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FRONTIER FOR MISSION

WALLIS AND FUTUNA 16

NEWS

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED ON
REMOTE ISLAND 7

ADVENTIST RECORD | MARCH 4, 2017
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“THERE IS NO MISSION WITHOUT THE CHURCH. . .”

In his book *Movements that Changed the World*, Steve Addison writes, “The church Jesus founded was a missionary church. Its existence and activities were an expression of its missionary calling.” And this hasn’t changed.

He then says, “Its members were fearlessly determined to win others to faith in Jesus as the crucified and risen Messiah.”

I am challenged by this. It leads me to ask: Has the missionary focus of our Church become blunted? Are our members “fearlessly determined to win others” to Christ? Or has the Advent movement become the Advent Institution?

Addison outlines three distinctive purposes of the mission-focused movement. These are:

- Our message centres on Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was crucified for our sins and is the only source of salvation for a lost world.
- We have an agenda for change, and
- Mission involves the conversion of individuals and their inclusion into the body of Christ, which is the church. There is no mission without the church and there is no discipleship without the community of faith.

Here the church stands at the intersection of mission and discipleship; the local church is where real ministry happens. And success in both mission and discipleship depends on the church working effectively. The problem is that we often don’t really know what this means.

Driving the activity and business of the church is the “great commission”, the work we have collectively of sharing the gospel and influencing people from all areas of life for eternity. Jesus was very clear about this and it is repeated in different ways throughout the Scriptures (see Matthew 28:19,20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Revelation 14:6-12). This is what sets the church apart. This is what defines its mission. The question though has always been “how?”

How do we fulfil the divine mandate to prepare the people of the world for Jesus’ return?

In 2011 the Seventh-day Adventist Church engaged in a worldwide review that formed the foundation for the General Conference’s strategic planning. This review—a series of worldwide surveys involving almost 41,000 church members and nearly 1000 former members—highlighted a number of positives as well as a number of areas of concern. These were expressed in 13 strategic issues. Of

particular significance are the following:

- *Many local churches lack robust mechanisms for member care—especially for those who are at risk of leaving the church . . . While the number of church members has grown significantly over the past 50 years, in the same period, four out of 10 members have left the Church.*
- *. . . there is also a need to instil lifelong commitment to membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church . . . discipleship programs should be greatly strengthened.*
- *Secular thinking and entertainment are affecting Adventist beliefs and practices, especially in the Western world.*
- *There is a decline in most divisions of personal commitment to participation in vital personal, familial and corporate spiritual practices—especially in personal Bible study and family worship.*

Think about these for a minute. What do they say about our Church? Do they in any way describe your church?

As I look at them, they tell me that we have lost some of the essence of Adventism. Institutionalism has crept in and a personal relationship with its passion for Jesus has, to some degree, become lost. If this is true, it means that our churches are not fulfilling their full purpose.

So what can we do?

In Acts 2:42-47 we are given a picture of the church living in community: worshipping, praying, studying, eating, sharing and witnessing together. And in Ephesian 4:11-16 is the picture of every member being involved in some way. At the core of this is the issue of discipleship: How we follow Jesus. How we live in relationship with God and each other. How we keep our relationship alive, vital, passionate and active. And how we share this passion with others.

The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) will show you some of the ways we are attempting this in this special *Adventist Record*. You will learn what iPACE means. You will read about our little church on Wallis and other great stories. There is even a French feature, *Connaître Jésus*. We hope you will see what God is doing with His Church in the different parts of our Union to fulfil our missionary calling.

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SMALL BUT LARGE

Welcome to the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. Our region has the smallest membership of any union in this Division but covers the largest territory, most of which is ocean. From New Zealand in the west to Pitcairn Island in the east, from the small islands of Wallis and Futuna in the north to Stewart Island in the south. There are six countries in our Union, three of which use French as their official language (that's one-third of all our members).

The two currencies used in our Union are the New Zealand Dollar and the Pacific French Franc. While the New Zealand Dollar has remained relatively stable, the Pacific French Franc has declined in value in recent years meaning there is less tithing and offerings able to be shared with other parts of the world Church.

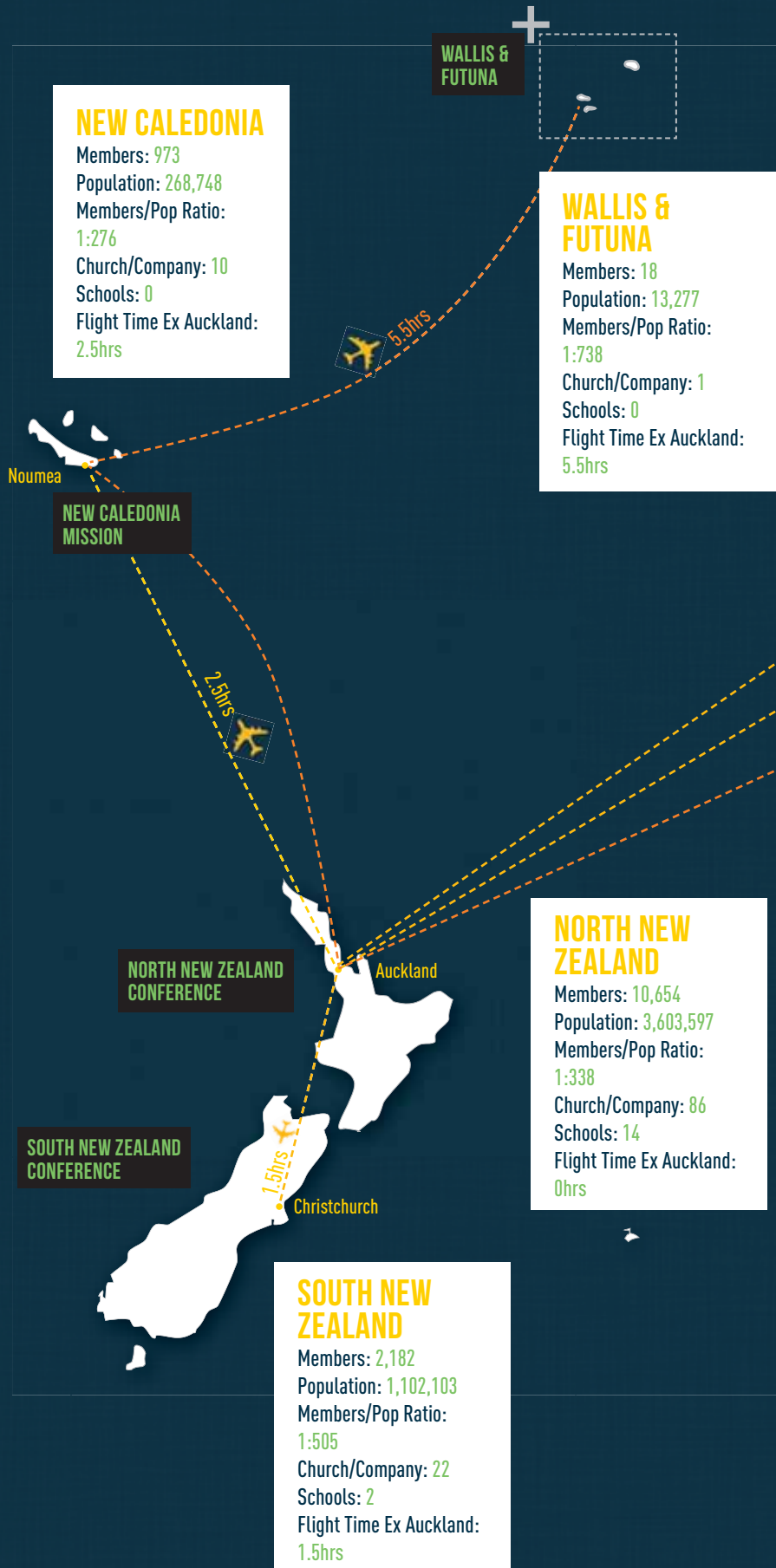
Both the British and French legal systems are used by countries in our Union, which can pose some interesting challenges when dealing with the "laws of the land" of each country.

