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THE URGE TO PURGE

It makes sense. Drain out the bad stuff to keep the good. At least that was the theory behind the widespread practice of blood-letting in the Middle Ages. The practice itself was much older, stemming from the Greek philosophers who were trying to keep the four humours balanced. Almost any ailment would be "cured" by a visit from the doctor, a small knife and a cut in your veins. What you may not know is that it was still wildly popular even up to the 1800s throughout the West and is practised by some in the East even to this day.

While blood-letting itself has fallen out of favour with most doctors and has been shown to be not very effective (except for a few very specialised and rare conditions, like when the body produces too much blood), the urge to purge is still very much in favour within our Christian churches.

When we become Christians, we are encouraged to cut out the things that are not conducive to living like Christ—rap music, fiction novels, movies, social media, even sport—and we try. And sometimes a revival comes along and we are told again about the evils of secular things and so we burn our CD collections and we sell our televisions. Even Christmas is denounced as a pagan holiday. And so we purge these things out of our lives and personalities. If we indulge we feel guilty, but if we can cut them out, it makes us feel holy.

The urge to purge comes naturally. It makes sense. Jesus told us not to love the things of this world. We know that where our treasure is, we'll end up.

Yet I wonder if we aren't focused on the wrong things. Purging these things from our lives doesn't make us more holy. This is the religion of the Pharisees as we work our way to heaven.

Now don't get me wrong. We can form an unhealthy attachment to some of these activities. And if we worship them and chase them, then sometimes they need to be cut out.

But it is so much easier to cut everything out than to allow a deep heart transplant. That is what Christ wants

to do. He wants to replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. He wants to make us a new creation. Yet we are content with the surface acts. With the blood-letting. Blood-letting was supposed to balance the humours but I can't see how it doesn't let out the good with the bad.

We are better off having a theology of reclamation. This seems more in line with the Jesus who would attend parties and was accused of being a glutton and a drunk. Jesus looked for opportunities to reclaim every situation He was in and to offer heart transplants to those He met.

Unfortunately the urge to purge extends to people as well. We become Christians and we cut off former interests and pursuits and we cut off the people we knew through them. We cut off those who are not "worthy" for

us to hang out with, those with problems and difficulties, so we can "get ourselves right". By the time we look around, we've lost all our meaningful relationships and all our friends are Christian. There are no opportunities to reclaim. We've lost too much blood and our lives are pale and anaemic.

Music with a beat is not evil, it can be beautiful. Novels and movies can reveal God and His love and the wonders of Creation

in a way a textbook cannot. They can also cast light on the sinful human condition and point us to hope, making us long for something better. God is a creative God. He has placed in us the need for creative outlets and collaboration. We must look at the world as Jesus looks at us, asking, "How can I reclaim every area?" Some things are unhealthy and need to be cut out but we must be judicious and discerning, looking for opportunities to lift up ourselves and others.

Christ has given us the authority and the victory. Let's use it to seek reclamation in the activities we enjoy, the people we meet and the events we attend. We are called to be conquerors.

WE'VE LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD ... OUR LIVES ARE PALE AND ANAEMIC

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HEART

"I have never heard the Avondale College Church filled with such magnificent singing", was the response from a weekly participant in worship there. She was commenting on the singing by all the Australian pastors at the recent ministers' meetings at Avondale. One of the musicians also commented, "The singing was so loud it drowned out the instruments." The singing had power and conviction that was spine-tingling. There were times I found it hard to sing as the music and words overwhelmed me. For me, singing and praising God reveal the heart.

The most vivid memory from the first pastors' meeting I attended as an intern was the singing. The instruments were a piano and guitar, but again the volume and emotion of thanksgiving overpowered them. Since then I have been to many pastors' meetings in Australia, New Zealand, PNG, Samoa and the rest of the Pacific and, in each of them, the time of praise in song was a highlight. Sometimes it was completely a cappella.

As a long-term pastor I know I have weaknesses. As I interact with my female and male colleagues I observe and sometimes have to work through some of the issues we create. We are not perfect and need to grow in our discipleship with Jesus, just like everyone else. However the extra "power" revealed in the times of worship shows that we pastors generally have a heart for God. I interpret this heart as a passion for God, His message, mission and church. This is confirmed as I listen to my colleagues at such gatherings.

We do get discouraged when our efforts do not produce the desired change in our community or church—so the pastors' meetings give us a boost. But our greatest hope is that our heart for God is reflected in the church we work with to reach others.

It is no wonder that "inspiring worship" is one of the key characteristics of a healthy church. May God grant us all a heart for worship (Psalm 66:4).



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
/SPDpresident

THE BREAKFAST SHOW GOES LIVE

ADELE NASH

Faith FM's breakfast show went live for the first time on February 14, hosted by Pastor Lyle Southwell and the show's director Nic Coutet.

For the past few years, *The Breakfast Show* has been pre-recorded in a purpose-built studio at the offices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North New South Wales (NNSW). However, its reach and impact have grown to the point where it made sense to go live.

Faith FM team members from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) and NNSW worked hard to make live broadcasting possible; researching and testing thoroughly, and making sure the technology could handle it.

"For the past three months, it has been a team effort to prepare for going live," said Michael Engelbrecht, who manages Faith FM for the AUC. "This is a first for the Faith FM network. We have gone live in the Newcastle, Central Coast and Geelong (Vic) regions, and have plans to



BREAKFAST SHOW AND FAITH FM TEAM MEMBERS.

expand across the country in coming months.

"The reason we're doing this is because Faith FM has proven to be very effective in connecting listeners with local churches, and we think being live will make it even more effective with the personal connection with listeners. They will be able to call in and directly participate in the program."

A growing number of people have been connected with Seventh-day Adventist churches through the ministry of Faith FM. You can tune in around Australia on 87.6, 87.8 and 88 FM, or listen online at <<https://faith-fm.com.au>>.

CYCLONE DAMAGES CHURCHES, SCHOOLS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools and houses were extensively damaged by Tropical Cyclone Gita, which tore across Tonga last month.

The Category 4 cyclone caused widespread flooding and blackouts. It has been described as the worst cyclone to hit Tonga in 60 years.

Beulah College, Beulah Primary and Hilliard Memorial Adventist schools were all extensively damaged. Beulah was the worst affected; a number of buildings had roofs blown off and the industrial arts building was badly damaged. Three staff houses are now uninhabitable.

District pastors also reported significant damage to their houses and church buildings.

The cyclone had already lashed parts of Samoa and American Samoa before reaching Tonga. ADRA



FLOODING IN SAMOA.

Samoa opened an evacuation centre at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Apia, providing shelter for more than 200 people. The agency also worked with the Red Cross to provide meals and accommodation.

Trans Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga expressed his concern for all those affected. "I am so sad to hear of the damage that Cyclone Gita did to our Pacific Islands, American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga. Our prayers go out to you all at this very time."

INSPIRING STORIES FOCUS OF NEW ATSIM RESOURCE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Kevin Merritt's story is heartbreaking. His young life was torn apart in 1946 when he, his mother and four of his 12 siblings were taken from their home to the Moore River Native Settlement, run by the Western Australian Government.

"We didn't know it at the time, but we had become part of the Stolen Generations," Mr Merritt recalls in "God Was With Me" from *Our Stories, God Stories*, a new resource produced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM), a department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia.

"Life at Moore River was harsh. We were separated from our mother. She could hear us crying for her at night but there was nothing she could do about it. At times we received severe beatings; in fact, my brother was beaten with a stock whip for something he didn't do. It was a cruel place."

Mr Merritt's school years were happier times—he spent lots of hours boxing and playing football. But his life

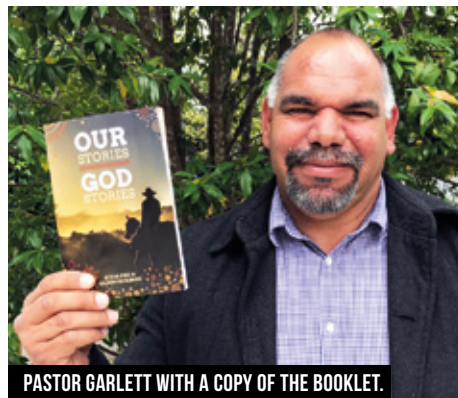
had no real direction until he met Barbara, who he married in 1968. Barbara, a Seventh-day Adventist, influenced him to commit his life to God.

Our Stories, God Stories is filled with stories like this: stories of hardship, loss, outback life, isolation and, ultimately, being transformed through Jesus' love.

