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MOVE WITH THE POWER

POWERFUL MESSAGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 8

NEWS

WOMEN OF THE REFORMATION 16

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TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

The Adventist Church, in the context I'm most familiar with—Australia, is in trouble. Yes, we are growing, but by addition, not multiplication. Yes, our tithes are increasing, but slowly and maybe not enough to keep up with the cost of living in this increasingly expensive economy. We are increasingly out of touch with the communities surrounding our churches. Are there good things happening? Definitely. I love this community. I love the people, the vision and the message. I love the outreach initiatives that are dreamed up and implemented; the huge differences that some of us are making in the lives of others. But change is definitely needed.

We're a Church of the grassroots, but those roots are weak. We have put clergy up on a pedestal that is hard for them to balance upon and meet our expectations, while it also diminishes the power of the members in our own eyes. This has led to a fairly inert membership that expects a lot from our leaders but not always from ourselves.

What do we do?

I've seen a few comments online recently alluding to the fact that we are time poor. I get it, I feel time poor too. Commuting for more than an hour each day, a pressure-filled, deadline-driven job, trying to finish my Masters and maintain a healthy marriage and other relationships—stress all around. I recently took a few days off to deal with some headaches I'd been having. The medical professionals I consulted couldn't tell me for sure, but the two most likely causes: stress or eye-strain from too much screen time.

So I get it. I definitely need to look after myself better. But we all waste so much time too. If you've spent any time over the past few weeks watching television, playing games on your phone or scrolling through social media, then you've (brace yourself) wasted time. I will not share how much time I've "wasted" here. I would embarrass us both! But you get the picture.

The world has sold us a lie and we've bought it. We feel a sense of entitlement to leisure time, something

as humans we've never had the luxury of experiencing before. I'm not saying, *let's not have any leisure time at all*. But live intentionally. We've segregated and separated our lives so much, there's not much time left over for God. And we don't bring Him with us in our work, play, school, even family time. Are you a Seventh-day Adventist? Or an Adventist seven days?

Time spent in church activities is not always time spent for the kingdom. Many of us are already flat out organising, practising and performing duties for church each week. But how many of those duties are key to the mission? We are so busy doing church that we are not being church.

It's tiring putting on programs each week, up to a certain standard, each better than the last. So don't. Change it up. Become more fluid. Don't rely on the same people. Get involved. Let go of some of the control over your little area. The talents we need in church aren't just music and preaching and creativity. They are hospitality, compassion, service, discernment and encouragement.

What about tithes and offerings? If we gave more sacrificially, the Church could do more. I know many churches wished they had a full-time minister but many of the members complaining aren't returning tithe. I know the Church has made financial mistakes but it's not the Church's money and it's not my money, it's God's money. We don't have the same spirit of giving and supporting mission that we used to.

The Australian Union Conference has started a conversation about Church restructuring. It is consulting with business professionals and looking into what consolidation is needed that could streamline operations and save money from the top. But our power always "lay" in active members. That's how we can multiply the Church and spread the eternal gospel to the four corners of the Earth.

JARROD STACKELROTH
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

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website

record.adventistchurch.com

adventist media

locked bag 1115

wahroonga

nsw 2076 australia

+ 61 (02) 9847 2222

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GREATEST CELEBRATION

In preparation for the Rugby League World Cup, currently underway, one country began celebrating as though they had already won. The Kingdom of Tonga.

Is it because they were over confident they would win the tournament? No, no. Is it because they were confused? No, no. This is their culture; their way of showing support to the team, whose members play all over the world. They even had some high profile stars defect from larger nations—Australia and New Zealand—to be part of the team.

Before the tournament they all got together in Tonga. They paraded through the capital in open trucks to say “we are here to represent the country”. At least 100 cars and trucks drove through Nuku’alofa town, adorned with Tongan flags and red graffiti. Many of the vehicles used large sound systems to blast the air with Tongan music. People showed their support by throwing flowers on the team members, dancing around them and giving them food and money. The celebration was huge. I wonder what it will be like if Tonga does win? I think I will hear their shouting all the way from Fiji!

The Bible describes the second coming of Jesus as the biggest event that this world will ever witness. He will be surrounded by all His holy angels, with a mighty blast of trumpets and shouting that everyone everywhere will hear. Everyone will get to see it, for it will be like lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west.

Jesus’ second coming will be the biggest celebration of all the ages. The good news for me is that I am going to be part of this celebration and I want to get all my family and friends, and everyone else, to be part of this “greatest celebration”.

Unlike Tonga’s celebration where they are not sure who will win (I am hoping they will), Jesus has already won the victory over this world. Join me in preparation for that greatest celebration—“... thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).



MAVENI KAUFONONGA
TPUM PRESIDENT

ADRA AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

JOSH DYE

Paul Rubessa has been appointed the new CEO of ADRA Australia.

Mr Rubessa will replace outgoing CEO Mark Webster, who announced in July that he was moving to Bangkok to work with ADRA Asia.

Currently the manager at Risk Management Service (RMS), a department of the South Pacific Division, Mr Rubessa will begin his tenure with ADRA in November.

After a career mostly in finance-related roles, Mr Rubessa said he is excited about the new role. “It was a prayerful decision and the opportunity to work in an organisation that directly and positively impacts people is quite motivating,” he said.

“My goal is to bring out the best in those I work with to maximise



NEW ADRA CEO PAUL RUBESSA.

ADRA’s impact on the lives of those we serve.”

Mr Webster said he has been very grateful for the opportunity to lead ADRA Australia. “I know ADRA will be in capable hands with Paul’s leadership and I’m excited for what the future holds,” he said.

There will be a period of transition and handover before Mr Webster finishes on December 1.

FIRST BAPTISMS AT PNG SCHOOL

RUSSELL WORUBA

Koiari Park Adventist Secondary School outside of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, witnessed its first baptism on October 7, following a spiritual emphasis week.

With 17 students making the decision, it was a special Sabbath as parents, teachers, church members and administrators witnessed the event and supported Central Papua Conference’s youngest school.

Conference education director Peter Iga commended principal Silas Wagi and his committed teachers and chaplain George Vanua who have been faithful in nurturing the students throughout the year.

Mr Vanua and fellow teachers conduct lunch-hour Bible studies and provide a welcoming haven for students to confide and share the challenges they encounter at home and school. Several other spiritual emphasis events have prepared



PRINCIPAL SILAS WAGI LEADS CONGRATULATIONS.

these students to make their decision.

Each of the students have a special story to tell of how God has touched their lives and how they responded to His love. Attendees were uplifted by the message from officiating minister and district director Pastor Kadasa Damaro, wonderful singing and witnessing the baptism.

Schools in Central Papua Conference have averaged 300 baptisms in the past few years.

On the same Sabbath, Pacific Adventist University and Mt Diamond Adventist Secondary School baptised 16 and six candidates, respectively.

STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

ASHLEY STEELE

An Avondale academic and his students are partnering with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its humanitarian agency to address family violence in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Brad Watson first learned about the country's high rates of violence—the most recent national studies estimate two-thirds of women in PNG experience family violence—while working there between 1995 and 1997. He returned this past year as part of a working group he helped establish with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia and the South Pacific Division (SPD). His role: to review the Church in PNG's response to family violence.

"We have at least 300,000 Adventists who don't have access to any real counselling or refuge services," said Dr Watson, a senior lecturer in International Poverty and Development Studies. "Fortunately, the Church in Papua New Guinea is responding by forming a gender taskforce and by partnering with ADRA to strengthen families and communities."

A team of Dr Watson's students,

led by Linda Ciric, adopted the issue for an advocacy campaign. The students called the campaign "They Are Not Alone". "This was the positive message we wanted to communicate to those who were survivors of family violence," said Ms Ciric—now an ADRA ambassador.

The campaign had two goals: raise \$A100,000 through a partnership with ADRA Australia for family violence projects in PNG; and to raise awareness of family violence in general.

