

R

CROSSING CULTURES

WHAT DO ELLEN WHITE AND THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT
INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE? 3

NEWS

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL TO
LEAD FULTON COLLEGE 5

ADVENTIST RECORD | MARCH 18, 2017
ISSN 0819-5633



OPEN HOME

On June 5-9, 2017, thousands of Adventists across Australia will **open their homes** and **reach out** to the community.

Join the Open Home movement by opening your home for a meal, prayer and gift to friends, neighbours or colleagues—simple, easy and effective evangelism anyone can do here and now.

Register online at
www.openhome.org.au
for more **information, training and resources.**

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Australia*

“CROSSING CULTURES?”

We need to talk about interracial marriage.

There are three argument sources against interracial marriage that we, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, should take seriously: the Bible, Ellen White and the “cultural conflict” argument.

Historically, opponents of cross-cultural marriage focused particularly on Genesis 9–11—the stories of the Flood, Ham’s curse, the dispersion of races at Babel. God clearly separated the races, and separate they should remain or so the argument went. To this they added the injunction against Israelites marrying into the nations around them and the verse in Acts about God appointing boundaries for the nations (see Acts 17:26).

It’s an argument of separation.

Yet the weight of biblical evidence says we are all one race (human) made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26–28), we are all equal in God’s eyes and the only distinction made is between Christian and non-Christian (Galatians 3:28). This addresses the question of not marrying outside Israel.¹ The key point here is belief and worship, not race or cultural heritage. In fact, God is upset with Miriam for speaking against Moses’ black wife. His punishment? He turns her “ultra” white. “Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow” (Numbers 12:10).

Church pioneer and prophetic voice Ellen White also addresses interracial marriage.

She makes two main arguments. First, that mixed-race children will suffer “humiliation” and “disadvantage”, so it is irresponsible for parents to subject them to such treatment.

Second, that it can create “controversy” and “confusion”. She advises that “time is too precious to be lost”².

We must remember that she speaks from a monocultural experience and from the middle of the American Civil War and the fight for abolition and equal rights. She rightly speaks against people who would seek marriage to score political points. We are willing to argue that slavery in the Bible is a cultural phenomenon so why should we not apply the same rules to these statements?

Her advice is applicable in racially charged societies but in the South Pacific we live in a different cultural context. Our churches, reflecting our cities, are becoming more and more multicultural. Sydney, where I live, has the highest number of interracial couples of any Australian city.³

Even in the Pacific I’ve met a number of people who

met at Pacific Adventist University or Fulton College and married someone who is not from their country of origin.

Yet in the United States the Adventist Church is still predominantly split into a mainstream and an African-American church system. I can’t help but wonder if this compromise solution is maintained through our fear of intermarriage, fuelled by a misapplication of Mrs White’s comments.

So our arguments turn to the cultural conflict anecdotes Adventists still use. I’ve looked for statistics saying committed Christians in cross-cultural relationships are more likely to suffer marriage failure and divorce. I can’t find them.

My wife is Samoan. Yes, we’ve had our share of cultural misunderstandings. Are they terminal? No. More issues come from not understanding each other’s communication styles and needs. Yet people quote these urban myths like cross-cultural divorce is a done deal. Before I was married people honestly and earnestly warned me about the cultural difficulties we would face. I’ve seen comments on Adventist forums. I’ve even received personal letters.

Marriage is hard. Every family of origin is different. My parents are both “white Australians” and yet my dad grew up in Australian urban culture and my mum did all her schooling as a missionary kid in Fiji. She has spoken of her culture shock when she returned to Australia.

The most important elements of a healthy Christian marriage are transparency and a shared faith in Jesus.

Our unconscious disapproval of cross-cultural marriage means we see others differently. We are suspicious and wary, which opens the door to uncharitable and even prejudiced thoughts simply because of the colour of someone’s skin. This undercover inequality is tolerated to “protect” our young people from marrying the wrong person. We must examine our attitudes and make sure we are not subconsciously using religion to propagate human prejudice and bias.

1. Rahab and Ruth are examples of foreigners who married into the bloodline of Jesus.

2. <https://text.egwwritings.org/publication.php?pubtype=Book&bookCode=2SM&page-number=343>

3. www.dailytelegraph.com.au. “Sydney home to more marriages between people from different ethnic backgrounds than any other Australian city.”

JARROD STACKELROTH
SENIOR EDITOR
@JStack



senior consulting editor

glenn townend

senior editor

jarrod stackelroth

assistant editors

kent kingston

maritza brunt

vania chew

linden chuang (digital)

graphic designer

theodora amuiumuia

copyeditor

tracey bridcutt

noticeboard

naomi hurst

letters

editor@record.net.au

news & photos

news@record.net.au

noticeboard

ads@record.net.au

subscriptions

subscriptions@record.net.au

+ 61 (03) 5965 6300

mailed within australia and nz \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00 other prices on application.

website

record.adventistchurch.com

adventist media

locked bag 1115

wahroonga

nsw 2076 australia

+ 61 (02) 9847 2222

cover credit: Jac&Heath

photography

“Josh and Tammy on the day of their Australian wedding.”

adventist record is the

official news magazine of the seventh-day adventist church’s south pacific division

abn 59 093 117 689

vol 122 no 5

NEXT GENERATION CHURCH?

It was unusual. Within 24 hours I had received the same link to an article from three different people. However, after reading "59% of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped out—And they're Trying to Tell Us Why" I realised its significance and passed it on.

The article, written by a millennial (someone born after 1980) from the USA, was short and challenged me to the core. Although the article quotes Christian church statistics from the US, the Valuegenesis studies done by the South Pacific Division (SPD) in the past few years reveal similar insights. 96 per cent of millennials do not believe in the Bible or follow Christian or moral values and see little value in the church. These facts are alarming.

According to the article's author, Sam Eaton, the reason "church" is not important in their thinking is because it is not listening to the millennials, who want to be mentored, help the poor and talk about real challenging cultural issues.

Millennials see the church focused on vision and mission statements, preaching, using their resources for themselves and blaming the culture for everything rather than making a difference. Ouch! Can the church listen, reflect and change? If we don't, we may not have a church in the next generation.

Young adults have energy (I am the father or father-in-law to five of them). Just sitting and planning irritates them. They want action with a purpose. Cleaning up yards, feeding the poor, visiting the disabled, going on STORM Co trips and overseas mission trips is what they want. They realise that they do not know everything and would appreciate input from others. They want options, advice, scenarios, questions, support, guidance but the freedom to try—to fail or succeed—knowing the church will support them no matter what. This reminds me of what Jesus did with a group of 12 young men. This is real discipleship. Is our Church in the SPD ready to take up Jesus' discipleship challenge?

GLENN TOWNEND

SPD PRESIDENT

 /SPDpresident



EXPERIENCED AID WORKER NAMED NEW ASIAN AID CEO

SONJA KAMA

Asian Aid recently appointed Wayne Ulrich as its third chief executive officer.

During the past 30 years, he has worked for organisations such as Medecins Sans Frontieres, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, CARE, UN agencies and the International Federation of the Red Cross. His parents Maurice and Estelle Ulrich are long-time Asian Aid supporters.

Mr Ulrich said his travels and work assignments—some dangerous and life threatening—have taken him on a journey of gaining a deeper understanding of a shared humanity and hope. In meeting exploited children, abused women, the unemployed, the starving from disaster-affected and war-torn communities all around the



WAYNE ULRICH WITH WIFE STEVANI AND CHILDREN.

world, he said that hope, for all these people, is a common denominator. "I believe that people of different race, culture and gender—although diverse—share similar values and dreams. They should be given equal opportunities and be able to succeed in their endeavours and ambitions," Mr Ulrich said.

RETREAT PREPARES FIJI CHURCH WORKERS FOR 2017

TOMASI QIODAUKATA/RECORD STAFF

Church workers from around Fiji gathered at the Fulton College campus in Sabeto, Nadi, for their Fiji Mission church workers' retreat (February 2-5).

Based on the theme "In His Hands", the main speaker, Pastor Jean-Noel Adeline, as well as the other guest speakers, addressed work-related challenges and opportunities to help attendees prepare for 2017.

There were 65 ministers, 103 teachers from 11 primary and two high schools, 16 literature evangelists, 40 from the Mission head office and seven invited guests.

"It was a time of feasting from God's Word and the meetings were soaked with prayers and prayer requests," reported Tomasi Qiodaukata, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fiji.

In his testimony, Shalmani, a

non-Adventist, said he felt a sense of tranquillity during his stay.

Pastor Luke Narabe represented the workers to convey a vote of thanks to Pastor Adeline, who is Mission to the Communities leader at the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference.

The retreat concluded with a banquet.



PASTOR ADELINE PRAYS FOR WORKERS.

MILLENNIALS CONVERGE FOR NEXT LEVEL LIVING

KYM PIEZ/RECORD STAFF

More than 350 young adults from around Australia came together for a weekend of revival and renewal at the second annual Converge camp.

