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Sozo Health Retreat

Wholistic approach
used as blueprint
model ¹³

The signs of Jesus' work in
Logan ⁹

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The grace-plus mistake

Brad Kemp
CEO Adventist Media

“

When it comes to our salvation, success is not a combination of talent and effort. In fact, it has nothing to do with either.

Sometime in the late '00s I attended a leadership conference in the city of Sydney. It was advertised as a live event with a great line-up of speakers. And while today I can't recall many of those presenting, I do remember that one of the keynote speakers was a Donald J Trump.

Now this was before he was a politician. This was in the days when he was still a property developer and without all of the hype and so-called "fake news". This was not long after the global financial collapse of 2007/8 that saw many businesses devastated and ending in bankruptcy. And his message resonated. In essence, he told his story of being an average student at university and how he had to work hard to achieve success. It was learning to work hard that helped him to negotiate the tough times. There were many talented classmates who found study easy, but after the GFC, where were they? Most, he claimed, had failed. They were no longer in business. And why? According to Trump, "Success is a combination of talent and effort." And that was the take-home message.

I think the reason this made an impact on me at the time was because my son was in high school and he was trying to coast through on mere talent. The effort part was lacking. Assignments were not getting completed. Preparation for tests was poorly done. And success was eluding him. And so it was a timely message. Success is a combination of talent and effort.

It wasn't until his third attempt at university that he finally learned this secret and achieved the success he was seeking. But how well does this work in other areas of life?

Bruce Manners, in his recent book, *The Command*, talks about his early misunderstanding of grace and how he had a "grace-plus" approach, where his achievements were also important for getting into the kingdom. He says, "There was no assurance in this because it came back to my performance, or my performance compared to others."

Too often we get confused because " . . . we live in a reward for effort world that goes like this: study hard and you'll get the grade; work hard and you'll get the position or the raise; practice and you'll make the team; work out and you'll get strong. That makes it easier for us to say, 'Do good and you'll be part of God's kingdom'."

But when it comes to our salvation, success is not a combination of talent and effort. In fact, it has nothing to do with either. It is wholly of God. Here is what the apostle Paul says about our salvation: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

There is no grace-plus. There is no talent plus effort. It is entirely God-given. And this is life changing. Grace is not about you and how good or bad you are. It's about Jesus and what He has done. And that is something worth sharing.

At Adventist Media, we are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus and letting others know that salvation is a free gift to all who believe in Him. We are developing tools and resources you can use to share Jesus with your friends, colleagues and family in a way that is easy and makes sense.

One of these resources is *Signs of the Times* magazine. First published in 1886, *Signs* has a rich history, which has seen it serve the needs of the Church as a sharing magazine. *Signs* looks at current issues and trends, and provides practical insights into living a healthier, more ethical and more meaningful life. *Signs* applies a Christian worldview and, drawing from Bible inspiration, offers hope for tomorrow to those who are searching for meaning today. *Signs* is made specifically for sharing.

However, it only exists through the generous support of subscribers and donors like you and me. There are many frontline ministries that need your financial support to continue sharing *Signs*: community food pantries, ADRA stores, mission-focused cafes. Or, you can become a disciple-maker yourself by purchasing a subscription and sharing *Signs* with your friends <<https://subs.signsofthetimes.org.au>>.

We have something incredible to share with others. So why not share a *Signs*?



INSIGHT:

Olympic Vision

Glenn Townend
South Pacific Division president

Like the apostle Paul, I like sport (2 Timothy 2:5). I have played sport my entire life and still hike, cycle and play tennis. The only track and field event I ever won was in high jump—third place in a district-wide high school event. There are many life and discipling lessons you can learn in sport.

The Olympics will be a distant memory by the time you read this. Watching the women's high jump at the recent Olympics was a highlight. I could sense that Australian woman Nicola McDermott had a chance of winning. I knew nothing of Nicola before the event but I was immediately intrigued at her clapping, smile, "come on" routine before she jumped. Just as unique was the ritual after the jump: immediately writing in a diary her thoughts and rating each phase of the jump. The cameras got a close-up of this ritual and I noticed a Christian cross drawn on the page. Nicola placed second and received a silver medal—the best an Australian woman has ever done in this event in the Olympics. But it was her interview afterwards that startled me. Nicola acknowledged her faith in God and that being loved by God was what gave her stability in life. Before she accepted Jesus into her life, she described how she felt like she was on the outer and wondered why she was so tall. When she found faith in Jesus, it became the centre of her being and helped her understand what she was created to do. She went on to say that she wished the stadiums were full of people to watch events like the Olympics, but also said it would be great to have stadiums full of people wanting to hear the good news of Jesus, like they did in Billy Graham's time. This young lady has vision.

I live in a godless, secular place and have seen a society which is trending away from God and Christianity. The testimony of an Australian disciple of Jesus on the big stage of the Olympics was an encouragement for me. In everyday ways, we can all testify and glorify God by telling people the good things God has done in our lives (John 15:26,27).

A graphic invitation for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the "new" Avondale Memorial Church. The background is black with a shower of golden confetti. On the left, a circular frame shows a photograph of a large, modern brick church building with a green roof and a large glass entrance, set on a green lawn. To the right, the text "You're Invited" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script on a golden, torn-edge banner. Below this, the text reads: "The 50th Anniversary celebration of the 'new' Avondale Memorial Church will be too good to miss. Join us for a weekend to remember on 30 October 2021 in Cooranbong NSW. HAVE YOU SAVED THE DATE YET?"



#weRtheCHURCH host Pastor Glenn Townend.

#weRtheCHURCH unites Adventists with inspiring stories from around the SPD

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

Seventh-day Adventists around the South Pacific came together for a special night of inspiring stories, uplifting music and worship on Friday, July 30.

This year's #weRtheCHURCH program featured stories about the impact Adventists are having in disciple-making, health, education and media. From Dubbo (NSW, Australia) to Christchurch (New Zealand), and from Suva (Fiji) to Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), the stories showcased the incredible diversity of our region, while also demonstrating the unity that exists as church members share a common goal of bringing people to Jesus.

Pastor Matthew Walter, youth director for the Central Papua Conference, presented a devotional on Titus. Kempsey (NSW) Adventist Jimmy Dunn spoke about the powerful impact of picture rolls in Indigenous communities. Ten-year-old Daniel Lowe shared about his experience giving out hope-filled books. Some of the South Pacific's smallest nations were represented with a testimony from Tuvalu and a Hope Radio story from Kiribati.

Hosted by South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend, the program has received thousands of

views, with many members sharing positive comments and messages. Viewers have said they were blessed by the great mix of inspiring stories and beautiful music, and it helped them feel more connected with the church family.

Heather Hagen expressed her appreciation for the program via email: "Loved weRtheCHURCH episode—and being 'elderly' loved the great sub-titling. Thanks to the team who kept us mesmerised throughout. Such a heart-warming hour, especially for those inside 'bubbles'."

More than 100 people tuned in the following day (Sabbath, July 31) for the #weRtheCHURCH "How to share your faith" workshop featuring Dr Peter Roennfeldt and Pastor Lloyd Grolimund and hosted by Pastor Wayne Boehm with special guests Eunice Winship and Brenna Chapman. The program shared some practical and easy-to-follow tips on disciple-making.

If you missed either the #weRtheCHURCH program or the workshop, they are available for viewing at the #weRtheCHURCH web page <adventistchurch.com/werthechurch/> or on the Adventist Media YouTube channel <[youtube.com/AdventistMediaSouthPacific](https://www.youtube.com/AdventistMediaSouthPacific)>.



