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Finding faith in the desert

Encountering God
in the wilderness 10

ADRA and Church working
together to help Tonga
disaster victims 5



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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Living as His kingdom

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

Following Jesus should be just as much practical and real world as it is existential and theological.

Stories have a huge impact and the stories of Jesus have had perhaps the biggest impact on the world we know today. Often drawn from everyday scenarios, even the news of the day (see Luke 13:2-5), Jesus explained His kingdom in a way that was both simple and complex. He gave people the opportunity to understand the good news by using scenarios they were already familiar with. But He also took the stories to unexpected places, often surprising and shocking His audience. I can only imagine the look on the faces of His listeners when the Samaritan was the hero of the story!

After more than a year, walking through the parables of Jesus, as part of our Living Kingdom series, we've covered most of the stories and we've finished the series. The beautiful hand-drawn illustrations from Maryellen Hacko really brought the series to life.

But what have I learned in spending more time with the reflections of a variety of writers throughout the Pacific on what Jesus' parables mean to them?

First of all, Jesus cares about how we live. The parable of the sheep and the goats, the stories in Matthew 25 about how we wait for His soon return, the Good Samaritan story, just to name a few, show us that being a citizen of the kingdom is just as much about how we act and treat others as it is about who we belong to. Now this doesn't mean we earn the right to be part of the kingdom. The story about the master giving everyone equal wages tells us that we don't earn more than anyone else because of our behaviour. Yet knowing Jesus, living out His teachings, that should make us strive to emulate those in the stories who strove for the good of others. Following Jesus should be just as much practical and real world as it is existential and theological. We must make a difference in our world.

As Christians, we carry the name of Christ and if we are serious about being His disciples then we must get serious about the words and stories that He left to guide us. "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going" (John 14:2-4). You know the way to the place. . . Jesus left us a roadmap to follow until that great reunion.

Jesus told these stories so we would see ourselves in them. It is the same way we must share the kingdom with others. We must tell stories, use relatable scenarios and make the good news accessible to those we come into contact with. Yes, there was mystery and many people were confused by Jesus' stories. There are deep layers of meaning and different applications for different groups of people. We can't escape the fact that the gospel is profound, a "mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people" (1 Corinthians 1:26). But Jesus also worked to meet people where they were at, leaving a message that would be studied and understood by generations of people for 2000 years after His death and resurrection.

Finally, the experience of sharing this journey together shows that there is always fresh insight to be found in the parables of Jesus and indeed in the whole of Scripture. Each author brought a different approach to their assigned parable and as a community we are richer for it. Going through God's Word together is one of the great blessings of being part of God's family. In community, as we've journeyed through many of the parables of Jesus, we've been uplifted, encouraged, inspired, and given new and fresh perspectives. Our appreciation for these sometimes familiar Scriptures has been enriched.

Keep coming back to the teaching of Jesus so that you can truly be a part of His living kingdom.



INSIGHT:

On the move

Terry Johnson
Australian Union Conference

Moving house is an adventure. It's an exciting time in life when one has to make major decisions, yet brace for the worst. There's the physical accumulation of goods. Will the house you move to be different? How will everything fit? Further, if you're moving interstate, the to-do list increases with the change of insurance companies, utilities, new driver's licence and removalists.

The change of work environment, church, friends and vocation can bring a whirlwind of emotions. None are by themselves overwhelming—but all take time and put pressure on family, and the normally docile family members become incensed over the slightest matters.

I wonder what it must have been like for Moses and the Israelites when they moved after 430 years of accumulated life in Egypt? Can you imagine the daunting mission of moving to freedom with much joy into the desert? Yet it took less than three days to complain bitterly in the wilderness (Exodus 14:12). They complained about the lack of water (15:23). They grumbled about food (16:2,3). They complained, even though God provided for their every need.

Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!" As you can see, moving can make even the most docile people incensed over the slightest matters!

Australia is on the move—ideologically, intellectually, socially, spiritually, emotionally and politically. As a result, our laidback, Aussie attitude is becoming much more aggressive. What once was something we'd let slide to the keeper is now defended forcefully, with great antagonism. There is little meekness or peacefulness as we become proficient at being argumentative on social media, and in person. Everyone is responding as they see fit.

How should we respond as Seventh-day Adventists? Jesus shares great wisdom in Matthew 5:5,9: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

I invite you to be different in moments of hostility, so we can eventually change the world by establishing love, compassion, peace and justice.



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The Tonga Mission compound after the tsunami wave hit.

ADRA and Adventist Church working together to help Tonga disaster victims

📍 Nuku'alofa, Tonga | Tracey Bridcutt

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is partnering with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tonga to deliver support to those impacted by the January 15 volcanic eruption and tsunami.

ADRA and the Church have committed \$A140,000 to the response so far, with that figure expected to rise as donations continue to come in.

ADRA is providing cash vouchers for food and other essential items to 700 affected households on Tonga's main island of Tongatapu and the outer islands. The longer term strategy would see ADRA supporting people whose livelihoods have been impacted through loss of crops and livestock.

ADRA reports 84 per cent of the Tongan population were affected by the disaster with hundreds left homeless.

ADRA South Pacific, with the support of ADRA Australia and New Zealand, is partnering with the Tonga Mission team to provide aid to impacted communities under the guidance of the National Emergency Management Organisation.

The eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano last month caused a tsunami which inundated parts of Tongatapu and other

nearby islands. Three lives were lost. Homes, churches and other public infrastructure were damaged. Some Adventist Church buildings were impacted, including the Mission office, the Mission president's residence and another house on the compound. The Mission has lost records and equipment, and the office required a major clean-up to remove flood debris.

ADRA South Pacific regional director Greg Young said the people of Tonga remain optimistic despite the challenges they have been going through. "It has been inspiring to hear of the resilience of the Tongan people and how they are stepping up from all levels of society to support those impacted."

Fundraising efforts for Tonga continue, including a special concert organised by the Fiji Mission on February 6. Fiji Mission also launched a "Buckets of Biscuits" initiative in collaboration with the Trans Pacific Union Mission. The response was swift: in two days 765 buckets of biscuits were donated by local churches and individuals to be sent to Tonga.

To support the ADRA appeal, head to adra.org.au/project/disasters/ or adra.org.nz/respond/.



Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine executive director, Stephen Penman, expects a significant body of research to emerge from the master's degree.

Avondale adds Master of Lifestyle Medicine

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Brenton Stacey

The newest course at Avondale builds the university's reputation as one of Australia's premier providers of lifestyle medicine education.

The Master of Lifestyle Medicine adds a four-unit research emphasis to the existing Graduate Diploma in Lifestyle Medicine—itsself an extension of the Graduate Certificate.

The course "will not only further equip students from the South Pacific but also attract a wider international cohort because it's one of the few master's-level degrees offered anywhere in the world," said Lifestyle Medicine and Health Research Centre director Associate Professor Darren Morton. "And it's built from the ground up around

the principles and tenets of lifestyle medicine, not just with some lifestyle medicine units added on."