Outgoing ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster is a strong supporter of "They Are Not Alone" and believes it's crucial for the Church to focus on addressing family violence.

A year on, the campaign has almost reached its goal, thanks to fundraising by the students along with \$50,000 in funds from the SPD.

The students worked at meeting



LAUNCH OF WOMEN'S ONLY BUS AS PART OF A UN WOMEN'S SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN. Credit: UN Women/Johannes Terra/Flickr

their awareness goal by creating a "They Are Not Alone" Facebook page, collaborating on an article with *Adventist Record*, coordinating an awareness day on Avondale's Lake Macquarie campus and partnering with the directors of women's ministries in four of the Church's conferences and with local churches in Australia.

Dr Watson is now finalising with ADRA Australia and ADRA Papua New Guinea a "They Are Not Alone" project proposal relating to advocacy, low-cost refuge provision and counselling skill provision in PNG. He is also seeking ethics approval for more formal research on family violence.

\$A 1.1M PRESCHOOL OPENS AT SYDNEY SCHOOL

RECORD STAFF

Mountain View Adventist College in Western Sydney has expanded its campus with the addition of a \$A1.1 million prep centre.

The centre was officially opened by Federal Member for Chifley Ed Husic on October 12 in front of more than 100 guests, staff, parents and students.

Mr Husic welcomed the investment in the school's expansion by the Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was represented at the opening by CFO Eva Ing and former president Michael Worker.

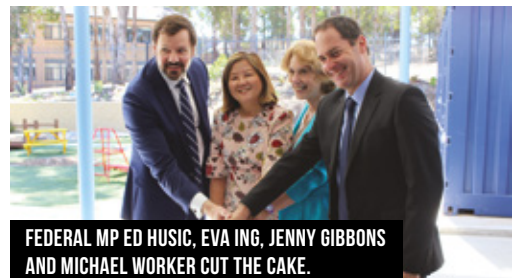
"Mountain View Adventist College is a great contributor to our community and this is such a tremendous invest-

ment in the skills and development of local students," Mr Husic said.

"So many kids from all different backgrounds are brought together here and the continued investment in the school will help make a difference in their education. I'm also impressed that the school extension focused on both mental and physical activity in young students—from new rooms to new play areas. Very important."

Principal Jenny Gibbons said: "We are excited about this project and increasing our college's ability to provide further educational experiences for the children of Western Sydney."

The school opened in 1969 and to-



FEDERAL MP ED HUSIC, EVA ING, JENNY GIBBONS AND MICHAEL WORKER CUT THE CAKE.

day educates more than 660 children from prep to Year 12.

Head of the Junior School, Paula Musa, said: "Our college has seen a lot of change in this period of time and this project is just another demonstration of our commitment to the families and young people of Western Sydney."

The new centre is fully self-sufficient. It has two large purpose-built rooms, a quiet area and a sizeable outside play area.

NEW BIBLE COURSE FOCUSES ON REFORMATION

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

The Protestant Reformation is the focus of a new online course delivered through the Hope Channel Bible School at Adventist Media.

Bible School director Pastor Wayne Boehm said it was an opportune time to launch the course, this being the 500th year since the start of the Reformation.

"We wanted to capitalise on the interest in the 500-year anniversary and remind people that we still have a reason to protest," he said.

The course focuses on the five *solas* or principles that emerged from the Reformation—the Bible alone, faith alone, Christ alone, grace alone and the glory of God alone.

"These are the pillars that are still dear to us as an Adventist Church," Pastor Boehm said.

The course also looks at the implications of the five *solas* for Christians today. It is divided into 15 studies,

including pictures, video clips provided by the North England Conference and text created by Melbourne writer Sukeshinie Goonatilake.

Pastor Boehm said the new course provides an important chronological link between Hope Channel's "Ancient History" and "Secrets of Prophecy" courses.

"We now have a seamless pathway for people to examine the Bible, history and prophecy," he explained.

"Through the new course we are encouraging Church members to be reminded themselves of the importance of the great truths that came out of the Reformation and to share these



teachings with their family, friends and community contacts."

There are a number of ways to let people know about the course, including by handing out specially printed share cards. These are available by emailing <indathomas@hopechannel.com>.

For a direct link to the course go to: <hopeoffer.com/reformation>.

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GC PRESIDENT TO VISIT SOUTH PACIFIC

LINDEN CHUANG

Dr Ted Wilson will travel to Fiji in late November to celebrate the rebuilding and reopening of 27 churches destroyed by 2016's Cyclone Winston.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church president is scheduled to arrive in Nadi on Thursday, November 30, after which he will travel by helicopter to the interior of Viti Levu, Fiji's main island, to open one of the new church buildings. A special evening meeting will follow.

"We are looking forward to this visit from our world leader," said Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, president of the Trans Pacific Union Mission. "It's empowering to let our people know that our world Church cares for them. It will be a good reminder to our people that we belong to the worldwide family of God who cares for one another. When one has suffered, we all help."

Before heading to Fiji, Dr Wilson will stop over in Sydney to meet with South Pacific Division (SPD) leaders and speak at a number of Adventist schools and



TED WILSON. Credit: Gerry Chudleigh

churches, including Macarthur Adventist College (November 17), Wairoonga Church and Mountain View Adventist College (November 18). An Auslan signer will be present for the live-streamed Wairoonga service. Dr Wilson will also take morning worship at SPD headquarters in Wairoonga on November 15.

During his four-day visit to Fiji, Dr Wilson will meet with Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama and tour the Trans Pacific Union Mission's new media studio. He will also speak at a combined Sabbath church service to be held in Suva city's main stadium.

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE CONSOLIDATES SERVICES

LEISA O'CONNOR

Adventist HealthCare (AHCL) has consolidated health services and staff to its two sites at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wairoonga, and the San Day Surgery, Hornsby, and is selling Dalcross Adventist Hospital in Killara.

Dalcross Hospital staff and rehabilitation and surgical services were transferred as from September 29, utilising the increased capacity of the recent expansion of the Wairoonga site.

Despite the best endeavours of staff, management and doctors, Dalcross has faced difficulties due to the current volatile and challenging healthcare market.

"This action comes after long heartfelt consideration of the history of Dalcross and the increasingly competitive, changing and challenging healthcare environment," said AHCL CEO Philip Currie.

"In recent years the whole healthcare industry has been impacted by increased use of public sector facilities by the pri-



vately insured, increased pressures from health funds, and patient concerns about the value for money of private health insurance and gap fees not covered.

"This has been a challenging time but we realise that growth and change is what the San has been about since it first started in 1903.

"We are saddened that this change has been necessary but under God's direction, and thanks to the great staff who are known for their commitment and loyalty, we look forward to continuing to showcase Christ's message of health and healing at our other sites."

NEWS GRABS



ACADEMY DESTROYED

Monday, October 9 saw the Tubbs Fire—a wildfire that burned at least 11,000 hectares in Northern California—completely destroy Redwood Adventist Academy. No students or faculty were on campus at the time, and school leaders are making plans for classes in an alternate location. —*Adventist Review*



KIDNEY CELEBRATIONS

Florida Hospital, an Adventist-managed hospital in the US state of Florida, recently celebrated its 4000th kidney transplant, marking a major milestone for the clinical teams and program. The celebrations also honoured Terri Miller, who received her transplant 42 years ago, making her the oldest surviving patient. —*Florida Hospital*



STILL STRUGGLING

Adventist churches in Puerto Rico are doing their best to provide assistance to those most affected by Hurricane Maria, while still struggling themselves. The Inter-American Division has been providing emergency response funds to assist the church membership, while ADRA International is also helping with relief efforts. —*IAD*

HOT TOPICS



MULTICULTURAL CHRISTIANITY

Details from the latest National Church Life Survey show that more than one-third of Australian churchgoers were born overseas, an increase of eight per cent over the past 10 years. While the figures may position Australia as having one of the highest proportions of multicultural congregations in the world, there are criticisms that there isn't much diversity in positions of church leadership and authority.

—ABC



A SALAD A DAY . . .

