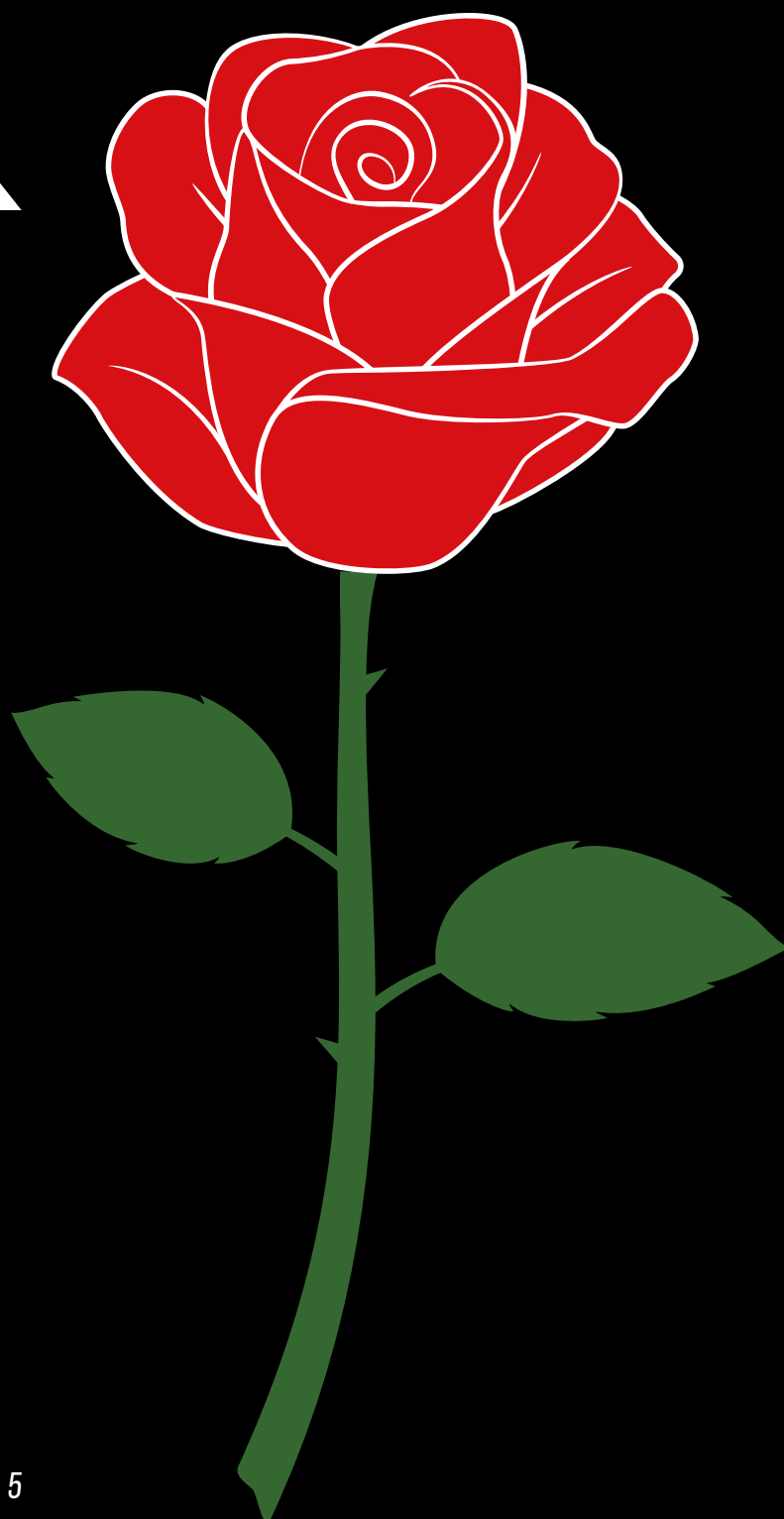


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BY ANY OTHER NAME

UNFORTUNATE NAME OR
UNWARRANTED SHAME? 12

NEWS

1600 ATTEND EVANGELISTIC
SERIES LAUNCH IN MELBOURNE 5



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SCARED INTO SHAPE

As I write this, I'm sweating at my desk. No, it's not the heat of deadlines bearing down (although they are) or that the air conditioner in my office is broken (it isn't). It's not even an unseasonal heat wave.

It's because I've just got back from a lunch time run.

Sitting at a computer most days (for most of the day), I relish the chance to get the blood pumping through my veins. It keeps me healthy and keeps me sane. After all, they say "sitting is the new smoking". If I can't exercise at lunch, I try to get another session in sometime during the day.

But for weight loss and overall wellbeing, exercise can't do everything by itself. Since the beginning of the year, my wife and I have also switched completely to a plant-based diet, each for our own reasons. We've noticed the upsurge in interest in veganism and more vegan-friendly products in mainstream supermarkets.

Many newspaper articles have explored this recent upsurge, calling 2019 "The Year of the Vegan". Veganism is going mainstream. It's taking over.

Yet, as more people embrace health and lifestyle choices that the Adventist Church has traditionally championed, we are walking away. It's a shame that we are starting to abandon an area we pioneered.

Perhaps as a reaction to the legalism of previous generations, we've become lax. We argue that it is not a salvation issue but forget that not everything that is permissible is good. Before you get defensive, I'm preaching to myself here.

It has always been easy for me to judge those who have smoking or alcohol addictions, having steered well clear of those habits throughout my life. Yet, like many in the Church, food was my socially acceptable vice in plain sight.

Sugar, cream, rich desserts, cheesy oily food or salty snacks—these were my stumbling blocks (still have the potential to be, if I'm really honest).

It can become a cycle of self-destruction. I got busy, got stressed and started comfort eating. Exercising got harder (mentally and physically), eating needed to be simple, quick, convenient and it didn't matter if it was healthy or not. Before I knew it I'd stacked on 20 kgs.

Yet the changes I have made this year have made me feel better—physically, mentally (most days), and even spiritually.

Throughout the Pacific people are struggling with lifestyle diseases and how to live healthy lifestyles. As a Church we have answers and with initiatives like the 10,000 Toes Campaign, the problem is starting to be addressed, through work with governments, early detection kits and education.

I'm tackling the Kokoda Track in July, with 10,000 Toes and ADRA. I've lost 20 kgs to date and, while I know that will help, I'm not under any illusions that I'm ready. I'm scared. It has literally been scaring me into shape. But I'm so thankful for something that helped kick me into gear.

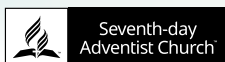
I'm trying to raise \$A3000. If that happens, not only will I walk Kokoda, knowing that I've contributed 30 early diabetes detection kits for remote Pacific communities, but I've also promised to shave off my beard (which is currently quite large). The deadline is this coming week.

Shaving the beard is not something I want to do. My wife likes it and that's all the excuse I've needed to keep it. For years, it has covered my face, protecting me from the outside world. Last time I went clean shaven, I hated what I saw. I didn't like my face—naked and ashamed. As they say, a good beard can hide a multitude of chins.

So, with my healthy outlook and my weight already lost, I'm hoping I can learn to love and forgive myself and my body. I'm hoping that when I lose the beard, I won't be ashamed of the face I see underneath it.

I want to encourage you today. If you're reading this and struggling with your health, only *you* have the will to change it. Make that change today. Take one step. Add an exercise day to your routine, give up an unhealthy food, drink more water. Make today the day you start moving up the spectrum of good health. I have, and I don't want to go back.

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MEDITATE

Meditating is a biblical practice. God said to Joshua, “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Joshua 1:8).

Many people are concerned about meditating because other religions do it. Eastern meditation is supposed to empty the mind but biblical meditation is filling the mind with the Word of God. It harnesses all human faculties so we can better understand godly matters and put them into practice.

The Hebrew and Greek words translated as *meditate* literally mean: to murmur, to ponder, to imagine, to talk to yourself. Meditating is when you think about something over and over, from every angle and ask, “What does this mean?” or “What if that happens?”