Avondale is the longest-serving provider of postgraduate lifestyle medicine education in Australia—it first offered the Graduate Diploma in 2015. It's also developed a strong link with the Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine, which offers a pathway to fellowship for students who complete the courses.

Dean (Research) Associate Professor Peter Kilgour and the Academic Board have accredited the degree for five years. For more information, visit avondale.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/course-work/master-of-lifestyle-medicine/.



TV commercials are part of the new Weet-Bix "Feed Their Belief" campaign. Image supplied.

Research highlights challenge faced by kids

📍 Berkeley Vale, NSW | SHF/Record staff

A new report from iconic Australian breakfast brand Weet-Bix has revealed that declining self-esteem is the biggest mental wellbeing issue facing Aussie kids, with one in five students already reporting negative self-esteem as they enter high school.

It's a stark reminder of the need to promote mental and emotional wellbeing alongside physical health to support Aussie kids in reaching their potential and building resilience after two years of pandemic-related turbulence. However, experts say children's self-belief was already in decline due to a range of other influences.

Data released as part of The Weet-Bix Feed their Belief Report in one of the biggest studies of its kind, found a significant decline (35 per cent) in self-esteem, optimism, competence and positive emotions between Kindergarten and Year 12.

Pulling on survey responses from more than 27,000 students, the report explores the current mindset amongst Australian children as they progress through school across eight key wellbeing domains: positive emotions; meaning; optimism; positive relationships; competence; engagement; self-esteem; and social contribution.

High school students averaged a lower rating in seven out of eight domains, compared to primary school students, with the report revealing a self-belief crisis with only half (50 per cent) of students in Year 12 feeling optimistic, compared to 70 per cent of students in Year 7 and 91 per cent of kids at kindergarten.

Download the report at <weetbix.com.au/feedthebelief>. Six tips on "feeding belief" in your children can be found in a longer version of the article at <record.adventistchurch.com>.



This year's program includes an additional day-long Harvard University leadership simulation activity to assess team dynamics.

SPD pilot program grows skills in leadership

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

A customised 10-month pilot program designed to foster the growth of South Pacific Division (SPD) leaders to fulfil the Seventh-day Adventist Church's mission has been commended by participants.

Delivered by the SPD Leadership Academy, the program involved two groups of 12 leaders: the first comprising senior leaders across the SPD, and the second made up of emerging leaders or those with up to five years' experience. Participants were strategically selected by their organisation, with representation from all SPD institutions and the four Union territories.

"In this rapidly changing world we need leaders who are godly and courageous with future-thinking mindsets, equipped with the skills to execute our strategies rapidly," said SPD Leadership Strategy leader Dean Banks, who managed the program.

"We need to move from a process-driven focus to an agile, performance-oriented focus. With the program's success we now aim to duplicate

it over the next four years, allowing 120 leaders to experience this model of leadership development."

Program components included psychometric assessment, monthly executive coaching by coaching psychologists, an allocated mentor, customised workshops, reflective journaling and a five-week online course through the prestigious INSEAD Business school.

Avondale University vice-chancellor, Professor Kevin Petrie, commended the program, saying it had both challenged and grown him as a leader. "It has brought me face-to-face with both my strengths and my weaknesses, but importantly provided the support to move forward and to grow."

Similar sentiments were shared by Pastor Luke Nathan, president of the Western Highlands Mission in Papua New Guinea. "This leadership program is a hands on paradigm shift to train leaders to lead organisations in these disruptive times."

"It's great to see what the SPD is doing for our leaders."



Pandemic-fatigued churches still adapting to disruption

📍 Warburton, Vic | Nathan Brown

The ongoing pandemic and growing pandemic fatigue is challenging churches and disconnecting church members, according to author Dr Peter Roennfeldt. “Even after a year-end break, many pastors and local leaders are exhausted from juggling the many conflicting interests and tensions.”

During the past two years, Dr Roennfeldt has participated in numerous calls and conferences with mission agencies and denominational entities, as well as with local churches and teams of pastors, listening to their experiences and encouraging churches to continue to adapt to the restrictions and realities of the pandemic. With this background, he says that his new book—*When Your Church Goes Home*—is even more relevant now than when first released as a free ebook in November last year, offering alternative ways for churches to continue to meet and minister.

“In this book, I survey the growing interest in ‘households of faith,’ the biblical frames for these churches, and stories of members and pastors fostering these types of churches,” Dr Roennfeldt explained. “It is a very practical, easy-to-read look at the why, how, where, what and when of churches at home.”

This is the third book Dr Roennfeldt has published in response to the challenges of the pandemic. First was *If Your Church is Closed . . . Be the Church*, which focused on the basic functions of the church amid the early lockdowns and has been distributed around the world as a free ebook. Last year, *Your Church Has Changed* addressed the longer-term disruptions and affects of the pandemic for redefining church and mission.

Now Dr Roennfeldt sees three factors that are being recognised in an increasing number of church communities. “We cannot afford to return to church as it was,” he said. “We must have multiple in-person gatherings in COVID-safe environments for the diverse expectations and needs of church members, and we need smaller relational churches connected to our immediate neighbourhoods.”

To get it out as quickly as possible in support of church leaders and some who had already begun “households of faith”, *When Your Church Goes Home* was launched initially as an ebook. “We were happy for pastors and leaders to share it with their teams and members, and that can be done with ease and at no cost electronically,” said Dr Roennfeldt. The book is also available for download from <following-jesus.com>. Plans are also in place for a printed edition of *When Your Church Goes Home*.

making headlines

TED got talent

The Trans-European Division’s Youth Ministries department hosted “Vision Song Contest 2022”. The program, in its second year, gave young people the opportunity to begin the New Year together with a virtual musical event. This year 14 songs were submitted and voting crowned the joint winners as Sweden and Finland.—**TED News**



TikTok grandma

When Betilda Vázquez Quiej, 64, came across the TikTok app—a social media platform that uses short-form videos—she was moved to start a Bible study ministry. The grandmother of eight began to share Bible verses and an encouraging message every day from her home in Guatemala. In two years, she has amassed more than 29,700 followers.—**Adventist Review**

ADRA care

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Share & Care initiative in Huis ter Heide, Netherlands, is providing Dutch language lessons and other social activities for Afghan refugees. About 400 refugees have been sheltered in nearby Zeist. Since the change of government in Afghanistan, refugees leaving the country have spread out worldwide.—**ANN**

Sobering sodas

Cigarette style picture warnings on sugary drinks reduce the amount parents buy by almost two-fifths. US scientists created a realistic shopping experience to find out whether graphic health warnings on sweet drinks influenced parents’ choices. The labels highlighted the risk of heart disease and diabetes from too much sugar.