"They are stories about how God has worked in people's lives," ATSIM director Pastor Darren Garlett said. "It's an easy reading little booklet that will get people thinking about God and how He has been a part of their life."

Although primarily aimed at Indigenous communities, Pastor Garlett said the booklet has wide appeal.

"It's a resource for anybody," he said. "The stories are from right across Australia. Some of the people telling the stories are students at Mamarapha College (an Adventist Bible college in Western Australia). So it's talking about the impact of the college on their life as well."



PASTOR GARLETT WITH A COPY OF THE BOOKLET.

ATSIM has also recently produced a collection of postcards and posters, which are proving very popular across the outback.

"It (the ministry) is just growing and growing," Pastor Garlett said. "It's growing in areas where we don't have any Adventist churches. We have got people hearing about it or getting hold of a resource and then from there they want to know more and they start contacting us. So it's exciting."

ATSIM resources are available at: <http://www.atsim.org>.

LONGEST-SERVING ADVENTIST MISSIONARY HONOURED

TERESA COSTELLO/MARITZA BRUNT

An Australian Adventist volunteer has received a special commemoration for her many years of missionary service.

Helen Hall, who turned 80 in February, is the longest serving and oldest active Adventist Volunteer Services (AVS) missionary. She has served for 36 years on the Myanmar-Thailand border.

On January 30, Ms Hall was recognised for these milestones during a four-division leadership conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) AVS director Kevin Costello commended Ms Hall for her service both to the Karen people of Myanmar and in the Maela Refugee Camp in Thailand. SSD president Samuel Saw presented Ms Hall with a special plaque. Plaques

were also presented by South Pacific Division president Glenn Townend and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists vice president Ella Simmons, who represented AVS world director John Thomas.

"We deeply appreciate the determination, courage and commitment that Helen has had for so many years for the displaced people of the border," Pastor Saw said. "Helen has dedicated her life to changing the lives of others and many will be in the kingdom because of her efforts."

Ms Hall's service includes years as an educator in four countries, including Kabiufa College in Papua New Guinea, and 22 years for the Adventist Church in Victoria. She is the founder of Eden



HELEN HALL WITH FORMER EDEN VALLEY ACADEMY STUDENTS.

Valley Academy, which was born out of the Maela Refugee Camp for the Karen people more than three decades ago and has baptised more than 1500 students. Ms Hall has also received numerous awards, including a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Andrews University in 2010.

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE MAKES A SPLASH

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

In what is believed to be a world first for a Pathfinder camporee, the entire event was held on water.

A specially-constructed pontoon, afloat on a lagoon adjoining the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea, was the site for the camporee, held in December 2017. The 50m x 40m structure accommodated 350 Pathfinders and staff, and 47 tents. Fittingly, the theme was "Floating in the arms of God", with four clubs taking part in the 22 water activities.

Patrick Maru, youth coordinator for the Ambunti District, Sepik Mission, said planning for the event began three years ago. He wanted to make a change to the usual style of Pathfinder camping.

The program was officially opened by youth director Pastor Missikaram Guguna, assisted by guest speaker Pastor Lessley Yamahune, stewardship director for the Sepik Mission. They were escorted onto the pontoon by the costumed "crocodile man", symbolising the Sepik River people.

Despite a positive start, the camporee suffered a serious setback early on the third day when a large thunderstorm struck. "The rain started pouring heavily and the wind blew mightily, breaking down all our tents," Mr Maru said. "Leaders were running here and there with their torches, checking all the kids.

"I was recalling the Bible story about Jesus and the storm



WORLD FIRST: A FLOATING CAMPOREE.

and that gave peace. That cold rainy windy night, I cried to Him for help."


The storm was so powerful that large bush ropes and bamboo posts holding the pontoon in position snapped, causing it to become adrift. It remained intact but drifted about 300m, coming to rest in a bay. Two outboard canoes pushed the pontoon back to its original position.

"Pathfinders and leaders have seen the mighty hand of God during our one-week camp . . . these Pathfinders will have a story to tell to their kids in the future," Mr Maru said.

By the end of the week 47 Pathfinders had been baptised in a baptismal pool in the centre of the pontoon.



South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross said it was a unique event. "It may well be the first time in the world that a Pathfinder camporee has been held on water."

MAY 5



**RIVERSIDE
ADVENTIST
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**
Nurture for Today • Learning for Tomorrow • Character for Eternity

Riverside Adventist Christian School in Townsville is celebrating 50 years of God's blessings. We invite all past and present admin, staff and students to share a Sabbath of celebration, reflection and praise at Riverside. See our Facebook page to register your intentions and upload stories or photos.



Friday - Vespers 6.00pm
Saturday - Prayer Walk 7.00am
Main Service 10:00am
Guest Speaker: Dr John Hammond
Thanksgiving Service & Dedication 2.30pm

♪ FROM LITTLE SCHOOLS...BIG THINGS GROW! ♪

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CHURCH LEADERS MOURN FERRY TRAGEDY

JARROD STACKELROTH

The Seventh-day Adventist Church released an expression of support and condolence to the people of Kiribati following January's ferry disaster, which claimed more than 80 lives.

Travelling between the island of Nonouti and the township of Betio, the loaded ferry failed to arrive on January 20 as scheduled.

According to the *Guardian Australia* website, there was no list of passengers, so the Nonouti council had to go from door to door on the island to establish who was on board.

Of the 88 people believed to have been aboard the *MV Butiraoi*, only seven

survivors have been found.

Pastor Luther Taniveke, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Kiribati, released this statement:

"On behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist church members of Kiribati, we wish to share our sympathy with the nation of Kiribati and particularly the Nonouti island community for the loss of their family members and relatives in the recent tragedy of the sunken ferry. Our prayers are with you in this time of sorrow and sadness. May our good Lord comfort you in this time of sorrow."

Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, president of the Trans Pacific Union Mission, also offered his condolences. "I offer my sincere love to the families who have been affected and want them to know that you are in our prayers. We believe that Jesus' coming is very soon and He will end all pain. May God give strength and courage as we face the reality of living in a sinful world."



400 WORKERS GATHER FOR TRAINING

BEN ONUM/RUSSELL WORUBA

More than 400 Central Papua Conference (CPC) pastors, Bible workers, volunteers, teachers and health workers gathered at the Mt Diamond Adventist Secondary School outside Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) for an orientation and training week from January 21-28.

With the theme, "Arise and Shine! Go and Make Disciples", based on Isaiah 60, the event was the first of its kind on such a large scale to focus on practical discipleship.

Plenary sessions included workshops delivered by the Conference's departmental directors, who covered key practical and implementable actions for discipleship in their respective departments. The main ideas were further discussed and recommendations were presented by smaller discussion groups which gathered after the workshops.

It was a special occasion as the sharing of ideas by teachers, ministers



and health workers in the discussion groups highlighted unique challenges and opportunities on how discipleship can be better implemented in their respective contexts.

The workers participated in the celebration of foot-washing and communion on the Friday evening and were blessed on Sabbath morning by an appeal from former Conference president Pastor Tony Kemo. Despite a heavy downpour throughout the week, all returned to their respective workplaces challenged, yet refreshed.