Scripture challenges us to meditate on God’s law (Ps 1:2; 119:97), precepts (Ps 119:15,78), decrees (Ps 119:23,48), statutes (Ps 119:99), unending love (Ps 48:9), works and mighty deeds (Ps 77:12; 143:5; 145:5), wonders (Ps 119:27) and promises.

So how do you meditate on Scripture? Firstly, read the verse (in different translations if possible).

Next, ask yourself—what is the key message? What are the other parts?

Finally, pull the verse apart and consider it bit by bit. Ponder each word or phrase by itself, noting everything that comes to mind.

Try meditating on Ephesians 4:15: this is the heart of true discipleship—we are to become more and more like Jesus in every aspect of our lives. (Spend a moment on each section.)

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.”

Let Scripture take root inside us. As it becomes “ours”, God can call it from our memory when we need His wisdom, comfort or direction.

GLENN TOWNEND
SENIOR CONSULTING EDITOR
●/SPDpresident



PATHFINDERS INTRODUCED INTO VANUATU SCHOOLS

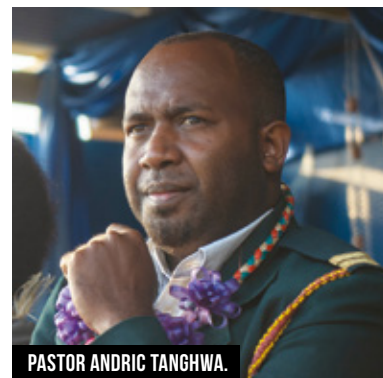
JEAN-PIERRE NIPTIK

Three Adventist schools in Vanuatu have taken a different approach to learning, offering Pathfinder activities as part of their curriculum.

Malekula Adventist Junior Secondary School, Eneki Adventist Primary and Sise Adventist Primary have all introduced the Pathfinder program into their schools in the past year, with excellent results.

A 2018 report from Eneki, on the island of Tanna, showed that 181 of the 211 students enrolled in Pathfinder classes were from other faith backgrounds. Sise Adventist Primary, the only Adventist school on the island of Paama, currently has 70 students enrolled, with music classes one of the most popular Pathfinder activities.

Introducing Pathfinders into the schools has had a lot of positive feedback from students and



PASTOR ANDRIC TANGHWA.

parents.

“Teaching Pathfinder principles is more effective in schools because teachers know their students best, and schools are where we build church leadership,” said Pastor Andric Tanghwa, Vanuatu Mission youth director.

“We want Adventist education to be different, and offering Pathfinder lessons in schools makes this difference,” said Gilrick Joshua, Vanuatu Mission education director. “It makes Adventist education unique.”

DATE SET FOR VATUVONU CASE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The legal dispute between the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fiji and the Fiji government over Vatuvonu Adventist High School will go before a judge in the High Court on June 24.

During a brief hearing on May 13, the Fiji Mission was given until June 3 to file its documents in response to the documents filed by the Ministry of Education.

As previously reported (*Record*, May 18), the case began as a result of the appointment of non-Adventist staff to Vatuvonu Adventist High School (on

Vanua Levu, Fiji’s second largest island). On April 15, High Court proceedings were commenced by the Attorney-General’s office against Vatuvonu school and the Adventist Church. The orders block the closure of the school and prevent the Church having any say on the government’s appointment of the principal or staff.



VATUVONU ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL.

1600 ATTEND EVANGELISTIC SERIES LAUNCH IN MELBOURNE

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

The Victorian Conference's "Revelation Today" evangelistic series launched on May 3, with more than 1600 people attending the opening sessions.

The series—hosted by popular *It Is Written* speakers, Pastors John Bradshaw and Eric Flickenger—was held at four locations around Melbourne and is a key part of the Conference's Harvest Victoria initiative. Some of the opening sessions were so full that there was standing room only. A further 1200 people have been watching the series online.

Revelation Today/Harvest Victoria project manager Pastor Fraser Catton said it is exciting to see the number of attendees interested in studying the Bible.

"One lady saw an ad for [the series] on TV in Ballarat, which is an hour-and-a-half away from Melbourne. She was so excited to be studying Revelation, she drove from there to attend," Pastor Catton said.

"John and Eric are excellent

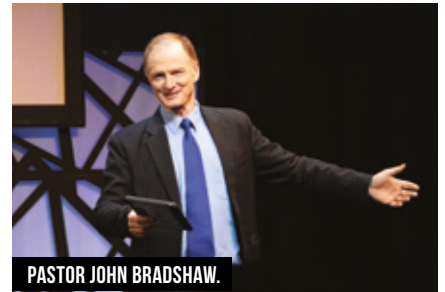
presenters and they have presented in a way that is non-confrontational but challenging. It has been really good to see people who are really passionate about wanting to study the Bible. It's exciting to see them engaging with it and asking meaningful questions."

Of those attending, at least half are from other faith backgrounds or no faith background.

The program is being supported by around 250 volunteers. Local church pastors are contacting the attendees during the series to build relationships and to respond to any questions they might have.

"At the end of the series each local church will be running a follow-up series and will be inviting the guests [from Revelation Today]," Pastor Catton said.

"The one thing we have noticed, having it set around four different locations in a city, the churches are collaborating quite closely, which has really built the Adventist community in the city.



PASTOR JOHN BRADSHAW.



SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE PROGRAM.

"Please pray for the program and the guests who are attending that the Holy Spirit will continue to work and we will see amazing things happen."

Revelation Today will finish June 1 after four weeks of four weekly sessions at each venue.

AM WINS TWO CHRISTIAN MEDIA AWARDS

VANIA CHEW

Adventist Media was acknowledged at the recent 2019 Christian Media & Arts Australia (CMAA) conference, winning two awards at the Excellence in Media Awards presentation.

Maryellen Fairfax was announced as winner of the "Emerging Talent" category, beating four other finalists from prominent media institutions. She is a panellist on *Mums At The Table* and also one of the hosts of *I Am*, both productions of Adventist Media.

"Receiving this award has been absolutely surreal! Every ounce of credit goes to God," said Ms Fairfax.

"I'm so privileged that He's using me in the Christian media space, and I can't wait to see what He's going to do next as I keep surrendering myself daily to Him."

I Am, a 13-part series on discov-

ering and developing a relationship with Jesus, also won the "Compelling Content—Film/Television/Video" category.

Adventist Media production manager Adam Kavanagh accepted the award. "It's a blessing to be able to create content that shares Jesus," said Mr Kavanagh, who also directed the *I Am* series.

Adventist Media CEO Dr Brad Kemp said he was "delighted but not surprised" by the awards.

"We produce exceptional programs and content, many of which are designed to make missional contacts for the Church," he added. "It is an honour to be recognised by the broader Christian community for what we are doing."

The Adventist Media team also



ADAM KAVANAGH ACCEPTS THE "COMPELLING CONTENT" AWARD FOR THE I AM SERIES.

had the opportunity to run a workshop during the CMAA conference, explaining the *Mums At The Table* ministry and discussing topics such as God's creativity and sharing Christian values in a secular world.

Feedback from the workshop and conference was overwhelmingly positive with many individuals and ministries eager to partner with and learn from Adventist Media.

Photos: Samantha Rule

NEW PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

BRENTON STACEY

The launch of a podcast series (April 21) reinforces a new brand that aligns the mission of Avondale with its research agenda.

The series, called *Here For Good*, will feature researchers at Avondale College of Higher Education in conversation with Associate Dean (Research) Dr Carolyn Rickett and guest presenters. In the first episode, Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud talks about his latest book *Anzac Spirituality*, which explores the spiritual beliefs and experiences of the Anzacs largely through their own words.

In other episodes, Dr Darren Morton discusses wellbeing and The Lift Project, Dr Warrick Long highlights aspects of effective leadership, and Associate Professor Maria Northcote reflects on the benefits of co-constructing rubrics with students.

Sound engineer Dale Willis, an award-winning alumnus of Avondale,

is producing the series.

