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## THE CREATIVE ISSUE

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ADVENTIST RECORD | NOVEMBER 30, 2019  
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# Called to be... A TEACHER?

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## EXCUSES EXCUSES

"I'm not creative."

It's an excuse I hear over and over again, most often when I'm drawing on my iPad in public or posting art to Instagram: "If only I was creative like you . . ."

Like clockwork, I reply, "But you are creative!", an assurance typically met with a scoff and a headshake.

Reactions like this aren't surprising, really. Creativity is a characteristic we usually associate with a narrow array of industries: photographers are creative, composers are creative, designers are creative. With natural talent and lots of practise, people with professional quality output are quickly labelled "creative".

There's nothing wrong with this, of course. It's certainly reasonable to hope that people working in "creative industries" live up to their name. But what about the doctor whose quick-witted jokes makes her patients laugh? Or the accountant whose streamlined system shaves 30 minutes off every tax return? Or the bricklayer whose resourceful problem-solving saves clients thousands of dollars? Just because these pursuits aren't stereotypically "creative" doesn't mean they're not.

More than anything, creativity is a way of thinking. It's the process of combining unrelated ideas or activities to make new things. Yet thousands of people who do this daily spend their lives believing that they are boring and uninspired, simply because they don't fit the not-so-cookie-cutter "artist" mould. This alone tells me that as Christians, we have forgotten who we are.

In Genesis 1, God creates the heavens and the earth, and then in verse 27 He creates mankind in His own image. Labelling God as creative—the One who spoke life into existence and paints the sky with coloured lights each evening—is the greatest understatement of all time. So if the Bible is true and we are being constantly transformed into the image of our Creator day by day (Colossians 3:9,10; 2 Corinthians 3:18), then surely it's not outlandish to consider creativity as ingrained in the very fabric of the human condition.

But we don't. And for as long as we believe the devil's lie that we're "not enough" and aren't made in

God's image—consciously or subconsciously—we lose our ability as Jesus-followers to reach the masses, maintain relevancy and stay passionate. The devil wins.

So what about those of us who *do* identify as "creatives"? Surely we redeem the masses and propel the church and its message into relevant territory? Oh, if only. We also make excuses: we're too busy, we're limited or frustrated by church politics, we're stuck in trying personal circumstances, we just don't feel inspired. Naturally, other priorities take precedence over church programming, stage decoration or hand-lettering Bible verses.

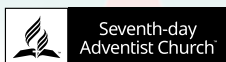
You might read this and wonder what the problem is. After all, the gospel can be spread in "non-creative" ways as it has been for centuries—the Bible *can* speak for itself. But in a world of technicolour, noise and distraction where people are increasingly hostile to religious doctrine, creative mediums are perfect for capturing time and attention in a natural, non-confrontational way.

In the same way it's difficult to argue with someone's personal testimony, it's difficult to argue with creative expression. Atheists listening to Kanye West's new album are singing Jesus' praises, while non-Christians viewing religious art in galleries are stopping to question their beliefs. It's because they're not being judged for being a sinner; not being preached at with jargon-esque rhetoric; not being told what to do. They're simply beholding faith expressed vulnerably, relevantly and beautifully, and it leaves them questioning.

And so, this issue of *Adventist Record* is special. I've put it together with a fantastic team of writers and artists to encourage you to recognise and embrace your God-given, lifetime-guaranteed creativity. No more excuses; no more self-doubt; no more shame. It's time to live as a child of God, made in His image, with new practical meaning.

## OTHER PRIORITIES TAKE PRECEDENCE

**MARYELLEN FAIRFAX**  
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## MINISTRY IN ACTION

Raymond Terrace Mission (RTM) is an Adventist church on the main street of Raymond Terrace, a town of 13,000 just north of Newcastle, NSW.

At street level is the Newstart Juice bar, which sells juices dubbed "Redemption", "Three Angels" and "Garden of Eden". The smoothies have names such as "Blueberry Blessings" and "Strawberry Salvation". The shop operates with volunteers from 11 am on most weekdays. Next to the juice bar is the OpShop. When I visited the OpShop was not yet open, but will sell pre-loved clothing and small household wares in similar ways and times to the juice bar. A furniture section operates downstairs on request.

RTM has ministry activities in meeting rooms behind the two shopfronts every day of the week. Craft classes, youth groups, Bible study groups and prayer ministries attract local people. Faith FM, the Australian Union's radio network, is also rebroadcast from the site.

RTM pastor Blake Penland told me that every ministry they run brings them in contact with people who begin a discipleship journey with Jesus. The growing ministry is blessed to have the support of Avondale University College ministry students and Arise participants.

Pam and I visited RTM on a Sabbath. The worship was inspirational and included testimonies of God's activities in people's lives. Various people were affirmed and prayed for—there was joy in the Lord. The group study was biblical and practical and I felt the warmth of fellowship as we ate together. It seemed that more than a quarter of the people present were very new to RTM. I was reminded of times in our ministry when we planted churches and saw new people become disciples of Jesus. I dream of the day when every Seventh-day Adventist church in the South Pacific has such relevant ministries and makes such an impact on people's lives.

**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT  
/SPDpresident



## GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISITS OFFL

DENNIS PERRY

Independent ministry Operation Food for Life (OFFL) recently welcomed the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, to its Born Free Sanctuary in Port Moresby.

For more than five years, the sanctuary has given full-time care and a Christian education to up to 30 children and youth-at-risk.

In his address, the Governor-General, an OFFL patron, reflected on his life, sharing about his humble beginnings with little

education to now working in government. He challenged the youth to make God their Partner, saying they can do all things in Christ by applying

their faith and working hard.

In his closing remarks, he stated, "I wish to pay tribute to the Operation Food for Life ministry for their many years of faithful service to the poor in my country. I am inspired by your programs and projects you are doing, giving dignity and hope and the love of Jesus to my people, many who live in tragic circumstances. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus."



OFFL FOUNDER DENNIS PERRY (FAR LEFT) WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL (CENTRE), AND CHILDREN AND STAFF FROM THE BORN FREE SANCTUARY.

## HOPE CHANNEL GAINS MOMENTUM

MARYELLEN FAIRFAX

Hope Channel South Pacific is making its Bible study resources more accessible by uploading them to online platforms and social media—and it's gaining momentum.

"We haven't even officially launched the site yet, and thousands of people are finding it by accident!" said Hope Channel (South Pacific) director Pastor Wayne Boehm.

With more than 3000 "accidental" downloads in the past 12 months, Pastor Boehm is excited about the ripple effect the official launch will likely have across the South Pacific.

The intention of shifting resources into

the online space is to empower and equip church members, pastors and evangelists.

To improve content engagement, many old and outdated courses have been given a facelift by in-house graphic designer Emily Savage.

The official launch will occur in early 2020. In the interim, you can download all of Hope Channel's resources at <a href="http://hopechannel.com/downloads">hopechannel.com/downloads</a>.



ALL THE RESOURCES CAN BE DOWNLOADED ONLINE.

## TUVALU STUDENTS CHAMPION HEALTH

KIMA PEDRO

Students from Funafuti Adventist Primary School (Tuvalu) were among a group of 20 Pacific representatives on a “Kids’ Champion Tour” to Japan recently.

Funafuti was chosen by the Tuvalu Ministry of Education to be part of the tour, which included 10 students and 10 adults. Other countries represented

were Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. The 12-day trip focused mainly on promoting healthy eating and physical activity to guard against non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

The children experienced some of Japan’s healthy foods and a variety of physical activities. They were encouraged to be advocates for these activities in their own countries.

Head girl at Funafuti, Anton Sapakuka, said: “I have learned so many things from this tour, such as the cleanliness of their country, they eat more vegetables than eating meat or junk food, and lastly I saw kids always riding bicycles to go to school.”



THE GROUP IN JAPAN LEARNING ABOUT HEALTHY EATING.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

BRENTON STACEY

Avondale University College is searching for a new vice-chancellor following Professor Ray Roennfeldt’s retirement announcement on November 4, after 11 years in the role.

At 72, Professor Roennfeldt is Avondale’s oldest and third-longest serving president. “It’s been a huge privilege,” he said.

