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Adventist
Help

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December 16, 2016

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.

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Sanitarium announces Chinese expansion

Sydney, New South Wales

Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing unveiled plans for further expansion into the Chinese market at a special event in Sydney on October 18.

General manager Todd Saunders described it as a milestone day for the Adventist Church-owned company.

"Today marks a new chapter in our story, and it's a story that has been going now for over 117 years," he said.

While Sanitarium has been selling its products in China since 2008, it was the appearance of a box of Weet-Bix in a popular Chinese TV drama in May that really caught the market's attention. Sales of "Australia's favourite breakfast" soared in China, with people also buying up stock in Australia and reselling online to Chinese consumers with huge mark-ups.

Mr Saunders said Chinese interest in Australian breakfast foods "is higher than it has ever been".

"So, with that in mind, we feel that it's a great time to launch our new brand, Nutri-Brex, into the Chinese marketplace," he said. "It's a brand that we have already launched with great success

in the United Kingdom and we are confident that China will embrace it too.

"It gives Sanitarium a strong and distinctive new brand name to position us for growth into the future while complying with new trademark restrictions in relation to the Weet-Bix name."

Mr Saunders said Nutri-Brex is different to Weet-Bix in name only. "It will be made in Sanitarium factories here on our shores using 100 per cent Australian wholegrain wheat with the same traditional recipe that Australian families have loved for almost 90 years," he said.

"I can't wait for the day when I hear repeated to me that Chinese kids are Nutri-Brex kids."

Sanitarium, and two other Australian and New Zealand health brands, Integria Health Care and Manuka Health, are utilising the popularity and influence of Chinese TV star Alyssa Chia to promote their products.

Ms Chia, who attended last month's event, is known in China as a "supermom" with an interest in nutritious foods and natural therapies. —Tracey Bridcutt



Nutri-Brex will hit Chinese shelves this month.



Host Nicole (left) with Chinese TV star Alyssa Chia at the launch.

Latin youth gather for congress

Melbourne, Australia



Latin youth gathered in Melbourne.

Latin youth from around Australia gathered in Melbourne for their 2016 Congress, held from September 29 to October 2.

More than 50 young people attended the "Homecoming"-themed weekend,

with numbers growing to 80 on the Sabbath.

"It was great to come together and engage with other Spanish-speaking youth from around Australia," said Gabrielle Rivera from Sydney's Wetherill Park Spanish church. "We heard and shared many experiences on how we continue to challenge ourselves to spread the gospel further in our local communities."

Pastor Juan Quiroga, an evangelist from San Francisco, was the keynote speaker for the event.

"Pastor Quiroga's messages were very engaging and

filled with the Holy Spirit," said Caroline Salfate from Springvale Spanish church in Melbourne. "His personal testimony definitely touched our hearts and challenged us to trust in God fully with our lives, as God always has a plan."

Victorian Conference youth director Phillip Hyland also challenged the youth to consider the true meaning of the second coming, referring to it as the event's theme of "Homecoming".

Other highlights included workshops, activities, and sharing in meals, prayer and Bible exploration.

"Being a Seventh-day Adventist is never easy—the devil tempts us every day and attacks us when we're most vulnerable," said Ms Rivera. "But when we're together in fellowship the devil has less strength and that's why we built a stronger connection with God during the camp."

Several youth said they felt blessed to be in such a welcoming environment.

"God truly used this congress to speak to our hearts," Ms Salfate said. "We are excited to see what the next Latin Youth Congress will bring." —Gabrielle Rivera/Caroline Salfate/Maritza Brunt



One big problem

Jarrod Stackelroth

We have a problem. A serious problem—and it only seems to be getting worse!

Nearly half of all newly baptised Adventists leave the Church. In fact, recent figures show that 49 per cent walk away, an increase from the 40 per cent who were leaving at the turn of the century. These are worldwide numbers—not just apostate Western churches or developing countries that don't have the resources—49 per cent. If you lost 49 per cent of your body, you'd likely be dead!

On page 14 of this issue is an important feature. Written by someone on the edge of our church community—in their words “in the shadow of the back door”—it's an experience we need to read and think about and pray about; an experience that is all too common in our churches.

I've been there. A move interstate left me feeling dislocated and disconnected, after growing up involved in my home church. So I floated, church hopped, never committing, never quite fitting in. I slipped in the back door, just in time for the sermon, and out again often before anyone could invite me to lunch.

I believed the fundamentals, loved God and worked for the Church. I can see how someone who wasn't anchored by church work could float away completely.

Thankfully, after another move, God connected me to a church family who inspired me to be active, equipping me to run small groups and share my faith. This is key. Being an active church member helps newly baptised members stay in the Church.

What if our communities were so attractive we couldn't live without them? What if we were known for what we did, not what we avoided, like the believers in Acts?

We must make our communities places where it hurts more to leave than to stay, places that people want to join, even in the face of trial and trouble, places that transform the world around us.

To do this we need to live our faith bravely and adventurously. We need to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The inner dialogues of justification and rationalism you hold within yourself will not change the world. However, boldly talking to strangers, sharing your faith or helping

the needy might. And even if it doesn't change the person you helped, it may well change the life of those watching on—new members, your children. Let new people see what a transformed life really looks like. We need to model faith.

Too often we treat people as targets. They are projects we work on until they are baptised and then they are lost in a sea of faces. We don't give new members responsibilities because they haven't proven themselves safe enough; they haven't yet earned the right.

Within three years Jesus had His disciples out sharing the gospel, casting out demons and healing the sick. And they didn't get it. They had the wrong idea about the kingdom and had no concept of the second coming. In our eyes, they would have been woefully theologically under-prepared. And yet Jesus had them learning on the job. He had them nearby, watching as He taught, healed and lived. He gave them opportunities to try and fail.

Making disciples is a life-long process. We fail to reach our potential when we engage in short projects and programs rather than making our service and message a way of life.

We don't find mentors for our new members. What if we knew and partnered with all the churches in our regions? Then if we identified that someone would be a better fit in another Adventist community (whether it was geographically closer, demographically in tune or had interests and ministries suited to the individual) we would encourage them to attend that congregation, without feeling threatened.

It's time we thought of people as people not propositions; looked for relationships rather than transactions. We can learn just as much from newly baptised members as they can from us. And here's the kicker. New members can be transformed into cultural Adventists—moulded into our culture. If we equip and encourage them to share their newfound excitement—if this was part of the information from the very first Bible study—then what a difference it would make to their faith and to our Church.

Jarrod Stackelroth is editor of Adventist Record.

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“Adventist Help volunteer Theodore Dimitriou.”

Official news magazine of the South Pacific
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The wide navy horizontal stripes on sky blue overalls worn by 12 men disembarking from a bus in a city in Iran caught my attention. As I got closer I noticed that each man was connected to the next with handcuffs and dragging between each ankle was a thick (about 40cm long) chain. There were crowds pressing to enter what I presumed was a court house. Why were these men being held prisoners? Why were they back in town? I was out on a morning walk without an English-speaking guide. The looks of anxiety on people's faces suggested that I not ask.

As I continued to walk I reflected on "freedom". True justice demands consequences. Jail is one of those consequences—where people's liberty is curtailed. Confinement, hard labour, irregular contact with family in a very controlled environment is supposed to bring justice.

However, I don't have to be in jail to lose freedom. Growing debt, abusive relationships, narrow mindedness also curtail my freedom. Spiritually a view of an always demanding and punishing God inhibits freedom.