The meetings will be held entirely online (Source: Unsplash).

AUC session moving online

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Lorraine Atchia

Due to the current coronavirus situation affecting much of Australia, the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Executive Committee has decided to move its regular constituency meeting online, to be held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting will be reduced to two days, running from Sunday, August 29 to Monday, August 30.

"Our team has spent a lot of time organising these meetings and while we are disappointed we cannot meet in person, we are relieved that we do not have to postpone these meetings again," stated AUC secretary Pastor Michael Worker.

"In June, we made changes to our constitution for such a time as this, when much of the country is in lockdown and border closures affect most states," he added.

The South Pacific Division has created video conference meeting protocols which AUC delegates will follow to ensure the meeting is run successfully.

"This will be a first for us, to hold a meeting of this magnitude online, but we are confident that our team will be able to make the transition smoothly, and we look forward to seeing all the delegates virtually when the time comes," said Pastor Worker.



ADRA worker with a young boy. Image supplied.

ADRA joins humanitarian alliance

📍 **Wahroonga, NSW** | Emergency Action Alliance/Record staff

Sixteen Australian charities, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), joined forces for the first time on August 6, to launch the newly-formed Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) at an online event that featured prominent government leaders, media executives and charity leaders.

The humanitarian agencies will be uniting in their campaign and fundraising efforts to improve how Australians can support and donate when large-scale overseas humanitarian disasters take place.

The CEOs of the charities believe that through this new single fundraising entity more money can be raised from the Australian public more quickly, so that there can be a rapid distribution of funds allocated to where the money is most needed. This will save more lives and can enable the quicker and more efficient rebuilding of communities.

"We at ADRA are very pleased to join the Emergency Action Alliance as one of the founding members. This Alliance also strengthens ADRA's purpose to serve humanity so all may live as God intended," said Denison Grellmann, CEO of ADRA Australia and New Zealand, on August 6.

EAA executive director Kerren Morris said, "Around the globe, the number

of large-scale disasters are increasing. The complexity of these emergencies is also accelerating, and new factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic mean that communities are even more vulnerable.

"Our member organisations already work in close collaboration during a disaster response—but there has been a common agreement that a more formal alliance was needed to make it easier for donors to give. Today is a historic moment in Australia's response to disaster relief."

The online launch featured speakers including Senator Marise Payne, ABC Board director Dr Jane Connors, CEO of ACFID Marc Purcell, CEO of Fundraising Institute of Australia Katherine Raskob, and each of the EAA member CEOs.

Matthew Maury, chair of the EAA Board and CEO of Tearfund Australia, said, "Australians are incredibly generous when a disaster strikes and the EAA is designed to maximise the impact of this generosity."

"ADRA recognises that the increasing impact of disasters on families, communities and nations today requires innovative and collective ways to resource responses to major disasters as soon as they occur," said Murray Millar, ADRA's Emergency Management director.



East Taraka Pathfinders during their 2018 club campout at Tikaleng beach outside Lae, Morobe.

Two people killed en route to Pathfinder camp, others injured

📍 **Lae, PNG** | Maryellen Hacko

Two people from East Taraka Seventh-day Adventist Church have died after being involved in two separate motor vehicle accidents on the way to a Pathfinder Camp in Lae, Morobe Province (PNG), on July 24.

According to a Facebook post by Tsirobin Labz Huranaka, the first accident involved a Pathfinder director who was driving a group of young Pathfinders to a camp organised by the Morobe Mission youth department. Sadly, the Pathfinder director died and many of the Pathfinders were treated in the ICU at

Lae's Angau Memorial Hospital.

After the accident occurred, a parent was notified and decided to travel to the accident site, but was killed in a separate accident along the journey.

According to another Facebook post by fellow church member Charles Bilisin, Joseph Ken from Tomba, Western Highlands Province, was one of the casualties. He was described by Mr Bilisin as "a man after God's heart [who was] always willing to use his vehicles for God's service, a man with an open heart to the poor and needy".



Student Mackenzie Young on placement at Marrara Christian College, Darwin.

Top End teachers: Why Avondale students go to Darwin for their practical placement

📍 Darwin, NT | Brenton Stacey

It's fortuitous. With COVID-related restrictions causing complications along the eastern seaboard, eight Avondale teachers-in-training found themselves in Darwin completing professional experience placements.

The primary and secondary education students began their three-week stint at Marrara Christian College on July 26.

It's Caleb Lipman's third placement. "I wanted to get more experience teaching Indigenous students and learning about their cultures," he said. Mackenzie Young, on the other hand, is completing her first placement. "I've learnt to be firm with the kids from the get-go, then they listen from the start and get more out of the lessons."

Secondary course convenor Dr Jason Hinze was with Mackenzie when she first arrived at the school. "A girl just ran up to one of the teachers and said, 'Who's Miss Young? Who's Miss Young?' The teacher pointed at Mackenzie and the girl came up and said, 'I just wanted to know who my prac teacher was.'" The Year 5 and 6 students in Mackenzie's class "have all been willing to help. They know I'm learning, too."

This is the main reason why our students—the third group from Avondale to teach at Marrara—are back up north. "The school doesn't tolerate our students but enthusiastically accepts them," said Dr Hinze. "They feel loved, they feel confident experimenting and being themselves in the classroom."

Of course, not everything goes to plan, and that's OK. "The benefit of students being placed at the same school is that they share accommodation and naturally debrief with each other at night," said Dr Hinze. "They celebrate together when things go well and help each other learn from their mistakes."

The Top End experience is a replacement of sorts for a service learning initiative called Ministry of Teaching Overseas, which Dr Hinze developed and coordinates. About 350 students have participated in a trip since 2007. With India, Cambodia, Nepal and Tonga as previous destinations, Dr Hinze is missing the overseas element. "The different culture, language and belief system of another country is a beautiful thing, but Darwin's a good alternative given the circumstances. And it's fun."

Effective, too. "All my placements have made me more eager to get into my own classroom," said Mr Lipman. "I love seeing children grow and learn."

making headlines

Adventist in the Olympics

Nathalee Aranda is a young Seventh-day Adventist who represented her native country, Panama, in long jump at the Olympic Games on August 1. Overjoyed with the opportunity to compete in the biggest sporting event in the world, she affirms that each of her achievements is owed to God. "I know that, with God, I can do anything," said Ms Aranda.—ANN



Father-son adventure

Hearly Mayr and his son Andreas used their 2021 summer holidays to support ADRA's pandemic hunger relief campaign by kayaking 320 km in Maryland, United States. During the 15-day journey, Mr Mayr posted daily updates on social media encouraging his followers to donate to ADRA's cause. The initiative helped ADRA surpass its fundraising goal with a total of \$US9.9 million on July 31.—Adventist Review

Praising to success

Australian Catholic University researchers found that praise can have a positive impact on improving a child's academic performance. In the study, the kids whose parents were optimistic showed more interest in maths and reading than those who had more pessimistic parents.—ABC News

Sentient beings

Animals with spines in the UK could soon be legally recognised as "sentient" beings with feelings if a bill being debated in Parliament moves forward. Should the bill become law, lawmakers may have to consider animals' feelings, like pain or even joy, when crafting any new policy.—The Verge



Keeping in touch

Reminding students of God's love, Brisbane Adventist College (BAC), Qld, invited all primary school students to digitally join the chaplains' morning worship on August 6. The devotional was themed around Bible verses that talk about how God knows the number of stars in the sky and hairs on our heads. The program was a great opportunity for teachers, families and children to get together on Zoom and reflect on God's Word. —**BAC Facebook**



