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ADVENTIST RECORD | JULY 29, 2017  
ISSN 0819-5633



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## THE RAW AND UNPALATABLE TRUTH

There is a disturbing new trend—a rash of what people are calling “opioid obituaries”.

An obituary usually pays tribute to someone who has died—often in flowery language that wallpapers over the cracks in their lives. There is almost an unspoken rule in society that you don’t speak ill of the dead. Any shortcoming is glossed over while every good quality is amplified.

Yet some families, like the family of Andrew Oswald III, are breaking that tradition in an effort to combat an epidemic that is sweeping societies like Australia, New Zealand and the US (where Andrew is from)—opioid addiction.

Opioids are drugs—like codeine and morphine—used to ease pain. They include illegal drugs like heroin. Many are available by prescription; all can be addictive and cause withdrawal symptoms.

Andrew Oswald overdosed at the age of 23. He was a “gifted writer” and “music buff”, yet his parents decided to lead with the raw and unpalatable truth: “Our beautiful son, Andrew, died from an overdose of heroin,” his opioid obituary read.\*

“We want to share his story in the hope that lives may be saved and his death will not be in vain.”

I’m sure Andrew’s parents struggled with the decision to share the grim truth. They may have faced opposition from family members, Andrew’s friends, social media voyeurs, even (I have no idea whether they are religious or not) members of their church. Perhaps you think they would have been better off keeping it to themselves.

But here’s why it is important.

“Hundreds showed up to Andrew’s funeral; many were relatives of people who were dealing with addiction, or who had died of overdoses. They told Andrew’s parents they had found comfort in the obituary’s message about how the addiction was not a failure or weakness, but a disease.”

Andrew’s struggles with drugs, his pain and his death touched people who didn’t know him yet came to his funeral. How many more people were impacted but didn’t show up?

As tragic as it was, Andrew’s parents allowed his story to serve as a warning and, hopefully, start the journey of healing for others.

What a shame that the truth and struggle as well as the love and support only came out after Andrew died.

At church we often put on our funeral faces. We talk of sin and death and struggle in a theoretical way, instead of in a personal one. We gloss over the cracks and the brokenness in our lives, telling sanitised, safe versions of our historical testimonies (if we share testimonies at all). Yet the full gospel includes a grappling with and understanding of the virus of sin, not just an acceptance of the wonderful love and grace of Jesus. Jesus can help us reject that virus, even if we can never fully be rid of it in this life.

God uses people’s mess as a message. What if church was known, not for its hypocrites and its fake Christians, but for God’s power to heal broken people. At my local church I’ve experienced the power of gender specific cell groups where people have the space to “confess your sins one to another and pray for one another” (James 5:16).

Sharing your brokenness makes the gospel less about you and more about God. It keeps you humble, takes away the shadows for the devil to play in and helps people who are going through similar struggles. It doesn’t allow them to be justified or condone them but they are exposed and healed. If an adhesive bandage is left on for too long, the wound left unexposed will start to stink and fester.

Maybe if we shared more opioid obituaries in and from our churches while we were still alive, hundreds of addicts and the families of the broken would flock to our broken churches to find hope and healing in Jesus and community with us.

And there would be less young men and women, like Andrew, to bury.

\*<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/an-opioid-addiction-crisis-is-driving-the-trend-of-brutally-honest-obituaries/news-story/7d6bf6fe214a2957d11d-acc30f40b94c>

**JARROD STACKELROTH**  
SENIOR EDITOR  
@JStackelroth



### senior consulting editor

glenn townend  
senior editor  
jarrod stackelroth  
assistant editors  
kent kingston  
maritza brunt  
vania chew  
linden chuang (digital)

### graphic designer

theodora amuimuia  
copyeditor  
tracey bridcutt  
noticeboard  
julie laws  
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:

Jan Will—iStock.

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 15

## ADVENTIST LEADER MINISTERS TO GRIEVING FAMILY OF VANUATU PRESIDENT

KENT KINGSTON

Vanuatu Adventists joined their compatriots in mourning the passing of the Pacific island nation's head of state. President Baldwin Lonsdale, 68, died at Port Vila Central Hospital after suffering chest pains late on Friday night, June 16.

Local Adventist pastors as well as denominational leaders from the Vanuatu Mission expressed their sorrow during a visit to State House, the official residence where the President's body was laid out for viewing. Vanuatu Mission president, Pastor

Nos Terry Mailalong, was unable to attend as he was not in Port Vila at the time. However, he was given a special opportunity to offer his support soon afterwards.

"After the ceremonies in Vila, the Government sent a high delegation with the President to Torba, his home province, to be buried," said Pastor Mailalong. "Fortunately, I was in the region when his body was flown home for burial. They learnt that I was there; I was given the privilege to take a devotion for the family members and important government people who were there. The President's body was laid to rest on Friday morning in the provincial government centre of Sola on Vanualava Island."

Representatives of foreign governments and other organisations paid tribute to the ordained Anglican minister, who had served in the largely ceremonial role since 2014.



PASTOR MAILALONG.

## ADVENTIST COMMUNICATION TRAINING IN ALOTAU

JARROD STACKELROTH/CAMERON WARI

Pastors, Volunteers in Action missionaries and professionals with a passion for communication and media gathered recently in Alotau, Papua New Guinea, to learn effective communication skills.

The 28 participants travelled from around the Northern and Milne Bay Mission, from the mainland as well as Misima, Kiriwina and Gesila islands.

ADRA PNG, under the Church Partnership Program, funded the five-day workshop, which was facilitated by the Papua New Guinea Union Mission's Communication and Media Department. The facilitators were PNGUM Communication director Cameron Wari and associate director Jacqueline Wari. Arthur Wari (Information and Communication Technology instructor) from Ma-



CAMERON WARI INSTRUCTS PARTICIPANTS.

dang Teachers College was a guest facilitator.

According to Mr Wari, the purpose of the training was for participants to effectively and consistently deliver communication and media services within the Mission.

Skills learned included news writing, layout and design, photography, basic PowerPoint and graphic design.

The next communication training will be held in Goroka in October.

## PERSONALLY INVESTED

A Seventh-day Adventist leader in the South Pacific Division (SPD) was touched by the needs of homeless children close to where he lives. He and his wife feed up to 36 homeless children every week and now involve them in witness to other people.

Another leader knows all of her neighbours in the apartment where she lives. She gives welcome gifts, stops to talk and listen, helps when she sees a need and recently was able to give a Bible in another language to one of her neighbours from a Muslim background.

An Adventist campground manager and his wife have joined local community service and sports groups. These interactions have led to their community friends recommending schools and other groups to use the Adventist facility. Casual social events run by the managers on the campground have led to Bible conversations and two new families are receiving Bible studies.

Another leader visited the sick in the local hospital. A lady from another faith appreciated the visit so much that she asked if the leader and his wife would come and preach in her church—a Catholic church. The leader obliged the following Sunday. The people appreciated the message so much they asked him to come back. The leader said he would but on the Sabbath. Now a group of people are worshipping on Sabbath in a Catholic church and the local bishop has allowed this.

A local pastor was starting a new church in a large secular city in our Division. He told God he could probably handle 12 Bible studies a week. Within six weeks of social mixing with people in the new area God had given him 10 people to study the Bible with.

The Church across the SPD has 65 programs that serve the public across 10 broad areas, including churches, conferences, schools, ADRA, health foods, media—they all are focused on our mission but nothing beats personal involvement in mission (Mark 5:19). I'm inspired by my colleagues' personal examples in the process of disciple making.



GLENN TOWNEND  
SPD PRESIDENT

 /SPDpresident

## NEW PRESIDENT FOR GREATER SYDNEY

JARROD STACKELROTH

Pastor Terry Johnson has accepted a call to lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Greater Sydney.

Currently president of the Western Australian Conference, Pastor Johnson was called to Sydney after Pastor Michael Worker accepted a call to the Australian Union Conference (*Adventist Record*, June 17).

Pastor Johnson has 25 years of denominational pastoral employment in three different countries: Texas, USA; Auckland, New Zealand; and Perth, Australia. He has been in the South Pacific Division for 15 years and considers Australia home.

"We have truly loved Western Australia and it has been an honour and a blessing for our family to serve for 11 years here," he said. "We have many fantastic memories that will linger long in our hearts and we are grateful to God and to the members for their lasting friendship and their commitment to

the mission in WA."

Commenting on the appointment, Pastor Jorge Munoz, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, said, "Terry is an energetic and visionary leader who is passionate for the mission of the Church. We are looking forward to seeing what God will do through his leadership in Sydney."

Pastor Johnson understands the challenges and opportunities the Church faces, particularly in Australia's largest city.

"Thirty-three per cent of Australians now declare that they have no religion or religious belief," he said. "Every modern city is a challenge for mission with that kind of apathy. I've learned in my time in WA and the city of Perth and am looking forward to learning even more in Sydney about ways to engage with those who don't



THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

care about Jesus. I'm passionate about a movement of committed believers galvanised for making a difference in preparing Greater Sydney for the return of Jesus."

