

A young girl with curly hair, wearing a yellow shirt, is smiling and holding a glass of water up to the camera. The background is a plain, light color.

# R

## The gift of water

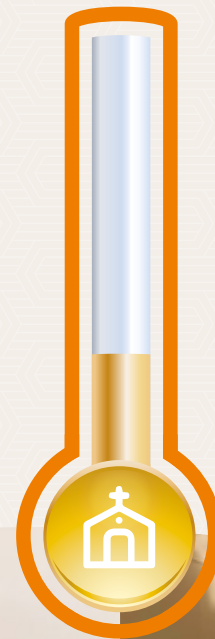
Tracing the symbol  
of water through  
Scripture <sup>16</sup>

New president for the  
Adventist Church in  
Australia <sup>6</sup>

# LET'S ENCOURAGE FULTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Fulton Adventist University College has been in COVID lockdown since early Semester one, which has made life very complex.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## The rise of the nones

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

Any reason to get together and talk about loving the poor and loving each other is really worthwhile.

In Australia we completed a national census in August. Recent census data from developed countries has revealed a common trend: that regular church attendance or belonging to an organised religion is on the decline. While recent studies have shown that two-thirds of Australians have some religious affiliation, the other third don't, and there is a deliberate push for that number to increase.

Australian comedian and passionate humanist Tim Minchin was campaigning for people to tick no religion on Question 23 of the census, stating:

"If you're not particularly religious yourself, tick no religion on the Census and encourage your friends to do the same, so, we don't end up in a situation where our currently very religious government gets to use the Census to justify the religious privilege in their policy and funding decisions."

I started to see ads on my Facebook feed encouraging me to mark no religion (I'd already filled the census out and most definitely marked Seventh-day Adventist by that stage, but the anti-religion campaigners were really trying!). I'm not sure if it was related to my search or my age and gender.

Yet is the de-religioning of secular Western society a positive trend? Not everyone thinks so. Even some avowed atheists are uncomfortable with these statistics. Scott Galloway, an author and YouTuber who makes videos about trends through his "chart of the week series", describes how right through the 1900s religiosity in the USA hovered at around 75 per cent but in the past 20 years it has suffered a significant decline to now sit under half.

"As a rabid atheist you might think that I might find some sort of joy in this or reward in this. I don't! I think this is a big problem." Surprised? Me too. He continues:

"Any reason to get together and talk about loving the poor and loving each other is really worthwhile.

"We have lost key connective tissue in our nation . . . We no longer get together to talk about doing the right thing in the agency of something greater. The loss of church attendance, the loss of key religious institutions in our nation is a tragedy for America."

This guy gets it. Although he lives his life without the church, he sees what the church can offer.

In a culture of ideas and information, the church has something to offer that is not available elsewhere.

Loving relationships. That's our promise point, our greatest contribution. Care, compassion, love. As Paul wrote "the greatest of these is love" (see 1 Corinthians 13:13).

It's not our depth of understanding, our faultless practice or our apologetic weapons that will carry the day. It's our love. Now, of course, having a solid logical basis for faith is helpful, especially in seasons of doubt. But it will not convert the masses as we once believed it would. We need more love. The world needs examples of self-sacrificing, others-focused love.

"Put simply, we Adventists can have the best biblical arguments, an in-depth understanding of Bible prophecy and engaging presentations, but we will fail to make a difference in the world if love is not at the core of what we do," said Pastor Bruce Manners, author of *The Command*, a book that explores the love commands of Jesus in the New Testament.

That's the central teaching of the apostles Paul and John. And, of course, of Jesus.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34,35).

So how do people know you? What do they think of when they think of you? If they were filling out a survey about you, would they tick the loving box when describing your character? The early Christians upended the world with their radical compassion and love. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can join them.



INSIGHT:

## A shared vision

Terry Johnson  
Australian Union Conference president

I share a vision for our members, churches, schools and aged care in Australia with the apostle Paul who, writing to the Christians in Rome in the context of end-time events, wrote this shared vision as it's found in Romans 13:9-11:

"Love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this (LOVE), understanding the present time!"

Maybe you are troubled or disturbed at the mean, ugly spirit of anger, distrust, cynicism, verbal or written abuse that permeates like a miasma onto our social media posts, radio and TV broadcasts, newspapers, public discourse and personal conversations. Everyone is an expert, and no-one is a fool, clearly!

Paul in Galatians 5:19-21 states, "Hatred, discord, fits of rage, dissension, factions . . . I warn you that those who live like this will NOT inherit the kingdom of God."

That gives pause to ask some questions: do we behave and portray ourselves in that manner? What picture of God and His kingdom are we sharing in our private, public and online lives . . . or even our churchy lives? Is Christ being lifted high and magnified in them all? How does one know?

Paul goes on in Galatians 5:22 to tell us exactly how to know if the vision is being fulfilled, as people with God, manifest in speech, comportment, behaviour and habits the fruit of the Spirit: "Love, patience, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, self-control . . . against these there is no law!"

Imagine what an impacting witness that is when it's genuinely exhibited in our families, work, play and church. That kind of love makes an impact because it's so different from the norm and there is only one way to make it a reality.

"Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (Romans 13:14).

When we value the Holy Spirit and receive His fruit, who can stop us from being the vision that Paul and I share? Let me challenge you to share our end-time message within this loving context.






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Dr Sven Östring, Dr Nick Kross and Julian Archer.

## New appointed leaders to equip and empower the Church in the SPD

📍 Wairoa, NSW | Juliana Muniz

Innovative and experienced leaders have been appointed to the South Pacific Division (SPD), completing the team for the new five-year cycle.

Following the Division Executive Committee (DEC) meetings held in July, where several new appointments were made, the DEC met again on August 11 to make two final appointments.

After prayerful discussion, the committee nominated Dr Sven Östring as the SPD director of Ministry and Strategy and Dr Nick Kross as the SPD director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) and associate director of Ministry and Strategy.

Dr Östring was serving as director of church planting in the North New South Wales Conference (NNSW), where he developed a church multiplication strategy and a number of church planting resources.

"Sven is an experienced pastor, chaplain and church planter and has led the Western Australian, Greater Sydney and NNSW conferences in church planting," said SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend.

"His passion for innovative ways to share the gospel and disciple people for Jesus in these last days will be contagious."

Joining him in the Ministry and Strategy team as associate director is Dr Kross, who will also fill the role of PARL director. With 34 years of ministry

experience, Dr Kross had been serving the SPD in the Discipleship Ministries Team for the past six years.

"Because of Nick's extensive experience as a departmental director in the SPD, he is one of the best known Adventists in the Pacific," Pastor Townend said. "He has met many government leaders, politicians and country leaders in the events he has run in the past. Nick has a heart for sharing the distinct Adventist message in the public sphere."

Among the appointments made at the DEC meetings in July, Julian Archer has been selected as the new SPD stewardship director. He will replace Christina Hawkins, who has accepted the role of mission integration director at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

Mr Archer is currently the NNSW project manager and stewardship director and has extensive experience in business.

"Julian is a businessman of experience who has a heart for ministry," said Pastor Townend. "He has written a book on stewardship and travelled the world sharing workshops on the topic. His ability to teach business skills and use the resources of land for production of resources are some of the things that the Church in the SPD is requesting, and Julian has the experience and knowledge to deliver this."



Pastor Mike Sikuri and other community leaders feature in the campaign.

## SPD secretary features in vaccination campaign

📍 Christchurch, NZ | Tracey Bridcutt

South Pacific Division secretary Pastor Mike Sikuri is featured in a New Zealand public awareness campaign promoting COVID-19 vaccination.

