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“DON'T USE WAITING AS AN EXCUSE!”

And just like that I put an end to my mother's gym aspirations, after only one visit. I was very young and Mum had decided she needed to go to the gym. The gym offered a full crèche service—toys, snacks, napping mats, plenty of children to play with—you name it, they had it. Mum was assured I would be in good hands. So she went on a tour of the gym, maybe even tried a class.

It was when she returned that she decided this gym thing wasn't going to fly. You see, I was sitting in exactly the same position in which she had left me, an uneaten snack in front of me. I had rebuffed the carers' attempts to include me. I had ignored children they had sent to try to entice me to play. I was waiting for my mother. I still have what I think is an image of that room in my head. The TV playing '80s cop shows in the corner, the table I was sitting at, the feeling of single-mindedly waiting for Mum to return. Surrounded by opportunity and activity, I was frozen with fear, waiting . . .

Flash forward a few years. I'm sitting on a bench waiting for my mum again. This time I'm at high school. After an exam in the morning, Mum is picking me up. I know she'll come so I sit and wait.

Forty-five minutes later, I'm still waiting. She must be running late. One hour, I'm starting to get annoyed. After two hours, I'm hoping she's OK. Finally, someone comes to talk to me from the school office: "Your mum called. She's on her way." I watch as the school bus leaves, the one I would normally catch if I hadn't finished early. Finally, Mum arrives, apologising profusely.*

I had achieved nothing and wasted a good three hours. I could have gone and joined the study groups in the library. I could have gone to the office and tried to contact Mum or Dad to find out what had happened; it would have forced a result. Instead I just waited, afraid to rock the boat, full of faith, never doubting that Mum would eventually pick me up, no matter how long it took.

That's why I think we use waiting as an excuse.

We have been waiting for 2000 years for Jesus to return. As Adventists, we've been preaching about the "soon coming" for 150 years at least. We're confident it will happen. Our faith is strong! But our waiting is passive.

We wait for the latter rain, for the Holy Spirit to pour out on us, for the gospel to be preached to the world in power

and truth. We know the Holy Spirit will facilitate this exponential mission explosion. And that Jesus promises access to this power. So we are content to wait—content that we don't see that power moving because it's not available yet.

We use the story of the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem after Jesus leaves (Acts 1 and 2)—and we pray and we hold meetings and we hope that one day the Holy Spirit will anoint us and we'll see that kind of movement in our lives; that apostolic calling, that mission work or that evangelistic fervour.

We use waiting as an excuse not to go. We are not ready, we need to know more, be more perfect and understand prophecy better.

Like my toddler self, sometimes we're afraid of the outside world so we keep to ourselves, rather than reaching out. As a Church we have faith but keep it to ourselves; shut off and removed from what goes on around us.

Like my teenage self, sometimes we feel like we've done all the work we can and so we have a licence to wait. As long as we pass, there's no need to go the extra mile or seek a hastening of the delay.

Jesus cautions us in His message to the church of Laodicea. We say we are comfortable, having no needs, living it up . . . waiting for Him to come back.

He says, you need Me. You need Me to be your treasure (gold tried in fire), you need My robe of righteousness (white raiment) to cover your sins and you need to see others with the compassion I see them (eye salve).

As a man, I waited, this time for my bride. She was an hour and-a-half late but I wasn't going anywhere. I waited with eagerness and excitement. And then there was a wedding and a wedding feast. It was worth the wait.

Jesus wants you and everyone you know to attend the ultimate wedding feast, the one that He's hosting for us. Don't use waiting as an excuse. Pray for God's power in your life, pray for opportunities to reach your community, pray earnestly. Live life differently. Stand out, not because of anything you've done but because of Who covers you. What are you waiting for?

* My mother is the greatest mother in the world. But yes, she did forget me and she'll be horrified when she reads this. Sorry Mum.

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I'VE JOINED FACEBOOK!

I wasn't even on Facebook yet Facebook kept sending me emails from people, some I knew and some I didn't, who wanted to be my Facebook friends. It seems that soon after I became the South Pacific Division president somebody decided that I needed a Facebook page and made one for me. My wife, children, parents, other relatives and friends are on Facebook and shared interesting snippets and pictures from friends, but I did not have time for anything else in my life. I still don't have the time but I joined Facebook this year. Why the change?

Pressure. Family and colleagues—especially those younger than me—suggested I needed to use all the mediums possible to reach all the different people in the Church and community. In the open question time at the SPD annual meetings last November I was challenged to be more relevant to the younger generations and Facebook is one of the methods that most younger people all over the Pacific use. One of my favourite Bible verses for many years has been Colossians 4:5 (TNIV): "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." So I have decided to make the most of the Facebook connection opportunity. Not for myself but for the cause that I live for—Jesus and His expanding discipleship movement.

So now I have a Facebook page. It's not a personal page but rather a public page. Linden Chuang from Adventist Media helps manage it. So you probably won't see what I'm eating or who I have met or what I'm doing unless it has something to do with Jesus' work. I will be highlighting people I've met who have decided to follow Jesus or people working on a new ministry project or an important decision made by a committee or an insight from Scripture. You are welcome to follow the journey: www.facebook.com/SPDpresident



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT

 /SPDpresident

BOOK LAUNCH A CALL TO SEEK DISCIPLES NOT MEMBERS

BRENTON STACEY

An Avondale seminarian's new book describes the local church as the future of Seventh-day Adventism but issues this challenge: biblically reinvent or become irrelevant.

"Many churches are in maintenance mode," writes Dr Kayle de Waal in the introduction to *Mission Shift: Multiplying Disciples in Your Community*. "Even though transfer growth and biological growth are steady, kingdom growth is minimal or only by addition. . . . Our Church often seems to be servicing institutions more than engaging in frontline mission work."

Dr de Waal, head of Avondale Seminary, is convicted: churches willing to change can thrive. It's a conviction based on teaching, ministry and evangelism experience in South Africa, South Korea and New Zealand, a missiology-based master's thesis and a \$A50,000 grant from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific to study discipleship with a multidisciplinary team of academics from Avondale.

According to Dr de Waal, changed local churches will be relationally structured, multiplying churches seeking "more and more of the Spirit". Their leaders will be visionary, empowering and compassionate, caring equally about those in the community and those in the church. Worship will be inclusive, participatory and gospel-centred. And young adults will be given greater buy-in.

"These are some of my convictions," writes Dr de Waal. "But convictions need to be tested and tried, not only in the crucible of life but, more importantly, they need to emerge from the foundation of Scripture and in the transformational realities of the gospel of Jesus. . . ."

Signs Publishing book editor Nathan Brown launched *Mission Shift* on January 31 at the Church in the South Pacific's Church Planting Conference, which Avondale hosted

on its Lake Macquarie campus (see story page 7).

Mr Brown and South Pacific Division president, Pastor Glenn Townend, encouraged the delegates to share the book with others. "It is one of the books I would like every leading elder in Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, everywhere, to read," said Pastor



NATHAN BROWN WITH DR KAYLE DE WAAL.

Townend during the dedication. "Our lay leadership and our pastoral leadership and now others need to think about why we are doing church."

Dr John Skrzypaszek, director of the Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre, described his colleague as "one of the major thought leaders in the Christian church" who "takes the profound things of Scripture and translates them into common language."

Dr de Waal dedicated *Mission Shift* to the Newlands East Seventh-day Adventist Church in Durban, South Africa, which he attended during his formative years. "That's where God really began to chip away at me and shape me," he said.

"I've lived *Mission Shift*, reorganising the church and making it more missional focused," said Dr de Waal during the launch. "I pray it'll bless you and inspire you and advance the kingdom and hasten that day when Jesus comes back again."

LAE ADVENTISTS CONNECT WITH TOUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL

KENNY PAUL / KENT KINGSTON



PRESENTING WORLD CHANGER BIBLES.

Members of the Two Mile Adventist Church in Lae, Papua New Guinea, are building a special relationship with their local secondary school, most recently taking an evening worship service and distributing 40 Bibles to students.

Bugandi Secondary School is in the heart of Lae and, like the city itself, has a reputation for being rough, with student fights breaking out regularly and disrupting classes. Recently there has been reconciliation, which has contributed positively to students' general attitudes and resulted in an increased number turning up to spiritual programs.

The school dining hall was filled to capacity for the worship service, with some students sitting outside to

listen to Two Mile's singing group and a short, sharp message on Revelation from street preacher and past student Michael Kuya (read more about his story on page 13).