Professor Roennfeldt said building a team that achieved great things, including status as an Australian university college, is his best work as president and vice-chancellor.

Professor Roennfeldt will remain in his role until a search committee has nominated at least two names from which Avondale College Council will appoint a new president.



PROFESSOR RAY ROENNFELDT’S ADVICE TO HIS SUCCESSOR: “TRUST GOD AND YOUR TEAM.”

## TONGA CELEBRATES WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY

RECORD STAFF



TEACHERS MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS.

For the first time the Seventh-day Adventist education system in Tonga was given the honour of hosting local celebrations for World Teachers’ Day.

Tonga Mission president Pastor Saia Vea was the guest speaker for the day and the Beulah Adventist College brass band led a parade of school teachers who marched down the main street of the Tongan capital, Nuku’alofa.

“It was a great opportunity for Adventist teachers to witness to other teachers our faith,” said Beulah College principal Lolinita Manuofetoa.

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated on October 5—this year’s theme was “Young teachers: the future of the profession”.

## NEWS GRABS



### CHAMBERLAIN CASE PODCAST

Channel 7 has produced a podcast series entitled *A Perfect Storm* about the Chamberlain case, which is still considered Australia’s “worst miscarriage of justice”. Episodes will be released each week, interviewing key lawyers, witnesses and journalists. Next year is the 40th anniversary of Azaria’s disappearance. —Cherie Tipple



### ‘GOYE’ WINS AWARD

Adventist board game “GoYe” has won best in class in the interactive design category at the annual Society of Adventist Communications Convention (SACC) in New Mexico, USA. Created by NSW events coordinator Kyle Morrison, the game is centred on Adventist history, identity and mission. —NAD



### 175 YEARS SINCE 1844

More than a thousand Adventists travelled to William Miller Farm in New York, USA, to mark the 175th anniversary of the Great Disappointment. The event recreated aspects of the original experience to encourage Adventists to rise up and spread the gospel. —Adventist Review

# SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LEADS THE WAY

LEISA O'CONNOR/RECORD STAFF

In an Australian first, a collaborative surgery using a new high-resolution ultrasound technique was live-streamed at Sydney Adventist Hospital on Monday, October 28.

The surgery, performed by San obstetrician and gynaecologist, associate professor George Condous, and colorectal surgeon Dr Walid Barto, was livestreamed to educate medical practitioners about the emerging technique for assessing endometriosis, known as sonovaginography.

Endometriosis affects approximately 730,000 Australian women at some point in their lives, and causes tissue similar to the lining of the womb to grow in other parts of the body. It's a disease with a diagnostic delay of an average of eight years due to lack of awareness and an assumption that pain is normal during menstruation.

A recent study found 73 per cent of women do not visit the doctor despite

suffering chronic pelvic pain.

Associate professor Condous said currently the only way to properly diagnose and stage the severity of endometriosis is through laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery. If diagnosed, women must then undergo more surgeries to remove endometriosis tissue if the disease isn't completely removed or grows back.

The high-resolution ultrasound provides the gynaecologist with a better overview of the extent of a patient's endometriosis. In this case it meant that the collaborative surgery could be planned with both doctors ready to operate and the patient able to give informed consent prior to the surgery, understanding the likely outcomes.

"We are the only unit

in Australia that offers both expert endometriosis ultrasound and advanced laparoscopy for women with endometriosis under the same umbrella," said associate professor Condous.

The implementation of expert endometriosis ultrasound reduces costs annually by negating the need for multiple invasive and costly laparoscopies.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GEORGE CONDOUS AND DR WALID BARTO DURING THE COLLABORATIVE PROCEDURE.

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"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped..." Isaiah 35:5



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# AGED CARE RESPONDS TO ROYAL COMMISSION

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Seventh-day Adventist aged care providers around Australia are deeply saddened by the evidence of neglect highlighted by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety in its interim report.

In a joint message responding to the report, Adventist aged care providers say

they appreciate the work of the Royal Commission as a means of improving and strengthening the industry.

"We believe that older Australians have the right to receive care that is safe, dignified and personalised," they state.

Read the full statement below:

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™  
*Australia*

## A joint message from Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care providers around Australia

Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care providers around Australia provide care in its various forms to more than 2000 older Australians. As a group we are deeply saddened by the evidence of neglect within Australia's aged care system that has been highlighted by the Royal Commission into Aged Care's recently released interim report.

Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care services operate in accordance with the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church — our priority is to reflect Jesus' love and compassion. We believe that older Australians have the right to receive care that is safe, dignified and personalised. We are committed to providing services that meet our residents' physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. This can only be achieved through our dedicated and hardworking staff, whom we would like to publicly acknowledge for their commitment to care and service.

While we strive to provide the highest possible quality of care, we understand that no system is perfect, and we are constantly seeking ways to improve our services. We encourage residents, family members and friends to be confident in providing feedback to ensure that we can respond quickly and appropriately to any matters of concern.

As a group we appreciate the work of the Royal Commission to date as a means of improving and strengthening the industry, and we look forward to receiving its final report in 12 months' time. In the meantime we will continue to work with our industry peak bodies to ensure that we as providers, on behalf of our residents, have input into shaping a better aged care system for all.

**Brian Swanepoel**  
Managing Director  
Adventist Aged Care - Sydney

**Gary Blagden**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seventh-day Adventist Care (Western Australia) Ltd

**David Knight**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Adventist Senior Living (Cooranbong, NSW)

**Eric Anderson**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd

**David Reece**  
Chief Executive Officer  
AdventCare (Victoria)



## HOT TOPICS



### TOBYMAC MOURNS SON'S DEATH

Christian hip-hop artist TobyMac and his family are grieving the death of their eldest son, 21-year-old Truett McKeehan, who died unexpectedly on October 23. The family has launched a scholarship foundation in his honour. Aspiring to be a Christian musician like his father, he died a week after his first solo show. —*Christianity Today*



### BLACK PANTHER CENSORSHIP

Letitia Wright, who starred as Shuri in *Black Panther* and *Avengers: Infinity War*, challenged journalists who cut out her references to faith in a recent interview. "It's super cute when journalists . . . leave out the massive part where I give God the glory for the success/achievements in my life," she wrote in a tweet. —*Fox News*



### JESUS IS KING HITS #1

Kanye West's latest album *Jesus is King* is his ninth consecutive album to top the Billboard 200. He is tied with Eminem for the most records to top the charts. He is number 1 on the Top Christian and Top Gospel charts as well. The album's success prompted a massive increase in faith-based Google searches. —*christianheadlines.com*

# FLASHPOINT



## HEALTHY FOCUS

Landsborough Seventh-day Adventist Church (Qld) recently distributed more than 300 *Signs of the Times* magazines during a community event they hosted at Beerwah in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. The church set up an Adventist health and lifestyle display offering a range of activities, including vegetarian food samples, Sanitarium gift packs, blood pressure checks, massages, as well as free health and religious literature. The church designed reusable calico shopping bags that visitors could use to carry their freebies. The event allowed church volunteers to connect with people and promote the Adventist health message, as well as introduce a spiritual component to wellness and lifestyle. —Charles Russell



## HELPING HANDS

Kindergarten children at Avondale School (Cooranbong, NSW) have been collecting plastic bottle tops to be recycled and turned into prosthetic hands. It's part of the Envision Hands project, a Melbourne-based not-for-profit community initiative that uses 3D printing to transform plastic waste into prosthetics for children. Teacher Sonya Lawson says the kindy kids have approached the project with "infectious enthusiasm". Every morning, they line up with bottle lids to add to the collection. Once Envision Hands receives a batch of donated bottle tops, they are shredded and turned into filament, which is then fed through a 3D printer. —David Stewart, Lakes Mail



## DROUGHT RELIEF

A life group run by members of Eight Mile Plains Church (South Qld), Fynn and Vita Stark, travelled to drought-affected Stanthorpe and Warwick churches on October 12 and 13 to deliver water, Weet-Bix and toiletries. The group contacted Pastor Trevor Mawer to organise a Sabbath church visit filled with prayer, singing and a special item by Veronica Rowe, before offering the community practical support on Sunday. "We received more than we could give," said Mr and Mrs Stark. "We'd been praying for an opportunity for our horse-loving daughter to ride more. A lady at Stanthorpe spontaneously offered for her to come and ride. We look forward to spending more time with our new country friends." —Fynn and Vita Stark



## FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP

Livingston Adventist Church (Perth, WA) hosted its fifth *Bible in Bloom* flower festival on the weekend of October 4-6. Floral interpretations of Scripture were centred on this year's theme, "This is Love". The festival was open to the public on Sabbath and Sunday afternoons, with this year's beneficiary, Prison Fellowship WA (PFWA), running a cafe in the church hall. Church members took the opportunity to invite their friends, neighbours and work colleagues to view the flower arrangements and relax in the cafe afterwards. Thanks to the generosity of designers, sponsors and visitors, *Bible in Bloom* was able to raise \$A900 for PFWA. —Linley Vogel



## TORONTO TALENT

Students from Toronto Adventist School (NSW) performed *The Amazing Jerusalem Makeover* to an enthusiastic audience of family members and friends on September 19. Every student in the school was involved in the musical, which featured the biblical story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. Members of the audience were moved by the story, the music, and the commitment of the student actors and singers. Like Nehemiah, all who attended saw that "if God is in it, anything is possible". —Charmony Dias



## TODDLERS TURN 25!

Footsteps Adventist Preschool in Napier (North NZ) celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sabbath, September 28. Napier Adventist Church was full as children, staff, parents and church members gathered to celebrate. Pastor Anton van Wyk began the service by discussing the power of Adventist education to change lives for eternity. Preschool staff were thanked for their service, and an anniversary cake was cut. —Tolo Pereira



## HEARTFELT FORGIVENESS

Teachers at Lae Adventist Primary School in Papua New Guinea recently held a "Reconciliation and Consecration" service for their Grade 8 students. Students were encouraged to offer forgiveness to people they had mistreated, undermined or verbally abused. Within minutes, the room was showered with tears of friendship, willingness to forgive and acceptance, thanks to the love, care and support from the teachers. —PNGUM



## ADVENTIST STUDENTS DIG DEEP

Students from Port Macquarie Adventist School baked cakes and cookies for exhausted volunteer firefighters to thank them for their service in the recent NSW fire disaster. Classes worked in rotations over two days, preparing cookies and muffins. Principal Joyanne Walsh said the school wanted to teach the students how to give back to the community. —Peter Daniels





## 1. EMBRACE LIMITATIONS

Creativity isn't about being well resourced; it's about working resourcefully with what God has given you. If you can't afford a video camera to live-stream church services, try a different format: Instagram stories, SoundCloud or Facebook Live!

## 2. MODERN ≠ RIGHT

Many churches fall into the trap of attempting to replicate what bigger and better-resourced churches do to attract members. Instead, learn your unique flavour. Otherwise you'll risk being swallowed by competition.

## 3. FOCUS ON EMPOWERMENT, NOT CONTROL

To cultivate creativity, it's important to establish freedom within set boundaries so that creatives feel ownership of their church. Don't micromanage. It kills motivation, discourages members and limits vision.

## 4. THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

One of the biggest pitfalls creatives (and most people) face is trying to do everything themselves. It's hard to trust others with your creative vision, but it's important to remember that it's God who should be in control, not us. He created the Church as a "body" with different members and different talents. Trust them, trust Him.

## 5. CHANGE IT UP

Change up the church noticeboard. Reshuffle the stage. Paint a wall. Buy some plants. Install a TV. Hang some photos. Redecorating can inspire, motivate and leave members and visitors feeling like their church is a relevant, happening space.

## 6. GET YOUTH INVOLVED

Young people are naturally up-to-date with social and design trends. Ask them what they'd like to see and what they think will attract visitors, and then give them the tools to do it.

## 7. DON'T LOSE GOD TO EGO

Ask God to give you the discernment to know when to pursue your vision, and when to sacrifice your vision to preserve relationships. Don't let a program or ministry split your church in two.

## 8. EDUCATE THE MASSES

It can be disheartening when a group of creatives are limited by church members who don't share their vision. A potential solution? Nominate a spokesperson to share this vision and its justifications, goals and dreams.

## 9. GET FREE RESOURCES

There are plenty of free or cheap resources online that will bring your church into the 21st century. Facebook has many church communications groups that you can join that share free posters, graphics and resources, and YouTube channels like Dan Stevers have lots of free videos and intro clips to share.

## 10. DOING IS BETTER THAN IMAGINING

Creatives are great at developing ideas, but many struggle to execute them. Of the 20 creative ideas you've had to improve Sabbath school, just start with one. To keep you accountable, ask people who are willing and organised to help you.



"RESILIENT HOPE" BY HEA



"IMMANUEL" BY FELICIT



"GOD IS ABLE" BY KARL LIND



*"It is immensely empowering to work for a cause: the healing of the world through a distinctive Christian health ministry, and to rest in the assurance of a wise and gracious Providence. I was inclined foremostly to not request particular things, but to pray for a mind to apprehend more of the workings of that Providence."*

—Herbert Clifford

"PORTRAIT OF HERBERT CLIFFORD" BY ANDY COLLIS.

# GOD *of* HOPE



HEATH BENNETT.



FELICITY THOMPSON.



JAMES BENNETT.

It would be easy for an entity like Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) to provide nothing more than health services—as it does so well, with state-of-the-art technology and staff. But this community-loved organisation is going above and beyond expectations by putting on an art show.

Originally envisioned by Adventist artist and graphic designer Shelley Poole, “God of Hope” is an exhibition birthed from a collaboration between the San, the South Pacific Division (SPD) and Adventist Media.

“Our main priority is to use art as a catalyst for spiritual dialogue,” says Mrs Poole. “We want to make sure it’s obvious that there is a Christian ethos in the hospital when people walk through.”

The exhibition will feature more than 14 artworks, displayed in the hospital’s highest-traffic spaces including the new reception area, Clark Tower feature wall, Clifford Tower foyer and San Chapel. Temporary participatory displays will also be featured on a wall outside the cafeteria.

“Impacting patients is the priority,” says Mrs Poole. “Only just over one per cent of them are Adventists, but 60 per cent have a religious affiliation that acknowledges the existence of God. We have to be sensitive to this diversity while still being authentic and honest about our faith. We’re not trying to preach; we’re trying to tell stories.”

As part of this storytelling approach, production staff at Adventist Media have created a documentary that follows the journey of three photographers featured in the exhibition: Felicity Thompson’s San baby photography project entitled *Immanuel*; Heath Bennett’s *Resilient Hope*—a series of five images of Open Heart International patients in Tonga post-surgery; and James Bennett’s ethereal depiction of Jesus among sand dunes and water.

“Behind-the-scenes footage of these photo-shoots symbolically tracks the journey of Jesus—from His birth, to His ministry, to the heavenly ascension—interspersed with testimonies from patients and loved ones talking about their perspectives on hope for the future and prayer,” says Mrs Poole.

Among the exhibitors, fine artist Andy Collis was commissioned to paint two portraits: one of former San superintendent Herbert Clifford, and one of former director of nursing Rose-Marie Radley. Both artworks feature rich symbolism reflective of the hospital’s God-infused history.

“San CEO Brett Goods specifically requested Rose-Marie to be painted once Bert’s portrait was commissioned. Brett told me the two of them were ‘thick as thieves’ during their tenure at the San,” says Mrs Poole.

Multiple other artists and art installations will also feature as part of the exhibition—Karl Lindsay’s *God is Able* photograph, musician Blake Robinson’s composition “Eternity”, interactive temporary murals outside of the cafeteria, as well as Glonaida Quiapon’s Bible verse illustrations themed around hope and prayer as part of a volunteer-led art cart. All of these artworks have been curated by Mrs Poole to communicate the power of prayer, authentic journeys of faith and to portray the character of God.

When asked about her motivation behind the project, Mrs Poole expressed her intentional decision to base the exhibition on the SPD’s harvest ministry model.



“The exhibition aims to spark a desire within patients and visitors to learn more, and to put them in touch with the San’s Spiritual Care Services. We’re installing iPad stations around the exhibition to catch people as they leave, with an option to ask for prayer or chat with a chaplain.”