Vitalii ordained

Royal Oak Adventist Church celebrated the ordination of Pastor Vitalii Shevchenko on April 24. He served as director of Children's Ministries for the Polish Union Conference while studying at the Polish Adventist College of Theology, graduating in 2011. He currently pastors the Royal Oak and the Royal Oak Spanish churches in the North New Zealand Conference. —**Adeline Teina**



COVID-19 relief

Boxes of personal protective equipment donated by Sydney Adventist Hospital have arrived in Fiji. The supplies, which were shipped by Sanitarium Health Food, have been welcomed by church leaders and members. "This PPE will certainly assist us at a time when COVID-19 is spreading quickly in our communities. Thank you for thinking of us and continue to pray for us," Trans Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said. —**Tracey Bridcutt**



News writing training

Adventist Record editor Jarrod Stackelroth spent an hour with Trans Pacific Union Mission presidents and workers on August 9, training them how to write a news article. "Jarrod was able to put it in a very simple way so that our group were inspired to start writing stories," said TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga. Communications coordinator John Tausere was also inspired by the training and has committed to write a story every week. "Everyone is committed to start writing stories by starting this week with a story each to be given to *Record*," said Pastor Kaufononga. —**Maveni Kaufononga/Record Staff**



Faith, friends and fun

Junior and Teens from all over the South New Zealand Conference (SNZ) gathered from July 20 to 25 to focus on growing faith, making friends, having fun and enjoying food, at the SNZ Junior Teen Camp. Themed "Just Jesus", the event featured morning and evening worships that shared how to grow closer to Jesus and what a life with Him looks like. —**Lance Boulton**

The signs of Jesus' work in Logan

You don't have to go far in Logan, Queensland, to find out what kind of impact the local ADRA Community Centre has on people in the area. While shooting some footage at the Logan train station for a film about *Signs of the Times* magazine's availability at the centre, a curious social worker approached me. He claimed to often frequent the station to ensure troublesome youths didn't get up to strife. With an air of curiosity and caution, he inquired why I was loitering on the platform with a camera.

"I'm filming some footage for ADRA Logan," I told him. His face immediately lit up, and he began listing names and asking if I knew people who work at the centre—most of whom I'd only met that morning. He spoke fondly about ADRA's impact on the community.

An earlier chat with ADRA Logan manager Henk La Dru revealed why. "[ADRA] Logan's a phenomenal place when it comes to what's needed for community," he said. "There's a lot of housing issues where people are struggling to survive. There's also a lot of issues with domestic violence and family discord."

It's not hard to see where he's coming from. Statistics from the Queensland government show Logan has high rates of drug use, violence and theft. In 2019, the area had the highest number of recorded offences in the last two decades. The evening before we arrived, ADRA Logan was broken into by an unknown perpetrator. It wasn't an uncommon occurrence according to Mr La Dru.

However, it's in the darkest areas that God's light can shine the brightest. "Once I was at the supermarket at Marsden, and this lady came up to me and gave me a big hug, which sort of threw me," recalled Michelle Brown, ADRA Logan assistant manager. "She told me that her daughter had come in and spoke to me and her daughter was contemplating suicide. Her daughter

didn't do suicide because she came in here and was speaking to us."

Helping people is what ADRA Logan do, with both Mr La Dru and Sam Luteru drawing my attention to Francis of Assisi's famous words—"Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." And those words often come in the form of *Signs of the Times* magazines in racks found throughout the site. Public interest in the magazine amongst the sometimes 600 weekly visitors is high due to its topical nature.

"This stuff is relevant to them. They see topics . . . and they say, 'Oh, what is that about?'" Mr La Dru said. "And I just pray every time I go and get a box of magazines: 'Wherever they go, Lord, you send them to where they're needed.'"

Sam Luteru, the centre's training coordinator, echoes these sentiments. "People just grab them off the shelf and take them every time they come through; just to see what's in them," he said. "As we're relating to people, [we recommend] 'here's a story that might be of help to you.'"

While a recent survey by Adventist Media found church members are often reluctant to share their faith due to the fear of being seen as too pushy, Mr Luteru said sponsoring *Signs* magazines to be supplied at community projects like ADRA Logan is a simple way of sharing Jesus.

"It's really valuable here," he said. "If you can't get out there and rub shoulders with somebody, you can invest in a medium that actually does that for you . . . We would love to keep having it here. But obviously, as a charity, we have to find a way to fund it."

If you'd like to ensure *Signs of the Times* magazines continue to share Jesus to the community at projects like ADRA Logan, you can donate at signsofthetimes.org.au/august where you can also watch the short film.

Daniel Kuberek

Assistant editor, *Signs of the Times*



A Magazine For The Times



Signs magazine is one of Australia and New Zealand's longest, continuous-running magazines. In January 1886, the first issue of *Signs of the Times* wore the title of *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*.

The story begins with a group of 11 Seventh-day Adventists from the United States landing in Sydney on June 6, 1885. Within the group were three preachers, a printer and a book salesman—plus wives and children. They settled in Melbourne—in North Fitzroy—and began their work of attempting to find supporters for their faith. One newspaper at the time (June 28, 1885) noted, “The members [of the group] observe Saturday as the Sabbath and do not take alcohol or tobacco, as they are not deemed good for the health.”

Regular *Signs* readers will recognise that there's a health emphasis—in lifestyle, diet and relationships—in every issue and that the Saturday Sabbath also gains an occasional mention. The first *Signs* was typeset in the bedroom of one of the workers and then carried to a nearby printer to prepare it for launch in January 1886. Some 8000 copies were printed.

This magazine had 16 pages and on page 8 it suggested that “many honest queries will arise in reference to its design, and the scope it will occupy in the religious field. To many the name of the journal, *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, will be sufficient enough. “For those who did not understand what the magazine was about, the promise was made that it would be a “thorough exponent of the Bible”, adding that “we firmly believe the Bible to be the revealed will of God concerning His people on earth”.

Further, “It will also be a chronicler of events which mark

the times pointed out in the prophecies. These, it cannot be denied, are an important part of the Bible, for without them its inspiration would be a matter of doubt.” The article spoke specifically about the prophecies concerning Jesus but added that a “portion of the prophetic word has its fulfilment in the present generation”.

The Early Years

Fortunately for the un-named worker, his bedroom wasn't needed to set type for the second issue.

The back page announced that “friends of the *Bible Echo* will be gratified to learn that this issue of the paper is printed at our own place of business”.

There's an apology for some errors in the first issue and an offer of sending a copy to any who missed it if they send in “two two-penny stamps”. Importantly, there's an answer to queries about how long they planned to remain in Australia. Readers are told of a “good-sized” congregation growing in Melbourne (meeting in the Temperance Hall in Russell Street) and two “companies” established in New Zealand.

With these followers, their printing work and book stocks available, “We would therefore have our friends understand that we have ‘come to stay’.”

The third issue gives an annual subscription price of 3 shillings and 6 pence. In 1889 it was published twice a month and the price rose to 5 shillings, 6 pence. Single copies could be bought for a penny. In 1894, *Signs* became an eight-page weekly magazine. For a time, from August 15, 1892, the *Signs* front page called it *The Bible Echo*, but the masthead



retained *The Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*. That changed on January 26, 1903 when the front page and the masthead proclaimed it the *Australasian Signs of the Times*.