Held at the Stuarts Point Convention Centre (NSW), February 10–13, the spiritual weekend inspired millennials aged 18–30 to “live the next level”.

Returning for his second year, US speaker Jeremy Anderson challenged those who attended to let God name and claim them and use them to be something more amazing—to step up and make a difference.

“Your condition is not your con-



clusion,” he said during one of his evening presentations. “God has called us to run into burning buildings, into Babylon, into our local communities, into our churches . . . be a light in dark places.”

“He was like a personal trainer for life,” said Jessica Symes, co-organiser of Converge. “The whole weekend was like a battle call.”

Tertiary and Young Adult Ministries director for the South Queensland Conference, Alina van Rensburg, was the morning speaker, and reiterated the importance of “We, The Church”. Her focus was on each person being the body of Christ—a community of believers—people doing life groups together.

“The Church is not the administration or the politics,” she said. “The Church is us.”

Highlights of the weekend included daily personal stories of faith, one baptism and five others who recommitted their



lives to Jesus, and a leaders’ breakfast where more than 50 young people attended because of their desire to step up, challenge and change the Church. Together they shared stories and experiences, and were prayed over.

“The focus of Converge is to build community, not run entertaining programs for young people,” said Pastor Jeff Parker, youth director for the Australian Union Conference and coordinator of Converge. “It’s so exciting to see so many of our millennial generation who are willing to converge in the one place to worship Jesus Christ. This very capable generation is already making a difference in the world—we need to let them do it in the Church as well.”

Converge will return to Stuarts Point in February 2018 for its third year.

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL TO LEAD FULTON COLLEGE

KENT KINGSTON

A new principal has been appointed to Fulton College, Fiji’s Seventh-day Adventist tertiary institution.

Dr Glynn Galo was vice-chancellor of Solomon Islands National University for nearly four years and has held senior positions at Pacific Adventist University and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

“People who have worked with Glynn comment on his dedication to God and His mission,” said Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans Pacific Union Mission, which oversees Fulton. “His vast experience in tertiary institutions will be a great asset for us.”

Dr Galo is a Fulton alumnus himself. A Solomon Islands national, he has

lived in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the UK, where he completed his doctorate in education. He also holds a science degree (USP) and a Master of Business Administration (University of Queensland).

“I am very humbled indeed to accept the appointment,” said Dr Galo. “I have so much confidence in the senior officers and support staff of the college. Together as a team we will continue the services of the college and complete the good work left behind under the leadership of the former principal, Dr Steve Currow. As an academic institution, Fulton College must consolidate, grow and explore other academic areas that it can offer to meet the challenge of preparing graduates for the present



and future needs of the Church and the community it serves. This to me is the continuous challenge yet a rewarding aspect of the job. With the Lord’s support and guidance, the college will achieve this.”

Dr Currow is now communication director for the South Pacific Division office in Wahroonga, NSW.

FAITH FM DEDICATES NEW STUDIO

KYM.PIEZ/RECORD STAFF

Australian Adventist radio station Faith FM has a new studio, which was officially dedicated at a special ceremony on February 15.

Based at the Melbourne headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC), the dream of a studio has been realised through a partnership with Adventist World Radio and the South Pacific Division.

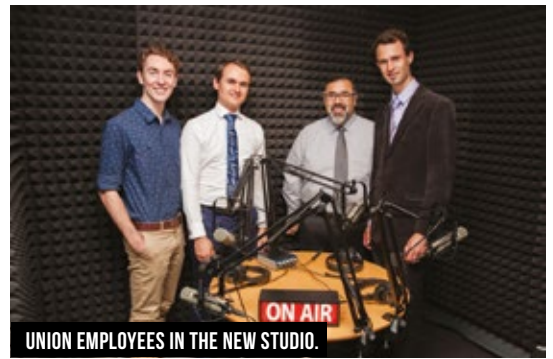
"It has been exciting to watch what God has done with so little—using a skeleton staff to develop a national network," said AUC Faith FM coordinator Michael Engelbrecht. "Who has heard of a radio station without a studio?"

Faith FM began in 2008 when Mr Engelbrecht realised Australian voices have a special appeal to Australian hearts. He, together with a group of passionate others who were volunteering their time to start the new ministry, didn't want to be just broadcasting overseas content.

From the beginning—even without a studio—they created Australian advertisements and station identifiers, immediately broadcasting the few Australian programs available.

Last year, Faith FM launched an Australian breakfast program, hosted by the media team at the North NSW Conference, which was the first interactive and daily Australian program. Since then, listener feedback has doubled with many enthusiastic responses from the community.

"The studio is not a control centre monopolising production of Adventist radio content in Australia," said Mr Engelbrecht. "It exists as a support base to encourage and empower church members, church leaders, pastors and health professionals around Australia. Our desire is to inspire people to create Aussie radio content to touch Aussie hearts, to lead Aussies to



Christ."

"It is our hope and prayer that, in this studio, many life-changing programs will be created," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz. "We are very excited about the continued possibilities that God is opening up before us as we reach our communities."

At the studio dedication Mr Engelbrecht invited anyone who is passionate about reaching people for Christ through radio content, to share it on Faith FM. Email <info@faithfm.com.au> or for information on how to start recording, visit <faithfm.com.au/content>.

SPONSORSHIP EMPOWERS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

TO GROW STRONG FOR LIFE, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Bikash (pictured left), sat as a student in the very same classroom he teaches in now. Life has come full circle. Sponsored when he was eight years old, Bikash studied hard and came first in his school leaving examinations in Nepal. He is now studying Business Administration at university.

HE IS ALSO FULFILLING HIS OTHER DREAM:
TO TEACH MATHS AT HIS OLD SCHOOL.

To read Bikash's full story, visit:

asianaid.org.au/news/sponsorship-provides-career-opportunities

SPONSOR A CHILD TODAY!

W asianaid.org.au/children E contact@asianaid.org.au P (+61) 02 6586 4250



 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

\$100,000 MAKEOVER FOR CANCER PATIENT HAVEN

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

A rooftop atrium garden that provides a relaxed and tranquil haven for Sydney Adventist Hospital cancer patients has received a \$A100,000-plus makeover.

Landscape gardener Matt Leacy, a former co-presenter of Australian TV programs *Domestic Blitz* and *Garden Gurus*, was among a team of design, garden and lighting supporters who recently completed the works. "I was honoured to be able to pitch in and do something that hopefully will make a difference," Mr Leacy said at a special event to celebrate the makeover last month.

With its specially chosen foliage, purpose-built seating, open-plan design and natural light, hospital staff say it provides patients with an escape from their treatment, a place for family and friends to gather and memories to be made.

The project was made possible through contributions by the San Foun-



ation (\$A36,000) and San Help Team volunteers (\$A30,000). There were also donations of soil, plants, manpower, seating, lighting and fans. San Help Team volunteer Ted Pender and his late wife Eileen both used the garden as a place of reflection and rejuvenation during their treatments for cancer. "For me as a patient, it was a lovely place to come, a non-hospital place to get away from the ward," Mr Pender said.

The garden, which is located adjacent to the hospital's cancer ward, was originally established in 2002 following contributions from private donors.

HACKSAW RIDGE WINS TWO OSCARS

ADVENTIST REVIEW STAFF

Hacksaw Ridge, a film that tells the story of Seventh-day Adventist army medic Desmond Doss, won two Oscars at the 89th Academy Awards on February 26.

John Gilbert was awarded the Oscar for Best Editing, and Kevin O'Connell, Andy Wright, Robert Mackenzie and Peter Grace won the Oscar for Best Sound Mixing. *Hacksaw Ridge* also received nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (Mel Gibson), Best Actor (Andrew Garfield) and Best Sound Editing (Robert Mackenzie and Andy Wright).

The 2016 film tells the story of Doss's heroic World War II exploits on the island of Okinawa (Japan), where he saved the lives of at least 75 men during combat without carrying a gun. He became the first conscientious objector to win the US Congressional Medal of Honor.

The North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church issued a



statement congratulating the filmmakers for their success at the Academy Awards: "We celebrate your God-given creativity, talent and artistry that helped bring the story of Desmond T Doss and his faith to millions of people. We celebrate your accomplishments and thank you for sharing the story of this remarkable, humble and God-fearing man with the world."

