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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Life-changing stories

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

We love telling stories of how God is using people and ministries throughout the South Pacific Division to make a real impact on the world

I love hearing stories about how people read, respond and even change their lives because of something they've read in an Adventist magazine, especially *Adventist Record* or *Signs of the Times*. The fact our content has the power to inspire people to action is a great blessing and a great responsibility.

For a little while, we've used the tagline *Record* is "more than a magazine". This is true in two ways. First, it acknowledges the fact *Record* is available on a number of platforms and second, the magazine is a valuable space to hold conversations, keep our members informed and build community.

One of my favourite things about being editor is hearing all the stories. We love telling stories of how God is using people and ministries throughout the South Pacific Division to make a real impact on the world.

I've heard of ministries started, decisions made for baptism and Bible study and people inspired in their faith, by even the smallest and seemingly inconsequential snippets of information. Just like the body of Christ, there is no section of *Record*, whether it be Flashpoint, features or even Noticeboard, that does not serve a purpose and have a part to play. And just like the church, all those different parts often miraculously find some form of harmony or thread running through each issue, even when no theme is planned.

One of my favourite examples of this is the story of Bruce Hill, manager of Crosslands Adventist Campground in the Greater Sydney Conference. Bruce was going through a time in his life where he had suffered some health problems from stress and overwork. He was praying for and seeking a change, when a man at church shared a *Record* article with him. While that article wasn't life-changing, in the same issue, Bruce saw an ad for the Crosslands manager position. In his own words:

"We prayed and applied for the job. After a lengthy process, we flew to Sydney and stayed at Crosslands for the final interview. While helping on the site, I was asked to drive the bobcat. When I was told the PIN code to start it, my response was "Wow! are you serious?" The PIN code was the same numbers as our house alarm! I remember thinking, *God is this a sign?* Needless to say, we got the job!"

This small snippet of information (an advert) changed Bruce and his wife Maxine's lives—they became involved in a ministry they love. "We want Crosslands to be a place where people don't just come to have fun, but meet God so He can change lives and enlarge His kingdom."

Bruce's story is featured in this year's *Record* offering video. If you haven't seen it yet (or it wasn't played at church today), you can go to our <record.adventistchurch.com> website to watch it.

I've been blessed over the years to hear of stories of life-changing moments or impactful things that have happened in people's lives directly after being inspired by something they've read in *Record*. And none of it would be possible without the support of the South Pacific Division and you dear reader. Your submissions, your letters, your engagement, your offering this week, make this important magazine freely available so we can keep telling stories that inspire each and every one of us.

These stories warm my heart but I'm sure there are myriads more. We'd love to hear your stories of how *Record* (or *Signs*) has impacted your life. Please send them to <editor@record.net.au>. And keep writing and engaging with the conversation on our website, social media channels and of course the physical magazine. We love getting stories from across our region and our friendly staff will work out how to best get your story in print if we can. I'd like to thank our staff, from those in the office here in Wahroonga to our essential printing team in Warburton, Victoria, to our church leaders who support and make this ministry possible. Many Divisions in the world don't have anything equivalent to *Record* to help members stay in touch.

Today's offering helps the South Pacific Division to continue to fund our *Adventist Record* so we can continue telling our stories, sharing our hope and building our community.



INSIGHT:

Reaping what you sow

Glenn Townend
South Pacific Division president


If you plant pumpkin seeds you will reap pumpkin vines. If you sow corn seeds you will reap corn. If you sow bean seeds you will reap beans. The universal law is that you reap what you sow. This does not just apply to farming.


In his letter to the churches in Galatia, Paul writes, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:7–9, NIV).

In other words, the little habits of telling white lies, of not revealing all the truth, of making excuses for your failures will reap a poor outcome. However, by putting in place habits of Bible reading and reflection on the goodness of God, prayer, being thankful, thinking of how to be kind to others will have the opposite effect. One group of habits destroy the soul and the other builds it. Our choices determine our eternal destiny—if we choose Jesus and the Spirit to internally change us we have hope. But the perseverance here is not just about self-improvement. Character building comes from serving others (see verse 10). When we serve we reveal that we are not the centre of the universe.

I have been inspired recently when hearing stories of those from our Church who rescued others in the eastern Australian floods, who provided water and food and cleaned up houses. The Adventists in eastern Europe who are taking up to two families of Ukrainian refugees per household and treating them like guests—even though they don’t speak the same language and are not getting compensated for their care.

This kind of doing good prepares the soil of people’s hearts—as God says—it will reap a harvest some time. Join me in doing all the good we can now.

 **HEALTH**
Week 2022
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Australia's parliament house. Source: Unsplash.

Push to get legislation back on the agenda

📍 Ringwood, Victoria | Tracey Bridcutt

Seventh-day Adventists in Australia are being encouraged to be part of a renewed push to get the Religious Discrimination Bill (RDB) back on the agenda of politicians around the country.

In the lead-up to Australia's federal election on May 21, Adventists are being asked to contact their local Member of Parliament and the federal senators in their state, urging them to support the RDB without amendments.

"The bill passed the House of Representatives with a resounding 84 vote majority, with both sides of politics strongly affirming the need for people of faith or no faith to be protected from religious discrimination," said Pastor Michael Worker, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia.

"Prior to the vote the RDB received bipartisan support from two separate parliamentary committees, both recommending it be passed with some minor changes. However, the bill was withdrawn by the government before proceeding to the Senate."

The bill was withdrawn after five government MPs crossed the floor of parliament and supported Opposition Party-backed amendments that repealed Section 38(3) of the Sex Discrimination Act, an entirely separate Act of Parliament. The government chose to withdraw the bill in its entirety after recognising the legal consequences for faith-based schools of revoking Section

38(3). According to Pastor Worker, Section 38(3) enables faith-based schools to maintain their distinctive ethos and doctrine. "It allows schools to faithfully teach their beliefs to students and to set policies and standards that are in keeping with their religious ethos," he explained.

The government also realised that it faced Opposition amendments to the RDB in the Senate that would weaken the bill. Consequently, it did not proceed to a Senate vote.

Critics of the bill have suggested it would enable people to express bigoted views, however Pastor Worker refutes this claim.

"The RDB has no impact on laws against speech that incites violence, serious ridicule or contempt, or laws about statements that harm a person's reputation," he said. "The bill only protects statements of belief made in good faith and not deliberately malicious, intimidating or harassing, threatening or vilifying."

Pastor Worker said it's important that the significance of the passage of the RDB continues to be impressed upon all MPs and senators from all sides of politics. He encouraged Adventists to keep the matter in their prayers.

"Pray for our parliamentarians, that they will be wise and discerning as they debate and consider this important legislation," he said.



TPUM staff ready to board boat for Yanuca Island

New church opened in Fiji

📍 Suva, Fiji | John Tausere

It was a joyous occasion for church members on Yanuca Island in Fiji, during the official opening of their new church building on Thursday, March 31. Yanuca Island is located 30 minutes by boat off the coast of Pacific Harbour, west of Beqa island, and is known to tourist divers as a "shark feeding" hot-spot.

The opening was officiated by Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga and Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa. The church building was funded by

donations from Quiet Hour Ministry, and constructed in three weeks by Mr Qoriniyasi and his building team.

A team from the 10,000 Toes campaign was also present prior to the opening, to conduct health checks for the entire village. George Kwong, 10,000 Toes coordinator for TPUM, organised health consultations, and said the villagers were very appreciative of the health checks and were open to follow-up health programs in the future.



PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani (left) and SPD discipleship strategy leader Pastor Danny Philip (right) welcoming prime minister James Marape, Morobe governor Ginson Saonu and Lae MP John Rosso to the PNGUM office.

Prime Minister visits PNGUM office

📍 Lae, Papua New Guinea | Jacqueline Wari

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape visited the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) office in Lae on April 4 while on official business in the Morobe Province.

Welcoming Mr Marape, Morobe governor Ginson Saonu and Lae MP John Rosso, with PNGUM staff, formed a guard of honour and placed leis on the visitors.

The leaders were then shown around the Hope FM radio station before meeting with PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani, under-treasurer Kenton Ghona and South Pacific Division discipleship strategy leader Pastor Danny Philip.

After the meeting, Mr Marape, Mr Saonu and Mr Rosso met with staff in the conference room, where they were welcomed with singing and prayer.

Expressing how impressed he was with the cleanliness of the office, Mr

Rosso highlighted that the facility was in line with the “Keep Lae City Clean” initiative.

He said he was also happy to have helped local Adventist churches in Lae obtain their land titles.

Mr Saonu thanked the Church for its partnership in the development of Morobe, especially for bringing peace and order to Lae.

Thanking staff for serving the Church, Mr Marape expressed his appreciation for all PNGUM workers. “You are working for eternity,” he said.

“Don’t worry about pay but use your talents. Give 100 per cent effort, not less,” Mr Marape added.

He also took time to take photographs with staff and share light refreshments with the leaders.

The staff were grateful for the Prime Minister’s two-hour visit to the office.



Adsafe introduced to PNG

📍 Lae, Papua New Guinea | Jacqueline Wari

Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) will partner with Adsafe to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults.

Secretary Pastor Leonard Sumatau assured all who gathered virtually on April 8 for the launching of Adsafe in PNG, that the union would “find a way forward for Adsafe” and that Adsafe would feature in the PNGUM Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

“We are happy to be a partner in this ministry. Thank you to the South Pacific Division for initiating this partnership,” said Pastor Sumatau. “We look forward to a collaborative partnership between PNGUM and the local missions.”

Learning and Development director for Adsafe South Pacific Safeguarding Services, Pastor Benjamin Kola, said the work of Adsafe would be piloted in Morobe Mission and later rolled out to the other local missions and Central Papua Conference.

“We will try our best to work closely with schools and churches to see how best we can provide a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults,”

Pastor Kola said.

Team leader for Adsafe Safeguarding South Pacific Litiana Turner urged the PNGUM leadership and workers to work together to ensure the ministry reaches its goals.

“Today, as leaders you have gathered to reaffirm God’s calling in your lives and to launch an initiative that demands that we all do better at caring for, providing for and safeguarding the children and vulnerable adults among us,” Ms Turner said. “We have the opportunity right now to be at the head and not the tail as a Church in the way we address abuse within our faith community.

“By working together and learning from each other on best practice, we can do more effectively the work that God has called us to do.

“We can choose to get on board and be part of a movement that changes the way in which ministries and church institutions engage, support and uplift the vulnerable.”

PNGUM staff joined local mission leaders and SPD leaders to witness the launch.



Mamarapha College Board at the ground-breaking ceremony.

\$A2 million refurbishment to improve learning experience at Mamarapha College

📍 Karragullen, WA | Lorraine Atchia

A ground-breaking ceremony has been held at Mamarapha College (WA) for a \$A2 million expansion and refurbishment of its campus.

The ceremony was attended by college staff and members of the Mamarapha College Board, including Australian Union Conference (AUC) members, president Pastor Terry Johnson, secretary Pastor Michael Worker, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) director Pastor Darren Garlett.

"This development will provide additional classrooms, a dining hall, a computer lab as well as additional space for administration and staff," explained Pastor Worker.

"The existing classrooms and administrative spaces will be refreshed during this process and extensive decking will be constructed so that the buildings and associated amenities will all be on one level, thus providing a more integrated campus experience for students and staff," he added.

The development will completely transform the current facilities, allowing the college to provide a better learning environment.

"Since the commencement of Mamarapha College in 1997, God has grown His college," said college principal Pastor David Garrard. "In the last 5 to 10 years, applications have exceeded seating capacity, giving evidence of the significant impact the college is having among our First Nations communities."

Mamarapha College has had more than 1500 students enrolled since it opened, with approximately 120 students attending each year pre-COVID.

The college continues to add to its available courses with students currently able to complete a variety of diploma and advanced diploma courses in Indigenous Studies such as Ministry, Lifestyle Health Promotion, Community Bible Worker and Pastoral Ministry.

"Mamarapha staff and students have long dreamed of having a modern, spacious learning centre and we joyously praise God for His goodness," shared Pastor Garrard. "We are all very excited that the work has begun."

"The new development will see a greater number of Indigenous students coming through Mamarapha College," said Pastor Worker. "This is not only wonderful for the students but will have a greater impact when they return home and share their knowledge and faith with their local communities."

making headlines

VIP visit

The General Conference's Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) dinosaur research site was visited by Bolivia's Vice President, David Choquehuanca Céspedes. He was interested in collaborating to preserve the site and train Bolivian researchers. The site contains a record number of dinosaur trackways, along with tail drag impressions made by the animals as they walked.—GRI



Festival recognises *Fathers*

Fathers, an Adventist-produced documentary showing how different and yet similar fathers are worldwide, has been nominated in the "Best Documentary" category at the International Christian Film and Music Festival (ICFF), the most prominent Christian film festival in the world. You can watch the movie at vimeo.com/445211539. —ANN

Searching for hope

Ukrainian Union Conference (UUC) president Pastor Stanislav Nosov has noted that despite suffering, the Church in Ukraine has become a blessing to many, with more people in churches now than before. More than 30 people have been baptised since the beginning of the war. "In the darkness of death and destruction, people are seeking God," Pastor Nosov said.—ANN

Earliest mention

An ancient tablet discovered near the Palestinian city of Nablus may contain the earliest known mention of God's name in proto-alphabetic Hebrew. The finding could push back the written record of the name "Yahweh" by a couple of centuries, renewing debate on the dating of events, especially those told in Exodus.—Religion News Service



Building identity

The Adventist Church's Identity Project is building momentum. A new church on Yanuca Island, Fiji, is the latest to adopt the distinctive orange and charcoal signage. "The ultimate goal is to build a strong, clear identity for the Church so we can be easily recognised by the public," said South Pacific Division communication director Tracey Bridcutt. To find out more go to: <https://identity.adventistchurch.com/>. —Record staff



Community man

Seventh-day Adventist and Loch Sport (Victoria) resident Robin Keitley was named Citizen of the Year by the Loch Sport Lions Club during the 2022 Australia Day celebrations. In presenting Mr Keitley with his award, Wellington Shire's representative Councillor Marcus McKenzie thanked him for his valued involvement and contribution to many community projects. —Noel Deed



Called to ministry

North Harbour Adventist Church in Auckland (New Zealand) was filled on April 9 for the ordination of Pastor Isikeli Pepa. The service was led by NZ Pacific Union and North NZ Conference representatives. NNZC president Pastor Bob Larsen presented the charge to ministry. Born in Tonga, Pastor Pepa grew up in New Zealand, where he has served in ministry for the past nine years. He's currently serving as Orewa church pastor and North Harbour assistant pastor. —Juliana Muniz