This came about after the deputy postmaster contacted the Echo Publishing Company to ask why the magazine should be registered as a newspaper and enjoy reduced postage rates. The publishers responded that they believed they were within the law because the Postal Act stated that “a substantial part” of their magazine must be of a “religious, technical or practical” content—as news. They were told that a “substantial part” was 50 per cent, and they weren’t meeting their obligation, so the content was adjusted to meet the requirements and the name changed. The January 2, 1905 issue was shortened to its current title *Signs of the Times*.

Continuing Development

The title, *Signs of the Times*, comes from the words of Jesus: “You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the signs of the times!” (Matthew 16:3, NLT). For Adventists, a group watching for and awaiting the advent of Jesus, this fitted well.

Lessons learned along the way have helped mature the magazine. The lifestyle features of the magazine not only use the latest information, but also help readers sift through available information by using credible writers and sources. During its history, *Signs* has seen many changes: monthly, fortnightly, weekly publication and back to monthly. It has been through the process of going from black and white to experiments with colour headlines, to what would now be considered insipid

colour photographs, to vibrant colour. Technology has helped create these advances. The change to the current, smaller size in the 1990s seemed dramatic at the time, but it’s now just accepted.

We live in a digital world and while *Signs* is still available in print form, it can be found in various forms online with a podcast and other digital opportunities to engage, such as social media. Change will continue.

What Hasn’t Changed

Now, 135 years after its launch, the underlying purpose of *Signs* hasn’t changed. It is still driven by a Christian philosophy that takes the Bible seriously; recognises Jesus as the ultimate hope in people’s lives and for our planet; and takes a whole-of-life approach to lifestyle, health and relationships. These remain as important in 2021 as they were in 1886. And this is what has helped keep *Signs* timely.

August is traditionally *Signs* month, where we promote the magazine and encourage people to subscribe. You can do so at subs.signsofthetimes.org.au and follow us on Facebook and Twitter—@signsmag.

This article originally appeared in the August 2021 issue of Signs.

Bruce Manners

Retired *Signs of the Times* and *Adventist Record* editor, having served in the role from 1989–2003. He lives in Melbourne, Australia.

happy father's day!



Bernard Chapman
Moora, Western Australia

I love how thoughtful my dad is. He's always giving of his time, money, energy and love for the benefit of others and seeks to encourage in every conversation, even with strangers on the street! He's a great example of Christianity in action.—**Brenna Chapman**



Eddy Johnson
Retired minister, Greater Sydney Conference

My father is a pastor, teacher, coach, mentor, chief exasperator, dad jokes, missional man of God. He has a heart of gold and gives until he has nothing more to give. He's a treasure and we love him!—**Terry Johnson**



Joshua Ken
Boundary Road Church, Lae (PNG)

Dear Dad, thank you for always taking a genuine interest in the things I do and always cheering me along the way. I can honestly say there is no-one who can listen to me the way you do. I feel so blessed to be your son!
—**Doulos Ken**



Kevin Brown
Former pastor, Windsor Church, Sydney

These are the last words (the last paragraph of a longer letter) my son Daniel wrote to me before he took his own life in April, 2015: "You've supported me to the best of your abilities—a lot of the time to the point of me feeling like a burden. I love you because you are one of the most human people I have known—opinionated, fragile, discerning, ethical."—**Daniel Brown**



Jeffesen Langati Trief
Education director, Vanuatu Mission

I love my dad because, growing up he was my mentor. He taught me valuable lessons about life, one being to trust and believe in God no matter what the situation is.—**Heretua Terry Trief**

My dad sacrificed 10 years of his career so that I could get the surgery I needed. Today I can live my dream and live a healthy life due to their sacrifices. Life was not always easy but our dad showed us miracles of faith and the results were always bigger than what our minds could imagine.
—**Herenui Marielle Trief**



Maurice Gersbach
Busselton Church, Western Australia

I love my dad beyond measure. Like our Heavenly Father, my earthly father is kind, loving, forgiving, humble, strong—yet gentle, compassionate, giving, helpful and faithful. Thank you Dad. Happy Father's Day. I love you!
—**Rochelle Willis**



Michael Stahl
Victor Harbour Company, South Australia

I always remember his quiet wisdom in how he taught my brothers and I. I love his passion for the Word and firmness of faith.—**Dietrich Stahl**



David Jonathan Gillespie
Innovation Church and New Life Church, North Brisbane, Queensland.

Why I love my dad? Simple. His loving and forgiving character and energetic personality lightens my mood daily. My dad never fails to make me laugh with his terrible dad jokes and dramatic persona. And I'm so very grateful for his patience because without that I don't know where I'd be. I love you, Dad.—**Kasey Gillespie**



Ralph George Weslake
Norfolk Island Church

Our dad, "the lovable rogue", at 97 still impresses with his humour. Leads by example in drawing his family to love the Lord. Always batting for the underdog, firm and fair. A man of integrity and possessing a wealth of wisdom.—**Ken Weslake**



IMAGE: HENRIQUE FELIX

Sozo Health Retreat's wholistic approach used as blueprint model

For hospital managing nurse Deborah Dawes, juggling her hectic work routine, an ageing parent in need of care and looking after teenage daughters, left her with no time for herself. "I put my health last and made really bad decisions about what I ate, what I drank. My exercise level, my stress level, everything was wrong," she remembers.

Worried about her own health and wanting to make changes, in 2019, she decided to look for wellness resorts close to her home in Murwillumbah (NSW). "I looked at quite a few different ones around Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, but they were all completely outrageously priced."

After a lot of research, she found the Sozo Health Retreat, a lifestyle medicine intensive residential program based on scientific evidence, biblical principles and on Ellen White's *Ministry of Healing*.

Run by the North NSW Conference Health department in a pop-up model—each time in a different location—the program was being trialled with Stuarts Point as the first location.

Alongside 10 other patients, Deborah spent eight days surrounded by nature and a caring medical team, with a structured routine including a range of treatments, guided exercise, balanced plant-based meals and plenty of time to relax.

She has been to three of the six retreats run so far—including the latest one run in May on the Central Coast—each time stepping further into her healing journey.

"Sozo is a Greek word, and it means complete healing. It is the word often found in the New Testament when Jesus heals someone. The word for healed or saved, that's *sozo*," explained NNSW Health director Camila Skaf.

Committed to promoting complete healing, the team of licensed health professionals, chefs, physical trainers and more, reviews each patient's current health, medical history, activity levels, eating habits, sleep patterns and stress tolerance, creating personalised lifestyle prescriptions.

"The main goal is to help improve their health outcomes long term to not only live longer, but to live better," said naturopath, massage therapist and program coordinator Renee Livingston. She explains that trying to change lifestyle habits at home can be challenging for many, and by coming to the retreat, the patients gain a new perspective in an environment



BY MICHAEL WOLFE FROM WOLFE WISE CREATIVE

designed to empower them.

"At Sozo, they get to see it lived, to see it practised, to experience how it feels and also to learn why it is important. So education is a big component."

As part of the daily activities in the retreat, the patients also learn from lectures presented by health specialists. In the mornings, a cooking workshop presented by a plant-based chef teaches them to prepare healthy, balanced meals at home.

"I've never been on a retreat before, but I didn't expect so much input and information. I think in a lot of retreats, you might have a massage a day, a bit of yoga and meditation, but this here is real learning, real nurturing and empowering," said participant Alison Goodwin, adding that she was excited to go home and put what she had learned into practice.