NEWS GRABS



SILENT KILLER

While Syria dominates the headlines, Yemen is foremost among four conflict-ridden nations facing the threat of famine, described as the world's worst current humanitarian disaster. Already 10,000 Yemeni children have died from hunger and other preventable causes. ADRA is among the aid agencies already in Yemen and scaling up their response. —ABC/ADRA Yemen



DEEP REGRETS

Both the president and treasurer of the Adventist Church in Argentina have resigned over criminal allegations of avoiding import duties on smuggled electronic goods. Argentina's ADRA director and the president of River Plate Adventist University have also resigned and are implicated. The court case is ongoing. —Adventist Review



RACIAL TENSION

After Andrews University apologised for the political content in a guest speaker's chapel sermon, African-American students released a video, *It's Time*, demanding recognition for Andrews' history of racial injustice. President Dr Andrea Luxton and other leaders responded with their own video apologising for past wrongs. —Adventist Today

HOT TOPICS



CHRISTIAN BY LAW

A bill to amend the constitution and declare Christianity the official religion of Samoa has so far met with strong support from parliamentarians. Proponents of the bill say Samoa's claim of being a Christian country should have a firm legal foundation. Others are concerned the change will disadvantage minorities. —*Samoa Observer*



CELIBACY BLAMED

Perth archbishop Timothy Costelloe has broken ranks with other Catholic leaders in conceding that the celibacy vow has contributed to the high number of child sexual abuse cases in his archdiocese. Nearly 10 per cent of Perth priests are alleged to have perpetrated abuse between 1950 and 2010. —*The West Australian*



ALCOHOL SLOWS RESPONSE

Research from Deakin University has found alcohol industry tactics are the biggest obstacle to Australia developing effective alcohol health policies. When alcohol executives lobby politicians and participate in policy discussions they obstruct implementation of evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol-related disease and violence. —*The Guardian*

NEW PRESIDENT EXPERIENCED AMERICAN CHURCH PLANTER

MARITZA BRUNT

Dr Tom Evans is the new president for the North NSW (NNSW) Conference.

He was formerly assistant professor of Christian ministry at Andrews University and assistant director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute.

Before that he was the church planting director for the Texas Conference, where he saw 114 new churches planted over a period of nine years.

Dr Evans is also passionate about working with refugees in North America and abroad and served as the board chair for the Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted (ASAP) Ministries.

Though most of his pastoral ministry has been in the United States, Dr Evans has previously spoken at Big Camp, ministers meetings and evangelism training events for the NNSW Conference, as well as serving in the South NSW Conference.

Dr Evans is married to Mara, who is originally from Brazil. They have three daughters and two sons.

The appointment comes after Pastor Justin Lawman announced he was returning to local church ministry, after serving for nine years in the NNSW Conference. Citing his mother's health and a conviction to lead a local church again as reasons for his departure, Pastor Lawman, who will pastor the



DR TOM EVANS AND HIS WIFE MARA.

Canberra National church, was officially farewelled at the NNSW Leadership Weekend. "We have felt convicted about this for some time, but have left it in God's hands," said Pastor Lawman in his farewell message. "Every door has been flung open, so we are very much at peace with making this important decision."

"We wish Pastor Lawman and his wife Wendy God's blessings as they embrace this new challenge and continue to grow God's kingdom," said Pastor Jorge Munoz, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. "But at the same time, we would like to welcome Dr Evans and his family to the NNSW Conference. We are excited about what God will do through his ministry as he consolidates the positive work that is taking place in this Conference."



FLASHPOINT



BLOOD DRIVE

More than 300 Adventists around Port Vila (Vanuatu) were recently involved in a Total Member Involvement program in preparation for Global Youth Day. Church members met at Sorovanga, Saralana and Teoumaville Adventist churches, where doctors and nurses from Vila Central Hospital provided medical screenings and took blood donations. Those who donated their blood said they wanted to save lives, and that very afternoon two of the blood units donated by Adventist church members were used at the hospital. —*Adventist Media Vanuatu*



SELFLESS SERVICE

Nancy Piez was presented with the Jagajaga Community Australia Day Award on January 26. At 81 years of age, Nancy still works tirelessly to help operate the Adventist Development and Relief Agency pantry in Mill Park (Vic). She coordinates volunteers to deliver food hampers to people in need, manages finances, helps buy the food and liaises with Whittlesea Council. Nancy has spent much of her life helping people in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan and other countries. —*Kym Piez*



SUCCESS ADDS UP

Three Year 11 Avondale School (NSW) students achieved outstanding success in a mathematics competition run in November 2016 by the University of Newcastle Mathematics Association. At a recent assembly, principal Dr David McClintock and mathematics coordinator Anthony Hibbard recognised the achievements of Michael Pannekoek, Joel Cooper and Tyler Hobson by presenting them each with a Colin Doyle Memorial Prize competition certificate. The competition was conducted for Year 11 Mathematics Extension 1 students who have previously demonstrated an aptitude for high-level mathematics. —*Avondale School*



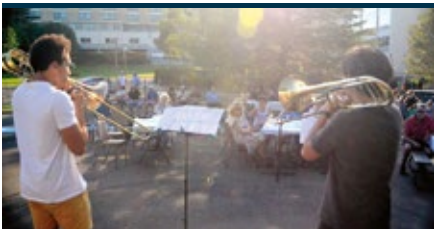
NEW SCHOOL IN HONIARA

After years of planning, Kakabona Adventist Church (Solomon Islands) has begun enrolling students for its prep and grade one classes for the 2017 academic year. Located within the church compound, Kakabona Adventist Primary School has three classrooms, three teachers and is solely funded by church members. "We would like to ask for everyone's prayers to get the school operating now and for the years ahead, as part of our evangelism to the community," said church elder and chairman of the school committee, Sendah Savakana. —*Solomon Star News*



ORDAINING FRASER

Friends and family gathered to witness the ordination of Fraser Catton at Lilydale Adventist Church (Vic) on Sabbath, January 21. Born in Hong Kong where his parents were working at the mission hospital and raised in Brisbane, Pastor Catton's first job was in banking before moving to Cooranbong (NSW) with his wife Julie to study Ministry and Theology at Avondale College. Since his arrival in the Victorian Conference, Pastor Catton has served at a number of churches and as a school chaplain, and is currently working with The Oasis and Glenhuntly church. "We can clearly see how God has led us to this point, and we know He'll continue to lead us in the future," Pastor Catton said. —*IntraVic*



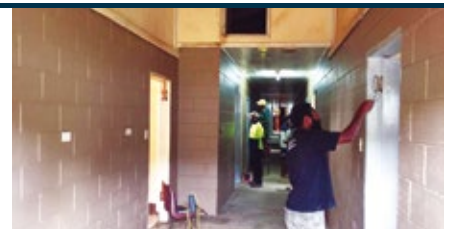
CAR PARK FESTIVAL

Members of Wahroonga Adventist Church (NSW) recently organised an open air music festival for their community. Held on a Sunday afternoon, the church car park was filled with people enjoying the good food and music from at least a dozen musicians. "The idea of this music festival was to give our community a chance to see that we enjoy many of the same things they do," said event organisers Lance and Sandra Weslake. —*David Sedgman*



MASS BAPTISM IN HIGHLANDS

Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) president Pastor Kepsie Elodo recently made his first visit to the Western Highlands Mission since taking office in August 2016. Accompanied by his family and departmental directors from the Western Highlands Mission, Pastor Elodo spent a week with Pastor John Kundapen and his team speaking at an evangelistic meeting, a Total Member Involvement initiative, which led to the baptism of more than 400 people. —*Gaza Asitore*



TOILETS, TAPS AND TRANSFORMATION

Kabiufa Adventist School near Goroka (Papua New Guinea) recently underwent a transformation as helpers from four churches came together to paint the girls' dormitory and bathrooms, and fix broken cisterns, tanks and taps. "The transformation is spectacular," said project organiser Joy Butler. "The girls deserve dignity and respect and so this is what we hope to do here and in other schools." —*Record staff*

CHURCH FOCUS ON CITY OUTREACH



A symposium on sharing the Adventist message in the big cities of the world produced more challenges than answers and highlighted the Adventist ambivalence about urban environments. There was hope, however, and an appetite for change among the Church leaders and others meeting at Avondale College of Higher Education's Lake Macquarie campus, Cooranbong, NSW, in early February.

"When we do urban mission we are stepping on the devil's territory," said Dr Kleber Goncalves, who heads up the Global Mission Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies. "He wants to control the city. If he controls the systems [based in the cities] he controls human life."

In the Q&A session, members of the invitation-only audience that included Church leaders and teams from each of Australia's five largest cities and Auckland, New Zealand, noted that Christianity began in a city, Jerusalem, and flourished in city environments—Samaria, Antioch, Ephesus and Rome. Christianity will also find its consummation in a city—the New Jerusalem.

Dr David Trim, an Australian histo-

rian who heads up the General Conference's office of Archives, Statistics and Research, presented graphs and diagrams that repeatedly demonstrated how comparatively weak the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in the world's big cities. While there is one Adventist for every 391 of the world's population, for example, the ratio widens to 1:555 in the cities.

"Mission is no longer just about crossing jungles and oceans. It's about crossing the street," said Dr Goncalves. "God is using the urbanisation of the world to fulfil His mission."

A renewed focus on city evangelism has been a feature of Seventh-day Adventist world Church policy since at least 2012 when a compilation of Ellen White's prophetic statements on urban mission were released in book form, *Ministry to the Cities*, which balances *Country Living*, another White compilation that extols the health and spiritual virtues of rural environments.