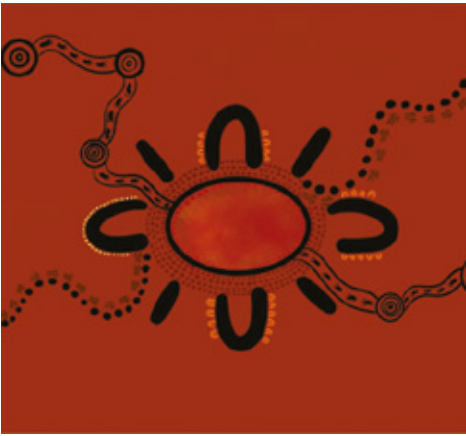
Successful accreditation results

At the height of COVID-19, with staff shortages and challenges never experienced before, both Sydney Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby have successfully met the requirements to be granted three years of accreditation under version 2 of the National Standards. CEO of Adventist HealthCare Limited (AHCL) Brett Goods said he is extremely proud of the outstanding accreditation results. Five surveyors spent four days at AHCL and acknowledged that the survey was conducted under very challenging circumstances—with more than 100 staff furloughed on any given day. "We are also delighted that the surveyors noted that for an organisation of AHCL's size and complexity, to gain accreditation in a single event without the need for high-priority follow-up of recommendations is not common across Australia," said Mr Goods. —Maddi Glover



Status change

During its annual Spring Meeting, the Executive Committee of the General Conference (GC) of Seventh-day Adventists voted unanimously on April 12 to attach the Ukrainian Union Conference (UUC), the church's administrative region covering the country of Ukraine, directly to the GC, until other comprehensive arrangements can be made. Previously, the UUC was part of the General Conference's Euro-Asia Division. —Adventist Review



Reconciliation essence

Brisbane Adventist College student Shakana Foley has been named the winner of Adventist Schools Australia's (ASA) Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) artwork competition, where she has won \$A500 for first place.

The artwork titled *One Mob* shows different communities all over the country coming together as one mob, with the centre representing the meeting place of all the different tribes connecting together.

Secondary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students around Australia were given the opportunity to design and submit artwork and a supporting story that would represent ASA's vision for reconciliation, which is for everyone to walk together for mutual liberation and also align with ASA's Christian beliefs.

"We were very pleased with the artwork submitted," stated Dr Daryl Murdoch, national director of ASA.

"Shakana's artwork really captured the essence of reconciliation, not just between us and our First Nations peoples, but between all humans and God," he added.

ASA's official RAP will feature the winning artwork along with the artwork of other students who participated.—**Lorraine Atchia**

have news to share?

Email info and photos to <news@record.net.au>



Committing to Jesus

A thanksgiving service at Navesau Adventist High School in Fiji included the baptism of five students. After the challenges of last year, which saw the closure of schools in Fiji for more than six months due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was a time of celebration to acknowledge the achievements of the school's Year 13 students. The students only returned for face-to-face classes on November 1, creating a huge challenge for teachers in trying to prepare them for their external exams. Not only did the students perform very well in the exams, Navesau topped all the high schools in the Ra district. During the thanksgiving service, Trans Pacific Union Mission education director Mele Vaihola delivered a powerful message on the theme "Our Eyes Are Upon You Lord".—**Record staff**



Cassava sale success

The sale of cassava is helping Betikama Adventist College (BAC) to generate some income at a particularly challenging time. Schools in Solomon Islands have been closed for more than two months due to COVID-19 restrictions and this has had a significant impact on Betikama. "No school means no money for the ongoing operation of the school. This has forced the college to temporarily lay off half of its ancillary staff," said principal Partinson Bekala. However, he said God is still blessing the school during the pandemic. "The income from the gardens has enable the college to maintain the campus. We praise God especially for the right timing of the BAC Cassava Project. Every day during the week we sell cassava on the street of Honiara and Betikama cassava is now popular in town," he said.—**Record staff**



Professor Petrie shook the hand of every graduand as they received their testamur.

Avondale class of 2021 returns to graduate in 2022

It's done. Graduation marked the end of a difficult year-and-a-half for Joel and Kimberley McAndrew. The couple felt a call to move away from Melbourne and "escaped a week before lockdown". Their belongings took a little longer—leaving the night before. "We wouldn't have had them for six months if it had been the next day," says Joel.

They moved to Cooranbong to finish their degrees—his in nursing, hers in counselling—at the same time. Joel had always wanted to study at Avondale. "Kim's from Cooranbong and last studied at Avondale when she was 17, but her experience this time wasn't quite the same."

Both say they received a great education despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns that followed, moving their classes from in-person to online. "We're pleased to be finished after studying by distance for so long," says Joel,

who is now working at Norwest Private Hospital in Sydney. Kimberley is a counsellor at Mountain View and Hills Adventist Colleges.

Joel marched with his nursing classmates in the first of Avondale's three graduation ceremonies on April 10. He then watched Kimberley march in the second session.

With the rescheduling of graduation from December, two-thirds of the 299 class members marched. Vice-chancellor and president Professor Kevin Petrie thanked them for returning. "We were disappointed we couldn't celebrate with you at the end of last year, and with so many of you working, we were worried we might not be able to get you back. But to see so many of you marching sent a strong message: graduation is important. It gives me a sense of transformed lives. Here's a group of change agents who are ready to make the world a better place."

A third (111) of the class received the Bachelor of Nursing. Three were the first to receive the Master of Business Administration including Dr Homa Freeman. "Every semester when I'd finish a unit I'd look back and say, 'Wow! I've learnt so much'." She remembers telling her lecturers, "I'm grateful for what I've learnt and how I've changed and grown. That's the outcome of my study at Avondale."

Other notable recipients over the weekend were former vice-chancellor and president Dr Ray Roennfeldt and former head of the School of Education and Science Bev Christian.

Professor Kevin Petrie presented his predecessor with a citation for "outstanding contribution to the education, mission and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church" during the worship service on Sabbath. The citation notes Dr Roennfeldt's "commitment to openness and ethical integrity. . . . Despite the risk to personal and professional reputation, you continue to advocate for justice and equity, supporting the role of women in ministry and leadership, and challenging the Church to put human compassion above policy." Dr Roennfeldt led Avondale at a time of change, economic instability and uncertainty but through "affirmation, consultation and facilitation" built a team that "continued to meet these challenges". That team's best work: the success of an application to the national regulator for a change of category—to "Australian University College".

Ms Christian's Medallion of Merit from the Church in the South Pacific's Education Department recognises her "love for God, children and young people" and a desire to share Jesus that "extends beyond the classroom". It cites contributions to the Adventist Schools Australia Community of Faith and Learning Model and to the development of the Adventist Encounter Curriculum as examples of her "creative mind and insights". And it describes her leadership of the School of Education and Science as calm, thoughtful and collegial.

Brenton Stacey

Public relations and philanthropy officer, Avondale University.



Creativity helps to grow church plant in New Caledonia

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Caledonia recently celebrated five baptisms in their church plant in Tomo, a village approximately 50 kilometres north-west of Noumea, the country's capital. Hatsar Venkaya, pastor of Noumea church and the Tomo church plant, writes on the impact the church plant is having in the community.

