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THE OTHER LIGHTHOUSE

BYRON BAY'S OTHER
BUZZING ATTRACTION 10

NEWS

YOUNG LEADERS
EMPOWERED AT CONVERGE 8

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SEEDS FOR TODAY

If you fly three hours north from Oslo to the Svalbard archipelago, to a mountain buried deep in the Arctic permafrost, you will find something quite unusual. Among the polar bears, reindeer and foxes roaming the rugged glaciers and frozen tundra, another sort of species is squirrelled away: seeds.

While not a natural phenomenon like the Northern Lights, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is something to behold. Built into the mountain and covering an area of 1000 square metres, it's a gene bank that can store samples of up to 4.5 million types of seeds from all over the world: wheat, lentils and chickpeas from Iraq; rice from China and Japan; chilli peppers from Mexico.

Scientists who work within the \$A12 million vault say they're trying to safeguard against a global crisis. In the case of a nuclear attack or a mass extinction event—flood, drought, earthquake, tsunami, some of which have already wiped out local crops around the world—the seeds in the vault will be used to rehabilitate the world's food supply.

This noble notion of leaving things for the future has fascinated humans for centuries. And it has parallels in our faith community as well—as Seventh-day Adventists in today's society, what are we guarding, protecting and cherishing for future generations?

We are blessed with a great number of libraries and archives filled with resources. And the letters, books and stories of how God led our pioneers would be perfect candidates to safely encase behind glass for preservation. But a greater challenge is the fact that there is nowhere to tuck away the traits that make up who we are as Adventists. We have some excellent "seeds" that are worth preserving—our hope in the second coming, our wholistic lifestyle, the transformational teachings from the Word of God—but where can we store them?

In Matthew 25, a man who is given one talent buries it in the ground for safekeeping, much like the seeds in

the vault. The man's companions, on the other hand, followed Jesus' invitation to us today: we can preserve our truths and ensure future generations have access to them by putting them into practice.

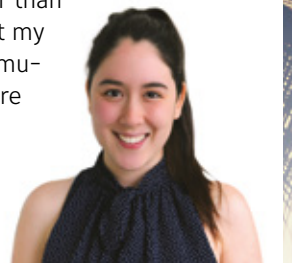
I'm continually thankful for and inspired by church members who aren't storing away their gifts, but rather modelling Christ's example in this area.

I think of a lady at our church who willingly and constantly opens her home to others; of another young lady, who, despite health struggles, has a gift for cooking delicious, healthy food and offers to teach the community; and of a gentleman who is passionate about the Word of God and helps others study it.

Unfortunately for the Svalbard vault, a recent study published by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs revealed that seed vaults, despite their good intentions, can't save a third of critically endangered plants. Why? Because recalcitrant seeds—such as oak trees, mango trees and horse chestnut trees—need to keep their water content in order to grow.

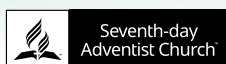
In other words, they're unable to be dried, as doing so goes against the very nature of what these seeds are meant to do: be planted and grow.

The Svalbard vault and time capsules are logical examples of safeguarding what is precious to us today in the hopes that we'll have a better future. But I'm blessed to belong to a Church where many people are putting their God-given talents, resources and gifts into action now. I'm challenged by these people to be bold and share the seeds that God brings into my life. I'm challenged by the giants of faith who have gone before us, sharing their faith rather than storing it in a vault. And I pray that my Church may continue to be a community that is willing to plant and share seeds—today.



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WHAT ARE WE GUARDING, PROTECTING AND CHERISHING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?



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BREAKING BARRIERS

A senior church lady was recently asked whether her home was available for a youth group to regularly meet. She was delighted at the request, and is now part of the youth group who are encouraging each other to become better disciples.

Asian-Australians from another church take Indigenous Australians to the shops and help them buy more healthy food. Wealthy Pacific Islanders teach homeless people to read. An entire conference has a regional Sabbath where the worship is intergenerational.

These are examples of the Church in the South Pacific at its finest: breaking barriers that have traditionally isolated people from each other.

When Jesus answered the disciples' question on the future of the church, he said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 ESV). The disciples could imagine witnessing for Jesus in Jerusalem and Judea because it was very familiar to them. But the Samaritans were hated, and the people of the earth were pagans and barbarians. Good Jewish Christians would not associate with such people.

Jesus knew that for the church to be successful the Spirit would lead them to break down the many cultural and social barriers. He envisioned and empowered an extraordinarily diverse movement of people—and it is still happening today.

"There is neither Jew or Greek, there is neither slave or free, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Racial, socio-economic and gender barriers don't belong in our Church.

I thank God for those who are removing these barriers with the Spirit!



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
@SPDpresident

MISSION 'IGNITED' FOR SYDNEY ADVENTISTS

DANIEL KUBEREK

Almost 6000 church members and visitors gathered at the Sydney Showgrounds for Ignite 2019 on February 15-16.

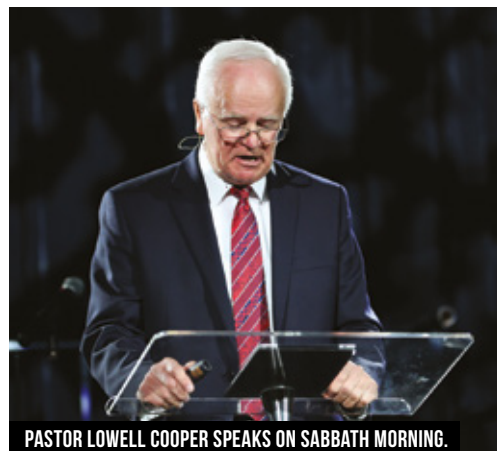
The second bi-annual conference, hosted by the Greater Sydney Conference, is a substitute for a big camp—given the logistical restraints of hosting camp meetings in the area. The Church has nearly 10,000 church members in Sydney, meaning two out of three Adventists in the city were present on the Sabbath.

Pastor Lowell Cooper, former vice president for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered sermons on both Friday night and Sabbath morning about engaging contemporary society with Bible truths. His keynotes drew from 22 years of service in the General Conference, including 17 years as the vice president.

Ignite also saw the launch of the 30 Days of Prayer, which Greater Sydney Conference president Pastor Terry Johnson hopes will revive the Church in Sydney.

"The success [of Ignite] for us is really dependent on how many people engage with the 30 Days of Prayer from now until the end of March. . . . We are really looking forward to seeing the power of the Holy Spirit run through their lives, and we're expecting it to manifest itself in compassion and in empathy more than anything else. That's the areas where we are the weakest when it comes to our Church," Pastor Johnson said.

Sabbath afternoon Ignite saw presentations from the South Pacific Division's Geraldine Przybylko and Avondale College's Dr Darren Morton on the Live More



PASTOR LOWELL COOPER SPEAKS ON SABBATH MORNING.

program. Dr Morton also spoke in the youth hall, where up to 900 young people gathered on Friday night and Sabbath afternoon.

Keynote youth speaker Pastor Brock Goodall presented on how youth can engage in their communities and structure Bible studies.

Sydney's multicultural dynamic was put on display during the various worship services, with an item in Portuguese, Korean hanboks (ceremonial dresses) and a large Tongan choir. The event was rounded off with an inspiring concert on Sabbath evening, with Pastor Johnson crediting the music as one of the highlights of the weekend.

"I've enjoyed the special items from all the different churches. It was majestic, fantastic—brought us to the throne."

Another Ignite is planned for 2021 in the same venue, which Pastor Johnson hopes will capitalise on this year's event.

"I'd be hoping that we'd increase by 2000 people. Because then we would know that God is starting a movement in our denomination and in our Conference. At the moment, we're having some great growth in finance and tithe, but when it comes to baptisms and Bible studies, that's an area of deep concern."

NEW DORM FOR PACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

MARITZA BRUNT

Students and staff at Papua New Guinea's Pacific Adventist University (PAU) have dedicated a new men's dormitory just in time for the beginning of the 2019 school year.

The three-storey dormitory, which will hold more than 70 students, has been in the works since September 2014, and is a reflection of PAU's commitment to provide efficient and sustainable housing for students. As part of the housing project, a female

dormitory was completed in early 2017. "Providing and keeping good dorms is crucial, not only for students' wellbeing and comfort, but for an even greater reason," said PAU vice-chancellor Dr Raul Lozano. "Students' character formation happens not exclusively in the classrooms, but wherever students engage in significant interactions, and the dorms are one of those key interacting places. Lifestyle habits like devotion, cleanliness, promptness and others are stimulated in the dorms."