Besides educating and empowering the community, Sozo has also been developed as a blueprint model to be implemented by other conferences in Australia, recently training its first licensee team of eight health professionals from Victoria.

"It was amazing to witness how God is leading the team led by Victorian Conference Health Department director Pastor Andrew Jasper, and to work together on our latest health retreat program in Avoca Beach, Central Coast," said Mrs Skaf.

Attending the latest retreat as a patient to get a deeper insight into the program, Pastor Jasper and his team are preparing to launch Sozo in Victoria by November.

"In only a week, the patients can see the difference and the effectiveness not just in physical improvements, but in mental and emotional improvements. I'm a firm believer in the whole-person paradigm, and programs that meet that full need are top of my list," he said.

With its effectiveness recognised by the General Conference Health Ministries department, the program will also be used by the Church in other countries. "They are taking the same model under a different brand to other places around the world," said Mrs Skaf.

Juliana Muniz

Assistant editor, *Adventist Record*



LIVING KINGDOM

Are you burying your talents?

Matthew 25:14-30,
Luke 19:11-27



Parable of the bags of gold

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey... His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”
(Matthew 25:14,15,23).

In my first year at the Adventist University of São Paulo (UNASP), the communications course coordinator stepped into my classroom and enthusiastically conducted a quick survey with all the journalism students.

“Just to get an idea, who here would work for the Church?” he asked.

I don’t know if you have ever struggled with deciding whether you should dedicate your professional talents and skills exclusively to the Church. But for me, it was a big no.

Most of my classmates were really excited about the possibility of working at Novo Tempo TV, the “Brazilian Hope Channel” after graduation. Even some of the students who were not Adventists demonstrated interest.

In Brazil, there are also other exciting possibilities for Adventist communicators across the country—in the publishing house and several media centres in conferences, unions and the Division.

But none of them sounded appealing to me. I remember making sure not to raise my hand after the coordinator’s

question as a clear manifestation of how uninterested I was in working for the Church. I just couldn’t see professional success in doing so.

In my 17-year-old head, I envisioned myself as an accomplished journalist working for the secular media producing thought-provoking documentaries and possibly becoming an international correspondent. How could I accomplish that working for the Church?!

While he was pointing out some of the possibilities, I could only think, “who would be crazy enough to waste their talents working for an institution that doesn’t pay so well and has very low professional recognition?”

Plot twist: me.

I did get to produce a “thought-provoking documentary” that was awarded and aired on national television as my major final project for university. But between my first and last years of uni, many things happened, and I started to understand that my talents would cause a more significant impact when applied towards the kingdom instead of for my own recognition and ambition.

Jesus actually tells a parable in Matthew 25:14-30 where we learn that we will be held



accountable for how we've made use of the talents He's given us.

Before we continue, I'd like to note a few things. I'm not suggesting that we should all be working for the Church in order to be saved and save others. Some people can do even more for the kingdom through a personal ministry or their personal testimony in their workplace and other spheres of influence. Others can use their talents to achieve financial success and also support the mission in that way.

But the thing is, are we using our talents to really do that?

This parable can have many interpretations. Some people say that when Jesus talks about the talents given to the servants, He wants to teach us that we should be good stewards with our money—given the fact that in the New Testament, a talent was a value of money or coin. Other people say that He used the unit of measurement, actually referring to faith.

But regardless of what He meant by talents—money, faith or skills—the lesson is the same: we were given something by our Creator, and we need to use it well. Even if we think it's not much.

Each according to their own ability

At the beginning of the parable, in verse 15, Jesus says that each of the servants were given amounts of talents according to their abilities. One servant received five talents because his master knew he would be capable of using and growing those five talents.

God knows you and He's never going to ask from you more than you can give. And there are endless stories in the Bible that prove that. He will probably ask you to get out of your comfort zone, which will be far from easy. But we have the assurance He will be with us every step of the way.

When God called Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt, Moses resisted.

"O my Lord, I am not eloquent," Moses told God in the burning bush.

"Neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

(Exodus 4:10).

God, in a drop-the-mic moment, replies, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

I can only imagine how hard it must've been for Moses to face Pharaoh and speak with such stubborn people as the Israelites, while having the speech impediments that many believe he had.

But regardless of how incapable he saw himself or how hard it was to get out of his comfort zone, he did it—with the help of his brother Aaron. In fact, Rabbi Mark Glickman, who is a stutterer himself and has written about Moses and his speech impediment, says that God tells Moses to speak more than 70 times in the Bible.

He makes you able

I remember when I saw the assistant editor position open at *Adventist Record*. I had been serving as a volunteer in the comms department of the North New South Wales Conference for two years—a big plot twist for someone who didn't even want to work for the Church.

My husband sent me the link with the position description and said, "you have to apply!" Even though I knew I had good experience and skills, the challenge of doing all that in a different language and culture—now professionally—terrified me.

I couldn't see myself capable of translating all my knowledge into English. If you speak a second language, you probably understand how challenging it is, especially with writing and creativity.

Then my husband reminded me of what God told Moses. That if He wanted me to work in this position, He would make me able.

As humans, we are full of limitations. But God knows us better than we know ourselves, and He sees something special in each one of us. He gave us talents, and our job is to harness them and bring them to the best level we can.

It's been almost eight years since my graduation and for all these years, I've been "crazy enough" to dedicate my talents and professional life to the kingdom.

I don't know if like me you've resisted the idea of working for the Church. Maybe you've been postponing finishing your volunteer application, starting that personal ministry or avoiding responsibilities in your local church. But whatever it is, don't bury the precious talents that God gave you. Even if like the last servant, you've just been given the one talent, use it the best way you can to invest in the mission. The fruits will be priceless and eternal.



Juliana Muniz
Assistant editor, *Adventist Record*



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT

mental health and suicide?

Jarrid Wilson, Darrin Patrick, Andrew Stoecklein, Isaac Hunter, Ed Montgomery, David Treadway, Teddy Parker Jr. Perhaps some of these names may sound familiar to you. That's because they made the news as pastors who have died by suicide.

The death of anyone by suicide is shocking and heartbreaking. But when it's a pastor, someone who is considered a spiritual leader, the aftermath is even more difficult to grasp.

Jarrid Wilson was an associate pastor at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California. He was a mental health advocate and spoke openly about related issues.

On the morning of September 10, 2019, Jarrid tweeted:

Loving Jesus doesn't always cure suicidal thoughts.

Loving Jesus doesn't always cure depression. Loving Jesus doesn't always cure PTSD. Loving Jesus doesn't always cure anxiety. But that doesn't mean Jesus doesn't offer us companionship and comfort. He ALWAYS does that.

Later that night, Jarrid Wilson committed suicide. With such a public platform, it sparked the debate: If Jarrid had truly loved Jesus, he wouldn't have committed suicide. If he was truly filled with the love of God, he would have been cured of his depression.

Many people responded to the news online, questioning Jarrid's faith and his decision to take his life. These are just a handful of tweets and Facebook comments:

"When you are full of Christ, there will be no room for depression or frustration. The fullness of Christ in you will choke it out."

"Truly, Jesus could had delivered you from all those afflictions but you decided not to let Him take control of your situation and rather you focus on what your human eye saw. Now you have many believing this . . . not true!"

"He's in hell, man."

"Did (Jarrid) have the Holy Spirit?"

Not every response was like this. Some offered sincere condolences to Jarrid's family, shared their fondest memories and thanked Jarrid for how he had helped others overcome difficulties. But when Jarrid took his own life, it opened up this dis-



discussion: What does the Bible say about mental health and suicide? And can God cure your mental illness?