Generating a church planting movement that is self-supportive, self-propagating and self-governed is part of our vision for discipleship and total membership involvement in New Caledonia. Since 2020 our church plant in Tomo served as a lab to train our lay members and expose them to the outworking of the Holy Spirit in order for them to embrace the spirit of church planters. We believe in growing compassionate leaders in the process of reaching out to the unreached.

The past two years could have been fatal to the whole endeavour due to COVID-19. Before the pandemic, our Bible study groups usually had more than 30 regular non-Adventist participants each Tuesday. Unfortunately, this effort was interrupted abruptly because of the confinement. Even though we were taken aback by the situation, our church planting team reacted promptly by listening to the promptings of the Lord to transform our blights into opportunities.

For instance, even though we were under strict confinement our lay leaders used Zoom as a virtual small group platform to maintain communion and community. On a weekly basis, we would call the people, listen to them, pray with them and enquire about their needs. If needed, in case of urgency, we had people ready to intervene on site.

Today the community of Tomo at large regards the Seventh-day Adventist Church highly as we were the only church that kept in touch with them during the pandemic. Instead of lamenting over the constraints, our leaders used creative ways to connect and minister to the people.

After 18 months of intense coaching and mentoring our lay church planters are now fully autonomous. On February 26, we had five baptisms of which two are key leaders of the church plant in Tomo. We are giving individual Bible studies to 12 other people attending our church plant who have all

accepted and are experiencing the goodness of the Sabbath. Four of them have asked for baptism, however, we are not focusing on numbers as we believe that conversion should be viewed in terms of the transformation of worldview and it is a process towards discipleship that requires time. The end goal is for the new believers to fully pledge their allegiance to Christ.

The influence of the church plant is growing beyond its borders as those who are part of the family are telling others what they are experiencing in our church plant. One evangelical pastor—leader of Bikers for Christ—has even told people around him that the Adventist community in Tomo has the truth and they are looking forward to attending our Daniel and Revelation seminar. In the coming weeks, we intend to start again our weekly Bible study group as the demands are high.

Just three years ago Tomo was considered resistant to the gospel and the Adventist Church was largely viewed as a legalistic group. Today, the Lord has changed that perception drastically. This paradigm shift was possible because our lay leaders have embraced the incarnational model of ministry and mission (Philippians 2:4-8). We not only preach the truth, but we believe that the “witnesses” entering the “world” are to live in accordance with the “Word”.

The challenges ahead are still immense as our church members move from being mere participants to actors in God's mission. Please pray for the burgeoning church planters and all the unreached people groups in New Caledonia.

Hatsar Venkaya

pastor of Noumea church and Tomo church plant, New Caledonia.



The 10



amazing mothers in the Bible



Hannah: Hannah's song is one of the most moving and personal in the Bible (1 Samuel 2). This childless mother received her miracle and dedicated her son back to God. Not all childless mothers receive their miracle but are still heard by God and are still a mother to many.

Elizabeth: Elizabeth was an older mother who raised her miracle son according to God's plan and also helped her much younger relative Mary with wisdom and shelter in her pregnancy (Luke 1:23–25, 39–45).

Mary: Mary is depicted as such a strong character. Despite her young age, she is faithful and willing to take on the huge responsibility of carrying the Messiah (even at cost to her reputation). She is at the cross, unwilling to look away from her beloved Son even in the darkest hour. She takes an active interest in Jesus' ministry.

Jochabed: This brave woman stood up to Pharaoh and saved her son Moses, who would go on to be used by God to liberate his nation. She not only creatively saved him from the river, she nursed and raised him for Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2). The midwives who refused to kill the children for Pharaoh should also get an honourable mention here as mother figures who protected the innocent (Exodus 1).

Anna: This old widow had strong faith and a prophetic prayer life. Her approach to Mary and Joseph in the context of worship and ritual must have been an encouragement to them. Never underestimate the older women in our worship communities who play an important, faith-building role in our children (Luke 2:36–38).

Lois and Eunice: The apostle Paul gives these two faithful women a shout out in one of his letters. Lois and Eunice are the mother and grandmother of Timothy, a young man of faith who was leading the church and being mentored by Paul. Paul credits these two mothers with passing their faith on to Timothy. Grandmothers are mothers who can be instrumental in passing on faith to children (2 Timothy 1:5).

Syrophenician woman: her protective motherly instincts kicked in and this tenacious mother wasn't going to take no for an answer. Jesus honoured her faith as she fought for her child (Mark 7:24–30).

King Lemuel's mother: While there is conjecture about who King Lemuel and his mother even are, it is clear the "king" (who may have been Solomon) holds his mother and her teaching in high esteem. The poem of the Proverbs 31 woman comes directly after her teaching and may be "inspired" by her. As poetry it can be understood as an ideal to be strived for, rather than standards to live by.

Wisdom: The wisdom of God is personified in Proverbs 8 as a woman who is also a mother. "Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways" (v32). Any mother who remains close to God is a gift to her children and the world.

Jehosheba: We don't know if Jehosheba was a mother—but she was an aunty who put her life on the line to save her nephew prince Joash, a descendent of Jesus and a king who turned back some of the evil in the kingdom. Many aunties in our lives are just like mothers to us and their value cannot be underestimated. You can read her story in 2 Kings 11.



Why don't Christians pray?



We're living on the verge of eternity. We see signs being fulfilled all over the world and it reminds God's people that eternity's clock is ticking (Matthew 24). As we see signs being fulfilled, we Christians should "look up" (Luke 21:28) but sadly, many don't. We're looking back at a wrong time.

I believe one of the contributing factors is prayerlessness. I'm noticing as a church pastor that in myself and among the congregation I'm serving, prayerlessness is common.

Why don't they pray? I don't know and why I don't pray, no-one knows either. When I ask why Christians don't pray I'm including pastors and ministers and everyone who is waiting for Jesus' soon coming.

Many Christians don't pray because they're absorbed in busyness while many ministers are too busy with ministry. Busyness in the 21st century is a cancer that eats away and robs both ministers and Christians from staying connected with Jesus. Many Christians know they need to pray but they just don't know how. The problem is not what to pray but how they can carve out time in their lives to pray. In this short article, I want to share some brief principles we can follow to boost our prayer life.

1. Feel the need to pray.

In my ministry, I've discovered that countless Christians don't pray simply because they don't feel the need to pray. Hunger compels us to look for food to eat. Thirst compels us to look for water to drink. For Christians to pray, first they need to feel the need to pray because feeling our own helplessness and need will help us to get down on our knees and seek the Lord.

2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us to pray more.

We must plead for the Holy Spirit to help and to teach us to pray because none of us know naturally how to pray. Even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). The disciples noticed a difference in Jesus' prayer life. Christ's personal consistent prayer life exposed the prayerlessness

of the disciples and as a result, they asked Jesus to give them an inside lecture on how to pray. No person can live a consistent prayer life in isolation because prayer deals with one's walk with God and that walk with God is always evident when Christians become men and women of prayer. That's why the Bible admonishes us to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

3. Take time to pray.

Many Christians don't find the time to pray. Christians made time to pray despite His busyness in ministry (Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). Christians have time for gardening, to go to shopping malls, to visit and tell stories, but not for prayer. The truth is: God sees our desperate need of prayer but He will not commission an angel to come to us to carve out time for us to pray because God has blessed all of His children with the privilege of prayer and as Christians, we need to find time and pray. God gives 24 hours equally to all and we ought to become better stewards to carve out time to seek God through prayer. We must always pray (Colossians 4:2) both in times of adversity and prosperity.

