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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hope in Him

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

Looking forward to Jesus' return should be an event filled with anticipation and joy.

Finally getting back to South Australia just before Christmas was my highlight of 2021. For more than a year, I hadn't seen my family; my daughter had only met her grandparents once. The anticipation, the excitement, the relief all combined to melt away the stress and anxious moments of the past two years. Watching the cousins play—laugh, squeal, chase each other—has helped heal the hurt of separation. Most of the communication is non-verbal but easily understood; it is the universal language of play.

One problem with the past two years has been cancelled plans, with expectations delayed and nothing to look forward to. It has had a profound effect on people's wellbeing.

Looking forward to Jesus' return should be an event filled with anticipation and joy. The hope that we have, that Jesus will return just as He has promised, is something that should fill us with joy and positive expectations. It should impact the way we live and fuel our resilience.

While things in the world seem grim, there is no need to focus on interpreting signs and trying to “read the tea leaves” of end-time events. Many Adventists are missing the point as they protect themselves from the world and obsess over eschatology. They listen to “carefully devised fables” and run after tenuous connections behind world events that are unverified or spread by those with no checks and balances, no accountability.

The anticipation of Jesus' return should make us focus on following His path set out before us, His commandments (yes, the Sabbath is important) and keeping them. However Jesus emphasised loving God and loving others. Jesus, the same Jesus who we wait in anticipation for, showed us how to live in His kingdom in the here and now.

Every few years I find myself writing something on Jesus' second coming, as much a reminder for myself as for the church.

The reunion on that day is something we all long to be part of: to have our hurts healed and to meet those loved ones lost over the years. But how we live now will determine how that morning finds us. What we focus on now will determine whether we are fit for heaven. We must not be distracted by controversies and conflict with each other. The church's witness is eroded by our actions. Our beliefs are only as real to people as the way we practise them.

We know love in the form of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the love they have modelled for us. And yet, if we ourselves don't demonstrate that self-sacrificial love, if our love looks more like worldly love, cloaked in religious rhetoric, then we are not in fact loving at all. Instead we are white-washed tombs.

“Is not this the fast that I choose; to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?” (Isaiah 58:6,7)

Jesus reiterates: “For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me . . . Truly I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” (Matthew 25).

I am preaching to myself. I know those who have been involved in ADRA and soup kitchens—they have helped the needy during these trying times. They have not let global events distract them from loving their neighbour. I should be doing the same. So should you.

While the reunion with family we've experienced during the past few weeks has been joyful, it will be nothing compared to the reunion with our loved ones on that wonderful morning. This new year let's live like we have a hope in Jesus. Let us share the hope and love of Jesus in our communities and let's make the world ready for His return.



INSIGHT:

Weeding out sin

Tracey Bridcutt
South Pacific Division
communication director

This summer we've experienced quite a bit of rainfall where I live in Sydney. And that's a good thing after the record high temperatures and bushfire emergencies of recent summers. What I'm particularly appreciating is the effect the rainfall is having on our garden. It's flourishing. Lawns that would usually be dry and crunchy under foot are lush and green. Plants that normally only produce flowers in spring are providing a second round of glorious blooms. It's a joy to behold!

But there is a downside—weeds are thriving in the conditions as well. And there's one weed I find particularly annoying. It's a type of climbing vine that seemingly operates by stealth via an underground network sending up shoots all over our garden. One of the vine's sneaky tricks is sending its thin woody stem up the middle of another plant, making it difficult to spot. When it reaches the top of the plant it spreads its canopy over it. Try pulling out the vine and it puts up a fight, its tendrils clinging to the other plant. Usually the stem snaps, which means any initial victory is short-lived because the remaining section of the stem will regrow. Quite an effective survival tactic!

Pulling out yet another section of the vine this week got me thinking about how it is a lot like sin. Like the vine, sin can start off as something small and hard to spot—we may even try to hide it—but it will eventually grow and become invasive.

While we may not like to admit it, sometimes we cling onto our sins, finding it hard to let them go. Perhaps we may think that a sin is in the past, but its insidious shoots have re-emerged in our life. Whatever the case may be, it's more important than ever as we launch into the new year to stay connected to the "true vine" (John 15), the One who is patiently waiting for an invitation to lovingly weed out the sins in our lives and provide us with hope for the future.



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Naomi Booia and Pastor Epeli Saukuru.

Historic appointment in the Trans Pacific

📍 Tarawa, Kiribati | Tracey Bridcutt

The Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Executive has appointed Naomi Booia as the secretary of Kiribati Mission—the first female secretary appointed within the TPUM.

Ms Booia, who is currently a theology lecturer at Fulton Adventist University College, will take up her appointment in the middle of this year. She graduated from Fulton in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in theology. She worked in Kiribati Mission from 2013-2016, then attended the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies where she graduated with a Masters in Religion in 2018.

“Being called to a new role is a great challenge to me but after reflecting on God’s leading in my life, I am now confident to take up this opportunity,” said Ms Booia. “I would like to thank God for His amazing plans for me and my family. I also want to thank the church administration for the appointment.”

She is married to Iareta Titau and they have a son.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga welcomed the appointment. “For me, this is a great achievement for

our work in Kiribati,” he said.

“We are short with pastors in Kiribati and Naomi will be a role model for our women to step up to a pastoral role which will boost the work in Kiribati. There are lots of women in Kiribati who are contributing to the running of the government and private sectors, why not within the Church?”

Fiji Mission also has a new secretary following the recent appointment of Pastor Epeli Saukuru to the role.

He replaces Dr Ronald Stone who will be joining Fulton College as head of the theology department.

Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa expressed his delight with the appointment. “I believe that this appointment has the seal of God’s anointing and I would like to request your support and prayers for Pastor Epeli as he takes on his new role at the Mission,” Pastor Lutunaliwa said.

Pastor Saukuru is married to Lowata and they have three daughters, Tokasa, Merewalesi and Rosi, and a son, Ratu Timoci.



PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani and local mission presidents with copies of the strategic plan.

PNGUM’s new strategic plan launched by Prime Minister

📍 Lae, Papua New Guinea | Jacqueline Wari

To start the year with mission alignment, the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) launched its strategic plan for the quinquennium on December 1 at the Dame Rose Kekedo Convention Centre, PNG University of Technology.

Prime Minister James Marape was invited to virtually join the meeting where he launched the PNGUM Strategic Plan for 2022-2025.

Before launching the plan, Mr Marape challenged church members to own and relate to the plan.

“I am happy that the Church has a plan. This plan can be intergenerational and church members must embrace it,” he said.

Mr Marape said he was happy to see the Church’s plan for distance education, technical vocational education training

and a hospital in or near Port Moresby.

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend encouraged everyone to make the strategic plan work.

“Don’t keep it on your desk or shelf. Keep it in your mind, soul and body. Make it happen for the glory of God,” Pastor Townend said.

Meanwhile, PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani appealed to all partners to own the plan.

“Take this plan as yours. You must own, grow and embrace it,” he said.

The new strategic plan will enable the Church to wholistically touch people’s lives, including church-goers, through its four arenas: mission, service, people and culture, and wholistic sustainable empowerment.



A recent baptism in Samoa. (Credit: Samoa and Tokelau Adventist Mission Facebook page)

Samoa records highest growth

📍 Apia, Samoa | Tracey Bridcutt

A focus on the community has helped the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Samoa record the highest growth in the Trans Pacific Union Mission.

Every second month the Church allocates a Sabbath to community outreach where church members visit homes, pray for the household and conduct family worship. If they see a need, they will return to the home during the week to help out. Street preaching is one of the other activities held on these special Sabbaths.