The building of both the male and female dormitories was funded completely by the PNG Government through the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology (DHERST),



DR LOZANO OFFICIALLY OPENS THE DORMS.



THE NEW MEN'S DORMS (LEFT) AT PAU.

something which PAU administration sees as an answer to prayer.

"Everything came from God through DHERST," said Dr Lozano.

The new male dormitory was officially dedicated on February 24, and is just the beginning of new improvements for the university.

"Students are amazed when they see our campus and enter their accommodation," said Dr Lozano.

OPERATION FOOD FOR LIFE VEHICLE DAMAGED BY ROCK-THROWING YOUTHS

RECORD STAFF

An Operation Food For Life (OFFL) husband and wife team has been left shaken but undeterred after their vehicle was targeted by rock-throwing youths in Papua New Guinea.

OFFL PNG directors Philip and Maureen Vaki were on their way to deliver food, clothing and other

supplies to storm-affected villages near Kivori Poe, when the OFFL vehicle was hit by stones thrown by intoxicated youths.

"The stones damaged the vehicle and broke a window," OFFL founder Dennis Perry said.

Fortunately, the couple was

unharmd. "They are shaken but not deterred," Mr Perry said.

After the incident, Mr and Mrs Vaki continued on their journey to assist families in a remote area near Kivori Poe, where a devastating storm struck over the Christmas/New Year period, destroying many homes.

"Satan may try

to discourage us. However he is mistaken," Mr Vaki said. "While we knowingly enter areas of risk, we know God is protecting us.

"Ruffians may break our glass but they will not break our spirit or passion in serving others less fortunate in the name of Jesus."

Mr Perry said these types of incidents were, sadly, all too common. "For over 20 years we have had and faced so many instances like this," he said. "Rocks thrown through the windscreen of our vehicle, being attacked by ruffians on drugs, life-threatening incidents, is all in a day's work for us, in a country that is becoming increasingly difficult to move around for personal safety.

"We have to expect this will happen and will continue to do so, as we do God's work."

OFFL is an independent ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



PHILIP AND MAUREEN VAKI SHOW SOME OF THE DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLE.

ADVENTIST SCHOOL CANTEEN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

An Adventist school canteen in Victoria has received a prestigious local government award.

Whitehorse Council recently named Nunawading Christian College (NCC) canteen as one of its three Food Premises of the Year winners. The canteen topped more than 800 other schools and sporting clubs in the community groups category.

NCC canteen serves healthy vegetarian and vegan food options from a range of international cuisines.

Canteen coordinator Does Fame said the food is prepared daily “with love and joy”.

School principal Chris Cowled said the canteen had been recognised for its level of excellence in food safety, handling and cleanliness.

“NCC has been proud to have consistently gained a 5-star rating for its food hygiene assessment, gaining a Certificate of Commendation in 2018,”

he said. “This [award] is yet another evidence of God’s blessing on our school as we continue to trust His leading and guidance.”

Whitehorse Mayor Bill Bennett said the three award winners had demonstrated a commitment to the highest safety standards in food handling and hygiene.

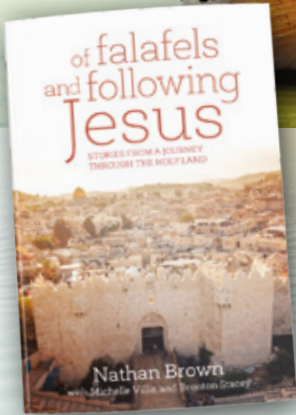
“This is a great outcome for the winners as these awards recognise and honour the hard work that goes into staying up-to-date with safe food handling practices, training staff, and constantly monitoring the

premise’s food handling and storage practices,” he said.

The awards are part of the council’s 5 Star Food Hygiene Assessment program, which aims to improve the safety of food being manufactured, handled, stored and sold in the municipality.



L-R: HANNA STEKLA (NCC SECONDARY PRINCIPAL), WHITEHORSE MAYOR BILL BENNETT, DOES FAME (NCC CANTEEN COORDINATOR), TRACIE HAILEY (NCC PRIMARY DEPUTY PRINCIPAL) AND SPRINGFIELD WARD COUNCILLOR PRUE CUTTS.




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—Dr Kayle de Waal, head, Avondale Seminary



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ADRA SEEKS ONE MILLION SIGNATURES FOR EDUCATION ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

KIMI ROUX-JAMES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has announced a new global advocacy campaign, “Every Child. Everywhere. In School”.

The February 26 announcement came at joint ADRA and Global Adventist Internet Network (GAiN) meetings in Amman, Jordan.

The campaign is an urgent call to leaders around the world to acknowledge that all children—regardless of race, age, nationality, gender, religion or origin—have a right to earn and complete an education, and that being in school is a recognition of the value and potential of each child.

The campaign aims to collect one million signatures by 2020 through grassroots efforts in collaboration with the Adventist Church, and petition world leaders to take action for children to receive a quality education and live free from exploitation and the shackles of intergenerational poverty. Already, 131 ADRA offices around the world have pledged support for this global campaign, including those around the South Pacific.

“Every child is a child of God—precious, unique and filled with incredible potential,” said ADRA International president Jonathan Duffy. “However, poverty, marriages at young ages, inequality, disability and many other factors are keeping an unacceptably high number of children out of school. This is why we are calling for greater investments in education globally and increased access to quality education for all children. It’s time that we make education a top priority so that every child can fulfil their God-given potential.”

A 2018 UNESCO study reported that there has been little improve-



ADRA PRESIDENT JONATHAN DUFFY.

ment in the reduction of the number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth since 2012, and that since 2016, more than 262 million children around the world are still out of school. This represents nearly one-fifth of the global population of this age group. Additionally, high poverty levels were reportedly linked to out-of-school rates.

“The Every Child. Everywhere. In School. campaign builds on the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s long tradition of responding to the needs of all human beings, namely to stand up in favour of human rights, the wellbeing of children, and the protection and integrity of families,” Mr Duffy said. “It is a call to action for all supporters to stand up with this Adventist-led movement and put into practice those principles we hold true.”

Over the years, ADRA has been a strong advocate on various social justice issues, including working with faith-based communities to champion support for refugees, migrants and displaced persons during World Refugee Day and World Refugee Sabbath, providing assistance to vulnerable families through emergency relief efforts and giving greater access to children affected by displacement.

To sign the petition: <ADRA.org/InSchool/Petition>.

NEWS GRABS



EXTREME MISSION IN MEXICO

Nearly 50 students, teachers, medical staff and volunteers from Montemorelos University recently visited several indigenous communities in the mountainous region of Chihuahua in northern Mexico, sharing a message of hope and giving out toys, blankets, clothing, Bible books and godpods. The godpods offer Bible study lessons, songs and programs in the Rarámuri native language and were donated by Adventist World Radio. In addition, free medical and ophthalmology services were provided to dozens of families.

—Adventist Review



A NOVEL IDEA

The first ADRA book market in Norway started six years ago. During the first year, book donations were collected from people in the local area. Most of the customers came from the local church, and a little over €700 was collected for ADRA. But each year, the book market has grown, thanks to newspaper articles, local groups on Facebook and signs around town, and now the local community looks forward to it. In 2018, more than €3300 was collected for ADRA, with a 2019 market currently in the works.—TED

HOT TOPICS



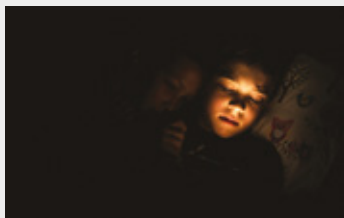
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

New research has found adults are 14 per cent heavier, 1.3 per cent taller and need 6.1 per cent more energy than in 1975. The Norwegian study examined population growth and its effect on the environment, with researchers finding human consumption has increased by 129 per cent. —*EurekAlert*



CENTENARIANS ONLY

Hawaii could raise the legal smoking age to 100, effectively banning cigarettes for the vast majority of people in the state. In a new bill, proposed by Democrat Richard Creagan, the smoking age would increase rapidly between 2020 and 2024. —*BBC*



NIGHT TERRORS

Teens who sleep for less than six hours per night are three times more likely to consider or attempt suicide than those sleeping eight or more hours. Less sleep on school nights is linked to dangerous and drunk driving, unsafe sex, aggression, or using alcohol and other drugs. Researchers found more than 70 per cent of high school students get less than the recommended eight hours of sleep per night. —*CNN*

YOUNG LEADERS EMPOWERED AT CONVERGE

JARROD STACKELROTH

Young Adventists from around Australia gathered for fellowship, fun and spiritual growth at this year's Converge camp.