NEWS GRABS



FAREWELL DEL

Tributes from across the globe have poured in for Voice of Prophecy soloist Del Delker, who passed away on January 31, aged 93. For more than five decades, whether over the airwaves, in a church or at an evangelistic meeting, her strong contralto voice unabashedly shared Christ's love with rapt audiences around the world. —*Adventist Review*



HISTORIC HOSPITAL

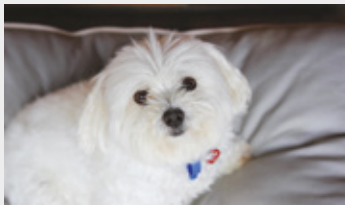
The Adventist Church in Nicaragua recently opened a new Adventist Hospital in the city of Estelí, making the facility the only private hospital in the city. The hospital has already received praise from government officials, who have asked the Church to branch out its healthcare ministry to other cities. —*IAD*



FAITH OF DOSS LIVES ON

Nearly 18 months after its initial release, *Hacksaw Ridge* continues to impact lives around the world. In Poland, the movie won "Best Foreign Film" at the prestigious *Bestsellery Empik* award ceremony on February 6. The Sabbath prior to the ceremony, church members in Krakow also celebrated as a young woman was baptised as a direct result of watching the film. —*TED*

HOT TOPICS



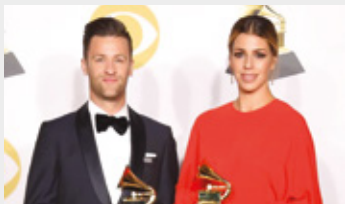
PUPPY LOVE

Dog owners know how much warmth and comfort their canine companions add to their lives, but reports from the Harvard Medical School and a Swedish epidemiological study show they may be good for your heart, too, helping to calm jagged nerves, reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, and even cutting your risk of death from cardiovascular disease. —*GI News*



NEW GOALS

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles, who won the coveted Superbowl Most Valuable Player award recently, made a surprising announcement about his future career plans. He intends to become a pastor after his retirement from football, telling reporters, "I want to be a pastor in a high school. [I] want to impact people's hearts." —*Relevant*



WORSHIP WINNERS

Hillsong Worship recently won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song for their single "What A Beautiful Name". The song, recorded in 2016, was co-written by New Zealand-born Brooke Fraser and continues to be the fastest growing song in modern church history, with 112 million views on YouTube. —*Rogers & Cowan*

AVONDALE RESEARCH SHOWS IMPORTANCE OF OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE IN TRAINING TEACHERS

BRENTON STACEY

Challenging overseas professional experiences fostering a sense of freedom and belonging lead to better learning for pre-service teachers, research by an Avondale lecturer shows.

The stories of four pre-service teachers who completed professional experience at a remote village school in Mahendra Jyoti in the Bagmati Zone of central Nepal form the core of Dr Jason Hinze's thesis.

Their stories show the importance of overseas experiences that lead to critical reflection.

For example, the more culturally diverse the experience, and the earlier the experience comes in their course, the more likely a pre-service teacher is to benefit. They also benefit when the experience "closely mirrors" the realities of teaching. This means immersing a pre-service teacher, again earlier in their course and for a longer period, in the challenge of managing teaching workload, extra curricular activities and administrative tasks. "Unless pre-service teachers are separated from what is familiar . . . it is likely that they will experience little growth in relation to their stories of self," writes Dr Hinze, the secondary course convener and the coordinator of Ministry Of Teaching Overseas in the Discipline of Education at Avondale College of Higher Education.

The research places more emphasis on student-directed learning but also more onus on schools and teacher edu-



PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS FROM AVONDALE COLLEGE IN NEPAL.

cators to facilitate this learning. Schools should treat pre-service teachers as teachers rather than teachers in training. Educators should "widen their focus from 'What is being taught?' to 'How supported and connected do pre-service teachers feel within their learning experience?'" writes Dr Hinze. He suggests educators develop "families of learners" within large student cohorts and coordinate team-building experiences to foster long-term relationships.

The pre-service teachers also felt a sense of belonging when they completed their experience in teams. Talking with a perceived equal rather than an expert after a failure or success encouraged the students to solve problems together, notes Dr Hinze.

This freedom to experiment and learn through reflection also supported the development of stories of self. So Dr Hinze suggests educators seek alternative assessment procedures—involving the pre-service teacher and their mentor in a co-construction of the grade, for example—to reduce external pressure.

Placing pre-service teachers in experiences that promote confusion and inner discomfort may initially appear unnecessary, said Dr Hinze, but "I now believe it's only by destabilising existing beliefs and behaviours, often developed by habitual thinking and action, that real transformation comes."

Dr Hinze became the ninth student to graduate with a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Avondale.



DR JASON HINZE.

FLASHPOINT



GISBORNE ORDINATION

Attendance at Gisborne Seventh-day Adventist Church (NZ) nearly doubled for the recent ordination service of Pastor John Smolka. Graduating in 2012 from Avondale Seminary, Pastor Smolka and his family accepted the position in Gisborne. Despite the remoteness of his posting, Pastor Smolka's ability to touch people's lives was not hindered, as evidenced by attendees from across the North Island. The ceremony, led by North NZ lead pastor Eddie Tupai'i and attended by general secretary Ben Timothy and NZ Pacific Union Conference president Dr Brad Kemp, was followed by lunch, an afternoon stroll by the sea and a picnic dinner. —Record staff



KITCHEN DUTY

Ayr ADRA Community Kitchen (Qld) opened its doors for the first time on February 10. The free service will operate on the second Sabbath of every month. Ayr church pastor Esava Koro said the initiative is about reconnecting with the community. "We hope the new kitchen will provide a platform to give Burdekin residents support and a social outing," he said. "It will also help us to know the services available in the community [and have] a platform that will help people to come and share with each other, to understand each other." —Burdekin Advocate



TEEN SPIRIT

What do you get when a bus full of 50 teenagers are prepared and willing to serve in the community? During the recent South New Zealand Big Camp, the High School division travelled to Oxford to run a Fun Day for children in the community. Around 40 children attended the event where there was face painting, cupcake decorating, craft building, games and even a David and Goliath skit. "This was a great opportunity to build relationships with the community in Oxford and for our teens to have a whole lot of fun serving," said High School division leader Pastor Jonathon Gillard. —South News



ALL ABOARD

When Southland Adventist Christian School (New Zealand) students started the school year on January 29, there was a special surprise waiting for them. During the holidays, the school upgraded to a new, long-awaited school bus, which can now transport 56 primary students. "This has been a long time coming and the students and school community are all very excited," said principal Josh Taylor. "Over half of the school students arrive each day via bus and the new bus will help the school to extend its ability to reach out to the people of Invercargill by providing quality Adventist education." —Record staff



SONGS OF HOPE

In March 2016, after much prayer, "Voices of Testimony" was born out of the Gympie Adventist Church (Qld). Conducted by Kim Clarke and featuring members of the church, their first public appearance was a special item one Sabbath. Following this, the group became known for their reverent and spiritually based music repertoire, and were invited to participate in the local community event in the main street of Gympie held every December to celebrate the birth of Christ. A special invitation was extended in December 2017 to perform at Gympie's Carols by Candlelight event, where they sang "O Holy Night" to an audience of 5000 people. —Sandra Lee



KIDS' TRAINING

Children's ministry leaders representing 52 local churches in the western division of Fiji recently gathered for leadership training. Sessions included building resiliency in children and involving children in mission, where children's ministry leaders shared their personal experiences in nurturing the kids. At the completion of the course, 150 leaders graduated with Level 2 Leadership Training Certification. —Fiji Mission



MISSION MINISTRY

Recognising the need for good knowledge and understanding of the protocols involved in acquiring land for mission purposes, the Morobe Mission (Papua New Guinea) recently conducted training in this area for its members. Over three days, participants from every district of the Mission met at the headquarters in Lae, learning how to locate mission areas using a GPS device and then plotting it into a map. —Record staff



PREFECT INDUCTION

The 2018 school year at Suva Adventist College (Fiji) began with the induction of more than 30 prefects. The chosen students were presented with flowers and garlands while their badges were pinned on by family members. The special ceremony also included speeches and a dedicatory prayer. —Fiji Mission/Maritza Brunt



Photos by Murray Hunter

PASTORS EMPOWERED

Have you ever tried to organise close to 500 pastors for a group photo? It's a mission, that's for sure. But what's even more of a mission are the scenarios some of these ministers face on a daily basis. From Thursday Island in the north to Hobart in the south, Norfolk Island in the east to Broome in the west, and the remote Finke church in the middle of the outback, the call to minister in Australia can be challenging, tough and thankless. But given the vastness of this country, with the challenges come opportunities for mission and blessings far exceeding expectations.

Held every five years, the minis-

ters' meetings, organised by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC), provide a platform to hear such stories of mission. It's a time where pastors from across Australia can come together to be inspired, encouraged and, as per this year's theme, empowered.

"Our theme, 'Empower', was based on Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church (Ephesians 3) and it was our prayer as a Union that our ministers would also 'experience the love of Christ' that Paul refers to in this letter," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz.

"The purpose for the meetings was not only to encourage and empower

our pastors to continue making disciples but also to offer them a chance to network and connect with other pastors and learn from one another, but principally from God."

Held at Avondale College (NSW) from February 6-10, the more than 15 keynote speakers included Dr Cedric Vine, associate professor of New Testament at Andrews University, Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, who recently retired from the role of Ministerial Association secretary for the British Union Conference, and Pastor Benjamin Lundquist, the Young Adult Ministries coordinator for the North American Division and Oregon Conference.