"We are very grateful for this opportunity to come and share the word of God with you students," said Lewis, who leads the singing group, "The 7/8s". "We look forward to another such time in future if we are invited back."

An active Adventist student association operates at Bugandi. The school also supports the operation of regular Religious Instruction (RI) classes. Many of those in attendance are not from Adventist families. Two Mile church members got a very positive response from RI students early in 2016 when they donated 40 Bibles. With the support of Australian ministry Volunteers in Action, they were able to donate a further 40 Bibles later in the year.

"I am really overjoyed for this new Bible and am so thankful to the Adventist Church through the Bugandi Adventist students for giving me this precious Book," said Hetty, a Grade 12 student.

The Bible donations are part of an ongoing project; Two Mile church hopes to make Bible correspondence courses available to students to make their RI lessons more educationally and spiritually enriched.

"We encourage sister churches to continue to uphold Bugandi Secondary School in your prayers," said Mr Kongragle, a Bugandi teacher. "God is moving and we are seeing positive changes."



THE GROUP HOPES TO RETURN TO BUGANDI.

NEW RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS OFFERINGS

MARITZA BRUNT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) has released the first episodes of an ongoing video project that aims to provide a deeper insight into tithes, offerings, and how God is working through pastors and churches in Australia.

Designed for local churches to play on a weekly basis during the offering collection time, each video provides inspiring testimonies from around Australia and, where relevant, information about the special offering for that Sabbath.

"Each Sabbath, we are blessed to read or view mission stories of what God is doing through His children around the world," said AUC Personal

Ministries and Sabbath School director Pastor Cristian Copaceanu. "But at the same time it can be easy to miss the amazing miracles God is doing in our very own backyard—and there are many happening every single day. These videos highlight the power of God working through faithful Seventh-day Adventists in Australia."

"We want to explain in a better way to our churches not only what our offerings are for, but especially how God has been faithful to us," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz.



"We hope that every church member may be blessed as they are reminded of God's faithfulness, and as we in turn are faithful to Him."

The videos are produced by conferences in partnership with the AUC, and are available for download at <https://disciple.org.au/projects/2017-offering-videos/>

ADRA PROJECT PRODUCES PRIZE-WINNING CHOCOLATE

JARROD STACKELROTH

A cocoa farmer supported by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Solomon Islands has seen a chocolate bar produced from her cocoa beans win third prize at an international competition.

Elsie Vota won first prize for her cocoa beans at the inaugural ADRA supported Solomon Islands Chocolate Week competition in Honiara last year.

Visiting US judge Adam Taylor of Dick Taylor Craft Chocolate bought 20kg of the winning beans and made a limited run of chocolate bars, one of which he entered into the North-West Chocolate Festival in Seattle. That chocolate bar placed third overall in the category of single origin product/bar, raising the profile and potential for Solomon Islands cocoa around the world.

Organised by members of the Solomon Islands Cocoa Industry working

group, including ADRA Australia's David Cram, Choc Week included chocolate making demonstrations, tastings and outlining the whole manufacturing process for growers and the public.

"ADRA Solomon Islands is working to improve the quality of rural farmers' cocoa production throughout its pre-export stages so that farmers can receive a premium price for their product," said Stephen Tasker, ADRA Solomon Islands country director. The top 10 place getters, out of 80 participants, won equipment to help them improve the quality and quantity of cocoa production.

Elsie Vota has received more than



double the local purchase price per kilogram for her beans since the ADRA competition, with a huge increase in local and international offers to purchase her produce.

Funding for the support and education of the cocoa farmers comes from the Australian Government and ADRA Australia, which have partnered with ADRA Solomon Islands and are committed to continuing to improve the cocoa industry across the country.

CHURCH MAKES SUBMISSION ON MARRIAGE AMENDMENT BILL

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia has made a submission to the Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill.

The Church's document, authored by US lawyer and former South Pacific Division communication director James Standish, is among more than 100 submissions made by various churches, human rights organisations, legal and community groups, and individuals.

The Exposure Draft will form the basis for ongoing consultation should the Federal Government's same-sex marriage plebiscite go ahead.

Australian Union Conference secretary Pastor Ken Vogel said the Church made its submission at the request of the Government.

"They are wanting the various views of the wider Australian community," Pastor Vogel said. "Our Church—as in its history here in Australia going back to the development of the initial

Australian Constitution—ought to have a voice in the public space just as much as any other Australian group. In fact, I believe we have an obligation to express a view on the various matters that are raised by government, being biblically-based Christians."

Pastor Vogel said the Church in Australia is developing material that will help clarify the value of all persons while also holding onto those values and beliefs found in God's Word. The material will also consider the implications of legislative changes to children, family and freedom of speech, conscience and religion.

"At the heart of Jesus' ministry was love, grace and compassion, and He is our example as we undertake this process," Pastor Vogel said. "Fundamental to the Church's philosophy is to love and minister to all people regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation."

The Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill was



established by the Senate on November 30, 2016. Among the key proposals is to change the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act from a "man and a woman" to "two people" as well as to limit any exemptions for religious or conscience reasons to religious institutions and religious practitioners. This would mean any other individual who had a biblical view on marriage would not be able to express it or act on it without breaking the law.

CHURCH PLANTING FOCUS FOR SPD CONFERENCE

KENT KINGSTON

Yes, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a problem in the South Pacific Division (SPD), said SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend in his opening address at a recent church planting conference.

In many parts of our region, Adventists are practically unknown. In Sydney, one of the most extreme examples, you'd need to gather a crowd of 500 people before you'd have a statistical chance of finding an Adventist. Just one.

"God is trusting us with resurrection power," said Pastor Townend, riffing off the apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1. "It's like we've been given a Formula 1 car and we're just putt-putting along."

Judging by the keen attention and hearty amens, the audience—mostly male but representing a broad spread of the SPD—seemed to resonate with what Pastor Townend was saying and relish the challenge he presented.

Participants were seated around large round tables and spent time in discussion after each of the presentations. A number of workshops also provided opportunities for participants to delve deeper into their areas of interest.

"We've got just a bit over 200 people here; we had to turn a lot away," said Dr Wayne Krause, the SPD's church planting liaison and one of the conference's key organisers. "We're excited about the number of church members who are here—not just pastors and administrators—it's around half church members. Because unless church members are planting churches we're never going to advance the work. We do not have the resources. And it's not biblically correct that only pastors plant churches. So we're trying to encourage as many of our church members to see that they can either plant a church or be part of a



PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED TOPICS IN SMALLER GROUPS.



CHURCH PLANTING EXPERTS SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES.

church planting team."

"Multiplying Disciple Planting Churches" was the official title of the conference held at Avondale College of Higher Education, January 30 to February 2. It included a number of church plant case studies to illustrate these points.

Pastor Faafetai Matai, from the Trans Pacific Union Mission in Fiji, recalled his visit to the Lau Valley Adventist church on the outskirts of Honiara, Solomon Islands. Church members there are successfully reaching people in the seven squatter settlements that surround their church, establishing regular Bible studies, evangelistic video viewings, worship services and even a school. "They have no accreditation, no registration—they didn't wait for permission; they just started a school! I don't know who the principal is," said Pastor Matai in mock outrage, drawing laughter from the audience.

"I think we've made the mistake of focusing on membership," said Pastor Townend. "Being a member is important but being an ongoing disciple grows out of that. We've also focused on knowledge—knowing the fundamental beliefs—again, important, but actually living them and learning how to be a 'loving and loveable Christian' and involved in the different disciplines of being a disciple is what we're focusing on. And it's very biblical and many people are realising the need and seeing results by following the biblical plan."



DR KLEBER GONCALVES, HEAD OF THE GC'S CENTRE FOR SECULAR AND POSTMODERN STUDIES.

NEWS GRABS



TAXING ISSUE

The Adventist Church's General Conference has initiated legal action after the Guam Government demanded more than \$US12 million in unpaid taxes in relation to an Adventist-owned pharmacy and book/health food shop. The General Conference says church-related activities are tax exempt in Guam, a US territory, and should continue to be exempt. —*Guam Daily*



PRAYER WARRIORS

More than 300 young people from around the South England Conference launched 2017, not with celebrated international speakers or highly produced events, but with a prayer-focused Sabbath at eight locations around the conference. Saturday night was a highlight, with anointing services and the release of prayer air balloon lanterns. —*SEC*



PAY IT FORWARD

An Adventist school for Syrian refugee children operating in Beirut, Lebanon, is teaching students the value of compassion. In January, 27 students from the school collected 30 large plastic bags of warm clothes and shoes and travelled to a refugee camp in the north of the country to distribute the supplies.