About 380 young adults aged between 18 and 30 attended Converge, held February 8–11 at Stuarts Point Convention Centre (NSW). The camp is an annual initiative of the Australian Union Conference (AUC).

AUC youth director Pastor Jeff Parker said Converge is a place where young adults are called to a higher purpose, active engagement and a deeper relationship with Christ.

"We do have an amazing group of young adults in our Church," he said. "What we don't want to see is the exodus of young adults continuing. Events like Converge are able to set a new direction in the lives of many of our young adults—they see the successes of what has happened with other young people and want to do similar in their churches.

"Our young adults need to get together to be inspired as young adults," Pastor Parker continued. "There are not many events within our Church just for them. They come from each conference in Australia. The event is led by young adults (youth directors are just there as coaches and mentors). We also need our young adults to meet others in their age bracket who have a faith like theirs."

Guest speakers Tacyana Nixon, from Andrews University, USA, and Simon Gigliotti, new Greater Sydney Conference youth director, provided two different themes that were emphasised throughout the weekend.

Pastor Nixon spoke about discipleship, providing the young people with many opportunities to commit their lives to growing in Christ. On the Sunday night, hundreds of young adults stepped up,

requesting prayer for specific issues in their lives.

Pastor Gigliotti spoke about leadership and challenged the young adults to commit to leading, providing practical steps and a threefold call to action: leadership in the local church, church planting in the future and full-time ministry. Around 50 young people committed to significant action.

Alongside the keynote presentations were workshops and time for sharing as well as water activities at the nearby lake and beach. Each evening, young adults already working in the leadership space were showcased.

One key aspect of Converge is the ability for young people from around Australia to meet and make connections.

"Converge is a place where young adults can feel safe to bring their friends," Pastor Parker said. "During the event there are many opportunities for young adults to grow in their connection with Jesus (or to meet Jesus for the first time). We also need our young adults to meet others in their age bracket who have a faith like theirs."

Pastor Parker encouraged local churches around Australia to support their young people attending Converge, suggesting they may even be able to sponsor them in some way.

"Converge is a place to grow our young adults into present and future leaders in our Church."

Next year's event is scheduled for February 7–10, 2020.



GOOD TIMES: YOUNG ADULTS ENJOYING THE WATER ACTIVITIES.

Photo: Charmaine Patel

FLASHPOINT



PATHFINDER PREPARATION

Newly-appointed Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) youth and Pathfinder director Pastor Charlie Jimmy recently led an induction ceremony for hundreds of Adventurers, Pathfinders, Ambassadors and leaders from Efate (Vanuatu) at the Epauto Adventist Multipurpose Centre. Assisting him were leaders from Efate churches, including Vanuatu Mission youth director Pastor Andric Tanghwa. As part of the special ceremony, Pastor Jimmy also promoted the TPUM Pathfinder Camporee that will take place in December in Solomon Islands. He announced that Vanuatu has been given space for 700 Pathfinders. —*Vanuatu Mission*



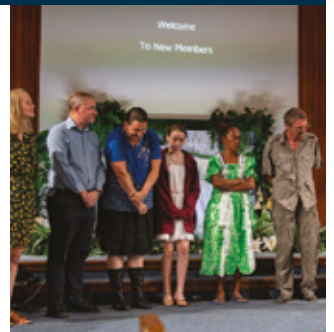
DRONE STUDIES

New drone-mapping technology was recently used at Papua New Guinea's Pacific Adventist University (PAU) to identify possible diseased trees at the university's banana farm. The results from the study will help to improve banana production. Further studies on the PAU campus, conducted by global researchers ABT Associates in collaboration with the PNG Science and Technology Council, will now test the use of drones in diverse ways and help PNG farmers, especially in remote areas. —*PAU News*



WELCOME BACK!

Children returning to classes at Avondale School (NSW) received a surprise welcome as they approached the school grounds in Cooranbong. Teachers and school prefects lined the roadside on the approach to the school, as well as the bus and car drop-off areas, to greet the children and their families on arrival. The staff held greeting signs, waved and offered high-fives to the grinning children. "We wanted them to be excited about being back at school, and for the new students to feel that sense of belonging," said marketing manager Colin Chuang. "Sometimes this initial impression and memory can set the tone for the rest of the year, and we wanted it to be positive and exciting. —*Lakes Mail*



BAPTISMS AT LISMORE

Lismore Adventist Church (NSW) celebrated eight baptisms in recent months. Towards the end of last year Toisha Foster and Nadia Baxter, both aged 12, were baptised in the Evans Heads river. Two weeks later Teresa Fete, Dean Tickner, Sarah Stevens and her 12-year-old daughter Kaela were all baptised at the church. The baptisms continued into the new year when Aaron Brooks and Val Wills were baptised on January 19. This was made extra special by the attendance of Val's 102-year-old mother, which was an answer to prayer. —*Sherree Merritt*



REVIVING ELDER

More than 100 church elders within the Suva South district (Fiji) recently attended an elders consultation meeting at the Fiji Mission Conference Centre. With the theme "Let's revive to become vibrant", it was a time of worship, spiritual challenge and fellowship. Fiji Mission departmental directors Pastor Sefanaia Turava and Pastor Talemo Cakobau officiated during the program, while Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe and general secretary Pastor Joe Talematoga were keynote speakers. Time was also given to church elders to share how their local churches engage in mission and their innovative ways of ministering to the community. —*Na Kaci*



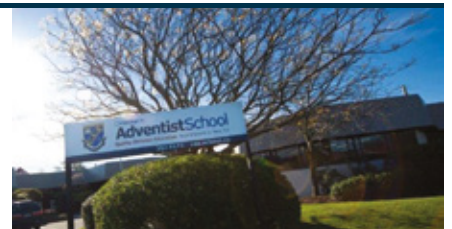
KINGDOM TOOLS

Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church (NZ) recently held a homiletics series entitled, "Preaching, Teaching and Reaching". Run by new pastor Daniel McKibben, the first class was held on February 2 after the church lunch and was attended by 10 people from the church. During the series, the attendees learnt how to prepare and present sermons or fine-tune skills in the area of homiletics. —*Dianne Cavaney*



REACHING OTHERS THROUGH SONG

Since the Laidley Seventh-day Adventist Church Choir (Qld) was formed, the members have performed at a variety of venues and have touched people's lives with their singing. The choir performs every week at two of the local aged care homes. They have also performed at local gospel events and at last year's Mayoral Christmas Carols in Gatton. The choir is just one of many outreach projects the church is running. —*David Reid*



GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

Christchurch Adventist School (NZ) recently received its National Certificate of Education Achievement, continuing to deliver well above average results. The school received 100 per cent for education levels 1, 2 and 3 and 92 per cent of students gained university entrance. These results are all significantly above national averages, and the school team say they're honoured and grateful to God for their success. —*SNZC*



The other lighthouse

Byron Bay, on the far-north coast of NSW, is the most easterly point of Australia's mainland. It's a popular holiday destination, known for its beautiful hinterland and beaches, its surfing and scuba diving sites, and its art and music festivals. One of its most famous and visited sites is the iconic Cape Byron lighthouse, built in 1901. It offers 360-degree views of the surrounding area, the beaches and the Pacific Ocean, and a platform from which humpback whales can be easily spotted on their yearly migration between June and November. It's little wonder that Byron Bay receives about 1.7 million domestic and international visitors each year.

The town is also a mecca for a diverse range of creative and alternative cultures. Known as the rainbow region, the area in and around Byron is considered to be the spiritual home of Australia's hippy movement. Artists of all types have been attracted to Byron Bay, from international musicians, actors and world-renowned sculptors, to surfers and novelists. Its locals have come to symbolise what *Lonely Planet* has described as "an Australian haute-boho lifestyle".

This background has presented

the members of the small Byron Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church with a big challenge: how to remain relevant amidst this melting pot of local alternative lifestyles, and how to best serve and reach their community and its huge floating population.

