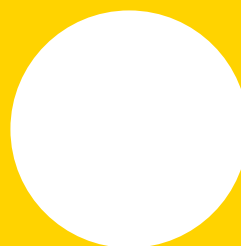


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## CALLING ALL DOUBTERS

A YOUNG WOMAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH DOUBT 16

### NEWS

SPD REALIGNING ITS STRUCTURE TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DISCIPLE MAKING 10

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## GOOD NEWS AND GLAD TIDINGS

Glory to God in the highest heavens. This is a good news post. I can't hold it in any longer.

We are pregnant (I'm not sure that expression is entirely accurate, as pointed out to me by an editor friend, but it does seem to be common usage these days).

I'm getting cravings and forgetting where I parked the car. Sympathetic symptoms I call them. Anyway, it takes two, right? Well, in this case it took three.

This is definitely a God thing. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a miracle. That's why I have to share it. I have to shout it out because this is a testimony that just feels irrepressible.

I still can't believe it's happening. It's been a rollercoaster of emotions but, overwhelmingly, joy. After being married seven years and having no joy in terms of successful conception, this is such an unexpected blessing.

Early last year I wrote something of a lament on our trouble with falling pregnant. Prayers and support flooded in. We started a journey of consulting doctors and specialists to see if we could do anything about the problem. Those things we carried with us into 2019.

By any considerations, before receiving this news, 2019 had already been a big year for us. My wife Lina and I had started the year with a decision to invest time and energy into our health. Together we lost around 40 kilograms. Apart from wanting to improve our overall health and wellbeing, we were fighting to start a family.

Lina had been through countless appointments, blood tests and emotional turmoil. We were finding out more about our options, but eventually it got a bit much and we decided to take a break.

Meanwhile, I was preparing to hike Kokoda with the team from 10,000 Toes and ADRA.

In the lead up to Kokoda I had to give some talks where I reflected on our experience with infertility and our struggles. During the trip, I was asked to share my testimony and as part of my journey that related to

10,000 Toes, I shared about our health and infertility journey. The people there prayed for us and promised to keep praying. When we got back there were a couple more opportunities to speak. At this stage, I was feeling at peace with the whole thing. I knew that God was working. I knew that either a child was on the way, or else God was engineering something else in our lives, a contentment and fullness that would fill the emptiness and give us peace.

Kokoda was an amazing experience, as I've written about previously. I had to invest a lot of energy—training, fundraising, writing about it—and it was a massive focus for me. When I returned, however, I struggled to readjust. It's like there was a hole in my life. I had to travel and catch-up with work almost straight after, so it was hard to process the experience.

In the middle of this period, my wife's grandma

passed away. We found out Lina was pregnant on the same day. It was a muted joy. We felt guilty celebrating our news when the family was mourning. Yet, it seemed like a message that life goes on—even in difficult and painful times, new life and good news is possible.

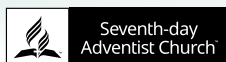
And we had waited and prayed and strived for this news for years. This news that pushed out all other thoughts or negativity. God had answered our prayers and the prayers of many people from all over the world who had been praying for us.

There's so much more that could be said. I still feel compassion for those wrestling with infertility. We've already had some pregnancy challenges, which you may get to read about in time. Our lives are already changing, along with our priorities. But, for now, we're just praying for a healthy baby to arrive around its due date! Thank you for your prayers and praise God for His faithfulness.

**JARROD STACKELROTH**  
SENIOR EDITOR  
@JStackelroth



## THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THIS IS A MIRACLE.



*South Pacific*

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## SPD FINANCIALLY STRONG

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Despite a stagnant global economy, the South Pacific Division's finances are in good shape, according to Division CFO Rodney Brady.

Presenting at the Division year-end meetings, Mr Brady said, "We're financially strong with our working capital and we've got enough liquidity that we're fairly resilient at the moment, so that's good."

While many of the world Church's divisions have struggled with tithe growth, the South Pacific Division (SPD) recorded 11.32 per cent growth between 2017 and 2018, and a five-year average growth rate of 3.42 per cent. Mr Brady credits this to the work of the SPD stewardship department and the introduction of the e-giving system.

"E-giving has been a real positive," he said. "In the Australian Union Conference, 31 per cent of people are now using it to return their tithes and offerings, which is a really good figure."

Despite this, tithe has grown at just half the rate required over the past five years to keep up with inflation and membership growth, presenting some serious challenges in the years ahead.



**DIVISION CFO RODNEY BRADY PRESENTING AT THE SPD'S YEAR-END MEETINGS.**

A further challenge will be the Annual Council's recent decision to institute tithe parity for all divisions.

Growth in Division (non-tithe) income has increased by less than 1 per cent over the past five years due to record low interest rates and other factors.

On a positive note, the SPD has the second highest percentage of tithe being spent on frontline ministers and staff when compared with the other world Church divisions. Also encouraging is the fact that giving to major offerings across the SPD increased by 7.19 per cent between 2015 and 2018.

"We can rejoice and celebrate as we see how God has led and provided for the Church," Mr Brady concluded. "We need to give God the glory for what He has done in blessing members with income to return tithes and offerings and the blessings we have seen across the SPD."

## PURPOSE

The South Pacific Division has its first purpose statement. Purpose is the reason why we go about our mission (how) in pursuing our vision (what). Why do we need it?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Zealand and Australia is a registered charity. The charities commissions in NZ and Australia want all charities to report on their purpose and the outcomes or impact of their purpose. NZ has to begin such a report from July 2020.

Our purpose statement is, "*To inspire hope and wholeness of life in our communities.*" This was voted at the SPD year-end meetings.

To "inspire" means to lift up people's outlook on life or to produce a sense of positive change. "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV).

"Hope" means new possibilities and horizons, an anticipation of newness and a better future as revealed in Scripture through Jesus. ". . . having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18 ESV).

"Wholeness" is a sense of positive wellbeing with a balance between spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, environmental, vocational and physical health. It is complete. "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11 ESV).

"Life" is living and experiencing goodness and meaning. "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 ESV).

"Our communities" are wherever we do life—with family, neighbours, work colleagues and church. They include all people—no-one is left out. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28 ESV).

I want to live a life of purpose. I invite you to join me.

**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT  
@SPDpresident





## PRAISE FOR SEMINARIAN'S NEW BOOK

BRENTON STACEY

A popular music event at Avondale University College has shared its stage and crowd with the launch of a new book from the head of the seminary.

Praise Hymn's appeal is its informal congregational-singing-in-the-round format hosted by Dr Lyell Heise.

Now in its third iteration, the October 26 event featured vocal ensemble The Promise, Gabriel Ontanu (viola) and Oliver Doyle (flugelhorn) and again filled Ella Hughes Chapel on the Lake Macquarie campus. But this time it included a devotional by Dr Kayle de Waal, who reflected on themes from his new book *Hearing the Way: What the first Christians heard in the story of Jesus*.

*Hearing the Way* shows how the story of the Exodus is key to understanding Jesus, the early church and the New Testament, and what it means to follow Jesus today.

"The book explores the life, death, resurrection and ministry of Jesus through the lens of the 'Way,'" explained Dr de Waal. "It is a concept that comes through a number of times across the New Testament, as the first believers wrestled with trying to understand what Jesus had done."

He noted how the early believers—as recorded in the book of Acts—were "followers of the Way" and how this moniker reflected a number of key passages in the Old Testament, the disciples' understanding of how God had intervened in the history of His people and that something even more significant had taken place in the coming of Jesus.

*Hearing the Way* includes discussion questions for "Growing Hearing Communities" for use in small groups. "I think this book can make a difference in your own journey with God," said Dr de Waal.