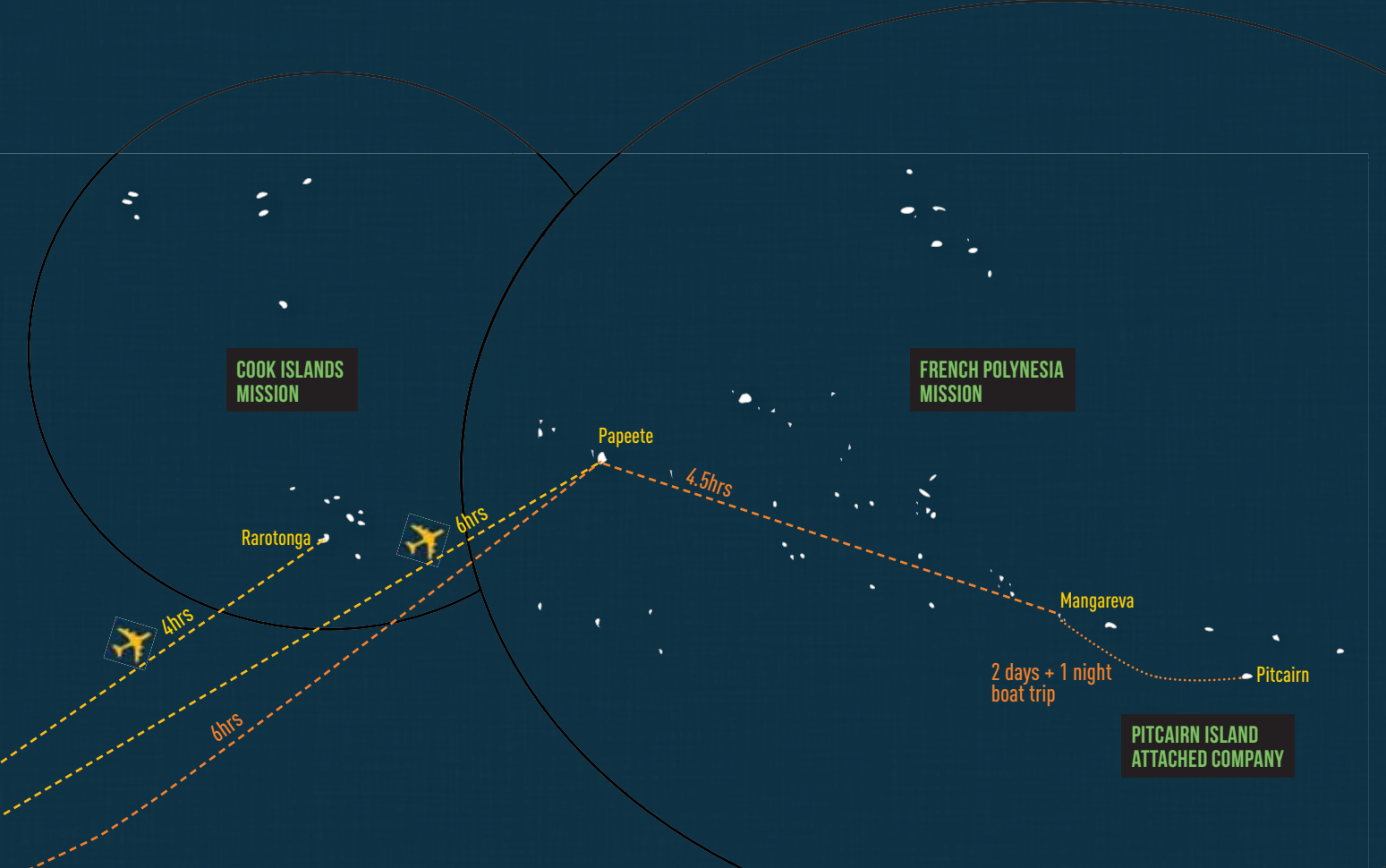
The total population in our region is approximately 5,300,000, of which just over 20,000 are Seventh-day Adventists.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the seventh largest denomination in New Zealand and 1 in every 367 people is Seventh-day Adventist. In Wallis and Futuna however, a predominately Catholic country, only 1 in every 738 people is Seventh-day Adventist. Pitcairn Island, arguably the remotest Seventh-day Adventist church in the world, has 1 Seventh-day Adventist for every 3 people. Wouldn't it be great if every country could boast such a ratio! Sadly, for every 2 members who join the Church, 1 member leaves.

Our main strategic goal of making every member a disciple is an exciting one. We can do this through our members, churches, schools, retirement villages, television and radio. I believe this will lead more of the population coming to know and accept Jesus Christ and less of our members deciding to leave the Church.

GRAEME DRINKALL
SECRETARY-TREASURER





COOK ISLANDS MISSION

FRENCH POLYNESIA MISSION

PITCAIRN ISLAND ATTACHED COMPANY

COOK ISLANDS
 Members: 988
 Population: 19,401
 Members/Pop Ratio: 1:20
 Church/Company: 17
 Schools: 2
 Flight Time Ex Auckland: 4hrs

FRENCH POLYNESIA
 Members: 5,226
 Population: 287,625
 Members/Pop Ratio: 1:55
 Church/Company: 59
 Schools: 2
 Flight Time Ex Auckland: 6hrs

PITCAIRN
 Members: 22
 Population: 56
 Members/Pop Ratio: 1:3
 Church/Company: 1
 Schools: 0
 Flight Time Ex Auckland: 10.5hrs (plus two days/1 night boat trip)

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference

SMALL NZ SCHOOLS TURN ENROLMENT AROUND

GEOFF BEISSNER/JARROD STACKELROTH

Adventist schools in the smaller rural towns of New Zealand have been faced with declining enrolments over the past few years. However this trend has been reversed in New Plymouth, Napier/Hastings and Whangarei.

"We've got a lot of small schools that have always been operating on a knife-edge," said Rosalie McFarlane, education director for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. "With lots of prayer they've gone from struggling to viable."

In Napier, the Napier and Hastings churches have been hugely supportive. A prayer-walk around the school was held. Last year 24 students were on the roll; this year there are 43. Parkside Adventist Christian School principal Belinda Bestel stresses this is entirely an answer to prayer.

In New Plymouth, the Adventist community has been very supportive

and newly-appointed principal, Renee Timmins, reports that the current enrolment is more than double what was anticipated at the start of the year.

At Whangarei Adventist Christian School, where last year only one pupil attended an Adventist church, prayer and outreach to the local Adventist churches has seen that number grow to seven. New principal Anna Charlie hopes it may soon once again become a two-teacher school.

In each case, the growth and renewal of the schools is seen as a direct answer to concerted prayer and the cooperation of the local churches.

"For me [these results] show that when you commit yourself to God and



seek His intervention—and get the church and the school working together for that combined ministry around the school—God can step in, bless and turn things around in a very short space of time," Ms McFarlane said.

"I'd like to see all of our schools with over 100 students," she added. "That's my bold vision. I ask myself, Where would we get teachers? But if God can bring kids, He can bring teachers."

NZPUC YOUTH CONGRESS IGNITES FAITH

MARITZA BRUNT

More than 240 young people attended a recent youth congress organised by the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC), with many of the attendees committing their lives to Christ.

Held in the heart of Auckland city, the congress welcomed youth from across the NZPUC, including delegates from French Polynesia, New Caledonia, the Cook Islands, and the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

"The theme for the congress was 'Ignite'," said Dr Nick Kross, youth director for the South Pacific Division (SPD). "We challenged young people to ignite their passion; to get involved, be active, engage in ministry and go and enter the world."

Activities for the week included ice-skating, an "Amazing Race" and community service projects across Auckland. Worships and a "creative" prayer station were counted among some of the best highlights.

Dr Kross presented several of the

different workshop options along with Dr Gilbert Cangy, former youth director for the General Conference. Morning devotionals were taken by

Pastor Tara VinCross, senior pastor for the Azure Hills Church in California.

In the evenings, the youth heard from Adventist independent ministry leader Pastor Jose Rojas and the response was overwhelming.

"Pastor Jose's call was to go and change the world; to be the young people who would go and finish the work," Dr Kross said. "There was a huge number of young people who responded to his altar call each evening."

NZPUC's "Ignite" was the first of four youth-related conventions to be held across the South Pacific Division in 2017. Converge, a youth congress



organised by the Australian Union Conference (AUC), was held last month at Stuarts Point, NSW. The same venue will be used in September for Move With the Power IV, a SPD initiative for youth ministry leaders. The Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) will host a Fiji congress in December.

"The purpose of events like this is not only to build friendships with other Adventist young people, but these events become a memory and anchor point," Dr Kross said. "When you go back to uni and work you can look back, and it helps to sustain your faith in contexts where faith is not appreciated."

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED ON REMOTE ISLAND

ELIU ELIU/RECORD STAFF

A new church complex was officially opened on the island of Mangaia, Cook Islands, on December 28, 2016.

Pastor Eliu Eliu, president of the Cook Islands Mission, officiated at the opening. Officials and members of the public were invited.

"We do not have a lot of members on the island but there is a lot of drive and belief to grow the Church there," Pastor Eliu said.

On the day of the opening, Aitau, a man who recently returned from New Zealand to Mangaia, shared with the Mangaia pastor his intention to become a Seventh-day Adventist. After reading the Bible he discovered the Sabbath truth and told contractors building his new home not to work on his house on that day. The builders were shocked and did not understand. He told them of his discovery in the Bible.

Aitau is having Bible studies with the pastor every Sabbath afternoon. His wife, who is still to arrive from New Zea-



ONEROA CHURCH, MANGAIA.

land, has heard about the decision of her husband. The plan is for the two of them to join together into the church.

"There is a strong visiting program on the island . . . It is true the Holy Spirit guides, teaches, comforts and empowers," Pastor Eliu said. "The opening of the church was a great witness to God's leading and blessing. People spoke positively about the good singing, great message and the presence of God was obvious.

"We now have a very beautiful building, which was also built with cyclonic specifications. It was built with the community in mind."

GENEROUS GIFT HELPS ISLAND SCHOOL

ELIU ELIU

Papaaroa Adventist School on Rarotonga, Cook Islands, recently received the gift of a school bus from Mountain View Adventist School in Sydney.

Students travelling from the other side of the island had been paying hefty bus fares for their children to travel to school. This had discouraged parents from sending their children to Papaaroa.

Papaaroa principal Harry Neale contacted the Cook Islands Seventh-day Adventist community in Sydney to see

if they could assist in paying the freight costs of transporting the bus. Numerous individuals and the community donated and fundraised to buy a 40-foot shipping container, which will be kept as storage for the school. The bus was thoroughly checked, serviced and painted before being shipped with other school resources.