Each 15-minute episode will “communicate our individual and institutional purpose for research; that we are here for good,” said Dr Rickett, who consulted with Avondale’s administrators and research centre directors to develop the Avondale Researchers: Here For Good brand.

“Research can often be perceived as an activity that’s abstract, individualised and impractical,” she said. “But our Here For Good narrative highlights the kind of research designed to connect with real-world issues, challenges and possibilities. Many of our academic staff members bring their professional experience in schools, hospitals, churches, not-for-profits and corporate industries to the projects on which they’re working.”

The brand supports the philosophical framework and practical focus of Avondale’s key research fields—society



ASSOC PROF DANIEL REYNAUD
WAS GUEST ON THE FIRST EPISODE.

and culture, education, and health—and the motivation and scope of its four research centres.

The research centres contribute to understanding of areas—Christian education, health and wellbeing, spirituality and worship, teaching and learning—Seventh-day Adventists find significant.

New *Here For Good* episodes will be released on Avondale’s news blog and Apple’s iTunes Store each month.

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“Had a big op on my left shoulder and they looked after all by bills completely. No problems at all.”
Member for more than 11 years, WA

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ACA Health are inviting you to join the fund supporting the workers of God.

We work hard to continually provide our members with value-for-money health cover at a great price.
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SPD FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RECORD STAFF

More than 100 senior leaders from several South Pacific Division (SPD) entities and territories recently participated in the second of a series of quarterly SPD leadership development workshops.

The workshop was available both in person and via live-streaming, and was facilitated by Dr Stephen Brown, an international leadership and change expert, and Simon Banks, director of creativity for innovation company Visual Funk.

The theme, "Tangling with your temple cats", was a metaphor used to talk about dealing with change in the church organisation. It compared the different types of individuals in organisations to cats seen wandering around ancient temples. Participants were asked to identify the types of "cats" in the SPD that thwart change,



as well as outdated policies, ideas and beliefs.

"Our director team really related to the cat network notion," said Clare Lumley, nursing and operations executive for Adventist HealthCare. "In fact, we even used the analogy in a recent change initiative communication."

"It's great to see so many leaders across our diverse entities commit to ongoing development, networking and sharing their wealth of leadership experience together," said SPD leadership development manager Dean Banks.

ADVENTIST SCHOOL LEADING WORSHIP SERVICES

JEAN-PIERRE NIPTIK/TALEMAOT

Five hundred and forty-seven students of Epauto Adventist Senior Secondary School with their teachers are reaching out to their parents and the wider communities in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The whole school has been divided into 14 groups, with each group allocated to visit an Adventist church in Port Vila and take charge of Sabbath services.

"Leading in the church's services will build student confidence while at the same time, providing an opportunity for the school to inform parents of what it is doing, and in a way re-enforcing the idea that Epauto is a district school for all Efate," said principal Willie Luen.

Sabbath, April 13 was the first for Epauto to begin its visits to churches in 2019. A group went to Freshwind Adventist Church in Port Vila where they ran all their Sabbath programs, including sharing testimonies, singing songs and organising the church into Sabbath

school lesson study groups.

Epauto recorded another increase in enrolments in 2019 with 547 students and 32 teachers. Last year's enrolment was 479. Fifty per cent of the students from other faith backgrounds this year.

Another milestone achievement was reached this year with 42 students now doing year 13 for the first time in both science and arts classes.



NEWS GRABS



RIDING WITH A MISSION

Members of the Greek Adventist Bikers for Christ team found a unique way to share their faith during a 15km cycling event in Athens. Despite starting the ride nearly last, the team of 15 overtook around 2000 cyclists, making sure their team name and Adventist logo were visible, thus attracting the attention of reporters and fellow cyclists who were curious about who they were and what they represented. — TED



TERRIFIC TURNOUT

For the first time ever, more than 200 teams participated in the Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals, held in Illinois (US). The Pathfinders, who were comprised of nine North American Division unions and the British Union, were tested on their study and memorisation of the book of Luke. — NAD



TONS OF FOOD

People affected by recent storms in Brazil have received food baskets provided by Adventist volunteers and ADRA. In three days, volunteers gathered 9000 kgs of non-perishable food, which local supermarkets matched. The baskets were then delivered to families in need. — ANN

HOT TOPICS



AVOID ALTOGETHER?

A new study by Cancer Research UK has found even moderate amounts of red meat are linked to bowel cancer. People who stick to guidelines from Britain's National Health Service on red and processed meat consumption still increase their risk of bowel cancer by a fifth compared with those who eat very small amounts. —SBS



UNHAPPY AUSSIES

For the first time, Australia has dropped out of the top 10 happiest countries in the world, according to the newly released 2019 United Nations World Happiness Report. Finland claimed first place for a second straight year, while Australia moved down to 11th place. In contrast, New Zealand took eighth place for a third consecutive year. This year's report had a special focus on "happiness and the community", considering factors such as social media and technology, social norms, conflicts and government policies. —*The New Daily*



DEBTS FORGIVEN

Every year, Pathway Church in Wichita, Kansas (US) spends thousands on TV ads and direct mail to promote their Easter Sunday service. But this year, they decided to put "belief into action", paying off \$US2.2 million worth of medical debt for local families. —*Relevant*

MOBILE MUSEUM BRINGS ANCIENT HISTORY AND BIBLE TRUTHS TO LIFE

MARITZA BRUNT

Ancient Egyptian history is now accessible in schools across Australia, courtesy of a mobile museum.

Tutankhamun: The Roadshow, affectionately known as the "King Tut Roadshow", is a collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts housed in a semi-trailer. Curated and founded by Seventh-day Adventist Dr Wayne French, the vision for the roadshow is to bring history to schools and communities—particularly rural areas—on the east coast of Australia.

During the roadshow experience, participants move through three theatrettes, all equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia displays and glass cabinets housing the ancient artefacts. Described as a "sensory learning experience", objects are able to be held and examined, with learning resources and materials also provided for teachers.

"One of the aims is to be able to go out into the community in places we wouldn't be able to go normally—for example, public schools and shopping centres—and introduce them to how God has been leading through our history," said Dr Wayne Krause, church planting and urban mission director for the South Pacific Division.

The roadshow, which was officially dedicated in February, received significant funding from the General Conference, the South Pacific Division, the Australian Union Conference, and the North New South Wales and Greater Sydney conferences. Although it has been trialled at camps and local

churches in recent years, the first official visits were to two non-Adventist schools in Newcastle.

"Schools need it, because they have to teach history as part of the curriculum," said Dr Krause. "Instead of going to museums, we've got this truck that can come to them. But it's also a stepping stone for further things to happen—church planting teams and centres of influence teams can be involved when they go into an area where there's no Adventist presence, and they can be there and start building relationships."

Further connections have also been developed between the roadshow and the Hope Channel Bible school. Since the '90s, the school has produced letterbox cards corresponding to the *Archeological Diggings* courses, based on ancient Egypt, archaeology and the Middle East during Bible times. In 2017, the cards were redesigned to match the Tut Roadshow artwork and, depending on the audience, Dr French places the cards at the exit for people to take or enquire about.

"The Tut Roadshow is a fantastic way to connect with people who are searching for deeper biblical truths," said Bible school director Pastor Wayne Boehm. "So far, we've had more than 100 people complete *Diggings* as a direct result of the letterbox cards. This ministry is something that has the potential to reach people in such a new and innovative way, and it's our prayer that this will be a blessing to kids and adults across Australia."



TOOT-AND-COME-IN: THE ROADSHOW TRUCK.