The daily schedule was jam-



STEPHEN KANE, SOUTH QUEENSLAND

"I'm really excited about the '7 Dimensions of Wellness' health program—I think it will be really significant in our communities. I also enjoyed connecting with other people who are serving God."



HANNAH ANDRYKANUS, VICTORIA

"Gathering as pastors from all corners of Australia instilled in me a sense of duty and calling that God has for our Church and our nation."



JOSEPH MATICIC, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"A highlight for me was all of us pastors spending time together in combined praise and worship—that was really inspiring."



packed, beginning with 6 am exercise and prayer groups, and including plenary sessions, interactive SUM talks, and more than 20 workshops across 10 different streams each afternoon. Lunch and dinners served in packs made catching up with friends simple while an expo hall set up in the auditorium also provided opportunities for ministers to collect resources, have their professional photos updated and network with colleagues from around the Union and Division.

The special Partners in Ministry dinner on Wednesday night catered to the more than 170 pastors' spouses who also attended the meetings, while the Women in Pastoral Ministry

dinner sought to affirm and encourage the more than 40 women called to ministry in Australia. Most evenings included a book launch, with the program culminating on Sabbath afternoon with a gospel concert by the Institute of Worship orchestra.

"To hear more than 500 ministers and their spouses singing and praying together was inspiring," said AUC Ministerial Association secretary Pastor Brendan Pratt. "It was wonderful to see pastors encouraging and supporting each other. We packed in a lot of professional development but still had time to praise God and spend time together."

Organising a meeting of this size

and calibre was a challenge two years in the making, and Pastor Pratt paid tribute throughout the week to members of the Ministerial Association who made the event possible.

"The ministerial secretaries from around the Union put a lot of time in to make it work," he said. "However, to have pastors leave, saying they have been refreshed, inspired and empowered, makes it all worth it."

"We were deeply blessed and encouraged in our time here together at Avondale," Pastor Munoz said. "We value the development of our ministerial staff and are eager for our entire team to be better equipped to share Jesus' message of hope."



SHARYN HARRINGTON, SOUTH QUEENSLAND

"I really loved engaging with fellow colleagues, and to see the number of women in ministry and the support that there is for them was really encouraging and inspiring."



MUSU AMUIMUIA, NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

"Hearing testimonies and experiences from pastors across our Union has been awesome. I don't often see other ministers because we pastor in a remote town, so it was good to connect with colleagues in ministry."



DANNY MILENKOV, NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES

"One of the highlights was Tuesday night's message—it helped me to realise the important role of being a prophet in the midst of a fallen culture, seeking to connect people to God."

AN AFFAIR to forgive

Elizabeth* thought she had the perfect marriage. She and her husband Rick were one of those couples who started dating in high school and managed to stay together. On her 24th birthday, Rick took her out to dinner and surprised her with an engagement ring. She was ecstatic.

After an overseas honeymoon, Rick and Elizabeth moved into a beautiful house in an affluent suburb. They had kids. They even had a dog. It really was the perfect marriage . . . at least on paper.

"We'd been married for nine years when Rick started acting differently," Elizabeth recalls. "He was hardly ever at home. And when he was at home, he was distant and didn't want to spend time with the family."

"He's having an affair," her sister warned.

Elizabeth dismissed the accusation. Not her Rick. Not the man she'd been with for almost 20 years.

But her sister was right.

"He moved out a week later," says Elizabeth. "My youngest child refused to go to bed. She wanted to stay up every night in case Daddy came home."

Elizabeth decided to move interstate and leave the memory of her failed marriage behind. She found a new job, a new home to rent and even bought a new (second-hand) car.

"I didn't want any reminders of Rick or what he had done," she explains.

"I didn't want to ever see him again."

But then Elizabeth became a Christian. One morning, she was sitting in church when the pastor read this verse: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father."

The words hit her like a slap in the face.

"It was like he was speaking directly to me," recalls Elizabeth. "But how could I ever forgive Rick?"

"Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea—until he has something to forgive," says Christian writer CS Lewis.

It's easy to preach about, but it's difficult to do. When people hurt us, our instinct is to hurt them back. But the first step to forgiving someone is relinquishing the right to revenge.

This doesn't mean we should accept abuse. But it does mean we can let go of burdens that keep us from moving on.

After all, "vengeance is mine", God reminds us in Romans. It isn't ours to exert. If we believe God's promises, we must believe that there will come a time when He will triumph over our trials. There are many biblical examples of people who were able to rise above their painful situations and forgive. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to Egypt, yet he chose to forgive them for what they had done. Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, yet they chose to praise God through song.

And history's most unjust act also led to history's greatest example of forgiveness—who can forget a sinless Saviour forgiving us for putting the weight of the world's sins on His shoulders?

Elizabeth and Rick didn't get back together. But she has made significant steps towards healing. She now sees a Christian counsellor twice a week and allows Rick to visit their kids when he's in town.

"Forgiving Rick doesn't mean I don't still hurt," she confesses. "I still have days when all I want to do is lie in bed and scream and cry. But for the most part, I'm choosing to give that pain to Jesus."

In the end, forgiveness is our choice—but it's only possible through the strength and grace of God.

** Names have been changed for privacy. To learn more about the life-saving power of forgiveness, visit <www.forgivetolive.org.au>.*

VANIA CHEW ASSISTANT EDITOR OF ADVENTIST RECORD.





HOPE IN RED BUCKETS

Yaladro Hut residents, on the outskirts of Tavua Town in Fiji (on the central north coast of the main island, Viti Levu), were overwhelmed and delighted when they received red buckets full of goods from the Natogo Adventist Dorcas Club. Natogo is a branch Sabbath School of Vatukoula Central Adventist church and has around 15 adults and 12 children.

Named after the biblical character Dorcas (or Tabitha), who was known for “always doing good and helping the poor” (see Acts 9:36-43), these clubs—still active in many Adventist churches around the world—provide clothing and food for people in need.

According to Akanisi Tikinamasei, the assistant Dorcas Club leader, the women felt that it was their duty to visit the weak and poor and to share the blessings they had received from God. Although the Dorcas women are unemployed, they made it their business to visit each family and pray with them.

They then presented each family with one of the nine buckets, which were filled with groceries such as dhal (lentils), rice, sugar, flour, tuna, onions, biscuits and toiletries. They also took vegetables such as eggplants, plantains (a starchy, ba-

nana-like fruit that is often cooked) and cassava (a staple root vegetable in Fiji).

The families, both of native Fijian and Indian descent, were emotional and shed tears of joy when they received their red buckets filled with groceries and God’s love.

Lavenia Fiu, a Dorcas member, added that, despite belonging to a new Sabbath School branch, the women of Natogo were eager to make big impacts in the community in small ways.

“We are not rich but we want to share the good news that even though we live in a world of suffering, we should put our trust in God because He is still in control,” said Akanisi.

Dorcas is not the only ministry involving the Natogo group. The team also runs children’s ministry programs for the Indian and Fijian children in the community.

The church members deliver firewood to the elderly and widows in the community.

They are trying to save money for land and a permanent church building as they currently meet in a corrugated iron shed.

| SAROME FIU TIKODUADUA

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

REACHING THE UNCHURCHED: UNCOMPROMISED TEMPLES

We are discovering that reaching the unchurched in Daniel is not a program or a technique, but the result of living life as a true disciple. Interestingly, in Daniel it begins with four youths caring for living temples—their bodies. [READ DANIEL 1:1,2,8; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16,17.](#)

They saw their bodies as God’s temple and followed His commands to abstain from alcohol and unclean foods. We need to follow their example. But often we hide our lights through compromise by having tea, coffee and other health-destroying drinks and foods. [READ JOHN 2:19,21; DANIEL 1:8; PROVERBS 20:1; 23:29-35; DEUTERONOMY 14:3-20.](#)

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with the results of their healthful living that he brought Daniel and his friends into the palace where they eventually led the king to accept God. [READ DANIEL 1:17-21; 4:37.](#)

Methodist scholar, Dean Kelley, speaking to Adventist ministers, said, “If Adventists want to stop growing and begin declining like everybody else, all they have to do is to emphasize that abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and caffeine isn’t really essential to salvation. Decide that vegetarianism isn’t all that important . . . that all these quaint and peculiar truths are really just trimming on the cake, that all one needs is love or faith.” If we are serious about making disciples, let’s decide today to care for our body temples and share God’s health principles.



A BABYLONIAN RATION TABLET OF KING JEHOIACHIN.

THE RIGHT PLACE TO START

The Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative and the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.)