"A big thank you goes to [Greater Sydney Conference president] Pastor Michael Worker, his committee, the Mountain View School board, principal, staff and students, and the Sydney Cook Islands community, for all of your hard work to ensure the bus and the extra resources arrived here," said Pastor Eliu Eliu, president of the Cook Islands Mission. "We here on Rarotonga praise God for His leading and for the many blessings for our students and school family."



THE BUS ARRIVES IN RAROTONGA.

NEWS GRABS



ACT FOR PEACE

The Adventist Church has worked with the United Nations (UN) to organise a symposium on the role of religion in international affairs. About 130 representatives from UN agencies and faith-based organisations gathered in New York to discuss how religious groups can take a key peacemaking role in troubled communities. —ANN



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The 500 people who graduated from an Adventist-coordinated adult literacy program in El Salvador in January are the tip of the iceberg. About 2500 complete the eight-month course annually—it has been running for more than a decade. Leaders hope even more Adventist churches and schools will host the training in the future. —ANN



SO I SEND YOU

The Adventist Church has only been established in Mongolia since 1997 and has relied on overseas missionaries for its development. But now the Mongolian Mission has sent its first missionary, Pastor Nyamdavaa and his family, following a "Macedonian call", are headed for an undisclosed country where there is no Adventist presence. —Adventist Review

HOT TOPICS



INFLUENCERS MEET

Twenty Christian leaders in Waco, Texas, had an unexpected visit from Mark Zuckerberg, the 32-year-old Facebook billionaire. He's on a mission to understand how people communicate and what's important to them. "I met with ministers in Waco who are helping their congregations find deeper meaning in a changing world." — *WacoTrib.com*



HORRIFIC STATISTICS

Australia's royal commission into institutional sex abuse has released evidence that 7 per cent of the nation's ordained Catholics abused children between 1950 and 2015—4444 victims in total. Up to 40 per cent of monks in orders focusing on the education or care of children are alleged to have been involved. — *The Guardian*



PLEASE LET US STAY

Catholic, Anglican and Methodist leaders in New Zealand have spoken up in defence of nine Indian students and a toddler who have taken symbolic sanctuary in an Auckland church over immigration department threats to deport them. The students say they were tricked by immigration agents who prepared fraudulent paperwork on their visa applications. — *stuff.co.nz*

NEW HEALTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

LINDEN CHUANG

A new program demonstrating the life-changing power of forgiveness was introduced to New Zealand audiences at the Be More: Adventist Health Summit, held at the Holiday Inn in Auckland from February 3–5.

More than 80 of the 115 summit delegates took part in the "Forgive To Live" workshops hosted by psychotherapist Dr Dick Tibbits, author of the book on which the program is based.

Dr Tibbits, from Florida in the United States, challenged the group of church and community members to rethink their concept of forgiveness by suggesting that "forgiveness is not forgetting. It's remembering things in a different way." He went on to explain how practising forgiveness can reduce anger and blood pressure levels.

The presentations were well-received by participants, with one woman saying the training helped her answer questions on how to forgive those who have hurt her. Many other delegates expressed their desire to take the Forgive to Live program back to their churches and communities.

"The Forgive to Live program, produced by Dr Paul Rankin at the SPD, reaches into the very depth of humanness and offers a way out for many people fighting with memories that limit their ability to thrive," said Adrielle Carrasco, Health Ministries director of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. "We see it as having great potential, not just as a standalone program, but also as a follow-up to other community-run events within all our territory."

Forgive to Live training was also offered as part of the biennial Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) summit in Australia.

The event, held at Avondale College in Cooranbong (NSW) from February 10–12, saw more than 120 people gather from across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Solomon Islands.

Speaking at the event, Dr Tibbits highlighted the logical union between CHIP and the Forgive to Live program, saying "Christ brought forgiveness as a critical part of the healing component.

"When you're doing health ministry, do CHIP programs, but also, like Jesus, teach and show forgiveness."

The launch of Forgive to Live in New Zealand and Australia highlights the ongoing commitment of Adventist Health Ministries leaders to providing wholistic programs and resources to churches and communities.

Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program training was offered at the Be More: Adventist Health Summit in Auckland, with program founder Dr Neil Nedley—on hand as part of his first ever trip to New Zealand—helping 34 people complete facilitator training. The highly-acclaimed program was added to the CHIP package two years ago in Australia, with training offered again at the recent summit.

The recently-launched CHIP online is also making an impact. Twenty people are currently enrolled in the course, with the program's next round of intakes open until February 27.

Speaking to CHIP summit attendees, Avondale College senior lecturer and Lifestyle Research Centre director, Dr Darren Morton, said the continual development of CHIP and other lifestyle programs is essential as the "lifestyle medicine movement" gains momentum in the South Pacific and around the world.

"The time for lifestyle medicine is now," he said. "It has incredible potential to change the face of the wellbeing of our communities and our countries."



PAM TOWNEND, DR PAUL RANKIN, DR DICK TIBBITS AND DR MARCHA WILLIAM.

To enrol in CHIP online, visit <chiponline.org.au/chip_online_signup>. Copies of Dr Dick Tibbits' book *Forgive to Live: How Forgiveness Can Save Your Life (South Pacific edition)* and program DVDs are available from the SPD Health Ministries department (email PamelaTownend@adventist.org.au).

FLASHPOINT



HONOURING LIFE TEACHER

The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) has honoured Elmer Breedt for more than 40 years of service to Adventist education. Mr Breedt taught in South Africa for almost 30 years before moving to the North Island of New Zealand to teach at Rotorua Adventist School and Wellington Adventist School, where he has been working for the past 16 years. "His unwavering support for his Church and love for his Lord have been evident in his classrooms where many students have been led and encouraged in a personal relationship with Christ," said NZPUC Adventist Education director Rosalie McFarlane. —NZPUC



CLEAN UP THE WORLD

Young people in New Caledonia took part in a Clean Up The World initiative late last year. The annual event brings Pathfinders and young people from a number of churches together to clean up rubbish on the coast of New Caledonia. "The initiative is a great witness to our community," said Pastor Felix Wadrobert, president of the New Caledonia Mission. —Jarrod Stackelroth



NEW SIGN FOR TINY CHURCH

A new sign has been erected outside the house of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor on the island of Wallis and Futuna, indicating the presence of an Adventist group and their various meeting times. Special guests for this occasion included Dr Brad Kemp, president of the NZPUC, Felix Wadrobert, president of the New Caledonia Mission, Wallis and Futuna group leader Pastor Nelson Kasso and various church members. The church is the only Adventist presence on the island, with a total of 18 members, and meets in a large room in Pastor Kasso's house. —Record staff



ORDINATION CELEBRATION

It was hard to find a seat in Bishopdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Christchurch, as they joined with Ashburton church members to celebrate the ordination of, and farewell, their shared minister Ray Moaga on January 21. Adding to the celebratory feel, Pastor Moaga's daughter, Manaia, was dedicated by her grandfather, Dr Lyell Heise. Pastor Moaga also dedicated another baby from the church. The celebration was joined by most of the South New Zealand Conference team as well as NZPUC ministerial secretary Jean-Noel Adeline and Samoan Mission president and former Christchurch pastor Kenneth Flies, who offered a prayer in Samoan. —Jarrod Stackelroth



40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Stanley Walsh has been recognised by the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) for more than 40 years of service to Adventist education in New Zealand. Mr Walsh started his career as a teacher at Longburn Adventist College (Palmerston North) in 1973, and over the past 42 years has taught in all three of the high schools operated by the Church in New Zealand. In a citation presented late last year, Mr Walsh was described as "a significant influence in the lives of many students, who respect him deeply as a genuine and compassionate Christian gentleman". —NZPUC



EDITOR AT THE PULPIT

Arorangi Seventh-day Adventist Church, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, recently hosted *Adventist Record* editor Jarrod Stackelroth and his family. Pastor Hosea Hosea invited Mr Stackelroth to preach while the Stackelroth family was on holiday on Rarotonga during January. The service was followed by a generous vegetarian lunch. —Record staff



FRENCH POLYNESIA SWITCHED ON

The Adventist Media Centre in French Polynesia has opened a new FM frequency for Adventist radio in the region. This new frequency will cover the urban areas of Mahina, Papepou'a and Tiarei in the island's north, with the French Polynesia Mission hoping to reach around 18,000 homes. —Centre Média Adventiste (Adventist Media Centre, French Polynesia)



PARCELS FROM PATHFINDERS

Pathfinders from Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church (New Caledonia) recently distributed 100 parcels of books to about 100 homes. The parcels included the Bible and Ellen White's books *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*. The response from the community was extremely positive, with some elderly and sick residents asking for weekly visitations and prayers. —Felix Wadrobert

DISCIPLESHIP IN NZPUC

In the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference we see discipleship as the core element shaping all other ministries. Where in the past our focus might have been on programs, training events and resources, we realised a shift needed to take place. Discipleship is more than a program, a seminar or training event. Rather it informs, shapes and drives how we do ministry. It means that every ministry is held up against the values of the discipleship framework to ascertain how effective it is in leading people to become growing disciples of Jesus.

