenty of smart people. From humble roots, he made it to the pinnacle of his medical profession. And so much more.

He was interesting. The most interesting person I've ever met, and I've met lots of interesting people. His passions ranged from medicine and theology, from the theory of numbers to geography. He was obsessed with the Olym-



pics, cricket and tennis, and could recite with encyclopedic accuracy who won what, where and when. As long as the winner was Australian.

He had the most life in him of anyone I've ever met. And you know what's coming—I've met plenty of lively people.

But there was something more about him I admired.

When everyone else was fleeing Saigon in the midst of the Vietnam War, my father flew in. He worked tirelessly treating civilians wounded in the vicious conflict. When he arrived home in Malaysia he presented his boys with, among other things, a bullet. But it wasn't like any bullet I'd seen before. It was a bullet head smashed into something unrecognisable. "I extracted this from a woman's leg," he said. "It shattered her bone but she's going to be OK."

Many years later I visited Vietnam as part of a US Government delegation. On Sabbath I attended Saigon Adventist Church. After the service a woman approached me quietly and simply said, "your father saved my life". She's hardly alone. He saved lives everywhere he went. He never cared about money, fame or honours. He cared about people.

In the early '70s my father took another trip, this time to war-torn Laos. From the capital, Vientiane, he decided to travel to another town in a mini-van with some American medical professionals. It was, I suppose, just another day in the life of a medical missionary in a conflict zone.

At the time Laos was a sparsely populated place so within a few minutes of leaving, they were driving through a rural landscape. "How safe is the road?" my father asked his American friends. "This is the main road, it's secured. We never have problems here," they replied.

Like any trip, the friends fell into conversation as the kilometres clicked by. All was well, until they drove around a corner. There, right across the main highway, was a barricade. And manning the barricade were Communist guerillas. The narrow road prevented them from turning around. Even if they could, all guns were trained on their mini-van—they would never escape with their lives.

The commander approached the driver's window and, in rudimentary English, demanded "show me your passport!" The driver was dumbstruck by fear. "I said, show me your passport!" the commander screamed. The driver, in panic, mumbled an indecipherable response. The commander stuck his gun in the window and roughly queried, "don't you speak English?" The American driver mustered his nerves enough to mumble, "I don't have my passport . . . I can. I can go back, um, to Vientiane and, ah, get it . . ."

This did nothing to placate the commander, who put his finger on the trigger and the gun to the driver's temple, and once again screamed, "show me your passport!"

My dad could see bad things were about to happen. And in the extremity of distress he blurted out, "I've got my passport." Immediately he regretted it. The cold gun barrel left the driver's temple and was jabbed into his face. He slowly reached into his pocket and presented the gunman with his passport. "What will happen to us if he steals it?" he thought. Then he realised, "What am I thinking? Losing my passport is the least of our problems. Lord, help me!"

The commander snatched the passport and stared at the cover. He'd expected to see a screaming eagle. Instead he was confronted with a happy kangaroo and his emu buddy. The commander looked up and in a confused tone said, "You're Australian?" He'd gone from shouting to a soft query. My dad saw the metamorphosis, perceived the unexpected difference, and happily responded, "Yes, Australian!" The commander stood back and waved them on with the final words, "You OK, sir, you go."

They drove around the corner and stopped. The little group of medicos bowed their heads and prayed the most sincere prayer of thanks to our God imaginable. Providence had ensured the driver didn't have his passport. If he had, they would have assumed they were all Americans and everyone would have been murdered.

How can I say for certain? Tragically, just a few weeks later, an Australian diplomat's daughter was caught up in a similar ambush. She didn't have her passport. She was slaughtered.

I grew up on this story. Always thinking just how fortunate I was that God had saved my dad so I didn't have to grow up fatherless and hero-less.

Fast-forward 33 years and I was driving with my dad through the streets of Washington, DC. Thinking about life, he turned to me and said, "You know, James, people think you get old and you don't want to live anymore. But I want to live more now than I ever have!" He said it with the kind of power that lodged his words in my mind.

Not long after, he travelled to the rural Victorian town of Mildura. He was met by a friend. After leaving the airport, they came to an intersection. They rolled out into the middle just as a station wagon came flying across in the other direction. If you tried to choreograph the collision you couldn't. One car travelling, say at 60km/h, the other at 100km/h—four metres of car to hit—a little over two metres to collide with the passenger compartment. A tiny fraction of a second of time when both cars would be in precisely the same place.