Signs Publishing book editor Nathan Brown said he values working with a scholar such as Dr de Waal on what is their third book project. "I get to ask questions about the content of the book, sometimes for my own curiosity, but often to help clarify something within the manuscript to better communicate it to readers," he explained. "I appreciate working



with Kayle, as he combines academic insights with a pastoral passion—and I believe this is a valuable resource for churches and church members."

Dr de Waal has had opportunities to share *Hearing the Way* in a number of settings since its release in late September, including a camp-meeting in southern Queensland and a youth rally in Melbourne.

Praise Hymn and the launch of *Hearing the Way* was presented by Bread for Life, an initiative to support and nurture spirituality and wellbeing at Avondale.

*Hearing the Way* by Dr Kayle de Waal is available from Adventist bookstores or online at <[adventistbookcentre.com.au](http://adventistbookcentre.com.au)>.

## NEW SAN CLINIC TARGETS UNEXPLAINED FAINTING

LEISA O'CONNOR

A new clinic at Sydney Adventist Hospital hopes to reduce the uncertainty and trauma from unexplained blackouts and fainting that could be due to undiagnosed syncope.

The blackout and faints clinic is the first of its kind in Australia set up in a hospital, allowing a patient access to a range of multi-disciplinary trained medical specialists who share their expertise to diagnose and recommend treatment.

Presenting as a transient loss of consciousness due to a lack of blood supply to the brain, syncope can be a sign of a range of conditions and has been attributed to twice the incidence of death in cardiac patients, serious head and hip injuries, and

car and work-related accidents. One in two Australians are expected to suffer from syncope during their lifetime and one in five will suffer recurrent episodes, making it the fifth most common cause of emergency care admissions to hospitals.

Lack of knowledge about syncope can result in inappropriate and expensive medical referrals and tests, creating long and potentially dangerous delays to finding a diagnosis, with public health-care costs estimated to exceed \$A127 million per year.

The new clinic is hoped to shed light on the cause of syncope, improve treatments and reduce costs.



## WOMEN ON FRONTLINE OF HARVEST IN 2019

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

More than 4000 people have been baptised in the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) in 2019 as a result of women serving on the frontline of discipleship and evangelism.

In a presentation at November's South Pacific Division year-end meetings, TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said 2019 was all about giving women opportunities to serve the Lord through public evangelism.

TPUM designated 2019 as the "Year of the Women": for women to take the lead in this year's "harvesting" program. The program was launched in Tonga at the TPUM women's congress in April, which was attended by about 600 participants. One of the main aims of the congress was to equip and empower the women so that they could reach out to their own communities with the gospel message. They were taught how to run small groups, evangelistic campaigns and

other discipleship activities.

A total of 1643 women participated in the program, with the July harvest yielding 4223 baptisms. In American Samoa, there were 35 participants and 145 baptisms. In Fiji, there were 441 participants and 1007 baptisms, while Solomon Islands had 350 participants and 1580 baptisms. The tiny Pacific nation of Kiribati had six participants, resulting in 67 baptisms. The results in other countries: Samoa 508 participants (536 baptisms), Nauru 1 (1), Tonga 19 (138), Niue 1 (1), Vanuatu 261 (745) and Tuvalu 21 (3).

"We are excited about seeing the number of women who got involved with our program," Pastor Kaufononga said.



AT THIS YEAR'S WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN TONGA.

He also shared the latest church membership statistics for TPUM, with the number of members increasing from 114,042 in 2015 to 125,595 in 2018.


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## ADVENTIST CHURCH ADDED TO HERITAGE WALK

FAY GREIVE

For the first time, St Andrews Seventh-day Adventist Church has been included in the Bundaberg (Qld) "Open House" Heritage Walk, the fourth year the event has been held.

Some 75 visitors came during the open day, with a few—noting a church service was in progress (it being Sabbath)—opting to return later in the afternoon so they could walk around without causing a disturbance. Five people joined the service.

Church pastor Dan Kewley had the opportunity to speak with many of the guests about the church's history and the stories depicted in the numerous magnificent stained-glass windows.

One man was invited to attend the church's weekly Excelsior Club meetings—a club for members of the community who desire to make new friends, hear interesting talks from a large variety of guest speakers, do a craft if they choose and explore on bus trips. Morning tea is also provided.

When church members heard about the church's inclusion in the heritage walk, a "working bee" was quickly arranged. Special flower arrange-

ments adorned the dais, a welcoming committee was organised and brochures prepared to provide information on the history of St Andrews.

St Andrews was purchased by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2004.

Queensland architect Lange L Powell designed St Andrews Presbyterian Church in 1932, and it is believed to be the first Presbyterian church in Australia, to have a carillon.

These bells are played each Sabbath morning at 11am to announce the beginning of divine service hour, and again at the close of the service.

St Andrews has installed a new external lighting system this year, which helps the majestic church stand out at night.



ST ANDREWS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.

## PRESCHOOL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN NAPIER

TOLO PEREIRA

The first Adventist preschool in North New Zealand celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sabbath, September 28. Children, staff and parents of the Footsteps Adventist Preschool in Napier, New Zealand, joined Napier Adventist Church members for the special commemorative

service.

Napier pastor Anton van Wyk challenged the congregation to remember that Adventist education is about changing lives and preparing children and their families for eternity.

John Knight, chair of the board of trustees, acknowledged the work of past and present staff with special mention of Kaye Judge and Pat Timmins, who helped to establish the preschool.

Tolo Pereira, current early childhood education director for the North New Zealand Conference (NNZC), presented a *koru* crystal to Angela Toru (centre director) and Leba Raitaci (centre administrator), on behalf of NNZC president, Pastor Ben Timothy, and the NNZC office.



ANGELA TORU (LEFT) AND PAT TIMMINS (RIGHT) CUT THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE.

## NEWS GRABS



### PRAY FOR BURUNDI

General Conference president Ted Wilson and Church leaders have urged members to pray for Burundi, after Burundi Union president Lamec Barishinga was arrested on his way to meetings in the East-Central African Division on October 24. The arrests followed months of illegal interference from the Burundi government into Adventist Church administration.—ANN



### FROM CLOSURE TO SUCCESS

Tusgal School, the only Adventist mission school in Mongolia, was recently chosen as the best private school in the Chingeltei District in Ulaanbaatar. This award follows the government's decision in March 2018 to take away the school's licence unless it met demands within six months. Thanks to global Church support, they did.—Adventist Review



### PLANTING A LEGACY

To help combat climate change, Pathfinders in the United Arab Emirates took part in planting 1400 trees in Dubai on November 10 as part of the "Planting a Legacy" initiative. Seven Pathfinders, four Adventurers, two parents and 15 Master Guides participated in the planting over 65 days.—ANN



## HOT TOPICS



### FRANCIS CHAN LEAVES USA

Author and former megachurch pastor Francis Chan shocked students at Azusa Pacific University by announcing that he and his family will be leaving the US in February and moving to Asia to become full-time missionaries. He expressed his uncomfortable relationship with publicity and tiredness of “hearing his own voice”. —*Relevant*



### WORK AFFECTS MENTAL HEALTH

New research by mental health organisation “Superfriend” has shown that half of Australian workers have experienced mental illness, with 43 per cent of those saying their workplace conditions caused it. The top three industries causing concerns were manufacturing, public administration and safety, and construction. —*news.com.au*



### BIBLES POPULAR IN CHINA

China’s Amity Printing Company has printed 200 million Bibles. The first 100 million were printed over 25 years, but with increasing demand, another 100 million were produced in the past seven years (2012-2019). Of this total, more than 85 million were distributed to churches in China, including braille Bibles and Bibles in 11 ethnic minority languages. —*Eternity News*

## SPD KEEN ON GOING GREEN

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The South Pacific Division (SPD) headquarters at Wahroonga has saved close to \$A100,000 on photocopying and booklets since introducing a paperless meeting system, a report to the Division year-end meetings has revealed.