Pastor Johnson graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in Texas in 1992 with a BA in Theology and Biblical Languages and from Andrews University with a Masters of Divinity in 1996.

The Johnson family consists of Terry, his wife of 24 years Kimberly, and children Kyrstin (18) and Alec (13).

**one** project

### "Following Jesus" —a One Project gathering, Avondale College, August 12

Speakers include Drs Peter Roennfeldt, Kayle de Waal, and Lisa Clark Diller, with Pastor Alina van Rensburg.

The only One Project gathering in the South Pacific this year also features a worship event on Friday evening, the storytelling and spoken word celebration "Tell Me A Story" on Saturday evening and an extra Sunday-morning conversation about how "just disciples" can change our world.

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[www.the1project.org](http://www.the1project.org)

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*"Jesus' command in Matthew 28 to 'Go . . .' was not a new command. It was a call to continue His ministry—and to take it further. That's what we'll be doing at this gathering."*

# FLASHPOINT



## PRAYER BREAKFAST

Seventh-day Adventists were among the 1200 people who gathered for fellowship, breakfast and prayer at the annual Sydney Prayer Breakfast at Darling Harbour on June 16. Held at the new International Convention Centre, there were 20 attendees from Adventist institutions, representing the South Pacific Division (SPD), Greater Sydney Conference, *Adventist Record*, ADRA and Sydney Adventist Hospital. SPD communication director Steve Currow said it's important the Church is represented at events such as these, which offer opportunities for networking and "to make an impact, be the salt, be the light". —Tracey Bridcutt



## REMAINING FAITHFUL

Fiji National University (Natabua) recently opened its new church plant. About 40 on-campus Adventist students, along with church members from the Natabua Seventh-day Adventist Church, gathered at the university lecture theatre for the official church opening on May 13. For years, the Adventist students have been praying for God's intervention on campus, especially with growing concern over the inconvenience for them to travel to other churches every Sabbath. After making an application to be able to worship on campus in an allocated room, the students were amazed and grateful when approval was granted. —TPUM



## A JOYFUL NOISE

More than 100 Adventist young people from the Hagen Urban District (Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea) recently walked the streets of Mt Hagen, witnessing through songs sung in Pidgin. Many bystanders were caught by surprise by these young people, who stopped in five different locations, singing and giving out literature despite the heat of the sun. Hagen Urban District youth coordinator Jack Fene thanked the young people for their time and effort in organising the activities. "The Spirit of our heavenly Father is moving people who are available and willing to serve Him," he said. —Leighton Kasimo



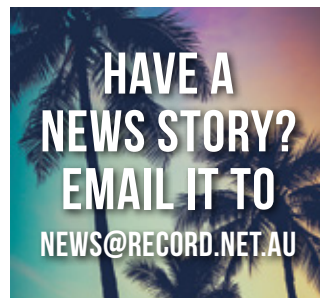
## ORDAINING ANASA

"Are you excited?" was the message preached by Trans Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga for Anasa Tabua's ordination at the Newtown Seventh-day Adventist Church (Suva, Fiji) in May. Pastor Tabua graduated from Fulton College in 2011 and started his ministerial journey in 2012. He is married to Koini Tabua and is currently serving as a pastor in the Tuvalu District. "I want to thank God for our beloved families in Fiji for their unending support and prayers," Pastor Tabua said. "It is an honour to serve God out of our comfort zone, and He has been blessing our ministry." —Peterso Navosailagi



## ADVENTIST ACHIEVERS

Adventist dietitians Carol Zeuschner (pictured), from Sydney Adventist Hospital, and Angela Saunders, from Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing, contributed to a book that received top honours at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. Their research, looking at the link between red meat and chronic disease, went into the 400-page reference book, entitled *Impact of Meat Consumption on Health and Environmental Sustainability*. The book won the Sustainable Food category at the Gourmand awards, which were presented in China, May 26-29. —Record staff



## FAMILY'S CONVICTION

After listening to a week of messages on stewardship and last day events, a family from the Bialla District, West New Britain Province (Papua New Guinea), came forward and signed a cheque for K16,000 (A\$6600) made out to the New Britain New Ireland Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. They cried, confessed and made their commitment to return to God what belongs to Him. —Pastor Lua Bobore



## LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN

Launceston Adventist Church member Ken Stanton was recently appointed as the new magistrate for the Launceston Magistrates Court by the Governor of Tasmania. Mr Stanton has practised law for more than 20 years and currently serves on several legal boards. "I consider this to be a calling to serve God and my community in the administration of justice in the court where most people interact with the law," Mr Stanton said. —Tasda



## CELEBRATIONS FOR CORRYONG

Adventists in the small town of Corryong (South New South Wales Conference) recently had cause to celebrate after their church group of about 20 regular attendees, established more than two years ago, was granted company status. SNSW president Pastor Mike Faber and general secretary Calvin Drinkall visited the group, sharing fellowship, a delicious lunch and a prayer of dedication over the company. —Imprint/Maritza Brunt

# HUMBLE, FAITHFUL CHURCH WORKER LAID TO REST

JACQUELINE WARI

Joshua Wambillie, chief financial officer (CFO) for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (EHSM), Papua New Guinea, died on June 23 after experiencing a cardiac arrest, aged 49.

A funeral was held for Mr Wambillie on June 28 in Goroka. The casket was then flown to Mt Hagen for a second funeral with family members. After a two-hour journey by road, Mr Wambillie was laid to rest at his home village of Pepeka. He is survived by his wife Janet and children Leeroy (22), Brian (19) and Kayleen (14).

As family, friends and colleagues said goodbye, Mr Wambillie was remembered as a humble man, whose journey in life was anointed by God.

Close friend and treasurer for the Central Papua Conference, Max Lassah, said he was a faithful and committed young man.

“Joshua is a very soft person, very loveable, has influence and is a great mentor. I was troubled at the shocking news of his passing but I thank God for the life of this great man. The last 20 years of his life were not wasted.”

Others who spoke at the funeral service at the Kama Seventh-day Adventist church in Goroka praised God for Mr Wambillie's life.

Mr Wambillie was born at Pepeka village in Tambul district, Western Highlands, on November 23, 1967 to Wambillie and Koparue.

He studied a degree in business (accounting) at Avondale College, Australia, and graduated in 1992. Mr Wambillie began his career with the Adventist Church in 1993 as assistant treasurer at the PNG Union Mission (PNGUM), where he served until 2000. From 2001 to 2005, he was treasurer for the Western Highlands Mission before being recalled in 2006 to the PNGUM where he served as associate CFO for two years and under-treasurer from 2008 to 2015.

At the PNGUM session, November 2015, Mr Wambillie was called to the EHSM where he served until his passing.



JOSHUA WAMBILLIE.

# LIVE CHAT ON NEW BIBLE WEBSITE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A new online resource for people looking to study the Bible was launched on July 13 by Adventist Media.

The website <whatthebiblesaysabout.com> provides biblically-based answers to questions people have on topics such as pain, guilt, disaster and death.

“It's designed for people who are not necessarily interested in doing a lengthy Bible course,” said Hope Channel Discovery Centre director, Pastor Wayne Boehm. “It's a place where they can look at some questions and be challenged to go and do something with that new knowledge.”

People have the option of having a live chat with one of the Bible school coaches, watching a full-length video and linking to an online course.

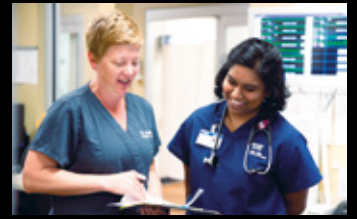


THE NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE.

“It's the first initiative of its kind where we have had live chat capability,” Pastor Boehm said. “People can also email their friends straight off the website so it's more interactive.”

“We have had feedback from Victorian churches that have been using it and they have found it helpful for their small groups and some of their new contacts.”