—*ANN*

HOT TOPICS



SUFFERING FOR THE NAME

At least 215 million Christians around the world are severely persecuted for their faith. The 2017 World Watch List ranks North Korea as the worst country to be a Christian for the 14th year running. The rest of the top 10 are in the horn of Africa, the Middle East and surrounding countries. —*Open Doors*



NOT A CHARITY

Melbourne Christian group Catch the Fire Ministries has had its charity status revoked under a law that prohibits charities from promoting or opposing a political party or candidate. Pastor Daniel Nalliah, who leads the ministry, also heads up the Rise Up Australia party, which takes a strong stance against multiculturalism and Muslim immigration. —*The Guardian*



BIBLE BICENTENARY

In 1817, NSW's Governor Macquarie and his wife founded Australia's first Bible Society. Two hundred years later it's the nation's longest continuously operating organisation. The Bible Society is still translating, distributing and promoting the world's most-published book. A bicentenary celebration will be held at Sydney's Hillsong church on March 7. —*Bible Society Australia*

FAITH OF DOSS CAMPAIGN LEADS PEOPLE TO JESUS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Hacksaw Ridge has received an impressive six Academy Award nominations* but, more importantly, it is leading people to Jesus.

The film, which tells the story of Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objector Desmond Doss, has presented a unique opportunity for church members to share their faith. To maximise this opportunity, the North New South Wales Conference, Australian Union Conference and Adventist Media worked together to create a multi-media campaign centred on the website faithofdoss.com.



Launched in November 2016, the campaign runs for another few weeks but it has already achieved some exciting results, including:

- More than 50,000 *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge* books distributed through local churches in Australia;
- 2500-plus book requests via the faithofdoss.com website;
- 60,000 Bible study letterbox cards distributed by church members;
- 232 people enrolled for Bible studies through Adventist Media's Discovery Centre;
- 500 requests for the *Miracle on Hacksaw Ridge* DVD offer promoted through the *It Is Written* TV program.

Churches across the South Pacific have also used the movie's publicity as an opportunity to run Doss-inspired programs. Gateway East church (Victoria), for example, ran a *Hacksaw Ridge* Sabbath program that attracted 12 newcomers and several former attendees.

"Friendships were made and they were all invited to a faith-based camp," said North NSW Conference project manager Nic Coutet. "Six of them attended camp and were blessed. One of the people who attended has never looked back and since then has brought 15 people to Gateway East church! The others are still attending church."

According to Mr Coutet, the work has only just begun in reaching out to all the contacts made so far.

"How do we transition these precious souls from interested to engaged? There's no simple way to do this; it simply requires time—my time and your time to revisit them and start building friendships. Ask for feedback and invite them to explore Desmond's journey of faith through the Faith of Doss Bible study guides."

The team at Adventist Media's Discovery Centre is responding to the Bible study requests. Centre director, Pastor Wayne Boehm, said the studies have been downloaded more than 250 times from the *Adventist Record* website alone.

"We are getting prayer requests from people who are doing the Bible studies and we are also receiving interest from Adventist churches overseas," Pastor Boehm said. "The UK Bible School have requested the studies and Armenia want to translate them and use them as part of their campaign. While this initiative was developed in Australia it's having a global impact as *Hacksaw Ridge* is about to be launched in Europe. So the story hasn't finished yet."

Mr Coutet, on behalf of the Faith of Doss project team, expressed his thanks for the enthusiasm and faithfulness of church members in using this opportunity to reach their communities. "This has truly been an inspiring collaborative effort between churches and church organisations across the Division," he said.

* The winners of the 2017 Academy Awards will be announced on February 26. *Hacksaw Ridge* is nominated for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director, Best Editing, Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing.



ELEVEN NEW MEMBERS

Lismore church (NSW) recently celebrated 11 baptisms in two weeks, including nine students from Blue Hills College. Rhonda Harvey and Blue Hills students Shenelle and Charise Nash were baptised at the church on November 26. The following Sabbath, seven more students were baptised in a local river. Tomas Hawkins, Samuel Fayers, Seong Greenwell Smith and Breadan Lemke were baptised, along with brothers BJ, Ben and Jack Cormack and their mother Cherie. "The church was excited to witness so many commit their lives to Jesus," said Blue Hills College stage leader (primary) Sherree Merritt. —*Sherree Merritt*



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Members from churches in the Central East Auckland (NZ) region ran their December regional gathering a little differently. Instead of a traditional coming-together of church members for a day of worship, they gathered at the Wesleyan Community Centre in Mt Roskill, blessing the local community with free health checks, clothing, food and Christmas music. "It was inspiring to see members connecting with the community by being the heart and hands of Jesus," said North New Zealand Conference president Eddie Tupa'i. —*NNZC News*



MUSIC IN THE PARK

More than 110 people attended a free community concert organised by Avon Valley church (WA). Held in the town of Northam, "Music in the Park" featured solo acts as well as the Perth Adventist Orchestra and the Perth Adventist Choir. Balloon animals were also available for the children. "After the concert, many positive reactions were received from the residents of Northam and the surrounding towns," said senior pastor Nat Tan. "The Avon Valley church extends our heartfelt thanks to all those who made the concert both possible and a rousing success." —*Nat Tan*



AVONDALE'S BEACH BLITZ

Students from Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW) removed 100 kilograms of rubbish from two local beaches in just 90 minutes. The group of 21 students recently took part in an Eco Angel clean-up at Moonee and Ghosties beaches near Catherine Hill Bay. "We collected 60 plastic bottles, fishing items, plastic bags, packaging and a trampoline," said student Francesa Kato, who helped organise the group. The Eco Angel program is offered by Lake Macquarie City Council to help schools, community groups, businesses and individuals come together to keep the city clean. —*Lakes Mail*



HONOURED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

The Adventist Church in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) has honoured Siulua Vaiola Rakuita for more than 30 years of service to the Church. Starting work at the Central Pacific Union in 1983 as secretary to the president, Ms Rakuita served in various ministries with the TPUM and was recognised at a special ceremony earlier this month. "Looking back after 33 years of service in this organisation, all I can say is that God is always good and faithful," said Ms Rakuita in her farewell speech. "The colourful characters whom I have rubbed shoulders with and whom I have served have made me and my family strong in the faith until Jesus comes." —*TPUM*



YOUTH HOSPITAL INITIATIVE IN SUVA

Young adult leaders from the Suva South District (Fiji) have started a new project as part of the Total Member Involvement evangelistic outreach scheme. Every Sunday for the remainder of 2017, youth from churches around the District will be rostered to help with the drying, folding, pressing and sorting of linen at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. —*My Mission Fiji*



SAN DIRECTOR LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

San Foundation managing director Barbara Ward has been named the Ku-ring-gai Local Woman of the Year. The award is part of the 2017 New South Wales (NSW) Women of the Year Awards, which recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution women across NSW make to their local communities, business and the state. Ms Ward received her award at a special reception at the Sydney Adventist Hospital last month. —*Maritza Brunt*



INMATES BAPTISED IN TAFUNA

The prison ministries team in American Samoa recently celebrated the baptisms of eight inmates from the Tafuna Correctional Centre on the main island of Tutuila. "The Lord is doing a mighty work here in American Samoa through the Adventist Church," said visiting pastor Meshach Soli, who helped baptise the prisoners. "We are honoured to participate in building the kingdom of God." —*Meshach Soli*



PASTORS: *GETTING PAID FOR WHAT?*

We often hear church members ask, "What are pastors getting paid for?" In other words, what are the things that pastors do that earn them the right to be paid the way an ordinary worker does?

The view is that pastors don't exactly work eight hours a day all week, except maybe on Sabbath. They don't sign in on a time sheet at 8am and they don't sign off at 5pm. Nobody knows what they're doing. So what are they getting paid for?

This question highlights the misunderstandings of some in our congregations that have a negative influence on the pastor and the Church as a whole.

I believe the work of a pastor or a minister cannot honestly be assessed, appraised or evaluated to produce a monetary figure. In other words one cannot put a cost or a price tag or hourly pay rate on ministerial responsibilities. In a similar way that a court may award damages for non-financial losses, pastors provide non-financial benefits.

So what are they getting paid for?

- The suffering and pain they go through with each church member as they sympathise with them in times of sorrow and adversity.