According to the Secretariat Report, more than 600 people are now using Convene paperless meeting software around the SPD. It provides users with digital access to meeting agendas, presentations and reports. Voting is also conducted online. The software was introduced at the Division office three years ago.

Paperless meetings are among a number of initiatives introduced to not only save costs but to reduce the SPD’s environmental impact.

Division general secretary Pastor Lionel Smith said when God created humans, He entrusted us with the care of His creation.

“Unfortunately, the impact of sin is de-creation and all around us we see evidence of that with destruction, devastation and death,” Pastor Smith said. “We still, however, have been entrusted as God’s stewards to care for others, ourselves and the environment. Part of this stewardship role is to be responsible for the way we use resources and to be focused on processes and ways to minimise damage to the environment while utilising new technologies to further advance the mission of the Church in preparing people for Christ’s soon coming.”

The SPD’s People Services department has been especially proactive in taking steps to reduce its environmental footprint by banning plastic water bottles and single use plastic cups at meetings and events they host. Recycling

has increased and staff are encouraged to use a “keep cup” for hot drinks. They are also encouraged to reduce travel where possible and use video conferencing instead. The department has removed all plastic plants and replaced them with living plants to clean the air and promote wellbeing. New employees will soon be issued with a reusable water bottle on their first day.

“We have a God-given responsibility both individually and corporately to care for all that He has created,” People Services general manager David Potter said.

“Some of the things we are doing may seem trivial, or insignificant, but by taking action the team is more aware of and committed to being good stewards and are always on the lookout for other ways to reduce our environmental impact.”

LED lighting, which is up to 80 per cent more efficient than traditional lighting, is being introduced as part of a refurbishment of the Division office in 2020. Investigations are also underway into solar energy options.

In addition to these initiatives, the SPD contributes almost \$A500,000 per year to maintaining and regenerating bushland on the Wahroonga Estate.

ACA Health Benefits Fund, which operates from the SPD office, is also working towards paperless communication by using email where possible to connect with members instead of paper and postage.



THE SPD’S PEOPLE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PROACTIVE IN TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE ITS ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT.



# FLASHPOINT



## BURNED TO THE GROUND

Adventist church member Elaine O'Brien was displaced from her home of 53 years after it burned down on October 26. The 87-year-old was woken early on Sabbath morning by fire, which started in her kitchen and spread throughout her home in Davoren Park, Adelaide (South Australia). Most of her possessions were destroyed, including decades of meticulously catalogued *Adventist Record* magazines and records of Pathfinders in Australia. Unfortunately, her house is unrepairable and uninsured, as she could not afford house insurance. She bought the house in 1966 for 9000 pounds and has lived there ever since. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help her replace lost items and afford rent.—*Matthew Hunter*



## GARDEN MASTERS

Sixty guests from the school community and public attended Toronto Adventist School's (NSW) inaugural Garden Open Day. Having participated in outdoor classes as part of the school's regular garden program, students were armed with a range of skills and knowledge—worm farming, natural pest control, crop rotation, keeping chickens—to impart to others through a series of garden master classes. As part of this project-based learning, students also manned 12 stations for guests to come and find out how their weekly garden classes operate, and ran a market day shop, raising \$A138 primarily through sales of kale green smoothies and scones with jam and cream.—*Andrea Thompson*



## BIBLES LAUNCHED IN PNG

Papua New Guinea's New Britain New Ireland Mission (NBNIM) launched their "World Changer Bible" for the second time on October 19, this time in the New Living Translation. The Bibles were launched at the Allan Tagete Memorial Church at Butuwini, Kokopo. Mission secretary for the NBNIM, Pastor Lua Bobore, and youth director Pastor Jacob Nenek were present, among other directors from the local Mission. More than 200 young people and ambassadors attended the special occasion.—*Darian Haru*



## MEN SEEK BETTER HEALTH

As part of the annual "Movember" focus on men's health, Hillview Church (Morisset, NSW) ran a "Meet the Doctors" program, attended by more than 130 men. Lifestyle medicine researcher from the US, Dr Hans Diehl, and local doctors Dr Trevor Hurlow, Dr Charlie Markell and Dr Casper Badenhorst, presented on various topics and answered audience questions. Dr Diehl challenged attendees, saying that by increasing their exercise, getting adequate rest, eating a plant-based diet, reducing stress and limiting alcohol, they could live an extra 10-12 years of quality life.—*Mary Fedorow*



## PRISON POTTY MINISTRY

For the first time, visitors to the Correctional Services Institution (CIS) of Kerevat in East New Britain (Papua New Guinea) can use the bathroom. As part of Total Member Involvement (TMI), many individuals contributed materials to build a ventilated-improved-pit (VIP). Deacon Manuel Papake and elders Daniel Kanini, Jubilee Kalala, Niligur Kalala from Napapar Seventh-day Adventist Church worked with the inmates to construct the toilet building. This will make visitations easier.—*Darian Haru*



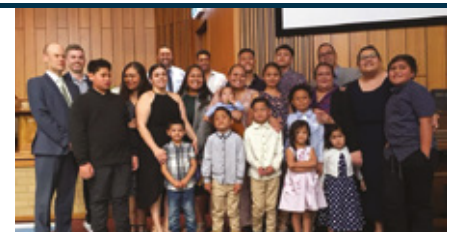
## WHOLISTIC HEALTH REVIVAL WEEKEND

Ilam Seventh-day Adventist Church (Christchurch, NZ) recently held a weekend of revival called "Let Your Light Shine", featuring speakers Tim Matsis and Dr Thomas Joseph. Their messages covered both spiritual and health matters. After a plant-based lunch on Sunday, attendees had the opportunity to ask medical questions to the doctor, and a special youth program was held on Sunday evening.—*Debra Beckett*



## WORLD CHANGERS YOUTH RALLY

More than 400 people attended a youth rally and volleyball tournament in Palmerston North (NZ) in October. Guest speaker Andrew Hoeflich challenged youth to embrace God's plan for their lives. Mr Hoeflich runs "SOLD" (Serving Our Lord in Discipleship), a program at PAPSDA Community Church (Auckland), which helps young people develop life skills. Three teams from Queensland joined 52 teams for the event.—*Kirsten Oster Lundqvist*



## CELEBRATING AT BERWICK

Berwick Seventh-day Adventist Church Company (Victoria) are celebrating rapid growth. Since 2017, they have witnessed seven baptisms and their membership has grown from 15 members to 40 members, plus an average of 10 visitors most weeks. The group engages in weekly prayer, letter-boxing, Bible studies, socials, youth small groups and fellowship lunches.—*Irene Chee*

# SPD REALIGNING ITS STRUCTURE TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DISCIPLE MAKING

A restructure at the South Pacific Division (SPD) headquarters is aimed at aligning it more effectively with the Church's priorities of disciple-making and movement building.

Discussions between SPD, union and institutional leaders have recently been held as part of the usual five-yearly review of the Church's strategy and operations. Out of those discussions a key issue was identified: there is a need for more alignment and collaboration and greater clarity around roles within the various levels of the Church.

"The unions are saying very clearly, we don't want the duplication of ministries and departments," SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend said. "Instead they are looking to the SPD for strategic direction and high-level insights from research and data that will help them to support the discipleship activities of the conferences and local churches."