Bam! And my father was dead.

God didn't have to do a great miracle. All He had to do was make the plane a tiny fraction of a second later. He could have held up the bags for a moment. A problem

**God worked  
a spectacular  
intervention to save  
my father in a war  
zone. Why couldn't He  
work a simple one to  
save him in peaceful  
rural Victoria?**

getting on the seat belt would have delayed the trip enough to avoid catastrophe. Almost any infinitesimal divine intervention and my father would have gone on with the day happily.



God worked a spectacular intervention to save my father in a war zone. Why couldn't He work a simple one to save him in peaceful rural Victoria?

When a family member was called with the awful news, he exclaimed, "Where were the angels?"

Good question! Where were they? Why didn't they protect him? What about the promises? What about every children's story ever told in every church on every Sabbath? Where was the miracle?

Even his enemies viewed my father as a sincere Christian. He'd given his life in service. He began every day with prayer and Bible studies. He kept the commandments and had the faith of Jesus. He'd kept up his side of the bargain. Where was God?

Sure, we'll see each other again. But in heaven I won't need the wisdom and compassion of an earthly father. I need him here, now. And what about my kids? The only memories of their grandfather will be the occasional anecdote I pass on when I talk about him. Which isn't too often. Because it makes me sad.

How to reconcile it all? Amazing miracles. Mundane tragedy. Striking divine intervention. Stony heavenly silence. Angels here and now. Now where are the angels?

This is what I know. Yes, the Hebrew worthies were saved from the fiery furnace. But we believe Isaiah was sawn in half. Yes, David defeated Goliath. But he couldn't save his own sons. Yes, Paul and Silas were miraculously freed from prison. But John the Baptist rotted in Herod's prison with no miracle for him. Yes, Christ will come with power and glory. But Jesus was spat on and nailed to a cross where He cried out to a Father He believed had forsaken Him.

The story of the life of the godly in a sinful world is not one of temporal deliverance. Even Lazarus got old and died. Ultimately, in this world, there are no permanent miracles.

But our miracle stories are important, just not for the reasons we often emphasise. Because, ultimately, no miracle gives us eternal health in a world bathed in sin. And no matter how hard we pray, or how faithfully we believe, God gives us no guarantees. The race doesn't always go to the swift. The battle to the strong. And miracles do not always



come to the faithful.

So why do miracles at all? To achieve God's will? Maybe. But it's not God's will that there's sin. Death. Suffering. Or pain at all. So how does the occasional spectacular intervention come close to achieving God's perfect purpose in a world awash with acts that violate it? Miracles don't mean a sinful world operates according to God's purpose. They do do something, however. They point to the only unequivocal promise we do have: salvation by faith. Not in this world but from this world.

As good as life can be, as happy and fulfilling, as grand and exciting, we are still trapped in a cycle of human tragedy, the sum total of which is so immense that no scale yet devised can measure its weight. The miracle stories we tell ourselves are footnotes to the overarching human narrative of utter, heartbreaking tragedy. The promise of salvation? That is indeed THE miracle story; the capstone of human history; the promise of all promises, paid for in our Lord's blood, and sealed with His love.

So where were the angels? The same place they always were. And where are they now? Watching over my dad's resting place for the day when God performs the miracle that will wash away all miracles. When God keeps the greatest of all promises. When finally the cycles of hopes, disappointments, victories and tragedies are replaced by a wholeness of pure love. Maybe that's the children's story we should tell more often. And leave the minor miracle stories where they belong—as little glimpses of the fulfillment of the ultimate promise.



*Former Adventist Record editor James Standish moved back to Washington, DC this year. To read his regular updates, send a note to [jstandish@outlook.com](mailto:jstandish@outlook.com) or friend him on Facebook.*





I received the dreaded diagnosis: I had gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes happens when, due to pregnancy hormones, your body cannot produce enough insulin, resulting in high blood glucose levels. If left unmanaged, it could lead to a large baby or premature delivery, and even miscarriage and stillbirth.

Unfortunately, the referral letter for a diabetes educator didn't arrive in my inbox till late Friday afternoon, when everybody had gone home for the day.

Unable to make an appointment until Monday, shock and grief became my companions for the weekend.