—**Daily Mail**



Master plan

After purchasing a new campground in Mornington in December 2020, the Western Australian Conference executive committee has approved a master plan for the property, including additional dormitory and bathroom buildings, a new kitchen and a dining hall and around 10 chalets. “Camp Mornington will be a place for our youth, church members and the community at large to make new lifelong memories,” said WAC CFO Graeme Drinkall. —**Connect**



10,000 Toes

As part of the “Going Deep and Going Wide” workshop in preparation for the year ahead, 10,000 Toes Fiji had a special program to thank and award its ambassadors. Held at the Beach Escape Resort in Nadi, the event celebrated 12 Ambassador Award winners with five newly promoted Lead Ambassadors. Working as volunteers, they are responsible for driving the fight against non-communicable diseases in eight Pacific island countries. —**Record staff**



Power of literature

The visit of a literature evangelist in French Polynesia has motivated a widow to begin attending church. Raimana Brotherson visited Marilyne in December 2021 to present her with a few books. “Marilyne has a son who loves our children’s books so she was excited to purchase our new titles,” said Mr Brotherson. “We gave her a copy of *Great Controversy* and we also prayed together.” Marilyne is now attending the Adventist church in Tipaerui. —**Literature Ministry**



New church plant

In 2020, a small family was studying the Bible under the leadership of elder Ray Tubavai at Palnakaul village, Kokopo, Papua New Guinea. They gathered every Sabbath to worship, pray, have Bible study and explore *The Faith of Jesus*—a Bible study guide. Other nearby families expressed their desire to join the group. As numbers increased in the new church plant, they erected a shelter, which was dedicated by Pastor Lua Bobore, director of Sabbath school and personal ministries at New Britain New Ireland Mission. Currently, more than 100 new people attend worship each Sabbath. The church plant leaders have a plan to construct a better church building in the new future. —**Danny Philip**



Special guests

Thirty-five musicians from Eastwood College church camp brightened the Sabbath program at Hillview Adventist Church in Morisset (NSW) on January 22. The young musicians had just spent two weeks in the music camp where they had 40 hours of intensive music sessions of instruments and choir. Some of the songs specially arranged for the camp were premiered at Hillview. Speaker and church leader Emmanuel Higgins said a particular favourite was an arrangement of “Faith is the victory”. —**Mary Fedorow**



Making Jesus known

Committed to their mission statement, "To know Jesus and to make Jesus known", the Murwillumbah Seventh-day Adventist Church (NSW) developed a training series in 2021 to prepare church members to fulfil both areas of the statement.

Focusing on the growth of biblical knowledge, the first part of the series consisted of a church-wide Bible journal and reading plan through the Gospel of Mark. The reading plan was accompanied by the weekly podcast "Untrained" that explained each week's passages.

Planning the second phase of the training, Murwillumbah pastors Ashley Smith and Boris Jovinov realised that one of the major reasons that church members were hesitant to give Bible studies was because they don't feel qualified to teach the Bible, and they do not have a good framework or resources to teach the Scripture.

To solve this problem, they launched the Simple Truth Bible study project, a series of 20 Bible studies that cover each of the Adventist fundamental beliefs in seven passages or less. Written in a question-answer format, with a Bible verse to answer each question, the studies also have a short paragraph of commentary explaining the verses.

With the new initiative, church members have started giving Bible studies and shared several testimonies of the success they've had. —**Northpoint**

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Genuine interest

In response to the request of the Caboolture Adventist Church (Queensland) leadership, Pastor Casey Wolverton gave high priority to pastoral visitation after starting his ministry there in February 2021, completing his 100th visit by December. Members and pastor said the initiative was a blessing. "I can't actually recall having had a pastoral visit before," said long-time member Ken Luke. "I was delighted with the visit, and I felt that the pastor was genuinely interested in getting to know me," he added. Pastor Wolverton said the initiative was a great way to connect with the members. "It has been such a positive experience for me, and I plan to continue pastoral visitation in my future ministry," he said. — **Lyn Ashby**



Music ministry

Coming to Australia on the Seasonal Workers Program, Seventh-day Adventists from Port Vila (Vanuatu) David Avock, Ronnie Ngwele, Joel Toa and Glenden Thomson have dedicated their free time to preach the gospel through music. "We believe that God has brought us here not only to work for our daily living and needs back home but to do a far greater work that is to do His will and to continue spreading His word," said Mr Avock. Working in different farms in South Australia, the four men made friends with 90-year-old musician Alan Parker, who took them home on weekends to practice and transported them to sing at different churches, events and state functions. Vanuatu Mission youth director Pastor Andric Tanghwa said their example is a wonderful discipleship testimony. —**Vanuatu Mission Facebook**

Finding *faith* in the desert



The sun was setting, meaning we were only two nights' sleep away from home. After 15 days surrounded by red dirt and dull vegetation, I was happy to see the first glimpse of green in a small oasis-like wetland near the end of the desert. I had just experienced the most unexpected and challenging trip I'd ever been on. It felt like the longest as well but it was finally coming to an end.

The beginning of the journey and the first struggle

The 4WDs were loaded. Full. Not even a tiny space left. Our convoy of four was fully stocked with water, diesel, food and other essential supplies to survive a round trip from Newcastle (NSW) to Finke (NT). Almost 3000 kilometres between the two locations and a route back home crossing the Simpson Desert.

When the first sunset approached, we stopped near a lake and set up camp for the night. After successfully contributing some wood for the fire, I had to learn how to set up my swag. The most challenging part would come a bit later.

Many Australians might find sleeping in a swag somewhat mundane, but for me—a Brazilian whose very few camping experiences as a child would be better described as "glamping"—the swag was a very claustrophobic experience.

I felt trapped, suffocated. I tried using my phone to distract myself and maybe fall asleep while reading something, but it didn't work. I whispered to my husband, who was in the next swag—he was already sleeping. I felt the urge to get out but didn't have the courage. *What if there is a snake or a dingo*, I thought. In the midst of my struggle, I prayed and had the idea to open a small portion of the outer flap just so I could peek outside while keeping the screen closed to prevent anything from coming in.

Finally, I could breathe. I smelled the fresh cold air and saw the starry sky—the most beautiful sky I had ever seen. At that moment, laying in my swag in the middle of nowhere, I contemplated God's greatness in the night sky and all my worries faded away. I fell asleep knowing that other struggles would come along the journey, but He would be right there with me through all of them.

As we continued the trip, the scenery had a drastic change. What once was green now was replaced by red. The road surface that was paved and smooth now was plain dirt and rocks. The air was getting drier by the minute.

After driving for three days, we arrived in Finke, an Indigenous community in the heart of Australia. Our group of 17 people spent six days in that community where the volunteers helped to renovate the Adventist church building during the day—the only church in that community—and conducted an evangelistic series during the evenings.

My husband and I had the job of documenting the trip. Being in the position of observers—filming, interviewing and taking photos—we were able to see the great impact the group had on that community.

My desert, your desert, our desert

Most people don't think of the desert as an ideal holiday place. Although our expedition wasn't a leisure trip, we did take the opportunity

to travel around the Outback and saw many unexpected sights.