# NEWS GRABS



## ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CLOSURE

The Adventist-owned Walla Walla General Hospital (Washington State, USA) has been struggling financially and seeking options to stay afloat. But after regulations derailed a plan to hand over control to a Catholic healthcare company, Walla Walla announced that, after 118 years of serving the community, it will close. —*Adventist Health*



## RADIO MINISTRY

Working with local churches in Mindoro, Philippines, Adventist World Radio and a 49-strong Japanese evangelism team have seen 1400 people baptised. After three months of popular Bible broadcasts and local church activities, the visiting evangelists held public meetings, during which entire villages accepted the Adventist message. —*ANN*



## BEST CHOIR IN THE WORLD

The Aeolians from the Adventist-operated Oakwood University (Alabama, USA) took three prizes in the prestigious Choir of the World competition held during Wales' Llangollen International Eisteddfod, July 3-9. The choir came third in the Adult Folk Song Choirs category, second in Mixed Choirs and first in Youth Choirs. —*Llangollen 2017*

## HOT TOPICS



### NAIL IN THE COFFIN

Tobacco company Philip Morris has run out of options in trying to challenge Australia's tough cigarette packaging laws. The international Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled the laws do not breach international agreements and said the complaint was an "abuse of rights", ordering Philip Morris to pay costs, around \$US50m. —*The New Daily*



### STILL IN RUINS

For six years Christchurch's landmark Anglican cathedral has remained toppled and crumbling while debates rage over its future. The Anglican Church has been pushing for full demolition and the building of a modern cathedral. But extra funding pledged by national and local governments could cover the \$NZ90m cost of a full restoration. —*Radio NZ*



### TAXING

Despite opposition from some MPs, Samoa's parliament has passed a law that includes the removal of the clergy's exemption from paying income tax. Revenue minister Tionisio Hunt said churches were consulted and only two of 19 objected. The measure is expected to raise an extra \$US1.6 million in revenue per year. —*Radio NZ*

## AUC LAUNCHES REVIEW OF CHURCH STRUCTURE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) has commenced a study into how it can become more effective and efficient in its organisational processes and structures to fulfil its mission, while remaining true to the Church's global governance model.

Commenting on the reasons for the study, AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz said, "How can we be sure that the way we currently 'do church' maximises our capacity to fulfil Christ's charge that we create a thriving disciple-making movement?"

The AUC executive committee approved the engagement of professional organisational change management specialist, Anthony Mitchell, who is well qualified and experienced, and is an active church member. He will lead the review process that will address church, school and aged care entities. He is being supported by AUC associate secretary Pastor Ken Vogel and a working team from the AUC executive committee chaired by Lindsay Borgas, a lay member with years of experience in the corporate world. An initial report will be presented to the November meeting of the AUC executive committee.

"It is critical that data is gathered from across Australia about how the Church



is currently doing its work," Pastor Vogel said. "And this is to be done without any agenda as to outcomes, other than to end up with a more efficient and effective missionary movement in Australia.

"Considering the times in which we live and the changes that have occurred over the past decades in communications, travel and technology, there is a lot of scope for change. But change for change's sake is of no benefit. There is need for a prayerful approach to this review of Church structure so as to be sure the Holy Spirit guides, as He has done through this movement's history."

Facilitated workshops with representatives of all key stakeholders will be held in every conference across Australia. "When your congregation or entity receives the invitation to attend one of the workshops, we would encourage you to participate so that we can get as much feedback as possible," Pastor Vogel said.





# CHURCH GRANTS PROGRAM EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

An innovative funding program initiated by the South Pacific Division (SPD) is helping new Adventist churches get established in some of the most expensive real estate markets globally.

In the 10 years since the Urban Church Grants Program began, 27 congregations have received \$A13 million in funding to establish churches in major urban centres in Australia and New Zealand. The real estate acquired under this initiative cost more than \$A42 million.

SPD CFO Rodney Brady said the program has been a major success and has “exceeded expectations”.

Historically church plants in city areas have struggled to acquire permanent facilities due to the rapid rise in real estate prices fuelled by the scarcity of available land.

“At one time you could just buy two house blocks and build a church, but now parking requirements mean that you have got to acquire significantly more land,” Mr Brady said.

“Also, a new congregation hasn’t got equity in an existing church or a history of savings so there’s little capacity to purchase property on their own and real estate prices can rise faster than the ability of the congregation to save.”

A committee at the SPD oversees the allocation of funds and reviews requests annually. From the outset an intentional

decision was made to assist fewer churches but give larger grants to projects that may not have otherwise happened.

Church plants requesting funding must meet certain criteria including demonstrating a clear mission focus, and a capacity and willingness to grow. It’s about kingdom growth rather than transfer growth, and preference is given to congregations who have financial support from their local conferences.

As the urban sprawl continues in cities like Sydney and Melbourne, the

committee is keen to support church plants in these new growth areas.

“The danger we have had in the past is we have not been there at the beginning of the story when a suburb starts,” Mr Brady said. “When you come along later everything is gone, and then you pay top dollar for property.”

**TRACEY BRIDCUTT** HEAD OF NEWS AND EDITORIAL.

[@Tracey\\_Findlay](#)

## PAKENHAM CHURCH RECEIVES NEW BUILDING



Members of the Pakenham Adventist church (Vic) are relishing their new church building, which is in a prime lakeside location in the centre of town.

Pakenham received \$A1 million through the Urban Church Grants Program towards the purchase of the former restaurant and real estate office, which was dedicated as the Pakenham Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, June 3. The grant is the largest to date given to an Australian church plant in the 10 years the program has been running.

Church member Anna Schlegel said Sabbath services were previously held

at Pakenham Hills Primary School since 2011, and before that they were part of a congregation meeting at Narre Warren Heritage College.

“It’s an amazing place,” Mrs Schlegel said. “We are in a prime location for visibility. People can actually see us now.”

Mrs Schlegel said there is no way they could have established the church without the grant.

“We are very grateful. This is a huge blessing for us.”

Pakenham is located in a high growth corridor to the south-east of the Melbourne CBD.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A... *nutritionist*

**NAME:** Angela Saunders

**JOB:** Adventist dietitian and nutritionist

**WHERE:** Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing

## WHAT'S YOUR JOB?

I'm a senior dietitian, but my role at Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing Company is actually in science and advocacy. The advocacy part of my role focuses on prevention—how to prevent chronic disease by eating plant-based food. We have an amazing health message, which is now backed up by 50-plus years of research. And the science part of my role sees me working on some special projects that are very much research based—much of what I do is looking at what would be useful and evidence based in terms of what our company plans to do with food products.

## CAN YOU GIVE US AN EXAMPLE?

Well, recently, Sanitarium was considering including Vitamin D as an additional fortification in So Good. So my project was to research the differences between the two forms of Vitamin D—D2 and D3—to see whether they were both equally beneficial to the body and absorbed. Through a lot of literature and study, I was able to discover that Vitamin D2—derived from a plant source—is in fact as easily absorbed in our bodies as Vitamin D3—derived from an animal product—is. We started

fortifying So Good with Vitamin D2 last year, but to do so, we had to have really good, strong evidence, and that's where I come in.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NUTRITIONIST AND A DIETITIAN?

Good question! Not everyone can call themselves a dietitian—only those who have studied at university, have a degree in dietetics and then become accredited. Unfortunately, on the other hand, anyone can call himself or herself a nutritionist. There are lots of programs on the web that offer you a certificate in nutrition or a diploma in nutrition, which may not be accredited, so who knows what you're going to be taught. That's not to say the term "nutrition" is bad—the actual Bachelor degree is in both nutrition and dietetics. The nutrition part of it is learning about how food affects our body and the

importance of the nutrients in foods. The dietetic part of the degree and job is how we treat someone with a chronic lifestyle problem—what kind of diet does a diabetic need, for example. It's the therapeutic side of nutrition. So I'm both a dietitian and a nutritionist.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A DIETITIAN?

I was working as a secretary but I was unsettled and knew I wanted to do something else. I started attending lots of health and nutrition programs run by the then health director of the South Pacific Division, Bertha Shollenberg, and loved them so much that one day she said to me, "Angela, we need more



Adventist dietitians in Australia. You need to go to Loma Linda and study nutrition." And she was right—where else to study vegetarian nutrition than Loma Linda University (US)? At first, I wondered how I'd pay for it, but God took care of that too—the Division was able to arrange a scholarship for me, which helped significantly in assisting with my tuition fees.

After finishing at Loma Linda, I worked at Sydney Adventist Hospital for 15 years as a clinical dietitian, helping people with chronic lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and serious heart problems to get well. That's why prevention and advocacy are so important to me—my advocacy role is not just writing a book chapter\*, but travelling around churches speaking about plant-based diets.

### BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I just love the fact that as a Church we've been talking about the importance of eating plant-based diets for more than 150 years and that now we can say very clearly that there is significant evidence behind this. Also, there is a growing trend around vegetarian and vegan diets, and the fact that people want to eat more plant-based diets. For someone who has studied, focused and advocated for this for 30 years, it's very rewarding, reassuring and affirming to be able to work in an area that lots of other people are getting on board and interested in.

### BIGGEST LESSON?

Honestly, it's that you never stop learning. There's always something new to learn and certainly in the area of nutrition, it's a growing science. It's a science that builds on what we knew yesterday and we will build on that again tomorrow.

### ANY ADVICE?

Well, first off, you have to be very interested in food! Not just eating or cooking it—learning how food affects our bodies. If you're working in the clinical area, you have to love people. If you're working as a dietitian in a food business like Sanitarium, it means that you have a very significant voice in the quality of the products produced. Could you have the opportunity to make a real difference? Absolutely. Nutrition and dietetics is a great area, especially if you've got a curious mind. You're constantly learning, researching, trying to keep up with the latest studies. But above all, it's about having a passion for what you do, for what you believe and helping people to achieve optimum health.