In a recent online post I read, the author noted that many doctrinal belief statements begin with a treatment of the Bible or Scriptures. He went on to suggest the doctrine of God should really come first. After all, everything is about God. All our beliefs find their reason and source in Him.

In contrast, the Bible is a human book and only a secondary revelation of God Himself. Have we Adventists got the order of our doctrines wrong?

FROM KNOWN TO UNKNOWN

There are a number of suppositions implicit in the order of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs—first, that before we can say anything concrete about God, it needs to be revealed to us. So to entertain the idea of God—to understand His character or discover truth about Him—there must first be some kind of revelation or encounter.

While we could start by postulating

about the doctrine of God it would be equally legitimate to deal with the doctrine of man. We could note what we know to be true from our experience about human nature, sinfulness, love, relationships, how we die, suffer, search for meaning and so on.

Instead, we start at a place where the human and divine intersect. The Bible is not the first, not the only, not the best revelation of God (see Hebrews 1:1-3). But it is common to us all. It is a shared reference point.¹

We move from what is known, in this case our reading of Scripture, to what is unknown—the Person of God.

HUMAN LIMITS OF KNOWING GOD

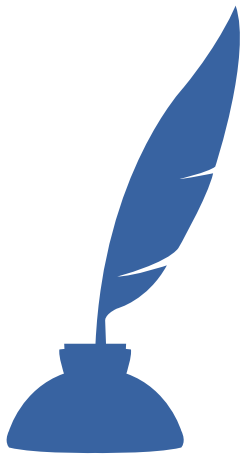
Therefore, systematising our beliefs begins by recognising that theology is both enhanced and limited by our human condition and experience. To pray, write or speak of God requires language (itself an arbitrary

human construct). To think of God or commune with Him requires human consciousness, created in a matrix of organic chemical and electric impulses that we do not fully understand but that is very much human.

Through such impulses, visionary states, vivid dreams and impressions, men and women feel compelled or driven to give voice and word to their thoughts.² These, of course, are steeped in cultural nuisances, historical references, local idiom and exotic world views that may be foreign to us.

To experience the acts or presence of God engages human senses of sight, sound, touch etc, which are profoundly personal and also subjective. Scripture, therefore, is an artefact of this encounter between the human and the divine. We cannot isolate it from the human experience of ancient people or ourselves for that matter.

The fact God reveals Himself to us



at all should cause us to engage in theological dialogue with a great deal of humility and some holy hesitation. Having read the first doctrinal statement, we should proceed to the other 27 with caution—for to be certain about God implies a certain misguided over-confidence in ourselves.

Despite being an infallible and authoritative revelation of His will, the Bible leaves plenty of room for uncertainty. Yes, there are profound statements of truth, confidence and faith. There are voices from heaven and glory on mountains. But there are also doubts, struggles, contradictions and unanswered questions that Scripture leaves us with. Its revelation, while necessary for a knowledge of God and salvation, is partial and incomplete. The theological controversies in our own denomination should be evidence enough of this.

Even the Gospels—God’s ultimate self-revelation in the Personhood of Jesus—are limited. What we know about God, as revealed in Creation, personal experience and the collective experience recounted in the historical record of Scripture, is only made possible by an act of divine grace. It is at God’s initiative.

Divine revelation then is a fusion of divine and human elements, the distinctions of which are mostly indistinguishable. The Scriptures are the fruit conceived by the intimate union of the human and divine.

As the Spirit hovers over the waters in Genesis 1, the Logos (Word) of God speaks life into existence. In the same

way the Holy Spirit hovers over Mary³ and the Word of God is fulfilled with the incarnation of Jesus as the Logos⁴ becomes flesh and makes His home with us (John 1).

So, too, the Spirit hovers over the words of human vessels. The Spirit animates ideas, gives life to words and hovers over the writer, and the reader, so that God is conceived and takes form in human language and imagery.

The agency of the Holy Spirit means Scripture is more than inspirational, it is inspired. It is more than historical, it is historic. It is more than myths and legends and tales of heroes and villains. It is the human story. It is God’s story. It is our story.⁵

READING SCRIPTURE TODAY

There is always the danger we may overemphasise either the human or divine element of Scripture to the detriment of the other.

Adventism emerged in the fallout of the enlightenment, humanistic rationalism and democratisation. Our pioneers approached Scripture much as people would a textbook, formula or thesis. They mined the Bible for truth to be proven, argued and defended. It was an exercise in reason and it has become our legacy. Yet that encounter with Scripture was not devoid of human emotion, charismatic experiences or deep encounters with a personal God. The beauty of literature gave way to the beauty of Jesus. Not an idea, but a person.

The theological exercise of thinking and talking about God should not take place in a vacuum, devoid of a personal relationship with God or without reference to humanity. Scripture causes the reader to know more about God while leading to a deeper subjective connection. It should also lead us to a deeper knowledge of ourselves, enabling us to be more fully human, while also deepening our connectedness with others.

As I read Scripture, I remember I am doing it through the eyes and experience of another person just like myself. By putting myself in their shoes and understanding their story I can gain a better sense of what God revealed to or through them.

Then I can reflect on how it applies to my own life narrative. I remember our stories aren’t the same. I may draw insight from the interpretation or application made by others who have read the same passage. But I am also mindful the same Spirit hovers over me, the reader. With a whisper the inception of an idea transforms me through the renewing of my mind. At many times and in various ways I am moved, compelled, carried forward to action with divinely-inspired words, thoughts and actions. God has made Himself known to me. Another cycle of His revelation is complete.

1. While recognising that God and the Spirit inspired the ministry of prophets outside the canon of Scripture, Christians have accepted the authoritative nature of this collection of writings called the Bible. Many consider the transmission of Scripture through time and the formation of the canon to have been guided by the Spirit also.
2. 2 Peter 1:21. In Greek, to be moved is also used to describe a boat carried along, driven or compelled before the wind. 2 Peter 1:18 and 1 John 1:1-3 emphasise the sensory nature of the divine revelation, particularly of Jesus.
3. Luke 1:35.
4. Logos literally means “word” in NT Greek. Figuratively, it referred to the essence of matter of something and was used outside the NT to talk about the source and substance of creation: “The Word was with God and the Word was God.”
5. Adventists affirm that Scripture is a trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.



DAMIEN RICE

Former pastor and conference president. He writes from Lake Macquarie (NSW) where he dabbles in digital marketing and consults on people, culture and strategy. He tweets @damorice.

HINDSON AWARDS

We've brought back the Hindson Awards and we're excited about it! "What are the Hindson Awards?" you may well ask. Instituted by a former *Record* editor, the awards recognise you. They recognise the contribution of church members throughout the year to make *Adventist Record* the great magazine that it is.

It has been a few years since we've presented the Hindson Awards. For a while they were awarded in conjunction with the Manifest Creative Arts Festival. But in recent years, they slipped off the radar. People get busy, teams change,

things get missed. However, we decided that the awards are important and should be brought back, although we have changed the formula a bit.

We think you'll agree that 2017 was a great year for *Adventist Record*. We had some amazing content and some great writers. In fact, in the 25 issues, we had 67 different feature writers, not including our team. As you can see, that means we couldn't do what we do without you. So we've picked some of the best stories as a reminder and to say *thank you*, our readers and contributors.



BEST
YOUNG WRITER

CHRISTOPHER PETERSEN



"The end of Bible prophecy?" (June 17)

Honourable mention: Sharna Kosmeier
Christopher's piece about the relevance and reliability of prophecy was well researched and took on an interesting and unusual topic. Not only did his piece do very well on our website but it continued to be very popular online for quite a long time after it was published.



INNOVATION
AWARD

HEATHER KNOBBS



"Sheets for clinics" (December 2), Port Macquarie church

This is a newly-introduced award that looks for innovative ministry ideas. We love to see what God is doing and we love to share the stories of what churches are doing to impact their local communities. So if you've got an innovative or unusual ministry in your local church, send it through and you could be up for our Hindson Innovation Award next year. "Sheets for clinics" highlights the great work of some Port Macquarie church members who have turned unwanted sheets into a mission opportunity.



ROVING
RECORD REPORTER

RUSSELL WORUBA



Adventist Record has a small, hard-working team in the office. We can't be everywhere at once. That's why you are so crucial to submitting news and photos of events that happen around this beautiful and diverse South Pacific region. Russell Woruba, newly appointed at the Central Papua Conference, provided numerous high quality news stories throughout 2017, keeping us well informed on what was happening in the Port Moresby region of Papua New Guinea. You can be a roving *Record* reporter too. Simply submit your news and a picture to news@record.net.au or via the submission form on our website.