The exhibition isn’t just a discipleship mechanism, however. Mrs Poole is deeply motivated by personal experience and seeks to extend compassion to patients and loved ones walking through the hospital’s doors.

“My mum had a brain tumour about 10 years ago; it was all very sudden when we found out. . . . I don’t remember being able to pray words myself because I was in shock with it all. But I remember that there were friends who came to Mum’s hospital room and prayed with her. It meant the world to us. Even though she’s okay now, even 10 years later, I still feel an ache and tension about the whole experience. And it’s helped me understand what it is like for the patients and their families.”

“God of Hope” officially opens to the public on December 12.

**MARYELLEN FAIRFAX**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST RECORD

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# MOMENTS WITH GOD

A SHOWCASE OF CREATIVE TALENT  
FROM ACROSS THE SOUTH PACIFIC

## ELLIE MORRIS PERENJORI, WA

Ellie Morris is a girl from the land. Growing up on her family farm at Perenjori, in Western Australia's central west, Ellie has a unique and beautiful relationship with the Australian landscape—and she captures it all on camera.

With a stunning portfolio of images, the 18-year-old specialises in landscape, agricultural and animal photography. When she's not taking photos of the stunning scenery, she drives tractors for the neighbouring farms, rides horses and takes the motorbike for a spin. Is there anything this true-blue Aussie girl can't do?

*"I got my first point-and-shoot when I was about six years old, and Dad got me a DSLR when I was 11 or 12. I'm mostly self-taught, experimenting and following other photographers and asking questions.*

*When I'm working on the farm, I always have my camera with me on the tractor, but when I'm just at home, I get out at least two or three times a week. I would like to take more photos of people I guess, but I*

*prefer landscapes. I do take photos of animals too—my kelpies and horses.*

*I'm mostly on my own; I don't really know anyone else who does photography like me. It's more than 40 kilometres to the nearest town, so I spend most of my time on the farm with my brother, sister, parents and grandma.*

*Dad does contract work with windmills and solar panels, so sometimes I get to go with him and take photos of different places out west.*

*I've been an Adventist my whole life—Pastor Don Felhberg married my parents and baptised me and my siblings—but taking photos has made me appreciate creation more. It's important to do what you love doing, and I love being out in nature.*

*I mostly just do it because I love it, but I also think my work shows a different side to agriculture. I love doing rural stuff and shooting at golden hour and sunset. My favourite thing to photograph would be thunderstorms because they really show the power of creation. It's awe-inspiring. Taking photos makes you appreciate all the little things in different aspects, even just the way the light falls on everything."*



INSTAGRAM @ELLIEMORRISAU |  
ELLIEMORRIS.COM.AU

## CHARMAINE PATEL BRISBANE, QLD

"As the media producer for the South Queensland Conference, I have the honour of capturing moments of people worshipping God all over Australia. Meeting people from behind the camera empowers me to see how much God works in their lives. I'm often inspired by how amazing God is with the work He is doing through people in all walks of life. I feel so blessed to see through my lens the joy in people's faces I know only comes from God. It's my privilege to direct and produce people's testimonies so that the whole world can see how great our God is."



INSTAGRAM @ADVENTIST\_SQC

## JEAN PIERRE NIPTIK PORT VILA, VANUATU

"Living in the Pacific is living in the sunshine. Every sunrise and sunset amazes me with its colours. My country, Vanuatu, is blessed with gorgeous sunsets, which tells me that God is beautiful and loves beauty. How He paints the colours in the sky and reflects the sun's rays across the ocean is outstanding. After a long tiring day of work, I love gazing out at the sunset to relax and ease my mind. The experience urges me to look forward to a day when God will restore long-lasting peace and all my worries and stress will be gone. As the sun sets, signalling the end of another day, I look forward to tomorrow. God is still in control, it's His sun and He controls and transcends time."



INSTAGRAM @LUKEVODELL

## LUKE VODELL SYDNEY, NSW

“Photography is about being in the right place at the right time, but this photo was taken in an amazing place at the worst possible time. The place is Trolltunga in Norway and it involves a 28-kilometre return hike. My brother Joel and I visited in the middle of summer and weren't prepared for cold or wet weather hiking. The forecast said it would be fine, so off we went. Only a few kilometres in, we noticed some dark clouds, but trusting the forecast and with a 'she'll be right' attitude, we decided a faster pace was all we needed. As we climbed higher, the dark clouds arrived bringing rain; so we increased our pace. The rain turned to hail, which hurt. It also became very windy. I'd never been that cold for so long. If we stopped walking for even the shortest period, we could feel our bodies shutting down. Nearing the top, the hail became snow, so we quickened our pace again. Looking at my numb blue hands, many prayers were said. When we arrived at the lookout, it stopped snowing and the sun came out slightly so we quickly took photos and enjoyed the moment. Still freezing, we had to keep moving to keep warm, so we raced back and completed the hike in about eight hours. This photo reminds me that God is always with us despite our own stupidity, and that He really can turn troublesome times into beautiful moments and memories.”



INSTAGRAM @NIPTIKJEANPIERRE



INSTAGRAM @ROBBIEFATT

## ROBBIE FATT SYDNEY, NSW

“The more I travel, the more I have come to realise just how distanced I am from other people's experiences. For the Aseki people, deep within the highlands of Papua New Guinea, cannibalism was a way of life until Christianity reached their villages only 30 years ago. While still traditionally-influenced and lost in their understanding of a modern world, these people have been changed by the gospel, and I often wonder if I have allowed the gospel to influence me in a similar way. I find I am constantly needing to re-evaluate my own personal relationship with God, and to continue to prioritise the things in life that are most important.”



INSTAGRAM @SEASONASCENT

## TIM RICHARDSON CANBERRA, ACT

“Photography to me is beautiful for a few reasons. Landscape photography is an opportunity for me to show off God's wonder and creativity. Each image I take is a small window into His power. I often marvel at the show that God can put on, and then catch myself thinking that the landscape in front of me, in a sinful world, is just scratching the surface of what awaits us. Can you imagine the scenes that are waiting up there? I am blown away by some of the locations I visit, so I can't even comprehend what heaven will look like.

This particular photo is a good example of how photography is not only a tool to showcase God, but an experience. I love that it allows me to disconnect from the everyday hustle and bustle, and just be in the moment. I will often look up at the stars while my camera soaks in the light, and find myself in worshipful prayer.”

**R** If you're a photographer, musician or artist, please email us at [news@record.net.au](mailto:news@record.net.au) to be featured on our Instagram [@adventistrecord](https://www.instagram.com/adventistrecord), in *Record Wrap* bulletins or in print editions.



IG: @MEANINGFUL\_WORD

## GLONAI DA QUIAPON MELBOURNE, VIC

"For the Word of God is living and powerful. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And boy, can it pierce through every aspect of your mind, body and soul. Meaningful\_word is a creative ministry where I archive messages that speak 'life' into my daily walk with God in the hope that it, too, can impact someone else. Drawing from His designs, I love to create pieces that use bright colour palettes, lettering and thought-provoking illustrations for a more free-hand organic style! Some of my favourite pieces are the ones where idea, composition and execution flow cohesively. Art used to be a way I would only showcase who I was and the skills I had, but as I continue to journey with Christ, it has become a space where I can share who God is and what He has done in my life."

## ERIC & MONIQUE

### INTERNATIONAL "MUSICIARIES"

"Songwriting for us is a very personal process and a very special time in worship. It is incredibly cathartic and often brings God-led breakthroughs to current experiences and issues in our lives. Sometimes the creative process is a bit stop and start, and being married we have some 'discussions' in the process. But overall we like to be open to the Holy Spirit and see what happens creatively in the moment. We usually have no plan, a theme or any musical theory. We try to let the songs happen as God leads. Being songwriters and touring musicianaries has deepened our faith and trust in God. Following His leading hasn't always been easy or the 'normal' path in life. Our three favourite songs that we've written are 'Everlasting', 'He Knows' and 'You Are With Me' (which hasn't been officially released, it's on our next album and it's a prayer inspired by Psalm 23)."