The community outreach is part of the Church in Samoa's commitment to the harvest model of disciple-making. Every Samoan church has been busy following this model of preparing the soil, sowing the seed, cultivating the plants, harvesting and multiplying. And it's having a big impact as it encourages members to move out of their churches and into the community where disciple-making is happening.

According to the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) year-end report, Samoa has recorded an average growth in baptisms of 7.4 per cent over the past 10 years, the highest of all TPUM missions.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said these results are a clear sign that God is blessing the work in Samoa.

"Samoa Mission's number of baptisms was 830 for this year," he said. "This is a fantastic result that can only happen when the Holy Spirit is upon the work."

Samoa Mission president Pastor Sione Ausage reiterated the importance of the community outreach. Members have visited hospitals and health clinics, prisons and aged care facilities—wherever support is needed.

"Our ADRA work is very strong with projects to help the vulnerable people of our country," Pastor Ausage said. "Our Church is known with the description of helping people. When our invitation goes out to people to come for our small groups, Bible correspondence course, health talks, evangelistic campaigns, people came. We believe that is the reason why. When you do your groundwork well and meet the needs of the people, they respond to our request for evangelism."



Delegates voting at the 86th SNSW constituency meeting.

Leadership team appointed at SNSW Conference session

📍 Canberra, ACT | Andrew Layland

More than 120 delegates attended the South New South Wales (SNSW) Conference's 86th constituency meeting on December 5 at the Australian National Museum in Canberra.

Incumbent president Pastor Cristian Copaceanu was re-elected to serve another term of four years. Pastor Copaceanu has been president of SNSW since January 2019, moving to Canberra after serving for several years at the Australian Union Conference (AUC).

Incumbent secretary Calvin Drinkall, who has served in the SNSW Conference in this role for the past six years, was also reappointed.

Delegates voted and approved Caleb Williams as the new chief financial officer. Mr Williams had been serving as

SNSW senior accountant for the past 18 months.

The meeting began with AUC president Pastor Terry Johnson calling out the church to leave their comfort zone and take the gospel to those outside of our "own camp". Pastor Glenn Townend, SPD president, prayed for the delegates and invited the Holy Spirit to lead His church in SNSW.

AUC secretary Pastor Michael Worker helped delegates work through proposed changes to the SNSW constitution and realignments of geographical boundaries between SNSW and Greater Sydney Conference.

The newly appointed SNSW Executive Committee will meet early this year to appoint departmental directors.



Handing over the food items to the Solomon Islands Chinese Association.

Fresh food initiative helping families impacted by civil unrest in the Solomons

📍 Honiara, Solomon Islands | Tracey Bridcutt

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has mobilised to assist Chinese families, workers and friends impacted by the recent civil unrest in Solomon Islands.

ADRA is part of the Church Agencies Network for Disaster Operation (CANDO), funded by the Australian government's Australian Humanitarian Partnership. Recognising that there are many people who have experienced trauma and are afraid to go out to public areas following the rioting and looting, CANDO came up with the idea of bringing fresh fruit and vegetables to them.

"Our church leaders from Anglican and Adventist communities passed [on] the announcement for people to freely give, and ADRA, supported by CANDO, covered the logistical costs to pick up all the food from the six kind-hearted communities of Guadalcanal," said ADRA country director Stephen Tasker.

"When people can care for others in our country . . . out of the goodness of their hearts, and not expecting anything in return, then we know that the society is on the right track to unity and prosperity. I would like to thank the people of Guadalcanal for shining their light in these dark times. Let us all unite for the betterment of our country."

The six communities of Kongga, Ariatakiki, Mamasa, Soso, Kolona and Kiamami have pitched in to supply fresh garden produce.

Wendy Ho, a Solomon Islands Chinese Association representative, thanked the CANDO team for the support they have provided for the Chinese community. She said it goes to show there are many good people still out there.

Lionel Dau, coordinator for CANDO partners, joined others to appeal to church congregations to continue to come forward and help friends and families who have been displaced and are in trauma due to the unrest.

"As we have termed ourselves a Christian country, therefore we should also show it by our actions," he said.

Other partners within the CANDO partnership are the South Seas Evangelical Church, Caritas Solomon Islands, Anglican Church of Melanesia and the United Church in the Solomon Islands.

making headlines

Exhibiting at the Louvre

Raquel Falk, an art education teacher at Vitória Adventist Academy in Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil, has been selected to exhibit some of her watercolour paintings at the Louvre in 2022. Ms Falk has been a teacher for 20 years and has served in Adventist education for five of those years. "My goal is to inspire my students," she said. — *Adventist Review*



Rebels baptised

A bloodstained chapter of Philippine history drew to a close on November 13, when many former rebels, including their leader, laid down their weapons and gave their hearts to Jesus in baptism. The decisions came after the rebels, holed up in the lush green mountains of Mindoro, began listening to Adventist World Radio. — *ANN*

Wiping out smoking

New Zealand has taken a major step in its plan to get its smoking population under five per cent by 2025, with the move meaning many children will never be able to legally buy cigarettes in the country. The new legislation means New Zealanders aged 14 or under will be banned from buying tobacco, even as adults. — *News.com.au*

Daily dollop

A daily dose of yoghurt could be the next go-to food for people with high blood pressure, according to new research from the University of South Australia. The study examined the associations between yoghurt intake, blood pressure and cardiovascular risk factors, finding that yoghurt is associated with lower blood pressure for those with hypertension. — *Science Daily*



United in prayer

Students and staff at Betikama Adventist College in Solomon Islands came together during lunch on November 25, 2021, to unite in prayer following several days of civil unrest in the country. Prayers were offered for protection over schools and for the country as a whole. They encouraged people to remember the schools in their prayers.

—Record staff



Tackling hunger

Sanitarium has partnered with food pantry New Zealand Food Network (NZFN) to feed more than 15,000 Kiwis at Christmas as part of NZFN's inaugural Christmas Appeal. The common goal was raising funds for 3750 festive food hampers, each feeding a family of four. In Australia, Sanitarium increased its support of food pantry programs by 44 per cent in 2021, contributing almost \$A50,000 worth of food products.

—Impact Magazine



Stothers ordained

Castle Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the ordination of their associate pastor, Joshua Stothers, on December 11, 2021. Pastor Stothers has previously ministered in North New Zealand at Hamilton Central, Masterton and Palmerston North Central Adventist churches, as well as cohosting the "Burn the Haystack" podcast ministry. Along with his pastoral role at Castle Hill church, he is currently serving as a chaplain at Hills Adventist College in Sydney, NSW.

—Danelle Stothers



Tongan school strikes gold

Beulah Adventist Primary School in Tonga has received the gold medal award for being an outstanding health promoting school. Criteria for the award were: wellbeing, water, sanitation, hygiene, movement and fitness, and healthy eating. "I would like to thank all those who have contributed to enable us to reach this milestone," Beulah principal Melefatai Fukofuka said. Recent projects at the school have included a new canteen, playground, vegetable garden and additional bathroom facilities. Mrs Fukofuka said teachers had noticed some significant positive changes in the students: they are more punctual, there is no absenteeism or bullying, and they are more active in their learning.

—Record staff



Tumbulgum is 40

Tumbulgum Adventist Church (NSW) recently celebrated its 40th anniversary at its current location. The church was dedicated in 1981 after the late Ron and Glad Brunner donated a piece of land on a hill that overlooks the Tweed River. During the anniversary program, church pastor Matt Atcheson acknowledged the service of the many pastors from the past 40 years, including NNSW Conference president Pastor Adrian Raethel who shared a video message with the church at the celebration.