As has been proven over and over, when God's children intentionally pray for God to open doors for ministry, He does; when they move ahead in faith, He provides; and when they surrender to His service, He blesses their efforts. So when the members began a ministry providing free vegetarian dinners (and free conversation that often led to Jesus) on a weekday evening, little did they imagine that they would end up serving up to 300 people! It was evident that their ministry idea had to change radically for it to grow sustainably. The church building was old and small, but it had a major advantage—it was on a main road, across from a large supermarket and shops, and had a bus stop on its doorstep. So they offered what they had in their hands to God, and Manna Haven Cafe was born.

The not-for-profit cafe is a purpose-built extension of the Byron Bay Adventist Church, and blends in seamlessly with the church building.

The entire project was made possible through the generous donations of church members in labour and finances, and God blessing their vision and dedication.

"To keep up with the needs and trends of the clients, Manna Haven now offers an all-vegan menu and all menu items are on display with a good selection of hot dishes, fresh salads and delicious sweets," says cafe chef and manager Bryce Wegener. "This has made the process of selecting and ordering easier and quicker than with an à la carte menu, leaving more time for us to connect one-on-one with the people."

The church doors usually remain open and inviting. Church pastor Keith Jackson and other members are often there during the week to chat to customers. Some customers come with many questions, from health to Jesus, and everything in between, and some of these conversations have lasted hours.

A lady who was visiting the cafe on her last day in Byron got talking with church volunteers and ended up having a three-hour Bible study. She left to catch her bus with hugs and a copy of several books, including *The*



Desire of Ages and *The Great Controversy*. Another young man told of how he had plucked up the courage to enter the cafe since he was no longer attending the Adventist church. After a long chat with two cafe staff, he left joyfully, saying that he wanted to return to church.

Adventist literature is abundantly visible and available to take freely from the cafe and from the Furphy Hut, which sits next to the footpath and houses an original 1871 Furphy galvanised iron water cart that provides free filtered and chilled water to all. Manna Haven is closed on Sabbaths, but between Sabbath School and the main service, members sometimes stand on the footpath and offer free water to passers-by and people waiting at the bus stop.

As a result, the church has been richly blessed with more than 10 cafe patrons visiting the church on Sabbath. They have two regular attendees who are having Bible studies. Dozens of pieces of literature, including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*, have been distributed, and the stories of how the Holy Spirit is working flow on.

One lady has Bible studies twice

a week and afterwards rings her father in Europe to share all that she is learning. Another man had lengthy discussions with volunteers at the Furphy Hut and is now attending church every Sabbath. Another couple first learnt about the eight laws of health from a brochure at the cafe. They then took and read *The Great Controversy* and through other contacts, have been convicted to keep the Sabbath. They have also expressed interest in attending church. When their daughter visited from Canada, they took her to Manna Haven and she asked for a copy of *The Great Controversy* to take back home.

A young mum has returned home to Brazil after visiting the cafe many times. She attended the church on one occasion and was delighted to take back to Brazil copies of *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, a complete set of Bible studies and more. Two young tourists from South Korea attended church several times and took two sets of Bible studies with them. Another lady praised the Adventist Church for living what it believes in the health message and sharing with the community. She said that it was wonderful to see a church

that was active in the community as this, she believed, was rare.

Manna Haven Cafe won the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence in 2014 and 2015 and is currently listed as No. 1 out of 152 restaurants and cafes in Byron Bay on the TripAdvisor website. This blessing and the many personal stories of hearts touched and changed by the Holy Spirit are testament and witness to what God can do when vision, dedication and hard work, driven primarily by a desire to introduce others to Jesus, are placed in His hands. The Byron Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church has become the "other lighthouse" in town.

Please continue to pray for the Manna Haven ministry. To learn more, visit <mannahaven.com.au> or connect with them on Facebook.

LILIANA MUNOZ ATTENDS RINGWOOD CHURCH IN VICTORIA, AND RECENTLY VISITED MANNA HAVEN CAFE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

BRYCE WEGENER IS CHEF AND MANAGER OF MANNA HAVEN AND IS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN AND PASSIONATE ABOUT ITS MISSION.

Suicide: dispelling the myths

We had known each other since kindergarten, but, until Year 11, the brown-haired boy with the shy smile was nothing more than a passing acquaintance. If it hadn't been for a teacher who made us study partners, we might never have gotten to know each other at all.

Our interaction was awkward at first, but the initial study session turned into hallway chats, sitting together on the bus and eventually a weekly appointment at the local Gloria Jean's cafe each Wednesday. He became one of my best friends. Sadly, as often happens, we drifted apart after high school.

A few years later, we reconnected. I was happy to hear he was now married and living interstate. He had joined the Navy as a submariner and diver.

Fast-forward another few years. I wondered how my friend was doing and looked him up. His Facebook profile had been turned into a memorial. It took me a minute to comprehend what that implied. Later I learned he had taken his life.

I went through a mixture of emotions. At first I just felt numb. I wanted to cry, but I couldn't. Then came the anger. *Why hadn't he said something? Why hadn't he reached out?* After the anger came the guilt. *Could I actually have made a difference to his decision? Had he not contacted me because I was a bad friend?*

At an inconvenient moment when I least expected it, the tears finally came. A photo I'd seen on social media suddenly made sense: "Suicide doesn't get rid of the pain, it only

passes it on to other people."

According to Beyond Blue, there are an average of eight suicides in Australia each day and six of the victims are male. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Australian men between the ages of 15 and 54, more than double the national road toll. We get reminders about the road toll every public holiday. Yet we seldom talk about suicide.

There seems to be this misconception that Christians don't—or shouldn't—have these struggles. But depression doesn't discriminate in any form: race, gender or religion.

This misconception means people—particularly men—are uncomfortable with sharing their difficulties and showing any sort of vulnerability. Or they're met with the typical platitudes when they do: "give it to God", "you'll be right", etc.

How can we make our churches safe places for people? I think it can only begin when we acknowledge that mental illness is present in our community and make it part of the conversation. But first, we have to get rid of the myths surrounding it:

1. Mental illness is not a choice.

I've heard well-meaning church members suggest that people wrestling with depression should just "try and be happier" and "pray the sadness away". Would you tell someone with a broken arm that it would heal if they just tried to pray it away? While God's ability to lift our spirits should not be underestimated, neither should the pain associated with mental illness.

2. Mental illness is not a sin.

You are not more of a sinner than

anyone else because of your condition. I'm reminded of Job's friends in the Bible who wondered what sins he had committed to deserve his difficulties. Viewing depression as a sin can make people feel like they're failing in their walk with God. It can also discourage them from seeking proper treatment.