4. Have a consistent devotional life.

And finally, Christians can become lax in their devotional life—collectively as individuals and corporately as a church. If Christians were asked every Sabbath before starting the church service about how many new Bible texts they've memorised and studied during the week, I don't think many hands would go up. Today, many of us are too busy to spend time in the Word and with the Word. Reluctance to pray and study the Bible has resulted in backsliding in the church and weak Christians who are weak in witnessing.

I believe the principles in this article can help us pray as we follow them. God wills that His children pray more but sadly, we don't pray.

Justin Kundalin

Warakamb Seventh-day Adventist Church, Western Highlands Mission, PNG.



the
practice &
purpose of
prayer

Thousands of books have been written on the subject of prayer since books were first printed. Hundreds of thousands of articles, talks, theses and sermons have found their way into people's minds via eyes and ears.

Adam and Eve didn't pray (at least not as we know this spiritual phenomenon) before the Fall, but ever since, people who have had a mind to, have reached out to God by this human-spiritual activity called prayer.

The Bible is replete with wonderfully uplifting examples of prayer from the shorter and urgent (Matthew 14:30) to the longer and entreating (1 Kings 8:23–53).

What is prayer, though? From the information we have, prayer seems to be a human-only activity. It is a God-ordained way by which the connection to and the face-to-face contact with God in Eden that was broken (Genesis 3:22–24) could be partially restored, although in a different manner.

The first mention of prayer in the Bible (Genesis 20:1–18) is in connection with the interaction between Abraham and Abimelech, king of Gerar.

Abraham's beautiful wife, Sarah, was the subject, Abraham was the cause and Abimelech was the beneficiary in this saga. The result was all for the good—Sarah was returned to Abraham, Abimelech was saved from death and fertility was restored to Abimelech's household.

The last mention of prayer in the Bible is in the book of Revelation in connection with the seventh seal/seven trumpets when "another angel" offered "the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne" (Revelation 8:3,4). Thus, prayer spans all of human history.

The Bible also includes many other prayers offered by God's people and our Saviour, who offered the most poignant and heart-wrenching prayers of all. He also responded to His disciples' request when they asked Him to teach them to pray by giving them a prayer in summary form (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4).

Between these early and late references to prayer in the history of humanity, trillions upon trillions of prayers have ascended to the true God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. (As well, countless prayers have been offered to a myriad of false gods that do not concern us here.)

Again, I ask, what then is prayer? Ellen White, a prominent Christian author and Adventist Church co-founder, wrote voluminously on the subject of prayer.¹ [Go to her writings for a comprehensive treatment of this subject.] How should prayer commence—with words?

No, and yes. Ideally, where circumstances permit, meditative prayer should commence with silence.

Not silence indicating a blank mind, but the silence of tuning in to God. The silence of true meditation when our thoughts are directed to the One who occupies heaven's eternal throne; the silence that helps us to gather our thoughts, to calm down, to shut out the onslaught of

the purely secular and to come into that frame of mind when we focus on God; when we direct our whole being to Him, the only one who has the answers to our questions, our hopes, desires, longings and needs. Only then, "When every other voice is hushed and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God."²

Of course there are many occasions when an urgent cry to God is what the situation demands and at these times God cannot be caught by surprise. Reference has already been made to Peter's urgent cry for help, a three-word prayer as he sank beneath the waves; the same prayer just as urgently uttered by myself in March, 1962.

We were living in Victoria at the time, a young couple with a three-month old baby. On this particular Sunday we had decided to visit a fruit and vegetable-growing district not too many miles distant from our home, to purchase some fresh supplies for the following week.

Before leaving to drive home, I suggested to my wife Barbara that it may be a good idea for her to get in some driving practice, as she had not done a lot of driving since she had obtained her licence in her father's VW Kombi several years earlier. For a short distance all went well. I was holding our baby in my arms and my wife was seeking to let our sports sedan know who was in charge.

We then came to a descending hill, unsealed and newly gravelled—loose stones over the whole width of the road. As the car gathered speed, Barbara immediately sensed we should slow down and, as most new drivers would have done in the same circumstances, applied the brakes.

Not a good idea!

Immediately the car slid across the surface of the stones, and, like a skater on ice, thudded against the bank, rolling several times. When I had sensed an accident was imminent, I cried out, as Peter had—"Lord, save us!"

The travel time of my prayer to heaven and God's answer back again took barely a moment. While we three were all thrown out through the driver's door (no seatbelts in those days), our lives were spared, including that of our three-month-old Darren, lying face down—as we soon discovered in our frantic search to find him—right against a rear wheel. We were saved. God had saved us!

And isn't that a vital part of the practice and purpose of prayer? To put us into an attitude and position where God's saving grace works in our lives?

How we need to pray!

1. Comprehensive Index to the Writings of Ellen G White, Vol 2, three-volume edition.

2. Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p363.

William Ackland

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



Inclusivity: is religion an exclusive club?

Do you like biscuits? I love a nice, chewy cookie filled with nuts and chocolate. Oh, and it has to be gluten free. My husband prefers shortbreads, crispy and buttery and filled with gluten. Our girls have their own preferences. I recall when my eldest was about five she went through an Arnott's Tic Toc biscuit phase and nothing else would satisfy.

I am certain if we were to do a survey at my local church to discover the best biscuit I would receive a diverse range of responses. Now imagine if I was to suggest that this poll would be used to identify a winning biscuit. This star of a sweet treat would be separated from the competition and elevated above all other biscuits. "One biscuit to rule them all." We would make this winner the only biscuit allowed to be brought to church lunches and gatherings.

There would be outrage. How dare we make this one biscuit the exclusive sweet treat. What about all the other morsels of deliciousness? Is there no place for them on the table at church lunch? Do they no longer belong?

Let's face it, I am being a little silly, but I wanted to talk about belonging and one of the by-products that sometimes attaches itself to belonging: exclusivity.

Have you ever considered that in our desire to belong, to be accepted, we can set up some rather exclusive barriers? The more criteria that cement our place, our identity in this group, the taller the walls of exclusivity can become. Consider for a moment membership into any club. There are usually a set of conditions you need to agree upon before joining up. This can create a strong sense of belonging, of comradeship. However, if you deviate from these conditions, you will most

likely be kicked out. This is what can make clubs exclusive.

Religion has been referred to as an exclusive club.

As you consider the people you gather with each Sabbath, do you agree that your place of worship (your religion) is exclusive?

Let's take it a step further. Do you believe God is exclusive?

The way you answer that question will not only define how you view God, but most importantly how you treat those who are not quite like you.

Let's take a brief glimpse at someone who "couldn't" belong to God's people. Someone who had experienced religious exclusion according to a law found in Deuteronomy 23:1. The NIV states, "No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the Lord." The CEV words it even more clearly: "If a man's private parts have been crushed or cut off, he cannot fully belong to the Lord's people."

Let's identify the type of person excluded in Deuteronomy 23:1. This is referring to a eunuch right? So according to Scripture, a eunuch can't fully belong. He is excluded from God's people. Yet, in Acts chapter 8:26-40 we discover a rather interesting story. A story about a eunuch who has been visiting Jerusalem.

In his home this eunuch is a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Queen Candace. The eunuch is a "someone" in his country. Something we can't escape in this passage is that he is a eunuch and his name is never revealed. Instead, he is just referred to as the eunuch five times. Now in case I haven't made it clear enough, this eunuch who has no name, who can't belong to the people of God according to





Deuteronomy 23:1, has come to Jerusalem to worship (Acts 8:27).