—Matt Atcheson



Adult literacy

Eleven people have graduated from an adult literacy program held in East New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

The training was organised by Seventh-day Adventist church pastor Henry Mevat and his wife Mandeline who identified a need in the community. They supported the program with the help of ADRA coordinator Linda Francis and Children and Women Ministries director Diane Palep.

The program has had a great impact in the community of Mandress by teaching the participants how to read, write, count, multiply and divide. The training also covered topics such as family budgeting, family planning, gender-based violence, child protection, family health, the environment and conservation, pollution, human rights and the justice system.

Community ward member Samuel Tom said one of his aims in government is to increase literacy amongst mothers, fathers and young people in his community, adding that the Seventh-day Adventist Church and ADRA PNG are already working in this area and he will provide whatever support they need. He also pledged two sewing machines to the literacy school to teach adult mothers how to sew so they can support their families.

New Britain New Ireland Mission president Pastor Garry Laukei said improving adult literacy is one of the many ways that the Adventist Church can impact the community for Jesus. —**Garry Laukei/Record staff**

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Busy month at Hillview

December was a busy month for members of Hillview Church in Morisset (NSW) with celebrations held each week. The month began with the seniors of the church treated to a stimulating talk by Dr John Hammond, followed by a three-course Christmas lunch. The following Sabbath afternoon, four young people were baptised, to much rejoicing. On December 18 a fully costumed nativity drama, "What Happened to the Baby?", was performed during the church service. This was a telling of the Christmas story through the eyes of a homeless man. The play climaxed with a real baby in the manger and a beautiful rendition of "Do You Know?" sung by Cybele Craig. The Sabbath of Christmas Day finished the special month with a morning of music, praise and adoration. —**Mary Fedorow**



Prisoners baptised

A week-long Revelation seminar conducted in a prison camp in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea, ended on November 27 with the baptism of eight inmates. The nightly sessions, entitled "Unlocking Bible Prophecies", were attended by both male and female inmates. The baptismal ceremony was held outside of the prison camp and was unusually not guarded by the prison guards. Among the eight male baptismal candidates was a juvenile who was sentenced to 14 years in prison for murder. The young man said he was very happy to have made the decision to give his life to God through the waters of baptism. He said he is looking forward to serving God in his remaining time in prison and with the rest of his life.

—**Serina Yaninen**

STORMCo turns 30 years young



STORMCo is turning 30 and to celebrate, the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Youth Ministries has launched a new website to assist groups wanting to be involved.

The website provides all the information and tools needed to organise a STORMCo trip, such as team member journals, a leader's manual and forms to ensure the teams are ready to visit communities, allowing them to serve others with no agenda or expectations.

"STORMCo is 30 years old this year and we are really excited about that," explained Pastor Jeff Parker, director of Youth Ministries at the AUC.

"We are wanting to shine a spotlight on this fantastic ministry and hope to get many young people and groups making the decision to go on a STORMCo trip in 2022 and beyond."

STORMCo means Service to Others Really Matters and the concept began in Queensland in 1992 where a school chaplain recognised that Christian students wanted to do more and put their faith into practise. Within a few years there were STORMCo teams in every state in Australia and the idea would go on to be used in New Zealand, Europe, North America, Africa as well as the South Pacific.

There are five foundations of STORMCo which makes it a success:

1) Listen—No Agenda: the teams go into communities to first listen and then to serve.

2) Engage—No Walls: the teams serve the

entire community and engage all groups within the community.

3) Serve—No Expectation: the teams are there to serve to build relationships; they serve without expectation of anything in return.

4) Pray—No Fear: the teams get their source of strength from devotion/worship/prayer times so this is important for each trip. They also use prayer to stay connected with God, to listen and follow what He is saying and to get help from spiritual attacks.

5) Return—No Limits: the purpose of STORMCo teams is to maintain a relationship with the community so it is not a "once only" event. Teams adopt the communities and return year after year.

"The five foundations of STORMCo are really important," stated Pastor Parker. "STORMCo is a seed planting evangelism where we have no agenda. We want to engage the community and build their trust—which can sometimes take a few years—but once we have their trust, we can serve them more and show them who Jesus is."

There are groups around Australia who have been going back to their adopted town for more than 20 years.

Avondale School has been involved with the town of Cobar for 22 years and are well respected by the people of the community. During this time, they have also run trips to Wee Waa due to a large number of students wanting to be involved.

When COVID restrictions stopped them from physically running a STORMCo in 2020, they ran a virtual program for the children of Cobar.

Unfortunately, unexpected COVID lockdowns meant that last year's trip was cancelled, however, they are already planning for this year's trip.

Jonathan Christian, STORMCo organiser at Avondale School, has been attending STORMCo mission trips since 1999, when he was 19 years old.

"Going on a STORMCo trip is a fun and amazing experience," stated



STORMCO

ADVENTURE IN SERVICE

30 YEARS

1992 - 2022

ANNIVERSARY



Mr Christian, "although there is more stress now being a leader, I enjoy seeing the kids grow when we give them leadership positions. They always step up."

Mr Christian has a collection of STORMCo shirts for each year since 1999, including a few he was unable to attend.

"When I start bringing out the shirts, the kids get excited as they realise they are part of something big," Mr Christian explained.

A study conducted on the long-term effects of STORMCo found that the young people who go on STORMCo trips have a much greater chance of staying in church because they are being the hands and feet of Jesus. They are going out and living the gospel and being the gospel.

The impact on the communities is significant with some communities going from dysfunctional to functional and functional communities being enhanced further because of STORMCo visits. There have also been church plants, which have transitioned into churches as a result of these mission trips.

"STORMCo is imitating what Jesus did

when He was here on earth. He would visit people, meet their needs and show them love and in return they started to follow Him," stated Pastor Parker.

"We want to see youth groups from churches or schools commit to adopting a town and running STORMCo events and for the number of trips in Australia to double from about 30 to 60 per year.

"It's not preaching the gospel to the town, it is living the gospel in the town, and we would love to bolster the STORMCo program and give it a new lease of life."

A special 30th anniversary uniform is being created for 2022, with support from ADRA and Sanitarium.

If you would like to serve others, without any agenda or expectation, please contact your local conference youth director to help you get started on your STORMCo journey.

For more information please visit:
[<stormco.org.au/>](http://stormco.org.au/).

Lorraine Atchia
communications officer, Australian
Union Conference.



Forgotten books



I have always been deeply impressed and inspired by the testimonies of people who are passionately involved in personal ministries. Compelled by the love of Christ in me, I spent much time in prayer and fasting, humbling myself before God, seeking from Him the right ministries for me.

In addition to my burning desire for personal ministry, I have also a long-standing passion for reading—an unusual passion God planted in a little girl growing up in village schools around Fiji. It was through reading that I became obsessed with the holy Bible. It was through reading that I heard God's voice speaking to me. And it was through the reading of works of other inspired writers that I've found help in my journey with our Lord.

Because of the blessed experiences that reading has wrought in my life, God impressed upon my heart to present others the same opportunity that has brought life abundance to me. This was the birth of my "Forgetful Ministry".

For this ministry I pray for God's impression to clearly indicate to me places to "forget" (leave) the books I have read. I feel a solemn responsibility to ensure that the truth in the forgotten books is the right knowledge about God which the Bible upholds.

On the first page of each book, I leave a personal note which includes: my brief response to the content of the book; the contact of "Hope Channel Fiji" if they have questions needing answers; a sincere request that once they are done reading they should "forget" our book in a location for another soul to find, pick up and read; and finally, an expression of hope that I meet them when Christ finally returns to take us home.

Because of the nature of my ministry, I do not expect the pleasure of receiving feedback on how far and wide my "forgotten books" have travelled. However, God in His mercy has allowed me an experience as assurance that the books are doing "what they are sent out to do" (Isaiah 55:11).