SOCCER WITH REFUGEES

For more than 20 years, the teens and young adults of Glenvale Adventist Church (Toowoomba, Qld) have been actively involved with sporting activities, often joining sports clubs, in addition to a long tradition of informal Sunday afternoon sports in Queens Park. Recently, an effort was made by young adult leaders Alex and Jess McLaren to shift the focus from “having our own fun” to “looking for vulnerable people”. This motivated the young adults to reach out to the refugee community in Toowoomba. A recent soccer afternoon saw nearly 30 refugees of all ages mingle with the Glenvale youth. —Geof Fraunfelder/Jacob Ugljesa



ORDAINING TRAVIS

Travis Siutu was ordained on Sabbath afternoon April 6 at The Grove Adventist Church (SA). Pastor Siutu graduated from Avondale College in 2011. He has worked as a chaplain and youth pastor in various locations across Adelaide, including Prescott College Southern and, more recently, Morphett Vale church where he spent four years. Pastor Siutu is currently the pastor of The Grove and youth pastor of Para Vista church. —Joseph Maticic



CALLING CONFIRMED AT CAMP

Joel Slade was ordained on Sabbath afternoon April 20 at the South Australian (SA) Conference Big Camp. Pastor Slade graduated from Avondale in 2013 and conducted a number of evangelistic programs in the Philippines during his semester breaks, resulting in the baptism of some 300 people. After graduating from Avondale College, Pastor Slade worked at the My House church plant in Newcastle (NSW) and more recently was associate pastor of Kingscliff church. In 2019, he was appointed as the youth director for the SA Conference. —Joseph Maticic



CELEBRATION AT TARANAKI

Bruce Mason was ordained on Sabbath April 13 at the Taranaki regional (NZ). Church members from Stratford, Hawera and New Plymouth all combined for the regional, with others travelling from throughout North New Zealand to be a part of Pastor Mason’s ordination. New Zealand Pacific Union (NZPUC) president Pastor Eddie Tupa’i and NNZ Conference president Pastor Ben Timothy were both present at the ordination, while a ribbon-cutting ceremony by NZPUC secretary-treasurer Graeme Drinkall opened the new church hall where everyone enjoyed lunch following the service. —Ben Timothy



ADVENT BRASS SHARES ANZAC SPIRIT

As the sun rose and the numbers swelled at the Morisset (NSW) RSL ANZAC dawn service, the Avondale Advent Brass band were there to contribute to the remembrance service. For more than 50 years the band has been a part of ANZAC commemorations in the Lake Macquarie region, performing at both the dawn service and the march held later in the morning. This year, a beautiful rendition of “Abide with me” saw all present joining in with the band as the sun came up. —David Faull



KUKUDU BAPTISMS

Twenty-four students and a staff member at Kukudu Adventist High School (Solomon Islands) were recently baptised. According to school principal Dapikana Ripo, two students were from non-Adventist families “and we praise God for working through them [and] for their commitment despite family opposition”. The school has two more baptisms planned for this year. —The Conch Shell



“NO” TO BULLYING

Students from Sydney Adventist School Auburn (NSW) took part in the National Day of Action against bullying and violence on March 15. Taking a stand together, the students were encouraged to look at the importance of relationships while also exploring their understanding of online bullying and how to communicate responsibly. —Daniel Lavaiaamat



BORN FREE AND BORN AGAIN

Six young people from the Operation Food for Life Born Free Sanctuary (PNG) recently decided to commit their lives to Jesus. The youth were baptised in a river near the village of Kivori Poe, where the sanctuary is located, and will continue to be involved in worship at the sanctuary, Pathfinders and singing special items at the Bomana prison in Port Moresby through their gospel group. —Dennis Perry

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ... **PLANT-BASED CAFE OWNER**

NAME: JEREMY DIXON | **JOB:** REVIVE CAFE OWNER/FOUNDER | **WHERE:** AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

HOW WAS THE REVIVE MINISTRY BORN?

I used to work for Sanitarium back in the '90s, but in 2004 my wife and I went to a health retreat and came back inspired to share the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle with others further. I quit my job and in 2005 opened the first Revive café in Auckland. In 2011, I put out the first Revive cookbook and thought that would be it, but it sold out so quickly! I've basically been doing one cookbook a year, and to date, we've got nine cookbooks in print and two cafés in central Auckland.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

I like to get up early—around 5:30am—to shower, study my Bible and set my plan for the day: reviewing my goals and making a list of things I need to do. By 6:30am I'm already at the café to meet with my operations manager and give inspiration for next week's menu. Each week we like to have a new dish, so we'll look at the new ingredients that have come in and create a new recipe. Or there might be a dish we're having a problem with, so we'll work on troubleshooting that—we're always trying to improve our recipes.

Then there are always marketing things to plan out, as well as reviewing our finances and making sure any projects we're undertaking—for example, we're currently renovating one of our stores at the moment—are going well.

After I'm finished at the café, I head across Auckland to the Frooze Ball factory, which really takes up the majority of my time.

PEOPLE KNOW YOU FOR THE REVIVE CAFÉS AND COOKBOOKS, SO TELL US A BIT ABOUT THESE FROOZE BALLS.

The plant-based "bliss balls" we sold in our cafés were so popular, we couldn't keep up with the demand in-store. The Frooze Balls range was born as a result and they're now the number-one-selling healthy snack in New Zealand. At the moment we're doing a lot of trials of new products—we've got a test machine that can make different types of Frooze Balls, so every day is about experimenting with flavours and recipes.

IN YOUR 14 YEARS OF RUNNING SUCCESSFUL CAFÉS, WHAT'S THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNT?

Have a goal of where you want to get to, but be willing to change—often along the way—the method of how you

get there. The menu we currently have in our cafés is completely different to the menu I first started with. In a café, the menu dictates everything about how profitable or successful you are. When you come up with something that's just not working, realising it straight away and making changes to fix it can be crucial to a profitable and successful business.

HOW DO YOU SHARE JESUS THROUGH YOUR JOB?

It can be difficult, because New Zealand is a very secular country. But there are little things we do that we believe can make a difference. We always have copies of *Signs of the Times* magazines in our cafés. I also like running cooking demonstrations—it's one of the easiest ways to get more than 100 people from the community into a Seventh-day Adventist Church!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE TO CREATE?

Great question. Probably one that stands out the most is our "Too Good to be True Tiramisu". It's a tiramisu copy, but we use Inka (a Polish, barley-based powder) as a coffee substitute, with cacao, coconut oil and nuts. In the cafés, it sells really well.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE REVIVE MINISTRY?

I'll probably need to reinvent something at some stage—you can't keep doing the same thing forever—but I enjoy doing the cookbooks and sharing things through them. I've also had a lot of people contact me and tell me they'd like to run a Revive café in their city, so I'd love to develop a franchise model eventually so people can open their own cafés.

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE KNOW BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPEN THEIR OWN CAFÉ?

A lot of healthy, plant-based cafés around the world start and then fizzle out. Even the standard coffee-based, meat-based cafés struggle. Cafés are a very complicated and difficult business model. It's not about just wandering in and doing some cooking—being able to cook delicious food is probably 10 per cent of the skills you'll need to run a café. You need to have an understanding of marketing, accounting, HR and property, and a good balance of each. If you get one of those things wrong—not enough marketing

'WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?'

When Ernest Shackleton and 27 others embarked on their famous journey to Antarctica, they could not have imagined the difficulties ahead. The *Endurance* was trapped in pack ice that crushed the ship, forcing the men into life boats.

While Shackleton did not succeed in crossing Antarctica, it was an incredible success—despite having to abandon ship, “Shackleton was able to keep all of his men alive for two years getting them all home, prompting one of his men to describe Shackleton as ‘the greatest leader that ever came on God’s earth, bar none.’” (Christopher Peterson, PhD).

Shackleton’s crew had confidence in his identity and role. Jesus asked a poignant question to focus the disciples’ understanding on who He was: “Who do men say that I am?” **CONSIDER** Matthew 16:13–20.

While the disciples made several suggestions, Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ. **CONSIDER** the following: this is the only time in the gospel of Matthew where Simon Peter’s full name is used, indicating the importance of what Peter was saying. Peter was in fact confessing that all the Old Testament prophecies pointed to Jesus. Peter further qualified Jesus’ identity—he was the “Son of the living God”.