"If we keep doing what we're doing, we're not going to have different results," said Dr Graeme Humble, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific region. As one of the symposium's key organisers Dr Humble, along with Dr Wayne Krause, helped to ensure that the discussion moved towards action. Participants were given time to discuss the implications of each presentation throughout the four days with the final morning focused on achieving a convergence of the ideas generated by the think tank and identifying an agreed way forward. Key

themes that emerged included:

Awareness: The importance of mission to the cities needs to be highlighted among Adventists. A concise, practical theology of urban mission needs to be developed and stories shared of the struggles and successes.

Money talks: Adventist leaders serious about urban mission will financially support church plants in city areas and may need to release pastors from established churches to focus on entering new areas.

Basic training: Students of various disciplines at Adventist institutions need to learn how urban mission fits into their vocation.

Demographics: The Adventist Church needs strategies to connect with specific hard-to-reach urban groups, including migrants from non-Christian backgrounds and secular, upwardly mobile Anglos.

Social work: To show Adventists genuinely care about city people we need to respond to the problems they're struggling with—offering services such as counselling, community gardens, op-shops and "welcome baby" packages.

Local leverage: Existing city congregations should aim to transform themselves into "centres of influence" and use their buildings 24/7 for ministry, particularly health ministry.

Get creative: Reaching city dwellers may involve innovative strategies, for example, the arts, partnerships with other organisations, cafes, massage centres and using Adventist schools or aged care facilities as "centres of influence".

The think tanks and prayer sessions were coordinated by South Pacific Division president, Pastor Glenn Townend. A major part of the think tank was prayer in each session—about what the groups had discussed and prayer for one of the six target cities.

Go to record.adventistchurch.com for a dropbox link to all conference video sessions.

KENT KINGSTON ASSISTANT EDITOR

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A...

CHURCH PLANTER



NAME: Daniel Christie

JOB: Lead pastor, The Vine

WHERE: Tweed Heads, NSW

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I work as a church planter for the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference. My wife and I are beginning our third year at The Vine Seventh-day Adventist Church.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU NEED?

Apart from a passion for Jesus, one of the key terms often used is an “entrepreneurial” characteristic. Church planting is so ambiguous: no matter how much you know about theology or ministry, every church plant and the group you have will be different, so you have to possess an attitude to creatively deal with each obstacle that comes your way. Church planting can be very difficult, especially in the first few years, so being steadfast and having an ability to endure is essential.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU?

My day is focused on “empowerment”. I think any church planter’s role is to disciple and train, so I’m constantly looking at how I can create an environment—both for individuals and as a collective

church—to empower people to their full potential.

BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

I’m not an organised person by nature, I come from an evangelistic background—for me it’s all about soul winning. So I’ve had to learn a lot about structures and organisation in churches, because it’s a big component of ministry. You can grow as a church but if you don’t have structures in place to support growth, you’ll have challenges in that area. It has been a great learning experience.

FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The best thing, and what makes me happy as a minister, is making disciples. For me, it’s not about baptisms—that’s great—but I measure my successes in seeing people come to their full potential in Christ. That, to me, is a win, and I believe church growth will come as a result of that. We’ve had people who were drug addicts or have come out of prison who are now leading Bible studies, preaching and

realising God has a plan for their life. It’s really exciting to see that happen.

IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE WAY YOU DO CHURCH?

I ask all my team members what they enjoy doing, and then tell them to go out and meet people who like doing the same thing. Some of the Bible workers now have surfing groups or philosophy groups—whatever they’re passionate about, they will find people who are like-minded. My wife and I are passionate about health, so as a church we’ve tried to focus and educate people on that. The young adults love camping and getting out into the wilderness, so that’s another activity they’re able to meet people through. Basically, anything where relationships can develop is evangelism to us. We keep it simple, cost effective and just create a consistent environment for relationships.

Full interview at <record.adventistchurch.com>.



DRY BONES

Perhaps my favourite Bible story is tucked away in the second book of Kings¹. In fact it may have been overlooked by many due to its shortness of length. It is contained in just two verses in chapter 13.

Elisha had been sick and finally died. He was interred in a mausoleum. Israel's kings were far from living up to God's Word. Consequently the surrounding troublesome nations were causing problems.

One day a group of Israelites was carrying the body of a man to his final resting place. As these men struggled under their awkward burden, a band of Jordanian² troublemakers appeared from behind a hill.

All thoughts of a peaceful funeral soon disappeared as self preservation crowded the Israelites' thinking. What to do? Where to run? What about the corpse?

There wasn't a lot of time for considered decision making. So in a flash they unanimously decided to dump the body and hot-foot it out of there! It

just so "happened" that Elisha's crypt was close by. And so, with an absolute absence of decorum, the deceased friend was bundled in with Elisha! And not a moment too soon.

I guess the four minute mile was smashed at this time by not one, but all of the pallbearers. As the locals hid from the marauders, their dead friend was left in the eerie gloom of Elisha's resting place. The man of God was dead. His body was no more. He was just a pile of dry, whitened bones.

But God enacted a miracle that day. On coming into contact with Elisha's dry bones, the dead friend was immediately invigorated with renewed life as he was resurrected. I suppose it was a toss-up between the resurrected man and the funeral party who was most surprised!

Imagine awaking from death on a pile of bones in a gloomy tomb. Imagine his friends coming out of hiding when the coast was clear only to run into their "dead" friend heading back into town from the cemetery. I imagine

there were little groups of villagers with their heads together that evening, desperately trying to come to grips with the day's events. How could this be? What happened here? The inspired author doesn't dwell on this anymore. We're left to reach our own conclusion. Man dies; body touches Elisha's bones; dead man springs to life.

I can only speculate that this insignificant sized story has a significant lesson for us. Elisha truly was a dedicated and loyal prophet of the true God. His life was packed with great deeds of servitude and miracles. His influence over the Israelite nation was divinely powerful. Even in death his influence continued. There must be a lesson here for us.

We are called to represent God in today's society. We have the opportunity to be influential to those we see each day. We may not have an opportunity to directly discuss God's plan of survival directly with anyone. In fact, if we tried, it could well have an opposing result than desired.

Sure, at times we will be offered a more direct opportunity to discuss what Christ has done for us, but more often what people silently experience in our presence will have a greater effect on them . . . even when we have moved on. The often underrated "Spirit fruit" exhibited in a Christ-like life will bring new life to many who would shun a more direct invitation to salvation. Others will know if we have the Holy Spirit in our lives. They will see and experience love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance³ in our treatment of them.

Perhaps we should stop praying for the Holy Spirit—it's a gift that's already here—and start praying for the fruits of the Holy Spirit to grow and mature in us. Who knows? A life may be saved from being in contact with us.

¹ 2 Kings 13:20, 21

² Moabites

³ Galatians 5:22, 23

PHILLIP LOMMAN WRITES FROM EAST LYNNE, NSW.



In early 2014, Pastor Trevor Mawer received a devastating phone call from a church member—a family had just lost their baby girl, one month out from the due date. The couple had been married in the church, though they weren't members or attending at the time. But they had connections to the Stanthorpe church (Qld) through



PR TREVOR MAWER.

friendship, and as Pastor Mawer conducted the funeral service, the support of the church members ministered to their pain and heartache. Despite the loss,

four members of the family started attending the Last Empire series run by the church. All seemed to be well, until September 2014, when Pastor Mawer received another heartbreaking call from the family: the father of the young woman who'd lost the baby had been killed in a single vehicle accident.

"The grief that I encountered that night was intense," recalls Pastor Mawer. "At 2am, the house was full, with about 30 people in various states of shock, disbelief and trauma."

This time, both of Pastor Mawer's churches pitched in to help, with Warwick providing space for the service and Stanthorpe providing financial

support. Days and weeks after the funeral, the churches continued to minister to the family, and the friendships grew. On a few occasions, Pastor Mawer was even invited to attend some of their family functions and birthdays. But it wasn't long before his conversations with the family turned to big questions: What happens next? Where do we go?

The conversations eventually turned into group discussions and Bible studies, but in 2015, the family moved to the town of Inglewood. With no church presence, the family called Pastor Mawer for the third time—this conversation, however, was good news. They wanted to know if he'd be willing to come and do "something" with them.

"Now, I live in Stanthorpe, and Inglewood is located more than 100km west," explains Pastor Mawer, who already travels more than 60km to get to his other church in Warwick. "But when God opens doors, we need to step through them."

The first Inglewood meeting was held in the home of the young woman who had lost her baby daughter. At 3pm on a hot afternoon, Pastor Mawer was dubious. *How many will come?* he wondered.

But the family, self-professed non-Christians with little biblical knowledge, had invited everyone they had met in the town. That day, 27 people gathered in the home, and a new church was started.