Pastor Sikuri is among a number of Pasifika leaders featured in posters and billboards in the "Covid Champions" campaign that's being run by the Tangata Atumotu Trust, a non-government organisation supporting Pasifika communities. The campaign is aimed at encouraging Pacific peoples to consider

vaccination as a way of protecting their communities.

"Our Pasifika folk are one of the high-risk groups for contracting and becoming seriously ill with COVID-19, so the Tangata Atumotu Trust asked a few of us to get involved. We're leading by example," said Pastor Sikuri.

He was the first "Covid Champion" to roll up his sleeves for vaccination, receiving his first dose at the Etu Pasifika Clinic in Christchurch on June 1.



Pastor Moaga (left) and Pastor Koro (right) receiving their certificates of appointment from the ADF.

## ADF appoints more Adventist chaplains

📍 Canberra, NSW | Lorraine Atchia

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has appointed two more Seventh-day Adventist pastors to serve as chaplains in their ranks, totalling five chaplains across the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Earlier this year Pastor Raymond Moaga became one of the youngest chaplains for the Army Reserves in South-East Queensland and Pastor Esava Koro became a chaplain for the Navy in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Pastor Moaga has wanted to be an ADF chaplain since he was a student at Avondale College in 2007.

"God has been preparing me for this. All of my previous work has given me a wealth of experience and I have grown as a person, ready for this next chapter God has given me," he said.

Since the beginning of this year, Pastor Moaga has been working as a chaplain for a state high school where he has had to change how he ministers

to the students as he cannot explicitly talk about the Bible or God.

Pastor Moaga will be looking after Army Reserve members and their families at five bases between Brisbane and Bundaberg while continuing to work as a chaplain at the state high school.

Pastor Koro has been working in ministry for more than 15 years and with a daughter in the Australian Navy, has decided to become an ADF Navy chaplain as a way to reach out to Navy personnel and those in the community.

"I want to further my sphere of responsibility in ministry, especially in ministering cross denominationally. I love being a minister for the Church, but I want to go beyond that," he explained.

"We are proud to see our pastors branch out to minister to those who defend and look after our country," said Pastor Michael Worker, Australian Union Conference general secretary.



Pastor Terry Johnson.

## New president for the Adventist Church in Australia

📍 Ringwood, Victoria | Record staff/Australian Union Conference

Pastor Terry Johnson, Pastor Michael Worker and Peter Cameron have been elected as the leadership team for the Australian Union Conference (AUC).

The elections came on the first day of the sixth AUC Constituency Meeting, August 29, conducted online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The appointment of Pastor Johnson comes after incumbent AUC president, Pastor Jorge Muñoz, indicated his intention to step aside earlier this year, expressing a desire to return to local church ministry after 16 years in church administration.

Pastor Johnson has ministered in the United States and New Zealand, was conference youth director and president of the Western Australian Conference before moving to his current role as president of the Greater Sydney Conference. Married to Kimberly for 28 years, they have two children.

"We wish Pastor Johnson and his wife Kimberly God's richest blessings as they step into this new season of

ministry," said Pastor Muñoz. "Terry is a passionate, Spirit-led leader who will continue to foster creative personal and public evangelism strategies to reach our communities."

"It is daunting but mostly it is humbling to be called to this position," said Pastor Johnson. "The time we spent in prayer as a family convinced us that this was the Lord's calling.

"Jorge is such a wise man and a great leader; he has done a great job and it will be hard to follow in his footsteps."

Pastor Worker and Mr Cameron will continue as AUC secretary and CFO, respectively, and together with Pastor Johnson will lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia over the next five years (2020-2025).

"We are looking forward to working with Terry and pray that God can use us as instruments to help further His work and be a blessing to the Church in Australia," said Pastor Worker.



*King's Kids* has become an international hit.

## King's Kids engaging families worldwide

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

A children's TV program launched by Adventist Media Australia in response to the 2020 lockdowns is now broadcast in more than 70 countries worldwide.

*King's Kids* has become an international hit over the past 12 months as it has filled a gap in quality Christian TV content for children.

Hope Channel South Pacific director Pastor Wayne Boehm said the program was designed to assist and minister to families during the first extended COVID-19 lockdowns last year and it has continued to be produced weekly since then.

Now in its seventh season, *King's Kids* is making an impact not only around the South Pacific, but in places like Thailand, Canada, Peru, the United Kingdom, Russia, the United States, Serbia and Japan. In fact, it's broadcast in more than 70 countries through Hope International.

"We are continually getting requests from various countries to use the program and have it translated in their own language," Pastor Boehm said. "The most recent request was from a local church in the Caribbean who wanted to use it as part of a Vacation Bible School program.

"*King's Kids* is also being used in Adventist schools and by local churches in their Sabbath services."

The program is a collaboration between Adventist Media, the South Pacific Division (SPD) and Abide Ministries. Created to go hand-in-hand with the GraceLink children's Sabbath school lessons, it features puppets, balloon animals, singing, craft, storytelling, health and nature segments.

"The exciting thing is that our audience is not only Adventists, but *King's Kids* is reaching a wider demographic in the community," Pastor Boehm said.

Facebook feedback demonstrates the positive impact the show is having on families. "Our girls have loved these [programs]!" posted one mum. "We now have them watch them while we do our adult Sabbath school Zoom and it's such a comfort to know they are watching something of value."

To celebrate 50 consecutive episodes of *King's Kids*, representatives from the SPD, including president Pastor Glenn Townend, visited the Cooranbong studios (NSW) where *King's Kids* is produced, and met the team behind it.

"The thing I like most about *King's Kids* is that my grandsons like the program and learn how to be a disciple of Jesus from the content," Pastor Townend said.

To view the program visit <[discover.hopechannel.com/thekingskids](https://discover.hopechannel.com/thekingskids)>.

## making headlines

### Adventist president

Seventh-day Adventist Hakainde Sammy Hichilema has been elected president of the Republic of Zambia. Mr Hichilema's message during the campaigns centred on uniting the country, which has 73 tribes, and revamping the nation's ailing economy. He has also promised to promote religious liberties for all faiths in the nation.—**Adventist Review**



### Supporting vaccination

In support of the Indonesian government's call for COVID-19 public vaccination, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the West Indonesia Union Mission collaborated with the Jakarta Local Conference and the Jakarta Adventist Doctors Association to establish a vaccination centre. The program is part of broader efforts to provide immunity for Jakarta residents during the ongoing pandemic.—**Adventist Review**

### United for Afghanistan

Major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have launched the Christians United for Afghanistan campaign. The campaign aims to call on the government to accept a special intake of an additional 20,000 Afghan refugees and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families.—**Eternity News**

### Fluffy bees

Thousands of fluffy Dawson's burrowing bees are emerging from the clay pans on Hamelin Station Reserve in Western Australia in bumper nesting colonies after a year of above-average rainfall has wildflowers blooming. According to reserve manager Michelle Judd, the larger than usual colony could be a reflection of the landscape recovering.

—**9news**



## Learning to care

For more than a decade, the ADRA Community Care Centre in Blacktown (NSW) has been providing support to some of the most vulnerable people in Sydney's western suburbs. On June 25, the Sydney Adventist School Auburn student representative council ran a fundraiser for all classes to collect non-perishable food to help ADRA Blacktown continue to provide vulnerable people in the community with vital care.