On Sabbath, a doctor friend at church directed me to some great advice\* but no amount of knowledge could ease my overwhelming sense of guilt and failure. While a regular gym-goer before I got pregnant, morning sickness and fatigue meant I had gotten out of the exercise habit for months. I blamed and hated myself for getting lazy. It was my fault my baby wasn't going to have the best start in life (babies born to mothers with gestational diabetes have a higher chance of being overweight and developing Type 2 diabetes later in life).

Food was obviously required to help the baby grow but suddenly it also became the enemy. I was so fearful of getting it wrong that I ended up shivering and nearly fainting one morning from not eating enough. Luckily my husband was there to hurriedly pour me a glass of orange juice.

I prayed to God for help but the only response I received was to trust that He would take care of the baby—cold comfort for someone who wanted to take action now and “cure” the gestational diabetes, even if the reality was that there was nothing I could do but wait.

When Monday finally arrived, I anxiously dialled the number for the diabetes educator and, luckily, an ap-

pointment was available the next morning.

While I waited I wondered why God would allow something like this to happen to me. It was incredibly unfair, I thought. I had a healthy BMI, I was careful about what I ate and I exercised regularly. Why me?

But why not me? Sin and the effects of sin don't discriminate. In a fallen world, every human, God-loving or not, health-conscious or not, bears the consequences of our first parents' disobedience. The only certainty we have is that God is there for us.

Meeting with the diabetes educator allayed my self-condemnation, when she assured me it was a hormonal fault I had no control over. She armed me with a blood glucose monitor and a plan, and I resolved to make the best of the situation—one that God had already smoothed the way for, even before I knew I was going to be pregnant.

The gestational diabetes diet recommends plenty of vegetables, wholegrains, low-carbohydrate and low-GI foods. As a Seventh-day Adventist, I was already used to consuming vegetables, wholemeal bread and pasta, and brown rice. All I had to do was adjust my portions and I could continue to enjoy foods I normally loved.

I also became adverse to dairy products when I got pregnant. Now that I had to actively avoid them, I was already used to life without chocolates, ice-cream or all the sweet treats that came with dairy foods. Wanting to avoid being sick was a strong motivator to say “No” to that strawberry cheesecake.

As exercise helped regulate my blood sugar levels, I was spurred to embark on daily walks and strength-resistance exercises. I had used my pregnancy as an excuse to discontinue the physical activity that had been a part of my pre-pregnancy life, but getting back on the proverbial treadmill helped me feel happier, healthier and more energetic.

Gestational diabetes was not something I wanted but God made good on His promise: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you” (Isaiah 41:10). And thankfully I've been able to manage it with diet and exercise, and no need for insulin injections.

\* <http://kemh.health.wa.gov.au/brochures/consumers/wnhs0560.pdf>

Melody Tan is associate editor of Signs of the Times.

*Adventist Record is thrilled to announce the arrival of Melody's baby. Mother and child are healthy and well. For the rest of the pregnancy diary entries, visit [record.net.au](http://record.net.au).*



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Isaac is old and going blind. It is time to pass his blessing onto Esau. He asks Esau to prepare some food for him. While Esau is doing this, Rebekah convinces Jacob to pretend to be his brother. Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him the blessing. When Esau returns, it is too late, the blessing has been given away and Esau is angry!

### MATCH THE IMAGES AND DISCOVER THE MISSING WORD



"Do not steal. Do not d\_\_\_\_\_ one another."

Leviticus 19:11, NIV

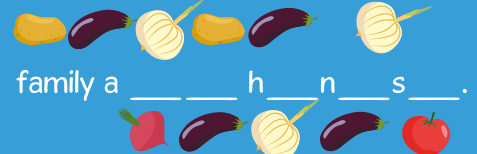


### SOLVE IT!

Replace the vegetables with the letter that its name begins with and you will discover today's message.



\_\_\_\_ in G\_\_\_\_d's  
family a \_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_





LETTERS

**MEN IN CHURCH**

Len Farquharsen, Vic

While visiting Burwood church (Vic), the very efficient reception team thrust material into my hand, including *Adventist Record* (July 30).

I glanced down and saw a bloke on a motorbike and I quickly did a double take just to make sure it was *Record* and not the latest edition of *Australian Motorcycle News*! As an occasional reader you had my attention like never before.