Today, the Inglewood church plant meets every fourth Sabbath of the month, and the members continue to invite everybody they meet to come and join them. Though the numbers fluctuate, there is a core group of 11 people.

"This is a group who previously had no faith," says Pastor Mawer. "They are keen seekers, and though the troubles of the world regularly interfere, they are sticking with this."

Pastor Mawer meets with the group every first and third Thursday of the month, as well as the fourth Sabbath, and would like to thank those who have been willing to support the small church.

"Many people continue to help out spiritually, financially, and by just being the hands and feet of Jesus," he says. "Please continue to pray for the Inglewood group in the days ahead."

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR

 /MaritzaEMunoz



JOIN US AT...
NEW EPISODE EVERY WEDNESDAY
TheTableTV.com



SINGLE-MINDED FOR THE KINGDOM

Six simple steps for singles



Yes. I have been single for a while. I have been single from my late 20s, right through my 30s, now into my 40s. Like me, you may have experienced a myriad of well-meaning friends and family members trying to match you with someone. Even to the point of creating an online profile for you on a dating site without your knowledge (sigh!).

This article is not about any of that, but before I continue I feel I need to make one thing clear: "I am not a Paul." That's right—I said it! I am not even going to pretend that I have the gift of singleness—although some have ascribed it to me (please don't!). In the same breath I must attest that I am happy and comfortable with my present season of singleness—however, this has not always been the case.

Understand that I am no theo-

logian. I am writing from first-hand experience wanting to encourage my "mature sisters" who read this article and are doing it single. I will be candid and hopefully sensitive too. You are not alone in this journey! Here are six things I've learned about being S-I-N-G-L-E.

STAND. As a single woman in God, it can't be emphasised enough that you **STAND** on God's promises. The enemy loves to throw lies about your character, your status, your relationships, your deepest insecurities and your past. The father of lies delights in seeing you oppressed, depressed and bitter. The only way to defeat the enemy is to submit to God and stand on the truth in the Scriptures. Don't tell me you don't have time. You need to make the time. His Word should be a priority. Memorise His Word as this

will help to discipline your wandering mind. Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. One day as I was running on the treadmill, I was gripped with strong emotions that seemed to come out of nowhere. I fell off the treadmill and slumped on to the floor sobbing as if someone had died. It was an uncontrollable flood of tears I attribute to a spontaneous pity party. I couldn't talk for a while. I just lay there sobbing and thinking how I was tired of doing life alone and of how silly I must look. I rolled over and grabbed my Bible and demanded that God speak to me. I opened the Bible to Isaiah and the phrase "I am your Creator Husband" (54:5) burned in my eyes. I stopped crying for pity but started to laugh and cry for joy because I knew then that I had the best husband in the world. Someone who would never

leave, forsake or disappoint me. Since then some of my favourite verses have been and still are: Luke 1:45; Isaiah 43:3,4; Deuteronomy 28:13; Philippians 3:13, 4:8.

INVEST. Time, finances, relationships, everything we have been given is a gift from God. We need to stop kidding ourselves that we have earned or deserve what we have. We are stewards and need to treat what we have as tools for His kingdom. That starts with our time. Start the day with God—every moment talking to God about everything you are doing throughout the course of your day. Try (if you don't already) making every decision by consulting God. You will be amazed at how time efficient and effective you will be with the Holy Spirit guiding your every step. Finances? Stop stealing from God. Give God His dues. Don't even give me the lame excuse, "you don't trust and know where your money goes". First of all, this topic alone is a sermon but I must be brief. Your duty is to obey God and not allow money to rule your world—where it goes is in God's hands and if there is someone along the track who mis-manages funds, be sure that God will deal with that person. But you need

need to be helping our younger sisters out. Don't be fooled—you can't have those difficult conversations without the relationship. God has a plan for you. Invest in the right relationships and the right activities. Take a good look at yourself. What eats your time? If it is not beneficial then it is time to start spring cleaning your life. I know that sometimes this process can hurt but this is part and parcel of growth. You may not need to do anything but make the right decisions and the wrong people will begin to fade from your life. Don't hold on to those relationships—let them fade and the right people will start to flow in.

NURTURE. What gifts and skills have you been blessed with? Nurture them. Study or upskill in those areas. Allow God to refine you to become the best version of you ever! Nurture relationships—family, friends, church and professional. What have you always wanted to do? Make a list and a timeframe and actually do them (I have been gifted a "bucket list" journal and I intend to use it!). Nurture the good in your life. Get tips from the greatest Gardener ever known.

GLOW. Okay, so I am challenged in this area. I grew up in South Auckland

you. Trust Him that He will and let the poison go. When you do, don't be surprised when people comment on how different you look. You will be absolutely glowing!

LIVE. There was a time when I was pining for love. I forgot how to live. I forgot to look up and around me and to see that I was loved and that I wasn't missing out at all. In fact, I was so blessed I had no right to be down and depressed because I was single! God was showing me that I needed to be faithful in my season of singleness and avoid idolising the idea of marriage or even the promise of marriage. So I call you to do the same. Live! Just believe what God has promised, but rather than pining for what has not yet happened, be faithful to what is in front of you. Be faithful at work, be faithful with your relationships, your family and yourself.

EXCEL. Excel in the place God has placed you today. Excel in motherhood and don't be afraid to ask God for pointers and direction (shout out to my fellow single mothers!). Excel at work, excel in your studies (don't you dare settle for just passing or fail to apply yourself—you are studying for a reason). Excel in your appointments, excel in caring for others, excel in your hobbies, excel in all things God has placed in your hands. Yes, I'm guilty of just wanting to cruise and embrace me-

diocrity—but my God has me here for so much more. I feel I cheat Him and those around me when I don't strive to give my absolute best. Go ahead girl and EXCEL!

In short, my beautiful, mature, single sister—this season of singleness is only temporary. It's a time for you to partner with God to repair, to restore, to reconcile, to revive, to release and to recommit to your Creator. Allow Him to bring His promises to fruition in His time and in His way.

ANGIE GIBSON WORSHIPS AT SOUTH KEMPSEY ABORIGINAL CHURCH AND WORKS AT KEMPSEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL, NSW.

DON'T WASTE TIME ON PEOPLE WHO LEAD YOU ON THE WRONG PATH. INVEST IN GODLY RELATIONSHIPS.

to tithe. Relationships. Life is short. Don't waste time on people who lead you on the wrong path. Invest in godly relationships. Relationships that will edify you and bring God glory. Godly relationships require vulnerability and courage. I have had spiritual mentors who lovingly have had difficult conversations with me and sure, okay, I may have gotten angry but at the end of the day I realise that God used them to help prune undesirable things from my life. We need those godly relationships where we know we will always hear what we need to hear not what we want to hear. If you are a young woman ensure that you have an older godly sister to bond with. Older ladies: we

(New Zealand) in the late '70s-early '80s and most of us were dressed in hand-me-downs and no-one cared. Truth be told, I would love to dress in jeans or trackies and t-shirt anywhere and everywhere but alas this cannot be. However, it's not just working on your external look (without being materialistic or becoming narcissistic) but more importantly looking after your inner beauty. Some of us have been hurt in the quest for love. I know, I was bitter and angry for a while and it began to affect my family, child, friends and even work. Look, you are doing yourself a disservice by holding on to bitterness and resentment. Let God deal with those who have hurt



UNHOLY TITHE:

IS MY MONEY UNDERMINING EVERYTHING I STAND FOR?

FOR SEVERAL YEARS DR BRONwyn King had been working at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, doing her best to ease the suffering of lung cancer patients. Hope for recovery is slim when it comes to lung cancer—five years after diagnosis only 15 per cent of patients can expect to be alive. The culprit in the majority of cases is, of course, smoking. For medical professionals it's a line of work that can be soul destroying, as well as bringing a basic fact to the fore: tobacco is a poison.

So when Dr King posed a casual question to a representative of her health industry superannuation fund she was shocked to discover that her super payments were being invested

in a portfolio that included no less than five tobacco companies. While she was devoting her working life to relieving the suffering caused by smoking, her money was enriching the very industry peddling the addictive poisons responsible not just for her patients' cancers, but for a holocaust of 6 million deaths around the world, every year.

That conversation in 2010 was life altering for Dr King. While she continued her work as a radiation oncologist she began to seek appointments with superannuation companies—beginning with her own. Armed with the facts, her professional credibility and a charming persistence, she was able to convince a dozen superannuation companies to drop tobacco stocks

from their investment portfolios. Her fight continues, both in Australia and around the world.¹

WHERE'S MY TREASURE?

So what about me? I have a strong commitment to God, my family, my community, my church, my health. I believe in justice, equality, religious freedom, democracy and education. I even put my money where my mouth is—I donate to charities that give effect to my values; I give my tithes and offerings with a prayer that God will use them to further His mission in the world; when I shop I avoid products that are cruel to animals or damaging to the environment.