- For comforting the downtrodden, the weak and the outcast.
- For directing and setting the plan for the church.
- For their counselling service and advice to those in trouble and those who need a sense of direction.
- For building up marriages and families in the church.
- For conducting and solemnising marriages.
- To say the last prayers with someone on their deathbed.
- For conducting funeral services and providing moral and spiritual comfort to the relatives and families of the deceased.
- For helping, praying and guiding young people in the church.
- For trying to find solutions in a divided church.
- For influencing the church and the society for good.
- For teaching, advising and correct-

ing people in the way of the Lord.

- For every comforting sermon to the members.
- For every sharp-pointed sermon to convince and convict people of their sins, which some don't like to hear.
- For visitation, even to those who don't like to be visited.
- For walking and travelling a lot, and working odd hours.
- For the extra activities they perform to build rapport and bridges in the village and the community.
- For their prayers on behalf of others, the society and the nations.
- For neglecting their own families while supporting the families of others.
- Sometimes being alienated from their immediate relatives, villages and communities for the sake of the truth they profess and the call they undertook.
- For any future lonely and challenging circumstances they will sometimes go through when they retire from active ministry, especially if they don't have any savings for retirement or any backup plan.
- All the criticism they receive from those who disagree or dislike them.
- Being character references in an application form, even for those who don't normally attend church or engage in church activities.
- For organising aid and relief work in times of disasters and adversities.
- Their personal Bible study and intercessory prayers for others.
- For conducting evangelism and helping someone find salvation in Jesus.
- For being persecuted for the truth they proclaim.
- For helping Jesus in this great controversy and fight against Satan.
- For being satisfied and trusting the promises that "Jesus will supply all my needs" .

They are getting paid for not getting paid enough in view of the complexities of their ministry.

These things are worth more than money can afford and I only hope that our members now know the answer.

WAISSAKE RAIUBI, PASTOR ON NAURU.

THE TEN

...animals you didn't know were in the Bible

"The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons." 1 Kings 10:22



APE
1 Kings 10:22



BAT
Isaiah 2:20



COBRA
Isaiah 11:8



FLY
Ecclesiastes 10:1

"Desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and wild goats will bleat to each other; there the night creatures will also lie down and find for themselves places of rest." Isaiah 34:14 NIV



HYENA
Isaiah 34:14



LEECH
Proverbs 30:15



MOLE
Isaiah 2:20



OSTRICH
Lamentations 4:3

*HINT:
Check different Bible translations.*



PEACOCK
1 Kings 10:22



SNAIL
Psalm 58:8

PERFECT

LINDEN CHUANG ASSISTANT EDITOR - DIGITAL



When I was a boy I thought the term “pet peeve” described someone who didn’t like dogs.

I know better now . . . probably too well.

Some of my pet peeves: fingerprints on glass or glossy surfaces. The volume on the television or car stereo set to an odd number (multiples of five accepted). Not reading to the end of a chapter. Not making the bed. Not wiping down the sink or bench tops (or your little droplets on the rim of the toilet bowl, gentlemen).

(Deep breath.)

Oh! Those ink blobs that spill out of ball point pens that eventually lead to disastrous smears across the page.

The. Worst.

OK, I may be exaggerating (slightly). It’s not all doom and gloom. To offset my pet peeves I also have a number of “pet pleasures” or “pet penchants”, such as arriving somewhere and switching off the car just as a song finishes playing on the stereo. Things in alphabetical or chronological order. When the bag of apples weighs in at 1 kg exactly, or the total of the groceries is \$50 flat.

Am I a perfectionist? Yes, and no. If anything I’m a recovering one. I’m still learning that while some things are “black and white” and “perfect” (i.e., 100 per cent on a test score), life and people exist within a spectrum of grey. My idea of perfection will be different to yours, and so the often-said adage that “perfection is a myth” rings true.

But then again . . .

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48, NIV).

This isn’t a suggestion; it’s an instruction. And God doesn’t give instructions He doesn’t expect us to follow.

So, is perfection attainable?

Yes.

And no.

God commands us to be perfect, yet He doesn’t provide a comprehensive checklist on how to achieve perfection. What we have is a model—Jesus—and a manual—the Bible. One verse in particular recently struck a chord with me.

“Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:4, NKJV).

It’s not often we make the link between patience and perfection. We normally think of perfection as this lofty thing to pursue, only reachable by doing better or being better. James, however, suggests the opposite. Want to be perfect? Wait. Stop. “Be still, and know that [He] is God” (Psalm 46:10, NIV).

The work of patience is “perfect” because it leads us to a place of real surrender, where we can lift our hands in the midst of a highlight or a heartache and say, “I’m OK. God’s got this.”

Jesus told the rich young ruler, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor . . . and come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21, ESV). The road to perfection involves less of you and me, and more of Him.

Be patient and be still. Wait on the Lord and be complete, lacking nothing. “For the life of every living thing is in his hand, and the breath of every human being” (Job 12:10, NLT).

Again, “God’s got this.”

(Deep breath.)

I don’t know about you, but to me that sounds pretty amazing. Maybe even perfect.



in the local community. Pastor Roy Tukar was the speaker. "For the whole week I attended the meetings," Michael recalls. His attendance wasn't in vain because during the whole week he was troubled by the messages he heard.

"Despite my stubbornness, I could not resist this strong feeling in me; a feeling that something wasn't right," he says.

At the end of the program, there was a baptism and Michael found himself standing in line with the others who had made their decision to be baptised. From then on, he started attending church regularly. From the last seat he gradually made his way up to the front and finally joined the *klas redi* baptismal preparation group. Within two years he was baptised.

Meanwhile, at school, Michael's negative views about Adventists changed. He started attending religious instruction programs with the Adventist students. Soon he joined the Bugandi Adventist Students Association (BASA). Due to his eloquence in interpreting the Bible and his in-depth understanding he was appointed as BASA's spiritual leader.

While only a student, Michael felt he was on fire for Christ. His desire led him to the streets and he started preaching. "I started at the main market," he says. After he left school he committed himself to street preaching. "I enjoy it so much because I often enjoy seeing God's hand," he says. In 2015 his ministry was really transformed when Two Mile church presented him with a portable speaker. "It really enhanced my ministry; by projecting my voice I can reach as many people as possible," says Michael.

Today Michael Kuya is an active member of the Two Mile youth group. He travels far and wide around PNG, witnessing to the love of God with more than 20 other Adventist street preachers.

Michael Kuya's parents were divorced when he was just 8 years old. He grew up in the care of his father until the search for education brought him to Lae (Papua New Guinea), where he lived with relatives and attended Bugandi Secondary School.

"It was very tough, living in a big city. Life isn't always fair but I had to survive anyway," says Michael. "I was initiated at the Madang Men's house and was given all the spiritual powers that I needed to help me survive."

Michael comes from a strong Lutheran background. In school he was quick to denounce the Adventist Church, although he had good Adventist friends. He began to realise that his anti-Adventist attitude was having an opposite impact on him. The more he hated Adventists, the closer he was brought to them.

This gradual change was highlighted when he met Helen Kiwi, an Adventist girl from the Two Mile church. "We both lived on the same block and attended school together and I knew her as a good sister," Michael says. He recalls that each Wednesday and Friday night he would escort her to and from the church for her safety. "While she was worshipping, I would hang around with the boys outside to wait for her to finish so that I could escort her back home."

One Wednesday night, however, Helen asked if he could attend the worship program with her instead of hanging around outside. "I reluctantly agreed and took the back seat for the rest of the program," he says. Soon he found himself regularly attending all the programs and was starting to attend Sabbath services.

Then came the time when Two Mile church conducted some meetings

KENNY PAUL

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

CAMELS, CROCS AND CRONYISM

The port city of Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean Sea was built by Herod the Great between 25 and 13 BC. It was from here the Romans ruled Judea. Biblical stories from this ancient port carry vital lessons for us today.

From here Cornelius, a Roman centurion, sent a delegation to bring Peter to share with them God's message of grace.

Read Acts 10:1-8; 17-23.

Two important messages emerge from this Caesarean chronicle:

1. Camels, crabs and crocs are definitely not on the Christian menu. In a vision Peter was told to eat unclean animals so some try to use this passage to support their desire to eat foods termed by Scripture as "unclean". While Peter's vision has nothing to do with what we eat, his reaction to it clearly reveals that some six years after the death of Jesus, he still believed it was contrary to God's will to eat unclean foods.

Read Leviticus 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:3-20; Acts 10:9-17.