I "forgot" one of my favourite reading books *As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God* (by Nina Atcheson) in the waiting room of a dental clinic. Due to the fact I came in as a patient and since the receptionist saw me intentionally forgetting the book, the dentist had my contact details. Some days later, he informed me that he had picked up my book and has already begun reading it. He also assured me that once he was done, he would be returning our book to his clinic waiting room for another soul to find it, read it and forget it elsewhere if they so decide.

I look forward every day to hearing someone testify about a book that has shed a bit of light on their return journey to God. If God does not see this as an experience I should have in this life, then I sure am waiting for those moments in heaven when He will allow me to meet those who have read our books and by His grace made it through those pearl gates with me into life eternal with Him.

Mereseini Williams
teacher, Fiji.



THE 10

New year's resolutions based on Scripture

A new year is seen as a fresh start. An opportunity to incorporate new and healthy habits and behaviours into our lives. Common new year's resolutions are commitments to lose weight, exercise more, save more money and learn a new skill. But the new year is also an opportunity to create new commitments that will improve our spirituality. Who do you want to become this year? Scripture gives us a good idea of who God wants us to become.

Become a prayer warrior

(Ephesians 6:18)

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Live with eternity in mind

(Colossians 3:1,2)

"Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Adopt a healthier lifestyle

(1 Corinthians 6:19,20)

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Be a peacemaker in a world of conflict

(Colossian 3:15)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

Help someone grow spiritually

(Colossians 3:16)

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Renounce sin

(Colossians 3:5)

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

Put all your trust in God

(Philippians 4:6,7)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Commit to read and meditate on Scripture daily

(Joshua 1:8)

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Trust in God's will, always

(Jeremiah 29:11)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Aim to glorify God in everything you do

(John 3:30)

"He must become greater; I must become less."

LIVING KINGDOM

The kingdom banquet

Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 14:15-24

Parable of the wedding banquet

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king said to his servants ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’” (Matthew 22:5,6,8,9)

Jesus taught well-known stories about everyday life to illustrate the principles of His kingdom to His audiences. Christ came across a diversity of people in His ministry. Some loved Him while others did not. The parable of the wedding banquet demonstrates God’s unconditional love for His people. God is preparing heaven for all humanity. He is inviting all classes of people to accept heaven’s invitation. However, those who reject Jesus as their Redeemer will be destroyed. The coming King wants all people to cover themselves with Christ’s righteousness to be saved in His kingdom.

The setting

The parable of the wedding feast was told when Jesus was in the temple in Jerusalem (Matthew 21:12,23).

Jesus’ disciples, crowds, chief priests, Pharisees, scribes, elders and the children were there too (Matthew 21:6,8,11,15,23,27,45,46). Those religious leaders challenged Jesus’ authority (Matthew 21:23-27). They tried to trap Jesus because of what He said (Matthew 21:45,46; 22:15). We also notice the crowds following Jesus were comprised of people whom Pharisees called bad and good. (Matthew 21:8-11; 21:15).

The context

Immediately before the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus tells the story of a Landowner (God) who sent His Son (Jesus) to ungrateful tenants who killed Him (Matthew 21:33, 34, 37-39). Jesus tells the chief priest and elders, He is the Chief Cornerstone the builders rejected (Matthew 21:42-45; Psalm 118:22). With the absence of the Chief Cornerstone in the structure of the temple, the building cannot stand firm. Likewise, the absence of the Saviour in the lives of church leaders disqualifies them from eternity. Jesus had told those same leaders, when invited to a wedding feast, they should not take the place of honour because some people are more important than them (Luke 14:7-9). Jesus is teaching them to be humble because the kingdom of heaven is also for the poor, crippled, lame and the blind (Luke 14:11-15)—in short, for everyone.

The invitation

God is preparing heaven for all people to enjoy its fullness. He announces this to them (Matthew 22:1,2; Luke 14:16). When God created this world (Genesis 1:1) and sin entered it, He put in place the plan to send Jesus as our Saviour (Genesis 3:15, John 3:16).

Today He is preparing heaven so He can return very soon to take His children home (John 14:1-3). God prepares the heavenly banquet for Christians today—His disciples who have just accepted Jesus and are still learning from God’s Word. People like Pharisees who are well educated in God’s Word, God is preparing heaven for them too. The heavenly King is preparing a heavenly banquet for people who think they are small in the sight of God and men, like the little children. God makes every possible way for everyone to enjoy His divine banquet (Matthew 22:8).

The King (God) is very generous when He invites guests to join His kingdom banquet (Matthew 22:3; Luke 14:17). The word invite in its original language is a verb that describes a completed verbal action in the past, but the results continue to the present.¹ What an interesting message. God invited people in the past and the invitation is still valid today. This parable teaches an outstanding lesson about God’s continuous love for all people.

The God of the second chance sends out His first and second invitation to those chosen to be part of the banquet. Christians who lose sight of Jesus—even though they are in the church for many years—God is inviting them to come to His banquet (Matthew 22:3,4; Luke 14:17). The merciful God sends out a third invitation to as many as possible; both “bad” and good will fill His banquet hall (Matthew 22:9,10; Luke 14:22,23). The heavenly banquet is not only for the righteous people like senior church officers or long-term church members, but it is for people who those communities perceive as worse than criminals. God invites sinners and righteous people to enjoy His kingdom feast.

The kingdom banquet invitees are resisting heaven’s invitation. They were not willing to come to the banquet (Matthew 22:3). These are church members who are not willing to align their lives to the will of God and the principles of Scripture. They made light of the kingdom banquet invitation and went their own ways (Matthew 22:5). The guests who are part of the first and second invitation represent current church leaders and members—Christians today whose hearts cherish worldly possessions such as land and agricultural farming (Matthew 22:5; Luke 14:19). Planting and selling of coffee and *kava* make it very hard for contemporary Seventh-day Adventists to fully appreciate and accept heaven’s invitation. Or it could be someone who has accepted Jesus into their personal life while their spouse has not. This can cause them to reject the salvation message because of their partner (Matthew 22:5; Luke 14: 20). Business and family relationship issues can destroy all the privileges and blessings of heaven’s banquet invitation (Matthew 22:6).

God will judge those who continuously refuse heaven’s invitation. The destiny for those who reject the heavenly invitation is fire (Matthew 22:7; Luke 14:24). God’s judgement will visit those who spend many years in the church but are not willing to live their lives in harmony with Scripture (Matthew 22:3). Divine judgement will visit those who are making excuses after heaven’s invitation. Because they love their worldly belongings too much, they will be cast out into the outer darkness (Matthew 22:5,6,13). Church leaders, church members or those who are still enemies of Christ who reject Jesus will reap their consequences for rejecting the Saviour (Matthew 22:13). Worldly materials will make many Christians and non-Christians miss out on God’s kingdom (Luke 14:24).

Fully clothed

The wedding garment is crucial in this parable. The usual custom was that each guest was supplied with a robe to be worn during the feast.² This implies that only those with the wedding robe have the right to enter the marriage banquet. The wedding garment in this parable is Jesus’ righteousness. When we accept Jesus into our lives, His righteousness covers our sinful lives which makes us worthy of inheriting eternal life (Revelation 3:4,5).

Every person longing to be in heaven must “put off” the “old man of sin” in their lives (Colossians 3:8,9; Ephesians 4:22) and exchange/“put on” Christ’s righteousness (Romans 13:14).

The Pharisees, chief priests and elders thought faithfulness to their traditions would save them. Jesus is saying to contemporary Christians, faithfulness to the Lord’s service, strict rules for Sabbath and vegetarianism will not save them—just His righteousness. Whether we are like Pharisees, chief priests, disciples, crowds or little children, we all need Christ’s righteousness which will enable us to enter God’s kingdom.