The apostle Paul was obsessed with being right with God by doing all the right things—including limiting the freedom of those who were not following God in the way he thought was right. But this was his prison until Jesus was revealed to him. Jesus' grace freed Paul from his obsession and gave him real purpose. Paul became right with God because of Jesus' life, death and intercession—not his own. All who believe in Jesus have the freedom to be loved and discover life-changing beliefs and practices that give freedom in money management, relationships and thinking.

I invite you to try freedom in Jesus.



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



Too Busy?

Linden Chuang

I'd like to introduce you to Mr Too Busy*.

Too Busy works as an accountant for the Church. He enjoys his job but the role is demanding. Most days you'll find him working late at the office in order to stay on top of things. "It's OK," he says. "It's all for the mission of the Church."

When he's not at work, Too Busy spends much of his time studying for his CPA exams. He also does his best to keep up with paying the bills, the household chores and his running schedule. All of this leaves Too Busy with little time to spend with his family, something he admits he "needs to work on . . . but I'm just too busy."

Friday evening is Too Busy's favourite time of the week. It's really the only opportunity he has to pour himself a hot drink, sit down in his favourite armchair . . . and prepare the Sabbath School lesson he needs to teach the following morning.

One night Too Busy found himself unable to sleep. He wandered into the living room and scanned the bookshelf for something to read. One of his wife's books caught his eye.

Crazy busy

As he read through the chapters, Too Busy began to feel a sinking feeling. One quote in particular caught his attention.

"We *want* to complexify our lives. We don't have to, we *want* to. We wanted to be harried and hassled and busy. Unconsciously, we want the very things we complain about. For if we had leisure, we would look at ourselves and listen to our hearts and see the great gaping hole in our hearts and be terrified, because that hole is so big that nothing but God can fill it."¹

It was then Too Busy realised that although his life was full, he wasn't living a full life. Putting the book down, Too Busy stared out the window into the night sky and thought about the story of his Saviour—Mr Never Too Busy.

Never Too Busy was a Teacher and a Preacher. He also travelled a lot, often speaking to thousands of people wherever He went. Despite His schedule, Never Too Busy never complained about being too busy. Furthermore, He always made time to stop and talk to people, heal the sick and play with children.

One time a dear friend of Never Too Busy was running around frantically trying to prepare dinner. She got angry at her sister Mary for not helping, and complained about it to Never Too Busy. His reply?

"You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41,42 NIV).

Many of us display our busyness as a badge of honour. "I'm busy, therefore I'm important, valuable and worthy." Perhaps in trying to fit so many things into our lives, however, we push out that which is most important.

So are you willing to live more by doing less? Or are you simply Too Busy?

* Not based on a real person.

1. Peter Kreeft in *Crazy busy: A (mercifully) short book about a (really) big problem*, Kevin DeYoung, 2013. Linden Chuang is assistant editor for Adventist Media.



Set free

Two years of local church outreach to a Brazil prison has resulted in the baptism of one-third of its inmates and the opening of an Adventist church on the grounds. In all, 92 inmates have been baptised since 2014. Since then, 42 have been released and become active church members. —*Adventist Review*



Momentum building

It took a century for the Adventist Church in Ireland (Northern and Republic) to grow to 400 members. But since 2007 membership has doubled to 809. New believers make up the lion's share of the increase, including 65 who joined the Church during a three-year "City of Hope" push in Dublin. —*BUC News/ASTR*.



Power of prayer

An Adventist church in Atlanta, USA, has discovered an innovative way to reach the local community. Once a fortnight, volunteers are stationed at the church to provide a Prayer Drive-Thru ministry, which is signposted on the street. More than 200 vehicles entered the parking lot for prayer during September. —*NAD*



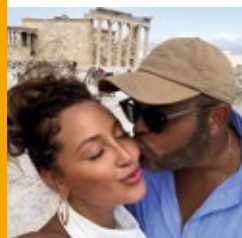
Identity: child of God

Journey Interrupted is a new film that recounts the lives of five people who struggle with same-sex attraction and have seen God and experienced His forgiveness and transformative power. Wayne Blakely, who led the project and appears in the film, says he's planning a tour of Australia and NZ in 2017. —*JourneyInterrupted.com*



No coal coalition

Catholic institutions around the world, including in Australia and Papua New Guinea, have joined a global initiative to withdraw financial investments from fossil fuel companies. So far nearly 600 institutions, worth more than \$3.4 trillion, have announced similar commitments. It's believed to be the fastest growing divestment campaign in history. —*Global Catholic Climate Movement*



Fresh start

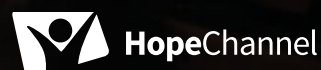
Internationally successful worship leader/producer Israel Houghton has announced his engagement to talk show personality Adrienne Bailon after finalising his divorce earlier this year. In a sign of the times, their decision to save sex for marriage has made headlines. Houghton wrote the popular worship song, "Friend of God". —*Christian Post*

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Vacation Bible School impacts community

Natogo, Fiji

Children from the rural settlement of Natogo in Western Fiji recently attended the area's first ever Vacation Bible School.

Organised by a young branch Sabbath School church in the Tavua District, the three-day program was attended by 23 children, including 10 non-Adventist Indian youngsters.

Each day, four stations were set up—Bible story, memory gem, art and craft, and sports—with the kids rotating activities every 40 minutes.

The church's Dorcas Club provided refreshments, with certificates and prizes handed out at the completion of the program.

"'God is good' was our VBS theme, and surely indeed God proved this to be true," said Tavua and Vatukoula district director Pastor Sakeo Matarakuru.

"Each day the children saw dark clouds hanging in the sky but prayed for good weather as all activities were held outside. On the last day of VBS, an hour after the children had returned home, the heavy clouds burst and it rained heavily for the whole week. God controlled the weather because He knew that the children would be blessed with the Bible stories." —*Sarome Fiu Tikoduadua/ Maritza Brunt*



The children with their certificates.

CHIP now available online in Australia

Cooranbong, NSW

Due to popular demand, the Complete Health Improvement Program Australia (CHIP) will now be accessible from an online platform.

The program, which officially launched on October 31, is designed to give participants "optimal health from the comfort of home".

"I've had a lot of people ask me when CHIP would be available for those who were unable

to attend an actual program, either because there was no program in their area or the time of the program was not suitable," said CHIP in Churches program director Dr Paul Rankin. "But now people in this situation can experience the full CHIP program in an online environment."

CHIP Online will provide participants with textbooks, cookbooks, full access to videos, and online group facilitation and support.

More than 70,000 people have completed the CHIP program through face-to-face workshops.

Sign up: <<https://trankin.clickfunnels.com/sign-up-for-chip-online>>. —*Maritza Brunt*



New Adventist school meeting in tents

Tanna Island, Vanuatu

A new Adventist school with no buildings and no trained teachers has commenced operations in the village of Enarawia on Vanuatu's Tanna Island.

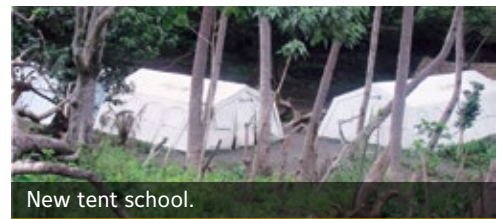
Four Adventist volunteers are teaching the 92 students in tents originally provided by the UN for emergency shelter after the devastation of Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Edwin Kesel is the head teacher of another Adventist primary school about a day's walk away. Although his own school has needs and challenges his heart was touched when he realised that the children of Enarawia, a village community that belongs to the John Frum cargo cult, had no school.

Mr Kesel was able to negotiate with the village leaders to start the school and organised for the volunteer teachers to begin work. The staff accommodation is basic—a rough bush hut and a makeshift structure covered with tarpaulins. The UNICEF tents that form the classrooms are

hot, with poor ventilation, no electricity and limited school supplies.