Do you see the tension in this story? The original hearers would have felt it. What is he (the eunuch) doing there? He is not one of us, he is different. His customs, his culture, his clothes, his masculinity, all different and "our law" states that he (as a eunuch) is not welcome amongst our people.

But what about God? We must ask the question: does He exclude the eunuch? Does He feel the same way about who can and can't belong?

We have often looked upon the story of the Ethiopian eunuch as a beautiful conversion and baptism narrative. I would invite you today however, to view this story through a different lens. Look and you will see a picture of God. His love on display as He (God) pursues this eunuch and welcomes him into His family, giving him a place to belong.

Do you see how God sends Philip to the place where he will be able to cross paths with the eunuch (Acts 8:26)?

Then look closely as God instructs Philip to join the chariot. Philip starts running. I don't know how fast, but he chases the chariot and catches up (Acts 8:29).

This eunuch is reading the scroll of Isaiah. Maybe he is searching to understand, who is God? We don't know what questions were going through the eunuch's heart, only that he was seeking to understand the Scriptures. God's response is to send Philip. As Philip shares the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35), the eunuch asks an important question that connects to joining God's family, a place to belong.

"What is to prevent me from being baptised?" Pause here and consider, do you see any obstacle that prevents baptism? Does God? Acts 8:35 provides us with an answer. The chariot is stopped and the eunuch received adoption into God's family.

This beautiful passage is more than a nice story about baptism, it's a picture of God's heart of love for every person. No matter who they are He pursues, and He invites even those who may on the surface appear too different to really belong.

God invites all to come. He loves everyone, the whole world John 3:16 says, and He chose to die for every person, yes even those who are not like me.

The eunuch was not accepted by the Jewish religious system. But he came searching anyway.

And this challenges me today. If someone different walked in where my local church gathers each week, what would they find? Would they discover a group of people who say, "Are you looking for Jesus? Come take a seat, you are in the right place. Tell me your story. . ."

Recently I read this quote by Bob Goff: "We shouldn't say everyone's invited if we're going to act like they're not welcome when they come."

It's a wake-up call statement—did you feel its impact? We encourage people to invite their friends on Sabbath, however if when they arrive we ignore and exclude them because we don't have anything in common, or they are just too different, this is a problem. The truth is interacting with new people can be difficult. We need to work harder and our comfort zone is pushed just out of reach. It is so much easier to just talk and interact with people I know and who are like me. But is that what we are called to do?

We need to honestly ask ourselves who might we be excluding that Jesus died for? Further, we should ask ourselves if we have the right to do so.

In Matthew 7:7,8 we read how for those who ask, seek and knock they will be given, receive and the door will be opened. Earnest seekers will not be turned away from God because this is who God is. He is a God of love, who pursues all people. He has extended an invitation to all and awaits our response.

Our God is not exclusive, He breaks down barriers and gives us a family, a place to belong.

Maybe we need to see that God's family was never meant to be just shortbread cookies. It includes choc chip, double fudge, macadamia, gluten free, vegan and spotty dotted (it's a thing). Maybe rather than building barriers that exclude the different, we need to set out bigger tables for all those biscuits to make a wonderful platter of deliciousness.

Pastor Sylvia Mendez

Women's and Family Ministries director at the Australian Union Conference and pastor at Bayles and Berwick churches, Victoria.



Why a healthy gut is good

for immunity

Gut health plays a crucial role in supporting our immune system. To put it simply, a healthier gut means you have a better chance of warding off bugs and germs. But why?

Our immune system and our gut microbiota (the bacteria in our gut) work together to create our body's first line of defence against invaders—preventing harmful bacteria, or pathogens, from living in our gut. In fact, the majority of our immune cells actually live in our gut and help shape the composition of bacteria in our gut.

Our gut bacteria talk to our immune cells, "training" them so they can identify what is a dangerous invader, like a virus, from what is a friendly substance, or even our body's own cells and tissues.

Our gut bacteria also digest our food, breaking it down into nutrients and metabolites that help trigger a range of functions in our body that are important for good immunity. This includes telling our body how to fight harmful pathogens, stopping the growth of pathogens, and helping to manage inflammation.

So what foods are best for a healthy gut?

- **Wholegrain breads and cereals**—Foods high in wholegrains and cereal fibre help create a healthy gut by increasing diversity of gut bacteria and providing the prebiotics to fuel them. Wholegrains and cereal fibre contain resistant starch and soluble fibres that are digested, or "fermented", by the gut bacteria.
- **Fruit and veggies**—Fruit and veggies also contain fibres and prebiotics that feed the gut bacteria. Next time you're at the supermarket add these budget friendly and



naturally high in prebiotics fruit and veggies to the list— asparagus, onions, cabbage, apples and pears. Grab some chickpeas and tree nuts while you are there too.

- **High fibre vegetarian and vegan diets** have been shown to create a more diverse range of beneficial bacteria and a more stable environment in the gut, than diets that include a high amount of meat (and may also be lower in fibre). They also contain powerful plant compounds that help to increase bacteria diversity. Specifically, the polyphenols in plant foods increase Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus—gut bacteria that provide anti-pathogenic and anti-inflammatory effects.
- **Probiotic foods**—Probiotics are found in some yoghurts and fermented plant foods like sauerkraut, kimchi and pickles, and fermented drinks such as kombucha and kefir. Probiotics are beneficial live bacteria or yeasts found naturally in the gut and in some foods. So, while we can increase the diversity of gut bacteria by feeding them well with prebiotics, we can also add more bacteria to our gut with probiotics.

As well as eating a healthy diet, drinking plenty of water, exercising regularly, ensuring you get enough sleep and keeping your stress in check are all factors that influence immunity.

For more information and research references check out the full article on the Sanitarium website.



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Conversations

Roasting meat

On reading the article "Aroma" (What in the Word, April 2) I would suggest the author read carefully the chapters in Leviticus and the latter part of Ezekiel that deal with the preparation of the animal carcass prior to any part of it being placed on the altar as a burnt offering.

It would appear that what animal parts eventually wound up on the altar would be similar to what is placed on a barbecue today and the smell of that roasting, even to me as a vegetarian, not unpleasant.

Graham Mitchell, NSW

Heading the right way

Great article "The mystery angels long to look into" (Feature, April 23). Good to see things headed more in this direction.

Just a couple of thoughts. "The Christian Church has mostly reduced Christ's ministry to one of dying to placate an angry God bent on punishing the sinners." [This is] true and this is paganism.

Variations of this are still within our denomination. "Life that would give God the legal right to resurrect Him"? We have never been in "legal" trouble. That's human thinking and law, not God's.

Fiona Molloy, via Facebook

Natural inclinations

Re: "The mystery angels long to look into" (Feature, April 23).

To me it is very simple. Disobedience to God gave mankind a taste of something we found to be very desirable. That's the problem. Things that are ultimately no good for us ARE very desirable.

Every adult knows we need to control our appetites and deny some of our desires for the greater good. Every child is naturally inclined to do that which is most pleasant even if it is not good for them. In the scope of the universe, we are not much different to children who cannot see the whole picture. I believe God knows and desires only that which is good for us—the best for us. Yes, sin is disobedience to God and also a bar-

rier to the relationship He desires with His creation. It's easy to get caught up in rhetoric and ritual instead of recognising the plain truth—that there is an almighty God who wishes the best for us and wishes to ultimately restore the universe to perfection.