IG: @ASHRAEMUSIC | SPOTIFY: ASHRAE

## ASHRAE

### CENTRAL COAST, NSW

"Although this changes as I develop as a person and artist, my favourite song I have written is 'AS I AM'. It will be featured in my upcoming album, to be released late 2020. It calls for us to love all types of people simply for who they are and to love ourselves, too. After all, isn't our whole law summed up in 'Love your neighbour as yourself'? I believe this should be our focus, always."

Songwriting is my wrestling mat. I wrestle with God and with my own heart. As I write, I often feel the presence of the Holy Spirit composing a new heart in me, as I slowly unravel my hurts or thoughts or praises before Him. Songwriting has shown me what surrender feels and looks like: laying your heart bare before your King and eventually before your audience too. As I write my song, I feel parts of my heart break and heal back together all at once. I believe through raw (and sometimes uncomfortable) honesty, my songs can reach people wherever they're at. It is my hope that the Spirit will work in the space that my music fills inside the heart of my audience."



IG: @ANGEMILLERART | ANGEMILLERART.COM

## ANGE MILLER

### MORISSET, NSW

"Creativity has taught me how to learn, how to see. When I am in creative process a sacred fire burns. He created. He saw it was good and was pleased. We see who He is by what He made (and there is no end to the wonder of it). He longs to be seen, to be known. He has laid everything out as a beacon for us to connect with Him. Made in His image, to understand who I am and who He is, I must create. Others see who I am by what I make, and so I am known in a way that is too deep for words. I have seen this to be the greatest applicable combat for anxiety and depression: to see and to know at depth, to be seen and known at depth. To know I cannot be separated from Him, His rescue process cannot be undone. He feeds me beauty, opens my eyes to see it sharper, to shine it brighter. His beautiful Son teaches me in humility and gentleness to teach in humility and gentleness. To know Him creatively and to know I am His girl means everything to me."



WWW.PHILMCKAY.COM

## PHIL MCKAY

### PORT MACQUARIE, NSW

"It is hard to choose a favourite picture as I have painted many Christian/Bible images over the years. This piece was completed recently, and for me it conveys the might and majesty of Jesus, though in a gentle way. He is the Creator of all things simply by speaking them into existence! Yet Jesus is also our closest Companion. Painting the Word of God has strengthened my faith incredibly. Each painting brings to life the Bible in a visual way that sometimes reading cannot. I hope that as people see my artwork it will build their faith and understanding of the Scriptures in a way that is both relevant and accessible to all."



IG: @ERICANDMONIQUE | WWW.ERICANDMONIQUE.COM



IG: @GRAPHOTICZ\_ARTWORX | TIKTOK: @SERVWON

## TULAGA AIOLUPOTEA

Street name: "Serv1"

INVERCARGILL, NZ

"As a graffiti artist, concepts and ideas are driven from my passion for humanity's need of God. My creative process derives from my deep personal love of Scripture and experience with God, which creatively interprets itself through my artwork. Graffiti solemnly deals with words; so how can I summarise biblical concepts in one word?"

My street pieces are called 'Pulpit Walls' and 'Good News Galleries' which showcase God's love in my life in hope to reach people who may never be seen in our churches. So I take my 'pulpit' out on the city streets, where the people are, and spray my 'sermon' on a legal wall through graffiti art.

My recent work 'HFL19' (above), is a suicide prevention graffiti project. This piece features the use of 'negative-spaces' with 'positive words' from 1 Corinthians 13:13 that express God's overflowing ooze of hope, faith and love: 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'."



IG: @MARIFERARTIST | WWW.ART-STROMY.COM

## MARIA DOMINGUEZ

SYDNEY, NSW

"I started painting shortly after I became a believer and have since used my art for two primary reasons. The first, to share God with others. When I read the Bible for the first time as an adult, I fell in love with God's character and longed to share Him. Every painting I made became a small window into my glimpse of God. The second reason was to help me in my own faith journey. The scenes I choose to paint often reflect where I am at in my Christian walk. In this painting of Jonah, I was going through a time of repentance. In the hours I spent painting this scene, I lifted up prayers asking for forgiveness and the finished artwork became a personal promise that I would turn from a specific sin and follow God's will again. I hang my favourite paintings on my bedroom wall; they are bookmarks taking me back to different chapters in my Christian journey, constantly reminding me of the lessons God has taught me and the grace He has shown me."



IG: @ALIANDLEIGHTON | SPOTIFY: ALI & LEIGHTON

## ALI & LEIGHTON

CENTRAL COAST,  
NSW

"The disciple Peter said, 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms' (1 Peter 4:10). We come alive when we make music. Ali is the main engine behind the songwriting and calls it her 'dialogue with Jesus', recording her growing understanding of who we are and Whose we are. Then Leighton puts his magical music dust over these simple songs and they become beautiful and memorable. We feel very blessed to have these tunes to share. They are significant for our family, and we hope that through these songs we can be faithful stewards and encourage our brothers and sisters along the way, 'cause life can get hard and we all need a bit of a lift sometimes! Favourite songs: 'Love Takes Time' (Year of the Home album), 'Connected', 'Rhythm of Us' and 'Straight Stick' (December release)."



IG: @ANDY.COLLIS | ANDYCOLLIS.TUMBLR.COM

## ANDY COLLIS

CENTRAL COAST, NSW

"In my painting, *Through a glass darkly*, this earthly world is depicted in front of the mirror. The skeletal torso depicts what we are physically reduced to at death, yet there is no skull, implying that, for me, the spiritual is connected with the inexplicable, moved by emotion emanating from the soul. The lily (a symbol for Christ and salvation) arises from the rib cage, the flower itself nourished by water from which we, as saved humans, will not thirst again. The lily is central in the image and is the pivot between this world and eternity, represented by what is beyond the looking glass—through which we can now only see darkly but will ultimately see clearly. The plastic Spider-Man toy, at bottom left, is a symbol for my son—at the time he was five-years-old. It represents the fantasy that life goes on forever and superheroes can solve all earthly problems. A father is a superhero to his five-year-old son, but as that son peers into the glass and looks beyond this world, he can vaguely see an empty chair. That reflected chair should therefore be behind him, in the real world. It is where I, the artist, should be seen reflected in the mirror. But I am not there. What has happened to me?"

# Of Truth and Good Stories

It is not hard to see evidence of God's creativity in the Bible. On the very first page, God bursts onto the scene with creative power, calling light from darkness, shaping a man from the earth. From creation to Revelation, the Bible reminds us over and over that we serve a Creator-God, one who has not only the power to make something out of nothing, but also the desire and the ability to make things beautiful.

But does the Bible celebrate human creativity as well as God's creativity? Christians over time have produced different answers to that question (as they have to almost every other question). Some branches of Christianity have produced sublime works of art, music and literature, while others have emphasised uniformity and discouraged creative expression.

The first human artist mentioned in the Bible is Jubal, "the first of all who play the harp and flute" (Genesis 4:21). He's sandwiched in between his brother Jabal, father of those who live in tents and raise livestock, and his half-brother Tubal-Cain, forger of bronze and iron tools. These briefly mentioned sons of Lamech are given archetypal professions, as if to represent major categories of human activity at the time. It's intriguing that the musician is given an equal position of honour alongside the herdsman and the metalworker, perhaps suggesting that making music may be just as important as making food and tools.

After Jubal, women compose and perform songs at crucial moments in the Old Testament narrative: Miriam, Deborah, Hannah (see Exodus 15, Judges 5, 1 Samuel 2). God demonstrates His power by having the temple choir and band go into battle ahead of the army (see 2 Chronicles 20).

Then the Psalms explode in the middle of the Bible, full of hymns and choir directions. It's equally full of human emotion: joy, praise, rage, despair. One hundred and fifty songs with lyrics celebrating everything from the sublime love of God to the all-too-human desire to crush our enemies into dust—that these made it into the Scriptures seems to me the clearest possible indication that God wants to hear His people expressing themselves.

In fact, I'd argue that the Bible not only portrays God's creative genius and gives numerous examples of humans expressing themselves creatively with God's approval, but that the Bible itself is the highest possible testimonial to how much God values human creativity.

Let's face it: God could have given us a much simpler sacred text. If He'd simply dictated what He wanted to say—word for word—to a single author over a short period of time, we could have gotten the basics. The Ten Commandments, certainly. A few key bits of history? Micah 6:8 and Jesus' two great commandments to summarise the moral code? One gospel with a clear and coherent storyline, and some edited bits of Paul's letters?