New research suggests eating plenty of nitrate-rich vegetables—lettuce, spinach and beets—may lower your risk of dying of a stroke or heart attack. According to the study, published in the July issue of *Stroke*, just one daily serving of a green leafy vegetable may be enough to lower stroke risk. —Harvard



MORE HARM THAN GOOD

The world's biggest school-based volunteer travel company, World Challenge, will no longer offer trips to orphanages in the developing world, claiming a revolving door of volunteers is harming vulnerable children by making abandonment and attachment issues even worse. The company is now in the final stage of exiting from the \$173 billion global volunteer industry. —ABC

POWERFUL MESSAGES FOR YOUTH LEADERS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

More than 700 Adventists in youth leadership positions from around the South Pacific Division (SPD) came together for Move With The Power (MWTP) from September 27 to October 1.

Held at the Stuarts Point Convention Centre on the NSW mid-north coast, MWTP was designed for youth leaders from local churches, including those working with Adventurers, Pathfinders and university students.

SPD youth ministry leader Dr Nick Kross said it was all about training and equipping the youth leaders, while also casting a vision for discipleship.

Keynote speaker Dr Peter Roennfeldt gave five presentations on discipleship. Other presenters included three representatives from the General Conference: Gary Blanchard (new world youth leader), Dr Jiwan Moon (director of public campus ministries) and Dwain Esmond (from the Ellen White Research Centre). Dr Branimir Schubert, Erna Johnson, Dr Gilbert Cangy and Dr Leigh Rice were among the other presenters.

At the end of the program on the Saturday evening, Dr Kross gave a vision-casting speech, appealing for the leaders to work together in the spirit of unity.



ATTENDEES CAME FROM ACROSS THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

The majority of the attendees were from the Pacific islands, including Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa.

Juliana Tautari, from the South New Zealand Conference, said MWTP has inspired her "to live boldly for Christ".

"I feel so blessed to have spent the week with 700 others who are passionate about leading others to Christ," she said. "I left revived and equipped with new knowledge that I cannot wait to share with others. One message that inspired me was that God is not looking for the ready—only the willing. That's all He needs. Be willing."

Zoe Weslake, from the Greater Sydney Conference, was equally enthusiastic. "In my opinion MWTP was so inspiring and relevant to today's churches," she said. "They addressed issues in our Church that need to be dealt with and left you with the encouragement that Jesus is coming soon and we need to take seriously the work He has given us to do. This doesn't mean we have to do this work alone, because Jesus has given us the support, love and protection we need."

Dr Kross said many of the young people came away from the program deeply inspired and moved. "Bringing people into one venue is a good way to captivate people's minds and to just give everybody that big platform: 'hey, we are altogether on one team, this is where we are heading'," he said.

The previous Division-wide youth leadership training session was held in 2011, and the aim is to hold one every five years.



ONE OF THE WORKSHOPS. Credit: Nick Kross



MUSIC WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM. Credit: Nick Kross

FLASHPOINT



MUSICAL WORSHIP

The Maroochydoore Ensemble (Sunshine Coast, Qld), formed loosely in 2007 with a handful of church instrumentalists, recently presented its touching gospel worship program, "I walked today where Jesus walked". The performance is the ensemble's 13th in South Queensland since the program was written in 2014 by group leader and clarinetist Lynn Howell. The moving selection of songs, hymns and narration has been widely acclaimed as an inspired outreach. The full ensemble now numbers 20, including musical director and vocalist Sarah Laws, and features players and singers from four other local churches. —Ken Dove



PACIFIC BAPTISMS

Pacific Adventist University (PNG) held its Festival of Faith program, October 1-7, with guest speaker Pastor Peter Roennfeldt from Australia. At the conclusion of the program, 16 students made the decision to be baptised, adding to the 16 students who chose to be baptised in May. "Some of these students have been studying here for four years and have now decided to be baptised," said Pastor Thomas Davai Snr, director of student services at PAU. "The students and staff of the university have appreciated the wonderful presentations on a different approach to discipleship making." —Thomas Davai Snr/Record staff



SERVICE MATTERS

While their classmates enjoyed a break from study, a team of students from Avondale College of Higher Education cared for kids in the town of Goodooga (far western NSW). The students organised and presented a program held at the town's bowling club featuring crafts, songs and stories that illustrated the bravery and courage theme. The effort the students put into presenting the program impressed members of the community and led to questions about Avondale and the students' faith. "Service is the key to building community," said team leader Mauana Fepuleai. "We shared our passion for service and in doing so showed love, which is the true essence of God." —Caitlin Serret



NEW FOUNDATIONS

The Operation Food For Life (OFFL) early learning centre in the remote Papua New Guinea (PNG) village of Kivori-Poi is continuing to grow, with the two-classroom building officially receiving a roof and walls last month. "It has been a challenging project as the area is normally only accessible by a 4WD vehicle-taking building materials into this remote region has been a test," said OFFL president Dennis Perry. "But wonderful donors made this project possible." The school, which opened in February with 120 students on its first day, now has more than 190 students attending daily classes. —OFFL/Maritza Brunt



A LESSON IN LOVE

What could a group of elderly women and a class of 14-year-olds possibly have in common? Ten retirees from Lake Macquarie's Jewells Lifestyle Community joined a class of Year 8 food technology students at Avondale School (NSW) one morning to share and prepare treasured family recipes. "The group came together with such beautiful purpose, with my students learning that food keeps memories alive," said food technology teacher Tarlae Bradford. "Each retiree shared not only a recipe and cooked it alongside the students, but also a heartfelt conversation about the stories and love associated with that food item." —Felicity Pittaway



LEADERSHIP RECOGNISED

Pastor Charlie Jimmy was acknowledged at the recent Efate District Meeting as the youngest person (35 years old) to serve as Vanuatu Mission secretary since the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vanuatu. The Vanuatu Mission is aiming to have 10 young people trained and mentored to leadership roles by 2020. —Vanuatu Mission



LAY TRAINING

Fifty-nine people, including seven women, recently graduated from the New Britain New Ireland Mission's Laymen Training School (PNG). The training was held in three provinces and took place over the months of April and September. More than 120 people have graduated since the school was established in 2016 by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments as part of the Total Member Involvement initiative. —NBNIM



EMERGENCY NUTRITION

More than 40 women recently came together to attend a Nutrition in Emergency training program, held at the Hope Conference Centre in Suvavou (Fiji). The program was designed to create awareness about issues regarding nutrition in emergencies and to enable partners to be able to empower women in the community to coordinate activities following disasters and emergencies. —MyMission Fiji



REFLECTIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE GC UNITY DOCUMENT VOTE

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION PRESIDENT Pastor Glenn Townend has welcomed the outcome of a vote by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which will see further discussion on a document relating to reconciliation and Church governance.

The document, entitled *Procedures for Reconciliation and Adherence in Church Governance: Phase II*, was the subject of nearly six hours of discussion and debate during the world Church's 2017 GC Annual Council last month.

A motion to send the document back to the Unity in Mission Oversight Committee for further work was carried 184 in favour to 114 opposed.

"The body has spoken," said Pastor Ted Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "It will go back to the committee. By God's grace, we will find a way of bringing something together again."

"I think the outcome on the vote was a good one," Pastor Townend

said. "The Church needs to have consequences for those who are not working in harmony with the rest of the Church within the General Conference. However, the document presented was first given to the members of the GC Executive Committee and read to them at the beginning of the session to discuss and vote on the motion.

"Many of the people did not appreciate the lack of trust and transparency in the process and so to have the document voted to go back for more work was the best possible outcome."

"I believe that the Church has been forbearing," said Pastor Wilson during the day's discussion. "Our purpose is to redeem. But we have to respect what the world Church votes."

Pastor Townend said the atmosphere during the session was tense but "people shared their thoughts in a very calm way".

"The discussion highlighted a number of issues that people questioned—for example, was the document com-

patible with the Church's Constitution? Giving more time for reviewing the document gives Church people worldwide an opportunity to consider and give alternative consequences for not being compliant with GC voted actions. This is a good outcome because we are a people's Church.