2. God has no cronies or favourites. Up to this point most Jewish Christians believed salvation was only for Israelites. However, this vision revealed that God has no favourites. Everyone is loved, precious and wanted by God. What a vital lesson for us today. We think, "How stupid were they not to know God has no favourites?" But are we not worse? Upon understanding that God has no favourites, they immediately sought to save all, but so often today we, who have this knowledge, do NOTHING! God has His sheep and shepherds in all religions and denominations. Today, won't you decide to gently help them follow the Good Shepherd?

Read Acts 10:28,34,35,44-48; 11:15-18; John 10:14-16.



AMPHITHEATRE AT CAESAREA.



NEVER STAND ALONE

Why different generations need each other—especially in the Church

AS A YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY specialist, I thought my dream had come true! I was given a young adult church to lead and I was so excited for the opportunity to work with college students and see what the Lord would do with a young yet educated group of adults. Without going into much detail, months later I was prayerfully asking God how I could bring other generations, aside from young adults, into my church. Why such a change? Did I find myself loathing the eclectic millennial generation? No, I love them . . . the problem was that I was not enough, and neither were they.

By and large we live in a world of consumer Christianity. We've been sold many lies by the devil—one of the biggest lies that plagues the Christian church is that "your spiritual needs should be met". It's a lie for several reasons. First of all, as human beings, let's be honest, we've always struggled to tell the difference between what we need and what we want. Since the time when we were a toddler and argued with our parents about how much we needed ice-cream to the retired baby boomer who believes they need to go on several luxury cruises every year. Things get even uglier when we take this demonic mindset into church; especially considering the purpose of going to church is not to fill our own spiritual needs but to glorify God. They get

ugly because not only are we trying to meet our own supposed "needs" but because so is everyone else in church, and everyone has their own idea of which need is more important—and it's usually "my need over yours!"

The disagreements over everything from worship style to carpet colour turn into arguments, which turn into debates, which sometimes turn into outright church division and church desertion. While some think such divisions are a means for church planting, we need to realise that we're supposed to be multiplying disciples and not dividing them.

This misunderstanding of what constitutes a "need" hit me in the face as a pastor when I realised that having an entire congregation of young adults meant I had a membership who lacked both finances and experience. How well does a church run if there are no mentors, or children to mentor? Please imagine what our potlucks were like considering that most people were single college students. When couples did have children, without adequate children's programs (or teachers), they didn't stay because their needs changed and they went and found a church where their new needs were met. Let's not get started on offerings or tithes either . . .

No generation can stand alone. We were designed to live in a diverse community of ages and we are healthier



as individuals when we live with at least two other generations different to our own. In fact studies are showing that the mental and psychological illnesses that often beset older communities are tied to older generations not mixing with younger people. Children learn better when they have older generations taking them by the hand. Young adults desire and need older mentors who listen to what they are going through and only offer advice or testimonies when invited. Every single individual, no matter their age, contributes to the health of a community due to the fact that a diversity of ages is beneficial to overall health. The reality of a monogenerational church is also this: if someone outside of the generational mission walks into the church off the street, they will likely be neglected, which can lead them to not only leaving the church but quite possibly walking out with the perception that the whole “Jesus thing” is not for them.

Many of our churches however are multigenerational. Multigenerational means that there are several generations who attend the church. But let’s be clear, multigenerational doesn’t necessarily mean intergenerational. Just because every-

FOR MANY, THE ONLY PEOPLE THEY CONVERSE WITH AT CHURCH OUTSIDE OF THEIR OWN GENERATION ARE THOSE THEY ARE RELATED TO EITHER BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE.

one shares the same worship space doesn’t mean they get along; or even talk to each other for that matter. For example, I gave a series of seminars on intergenerational discipleship to one church that I was told was quite intergenerational. However, after the series I had one member come up to me and say, “I thought we were an intergenerational church, but when you asked if we were intergenerational if we excluded talking to people we were related to, I could not honestly answer that we were.” For many, the only people they converse with at church outside of their own generation are those they are related to either by blood or marriage. This leaves many in the church having no relationships with those outside of their age group.

So what is an intergenerational community then? They are multigenerational for sure but it goes beyond that. An intergenerational community is made up of a significant number of people from three or more generations, where each generation is mutually benefitted from having a relationship with people from other generations. Ask yourself this question, “If a specific generation in my church were to disappear, would it affect me negatively?” If after going through each generation in your mind you answered “it wouldn’t affect me” or “the church would be better without that age group” then not only is your church not intergenerational but you may need to have a chat to the Lord about

what you can do to improve your relationship with those in that category.

If we as a Church believe that every member is a member of the body of Christ, or that every believer is a priest of Christ, we need to realise that intergenerationality is an area of grave importance to our relevance as Christians. Even in Old Testament times, when a city, tribe or the whole nation of Israel was called together, everyone was expected to turn up, including women and children. The devil loves to divide and conquer, and what better way to do it than to make God’s people believe that they are better off being divided to avoid disputes rather than doing our best to work on how we can be united though diversity.

Is there a place for age-specific or monogenerational ministry? Absolutely. There are some things that need to be done with just one age group due to common developmental or experiential reasons; i.e. Sabbath School or Grey Nomad events. However, most of what we do should be done intergenerationally.

The young-adult church my wife and I were pastoring changed through prayer and counsel. We moved the service to a better time for families and established Sabbath Schools not only for children, but included more than one option for adults. We encouraged all to be part of the min-

istry team and purposely sought out those with experience to be part of our community. We let the greater community know that all were truly welcome, no matter their age, and something beautiful happened—a miracle. By the time we left the attendance had increased by 80 per cent as did the involvement of members in ministry. We went from three children attending to having three children’s divisions. We had a retired businessman leading our fundraising team, children participating up the front and mentoring taking place in both directions. The church was not only becoming healthier but it was growing. Did I mention offerings and tithes began to grow too, along with the quality of the potlucks?

No generation can stand alone. If you don’t believe me, read Joel 2:28. This promise can only be fulfilled by both young and old. If Jesus can restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, then what are we waiting for? Let’s stop the divisions and tear down the walls of neglect, and nurture communities of intergenerationality for Christ.

For more information visit <http://igdiscipleship.com/>.

PASTOR JOE AZZOPARDI, PHD DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AT AVONDALE WHO HAS BEEN A TEACHER, A CHURCH PASTOR AND A SCHOOL CHAPLAIN AND IS PASSIONATE ABOUT INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCHES.



THE TABLE:

YOUNG FAMILIES THE FOCUS OF NEW LIFESTYLE TV SERIES

AFTER MONTHS OF FINE TUNING AND HARD WORK, Adventist Media's *The Table* officially launches this month. A women's panel lifestyle TV show covering issues of family, health, faith and social trends, *The Table* fits well within Adventist Media's commitment to reach young families with an interest in spirituality and wholistic living but who have no current faith commitment.

"If people from this target group come into contact with the Adventist community as a result of what they have seen and heard, they will likely find a multitude of resources to assist them with their everyday concerns," says assistant producer Kent Kingston. "Playgroups, school holiday programs, Adventurers, Pathfinders, Adventist schools, Sabbath School and a friendly bunch of like-minded parents in a similar stage of life."

Accordingly, the focus of marketing for *The Table* will be YouTube—the place people go to find entertainment, practical tips and answers—although it will also air on Hope Channel. Alongside this will be a strong social media presence, led by Facebook, and a website with all kinds of extra video clips and articles that link with the topics discussed on the show.

"We're placing a lot of emphasis on social media because most young parents are in the millennial generation," explains Mr Kingston. "So when we're trying to connect with young families, we need to be in the places where millennials are."

The Table is not a video series that features preaching or Bible study. Instead, the producers aim to show how a

biblical worldview and a personal relationship with Jesus impacts a Christian's everyday decisions. There are spiritual discussions and mentions of God and biblical teaching on *The Table*, but these discussions are integrated into the questions people ask as they navigate ordinary life.

Young mums are front and centre at *The Table* but the producers also recognise that mums appreciate the perspectives of people in other stages of life.

"There's something for everyone at *The Table*," says assistant producer Vania Chew. "It's not just panel discussions—we have segments on healthy cooking, fitness, DIY projects and hacks that will make your home life a lot easier."

This new program has come at a time of change and renewal for Adventist Media. A whole range of new TV studio equipment has been purchased and the rooms connected to the studio have been renovated to provide a "green room" for people preparing to appear on screen. A new modular studio set has been built with reversible panels that can be reconfigured for a variety of different studio-based shows, *The Table* being the first cab off the rank. An upgrade of the control room will allow the production of programs "live to tape" beginning later this year.