It was incredible seeing that in such a rough environment, life persisted. I saw emus running alongside our convoy from a distance. Wild horses (brumbies), red kangaroos, goats, camels, dingoes, a donkey and countless colourful birds; beautiful animals that testified of God's care.

While it was a unique experience, if I'm being honest, I wouldn't choose to spend 16 days in such an extreme environment. However, from a biblical perspective, time in the desert, as tough as it is, can bear fruits.

Jesus went into the desert for more than a month before starting His public ministry (Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1,2; Matthew 4:1,2). John the Baptist spent most of his life preaching in the wilderness (desert) of Judea (Matthew 3:1-6; Luke 1:70; 3:1-6; Mark 1:1-6). Elijah experienced the desert more than once (1 Kings 17:3; 19:3,4). The apostle Paul disappeared into the desert in Arabia for a certain period after his conversion (Galatians 1:17,18), where he sought God with all his heart and emerged prepared to preach the gospel.

Let's not forget the Israelites. God kept His own people wandering in the wilderness for a generation in order to build their character and teach them valuable lessons before entering the promised land (Deuteronomy 8:2,3).

The way home

After our mission in Finke was completed, we started our journey back. Even though we had the hope that we would get there soon, the way home was even more challenging. After visiting a couple of tourist sites such as Uluru and stopping for Sabbath in Alice Springs (NT), we spent three days in the Simpson Desert. During that period, we camped overnight and drove as much as possible during the day, crossing over 400 dunes. It was a turbulent trip, to say the least, but on a Friday afternoon, we made it home. Just in time for the Sabbath.

It wasn't 40 years wandering in the wilderness or even 40 days and 40 nights fasting in the desert, but that adventure taught me countless lessons.

As soon as I got home, I was just thankful for the simple things such as having a comfortable bed, a shower, a roof over my head. As my excitement with being back to civilisation settled down, however, I started seeing our life on this planet as our time in the wilderness. There are struggles and death all around us. Sometimes it's hard to breathe and find the strength to keep going, but God promises that all this suffering will soon be over. While we wait, He can be our little oasis in the desert of life and in just a few more sleeps, we will be home.

Juliana Muniz

Assistant editor, *Adventist Record*





The devil came a knockin'

The devil knocked on my door last night and asked if he could come in—"you see we have a lot to talk about, he said, and I think it's time I came clean."

I let him come in—I detected no harm, I was charmed—and alarm bells were silenced.

"I must confess I have brought you undone and such a cinch it was. I'm an expert you see, and I knew all your weakness, your triggers, and you fell for it every time. Just a whisper here or whatever was near you and you were in like Flinn. Oh, it's so easy to make you sin!"

As he wrinkled in glee, he proclaimed it to me that "the rest was a symphony when your shame is my pleasant reward".

"I see you loathing in self-regret and misery like a fox caught in a trap; the hunter was me and I enjoyed my slim pickings for I never really cared after all.

"You see you humans are easy; I did it to Eve, then she did

it to Adam and so the story goes on and on. You weren't the first I brought undone, and you won't be the last. None of you are immune. Oh Eve was so blind and Adam such a fool and since then I've perfected the art. You made me your prince and gave me the world until God took matters into His own hands. I don't have long to work but I'll keep going while I can for one day I will have to depart.

"But until then I'll distract you and cause you to fail again and again and again. It's quite simple you see—distractions and pain they were all caused by me. I pride myself as being a pretty good salesman you see. I was high up in heaven, yet I cast doubt on the Father and proudly wouldn't repent and that was the end of glory for me. Your life is like mine—while you're looking away, I give you crumbs from the king's table, and you relish them with glee like it's more than your wildest dreams. God can offer you more, but Him you ignore and that's fine by me. You bicker like seagulls when I throw you the scraps; turning your back on the five courses you need.

"You will blame everyone else for the life that you failed, perhaps even God. I really don't care, you'll never blame me. I'm immune to the fear of a world full of sickness and pain. Yet it's always been me, I'm the father of chaos. It's in our blood you and me, we are tarred with the same brush; let's admit it and be free."

Just then I heard a knock—much firmer than the first—and I watched the devil cringe in fear; he begged me stay and turn the stranger away, for he knew how this meeting would end.

I opened the door to the Friend I'd ignored, and His nail-scarred hands led the way.

"Don't listen to him, it's your choice don't give in. I have opened the way for a new life and a home without sin. Take a walk with me now, I have all that you need. Leave the baggage inside this old house. I have made you a mansion, a home and a life without self-pity, shame and reproach. I saw you before the world had begun. I love you and when I died you were on My mind, My child. You have always and always will be."

My choice was made—I won't disclose—and the offer goes out to you. Christ has offered the same, you don't need to be ashamed; He loves us all the same.

You were on His mind the day that He died, and He rose again to proclaim—"You are loved my child with all your faults and your shame. It's OK, we can work through the pain, let's just take a walk and see where it leads—it's your pace, it's your choice all the same."

Jason Drury

pastors in the south-west of Western Australia, with his wife Janet and their two youngest children.

The 10

Bible verses about *Love*

February is often known to be a month all about love, whether that be romantic love, self-love, love for others, or the opportunity to cultivate rich relationships with family and friends. Here are 10 of our favourite Bible verses all about love:

1. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Do everything in love.

2. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

3. Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

4. 1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

5. John 13:34,35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

6. John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

7. Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

8. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

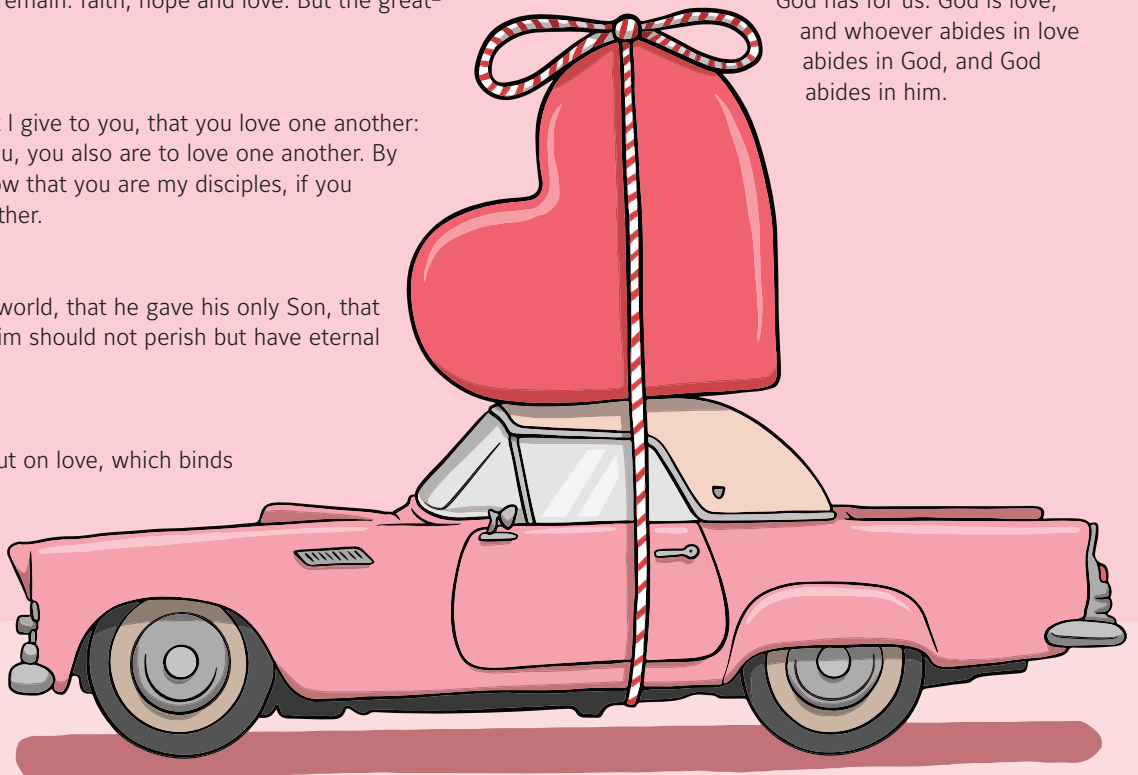
If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