–Daniel Lavaiamat



## Student baptism

Two high school students and one primary school student were baptised at Wambul Adventist Church, Western Highlands Mission (PNG), on May 15. It is the second baptism the church has conducted since it was established by students of the state-run Tambul Secondary School in 2018. The church is composed primarily of students and teachers, and is headed by elder Philip Howel under the care of Pastor Joseph Yop and minister David Thomas. –Jackson Korave



## Mums At The Table

The Southeast Melbourne Mums At The Table group and the Personal Ministries team from Warragul Adventist Church (Vic) hosted their first ladies dinner at a local restaurant on July 29. The dinner aimed to facilitate friendship evangelism through Jesus' method, gathering 15 ladies from Warragul church and 12 from the community. The group aims to make this a regular event to reach women from the community. Find them on <facebook.com/groups/southeastmelbournematt/>

–Katherine Swift



## Name change official

It's official! Avondale University is the new name of Avondale University College. Confirmation of the change came on August 5, five weeks after the national regulator announced Avondale as the only addition to the "Australian University" category following a transition to new standards. One of the common questions vice-chancellor and president Professor Kevin Petrie receives is whether Avondale can still be a university and maintain its Christian values and Adventist ethos. "And my answer is, absolutely! We're proud of our unique character and will continue to deliver authentic, faith-based learning so that our graduates can change their world for good. Registration as an Australian university does not change this commitment." –Brenton Stacey



## Signs in every pack

Signs magazines were in all 15 food packs distributed to Fijian families affected by COVID-19 on Tuesday, August 24. This distribution of food packs has been going on for the past five weeks around Suva and Nadi, by a group of volunteers called "4 Others". Formed by the Fulton Old Scholars Association (FOSA) in Fiji to bring relief to families affected by lockdowns happening across the country, the team has distributed around 70 packs of groceries, worth \$F50, each week. –John Tausere





## Lunchtime Bible study

An Adventist schoolboy in Queensland, Australia, is conducting Bible studies during lunchtimes for his schoolmates.

A group started by 15-year-old Byron Tolhurst and some of his peers has about 40 students attending and numbers are growing weekly.

“Our student leadership team had been praying about ways we could influence and impact our school community,” said Byron, who is middle school captain at King’s Christian College on the Gold Coast.

“We identified the need for more students to be passionate about reading the Bible during their early teenage years.”

Byron is part of a Bible Discovery Reading group at his teen Sabbath school so he proposed using this Bible study method and his peers loved the idea. They held planning meetings and launched in Term 2, naming the group “Faith in Following”. The group is completely organised and led by the students.

“Students quickly began to attend, showing passion and a hunger to read the Bible,” Byron said.

“The group quickly grew in size so our leadership team decided to split into girls’ and boys’ groups of around 20.”—**Tracey Bridcutt**



## 51 baptised

Fifty-one people were baptised in Kiru Village in Papua New Guinea’s Central Province, following a week-long district camp meeting run from August 15 to 22 by Pastor Wally Kapi, Central Papua Conference’s (CPC) stewardship director. Pastor Kapi delivered messages based on the week’s theme, “God’s Final Call—I Will Go”. More than 500 church members from Maria District attended the meeting, including a few United Church members and Bahai followers. Among the 51 people who were baptised on Sabbath, August 21, were a United Church deacon, a Bahai follower and a person who had been convicted of murder. It was the highest number of people baptised in the history of Maria District.—**McValen Kaminie!**



## New president for SNZ

Pastor Ben Martin is the new president of the South New Zealand Conference. The role became vacant after Pastor Mike Sikuri was appointed secretary of the South Pacific Division. Pastor Martin was pastoring the Bishopdale church in Christchurch. Since graduating from Avondale University in 2006, he has served as an intern, school chaplain, pastor and regional pastor for the North New Zealand Conference before accepting a call to South New Zealand in 2019. “I’ve appreciated the leadership in this Conference, and its vision to know, live and serve; appreciated the leadership of Pastor Sikuri, and excited more than anything to keep working with the team on making that vision a reality,” he said.—**Tracey Bridcutt**

# Feijoas, Sex & Fatigue

Go Healthy For Good Reboots With Many Surprises

Sexual health,” replies Dr Nerida McKibben when asked what is different about the new season of *Go Healthy for Good*. “Chronic fatigue, new exercise and food sections, new format, and oh, one really big new thing! All of our previous seasons were filmed in the US. This time? We have shot the show on location here in beautiful New Zealand!”

Does a Christian channel have any business talking about sex? Dr Nerida smiles, “Listen, I am a doctor who specialises in women’s health, and the one thing I know is that Christians, just like everyone else, have our share of questions and issues with sex. Sex is part of a healthy life, but that means ensuring we deal with STIs, contraception, sexual problems and, of course, working towards an active sex life that is satisfying to both people in a relationship. God created sex, so yes, Christians more than anyone should talk about sex openly and constructively, advocating for God’s ideal and providing practical advice that deals with the realities we are faced with. If you wonder how we will do that, you will have to tune in . . . ”

Is chronic fatigue really just depression? “Of course chronic fatigue is related to depression because when a person is chronically fatigued, they often get depressed—but that does not mean they are the same thing. Lots of diseases are correlated with depression because when we feel bad physically, it takes a toll on our mental health. Chronic fatigue is a unique diagnosis that requires specific care. I have wanted to tackle chronic fatigue in a productive way on the show that really explains the issues involved and provides hope. I am so thankful that I have a physician on this season’s show who specialises in treating chronic fatigue. It is one of the most important episodes we have ever done, as this is such a massive issue.

“I said the show is shot on location in New Zealand,” continues Dr Nerida, “I should add that the food and exercise segments are shot in Australia. I hope you will forgive us for that! Seriously, we have terrific new presenters for those segments that viewers will love. And the main portion of the show is shot on location here in the Waikato district. Is there any better backdrop for a show on healthy living than the most beautiful country in the world with lots of local food from feijoas to NZ avocados? The show will be distributed globally, and as a Kiwi, I am proud to be sharing a little taste of our wonderful country with the world.”

Hope Channel New Zealand planned to shoot 13 episodes for the new season, but the filming went so well that they filmed 16 episodes. The new season of *Go Healthy for Good* first aired on Hope Channel New Zealand on September 9 and will play every Tuesday at 7:30pm. The program will also be made available to view on-demand via their website [<hopechannel.nz/>](http://hopechannel.nz/) and Facebook page once it has been broadcast.

Dr Nerida’s unique ability to communicate God’s plan for us to enjoy a happy, fulfilled and healthy life is something not to be missed. Tune in, and let your family and friends know about the new season—and go healthy for good!

**Ole Pedersen**

Manager, Hope Channel New Zealand





## Lot's wife moments

Our house was sold and I was devastated. It was autumn, not a good time to sell, but we put the house on the market for one month. If it didn't sell, we would wait until spring; and in my head that was what would happen. I'd have the winter months to sort, come to terms with moving and find another home.

But within two weeks, we had two offers. One was cash and the price we wanted. For my husband, it was an answer to prayer. His health was poor and he was no longer able to help me in our large garden or around the house. While logically I knew it was a good thing, my heart grieved. I loved my home and garden with views out over hills, and the life that I had associated with it. This was where our children had reached adulthood and friends had shared happy times with us. Living there for 18 years had given me a sense of stability that I had never had before. When people congratulated me on the sale of our house, I wanted to cry.

The settlement was just four weeks. We opted to put our goods into storage and take a trip in our caravan while we worked out where to live. As the weeks and months went by, I shed many tears. One day, when feeling sad, I realised that I was like Lot's wife. I had never understood why, when specifically told not to, she had looked back. But now I understood.

She, too, left a beautiful home,

friends and a life she loved at short notice, and could only take a few things with her. Not only that, but she left behind children and probably grandchildren. How hard that must have been. I think I would have been tempted to look back too!