In response, the SPD has mapped out a new structure, representing a significant shift in how the SPD office provides services and ministry support to the entire Division. There will be a new ministry and strategy director who will coordinate the Division's five key strategic areas—Discipleship, Media, Health, Leadership and Mission to the Cities—which will continue operating at the SPD. Two new roles will focus on innovation, research and data. The new women in ministry role will continue, which encourages more women to work in every ministry within the Church structure, and supports them. The stewardship director—also based at the Division office—is funded by the General Conference (GC), which has indicated it will continue funding the role.

However, some of the traditional ministries such as youth, children's, women's, personal ministries and Sabbath school, will no longer function at the SPD—to end duplication with what's happening at the GC, union and local conference/mission levels. Overall the changes will result in one less full-time role at the SPD.

In finance, the associate CFO role will be discontinued and a realignment and upgrading of some finance and service positions will occur to allow increased focus on key areas. There will be two new senior roles—a property manager and commercial ministries director. The finance staff changes are a realignment and will not be an increased cost to the Division budget. Within the Division secretariat, a mission support director will be appointed to focus on governance in both Union Missions, with an initial focus on the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

Pastor Townend said the changes were considered prayerfully and with the Division's overarching focus of



discipleship in mind.

"The restructure doesn't change our vision, mission and purpose, which is making disciples and building a movement—that is something we want to make really, really clear," he said.

"The unions have identified a need for strategic visioning and research-based innovation, and the changes will help us to meet these needs."

Pastor Townend affirmed the work of the ministries and departments that will be impacted by the restructure.

"They have done an outstanding job, working collaboratively with our union personnel and having a significant impact in the places where they have provided training and resources," Pastor Townend said. "I want to acknowledge their hard work and dedication. We will be supporting them as we transition to the new structure over the next year."

Division general secretary Pastor Lionel Smith said the SPD secretariat has already undergone its own restructure to increase efficiency.

"The reduction and realignment of personnel has seen a focus on an operational level within the SPD office and a strategic focus designed to improve governance and reporting Division-wide," he said.

Division CFO Rodney Brady said the change within the CFO team will allow greater focus and attention on specific strategic and growing areas like IT and property.

"The change is both healthy and timely and reflects the positive growth and development of the SPD that it is now able to strengthen its treasury and service functions."

The new structure was approved at the Division annual meetings held at the Fox Valley Community Centre in Wahroonga, NSW. It will be introduced from September 2020.

**TRACEY BRIDCUTT**

**COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION.**





## Adventist couple honoured with bravery awards

**K**atherine Adventist Church members Ron and Deslie Green were invested at the Australian Honours and Awards ceremony at Government House in Darwin, Northern Territory.

The husband and wife team were recognised alongside 21 other Northern Territory residents for their outstanding service and contribution to the community.

Mr Green was awarded the Bravery Medal and Mrs Green was given a Commendation for Brave Conduct for intervening in a domestic violence incident outside their home in the early morning of March 15, 2016.

The couple went outside to find a man with a knife harassing a woman. Neighbours claimed to have seen the perpetrator stab Mr Green when he tried to intervene, yet the father-of-three managed to escape unharmed while the woman received some superficial injuries.

Mrs Green, who was pregnant at the time with their fourth child, was on the phone to emergency services. When the man dropped the knife, she took the woman inside until help arrived.

Despite the noise, the Greens' children slept throughout the incident. When Mr Green later heard the attacker needed some clothes, he offered to give him some of his own.

Administrator of the Northern Territory Vicki O'Halloran (AO) and New South Wales Governor-General David Hurley were on hand to present the Greens with their awards. Several members of the Greens' family flew from other parts of the country for the awards ceremony (see image below).

Earlier this year, Mr Green was awarded the Emergency Services Medal as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours for his ongoing service and contributions to the Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES) Katherine Unit.

As stated in his official award citation, "The Katherine Volunteer Unit's ongoing success is a direct result of [Mr Green's] drive to seek new members and improve operational capability through training, exercises and operations.

His natural leadership qualities are displayed whether teaching new and existing members essential skills, or as a team leader providing support to the community." (Visit the *Katherine Times* website to read the full citation.)

As well as being an NTES leader, Mr Green is an auxiliary member of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, volunteers with St John Ambulance and is a member of the Army Reserve Unit.

### MAXINE SUTCLIFFE/RECORD STAFF





## Bee prayerful

**W**hat answers to prayer have you had in your life today? This week? This month? We often like to point back to what God did for us many years ago or what He is going to do for us in the future, but often forget to store up the precious answers He gives us, both big and small, in our present.

My wife and I moved to Ballarat, Victoria, in December last year. As a ministerial intern eager to learn and on our first calling in ministry, I've been examining the practices of prominent ministers.

Pastor Pavel Goia's emphasis on prayer has deeply inspired me, and I have committed to setting aside a significant amount of time daily for prayer. As a result I have seen a number of incredible answers to prayer.

In 2016 my grandfather, a professional apiarist, gave me a couple of beehives and I have since taken up beekeeping as a hobby.

When we moved to Ballarat we were hoping the bees would collect a bit more honey over summer, but they did not do well here. In fact,

between late December and the end of February I lost the honey I had in the hives when I moved them, as well as almost half of the bee population in each hive. My bees were really struggling.

One of my favourite aspects of ministry is visitations. I like to take a jar of our honey to each family I visit. But within a few months I was running out of honey.

I decided to bring my honey situation to God and ask Him to give me more honey to use for ministry.

Two days after my prayer I got a call from one of the members at Ballarat, who suggested I move my bees to a property about 45 minutes away from where I live.

*Ok, it can't hurt, my bees can't go much worse than they have gone so far, I thought. Maybe God is answering my prayer for more honey.*

But it was now March and autumn, which in Ballarat is like winter. Bees collect most of their honey in spring when there are many flowers. Honey also gets gathered during summer, but

production usually goes way down in autumn, especially in Victoria. Since I had lost honey and bees in summer, I am ashamed to say my faith relating to my prayer request was small.

I moved my two hives and prayed for the best. When I went to check three or four weeks later, I was truly amazed. They were both packed completely full of honey! I had never seen them so full before. In fact, they produced around 125kg of honey in less than a month, which is more than they would normally get in an entire year.

Truly God is faithful and cares about even the trivial things in our lives. 1 John 5:14 tells us if we ask anything according to His will He hears us . . . Let's never forget to ask, and always remember His amazing answers.

### MARIUS JIGAU

INTERN MINISTER, BALLARAT, VICTORIA.





## SHOWDOWN OF THE GODS

In Elijah's time, Israel turned from God's commandments and fell into apostasy when Ahab married Jezebel, a Phoenician princess. Only Elijah and a remnant faithfully worshipped God. **Read** 1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:18; Romans 11:2-5.

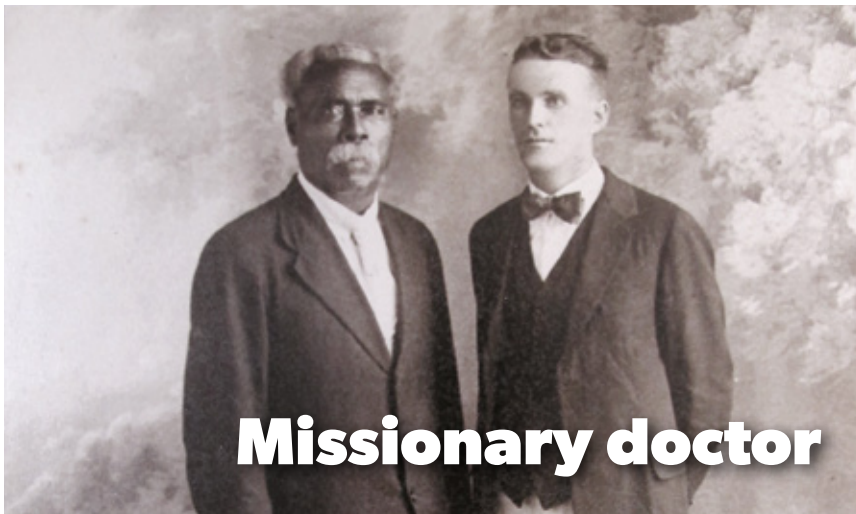
After announcing that Israel would suffer a drought, Elijah hid for 3½ years. He then summoned Israel to a showdown over who they should worship. An all-day demonstration of the impotence of Baal and a simple prayer by Elijah answered by fire from heaven at the time of the evening sacrifice, led the people to worship God. **Read** 1 Kings 17:1-7; 18; James 5:17.