"When there seems to be no miracle left for me" (August 5)

Another new award, the Hope Award recognises an exceptional piece of hope-filled writing. This piece was powerful, moving, raw and honest in its wrestling with God and doubt. Hopal was brave and open about a tragedy that devastated her family and which others may relate to. The reader journeys through all this with the author but finds the light on the other side.



(December 23)

Honourable mention: Robyn Goods
The "Have your say" section is a great chance to engage with our articles. We enjoy the affirmation and the challenges that come from your comments. Some letter writers provide additional value to our readers, with a story or argument that is not contained in the original article they are commenting on. Kay Duursma's letter "Remembering Mission" (December 23) engaged with our article by taking readers on a trip into her family's missionary experience.



"Celebrating junk food" (December 2)

Honourable mention: Nathan Tasker
"Stone in the shoe" (July 15)
Haystacks are loved by Adventists for their variety and flavour. They are easily consumed, just like the features considered in this category. "Celebrating junk food" was practical and candid as this brave mother called us out on our culture of junk food at church lunches, Pathfinder events and the like, which flies in the face of our health message. The article made an impact—even nine Adventist health professionals submitted their support of the story. Nathan's piece was also incredibly practical and was a very close second.



"The paralysed God" (May 20)

Honourable mention: Bal Kama
"PNG Adventists in politics" (October 7)
For those who like a little more "meat" in their articles, this award is for a well-constructed feature that takes us a bit deeper into theology, history or doctrine. "The paralysed God" deals with the age-old question, "Where is God when it hurts?" as Stephen recounts his own personal struggle. Drawing on logic, quotes and his own experience, Stephen weaves a comprehensive argument. Bal's look at Adventists in politics was relevant, insightful and very timely.



Creating content is not the end of our job. Content curation, engagement and distribution are all important steps that make the content useful. The team at Signs Publishing does a great job distributing our magazines. However, in this new online world, we need people to share the videos, articles and other snippets that we create. Lindita Vani has been a champion for *Record* in South New Zealand and this new Hindson Award recognises her online engagement and sharing of our messages in her network. You, too, can be a *Record* ambassador: all it takes is one click to share any content you've appreciated.



NO MEAT, NO WORRIES

No meat, no worries. When it comes to getting enough protein, there's an abundance of plant foods that deliver a protein punch.

Protein is important for growth, tissue repair and recovery from exercise. It's made up of smaller parts called amino acids. There are 20 amino acids that we need for good health—known as “essential” amino acids. Our bodies can make 11 and the other nine need to come from our food. Some foods provide a few essential amino acids; others provide them all. If you eat a wide variety of food you'll be sure to get the protein you need. The average man and woman needs about 64g and 46g per day respectively, but most people exceed their daily protein target.

Here are three surprising sources of protein:

1. PISTACHIOS — 30G HANDFUL = 6G PROTEIN

These tasty little morsels are the perfect package, providing the awesome combination of plant protein, iron and zinc—important nutrients if you are on a vegetarian diet. Pistachios and almonds have the most protein of all nuts, with just one handful containing 6 grams.

2. SOY BEANS — 150G (1 CUP) (COOKED) = 20.2G

Soy beans knock it out of the park when it comes to protein. They contain all nine essential amino acids and the amount of protein they provide per serve is almost as much as meat. What's even better, you'll gain the benefits no matter whether you eat soy beans in their pod or in the foods made from soy beans, such as tofu, tempeh and many meat alternatives. (170g of tofu provides 20.4g of protein and 100g of tempeh provides 23.2g.)

3. CHIA SEEDS — 2 TABLESPOONS = 6G

These tiny seeds have a long list of nutrition credentials, including an unusually high amount of omega 3—an essential fatty acid for brain function and heart health—plenty of calcium, loads of fibre and an excellent source of protein. They are also incredibly versatile, which is why they are added to many recipes and supermarket products. Try sprinkling chia on salads or cereal, add to bliss balls or smoothies, or even soak overnight ready to start the day with a chia pudding. Now that's a super food!



Recipe of the Week

Sanitarium
Health & Wellbeing

Lentil and zucchini patties

A great addition to your next barbecue, these burgers are packed with protein and fibre. Serve as a tasty patty or as a main meal with veggies or salad on the side.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/recipes
New Zealand: sanitarium.co.nz/recipes

 Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing is now on Facebook!

HANDY HIDDEN PROTEIN



CEREAL — TWO WHEAT BISCUITS = 3.63G

Aiming for 20g of protein at brekkie may help regulate your appetite and keep you full for longer. Something as quick and easy as two wholegrain breakfast biscuits like Weet-Bix contains 3.63g of protein. Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of soy milk to get to 9g.



POTATO — MEDIUM-SIZED POTATO = 4G

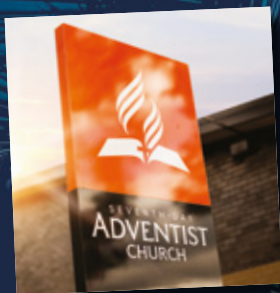
The humble spud often gets a bad rap in the nutrition stakes, but a tasty potato should not be dismissed. A medium-sized potato will provide around 4g of protein and is also a good source of potassium. Try baking them whole and enjoy skin and all, for extra fibre and B group vitamins.



AMARANTH — HALF A CUP (COOKED) = 4.7G

Amaranth is the cousin to the “on trend” quinoa and is rising in popularity because of its high protein content. This ancient pseudo-grain (it's actually a seed) is gluten-free and contains all the essential amino acids. Great cooked into porridge.

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing



FAITH AND PRACTICE

Why am I a Seventh-day Adventist? (Editorial, February 3) The answer lies in the name. Because I believe the seventh day is the true Sabbath and is the sign that will ultimately distinguish the obedient from the disobedient (Revelation 14:12). Because I believe in and look for the literal second coming of Christ. The name Seventh-day Adventist is a true expression of my faith. Unfortunately, the name today seldom stands without qualification (liberal, conservative). It's time we did our own "bridging the gap" and began to uphold a true unity of faith and practice.

A E Hobbs, *via email*

ACTIVE ELDER

The AUC is to be commended for this initiative ("AUC strengthens elders' role", February 3), which is a positive approach to the Church structure report that called for "more direct and formal lay member involvement in ministry".

Presumably, until the Church Manual is changed, an elder can still baptise in a remote location, with conference approval, without completing any formal training or waiting for a specific date.

I understand the reason for limiting the number of occasions an elder may baptise, as not having any restrictions could limit the number of baptisms a pastor could have. But why limit lay baptisms to specific dates in the year? The consequences of this decision could result in people being rushed into baptism to meet a deadline, or baptisms being delayed until one of the specific dates. It would be like the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 saying, "What hinders me from being baptised?" and Philip replying, "Sorry brother you have to wait until the last Sabbath in either July or November, or get a pastor to baptise you."

I hope that the date

setting was not done with the intent of encouraging the latter scenario. We need to be careful that we do not hinder the work of the Spirit.

Warren Grubb, WA

RELUCTANT CONCESSION?

The positive anticipation I felt regarding the intention and potential of strengthening the role of elders in this way sadly dissolved as I read the full article.

Pastor Copaceanu is to be congratulated for his open acknowledgment that the calling to eldership was/is a God-calling (he said biblical) and that elders were the cornerstone of the local church. Unfortunately that was lost sight of as the Church became more organised and controlling.

It is unfortunate the Union president has to say, "We've been working on this program for more than a year" when the Church has been resisting/opposing the concept for more than 50 (of which I am aware) years.

How much better it would have been to read, "We have finally learned that we need to return to the biblical model we have been ignoring for so long." Is the Church now wanting to take credit for something

that God set in motion and demonstrated some 2000 years ago? And amazingly, what He set up, worked!

If it be deemed appropriate (and I believe it certainly is) that the role of elder include the baptising of individuals (and not only those with whom they have personally studied) then what, I wonder, is the purpose of restricting it to only two prescribed Sabbaths in a year? Is the organisation fearful of losing a measure of "control" as it proposes this "initiative"? And can baptisms be conducted only on a Sabbath?

The article, "AUC strengthens elders' role", outlines what appears to be a reluctant concession being made by the Church, albeit couched in language designed to give the appearance of it being a gracious, bold, spiritual "initiative".

Sad.