But is it possible that, via my personal financial arrangements, I'm paying an unholy tithe that's undermining everything I stand for? Am I being enriched by my unknowing support not only of Big Tobacco but of other companies that make their profit from gambling, alcohol, junk food, pornography, weapons, deforestation or pollution?

Jesus said something quite confronting in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." His challenge goes deeper than deciding on superannuation options, of course, but this fundamental principle of life has clear implications for how we organise our finances. Jesus is reminding us that, despite our efforts to compartmentalise money in a separate, neutral or secular part of our lives, its influence will keep leaking into our values and spirituality. Opening our whole lives to Him means allowing heavenly values to permeate, shift or even topple our financial arrangements.

CHURCHES ON THE MOVE

These are realisations that have prompted Christian organisations to make some changes. In 2015, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia voted "to take all reasonable steps" to divest its shares in fossil fuel companies by its next Synod meeting. This follows similar moves from the Church of England.

In Australia, the Uniting Church publicly castigated its bank—ANZ—because it financed a sugar company linked with child labour and illegal land seizures in Cambodia. ANZ, in turn, put pressure on the sugar company to lift its game. In the end, the bank ended its financial relationship with the sugar company.

What about the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

“[D]irect investments will not be made in certain industries which are not in keeping with the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church” say the minutes of the 2004 General Conference (GC) Annual Council. Specifically this means companies that derive more than five per cent of their income from tobacco, alcohol, adult entertainment, gambling, meat products (including McDonald’s) and caffeinated beverages (including Coke and Pepsi). According to Tim Aka, GC associate treasurer and investment manager, the

out there doing the research. Australian Ethical, for example, or Christian Super. A look through Christian Super’s website reveals a surprising array of industries they’ve chosen to avoid. Twenty-one issues are named—everything from fast food to gambling to embryonic stem cell research. Christian Super also nominates 12 countries of concern, saying it limits or rules out investing in companies doing business in these countries. The issues involved include rebel wars, human rights abuses and corrupt governments.

Clearly a lot of research has gone into establishing these policies, which are always being adjusted as circumstances change.

“We don’t invest in Woolworths because they have significant revenue from alcohol, tobacco and gambling,” says Peter Murphy, CEO of Christian Super. “They own one per cent of the world’s gambling machines.”

So if a company as mainstream and respectable as Woolworths is suspect, how can anyone ever be sure they’ve got it right?

Surely there’s no such thing as an absolutely squeaky-clean supply chain or investment portfolio. Drill down deep enough and you’re bound to find dirt.

“Sometimes you’re going to have to make bold calls—sometimes you’re not going to have enough information,” Mr Murphy says. “But does that mean because it’s too hard you don’t give it a go?”

This is an important principle. Surely the worst thing we can do is to be paralysed by indecision and do nothing. Instead why not start small with something clear and doable? Change your superannuation option mix towards “socially responsible” or switch to a community bank or co-operative society rather than the increasingly dubious big banks.

THINK POSITIVE

But using your money conscientiously is not just about what industries

or companies to avoid. The positive side is deciding what business activities you’d like to support. Ethical super companies, community banks and even some investment managers are increasingly focused on this positive side of money management.

“I was wrapping up an exhausting two-year project setting up a traditional charitable project in India’s north [when] I received an invitation to visit the factory of a wealthy local businessman,” recalls Jai Sharma in an article on the Ethos blog². “He thought little about social impact and nothing of Jesus, but as I walked the factory floor I could not avoid an intriguing but worrying question: had this man done more good accidentally in providing jobs and social infrastructure for his 3000 economically disadvantaged staff than I had after years of deliberate action?”


That troubling question led Mr Sharma into a career in Christian ethical investing, giving investors the opportunity to finance companies that make a positive contribution to their communities and operate under best practice principles when it comes to fair wages, working conditions and environmental sustainability. Often these are small enterprises, even one-person operations that the banks ignore but nevertheless have a very good record of repaying “microfinance” loans.

“The perception of investing must shift in the eyes of the church from that of being a ‘necessary evil’ to an opportunity to honour God with our wealth,” says Mr Sharma. “Our investments can be an expression of our love for God and neighbour, generating social and spiritual change with ripples into eternity.”

¹The Guardian, *The doctor who beat big tobacco*, 01.08.16.

²<http://www.ethos.org.au/online-resources/engage-mail/good-re-turns-primer-on-ethical-investing>

KENT KINGSTON ASSISTANT EDITOR

 /KentHasTheConch

“HAD THIS MAN DONE MORE GOOD ACCIDENTALLY... THAN I HAD AFTER YEARS OF DELIBERATE ACTION?”

Church is also in the process of excluding a number of other companies from its investment portfolio: arms manufacturers, environmental polluters and even companies that exploit their workers or have poor governance. “It’s our desire to set a good example for all of our membership and institutions as it pertains to investing funds that the Lord has entrusted to us,” says Mr Aka.

IT’S JUST TOO COMPLICATED

Many of us have a “set and forget” attitude when it comes to our financial affairs. If a high-flying specialist medico like Dr Bronwyn King took her super arrangements for granted for so many years, what hope do the rest of us have? Who has time to fuss with the intricacies of superannuation, bank fee structures or insurance loopholes?

The good news is there are established and reputable organisations



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 . . .

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**

DIETARY DISCRETION

Food is so much more than fuel for our bodies. We derive pleasure from it and use it as a way to connect with those we love. When we find food we enjoy, we want to share it with those close to us so they can share in that joy. This is one of the things that makes food so special, but it can become an issue when this desire for pleasure leads us to overlook our health. And recent research released by the University of Melbourne suggests we might be overlooking the issue of health for those who need looking out for most.

The research, which tracked the diets of 466 infants from birth to 20 months of age, found that by 18 months, 27 per cent ate sweet biscuits, 28 per cent ate processed meats and 16 per cent ate chocolates and lollies more than twice a week. So what effect was this having on their overall diets? Well one-third of the children aged 12-20 months were not meeting dietary guidelines. This effect is consistent with past research in adults showing an overconsumption of discretionary foods pushing core healthy foods out of the diet.

It's so important that we give children the best possible start in life. When we fill the diet first with healthy foods like minimally processed vegetables, fruits, legumes, dairy and dairy alternatives, we crowd out discretionary choices, rather than it being the other way around. It's never too early to start building healthy habits. In fact, we should be more worried about trying to build them too late. There's a place in every diet for enjoying discretionary foods but not at the expense of health and balance.

health
tip

Did you know that low fat and fat-reduced dairy and soy milks are not recommended for children under 2 years old? From the age of 12 months, full fat pasteurised dairy and fortified soy milks can help provide energy and nutrients needed for the rapid growth children experience at this age.

GREAT SNACK IDEAS FOR TODDLERS



VEGGIE STICKS

Slice up sticks of raw carrot, celery, zucchini, capsicum or any other vegetable that catches the eye. Their crunchy texture and bright colours are a fun way to get more veggies in.



GET DIPPING

If plain veggie sticks are grabbing their attention, give them something healthy to dip them in. Hummus and mashed avocado are two great veggie-based options.



KID SUSHI

A simple sushi roll made with veggies and a little grated cheese can be cut up into a satisfying bite-sized savoury snack.



THE ORIGINAL CONVENIENCE FOOD

Fruit! Buy seasonal fruit to give your child plenty of options through the year. Eat as is or try cutting up into fun shapes and serving with yoghurt for dipping.



LIVING HIS WORD

WITH WAYNE BOEHM

LESSONS FROM EDEN

For the past few years, our family had the joy of serving in the Pacific and learning about new and diverse cultures. One custom that stood out was observing how a person would transition from one tribe to another. The individual would crawl through the legs of the village chief on their hands and knees, symbolising the birth process. This was the culture—rich and beautiful.

Rest: Genesis 2:1-3

God set aside a day not because He was tired (Isaiah 40:28) but to continue to nurture the character of His creation throughout all eternity. How can God use the Sabbath in your life to weekly recreate His image in you?

Environment: Genesis 2:8

God intentionally placed man in the garden. The Bible could have recorded that man was placed in an urban centre, country or desert, but we are told God placed Adam and Eve in a garden where He could communicate with them. What impact does your environment have on your relationship with God?

Food: Genesis 2:9,16, Daniel 1

Diet was an important part of the culture God was seeking to establish in Eden. What impact does your diet have on your relationship with God? Does it promote love, life, joy and vitality . . . or not?

Work: Genesis 2:15, Numbers 3:7,8; 18:7

God specifically assigned to mankind the role to keep and tend the garden, indicating that work is a divine gift. The Hebrew word used in both verses relates to the work of man both in the garden and in the work of the Levites in the Tabernacle. How does your work impact your walk with God?

Community: Genesis 2:21-25, John 17, Acts 2:1

God created us to live in community. This was the desire of God, the prayer of Jesus and the reality for the early church. What do we learn about God's design for relationships?