The volunteer teachers have no tertiary training but are doing their best to pass on what they know from the high school education they have completed. Their teaching focus is on Jesus and His love; educating the children and their community for life here and eternity. Currently they are seeking a new school site on which they can build a permanent Adventist school. The hope is that this will be a foundation for a church plant later. —*Bev Norman with Kent Kingston*



New tent school.



Staff house.

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APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

ADVENTIST CHURCH in North New South Wales

New partnership results in first baptism

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The government of Jiwaka Province, in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) highlands region, has partnered with the Adventist Church to deliver vocational health training.

In an agreement last year between Jiwaka provincial government, Western Highlands Mission and the PNG Union Mission (PNGUM), a community health workers (CHW) training centre was established at Tombil village.

After its official opening in May last year the training centre enrolled the first group of 34 students. This year the school has enrolled another 50 students in their first year of studies. By early next year the first group of students are expected to graduate as community health workers and take up roles in rural health facilities to provide primary health care.

“In spite of many challenges I am optimistic about the future of Tombil training centre because we are having the first baptism this Sabbath,” said school principal Mr Jambui. “This school is bringing young people into the faith. Kate [one of our students who is being baptised] comes from a Pentecostal church background and through the Bible study programs we offer, she was convinced to become a Seventh-day Adventist and learn more about God.”

Mr Jambui believes that the school will make a difference in Jiwaka. “Jiwaka is a new province with a lot of rural districts. Most times there are no health workers in these rural health posts,” he said. “We hope that our students at Tombil will become health missionaries who can make a difference in the lives of rural people as they serve in these rural health facilities.”

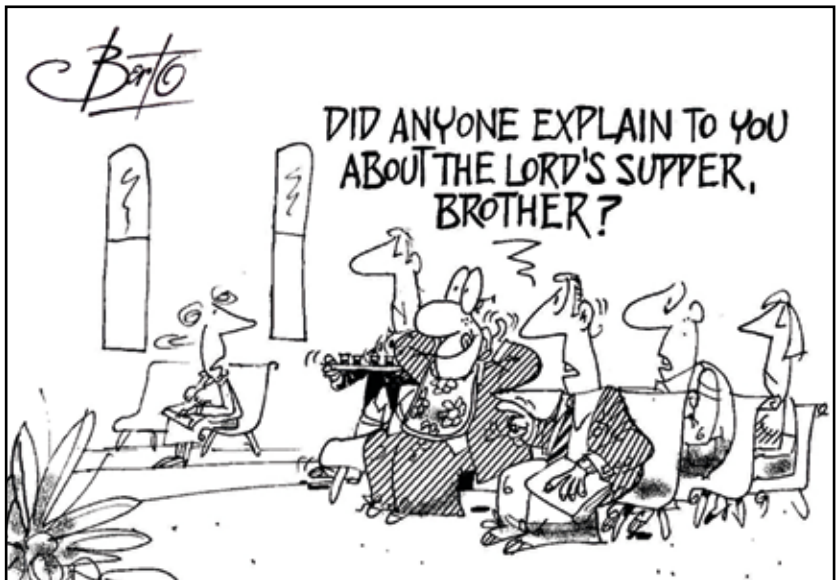
On September 19, Tombil CHW training school opened a new building, which will house a library, administration offices and two lecture rooms. This was made possible through the financial support of the Jiwaka provincial government, which provided K300,000 funding, while PNGUM met the freight and logistical costs of transporting building materials into Tombil.

—Nancy Lagdom



Bob Butler, PNGUM CFO, receiving the key to the new building from Dr William Togamp, Governor for Jiwaka Province.

Credit: Kelvin Kemba





Muslim relations conference a success

by Kent Kingston

Attendees at a series of Maitland Adventist Church (NSW) meetings focused on connecting with Muslims were enthusiastic about the principles and information they gained from the line-up of international speakers.

The September 22-25 conference was titled "Islam and the True People of the Book", referencing the favourable Qur'anic description of Jews and Christians as *ahl al-kitab* (people of the book). The topics included a biblical review of Ishmael's descendants and the "children of the East" from Genesis to Revelation, an introduction to Islam and the life of Mohammed, a presentation of discipleship principles and how they might be applied when relating to Muslims, and demonstrations of inductive Bible study methods.

The 30 or so attendees used opportunities during the conference to ask the hard questions about the true nature of Islam and the character and identity of Mohammed, reflecting the emotive debates in mainstream and social media. The focus of the presenters, however, was on finding ways to connect with Muslims, to identify where God is working in the Muslim world and make the most of common ground, rather than highlighting differences or stoking hostility. In answer to a question on how to deal with a friend who has a negative view of Islam, Gabriela Phillips, North American Division (NAD) director of Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR), who addressed the conference via Skype, said she had two answers: "The ideal answer is to say, 'Here, come—I want you to meet my Muslim friend.' The realistic answer is to remember that Jesus taught us to love our enemies, not that I personally see Muslims as enemies."

Ms Phillips' husband, Marty, who has decades of experience living and working in Muslim-majority countries, spoke via Skype on Sabbath morning, noting that indigenous gospel movements are rapidly growing across the Muslim world—from Morocco to Indonesia—tens of thousands of genuine followers of Jesus who remain within

their Muslim communities but actively participate in a large home-based church movement.

Toronto resident Mouhamad Zoghbi participated in Sabbath afternoon's final sessions; his presence and perspectives from the floor added significance to the content being discussed. "It has become human nature to focus on what differentiates us from one another," he said. "For Muslims, Jesus was raised to the heavens and is alive. All godly religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—are waiting for Jesus, who will unite the faithful and show us Almighty God and that there is no difference between those who believe in Him."

The conference speakers also included Australian-born Rodney MacCallum (assistant director of AMR, NAD), Oswin Budi Darmawan (assistant director, Interfaith Study Centre, East and West Indonesia union missions) and the conference organiser, Maitland local Paul Bennetts, who heads up Advent Indonesian Initiative, an organisation that runs English, health and ethics programs in Indonesian madrassas

(Islamic schools). The decades of experience befriending and working alongside Muslim people that each of these speakers have, showed in the plethora of stories they shared. Stories of divine guidance, of risks taken and of lives transformed.

"This program gave fresh perspectives on our fellow believers," said Maitland church elder Kelvin Langman. "It made me feel confident I can approach someone from the Muslim faith and not be afraid to share this important message that we have for these last days in history. Who knows, this could be beneficial for us both in the future."

Plans for a similar conference next year are already being discussed, with a number of organisers and participants wondering how the Church in Australia and the South Pacific region can establish a branch of Adventist Muslim Relations or a similar initiative in this territory.



Live presenters (L-R) Oswin, Rodney and Paul.

Kent Kingston is assistant editor for Adventist Record.