NZPUC MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our search for greater understanding of discipleship started with re-reading and studying the ministry of Jesus. For Jesus lies at the heart of Christian discipleship. Jesus' invitations involved first getting to know Him, living with Him, and growing in knowledge and appreciation of His purposes. In travelling that journey with Jesus, His followers deepened their commitment and were transformed into passionate witnesses.

Our understanding is that this journey is not static but it is a dynamic, living experience of continuous growing in Christ. Our circular model is represented by these four elements with Jesus at the core.



KNOW

Knowing is the personal discovery and transformation that comes about by experiencing the presence of Jesus. This occurred when Simon was transformed into Peter and Thomas touched Jesus' side (see John 8:31; John 17:3; Philippians 3:10,11).

LIVE

Living is choosing a Jesus-inspired lifestyle that transforms our relationships. This took place in the life of Saul who persecuted the followers of Christ until he had a personal encounter with Christ. His relationship changed from persecutor to a passionate follower (see John 13:35; Philippians 2).

COMMIT

Commitment is the unconditional embracing of Jesus' will for our lives in everything that we are, we do and we have. John made this verbal commitment at the cross when he accepted the responsibility of caring for Jesus' mother (see Matthew 16:24).

MULTIPLY

Multiplying is the active engagement of a disciple with those who are learning to know, learning to live and growing in commitment so they may have a personal discovery and become transformed by the presence of Jesus. The Samaritan woman at the well rushed off to tell her neighbours about her experience with the Saviour (see John 15:8).



OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

Studying the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, one can't help but notice that once she met Jesus she couldn't hold her joy to herself. She shared what Jesus had done for her. Please note that she didn't have any training on witnessing, manuals or resources. She had a life-changing encounter with the Master (see Mark 1:43-45; Matthew 9:30,31; Mark 7:36; John 4:28-30).

On the other hand, an average Adventist church in New Zealand Pacific Union Conference is over resourced, over trained, over "fed" and even overfunded. These resources do not equate to a life-changing encounter. As a result, very few are passionate about sharing their journey with others.

We believe that the most urgent need in our churches is not new resources, more training or equipping, but our members need to experience that intimate, life-changing experience with Christ, just like the woman at the well. Instead of producing new resources, conducting more training or running more seminars, we intend to devote more energy to Igniting the Passion of people so they Actively Connect with God and each other and Engage in serving their communities (iPACE). This will be a major shift in the way we do ministry in the NZPUC.

Our revised focuses are shown in the graphic above.



JESUS WANTS HIS CHURCH BACK

Jesus calls His Church—which has a knowledge of the truth—to come back to the essence of a true spiritual journey: discipleship. This is His formula for a relationship with Him. "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Jesus offers the best gift He can give. He offers Himself to us, His Church. Jesus is inviting His Church to spend time with Him so we can get to know Him. He wants to meet us just as we are, being transparent and vulnerable so He can truly bring about healing in our hearts.

By knowing Jesus intimately, we inevitably change into His image and ultimately experience eternal life.

As we connect with Jesus in these intimate ways we will produce the fruit He wants us to bear (see John 15:5).

VICTOR KULAKOV DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES LEADER, NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC UNION.

PARTNERSHIP HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

With child poverty, family breakdown, suicide and chronic health issues on the rise, Adventist churches have the potential to help families thrive across New Zealand. This belief is driving a strong partnership between the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the North and South New Zealand Conferences, and local churches. ADRA's Community Transformation Partnerships (formerly Church Partnership Program) brings these groups together to creatively and sustainably transform communities. "It is the local church that has the presence and connections with the community," said Denison Grellmann, CEO of ADRA New Zealand. "We are committed to empowering churches in New Zealand to transform their communities. Our vision is to be working with every Adventist church and entity across the country to bring life-changing programs to life." Below are the stories of two families who have been helped through these programs.



WELCOME BABY

Tania was seven months pregnant when she received the devastating news. A representative from Child, Youth and Family services (CYFs) contacted her in prison and told her that her twin daughters would be immediately taken into CYFs' care upon

their delivery into the world.

However, Tania's story starts long before any of this happened. Born into a family entrenched in gang life, she has shared that it was the lifestyle she was surrounded by that later led to "a life in and out of jail". This was not the life she wanted for her own children.

The same day Tania was told her twins would be taken into CYFs' care, she was visited by two women from the Grace Foundation. The Grace Foundation houses men and women who are released from correctional facilities and have nowhere else to turn.

Knowing Tania's situation, one of the leaders from the foundation contacted Papatoetoe Adventist Church to see if there was a place for Tania in ADRA's Welcome Baby program. The day after the Welcome Baby team had been contacted, Tania went into labour.

The Welcome Baby team was excited to help Tania and her beautiful twin girls. Tania was given two Welcome Baby packs filled with clothes, booties, nappies and other utilities to support the babies in their first year of life.

Tania was incredibly grateful for all the support she received. "I was blessed . . . to know that at 3-6 months I can hand [the baby clothes] back and get bigger ones."

Not only was Tania blessed through this experience but the Welcome Baby team was thankful for the opportunity to help. Karyn, from Papatoetoe church, says Welcome Baby is "an amazing way we get to connect; it's there for our community". Her dream is that of ADRA's: "I just want to see us do that more. I want to see us work together because I think that as a body, our whole church together is so much stronger than when we are on our own."



ADRA'S SOLID COMMUNITY

For 11 years, Jayson worked full-time selling drugs on the streets of South Auckland. He often turned to home invasions, extortion and violence to ensure his family had food on the table. Looking back, he acknowledges that this kind of lifestyle was "setting his family up for a life of failure".

Five years ago, an ex-gang associate was invited into his house for the night. The following morning Jayson woke up to find many of his family's possessions had been taken. He also woke up to the realisation that this was not the lifestyle he wanted for his family. His associate had left behind a poem written from the perspective of an unborn child to his parents; this poem forced Jayson to witness the broken legacy he was forging for his own family.

Jayson acknowledges this moment as a turning point in his life, where God broke his heart so that He would be able to fill it back up again with His love, goodness and blessings.

In 2012, Jayson was invited to join Solid Community, a program supported by ADRA that gave him a physical outlet and the support he needed to create a new legacy for his family. Through the project Jayson was connected with positive role models, took part in life-changing personal development classes and ultimately turned his life around.

Jayson now runs his own business and has mentored others with similar life stories who he has met through Solid Community.

Earlier this year he and his entire family made the decision to be baptised and wholeheartedly follow God. "Life now feels like it has a purpose and a brighter future. We have seriously felt and embraced the Lord's grace," he says.



Stanislas and Kedsia Weneguei are a young couple with two children—their boy Gilem, 8, and a little girl Ginael, 2 and-a-half. They live in New Caledonia. Both Stanislas and Kedsia were raised Christian but Kedsia had not been to church since the age of nine when her parents separated.

Stanislas stopped believing in God at some point and he became a drug addict in his teenage years. He was in a gang that would steal cars for joy rides, then burn them on public roads. He planted and consumed marijuana and took pleasure in fighting people, even his neighbours.

At 20, the couple moved in together and their home was a place of dispute and conflict every day. After an argument, Stanislas would break things in the house. The couple struggled to sleep and were plagued by nightmares. Stanislas didn't want to talk about God. Kedsia had a bit of hope but was unsure where and how to begin.

One day Pastor Danick Adeline from Koumac church had the chance to visit their home with a church member. After that first visit Pastor Adeline felt God had led him there. After about two weeks, he told them about a Bible conference being conducted in the city of Noumea by Pastor Jean-Noel Adeline, his brother and an evangelist for the New Zealand Union Conference. Stanislas and Kedsia were so enthusiastic, attending the entire series and continuing with Bible studies.

Every truth they learned in the Bible they would seek to obey through the power of the Holy Spirit.

By the end of the conference and Bible studies, Stanislas was convinced that there was a God who loved humankind and had a plan for him. During Bible studies, the couple were also

convicted to get married after living together for 10 years. They wanted to be baptised. Stanislas confessed all his weaknesses and asked God to guide his family. In addition, he prayed that God would give him the courage to go and ask forgiveness from his neighbours—those he had hurt and committed wrongs against.

He testified how much God was touching his heart to forgive others and seek forgiveness. Now some of his enemies are his friends.

Not only were their personal lives changing but also their work lives. Stanislas shared his new-found faith with his co-workers and as a result one of his colleagues and his wife gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised.

Kedsia's boss was upset that she would not work on Sabbath. She preferred to lose her job than to break God's commandment. In fact, they were ready to lose everything for the sake of obeying and loving God. Kedsia now has Sabbath off but her pay is much lower than before. She is happy because she knows that it's God who provides and blesses.

They have even become an inspiration to other church members.

Their home is no longer the same because Jesus is at the centre. They no longer suffer from the nightmares.

"I wish to invite all of you who hear this testimony to please pray for Kedsia and Stanislas as they are convinced God is calling them into the ministry," says Pastor Adeline. "They are planning to go to Fulton College, Fiji, in 2018 to study theology if it's God's will. They believe prayer is the key for knowing God's will for them."

| PASTOR DANICK ADELINE

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

POMPEII'S CONVENIENT CONNECTION

Felix was procurator of Judea (AD 52-58). His Jewish wife Drusilla had divorced her husband to marry him. Felix was known in history for his cruelty, licentiousness and eagerness to take bribes. But where sin abounds, God's grace more greatly abounds, and He gave to this couple in Caesarea an opportunity to turn from sin to salvation.