9. 1 John 4:7

Let us love one another, for love comes from God.

10. 1 John 4:16

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.





Power or *Power*

Aiming for self preservation or self destruction?

The Book of Acts is the incredible story of the early Christian church navigating its way through persecution and launching out into unentered mission fields. But all the way, the main theme is clear: this book is not so much the Acts of the Apostles as it is the *Acts of the Holy Spirit*.

The Holy Spirit is made mention in this book 56 times while the entire New Testament mentions the Holy Spirit 92 times.¹ So over 60 per cent of mentions of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament are found in the Book of Acts alone!

What we are seeing here is a dynamic outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon individuals who are radically transformed by Christ.

Christ is with His disciples for 40 days instructing them about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). But with time running out before Jesus leaves, the disciples are anxious to know what the future holds for them and the fate of Israel. And so, they ask Jesus:

"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6 (NKJV).

This is an important question. Jesus has been teaching them about establishing the kingdom of God on earth but the

only thought pressing on their minds is whether Jesus will restore the kingdom again to Israel.

There are two kingdoms in conflict here: the kingdom of God that Jesus came to establish and the kingdom of Israel that the people want Jesus to restore.

The entire gospel narrative sways side to side between Jesus seeking to implant into the minds of His disciples the nature and character of God's kingdom while the disciples fail to understand Christ, blinded by their desires to see Israel glorified as a great nation once again.

So, why was the restoration of Israel so important to them? If you think about it:

They'd been under oppression by the Romans. They want *freedom*.

They want *justice* and for their enemies to be trampled upon.

They want *respect* and *honour* from other nations to be restored.

What were they really longing for?

Freedom, justice, respect and honour—all the values we crave, even today. And yet, when the disciples ask Jesus when

He will restore the kingdom of Israel, Jesus doesn't give them a direct answer. Instead, He says,

"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" Acts 1:7 (KJV).

It's interesting that the word Jesus uses for "power" here can mean freedom, justice, respect, honour. Jesus says there will come a time when He will restore all these things back to His people but it's not for them to know when He will do it.

Instead He says, "But you shall receive *power* when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" Acts 1:8 (italics added).

The power He is committing to us is of a different nature. The word for power here is *dunamis* from where we get the word "dynamite". This is the kind of power Jesus wants to give us to break our bonds of negative thoughts, bonds of depression and anxiety, bonds of porn addiction, bonds of loneliness and low self-esteem.

Jesus was not so much interested in us defending our rights for freedom, justice, respect and honour in a world where we will constantly find our rights being violated. That's the power we want. But the power Jesus wants to give us transcends our cravings for self-protection and self-preservation. It focuses on self-destruction—less of self and more of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and the lives of others so God can establish His kingdom in our hearts.

Look at this conversation between the Pharisees and Jesus in the Bible:

"One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, 'When will the Kingdom of God come?' Jesus replied, 'The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, "Here it is!" or "It's over there!" For the Kingdom of God is already among you'" Luke 17:20,21 (NLT).

In other translations, Jesus says, "The kingdom of God is within you." God wants to create permanent transformation on the inside by reigning in our hearts rather than a temporal and superficial fix on the outside.²

Think about it: if the world is fixed, and freedom, justice, honour and respect restored for everyone and yet our hearts are not conquered by God, we will always be slaves to sin and selfishness and never truly be free.

It's this power Jesus wants to give us. Power to set us free to live a life of perfect purity, peace, love and assurance.

That's why Paul said: "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" Romans 14:17 (NKJV).

We see this lived out in the story of the demoniac who Jesus met. The Bible describes this man as possessing super-human strength. The only way to contain his "power" was to chain him. But when the man sees Jesus he comes and falls at His feet to worship Him. All the power of this man has to bow down to the all-surpassing power of Jesus.³

Jesus releases the demoniac from the power that binds him and replaces it with His own power—the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus then tells this man to go and tell his friends "what great things the Lord has done . . . and how He has had compassion" Mark 5:19 (NKJV).

When Christ transforms our lives and the power of His Holy Spirit at work in us is so real, it always overflows into the lives of others.

In Acts 1:8, when Jesus says, "But you shall receive power . . . and you shall be witnesses to Me. . ." He is saying the power of Christ within us would compel us to reach others for Jesus.

The word "witness" here comes from the word we often translate as "martyr". Because the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit at work within us destroys and crucifies self, we no longer live for ourselves; we live for Christ and the establishment of His kingdom of love in the lives of all around us.

We are told: "The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others."⁴

In the Roman world where Christians were being persecuted for their faith, we find a man named Polycarp who chose to live and die for Christ as a martyr and witness.

Being dragged from his home, Polycarp was taken to the city where a deafening noise arose from a multitude. When Polycarp was given the chance to recant he said, "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"⁵

Polycarp died a martyr, a witness of how his love for Christ was more powerful than his love for self. It's this selfless love that inspired generations of Christians to stand firm for their love for Christ and through their testimony positively impact the lives of others.

This same power—the power of the Holy Spirit—is available to us today. In our broken and fractured world, there has never been a better time to focus less on self-protection and self-preservation and more on self-destruction.

Before Jesus returns, the Bible tells us there will be a group of people whose lives are so dramatically changed that this world will see through them an outflowing of God's character of love like never before.

Jesus' prayer before His death says it all: "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one . . . As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" John 17:15,18 (NKJV).

Let this be our prayer today. Amen.

1. <findanyanswer.com/how-many-times-is-the-holy-spirit-mentioned-in-acts>.
2. Coleman, R, *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Baker Book House, 1998, p22.
3. <bible.org/seriespage/16-healing-demoniac-gadara>.
4. White, EG, *Christ's Object Lessons*. p289.
5. Eusebius, *The History of the Church from Christ to Constantine*. Penguin Books, 1989, pp120,121.