The Bible tells us that, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:24). Matthew 21:22 puts it quite simply: “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” There are other verses that go on to talk about how our faith can move mountains, and in God’s name anything is possible. Surely this extends to mental health demons. Surely if the afflicted prays fervently enough, God can cure their mental illness.

It’s important to note that the Bible never explicitly mentions mental illness the way we talk about it today. But it does frequently mention times people had been struck down by physical illness: lepers, the woman who bled for 12 years, paraplegics. And we know that Jesus healed many of these people because of their faith in Him.

In the case of the woman who bled for 12 years, this is what the Bible says of her affliction:

“When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. . . . [Jesus] said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering” (Mark 5:27–29, 34).

This is one of many examples of how someone was healed because of their belief that Jesus was capable of healing them.

God’s healing hand is not limited to the stories in the Bible. I have met people who are walking miracles. People who have defied a doctor’s prognosis that “they should be dead”. I know that these people had prayer warriors all around the country and in pockets around the world praying for their recovery. And recover they did.

But there’s also the flip side. I have also met people who have lost their loved ones, despite the prayer warriors who prayed without ceasing. I’ve heard stories of people’s faith almost being shattered because they truly believed God would save their loved ones, and yet death still took them. I won’t pretend to understand how God can intervene on our behalf or why He chooses to do it sometimes and not others. It’s something I have brought to Him in prayer many times myself. What I can offer is a little perspective. A believer’s heartfelt prayers may not have saved their life on Earth, but we know that by God’s grace we will see them again. For we know that this Earth and all of its trials are temporary. Death is never easy. But what really matters in the end is where that person sits with God and whether it’s the end of their life on Earth, or the end of their life full stop.

Just like physical health, there are things you can do to improve your mental health: healthy eating, moving your body, adequate sleep and rest. And from a spiritual point of view, we can add spending time in prayer and immersing ourselves in God’s Word. But sometimes—like when treating broken bones or cancer—a healthy lifestyle isn’t enough.

Just like Christians fighting cancer may have prayer as part of their treatment, most also seek out medical support.

Ellen White has been one of the greatest advocates for the health message within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While she championed a healthy lifestyle, she also encouraged Adventists to open healthcare facilities¹, recognising the importance of medical treatment when natural preventions failed. She saw that God has equipped us with incredible bodies that, if treated well, treat us well. But she also saw that God has given us the gift of medical knowledge. And by combining the Adventist health message with medical treatment, we as a Church would be utilising all the tools and knowledge God has given us.

This practice of combining healthy habits with medical treatment also applies to mental health.

It’s important to note that mental illnesses like depression are not always cured with practising gratitude or eating well or having a healthy relationship with God. While mental illness can be caused by external pressures like trauma and stress, substance abuse and environmental factors, it can also be caused by biological factors, such as genes, brain chemistry or hormonal changes.² When healthy habits aren’t enough to squash dark thoughts, the next step is often medical treatment. Therapy, antidepressants or both may be prescribed to treat mental illness.

So, what does all of this mean for people suffering from mental illness? The replies to Jarrid’s tweet indicate that had Jarrid truly loved God or prayed harder, he would still be here. That Jarrid needed to try harder.

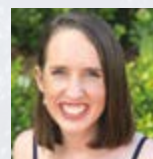
I believe that misses the point of grace entirely and certainly lacks compassion.

What it all boils down to is mental illness is another symptom of the sinful world we live in. And as followers of Christ, we are called to love one another and uplift one another. It is not for us to judge each other’s afflictions but to be the support to help one another through the tough times of life. Every person is precious to God. And if being a listening ear or a helping hand in a time of need can save someone’s life on Earth, then it’s something we should be striving towards.

To learn more about depression and suicide, visit Beyond Blue at <beyondblue.org.au>. For crisis support or suicide prevention, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14 (AU), 0800 543 354 (NZ), 1543 (Fiji), 3260011 (PNG) or Lifeline’s equivalent in your local country.

1. Adventist Health White Memorial. (2021). Ellen G White. <www.adventisthealth.org/white-memorial/about-us/history-of-caring/ellen-g-white/>.
2. Australian Government Department of Health. (2021, March 17). About mental health. <www.health.gov.au/health-topics/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention/about-mental-health>.

Ashley Stanton,
Mental health advocate and
communications coordinator
for ADRA Australia.





Butter beans with rocket—Greek style

This hearty rustic dish makes an easy, satisfying meal. High in fibre, protein and iron, it's full of bold Mediterranean flavours the whole family will love.

Ingredients

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 large red onion, halved and cut into thin wedges
- 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 690g jar tomato passata sauce
- 4 vine-ripened tomatoes, peeled, chopped and seeds removed
- 2x 400g cans butter beans, rinsed and drained
- ½ cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 tbs oregano leaves, chopped
- 50g wild rocket leaves
- ⅓ cup finely grated pecorino, parmesan or feta cheese

Method

1. Heat oil in a large deep saucepan over medium heat. Add red onion and garlic. Cook, stirring often, for 3–4 minutes until tender. Add tomato sauce, tomatoes, beans and herbs. Cover and gently bring to the boil. Season to taste.
2. Just before serving toss through rocket. Sprinkle with cheese.
3. Serve beans with grilled garlic bread, or rice.

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Do I need more fibre in my diet?

We know fibre is vital for keeping us regular. The benefits of a high-fibre diet in lowering your risk of several chronic diseases, including some cancers, type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease, have long been known, but research has shown a daily fibre boost can have even wider health benefits.



So how does it work?

There are three main types of fibre. Soluble fibre, found in fruit and veg, oats, barley and legumes, helps you feel fuller. Insoluble fibre, in wholegrain breads, cereal, nuts, seeds, wheat bran and fruit and veg skin, is what keeps us regular. Resistant starch, found in wholegrains, legumes, green bananas, and cooked and cooled potatoes, can help promote the growth of good bacteria and improve bowel health.

Surprising health benefits of fibre

A high-fibre diet may help reduce blood cholesterol levels and subsequently lessen the risk of cardiovascular disease. The fibre in beans, oats and flaxseed may lower “bad” LDL cholesterol levels. A lesser-known benefit of fibre includes sleeping better. A Colombia University Medical Centre study found participants fell asleep faster after eating meals higher in fibre. What’s more, fibre also plays a role in producing serotonin for improving mood and helping reduce anxiety and depression.

How can I eat more fibre?

- Switch to wholegrains
- Do not skip breakfast
- Eat more nuts and seeds
- Eat plenty of fruit, veggies and legumes



Conversations

Plenty to do!

"Women in ministry" (July 17) missed some very important points which need to be addressed.

1. The most important point was missed when the General Conference (GC) is described as the "highest authority God has on earth".

The Church Manual makes it clear the GC is the "highest authority" for the world Church "UNDER GOD".

2. It is God who calls pastors. All the Church can do is to recognise God's call by the laying on of hands.

3. Ordination is not a biblical topic. From the position of the Bible there is absolutely no difference between ordaining and commissioning.

5. For Adventists, the Bible is the only source for doctrine and practice. An appeal to policy is not an appeal to the Bible. A vote by a GC session is not equivalent to Bible evidence.

6. Adventists have moved at times from being a Church based on Scripture to one based on tradition and ecclesiastical pronouncements.

7. The recent GC documents and procedures do not reflect faithfulness to the Bible teachings in Acts 15 or Matthew 18.

8. One of the functions of Ellen White was to confront conference presidents for similar reasons. And if there were a prophet in modern Adventism, that prophet would find plenty to do.