Jesus taught the people during His time and is teaching those in the end time that He is preparing heaven for everyone. Whether or not you accept Him, heaven is a prepared place. No matter how many times people reject Jesus, the Saviour keeps on inviting the righteous and unrighteous to possess eternal life. The reluctant and unrepentant who forsake Christ’s righteousness will by no means enter the kingdom of God. Acceptance of Jesus in people’s lives qualifies them to enter into God’s kingdom banquet.

1. Michael S Heiser and Vincent M Setterholm, *Glossary of Morpho-Syn-tactic Database Terminology* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013).

2. MG Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1893).

Lui Yarakei
minister, Vanuatu Mission.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH



On October 31, All Saints' Eve, in 1517, a gaunt-looking young monk called Martin Luther attached 95 "preposterous" ideas to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. After years of personal distress he had made an amazing discovery from his study of the Bible: humans were saved by faith in the gracious sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone, and not by any good deeds they themselves could do. His understanding of the centrality of the saving power of Jesus Christ propelled the church of his day into the Protestant Reformation.¹

On the first Sunday of August, 1831, a reluctant William Miller, ex-farmer and ex-army officer in the 1812 USA war against Britain, began preaching his decades-long studies on the time prophecies of Daniel. He was a very meticulous student, and had checked and rechecked the maths of his dates so he was absolutely sure he was right about the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel, and its meaning. His study propelled the church of his day into the Millerite movement that heralded the second coming of Jesus.²

In 1845, on the bridge between Fairhaven and New Bedford, the teetotaler, vegetarian, ex-sea captain Joseph Bates responded to a question from his friend James Madison Monroe Hall with, "The news is the seventh day is the Sabbath,

and we ought to keep it." Joseph went on to convince a young couple by the name of Ellen and James White that the seventh day of the week was the true Sabbath, and together they propelled some of the disappointed Millerites into establishing the Seventh-day Adventist Church.³

While all of these men contributed greatly to the understanding of Christian doctrine, none of them was right about everything they believed and taught. But even more tragically, they all tended to rigidly stick to their personal understanding of Scripture without allowing the insights of others around them to enrich their appreciation of God's message, and to thus grow in wisdom and in grace. Luther, absolutely right about the importance of *sola Scriptura*, *sola Gratia* and *sola fide*, tragically clung to a concept of predestination which actually implies God is very arbitrary in who He chooses to be saved. Miller had a wonderful insight when he realised the well-known 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9 was part of the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8, which would thus end in 1844, but he clung to the idea that the second coming was what was in view in this prophecy. Joseph Bates was absolutely right about the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath, but his understanding of the deity of Jesus Christ was significantly imperfect. The good news is that in spite of their

BEING RIGHT?

limited understanding God used all these imperfect people to proclaim His messages.

These men are only a very small sample of all the numerous good and sincere people down through the ages who have had only partial understanding of the truth about God and biblical teachings, but who could, if they had opened their hearts and minds to God's leading and the ministry and concepts of others around them, have grown even more in wisdom and understanding. And they are not alone. How many of us cling ferociously to our personal ideas, and block the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our hearts!

When I was doing biblical studies my associate supervisor, Dr Steven Thompson, deeply upset me by criticising my bland use of conventional ideas about one biblical character, as well as what I considered was the pivotal idea of my whole thesis. I was both devastated and angry. But my supervisor encouraged me to think again, to re-examine my ideas. I rather sulkily obeyed, and discovered that the man who had challenged me had given me the opportunity to strengthen and improve my work, and these two issues became powerful points in my study. Of course, now I am very grateful, but at the time I certainly wasn't at all happy about changing my thinking!⁴

There are many examples of this in the Bible. We all too

often present Bible characters as pretty perfect people, but their failures can help us learn a great deal. Elijah was absolutely right as he stood on Mount Carmel defying the hundreds of priests of Baal. Fearlessly he asked for God to send fire from heaven, pouring water over the offering to make the heavenly conflagration as difficult as possible. His faith was rewarded spectacularly. But when a wicked woman threatened him with death his towering faith took a nose dive, and he sprinted out into the desert to escape her. But alone on Mount Horeb he listened to the still small voice of God, learned to think differently, and went on to do many more things for God. (1 Kings 18 and 19).

And then there was Saul. If ever anyone thought they were right, it was Saul. Not only did he know he was right, but he was absolutely sure he knew who was wrong. He was prepared to chase such wickedly wrong and misguided people literally to the ends of the earth, which for him at that point of time was Damascus. But when confronted with light from heaven, and the voice of Jesus Himself, Saul changed his mind, and his life (Acts 9). It is impossible to imagine what would have happened to the early Christian church if Paul had not been willing to learn new things.

This is not to suggest we should all be carried away by every wind of doctrine (James 1:6).

However, for all of us in the South Pacific Division the past couple of years have been hard; for those in prolonged lockdown it has been very, very hard. But this unwanted and challenging situation gives us opportunity to not only reassess our own personal walks with Jesus Christ, but also how we do church. Unwittingly many of us have followed more popular worship service styles, but these may not be the best way forward to share the good news of Jesus. Central to our worship should be Bible study, and that is best done in small groups. It is amazing how we have survived without those long sessions of repetitive singing. Of course, singing praise to God is wonderful, not only because it is enjoyable, but because it can be a powerful witness. But perhaps we should focus more on the witness and less on personal enjoyment.


The Adventist Church has been teaching what is right for a long time, and doing things to the best of its ability. But re-evaluating everything can only be a blessing to all of us, and, if we listen to God, can only make us better people in a better church.

1. Metaxas, Eric. *Martin Luther*. Viking: New York, 2017.
2. Swartz, Richard and Greenleaf, Floyd. *Light Bearers*. Pacific Press, Nampa, ID 1979.
3. Knight, George. *Joseph Bates: The Real Founder of Seventh-day Adventism*. Review and Herald: Hagerstown, MD, 2004.
4. Ostring, Elizabeth. *Be a Blessing: The Theology of Work in the Narrative of Genesis*. Wipf & Stock: Eugene OR, 2016.

Dr Elizabeth Ostring

retired medical doctor and missionary, now theologian and author based in Auckland, New Zealand.

God's not-so-little *gifts*



The world is not all bad. God has seen to that. Let me explain by commencing at the beginning. It is nearly time for a new day to dawn. Before the sun is seen, the sky lightens, the stars disappear from our sight and the clouds are much the same shade as they have been all night. Suddenly, without a touch of the fanfare the scene deserves, the heavens start to colour. From paleness to striking tones of orange and magenta, with patches of yellow to fill in the spaces, the sky is now aglow. But how many of us are out there to see these gorgeous colours displayed before our wondering eyes?

Then, our attention is drawn to the arc of a circle of hot orange as that massive ball of charged particles peers over the horizon. We are entranced, trying not to look too long, but drawn back again as the sun of our solar system, which controls much of what happens on planet Earth, displays all its glory.

Soon the majestic sight of the heavens starts to pale and the clouds appear in their normal wrappings of white and grey. A new day is borne.

Now we can stroll through our garden or venture to a park and see the results of diligent gardeners as they have done their best to brighten our sometimes-grey lives. At home, flowers stare up at the sky, almost in any season, but especially in spring. In my little patch at the front of my villa there are three pots, burgundy in colour, that contain gaillardia of the yellow variety, seemingly bursting their little heads as they, of the sunflower family, absorb every small sparkle of light.

My now-resting wife's favourite flowers, daffodils and pansies, are many people's favourites. Wordsworth thought so much of daffodils that he wrote a poem about

them. How many school students have been made aware of this piece over the years?