CONSIDER Matthew 16:21–23. Having confessed and affirmed Jesus’ identity as the promised Messiah, Jesus then reveals to the disciples the role of the Messiah in redeeming fallen humanity. It was through Him suffering humanity would safely reach their destination—heaven. WHY is it important to understand Jesus’ identity and role as Sacrifice, Priest and King?



or the wrong location, mix of meals, pricing or staff—it can make the difference between doing well or an unsuccessful business venture.

Chase your dreams, but go and work in a café first for at least a year! I didn’t do this and it cost me a lot of money, and an extra year of pain that I probably could have avoided.

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes of running a business. When someone wins a gold medal at the Olympics, you see the medal ceremony, but you don’t see the long hours they’ve put in every morning for the past 20 years to get to that stage. It has been like that with the cafés and cookbooks. I’ve had years where it has been gruelling, tough and painful, but it forces you to reinvent yourself, dig deep and make changes to make things work. It tests your faith and your commitment to your mission.

WHAT’S THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

All the comments from people. It means a lot when people email you to tell you they’ve lost huge amounts of weight, their diseases have gone away or their family is now eating healthy food because of my cookbooks. The business side of things is necessary to make it work, but having a business with a mission—that means you can make a real difference in people’s lives.



By any other name

What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," Juliet declares in Shakespeare's well-known tragedy. It's difficult to argue with a literary legend (who also happens to be dead) but I have to disagree.

In a 2008 study, aptly named "A Rose by any other name: would it smell as sweet?", neuropsychologist Jelena Djordjevic and her colleagues sought to discover whether presenting a smell with a positive, neutral or negative name would influence how people perceived it.

Using 15 types of smells from unpleasant to neutral to pleasant, they presented them to test subjects under names that were positive, neutral or negative. They found the same smell was rated more highly when it was given a positive name and rated as less pleasant when it was given a negative name.

As a child, I was convinced that my parents had given me a negative name. Nobody could ever spell it, pronounce it or remember it. I had a teacher who called me "Sylvia" for almost an entire term . . . which might not have been so bad if there hadn't already been a Sylvia in my class.

Determined to change my destiny, I began coming up with new names that would be easier to remember and asked people to call me by those names instead.

My teachers thought I was kidding. My friends occasionally humoured me. And of course my parents never succumbed.

I hated my name. I was embarrassed by it. I wanted any other name but my own. One day, I eventually asked my mum how and why she had chosen my name. She told me she had struggled to have children and had experienced several miscarriages. "Then God gave you to us. You were our gift," she said simply. "That's why we chose your

name: it means 'gift of God'."

I was greatly humbled. And although my name is still difficult to spell, pronounce and remember, I have never complained about it since. Once I understood its origin, its purpose and its meaning, my perception changed.

There is another name that I used to be embarrassed about and I'm pretty sure I'm not alone. Attending public schools far away from Wahroonga or Cooranbong, I grew up with people who had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists before . . . or had only ever heard negative things.

When I mentioned this at church, people encouraged me to disassociate from the Adventist name.

"Just say you're a Christian," they urged. "Let them get to know you without the stigma."

So I did. For years, I felt like I was living a double life with a secret identity. But I was no superhero.

I've always loved history. But it's only in recent years, since working for Adventist Media, that I grew curious about the history of our Church. As I started reading Adventist history, I began to realise what a special thing it is to be part of this movement.

I believe the people who once encouraged me to hide my Adventist identity meant well. But hiding our identity doesn't do anything to change people's understanding of who Adventists are and what they do.

As was the situation with my given name, once I understood the origin of "Adventist", its purpose and its meaning, my perception of it changed.

Today I am proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist (most days, anyway). And I love talking to people about our Church and what it means to me.

I VANIA CHEW PRODUCER, MUMS AT THE TABLE.

A UNIQUE VIEWPOINT

Larisa and Helen sit watching the screen. A new show is on and they are deciding: Will the show get the thumbs up for nationwide broadcast? Will it get thumbs down? Or, in the case of Helen, paw down? Larisa Fleming is a Hope Channel New Zealand program reviewer. And Helen? She's Larisa's guide dog.

"I had a brain tumour when I was 10," recalls Larisa, "and by the time I was 11 I had completely lost my eyesight. They said I only had two years to live," she continues, "but I like a challenge—38 years later, I'm still going strong! Sometimes people ask me whether I'm angry at God. No! I love every day of life that God gives me and I love Him for all the good things He's brought into my life."

Larisa got married one year ago. "My husband is amazing. He's a paraplegic who fractured his spine in a quad bike accident. We now do inspirational speeches together for companies around New Zealand. My husband wrote a book entitled *Change the Channel* about staying positive. I read it through in just one night because once I started, I couldn't stop. My husband has got me into skiing (pictured bottom-left). It's so much fun to be out on the slopes with him in his sit-ski.

"Sometimes you meet people who feel sorry for themselves. I don't have time for that. Life's for living, so, no matter what we face, we have to get going with life. My husband and I have, and if we can, well, I think pretty much anyone can.

"My favourite song is 'God Will Make a Way' by Don Moen. The lyrics are just so true. I know, because He has for me."

Larisa, who is a praise team leader at Hawera Adventist Church, gets her church to sing the song as often as she can. She also teaches the Sabbath school lesson at church—all from memory.

One of the ways that Larisa stays positive is by giving service to God. "When I first heard that

Hope Channel New Zealand needed volunteers to review potential programming for the channel, I thought, *What a great opportunity to serve God!* But when I told someone about my interest, they said, 'You're blind, how are you going to review television shows?' Apparently the person wasn't aware that yes, blind people do watch TV. We watch through our ears because 99 per cent of the story is told through dialogue, mood-setting music and sound effects. When I called Julia Ross at Hope Channel New Zealand, she welcomed me into the reviewing team with open arms."

Larisa became one of the first Hope Channel New Zealand program reviewers and has faithfully reviewed potential programming for five years. But what does she look for in a program? "Of course I look for content. I ask, *Is the program consistent with Christian values?* But I look for something else too—*is the program interesting?*"

Does she ever reject programs because they are boring?

"Yes, I reject boring shows regularly," she laughs. "It's painful enough that I had to sit through it, I don't want to inflict TV tedium onto others!"

"What I love about Hope Channel New Zealand is the way it is connecting with people all over the country," concludes Larisa, "I'm inspired when I hear of stories of Hope Channel viewers from Te Kao in the far north to Invercargill in the deep south walking into churches looking for a closer relationship with Christ."

If you've watched Hope Channel New Zealand and enjoyed it, you can say a very big thank you to Larisa, and don't forget Helen too! They are the ones who help find the inspiring—and interesting—shows Hope Channel New Zealand broadcasts.

JAMES STANDISH LIVES IN WASHINGTON (USA) WHERE HE WORKS IN LAW, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND MEDIA.





Jerusalem

Jerusalem must be important to God for it is named 810 times in the Bible. This city can be categorised into three eras: the original Salem; Jerusalem (*Yerushalem*), earthly city; and the New Jerusalem that has its origins in heaven.

SALEM

The first mention of this place is in Genesis 14:18 in the aftermath of a local war in which two groups of kings fought against each other.

In this skirmish, Lot, Abram's nephew—living in Sodom at the time—was captured and taken away by Chedorlaomer and his allied kings, Tidal, Amraphel and Arioch.

At this time Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of the Most High God, came out from his city and blessed Abram in a prophetic manner. Recognising Melchizedek as a priest of God, Abram gave him a tithe of all he had (Genesis 14:18–20).

It is important to note that the word *Salem* means "peace". While Jerusalem, Salem's successor as an earthly city, has had anything but a peaceful existence in its long history, the New Jerusalem will be the centre of the eternal home of the saved, the centre of peace (see Revelation 21,22). This concept of peace is retained in the extended name by which we know this place: Jerusalem, which means "City of Peace".