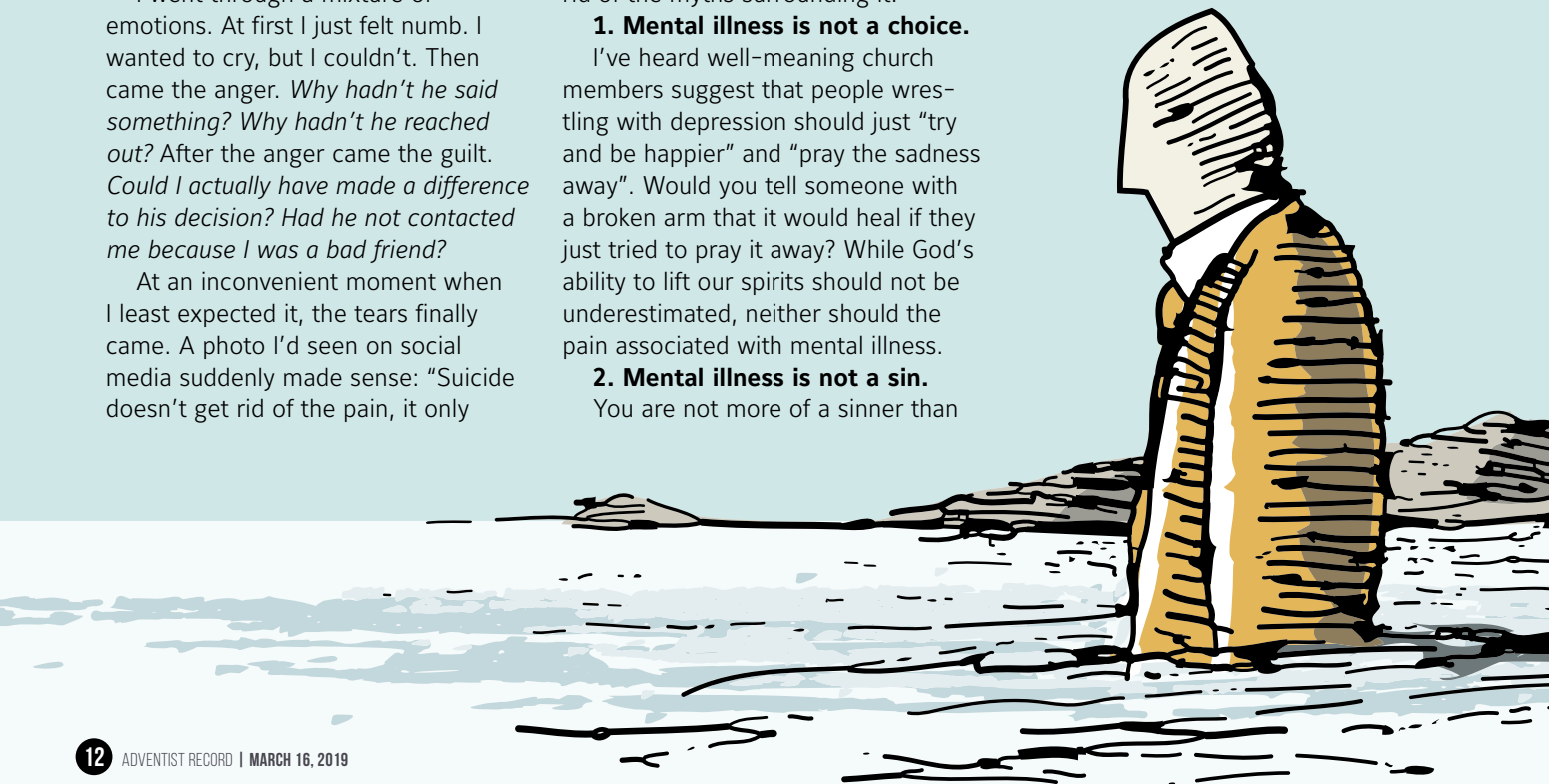
3. Depressed people don't always look depressed.

I recently heard a story about a boy at an Adventist school who had admitted to suicidal thoughts. The principal was shocked. This boy was smart, popular and liked by everyone. Be aware that the happiest and most confident people you know might be the ones struggling the most.

Church was never intended to be a place for perfect people, but a place where broken people can find compassion, support and healing.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact Lifeline or other local support service.

I VANIA CHEW PRODUCER, MUMS AT THE TABLE.



AN HOUR IN THEIR SHOES

A few years ago I attended Voices for Justice, an annual event organised by Micah Australia. Its purpose: to inspire, train and equip Christians to speak with federal politicians about global poverty.

As the years have passed, the exact details of the weekend in Canberra have faded. But one activity has ingrained itself in my memory.

It was a simulation activity. The hundreds of attendees were split into smaller groups—“families” we were called—and briefed on our mission. We made our living by catching and selling “fish” (laminated pictures) at the local “market” (event organisers who would swap the fish for tokens of money). With no savings, we had to ensure we were making enough money each day to feed our family and, if possible, secure shelter and send our children to school. The only problem was that every “family” had the same brief.

Chaos ensued. My competitiveness kicked in and it became a race against the other attendees to collect the most fish each day so I could ensure my family was fed and educated. As the organisers removed more and more fish from the river, we decided to pull our kids out of school so we could send them fishing too. As the activity wore on, we were only just scraping through with enough money to feed our family. Thoughts of education and more permanent shelter options were gone. Our sole focus was earning enough money to feed ourselves.

By the time the organisers announced the end of the activity, I had become ruthless in my fishing efforts, and my family had lost a child to a cyclone due to our lack of sufficient shelter.

It may have only been a simulation activity that lasted for less than an hour, but in that short time I had become an obsessed, self-centred person, with little care for anyone else. Not only that, I gained a glimpse into the reality facing thousands of families

around the world: an hour-long exercise for me is the reality of their life, trying to make ends meet in less than favourable circumstances.

That night I went to sleep with a full stomach in a comfy bed with a roof over my head. I didn’t have to worry about where my next meal was coming from or if I could afford to sacrifice time and income to gain an education. I went to bed completely aware of how blessed I am. And with that came the overwhelming knowledge that it is my duty as a Christian to campaign for others so they may experience the same basic rights that I have.

It’s natural to want to take care of ourselves. Self-preservation is necessary to get by in a world corrupted by sin. But if, like me, you have the luxury of knowing where your next meal is coming from, then we have a God-given duty to help someone who doesn’t, whether they be your actual neighbour or a neighbour living on the other side of the world.

Poverty and injustice is everywhere in this broken world, but we needn’t be discouraged by it. Rather, let’s be the hands and feet of Jesus and actively work to seek justice and stand up for the rights of those less fortunate. While this can seem like an overwhelming job to tackle individually, if we work together as a Church, our individual efforts quickly add up.

So add your voice to petitions for positive change. Volunteer your time within your community. Donate to humanitarian organisations that are doing work in places beyond your reach. And, at the root of all of this, treat others in a way you want to be treated. Let the Seventh-day Adventist Church be a shining light in a dark world so that when people look at us, they see the harmonious, loving and just world that God originally intended.

ASHLEY STANTON MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,
ADRA AUSTRALIA.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ... **RESOURCE CENTRE DIRECTOR**

NAME: TONY KNIGHT
JOB: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AUC RESOURCE CENTRE
WHERE: MELBOURNE, VIC

A LOT OF PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW THAT AN AUC RESOURCE CENTRE EXISTS. WHAT DOES IT DO AND WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR IT?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia's (AUC) Resource Centre is not actually a bookshop like an Adventist Book Centre (ABC), which is the most common misconception. We really exist as more of a wholesaler—to provide resources in bulk to conference offices, churches and pastors who are doing outreach programs, and to ABC stores.

We also develop and produce resources for all departments of the AUC, as well as the sourcing, manufacturing and distribution of Pathfinder supplies for the entire South Pacific. It's that kind of big picture stuff—we average about \$A2600 of sales for every day of the year that the centre is open, and we ship out huge pallet loads quite regularly.

AS DIRECTOR, WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

Sometimes my day will just involve sourcing products for our warehouse and dealing with supply issues. For instance, we've had trouble recently with a supply of Master Guide scarves. This means I'll find a new seamstress, source the special coloured ribbon to put on the edge of the scarves and then find a screen printer who will put the Pathfinder logo on the scarves. It can be quite a process and that's just one of several thousand products we stockpile. We try and buy Australian where we can, but when we can't, we deal with manufacturers in Thailand, Cambodia, China and Malaysia for different products.

Then there's a whole different side of work that we do in the Resource

Centre, and that has to do with the development and production of our internal products. To help us do this, we've set up a publishing imprint called Seeds of Faith. It's important to note we're not a publishing company like Signs Publishing, so if someone wants us to publish their book, we won't. Our imprint means that when we produce a resource—a book, a Bible training guide, a DVD—for one of the departments of the AUC, it will come under the Seeds of Faith imprint to distinguish it as an AUC product. Since we've added this to our range of services in the Resource Centre, we've produced 14 books, have another five or six on the cards in the next year, and there are requests coming in all the time.

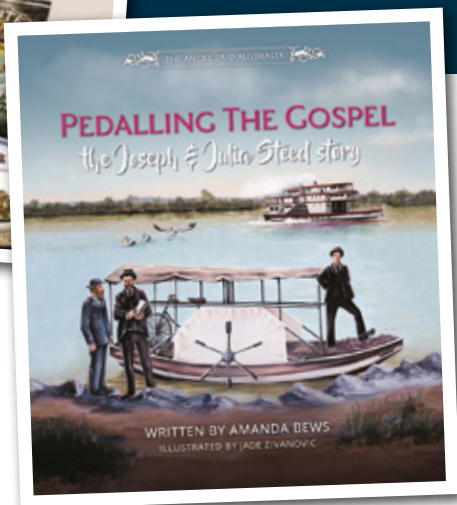
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PRODUCTS UNDER THE SEEDS OF FAITH IMPRINT PEOPLE MIGHT RECOGNISE ALREADY?