*\*Angela recently contributed to a chapter in the book Impact of Meat Consumption on Health and Environmental Sustainability, which won the Sustainable Food category at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards (see Flashpoint, page 6).*

*For the full interview, visit [record.adventistchurch.com](http://record.adventistchurch.com)*

## DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

### DANIEL 7: MAN AMONG THE MONSTERS

Onto the stage, almost regally, amidst an eagle-winged lion, a lopsided bear, a four-headed leopard, a voracious monster and the devastating activities of a little horn, steps a Son of Man to rescue His people. Who is He?

**Read Daniel 7:2-8,13,14,18.**

He is none less than the Most High—the Lord, Jehovah, our mighty Refuge—for what is said of the Son of Man in receiving a kingdom is said of the Most High. More than that, after going into the presence of the Ancient of Days to receive the kingdom, God's people also receive it, revealing that this Son of Man is their Intercessor in heaven's judgement.

**Read Daniel 7:9,10,13,14,27; Psalm 91:9.**

Little wonder Daniel's Son of Man is Jesus' preferred title for Himself in the New Testament. As the Son of Man, He: is the Christ, the Lord and Saviour; forgives sin; and is Lord of the Sabbath. Therefore it is no surprise that as Son of Man, Jesus refers to Himself as the I Am—the name of the Lord, Jehovah God. **Read Matthew 26:64; Luke 2:11; 5:24; 6:5; John 6:35; 10:7,11; 11:25; 8:28; Isaiah 43:11; Exodus 3:13-15.**

Thus as Son of Man and God Almighty, John, like Daniel, saw Jesus as the perfect priestly Mediator. Claim Him as such today, for He lives to intercede for you.

**Read Revelation 1:8,13-18; 22:12,13; Hebrews 7:24-26.**



A WINGED LION, ONE OF DANIEL 7'S FOUR BEASTS, FROM ANCIENT BABYLON IN THE PERGAMON MUSEUM, BERLIN.



# PRESS ON

**I**T WAS ONE OF THE LEAST interesting things on our Israel itinerary . . . or so I thought.

After all, how could a piece of equipment compare to sites like the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and Jesus' supposed tomb?

After hiking in sweltering heat all morning, our group was more than ready to head back to the comfort of our air-conditioned coach.

"Wait," our tour guide said urgently, motioning to us to come back. "We need to go see the olive press now."

The olive press didn't look very impressive. It's basically one crude millstone on top of another. Traditional olive presses harnessed a donkey that would pull a lever around the millstone and crush the olives in the process.

To be honest, I even tuned out a little during the guide's explanation of how it worked. But my ears pricked up when I heard the word "Gethsemane".

What does Gethsemane have to do with olives? Well, the word "Gethsemane" comes from two Hebrew words, *Gat* and *Shmanim*, and it means "the place where olive oil is pressed".

Prior to this trip, I'd only ever heard the word in relation to the Garden of Gethsemane—the place where Jesus

went to pray just before His crucifixion. Our tour guide's information gave me a new insight into this.

Olive trees thrive in hard, rocky soil where most crops are not able to grow. As you may have guessed, they grow abundantly on the Mount of Olives where the Garden of Gethsemane is located and are thought to be among the oldest in the world.

As olives go through the crushing process, they produce a paste that is smeared onto burlap fabric. Interestingly, the Hebrew word for "Messiah" means "anointed" but can also be translated as "smeared". Fully crushed olives produce a reddish liquid that looks similar to blood, which brings to mind Luke 22:44, which describes Jesus' sweat falling to the ground like great drops of blood.

Gethsemane. The place where olives are pressed to make oil. The place where Jesus prayed before the pressure of the world's sins would crush the life out of Him.

Suddenly the olive press was much more than a crude millstone. A few days later, when we did visit the Garden of Gethsemane, I had a much deeper appreciation of the Bible story that I associated with it. But the word "press" is significant in the Bible in

other ways too. Here are three Bible verses that resonated with me:

**1. "AND JESUS SAID, "WHO IS THE ONE WHO TOUCHED ME?" AND WHILE THEY WERE ALL DENYING IT, PETER SAID, "MASTER, THE PEOPLE ARE CROWDING AND PRESSING IN ON YOU" (LUKE 8:45).**

Jesus was constantly in crowded places—He had a multitude following Him wherever He went! Yet in the midst of the people jostling for His attention, He managed to feel the touch of one individual—the bleeding woman who needed healing.

You might be in need of healing—physical or spiritual—today, but feel that you're too insignificant for God to notice or care about. Ignore that voice in your head! Jesus might be King of the Universe but He also cares about personal relationships. Reach out to Him—He cares about you.

**2. "WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED . . ." (2 CORINTHIANS 4:8).**

You've probably heard it before but I'll say it again—Jesus has gone through everything we could possibly go through—and much worse. He has experienced all the temptations, been hurt in any way we could be, felt each and every human emotion. There will be days when you'll feel discouraged and wonder why your life is the way it is. Rest in the assurance that we may be afflicted, but we will not be crushed . . . because Jesus went through the crushing for us.

**3. "I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS" (PHILIPPIANS 3:14).**

When life gets you down, press on. When your faith feels weak, press on. When you feel like you can't continue, press on. And encourage one another. We can only persevere as we keep our minds on the end goal—eternity with Jesus, the One who was crushed for our sins yet loves us with an everlasting love.

**VANIA CHEW** ASSISTANT EDITOR.  
 @Vani\_Chev

# I DON'T BELIEVE IN CLIMATE CHANGE . . .

**I** DON'T BELIEVE IN CLIMATE change—in the same way I don't "believe" in gravity. Rather, both are scientific understandings, explanations and projections of observable phenomena in our world. That climate change has been thought of as an article of belief or disbelief on the extremes of the cultural and political debates has missed the point and muddied the already-warming waters.

As a person of faith, I do believe that we are stewards of creation (see Genesis 2:15), that we are called to care for our planet, to curb our over-consumption, to reduce pollution and waste, to speak up for and act on behalf of the people who are most vulnerable to our changing climate, and to offer greater opportunities for all people to choose healthier lives.

I also believe that convincing determined skeptics about climate science is less important—perhaps not even necessary—than working with them socially and politically on responses that are good for the environment and its human inhabitants in various ways.

Take Senator Cory Bernardi, for example. One of Australia's most outspoken conservative politicians, he recently had solar panels installed on the roof of his Adelaide home.<sup>1</sup> Or consider Fort Hood, the largest military base in the United States, that began last year to build a renewable energy project to supply about half the energy needs of the base during its 10-year contract life and save an estimated \$US168 million in energy costs.<sup>2</sup>

Whether it's economics, energy security and sustainability, broader environmental stewardship or the specifics of climate change itself, finding better ways to power our societies and our lives makes sense in so many ways—whatever one "believes"—and offers intriguing opportunities for churches and their

communities. For example, an idea from Dr Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University and a Christian,<sup>3</sup> recently caught my imagination: churches installing solar arrays on their roofs not only to offset their own energy bills but to provide electricity to their immediate neighbours. Using its larger roof space, a central array that might power the 30 households that surround the church is more efficient and economical than 30 individual systems, but also imagine the opportunity to build relationships with our physical neighbours in the process of offering them free electricity.

Climate change is having an impact on Pacific island nations and their populations, including our fellow church members.<sup>4</sup> But this is not only an issue there, it must be an issue in nations such as Australia and New Zealand.

Of course, this means we need to make better environmental choices in our lives and our homes. And, as a Church, we also need to reaffirm our biblical mandate as stewards of creation and to implement policies and practices that reflect what we say we believe. We need to change how we do things as a Church, as well as using our voice and influence to lobby our governments and our communities to

greater action to protect our environment,<sup>5</sup> and to helping disadvantaged nations and communities adapt and survive in our changing climate. For believers, this is not merely a political issue, it's a question of stewardship.

Yes, Jesus will return—but that has never been an excuse for inaction. Instead we act with hope. While "all creation has been groaning" as it awaits and anticipates our "glorious freedom from death and decay" (Romans 8:22, 21, NLT), there is no point in the biblical story at which our stewardship of the earth is revoked. Those of us who respond to the call to "worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and all the springs of water" (Revelation 14:7) must always be concerned for the protection and preservation of the natural world and those who are hurt by its degradation.

1. "Why you're about to pay through the nose for power" (19 June 2017), <[www.abc.net.au/news/](http://www.abc.net.au/news/)>.

2. "Ground breaks at Fort Hood for largest renewable energy project in Army", <[www.army.mil/article](http://www.army.mil/article)>.

3. <[www.katharinehayhoe.com](http://www.katharinehayhoe.com)>.

4. For example, <[record.adventistchurch.com/2016/11/23/kiribati-adventist-youth-urge-greater-climate-action/](http://record.adventistchurch.com/2016/11/23/kiribati-adventist-youth-urge-greater-climate-action/)>.