Allusions to this story flow through Revelation. We encounter: a Jezebel who leads the church into apostasy; an Elijah-like prophet who can stop rain from falling; 3½ prophetic years of secluded protection by God; a commandment-keeping faithful remnant; a showdown over worship; an Elijah-like fire from heaven; and those who led others into false worship being destroyed.

**Read** Revelation 2:20; 11:5,6; 12:6,14,17; 13:4,8,12,13,15; 14:7; 19:20.

The turning point from false to true worship in Elijah's story came with the evening sacrifice of the lamb. So, in the end-time crisis, true worship comes from our relationship with the Lamb. Is your life centred on Christ? Are you following Him in all He reveals to you?

**Read** 1 Kings 18:29,36; Revelation 13:8; 14:4.



## Missionary doctor

**M**issionary physician Gilbert Henry Alexander McLaren was born into an Adventist family, in Preston, Victoria, on February 13, 1913. Moving to Fiji with his missionary parents when he was five, most of his childhood was spent there and in Papua New Guinea.

Studying medicine at Melbourne University, Gilbert graduated in 1937 (MB, BS) and married Miriam Alice Redward on January 12, 1938. To this happy union three children were born: Margaret (1938), Thomas (1942) and Jillian (1946).

Gilbert McLaren began his denominational service career in January 1938, initially for just a few months at Warburton Sanitarium and Hospital before transferring mid-year to the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital, serving there as a staff physician until the end of August 1950, though he and his family spent 1948 in the United States where he undertook further study and gained some international experience.

Returning to Warburton in September 1950 for three years as the medical director, Dr McLaren then took up a new appointment in the Far Eastern Division of the Adventist Church as a staff physician at Youngberg Memorial Hospital in Singapore.

After working at St Johns Hospital in Baltimore, USA, during 1958, the General Conference called Dr

McLaren to the Andrews Adventist Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica, where he was the medical director for two-and-a-half years before returning to Australia where he became, once again, the medical director of the Warburton Sanitarium and Hospital, in mid-1961, remaining in that role until April 1965.

Following five years in private practice in Morisset, New South Wales, Australia, Dr McLaren then returned to denominational service, spending three years until mid-1973 as the medical director of the Saigon Adventist Hospital in Vietnam during the difficult years of the Vietnam War. His next posting was as a physician at the Hong Kong and Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospitals.

From his return to Australia in late 1975, Dr McLaren served, once again, as a GP at Sydney Adventist Hospital until he retired in late 1977.

Survived by his wife and all of his children, Dr McLaren went to his rest on January 20, 1989 and now awaits the resurrection in the Avondale Cemetery. He was a devoted husband and his wife paid him the ultimate marital compliment, stating that in their 51 years of marriage he never spoke one unkind word to her.

### LESTER DEVINE

DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE ELLEN G WHITE/  
ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE AT AVONDALE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.



THE IMPRESSION  
SEAL OF JEZEBEL.



## *In the image of God*

Often when talking about justice, we instead start talking about injustice. After all, it's often the injustice that catches our attention—whether a horrific headline, a political outrage, an unfolding disaster, or chronic problems such as poverty, inequality, violence, environmental degradation or economic exploitation.

But this is not where the Bible's many calls to justice begin. Instead, the Bible's story opens with a world created "good" for human beings created in the image of God. While theologians and philosophers have long



debated what specifically about human beings reflects the divine image, in most traditions in Christian history, as well as in the world's other monotheistic religions, this has been a foundational tenet of what it means to be human—and key to our ethical responsibility for how we act toward our fellow human beings.

What is appreciated and practised less often is how socially transformative, economically disruptive and politically challenging such an understanding of our human origins and value ought to be. Writing in the *Washington Post* earlier this year, columnist Michael Gerson highlighted the historical tensions between how faith has been used to diminish and to ennoble, to oppress and to liberate, to hurt and to help, but also how essential—and politically inconvenient—is this core formulation of human identity. “Christianity inevitably raises [this] question,” he reminds us. “What if everyone we favour, and everyone we fear, and everyone we help, and everyone we exploit, and everyone we love, and everyone we hate, were the reflected image of God—unique, valuable and destined for eternity?”<sup>1</sup>

To insist that all people are created in the image of God has dramatic political and practical implications. If we believe this foundational teaching of our faith in any meaningful way, much of what currently passes for political debate is simply unacceptable and unsustainable.

Putting it another way, Belinda Bauman describes this failure of belief as “the most significant barrier to empathy”—true concern for others—but also the foundation for the perpetuation of injustice and inequality in all their forms in our world: “the idea that some people matter more than others.”<sup>2</sup> Of course, the reality is that some people do matter more than others—to us. We have a natural affinity for our family, friends and even community members, as we should, but we must also and always resist the temptation of assuming that others beyond our circles are of lesser value as human beings.

When we are assaulted with and near-overwhelmed by the cumulative weight of injustice, tragedy and suffering in our world, one of the ways we seek to protect ourselves is to give different weight to those who suffer. News media operates on this partial truth, employing a pyramid of proximity that assumes that the closer a story is to us, the more important it is. So a single death in our community is somehow equivalent to a few elsewhere in our nation, to a dozen in a country similar to ours, to hundreds somewhere that looks more foreign. We also allow ourselves to believe that people who don't look like us don't feel like us, hurt like us, or grieve like us.

Compounding this human tendency are those who would cynically or even hatefully exploit our fears and prejudices—our failures to love and live up to what we say we believe—for political purposes. As one unfortunate example, in recent years, Australia has contributed greatly to undermining the international framework for responding to refugees, asylum seekers and other

displaced people, damage that we now see being played out in the rhetoric and harsh practices of more and more nations around the world.

This became such an issue in Australia, not because we were being overwhelmed by refugees, but because it was politically expedient. Belying the small number of people who have arrived in Australia on unregulated boats over the past two decades, this issue has been deployed politically to move the public conversation from that of a necessary and compassionate humanitarian response, to a dominant and divisive political debate. This political posturing has required the implementation and progressive escalation of a regime of mandatory and indefinite detention of even legitimate asylum seekers on remote Pacific islands, at great cost to Australia and great harm to many people already vulnerable and traumatised after having sought to escape danger and persecution in their countries of origin. And this shift has been observed, applauded and adopted by other political “leaders” and opportunists around the world.

While many people of faith in Australia have raised their voices in protest, it is also those politicians who have most professed Christianity who have overseen and implemented this inhumane policy. This public debate reached a new low last year when Australia's Minister for Home Affairs urged that “Australians must guard against compassion towards refugees”—a statement that is deeply troubling in every way.<sup>3</sup> A nation warned to “guard against compassion” is being led in profoundly unhealthy and dangerous ways.