The Hunter Chronicles would be one. This series came about because the AUC youth department wanted a new set of Bible studies for Juniors (ages 10–12). So Amanda [Bews, co-author] and I sat down and thought about how one of the best ways to deliver Bible truths to Juniors is through storytelling. We also knew that if children explore something for themselves, the information is much more likely to stick than if someone just tells them. So we created *The Hunter Chronicles* books, each with an accompanying Bible study guide that uses an exploratory format to unpack the

story. By the end of each book and study guide, kids have covered seven of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By the time they've finished four of the books, they've covered all 28 Fundamental Beliefs, they've earned four Pathfinder honours along the way and they're ready for baptism. These books have been used widely by Sabbath School classes and Pathfinder clubs and we've sold thousands of them. The first books have had to be reprinted twice already.

Another example is *The Angel Said Australia* series. So far, Amanda has written five books in this series, which are beautifully illustrated picture books that tell the story of Adventist pioneers in Australia for young children. This was an initiative of our AUC ministerial association, who wanted to produce a resource to keep Adventist identity at the forefront of our mission.





WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Creating new resources, by far! I'd consider myself an organised person, so I don't mind looking after our stock and warehouse products—that fits with my logical side. But I love to dream up new products. To be able to create brand new tools and products that key into exactly where kids are at in their spiritual walk—I'm having more fun than I've had in years!

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED AND LESSONS YOU'VE LEARNED IN THIS ROLE?

You've got to be flexible, as you never quite know what the day will hold. I might be completely absorbed in preparing for a stocktake of \$600,000 worth of product that we have on the shelves, or I might be sitting down for a brainstorming session on how to create a new resource for *The Hunter Chronicles*. You also have to know not only how to be creative but how to cultivate an environment where other people can be creative. This can be difficult sometimes, so I've learned that you need to be as open-minded and even-tempered as possible.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't let anybody hold you back from doing what God wants you to do. The world is full of people who are wanting to tell you that you can't dream that dream or develop that idea. But the reality is, if God wants you to do something it's going to happen, so don't let anybody discourage you—if God's behind it, He'll bless it.

All resources can be found at disciple.org.au/resources. If you have an idea for a resource you believe fills a need or would benefit Seventh-day Adventist church members in Australia, the Resource Centre would love to hear about it. Email resources@adventist.org.au.



Resource Centre
Seeds of Faith

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

SEVENTH-DAY EVOLUTIONISTS

To believe in long ages of evolution and be a Seventh-day Adventist is not only an oxymoron, but places one in danger of losing eternal life.

The Bible is unequivocal that God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger. The Sabbath commandment is abundantly clear that God made this world in six days, and the New Testament informs us Jesus was that Creator God. The Bible is either right or wrong here; there is no wriggle room.

READ Exodus 31:18; 20:8-11; John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:16,17.

Evolution requires death for man to evolve, but the Bible is unequivocal that death came by the sin of the one man, Adam.

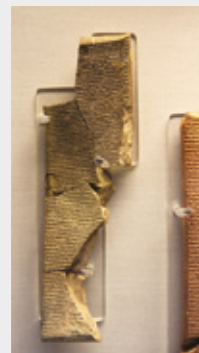
READ Romans 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:21.

For evolution, humans are just an accident, but according to the Bible, we were made in the image of God and it is the purpose of redemption to restore His image in us. Thus, evolution has no place for the cross.

READ Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

One of the sure signs of Christ's return is disbelief in creation by God, and with it a distaste and unpreparedness for Christ's soon return. If you believe in long evolutionary ages, ask yourself this question: "Do I really long for Jesus to return?" If your answer is an honest "no", then for God's sake and yours, turn back and believe His Word while His mercy lingers.

PHOTO RIGHT: THIS BABYLONIAN TABLET DIFFERS TO THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT ON CREATION, BUT SIMILARITIES INDICATE A COMMON HISTORY.



MISUNDERSTANDING GOD

The Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 4:35; Psalms 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9; 1 Corinthians 15:28; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Revelation 4:11.)

God is good!" Hands up if you read those words and thought to yourself, *All the time*. OK, so maybe don't literally put your hands up—people nearby might think you're weird! But for some people it has become a reflex response to a call many pastors and church members use to engage and excite their audiences.

Such a reflex, in fact, that someone made a rather dark meme (an internet joke that consists of an often famous image and text) about it. The image depicts a Christian character hiding from an evil villain. The villain, stumped for a moment, cries out "God is good!" The Christian responds "All the time" and then looks horrified. It made me laugh out loud.

While it's true that God is good, like so many words and concepts in Christianity, the phrase has lost some of its power and meaning through overuse

and familiarity.

God is not just good as a description, but good as in the definition. If there is an objective moral absolute, it is God's goodness, of which all other goodness is just a pale shadow.

And so we say "God is good" all the time to remind ourselves, to affirm the knowledge that we serve a good God. But how many of us really believe it?

Even those who claim to believe in Him can paint God as stern, harsh, unyielding and even vengeful. God's "followers" often misrepresent Him and cannot agree on many elements of His character.

Many others hate Him and there is a whole group of people who are demarcated by not believing in Him.

God, the Father, is the most misunderstood character in the Bible.

While Jesus is seen as a Revolutionary, a wise Teacher, a compassionate Healer and a great Prophet,

God is seen as cruel, punishing, distant or non-existent. "God is dead," German philosophers declared, ushering in an age when humans would be too sophisticated to believe in a God (or gods) they could not see. God has received a bad rap throughout the years.

There is a reason for this. It started at the very beginning.

"Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love . . . have been steadfastly pursued in all ages" (Introduction to *The Great Controversy*, 1941).

This speaks of an orchestrated attack, not just some accident or case of mistaken identity. Mud-slinging politicians have nothing on this extended smear campaign.

Keeping this in mind, we need to



seek to understand God's character, not only through the lens of Jesus in the New Testament, but God's actions and unchanging nature right through the Bible. Jesus described God as His Father, one of God's most common designations in the Christian faith—an image that depicts close relationship and care.

Unfortunately, this too has allowed His image to be hijacked and damaged. Like it or not, we often, sometimes subconsciously, associate God with our own image of what our fathers are or what we think they should be.

Too often these days, fathers are rigid, absent or broken, giving us a picture of God that reflects or rejects our earthly father's image. We are made in our heavenly Father's image, but also in our earthly father's one. Our perception of our earthly fathers often colours our perception of our heavenly Father.

As a kid, Dad's time and attention were like gold to me. The chance to throw a ball or kick the footy with him was a real highlight. We would watch sport together, and at holiday times he would play in the pool or jump through the waves with us: special memories.

I remember soon after I had left home for college getting a phone call from my dad. Close family friends had lost their son. Dad finished the conversation by telling me how much he loved me and was proud of me.

That one affirming act meant more to me at that moment than almost anything else. I've been lucky to have such a loving father.

Even so, as I grew older, my relationship with my father changed as I tried to set out into my life and establish my independence. We think quite differently, have very different skill sets

and proficiencies. I could never do what he does for a job and I think he would say the same for me.

Living in different states meant slowly I allowed distance to grow between us. Often, when we talked he would ask me questions about things I didn't want to talk about. So I would avoid calling him. What I'm learning as I grow older is while I resented the incursion on my freedom and the implications of the questions—a reminder of my procrastination—Dad asked out of love and genuine concern. He spoke from his knowledge and higher experience—something I could not see from my vantage point. I hated the distance and missed my dad, but found it hard to reconnect until I had dealt with things I knew he'd ask about.

I've noticed my relationship with God the Father can be similar. We're afraid of the kinds of questions God will ask us so we avoid having the conversation. It becomes works based as we try to fix things up in our lives to a point we feel worthy to approach His throne. This says more about us than it does about God, yet we will colour our reasons, make excuses or justifications and lay it back at God's doorstep.

It's a sign of maturity that we can move into deeper relationships with our fathers in adulthood and is also a step we need to take with our heavenly Father.

If we do not take the time to understand God's plan for our lives and His people on this planet, then we default into distance, expectation or only call on our Father when we are in trouble.

This is important because what we believe about God will inform every other part of our life and practice. Our perception of and relationship to God can be incredibly uplifting or damaging for both ourselves and others.

If we can only see that God is love through the revelation of Jesus, then

we do God a disservice and allow misperceptions to creep into our understanding.

If we see God as strict, judgemental and austere then we will treat others in that way. Instead we must see God as Father—loving, sustaining, life-giving and providing—whose motives and ways we don't always understand, but who always has our interests at heart.

"The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character" (GC, p 678).