"It was a surprise that so many people voted to refer it back. In my limited experience I have not seen this before."

Where to from here? "The document will be reworked by the Unity and Mission Oversight Committee and then go through the normal process of consultation with GC and Division Church leadership before it comes to the floor again," Pastor Townend said. "It will probably come to the floor at the next Annual Council in Battle Creek, USA, October 2018."

Prior to the discussion and vote, an introductory report was presented by Pastor Thomas Lemon, GC general vice president and chair of the Unity in Mission Oversight Committee, who was tasked with facilitating follow-up to the voted 2016 *Unity in Mission* document. Throughout the year, invitations to meet and dialogue came from the North American Division (NAD), Trans-European Division (TED), Inter-European Division (EUD) and South Pacific Division (SPD). Pastor Lemon met with the first three, but scheduling conflicts kept him from meeting with the SPD.

The *Phase II* document makes a case for the need of Church policy, anchoring its roots in biblical references, along with principles articulated by Church co-founder Ellen White. "Throughout Scripture, organisation has been a priority for God's people," the document states.

While recognising that "the policies of the Church are not infallible", the document explains that policies offer "the best judgement of a representative group of Church leaders at a given time on how denominational entities live and work together".

TRACEY BRIDCUTT/ADVENTIST REVIEW

THE TEN

encouraging Bible verses FOR MEN

1. **EPHESIANS 6:10** Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
2. **PSALM 18:34** He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
3. **1 TIMOTHY 4:12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
4. **ISAIAH 50:10** Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has

no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on their God.

5. **DEUTERONOMY 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
6. **ISAIAH 40:29-31** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord

will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

7. **ROMANS 5:18,19** Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right. (The Message)
8. **PROVERBS 16:9** In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

9. **JAMES 1:2,3** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
10. **JOSHUA 24:15** But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.



144,000: LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC?

“Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel” (Revelation 7:4 NIV).



I VISITED VANUATU, SOLOMON ISLANDS and Fiji recently. In all three countries, I encountered the same question: Is the 144,000 a real number of living saints at the end of time or is it symbolic? Will there be only 144,000 Seventh-day Adventists saved when Jesus returns?

The text in Revelation 7:4 was written by the apostle John. It is prophetic, yet not typical prophecy. The context is apocalyptic. The Greek word *apokalypsis* means “revelation”, “disclosure” or “unveiling”.

The “revelation” about the 144,000 is exciting yet mingled with hesitance because the “unveiling” has not been entirely completed. Therefore, we should avoid speculation or an attempt to make the 144,000 an exclusive club.

In Revelation 6:12–16, John describes the apocalyptic events that precede the advent of Jesus Christ. In verse 17 the question is raised, “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (NKJV).

The responding “disclosure” is in Revelation 7. John “unveils” the 144,000 as saints who will stand

triumphant, undeterred, undefiled and victorious when Jesus returns to earth.

As an apocalyptic prophecy, Revelation 7 is full of symbols. We do not see four angels holding back the literal winds of strife, do we? (7:1). Nor do we see an angel placing a literal mark on the foreheads of God’s children (7:2, 3). Just imagine what people would think if they saw us following an actual lamb or not getting married as a sign of our loyalty to God (14:4). The figures of speech in Revelation 7 are symbolic. So why would we interpret the 144,000 differently? We must be consistent in our interpretation.

The 144,000 is an all-inclusive group of faithful followers who love Jesus and are obedient to His commandments (14:4, 5). They conquer the image of the beast, endure persecution (7:1–3; cf. 14:9–11; 13:15–18), stand victorious with Jesus Christ and sing the triumphant song of their experience with God (14:3). The number is therefore symbolic of God’s end-time universal church who make up spiritual Israel (7:4–8). They are the remnants who survive the shifting in Laodicea (3:14–22) and include those

who respond to the loud cry of the third angel’s message when the image of the beast becomes law (15:2).

As “first fruits” of the final harvest, the 144,000 are part of a much more abundant harvest of people from the earth, beginning with Adam and Eve and including every soul who accepts Jesus Christ before the close of human probation. Individuals will be gathered before God from all nations of the earth. Those redeemed will be an enormous multitude of people no-one can count (7:9). They will celebrate before God and the throne day and night (7:10–12).

We should not worry ourselves with numbers. Space is not a problem for God. The 144,000 is only symbolic of saints portrayed in the Bible as faithful to God and ready to meet Jesus face-to-face at the end of time. There is room for everyone who accepts Jesus Christ today as Lord and Saviour.

Let’s break down denominational barriers. The 144,000 are faithful followers of Jesus Christ who make up the end-time universal church of God. The focus will not be on denominational distinction but instead on faith and loyalty to the reign of God in our lives.

Our responsibility then is not to worry about who makes up the 144,000. It only leads to a spirit of judgement and criticism. Instead, let’s strive to be among the 144,000 saints who will live to witness the return of Jesus Christ. We must be faithful to the daily reign of God in our lives in anticipation of His eternal kingdom.

Wow! What an awesome privilege to follow Jesus Christ.

Lord, what a fantastic promise that awaits each one of us. Please help us to be ready for Jesus to come. Should we be alive when Jesus returns, we pray that we too will be among the 144,000 living saints. May blessings, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen (Revelation 7:12).

LOMANI MANU O’UIHA, PASTOR, NORTH NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE.



THE ELLA BOYD sisterhood

I MADE ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS of my life two-and-a-half years ago. I enrolled to study as an on-campus student at Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW) and moved across the country to join the vibrant Ella Boyd Hall community. I've found my place in the women's residence. New-found friends—who come from near and far—are now like family. They've helped me develop a stronger spiritual life, too.

In addition to our personal devotions, we meet together on Sunday evenings to worship and learn more about women in the Bible such as Rachel, Ruth, Naomi and Esther. We're encouraged to bring new interpretations to the stories. Our monthly residence-wide worships are also a fun way to engage with the stories while building a sense of sisterhood.

Another great initiative: the War Room. This provides a space where we can escape busyness and pray for our needs and the needs of others while thanking God for all He has done. Notes under the headings "Prayer Requests" and "Prayers Answered" decorate the wall. It's encouraging to see the notes move from being requests for prayer to

becoming answers to prayer. The residential assistant on duty visits the War Room to pray over the notes in particular and for the residence in general each morning.

A retreat hosted by the residents earlier this year—a morning worship service then afternoon program—built a closer sense of community. Inspiration for the theme, "Gathered in His Name", came from Hebrews 10:24,25: "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" (NLT). The implications are clear: we're to build relationships with our sisters in Christ, encouraging rather than judging each other, so Ella Boyd becomes a place where we gather to focus on God rather than on ourselves.

My spiritual journey began before I came to college but it's progressed immensely since I began living in Ella Boyd.

ADELAIDE PARKIN BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR OF TEACHING STUDENT, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

DIGGING IN HIS WORD WITH GARY WEBSTER

REACHING THE UNREACHED: DARE TO BE A DANIEL

One of the great themes of Daniel is how to deliver people from the kingdom of darkness and bring them to the saving grace of God. Thus Daniel's prophetic section ends with a grand promise to the person who seeks to save others: "those who turn many to righteousness (will shine) like the stars forever and ever". How do you do that? By studying the stories in Daniel's book, which reveal some of the most practical means of reaching the unchurched. But before examining these let's notice the centrality of witness and evangelism in this amazing book.

READ DANIEL 12:3.

Firstly, everything in the first four chapters (possibly spanning nearly 40 years) leads to the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar, a ruthless, autocratic pagan ruler who destroyed God's temple and was probably the least likely person that Daniel could be expected to influence for God.

READ DANIEL 4:37.

Secondly, the fourth chapter is Nebuchadnezzar's personal testimony, which he shares with everyone in his realm. His testimony clearly reveals that when a person comes into a saving relationship with God, their greatest desire is to bring others to Him.

READ DANIEL 4:1,2.