Finally, the most influential clergy

person in the history of Adventism has been a female: Ellen White. She spoke in churches all over the place and she had spiritual authority over men. And God chose her. For Adventists to be struggling over the ordination of women is incomprehensible.

Robyn Sim, NZ

Power transition

Of a number of factual errors in the letter on "Women in ministry" (July 17), the most disturbing was the idea that the GC is the highest authority God has on earth. That view sounds more like another church. No man, or group of men, is the highest authority on earth.

When Jesus was on earth, He made it very clear who power would transition to when he left. "I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true."

Perhaps the AUC resolution and statement on women in ministry, through its prayerful consideration, was led by the highest authority on earth.

Roger Meany, Qld

Times or dates

In recent *Records*, argument about Adventist eschatology has cropped up again. To those individuals I would recommend they read carefully what Jesus' last words to His disciples were just before His ascension. I will not quote them, but please look up and read carefully

and prayerfully Acts 1:6-9.

Let us put our emphasis on our witness for Jesus.

Graham Mitchell, via email

God of love

In response to "Muddied Waters and Spirit of Possibility" (Letters, *Record*, August 7), I believe in the Adventist prophetic interpretations, but the fine details are not evident. The Sunday law will come, but the world is moving away from God at the moment, so to those looking closely at political developments, things have to get worse before they swing around and people start to focus on God again. Christians, including Catholics, are not your worst enemies here compared to the expanding boundaries of secular developments. (Anyone with family living in Europe under Communism will understand.)

Further, focusing on Sunday laws and end-time events, especially in the light of reaching others, is like preachers of old frightening people with images of hell in order to turn them to God. God is a God of love, not a God of fear, and even atheists' hearts melt when they experience the love of God. Fear might bring a change of behaviour if one can be convinced, but it doesn't bring about conversion. We must love people to the Lord, not frighten them.

Leopold Hamulczyk, Vic

HI KIDS!

We serve when we help others.

KIDS' SPICES

ALIVE AGAIN!

Dorcas, from Joppa, is a loving believer in Jesus. Her life is filled with acts of kindness. She freely ministers to the poor, making clothing for them and giving sympathy. Dorcas becomes sick and dies. The sorrowing church sends for Peter, who prays for Dorcas and tells her to arise. She comes back to life. Many people believe in the Lord because of this miracle.



CROSSWORD

Fill in the box with the clothing names.



SUDOKU BUTTONS

COLOUR THE CIRCLES AND MAKE SURE THERE IS ONLY 1 COLOUR OF EACH BUTTON IN EACH ROW.

MEMORY VERSE
 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

Lovingly helping others shows the Word lived out in the helper's life and accomplishes greater good than preaching or talking. Dorcas' "skilful fingers were more active than her tongue" (The Acts of the Apostles, p. 131). Meeting people's everyday needs prepares the soil of their heart so that God's Word will take root.

Anniversaries



FORBES, Ross and June (nee Carothers) were married by Pastor Alan Forbes on 4.4.1961 at the Wahroonga church, NSW. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Ross worked for Sanitarium Health Food Company for 43 years. June served as a nurse after training at Sydney Adventist Hospital. They have been blessed with three children and seven grandchildren. They have been active members of the Caboolture church and are enjoying living in their retirement home in Upper Caboolture, Qld.



IZOD, Fred and Jean (nee Hambling) were married by Pastor Alfred Atkins on 28.1.1961 in Hamilton, NZ. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends. They have two children and five grandchildren. When Fred retired from his work as a plumbing, drainage and building inspector, they moved to Morayfield, Qld, and have been active members of the Caboolture church ever since.

Weddings



KEEGAN—RAETHEL. Trent Keegan, son of Graeme and Wendy Keegan (Balcolyn, NSW), and Erin Raethel, daughter of Adrian and Laurel Raethel, (Cameron Park), were married on 27.6.21 at the Stuarts Point Convention Centre. Their relationship was sparked following

the Teen Two Summer Camp in January 2020 where Erin was the speaker and Trent was the activities director. Family and friends travelled from all over Australia to celebrate their union. They will set up their home on the Central Coast.

Adrian Raethel



SOUTHWELL—MAHER. Harley Jacob Southwell, son of Lyle and Michelle Southwell (Kurri Kurri, NSW), and Eliza Joy Maher, daughter of Stephen and Kaylene Maher (Taylors Hill, Vic), were married on 20.6.21 in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Harley and Eliza are looking forward to serving together in pastoral ministry in the South Queensland Conference.

Lyle Southwell

Obituaries



BOND, Leslie Keith, born 27.3.1944 in NZ; died 30.6.21 in Sunshine Coast University Hospital,

Birtinya, Qld. On 23.3.1968 he married Kay Embrey. Keith is survived by his wife (Buderim); children, Chris and Sandie (Buderim), Lindy (Glebe, NSW), Shaun and Jackie (Bondi), and Brendon Bond and Lauren Lacey (Gordon); and six grandchildren. Keith and Kay joined the church in Gladstone following a mission program led by Pastor Arthur Bishop in 1975. Keith was touched by the Advent message and lived a life in service to the church in many different roles. Keith enjoyed sharing about his faith in Jesus with everyone.

Scott Wareham, John Rabbas



COOKE, Cheryl Margaret, born 11.11.1947 in Brisbane, Qld; died 20.3.21.

On 12.12.1968 she married Rod. Cheryl is survived by her husband; sons, Brenden and Brad and their families; and brothers, Graham and Allan and their families. Cheryl was faithful daughter of God and lived her life in His presence. She had a love of adventure and was a wonderful expressive pianist. She selflessly

ministered to others and was loved and admired by all who knew her. So many said she was "special"—always thoughtful with a lovely smile and a kind word. Cheryl lived for her Saviour and died peacefully in the assurance that she will see her Redeemer and loved ones very soon.

Geoff Youlden, John Gate



GALLEY/GALUSZKA, Antonina (nee Bereta), born 25.10.1929 in

southern Poland; died 5.5.21 in Newcastle, NSW. Toni was married to Godfrey for 73 years. She is survived by her husband; children, Ela and John Dickenson (Melbourne, Vic) and John and Frida Galley (Newcastle, NSW); grandchildren, Michael and Steph, Robert, Stephen and Shelley, Grace, and Josiah; and great-grandchildren, Seth, Axl, Delilah, Harvey and Chester. Surviving the Second World War, she settled in Cieszyn, Poland as a young bride. Toni then emigrated to Newcastle, where she has lived since 1960. She served the Wallsend Slavic church as treasurer for 53 years and loved being involved in music, especially singing. Toni gently fell asleep aged 91 and is awaiting the great resurrection.

David Stojcik



GBLA, Hassan, born 10.5.1967 in Sierra Leone; died 22.6.21 in Perth, WA. On 7.12.02 he

married Victoria Tossou. Hassan is survived by his wife (Perth); children, Melinda, Vernon and Mary; and grandchildren, Nadia and Jamal. Hassan had a deep faith in God and he was a man of dignity and respect. While his life was not easy, his love for Jesus shone through in his life of thanksgiving to God. Hassan loved his family and wanted the best for them and brought them to Australia to find a safe haven.