It's easy to imagine a much shorter, tidier, more coherent document than the current sprawling collection of 66 books by a diverse group of authors, written and compiled over centuries in various places and cultures.

Why, then? Why the Bible we have? Why this complex, sometimes-difficult collection of books, instead of a single, easy-to-understand document? Because God chose to inspire human authors; not to dictate to them, but to impress His thoughts on their minds, knowing those thoughts would be filtered through the language, experience and worldview of those human writers. Let's face it, it is not the most efficient system for getting your message across. But it's the one God chose to use.

After a lifetime of reading and struggling to understand the Bible, I've concluded that at least part of the reason God chose to communicate with us the way He did is that He values our creativity. It seems He was willing to sacrifice simplicity and efficiency in favour of allowing His people to express His message in their own language.

This is pretty breathtaking. God wants us to speak—and to sing and to paint and to sculpt—even though by doing so we flavour His message with our own personalities, our own culture, our own perceptions. God values the creativity of His people even more than He values the clarity and consistency of His own message.

At least, that's how it strikes me, reading the Bible. We might not struggle so much with the character of God—whether He really is wrathful and vengeful—if He hadn't given a bunch of violent ancient tribespeople the job of telling His stories. We might not argue about faith and works if God had simply sat Paul and James down and said, "OK, only one of you gets to tell people how to be saved, and you're going to follow the script I give you, alright?" Wouldn't everyone agree with the Adventist interpretation of Revelation if only John had written in a more straightforward fashion, without all that imagery, symbolism and poetic language?

Why four gospels? Wouldn't one well-edited account work better? Then no-one would have to wonder whether Jesus cast demons out of one madman or two (see Matthew 8, Mark 5, Luke 8). We wouldn't have to reconcile Mark's Jesus, who warns everyone not to say He's the Messiah, with John's Jesus, who boldly stands up in the Temple court and announces, "The Father and I are one!" (see Mark 8:30, John 10:30). Aren't simplicity and ease of understanding more important in founding a religion than variety and creativity?

Apparently not, according to God. John's story was as valuable as Mark's, as Matthew's, as Luke's, because each one had something unique to add. Each of them told recognisably the same story—but in a different way.

Of course, Jesus Himself was also a storyteller. In fact—particularly if you look at the synoptic gospels—He was a storyteller more than anything else. His parables are small masterpieces of creative truth-telling: wisdom wrapped in

short scenes so unforgettable that just to say "the good Samaritan" or "the prodigal son" unfolds entire layers of theology for those who know the stories.

When I think about the role of creativity in the life of faith, one of my favourite stories is the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. In this parable, Jesus describes Lazarus the beggar after death, nestled in Abraham's bosom, while the rich man suffers the flames of hell and longs for the comfort he once denied Lazarus.

Why do I love this story? Because it's a difficult one—at least for Seventh-day Adventists. The plot of this story clearly doesn't fit with the rest of the Bible's teaching on the afterlife and with Jesus' own many references to death as a sleep. Instead, it draws on imagery from popular cultural beliefs of the time, to make a point that has nothing to do with life after death, and everything to do with how we're supposed to treat others in this life.

In other words, Jesus didn't let the doctrinal truth get in the way of a good story. He told a story that was creative, that was memorable, that drew upon familiar cultural images and sketched unforgettable characters. He brought the story to life and didn't seem to care that future Adventist pastors would have a difficult time explaining it in Bible studies on the state of the dead. Here, as in the rest of the Bible, one kind of truth—the kind embodied in story, in song, in art—sometimes trumps the purely factual, doctrinal, rational kind of truth.

Maybe it's more important, the Bible suggests, to tell a good story than to get all the facts straight. Was there one demoniac or were there two? Matthew remembered seeing two; Mark and Luke only recorded one. What matters is that all three writers knew that the power of Jesus defeats the power of Satan, and that people who are broken and rejected can be healed and made whole.

Do rich men who ignore the poor actually writhe in the flames of hell and long for beggars to bring them cool drinks? Not according to the rest of the Bible—but what matters is that you don't forget the story the next time someone less fortunate asks you for help.

Does the litany of curses poured out by the writer of Psalm 109 really square with the command to love our enemies? Of course not, but what matters is that a man who was suffering pain and injustice expressed how he felt—and God valued his prayer enough to enshrine it in Scripture, to remind us that our cries of pain and anguish, just as much as our shouts of joy and praise, matter to Him.

Sing your song. Tell your story. Howl out your pain if you have to. Or paint your prayer. The result might not always be simple or clear—but it will be real. And it will be true. Just like the Bible.

**TRUDY J MORGAN COLE**

ADAPTED FROM "MANIFEST: OUR CALL TO FAITHFUL CREATIVITY"

EDITED BY NATHAN BROWN AND JOANNA DARBY.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... **PODCAST PASTORS**

**NAMES:** JESSE HERFORD & JOSHUA STOTHERS  
**JOBS:** JESSE PASTORS MOSAIC COMMUNITY CHURCH (PALMERSTON NORTH, NZ) AND JOSH PASTORS HAMILTON CENTRAL ADVENTIST CHURCH (NZ). TOGETHER, THEY CREATED THE “BURN THE HAYSTACK” PODCAST.



## WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU?

**JOSH:** I try to get up at about 5:45 am to go to the gym, before coming back home to get ready with my wife. I then head to my church office to work until the early afternoon before coming home for lunch. Then I either work in the afternoon or at night depending on whether I have meetings, Bible studies, visits or podcast recording.

I am always on the hunt for good podcast content between it all. I have a few great people who like to send me interesting stories, articles or ideas for people to interview which helps a lot. We have a Google document to which we frequently add ideas we think might work for the show. This means we always have content ready to go; it's just a matter of deciding which ones are ready and making a time to record.

**JESSE:** I typically wake up at 6:50 am, unless I have breakfast meetings—I've found these work for a lot of my church members and ministry leaders, and it helps me get a significant amount of work done before 8 am. If it's a normal day, I'll drive my wife to the school where she works. Then I'll go home and

do housework or grocery shopping, and then start my proper work day by 9 am.

From there, I'll either go to my next meeting, church visitation or a local cafe to get some work done (usually a sermon, Bible study or answering emails). I find it a lot easier to focus at a cafe rather than home. From there, I'll go home, have lunch, record a podcast episode with Josh and attend more meetings or visits. I may go out to Longburn Adventist College to do some work or guest-teach a class, which I do from time to time. If there are new podcast episodes that need editing, I will do that at night, as well as scheduling our social media posts (though most of that is done by the amazing Laura Hutchinson!).

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BEGIN THE PODCAST? HOW MUCH PLANNING WENT INTO IT?

**JOSH:** We started on YouTube but couldn't find our groove really. After some reflection and feedback, we decided to go down the podcast road. It feels awesome to contribute to something we value like this. There was a fair bit of planning over a couple of months before the launch of the first episode.

Trying to bring our personalities and dreams together to be unified took a lot of thought and prayer.

**JESSE:** We both believe that Adventism has a beautiful story to tell, and we want to tell that story using language that our peers (as well as the next generation) can identify with. As avid podcast listeners, we decided to take the dive. When we began *Burn the Haystack*, we were only aware of one or two podcasts in the same vein as ours. We feel pretty lucky to have been part of this new wave of Adventist media!

## TELL US ABOUT THE NAME—IT'S SO CLEVER! WHAT OTHER NAMES WERE YOU CONSIDERING?

**JOSH:** Thank you! The name has funnily enough gotten people interested and others disinterested because



you know how much Adventists love haystacks! Some of the other names we considered were:

- The Badventists (not really the right fit for us)
- Deconstructionists (taken already)
- The Josh & Jesse Show (number one rule of podcast naming is: don't name the show after yourself unless you are a celebrity, which we definitely are not).

We wanted something that was unexpected and attention-grabbing.