So join us in a journey of discovery into how to be more effective in reaching the unchurched and "dare to be a Daniel" in your sphere of influence.



CYLINDER OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR II IN THE KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM, VIENNA. DISCOVERIES SUCH AS THIS SHOW THE HISTORICAL RELIABILITY OF DANIEL.



Cross Pollinate

how sharing together can unlock your mind

IT WAS THURSDAY NIGHT. I WAS sitting at the table in my living room, surrounded by three of my closest friends and we were having a lively biblical discussion when it happened.

I shared my understanding of a passage in Scripture and when one of my friends reflected back his understanding through the lens of his experience, it was like someone turned on the lights. My mind was illuminated! I had just come to a depth of understanding that I didn't even know existed. My brain was charging through the thought process like a speedboat, exploring the possible ramifications. It was so exciting that I shared my new understanding with my friends—an action that ignited a new chain-reaction of thought in them and the cycle started all over again.

What is going on here? To an observer, it could be called a casual Bible study, but I believe this is a great example of what the Bible calls the "priesthood of all believers" in action.

If someone asked "Are you a priest?" most of us would probably say no, because in our minds a priest is either a member of the Catholic clergy or a descendant of Aaron living in ancient Israel. However, the Bible is clear in 1 Peter 2:9 that we are all indeed priests: "*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*"

WHAT IS A PRIEST?

Ok, so we are priests, but what is a priest? In almost every religion there is some kind of priestly role: a special individual who acts as an intermediary or representative between the deity and the people.

The unique characteristic of biblical Christianity is that while we have Jesus as our High Priest, officiating on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 4:14), we are plainly told that we are all priests. Have you ever stopped to consider the ramifications of this one concept?

I AM NOT A PASTOR, JUST AN AVERAGE GUY WITH A BIBLE, AND WHEN I FIND FELLOW BELIEVERS TO FELLOWSHIP WITH, I'M CONFIDENT THE HOLY SPIRIT GOES TO WORK.

- You, personally, have direct access to the Monarch of the universe.

- You have the capacity to intercede for those around you, and be heard.

- You can expect the Holy Spirit to communicate with you and through you directly.

We should be astounded by this and eagerly take part in this priesthood, yet somehow we either take it for granted or we simply never take up the blessings offered to us. Instead, we leave them on the table, assuming that these privileges belong only to the pastor or the elders.

I am not a pastor, just an average guy with a Bible, and when I find fellow believers to fellowship with, I'm confident that the Holy Spirit goes to work. He impresses my mind with what I can say that will build others up. At times He also uses my words to communicate ideas to others that I never intended. I am also humbled by the knowledge that the Holy Spirit uses the words of my friends to communicate ideas to me that I would have otherwise missed. You could call this divine cross-pollination.

God did not design us to worship Him in a vacuum. We are (according to Scripture) a nation of priests and collectively the body of Christ, communicating and influencing one another for His glory. If we isolate ourselves or limit our conversation to temporal realities we short-circuit our own growth and deprive others of the growth they could have experienced had we connected with them.

HOW DO WE TAKE PART?

Like anything new it will always take some conscious action, and it may even feel scary or awkward at first. But there are only two simple steps:

1. **Have something to share:** Prayerfully read your Bible. Find something that is interesting and meaningful to you.

2. **Tell someone else about it:** Practice by sharing this with others who also see value in biblical conversation.

Don't think of it as a Bible study because that puts all kinds of unnecessary pressure on you. You don't need to have notes and Bibles out; just tell someone what God is doing in your life or something encouraging that you have read. This may feel awkward or you might even feel like an impostor, but once you do it intentionally for a while it will grow and become a normal part of your character.

If you do feel an element of impostor syndrome, just remember that this level of discipleship is for everyone. As a part of the priesthood of all believers, you have just as much right (you could even call it a duty) to share about your experience with the Lord as anyone else does. You will be amazed by how much more alive your own Christian experience will become as a result of this "cross-pollination".

My friends and I have experienced so much growth and blessings from doing this that we have set up a ministry podcast in our local church where we share our spiritual discussions with the hope that we can encourage others to do the same.

So my question to you today is, do you want to step out of the slow growth lane and into the high velocity growth that comes from this divine cross-pollination? I can tell you it is more than worth it!

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women OF THE REFORMATION

to themselves. Some were well-educated women who were avid students of both Scripture and the writings of the reformers. Others held leadership positions in society and used their authority to support the Reformation. Most, however, were ordinary women who grasped the principles of the Reformation and influenced individuals in their own social circles.

Katharina Schutz Zell (1498-1562) was a German woman from an artisan family who acted in a pastoral role at the side of her husband. She considered that God had called her to be a “fisher of people” alongside the clergy. Attracted to Lutheranism, she married Matthew Zell, an ex-priest who was the first reformer in Strasbourg on the French/German border. Katharina and Matthew ministered together until Matthew’s death 24 years later. During this time, Katharina was active in both preaching and teaching. In addition, she nurtured women and children, ran a hospitality ministry for refugees and did intense pastoral visitation.¹ She considered it important to serve others and willingly served anyone in need, no matter how unimportant they might be.² Katharina also began a writing ministry, which included letters of spiritual encouragement to those who needed it and published materials that included sermons, public speeches and theological treatises.³ Her writings contain articulate defences of the gospel and its meaning for everyday life, reflections on the role of clerical marriage, refutations against specific attacks on faith, explorations of the value of Christian suffering, devotional material and even a hymnal.

While Luther was the primary reformer in their thinking, the Zells did not restrict their reading and discussions to the views of Luther. They welcomed discussions with any reformers, considering they shared a common bond of faith in the gospel. Katharina was actively included in the discussions, studied Scripture for herself and was willing to make independent decisions about its contents. She also engaged in written theological discussions with many of the German and

Remembering the women who made an historical impact

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE Protestant Reformation has often been ignored or treated as little more than a footnote in history. Consequently, while most Christians have heard of Martin Luther and John Calvin, it is rare to find Christians

who can identify women who made a difference during the Reformation. Yet many women, emboldened by the concept of a priesthood of all believers, moved beyond the roles assigned by society at large to support the Reformation and did so at great risk

Swiss reformers.⁴

Fellow German, Argula von Grumbach (c1490–c1564), was born into a noble family. Argula was well educated and well versed in Scripture. She had also read most of the available writings from the reformers at Wittenberg and had corresponded directly with Luther.⁵ Her primary contribution to the Reformation occurred over a two-year period from 1523–1524. In a move that was unprecedented for a woman of her time, she challenged the faculty of the University of Ingolstadt to a debate after the university attempted to force a student, Arsacius Seehofer, to renounce his Lutheran beliefs and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Her bold challenge occurred when no Protestant males spoke about the injustice of the situation. While Argula received no response from the university, her letter was published by friends in Nuremberg. The letter was republished 14 times, with an estimated 29,000 copies circulated. In its wake, Argula published another seven pamphlets that dealt with an array of topics, including the authority of the Church, the impact of reform on society, the need for clergy to focus on the spiritual wellbeing of their subjects and her vision for a new church.⁶ Her writings reflect the views of an ardent female Christian who had studied and internalised Scripture. Though not a theologian, she believed that her baptism into Christ removed traditional gender distinctions and came with a responsibility to confess Christ. Hence she willingly responded regardless of the possible consequences for her and her family.