Vikram Panchal

a church planting pastor in Melbourne and creator of the "Lead Your Life" podcast.

Reconciling God's promised care with life's disasters



In 2011 my wife Cheryl (nee Aveling) was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), which is a failure of the bone marrow, causing it to produce faulty blood cells called blasts. The MDS developed from an existing neutropenia, despite Cheryl living a very healthful lifestyle, keeping fit and otherwise very well.

Cheryl's diagnosis was 10 per cent blasts, which meant that she had around 18 months to live. The recommended treatment was a bone marrow transplant, which at the time provided only a 30 per cent prospect of survival by the end of the process. However, Cheryl's brother Graham was a perfect match, so we planned to proceed.

At a final consultation with the haematologist before proceeding, I asked the specialist if we could possibly take our recently completed campervan for a tour before the procedure. He suggested that Cheryl have another

bone marrow biopsy (BMB). If results remained at 10 per cent, then we could go for three months and, if Cheryl was feeling well, then we could extend to six months. However, if the blast count increased, then she would need to have the procedure immediately. I asked, "What if they decrease?" His response, "That will not happen. They never go down without intervention."

The BMB results took six weeks to arrive. Unknown to me, Cheryl was feeling uncomfortable with having the bone marrow transplant and had been praying that if she was not meant to have it, then the blast count would reduce. We stepped into the haematologist's office and he blurted out, "Well, your blasts have dropped." After some discussion I asked what the count was. His reply: "Two per cent. I didn't believe it, so I sent the sample to two more pathology labs and they each confirmed 2 per cent. I didn't believe it possible, so I did the count myself. There is no question. Your blast count is 2 per cent. I can't explain it and I need to inform you that NSW Health will not be funding a bone marrow transplant for a patient with only a 2 per cent blast count."

Cheryl's prayer was more than answered. It seems that God had stepped in. We embarked on a memorable two-year journey around Australia, wondering why Cheryl, at 63 years of age, would receive such an intervention.

We were well into a project to publish *An Enduring Vision*, my dad's exposition of Revelation, which we continued while we travelled. The book was published in 2015. However in late 2019, after we had completed the manuscript for the final edition, ominously, it crossed my mind whether Cheryl's MDS might now return. Within three months she was diagnosed with 25 per cent blasts—acute myeloid leukemia (AML)—the usual progression from MDS—and fatal.

Cheryl underwent a miserable six months of chemo in 2020 and was in remission by August.

Bright days! Our house was put on the market in late January 2021, anticipating a move to Glen Innes to support our son Brad, who had been sole-parenting in Tasmania for five years.

For 2-3 weeks, in a hot property market, keen buyers loved our waterfront property and were happy with the price—but no-one moved to buy. Eventually the agent and I concluded that the property wasn't meant to sell—not aware that Cheryl would subsequently receive a fatal 50 per cent blast diagnosis in late February and die in March. In addition, the reason to sell would be gone. Brad's wife returned to the home in late March after Cheryl had died.

I had tried to sell our A-Van camper, again in a hot market for RVs. There was no interest in the van for six weeks, so it was used to accommodate family during the funeral week. On Sunday morning, when it was no longer needed, it sold instantly for cash, allowing me to travel

with Brad to Glen Innes that afternoon.

Does God have His hand over our lives from beginning to end? Is He interested in the affairs of our lives when we wonder what's going on? I believe so, and I am personally grateful that Cheryl was given time to help complete the book project and to support single-dad Brad in Tasmania. As stated, in late 2019 Cheryl's MDS condition returned with a vengeance and her days were effectively numbered, despite the brief remission after chemo.

Cheryl was a true daughter of the Most High and she lived her life in His presence. God knew that Cheryl would develop a condition that would end her life prematurely. However, He intervened to achieve His purposes. He then intervened to prevent the sale of the home. He even intervened to ensure there was sufficient accommodation for extended family during the funeral period. But God didn't intervene again to prevent Cheryl from dying.

One evening in March, returning from the hospital, my car was shunted. Despite minimal damage, the insurance company paid out the policy and handed the car back to me with \$A10,000—the amount needed for Cheryl's funeral costs.

God has allowed the almost unbearable loss of my beloved, special girl. Yet at the same time He was providing for the tragedy to unfold smoothly and even to be a testimony and an inspiration to those attending the service, and even now.

So how do I reconcile the events I have witnessed? My conclusion: If God was so involved in Cheryl's life as to reverse a fatal situation in 2011; to sustain her for 10 years to enable her to complete a project and to support Brad's family, but then to allow her to die; and yet to intervene again in the details of the funeral period itself to provide for contingencies unknown to me—then my conclusion is that God knows the end from the beginning. His purposes will be achieved, and I can trust Him to bring good out of a profound disaster for me. He allowed my darling Cheryl to die for a reason—and I have to trust Him. For now, she sleeps, awaiting the call of her Redeemer (Job 14:15).

Romans 8:28 promises "All things work together for good to those who love God, who have been called according to His purpose."

God doesn't release His people from the impacts of a world in rebellion, but He promises to be with us through those experiences, despite our anguished tears.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you" (Isaiah 43:2). So trust Him!

Rod Cooke

lives in retirement at Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie and attends Toronto Adventist Church, NSW. This article is adapted from a paper Rod presented to his Sabbath school class, referencing the experiences of Joseph.



Rainbow nori rolls

🍴 Serves 4 🕒 Prep 20 🍳 Cook 15

These healthy and colourful rolls may look exotic but they are easy to make. This trendy twist is filled with protein-packed quinoa and colourful vegetables that make a great food to eat at work or when away from home.

Ingredients

1 cup black quinoa, rinsed and drained
 2 cups water
 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
 4 sheets nori
 ½ small fresh beetroot, peeled and cut into matchsticks
 ¼ capsicum, peeled and cut into matchsticks
 ¼ carrot, peeled and cut into matchsticks
 handful of pea sprouts

Avocado cream:

2 avocados, peeled and chopped
 3 tsp apple cider vinegar
 ¾ tsp salt

Tips

It's important to make the rolls while the quinoa is still warm. This allows the quinoa to stick with the nori sheets.

Method

1. Place quinoa, water and vinegar in a saucepan. Bring to boil then reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10–15 minutes or until water is absorbed. Stir well and set aside to become lukewarm.
2. Place a sheet of nori (shiny side down) on sushi mat or bench.
3. Spread quinoa over nori leaving 2cm at short end.
4. For avocado cream, place all ingredients in a food processor and process until smooth and creamy.
5. Arrange ¼ of avocado cream, raw vegetables, sprouts in the centre of quinoa.
6. Roll up firmly towards the end with 2cm gap. Cut in half.
7. Repeat with remaining nori sheets and ingredients.
8. Serve with soy sauce. Makes 8 (2 per serve)


Nutritional Information (per serving)

ENERGY	CALORIES	PROTEIN	FAT	SATURATES	CARBOHYDRATE
1183kJ	282	8.9g	13.8g	2.8g	27.2g
SUGARS	FIBRE	CALCIUM	SODIUM	IRON	POTASSIUM
3.6g	6.4g	42mg	331mg	3.0mg	633mg



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Conversations

Faithful service

Great article about STORMCo (*Record*, January 22). STORMCo is a truly amazing concept and congratulations to all involved over the years.