Steve Goods, Andrew Skeggs, Andrew Olsen



HON, Léone Elizabeth (nee Taylor), born 21.9.1942 in Harris Park, NSW; died

2.6.21 in Sydney Adventist Hospital. On 14.5.1964 she married Dr Kelvin Hon. Léone is survived by her husband; children, Kathy, Roger and Cat, Susie and Stephen; and eight grandchildren. Léone was very

dedicated to her family, a wonderful mother and grandmother to her grandchildren. She was widely respected as an active member of the Castle Hill church, in Sydney, a registered nurse and midwife, and a passionate supporter and former leader of the local Pathfinder club. Léone will be remembered for her selflessness, her big smile, her fun attitude and her generous hospitality.

Bryan Craig



LARSEN, Margaret Ann (nee Vosper), born 30.9.1935 in Nelson, NZ; died 10.6.21 in Nelson.

She was predeceased by her husband, Arnold in 2012. Margaret is survived by her children, Celia and Graham Zumbach (Qld), Bob and Anne (Auckland, NZ), Graeme and Nicqui (Nelson), Annette and Nick Rangi (Auckland), Sharon Larsen and Gordon Armstrong (Auckland) and Trish and Shane Woodward (Auckland); 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. She loved her Saviour, her church family and her community. Margaret showed great courage during her illness, and was an inspiration to all as she held onto her faith in anticipation of Jesus' soon return.

Bob Larsen, Sarah-Jane Riley



LAUGHLIN, Ruth, born 8.1.1949 in Melbourne, Vic; died 14.6.21 in Noble Park. She is survived

by her daughter, Clarissa; siblings, Alan, Bruce, Rosalie, Brian, Melvin, Muriel Markey, Wesley, Felicity, Penelope La Greca, Meredith and Valerie Colomer; and many nieces and nephews. Ruth was an exceptionally intelligent person who attended the Hawthorn Adventist school and gained many qualifications in mid-life and served as an accomplished social worker for much of her working years. Ruth was a valued, faithful member of Springvale church and served as church clerk for many years.

Barry Whelan



LLOYD, Faith (nee Whittington), born 19.5.1924 in Perth, WA; died 16.6.21.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Judith Hansberry in 2008. Faith is survived by her daughter, Chris

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(Perth). Faith had experienced some hard things in life but was very forgiving and gracious. She experienced the love of God and loved God in return. Faith had a great love to share with others.

Clem Van Ballegooyen, Steven Goods, Kevin Cobb

McCROSTIE, Beverley Jean (nee Austin), born 17.6.1930; died 26.6.21 in Wauchope, NSW. On 20.11.1946 she married Kenneth, who predeceased her in 2003. Beverley is survived by her children, Evelyn Lundstrom (Oyster Bay), Marilyn Nevell (Morisset Park, Karilyn (Bonnells Bay), Debbie-Lyn Syder (North Carolina, USA) and Lyndon (Beechwood, NSW). Beverley loved the Lord and actively witnessed for Him as a faithful Seventh-day Adventist.

Quintin Dutlow, David Kosmeier

McNAUGHTON, Lionel Douglas, born 7.12.1943; died 16.4.21. He was married to Diane. Lionel and Diane became members of the Invercargill church, NZ, in 2011. Lionel was a well-known small-motor mechanic in the area. As a member of the local country and western club, he composed a number of songs

with Christian influence. Even though he suffered with ill health in the last few years, he was always a joy to visit and never complained.

Carl Landall



MORTON, Jennifer (nee Smith), born 19.11.1938 in Launceston, Tas; died 5.5.21 in Hallam, Vic.

On 10.10.1959 she married Val, who predeceased her in 2013. Jenny is survived by her children, Felicia Cresswell (Brisbane, Qld), Deanna (Dandenong, Vic), Rodney (Narre Warre), Naomi Putt (Hallam) and Matthew (Florida, USA) and their families; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Jenny was a faithful member of the church and will be remembered for her tireless efforts in supporting others and always pointing them to Jesus as their Friend and Saviour. Jenny spent several years as the librarian in the Oakleigh school and her focus was always centred on the interests and spiritual welfare of the students.

Barry Whelan

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TASKER, Jean Lillian, born 2.12.1930 in Kempsey, NSW; died 28.5.21 in Dorrigo. She was predeceased by

her husband, George. She is survived by her children, Mervyn and Jane, Barrie, Eric and Karen, Annette and Jack Hofman, Rosalee and Brad Lohmann; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Jean and George were well known in the Kempsey and Coffs Harbour district. In later years, Jean was a faithful leader of the Dorrigo church company, particularly during times without a resident pastor in the area and often represented the church in numerous inter-church relations.

Bob Manners, Tim Turner

Advertising

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a special constituency meeting of the Victorian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at Nunawading Christian College Hall, 161 Central Road, Nunawading, September 12, 2021. The special constituency meeting will commence Sunday morning at 8:30 am and conclude no later than 10:30 am. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the Constitution. The sole business of the special constituency meeting will be to make additions to the Victorian Conference Constitution to allow for virtual meetings.

INVERCARGILL CHURCH CENTENARY

Have you ever called Invercargill church home? Then join us as we celebrate our 100-year anniversary on November 27, 2021. Memories, photos and RSVP to <bulletin@southlandadventist.org.nz>.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND RECORD ON CD

The SPD's Christian Services for the Blind (CSFBHI) produces a monthly audio compendium of articles from recent *Record*, *Adventist World* and *Signs of the Times* issues, along with Sabbath school lessons, for the vision impaired. If you or someone you

know could benefit from this service, mail or email CSFBHI including postal address. Email <CSFBHI@adventistmedia.org.au> or write to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076. For the legally blind in Australia and New Zealand, CSFBHI also has a large audio library of Christian and denominational books available.

ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS

The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy. Contact us on 1300 982 803 or 0408 458 452 or <arne@absolute-carefunerals.com.au>, even if you have already paid for your funeral.

Positions vacant

HR/SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR, ADRA AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WAHROONGA, NSW

ADRA Australia and New Zealand is seeking a qualified and experienced human resources/safeguarding coordinator to join our people and culture team. The successful applicant will coordinate our regular HR functions by supporting the recruitment process, on-boarding, performance appraisals and maintaining records and be the agency's focal point for safeguarding. The successful candidate will have a broad knowledge of HR and administrative responsibilities. Experience in safeguarding will be well regarded, although training will be provided. They will work autonomously to ensure the efficient end-to-end running of HR/safeguarding operations. The candidate information pack can be found at <adra.org.au/work-with-us/>. If you have questions or need further information, contact Alison on +61 2 9473 9503 or email <alisonyoung@adra.org.au>. There is no closing date, however we will be interviewing suitable candidates as they apply.

EDUCATION IT SUPPORT, AUC RINGWOOD, VIC OR WAHROONGA, NSW (PREFERRED), 12 MONTHS FULL-TIME, MAXIMUM-TERM POSITION (36.25 HRS/WEEK)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) Limited has a great opportunity for a self-motivated individual to join our technology services team with Adventist Schools Australia for 12 months as a fixed-term parental leave position. This client-facing role will undertake software systems diagnosis and apply problem-solving skills to support staff, students and various stakeholders of Adventist Schools. The technology services team operates across nine school companies, consisting of around 50 schools, requiring the successful applicant to be able to work proactively with a dispersed team. As a support person for the end-user, this role requires the individual to have excellent customer service and time-management skills, a positive attitude and to have experience working with learning management systems and student information systems. If you would like to join our collaborative and welcoming technology services team, please contact Melissa Hill at <AUCHR@adventist.org.au> to ask for the position description and application details. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and to close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close September 23, 2021 at 5pm AEST.**



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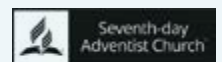
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