FIRST ADVENTIST PASTOR IN TASMANIA

A professional musician and businessman, Albert W Anderson joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1894. Later he wrote that he joined the Church, "By studying the truths in our denominational books for about two years prior to accepting the message, and by Bible studies . . ."

He married Agnes Margaret Linklater and four boys and one daughter, Doris Estelle, were born to this union. The eldest son was born in 1892 and as Second Lieutenant Albert Mendelsohn Anderson of the Australian Flying Corps, was killed in action over France in January 1918 and buried there. The three younger sons all became well-known Adventist ministers: evangelist Roy Allan Anderson, who served for many years at the General Conference headquarters of the Adventist Church; Clifford Russell Anderson, a highly regarded minister-physician, writer, lecturer and radio speaker; and his twin, Ormond Keith Anderson, who spent many years in public evangelism.

Albert Anderson entered the organised work of the Church in September 1898 when he became the first resident Adventist minister in Tasmania. Because of his interest in the publishing work of the Church, the Echo Publishing Company soon arranged to "borrow" him for six months so that he could promote the sale and distribution of Adventist literature. The secondment was to endure for 17 years during which time he was ordained to the gospel ministry. During those years he moved to Warburton (Victoria) when the publishing work was transferred

there and was, at various times, editor of *Signs of the Times* and *Life and Health* magazines, manager of the book and periodical departments, and also manager of the publishing house.

A man with an incredible capacity for work, and very versatile, in his early days in Warburton he pioneered the church school there, doing some of the teaching himself, and was a member of the local shire council, and as such much involved in the opening up of the Warburton area to development, especially for tourism.

In 1916, Pastor Anderson was called to work at the Australasian headquarters of the Church at Wahroonga on the north side of Sydney, and remained there 33 years in vigorous leadership until his unexpected death in 1949 at the age of 81. In addition to writing several books, he gave leadership to the Education, Sabbath School, Home Missions and Religious Liberty departments. Two of his books were *The Battle for Freedom* and *Through Turmoil to Peace*.

Albert W Anderson is particularly remembered for his religious liberty work as largely through his efforts the federal Constitution for the Commonwealth of Australia was amended to make provision for religious freedom in Australia, the securing of Sabbath rights for young men in military training and the provision of non-combatant service for them as well.

Self-educated, he was highly versatile, a kindly counsellor and an intelligent man who was a sympathetic friend. He had a cheerful demeanour, was much loved as a pastor and highly esteemed as a leader.

THIS MONTH IN

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Alicia Keys speaks on motherhood



Tackling depression and beating it



Girl power making a difference



There's a cost to unity. Is the price too high?



Mum to nine: how does she do it?

TO SUBSCRIBE OR SEND AS A GIFT
 AUS 1800 035 542
 NZ 0800 770 565

One-year gift subscription AU\$26 NZ\$31

A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD TODAY

www.signsofthetimes.org.au



HI KIDS!

Kids' SPACE

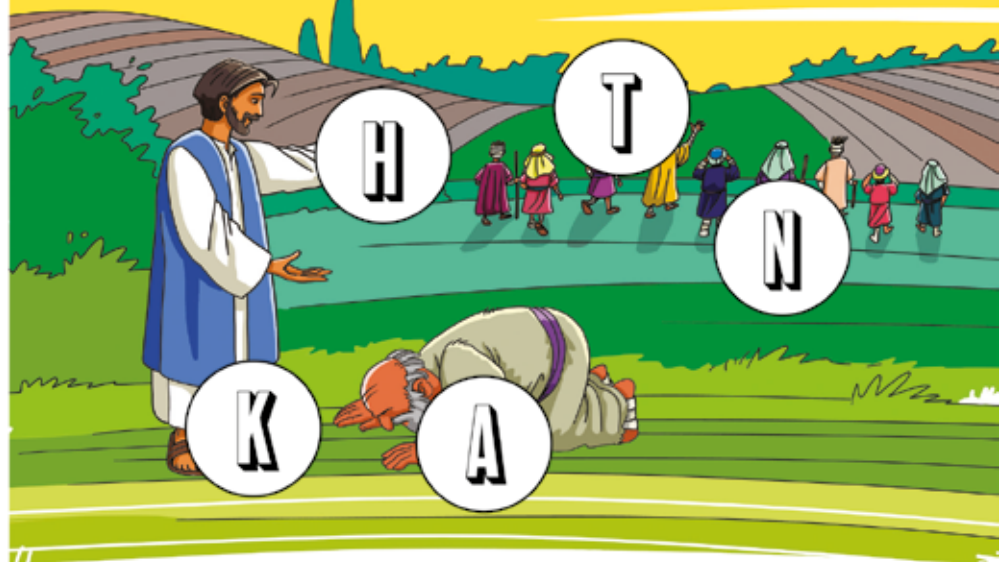
Ten lepers call out to Jesus for mercy and healing.

All ten were healed because they acted in faith. Only one came back to thank Jesus for healing him.

PUZZLE
WORD

MATCH THE CIRCLES AND PLACE THE LETTERS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PASSAGE:

We worship God when we _____ Him.



PUZZLE
MATH

" _____ the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases."

Psalm 103:2, 3, NIV

32 x 4 - 130 + 3 = 30 x 3 - 87 =

2 + 2 + 5 - 4 = 1 x 3 + 0 x 2 =

7 x 7 - 42 = 8 x 4 - 27 + 3 =

**KEY: 1-P 2-G
 3-R 4-O 5-A
 6-I 7-S 8-E**



RICHER TOGETHER

Thank you for the article “Never Stand Alone” (February 18). [It] is absolutely spot on, however I hasten to add that race-based churches need to be included in this conversation as well. I attended a church for many years where there were 37 different nationalities represented—a wonderful, vibrant multicultural church community where various nationalities

mix beautifully. What a lesson on social, cultural and generational inclusion. I’ve noticed the churches that are the most vibrant and growing are those that have multiple cultures and generations. What an example and lesson to the world on acceptance!

We are all the richer for it as we celebrate and worship together.

Kristine Stahl, SA

MISSING JOB

“Pastors getting paid for what?” is a very interesting article (February 18).

Having attended one church for almost 60 years my husband and I have been ministered to by many caring pastors, the first being Pastor Eric Clarke of Pastor Austin Cooke’s mission.

After checking through the article twice to make sure, I noticed the absence of one ministry—absent members. Forgotten? I think not—the minister being overloaded as the author said.

A list should be made and members chosen to visit these folk—just to talk to and encourage them.

Evelyn Bean, NSW

KEEP THEM OUT

In response to “Simple Offerings” (Have your say, February 18), I would not be happy to see Eftpos machines introduced into our churches.

Firstly, Eftpos machines are not free and the fees are not cheap. I don’t believe this is a wise use of the church budget.

Secondly, In Isaiah 58:13,14, there is clear counsel on how to keep the Sabbath. I was raised in the Seventh-day Adventist

Church to believe that as part of Sabbath keeping, we put aside many worldly things—like business and shopping. In my view, bringing Eftpos machines into our churches is everyday business—just like paying for something in a shop.

I have been in an Adventist church with an ATM and a long queue of people at the machine getting money out—not for the offering but to pay for lunch. These creeping compromises beg the question: where does Sabbath keeping and putting aside business stop? At sunset on Friday night or “coming into the 21st century”?

We have a preparation day for this reason. If someone is inspired to give more offering, perhaps they can keep a little ziplock bag in their church coat pocket or church bag to give when inspired or to keep there for another week.

Jodi Carter, NSW

CREEPING CONFORMITY

Death is clearly defined in our Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs as “an unconscious state”. Yet all too often some of us get caught up in the practice of speaking to the dead. Two such instances appeared in

Adventist Record recently.

The first, directed to the late Dr Michael Chamberlain: “You will be greatly missed Michael. ‘Til a better day my friend” (January 28, p 8).

The second: “Michael, may you rest peacefully until that glad morning when you will hear your Saviour’s voice” (February 4, p 20).

Surely we can do better. It’s not hard to talk about the deceased person rather than to them. Or are we under pressure to conform to this fashionable spiritualistic practice?

Perhaps we have reached a time when well-wishers require a note in the Adventist funeral programs asking them to speak about the deceased, not to them. It certainly is disturbing to see such confusion published in *Record*. Let us show more confidence in the practice of our belief.

Robert Vincent/John Wallace, NZ

OUT OF CONTEXT

“Cheesed off” (Letter, February 18) saying that cheese is unfit for human consumption is a classic mistake of using Sister White’s writings out of context to prove a point.

In her day, cheese was indeed unfit for human

consumption because of the unhygienic methods used to make and store cheese. In 21st century manufacturing conditions, this no longer applies.

I got to a point where I began to resent Sister White. I would take at face value these sorts of quotes until I began to study her writings myself. Only then did I begin to see her through new eyes. I found a very balanced, gracious, loving woman who doesn’t deserve to be used and abused the way many Adventists have in the past and appear to continue to do.