We should not be blind and ignorant of God's nature, His wishes or His plan, but ultimately all we can really do is seek for God with a true heart, attempt to avoid evil and leave the rest up to Him.

Let's live our lives and walk in the light we have been shown, focus on God and put our trust in Him. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There are many promises in the Bible but the greatest are the words of Christ: "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you may be also." If we wish to have a place in that kingdom then we know what to do—keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and put our faith in Him.

John Ralston, via Facebook

Wedding



SCHULTZ—PINK. Bodie Jared Schultz, son of Mark and Christine Schultz (Newcastle, NSW), and Evelyn Liza Pink, daughter of Heidi Pink (Newcastle) and the late Stephen Pink, were married 8.2.22 at the Hearnese Lake Beach, Woolgoolga. The couple will set up their home in Mayfield, Newcastle.

Bob Manners

Obituaries

CAMERON, Dawn Christina (nee Plummer), born 14.9.1925 in Launceston, Tas; died 28.1.22 in Caloundra, Qld. On 14.9.1946 she married Malcolm (Mac), who predeceased her on 11.4.1989. She was also predeceased by her grandson, Cameron in 2006. She is survived by her three children, Carol Faulkner (Woombye), Wayne (Smithton, Tas) and Patsy Walsh (Murwillumbah, NSW); grandchildren, Clinton, Wesley, Arleen and Emily; 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Mac and Dawn lived most of their married life in Mole Creek, with her last 22 years spent closer to her family. She was laid to rest with Mac back in Tasmania with her immediate family gathering to celebrate her quiet, generous and happy spirit.

Brett Townend



COOK, John Marcus, born 3.7.1933 on Kangaroo Island, SA; died 9.2.22 in Kingscote. He was married to Dorothy Hosking, who predeceased him in 2017. He was also predeceased by his great-granddaughter, Dalina. He is survived by his children, Deb and John; Vicki and Peter; Cathy; Sharon and Peter; Amanda and Phil; six grandchildren and their spouses; and nine great-grandchildren. John was a friendly and loving Christian gentleman. In 1954, he was chosen to be part of the South Australian Country Cricket team which went on a nine-month tour of England. Not only a wonderful adventure, but also an opportunity to make

many new friendships which continued throughout his life. John became an Adventist Christian after his marriage to Dot in 1957, and together they proved to be a solid core for the small Adventist community on Kangaroo Island. After a long and fulfilled life John now rests with his beloved Dot awaiting the coming of Jesus.

Ross Simon



EWING, Muriel Lesley (nee North), born 2.10.1929 in Mordialloc, Vic; died 16.2.22 in Bayside Aged Care, Bonnells Bay, NSW. On 23.12.1957 she married Graham. She is survived by her husband (Bonnells Bay); children, Jenny (Yarrowonga Park), David (Rowville, Vic), Richard (Catherine Hill Bay, NSW) and Gina (Smiths Lake) and their partners; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. In the 1970s Muriel was the first female elder in the Australian Adventist church at East Prahran and her position opened the door for many more women to be recognised as leaders in their church communities as well. Muriel was a teacher and educator, who opened her home to so many friends and young people, supporting them in life and faith. Retirement years included travel, gardening, craft and relocating to Bonnells Bay. Muriel loved her Sabbath school class at Avondale University church and revelled in Bible discussions each week.

Norman Hurlow



FRANKS, Arthur James, born 30.8.1925 in Condobolin, NSW; died 14.12.21 in Goulburn. Arthur was predeceased by his wife, Joyce and their daughter, Pamela. He is survived by his children, Nerallie, Noel and Marian and Gregory; grandchildren, Nathan, Scott, Damian, Karina, Sarah and Emmaly; and great-grandchildren, Daylin, Logan, Caleb, Joshua, Ryan and Matty. Arthur and Joyce were much-loved, active members of the Goulburn church which they helped to build. Arthur will be remembered for his warm smile, gentle nature, kindness and the ability to engage anyone in conversation.

Owen Ellis

HAMPSON, Cora (nee McGee), born 20.4.1926 in Walla

Walla, NSW; died 4.8.21 at Mt Tamborine, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband, Keith in 2008 and a granddaughter. Cora is survived by her children, John, Frances and Kerrie; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She loved being busy and volunteered in the ADRA op-shop, at Red Cross and for her beloved Labor Party, as well as attending the Adventist literature witness table at the local market. She said that the Lord and her three children were her reason for living. She was a passionate, opinionated woman who awaits the Resurrection. She passed on her faith in Jesus to her three children.



HAYWARD, Lily Evelyn (nee Timmins), born 4.1.1927 in Eketāhuna, NZ; died 22.1.22 in Don Valley, Vic. On 3.2.1948 she married Arthur, who predeceased her in 2009. She was also predeceased by her son, Paul in 1985. Evie is survived by her daughters, Carmen Holland (Kansas City, USA), Beulah Farland (Palmerston North, NZ), Lilian (Don Valley, Vic) and Lynda Maunder (Don Valley); seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Evie was a member of the Palmerston North church. She was known for her homemaking skills, delicious cooking and personal generosity.

Anton van Wyk



HOY, Grahame Thomas, born 2.5.1958 in Sydney, NSW; died 12.2.22 in Beerwah, Qld. On 13.3.1982 he married Michelle Kling from Christchurch, NZ. Grahame is survived by his wife (Beerwah, Qld); son, Jeremy (Bundaberg); and daughter, Rebecca Pitot (Sunshine Coast). His family and members of his local Rural Fire Brigade gave glowing testimonies at his memorial service at Maleny church.

Mike Brownhill

HUNTER, Margaret Lillian (Peg) (nee Lewis), born 4.10.1930 in Fremantle, WA; died 2.9.21 in Jacaranda Lodge, Wahroonga, NSW. She married Henry, who predeceased her in 2006. She was also predeceased by four babies who died at birth. Peg is survived by sons, Gary (Mandurah, WA) and Ray

(Wanneroo). She was a gentle, humble woman with a strong faith in God. She always had time to listen and give an encouraging word. She loved her garden and cooking and looked forward to seeing her loved ones on the new earth.

Clem Van Bollegooyen



HUTCHISON, Herbert James (Jim), born 14.8.1931 in Katoomba, NSW; died 5.2.22 at Coffs Harbour. On 19.12.1951 he married June Bohringer at Gosford. Jim is survived by his wife; children, Allan and Patricia, Steven Strop and Kim, and David and Joanne (all of Coffs Harbour); nine grandchildren; and siblings, John and Margaret (Macksville). Jim was well known for his tender care and support for both family and community. He was also passionate for mission and often engaged in fly 'n' build projects for his church.

Bob Manners



IZZARD, Patricia Victoria (nee Barrett), born 24.5.1937 in Sydney, NSW; died 12.2.22 in Wyong Hospital. On 5.5.1956 she married Des. Pat is survived by her husband (The Entrance). With no children of her own, Pat cared greatly for many in her and Des's extended families. She also loved her church family and spent regular hours visiting and caring for the needs of her neighbours. For 40 years she served as church clerk and de facto caretaker to The Entrance church, not 200 metres from her home. Known for her quiet, cheerful and Christian manner, Pat will be sorely missed by Des, neighbours and her church families of The Entrance and more recently Ourimbah.