So it is not hard to see why the Bible's foundational teaching about what it means to be a human being is so politically confronting and challenging. It means that we cannot use people for political point-scoring or applaud those who do. It must change how we speak, how we vote and how we live. It insists that compassion must always be our first response (compare Matthew 9:36), even when we are tempted to fear. It demands that every person matters. It urges that the surest way to respect our Creator is to care for His creation, perhaps pre-eminently His human creation: “Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honours him” (Proverbs 14:31, NLT). It is the foundational way of understanding our world and our highest calling for living in it. It is the recognition that our best reflection of the image of God is living with generosity, creativity, courage and love.

1. Michael Gerson, “Evangelicals have hired their own Goliath,” *Washington Post*, January 4, 2019.

2. Belinda Bauman, *Brave Souls: Experiencing the Audacious Power of Empathy*, IVP Books, 2019, page 83, her italics.

3. “Australia ‘in danger phase’ with boats: Peter Dutton,” *The Australian*, June 22, 2018.

**NATHAN BROWN**  
BOOK EDITOR, SIGNS PUBLISHING.



## CALLING ALL DOUBTERS

I was around 12 years old when I decided Christianity wasn't for me. The reasons were numerous: I had seen the church criticise people I loved, winning Bible quizzes had gotten to my head rather than my heart and I couldn't see enough evidence for Jesus in my life.

The reasons weren't new, and they weren't exceptional, but I felt them deeply as a 12-year-old. I wasn't at all happy with the decision and I didn't feel this sense of release; instead I felt scared. Knowing Jesus had provided me with a future, a community and the knowledge that I'd never be alone, and now . . . that was gone.

In a last-ditch effort, I decided to go tell my dad. He's a good listener, he's a pastor (so I thought he could add that "spiritual guidance" element), and at the very least, I thought he would have some words of comfort.

So, I told him I wasn't sure I believed in God anymore, and waited for him to implode.

Yet his response will be something I remember for the rest of my life. My dad—known around the world for his church planting and pastoral ministry, the man who has completed innumerable baptisms and helped people out of addiction—looked me in the eye, and said: "That's great!"



I immediately started doubting his calling as a pastor. *Great? How on earth is it great? Your only child has just revealed she's rejecting the faith you've brought her up in, and you think that's a good thing?*

"Why is it great, Dad?"

He paused. "It's great, because it means you're wrestling. It means you're not just accepting the faith your mother and I have, you're searching yourself. You're wrestling, and that's great."

He continued to talk to me, encouraged me and gave me some books to read which were exactly what I needed at that time. I decided to stay.

Looking back, nearly 10 years later, what made a difference to me in that moment was the fact that I had a dad who could deal with my doubts, and loved me regardless.

At the end of the book of Matthew, Jesus has just risen from the dead and is about to meet His disciples before He ascends to heaven. These people have been with Him through three years of ministry. They have seen His highs, when the dead were raised and thousands fed, and also the lows, when He sweated blood, and prayed for deliverance. And now they are about to see Him in glory, as Someone who has Himself conquered death.

Yet Matthew 28:17 does not provide the reunion we expect: "[w]hen they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted."

These people have come face-to-face with a man they watched die. To use sports terminology, Jesus' arrival could be seen as a "comeback" of epic proportions, yet still, "some doubt". To say it is an anticlimax is a dramatic understatement, and it leads us to wonder why doubters have been included at such a pivotal point in history.

We give doubters a hard time. Doubting Thomas gets a song, the scared disciples in the boat get a rebuke, and poor Zechariah goes mute for more than five months because he doesn't believe John the Baptist will be born to him in his old age. We are taught that doubts are something to be avoided, and we are taught to criticise those who have them.

Yet that's not what happens at the end of Matthew. Jesus does not rebuke His doubters, instead He commissions them. He tells them immediately afterwards: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus first counteracts His disciples' doubts by reminding them who He is. He is Someone who has both power and authority, and therefore, He is

entrusting it to them. But it's not a matter of fixing themselves and their doubts, and then making disciples. The Greek phrase translates "Therefore go," into "as you are going". Jesus is telling His disciples to make other disciples as they go through life, in the midst of their doubts, in the midst of their questions and in the midst of their hurts. Jesus knew what His disciples were struggling with, He knew they had doubts and He still wanted to use them.

Pastor and author Timothy Keller, in his book *Making Sense of God*, views doubts in this way: "A faith without some doubts is like a human body with no antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask the hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenceless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart sceptic. A person's faith can collapse almost overnight if she failed over the years to listen patiently to her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection."

Put simply, we need to acknowledge our doubts, and not be scared of them. We need to reflect on them, wrestle with them and discuss them.

Does it mean we should seek to poke holes in our faith, and run towards criticisms and doubts just because we can? By no means! When we are seeking to build a relationship with someone, it's hard to do when we're constantly trying to find how the relationship *isn't* going to work.

What it does mean, is that when the questions and doubts do come (and they will), we have a God who can handle them. Our God isn't scared of our doubts, and He isn't scared of our fears. He is waiting there to empower us, and push us forward into eternity, and He has pretty broad shoulders.

If you are having questions, there are options. The best thing you can do is speak to a Christian you admire and trust. The Christian life was not meant to be done alone, and talking with someone allows you to grapple with issues in a safe, healthy way.

There is also various literature that may answer questions you have (you'll be surprised at how many doubts you have that are not new), which your local pastor (or mentor) may be able to provide.

Also, keep in God's Word (even if you don't feel like it), and stay in connection with Him (even if you can't feel it).

And finally, hang on to the last part of Matthew 28, where even in the midst of your doubts, Jesus "is with you always, even to the very end of the age".

## JESSICA KRAUSE

STUDENT AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WHO COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP AT ADVENTIST RECORD EARLIER THIS YEAR.



## IS SNACKING GOOD FOR YOU?

Whether it's grabbing a banana between meetings or reaching for the biscuit tin at 3pm, fuelling our busy, modern lives is no longer wholly dependent on just three square meals. Research suggests that the clear majority of us are now snacking regularly between mealtimes.

Healthy snacking can be part of a well-balanced diet. But it depends on what constitutes a snack and why you're snacking, plus keep in mind that portion size and nutrition quality matters. Snacking can be a great way to increase your satiety levels, keep energy levels stable and provide a source of nourishing nutrients.



Recipe of the Week

### Apple Peanut Butter 'Donuts'

Apple and peanut butter is a classic snack-time duo and this colourful recipe is perfect for the little ones. For a special treat, add a tablespoon of honey and a teaspoon of cacao powder to the peanut butter.

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)



### HOW CAN YOU SNACK RIGHT?

- **Snacks to eat:** Be on the look-out for snacks that contain fibre, protein and good quality carbohydrates. This magic combination helps keep you feeling fuller for longer. Think wholegrains, nuts, veggie sticks and hummus, popcorn and yoghurt. Nut butter on apple slices is a high fibre fix that will help curb sweet cravings and also boosts your fibre and protein intake. The combination of protein and fibre helps to keep the hunger pangs at bay and provides long-lasting energy.
- **Amount:** Consider your portion sizes – a snack is not a main meal. You want to make sure you're eating enough before the 'hanger' kicks in, without getting to the point that you feel full. In general, aim for snacks that are no more than 800 kilojoules. This could be a small tub of plain unsweetened yoghurt, a piece of fruit, a handful of unsalted nuts or a boiled egg.
- **Eat the rainbow:** Make fruit and veggies your first choice for a snack, as we're not getting enough in our diets. Adding them to your snack stash will help you reach your daily goals. It doesn't have to be carrot sticks or an apple either. Prepping foods like fruit-based bliss balls, veggie dips and homemade muesli bars in advance will mean they're ready for you to enjoy when hunger strikes. The humble banana is also a great mid-afternoon snack as the vitamin B6 helps your body create and use energy, and it also helps reduce tiredness and fatigue.