5. Official Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, "The Dangers of Climate Change," <[www.adventist.org/en/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/-the-dangers-of-climate-change/](http://www.adventist.org/en/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/-the-dangers-of-climate-change/)>.

**NATHAN BROWN** BOOK EDITOR, SIGNS PUBLISHING.





# A QUESTION OF MISSION

## How to make your local church part of a multiplying movement

**T**HE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE future of Seventh-day Adventism.

This is a critical moment—a period in history when God calls us, with the aid of His Spirit, to rise in humility and to pursue our destiny. Our movement officially began on May 21, 1863. Front and centre: our conviction Jesus would return personally, visibly, literally to this earth. But we have now entered the seventh generation of our existence as a movement and Jesus has not come.

We are now living in one of the fastest periods of change in history and the local Adventist church is in danger of becoming irrelevant, even outdated. The local church is at the crossroads and needs to biblically reinvent itself to stay relevant. While the Church is growing rapidly in the global south, it is stagnant or experiencing malaise in most parts of the global north. Many churches are in maintenance mode. Even though transfer and biological growth are steady, kingdom growth is minimal or by only addition. In its mission work, our Church often seems to be servicing institutions more than engaging in frontline work.

We have to ask tough questions. Will the local Adventist church continue in its same structural mode, resourcing a paradigm of audience-centred and program-driven ministry? What changes will we make to reverse poor growth figures in the global north? How will we respond to Generation Y and Millennials, who will be the church of the future? How can discipleship become the heart and centre of the mission of the Church as outlined by Jesus (see Matthew 28:19, 20)?

My wife and I have served in the lo-

cal church on three continents. Based on our teaching, ministry and evangelism experience and my research, I am making a modest attempt to outline the essentials of the New Testament church, all the while gazing on the Captain of the ship and trusting Him to get the ship to its final destination.

My conviction is that a multiplying local Adventist church will thrive in a fast-changing world. It will be a relationally structured church since God is a deeply relational Being. It will be a multiplying church as it spreads the Word relationally. The local Adventist church of the future will not be afraid of or inhibited by the work of the Spirit but will seek more and more of the Spirit in its life and ministry.

It will be led by a dynamic team of people who are visionary, empowering and compassionate, sold out on seeing the kingdom come. Leaders will care equally about the community in which the church exists and about the members who attend.

Evangelism and discipleship, eschatology and ethics, proclamation and transformation go hand in hand. Worship will be inclusive, participatory and gospel-centred. Young people will be given greater buy-in to what happens in the local church because the church is about them just as much as it is about others. And we must also address the manner in which the local Adventist church is structured today, which has been shaped by societal changes and the forces of culture.

Since the way the Church began is, to a large degree, how the Church and human history will end, the book of Acts provides the blueprint or paradigm of how the Church should function. The time in which Acts was written and the history to which it

points is not a golden era—no “golden era” exists this side of the new heaven and the new earth—but it does have patterns needing application in our contemporary context. If the Church fails to return to a biblical paradigm of ministry and mission, we will continue to see the local church in plateau or decline with a diminishing impact in its community.

The Church will triumph in the same manner in which it was birthed—through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit will bring about innovation in harmony with the Scriptures and propel a new generation of fearless leaders to confront the challenges this world faces and to prepare the world for that day (see Titus 2:13).

These are some of my convictions. But convictions need to be tested and tried, and not only in the crucible of life. More importantly, they need to emerge from the foundation of Scripture and in the transformational realities of the gospel of Jesus.

The local Adventist church must be rooted and grounded in mission to become a multiplying movement. Mission is one of the deep-seated concerns of both the Old and the New Testaments—and is fundamental to the nature of God and His purposes for this world.

Adapted from the “Introduction” to *Mission Shift: Multiplying Disciples in Your Community* by Dr Kayle de Waal. *Mission Shift* is now available from Adventist Book Centres in Australia and New Zealand. For more information and to download discussion questions, visit <[www.kayledewaal.com](http://www.kayledewaal.com)>.

Dr Kayle de Waal is speaking about the need for mission shift at the One project’s Avondale 1:1 gathering on August 12. The “Following Jesus”-themed gathering is supported by the South Pacific Division’s Discipleship Ministries Team and also features *Following Jesus* author Dr Peter Roennfeldt. Visit <[www.the1project.org](http://www.the1project.org)>.

**DR KAYLE DE WAAL** IS HEAD OF THE AVONDALE COLLEGE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

# THE KIMCHI THAT ELLEN WHITE NEVER ATE

Are fermented foods good for you?



UNQUENCHABLE FIRE HAS more than a theological meaning. Our first experience with kimchi fitted into the afterglow category, the intensity of which we were quick to associate with the redness of the product. The pain of sitting cross-legged at a low table combined with the choice of around a dozen varieties of kimchi (Korean spicy pickled cabbage) meant this experience was unforgettable and one that did not invite easy repetition. However, pleasant memories re-emerged when subsequently faced with the blandest and most unappetising of foods at a health retreat in a nearby country. Some kind soul had provided a mild type of kimchi, which we seized upon to make the meal experiences both bearable and repeatable.

The fermentation of liquids, vegetables, fruits and meats by using microbes is a practice almost as old as time (see 1 Samuel 17:18). This became a necessary practice where seasonal conditions and transport

arrangements made food security impossible. Other forms of preservation adopted initially were drying and later canning. Even today many people depend on food preservation through fermentation of local produce.

Ellen White's experience was mainly with Western foods where she was familiar with fermented products such as cheeses, chow chow, olives and pickles.<sup>1</sup> She made comments on their suitability as well as related issues, but before we arrive at this point, she was aware that many foods not in her repertoire were nutritious.<sup>2</sup> She spoke generously about olives and used cottage cheese (short fermentation process), but avoided hard cheeses (long fermentation) and pickled material.<sup>3</sup> This combination of remarks has challenged and confused some, leading to murmurings of unreliability.

Fortunately for all, the scientific world provides evidence for the soundness of her advice, which was given in global terms and just at the dawn of understanding the microbial world. We now know that salt in-

creases the risk of stomach cancer as do pickled products, and hard cheeses represent a mixed bag. Here the difficulty of digestion is overshadowed by the possibility of damaging quantities of biologically active amines, advanced glycation end-products (formed through interactions between sugars and available amino acids present on proteins and the like) and fungal toxins (mycotoxins) forming in aged cheeses.<sup>4</sup> Mrs White knew nothing about these chemical substances but made insightful statements about eating mould-contaminated food well before the Western science establishment was aware of the issues.<sup>5</sup>

Armed with a positive report card on Mrs White's credibility, it then becomes possible to enunciate natural principles consistent with scientific evidence. This makes it easier to assess the suitability of foods not previously encountered. Vegetable-based food items containing complex carbohydrates and little protein are the least worry (eg, cassava and sago). Those with reasonable protein levels are





likely to show the presence of amines and related substances, which vary depending on the microorganisms involved, conditions during fermentation and the length of the fermentation process. Crops receiving high levels of nitrogen fertilisers are likely to complicate the picture. High levels of nitrates may be carried in plant tissues, which are converted into nitrites in the body. These in turn interact with other dietary components. The generation of cancer-producing substances can ensue.<sup>6</sup> Finally, products stored or cured for a long time at near ambient conditions favour fungal growth and they may carry abundant levels of highly damaging mycotoxins. Some plant-based items carry components that have health benefits capable of counteracting some of the adverse effects of the items mentioned (eg, cabbage and olives).<sup>7</sup>

So where does this leave Ellen White? As far as I am aware she never ate sauerkraut or the related kimchi, but I figure that cabbage-based kimchi with a modicum of flavour components

would fit into our natural guidelines generated above. After all, Mrs White was sympathetic to the issue of making food palatable and appreciated the differential availability of fruit and vegetables in various countries.<sup>8</sup> Fermented cabbage products have been shown to have no negative impacts on health

## WE HAVE THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO MAKE WISE FOOD CHOICES ...

in contrast to the more fiery varieties generated from high nitrate containing non-cruciferous vegetables.<sup>9</sup> Today we have the advantage of scientific studies that indicate the potential difficulties associated with fermented foods. Through this ability to enunciate natural principles, we have been provided with the tools necessary to make wise food choices that will deliver op-

timum health outcomes. We can enjoy our food and still follow God-inspired instructions.