Read Acts 24:24,26.

As Paul stood before Felix at Caesarea to defend himself against charges made by the Jews, his mention of his faith and hope in Christ aroused Felix's interest. Shortly after, therefore, Felix and Drusilla had a private interview with Paul so they might know more "concerning the faith in Christ". Seizing the God-given opportunity to lead this couple to Jesus, Paul caused Felix to tremble as he reasoned with them concerning righteousness, temperance and the future judgement. Sadly, Felix turned down the offer of knowing Christ for the pleasures of sin, by responding: "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Read Acts 24:1-22,24,25.

Oh the folly of turning from Christ and His messages until a more convenient time. By doing so Felix and Drusilla forfeited eternity. Just 20 years later, in AD 79, Drusilla perished with others in Pompeii and Herculaneum when Mt Vesuvius erupted. Decide now to follow God's Spirit in whatever He convicts you to do, or to stop doing.



THE ROMAN FORUM AT POMPEII WITH MT VESUVIUS IN THE DISTANCE. TRAGICALLY, DRUSILLA PERISHED WITH OTHER CITIZENS OF POMPEII WHEN THE MOUNTAIN ERUPTED IN AD 79.



THE BLESSED COMMANDMENT

HAVE YOU, LIKE ME, THOUGHT THE fourth commandment was only about keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy? Then join my excitement and discover it is about living for God every day. Not only has the meaning of the Sabbath day been lost,¹ but the Christian purpose for working has been distorted. The Sabbath, blessed by God and made for us, prepares us to do our work of blessing others during the rest of the week.

The base for understanding the Sabbath is the Genesis narrative of God's creative activity. Remarkably, Genesis begins and ends with characteristic works of God: He is Creator and Saviour. Creation is clearly the work of God alone. The concluding Joseph story in Genesis seems an exciting rags-to-riches thriller, but God is powerfully presented as the sole source of Joseph's success. Seven times the narrator declares that God blessed Joseph the slave and made him successful (Gen 39:2-5, 21-23). Seven times Joseph himself declared that God directed his life so he could save his family and the Egyptians (Gen 45:5-8, 50:19-25). Genesis begins with God the Creator and ends with God the Saviour.

And the rest of Genesis? You've guessed it: human work. The golden thread that connects all the brilliant character stories in Genesis is God's desire that humans work with Him. Like its great counterpart at the end of the Bible, Revelation, Genesis has Hebrew narrative's classic chiasmic structure, beginning and ending with God's work, and centring on Abraham's test to give his work to God (chapter 22)?

When humans refused to accept God's sovereignty and ate the forbidden fruit their work was cursed. This was not the pronouncement of an angry God. Even before God uttered the first curse (women bearing children in pain; men working hard to make the ground fruitful), Genesis shows that humans could not work successfully without God. Brittle fig leaves are singularly ineffective material to clothe nakedness and the choice of style, a "loincloth" (which in the Hebrew means merely a belt), almost useless for the purpose. God had to step in and make durable shirts from animal skins (Gen 3:21).

After sin's entry Genesis portrays a series of five curse situations resulting from humans trying to work without God: on the couple's work; on the ground because of Cain's sin; the destruction of violent human work in the Flood; Noah's curse of slavery (hard work), exemplified by Nimrod the great achiever, and founder of Babel (Gen 10:9,10); and finally, termination

of work on the Tower of Babel. The Tower builders aspired to make a great name for themselves, and to reach heaven, showing “the spread of sin in Gen 3-11 is on an ascending scale”.³ Yet this story focuses on human work more than sin or worship. Thus the greatest sin is to have pride in one’s own work, accomplishment, and through it to aspire to “reach heaven”.

Into this bleak march of sin and curse, the call of Abram (Gen 12:1-3) bursts with seven blessings.⁴ In fact, the word blessing occurs in Genesis a total of 88 times, more than in any other book in the Bible.⁵ Blessing is the “signature tune” of Genesis,⁶ and the core concept in God’s plan for both human work and worship. God promised to give Abram a great name; he did not have to strive for it. The central blessing of Abram’s call (the

ham remained true and obedient to God. After Abraham gave up Isaac (his life work) God assured him that the promised blessings were sure.

Genesis teaches that:

1. God’s work enfolds us; He is our Creator and our Saviour.

2. God shared the gift of work with humans so they could bless creation by serving and guarding it. Abraham was called out of the work-and-achievement-focused, pride-riddled Babel culture to return to the creation mandate to “be a blessing”.

3. Human work performed without God is doomed, as shown in the pre-Abraham stories.

4. Human work has the dangerous potential to be the source of the greatest human sin: self-centred pride. Even the patriarchs, attempting to give God a helping hand, caused delayed

stress and anxiety.

Contemporary Christian theologians have upgraded work from its lowly “punishment for sin” status and consider humans are co-creators⁷ with God to bring this world to perfection, to transform it so Jesus Christ can return and claim His kingdom.⁸ Significantly, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and mainline Protestantism on work are now virtually the same.⁹ The Bible, however, does not teach that human effort will perfect the world before Jesus comes, but that God will do so after the millennium.

The Fourth Commandment is a mandate for total commitment of all our time to God and the blessings that follow its observance. During the six days we work with God to share His blessings (physical, mental, spiritual, social) with others. The seventh-day Sabbath not only regularly reminds us of God’s creative and redeeming work (Ex 20:8-12, Deut 5:12-15) and how dependant we are on Him, but renews our strength so that we can be a blessing to others. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

LIKE US, THE PATRIARCHS STRUGGLED TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO WORK WITH GOD IN BLESSING. ALL TOO OFTEN THEY TRIED TO GIVE GOD A HELPING HAND.

fourth) is expressed in Hebrew as a command: “Be a blessing!” All God’s benefits, of course, are blessings. Abram, prototype of God’s people, was called to “come out” of the struggling, striving, Babel approach to work to receive God’s blessings and to live as a blessing to others.

Like us, the patriarchs struggled to understand how to work with God in blessing. All too often they tried to give God a helping hand. Abraham used Hagar to “help” God. Isaac thought he could bless the son of his choice, regardless of God’s choice. Jacob even thought he could deceive to make God’s plan work out, and then spent 20 years working hard trying to achieve success on his own. But at the centre of the Genesis chiasm are the stories of Abraham’s obedience to God’s incomprehensible call to sacrifice Isaac (apparently dooming all God’s promises and giving up his entire life’s work) and his devoted preparations for Sarah’s funeral. Adam failed God’s obedience test but Abra-

blessing and relationship distress.

5. Humans must recognise that all worthwhile achievements are due to the blessing of God. Abraham and Joseph acknowledged this, but the other patriarchs struggled to understand.

When the early Christian church accepted Greek dualism (the idea that the physical body was separate from, and inferior to, the supposedly eternally-living soul) ordinary everyday work was downgraded and regarded as punishment for sin (Gen 3:16-19). Luther and Calvin, however, realised humans were given work even while in Eden (Gen 1:26-28, 2:5, 15). Luther suggested everyday work was our calling from God, our “vocation”. Our original calling was working with God to serve and guard this created world (Gen 2:15). Sadly, Christians slowly discarded the working-with-God aspect of calling and vocation came to mean getting a good, well-paid job and achieving “success”. Competition and achievement became the motivating factors in work, with resulting

1. See Sigve Tonstad. *The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2009).

2. Elizabeth Ostring, *Be a Blessing: the Theology of Work in the Narrative of Genesis*. Eugene OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016, p141-161).

3. William Dumbrell. *Covenant and Creation: A Theology of Old Testament Covenants*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2009, p62.

4. Umberto Cassuto. *Commentary on the Book of Genesis Part Two From Noah to Abraham*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1964, p312.

5. Christopher Wright Mitchell. *The Meaning of BRK “to Bless” in the Old Testament*. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1987, p185. Wenham. *Genesis 1-15*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987, p 275.

6. John Scullion. *Genesis- a Commentary for Students, Teachers, and Preachers*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1992, p102.

7. Pope John-Paul-II. *Laborem Exercens*. Vatican, 1981.

8. Miroslav Volf. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2001.

9. Timothy Keller. *Every Good Endeavor*. London: Dutton, Penguin, 2012, p257

DR ELIZABETH OSTRING IS CURRENTLY A VOLUNTEER PASTOR FOR IT IS WRITTEN OCEANIA AND ASSISTANT PASTOR AT ROYAL OAK CHURCH, NZ.



FRONTIER FOR MISSION

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

THE FIRST MISSIONARY TO visit the islands of the South Pacific was Captain James Wilson in 1796 when the London Missionary Society sent him to the Society Islands (Tahiti). At this time the Pacific Islands were not safe or welcoming of missionaries. It was reported, "Nowhere in the world have missionaries passed through experiences so tragic at the hands of cruel idolaters, and nowhere in the world have the triumphs of the gospel been more clear and complete."¹

Many missionaries gave their lives for the gospel. Things looked so grim that at one point the society considered withdrawing all their missionaries from the Pacific. But after earnest prayer, instead of letters of recall, letters of encouragement were sent to those on the front lines in the Pacific. The work of God prevailed and, often through miraculous events, God opened the way for the entry of the gospel. As a result of faithfulness and perseverance, island after island forsook their idols and accepted the gospel.