In contrast to both Katharina and Argula, Olympia Morata (1526–1555) was a true scholar. She was a child prodigy who was educated by her father in both the classics and the Protestant faith. Such was her progress that Olympia had begun lecturing on Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* by the age of 13!⁷ But it was her impressive Greek and Latin skills, along with her talent as a poet, that earned her respect and enabled her to take up a role in the northern Italian

court of Ferrara, which was sympathetic to Reformation ideas. There she served as a companion to the daughter of Duke Ercole II and was able to continue her studies.⁸

After she left the court to care for her father, Olympia chose to dedicate her considerable talents to biblical scholarship instead of the classics. She translated a number of Psalms into elegant Greek poetry and composed dialogues, which outlined her ideas on Christian hope, salvation and the role of women in the church. In addition, she established correspondence with a number of Protestant leaders, including Melancthon. Her letters, frequently written in Latin, contained not only personal correspondence but theological discussions.⁹

Sadly, many of Olympia's writings were lost to history when she and her husband had to flee Schweinfurt, Bavaria, with little more than the clothing on their backs. However, after Olympia died prematurely at the age of 29, friends collated and published her remaining writings.¹⁰

Jeanne d'Albret (1528–1572) was the Queen of Navarre (France). Both she and her husband Antoine de Bourbon supported the Reformation, with Jeanne converting to Calvinism on Christmas Day 1560.¹¹ Two years later, however, her husband reverted to Catholicism as a result of political pressure. Jeanne refused to capitulate although she took a more neutral political stance and tried to maintain peace. After her husband's death later that same year, she had the freedom to actively support the reformers again. Between 1563 and 1566 she established Calvinism as a legitimate religion in the city of Béarn, legalised Huguenot marriages and explored ways to unite the Calvinistic Church. In 1566 she attempted to purge all idolatry from the churches.¹² During the subsequent third war of religion she used her crown jewels as security against a loan for the Huguenot army¹³ and left her kingdom to join the leaders of the Huguenots at La Rochelle. There she functioned as an administrator and advisor, and

supported the first Protestant synod. On return to her kingdom in 1571 she called her subjects to subscribe to the Huguenot confession of faith. However, wanting to maintain freedom of conscience, she did not prosecute those who failed to do so.¹⁴

These four women are a small selection of those who chose to be active participants in the Reformation. They readily embraced both the concepts of *sola scriptura* and the priesthood of all believers. Their acceptance of these principles led them to recognise a personal responsibility to confess their faith, live out their convictions and advance the kingdom of God in their own spheres of life. As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation these women serve as a reminder of our own responsibility to be more than mere observers of the faith we hold dear.

1. Elise McKee, "Katharina Schütz Zell (1498–1562)" in *The Reformation Theologians*, edited by Carter Lindberg (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 225–227.
2. Kirsi Stjerna, *Women and the Reformation* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2009), 114.
3. Stjerna, 117.
4. McKee, 226–230.
5. Roland Bainton, *Women of the Reformation in Germany and Italy* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1971), 101, 106.
6. Peter Matheson, "Argula von Grumbach (c. 1490–1564)" in *The Reformation Theologians*, edited by Carter Lindberg (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 95.
7. Holt Parker, "Morata, Fulvia Olympia (1526/1527–1555)" in *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France, and England*, edited by Diana Robins, Anne R. Larsen, and Carole Levin (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2007), 269.
8. Bainton, 253.
9. Olympia outlined her spiritual journey to this position in a dialogue, which still survives. Parker, 270.
10. Bainton, 263, 266.
11. Roland Bainton, *Women of the Reformation in France and England* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1973), 45.
12. Corinne Wilson, "Albret, Jeanne d' (1528–1572)" in *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France, and England*, edited by Diana Robins, Anne R. Larsen, and Carole Levin (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2007), 3.
13. Robert Knecht, *The French Civil Wars 1562–1598*. Harlow, Essex: Longman, 2000, 151.
14. Bainton, *Women of the Reformation in France and England*, 67–68.

WENDY JACKSON LECTURES IN THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN HISTORY AT AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.



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HEARTY BREAKFASTS FOR A HEALTHY HEART

There's already a long list of reasons we should start the day with a healthy breakfast. From increasing our mental performance through the day to lowering our risk of diabetes, the benefits of eating breakfast are many and varied. And recent world-first research has gone a step further by using ultrasound imaging to look at the development of atherosclerosis in groups with different breakfast habits.

Atherosclerosis—a narrowing and hardening of the arteries—is the leading cause of cardiovascular disease, which is the major killer of Australians, taking one life every 12 minutes. It is the slow development of fatty deposits on artery walls, building up over time, with the first symptom too often being the last: heart attack or stroke.

In this latest study, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, researchers screened 4000 middle-aged participants for what's called subclinical atherosclerosis. This is plaque that's contributing to narrowing arteries, increasing risk, but not yet causing any symptoms.

Participants fell into three groups: those who regularly skipped breakfast, those who ate a low calorie breakfast and those who ate a more substantial breakfast that made up more than 20 per cent of their daily energy intake. What they found was that those who skipped breakfast had the highest rates of plaque, while those who ate the substantial breakfast had the lowest.

The researchers are quick to point out that the study doesn't prove breakfast itself acts against the formation of plaques, but that it's one of a cluster of behaviours that appear to work together to reduce the risk of heart disease.

So start your morning with a substantial, nutritious breakfast to help set yourself up for a day of healthy choices your arteries will thank you for.

HOW WERE THE BREAKFAST EATERS HEALTHIER?



BETTER DAILY DIETS

The study participants who ate a big breakfast also had the highest average daily fruit, vegetable and dietary fibre intakes and the lowest red meat and daily energy intakes.



BETTER BIOMETRICS

Participants who ate a big breakfast had the lowest average weight, BMI, waist circumference, triglycerides, total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol—the type that collects on artery walls.



BETTER HEALTH

The group who ate the biggest breakfasts had the lowest rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, and the smallest percentage of people with two or more cardiovascular disease risk factors.

Sanitarium
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SPECIAL ISSUE

This morning I read the PNGUM special edition (October 7) from back cover to front cover.

Never have I read every single article in a *Record* with such avid interest! Every report and story was written from the heart.

Brilliant reporting by yourself (Kent Kingston) on your trip upstream ("Water of life"). Brought back vivid memories because in 1970 I did a similar canoe (dug out) trip with Pastor Barnard and my father Ivan Broad. I can still recall the wood smoke and the living conditions in the villages, the babies' tears at injection time, the early morning singing in branch Sabbath Schools.

To co-editor Jacqueline Wari, may Jesus continue to be your inspiration and guiding hand as you communicate for and with Him. Thank you for using your gifts.

To the Dorcas teams—your recipe for reconciliation and healing is THE BEST!

To our Church leaders in PNGUM— God is fulfilling His promises in ways the pioneers would never have imagined. Our prayers are with you all.

Heather Hagen, Qld



RELIGION AND POLITICS

There are several chest-nut wagons in Adventism.

"Political bandwagons" has uncovered a familiar one that pops up now and again (Have your say, September 23). This one is closely aligned with the voting conundrum that concerns some of us.

The Bible is replete with appeals to social justice. There are many passages in the books of Micah, Amos, Ezekiel that focus on equity, justice and righteousness. At the heart of Isaiah 58 we find these words, "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen, to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break EVERY yoke [emphasis mine]?"

It might be said that agencies like ADRA are the right mediums with which to change the social order to help those less fortunate but we need to remember that Daniel and his three friends were politicians involved in the administrative system of

Babylon. Their faithfulness in plying the trade that God had prepared for them led to the conversion of the king as well as improving the wellbeing of the nation. Likewise, Ezra and Nehemiah spent a lifetime participating in public office.

Ellen White never counselled us to completely ignore the political system. She did, however, counsel on the manner in which we are to be involved, avoiding party politics and issues that cause divisions by advocating a political party above another. There is no question she believed that there was a place for Christians to become involved in political office with this challenge, "Dear Youth, what is the aim and purpose of your life? Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may one day stand upon the summit of intellectual greatness; that you may sit in deliberative legislative councils, and help enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations" (FCD, p 82).

Steve Cinzio, Qld

COMPLEX OPERATION

Regarding "Mission boats" (Have your say, August 19 and September 23).

When I was looking for suitable people to help repair the Pathfinder boat clinic on the Sepik River in PNG, I spoke to a man who was married to a PNG lady from the Gulf region of PNG. He implored us to do something similar in that area because of the extremely high death rates of babies.