And pansies—how we admire their pretty little “faces”—the perfect border flower.

There are so many of God's not-so-little gifts in the natural world they cannot be listed here, but you know them as do I. Why don't we offer our thanks more often to the One who made them all? Three of these beautiful, sturdy and stateley gifts are flowers, trees and mountains.

But wait, there is more! As humans, we are made for company, for relationship, for companionship and how we miss that closeness when someone is torn from us, or, perhaps worse still, when we are rejected for someone else. The highlights of our lives, though, are experiences we have shared with someone else, someone closer to us than any other. What a blessing is the gift of memory when we can call to mind in an instant some special event, some words that belong particularly between us and none other.

All these things are what we humans enjoy with our senses but there is one very great gift that we cannot praise God enough for and that is the gift of salvation.

How can God love us so much that He was willing to give us that perfect God-child who would later die for us in order to give us the gift of eternal life? It is something, I believe, that we will never fully comprehend.

Space limits how much can be said about God's not-so-little gifts. The least we can do beyond enjoying these is to thank Him with joy and fervour. Often. Every day. He likes to hear us say, “Thank You with all my heart!”

William Ackland

retired in Cooranbong (NSW) and has written eight books.

Mission vessels of the South Pacific



The hundreds of boats of the South Pacific fleet, together with their crews and those associated with them (many of whom were Pacific Islanders), made an incredible contribution in support of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the islands of the South Seas. The boats enabled tenacious early pioneer Seventh-day Adventists to open schools and training institutions, provide medical services, and plant church congregations widely throughout those islands.

The South Pacific Ocean, including the islands that are located within it, accounts for more than 20 per cent of the surface area of the earth. As the Seventh-day Adventist Church began to grow in the region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with little or no travel and communication infrastructure, it was necessary to depend on shipping services. However, with limited commercial shipping available, and reluctance by other mission groups to assist Adventist missionaries, the Church recognised that it needed to develop its own shipping infrastructure.

The early boats in the Adventist mission fleet in the South Pacific were sailing boats. The fleet included schooners, ketches, cutters, sloops, a lugger and yawl-rigged boats. From the early years of the twentieth century most boats had some form of auxiliary motor. From the 1930s, new boats were not equipped with sail and relied on inboard engines.

Pitcairn, the First Mission Boat

In October 1886, John I Tay, an American Adventist ship's carpenter, reached the island of Pitcairn on a Royal Navy vessel and requested permission to stay until the arrival of the next boat. Within just five weeks, the islanders declared their allegiance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After leaving the island, Tay asked that an ordained minister be sent to Pitcairn in order to baptise the islanders. Elder Andrew Cudney of Nebraska agreed to go, and Tay was to accompany him. Cudney chose to sail via Hawaii, but then found it impossible to connect with a boat going to Tahiti. Tay was waiting for him in Tahiti. A local Adventist purchased a vessel of forty-five tons for him to use and a crew of six were enlisted to take him to Tahiti and then to Pitcairn. They left Honolulu on July 31, 1888, but were never heard from again. In 1891, what was thought to be wreckage of the boat was reported found on Tahitian shores.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the General Conference had decided that an ocean-going vessel was required for mis-

sonary work in the South Pacific. In November 1887, the first decision was made which would, in 1890, lead to the construction and dedication of just such a boat. The action of the General Conference read:

"WHEREAS, The professed faith of Seventh-day Adventists requires them to carry the message of truth for this generation to all kindreds, tongues and people; and

"WHEREAS, The islands of the Pacific Ocean are peopled with many thousands who have never heard the tidings of the soon-coming King and there are no regular means of transportation whereby missionaries may be sent to those islands; therefore it is

"RECOMMENDED by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Conference assembled—"That a vessel of suitable size and construction for missionary purposes be purchased or built and equipped for missionary work among the islands of the Pacific Ocean."

When plans were eventually made, \$19,000 was allocated for the vessel. A total of \$16,000 was donated; \$11,871.58 was raised through Sabbath school offerings. The vessel was a two-masted schooner, 100 feet long, and named *Pitcairn*. It was dedicated on September 25, 1890.

The *Pitcairn* was the first vessel owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was built for the purpose of evangelising the Polynesian and Melanesian island groups of the South Pacific. Its operation was administered by the General Conference. It made a total of six missionary voyages to the South Pacific, beginning on October 20, 1890. Its final trip commenced on January 23, 1899.

This article is an excerpt from the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists. Pictures supplied by Adventist Heritage Centre.

Graham Wright/ESDA

The *gut health* challenge

Heard of people counting plants, instead of calories? Trying to make it to 30? It's all a part of the 30 Plants in 7 Days Challenge.

What's the aim?

The aim of the challenge is to improve your gut health by eating a wider variety of plant foods. The 30-plants-a-week challenge first hit the headlines a year ago, and since then it has rocketed in popularity. The challenge is based on one of the largest international gut health studies, which found eating 30 different plant-based foods a week could help support your gut health.

Your gut microbes—the trillions of microorganisms that help you digest, absorb and use the nutrients in food—thrive on a varied, mostly plant-based diet. The 30 Plants in 7 Days Challenge is about helping people do just that.

Take the challenge

While fitting 30 plant-based foods into your diet weekly can sound like a lot, it's simpler than you might think. So, what counts? All your fruits, vegetables, legumes (beans and peas), nuts and seeds, wholegrains, herbs and spices—anything derived from plants.

So why does gut health matter?

Increasing the diversity and number of bacteria makes your gut healthier. When we feed our gut bacteria food that helps them thrive, such as fibre-rich plant-foods, they produce compounds called short-chain fatty acids.

As well as looking after your gut, short-chain fatty acids help our bodies absorb certain nutrients and support our immune system. A healthy gut also reduces inflammation and lowers the risk of chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers.



Top tips to help you reach 30-a-week

- **Mix it up**—Swap the plant foods you already eat for ready-to-go mixes—almonds for mixed nuts, kidney beans for three-bean mix, white bread for multigrain, lettuce for mixed salad leaves.
- **Start the day right**—Breakfast is a great time to rack up the plant count. Choose a wholegrain cereal, and top it with fruit, some nuts—that's already three points for the day.
- **Big on bowls**—Nourish bowls, salads and soups are great lunchtime options that will have you well on your way to 30-a-week. Sprinkle some seeds on a salad and you can easily hit 5–6 plant-based foods at lunchtime alone.
- **Try something new**—Try a new fruit or veg each week and it will instantly help to switch up the recipe repertoire.
- **Get saucy**—Making your own pasta sauce is not only a fabulous way to avoid the high salt contents of store-bought sauces, but also an opportunity to add in extra plants! Try a herby pesto or supercharge tomato pasta sauce by adding in some mushrooms, baby spinach or grated carrot.
- **Make snacks count**—Fresh fruit, veggie sticks with hummus, a handful of nuts, avo on wholegrain crackers or yoghurt with fruit and seeds will all count towards your 30.

Still struggling to hit 30?

Check out our website for plenty of plant-powered recipe ideas! You could also write down all the plant foods you're including in your weekly diet and you might be surprised how quickly they add up. Your gut will thank you for it!



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Anniversary



WRIGHT. Pastor Errol and Zena Wright celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 6.12.21. They devoted 40 years to full-time ministry, serving in the Greater Sydney, North and South NZ Conferences, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. On retirement, they spent 15 years caring for 17 churches throughout Australia. Their son Shane and daughter Charmayne live on the Sunshine Coast, Qld, and their daughter Linda and Pastor Russell Bryan work in Melbourne. The Lord has been good to Errol and Zena who still contribute to the spiritual welfare of the Tumbulgum Church in the Tweed Valley, NSW.