The complete and comprehensive picture of God's character, enabled by the great controversy or cosmic conflict idea, gives the Adventist Church a real head start in presenting a life-changing message that the world needs to hear.

John's great theme, repeated throughout the gospels, his epistles and the Revelation: God is love.

This is God's great surprise.

"Love laid a trap, as it were, deploying humility and unselfishness against power and pride and hubris, a mismatch so stupendous that the outcome seemed a forgone conclusion until 'the rulers of this age' woke up to see their scheme disintegrate" (Tonstad, *God of Sense, Traditions of non-sense*, p 322).

The reality is that God the Father is love—self-sacrificing love—just as much as Jesus. Force has no place in the divine plan. Love allows for mistakes, for free will and ultimately for reciprocation without expectation.

This is the picture of God the world needs to see.



JARROD
STACKELROTH

Editor, *Adventist Record*.



illuminate

Sunset paints pink, then magenta, then navy blue up the sky

At twilight she points her telescope and waits with eyes lifted high

The realm of void darkens, out arises a sea of diamonds

Swimming in the Milky Way, illuminating the horizon

As a vast universe projects itself into her starlit eyes

A silent cinema of creation plays in her mind

A film titled "Genesis" when the Creator spoke and there was light

And the morning stars sang as He set fire to the night

The celestial song of the glorious beginning echoes in her imagination

The darkest corners of her being light up to the orchestra of constellations

This grand Composer of space and time, into eternity sings her name

This eternal Artist of beauty and light paints mercy over her shame

For if the canvas of stars above her is art, then salvation, His masterpiece

And if He has begun a piece of art, someday it will be complete

Someday she would stand upon stars reflected perfectly on a sea of glass

Someday, between sky and sea,

Would she embrace her Saviour at last.

MARIA DOMINGUEZ IS A PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT AND ATTENDS WAITARA CHURCH IN SYDNEY. MORE OF HER ARTWORK (PICTURED, LEFT) CAN BE FOUND AT <WWW.ART-STRONOMY.COM>.



REDISCOVERING THE ART OF PLAYTIME

Remember when you bought toys for your kids and they ended up just playing games with the box? We didn't realise it then, but that simple box was actually one of the best gifts we could give our child—the gift of imagination.

Electronic devices are powerful tools that provide many educational benefits. But too much time on screens can take away from the movement needed for growing bodies and the cognitive and practical life skills that are best developed through active play—unstructured play that combines physical activity with self-expression and imagination.

Active play can be anything from symbolic play (using objects in an imaginative way, like a box into a race car), physical play (hopscotch, tag, hide-and-seek), and make-believe or role-play (playing pirates or superheroes).

Organised sport is a brilliant way to make sure your child is getting enough exercise, but research coordinated by the University of Notre Dame reveals that unstructured “play” is also important for their optimal cognitive, social and emotional development.

So where do you start? An easy place to begin is to help kids put “boredom” back in its box!

Far from being an unnecessary “evil”, the *Little People, Big Lives Report* found that boredom plays an essential role in developing creativity, resilience and resourcefulness.

It's often more positive for children to find their own way out of boredom by engaging in active play, than to be provided entertainment upon request.

Can't think of what to do? Create a Boredom Box! Sit down with your kids to write down every play activity you can think of on little paper notes and put them in a box. Whenever you hear “I'm bored!”—point them to the box for inspiration.

Why not try some of our other ways to help rediscover the art of “playtime”?

View the full *Little People Big Lives Report* from Sanitarium and the University of Notre Dame at <sanitarium.com.au/biglives>.



Cheesy Bix-cuits

A fantastic savoury treat! Keep these cheesy biscuits on hand for an after-school snack or whip them up when the kids have their friends over to play.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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

 / [sanitariumaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumaustralia)
/ [sanitariumnz](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumnz)

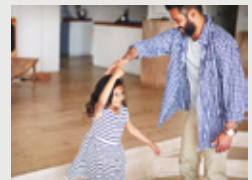
HEALTHY HABITS TO HELP KIDS THRIVE



GET BACK TO NATURE

With an ever-growing selection of apps and streaming services at our fingertips, it's getting easier to stay indoors! Research shows fewer than one-quarter of Aussie kids are currently meeting the minimum physical activity recommendations, and we know the great outdoors is the best setting to support kids' healthy development! If you have a backyard or a pool, make the area as playtime-friendly as possible and encourage kids to get outside.

Otherwise try scheduling time to get outdoors, like a regular Sunday afternoon walk.



TURN INTEREST INTO PLAYTIME

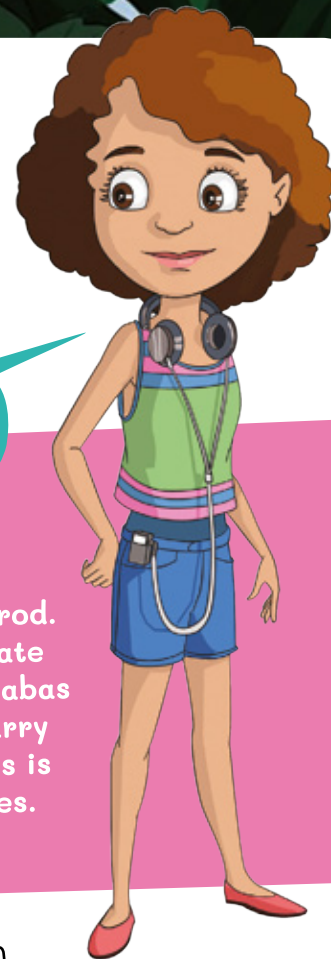
Whether it's digging dinosaur fossils or collecting Pokémon, every kid gets absorbed in a hobby that can consume their every moment! But how do you make sure they don't forget to get outside and move? Try helping them express their interest in more physically active ways. Music lovers can turn a favourite song into a dance routine and TV fans can act out a favourite scene with homemade costumes and props.

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing

KIDS' SPECIAL

Bonjour Kids!
(French for Hello)

I want Jesus to be my personal Saviour



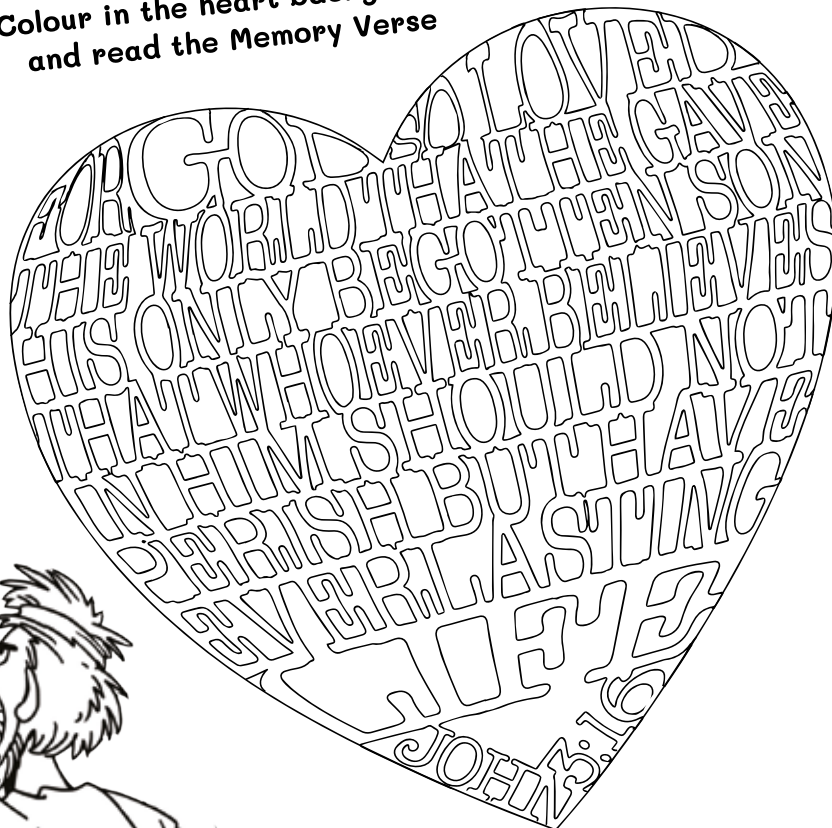
FOR ME!