God always wins

Recent evangelism efforts by Philip and Maureen Vaki, Operation Food for Life directors for Papua New Guinea, resulted in more than 35 baptisms. On the day of the baptism, however, a generator caught on fire and the sea became very rough. But with God's help they persevered and were victorious: an extra 50 people made their stand to join a Bible study class.—*Phillip Vaki*

Adventist prison chaplain

Sydney pastor Wellington Caqui-Bazan has been appointed as a full-time chaplain in the Long Bay Correctional Centre in Matraville, NSW. The Greater Sydney Conference won the bid over several churches of varying denominations. "The purpose is to bring hope and healing to [the inmates]," said Pastor Caqui-Bazan.—*IntraSyd*

Taking church to the community

Portoroki church in Vanuatu recently had a unique visitors' Sabbath: members did not invite their friends to church but took the church to their friends. The members divided into groups, prepared meals and met their friends in homes, schools and parks. The response was positive, with people requesting visitation, prayer and Bible study at the end of the program.—*Adventist Media Vanuatu*



Christchurch's healthy regional

Health was the focus at the recent Christchurch regional meeting. Guest speakers from the USA, Lynell LaMountain and Sheryl Chernault, presented on the topic of "Creation Health" at the Sabbath morning services and continued in the afternoon and on Sunday with facilitator training. Music was also a highlight of the Sabbath morning program, with special items from the Filipino Choir and Christchurch Adventist School. The Saturday evening annual volleyball tournament continued the healthy living theme, attracting more than 170 participants.—*Southern Connexions*



FaithFM impacts Australia

FaithFM is continuing to impact lives around Australia. In Nunawading (Vic), a lady was recently baptised as a direct result of a FaithFM broadcast. In Gladstone (Qld), a young man came to church as a result of what he heard on FaithFM, and has been studying the Bible with the local pastor for the past six months. In Wallsend (NSW), a FaithFM listener walked into church for the first time. And through the enthusiasm of churches in western Victoria, three new stations in three towns have just been launched on-air. "We praise God for what He is doing," said Australian Union Conference FaithFM coordinator Michael Engelbrecht.—*Michael Engelbrecht*



Student releases poetry book

Wardley Barry-Igvisa, a final year theology student at Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Papua New Guinea, recently celebrated the launch of his poetry book, *ABC Dreams*. "The poems have a broad range of themes," Mr Barry-Igvisa said. "But I try to encourage my friends to embrace the values we have in this culture."—*EMTV News*



Age is no barrier

Cooranbong (NSW) resident Enid Webster, aged 95, recently competed in her third City2Surf, finishing the 14km course in 3 hours and 5 minutes. "It's quite an experience," said Mrs Webster, who completed the fun run with four generations of her family. To conquer the infamous "Heartbreak Hill", her advice is simple: "Keep walking, and you eventually reach the top."—*Felicity Pittaway*



More affordable mission

A new dollar-match scheme between ADRA Australia and Avondale College should see fundraising costs for overseas trips halved, encouraging Avondale students to join an ADRA Connections trip and increasing the number of donors. "[Students] can participate in a high-quality experience rather than one designed to be as cheap as possible," explained ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster.—*Sharna Kosmeier*

Clouds in the sky

FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN CLOUD TODAY. Every time I glance out the window the misty rain is swirling around and when I look out over the valley, the usual view of green hills is obscured by the rain blowing horizontally across it. Apart from the pale green tinge of new leaves on the deciduous trees, the bluebells in bloom and the brave tulips standing with buds ready to burst open, you could be forgiven for thinking it is mid-winter.

It's hard to believe that in a short time the air will be warm, the sky blue and only a few white fluffy clouds will be drifting lazily across the sky. When the sun sets they will turn pink and slowly assume shades of purple, then grey as the light recedes.

Ever since I was a child, when I would lie on my back in the grass with my sister looking at the shapes of the clouds, I have been fascinated by them. Their ever-changing shapes and colours have enhanced many a photographer's photo, while the potential to give shade, life-giving rain or devastating floods means they affect each of our lives in one way or another.

There are a number of references to cloud or clouds in the Bible. Some are in the context of God's overarching control of our natural world. "He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills" (Psalms 147:8*). Then there is the story of Elijah at Mt Carmel, when after a three-year drought the first sign of rain was a small cloud on the horizon. "The seventh time the servant reported, 'A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea'" (1 Kings 18:44).

At other times cloud represents God's presence. Think of the Israelites in the desert where God's presence was

evidenced by the pillar of cloud that protected them from their enemies: "Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long" (Exodus 14:19,20).

When Moses ascended Mt Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments God told him He would come in a dense cloud (Exodus 19:9) and after the tabernacle was completed God once again showed His presence in the form of a cloud: "Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled

the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34,35).

When Jesus comes again to this earth we are told He will be surrounded by clouds. "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven" (Daniel 7:13) and "... men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory" (Mark 13:26).

Next time you see a beautiful sunset where the clouds are filled with golden light, think of Christ's return and its magnificence, and what an amazing event that it will be. ↻
* All texts taken from the NIV translation.

Carolyn Hankins writes from Adelaide, South Australia. She wrote this piece after the recent storms that lashed the state.

There are a number of references to cloud or clouds in the Bible.



DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Gary Webster

Laodicea: white-hot disciples

Laodicea—sadly no passion for Christ and the lost, but just lukewarm enough to make Him vomit. Strong words from Christ, but from a heart overflowing with love for His church in the end-times. So how can our flame become red-hot for Christ and His mission?

Read Revelation 3:15,16,19.

In a word, Laodiceans need Jesus, their all-powerful Creator who stands at the door of their life seeking entrance. And when He comes He brings with Him what makes His followers burn like a flame: 1. The eye salve of His Spirit revealing their true condition; 2. Garments of His righteousness to cover their spiritual nakedness; and 3. Refined gold of genuine faith that works by love.

Read Revelation 3:18,20; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 1:7; Galatians 5:6.

We are told to buy these commodities from Him but without money and without price. So what's the cost? A self-satisfied sinful heart is the only commodity we must part with as we totally yield to Christ.

Read Revelation 3:18; Isaiah 55:1,6,7.

Do you want to burn white-hot for Jesus? You can begin right now if, with all your heart, you invite Him inside your life. As the Amen, He solemnly promises to all who open their door that He WILL come in as their very best Friend. Why not do it just now?



An encrusted pipe that carried lukewarm water to Laodicea from the hot springs of Hierapolis, some 21km away.



Lau Valley, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Earlier this year I was in Solomon Islands for Pacific Reach, an Adventist Church project focused on equipping disciple makers and church planters. On the last weekend we visited Lau Valley church on the hilly outskirts of Honiara. I didn't attend to preach or teach but to walk with the pastor, George Bekele.

Lau Valley church has been organised into 18 teams, Pastor Bekele told me. The members of each team live close to one another so they can focus together on their immediate neighbourhoods—settlements that are a mix of permanent and temporary dwellings interwoven by steep roads and rough dirt tracks. In 18 months six teams have planted new churches. From the steep ridge where the Lau Valley church building is perched we could see the places where they meet.

Neither the pastor nor the elders are threatened by having new churches so close. "They are reaching new people," Pastor Bekele said. "They would not have come to us. We go to them!"

We walked five minutes to the first church plant location to meet the planter and his young family. They struck me as strong in their faith and active in sharing it. This group first met under a tree in the centre of the suburb, then underneath a high-set house. Now they are building a permanent functional meeting place . . . and already planting another church!

We drove three or four minutes to another valley. There the planter is elderly, a quiet man. His team decided to hang a projector screen on the wall of a friend's house to help with their weekly health and evangelistic talks. Next door they have built a simple meeting place—basic but neat and clean. They run a "school" providing basic literacy skills to 25-30 kids and have already started a second plant nearby.

We stopped and prayed with a man with critical health issues; then stopped to talk with a work-gang building a bridge over a river. Would they like us to pray for some need? Yes! We prayed.

There is no movement without disciple making, with disciples making disciples who make disciples! Jesus' method is the most effective. As Ellen White so aptly summarised it, Jesus mingled with people, desiring the best for them. He won people's trust, displaying genuine sympathy and meeting their needs. He then extended the invitation, "Follow Me", as the first step in equipping them as disciple makers.