Weddings



ALEXIS—GAEDTKE. Caleb Xavier Alexis, son of Job and Roser Alexis (Brisbane, Qld), and Rachel Eileen Gaedtke, daughter of Neil and Narelle Gaedtke (Kingaroy), were married on 17.12.21 in the beautiful gardens of Gabbinbar Homestead, Toowoomba, surrounded by family and friends. The couple will set up their home in Brisbane.

André van Rensburg



BRZESKI—ANTONIO. Phillip Brzeski, son of Robert and Beata Brzeski (Gold Coast, Qld), and Dawn Antonio, daughter of Jay and Hanny Allison (Gold Coast), were married on 6.10.21 in Cairns. Phillip and Dawn met while attending the Reedy Creek church and have been dating since 2019. The ceremony in Cairns was beautiful and intimate—made necessary by

COVID-19 restrictions and enjoyed by those who were able to attend. A larger celebration is planned when conditions permit. The lovely couple will continue living on the Gold Coast where Phillip works as a town planner and Dawn is studying nursing.

David Reilly



JONES—COUTER. Steve Desmond Jones, son of Brent and Marian Jones (Darwin, NT), and Rebecca Margaret Couter, daughter of Brian and Jeanette Couter (Plymouth, UK), were married on 19.9.21 at the Maroochy Botanical Gardens, Maroochydore, Qld. Steve, a fitness trainer, and Rebecca, at the time a student working as a client support person, originally met at a gym. The catalyst for the introductory conversation was a shirt Steve was wearing with a cross and Bible verse on it which attracted Rebecca's attention. From there the friendship grew and blossomed. The bride's parents who live in England joined the happy occasion via the wonderful technology of Zoom.

Laurie Evans



ORELLANA—KOZUMPLIK. David Joshua Orellana, son of Gonzalo and Marcela Orellana (Sydney, NSW), and Kimberley Kozumplik, daughter of Robert (Perth, WA) and Nerizza Kozumplik (Sydney, NSW), were married twice.

The first wedding was held in a private home on 3.9.21, the day on which COVID-19 restrictions were lifted to allow for a wedding with a maximum of five guests. Despite this being their legal marriage, the couple opted for a ceremony with unlimited guests with full trappings in Parramatta Seventh-day Adventist Church, NSW, on 25.11.21. The service was also "Zoomed" for the sake of interstate family and friends prevented from attending due to travel restrictions.

Garth Bainbridge

Obituaries



BORRESEN, Pastor Robert Stanley, born 14.12.1936 in Townsville, Qld; died 11.12.21 in

Caloundra. On 6.12.1958 he married Audrey Macklin, who predeceased him in 2006. On 2.12.08 he married Yvonne. Bob is survived by his wife (Caloundra); children, Wendy and Wayne (Nerang), Mark and Alison (Adelaide, SA), Diane and Shane (Geelong, Vic), Annette and Rodney (Geelong) and Janine and Trevor (Sydney); 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Pastor Bob's passion for God was evident in every aspect of his life. He lived his life for others, wanting them to be touched by Jesus as he had been. Pastor Bob served the Church in Northern Australia, South Queensland and Greater Sydney as an accountant, ABC manager, church pastor and various departmental positions.

Scott Wareham, Stephen Bews,
John Rabbas

COOPER, Thelma Ethel Victoria (nee Martin), born 20.7.1927 in Orroroo, SA; died 6.11.21 in Adelaide. In 1946 she married Keith Watson and in January 1964 she married Arthur, who predeceased her in December 2004. She is survived by her children, Lynlee, William, Janice, Charles and Lenore; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was raised as a Methodist and became an Adventist when a literature evangelist came to the door. She held positions of head deaconess and pianist at Kadina and Gawler churches. She had the gift of hospitality and was known for her smile. She was laid to rest beside her husband at Balaklava Cemetery to wait the Saviour's call at the resurrection.



HODDER, Malvina (nee Folley), born 4.2.1924 in Ashbury, NSW; died 21.11.21 in Singleton. On

23.9.1946 she married John. She was predeceased by her husband in 2006 and her son, Malcolm in 2014. Malvina is survived by her daughter, Gayle and Nigel Brewer (Mitchells Flat); granddaughters, Kylie (Sydney), Rachelle (Sydney) and Katherine (Thornton); and six great-grandchildren. Malvina and John were baptised at

Ashfield church in 1946 and were married there later that year by Pastor Whitehead. They started their married life in the family home at Ashbury, before moving to Guildford, then to a wheat, cattle and sheep station at Gwabegar, then to St Johns Park before moving to the Hunter Valley in 2000.

Clive Nash, Miroslav Stilinovic,
Leticia Moreno

JACKSON, Laurence Fraser, born 13.11.1934; died 21.10.21 in Auckland, NZ. On 18.12.1958 he married Effie Willis. Fraser is survived by his wife; children Sharon Jackson and Walter Smith (Auckland), John and Roseanne (Mt Colah, NSW), Robin and Ian Dunlop (Spring Beach, Tas), Alvin and Kim (London, UK) and Babita (Wellington, NZ); 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Fraser's life was grounded in his Christian faith and he lived out the values of love, honesty and integrity. As a Victoria University (Wellington) professor, Porirua church elder, friend, colleague or much-loved dad and granddad, Fraser was a bridge builder who brought people together. He was passionate about nature, his family and leaving this world a better place for all.

Leanne Davies, Lyell Heise



MANCE (TRIFUNOVICH), John, born 1.10.1942 in Novo Selo, Yugoslavia; died 20.12.21 in

Caloundra, Qld. In May 1964 he married Anna. They were later divorced. In 1973 he was predeceased by his daughter, Susan. John is survived by his sons, Robert and Elvie (Norfolk Island), Tim (Tewantin, Qld) and Adrian and Hollie (Brisbane); grandchildren, Lola, Felix, and Joshua; sister, Ruth (Imbil); twin brother, Eli (Beechmont); and brother, Daniel (Yandina). John was a loving father and partner who was keen to utilise his building talents to help others in need. He loved fishing and outdoor adventures. He enjoyed a healthy intellectual discussion.

Scott Wareham

MENZ, Wilma Fay (nee Bennett), born 19.10.1937 in Parkes, NSW; died 27.11.21 in Brisbane, Qld. On 10.5.1959 she married Kevin, who predeceased her in 2019. She was also predeceased by her sons, Peter in 2018 and Anthony in 1977. Wilma is survived by her sons, Raymond, Wayne and

Gregory (all of Brisbane). Wilma was a happy Christian who loved everybody. Her husband and family were precious to her. Jesus' name was sweet music to her ears. She will always be remembered for her captivating smile.

Bob Possingham



MOXON, Fay Lynette (nee Ongley), born 27.7.1942 in Gosford, NSW; died 8.11.21 in Sydney Adventist

Hospital. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Ted; children, Jason, Jillian, David and James; their three spouses; and six grandchildren. Fay qualified as a nurse, then as a midwife, and finally as a community psychiatric nurse—she was the first person to lead in this position at the North Ryde Psychiatric Centre. Once her children were old enough for her to re-enter the workforce, she began to work in group homes helping developmentally disabled persons to integrate back into society. This eventually led to her working as a school nurse for the disabled and intellectually handicapped. Fay's interment was held at Avondale Cemetery, followed by a memorial service at her home

church, Fox Valley Adventist Community Church, Wahroonga.