Frank Dyson, Qld

EMPOWER DEACONS TOO

New ideas find it difficult to find their way through the seemingly labyrinth structure of our Church but I am very heartened to see an idea I discussed with and wrote a proposal for (AUC president) Jorge Munoz some years ago at last

come to fruition.

Local church elders, often referred to as lay pastors, will be trained and encouraged to fulfil their vital role as evangelists as was the case in apostolic times.

I long for the day when deacons, like biblical Philip, will also see their important role expanded as evangelists, fulfilling their comprehensive ministry of discipling, baptising and nurturing those drawn to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

I am praying that this new approach will expand even more—where church members called, gifted and ordained by God will become part-time pastors, swelling the ranks of the Church's ministry to proclaim the good news to the lost and, through baptism, lead them to the foot of the cross in preparation to meet Jesus on His glorious return.

Steve Cinzio, Qld

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



Love Anyway, even in a warzone



Messiah complex: spot the fake



Passover: this night is different



Poached quince and honey syrup

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A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD TODAY

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HI KIDS!

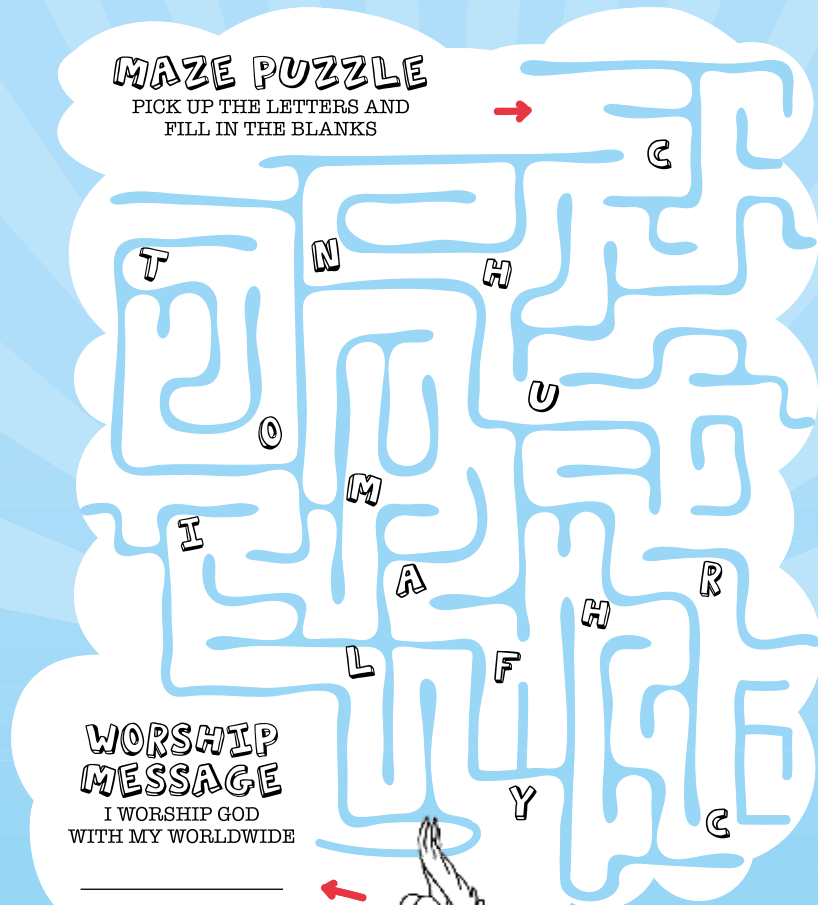
KIDS SPACE

SOLOMON DEDICATES THE TEMPLE

When the Temple is finished, it is dedicated. The ark is brought to the Temple and people from many nations come, united in worshipping God. A cloud, indicating the presence of God, fills the Temple. Then Solomon offers a beautiful prayer of dedication, not only of the Temple, but of the lives of those who would worship in it. He seeks God's blessing on all, including forgiveness for future sins. Later the Lord responds privately to Solomon, assuring him that He has heard his prayer.

MAZE PUZZLE

PICK UP THE LETTERS AND FILL IN THE BLANKS



WORSHIP MESSAGE

I WORSHIP GOD WITH MY WORLDWIDE



COLOUR ME IN!

MEMORY VERSE

"All nations will come and worship before you"

Revelation 15:4



Ode to George

REMEMBERING A ONE-OF-A-KIND EVANGELIST



George Burnside, the most successful evangelist of his time, was born in 1908 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Working as a carpenter after school, he was encouraged to attend Pastor J W Kent's prophecy meetings. George attended, hoping to prove the speaker wrong. But in time he came to accept the Adventist message and, with his family, joined the Church. He was just 17.

At the end of George's second year at Longburn Adventist College (LAC) in 1929, George became a colporteur. It was a tough experience, trudging through heavy rain and snow too deep to ride his bicycle—sleeping in sheds, eating boiled wheat. This developed in him the rugged determination to follow God faithfully that characterised his later life. He returned to LAC in 1931 and then spent two years at Avondale College, Australia, training for the ministry. However George didn't graduate. Some required courses didn't interest him, so he chose others that he thought would be more valuable in field work.

George spent 1935 as a colporteur in NSW before being appointed to ministerial work in the Maryborough area of Queensland in 1936.

George had met Sheillah Lewin at LAC and on his appointment to field work in Queensland, they agreed to marry. She sailed to Australia and journeyed alone to Maryborough. They married on February 3, 1936

and spent their honeymoon at Hervey Bay—not relaxing on the beach but running their first evangelistic campaign, resulting in the establishment of Hervey Bay church.

From then until the end of 1953, George was an evangelist in Queensland, North and South NZ, South Australia and NSW. He was ordained in 1940. Then daughter Lorelley joined the family.

In 1946, George attended seminary training in the United States and travelled in Europe, before returning to evangelism in New Zealand. By this time he had become the leading evangelist in the South Pacific. After a particularly successful mission campaign in Christchurch, George and his family returned to Australia in 1950 and ran another successful campaign in the Adelaide Town Hall.

The following year a campaign in the city of Newcastle was particularly challenging. Twice the tent was blown down but 150 souls were won. In 1953, campaigns were run in Brisbane followed by one in Sydney Town Hall in 1954 where "opposition was intense" and the press "gave him enormous adverse publicity". He was gratified to find the hall packed for the initial meetings by people who wanted to hear this colourful character they had heard and read so much about. And souls were won.

In 1955, George became the speaker for the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry, broadcasting on 60 stations

across Australia. As a result, he started running shorter, three-week mission campaigns and these too proved successful. For a campaign in Perth, held in a "huge tent", George was the speaker each evening while he spent the days training local pastors in evangelism. Being the Voice of Prophecy speaker he was able to make vinyl records of his sermons for distribution to pastors and lay evangelists alike.

In 1957, George was elected ministerial secretary for what is now the South Pacific Division. He continued in that role for 14 years. This gave him the opportunity to train young pastors in the South Pacific island nations, with thousands won to the Lord as a consequence. At the same time, George was very busy running three-week evangelistic campaigns across Australia and NZ. He was always a speaker in demand.

George spent one year as the lay activities director for the Greater Sydney Conference before completing 40 years of denominational service. In retirement, George continued to preach and many, particularly young people, would crowd into his home on Sabbath afternoons—meetings that encouraged some to train for ministry.

In some ways his retirement years were difficult. He became concerned with changes in the Church—teachings he considered error—and was reluctant to accept advice from fellow clergy who did not share his concerns and advised him to take a lower profile.

Old and full of years, he conducted his last evangelistic campaign in 1989. Speaking in the divine service every second Sabbath, he still energised the congregation. But becoming increasingly frail, George had to sit for the final presentations. He died on March 20, 1994.

George's evangelistic campaigns are estimated to have won more than 4000 souls for the Lord, making him the South Pacific's most successful evangelist at that time.

LESTER DEVINE DIRECTOR EMERITUS AT THE ELLEN G WHITE/ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE.

Anniversary

DUTKA. Ankica and Pavle were married on 19.12.1947 and celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and friends at their home in Brisbane on 19.12.17. Over the past 70 years they have been through good and bad times, sharing all the complexity that life brings, and stayed devoted to each other. God has blessed them with four children; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Ankica and Pavle are an encouragement and good example to us all. May God bless them on the path that is still in front of them.