On October 18, 1886, John Tay,

an Adventist layman, arrived at the island of Pitcairn. This was to be our Church's first missionary work in the islands of the Pacific. After five weeks of meeting and studying the Bible with the people, he departed by yacht, carrying with him a request to the Adventist Church to send a minister to baptise the adult population of the island.

But how was the still then relatively small Church going to do this? Someone got a bright idea to have an offering for mission support. It was agreed by the General Conference to devote the worldwide Sabbath School contributions for the first six months of 1890 to the cost of the ship. Soon the money was raised and a ship built. With a purpose-built ship, *The Pitcairn*, missionaries travelled back to Pitcairn and the work was established. The mission ship then sailed to Tahiti and the Society Islands, the Cooks, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. Over the next 70 years missionaries would enter new areas to claim the Pacific for Christ. This gospel of Jesus has had a major impact on the lives of Pacific island people. The way of blood and death

was replaced by love for Christ and care for others. Where there was once only fear there is now hope and peace.

I remember some years ago a conversation I had in Fiji with Aunty Sue, who was getting on in years. She cooked for some of the programs I used to run. I asked her what difference missionaries had made to life in Fiji. She didn't need to think about it. She told me that because of the missionaries she no longer lived in fear. No more village raids by neighbouring tribes. No more killing and drinking blood. The gospel of Jesus had brought peace, security and hope.

In 1930, Captain G McLaren and a crew of Fijians aboard the mission vessel *Veilomani* arrived at Mussau, one of New Guinea's outer islands. They had been warned that they would not be welcome. When they dropped anchor, they were confronted by warlike, loud and threatening warriors intent on challenging or chasing them away. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, McLaren called his crew together and they began to sing hymns. The din died down and the warriors listened to the harmony

of the music. When they stopped singing the warriors began threatening again and so McLaren and his crew sang again. This continued until sunset, when the warriors left.

But their troubles were not over. Next morning the warriors came back. However, this time they brought their chief. He was impressed with the Fijian missionaries. He asked, "What has made the change in your lives? How is it that your teeth are white, your skins are clean and your bodies strong? You tell us what your people did and we will do the same." He invited them to stay, saying, "Give us a teacher who can teach us to sing." The door was opened. The people received the message and Mussau became Adventist.

This is just one of many stories of how the gospel entered into the islands of the Pacific.

But there was one little spot in the Pacific that was apparently missed by our Church for many years. This place is the nation of Wallis and Futuna.

The French were the first Europeans to settle in the territory, with the arrival of French missionaries in 1837, who converted the population to Roman Catholicism.

Today it has a population of about 15,000. And 99 per cent are Catholic. On Wallis they found a haven. Here they set up, established a seminary and sent missionaries out to the Pacific.

There are big Catholic churches and shrines all over the island. On Sunday these churches are full.

Everyone has pigs that are kept as pets around the house and kava is central to many of their traditions.

I had the opportunity to visit Wallis recently. Wallis itself has about 10,000 people. It is well-maintained with internet and phone services, good roads, nice houses and an airport. There are 21 tribes with 21 chiefs. And Wallis has two kings.

Why two kings? Basically because one-half of the island doesn't like the king from the other half so they



created their own. And so now there is a king of the north and a king of the south. Wallis is a French territory so most people speak French and they have strong links to Tonga. But there is no income generation. No exports. Ships come full and go away empty.

The Adventist work in Wallis has been hard going.

The Catholic Bishop is one of three unelected government officials. As a result, our Church had been refused entry into this country for more than 40 years.

After many attempts the door was eventually opened in October 2008 through a man named Suane, who attended a series of meetings in New Caledonia.

Suane was so touched with our message that he literally begged the Church to bring the Advent message to his island, Wallis. As Suane was the nephew of the King of Wallis he

made the impossible happen. With the right government protocols and with Jesus leading the way, we finally entered the territory and started to do mission work.

The good news is that today we have 18 baptised members and on a good Sabbath there can be up to 30 in attendance. And we now have a pastor permanently ministering there.

During my visit to Wallis I met with the President of the country. He is very supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has said that he would support our application to get a licence to broadcast radio. I think that while he is in office we have an opportunity to do something.

I was also given an audience with the two kings and their ministers. There was a lot of tradition involved—formal greetings, sitting cross-legged, drinking kava (we did not partake), speeches and more.

Our purpose was to create goodwill and to share a little about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including a brief presentation of two of our naming beliefs: the Sabbath and the second coming.

And what of Futuna?

At the moment there is no work on Futuna. There is no Seventh-day Adventist on this island of 4000 people. And we have not been given permission to enter the island.

This is still a frontier for mission. And we still have significant challenges.

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them . . . Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim his praise in the islands (Isaiah 42:10-12).

1. Clifford Howell, *The Advance Guard of Missions*, 249-250.

**BRAD KEMP NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC UNION
PRESIDENT.**



Wholicious living

Sanitarium has launched a new monthly newsletter, *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 get a delicious new recipe to feed the family or wow your friends each week. It's easy to sign up below . . .

HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

There's a common misconception that healthy eating has to be expensive but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, in most cases, the foods that should be eaten most as part of a healthy, balanced diet are some of the cheapest foods in the supermarket. So how do you save your wallet and your health at the same time? Here are some of our favourite tips:

1. MAKE A LIST.

Put simply, when you make a shopping list, it helps you stop grabbing stuff you don't need. To make a list, you need to plan out your meals as well so you only buy as much as you need, reducing the wasted food that just ends up getting thrown out. The average family in New Zealand throws out \$563 worth of food a year, so something as simple as making a list can be a great money saver.

2. SHOP SEASONALLY.

A healthy diet should be filled mostly with whole vegetables and fruits—they fill us up and are full of vitamins, minerals and fibre. But you need to pay attention to what's in season to get the most bang for your buck. You don't have to buy tomatoes when they're \$12 a kg; have a look around the fresh food section and keep an eye out for cheaper in-season produce.

3. BE WILLING TO DO A LITTLE KITCHEN PREP.

Things like pre-cut fruits and vegetables or quick cook brown rice can be a great time-saver in the kitchen, but they're also significantly more expensive than their unprocessed counterparts. By being willing to do that bit of extra food prep yourself, you can see a significant saving on your weekly shop.

health tip

Buying in bulk doesn't always turn out to be better value—a 3 litre bottle of milk might cost less per litre than a 2 litre bottle, but if you only use 2 litres before it goes off, you would have been better off buying the smaller bottle. To save money, only buy what you need.

OUR BEST BUDGET BUYS



DRIED BEANS AND LEGUMES

A fraction of the cost of canned beans and a great starting point for any healthy meal, whether you're on a budget or not. Cook up a big batch all at once and freeze portions for a convenient grab and go ingredient for a mid-week dinner.



NOT SO BASIC VEG

Certain vegetables like carrots, cauliflower and broccoli tend to be great value all year round.

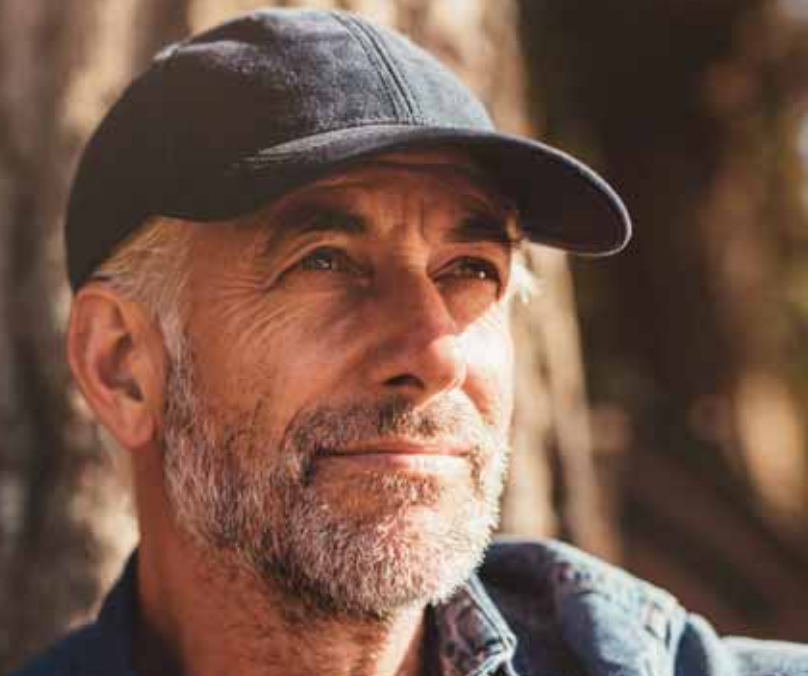
Bring some variety to these great value veggies with a drizzle of honey or a sprinkle of dukkah. A little spice mix can go a long way in lifting a cheap and simple meal.



FILL UP ON FRUIT

Processed snack foods can be some of the most expensive items in the supermarket. Instead of reaching for chocolates or biscuits, check out what fruit is in season. It's a ready-to-go snack that's cheaper, much more filling and bursting with flavour and nutrition.