I want to congratulate you on an outstanding article; honest, reflective and engaging. Real men are often not well served by the idea of church and even a casual reading of the literature and research as to why, highlights a grand opportunity to seriously engage them to the point where they are passionate and effective as true God followers.

No need to be apologetic for your interest in custom bikes, Kent, unless of course you are really a materialistic narcissist and I'm certain that is definitely not true for you. I suspect a significant group of real men who are God followers will have also very strongly resonated with the thoughts expressed in your article.

When real men are engaged in the idea of a community of believers, these groups grow exponentially and the women follow. It apparently doesn't work so well the other way around.

Men are more likely to open up and be involved in deep conversations about life and its meaning when they feel safe with the group. This

occurs best in small groups out in nature or being involved in projects/adventures, including motorbikes.

Thank you for your article. I have really appreciated the risk and honesty you have shown. To your team—keep up the great work you are doing.

**SORROW OVER NAME CHANGE**

Ray McMahan, Vic

Thank you Daryl Murdoch for your letter ("Our Name", August 6) telling of the decision to include our name "Adventist" in our schools' titles.

It saddens me that the name change of Lilydale Adventist Academy did not include "Adventist" or the generic term "Christian" but the road name "Edinburgh" in its new name.

"Adventist"—the central word in the former name—is no more. It is of no surprise that some of the local residents are asking whether we have sold our school.

**INDEPENDENT**

Rod Cooke, NSW

Thank you for exonerating in *Record Rewind* a much maligned past faithful servant of God ("Ahead of His Time", August 6). Louis Were dis-sented from accepted thinking and paid the price.

[My father] Austin Cooke began his ministry in Adelaide under Louis Were and had high regard for him as a student of the Scriptures and an evangelist. Cooke also wouldn't accept the teaching of a military Armageddon. He too believed it was a spiritual conflict at the end of time.

Subsequently Cooke was

threatened by church administrators that he would never be ordained (nor be permitted to run evangelistic programs) if he held to his views. This was less important to Austin Cooke than teaching the truth and, consequently, his ordination was blocked for several years. Fortunately two big-minded men in A G Stewart and J W Kent recognised the injustice. The rest is history.

The above episodes highlight a need for Church administrators Down Under to take a lead from our US counterparts in being open to independent thinking and mission. An understanding of Armageddon is not an Adventist fundamental such as Creation, the Sabbath or the investigative judgement. There is room for independence in non-fundamentals so that independent ministries in the SPD, which do a wonderful work for the kingdom, are not treated as the enemy because they decline to accept the control of our Church administrators. Surely we are bigger than this.

**THEME SONG**

Evelyn Bean, ACT

What a thrill it was for me to read about the launching of the Adventist heritage feature film in the August 20 *Record*.

Surely a God-given idea that should prove to be a popular way for members to witness by sharing a DVD.

I want to be part of telling our story to the world.

Could I suggest a theme song, which could be often sung in our churches? That old favourite: "We've a story to tell to the nations that will turn their hearts to the right."

*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.*

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Health educator/lay gospel medical missionary for Palm Island—Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc. (Palm Island).** Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc is looking for a successful applicant, preferably a married couple, to continue the health work on Palm Island. The successful applicant will be spirit directed and passionate about the Adventist health message. Program support and development supplied. Non-professionals encouraged to apply. Commitment will be from 12 to 24 months. Applications can be emailed to Beverley Krogdahl at <info@mmti.org.au>. For more information or enquiries, please phone 0458 536 115.

## POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Medical doctor—Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Malaita, Solomon Islands).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is seeking a qualified and experienced medical doctor with experience in emergency, surgery or obstetrics for Atoifi Adventist Hospital, Solomon Islands, commencing January 2017. The hospital cares for people who live in remote villages and also trains nursing graduates to work in hospitals and clinics across the country. The role involves assisting the chief medical officer in diagnosing and treating patients with a variety of diseases and injuries. Interested applicants should submit their CV and references to Human Resources, Locked Bag 2014, Wairoonga NSW 2076 or email to <hr@adventist.org.au>. For further information please contact the hospital CEO via email <peggykendall9@gmail.com> or Dr Chester Kuma at <ChesterKuma@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **September 30, 2016.**