Russel Stanley, Neil Watts



JOHANSON, Lorna Aileen, born 3.9.1921 in Osterley, Tas; died 4.3.22 in Sydney, NSW. Her husband, Eric predeceased her in 2006. She is survived by her three daughters, Christine Oaklands (Gold Coast, Qld), Nettie and Peter Vetter (Mt Colah, NSW) and Donna and Barrie Saville (Morisset); seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Following employment in the WAAF, Lorna married Eric. She worked at the



Broadcast Schedules



9GEM	Sun 8 May, 8:30am – <i>Mother's Day</i>	Five Shipwrecks and a Mothers Love
3ABN	Fri 13 May, 8pm* AEST	Prayer – Connecting with God
TVNZ 1	Sat 14 May, 5:30am	
9GEM	Sun 15 May, 8:30am	The Chocolate Factory
3ABN	Fri 20 May, 8pm* AEST	The Miracle of Dunkirk
TVNZ 1	Sat 21 May, 5:30am	
9GEM	Sun 22 May, 8:30am	The King's Dream (Daniel 2)
3ABN	Fri 27 May, 8pm* AEST	The Attack at Broken Hill
TVNZ 1	Sat 28 May, 5:30am	
9GEM	Sun 29 May, 8:30am	Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit: Eleanor Roosevelt
3ABN	Fri 3 June, 8pm* AEST	Poisoned - The Russian Spies
TVNZ 1	Sat 4 June, 5:30am	

*3ABN also airs on Sun, 2:30pm and Wed, 4:30pm AEST



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Sydney Adventist Hospital and then loyally supported Eric in his denominational service in numerous locations including the Karachi Hospital in Pakistan. She was a loving, caring person, much involved in church life. She was a great cook and known for her hospitality. Lorna was strong of faith, awaiting Jesus' return.

Roger Nixon

KIZZIAR-LEE, Ann, born 17.11.1938; died 19.11.21. On 10.8.1997 she married Gordon. She was predeceased by her daughter, Ruth Berkshire in 2017. Ann is survived by her sons, Larry and Don (both of Bakersfield, California); and grandchildren and great-grandchildren on the west coast of the US. Ann passed away at home in Bonnells Bay after a short battle with cancer, her death surprising all due to her healthy life and lifestyle. Her first husband was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident in 1994 in their hometown of Bakersfield. After that she moved to Australia and spent her years travelling between the United States and many trips to the Pacific, accompanying her husband Gordon in mission work.

Lionel Smith

LEE, Gordon Arthur, born 10.11.1927 in Echuca, Vic; died 24.1.22 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, NSW. On 9.4.1951 he married Edna, the mother of his three children, who predeceased him. In 1997 he married Ann Kizziar. Ann predeceased Gordon in November 2021. After graduating from the ministry course at Avondale College in 1950, he realised his life goal of missionary work to the islands in 1960. He spent the next 16 years serving in the South Pacific, with service at the South Pacific Division at Wahroonga, and then back in Papua New Guinea. The South Pacific held a special place in Gordon's heart.

Lionel Smith



MAITLAND, Ian James, born 28.6.1939 in Geraldine, NZ; died 26.9.21 in the Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, NSW. Ian was predeceased by his first wife Dorothy and their son Alexander. In March 2008 he married Silvo. He is survived by his second wife; son, Andrew; and daughters, Deanne, Gina and Geraldine; and son, Seleni (Fiji). Ian and Silvo enjoyed 16 happy

Lionel Smith



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years living together in Fiji, Hillsdale (NSW) and Moss Vale and in recent years became involved in the Bowral church.

Owen Ellis

MORRISON, Delma Daphne (nee Harris), born 19.5.1944 in Brisbane, Qld; died 11.2.22 in Sunnybank Private Hospital, Brisbane. On 20.4.1965 she married Spencer at the South Brisbane church. Delma is survived by her husband; children, Liesl Hales, Angela and Guy; sister, Sylvia Behrens; brother, Pastor Reg Harris (all of Brisbane); and eight grandchildren, Stephen, Storm, Kobe, Dakota, Heaven, Coen, Summer and Skyla.

Bob Possingham



PORTER, Bonnie Nelson, born 24.9.1928 in Nimbin, NSW; died 14.12.21 in Byron Bay Hospital.

On 16.8.1951 he married Betty Bain, who predeceased him in 2008. Bonnie was also predeceased by his son, Wayne and brother, Will. He is survived by his daughter, Leanne (Mullumbimby); sisters, Mary (Wangarratta, Vic) and Daphne (Warburton); three grandchildren, Shannon, Natasha and Kirsten; and five great-grandchildren. Bonnie moved to Mullumbimby with his family in 1950, to establish a sawmill in Goonengerry. He spent his entire working life in the timber industry. Bonnie was always involved in church activities, Pathfinders and served as a deacon and later senior deacon until ill health slowed him down. Despite this Bonnie remained faithful, looking forward to the coming of Jesus. He will long be remembered and loved by his church family and was laid to rest in Mullumbimby cemetery.

Errol Wright

SHICK, Raymond, born 3.6.1928 on Lord Howe Island, NSW; died 5.10.21 on Lord Howe Island. On 10.10.1960 he married Judy. Ray was predeceased by his daughter, Judy in 2015. He is survived by his wife; and sons, Jack and Malcolm (all of Lord Howe Island). Ray was farewelled by family and

friends in a home garden. He was well respected by the Lord Howe community with more than 170 people at the graveside.

Bronwyn Mison, John Wells



TIYAR, Tin Yee, born 1.1.1969 in Myanmar; died 23.2.22 at Coffs Harbour, NSW. She is

survived by her husband, Salai Win; and two adult sons, Salai Samuel and Salai Joseph. Tin Yee and her husband migrated to Australia in 2013 and after living a short time in Melbourne and Adelaide, moved permanently to Coffs Harbour, NSW. Along with her husband and two adult sons, Tin Yee has been a tremendous asset to the church and an incredible witness for the local community. On the day of Tin Yee's funeral, the church was crowded with friends wanting to pay their respects to a lady who by God's grace had touched the lives of so many as a true witness for Jesus.

Bob Manners, San Nu

Advertising

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular constituency meeting of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be convened at "Watson Park" Convention Centre, Old Gympie Road, Dakabin, from 13-14 August 2022. The business of the meeting will be as provided

Position Vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT—ADVENTIST TECHNOLOGY WAHROONGA, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) is seeking interest from experienced, efficient and organised individuals for this full-time position supporting the work of Adventist Technology. This role will be responsible for direct client liaison and support, document and meeting management, as well as general office administrative support. For full details please visit <adventistemployment.org.au> or email <hr@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please email a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor, to <hr@adventist.org.au>. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia will be considered for this position. **Applications close May 11, 2022.**

for in the constitution of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including proposed constitutional changes and reports covering all phases of the work carried on within the South Queensland Conference. The officers and the executive committee of the Conference for the next quadrennium will also be elected. Colin Renfrew, General Secretary

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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MORE THAN A MAGAZINE



In reading through *Record*, I found this advertisement: "Married couple to manage Crosslands Convention Centre." We prayed and applied for the job. Needless to say, we got it! The next summer camp I walked up to the hall and witnessed young lives give their hearts to God and heard God say,

"If it wasn't for you looking after this place, this wouldn't have happened."

—Bruce Hill, Crosslands Manager



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