CONNAÎTRE JÉSUS



DANS NOTRE CHEMINEMENT SUR terre en tant que disciple du Christ, quel est notre plus grande aspiration? Sondez les Ecritures et nous nous apercevrons que les grands personnages de la Bible avaient tous ce désir ardent de connaître Dieu au travers d'une expérience personnelle: « Ils se lamentaient, priaient, luttèrent et Le recherchaient jour et nuit, en toutes circonstances, et lorsqu'ils l'avaient trouvé, leur bonheur fut absolu bien plus que le temps qu'ils passaient à le rechercher. » (*La recherche de Dieu*, AW Tozer)

Par exemple, le désir suprême de Paul était de connaître le Christ (Philippiens 3:10). Son amour pour Jésus était si grand que l'apôtre était prêt à tout sacrifier pour que sa quête se réalise: « En fait, je considère tout comme une perte à cause de la supériorité de la connaissance de Jésus-Christ, mon Seigneur. A cause de lui, j'ai accepté de tout perdre, et je considère tout comme des ordures, afin de gagner le Christ et d'être trouvé en lui... » (Philippiens 3:8,9)

CONNAÎTRE JÉSUS PAR EXPÉRIENCE

Prenons en considération quelques points importants du désir de Paul de « connaître le Christ ».

Premièrement, Paul ne fait pas allusion à une connaissance intellectuelle mais à une connaissance expérimentale. L'objectif n'est pas d'acquérir une compréhension théologique de Dieu

ou d'accumuler des informations sur lui même si cela est important. Non, Paul cherchait ardemment à connaître Jésus par expérience, le connaître intimement. Ce point est fondamental, car, il y a une différence majeure entre connaître Jésus et avoir des connaissances intellectuelles à son sujet. Nous pouvons connaître les doctrines de notre église et être capable de les expliquer parfaitement tout en ne connaissant pas Jésus. Nous pouvons connaître les prophéties bibliques, être capable de les interpréter et cependant ne pas connaître les merveilles de la personne de Christ. Nous pouvons même expliquer ce qui s'est passé à Golgotha et cependant ne pas connaître la puissance qui émane de la résurrection de Christ.

Les questions qui s'imposent sont les suivantes: « Connaissons-nous l'Homme de Golgotha? Sommes-nous déjà allés par la foi sur cette colline? Avons-nous goûté de l'amour inconditionnel de Dieu, de son pardon et de sa puissance salvatrice dans notre vie? »

Car, notre christianisme ne sera vivifié et ne portera du fruit que si notre connaissance de Jésus est basée sur une expérience personnelle.

Deuxièmement, Paul connaissait déjà Jésus lorsqu'il déclara que son plus grand désir était de le connaître. Il a fait cette déclaration vers l'an 62 de notre ère. Cependant, il avait rencontré Jésus et fut converti vers l'an 33-36. Autrement dit, vingt-six à vingt-neuf

ans après avoir goûté l'amour de Jésus, le désir de Paul était toujours le même: de le connaître d'avantage. Il se dit: « Jésus exhale tant de saveurs différents qui me sont encore inconnus que j'ai besoin de le goûter ». Pour cette raison, son objectif par excellence était de le connaître plus profondément, d'être plus intimement lié à lui afin de connaître les merveilles de Sa personne d'une façon plus claire et plus ferme.

Aussi nous pouvons affirmer que connaître et aimer le Seigneur est un processus continu et passionné. Notre amour pour Dieu ne s'achève pas à notre conversion, de plus il ne stagne pas. Mais il devrait se développer et s'intensifier. Il nous poussera à avoir faim et soif du Christ et de sa justice. Il bouleversera et métamorphosera notre vie complètement. Notre cœur et caractère seront changés.

COMMENT PUIS-JE CONNAÎTRE JÉSUS?

Désirez-vous vraiment le Christ? Jusqu'où êtes-vous prêt à aller pour mieux le connaître?

Personne ne peut connaître Jésus sans connaître sa Parole. En d'autre mot, celui qui veut connaître son Dieu doit se consacrer à la méditation de la Parole. Car la Bible nous a été donnée afin de nous permettre de rencontrer Jésus face à face et d'être transformé par la connaissance de sa personne.

JEAN-NOEL ADELIN MISSION TO THE COMMUNITIES MINISTRY LEADER, NZPUC.

THIS MONTH IN



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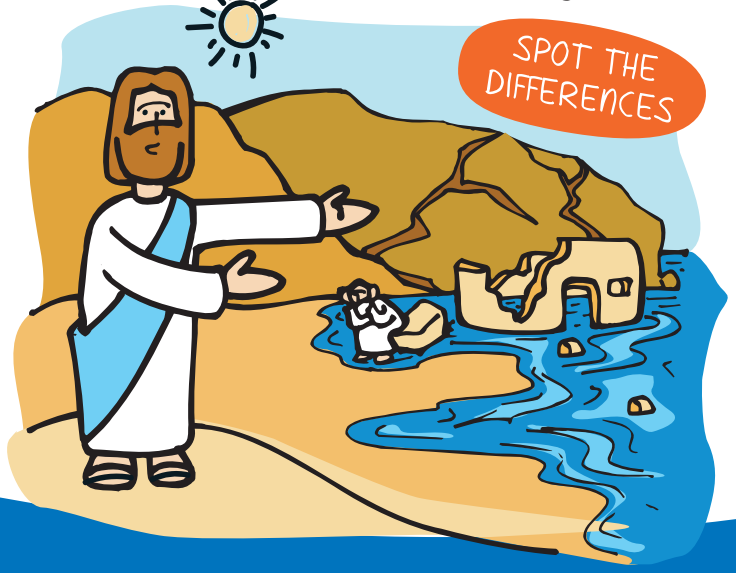
I am joyful when I build my life on Jesus.

JESUS TELLS A STORY:

A house is built on a rock which gives it a firm foundation. During the rainy season the winds and floods come, but the house has a strong foundation.



Another man builds his house on the sand. When the storms come, his house is washed away because the foundation is not good.



MEMORY VERSE: "My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge." Psalm 18:2, NIV

* How are you? in Bahasa (Indonesia)



ADVENTIST RECORD IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

It's always humbling and exciting to see where *Adventist Record* magazines show up. Recently I came across Panua Marsters, who was displaying *Adventist Record* on the table of his fruit stand, next to Titikaveka Seventh-day Adventist Church, Rarotonga. Pride of place next to the *Cook Islands Times*. Also on display:

Panua's Sabbath School lesson pamphlet and Bible. We had a great chat as he reminisced with my mum (Joy Stackelroth, nee Ferguson) about their time at Fulton College, Fiji, and working under my grandfather Max in the dairy. He also has the best and freshest maniota (cakes made from arrowroot and cassava) on the island.

Jarrod Stackelroth, *Adventist Record* editor

90 YEARS YOUNG

What an incredible, exciting new look for *Adventist Record*. I pray and hope that it will appeal to new and younger readers as much as it has appealed to and excited me in my early nineties. I love *Record* and I love it now more than ever.

May the Lord God, who is desperate to save every soul He gave life to, richly bless you and your team's efforts to bring the perishing souls to the knowledge and truth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Every article in this first *Record* of 2017 is absolutely a message from the Holy Spirit to awaken the sleeping saints to revival and reformation to take the gospel commission of Jesus to those all about us. My prayers are with you every day.

Mary Dale, Qld

ONE BIG FAMILY

I am impressed by your reference to the need for the Adventist Church to be part of the holy family of Christ ("Never stand alone", Feature, February 18).

Family means many generations in its membership. Just as the families of this world flourish better when they closely knit together, the same holds true for the

church of Christ. God bless you Joe for placing such emphasis on intergenerationality.

Mike Marion, via website

MISSION TO THE CITIES

I bet this was a very informative session ("Adventist leaders face challenge of urban mission", posted on the *Adventist Record* website February 8).

Growing an urban ministry in Wellington (NZ) has been extremely rewarding for us. The success in the city really does rest with the relevance of the message brought. Thanks for the article.

Roger Lang, NZ

WORSHIP TOGETHER

At Loma Linda University Church (US), Sabbath School leaders use this resource in the 1-3 year-old classes ("Kids' worship sequel connects worldwide", posted on the *Adventist Record* website December 6, 2016).

As one of the leaders I can't say enough good things about it. The text is well written and the enclosed CDs with pre-recorded music are simply beautiful. We play the tracks in Sabbath School to complement the GraceLink curriculum. There is never a need to recruit a pianist. Par-

ents are encouraged to play the music at home during the week to help reinforce the lesson theme for each week.

Playful Worship has definitely added vitality to our programs. Parents and little ones worship together and precious first glimpses of God are established in the minds of the children! Families arrive on time as they know their kids will miss out if they are late.

Many thanks to Kylie Stacey and Nathan Brown for their hard work in getting the second volume published.

Celeste Dickinson, via website

OPEN-MINDED

I was interested to read Steve Cinzio's letter commending *Record's* information on the "Division's rate of apostasy" (Have Your Say, January 28). The writer was "pleased with the openness revealed by our leadership" with reference to historic E G White material. And in the Editor's Note of the same edition: "*Record* can be an open place where we can talk about things that matter, things that have eternal consequences."

In this open-minded spirit is it not time to give some recognition to a matter that arose almost 50 years ago

and which seriously impacted on church membership (and still does), in particular the ministry? I refer to the Glacier View debate when certain controversial theological points that identified the special significance of our Church's teachings were questioned but not substantially resolved. It appears to me that a growing proportion of our membership disagrees with the outcome (passively?); like a slow-moving glacier the traditional/historic teachings are slowly suffering meltdown.