My husband kept praying that the Lord would lead us to a new home: I felt too numb to pray about it. Eventually, we found a home in regional Victoria that met most of my list of requirements. My husband, who had been house searching for two years, believed it was another answer to prayer. I was still struggling with "Lot's wife moments" and wasn't so confident. However, we bought it and moved.

Then COVID-19 arrived. We were only in our home for two weeks when Australia went into lockdown. That ended our plans to join interest groups, visit family interstate and travel to the USA to meet a new grandson. Zoom Bible study on Thursday nights and Zoom church with our local pastor and church members became the social highlight of our week.

My father was in residential care in NSW and visitors were banned. When the ban was lifted, the border between NSW and Victoria remained closed. While I phoned him regularly, I felt sad that at the close of his life, visits by his family and friends were limited. Life is tough sometimes, but he never complained. Meanwhile, I indulged in Lot's wife moments—had we stayed in South

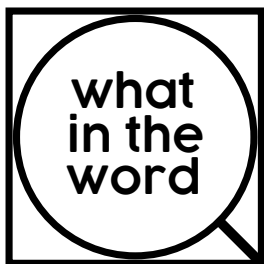
Australia, I could have visited my father more often during the last few months of his life.

Neither of us know why the Lord led us here but we have been blessed by the beauty of the area we live in, the kindness of our local church family and their spirituality. We have grown in our understanding of God and the awesomeness of what Christ has done for us, and learnt more lessons about what it means to be a follower of Christ.

When times are hard, sometimes we have to trust the prayers of others who love us. God speaks to us in many ways, and at times leads us on paths we would not have chosen. But He has promised that He will always be with us, and will give us the strength and courage to deal with the journey. When I question why and wish things could be otherwise, I have to remind myself that if we give our life plans to God "to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate" then I can trust that all will work out for the best. For, "A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust . . . Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might" (EG White, *Steps to Christ*, p70).

**Carolyn Hankins**

Retired, lives in Wangaratta, Victoria, and is enjoying watching her new garden grow.



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Avondale Seminary



## peace

noun: שָׁלוֹם | *shalom* (Hebrew)

If you have been a Christian for many years, it is likely that you have encountered the word *shalom*. It is a Hebrew word that has entered into Christian music and vocabulary. You may have heard it used as a greeting, or even sung in the chorus “Shalom, my Friend”.

The Hebrew *shalom* is frequently translated as “peace” in our English Bibles, where it is used to indicate friendly relationships between individuals (2 Samuel 3:21–23; 15:19), as well as a peaceful coexistence between nations sometimes bound by a peace treaty (Joshua 9:15; 1 Samuel 7:14). The outcome of peace is also anticipated by *shalom*. When nations experience peace, widespread trade is possible and agriculture can flourish, reducing the risk of famine and poverty. Consequently, we note that the presence of *shalom* was expected to be accompanied by economic prosperity (Proverbs 3:2), security (Isaiah 39:8) and joy (Proverbs 12:20). These associations hint at a wider meaning of *shalom* than simply the absence of strife and war.

The word *shalom* is derived from a verb which can mean to complete or make sound, and therefore it also has connotations of wholeness, and completeness. Consequently, we also find the Hebrew *shalom* also referring to general wellbeing (Psalm 35:27; Exodus

18:23), as well as health and welfare (1 Samuel 25:6; Psalm 38:3; Esther 10:3).

*Shalom* is valuable and thus is to be both sought after (Psalms 34:14; 37:37) and prayed for (Psalm 122:6). However, it is not available to everyone. Scripture declares that the wicked are denied *shalom* (Isaiah 48:22, 57:21). Instead, *shalom* is given to those who demonstrate obedience and righteousness (Psalm 119:165; Isaiah 32:17; 48:18).

Yet it is not our actions that bring about *shalom*. It is a gift of God. It is He who makes a covenant of *shalom* (Numbers 25:12; Isaiah 54:10; Ezekiel 34:25) with His people. Sin disrupted the *shalom* of God’s creation, and it is only God who can renew it. Indeed, God Himself is described as *Shalom* (Judges 6:24) and it is through Jesus Christ, that we can attain the peace, wholeness, completeness and health that is embraced in the idea of *shalom*.

This expectation is expressed in messianic prophecy. In Isaiah 9:6,7, one of the titles for Christ is the Prince of Shalom. Isaiah also predicts that this Messiah who is Himself *Shalom*, will bring about *shalom*. “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that brought us peace (*shalom*) was on him, and by his wounds we are healed”

(Isaiah 53:5, NIV). Christ’s incarnation and suffering mean that we can experience *shalom*. When we enter into a faith relationship with the Prince of Shalom, this wholeness, peace and wellbeing can be ours. We can rejoice in the promise that He “will keep in perfect peace” those who trust in Him (Isaiah 26:12).

But what is experienced now is not the fullness of *shalom*. All creation is not yet in harmony. The Old Testament prophets point forward to a time when complete *shalom* will be known; a time where nothing will destroy the peace of the kingdom of God (Isaiah 11:9). At this time the predators such as the wolves and the lions will co-exist in harmony with cattle and sheep (Isaiah 11:6–9), and God’s rule will extend across the whole earth (Zechariah 9:10).

While we wait for this glorious fulfillment, Christians are called upon to seek peace in their relationships (Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14) and call others to experience the peace and *shalom* that can be found only in Christ.

**Wendy Jackson**  
Head of Seminary,  
Avondale University





with Maryellen Hacko

# Roje Ndayambaje

*poetry*

Peace treasured  
In my chest prism  
'Cause I've bathed  
In the remnants of war.

I've seen

Shackles  
And strife  
On the grieving ones:

Those  
who carry nothing but hate  
For another bleeding being  
- unending turbulence.

ALL SHE'S EVER WANTED.  
IS FOR HER SONS  
NEVER TO BLEED  
BUT TO WRITE AND READ,  
AND WE WISH HER,  
NEVER TO PLEAD  
BUT TO DANCE IN PEACE.

● ROJÉ NDAYAMBAGE

Exploring themes of heartbreak, heaven and the human condition, Roje Ndayambaje is a talented spoken-word poet and Christian thinker whose words force readers to reflect on their own lived experiences.

Living and working full time in Newcastle (NSW), Roje says his poetry is more of a hobby these days, and he treats his writing practice as a way to “break things down and explore my thoughts. When I am writing, I am fully present.”

Roje says he has “always loved words and conversation and music with well thought-out lyrics”, but his love for poetry began in school, when his teacher introduced him to the American poet Anis Mojganis and his poem “Shake the Dust”.

“My mind was blown,” he explains. “I wanted to make people feel the way that poem made me feel. I knew God had given me a powerful story and an interesting perspective to life, and there was no better way to share that than in spoken-word poetry.”

Growing up in a refugee camp in Uganda, Roje says people really listen when he shares his honest life experiences.

“I’ve shared my poetry in many different places. I’ve shared poems about Jesus in pubs and people listened, I’ve shared my story about growing up a refugee and people paid attention. When you’re telling the truth and you’re honest in your expression, people will always gravitate to your work,” he explains.

“Poetry is a cool way to hear other people’s stories. It opens a space for people to be challenged, for them to ask questions and maybe reassess their biases and preconceived narratives.”

Reflecting on how poetry expands his relationship with God and affects him personally, Roje explains, “Writing poetry brings me closer to God because it forces me to reflect on how far God has brought me, and reassures me that He doesn’t intend to leave me.”

“God is the ultimate spoken-word artist. He literally said, ‘let there be’ and there was. The whole Bible is a big love poem,” he says.