Garth Bainbridge, Marcus Pereira



OLSEN, Kathleen May (nee McLeod), born 2.3.1926 in Invercargill, NZ; died 22.12.21 in Wyong

Hospital, NSW. On 10.10.1951 she married Roy Olsen in Ponsonby Church, Auckland, NZ and they recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. She was predeceased by her son, Graham in 2007. Kathleen is survived by her husband (Cooranbong, NSW); children, Trevor (Matamata, NZ), Glenda Jenkins (Hornsby, NSW), Raewynne McGrath (Holmview, Qld), Melvin (Hornsby, NSW) and David (Perth, WA); 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and her almost 101-year-old sister, Enid Webster (Cooranbong, NSW). Kathleen supported her husband during years of literature evangelism, farming and church planting in New Zealand until their retirement in Alton Villas 14 years ago. She was known for her practical ministry, hospitality and community service. Sadly missed by all her family and

friends, Kathleen rests in the certain hope of the resurrection.

Ray Coombe, Allan Lindsay

OUTRAM, Neville Lawrence, born 23.10.1938 in Victoria Park, WA; died 4.12.21 in Perth. On 19.3.1966 he married Marlene. Neville was predeceased by his sons, Lawrence, James and Shane. He is survived by his wife; and daughters, Charmaine and Kylie (all of Walliston, WA). Neville was a man who loved work, fishing, family and a good joke, but was always ready to help someone out. After relocating from Freemantle, he was an active member of Bickley church for the past 47 years. Full of determination, endurance and strength, he was a great provider and support for his family. In his last few years, he battled pain, operations and sickness, but this rarely prevented him from attending church. He experienced several recovery miracles before finally going to rest, to await the call of the Lifegiver. His friendship, knowledge and humour will be missed

Gordon Stafford, Robert Kingdon

SCHEERMEIJER, Leo, born 2.11.1937; died 23.11.21. He was predeceased by his

daughter, Rhonda. Leo is survived by his wife, Irene; and daughter Esther and Kingsley Swanborough (Brisbane, Qld); 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Leo was a preacher, a teacher and a theologian who was proficient in New Testament Greek. He was an excellent singer and loved people, most of all his wife and children. He loved his Lord and his church.

Bob Possingham, David Penate

Advertising

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a special constituency meeting of the South Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at Prospect Church Hall, 7 Balville Street, Prospect on February 18, 2022 at 6pm. The sole business of the special constituency meeting will be to make additions to the South Australian Conference constitution to allow for future constituency meetings to be held by virtual means should this be necessary.

Join us!

Senior Risk Officer - Risk Control

As the Senior Risk Control Officer at Risk Management Service your genuinely positive interactions with clients will help them manage their risks to achieve their goals. You'll influence and transform the way Adventist organisations view risk and safety to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability of Mission.

PLUS, WE'LL TREAT YOU SO WELL!



APPLY NOW.

adventistemployment.org.au
Closes: 7 February 2022



Why work for us?

- We have a supportive and flexible work environment with a great team culture.
- Our recently renovated office space in Wahroonga, NSW is just across the road from the San Hospital with schools, day care and cafes nearby.
- Rewarding job fulfillment working alongside committed, like-minded Adventist professionals.
- We provide you with ongoing training and professional development.

What you'll do:

- Review and improve risk management and asset protection services.
- Visit and inspect Adventist sites, conduct site surveys and help clients work through risk and safety issues.
- Work closely with insurers and clients to minimise the potential cost of risk.
- Provide or arrange training and/or presentations to help clients improve their understanding of risk management.

What you bring:

- A strong commitment to the Adventist Church's mission.
- Experience or qualifications in risk management, asset protection or similar.
- Great people skills with an ability to collaborate and build good working relationships across all levels.
- Ready, willing and able to travel within SPD territories, including NZ and Pacific.

Risk Management Service (known as RMS) is a dedicated service department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

GOSFORD CHURCH CENTENARY SERVICE

February 26, 2022 at 10 am
71–73 Deane Street, Narara,
NSW 2250. We welcome former
members to join us as we celebrate
100 years serving God and our
community.

GREY NOMADS CAMP 2022

The North New South Wales
Conference's annual Grey
Nomads Camp will be held
from May 6–15, 2022, at the
Adventist Convention Centre,
Stuarts Point, NSW. The event
is open to grey nomads from
across Australia (and beyond!)
and is an excellent opportu-
nity for retirees to meet and
fellowship together. Applications
are available via the NNSW
Conference website. Speakers
are: Pastor Justin Lawman and
Pastor Ashley Smith. For more
information, contact Ros (02)
4944 3221 or <greynomads@
adventist.org.au>.

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-carefu-
nerals.com.au>, even if you have
already paid for your funeral.

Supporting Ministry Position vacant

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER—THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY DORA CREEK, NSW

The Incredible Journey is a donor-funded ministry passionate
about communicating our bold vision of sharing the good news
of Christ and preparing people for the soon coming of Jesus.
This position will report to the manager. We have a small team
of dedicated employees/volunteers based in Dora Creek, NSW.
For more information and a full job description please email the
manager <ed@tij.tv>. The Incredible Journey reserves the right
to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early.
Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia will be
considered. Applications close January 28, 2022.

The Incredible Journey is an independent ministry supportive of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church.

Positions vacant

RELATIONSHIP MANAGER FOR NEW ZEALAND—ADRA AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AUCKLAND, NZ

ADRA Australia and New Zealand is seeking an experienced and motivated relationship manager to
join our supporter engagement team, and pioneer forward with this new exciting role. The successful
applicant for this role is responsible for implementing a development strategy for New Zealand supporters.
This would cover regular giving, major donors (including corporate giving), churches and bequests; devel-
oping and nurturing these relationships, securing new regular givers and to proactively solicit major gifts.
The relationship manager is a member of the ADRA Australia and New Zealand supporter engagement
team and may be required from time to time to travel to Australia for cross learning meetings. Further
details including the candidate information pack are available on our website <adra.org.nz/work-for-us/>
or by contacting the HR coordinator <HR@adra.org.au>. ADRA Australia and New Zealand is a child safe,
PSEAH committed and EEO employer.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT—BUSINESS SERVICES WAHROONGA, NSW

Are you logical and analytical in nature? The South Pacific Division (SPD) is seeking a highly skilled assistant who
is committed to furthering God's mission and eager to support the work of our administration business services
team. This full-time role, based at the SPD head office, will support the work of the CFO, finance manager and
Division property trust manager. In addition to providing exceptional office administrative support, the role will
also compile statistics, manage multiple Outlook calendars, reconcile lists and policies, proactively obtain property
quotes and comparisons, as well as manage data analysis in Excel. For full details please visit <adventistemploy-
ment.org.au>. To apply, email a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and contact details of your
church pastor to <hr@adventist.org.au>. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion
and close applications early or once an appointment is made. Only those who have the legal right to work in
Australia will be considered. **Applications close January 31, 2022.**



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JANUARY 22



Making a difference in their world . . .

More than a billion people live with a disability – 15% of the world's population. Help us reach and support them with your offering today.

Christian Services provides free services including:

- closed captioning
- audio books and Sabbath School lessons for the blind
- church community awareness-building of those with special needs
- build community networks and church support

Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) is funded by a bi-annual offering; please give generously*

Donate Today

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Please print clearly to avoid mail difficulties.

Enclosed is a cheque/money order for \$ _____ payable to Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired,
OR charge my MasterCard / VISA.

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Name on card

Expiry date / / Signature

Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited ABN 59 093 117 689.

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Australia: CSFBHI, PO Box 1115,
Wahroonga, NSW 2076

or visit

Web hop.ec/CSFBHI

Email CSFBHI@adventistmedia.org.au

Phone +61 (2) 9847 2222



"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped . . ."
(Isaiah 35:5)



South Pacific