"Equipment and buildings are great, but at Adventist Media the focus is not on the 'kit', it's on how we can build communities for Jesus," says Adventist Media CEO Kalvin Dever. "We've been doing it for years through our courses; now we are updating the way we do it—it's a long overdue revolution of sorts. That's why so much focus will be placed






on the social platforms—in particular Facebook and YouTube. That's where our audience is so that is where we are focused.

"A show like this is not possible without a team of people and we have a fantastic team," adds Mr Dever. "It's absolutely exciting to see the launch of this new show aimed directly at young parents.

"You can be part of building the community—check it out on YouTube and Facebook and, better yet, engage with it, make comments, like it, share it and yes, even disagree with it. Together we really can make a difference for Jesus."

The Table officially launches and will be available for viewing on February 22.

Go to: thetabletv.com

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MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR

 [/maritzaemunoz](https://twitter.com/maritzaemunoz)

MEET THE PANEL



Fiona Lelilio-Tiatia

Fiona is a mum of three kids aged under three, including twins—she's got the positive outlook and sense of humour you'd need to survive in that situation. Fiona has a background in local government and media relations and refuses to jump on board with every latest fad. She's one of *The Table's* hosts.



Rachel Humphries

Rachel is an unreformed tomboy and a mum of three primary-aged kids. She loves the outdoors and getting fit, works in a number of part-time jobs and has a background in corporate communications and marketing. Rachel is also a host for *The Table*.



Shona Solomon

Shona is counting down the days until her two teenage sons leave home. With decades of business experience behind her, she specialises in straight talking, loud laughter and delicious food.



Rachel Lemons Aitken

Rachel isn't the loudest person in the room but she possesses an intense passion. When she speaks it's worth listening to. With a background in communication and project management she's a strategic thinker who can quickly grasp issues and identify solutions. Rachel is now taking on one of the biggest challenges of her life: being a new mum.



Maryellen Fairfax

After topping the class in high school, Maryellen is studying a double degree in psychology and law at university. She readily embraces new ideas, is super-keen about being the healthiest she possibly can and is unstoppable idealistic and positive.



Melody Bell

After years of competent magazine publishing and writing, Melody has embarked on her journey of motherhood, at which no-one feels competent at first! She's prepared to be open and vulnerable about the challenges she faces and, like all the other panellists, isn't short of an opinion.



MEDITERRANEAN DIET IMPROVES MOOD

Chalk up another one for the Mediterranean diet. Research has already linked it to improved cardiovascular health, a reduced risk of diabetes and increased longevity, and it seems the benefits keep stacking up for this eating plan.

In a recent study conducted by Deakin University in Melbourne, people with severe depressive disorders were put on a Mediterranean-style diet. After 12 weeks, one-third of the participants reported a significant improvement in their symptoms and mood. In contrast, only 8 per cent of participants who did not change their diet but were placed in a social support group saw a significant improvement in symptoms.

The researchers were quick to point out that the diet was not intended as a replacement for traditional therapies, with many of the study participants also receiving psychotherapy or pharmacology treatments. However, it does show that dietary interventions have significant potential to act as a support to other treatments designed to help depression. The study's lead author, Professor Felice Jacka, sees a significant place for nutrition to play in treating depressive illnesses: "It's not a stretch to consider that people coming to a doctor with depression might have a referral to a clinical dietitian."

With increasing links being found between diet and every area of health, there might come a time when it will become unusual for any person who has consulted their doctor not to receive a referral to a clinical dietitian.

*health
tip*

A Mediterranean diet makes liberal use of herbs and spices to flavour foods instead of salt. So make sure you reach for these before the salt shaker when cooking.

Wholicious living

Sanitarium has launched a monthly newsletter called *Wholicious living*. Each issue aims to nurture your body, mind and spirit with a mix of articles on plant-based foods, the latest nutrition advice, plus health and wellness tips for your whole being.

Recipe of the week

Find fresh inspiration through Sanitarium's *Recipe of the week* newsletter and receive a delicious new recipe to feed the family or wow your friends each week. It's easy to sign up below . . .

SO HOW DO YOU GIVE YOUR DIET A MEDITERRANEAN MAKEOVER?



GET PLENTY OF VEGGIES

Aim for at least 5 servings of vegetables a day. Make sure you have a range of vegetables.



DON'T BE SCARED OF GOOD FATS

Olive oil and nuts are both regularly included as part of traditional Mediterranean diets.

A small handful of nuts and a couple of tablespoons of olive oil a day can have a place in a healthy diet.



DON'T FORGET YOUR LEGUMES

Lentils, broad beans, chickpeas—the list goes on. Make sure you get the goodness of legumes regularly in your diet.



EASE OFF THE ANIMALS

If you choose to eat meat or poultry, do so sparingly. Pack those meals with plants.

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing

www.sanitarium.com.au/subscribe (Aus) or www.sanitarium.co.nz/subscribe (NZ)
Free to your inbox monthly: **Wholicious living** Free to your inbox weekly: **Recipe of the week**



GOOGLE MAPS EVANGELISM

I want to bring to your attention something that anybody with a smart phone can do today! Something that we have neglected for far too long. Something that would help to make our churches more open, friendly and accessible to all who may be interested. Something to distract you while you should be listening to the sermon (caught!).

Google is offering free advertising for your church . . . Kind of.

And all you need is a Google account and a camera. It's true. Not only will they present a picture of your church to the rest of the world, but they also want to display your church's phone number, opening hours and web address. The cost to you is \$0.00. Good deal right? And what will you gain? Existence. People through your doors. Visitors will pop in unannounced. Locals can become familiar with your church more easily.

"But Kyle, we already exist!" I hear some of you say. Well, I'm sorry to be the one to inform you that for many a passing traveller, and for most people under 30 years old, you don't exist at all. You simply did not appear when they asked their phone about you. They found no trace of you when they searched for a local church.

And if we can't even feature on the world's largest free maps platform, then how do we expect people to find us?

The power of Google's free maps service lies within the collective contribution of its users. You have the ability to add missing information to the map.

May I suggest that the younger generation takes this opportunity as an empowering responsibility and contributes to making their church seen and available to the seekers passing by?

Want an easy checklist? OK.

1) Make sure your church is listed and the address is correct

- 2) Upload a nice photo of your church
- 3) Update phone and hours details
- 4) Add a review about your church
- 5) Repeat 1-4 for other Adventist churches

Some have even suggested that you all pose for a nice photo, smile and wave. Upload that photo and show the public how friendly you can be as a congregation. Go on, try it out. Open Google Maps and hover a few hundred metres over your church. Type in: "Seventh-day Adventist Church" and see if yours is listed. Is there a nice recent photo of your church for all to see?

Here's one I prepared earlier: Avondale Memorial Adventist Church (right).

Posted October 2015, it has since attracted 62,000 views (with 450,000 hits on all local church photos I've posted) and is displayed as one of the default photos when searching for Cooranbong on Google Maps. And yes, stories are coming in already about people walking into churches they never knew existed simply by searching on Google Maps.

For those of you needing a somewhat constructive hobby, why not become a "Local Guide" (see: <https://www.google.com/local/guides/benefits>). Yes, at the risk of embarrassment, I will confess that I am at Level 4 and have earned myself a free TB of Google Drive storage. But at least you can now take a street view look inside Memorial.

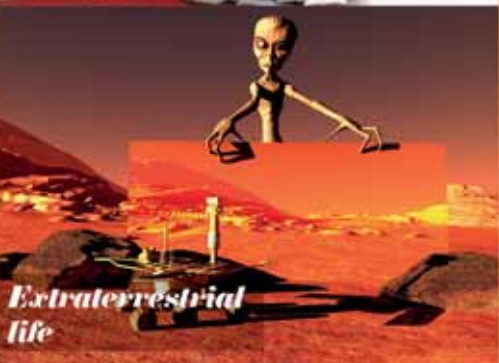


KYLE MORRISON
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT,
NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE

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Kids' SPACE

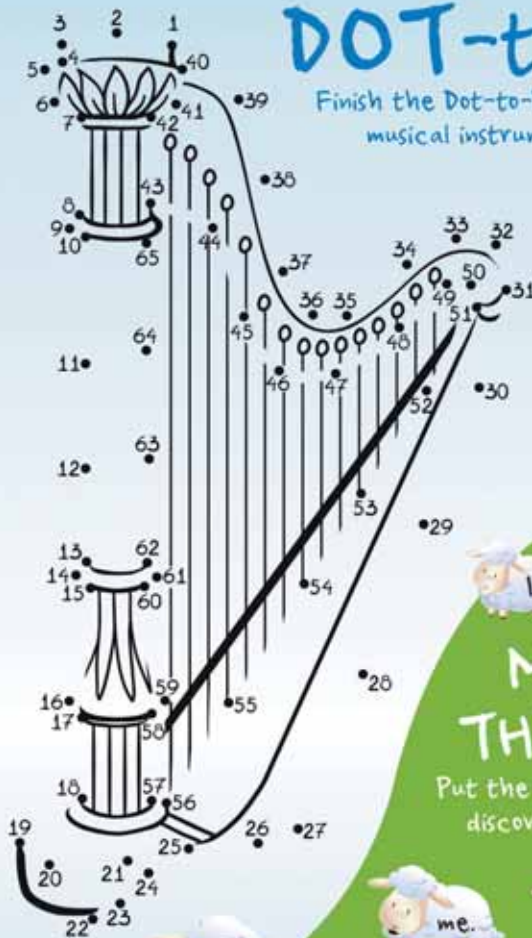
HI KIDS!