■ **Bible worker—Greater Sydney Conference (Northern Beaches of Sydney, NSW)** is seeking a competent part-time mission Bible worker to work together with a local church pastor to revitalise the Seventh-day Adventist movement on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. This Bible worker position involves facilitating strategic discipleship initiatives through leadership, training and coaching. These discipleship initiatives include developing small groups and working with local church teams that organise kids' clubs, vacation Bible schools and local church events that build strategic relationships with the community. For further information please contact Ian Low, HR Officer, Greater Sydney Conference, 4 Cambridge Street, Epping NSW 2121; or phone (02) 8876 5240 or email <ianlow@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **September 30, 2016.**

■ **Regional coordinator—Adventist Media (Wairoonga, NSW).** Adventist Media is seeking applicants for a full-time regional coordinator position in its Bible School based in Wairoonga. The successful applicant will work as part of the Adventist Media team to develop and disciple new contacts who have expressed interest through lead cards or social media campaigns. Interested applicants should send a resume and a letter of application to the Office Manager at Adventist Media by email: <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au> or call +612 9847 2222 for more information. Applications close **September 24, 2016.**

■ **Assistant manager, Camp Howqua—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Victorian Conference) Limited.** A full-time position has become available as part of the management team at Camp Howqua. Camp Howqua is an educational, recreational and camping facility owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The position is "hands on" with an outdoor lifestyle. The successful applicant will have extensive building maintenance/grounds keeping skills and outstanding customer relations skills across a diversity of ages and cultures. Recognised outdoor qualifications such as high ropes, canoeing etc. would be a distinct advantage. On-site accommodation is provided. Applicants must be practising, baptised members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have a clear commitment to its mission/vision/values. For the job description or to apply,

## OBITUARIES

**Craig, Thelma Pearl** (nee Delaney), born 14.5.1931 in Boulder, WA; died 22.2.16 in Lake Macquarie Private Hospital, NSW. On 5.5.1952 she married Gordon Craig in Adelaide City church, SA. She was predeceased by their son Darryl in 1973. She is survived by her husband (Coorabong, NSW); son Lynton (Wol-

longong) and daughters Sharon (Bonnells Bay) and Jualita (Port Macquarie); and her grandchildren. Thelma was much loved and appreciated by her family and extended family, who called her "Mum" or "Nan" because of her acceptance of and love for them. She now rests, leaving beautiful memories of her with them.

*Gordon Smith*

contact Warren Vaughan, Camp Howqua Manager, PO Box 291, Mansfield, Vic 3724; or phone (03) 5777 3509 or email <howqua@adventist.org.au>. Only persons with the right to work in Australia will be considered. Applications close **September 30, 2016.**

■ **Principal, Nunawading Christian College (Secondary)—Adventist Schools (Victoria) Ltd.** Applicants holding a Master of Education will be highly regarded and the successful applicant will have more than 10 years' experience in teaching and administration and be a practising member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission. Applicants will need to demonstrate: support for the mission and ethos of Adventist Education; best practice in learning and teaching strategies, understandings and skills in the area of secondary education; successful administrative and leadership experience; ability to foster and develop appropriate relationships with staff, students, parents and the wider church and school communities; ability to develop the vision, mission and strategic goals of the school and align them with the broader strategic directions of Adventist Schools Victoria; ability to implement processes to manage physical and financial resources in order to effectively deliver the educational programs of the school. To apply, you must have the right to work in Australia. Please email your covering letter and resume to Brian Mercer, Director of Education, Adventist Schools Victoria, <brianmerc@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **September 30, 2016.**

■ **NSW coordinator, emergency management—ADRA Australia (two-year contract).** ADRA Australia is seeking an experienced people manager to work closely with ADRA Australia, the NSW Government and other community partner agencies to oversee ADRA's emergency management (EM) program in NSW. The successful applicant will be responsible for volunteer management, including capacity and training, and operations in disasters. The role will also include grant administration, roll-out of CRM software and potential expansion of the EM program in NSW. This is a full-time position requiring travel throughout NSW. All enquiries as well as applications addressing the selection criteria and including a resume should be directed to Alison Young, ADRA Australia, phone (02) 9489 5488 or email <alisonyoung@adra.org.au>. Please see <http://www.adra.org.au/act/work-for-adra> for more details. Applications close **October 9, 2016.**