However I'm a little sad that you didn't name the school and school chaplain where it all started 30 years ago. The chaplain was Jerry Unser and the school was Brisbane Adventist College. No criticism intended, just slight disappointment on my part that Jerry and BAC weren't acknowledged.

Also I'm sure you could find a photo out there somewhere of the original group of high schoolers that made up the first STORMCo team.

One of my daughters, Sarah (Truscott) Morton—she and some of my other children and grandchildren have been on many trips since then.

Linda Truscott, Qld

Author appreciation

I have just finished reading the *Adventist Record*, November 20, 2021, and wish to thank several of the authors.

I truly appreciated Rochelle Melville's excellent analysis of the

Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) and yes, your new suggested title captures Jesus' message more accurately than the traditional name. There is a coin for one hour's work; it's called a *pondion*, but God's grace is not so divisible—it's always more than any of us deserve. Keep writing Rochelle.

I'm also grateful to Drs Edyta and Darius Jankiewicz for their compelling article on the word "submit" in Ephesians 5. Four times in verses 25-33 Paul admonishes husbands to love their wives. I cannot see how love includes domination or rulership.

Norman Young, NSW

The other brother

"The brother we don't like to talk about" (Living Kingdom series, December 16, 2021, quotes from Word Biblical Commentary: "There is nothing here to threaten God's faithful sons. Their place with God remains secure; their inheritance is undisturbed. But they should not imagine that they have a claim upon God that excludes others. Nor should they imagine that their

faithful efforts place God in their debt . . . The challenge to them is to recognise and rejoice in this rescue operation now proceeding apace. They should come on in and join the party."

And yet we continue to be blind to the fact that in this parable Jesus is illustrating His Father's mysterious plan of redemption—a family with two sons, Jews and Christians.

One son serving under the Law of Moses, the other under the Law of Grace, both are family members, together with Jesus.

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all" (Romans 11:29-32).

Henry Firus, Vic



Translators at Avondale. Photo from from *Journal of Pacific Adventist History*.

God's faithful messenger in Tonga

T*ala'fekau Mo'oni* ("Faithful Messenger" or "True Messenger") was a periodical printed in the Tongan language between 1909 and 1956.

The decision to produce a Tongan language periodical was taken in September 1908 at the Australian Union Conference session, Cooranbong, NSW.¹

William Palmer, a delegate at the session, was nominated as the editor.² He was an Englishman, a resident in Tonga, and one of the earliest to be baptised in the island group.

The little periodical titled *Tala'fekau Mo'oni* first appeared in 1909 with a print run of one thousand.³ It was a four-page (eight-sided) monthly, printed at Avondale Press, Cooranbong, NSW. Frances Waugh acted as subeditor until 1911 when she became both editor and translator.⁴

At the start of World War I, mission officials were obliged to utilise the printing press at Buresala Training School, Fiji, because the military restricted periodicals leaving Australia.⁵ Translation responsibilities soon shifted to Vai[ola] Kerisome on Niue Island, with missionary Annie Williams as editor.⁶ In 1922 a new convert in Tonga named Beaua, and his wife, Mafi, located at Buresala to proofread the magazine and learn some typesetting. He remained until 1924, when the monthly ceased to be published.⁷

Hubert Tolhurst, missionary in Tonga, appreciated the value of a national periodical and revived the paper in 1937 under the title *True Messenger*, with himself as editor. The print run remained the same, but it was issued only bimonthly.⁸ Tolhurst returned to Australia in 1941. Nevertheless, the periodical continued to be issued in the same format.⁹ It was last listed

in the 1956 Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook.¹⁰

The periodical experienced the shortest life span of all the Pacific Island papers, 34 years in two runs, but it served its objective as an effective evangelistic instrument.

1. "Plans and Recommendations," *Union Conference Record*, September 21, 1908, 39–41.
2. "Nominations," *Union Conference Record*, September 21, 1908, 41.
3. FN Waugh, "Our Island Papers," *Union Conference Record*, October 4, 1909, 8.
4. "Tongan," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1913), 188.
5. "The military authorities have just issued . . .," *Australasian Record*, November 16, 1914, 8.
6. "Tongan," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1917), 214.
7. LV Hadfield, "Letter from Tonga," *Australasian Record*, July 7, 1924, 3.
8. HL Tolhurst, "Tonga's True Messenger," *Australasian Record*, March 15, 1937, 3.
9. "Tongan," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1950), 346.
10. "Tongan," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1956), 288.

This article is taken from the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists which can be accessed online at <encyclopedia.adventist.org>.

Dr Milton Hook/ESDA

HI KIDS!

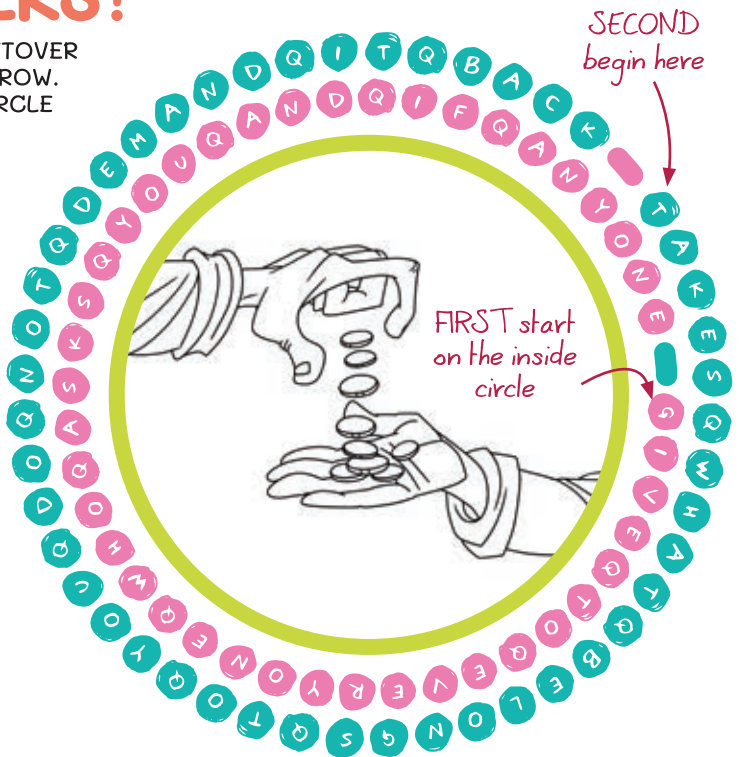


LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

A large crowd had gathered. All types of people were there. Jesus and the 12 disciples went down to join them and Jesus began to talk. Everyone listened with attention. Jesus' words were so simple, yet their message was deep and meaningful. "Serving God," Jesus explained, "means being willing to be to others the way God is to us. Loving our enemies means we will always act in other people's best interest even if they are determined to hurt us. We will pray for them. We will think of real ways of helping them. We will grant them the same rights and respect as we would like for ourselves. It can be done only as we accept that love from God ourselves, and then turn and reflect it onto those around us, regardless of who they are. Loving like that is the true sign of royalty, of being sons and daughters of God."