David, the shepherd boy, cares for his father's sheep full time; guiding them, caring for their needs and protecting them from danger. He often plays music and sings praises to God, who helps him. He fears no evil, for he knows that God is with him.

DOT-to-DOT

Finish the Dot-to-Dot to find out what musical instrument David plays.



MATCH THE SHEEP

Put the words in order and discover the Message.



"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures."

Psalms 23:1 NIV



KEEPING UP, LOOKING GOOD

I guess it'll take some time to get used to the new look—change is always painful—but it's great that we do so to keep up with this ever-evolving digital world and respond to users' and readers' suggestions. It is also great that *Record* continues to set the

benchmark for others in this area to follow—those administering websites, newsletters and the like for local churches, missions, conferences. God bless *Adventist Record* and its team and looking forward to this journey together in 2017!

Carole Cholai, New Ireland New Britain Mission, Papua New Guinea

SIMPLE OFFERINGS

Lo and behold the new look *Adventist Record* is great. I found myself looking and reading 95 per cent of it.

Regarding "Money matters" (January 28): I never see my pay. It goes in electronically. I withdraw cash for offerings but when inspired on the Sabbath to give more there are no "electronic facilities" to act on my desire.

We really do need to come into the 21st century and have ATMs or similar so that at anytime during the day while we are at church we can transfer an offering directly to the conference office and be able to notate the purpose.

I know we can do it at home. But sometimes we are impressed to do it at church and there are no facilities for such electronic transfers.

Here's hoping something happens.

Bill Gates, NSW

SENSATIONAL STATISTICS?

This article ("Money matters") is sensational but is it a fair use of statistics?

The demographic used in

this report is very large with varying GDP, incomes, church attendance etc. \$A3.50 in offerings does not take into account the sincerity of the giver. We worship a God who praised the widow's tiny offering—giving all that she had (Luke 21:2).

I do agree with the rest of the article and from experience know that God does bless a cheerful giver and that giving for the benefit of others helps us to remain humble.

I would be interested to see the statistical breakdown per nation rather than the whole South Pacific Division.

Janine Pye, NSW

POLITICAL MESSAGE

I am very disappointed with the cover of *Adventist Record* on January 28 and it is not the new look I am referring to.

The picture of a Donald Trump hairdo together with the line "POST-TRUTH" sends a political message, whether intended or not. The article behind the cover also links Brexit to the term post-truth.

No mention is made of the false economic doomsday predictions of the UK Remain camp or the dishonesty of the Clinton campaign.

We carefully avoid politics in our pulpits. *Record* should also be careful in the messages it sends.

Emmanuel Millen, Vic

CHEESED OFF

I would like to stir the health debate, hopefully in a positive way.

I feel that many in our Church have lost focus on health and the blessings that result from adherence to health principles. Many of our pastors and leaders treat health promotion with disdain or lip service at best. This neglect is highlighted also in our magazines. How can *Adventist Record* be promoting recipes with cheese? (November 19).

Medical opinion has finally caught up with what we were told 150 years ago: "Butter is less harmful when eaten on cold bread than when used in cooking; but, as a rule it is better to dispense with it al-

together. Cheese is still more objectionable; it is wholly unfit for food" (EG White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p 302).

While I do not feel it is my place to lecture anyone on what they should eat or not eat I strongly object to the promotion in *Record* of food containing cheese as if it is virtuous.

Our publications can lead to the promotion of error and mislead many who don't know better to discount the clear guidance given. It is a fact that the "best" way to induce coronary artery disease in rats is to feed them Parmesan cheese for just 12 months. Eat it at your peril but please stop promoting it.

Peter Romero, NSW

NOTE: Views in "Have your say" do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Comments should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All comments are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all comments received are published.

POSITIONS VACANT

Chief financial officer

Australian Union Conference (Ringwood, Vic). This is normally a position elected at the time of the union constituency meeting. The position is currently vacant and will be appointed by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) executive committee for the term ending in the last half of 2020, at which time the normal election process will take place. The role involves responsibility for the proper conduct of financial and business matters within the territory of the AUC. It also requires mentoring and working with local conference CFOs. Applicants must have proven financial management skills, a high level of experience in good governance and a comprehensive understanding of Church structure, operating policies and procedures. Request a copy of the job description from and send applications to Pastor Tony Knight (Director for Resource Development and Personnel), 289 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134; (03) 9871 7591 or email <tonyknight@adventist.org.au>. The AUC reserves the right to make an appointment. **Applications close March 31, 2017.**

Op Shop national manager
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is seeking an Opportunity Shop (Op Shop) national manager who has the experience to manage more than 30 retail stores and a passion for creating linkages between these retail shops and community action. This is a unique opportunity to become engaged with creating positive change in local communities across Australia, while being creative and working collaboratively. The focus of this role is to oversee the ADRA Op Shops across Australia. For more details visit <<https://www.adra.org.au/work-for-us/>>. For all enquiries, please contact Alison Young, ADRA Australia, phone 02 9473 9503 or email <alisonyoung@adra.org.au>. Applications addressing the selection criteria should be emailed to Alison along with your CV and the names of three referees. **Applications close February 26, 2017.**

For more:
ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU

Anniversary



SPECK. Orm and Win celebrated their 70th wedding

anniversary on 5.12.16. Family members gathered by the lake at the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point (Qld), to celebrate this milestone and to praise God for His many blessings. Their lives have touched many people as they served in teaching ministry in Hamilton (NZ) in 1946, followed by pioneering mission work in Papua New Guinea, pastoral work in South Queensland and then Trust Services in the Trans-Australian Union Conference and the South Pacific Division from which they retired in 1985.

John Gate

Weddings

BAXTER—PEACE. Lucas Baxter, son of John and Debbie Baxter, and Abby Peace, daughter of Craig and Jeannie Peace, were married on 1.1.17 at Edwardstown Baptist church, St Marys, SA. It was a beautiful start to the new year as they celebrated with family and friends from across Australia. They will live at Noarlunga Downs, where Lucas operates a roof plumbing business.

George Hirst

CELESTIN—MATTNER. Rodney Lindsay Celestin, son of Ange and Marie Celestin (Mauritius), and Heidi Ann Mattner, daughter of Ralph and Alison Mattner (Perth, WA), were married on 22.12.16 at Belvoir Homestead, Swan Valley, Perth.

Steven Goods

GRIFFITHS—PARTLETT. Mark Griffiths and Millicent Partlett were married on 19.12.16 at Sassafra, Tas.

Graham Sutherland

JOSE—GORRY. Dylan Jose, son of Wayne and Alison Jose (Loxton, SA), and Breanna Gorry, daughter of Dean and Sandra Gorry (Caloundra, Qld), were married on 15.12.16 at Summergrove Estate, Carool, NSW. The couple met at a "speed friending" activity at Avondale College, where Dylan had to throw Maltesers into Breanna's mouth. Breanna graduated from her Bachelor of Nursing studies in 2016 and Dylan will graduate with a Bachelor of Secondary Teaching this year.

Leathan Fitzpatrick, Wayne French

LLOYD-WARD—FERRY. Jaimes Lloyd-Ward, son of Jenni Lloyd-Ward and David Ward (Ben Lomond, NSW), and Larissa Ferry, daughter of Lester and Nerellee Ferry (Toowoomba, Qld), were married on 21.12.16 at House of Laurels, Maleny.

Casey Wolverton



MOORE—HANKUS.

Marcus Moore and Natalie Hankus were married on 8.1.17 at Belgenny Farm, Camden, NSW. There was warmth, great joy and affirmation from family and friends as they pledged their future together. They plan to live in Launceston (Tas) where Marcus will continue his work as a builder and Natalie will start her teaching career. Blessings to this happy union.