1. *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 242, 345, 359, 360, 368.
2. *Ibid.*, 94-97.
3. *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 359, 360, 370, 420; A. L. White, Ellen G. White. *The Later Elmshaven Years 1905-1915* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1982) 6: 315.
4. J. Uribarri et al., "Advanced Glycation End Products in Foods and a Practical Guide to Their Reduction in the Diet." *Journal of the American Dietary Association* 110(6) (2010), 911-916; N. M. O'Brien et al., *Toxins in Cheese: Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology*, third edition (ed. P. F. Fox; San Diego, California: Elsevier Academic Press, 2004), 1: 561-572.
5. W. A. Shipton, "The Day 100,000 Turkeys Died." *Adventist Review* 162(57) (1985), 10, 11.
6. S. Langley-Evans, *Nutrition, Health and Disease: Lifespan Approach*, second edition (Chichester, West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2015), 244-246.
7. M. E. Juan and J. M. Planas, "Effects of pentacyclic triterpenes from olives on colon cancer", in: *Bioactive Foods and Extracts: Cancer Treatment and Prevention* (eds. R. R. Ross and V. R. Preedy; Boca Raton, Florida: CRC Press, 2010), 403-414; Wu, X. et al., "Are Isothiocyanates Potential Anti-cancer Drugs?" *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* 30 (2009), 501-512.
8. *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 311, 355.
9. H. J. Kim et al., "Dietary Factors and Gastric Cancer in Korea: A Case-control Study." *International Journal of Cancer* 97(4) (2002), 531-535.

**WARREN SHIPTON** IS AN EDUCATOR, SCIENTIST AND FORMER MISSIONARY TO THAILAND NOW LIVING IN QUEENSLAND.



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## FEEL THE BURN

A recent study has made headlines for finding a link between a popular heartburn medication and greater mortality risk. One of the most concerning parts about this is just how common a problem heartburn is for many of us. While you should never just stop taking prescribed medication without a discussion with your doctor, when it comes to heartburn, it's good to remember that there are also things many of us can do to help reduce our risk that don't involve medication, such as:

### 1. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TRIGGER FOODS AND KEEP THEM TO A MINIMUM.

Heartburn happens when stomach acid rises into the oesophagus and causes pain. Some people find that certain trigger foods lead to this happening more often. Common trigger foods include fatty or spicy foods, those high in caffeine like coffee or cola, citrus fruits, chocolate and peppermint.

### 2. GO FOR SMALLER MEALS.

The fuller your stomach, the more likely stomach acid will rise. A ring of muscle at the top of your stomach has the job of letting food into your stomach and then tightening to prevent acid coming back up. If this muscle weakens, it can be a cause of chronic heartburn. Smaller, more frequent meals, rather than large ones, may put less stress on an already weakened muscle.

### 3. TAKE A LIFESTYLE APPROACH.

Losing weight if you are overweight and stopping smoking if you smoke can also help lower your risk of heartburn. As can avoiding lying down after a meal.

While medications can have tremendous benefits for our health, it's important that we don't ignore the many opportunities we have to help build and maintain health through diet and lifestyle as well.

## WHAT IS GORD?



While most of us will experience heartburn at some time in our lives, maybe due to over-indulgence or anxiety, it becomes a serious issue when it becomes chronic. Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) is chronic reflux that can lead to other health complications and have a big impact on quality of life.

Untreated GORD can lead to complications such as oesophageal ulcers and strictures –making swallowing difficult and painful. It can also increase the risk of developing oesophageal cancer.

While heartburn itself can often feel like just a nuisance pain, one that's easy to forget once it's over, if it happens regularly it can lead to very serious consequences. So if you regularly experience heartburn, talk to your doctor about treatment options and make a start on lifestyle changes today. These small changes can have a big effect on long-term health and happiness.

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## CRUELTY-FREE CHRISTIANS

*Like many Seventh-day Adventists, I grew up as a vegetarian for one reason basically: my health.*

*As a mature adult, I changed my view on being a vegetarian, mainly to prevent cruelty to animals. So I was excited with the start of "A dominion of mercy" (July 1), imagining it would go into the cruelty to chickens and cows in the production of eggs*

*and milk as well. The public is becoming more and more aware of the terrible cruelty against animals—for our eating pleasure. As Christians we should be more aware of the animal cost to what we imbibe and be part of the growing protests against this.*

*An excellent article for being a vegetarian, but it should have gone further.*  
Darlene Douglass, NSW

### FARMER'S THOUGHTS

After reading "A dominion of mercy" (July 1) several thoughts come to mind.

First, a person leaves themselves open to charges of hypocrisy when wearing/owning anything made of leather if "dominion of mercy" is their reason for vegetarianism.

Secondly, Jesus Himself used animals in a less than merciful manner by eating fish (Luke 24:41-43), using a miracle to catch fish twice (Luke 5:1-11 and Luke 21:1-14), paying tax by catching a fish (Matthew 17:24-27) and providing clothing for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). If Jesus Himself used animals for food and clothing can we not do likewise?

I also have to take issue with the sweeping statement of "systemic mistreatment of livestock". People who make such statements often have too rosy a glow of what sin-affected nature is like. Untreated parasites and sores, disease, endless looking for food and water, lack of birth control, "teen-age" pregnancies, predation by carnivores and indifferent parenting are the lot of animals in the wild. Farmers can, and do, improve on nature.

My husband and I are feeling additional financial and emotional stress in keeping lambing sheep alive

in a drought year. I love and name every lamb or calf that I hand raise and weep with every death that happens. Farmers can be merciful.

**Robyn Goods, WA**

### ENGAGING IN THE WORK

Thank you for ["If you think your church is too girly . . . , July 1] making the point quite clear. The times that I am not "feeling" connected to the church are usually times when I am not "engaged" with the work of the church.

So my encouragement is, if and when you decide to "do" something and prayerfully get involved, ask your fellow men to come along and join in. Brotherhood is forged out of a shared experience. To clarify: don't just share an announcement in the church bulletin, actually be courageous and ask people face to face, man to man.

**Aaron Gudze, via website**

### ACCESSIBLE BOOKS

Congratulations Morobe Mission on the opening of the bookshop in Eriku ("New bookshop for Morobe Mission", July 15)!

This will make the bookshop more accessible to the public and seeing your news should be an encouragement for us as we at New Britain New Ireland Mission are considering opening

up an outlet near to town but [the process] has been prolonged.

God bless as we continue to step out distributing God's truth. Blessings.

**Caroline Cholai, via website**

### FACT-BASED FAITH

The editorial in the June 3 *Adventist Record* was the most interesting piece and the only piece that I completely read in that *Record*.

I both saw the film and read the book [*Case for Christ*]. I found it irritating that Strobel always had to give a complete description of what clothing the interviewees wore, in the book. That was obviously missing from the film.

A friend who belongs to a charismatic church took me to the film. The auditorium was nearly completely full. It appeared that most people (if not all) enjoyed the film.

You are absolutely right—Adventists don't pay enough, if any, attention to facts.

It's only emotion, emotion, emotion. Look at the *Record*.

Sermons and articles in Adventist publications play on emotions and are very short on information. But if everything came about by itself and there is no creator, why religion?

In *Bad Science* (mostly about how the press don't understand the principle of "evidence-based conclu-

sions" and statistics), the author, Ben Goldacre, a medical doctor turned reporter, says it's because those in the humanities and arts are lost in a (to them) bewildering, factual world. And they don't understand statistics. However, emotions come cheap and don't require knowledge.

I feel so strongly about this—that my faith is based on fact—that I wrote a book on the subject, *Fact Based Faith*. It's not always an easy read because I get technical. But much of it is easy. Especially after the basic groundwork has been laid. In science, one is first trained in the basic subjects underpinning one's field. I first show how to arrive at facts and the connection between fact and truth, and the nature of truth (hugely misunderstood by the non scientifically educated—they think truth can be relative), and what evidence is. I can guarantee that you will learn much from it.

**Chris Malan, NSW**

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

THIS MONTH IN



Do miracles still happen?