We do not know when God decided that Salem would become Jerusalem and a special place on earth for Him and His people. An indication of this, though, is that, several times prior to its occupation by the Israelites, God referred to the place where His "name shall be known". Probably the earliest occasion of a reference of this nature is recorded in Exodus 20:24, although this is more of a general statement rather than a specific reference to the city. Relevant are several passages in Deuteronomy

12:4–14. These verses are redolent with meaning when we match them with the time of the dedication of Solomon's Temple, its dedication and the filling of that place with God's presence and the offering of many sacrifices to celebrate that historic occasion (refer to 1 Chronicles 5:1–7:11).

Historically, the Jebusites, a branch of the Amorite tribe, occupied Jerusalem. The men of Judah attacked this place again after Joshua's death, defeating the Jebusites, although they resettled it some time later and renamed the city Jebus. It was not until shortly after David was anointed king over all Israel that he defeated the Jebusites. At that time David made the stronghold of Zion his city and built greater Jerusalem around it (2 Samuel 5:6,7; 2 Chronicles 11:4–9).

THE EARTHLY JERUSALEM

Jerusalem has had a very disturbed history throughout its existence, quite contrary to the meaning of its name.

In 586 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar's army destroyed Jerusalem and its temple and took most of its citizenry to Babylon where they were captives for 70 years. About 50 years later King Cyrus of the Persian Empire approved the return of a party to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

It was in the year 37 BC that King Herod remodelled the second Temple.

During Jesus Christ's ministry, He wept over this city whose history could have been vastly different if Israel had obeyed God as Moses had challenged them to do before they entered the Promised Land (Matthew 23:37–39; Deuteronomy 27:11–30:20).

No doubt the most significant event in earthly Jerusalem's history did not take place within the city, but outside the wall. That was, of course, the crucifixion of Christ who thus became the Saviour of the world (Hebrews 13:12,13).

The almost utter destruction of Jerusalem by the



Roman army in 70 AD marked the end of Jerusalem as a functioning city and the centre of Jewish worship and rituals for a time.

JERUSALEM AS WE KNOW IT

Since Jerusalem's destruction, various powers have controlled Palestine and the place known as Jerusalem, including the Persians, Arabs, Turks, Crusaders, Egyptians, Mamelukes and Mohammedans.

Today, the Temple Mount is the holiest place in Judaism and the third holiest in Islam. Jerusalem is also a very important place for Christians as it was there Jesus was crucified outside the wall.

While modern Israel has a strong military force and significant support from the USA, it is not expected that Jerusalem will be a place of real peace well into the future. What peace exists is a forced peace.

Until the Jews and the Palestinians can live in harmony there will be frequent border skirmishes, reported or not. These only serve to continue the antipathy—or worse—between these two people groups, both of whom trace their ancestral lineage to Abraham.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Information about this purpose-built city is found principally in the book of Revelation, chapter 21 and into chapter 22. However, there are interesting references to the heavenly Jerusalem in Paul's letter to the Galatians and in the book of Hebrews.

In Galatians 4:21–31, Paul contrasts people who operate under the two covenants. The first, an "earthly" covenant, based on performance, is likened to the offspring of Hagar. Paul says this covenant corresponds to "the present city of Jerusalem" (v25), in other words, the Jerusalem of Paul's time. He then immediately says, "but the Jerusalem that is *above* is free, and she is our mother" (v26, empha-

sis mine). Here the other covenant is referred to that includes the "children of promise" (v28). Paul concludes his argument in verse 31, where he says, "Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman."

So we see in these passages that the early Church was not only well aware that "their" Jerusalem would come to its end, but that they could look forward to an infinitely more wonderful Jerusalem that would come down to this earth from heaven, purposely made by God for that majestic event, to be His dwelling place for ever after.

A thoughtful reading of Revelation 21 reveals that the New Jerusalem will be a city like no other. Its dimensions are staggering and it is not made of humble timber and stone but of gold. Its gates are of pearl, not born out of an irritation in an oyster shell but made directly by the word of God. Its impact on the waiting saints will be one of awe and strong emotion, for John says the city will be "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (21:2, KJV).

Now we know how beautiful a bride appears as she approaches the man of her choice. If ever a woman looks beautiful, she looks even more so on her wedding day. Do we read into that description that God will put some "special touches" on the city that will be the home of the saved?

The question for each one of us to ask is this: *Will I be a citizen of that heavenly Jerusalem?* The only alternative is that we will still be living in the "old Jerusalem" that will perish along with everything else of human origin in the great day of Christ's second coming.

This should really be an easy question for us to answer, shouldn't it?

WILLIAM ACKLAND WORKED FOR THE CHURCH FOR 40 YEARS. HE LIVES WITH HIS WIFE IN THE ADVENTIST RETIREMENT VILLAGE IN COORANBONG (NSW), WHERE HE HAS WRITTEN SIX BOOKS.

defining success

Success is a subjective word. For some, success equals fame or fortune. The perfect job. A happy family. Good health. For many, success is a combination of these factors.

Like everyone, I have my own set of goals—measures I use to determine whether or not I have achieved “success”. I want to thrive in my work. I’m saving so I can own property. I want my marriage to flourish.

My idea of success is probably shared by many people who live in developed countries such as Australia and New Zealand. But what do people who live in developing countries think success is?

I recently travelled to Timor Leste to visit an ADRA Australia project. It was there that I met Maria, who helped me reconsider my definition of success.

From a rural village, Maria has lived in poverty her whole life. Decades ago, Maria lost her right leg. Severely infected from a wound she received

while fleeing her village during the war, Maria was forced to choose between losing her leg or her life.

Losing a limb is a traumatic experience for anyone, but for a subsistence farmer living in poverty, losing a leg is devastating. Maria told me that it was very difficult for her to earn money because of her disability.

Maria’s challenges didn’t stop there. Water was over a half-hour walk away. Imagine walking that distance with just one leg several times a day! And despite toiling under the sun, the produce that she harvested from her home garden was never enough.

Her family would often go hungry, they rarely had any crops left to sell, and, at times, they couldn’t afford to send the children to school.

When you struggle to meet basic needs like Maria did, survival is the only measure of success.

But Maria, like other mothers in Timor Leste, didn’t want to just survive. She wanted to help her children to rise out of poverty. She wanted her family to thrive.

So, when an ADRA project began in her village, Maria was eager to participate. With ADRA’s help, Maria’s community got clean water. And, thanks to the seeds and agricultural training she received from ADRA, Maria more than doubled her yield.

Life is very different now for Maria’s family.

My job at ADRA is to write—to tell the stories of the people whose lives

have been changed by the generosity of ADRA donors. Usually, I receive these stories via email. It’s one thing to hear about ADRA projects but an entirely different thing to meet people like Maria whose lives are transformed for the better.

Maria’s story of struggle and resilience is a shared experience amongst Timorese. Coming from a place of privilege in Australia, it is difficult to fathom that another woman, living just an hour away by plane, can face such difficulties.

We know that no country is exempt from poverty. Jesus told us that the poor would always be with us, but the Bible also instructs that we are to care for those less fortunate than us. Luke 3:11 says, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

God isn’t asking us to give up our basic needs to meet someone else’s. Rather, He is asking us to share our abundance—our success; His blessings—with those less fortunate.

I was privileged to meet Maria—a resilient, hardworking and resourceful woman. She taught me that compassion towards others is a measure of true success because, as people receive a hand up, they can indeed turn survival into a future free from poverty and filled with hope.

To read Maria’s full story, visit: <adra.org.au/marias-story>. ADRA works to serve people so that all may live as God intended—free from poverty and disadvantage. Your gift this end-of-financial-year can provide mothers like Maria with the skills and resources to succeed: to earn a living, to send their children to school and to break the cycle of poverty. To donate visit <adra.org.au/transform>.

ASHLEY STANTON MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, ADRA AUSTRALIA.



DIGITAL KILLED *the* VIDEO STORE



There is now only one Blockbuster left on earth” is how the world’s media dubbed the closure of Australia’s last Blockbuster video store in the Perth suburb of Morley, WA, earlier this year.

Leaving the last remaining Blockbuster in Oregon, Chicago, USA.

The end of an era.