### MORE TIPS TO SNACK SMART



#### CRAVINGS

Have you had enough water? We often mistake hunger for thirst, so if you've eaten recently but are still feeling peckish, try drinking a big glass of water, waiting 20 minutes and then see if you still feel like eating a snack.



#### FREQUENCY

The number of snacks you consume depends on your activity level and meal size. If you're very active, you may prefer two or three snacks per day, while a more sedentary person may do best with just one snack.



#### AVOID

Highly processed snacks such as salty chips and sweet biscuits may give you a burst of energy, but you'll feel hungrier an hour or two later and find yourself going back for more. Plus, they provide little to no nutritional value. Instead of a coffee, try fortified almond milk in a smoothie or straight up between meals. The extra vitamins can help your body unlock and use energy.





## PENTECOST PNG

Thank you Record team for some outstanding, inspiring material in the November 16 edition; eg, "The most challenging question", "The gift of hope and healing", among others.

News that also stood out was "Major evangelism for 2020", a planned event of more-than-biblical proportions, having an aim of 100,000 baptisms and 2000 newly established churches in PNG. This should be a time of anticipation and rejoicing of what the Spirit can accomplish, but also for some serious reflection.

Thousands upon thousands of baptised individuals have "disappeared" and become collateral damage of recent evangelistic campaigns run in PNG. Will this one be different? With 30 personnel from the GC—including its president—involved, this program might even outshine Pastor John Carter's efforts in post-communist Russia! Two matters come to mind.

First, will the SPD's additional \$A1 million due to the GC (because of its newly voted tithing parity policy) be used to fund the event? Second, is the timing of the event merely incidental, just two months before the start of the 2020 General Conference session in Indianapolis USA? One can only pray that God's Spirit will place righteous motives in human hearts.



Wilf Rieger, NSW

## CRUCIAL ISSUES

How disappointing to read ("SPD responds to compliance action", November 16) that the GC does not have the courage to face up to this crucial issue [women's ordination] at its 2020 session. So unimportant is it considered to be that it is not even on the agenda, even though the issue has caused great division in the Adventist Church for a decade now and will continue to fester and weaken the Church until it is resolved.

Surely this is not good enough. True leadership would insist the matter be faced up to rather than swept under the carpet in the hope it will go away. It won't.

Women's ordination is crucial because until the gospel message is seen and understood through the uniting eyes of true feminism instead of the divisive, power-seeking approach of patriarchy, so much of its

unique power will continue to be lost. This is because the message of Jesus is essentially a very feminine one—one of love.

The patriarchal gospel will increasingly continue to be rejected by a world tired of its approach to the gospel, with its emphasis on numbers, budgets, power, status, a win-lose approach to "discussions", an emphasis on differences rather than seeking common ground, an outright rejection of any meaningful reconciliation.

These are the ways of the world and, it appears, the current GC leadership.

God's kingdom on earth must, however, be very different. I am currently unable to see that difference.

It is clear the current patriarchal stranglehold on Adventism at GC level will not give in easily.

I applaud the approach of the SPD and its leaders.

**Dr Geoffrey Baldock, WA**

## WITNESS TO OTHERS

"Work for God, not people. That way you'll never get disillusioned" ("A day in the life of an . . . editor", November 2).

I like this. Having that mindset and thought always handy encourages one to keep on doing what you desire for the Lord.

It's interesting: our jobs can be a witness to others—there are many editors, but being editor for such as *Adventist Record*—now that's unique!

God bless!

**Carole Cholai, PNG**

## ALL IN ALL

It is wonderful to see that here and there an Adventist/Jewish congregation is being fostered. All power to them ("Adventist Jewish congregation marks Rosh Hashanah", News, November 2).

It's nice that some of their unique rituals can be celebrated that mean something to them, but not

necessarily to the rest of the Adventist community who do not have that heritage.

We just need to watch, though (and I speak to all Adventists), that those rites and ceremonies, enjoined upon the nation of Israel in pre-Christian times, are not held onto as though Christianity has to be augmented in some way to make it complete.

As the Scripture says, "Christ is all and in all" and what needs to take place is to move from the shadow to the reality.

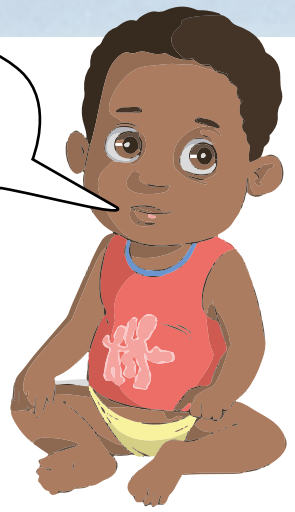
**William Ackland, NSW**

**NOTE:** Views in "Have your say" do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Comments should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All comments are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all comments received are published.

YASSOU KIDS!\*



God's gift of love gives me hope and joy.



# PROMISED BABIES

The priest, Zechariah, is visited by the angel Gabriel. The angel tells him not to be afraid. He promises Zechariah a son who will do a special work for God. Gabriel also visits Mary and promises her that she will give birth to the Son of the Most High. Then the angel to Joseph in a dream, promising that he Joseph will be the earthly father of Jesus.

God has made many promises to us and they are found in the Bible. These promises give us hope and joy.

## HELP THE ANGEL TELL HIS GOOD NEWS!

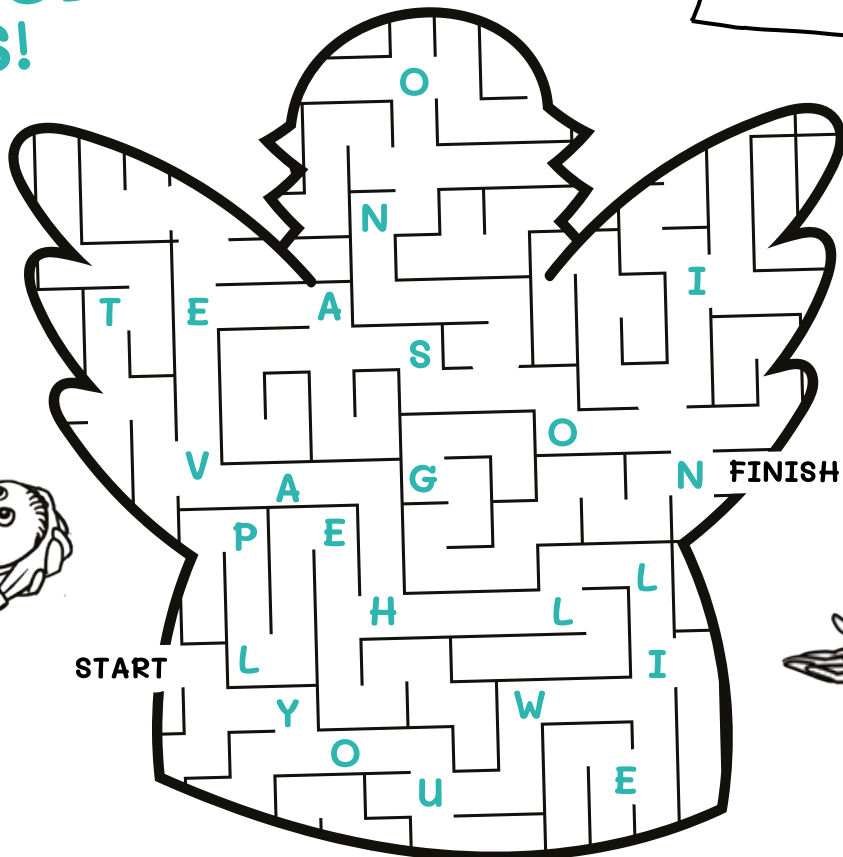
COLLECT THE LETTERS THROUGH THE MAZE TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS.