**JESSE:** Finally, we found a fantastic quote: "What's the easiest way to find a needle in a haystack? Burn the haystack!" For us, the needle is following Jesus. The Jesus movement radically shifted history, yet we recognise that in many ways, traditions, culture and peripheral issues have clouded what following Jesus means to so many people. Our mission is to strip away the side issues, distractions and hindrances that get in the way of following Jesus.

### WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU'VE FACED?

**JOSH:** For me, I hit a place of burnout with the podcast a while ago. When I moved to my church and city this year I really struggled to balance everything with the podcast and our digital ministry.

We received a bit of negative feedback on something and it just mounted up and felt like too much for me. I took a small hiatus and thankfully Jesse stepped up to look after everything in that time.

**JESSE:** Our biggest challenge is probably generating new content every week. Staying fresh and relevant every week is a continual struggle, but we are incredibly grateful for our awesome audience who encourages us and gives us new ideas for content. At the end of the day, it's not just about what's going on in our heads; it's about engaging with our community.

### WHAT'S ONE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED DURING THE PROCESS?

**JOSH:** How powerful digital discipleship can be. I had no idea how much impact something like a podcast could have on people and the amount of reach you can get by simply being consistent. We've had amazing messages come through from people having incredible spiritual breakthroughs with their kids by listening to an episode with them, others sharing episodes with non-Adventist friends to help their spiritual journey and even one who says that it was our podcast that pushed him to start a church. All I can say is God can use anything and anyone to do anything and reach anyone. I'm blown away and excited to see what He does next.

**JESSE:** You don't need a fancy title or a lot of money to be influential. All you need is humility, dedication and a curious spirit. That's what's gotten us to where we are right now! We've also learned how rewarding it is to build something on your own, without anyone else's stamp of approval. Of course, all glory goes to God for any life change or encouragement people get out of the podcast, but the fact of the matter is, no-one asked us to do this, and we didn't even know if it was going to work. That doesn't matter—we went for it anyway, and it's been a wild ride!

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE EPISODE SO FAR AND WHY?

**JOSH:** This is like asking me to choose a favourite child! It's so hard. I really enjoyed our two-part series on "How to incite an insurrection in your local church", where we gave seven really helpful steps to bring positive, effective and lasting change to your local church. I also loved our two-part conversation with Tim Gillespie. He was open and honest about his beliefs, even if they were different to a lot of others.

**JESSE:** My favourite episode would probably have to be episode 44: "Nimrod Maua gave up being lead pastor". Nimrod is an incredibly humble, yet powerful and visionary leader. I learned so much from working with him a few

years ago on the Central Coast (NSW), and I learn so much every time I see him. It was a real highlight for me to be able to see his ministry grow, and I can't wait to have him back sometime in the future. Nimrod, if you're reading this, call me?

### HAS THE PODCAST BEEN MORE OR LESS SUCCESSFUL THAN YOU EXPECTED?

**JOSH:** It's been amazing just watching our stats constantly grow. Not that we are one of those mega successful podcasts with millions of downloads, but for something as niche as what we do, it's mind-blowing. These days each episode has more than 400 downloads with the more popular ones reaching as high as 700. We recently passed 35,000 all time downloads which is epic! We're so humbled by the response.



**JESSE:** It's been way more successful than we expected! When we made YouTube videos together in 2017, we were spending hours writing scripts, filming and editing content, to only get a handful of views. It was crushing. Now, we are growing every day, and we definitely are well over what the average podcast gets in its first 30 days, putting us comfortably in the top 30-50 per cent of all podcasts worldwide.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR BURN THE HAYSTACK?

**JOSH:** Video content! We'd love to have all of our episodes recorded on video and available to watch on YouTube as well, but this takes a whole lot of time and effort. We are also hoping to start selling merchandise to help fund the podcast. My big audacious dream is that one day I'll see someone I don't know wearing *Burn The Haystack* merchandise!

**JESSE:** We both love video podcasts and we also want to start our own YouTube content individually, but as far as *Burn the Haystack* is concerned, our big dream is to have every episode available to watch on YouTube. We're hoping by 2020 this dream will become a reality!



 Burn the Haystack  
 burnthehaystackpodcast  
[www.burnthehaystack.org](http://www.burnthehaystack.org)



### Vegan San Choy Ban

This recipe is a delicious twist on the traditional. Full of protein, fibre and calcium, it's a wonderful appetiser or quick and light weeknight dinner.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: [sanitarium.com.au/recipes](http://sanitarium.com.au/recipes)  
New Zealand: [sanitarium.co.nz/recipes](http://sanitarium.co.nz/recipes)



## MEAT THE ALTERNATIVE: YOUR GUIDE TO PLANT-BASED MEAT

Millions of people around the world are now actively reducing or completely eliminating meat from their diet, mainly to improve their health, reduce their impact on the environment or out of concern for animal welfare.

Cue the rise of products that look like meat, taste like meat and cook like meat, without an animal in sight. But what exactly are these meat alternatives? They're plant-based foods that provide a similar taste and texture experience to meat and are made from protein extracted from plants, usually wheat, pea or soy.

### ARE THEY BETTER FOR THE PLANET?

Did you know a whopping 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse emissions are due to livestock and their by-products? Not only do plant-based foods have no methane emissions, they typically require less water to produce right through the supply chain. So it's a win for the environment!

### ARE THEY REALLY BETTER FOR ME?

Research shows people following a balanced plant-based diet are healthier and often slimmer than meat eaters. However, are these meat alternatives healthier than the real deal? Plant-based meats are typically lower in total fat and kilojoules when compared to meat. They provide an additional source of protein without the cholesterol typically associated with meat products. To make the best choice, look for those lower in saturated fat and sodium.

When eaten occasionally, along with a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, wholegrains, nuts and seeds, they add convenience, variety and new flavours to your diet. Meat alternative products are not a replacement for the whole food plant proteins you're already eating such as legumes, soy and nuts. However, if you want to have the occasional meal that has a similar taste and texture of meat, without eating animals, then that's where meat alternatives are a great addition to the menu.

### OTHER TYPES OF PLANT-BASED PROTEIN



#### PISTACHIOS

These tasty little morsels are the perfect package, providing the awesome combination of plant protein, iron and zinc—important nutrients if you are on a vegetarian diet. Pistachios and almonds have the most protein of all nuts, with just one handful containing 6g. Another nutty option is cashews, providing 5g of protein in one handful.



#### CHICKPEAS

Budget-friendly nutrition at its best. Chickpeas are cheap to buy, low in fat, low GI and a good source of B group vitamins, iron, zinc, folate and magnesium. They are also a great way to add amino acids to your diet. Mix them with tahini (sesame paste) to make a hummus and you'll tick the box for a nutritious spread that is a complete protein.



#### BROADBEANS

This ancient bean was one of the first farmed crops. Known as the king of beans, broad beans are full of nutrients with a 150g serve providing 11g protein as well as fibre, folate, vitamin C, iron, riboflavin and thiamine.





Jesus loves all His children

# KIDS SPEAK

Fakatalofa atu Kids!  
(Tuvaluan for Hello)

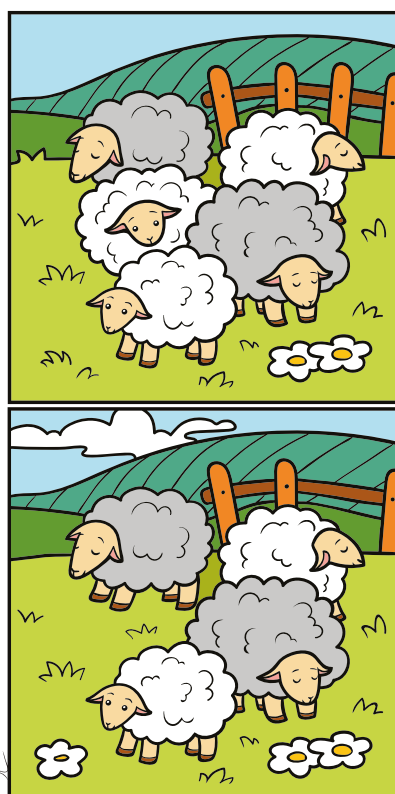
## LOST & FOUND!

Jesus tells a parable of a shepherd who has 100 sheep and loses one of them. The shepherd leaves the 99 in a safe place and goes after the one lost sheep until it is found. When he finds it he gently carries it home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours to rejoice with him that the precious lost sheep is found.