It wasn’t too long ago that families would pack out video stores to rent a few VHS tapes or DVDs of the latest flicks or even older classics. I’m sure many of us recall rushing into the rental store to check out the new releases (or maybe it was to beat the late fees?), perusing through the aisles, having our curiosity piqued by the many unique film covers and titles, and just wandering around looking for a good movie to watch. Maybe you recall that time when you got home and were shocked and disgusted to find the disc scratched and unplayable, or maybe you remember rushing in on the first hour of the first day of a new release, just to find out that the film you were looking for was already sold out! (Gasp!)

Those were the days when the video rental store reigned supreme.

Then Netflix.

The same Netflix that delivered a far

simpler subscription system. The same Netflix that promised “no late fees”. The same Netflix that embraced innovation and technology and adopted the internet and online streaming, dooming the future of the rental store.

Once the video store ruled the entertainment world—now it’s Netflix and digital streaming. Someday new technology and new services will overtake Netflix, and what we know of online streaming will end. Soon the era of Google and Facebook will come to a close, superseded by something flashier, simpler and more convenient.

It’s not just the video store that suffers such a fate. Fashion and pop culture trends have come and gone, once popular and world-renowned music have become outdated and antiquated. Industries that were once seen as critical to the function of society have become obsolete or automated.

All of these things have come to an end—and all of it will come to an end.

Except one thing.

The words of Jesus.

Jesus once said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

Through it all; through the zenith and fall of artforms; through the estab-

lishment and demise of philosophical, humanistic and political ideas; through world-changing revolutions, changing world leaders; through the ascendancy of numerous musicians, film stars and celebrities, through the heights of the video stores—Jesus’ words survived them all. All those other things have passed away, but Jesus’ words have never passed away and, according to recent trends, look like they never will.

Through it all, the everlasting words of the Bible have thrived. Despite being an ancient document written across centuries by more than 40 different authors, the Bible has remained the best-selling Book for over a century—selling more than 100 million copies yearly since the start of the 20th century.¹

While everything in history has had its time, while the era of the rental store has come to an end and while the digital era may not last forever, God’s words and God’s promises have never, and will never, pass away.

1. Gaille, Brandon (2019). “29 Good Bible Sales Statistics.” <brandongaille.com/27-good-bible-sales-statistics/>.

TIMOTHY PINZONE PRESIDENT, ADVENTIST STUDENTS CLUB, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY, NSW.



THE BEST HEART-HEALTHY FOODS TO EAT AND WHY YOU SHOULD START NOW!

In Australia, heart disease kills nearly three times as many women as breast cancer. It's also New Zealand's biggest killer—with 60 women dying from the disease each week. The fact is you can be young, fit and healthy, but still be at risk.

Many of the risks that contribute to heart disease are silent, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and vascular complications in pregnancy.

There are some risk factors you can't control like genetics, a family history of heart disease, gender and age. Around menopause risk of heart disease increases for women and continues going up.

But there are a range of healthy lifestyle habits you can adopt to improve blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugars, as well as sleep apnoea, weight and depression.

Heart Foundation dietitian Beth Meertens shares more steps to looking after your heart:

Consistently eat good food: Eating well for your heart isn't about a single superfood. The key is to regularly eat a combination of foods that are high in fibre, vitamins and minerals. That means loading up your plate with plenty of fruit, veggies and wholegrains, and snacking on nuts. Scientific studies consistently link eating these foods to having a healthier heart.

Lower salt intake: We consume nine grams of salt a day, well above the Heart Foundation's recommendation of less than five grams a day. Cutting back on salt is less to do with the pinch you add when cooking and more to do with cutting out discretionary and highly processed foods, which can contain high amounts of salt used for flavour and also as a preservative.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR HEART



CUT SATURATED FATS

When it comes to your heart, there's strong evidence that switching saturated fats for plant sources of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats can lower your risk of heart disease and reduce "bad" LDL cholesterol.



EAT PLANT STEROLS

High cholesterol is bad for your heart, so eat more plant sterols as they block cholesterol from being absorbed into your gut. They can be found naturally in very small quantities in plant foods such as grains, veggies, fruit, legumes, nuts and seeds. Also look for plant sterol-enriched foods like some breakfast cereals, spreads and milk products—check the nutrition panel.



GET MOVING

Aim for daily exercise that gets you puffing and your heart beating—a brisk walk, dancing and even more vigorous chores like window washing. Any exercise is better than none, so try for 20 minutes a day.

Recipe of the Week

Sanitarium
Health & Wellbeing



Hot Banana & Peanut Butter Weet-Bix Porridge

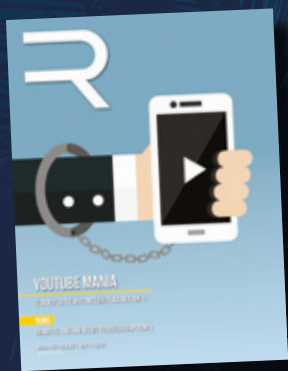
Nothing beats a warm and cosy plant-based porridge for those cold winter mornings. Plus, the peanut butter is full of benefits that are good for your heart health.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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



/sanitariumaustralia
/sanitariumnz



TIMELY THOUGHTS

Your article, “Youtube Mania and the Church Disconnect” (May 4), reminded me of days, long gone, when TV carried cigarette commercials. In the comfort of our lounge, I since found I had quite unwittingly, absorbed one of those commercials, given in a rich baritone voice, and set to grand, orchestral music. It has stayed in my memory, as some unkind of extraneous baggage. TV influences, but at least the content has always been regulated, within the bounds of current public standards.

The internet is not. Its potential to influence is therefore far greater, and much, much more dangerous. This article is truly relevant for today.

Leith Higgins, WA

WHEAT FROM WEEDS

Was the author of “Youtube Mania” (May 4) suggesting that what I hear in a Seventh-day Adventist Church on a Sabbath morning is always “truth” and free from those same issues and concerns [in the article]?

Most sermons are monologues—totally devoid of any attendee interaction. Many Sabbath mornings I have not had to open my Bible, and on some of those occasions the texts were not even on the screen. Laity and ministry can, and sadly do, too often make statements based upon our traditions rather than providing a true contextual biblical basis for [them]. I recently sat through a sermon where the chief authority for almost all of what was said (on a topic completely irrelevant to my salvation) was Ellen White. If there were any non-members in attendance they deserved an apology. We have all sat through sermons that were based upon a text or brief passage, with absolutely no reference to its contextual (primary) meaning. And what about those novel ways of re-telling a biblical story that neither

challenges deep thinking nor provides spiritual support for struggling members?

But because I heard it from the mouth of an Adventist in an Adventist church I can accept it as accurate and important “truth”?

Some “older”, thinking, church members, looking for solid, meaningful and helpful Bible study are wondering where the Bible has gone, and choose not to attend. Should one question their hearing the Scriptures on YouTube (even if they have to sort the weeds from the wheat) and suggest it is such a bad thing? Please do not suggest YouTube viewers are necessarily non-thinkers.

Further, one can attend an Adventist church without having any personal individual contact, so by staying home they would not have missed any meaningful “community”—plus they may have been positively challenged and helped by what they heard.

Frank Dyson, *via email*

TIMELY MESSAGE

What a timely message (“Youtube Mania”, May 4)! Timely because it reveals a

desperate hungering for information on the evolution/creation debate.

So many of our young people are being overwhelmed by the education and media promulgation of false theories. Adventists believe they are to proclaim the three angels’ messages and a key part of that message is the appeal to worship the Creator and thus take a firm stand against the teachings of evolution.

Whereas it is very true that many YouTube posts on these topics present an excellent message about Creation, the short history of the world and also the confident belief that the entire Bible is God’s Word, unfortunately this comes with the belief that the soul is immortal, that hell is eternal and the non-acceptance of the importance of the Sabbath.

This points to the fact that there is a desperate, urgent need for us to do something to proclaim the unadulterated truth about creation and evolution.

We have our own Geoscience Research Institute that is doing an excellent job but how many of our members, especially our

youth, know of this and know how to find this material? Where and how can we appeal for something to be quickly done in this regard?