Be courageous, go out, connect and pray with people, and share Jesus!—Peter Roennfeldt, *Church Planting News*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Plant power

When it comes to our eating choices one of the simplest things we can do that has the biggest effect on our health is to eat more vegetables. It's not controversial advice and it doesn't make for the eye-catching headlines that accompany fad diets, but it truly is such a simple thing that could improve the diets of so many.

We know in countries like Australia and New Zealand that people who eat the recommended five serves a day are in an unfortunately small minority. So with most of us falling short, here are our top tips for increasing your veggie intake:

- » **Swap out the meat:** Recipes like cottage pie, spaghetti bolognese and stroganoff are normally meat-heavy dishes but with one or two changes they can become vegetable-packed favourites. Tinned lentils work great as a convenient, cheap and healthy alternative to mince in recipes while mixed mushrooms are a satisfying substitute for meat in stews and curries.
- » **Keep frozen vegetables on hand:** Seen by many as the fresh veggies' poor cousin, frozen vegetables actually provide all the nutrition of fresh ones with added convenience. Having a bag of frozen veggies in the freezer means you'll always have an option available when you want to increase the plant content of your meals.
- » **Plan your meals around a hero vegetable:** When you go out to the average restaurant you'll usually see the mains divided up into categories based on the meat they use. And many people do this at home as well—meat being the centre of the meal. But by checking out what's in season, you can find delicious, cheap vegetables that are just dying to be the centre of your meal. So when planning meals instead of thinking, "what are we going to have with that chicken?" , start thinking "what are we going to have with that vibrant, in-season eggplant?" Or "how many different things can we come up with for that delicious pumpkin our neighbours dropped off?"



Pumpkin and chickpea soup

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 50 minutes Serves: 4

- 750g peeled butternut pumpkin, cut into 4cm pieces**
- 2 cloves garlic**
- 2 tablespoon olive oil**
- 8 sprigs fresh thyme**
- 1 leek, finely sliced**
- 2 x 440g cans of chickpeas**
- 4cm knob of ginger, peeled and finely chopped**
- 2 litres low-salt vegetable stock**

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Place garlic whole with skin intact into a roasting tray with pumpkin.
2. Scatter thyme over the pumpkin and drizzle with 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Cover loosely with foil and bake for 30 minutes.
3. Make an incision in the leek half-way through from top to bottom. Slightly open, wash thoroughly and thinly slice. Place the leek slices into a heavy-based pot with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and fry over a low heat until they are soft and translucent.
4. Squeeze the garlic into the pot, add the roasted pumpkin, chopped ginger, chickpeas and vegetable stock. Bring to the boil with a lid on. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Puree soup with a blender and serve.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: Kilojoules 920kJ (220 cal). Protein 9g. Total fat 8g. Carbohydrate 24g. Sodium 880mg. Potassium 135mg. Calcium 75mg. Iron 4.7mg. Fibre 7g.

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Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



IN THE SHADOW OF THE BACK DOOR

PERHAPS YOU HAVE SEEN THEM AT YOUR CHURCH. You know, those people. They come, but don't really give the impression they want to be there. They don't talk or interact much. They certainly don't seem to enjoy themselves.

Do you pity them or get annoyed by them? Do you try to connect with them when they appear icy and aloof? Why do they stay? When will they leave the shadows of the back door, never to come back?

I've seen these people at churches. I've wondered about them. And now I've become one myself . . .

I was about four when my mother brought me to an Adventist church for the first time. I still have vague memories of Cradle Roll Sabbath School. It was a good move by my mum. Since that day I never really looked back. Well, until just recently that is.

I was enrolled in Bible studies through the mail as a child, again my mother's doing. I made a distinct commit-

ment to God when I was about eight. This stayed with me through the changing years of adolescence. My child-like faith waned but I never questioned His relevance or the importance of church attendance. That has all changed now though.

I can point to my conversion as a distinct experience late in my teenage years. God's imprint on me as a child provided the leash that both kept me from straying too far afield and left me with a way back to Him. I reached out to Him during times of disillusionment and disappointment with myself. I knew that God, if He were real, provided answers. In endeavouring to find them, I found Him. Or so I thought.

My twenties were a flurry of spiritual activity, a mixture of ups and downs. I was earnest in my desire to please God and follow His will. At times it seemed like I was having mostly downs, though there were vivid experiences that kept me going. Looking back I can see now some character weaknesses or personality traits that have proved to be a wayward rudder. But through it all I was driven by a genuine desire to please God and do what I thought best.

I had hopes and dreams. I felt that God knew me personally and had a plan of service for me. I had some very ineffective methods of discovering this plan and was slow to learn. I trusted honestly and patiently. But it seemed He hadn't kept His side of the bargain.

So in due course it happened. A mixture of time and circumstances tipped me over the edge. I had invested more than a decade of my life into something that evaporated into the desert. I had trusted in a God who turned out to be mute and distant.

It wasn't quite a crash. I struggled on, trying to pretend that I didn't believe what was happening. Changing churches in the midst of this probably didn't help. But eventually it became too much to pretend. I used to be always active and involved at church. Now I am one of "them". Standing in the shadow of the back door.

I think I have only purposely stayed away from Sabbath services a mere handful of times. I think I otherwise keep attending because of my family. Perhaps I fear what people will think of me if I leave altogether. I also wonder what effect it might have on the many people I've tried to influence over the years. I still honestly don't want my experience to be theirs.

I've become adept at avoiding people at church. I keep out of conversations. I hate the age old question, "How are you?", even though it is more of a greeting than anything.

I've learned that in general people don't know how to connect with those who practice avoidance techniques.

I had invested more than a decade of my life into something that evaporated into the desert.

Some still maintain a general politeness but are obviously at a loss to do any more. Some, and I don't blame them, apparently find it too hard to try.

So, out of respect to them, I want to offer a few suggestions. Maybe this will help them reclaim someone back from the shadows. Before they leave for good.

*** If she looks disinterested, don't hold it against her.** You probably don't know what is going on in her life. It may just be that beneath that bland facade there is a quiet desperation frantically fanning a dimming candle of hope.

*** If he doesn't seem to want to talk, maybe it is because he actually does.** But he doesn't quite know where to start. Or who to talk to. Are you interested in him? Really? He is probably deeply hoping for someone to intentionally pursue him. He wants to know there is someone he can trust. If he can't trust God anymore, is it possible to trust anyone?

*** If she keeps coming back, don't just wish her well and assume she is safe.**

There are many reasons why she may keep her church attendance up. She has a vacuum inside. One day she will implode and you'll never see her again. You will pave her road to destruction with your good intentions.

*** If you make an effort and he pushes you away, don't believe him. Try again.**

Harder this time. Persist. You will crack through his shell eventually and find it is what he wanted all along.

And me? I don't know where I will end up. Life at the moment is pretty empty. I try my best to find some cheap thrills to spark things up but it helps little. At times I've tried to get back to God but going through the motions ends up leaving me cold. I can't do it. I can't trust God anymore. It just doesn't work.

I find myself hoping for someone to talk to. I have friends from the past. They are polite and "make the right noises" on occasions. I don't offer them much encouragement to continue though. They are busy with their own lives. Do they really want to get down and dirty in mine?

I don't blame them for letting me push them away. I understand them as I've been there. I don't think they understand me though. But then again, maybe I don't understand myself right now.

I know that some of these people are probably praying for me. It's no great comfort to be honest. If God was not listening to me for the decade or more I was praying, then I'd not advise anyone else to waste their time petitioning on my behalf.

So I don't really know where I'm going next. For the moment I'll be stopping where I am. In the shadow of the back door.



The author of this piece has chosen to remain anonymous.