Harley Stanton

Obituaries

ADAMSON, Theresa Margaret, born 4.10.1920 in South New Zealand; died 1.1.17 at home in Shepparton, Vic. Margaret was predeceased by her husband Victor James Adamson. She is survived by her children Jim, Delwyn, Alvin and Beryl. She lived her life by the "golden rule": "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



CASWELL, Jason

Lindsay, born 16.5.1979 in Wondai, Qld; died tragically in a light aircraft accident near Rockhampton on 25.11.16. He is survived by his wife Karen (Rockhampton); daughters Darci and Madison; parents Russell and Diane (Gympie); sister Jillian and Wade Steele (Gympie); Karen's parents Robert and Lyn Finney (Rockhampton); and Karen's siblings Christine and Andrew, and their families. Jason was a loved and respected member of his local church, serving as Adventurer leader, senior deacon and Pathfinder district director. His passion for life and the outdoors was matched by his passion for Jesus and children's ministries. Jason was also a highly respected member of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Department. More than 100 firefighters formed a guard of honour at his funeral.

Mark Turner, Ray Hobb



CHESWICK, Frederick Barry, born 16.4.1937 in the United Kingdom; died 11.11.16 in

Berwick, Vic. Barry grew up in the UK and married Maureen Osgathorpe on 21.12.1957. He is survived by his wife (Pakenham, Vic); son Steven (Warragul); daughters Judy Duncan (Mooroolbark) and Kathryn Horner (Croydon North); and their respective families, including six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Barry and his family arrived in Australia in 1973 and served in various churches. During retirement Barry dedicated 10 years to hospital chaplaincy for the Victorian Conference.

Barry Whelan, Paul Kotanko



COLLINS, Barrie, born 23.5.1941 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; died 9.12.16 in Perth, WA. He is

survived by his wife Audrey; daughter Mandy; son Gary and his wife Nita (all of Perth). Barrie had an infectious smile and an enthusiastic approach to life. He served the Church in treasury and management for many years in the Trans African and Far Eastern Divisions. In Australia he worked in the WA Conference in the areas of education and residential care and also gave many hours of volunteer service to the Church, always looking for opportunities to share his faith.

Steven Goods

CONTANT, Adriaan, born 14.3.1922 in Apeldoorn, Netherlands; died 18.12.16 in Millmerran, Qld. He married Marcia Faulkner on 6.12.1992. He was predeceased by his first wife Klazine, their daughter Ingeborgh and his brother Hans. Adriaan is survived by his wife Marcia (Southbrook); their children Inga and Peter Hutchinson (Armidale, NSW), Sikko and Mary Contant (Palmwoods, Qld), Mariee and Graeme Piper (Brisbane), and Shirley and Jongkil Kim (Bald Hills); their children and grandchildren; stepson Ken Faulkner (Ormeau) and sister Marie Muldery-Contant (Netherlands). Adriaan was a banana and avocado grower, and an apiarist. He owned a nursery and became an aviarist in his retirement.

Keith Miller

COOPER, Owen, born 5.3.1943; died 7.12.16 in the Royal Brisbane Hospital, Qld. He was

predeceased by his brother Mervin. Owen is survived by his wife Leora; sons Brad (Roma) and Peter (Brisbane); brother Neville and sister Beryl. Owen was a much-loved and gentle man who had a special way with people and animals. He was very involved in the country music scene and was a crafted leather worker. Owen was an elder in the Murgon, Roma and Kingaroy churches.

Carl Rattray

DILLON, Lillian (June), born 29.5.1930 in Woy Woy, NSW; died 19.11.16 in Umina. In 1951 June married Norm and they had five children, 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. June joined the Adventist Church 43 years ago following an evangelistic program conducted by Pastor John Carter. She was a tireless collector for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) even into her 80s. She shared Jesus with anyone who would listen and invited a great number of people for Bible studies. June was a quiet achiever who tutored students in maths and wrote poems.

Eddie Mackie

DULHUNTY (formerly Giblett), Dr John Alexander, born 13.2.1947 in Sydney, NSW; died 24.12.16 on the Gold Coast, Qld. He married Colleen Dulhunty on 5.10.1974. John was predeceased by his father Marcus. He is survived by his wife (Bonogin); daughter Rebecca and son Shaun (Gold Coast); brothers David Giblett (twin) and Paul Dulhunty; and his mother Jean Giblett (all of Brisbane). John was a remarkable man who was loved and respected by many people. He had recently completed his PhD and had been working in his dream role at Central Queensland University before having to retire due to illness. John is fondly remembered for the contributions he made in many areas.

Peter Stojanovic

FERRIS, Ashleigh Ian, born 15.3.1945 in Wandal, Qld; died 27.12.16 in Toronto, NSW. He is survived by his wife Denise; sons Jason and his wife Tanya and their children Lachlan and Zac; and Adam and his wife Nola and their children Riley and Logan. Ashleigh served in the Royal Australian Navy. He worked in engineering and development at Scottsdale Hospital, Tasmania, and engineering maintenance at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW.

He and Denise contributed to their local church, particularly in Sabbath School ministry. Ashleigh served his country, his God and his family.

Eric Winter, Murray Chapman



GOULD, Jayne Suzanne (nee Evans), born 28.11.1965; died 18.11.16 in Newcastle, NSW. She was predeceased by her father George and brother Peter. She is survived by her husband Phil; mother Loma; children Angela and Peter; and sibling Greg. Jayne gave her heart to the Lord after more than three decades of prayer by her mother and her best friend. Her testimony about the peace that God can provide for one who surrenders their heart to Jesus has inspired many. Her favourite hymn was "What a friend we have in Jesus", and it was her faith and hope in Jesus that sustained her during her battle with cancer.

Danny Milenkov, Grego Pillay

NEWLAND, Felice Rae (nee Blair), born 21.12.1924 in Perth, WA; died 22.12.16 in Perth. She married Walter Newland on 18.2.1946. Rae was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her children Gillian Morris, Lyall Newland, Gabrielle Barbagallo and Adele Lucev (all of Perth); and her sister Lois Willis (Cooranbong, NSW). Rae was an elegant lady who had a good sense of humour. She had a strong belief in God and a loving care for others.

Steven Goods

OUTRAM, Marie Georgina (Gene), born 23.9.1938 in Fremantle, WA; died 30.12.16 in Forrestfield. She married Brian Outram on 19.10.1957. She is survived by her husband (Forrestfield); children Kim Diletti (Lesmurdie), Keith (Lesmurdie) and Kathy (Bickley). Gene was a faithful church member who loved her family and Lord.

Robert Kingdon

NOTE: Neither the editor, Adventist Media, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Classified advertisements in *Adventist Record* are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. All advertisements, appreciation, anniversary, wedding and obituary notices may be submitted via <ads@record.net.au> or online at <record.adventistchurch.com>.

PARKINSON, Pastor Cecil Thomas (Les), born 13.11.1923 in Abermain, NSW; died 30.12.16 in Woy Woy. His wife Faith (Fay) predeceased him on 29.3.13. He is survived by his children Susan and Bronwyn; and granddaughter Kirstie and husband Marin Duvnjak and their son Oliver. Les and Fay were a mighty team in ministry. Les was a strong family man spending many years of labour in the Pacific Islands, as well as in his homeland.

Eric Winter, Alwin Hilton

PAUL, John Lionel, born 4.5.1923 in Carlton, Vic; died 6.1.17 in Wyong Hospital, NSW. In 1947 he married Peggy Rowe in Drummoyno, Sydney. He is survived by his wife; children Gary and Susan (Ross); four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. John, a passionate gardener and avid reader, was known by friends as a "walking encyclopedia". He was a qualified production engineer but, for many years, ran a successful removal business, relocating the household goods of many Adventist ministers and teachers. He was a trusting and forgiving man who employed, over time, a number of ex-prisoners.

Roger Nixon

SPARKS, Tammie Joy, born 14.5.1957 in Toowoomba, Qld; died 4.11.16 in St Andrew's Hospital, Toowoomba. Tammie is survived by her husband Athol (Stanthorpe); daughter Denyasha, son Pierre; and grandchildren. She loved her Lord and her church, and with Athol gave her life to Adventist education, often in one teacher schools where Athol

served as principal. Tammie was loved for her graciousness, humility and strength of character. She lived what she believed and in her years of suffering she thought constantly of those around her and did not dwell on herself.

Lea-Anne Smith

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