Although lockdowns have largely prevented sharing spoken-word poetry in-person, Roje also posts poetry to his Instagram account @rojepoetry.

Although unsure of what his future holds, Roje says he would love to publish his work one day.

“I don’t have many plans, all I know is that I want to write as long as I live. I want to write about everything. Hopefully sometime soon I can publish a small collection of my words.”

Roje attends Newcastle Uni Adventist Church, NSW.

# LIVING KINGDOM

## Counting the cost

Luke 14:28–33



### The cost of discipleship

*“So don’t follow me without considering what it will cost you. For who would construct a house before first sitting down to estimate the cost to complete it? Otherwise he may lay the foundation and not be able to finish!” (Luke 14:28,29).*

For many years, faith was important to me, however it was only one of a number of things I was striving for and investing in. I was pursuing career ambitions—I’d started a couple of businesses and I loved bringing ideas to the marketplace. I was building a network around me and I working on my relationships—all at the same time. There were so many different responsibilities I had to steward, that I often found myself running around like a headless chicken.

One birthday during my mid-twenties, Dad gave me a ceramic coaster with the words, “more ideas than time”. I remember feeling irritated at receiving such a gift, annoyed at the message it conveyed because I believed I could do it all.

Not long after that my world turned upside down. While business and daily life had its usual stresses, it all came to a climax in one week. I was looking down the barrel of a failed long-term relationship, a business partnership headed to court and my car completely written-off in one of Brisbane’s worst hail storms.

Up until this point, I’d been trying to balance it all. Although my faith was important, it was caught in the mix of everything else. As I sat in my hail-shattered car that stormy afternoon, trying to process this devastating series of events, the lie that

I’d been living for so long was exposed.

I could now see that my dad’s comical gift was right—you cannot do it all.

Today’s endless pursuit of success and happiness can cost many areas of our lives that actually sustain us like rest, time with family, health, and the list goes on. . . There is a cost to our culture’s aspiration of “having it all”.

### What is the cost of discipleship?

And yet, the pursuit of a kingdom life is no less costly. Following Jesus also has a cost. But what exactly does this mean? Jesus often challenged His followers with difficult words to swallow like, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34, ESV). Ellen White shares this challenge when she says “self-denial and the cross lie directly in the pathway of every follower of Christ” (*Testimonies for the Church* 2:651).

Jesus’ challenge requires every disciple to make a measured commitment: “So don’t follow me without considering what it will cost you.” It was just prior to this that He said, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).

Jesus is sharing some jaw-dropping statements here. While His words may be an exaggerated figure of speech, He is not shying away from the declaration that there must be nothing held in greater value or priority than Jesus and His kingdom. He is not condoning actual hostility towards our family but the implication is that following Jesus must be the most important thing in human life in both words and deeds.

Jesus asked Simon and Andrew to “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). They were so impacted by this invitation that they immediately left their nets, their boats, their family business and followed Jesus. This is the call that Jesus extends to each of us—to follow Him and dedicate our lives to discipling others. What is our response?

## The cost of non-discipleship

As we consider the cost of following Jesus, a startling truth becomes apparent. “The cost of discipleship is high, but the cost of non-discipleship is even higher.”<sup>1</sup> Non-discipleship, which may also be described as nominal Christianity, feel-good Christianity, moralistic therapeutic deism or cultural Christianity, poses a threat to the deep, Spirit-filled life of living in step with Jesus.

You cannot measure the cost of discipleship unless you have measured the cost of non-discipleship. It has been wisely observed, “You don’t know how much a new car is going to cost you until you also count up how much it will cost you not to buy it.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer made this point in his classic book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, where he shared, “Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Non-discipleship robs us of the abundant life that Jesus promises us. It has been said that, “non-discipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God’s overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil.”<sup>2</sup> In short, non-discipleship costs you exactly that abundance of life Jesus said He came to bring. Described this way, it’s clear that the cost of non-discipleship is higher than the price of being a true follower of Jesus. Are we willing to count the cost?

## There is a love that is worth the cost

Jesus challenged His followers, “And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27, NLT). He goes on, “For who would construct a house before first sitting down to estimate the cost to complete it?” Further He says, “What king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counsellors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?” (Luke 14:28,33).

The cross we are being called to carry has many forms. The cost will vary for each of us. But, ultimately, carrying our cross means sacrificing our own will to His will. And this is the point Jesus is trying to illustrate—that it would be foolish to undertake an enormous endeavour, like constructing a house, building a tower or waging a war, without considering the cost to see if you have the sufficient means to complete the venture. So, too, with being a disciple of Jesus. He is impressing upon each of us: Consider carefully what it would mean to be a disciple of Jesus and count the cost.

And this is the big idea: The life you gain in the kingdom as a disciple is more valuable than the stuff you have to give up. The cost of discipleship fades into the background as we consider the all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the

universe and His gift of salvation. This gift is both absolutely free and yet it costs us our very lives. We receive it freely but once we receive it, we commit everything we are and have to Jesus Christ.

Yet this idea of discipleship costing us something is not about us doing more. Following Jesus is about surrender—it’s about Him having more and more of us. Discipleship is a continual transformation to becoming more like Jesus. “The disciple is one who, intent upon becoming Christ-like and so dwelling in his ‘faith and practice’, systematically and progressively rearranges his affairs to that end.”<sup>1</sup>

## The cost is worth living

As I’ve allowed Jesus to have more and more of my life, my priorities have changed. I am no longer driven by the need to “do it all and have it all”. I have counted the cost and my heart is set on pursuing the kingdom life. In doing so, my eyes have been opened so that I am starting to see what Jesus sees. He places kingdom value on “the one”: the one person, the one conversation, the one life. Jesus leaves the 99 and searches for the one who is lost. He doesn’t stop until He finds them and then when the one is found, He celebrates with exuberant joy (Luke 15:4–7). As His disciples, He invites us to do the same.

The cost of discipleship could mean reprioritising your schedule. It could mean sacrificing that Netflix series. It could cost you your career as you live in harmony with His ways. It could mean making room at your table during “family time”. It could mean closing your mouth and listening instead. It could cost you financially. Or it could cost you friendships as you prioritise “the one”.

It could be making that phone call; it could be leaning in and talking to your neighbour as you walk past even if you are in a hurry; it could be actually catching up with that old friend; it could be simply being curious and listening to someone share their story; it could be inviting them to share a Friday night/Sabbath with you and your family.

Discipleship has a cost. The kingdom life begs us to contend with our priorities. But this cost pales in comparison to the love that Jesus offers us when He says “Follow me”. He offers the incredible gift of His grace. And the honour of journeying with the “lost ones”—becoming a fisher of men—as He beckons them home.

1. Dallas Willard (2006), *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship*.

2. D Willard (1988), *The Spirit of the Disciplines*.

### Martin van Rensburg

Marketing professional who loves sowing into the next generation in Brisbane, Qld.



# The gift of water



I love water. I cannot say this emphatically enough. I just love water! I have always loved it in all its forms. Water is my element. Until the age of 22, I lived in Warsaw, the capital of Poland.

Warsaw is landlocked, located in the centre of Poland. So, my favourite summer holidays were always on the shores of the Baltic Sea, some 600km north of Warsaw. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poland owns a campground that is situated within walking distance of the Baltic Sea. Lucky for me, my dad was the Polish Union youth director, which meant that he was often in charge of the annual youth camps held at that campground. So, from the youngest age—regardless of the age group of young people attending—I was allowed to go.