FOLLOWING GOD TO Greece

by Vania Chew

EARLIER THIS YEAR, 25-YEAR-OLD THEODORE Dimitriou was browsing the website of the Trans-European Division of the Adventist Church when he came across a video that would unexpectedly change his life. It was a video report from Greece that had been produced by the Church for World Refugee Day (June 20). It highlighted the work being done by Adventist Help, a project developed specifically to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe.

Theodore didn't have any medical qualifications but he knew he wanted to help. He lived in Tasmania but he'd seen his sister get involved in overseas mission trips and he longed to do the same. Already planning a six-week trip to Greece in July to visit family members, he decided to cut his holiday time short. Instead he would spend a few weeks volunteering with Adventist Help.

"I sent an email to the project coordinator of the camp in Oinofyta and they were eager to have extra hands—particularly as I spoke Greek," says Theodore.

The first thing he noticed upon arriving at Oinofyta was the warmth and friendliness of its refugee residents. At that stage there were close to 150 residents but this rapidly grew to more than 600 in the following three weeks. "They showed us volunteers so much generosity and love," he reminisces.

Working in such a faith-driven team was amazing—we saw God provide miracle after miracle during critical situations.

Theodore started off volunteering as a handyman and a translator. He also escorted refugees to medical appointments with issues that could not be treated by the Oinofyta clinic. Eventually he began coordinating the logistics of operating the team. The team consisted of almost 40 volunteers from various places—Australia, the United States,

South America and Europe. "Working in such a faith-driven team was amazing—we saw God provide miracle after miracle during critical situations," he says.

People were healed, even though doctors had said they were facing imminent death. Medical supplies and services were provided just as the volunteers were about to give up. And he met some incredible people during his experience—including a particularly

special young woman who was one of the other volunteers.

"I believe meeting Lara was a divine appointment," confesses Theodore. "To be honest, it was a surprise to us both. Individually we haven't had perfect pasts—we were both at the point where we had come to Greece to do God's work without distractions and then return home. But as I got to know her, I saw qualities that attracted me—her passion for people, her desire for truth and her sincere love for God."

Upon reflection, Theodore believes it was his decision to go where God wanted him that led him to meet Lara. "I

almost didn't go to Greece—it was leaving my will in God's hands that allowed Him to accomplish what He did."

Throughout Theodore's volunteering experience he had the opportunity to connect with the camp residents and make friends with them. Gradually he began to see the residents as family. Initially planning to spend just a few weeks volunteering at the camp, he ended up staying for almost three months.

"I was especially touched by the story of one man—I'll call him Ahmed," Theodore says. "He was a government medical researcher who also considered himself a devout Muslim. But after an incident involving a teenage girl who was brutally killed in the name of Allah, he became confused and scared. Was this sort of violence really condoned by God?"

Ahmed had many questions but knew that if he asked them, his job, his life and the lives of his young family would all be placed in jeopardy.

"I didn't know whether I really knew God—or if God even knew or cared about me," Ahmed told Theodore.

But then Ahmed had a dream. He dreamed of a stranger dressed in white, with shoulder-length white hair.

Ahmed would never forget the expression on the stranger's face—one of kindness, gentleness, benevolence and compassion. "I know you," the stranger told him.

After having that dream, Ahmed firmly believed that there is a God who loves him and knows him personally.

"His life has not been the same since then," says Theodore. "Ahmed has been moved throughout different refugee camps during his journey from Afghanistan. But he has sought to bless and better the lives of other people along the way. He is content to spend the rest of his life in a refugee camp if it means he can continue to be a blessing to others."

Ahmed's only fear is for his children's safety and the threat posed to their lives due to his newfound faith.

"Please pray for him and his family to find safety and strength wherever God leads them," requests Theodore.

Now back in Tasmania, Theodore will finish his degree in biology and continue working as part of a research team interested in plant physiology. Next year he plans to return to Oinofyta with Lara, with whom he is in a long-distance relationship. Lara is Croatian but has been living in England for 11 years.

"I thoroughly recommend volunteering with or supporting Adventist Help," he says. "If anyone is contemplating this kind of work, I would say go. Don't wait for your life to feel like it's sorted out. Don't worry about not having medical skills. All you need is a willing pair of hands and a compassionate heart. Let God take care of the rest." R

For more information on how you can support Adventist Help, please contact the coordinator at <greece@adventisthelp.org> or check out their official website at <adventisthelp.org>.

Vania Chew is assistant editor for Adventist Record.

Comment? Go to record.net.au/comment



Theodore visiting with residents at Oinofyta.



Adventist Help volunteers.



Theodore and Lara.



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HI KIDS!

Kids' Space

AFTER FEEDING THE 5000, JESUS SENDS HIS DISCIPLES ACROSS THE LAKE AHEAD OF HIM IN A BOAT.

AS IT WAS GETTING DARK, THE WEATHER CHANGED, THE WIND WAS STRONG AND THERE WERE HEAVY WAVES. THEN THEY SEE JESUS WALKING OUT TO THEM ON THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE, WHICH FRIGHTENS THE DISCIPLES.

AROUND WHAT TIME OF MORNING DID JESUS WALK ON WATER?



BY KEEPING YOUR EYES ON ME (JESUS), YOU ARE SAVED.

PETER COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS JESUS. HE SAID TO JESUS...

"IF IT'S YOU.... TELL ME TO COME TO YOU".

OH DEAR. SAVE ME JESUS



JESUS SAYS "COME" AND PETER GETS OUT OF THE BOAT TO WALK TO JESUS, BUT SOON PETER BECOMES AFRAID AND BEGINS TO SINK. JESUS REACHES DOWN AND SAVES HIM.

DOES IT SINK? CROSS OUT THE THINGS THAT WOULD FLOAT AND FINISH THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 18:27).



"WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MEN IS WITH GOD."

LETTERS

CHRISTIAN CULTURE

Alex Currie, via website

Re: "Real worship" (Insight, October 15). Worship is about praising God whether by speech, song, trumpet, lyre, timbrel, stringed instruments, loud cymbals, etc (Psalm 150).

We are so used to Western worship that some of us would have felt out of place worshipping with the psalmist. Jewish culture and worship were so different to what we are used to.

Today I worshipped with many Karens in Thailand. Their dress was different to mine. Their musical instruments were different to what we are used to.

We would never have made the impact we have if we had not recognised that Christianity embraces all cultures and lifts us above our own culture into a Christian culture.

TRUE WORSHIP

Maggie, via website

God's Word has many examples of what true "worship" is. True worship is not about the 20 minutes we spend singing during church service.

Read Micah 6:8 and Deuteronomy 10:12, Amos and many other examples on what God requires of us as a form of worship.

God's Word is our only standard. Feelings, culture, likes and dislikes are this world's standard.

Let's not follow Israel's example; God did not accept their form of worship.

CHECK THE GOSPEL

Gervais Cangy, via website

Has the "unity of the church" ("Unity document voted despite opposition", News, October 29) become

the new rule of faith over and against the principle of "Sola Scriptura", so dear to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation? It was that conviction that led the apostle Paul to challenge Peter and open a line of ministry to the Gentiles. That first schism was triggered because the apostle Paul understood that the church is informed by the gospel. To check the demands of the gospel, (eg. 1 Peter 2:9) against the so-called "unity of the church", amounts to biblical treason. We must, like the apostle Paul, do what is right and leave the consequences to God.

STARS IN HER CROWN

Judy Walker, Vic

On reading Evelyn Beans' tribute to the biblical foundations laid by Pastor Austin Cooke and others (Letters, October 15), I'm prompted to add a note.