■ **Principal, Avondale Schools—NNSW Schools (Coorabong, NSW).** Following the retirement of Dr David Faull, after 20 years as principal of Avondale School (and a lifetime of service to Adventist education throughout the SPD), a new principal is being sought for the start of 2017. Avondale is an ELC to Year 12 co-ed day school with more than 900 students, located in Coorabong, NSW. Please send Expressions of Interest to Dean Bennetts, CEO, NNSW Schools Company to obtain a role description and a NNSW Schools Company Identity Document. Please include a current CV. Contact can be made via deanbennetts@adventist.org.au. Applications close **October 30, 2016.**

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





**Dolivan**, Roman Witold, born 21.8.1926 in Warsaw, Poland; died 29.6.16 in John Flynn Hospital, Tugun, Qld. He is survived by his wife Danuta; and brother George (UK). Roman was an active member and a great administrator at the Polish church in Sydney and later at Reedy Creek church, Gold Coast. He is remembered as a humble, kind and friendly person who will be greatly missed.

*David Riley, Emil Vostinar*

**Johnson**, Mostyn, born 2.10.1929; died in the Philippines. He is survived by his wife Marphely; and children Dianne (SA), Kathy (Vic), Nerrilyn (WA), Phillip (WA) and Steven (SA) and their families. Mostyn had a strong and deep faith that he shared with others. He was a long-serving member of Port Pirie church, SA.

*Brenton Wilkinson*

**King**, Edwin (Ted), died in Cooranbong, NSW. He and his wife, Helen, enjoyed more than 67 years of marriage. Ted was a member of Avondale Memorial church. He is survived by his wife (Cooranbong); Peter and Ruth (Goulburn), David and Rosie (Byron Bay), Janelle and David (Melbourne, Vic), Wendy and Elwin (Cooranbong, NSW); and his children and great-grandchildren. Ted was the conductor of the Avondale Advent Brass Band from 1969. He was a much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

*Neil Thompson, Fred Cracknell*



**Leslie**, Allan Victor, born 2.8.1925 in Wandearah, SA; died 6.7.16 in Perth, WA. On 10.3.1948 he married Elva Thrift. He was predeceased by his daughter Beth O'Brien on 19.1.16. He is survived by his wife; his children Robyn Novelty, Roy and Barry (all of Perth); nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Allan was a reserved man with a strong and practical faith. He was known by

all to be a man of integrity, generosity and commitment to family and friends. His lifetime partnership with Elva was a bedrock for his family.

*Steven Goods*

**McCutcheon**, Beverley (nee Logan), born 22.9.1950 in Manjimup, WA; died 25.2.16 in Bunbury. On 8.8.1971 she married Roger McCutcheon. She is survived by her husband; her children Derek and Kym; and granddaughters Michaela, Jessica and Kaitlyn. Bev was an active church member involved in youth and music ministry and a fundraising coordinator for two church buildings in Avon Valley and Bunbury.

*Nicu Dumbrava,  
Derek McCutcheon*



**McMahon**, Dr Henry (Hal) Joseph Addison, born 13.2.1930 in Melbourne, Vic; died 8.3.16 in Melbourne. On 22.12.1952 he married Phyllis Bullas who predeceased him on 10.2.13. He is survived by his children Catherine Heise (Wangi Wangi, NSW), Julia Stanton (Melbourne, Vic) and John (Melbourne); eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Hal graduated from medicine at Melbourne University. He commenced medical practice in 1958. Missionary work included collecting medications, surgical equipment and aircraft for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Hal and Phyllis helped establish and support Mirriwinni Gardens Aboriginal Academy. Hal served in the North Fitzroy church and at the Victorian Conference. He faithfully followed his Saviour and always tried to refocus others on the important Bible truths.

*Kevin Geelan*

## ADVERTISING

**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 <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

**North Fitzroy church anniversary.** Former members and friends are invited to join North Fitzroy church (Vic) for a thanksgiving service to commemorate God's leading on the occasion of the 130-year anniversary of its founding. Please join us on Sabbath, November 5. Sabbath School 9.30am; divine service 11am. For further information contact Sally on 0434 616 805.

**Absolute Care Funerals** is an Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you in Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy, on 1300

982 803 or mobile 0408 458 452. Call us even if you have already prepaid your funeral. Email <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>.

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## Finally . . .

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for the latter rain

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*Pr Roy Rugless*

Director of Prayer Ministries  
South Central Conference

30 - 2

September October

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Stuarts Point  
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& from the high places and the low places of the  
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memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed  
throughout the world." **Testimonies for the Church 9:28, 29. - {ChS 112.2}**



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