It is, I believe, high time church leadership recognised this trend and made some public recognition of the fact that alternative views on difficult theological questions should be acknowledged and that an apology for demanding strict adherence to a debatable interpretation be made.

Malcolm Ford, NZ

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.

Weddings

EVERETT - NOVAK. Leon Everett, son of Milton and Ivy Everett (both deceased), and Colleen Novak, daughter of Albert and Kathleen Novak (both deceased), were married on 8.1.17 at Kingaroy church (Qld). Leon and Colleen had known each other for some time before love drew them together in a beautiful and caring relationship. Friends and relatives were eager to catch a glimpse of this joyous couple as they made their promises to each other. Leon works in the motor vehicle industry and Colleen is a nurse at a local hospital. Having found his gift and his place in the plan of God, Leon shares his powerful testimony in various churches.

Steve Cinzio

HALANGO - BORANA. Habib Halango, son of Midasso and Darartu Nure (Melbourne, Vic), and Kufitu Borana, daughter of Tasfaye and Tajitu Borana (Ethiopia), were married on 29.1.17 at Oakleigh church (Vic). They are members of Oromo Church in Melbourne.

Craig Gillis



KUBEREC - JENKNER. Bartosz Kuberek, son of Pastor Dariusz

(deceased) and Eugenia Kuberek (Adelaide, SA), and Sarah Jenkner, daughter of Mirek and Mariola Jenkner (Adelaide, SA), were married on 27.11.16 at The Retreat, Chapel Hill Winery, McLaren Vale. Bart and Sarah met at College Park church, their

parents having known each other in Poland prior to immigrating. Sarah will continue to work as an occupational therapist and Bart as an architect in Adelaide.

Jan Jankiewicz



PEARCE - DORMAN. Jordan Robert Pearce, son of Jill and Bob

Pearce (Kempsey, NSW), and Emily Lisa Dorman, daughter of Ruth and Eric Dorman (Coffs Harbour), were married on 10.10.16 at Chateau Elan, Pokolbin, Hunter Valley. Jordan and Emily met as students at Avondale College in 2012. Their wedding was a wonderful and memorable occasion enjoyed by many. They will establish their home on the Central Coast.

Wayne Krause

WOODS - LAMBE. Nate Woods, son of Steve and Michelle Woods (Sunshine Coast, Qld), and Tanielle Jessie-Ellen Lambe, daughter of John and Kerry Lambe (Wishart), were married on 6.2.17 at Flaxton Gardens. They met at Mt Gravatt church and will set up their home in Brisbane where Nate works in business support and Tanielle as an accountant.

Mark Pearce

Obituaries



ALOTA, Dan Delmer, born 7.6.1973 in Caloocan City, Philippines; died 26.1.17 in St George Hospital, NSW. He was predeceased by his aunty Elizabeth Imperio Tamano,

grandmother Presentacion Imperio, grandfather Rosendo Alota and Dominga Alota. Delmer is survived by his parents Daniel Alota and Adelfa Imperio Alota; daughter Maiadelle; sister Rhona-Beth and her husband Genaro Pinasco; niece Alessandra, and Diego and Nicolas. He will also be missed by his uncle, aunts, cousins and many friends. Delmer was a sales and marketing specialist. He was a Christian musician, an avid singer and a loyal friend to those who knew him well.

Tim Shelton

BURKE, Frederick Clinton, born 12.11.1928 in Parramatta, NSW; died 13.10.16 in Nepean Hospital, Kingswood. He is survived by his wife Barbara (Jamisontown); children Grant and Christine (Tea Gardens), Larry and Karina (Camden), Leanne (Kingswood), and Danny and Sue (Castlereagh); 10 grandchildren; brothers Stan, Noel, Ray, Alan, Gary and sister Marlene. Fred was a down-to-earth man who loved the simple pleasures of life: camping, caravanning and fishing. The warmth of his smile and the genuineness of his manner won him a wide circle of devoted friends.

Roger Vince

GOOZE, Carlyle Leigh, born 2.8.1930 on Pitcairn Island; died 13.8.16 in Longview Rest Home, Tawa, Wellington, NZ. In 1956 he married Laurel Smith and they lived in Auckland and Wellington. He is survived by his three children Linda, Roger and Jenny, and grandson Regan (all of Wellington). Leigh left Pitcairn when he

was seven and attended a number of schools, including Longburn College where he was baptised. He was a talented handyman, cabinet maker, machinist and a psychiatric nurse for 37 years at the Porirua Hospital. He was a gentleman who let his actions demonstrate his faith.

Jake Ormsby

HARPER, Vernon Peter, born 31.1.1937 in Oakey, Qld; died 22.8.16 in Mt St Joseph's Home, Young, NSW. He is survived by his wife Helen; children Louise, Dale, Rowena and Simone; grandchildren and extended family. After retirement Vernon went back to study at Macquarie University in Sydney to finish his master's degree. He obtained his doctorate at 75 years of age. He loved his Bible and his church.

Ben Kosmeier

HAYDEN, Roy James, born 29.11.1927 in Gulgong, NSW; died 28.1.17 in Lithgow Hospital. Roy is survived by Norma, his wife of 38 years; family by his first wife Joan: Darryl, Lorraine Chambers and Julie Ashe; step-son Trevor Corney and step-daughter Dale Bell; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and eight step-grandchildren. Roy was a former world champion axeman who loved the forests of NSW, particularly the Wolgan Valley. He loved the Lord and was a man of integrity and faith.

Rein Muhlberg



MEAD, Pastor Kenneth Harold, born 1.6.1923; died 11.10.16. He was predeceased by his

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.**

Administrative assistant

Adventist Media (Wahroonga, NSW) is seeking an administrative assistant to join its editorial team. The position will be based at Wahroonga, NSW, and is part-time (3 days per week). The successful applicant will work as part of a team who produce magazines, newsletters and other digital content for our websites. The role involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the South Pacific Division. Duties will include: handling telephone inquiries and mail; compiling the Noticeboard section in *Adventist Record* and coordinating advertising bookings and inquiries for the magazine; filing and records maintenance; correspondence and other general administrative tasks. Email to: <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. Send a letter of application detailing your skills, knowledge and experience. Attach a copy of your resume/CV. **Applications close March 21, 2017.**

FOR MORE POSITIONS, VISIT: ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU

first wife Edna. He is survived by his wife Elwyne (Launching Place, Vic); children Roderick and Jeannette Mead (Vic), Colin and Marilyn Mead (California USA), and Irene and Chris Buck (Vic); grandchildren Philip and Amanda Mead (Qld), Bronwyn and David Kimpton (Vic), Michelle and Chris Jensen (Vic), Richard and Suzanne Abel (Vic), Emily Abel (Vic), Natalie and Scott Rawson (Washington DC), and Edward Abel (Vic); and great-grandchildren Alesia, Keira, Lachlan, Thomas, Jack and Isabella. Kenneth served the Church as a pastor, conference and union youth director, conference president, coordinator of the largest city-wide evangelistic program in Sydney, coordinator for E E Cleveland Missions in the USA and coordinator for George Vandeman in the USA. He was an artist who provided backdrops for many youth camps and conferences and many Adventists have at least one of his famous tree-scapes.

Barry Gane



MOFFATT, Wynsome (Wyn) Shirley Anne Marie (nee Barnes), born 10.11.1935 in Hawera, NZ; died 21.1.17 in Avondale House, Cooranbong. She is survived by Peter, her husband of 55 years; their children Ian, Fleur (husband Peter) and Dougal; and grandchildren Charlie, Luke and Jasmin. Wyn was a creative and loved teacher, eventually occupying a position on NZ's School of the Air. After migrating to Australia, Wyn and Peter both worked at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Wyn retired in 2006. She and Peter moved to Morisset and attended Hillview church. Wyn was an exceptionally joyful and vibrant practical

Christian with a wonderful sense of humour.
Fred Chileshe, George C Porter



THOMSON, Robert Eric, born 10.1.1948 in Toowoomba, Qld; died 19.1.17 in St Andrew's Hospital, Brisbane. He is survived by his wife Ellen (Regency Downs); mother Ruth Thomson (Toowoomba); sons Anthony and Nicole (Toowoomba), and Andrew (Hervey Bay); granddaughters Taylah, Britney, Courtney, Miley and Sienna; and brothers Warren (Laos), Melvyn and Vicki (Melbourne, Vic), and Peter and Ros (Brisbane, Qld). Rob crafted fine furniture and undertook many projects, the most notable being the construction of a 7/8 size Spitfire plane capable of flying.

Peter Hilton, Keith Miller



THOMSON, Stanley George, born 2.3.1927 in Toowoomba, Qld; died 20.1.17 in Murrumba Downs. On 3.5.1953 he married Fiona Cornell. He was predeceased by his infant son Christyn. He is survived by his wife (Murrumba Downs); daughter Judy and Bob MacDonnell (Murrumba Downs), brother Doug and Betty Thomson (Victoria Point), brother-in-law Brian and Joy Cornell (Mossman); nieces and nephews. Stan was loved by all who knew him, especially in Adventist education where he worked as a teacher, a supervisor and in administration in Samoa, the Cook Islands and Australia. He enjoyed prospecting, oil painting, farming and interacting with people and was always a loving and lovable Christian.

Keith Miller

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