In 1973, at Brentwood Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, Auckland, Pastor Cooke baptised me along with two teenage boys. Interestingly I didn't meet him until that morning. The leader of the Bible Correspondence School for New Zealand, Miss Nellie Knowles, had assured Pastor Cooke that I was ready for baptism. His trust in her as a Bible teacher led him to accepting me as a baptismal candidate.

I had studied several different Bible courses and been befriended by Nellie over some months. Her life is an illustration of many single, dedicated women who have brought others to the Lord.

She knew her Bible as well as, if not better, than any-

one I've met since. She had studied at Avondale College and was then a missionary teaching others. Nellie (or Bly, her nickname) retired to Cooranbong, was married and widowed twice, and died in her 90s, a woman who will have "many stars in her crown" when Jesus returns.

ONGOING SUPPORT

Isaac Menge, via website

Mostly we fail [because] we give them [young people] keys ("Give them the keys" Editorial, October 15) without mentorship.

Every young person in a church should have a mentor. Put keys in their hands and some are frightened or mess up big and then get so traumatised that they leave.

Train them first before sending them to the pulpit to give a sermon(ette). Assist them to understand what being Seventh-day Adventist means, how to study the Bible, what a Christian life means, and how to reach out to friends, school mates, playmates and others.

Our young people are bombarded on a daily basis with challenges to their faith, and attempts to get them to doubt our beliefs abound.

For instance, help them know how to deal with questions from evolutionists (including teachers). Help them understand what media/music is edifying and what is not, arm them with knowledge/skills on the whys and hows of our beliefs, etc.

In short, introduce them to the message, nurture and mentor them as they serve. Do this and they will stay/thrive. Worldly media/music can't win souls. It kills faith.

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.

THIS MONTH IN

SIGNS OF THE TIMES
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RECORD REWIND

Marian de Berg

First camp meeting in Queensland—1898

New Seventh-day Adventist believers were excited that a camp meeting would be the first to be held in the colony of Queensland and that Mrs Ellen G White would be in attendance.

Suitable grounds were hired on Logan Road close to the Logan Road railway station and the date set to commence the camp was October 14, 1898. Trams travelling between The Valley and Woolloongabba carried large calico banners announcing, "Camp meeting, Logan Road". This free form of advertising drew many listeners to the big tent.

Campers came not only from the city of Brisbane but from Rockhampton and Toowoomba and other places. Groups of people from these towns made pleas for Mrs White to visit their area while in Queensland and received a promise of commitment to come.



Mrs White had been reluctant to travel north due to the number of ministers who were already planning to attend the camp. She also wanted to continue her writing, which would be delayed should she travel. However, convicted that the people were like sheep without a shepherd, she made plans to attend the camp. Travelling north on the train to Queensland she saw in a vision of the night two white clouds. She was reminded that clouds filled with angels had announced the coming of Christ to the world and felt that these two clouds held special significance for her trip north. She wrote that when the two clouds came together, "I thought I heard the angels sing. Then the clouds would move apart, but again they would come together. I was sure that angels were in these clouds" (Manuscript 4, 1899).

Ellen would interpret that these clouds meant Brisbane. With a city divided in half by the Brisbane River, she felt it was appropriate that two churches be formed: South Brisbane church in Logan Road, which was erected in 1899 with about 40 members, and a similar sized group of believers in North Brisbane who met in hired halls.

Ellen fulfilled her promise to visit Rockhampton for a few days immediately following this camp meeting and the following year attended the Toowoomba camp meeting when the Queensland mission was organised into a conference. She wrote: "It seemed to be astonishing to them that Mrs White, a woman of seventy, could talk without notes and with such a clear and distinct voice for an hour and-a-half. One man said that she was a good recommendation for a vegetarian diet" (Letter 86, 1898).

Marian de Berg is administrative assistant at the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre.

ANNIVERSARIES



Gorle. Tim and Jeanette were married in Gwelo, Zimbabwe

(Rhodesia), on 5.9.1951. The couple were in church employment in the Trans-Africa Division until 1979 when they immigrated to Australia, taking up administrative positions at Avondale College until their retirement. They commemorated their 65th wedding anniversary with celebrations in Melbourne with family and in Cooranbong with old and new friends. They praise God for His many blessings, including three children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Reid. Stewart and June were married in Concord church

on 12.11.1946 by Pastor L Minchen and celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary this month. Their family includes three children (one sadly now deceased), seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Turner. Tom and Una celebrated their golden wedding

anniversary on 10.10.16. They were married in Mowbray, Cape Town, South Africa, by the late Pastor E Marter. Due to Tom being in care at Coroneagh Park nursing home, Penguin, Tas, a quiet visit was enjoyed at the home. They have three children, Linda-Jean, Cheryl-Anne and James William, and seven grandchildren. Tom and Una immigrated to Australia 42 years ago and during that time spent three years in New Zealand pastoring the Papatoetoe church.

After retirement many years were spent preaching in Australia and overseas.

WEDDINGS

Bisagnin-Lawrence. Jake Bisagnin, son of Glen and Lena Bisagnin, Cooranbong, NSW, and Courtney Lawrence, daughter of Stephen and Jean Lawrence, Cooranbong, were married 2.10.16 at Martinsville. They plan to live in the Cooranbong area where Jake is a musician and Courtney a student.

Wayne French



Petty-Szymala. Reegan Christopher Petty, son of Trevor and

Sandra Petty, and Noelle Helena Szymala, daughter of Andrew and Beata Szymala, were married 25.9.16 at Victoria Park, Herston, Brisbane, Qld. They were surrounded by family and friends. We wish them God's blessing as they set up their home in Brisbane.

Andre van Rensburg

OBITUARIES

Bateman, Linda (nee Shick), born 26.2.1965 on Lord Howe Island; died 31.8.16 in Wairoonga, NSW. She married Calvin Bateman in 1990. She is survived by her husband (Kariong); daughter Jodie and son Mathew (both from Gosford). Linda's life was full of

love for her family and friends and a great example of Christianity in action.

Kenn Duke

Caldwell, Gwennie Amelia (Joy), born 22.4.1924 in Craven, NSW; died 18.9.16 in Cooranbong. She married David Caldwell on 28.11.1944. She was predeceased by her husband in 2007, son Dale in 1948 and daughter Wendy in 1950. She is survived by her family: Ronnette (Wyong), Ivan and Deborah (Narara), Jolie and Frank (Paxton), Brian and Helen (Woongarrah); 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Joy supported Dave in his years as an Adventist educator in Australia, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. They had a love for people and opened their home to many.

Adrian Craig

Gomarsall, Thelda Vallyce, born 8.12.1939; died 15.9.16 in Box Hill Hospital, Vic. She is survived by her nephew Terry. Thelda was a resident of AdventCare Whitehorse for 29 years. She joined the Nunawading church in 1953. She had a generous spirit and a strong faith.

Lindy Sperring

Harders, Gordon James, born 12.1.1929 in Victoria Park, WA; died 15.9.16 in St George's Nursing Home, Bayswater. He is lovingly remembered by his wife June (nee Brown); daughters Jan,

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **AdSAFE vacancies—South Pacific Division.** AdSAFE Ltd is a new service that is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited. It is superseding the current Safe Place Services (SPS) and will commence operations in 2017, providing protective services for children and vulnerable adults across the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, New Zealand and in time the wider South Pacific region. The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd is seeking expressions of interest for the following roles. *Please note additional roles will be advertised in 2017.*

- Administrative officer
- Training and development specialist
- Senior case officer (survivor support)
- Senior case officer (offender and investigations management)
- Policy officer

Applications for the above vacancies close **November 20, 2016.**

For more information on each of the above roles and to apply, please visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>.