Three cautions. Today the capital cost will be large. Secondly, there must be proper planning of staff, their training, location and housing, the finance for the cost of fuel, logistics and maintenance, especially in remote locations. Thirdly, the lack of law and order makes a boat an easy target for theft, malicious damage, obstruction of operations and extortion.

My experience suggests local missions will struggle with this complexity. I suggest a central service along the lines of Adventist

Aviation Services to provide the necessary expertise and funding. As with AAS, perhaps such an entity needs to be under the management of an expatriate. It cannot be like times past, and it will not be easy.

Graham Fraser, Vic

TRUTH NEEDED

Re "The One Project" (September 23).

No! We do not need more storytelling in church. You already put us to sleep with the "nambee-pam-bee" social gospel being preached. We so desperately need the present truth in these dire times.

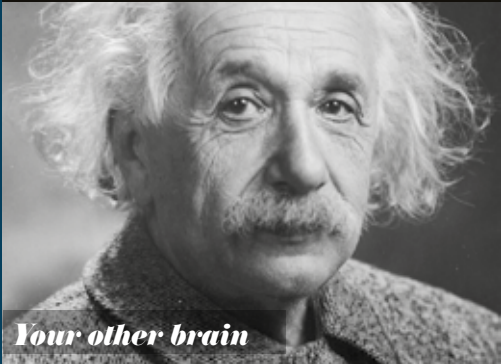
A Gabriel, NSW

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



Sabbath and creation



Your other brain



Why the week has 7 days



Food Matters - Beetroot Dip

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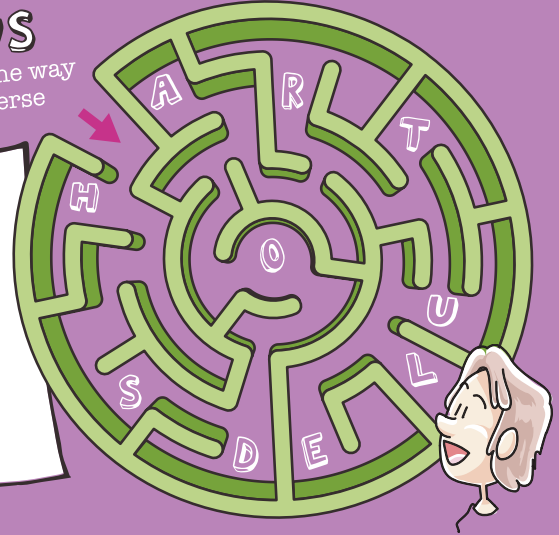
BOY JESUS SERVES IN THE TEMPLE

When Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover each year, Jesus stayed home. However, this year Jesus is 12 years old, and He goes to the Passover too! After the Passover feast ends, everyone leaves for home, except Jesus who stays behind in the Temple. Mary and Joseph travel for a whole day before they realise He is missing. They go back to Jerusalem to search for Him.

FIND JESUS

Pick-up the letters along the way to finish the Memory Verse

MEMORY VERSE
 Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your _____.
 Deuteronomy 10:12



COLOUR ME IN

SERVICE MESSAGE
 We serve God wherever we are.



*hello in Serbia



This follows the first century church's example in Acts 2:42-47, recognising that being a part of a church family is more than just meeting once a week in a church building. It is this regular fellowship that is seeing the fruit of the Holy Spirit moving within the Queenstown community.

As Andrea Roebeck explained: "We have seen the work of the Holy Spirit in our Bible study group. A number of Christians from other denominations attend this weekly group and I believe He is moving them. I see this in their ongoing interest and desire to know more, even though it conflicts with their long-held beliefs."

Graham Roebeck agrees: "Where we see the Lord moving the most is in our Bible study/prayer meetings, where we have some people from other churches coming along to get Bible truth and their questions answered, seeing the Holy Spirit lead us in our meetings and impress upon them for days the things we studied."

This is a testament to the power and necessity of being a part of a community that fellowships together within their own homes throughout the week. We ask you to pray for those who visit these Bible study groups each week.

Our church in Queenstown is always open and hoping for new visitors. Don't let the fact that you are on holiday stop you from worshipping and fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in Christ. We meet regularly at Kingsview Christian School, 14 Yewlett Crescent, Queenstown. Currently we meet every week at 10am for a hot drink and social time before beginning with Sabbath School at 10.30am. You are all invited to join us for a potluck lunch every week after the main service. Please join us in one of the most beautiful locations of New Zealand as we are inspired and worship our God together.

**JONATHON GILLARD, ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
INVERCARGILL, WICKLOW ST, QUEENSTOWN,
CLINTON AND GORE CHURCHES, AND CHAPLAIN AT
SOUTHLANDS ADVENTIST SCHOOL.**

FEEL THE INSPIRATION

QUEENSTOWN—FEEL THE INSPIRATION." Listed as #1 on Trip Advisor's top 10 destinations to visit in New Zealand, it is no surprise that Queenstown is home to an eclectic mix of cultures from all over the world. Known for its beautiful lake, adventurous activities and remarkable mountains, it's no wonder the current campaign slogan for Queenstown is "Feel the Inspiration".

While people travel from all over the world to visit the inspiring landscape of Queenstown, it is also home to one of our smallest church companies within the South New Zealand Conference. Our church in Queenstown reflects this mix of cultures with people coming from various ethnic backgrounds such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Brazil and Vanuatu.

The Queenstown company is refreshing, friendly and inspiring. While there are only around 10 members on the roll, each Sabbath the church is flooded with visitors from all over the world. Some Sabbaths there can be up to 40 visitors in attendance!

Church member Kim Theron comments that, "It always impresses me how Queenstown travellers make the effort to find us and join our worship service over the option of sightseeing on their vacation. These visitors are a blessing from God to us and make each Queenstown Sabbath unique." It's beautiful to know that when you are on holiday all over the world, you are still able to worship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Each week, the church members meet for a Bible study in their homes.

Obituaries

O'BRIEN, John Wallace, born 29.9.1926; died 31.5.17 in Christchurch, New Zealand. He married Lois (nee Brunt), who predeceased him in 2013. He is survived by his children Calvin and Charlayne (Alaska) and Gayeleen and Mark Hansen (Melbourne, Vic); and grandson Aaron. John was baptised when he was 22 as a result of a 1948 George Burnside mission in Christchurch. He first attended St Albans church followed by the Aranui church for 47 years, faithfully serving as head deacon, ADRA appeal coordinator and woodwork

teacher to children attending Vacation Bible School programs. He always maintained a healthy Adventist lifestyle and that, along with knowing his Heavenly Father, saw him remain active in service to the church and the community
Siaosi Kei



STRAKER, Patricia, born 29.4.1924 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; died 20.8.17 in Perth, Western Australia. She was married to Rodney Straker, who predeceased her in 1992. Patricia is survived by her children Peere, Wanda and Leon; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After marrying

Rodney in 1917 the couple emigrated from the UK to New Zealand to establish a stud Jersey dairy. In 1950 they became Seventh-day Adventists and devoted their lives to ministry. Patti used her musical and artistic skills to create stimulating messages and activities for local communities. She sold hundreds of paintings, sculptures, ceramics and hand-painted cards to support church building projects. She is remembered for her welcoming hospitality and musical and artistic gifts.

Graham Thompson

Victoria; died 22.9.17 in Geelong. He was married to Shirley, who predeceased him. He is survived by Alexander, Caroline, Ann, James, Sharon, Nathan, Nathan, Lisa, Jordan, Xavier and Amelia. Bill was a joy to all in the Geelong church. His infectious smile and hunger for knowledge will be remembered for some time to come. Bill was baptised in 2013 at the age of 96.