Getting to the Baltic Sea was a ritual in itself. We would jump on an overcrowded train and travel north all night. Sometimes, because of crowding, we would stand in the carriage corridor. After arriving, we would walk several kilometres to the campground and then spend glorious summer days on the beach, frolicking in the sea.

During summer days in Warsaw, I would spend endless hours in the public pool. Later on, I became a lifeguard and worked several hours a week at the pool, which meant I could swim for free. Sadly, during long Polish winters, my love affair with water was reduced to hours in the bathtub.

As a young adult, I immigrated to Australia with the purpose of studying theology at Avondale College. Australia was far more attractive to me than Newbold College, UK, for one reason: I'd heard that while Australia consisted mostly of deserts, the majority of its population lived within an hour's drive of the ocean. So, I arrived in 1986 and immediately fell in love with Australia's magnificent beaches. During summer days, if I was not packing Weet-Bix at the Sanitarium factory, I spent my time swimming in the ocean, often for many hours a day. To this day I love the ocean, although I also maintain a healthy respect for it.

Later, when I studied at Andrews University, I discovered that there was more to water than I'd originally thought. Everyone knows that water is the most abundant molecule on Earth. It is also the strangest. This omnipresent, seemingly boring substance is puzzling to scientists, because it defies the rules of physics and chemistry. For example: water is the only substance on Earth that exists naturally in three different states: solid, liquid and gas.

One of the strangest characteristics of water shows up every time you drop an ice cube into a drink. Think about it for a moment: it is a solid floating in its own liquid. If ice cubes sank instead of floating, we would not consider it an anomaly; we would just stir our drinks to keep the upper part cool. However, without this property of water, there would be no drinks to stir and no-one to do so, because there would be no life on Earth, because if water froze from the bottom up, it would kill the ecosystems living in lakes and oceans.

The most important characteristic of water is its necessity to the survival of all living organisms: 71 per cent of the earth's surface is covered with water, 70 per cent of an adult's body is made up of water and 85 per cent of the adult brain is water. No water = no life. Water was specifically engineered by God to sustain life.

Thus, it is not surprising that water is found everywhere in Scripture, from beginning to end. In Genesis 1:2 we are told that "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" and water is abundant in the Garden of Eden. At the end of this earth's history, water shows up again. John tells us in Revelation 22:1, "Then the angel showed me



the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." And a little later, in verse 17, we find these words: "Whoever is thirsty, let them come; and whoever wishes, let them take the free gift of the water of life." Note: the gift is free—hold this thought as we'll be coming back to it.

Altogether, water is mentioned in Scripture 722 times. That's a lot.

There is one book in the Bible, the Gospel of John, that totally overflows with water. In this Gospel, water is everywhere, from beginning to end: Jesus is baptised in water; He changes water into wine; He asks the Samaritan woman for water and tells her about the water of life—"If you drink this water," He says, "you will never thirst again"; He heals beside water; He heals with water—the blind man is told to wash his eyes in water; He walks on water; He moves in a boat on water; He washes His disciples' feet in water; when the soldiers thrust a spear into Jesus' side, there is water and blood; and just before His departure, He tells the disciples to throw their nets into the water, and the fish are in the water.

It is in chapter 7, however, that Jesus makes His most significant statements about water. In verses 37,38 He says, "let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink" and "whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow within them".

Jesus speaks these words at a very important time for the Jewish people—during the feast of tabernacles (*Sukkoth*). Among other things, this feast was a great celebration of water. The purpose of the feast was thanksgiving and remembrance. The Jewish people were invited to thank God for His protection and care during their journey out of Egypt and for the water He provided. It was thanksgiving for the gift of life.

The last day of the feast could be considered a water libation ceremony. The priests would walk down to the Pool of Siloam with great pomp and ceremony, accompanied by music, dancing and the sound of *shofars*. The priests would then pour water into golden vessels and, with the same fanfare, return to the temple. The water was then poured into one of two silver bowls. The other held wine (remember the water and blood coming out of Jesus' side after He died?). At the end of the ceremony, the water and wine were poured out onto the ground as a sign of gratitude to God, for His protection and for the gift of water. It was during this time of celebration and thanksgiving that Jesus chose to say these words: "let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink."

His listeners were invited to turn their attention away from *Sukkoth* and toward the Giver of the free gift of the water of life. We know, of course, that throughout Scripture, water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says this Himself in John 7:39: "By [water] he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive; up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

The Gospel of John has deep textual roots in the book of Ezekiel. If you read both books carefully, you will be left with no doubt that John must have been a careful student of Ezekiel. There are just so many parallels. One example will suffice here. In John 3:5, Jesus states: "No-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

This passage is a double reference to the Holy Spirit and a clear echo of the magnificent promise found in Ezekiel 36:25-27: "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities . . . I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

I want you to just pause and think about these words for a moment. Who is doing all the work here? I will sprinkle water on you (John 3:5); I will cleanse you from all your impurities; I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh; I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Like the Pharisees, and like Nicodemus, I grew up in a somewhat obedience-oriented environment. The most common message I heard at church was that, if I wanted to gain God's favour, I needed to be obedient. I needed to be baptised. I needed to keep the Commandments. I needed to be good.

This is not what the Bible teaches. What we find in Scripture—both the Old and New Testaments—is that the work of transformation is all God's work. He is the Author and Finisher of our salvation (Hebrews 12:2). He is the great I AM of the book of Ezekiel and the Gospel of John, who works for us and in us. The same God who opened the rock and let the water flow wants us to receive the free gift of the water of life. Today! All you and I need to do is allow Him.

So, I have some questions for you: Have you been sprinkled with God's water today? Have you been cleansed by Him from all your impurities? Are you open to the voice of the Holy Spirit today? When you open your heart to Jesus, He makes a promise to you that no matter where you've been, no matter what you've done, no matter the errors you've made, no matter the pain or guilt you carry, He will do all that He promised through the prophet Ezekiel.

In conclusion, I leave you with a two-fold challenge:

First, drink lots of water. Not soft drinks, tea or coffee—they don't count. Just plain water (herbal tea is also fine). It will be good for you. Your productivity will increase, your thoughts will be clearer, you'll accomplish more and have greater strength to resist temptation. Water is God's gift to you. Drink it to your health.

And second, thank Jesus for the gift of the living, transforming water of the Holy Spirit every time you sip water. As you drink, stop to imagine that you're being filled with the Holy Spirit. May this act of drinking and visualising symbolise your openness to allowing the Holy Spirit to touch every part of your daily life; every activity and interaction; every task; every phone call, email and social media post. As a Church, we've been called to fulfil an important task: to proclaim the nearness of God's kingdom. This cannot be accomplished without water—both physical and spiritual. So drink up and fulfil the mission of God.

**Darius Jankiewicz**

Field/ministerial secretary, South Pacific Division



## No-bake oat bites

Make a batch of these loaded energy-bites and keep them in the fridge or freezer for a quick treat!

### Ingredients

- 2 Weet-Bix™, crushed
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup rolled oats
- 1 cup Sanitarium™ Natural Peanut Butter, smooth or crunchy
- 1 cup dried pitted dates, diced (150g)
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup boiling water
- Pinch of salt

### Method

1. In a large bowl, pour boiling water over dates and set aside for 5 minutes until cool. Use a fork to roughly mash dates and liquid to a paste.
2. Add peanut butter to dates and stir well. Add Weet-Bix™ and oats, stir again until mixture comes together into a dough.
3. Line base and two sides of a 20cm tin with a strip of baking paper. Press mixture into pan. Refrigerate for 1 hour.
4. Remove from pan and cut into 36 squares (6 x 6). Store in fridge or freezer.