■ **Various positions—Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre (Gongolgon, NSW).** Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre, a co-educational, junior secondary, Christian boarding school that serves the Aboriginal people of Western NSW, is reopening in 2017 and is seeking expressions of interest for the following positions:

- Experienced boarding supervisor
- Male and female dormitory parents
- Office administrative assistant and accounts clerk
- Kitchen staff 1.5 FTE
- Grounds and maintenance person
- Teachers x 2

Applicants must be Australian residents or have documented permission to work in Australia. All applicants must have a valid NSW WWCC number. Indigenous Australians are encouraged to apply. For a copy of the position description and selection criteria for the position please contact Peter Eddy at <principal@currawah.nsw.edu.com>. Applications close **November 18, 2016.**

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



SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Chief executive officer, Asian Aid (Wauchope-Cooranbong, NSW).** The role of the CEO is to support the Board in the development and implementation of Asian Aid's strategic direction, plans, controls, and direct all the operations to ensure the achievement of established organisational objectives. Essential criteria: proven people and project management experience with a reputation for consistently delivering positive outcomes; sound financial management skills; strong communication, presentation, negotiation and influencing skills; highly developed conceptual and analytical skills; strategic thinking, initiative and concise decision-making skills; a reputation for highly effective stakeholder networking and relations; a high level of energy, enthusiasm, drive, commitment and the capacity to translate this into management effectiveness; a sound understanding of international aid and development; and impeccable ethics and integrity in the management of all aspects of the organisation's business. For further information please contact Kerry Patrick, email <kerry.patrick@asianaid.org.au>, phone (02) 6586 4250 or visit <www.asianaid.org.au>. Email applications to <kerry.patrick@asianaid.org.au>. Applications close **November 21, 2016.**

Asian Aid is a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Ltd.

Karen, Deb, Haydee, Roni and their husbands; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Gordon worked as a builder and courier and was always willing to help in any way he could to improve other people's lives. He loved his family and had a keen sense of humour.

Bob Bolst

Kirkman, June Audrey (nee Morley), born 23.9.1925 in St Arnaud, Vic; died 24.8.16 in Suffolk Park, NSW. She married Wray Kirkman on 19.8.1947. She was predeceased by her husband in 2012 and daughter Jennifer Anne Ryan in 2010. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Barry and Clare Kirkman (Mullumbimby); and grandson Hayden (Newcastle). June was a much-loved mum and will be dearly missed by her family and members of the Mullumbimby church.

Cranville Tooley

Kozlowski, Ivan Raphael, born 29.9.1925 in Loxton, SA; died 17.6.16 in AdventCare Whitehorse, Vic. He is survived by his nephew Colin (and Julie) Dunstan (Rochester). Ivan was a resident of AdventCare Whitehorse for 38 years. He enjoyed playing the violin and singing hymns. His faith in Jesus was strong.

Lindy Sperring

Lavrischeff, Boris, born 11.8.1929 in Manchuria, China; died 5.9.16 in Melbourne, Vic. He is survived by his wife Luba; daughters Roseann, Kathy and their spouses; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Boris was a long-time member of the Sydney Russian Church. After moving to Wodonga, he became a founding member of the Wodonga Community Church and was greatly loved by all.

McCallum, Alice (nee Martin), born 10.6.1918 in Missionvale,

NSW; died 21.4.16 in Murwillumbah. Alice was predeceased by husbands Frank Essery and Colby McCallum. She is survived by sisters Fran (and Doug) and Dot; children Johnny, Kevin (and Fay), Frances (and Ian) and Donald; five grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Alice loved working outside especially with her dairy cows and horses. One of her greatest joys was having her family around her.

Errol Wright

Moffatt, Kenneth, born 20.11.1937 in Melbourne, Vic; died 14.9.16 in East Ringwood. He married Dorne Pearson on 6.6.1959. He was predeceased by Kaye and Joy Moffatt. Ken is survived by his wife (Silvan); and children Michelle Kitchin (Yarra Junction), Teresa Davis (East Bentleigh) and Corinne Stewart (Caulfield). Ken, a loved husband and father, was well known in the Yarra Valley area as an avid classic car fan and truck driver.

Malcolm Reid



Morris, Benjamin Hartley, born 14.7.1930 in North Ipswich, Qld; died 14.9.16 in Dalwallinu Hospital, WA. He married Elaine Ion in 1956. Ben is survived by his wife; son John and his wife Lynette; grandchildren Bert, Ellie and Josie; and brothers Russell, Douglas and Graham. Ben graduated from nursing at the Sydney Sanitarium Hospital. He and Elaine eventually moved to Western Australia where Ben worked as a station manager in the Kimberley, Port Hedland and later Coorow areas before retiring. He was loved by family and highly respected by all who knew him.

Don Fehlberg, Graham Morris

Page, Tom, born 10.6.1933 in England; died 25.9.16 in Wantirna,

Vic. He married Ellen on 21.7.1956. He is survived by his wife (Ringwood East); children Andrew (Ringwood), Tony and Kay (Launching Place), Ray and Pairin (Mooroolbark), Graham (Doncaster), and Mick and Caz (Mt Evelyn); 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Tom was greatly loved by his wife and family.

Brian Lawty



Parkes, Henrietta (Hettie), born 29.3.1925 in Fremantle, WA; died 13.9.16 in

Adventist Residential Care, Rossmoynne. She was predeceased by her father Fredrick, mother Henrietta, sister Anna and brother Fredrick. Hettie was a vibrant and energetic person. She was known for her love of God, her church, people and her pets. She faced many hardships throughout life and when her father died she assumed the role of running the farm and providing for her mother and siblings. Hettie commenced work as a nurse with Adventist Care in 1968 and served faithfully for 27 years, retiring at age 70.

Roger Millist

Worsley, Leslie Edward, born 1.6.1938 in Auckland, NZ; died 17.9.16 in Rotorua, NZ. He married Cynthia on 27.1.1962. He is survived by his wife (Rotorua); daughters Stephanie Worsley (Rotorua), Angela Dowle (Christchurch) and Shari Worsley (Auckland). Les was a dedicated member of the Hamilton church and was employed by the North NZ Conference from 2002-2009 in pastoral work before retiring to Rotorua where he remained active in outreach work.

Jerry Matthews

ADVERTISING

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Missionary luncheon, December 10, after the Avondale graduation church service, in the education building. We would like a short talk on "a frightening experience in the mission field". Inquiries to Ken Boehm: 0408 072 313 or Warren Martin <warrebhntub@hotmail.com>.

Finally . . .
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

—Proverbs 3:5,6

Next RECORD Nov 19

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for Adopt-a-Clinic projects. Expressions of interest from tradesmen or those with experience in building construction, electrical or plumbing work. Several clinic project upgrades are planned for April/May 2017 in Solomon Islands and there are vacancies in some of these trade areas. The locations are remote and challenging but the experience is rewarding. Email to register your interest or telephone if further details are required. Please supply personal details, experience or trade qualifications and contact information. Email: <volunteers.for.adopt.a.clinic@gmail.com> or phone: +61 447 301 170 (Allan Butler).

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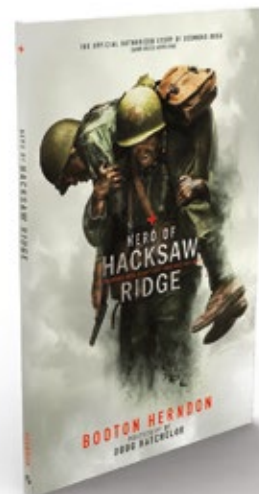
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