Benjamin Townson, Gavin Rowe

ADVERTISING

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WHITEHEAD, William Joseph, born 26.6.1916 in Geelong,

POSITIONS VACANT

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PREPRESS TECHNICIAN

Signs Publishing (Warburton, Victoria)

Signs Publishing is seeking to employ a graphic designer or prepress technician with the ability to use industry standard software such as Adobe Creative Suite, Preps and other imposition software. This role will involve an understanding of digital workflow principles, all forms of proofing, colour management and platemaking. Web design and electronic publishing skills will be considered an advantage. The successful candidate will have a commitment to producing high quality work, be customer focused with high attention to detail and have good problem-solving skills. They will take pride in their work and have a genuine interest in fulfilling the mission of the Church with a positive and proactive work attitude. Training will be provided as required to the successful applicant. For further information or for applications in writing (including a current CV) please contact Ray Portbury, Production Manager, on (03) 5965 6300 Monday to Thursday; or email <ray.portbury@signspublishing.com.au>.

Applications close November 8, 2017.

OFFSET PRINTING TRADESPERSON/OFFSET PRINTING APPRENTICE

Signs Publishing (Warburton, Victoria)

Signs Publishing is looking to employ an experienced offset printer or an offset printing apprentice. This is an opportunity for someone to either begin their career or extend their skills using large format Heidelberg printing equipment in a modern production plant. As a printer you will have experience running and maintaining multi-colour sheet-fed presses and have exceptional colour management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines. As an apprentice you will have a mechanical aptitude, be willing to learn and be flexible. The successful applicant will have a commitment to producing high-quality work, be customer focused with high attention to detail and have good problem-solving abilities. They will take pride in their work and have a genuine interest in fulfilling the mission of the Church with a positive and proactive work attitude. They will be physically fit, reliable, flexible and willing to work shifts as required. A forklift licence is an advantage. Training will be provided as required to the successful applicant. Suitable mature-age candidates for a possible printing apprenticeship are also encouraged to apply. For further information or for applications in writing (including a current CV) please contact Ray Portbury, Production Manager, on (03) 5965 6300 Monday to Thursday; or email <ray.portbury@signspublishing.com.au>. **Applications close November 8, 2017.**

AVIATION PROFESSIONALS—PILOTS, LAMES AND/OR MANAGERS (POTENTIAL FLY-IN FLY-OUT ROSTERS)

Adventist Aviation Services PNG

Adventist Aviation Services PNG is seeking expressions of interest

from suitable candidates who are (or were) qualified pilots, LAMEs or managers with aviation management experience for positions becoming available in November 2017 and January 2018. The ideal candidates would be either experienced pilots, LAMEs (Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers) or managers with experience in management of aviation, transport or similar service-related activities. Interested candidates who are active Seventh-day Adventist Church members, mission oriented, professional, hard-working and adventurous, with commercial aptitude for business management, are encouraged to apply. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943.

Applications close November 20, 2017.

CARE MANAGER

Adventist Retirement Village, Melody Park, Qld.

An exciting opportunity exists for an experienced care manager at our Melody Park Adventist Retirement Village. This role is supported on-site by an operations manager who oversees the non-clinical services for this 40-bed ageing-in-place residence. As care manager you will develop, implement and evaluate the clinical/care service components of the strategic plan and work towards our organisational vision, values and signature behaviours. You will be accountable for providing clinical leadership and mentoring to support residents' care needs, including identification of "at risk" or "vulnerable" persons. The successful candidate must be a baptised practising member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To apply or obtain a copy of the position description, contact the Chief Executive Officer, Adventist Retirement Plus, 400 Boundary Street, Spring Hill Qld 4000; phone (07) 3218 7777 or go to our website at <www.arplus.org.au>. **Applications close November 20, 2017.**

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Adventist Aged Care (Kings Langley NSW).

Adventist Aged Care has available a full-time maintenance position based at Kings Langley. The person is responsible to implement general maintenance of the buildings, equipment and grounds with minimum supervision. For further information and a full job description please contact HR by email: <maggiekey@adventist.org.au> or call (02) 8834 6100. To submit your application, please address the selection criteria in your cover letter, together with your CV, and send to the Human Resource Officer, Adventist Aged Care, 56 Elsom St, Kings Langley 2147; or email <maggiekey@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close November 17, 2017.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:

ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU



/SDAJOB



each. 2000 books (cash only). A must for lay preachers, SS teachers, librarians, all readers. Religion, commentaries, E G White, Bibles, Christian novels, cooking and more. Make a calendar note now. Tuesday, November 7, 11am-3pm, Nunawading church, Central Rd, Nunawading, (Vic). For the benefit of the church building fund.

DARETON 80TH ANNIVERSARY, November 18-19, 2017. All former members, families and friends invited. Lunch provided after Sabbath service. Sunday community event includes live music, afternoon tea and kids' activities. For more info or to RSVP by November 8, contact Connie at <connietoga@adventist.org.au> or 0439 042 082. Any memorabilia including photos would be appreciated for displaying.

ALLROUND TRAVEL CENTRE
We specialise in group and individual travel to all parts of the world. Fully escorted tours for 2018. Jan 2018: Israel and Jordan "In His Footsteps Worship Tour" with Colville and Lea-Anne Smith Faith Tours. May 2018: Mini Reformation/Europe with Pastor Peter Roennfeldt. June 2018: Best of Ireland and Britain with seven-night Fiord cruise with Pastor Harold Harker. July 2018: Patmos, Greece and Italy with Pastor James Toogood. October 2018: Bible lands and Jordan and

Israel "Following Jesus' Steps" with Pastor Peter Roennfeldt. Contact our friendly team Anita or Peter. We welcome your enquiry: <alltrav@bigpond.net.au> or phone (07) 5530 3555.

ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS.
The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle to Wollongong. Contact Arne Neir-inckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy, on 1300 982 803 or mobile 0408 458 452. Call us even if you have already prepaid your funeral: <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>.

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for Adventist television and radio. Full instructions for

easy DIY installation; technical support available. \$275 plus freight. Australia only. Call (02) 63613636.

ADVENTIST AVIATION ASSOCIATION
Annual general meeting of the Adventist Aviation Association North New South Wales will be held at the Coorabong Community Centre on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6:30pm. Past, present and prospective members welcome. Elections for offices for coming year, reports on missionary activities for 2016/2017 and plans for the future. Please bring a plate of food. Inquiries to the secretary on 0457 472 546.

BRIBIE ADVENTIST CHURCH
A "Back to Bribie Day" is planned for November 18, 2017 at our new venue, the Uniting Church, 76 Webster St, Bongaree, Bribie Island. All past and present members and visitors are welcome to share in the fellowship, memories and

thanksgiving on that Sabbath, 9.30am-4pm. To share photos and memorabilia contact Sue Bellette on (07) 5327 2733 or email <keith_suzette@yahoo.com.au>.

IN HIS FOOTSTEPS ISRAEL & JORDAN WORSHIP TOUR JANUARY 2018. Walk where Jesus walked. Bring Scripture alive. Renew your faith. Visit Capernaum, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, Joppa, Mt Carmel, Petra, Galilee, Dead Sea, Qumran and others. Book by October 31 for early-bird discount. For an itinerary phone Colville or Lea-Anne Smith 0417 017 892 or <contact@faithtours.com.au>. Faith. Fun. Fellowship. Affordable. <www.faithtours.com.au>

MISSIONARIES LUNCHEON
Education building—Avondale graduation, December 9. Please give a short talk on "Your personal experience on arrival in the mission field". Queries Ken Boehm: 0408 072 313.

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

CEDARVALE

Traineeships in health ministry. Applications exist for a one-year program. Includes several nationally accredited courses as well as on-the-job training in a health retreat setting. Be mentored alongside a team of dedicated professionals. This is a great opportunity to be trained and be actively involved in health ministry. Positions commence January 2018. For more information visit <www.cedarvale.org>. **Applications close November 10, 2017.**

PALM ISLAND MINISTRY

Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc.

The MMTI is looking for a married couple to join present staff and co-manage the established ministry on Palm Island, Queensland. The applicants may be from any cultural background and education, however it is required that they are truly heart converted, live the Adventist health message and have a passion for service. A position description can be provided for anyone interested in this ministry opportunity. Please contact Bev Krogdahl on 0458 536 115 or email <mmti.org.au@gmail.com>.

The above ministries are independent ministries supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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