Pilate finds Jesus innocent again after He is brought back from Herod. The crowd demand that Jesus be killed and Barabbas released. Pilate submits to their demands and turns Jesus over to be crucified. Barrabas is released, and Jesus is beaten and led to Golgotha. He cannot carry His cross all the way, so Simon the Cyrene is forced to do so. Jesus is nailed to the cross and hangs between two thieves. Then Jesus dies. Jesus' friends bury Him before the Sabbath in Joseph's tomb.



COLOUR ME IN

Colour in the heart background and read the Memory Verse





GOOD CHOICES

As a recent convert to a plant-based vegan lifestyle, I think this message (“Health nutters”, February 16) is so important. It’s not just about eating a healthy, balanced diet, but about the impact that our choice of diet has on the environment and the wider community.

It amazes me how much we can learn from Mrs White and the health message our Church has. It is time we take more notice and take responsibility.

Thank you for your article and the passion you clearly have for such an important subject.

Nicole Spicer, *via website*

BLESSED BOOKS

Thank you for the article “Health nutters” (February 16). Until a few years ago I had never read *Counsels on Diet and Foods* by Ellen White as the topic simply didn’t appeal to me.

When it became apparent my young son was dairy, gluten and refined sugar intolerant, I was finally driven to investigate our health message more thoroughly.

What a blessing it has been. What pain I could have avoided by having done so earlier! It is not only a gift for our lives but could be such a witness and help in bringing relief to our communities if we are faithful with the truth we have.

There was another area in which our family was greatly blessed by Ellen White’s books. Until my sons were school age, I had never been interested in reading our education books. [My sons] experienced severe anxiety symptoms, escalating to the point I withdrew them from our school to home educate them (I never would’ve imagined doing that!).

What a difference we

found in discovering and following God’s education blueprint. Until we, as parents, understand these principles we will continue to expect from our schools standards that are patterned after the world and can expect from that all the difficulties experienced by the world. Instead we should be a witness and blessing to our communities around us.

Katrina Higgins, *Qld*

CHASING SACRED COWS

Yes, let’s “chase a few Adventist sacred cows” (“Check your blind spot”, February 16). This is serious, for two of your three “blind spots” you, and I and every Adventist accepted at our baptism.

So: “is our prohibitionist stance on alcohol biblically justifiable?”

I’m sure none of us thinks Jesus plied Cana’s wedding guests with 150 gallons of alcohol. And all agree “wine” came in many forms at the time and that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Let’s put that aside and recall the solemn warning given to the priests of old: “You and your descendants must never

drink wine or any other alcoholic drink before going into the Tabernacle. If you do, you will die” (Leviticus 10:9).

A great pillar of the Reformation was the priesthood of all believers. As priests we, by faith, enter “through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary” (Hebrews 6:19). While drinking alcohol? We risk spiritual death.

Now to chase the other Adventist sacred cow: “Is tithing a genuinely New Testament teaching?”

Jesus told the Pharisees, “You are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things” (Matthew 23:23).

In case you quibble that He said this before His death, while Levitical laws still applied, consider Melchizedek, to whom Abraham paid tithe. David wrote, “The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow: ‘You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek’” (Psalm 110:4). Hebrews 7 argues that the Levites, who

received the tithes of Israel, paid tithes to Melchizedek through their ancestor.

And we, their spiritual descendants, still owe God’s own tenth to our great High Priest, for “the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:14, NIV).

Hopefully, the sacred cows have breathed their last and we can concentrate on “the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy and faith”. And our mandate to share God’s last call of mercy to a world bent on self-destruction (Revelation 14:6-12).

By the way, thanks for the rest of your article. By God’s grace, I’ll check my blind spots.

Joy Cornell, *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.

Obituaries



NASH, George, born 6.8.1922 in Tamworth, NSW; died 10.2.19 in Tamworth. On 10.5.1946 he married Isabel Waters. George was predeceased by his sons-in-law Lindsay Kirby (2008), Bill Fermor (2016) and Keith Mackender (2017). He is survived by his wife (Tamworth); children Beryl Fermor (Melbourne, Vic), Joan Mackender (Tamworth, NSW), Carol and Roger Millist (Perth, WA), Diane Kirby (Sydney, NSW), Jon and Kylee (Tamworth), and Mark and Sonya (Lismore); 17 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sister Merle Aves (Lismore). George committed his life to God in 1974 and lived the remainder of his life in assurance of his forgiveness and in the hope of resurrection to eternal life.

Roger Millist



SEBERRY, William Roy, born 12.3.1931 at The Rock, Collingullie, NSW; died 10.2.19 at The Rock, Collingullie. He was married to Isabel. He is survived by his wife (Collingullie); daughter Neroli and son Trevor. Roy was born at The Rock and passed away at The Rock, but most important was that Roy had his faith firmly planted and lived in "The Rock": Jesus Christ. His first job after graduating Avondale was at the Union Conference at Wahroonga before leaving to help his family, becoming a farmer at The Rock. Roy looked forward to Jesus' second coming.

Lawrence Landers, Tharren Hutchinson



TASKER, Fred-erick Albert, born 19.10.1937 in Gisborne, NZ; died 27.1.19 in Hastings. On 21.10.1959 he married Joan Black. Fred is survived by his wife (Hastings); daughters Rebecca and Elise, son-in-law Graham Dockary; and grandchildren Monica, Aimee, Hannah, Leah and Samuel. Fred contributed to his church with his involvement in the Hawkes Bay chapter of the Adventist Business and Professional Men's Association. He was instrumental in new church facilities in Hastings, Napier

and Waipukurau, and in communication equipment in Solomon Islands. Fred was a master builder who has left his mark on the town, not only in many fine buildings, but in the lives of many he came in contact with, due to his involvement in firearms safety with the police, the Black Powder Club and a coin club. He awaits the life call of the Saviour he placed his trust in.

David Tasker

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Finally . . .

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. -Maya Angelou

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST RECORD, APRIL 6

POSITIONS VACANT

ASSISTANT EDITOR (MATERNITY LEAVE COVER), ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, NSW

Adventist Media is seeking a full-time assistant editor to join the editorial team to fill a maternity relief role for 12 months. The role involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the South Pacific Division as well as creating content that shares the love of Jesus with external audiences. Applicants must have excellent oral and written communication skills, high attention to detail, a positive work ethic, and an ability to meet deadlines and work in a collaborative team environment. Ideally, they will be digitally focused, with experience in social media and online platforms. Interested applicants should send a resume and a letter of application, including CV and referees, to <traceybridcutt@adventistmedia.org.au>. **Applications close April 15, 2019.**

FLIGHT OPERATION MANAGER AND LINE PILOT, ADVENTIST AVIATION SERVICES GOROKA, PNG

Adventist Aviation Services is seeking applications from qualified pilots for the position of flight operations manager (FOM) and line pilot. The ideal candidate for FOM would be an experienced pilot with aviation management experience. Interested candidates who are active Seventh-day Adventist 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: <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. **Applications close April 15, 2019.**

CHAPLAIN, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION COORANBONG, NSW

Avondale seeks to appoint a college chaplain to join the Student Life Services team. The chaplain will provide pastoral support and pastoral counselling to students and develop programs, policies and structures that provide pastoral care and spiritual development for all students on the Lake Macquarie campus. These programs, policies and structures will focus on faith development of young Christians and ways for students to internalise and share their Christian experience with others. Please visit <employment@avondale.edu.au> for full selection criteria and a job description. Applications, with a statement addressing the selection criteria and with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications close March 29, 2019.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT: ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU



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CHIP Program Leader

Lifestyle Medicine Institute (LMI) is seeking a part-time (2.5 days per week) Leader for its Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). CHIP is a researched-based, affordable, lifestyle education program that sees incredible results with the potential to change people's lives and reverse lifestyle disease through the power of nutrition. It is a program that is sponsored by local, certified leadership; is community based; and has a strong, ongoing support system.

The CHIP Program Leader will be based out of the offices of Sanitarium's Vitality Works North Sydney office. The successful applicant will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of a strategy and framework for growing CHIP across the Seventh-day Adventist Church, through medical practitioners and digital (online) networks in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. The successful applicant will hold a bachelor or higher qualification in a Health or Business related field with a keen interest in health and a desire to see people's lives change through the power of nutrition. You will also be a great communicator, well organised and have a high energy level. Also, candidates for this role must be an active member of the Adventist Church and be available for some weekend work to run workshops. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity please visit <www-adventistemployment-org-au.adventistconnect.org> or contact <hrservices@sanitarium.com.au>.



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