Both Scripture and Sister White need to be interpreted in the context of the day—the issues being discussed and problems being addressed—in order to be true to God’s message to us.

Robyn Sim, 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



BRANDSTER - O'MALLEY. Donald Arthur Brandster, son of Reuben and

Leisham Brandstater (both deceased), and Shirley Ann O'Malley, daughter of Byron and Kathleen Wren (both deceased), were married on 18.12.16 in the Avondale Memorial church, Cooranbong, NSW.

Patrick Marshall

predeceased by her husband Terry Alwyn Butler in 1989. She is survived by her sons Gerald (Dubbo), David (Coffs Harbour) and Timothy (Wellington), and her daughter Felicity (Hornsby); and sisters Fae Scifleet (Mudgee) and Lita Beeby (Hornsby). Corinne loved the Lord and had a passion for teaching children about His love. She was always involved with primary Sabbath School, Pathfinders and taught scripture in schools for 42 years in Dubbo.

Bogdan Petrovic

Esther, Hannah and Rebekah; and sister Marjory. Scott was a loving and devoted husband and father, a faithful church member and a sincere and diligent student of the Bible.

David Kosmeier, Graham Stewart



WILLIAMS, Robert Charles (Bob), born 28.10.1929 in

Punchbowl, NSW; died 24.8.16 in Wyong District Hospital. He married Ivy Totenhofer in 1951. He is survived by his wife; children Gavin and Christine Williams (SA), and Dale and Karen Williams (NSW); five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bob spent most of his life working for Vane Electrical and Nordson Australia. He was head elder for almost 40 years at

Thornleigh church and assistant senior elder at Waitara. He co-founded the Sydney Adventist Bushwalking Association (SABWA). Bob dedicated his life to his God, his family and his church.

Nataniel Pereira, Jeremy Taituave



WILSON, Phyllis Jean, born 7.9.1929; died 5.2.17 in the Calvary Mater Hospital,

Newcastle, NSW. She is survived by her elder brother Aubrey Hewston and her daughter Tracey Raymond. Phyllis was a member of the Charlestown church and devoted her life to the care of others. She was a leader of the church's welfare program and contributed to numerous community services, including

Obituaries



BUTLER, Corinne Enid (nee Ison), born 23.10.1930; died 4.2.17 in Dubbo Base

Hospital, NSW. She was

GILBERT, William Scott, born in Sydney, NSW; died 8.9.16 in Taree. He is survived by his wife Alison; children Heather (Sydney), Gordon (Taree), Trevor (Taree), Stuart (Greenridge) and Linda (Moscow, Russia); grandchildren

POSITIONS VACANT

People and disaster manager

ADRA Australia (Wahroonga, NSW) is seeking an experienced people and disaster manager to work closely with ADRA Australia, all levels of government in Queensland and other community partner agencies to identify, recommence and oversee ADRA's emergency management (EM) program in Queensland. The successful applicant will be responsible for identifying an EM state role, volunteer management, including recruitment and training, and operations in disasters. The role will also include assisting with grant administration, roll-out of CRM software and potential expansion of the EM program in Queensland. This is a two year maximum term contract full-time position requiring travel throughout Queensland. Applications and enquiries to Alison Young, phone (02) 9473 9503, or email <alisonyoung@adra.org.au>. Please see <<http://www.adra.org.au/act/work-for-adra>> for more details. **Applications close March 26, 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 that produces 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.**

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.**

Receptionist and personal assistant for Youth Ministries and Communications

Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, QLD) (maternity leave). The Northern Australian Conference is seeking an enthusiastic and competent individual to fill the role of receptionist and to provide support for the Youth Ministries department and communication director. This full-time position requires an individual who is self-motivated, well organised, has a high level of computer skills, and excellent written and oral communication. Commencing late June, this role involves providing administrative and clerical support to the youth director, developing design concepts and final artwork for all promotions and publishing material, maintaining the youth and conference websites, assisting with the organisation and running of Youth Department events and activities, and compiling and editing the Conference newsletter. Graphic design skills would be an advantage. This position is for an initial 12-month period while the current receptionist takes maternity leave. Send applications with curriculum vitae to the General Secretary, Northern Australian Conference, PO Box 5, Aitkenvale Qld 4814 or email: <robellison@adventist.org.au>. The applicants should also provide at least two written references with their application. For further information and a full job description please contact the Conference general secretary. **Applications close May 5, 2017.**

For more: ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU

volunteering at the Calvary Mater Hospital for more than 20 years. Despite ongoing illness, she had boundless energy and enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of humour. Phyllis was loved by young and old alike and will be very much missed.

Bob Bolst, Grego Pillay

ADVERTISING

ALTON GARDENS COORANBONG—LIMITED EDITION RESIDENCES. Positioned in the heart of Cooranbong village on Alton Road, close to all local services and amenities, Alton Gardens will be the conversation in Cooranbong for those looking for a well-appointed independent living residence with a considered garden environment—the “Garden House”—available only to residents for private use. Contracts of sale have been distributed. Some residences are under contract. Limited dwellings only. Anticipated project completion: mid-2018. Register your expression of interest now: <www.altongardens.com.au>. Email

our resident service manager for more information and details on how you can proceed: <enquiry@altongardens.com.au>.

MTM PRINT MEDIA—SUPPORTING YOU IN MINISTRY. For all your signage, flyers, tracts, bulletins, pull-up banners, graphic design and more. Outreach material tailor-made to suit your requirements. NZ wide delivery. (+64) 09 448 1010, <designer@mtm.co.nz>. Auckland based, Seventh-day Adventist owned and operated.



NOTHING IS SO SOUR THAT IT CANNOT BE SWEETENED BY A GOOD ATTITUDE
—WOODROW KROLL



WHO WILL YOU MEET?
AVONDALE HOMECOMING, AUGUST 25-26, 2017

Reconnect with former classmates at honour year reunions.
Honour years: 2007, 1997, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957 and 1947.

REGISTER: www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming

2007 | 1997 | 1987 | 1977 | 1967 | 1957 | 1947

Avondale | **ALUMNI** | **HOMECOMING2017**

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>.

**POSITION VACANT | SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
SENIOR CHAPLAIN**

Sydney Adventist Hospital, the largest private hospital in NSW, is a world class facility of 524 beds for surgical, medical, cancer care and obstetric specialties. It provides 24 hour access to Cardiac Catheter Lab, Operating Theatres, Emergency facilities, and ICU services. Sydney Adventist Hospital is a division of Adventist HealthCare Limited which is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We are seeking to appoint a Senior Chaplain to lead the Spiritual Care Team, consisting of professional chaplains, CPE trainees and volunteer chaplains. This position provides both strategic and operational leadership across the Spiritual Care team and plays an active role in supporting the mission activities of Sydney Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare.

The department provides a caring ministry to patients, families and staff of Sydney Adventist Hospital.

The successful applicant will have the following skills and abilities:

- Bachelor degree in Theology
- Effective communication skills with groups from diverse backgrounds
- Previous experience in caring for the spiritual needs of people with serious illness
- Proven leadership skills
- Completed the CPE training or be willing to undertake this training program
- Commitment to training and professional development

- Proven experience in counselling and dealing with interpersonal relationships
- Active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Further information can be found at www.sah.org.au or contact **Dr Branimir Schubert – Director of Mission and Culture**
Email: Branimir.Schubert@sah.org.au Phone: 02 9487 9437

Written applications addressing the selection criteria and including full curriculum vitae should be addressed to:

Melva Lee – Director Human Resources
Email: Melva.Lee@sah.org.au

**Applications close 5pm
Friday 31st March 2017.**



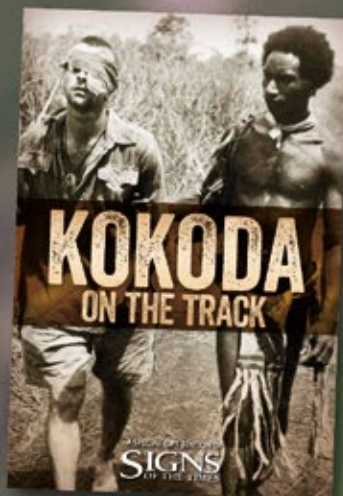
KOKODA

75th Anniversary

It's been 75 years since the Anzacs slogged across the Kokoda Track in PNG with the help of local villagers—some of whom were Seventh-day Adventists.

Signs of the Times has produced a 16-page 75th anniversary souvenir edition for local Kokoda Track villages to share with trekkers and for distribution in our Church schools, tourist sites around the country. It is also suitable for sharing in Australia and New Zealand at Anzac Day events and marches, by Pathfinder clubs and churches.

To view the souvenir *Signs* content and order online, go to hop.ec/kokoda



Quantity (packs of 50)	1	2-9	10+
Price (AUD\$ only)	\$22	\$20	\$18

**Price plus delivery*

WWW.HOP.EC/KOKODA

SIGNS
OF THE TIMES