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# KIDS SPACE

## HOW MANY COINS?



### MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## SIMON ASKS FOR POWER

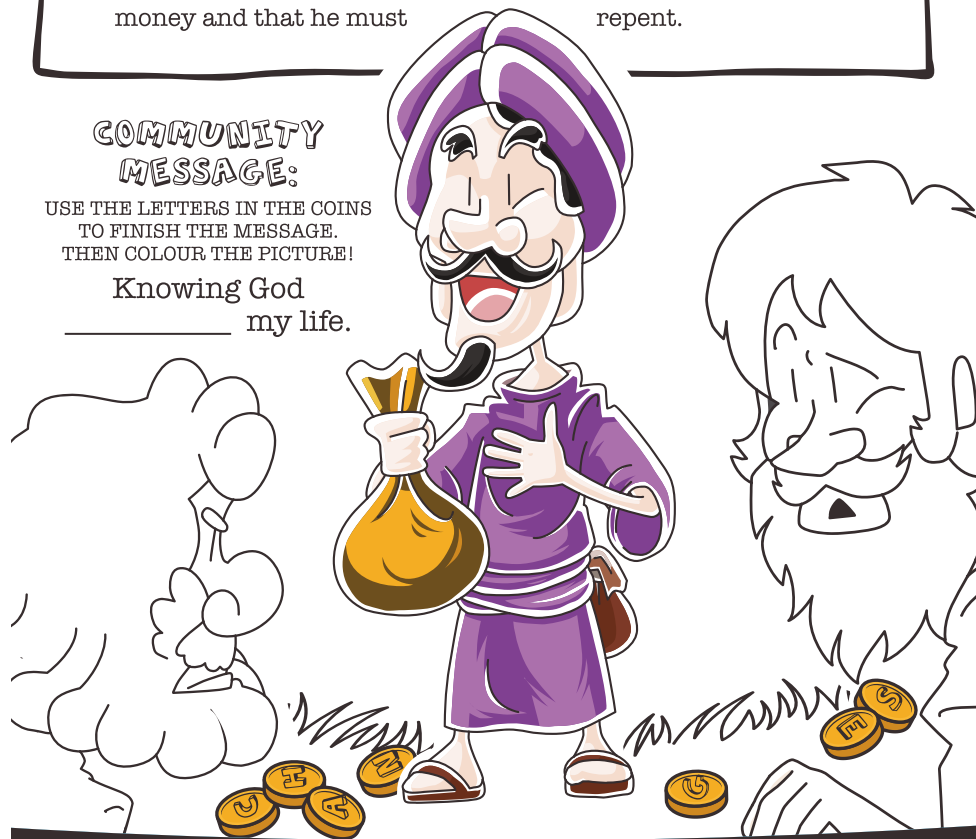
As the result of persecution, the believers in Jerusalem scatter to Judea and Samaria. They preach about Jesus wherever they go. Philip preaches in Samaria. The Holy Spirit causes many miracles, and many are baptised, including Simon the magician (sorcerer). Peter and John join Philip and pray that the new believers will receive the Holy Spirit. The new believers receive the Holy Spirit—except Simon the magician. He goes to Peter and offers to buy this power.

Peter tells him that the gift of God cannot be bought with money and that he must repent.

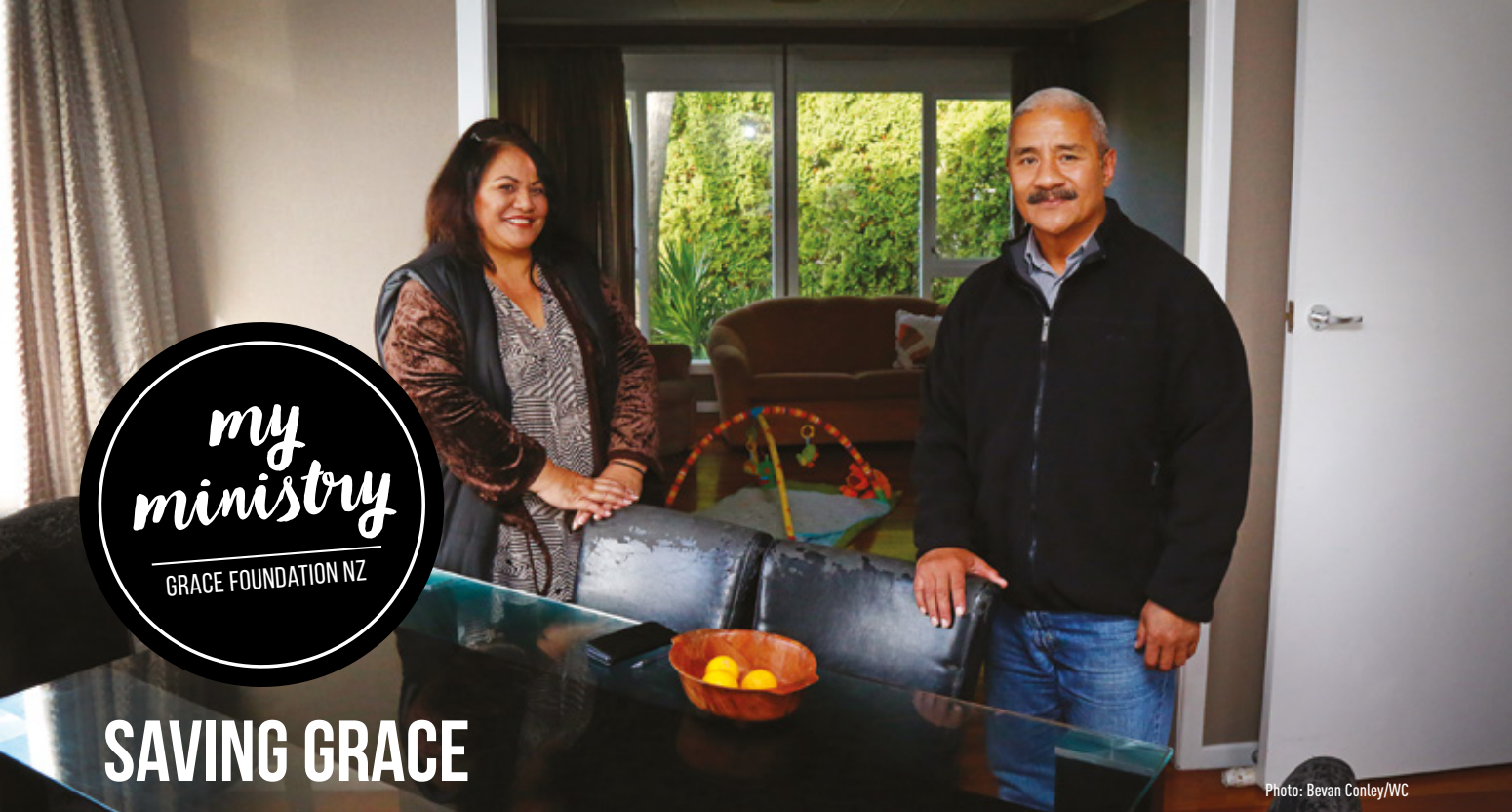
### COMMUNITY MESSAGE:

USE THE LETTERS IN THE COINS TO FINISH THE MESSAGE. THEN COLOUR THE PICTURE!

Knowing God \_\_\_\_\_ my life.



\*Hello in Tahiti



## SAVING GRACE

Photo: Bevan Conley/WC

It was 4:50pm and Sarah\* was starting to feel desperate. A young mum, she'd left a relationship, taking her baby and whatever she could fit in her car. She'd been waiting at Whanganui's Work and Income office in St Hill Street for hours. They needed a roof over their heads, but the social services agency could only offer her one night in a motel.

But then she met Taito Letele, manager of four houses run by the Grace Foundation—a volunteering mission arm of the Calvary Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has been providing accommodation and wrap-around support for Whanganui people in need for nearly a year. Mr Letele offered her a room in a clean, furnished house with Wi-Fi and a landline. He got her linen, towels and an electric blanket.

The Grace Foundation—which is based in Auckland—has three houses for men and one for women, where Sarah and her baby are now living. As a result of their contact with the Grace Foundation, many of the residents can be found at church on Sabbath, either during the service or at the community lunch.

Sarah is now regularly attending

Sabbath School and church, as well as a Bible study class once a week. The church gives her a box of fruit and vegetables every week, and she receives a hearty lunch every Sabbath at church.

"If it hadn't been for Mr Letele's help, I don't know where we would be. The women's refuge was full," Sarah says gratefully. "The church people are very friendly, and I'm able to pay for my room from my benefit. I'm just extremely grateful."

No alcohol or drugs are allowed at the Grace Foundation houses, though Mr Letele says that boundary has been tested. Some of the male occupants are on Te Oranganui Iwi Health Authority's alcohol and drug program.

The foundation looks to help people who are marginalised and have nowhere to go. Staff are mostly volunteers who have been there themselves and know the territory.

"We share with them that change is possible. We pretty much walked the life a lot of them have come from with drugs, alcohol, violence and prison," says Mr Letele, who visits the men's houses twice a day to make sure all is well.

Volunteer teacher Terri Kara offers

two-hour Bible study classes three times a week. The study is based around everyday situations and aims to help people think more clearly and make better choices. The foundation also offers an exercise class and a communications class. It will soon have a domestic violence and parenting class, and hopes to have cooking classes later.

Staff from the foundation also work closely with the City Mission, Salvation Army and Koha Shed to spread donated goods like furniture around. They partner with Sanitarium to receive food.

There's no government funding at all for the foundation, but so much food comes to the church every Saturday that there is a "Hope Basket" for each of the houses to take away.

Asked how they manage all this, Mr Letele and Mrs Kara speak one word, with one voice.

"God," they say. "We use the resources of the church and they pray for what they need."

"It's not about us. It's about the glory of God coming through people. We are just the servants."

\* Name changed to protect privacy.

WANGANUI CHRONICLE/MARITZA BRUNT

## Anniversary



**MASKELL.** Max and Beryl were married on 22.6.1957 in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Colac (Vic). They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends at St Andrew's Adventist Church in Bundaberg, Qld on 11.6.17. Max and Beryl were blessed with two children: Leonne and Michael James (Nowra, NSW), and Lance and Judy Maskell (Bundaberg, Qld); and their families Lachlan (Pottsville, NSW), Tahlia and Josh (Sydney) and Timothy, Breanna and Adele (Bundaberg, Qld) and two great-grandchildren, all of whom were able to attend.