### Tips:

- Dough can also be rolled into balls, rather than cut into bites, if preferred.
- Fresh medjool dates can be used in place of dried dates; remember to remove pits.

Subscribe to receive free weekly recipe inspiration:

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## Are wholegrains the new health hero?

Grains sometimes get a bad wrap, but it's just a case of mixed messages and misinformation about low-carb diets since the nineties. However, not all grains are the same and when it comes to health benefits, quality is key. Eating more wholegrains and cutting back on refined grain is one of the easiest switches you can make to improve your diet and reap the benefits.



### The health benefits of wholegrains

Choosing wholegrains could help you achieve a smaller waist, a flat belly, healthier heart and a happier gut—and that's just the start. Research links a diet high in wholegrains with a vast array of health benefits that can help you live longer and healthier.

### Wholegrains versus refined grains

In processing refined grains, the bran and germ are removed which results in a loss of up to 70 per cent of the grain's beneficial nutrients. Swapping out refined grains (like white bread and white rice) for wholegrains (like grainy bread and brown rice) is a simple way that you can protect your body and improve overall health and wellbeing.

Did you know? By just eating 2-3 serves of wholegrains each day, you can reduce your risk of developing chronic disease by 20-30 per cent!

### 5 simple wholegrain tips and swaps

1. Top your smoothie bowl with a generous sprinkle of wholegrain breakfast cereal.
2. Add on-trend grains quinoa or buckwheat to a salad.
3. Switch white pasta and rice for wholemeal pasta and brown rice.
4. Choose wholegrain bread or wraps.
5. Try wholegrain crackers with peanut butter or avocado as an afternoon snack.



# Conversations

## Less dividing

I picked up a copy of August 7, and was shocked and deeply disappointed by the tone of the cover article "United or Divided?".

It smacks very clearly of triumphalism and is a quite immature depiction of "our good guy" defeating the "bad guys".

A more temperate reporting of the events would be to say that Pastor Sabadi Sabadi fell foul of divisions within the United Church (which is a very unfortunate situation), and he found a home where he could comfortably express his faith within Adventism. On second thoughts, why report it at all?

Is it further promulgating the "us and them" mentality, which teaches that the Adventists are the only ones saved?

I was brought up in the Adventist denomination and went through the school systems. However, for many years I have been worshipping in other parts of the Christian family. My faith has grown and been greatly nourished by God's different people that I have fellowshiped with. I get along extremely well with the local Adventist pastor; and we are most impressed with the Christian education that our grandchildren are getting at the Adventist school.

**Neville Windeyer, NSW**

## Free gift

Re: "The three angels said what?" (Record eNewsletter, August 27).

Whenever the word "judgement" is

used by Adventists, I shudder because it is given a connotation that God is at a table with a heap of books to help in His research of our lives before allowing us to enter the kingdom—thanks to the pictures in *The Bible Story* by Uncle Arthur.

To me now, that is far from how I understand God. He made us perfect and loves us so much He wants us to live eternally. His only purpose for our lives is to hear from us that we accept His free gift of salvation. The judgement is about US judging God and telling Him we want His salvation.

**Colin Spain, via email**

## Leadership styles

In "Leaders bleed" (August 7), the author writes of "an increase in the ferocity of criticism towards church leaders by small groups of members".

From the perspective of one who has been involved in the administration of Adventist educational institutions for almost four decades, I think I can understand the concern. We must all remember that as Christians our faith requires us to act and speak as Christ would. We must be courteous and kind even when we don't agree with an administrator. There is no excuse for unkind, hateful and slanderous posts on social media and other digital channels.

However, there is another side to this issue. The Bible model of leadership is that the administrator is a shepherd of the flock, and a servant leader. The worldly model of leadership has the administrator more akin

to a politician. In this model the leader seeks to generate support for his/her agenda, and evaluates criticism to determine whether it represents a threat to his program or is only a minority view. If it is a minority, he simply ignores it and pushes ahead with his agenda. Unfortunately, when church administrators follow the political model, they create frustration among those they consider to be expendable. It is these groups that then react by any means at their command.

I would suggest if administrators wish to minimise damaging criticism, they take a serious look at their administrative style and behave like the Good Shepherd—like servants—to the church membership, responding in love and compassion when members raise issues of concern. They might then find that the harsh criticism melts away.

After all, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a spiritual entity, and administrative decisions must always take into account how members feel about issues and how the finances involved can best be used to bring people to Christ.

Administrators must also be faithful to the main reason for which the Seventh-day Adventist Church exists—to preach the three angels' messages and prepare people to meet a soon-coming Lord.

May the Lord grant sanctified wisdom to our administrators at all levels.

**Allan Sonter, Qld**

Hi kids!

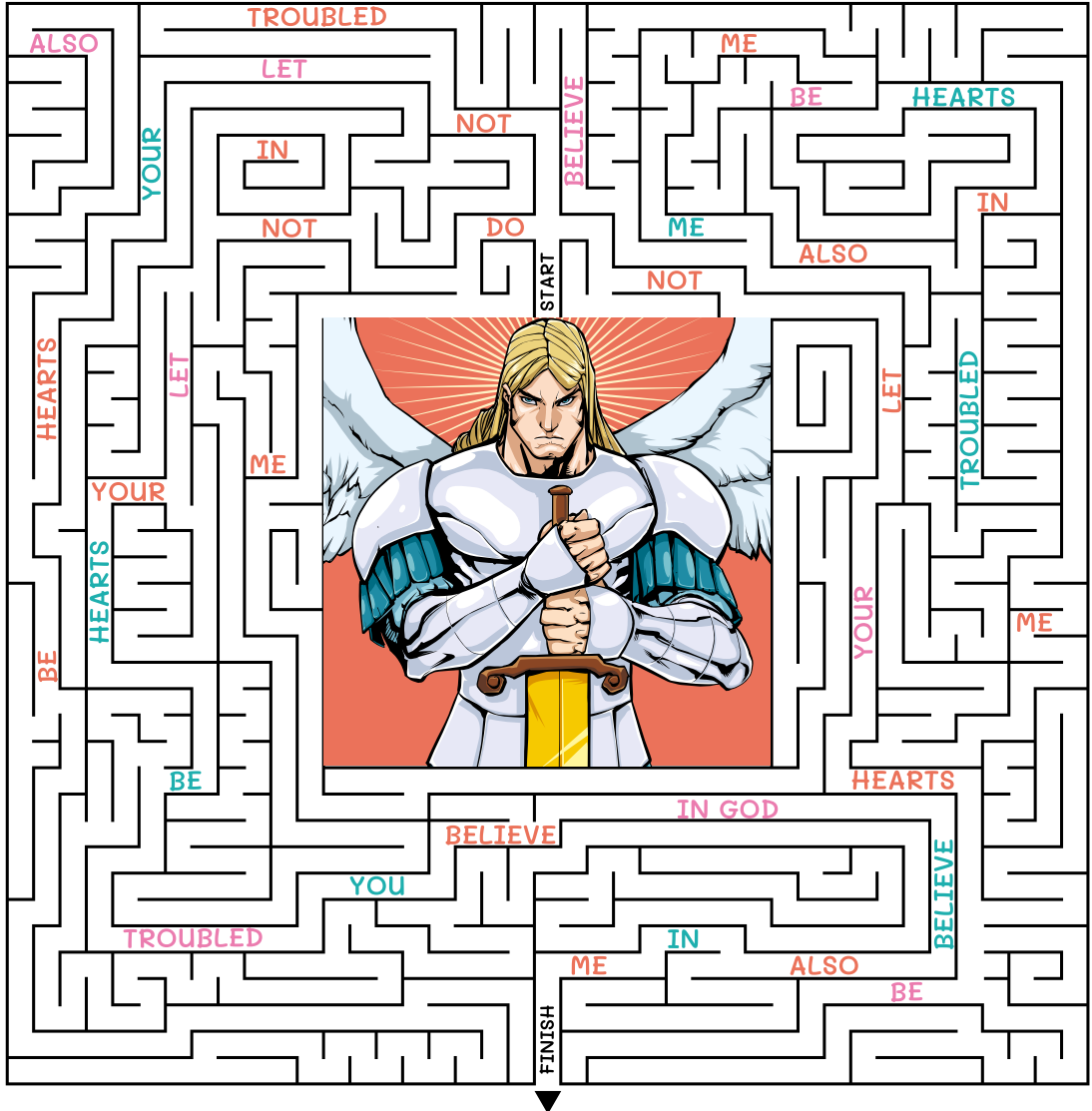
We can worship our awesome God every day.



# WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

After crossing the Jordan, Joshua goes to a place where he can see Jericho and seeks the Lord's help. The Commander of heaven's armies appears before him with a drawn sword. Joshua asks, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" After the Commander identifies Himself, Joshua falls down and worships, and asks what message the Lord has for him. The Lord commands him to take off his sandals, for the place where he is standing is holy. Our awesome God is bigger and more powerful than any problem or obstacle in our everyday lives. Our "Jerichos" are merely an opportunity for God to again demonstrate His power and love. He invites us to respond daily to His love by giving our lives to Him as an act of worship—choosing each day to let Him be Lord of our lives.

MAKE A PATH THROUGH THE MAZE AND PLACE THE WORDS IN THE BLANKS TO FIND OUT THE MEMORY TEXT.



MEMORY TEXT: " \_\_\_\_\_ "

(John 14:1).

## Obituaries

**HARDMAN**, Noel Rodney, born 14.6.1935 in Canterbury Hospital, Sydney, NSW; died 4.9.20 in Blacktown Hospital, Sydney. On 14.6.1979 he married Kay in Lakemba church. Noel is survived by his wife (North Epping); son, Rodney (Campbelltown); daughter Carolyn Curtin (Durong, Qld); sister, Dorothy Crompton (Port Macquarie, NSW); and brother, Robert (West Pymble). Noel started the St George Pathfinder club where there were many happy memories for all the club members. He was also a district director for the Sydney region.

Nigel Ackland

**HENDRIKSE**, Phyllis Joy, born 6.10.1939; died 27.5.21 in AdventCare, Warburton, Vic. In 1958 she married Harry Jones and in 1965 she married Neil Raven. On 8.3.08 she married Hank. She was predeceased by her children, Jacqueline Raven and Barry Raven. She was also predeceased by her sisters, Joan and Pauline. Phyllis is survived by her husband; daughter, Deborah; son, Mark; sister, Faye; seven grandchildren; and eight

grandchildren. Phyllis and Hank met as singers, were soul mates and never argued. She was a world class singer but modest about her gift. Her wit and warm Christian nature brought her much love. She was a friend and counsellor to many.

Yong Shin Chee



**JACKSON**, Raymond (Bruce), born 8.6.1936 in Dunedin, NZ; died 3.7.21 in Newcastle, NSW. On 19.3.1957 he married Heather Ball in Papanui church, NZ. Bruce is survived by his wife, Heather; daughter, Angela; son, Greer; daughter-in-law, Vernita; and grandchildren, Isabella and William. From 1953, Bruce served in a number of accounting roles for Sanitarium Health Food NZ before transferring to the Australasian Division office in 1970. He served as associate secretary ACA Ltd from 1973 until his retirement in 1996. He was instrumental in establishing the SDA Church Central Bank.

Abel Iorgulescu



**JAYE**, Kylie (Fehlberg, Humphries) born 5.5.1972 in Sydney, NSW; died 25.3.21 in

Gold Coast, Qld. Kylie is survived by her parents, Nerilie and Terry Humphries; siblings, Ian and Jodi (Mackay), Zac and Dora (Port Macquarie, NSW), Keaton and Jess (Wallsend) and Jaidan (Cooranbong); and nieces and nephews, Ezekiel, Jakobe, Zayah, Zion, Azariah, Ezrah and Annabelle. Kylie enjoyed an extraordinary career as a television presenter, producer, author and entrepreneur. She had a passion for health and fitness and produced and presented various media programs centred around this theme, including for the Church. A shining light, gone too soon.

Tim Merritt



**STILINOVIC**, Sylvia Jocelyn (nee Driver), born 30.5.1956, died 6.3.2021. Sylvia is survived by her husband, John; daughter, Emma; and sister, Pam. We grieve her passing, our precious life companion, mummy and sissy. Sylvia was an entrepreneur, innovative children's Sabbath school teacher, world traveller, designer, decorator, prayer warrior, Adventist Media worker and all-round beautiful lady. She leaves an amazing legacy to so

many who will miss her sacrificial and forever giving spirit, her amazing creativity, her delicious cooking, and so much more. Resting peacefully until the Saviour Jesus calls her name at the resurrection of life.

Pam Driver, Miroslav Stilinovic



**TANGINOVA**, Amelia Lataanga (nee Kie'eteau), born 4.11.1953 in Tonga; died 26.5.21 in Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, NSW. In 1977 she married Mesake. Lata is survived by her husband; children, Tevita, Ma'ama, Ika, Sione, Maka and Takilesi; 19 grandchildren; and sister, Anaini. Lata was the daughter of a Wesleyan church pastor and enjoyed family life in Tonga, Niue, New Zealand and Australia. She was taught the traditional ways of a healer, used her gift of music in leading her family and church in worship, and was happy to share her blessings and gifts wherever she went. Lata was a giving and loving mother and grandmother.

Fine Teapua, Manu Latu

**ZAPIEC**, Piotr Jan, born 24.6.1969 in Aleksandrow-Kujawski, Poland; died 5.7.21 in

**Postponed**  
Avondale Memorial Church celebration has been postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19



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University Gold Coast Hospital, Qld. On 26.9.1996 he married Inez Goralska. He is survived by his wife (Tamborine). Piotr was a quiet, modest, strong and steadfast man who lived his life generously. He had the gift of hospitality and he and his wife loved to help others, including major support of a charity for Thai children. Piotr searched diligently for answers to life's questions and once he found biblical truth he committed to it wholeheartedly.

Wolfgang Stefani

## Advertising

### 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.

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### 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@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>, even if you have already paid for your funeral.

### AVONDALE FAMILY FUNERALS

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

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### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, PRESCOTT PRIMARY NORTHERN PARA VISTA, SA

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SA) Ltd is seeking an experienced deputy principal for Prescott Primary Northern commencing in January 2022. The current school leadership consists of a principal and two deputy principals, and it is one of these two positions that will be available next year. The primary role of the deputy principal position is to co-manage the day-to-day workings of the school. The successful candidate will also need to support the spiritual and academic program of the school, with an emphasis on developing purposeful relationships with staff, students and parents. This is an outstanding opportunity to join a successful educational institution with an expanding school enrolment. For more details on this position and how to apply, please go to <adventist.edu.au/careers> and view the current vacancies in South Australia. **Applications close September 28, 2021.**



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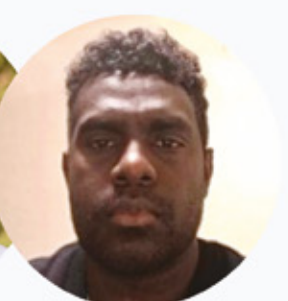
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