Weddings



ABDUL-RAHMAN—AMUIMUIA. Pauly Henry Ijahman

Abdul-Rahman, son of Francois Torcque (Rotterdam, Netherlands) and Albertha Abdul-Rahman

(Murgon, Qld), and Regina Jarelle Amuimuia, daughter of Pastor Musu and Theresa Amuimuia (Mt Isa, Qld), were married on 17.9.17 at Coconuts Beach Club Resort and Spa, Samoa. Regina arrived to the ceremony in a beautifully decorated raft. Regina is a child safety officer and Pauly is a personal trainer. They have set up their home in Townsville, Qld.

Leala Laikum



PAU'U—AMUIMUIA. Chaan Fatu Noel Lasi Pau'u, son of

Johnny Pau'u (Porirua, NZ) and Pauline Mailei (Melbourne, Vic), and Theodora Clarice Amuimuia, daughter of Pastor Musu and Theresa Amuimuia (Mt Isa, Qld), were married on 26.11.17 at Lovett Bay, Sydney, NSW. Theodora is a graphic designer for Adventist Media and Chaan is a social worker for Anglicare. They have set up their home in Sydney, NSW.

Wayne Boehm

Obituaries

AUSTIN, Everlyn Rose (nee Banks), born in 1922; died 27.11.17 in Cooranbong, NSW. She is survived by her sons John, Geoffrey and Gerald Banks. Everlyn passed away at the Adventist Retirement Village, aged 95.

Wayne French, Lyell Heise

BATES, Heather Jessie (nee Stuart), born 17.10.1922 in Burwood, NSW; died 31.12.17 in Woodridge, Qld. She married Douglas Mark Bates, who predeceased her on 30.10.1989. She is survived by her three children Colin (Winmalee, NSW), Alan (Hallidays Point) and Judith (Waterford, Qld); and four grandchildren. Heather was an active member of Cabramatta church (NSW), conducting hydrotherapy treatments and running the local Pathfinder club. She had a heart for wayward youth, whom she would often feed and support. Heather ran a successful bus company, Road Runner Tours, on the Gold Coast and was named tour operator of the year. Heather had a good long life of 95 years and is remembered as a spiritual woman who loved her family and loved her Lord.

Ernst William

CAVE, Gloria Joyce (nee Rishworth), born 29.3.1929 in Lismore, NSW; died 29.1.18. In 1950 she married James, who predeceased her in 2006. She is survived by her four children Lynette, Christine, Rodney and Jeffrey; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Joyce experienced an active and varied childhood on her parents' farm. She attended a Revelation seminar and joined the Alstonville church. Joyce was an accomplished dressmaker, cook and generally the life of the

party. Five and-a-half years ago she suffered a severe stroke, leading to the loss of her mobility. However, during this time her attitude was exemplary and her relationship with Jesus was firm.

Beth McMurtry

CHRISTIE, Cecil Larry, born 29.4.1946 in Kogarah, NSW; died 26.1.18 in Murgon, Qld. On 26.8.1990 he married Gail. Larry was predeceased by his daughter Kerry in 1980 and his son Andrew in 2011. He is survived by his wife (Proston); children Linda Kozak (Wondai), Kim Williams (Townsville), Kellie O'Connor (Proston), Steven Christie (Kingaroy), Casey Hughes (Maryborough), Connie Anderson (Nowra, NSW) and Melissa Palmer (Gold Coast, Qld). Larry went to sleep on the blessed assurance, having conquered as a victor. He loved the Lord with all his heart.

Phil Downing, Terry Kozak, Gideon Okesene



COWLED, Conscolora Dionissio (Nene), born 15.10.1939 in Negros Occidental, Philippines; died 19.12.17 in Brisbane, Qld, after suffering a major stroke. In 1989 she married (Ray) Charles Croft Cowled, who predeceased her in 2005. Prior to her marriage she worked at Miller Adventist Hospital in the Philippines for 14 years. Nene is survived by her seven stepchildren; 23 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren. She was deeply loved by her family in the Philippines and Australia. Nene was a faithful woman of God who lived to bless others and was deeply respected and loved. She will be greatly missed, especially by her family and those at the ARV Victoria Point where she lived for the past 28 years.

Miroslav Stilinovic

JACKSON, Linette Isabel (nee Robinson), born 5.1.1928 in

POSITIONS VACANT

RECEPTIONIST, SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR, PERSONAL ASSISTANT

MELBOURNE, VIC

The Australian Union Conference is seeking to fill the role of receptionist, social media coordinator and personal assistant. The position is a full-time role, commencing March 2018. Enquiries, position description and applications, together with CVs, resumes and references, may be submitted by email to HR coordinator Lorraine Atchia <lorraineatchia@adventist.org.au> or by post: PO Box 4368 Ringwood Vic, 3134. Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Australia. The Australian Union Conference reserves the right to fill the role prior to the close of applications date. **Applications close March 6, 2018.**

MAINTENANCE OFFICER AND CLEANER (2 POSITIONS)

CROSSLANDS, NSW

Vacancies exist for a full-time maintenance officer and part-time cleaner at the Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre, Greater Sydney Conference. Crosslands is a Christian campsite located in the Berowra Valley and Hawkesbury River region of Sydney. The maintenance role is a full-time role while the cleaner role is part-time (19 hours per week). These two positions could be suited to a married couple. The successful applicant for the maintenance officer role will have trade and/or handyman skills and experience, communication skills, an understanding of and compliance with Work, Health and Safety requirements, be able to work independently and be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The successful applicant for the cleaner role must be physically fit as the role requires appropriate lifting, bending, carrying equipment and walking.

For more information and a position profile please contact: Adrian Raethel on 02 9868 6522 or <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 19, 2018.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:
ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU

 /SDAJOB



SUPPORTING MINISTRY

PALM ISLAND MINISTRY

Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc.

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>.

Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc is an independent ministry supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Allendale, Vic; died 9.1.18 in Ocean Grove. On 5.1.1950 she married Merrill, who predeceased her in 2015. Linette is survived by her three children and their families: Lindy and Ian Judd (Ocean Grove), Nomi (Upwey), and Deane and Ruth Jackson (Vietnam); grandchildren Justin, Leighton, Dwane, Natalie and Branton; and seven great-grandchildren. Linette was a brilliant pianist who brought a lifetime of blessings to the Church through her music. Known for her dedication to Christ and His Word, her love for her wider family, and her warm and caring nature, Linette had an abiding assurance in God's promise of eternal life.

David Maxwell, Deane Jackson

JACOVAC, John Ivica, born 13.3.1953 in Croatia; died 16.1.18 on the Gold Coast, Qld. On 13.10.1985 he married Jessie Jasna. He is survived by his wife; daughters Natasha and son-in-law Paul Belosev (Brisbane) and Tijana (Gold Coast); grandson London (Brisbane); brother Jack (Canada) and sister-in-law Lydia (Wodonga, Vic). Johnny was a great husband and best friend to Jessie, and a gentle, loving father who adored his girls. He is missed by all who knew him.

Johnny loved his family and he loved Jesus.

*Vlado Peter Stojanovic,
Stjepan Jakovac*



LAWLOR, Bernard Noel (Burnie), born 22.7.1959 in Vic; died 12.1.18. In 1997 he married Raelene. Burnie is survived by his wife; parents Pat and Hazel (Numurkah); brothers Peter, Garry and Darren; son Jake and daughter Bianka. He and Raelene joined the church in Singleton in 2006. Burnie passed to his rest after many months of intense suffering from a serious illness.

Miroslav Stiljinovic

RATY, Silja Sinnika (Celia), born 19.3.1933 in Finland; died 30.1.18 in Caloundra, Qld. In June 1954 she married Tapani Raty. She is survived by her husband (Cedar Vale); children and their spouses: Lauri and Anne Rattu (Rochedale), Pirio and Ferno Lombart (Veresdale), Marja and David Forbes (Stanthorpe) and Anneli and Catalin Florea (Cedar Vale); 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Silja was a warm, loving person who loved to give hugs to young and old.

John Rabbas

ADVERTISING

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Tastebuds on Dalgarno is a vegetarian health food shop and cafe located in Coonabarabran, NSW. We are wanting to sell to a beautiful Adventist person/family with a passion for health, people and, of course, God. Specialising in bulk wholefood, juice bar, produce and a vegetarian menu, this cafe is a mission field. Find us on trip advisor or Facebook. Please call Celia 0408 093 878.

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FINALLY...

WHEN WE PUT OUR PROBLEMS
IN GOD'S HANDS, HE PUTS
PEACE IN OUR HEARTS.

NEXT ISSUE:
ADVENTIST WORLD, MARCH 10

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