## Wedding



**IOSEFA-RYAN,** Gordon Iosefa, son of Sava (deceased) and Nau'ula Iosefa (Brisbane, Qld), and Haylee Ryan, daughter of Jack and Delmae Ryan (Brisbane), were married on 2.7.17 on the foreshore at Hastings Point, NSW.

*Eddie Tupai, Colin Renfrew*

## Obituaries



**HARDY-HAWKEN,** Kalani Lee, born 22.5.12; died 19.5.17 in a tragic car accident.

She is survived by her parents Darren and Krystle Hardy-Hawken

and little sister Madeleine. Kalani was vibrant and cheerful, filling everyone's hearts with joy. Naturally generous and friendly, Kalani was a pre-kindergarten student at Toronto Adventist Primary School (NSW). Her teacher described her as a delight and students said she was a joyful, happy girl. Avondale church was filled with family and friends who came to celebrate a wonderful but short life. The church was decorated as a garden to commemorate her love of flowers and giving them to those she loved. Kalani lived life joyously and for others.

*David McClintock*

**HEAZLEWOOD,** Walter George, born 23.6.1935 in Coleraine, Vic; died 8.5.17 in AdventCare, Nunawading. Walter was predeceased by his wives Ellen Heazlewood and Lorraine Heazlewood. He is survived by his children Trevor, Lynda and Kevin Heazlewood and stepchildren Lyndon, Geoffrey and Glenn Sperring. Walter joined the Adventist Church in 1947 and was baptised by Pastor Theo Anderson. In his last few months he often said, "I've had a good life."

*Ross Baines*



**LANSDOWN,** Pastor James, born 27.3.1931 in Hastings, NZ; died 20.1.17 on the Gold

Coast, Qld. He is survived by his wife Judith (nee Colquhoun); daughters Debbie McKay and husband John (Toowoomba) and

children Ryan, Dayn and Elyse; Julie Trevaskis and husband Brendon (Gold Coast) and children Sarah and Michael; and Joanne Miracle and husband Ray (Oregon, US). Jim ministered in Auckland and Palmerston North until he took his young family to Fiji in 1969. He spent six years as Ministerial district director in Fiji; served seven years in Perth with Trust Services; returned to Auckland for seven years as Trust Services director for NZ; and finally took up his last official post as Trust Services director for the South Pacific Division (1988-1996). Jim left a legacy of new and renovated churches and schools wherever he went. Jim and Judy retired to the Gold Coast where they have been active members of Gold Coast Central Church. Jim had an intelligent and practical mind. He loved his pastoral role and sharing God's Word with people.

*Casey Wolverton*



**MCALLISTER,** Yasmin Angelika (nee Harnell), born 19.11.1989 in Brisbane, Qld; died

15.6.17 in Brisbane as a result of a tragic road accident. On 2.7.16 she married Aaron McAllister. Yasmin is survived by her husband (Camp Hill, Qld), parents Glynn and Amy Harnell (Fernvale), brother Caleb (Newstead), grandmother Lucy Harnell (Fernvale), parents in-law James and Elizabeth McAllister (Coorparoo), and many other grieving members of the McAllister family. She was predeceased by her older brother "Little Tommy" in 1988. A testimony to the love and esteem in which this 27-year-old lady was held is the huge crowd of at least 1000 people who attended her funeral at the Olympic Football Club, Yeronga. As a teenager Yasmin had a dream of Jesus' second coming, in which she stood gazing into the sky welcoming Him with open arms. During Yasmin's brief life, she saved two lives: one from drowning, the other from suicide. In her death she saved three lives, due to her prior decision to be an organ donor. We're longing for the day when Yasmin's "second coming" dream will be realised.

*Mike Brownhill, Terry Fitzpatrick*

**RANDALL,** Joyce Arlena (nee Adams), born 23.3.1924 in Eugowra, NSW; died 10.6.17 in Orange. On 19.12.1945, she married Frederick Arthur Randall, who predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by her four sons Arthur (Gosford), Albyn (Silverdale), Robert (Orange) and David (Wollongong); her sister Gwen Howarth (Narromine) and their families. At the age of four, Joyce lost her hearing and grew up a deaf-mute. Trained at a special school in Sydney, she learned sign communication. Her husband also was deaf. At the age of 18, she was called up by the army—who were unaware she was deaf! She worked for many years at Orange Base Hospital, and in farm and garden work. Joyce was a faithful follower of her Lord and looked forward to the coming of Jesus. It was her constant theme.

*Colin Richardson*

**SHERWOOD,** Frederick Leonard, born 19.3.1918 in Bayswater, WA; died 3.6.17 in Mandurah. Len attended Guildford Primary School and Midland High School, being taken out of Year 10 by his parents during the Depression. In 1932 he attended the City Business College, studying business principles, bookkeeping, English, typewriting and shorthand. After getting married in 1943, he lived with his wife in Subiaco, Dalkeith, Floreat Park, North Beach and Halls Head. Together they fostered many children over several decades. During his life he worked in many fields, including agricultural machinery, the air force and army. While working in the insurance industry he became state manager before being sacked in 1960 for his religious beliefs and practices. He not only lived well, he died well too, and passed away peacefully and silently in the night at the age of 99. Present at his funeral were six of his children, 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

*Douw Venter*

**SILINS,** Arnold, born 22.2.1925 in Berze, Latvia; died 22.5.17 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Queensland. On 4.6.1949 he married Valentina Asmanis. He is survived by his wife and one of his two

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daughters, Karina. After serving in the Latvian Army during World War II, Arnold spent time in a Belgium concentration camp and then in a displaced persons camp in Germany. In 1947 he migrated to England. Arnold was naturalised as a British citizen in England in 1957. With two young girls, the family migrated to Australia in 1959, eventually gaining Australian citizenship. They lived in Melbourne for 28 years. In 1987 he and Valentina moved to the Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village. Here he served faithfully as a deacon in the village church for many years.

*David Lawson*



**THOMPSON, Ruth** Lynette (nee Boyd), born 3.2.1951 in Toorak Gardens, SA; died

15.5.17 in Naracoorte after a long illness. She is survived by her husband Trevor; children and their spouses Sharyn and Stephen, Andrew and Jinhwa; and grandchildren Samuel and Sophie. Ruth's passion for Jesus and Bible truth led her to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a young adult. She remained a faithful member despite much family opposition. Her commitment to helping the powerless and needy will be long remembered. She faced death with confidence that she will awake on the great resurrection day.

**VOLLRATH, Robyn** Rodney, born 15.3.1935 in Bunbury, WA; died 31.3.17 in Bunbury. On 18.12.1957 he married Yula Ashlin. He is survived by Yula (Capel); his children Dena Leigh (Manjimup), Elke Williamson (Bridgetown), Desiree Marjoribanks (Busselton), Roxley Vollrath (Morisset, NSW) and Robina Vollrath (Sydney). Robyn is also survived by eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He worked as a carpenter around Capel, then at Wiluna as a project manager for 16 years. He was loved by the Aboriginal people around Wiluna because of the respect he gave them. Robyn was known for his generosity and volunteer work

throughout his life, especially the 50 years of tireless contributions to St John Ambulance. His funeral service was held in Capel church where he and Yula were married 59 years earlier.

*Clark Riggins*

**WHITE, Loris** Madge, born 21.8.1921, in Coopernook, NSW; died 12.6.17 in Wyong Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband Cedric in 1962. Loris is survived by her daughters Sharon Ingersole and Ronda White; two grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Loris was an adventurous person with a sense of humour, forthright but gracious, and strong of faith.

*Roger Nixon*



**WILKIN (KERSEY), Olive** Annie, born 3.8.1923 in Sarina, Qld; died 4.6.17 in Mackay.

Olive was predeceased by her first husband William Kersey and second husband Leslie Wilkin. She is survived by William and Estelle Kersey (Mackay), Dennis and Jennifer Kersey (Mackay), Darrel and Robyn Kersey (Jimboomba) and Deborah and Craig Findlay (Glen Innis, NSW).

*Ragoso Tagalao, Maciej Kuberek*

## ADVERTISING

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING.

Notice is hereby given of the regular constituency meeting of the Western Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be held at Carmel Adventist College auditorium on the weekend of September 9-10, 2017. A combined Sabbath program will commence at 10am. The business of the meeting will commence at the conclusion of the closing Sabbath program on September 9, concluding on September 10. The meeting will receive reports from the president, general secretary, chief financial officer and departmental directors, vote on various nominations and various other items in accordance with the Conference

constitution. Further information is available from the Conference secretary: <sidgriffith@adventist.org.au>.

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### MACKSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

is holding its 50th anniversary celebration on Sabbath, October 21, 2017. The service is from 10.30am at the school, followed by a luncheon, afternoon program and social. All past and present staff, students and loved ones are welcome to attend this event. For more information please contact Colin on <colreynold58@gmail.com> or Kerry on <Kerry.howard@macksville.adventist.edu.au>.

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