Write it Here \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

"The Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

Luke 1:49



\* hello/hi - Greek



Anniversary



**ROSE.** Ron and Audrey (nee Jakes) have happily celebrated 65 years together. They were married at the old Hamilton church, NSW, in November 1954. They are long-term residents of Warners Bay, where their three children, Stephen, Paul and Carolyn, were brought up. A grandson chose the same date to be married which made it a special day for all. Although Audrey has been diagnosed as being legally blind, celebrating with family made memories that will last a lifetime for all. We wish them many more happy years to come.

Obituaries

**BASKIN,** Linda (nee Johnston), born 15.12.1929 in Perth, WA; died 23.9.19 in Cooranbong, NSW. In 1967 she married a widower, John Baskin, who predeceased her 6.6.05. Linda taught at Carmel College, packed Weet-Bix in the SHF and was employed as a librarian at Carmel College and Avondale. She played the organ in the Adventist church but also for up to five Sunday-keeping churches. She taught piano for more than 40 years. She loved writing poetry and is a published author. She is survived by her stepchildren, Rosalie Rickards (Cooranbong), Peter Baskin (Perth, WA), Ian Baskin (Brisbane, Qld) and Jean Bas (Newcastle, NSW). She was laid to rest on 11.10.19 in the Avondale cemetery, until she hears her Master's call.

*John Kosmeier*



**CRABTREE,** Gerrard Lincoln, born 3.11.1976 in Sydney, NSW; died 9.7.19 in Freeling, SA. Gerrard is survived by his children, Violet, Elijah and Lily; mother, Linda Brooks (Freeling); father, Glenn (Torrance, California); and brother, Joshua Dawson (Freeling, SA). Gerrard struggled with depression, anxiety and grief. He had struggled with several disease processes through his life that impacted on his health

and happiness. He was diagnosed in 2016 with high-functioning autism, more commonly known as Asperger's syndrome. While this diagnosis gave a measure of understanding of his past struggles in many areas, Gerrard faced a daily struggle. He died with the hope that God would heal his brokenness and take him home.

*Les Pheiffer*

**GOLDRING,** Lurline Diana (nee Donald), born 28.1.1940 in Auckland, NZ; died 10.10.19 in Sydney, NSW. On 4.2.1963 she married Rex. Lurline is survived by her husband; daughters, Susan and Vaino Lillioja (Lennox Head) and Vernita and Greer Jackson (Erina); grandchildren, Tijana, Jaevin, Jules, Isabella and William. Lurline was the third of five daughters of Sir James and Lady Donald. Rex devotedly cared for her for the past three years. Lurline's love and kindness blessed so many, in the churches she attended, in her community, and at Jacaranda Lodge [SAH]. Many relatives and friends from Australia and New Zealand gathered at the Palmdale Rose chapel, Ourimbah, to give thanks to God for such a wonderful lady, who selflessly loved and cared for people, regardless of their status.

*John Denne*



**GRAY,** Dulcie Jean (nee Morris), born 4.1.1925 in Innisfail, Qld; died 19.10.19 in Bay Crest Nursing Home, Hervey Bay. On 23.7.1945 she married Edwin in Innisfail. Dulcie was predeceased by her husband in 1985 and her youngest granddaughter, Toni deVille, in 2018. She is survived by her children, Margaret Dempster (Hervey Bay), Carolyn Webster (Bathurst, NSW) and John (Tenterfield); six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Dulcie's daughter Carolyn said something beautiful to her before she died: "You'll close your eyes and go to sleep and in the morning, when you wake, Dad will be by your side and you will both see Jesus."

*Errol Webster*



**HILL,** John Raymond, born 18.3.1935 in Sydney, NSW; died 14.9.17 in Nepean Hospital, Penrith. John was

predeceased by his first wife, Elizabeth in 1994. On 15.10.1995 he married Donald. John is survived by his wife; daughter, Jennifer and son, Gary and their families. By profession John was a mechanical engineer and an avid train buff. A devoted family man, he was kind and generous, always willing to help others. He loved and feared God and was faithful to the end of his life.

*David Blanch, Janusz Jagiello*



**JUDD,** Trevor Richard, born 21.8.1943 in Melbourne, Vic; died 22.9.19 in Armidale, NSW. He is survived by his wife Nikki; children, Dale, Sonia and Kristen; siblings Dennis, Diane and Gloria. Trevor will be remembered as a loving man, who showed great patience, kindness and gentleness. He was known as a good listener and was much loved by his family and friends. He was a very gifted engineer and builder. Trevor now rests in the safe and secure nail-scarred hands of his Lord and Saviour awaiting the sound of the trumpet.

*Danny Milenkov*



**KELLY,** Sheila (nee Parker), born 16.4.1929 in Scarborough, UK; died 12.10.19 in Adventist Care, Rossmoyne, WA. On 5.7.1948 she married Robert who predeceased her on 29.6.14. Sheila was a cheerful, sociable person who loved Jesus, nature, music and people. In 1951 Sheila and Bob were invited to manage the vegetarian restaurant and shop in Edinburgh, Scotland for Granose Foods, which led to them being asked to transfer to Australia where they worked for Sanitarium in Melbourne and Perth. Sheila developed a great love for Australian wildflowers and birds, memorising their scientific names and leading tour groups. Above all she loved the Bible and had memorised large portions. She longed for Jesus to come and delighted in worshipping her God and singing hymns of faith.

*Roger Millist, Gervais Gangy*

**MORGAN,** Eric William, born 18.10.1941 in Kurri Kurri, NSW; died 26.10.19 in Frankston, Vic. In 1968 he married Shirley

Mollehauer and lived with her for six years. He is survived by his daughters, Colleen Hewitt, Carolyn Lacey and Le Anne Duncan (all of Qld); and six grandchildren. For many years Eric was employed as a railway porter in Queensland and later lived in retirement at the Adventist Senior Living Village in Cooranbong, NSW. Eric, a committed and faithful Christian, was giving, kind and personable. He was a people helper and a lover of good organ music. His humour and ready smile will be missed until Jesus comes.

*Roger Nixon, Kenn Duke*

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NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST WORLD, DECEMBER 14

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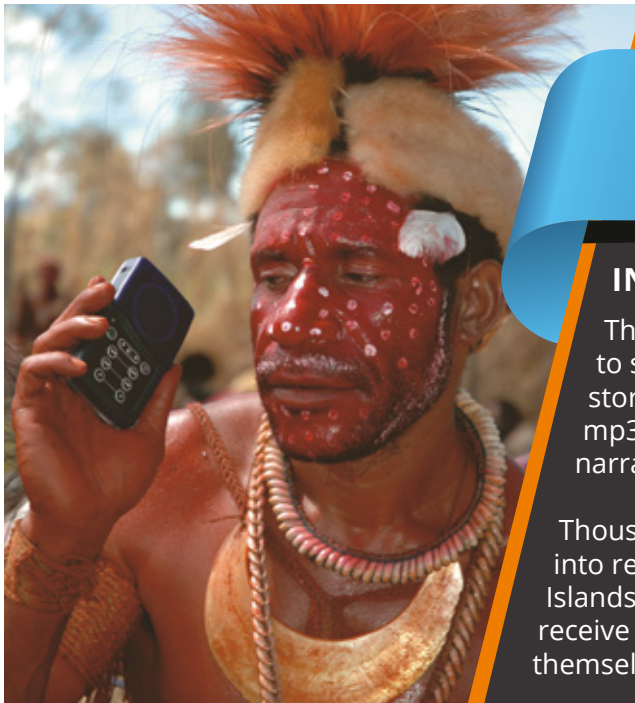
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