HOW TO LOVE OTHERS?

CROSS OUT ALL THE LETTER 'Q's. WRITE DOWN THE LEFTOVER LETTERS. START FROM THE INSIDE CIRCLE AT THE ARROW. ON THE SECOND ACTIVITY START ON THE INSIDE CIRCLE AND THEN GO TO THE OUTSIDE CIRCLE.



Obituaries



CLARE, Margaret Anne (nee Edwards), born 14.8.1947 in Murwillumbah, NSW; died 16.11.21 on

the Gold Coast, Qld. On 8.2.1970 she married Bob. Margie is survived by her husband; children, Christie Jeffery (Christchurch, NZ), Belinda Shaw (Brisbane, Qld), Jarred (Gold Coast), Bernadette Windle (Broome, WA); and many grandchildren and foster children. Margie loved children and fostered numerous children over the years. She loved her church community and tirelessly served in children's ministries for decades where she was loved and adored by many. Margie had a strong faith and a legacy of love that reached far and wide. She went to rest with a calm assurance that her life was in God's keeping until He comes again.

Trevor Hanna, Quintin Betteridge



COTTIER, Dorothy Maude Jane, born 6.7.1929 in Coorabong, NSW; died 2.1.22 in Wyong

Hospital. She was predeceased by her sisters, Ruth Limond and Eileen Englert. She is survived by her

brother Ray (Metford); and many nieces and nephews. In 1948 Dot graduated from Business Studies-Secretarial Course at the then Australasian Missionary College. For 39 years she served Avondale College (now Avondale University) in a variety of roles, including assistant registrar. In 2019 her outstanding years of service were acknowledged with the naming of the administration block in her honour. In retirement, Dot gave 25 years of valued service to Coorabong Community Services Centre. In a lifetime in which she received many significant awards, Dorothy will be remembered as a "living legend", strong in faith and a genuinely caring Christian.

Roger Nixon, John Hammond

HOWARTH, Emily Gwendoline Valma, born 7.4.1926 near Eugowra, NSW; died 22.1.22 in Molong. On 25.10.1955 she married Ivan, who predeceased her in 2003. She is survived by her only daughter and husband, Melinda and John Green (Molong); grandchildren, Kaylene, Lynden and Brendan; and six great-grandchildren. Emily was the daughter of Arthur and Melinda (Kent) Adams. She was laid to rest beside her late husband in

Orange cemetery on January 31, 2022.

Colin Richardson, Lorenzo Berry



HUMBLE, Dr Graeme John, born 4.1.1954 in Geelong, Vic; died 14.12.21 in Macquarie University Hospital,

Macquarie Park, NSW. On 7.9.1975 he married Kaylene Mackay while studying Theology at Avondale College. Graeme is survived by his wife (Lake Munmorah); children, Timothy (Sydney), Jodie and James (Perth, WA) and Kylie (Sydney, NSW); and grandchildren, Lilly, Sierra, Lucas and Leo. Graeme served the Church as a pastor, leader, administrator, senior lecturer, researcher and a wise and encouraging mentor to many. His passion for cross-cultural ministry permeated his career and he was a respected member of numerous academic and anthropological associations, including a founding member of the Australian Association for Mission Studies (AAMS). Prior to his retirement in 2019 Graeme served as field secretary and director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division. Tragically, his life was cut short by motor neurone disease. His courage in the face

of unspeakable suffering and his unshakable faith was an inspiration to all who knew him. The memorial service held on December 22 at Avondale Cemetery Chapel is available for viewing on the Avondale Family Funerals Facebook page.

Peter Cousins, Barry Gane



MANNERS, Ivan Wallace, born 25.4.1924 in Kadina, SA; died 21.12.21 in Kalamunda, WA. On

10.8.1964 he married Colleen Hanbury. Ivan is survived by his wife (Perth, WA); children, Nicole and Robert Nowill, and Alana and Kelvin Clarke (all of Sydney, NSW); Sharlene and Steve Layey (Brisbane, Qld); Desmond, Michael and Kathleen (all of Perth, WA); and grandchildren, Jack and N'Jaane (both of Brisbane, Qld). A fisherman, medic, missionary, colporteur and handyman, Ivan loved people, was always cheerful and had strong faith that saw him experience miracles of God's power. His mind and handshake strong to the end, his last words were, "See you in the Morning."

Gordon Stafford, Robert Kingdon



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SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE

Notice is hereby given of a special constituency meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church North New South Wales Conference, scheduled for April 17, 2022, commencing at 3pm in the Big Tent at Stuarts Point Convention Centre, located at 250 Grassy Head Rd, Stuarts Point, NSW. The main order of business will be to consider amendments to the NNSW Conference constitution to provide for electronic voting. For more information, please contact Pastor Abel Iorgulescu, General Secretary NNSW.

LOCAL MISSIONS VOLUNTEER

Could you be Maclean Adventist church's volunteer? We are followers of Jesus who have a strategic focus on children's ministry, Pathfinders and Adventurers. We will help you with accommodation and a stipend. You will participate in evangelistic outreach in the lower Clarence Valley, covering Maclean, Iluka and Yamba areas (NNSW Conference). You hope to see many people led to Jesus. You are a friendly and passionate Seventh-day Adventist who follows Christ's method to help people generously, lead them gently to the Bible and share the good news with

them. You have completed ARISE Express or have similar experience. You are comfortable with door-knocking and finding people to study the Bible on your own. You are willing to help with visitation, evangelism, community events and Sabbath services. Contact Pastor Adam Cinzio at <adamcinzio@adventist.org.au>.

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Position Vacant

ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, NSW

We are looking for an assistant editor to join our Adventist Media editorial team to assist in writing, coordinating, creating and posting content to our magazines, web and social media platforms. Primarily working with the *Signs of the Times* team, the successful candidate will have opportunities to work on *Adventist Record* and other projects. They will need good communication skills, have a positive attitude, strong work ethic, the ability to meet deadlines and work in a small, friendly team. Presenting skills also desirable. Experience of 1-2 years in a similar role is desirable, but recent graduates in social media, journalism, communication or other related field are also encouraged to apply. Please contact Joy Carey at <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au> to ask for the position description and application details. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and to close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia should apply. Applications close February 28, 2022.

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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