Jesus comes looking for me when I am far from Him.



## Find the 5 Differences



### Memory Verse

“Your Father in heaven is not willing that any one of these little ones should be lost.

Matthew 18:14





**END-TIME FOCUS**

The conclusion of the article "Two False Teachings", published in *Adventist Record* on November 2, leaves me wondering whether Ellen White is now only acknowledged for helping to set up aspects of our Church organisation rather than the main focus of her ministry, which was proclaiming an end-time message. Too much debate is given to her fallibility rather than the fact that God gave her a special end-time message and that she used all her resources to get this message out to the people. This should be the focus with which we acknowledge her work, and which makes her writings relevant and important today.

Annette Sicard, NSW

**CHEAP FORGIVENESS**

Re "Cheap Forgiveness" (November 2): A tad unfortunate in my view to refer to Wiesenthal walking out on the dying SS officer—we are all human and I have observed many, including myself, struggling and failing to forgive. The gospel is not that we get to heaven because we are psychologically fit, but because God forgives even those who honestly struggle, unlike some who are able to testify mightily.

Jesus died to save sinners, including those who struggle to forgive.

A *New York Times* article in 1964 quotes Wiesenthal: "You believe in God and life after death. I also believe.

When we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, 'What have you done?' there will be many answers. You will say, 'I became a jeweller', another will say, 'I have smuggled coffee and American cigarettes', another will say, 'I built houses'. But I will say, 'I didn't forget you.'"

James Toogood, Facebook

**PROGRESSIVE TRUTH?**

Re Facebook post November 5, quoting "Fresh

Perspectives" (January 26): I fully endorse the concept of progressive understanding through revelation from the Holy Spirit.

I prefer not to use the phrase "progressive truth", however, because it implies that Truth changes over time and this I do not agree with. John 17:17 says, "Thy Word is Truth." The Word of God reveals God's character, which does not change.

Therefore Truth will not change, rather our understanding of God, the Word (Truth), changes or progresses as the Holy Spirit reveals more of God to us.

Perhaps it's just semantics, but I think we are on the same page.

Reagan Pillay, Facebook

**SUBJECTIVE COMPLIANCE**

Re "SPD Responds to Compliance Action" (November 15). I find this action of the GC very distressing and a failure on the part of the majority to comprehend that what works well in one part of the world does not necessarily work for other parts in proclaiming the gospel. Have we not learned from the Jerusalem Council's bad decision in Paul's case, results of which showed the majority was not always right when that

decision inhibited Paul's work in proclaiming the gospel for a period of time?

Fortunately in the final analysis God ordains the work He wants each of us to do. I believe God has ordained some of our women for direct ministerial work, so ladies cherish that ordination even if the majority don't recognise your call is from God.

Your work is greatly appreciated by the congregations you serve. I include you in my prayers for our ministers as they struggle with the issues of these times and seek to give nurture and support on our Church's collective spiritual journey.

Ian Grice, Facebook

**CULTURAL RELEVANCE**

Re "Is the Bible still relevant?" Facebook live announcement photo (November 7): We have to learn to speak in the culture's natural tongue. We know that the gospel transcends culture.

We know that when the gospel cuts through, it breaks chains, it brings light to the darkest corners, to every tongue, tribe and nation.

But yet if we do not have gospel fluency, if we are not

hearing the heart cries of this generation, the heart cries of our culture, how can the gospel cut through? Maybe it's simply because it hasn't fully pierced our own hearts?

In Dave Gibbons' *The Monkey and the Fish*, there's this quote: "Each generation must create a new language that connects with the soul and life of their community in their era. It must also create new forms, not only to help carry the message, the truth, the content into a new generation but also to create a greater hunger for that message. So while the message may stay the same, the forms do change . . . Same mission, same dream, same truth, same message yet new forms, new languages, new containers, new priests and messengers, new relationships."

Martin van Rensburg, Facebook

**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.

## Clarification

The article "South Brisbane Church celebrates 120 years" (News, October 19) was incorrectly attributed to Maryellen Fairfax, who edited the story online before it was pulled across into the print magazine. The author should have been listed as Shirley Glover, who provided the original report. —*Editor*

## Wedding



**MCMAHON—SOFRANKO.** Clive John McMahon, son of John and Letitia McMahon (Taree, NSW), and Suzie Sofranko, daughter of Miso and Maria

Sofranko (Williamstown, Vic), were married in the Seddon church on 7.7.19. They were blessed to have their family and friends witness their union with one another and with God.  
*Danny Milenkov*

## Obituary

**NIGHTINGALE,** Richard James, born 2.1.1938; died 21.10.19 in Atherton Hospital, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Wyn; four children, Peter, Janice, Lynne and Mark; as well as their families. Richie was a devoted husband and father, who loved God and His Church. He knew what he believed and in Whom he believed. He will be sadly missed by his family and church.

Richie fell asleep in the Lord and is waiting for his part in the first resurrection, when Jesus comes.  
*Wolfgang Jenke*

points-2019.html>; <fustero.es/index\_en.php> (languages).

## ADVERTISING

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DECEMBER 7**

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## POSITIONS VACANT

### VICE CHANCELLOR, AVONDALE COLLEGE COORANBONG, NSW

Avondale University College is seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the position of vice-chancellor. Avondale is the premier educational institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia and New Zealand and exists to serve the greater good. Reporting to the Avondale University College Council, the vice-chancellor is responsible for preserving and enhancing Avondale's mission, spiritual culture, academic standing and research, reputation, financial viability, and to model excellent leadership and communication skills. The new vice-chancellor will also lead the next phase of growth from university college to university within five years. For further information and selection criteria of the above position, please visit <avondale.edu.au>. Applications addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Avondale University College is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to make a delayed appointment, not to appoint or to appoint by invitation. This is a five-year renewable contract. **Applications close December 20, 2019.**

### PROGRAM SCHEDULER, HOPE CHANNEL TV NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Zealand is looking for a program scheduler for Hope Channel, NZ. You will design the telecast schedules for Hope Channel TV on a daily/weekly basis as well as the correct placement of offers/fillers between programs. To be successful in this role you need to have a personal commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's mission, values and lifestyle that is reflected in your personal and professional life, an interest in Christian media, especially television, attention to detail with excellent written English and communication skills, an ability to meet deadlines and computer literacy in Microsoft Word and Excel is a must have. This is a full-time position. All applicants must hold the necessary immigration requirements to be able to live and work in New Zealand and will need to show proof thereof to be considered for the position. Please email your resumé and a cover letter to Ole Pedersen, General Manager <ole@hopechannel.nz>. **Applications close December 6, 2019.**

### STORE MANAGER, BETTER BOOKS AND FOOD COORANBONG, NSW

The North New South Wales Conference is seeking to appoint a store manager. This position is pivotal to the organisation's Better Books and Food team. The successful applicant will be responsible for facilitating the effective operations of the store and ensuring sound management practices are observed with a focus on best practice, accounting, innovation and continuous improvement. The position will report directly to the CFO. In addition to the operational-related finance matters, the position will be responsible for the supervision and training of direct report positions in the store. To discuss the role or to request a performance profile, please contact Amy Edwards (02) 4944 3236 or via email <amyedwards@adventist.org.au>. Applications are to be submitted in writing via email to <amyedwards@adventist.org.au>, addressing the essential and desirable criteria outlined in the performance profile. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply for this position. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. **Applications close December 6, 2019.**

### HUMAN RESOURCE COORDINATOR, MATERNITY LEAVE POSITION NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE, WALLSEND

The North New South Wales Conference is looking for a human resources coordinator for a 12-month maternity cover contract. This role is a pivotal position in ensuring the smooth function of human resources and best practice around the Conference. The successful applicant will require excellent communication and a high level of administrative skills and experience. The position reports directly to the general secretary. To discuss the role or to request a performance profile, please contact Amy Edwards (02) 4951 8088 or via email <amyedwards@adventist.org.au>. Applications are to be submitted in writing via email to <amyedwards@adventist.org.au>, addressing the essential and desirable criteria outlined in the performance profile. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply for this position. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. **Applications close December 2, 2019.**

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