Errol Arthur, Vic

Editor’s note: Thank you for your thoughts on this. The South Pacific Division is running a Faith and Science Conference (July 16–19) at Avondale College of Higher Education that will bring together some of the Church’s leading experts on the theme “The origins of life”. See ad page 23. We have also shared some videos from Dr Sven Ostring on our *Adventist Record* Facebook page, including an interview with Dr Ostring, where we find out more about the topic.

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.



God wants me in His family, even when I fail Him.

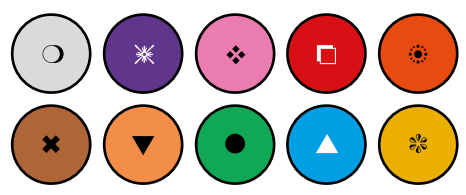
STILL PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends, but when he was in a dangerous situation he denied knowing Jesus to protect himself. Jesus still loved him. Like Peter, we remain part of Jesus' family, even when we fail Him.



COLOUR BY SHAPES

Find the shapes and then colour in. Can you find the rooster and Peter?



*Kia Ora - Hello in NZ Maori

Memory Verse

"I have prayed for you... that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers"

Luke 22:32, NIV

Anniversaries



MAXWELL. On 17.3.19 John and Merylin Maxwell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and just a few very close friends. Their friendship began at Hawthorn school, Vic, and on 19.3.1959 at Hughesdale church they were married. Their two children Kerrie and Peter, with most of the six grandchildren, were present to help celebrate. To add to their joy, their first great-grandchild had been born just a few days earlier. John and Merylin now live in Cooranbong, NSW, and continue to love and serve the Lord.

PAYNTER. Bill and Heather Paynter celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 2.3.19. They met at Avondale and were married at Orange, NSW by Pastor Austin Cooke. Their son Ross and daughter Karen and grandchildren were present at a luncheon which was kindly provided by the Hervey Bay church, Qld. Bill and Heather both remain active in their church. They served their Lord together in Sydney, Vanuatu, Townsville and Hervey Bay.



SUTTON. Ian and Marion Sutton celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 14.4.19. They were married by Pastor Tolhurst (Snr) in Hamilton, NZ, on 14.4.1959. They have three children Loretta, Clarewyn, and Mark and Kerryn (nee Weber); and two grandchildren Dallas and Cory. Ian and Marion both worked for Sanitarium for many years. They retired to Cambridge where they both held positions in the church for 22 years. They now live in Manawatu and are members of the Palmerston North church.

Obituaries

CERNY, Jana, born 20.7.1930 in France; died 16.3.19. In 1950 she married Ladislav Cerny, who predeceased her in 1998. She was also predeceased by her son Ladislav (Larry) in 2009. Jana is survived by her children, Jana (Queensland) and Dana (Glenmaggie, Vic). Jana lived in France with her parents until World War II ended and the family returned to Czechoslovakia in 1945. She was baptised in 1999 and joined the Cranbourne church. Jana

struggled with deteriorating health following the death of her son and finally she is at peace awaiting the call of her Saviour.
Barry Whelan



EDMUNDS, Elaine Mary (nee Sillitoe), born 12.2.1931 in Kempsey, NSW; died 29.7.18 in Macksville. On 20.4.1949 she married Pastor Harold Edmunds, who predeceased her 10 weeks prior. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Marilyn Anne Chard. Elaine is survived by her daughters, Julie Redman (Macksville) and Robyn Nilsson (Newcastle); eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Elaine was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who committed her life to her God, pastor husband and family.
Paul Richardson, Neil Redman



EDMUNDS, Harold Edgar (Pastor), born 24.4.1924 in Mudgee, NSW; died 17.5.18 in Macksville. On 20.4.1949 he married Elaine Edmunds (nee Sillitoe). Harold was predeceased by his daughter, Marilyn Anne Chard in 2010. His wife Elaine died 10 weeks after him. He is survived by his daughters Julie Redman (Macksville) and Robyn Nilsson (Newcastle). Harold was a former literature evangelist and pastor in the North NSW Conference until his retirement.
Paul Richardson



GAUCI, Jennifer Mae, born 5.10.1962 in the San, Sydney, NSW; died 2.4.19 in Gosford. In 1992 she married Brian Gauci in Sydney. She is survived by her husband; children, Thomas and Liana and mother, Lorna Wright. Jennifer worked as a registered osteopath in her Perth-based clinic. She was also an occupational health and safety trainer and in more recent years, a marriage celebrant. Jennifer was a gentle, kind, compassionate people person and a loving wife and mother. Of latter times she experienced some health issues, but her Christian faith served her well and she was ever cheerful and optimistic.
Roger Nixon

JAMES, Ronald Walter Ellis, born 2.11.1934 at The Entrance, NSW; died 17.1.19 in Logan, Qld. He was married to Gaye James. Ronald is survived by his wife (Burringbar, NSW); son, Larry (Gold Coast, Qld); daughters, Vickie-Anne Barron (Gold Coast)

and Angela Fraser (Mornington Peninsula, Vic); grandchildren, Alicia Chandler, Nathan Cooke, Imogen Fraser and Ben Fraser; and sisters, Nancy Mitchell, Gwen Freeman and Joy Jung. Ron studied to become a land surveyor and in his later years, juggled a farm, market stalls, an ADRA shop and fly'n'builds in Solomon Islands. Ron will be remembered for his love and knowledge of God and nature.
Ervin Ferris

LADRU, Willi (nee Mantel), born 24.3.1935 in Andijk, The Netherlands; died 10.4.19 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 16.12.1958 Willi married John Ladru, who predeceased her in 2007. Willi is survived by her children, Margaret (and Terry), Henk (and Helen) and Wendy (and Russell); four grandchildren, two step grandchildren; six step great-grandchildren; sisters Petronella and Grietje, and brother Piet. Willi and John migrated to Australia in 1960, settling in Victoria. They attended an Adventist mission in Melbourne in 1964, and were baptised in 1970. John and Willi's hospitality was legendary. Willi was a charming, unassuming, kind and gentle person of great faith and determination.
Michael Browning



MITCHELL, Ruby Lorraine, born 11.10.1928 in Regent, Victoria; died 22.3.19 in Yarra Junction. On 18.1.1949 she married Pastor Don Mitchell, who predeceased her in 1993 and whom she served alongside for 42 years. Her son Don Mitchell Jnr predeceased her in 2003. Widowed and into her late 70s, Lorraine was on the preaching plan for three district churches in North NSW. She is survived by her four daughters, Grace Ann-Penning, Lynette Spain, Earlene Hokin and Narell Godber; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Lorraine's care of others knew no bounds, including adopting extra "family members" in need into her home. She will be remembered for her love, resilience and desire to the very end to be "a blessing to someone each day".
Robyn and Chester Stanley

SPARKS, Thelma Hazel (nee Stone), born 29.3.1927 in Wellington, NZ; died 15.4.19 in Victoria Point, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband Allan Theodore Sparks in 2012; daughter Denise Corbett in 2002; and son Gary Sparks in 1980.

Thelma was a good servant of the Lord who faithfully followed her husband, Allan, for 45 years as he worked for the Sanitarium Health Food Company in New Zealand, England and Australia. She was always involved in voluntary work for the Church, including as a deaconess, in Dorcas ministry and as a helper in the Christchurch Health Clinic.
Bob Possingham

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FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH 60TH ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 19, 2019.

All friends and former members are invited to attend this special celebration. For catering purposes, please let us know if you plan to attend via <anniversary@ferntreegullyadventist.org.au>.

RESTORE WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Marcha William will be the guest speaker at our Women's Retreat to be held at Ankara Camp in Walker Flat on Friday, June 21 to Sunday, June 23 Contact Lindy Sperring, Women's Ministry director SA, for applications on 08 8269 2177 or email <lindysperring@adventist.org.au>.

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August 9–11, 2019. Former students, staff, families and friends are invited to celebrate this significant milestone. We are

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