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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## The father wound

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

We can do so much good and make such an impact, just by our undivided presence.

My wife and I recently watched the movie *Hustle*. An American NBA scout finds a young man playing street basketball in his work boots on the streets of Spain. Bo Cruz is tall, strong, athletic and never seems to give up on a play. We learn that his past hasn't all been squeaky clean and that he lives with his mother and has a young daughter. One thread of the story is the absence of his father. When the scout's daughter asks him what the small yellow chick or duckling represents on his heavily tattooed sleeve and torso, he tells her all his tattoos are for his daughter and his mother. "What about your father?" she asks. "This arm is for him," he replies, pointing at his blank left arm. The absence of his father is very clearly marked (or not marked in this case) on his body.

At a TEDx Carson City event, Otto Kelly, former NFL player and executive director of Crisis Pregnancy Centre, delivered a talk entitled "The father wound".

"In that calling, I see young ladies and young men come through our doors with a lack of fathering.

"Please understand this: Every single social ill that we're dealing with is directly or indirectly related to fatherlessness." A huge claim. But the stats back him up.

He claims that close to 81 per cent of teen pregnancies come from fatherless homes, and that 80 per cent of kids who are homeless and 70 per cent of males in the penal system also come from homes where dads are absent. "This wound is deep. Affects our whole culture."

It is little wonder that the role and character of fathers would be so undermined and eroded in a fallen world, especially when we often associate God the Father with our own picture of what a father is or should be. Many fathers on television are depicted as bumbling idiots (think Homer Simpson or Al Bundy). Yet a good father can be immensely important. "When they witness a strong male figure, something in them takes place, something positive takes place within them, and they begin to see themselves in a positive light," says Mr Kelly. (I'm not suggesting that mothers play a lesser role in any way. The love of a mother is one of the most powerful forces on Earth.)

We can do so much good and make such an impact, just by our undivided presence. And we don't have to be a biological father to be a father figure in someone's life. I recently spoke at my uncle's funeral and, in reflecting on our interactions with him, I realised how he always included us and treated us equally, even our significant others as we grew older and attached. Men like my Uncle Graham can still play a father role in a young person's life.

Even Jesus, when He came up from His baptism, heard the affirmation "You're my son, I love you, I'm pleased with you" (see Matthew 3:13-17). Jesus describes God as His Father. Just as Jesus needed His Father to face His challenges during His life and ministry, many people need that kind of guidance and support in their own lives. I can literally remember some of the specific times my dad has told me he loves me and is proud of me. Those key moments have stayed with me.

Back to Mr Kelly. He describes the four things that young ladies who come through his "Daddy Academy" say they wish they had that may have stopped them making destructive decisions: protection, provision, presence and praise. These are things that all of us can offer. We may have to do some work for others to feel safe in our presence, to be fully present (not distracted or absent) or we may not naturally be affirming and able to speak our feelings. But it's work the Holy Spirit can help us to do.

The good news is, we don't have to have had a good father figure ourselves to provide it for someone else.

"[By] fathering others, I can vicariously father myself. I can heal the father wound in me by fathering others," says Mr Kelly.

In the lead up to Father's Day, here are a few things to consider: Are you demonstrating protection, provision, presence and praise for anyone in your life, biological offspring or not? Are you showing the character of God the



INSIGHT:

## Priorities

Kevin Jackson  
CEO, Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing  
Company

I love trying new products that our Innovation team use talent and imagination to create. It reminds me that in "The Land of Delight" (Eden), a garden was planted and in the centre of the garden was a fruit tree. In fact, throughout the garden grew vegetative plants that produced seed and trees that produced fruit and they were pronounced good.

Can you picture the delight in trying different foods for the first time? Food figures throughout the Bible from the beginning to the very end. Food is also a focus of many stories. Eve's test, Cain's offering, Abraham entertaining, Gideon, Jacob deceiving his brother, the manna, Daniel's eating challenge, Jesus feeding the 5000, the Last Supper . . . the list goes on.

A friend who recently had COVID told me how horrible it was to lose their taste. Food was intended as a delight, as a blessing, as an enjoyable experience that not only provided nourishment but that would be a centre of community and communion. It makes sense that food became a symbol of life, hope and restoration. "I am the bread of life," Jesus declares, "whoever comes to me will never go hungry" (John 6:35). To the woman at the well outside of Shechem, known for its gushing water and the place where Abraham first arrived in Canaan, setting up an altar on a mountain by the tree of Moreh, alluding to Eden, Jesus said "whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:14).

Today we use the "bread and drink" in the Lord's Supper as symbols of Christ's sacrifice for us. Food is still a daily reminder of the providence, blessing and restorative work of Christ. It's a privilege to pause, remember and give thanks at the beginning of each meal. This simple practice helps to recentre us on who provides for our needs, now and for eternity and reminds us of our invitation to the marriage supper.

"He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding from the throne of God . . . In the middle of its street was the tree of life, which bore 12 fruits" (Revelation 22:1,2). The fruit of that tree I can't wait to try!



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Hosts Pastor Glenn Townend and Fiona Lelilio-Tiatia.

## #weRtheCHURCH engages viewers with inspiring stories

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

This year's #weRtheCHURCH program brought Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific together for a special weekend of worship, prayer and praise, with viewers expressing their appreciation for the variety of stories, music and testimonies.

With a theme of thankfulness, the Friday night program on August 5 featured stories from around the Pacific, including the commissioning of the first Australian Indigenous woman, Pastor Connie Toga, recognition of the 10,000 Toes Campaign by the World Health Organisation, and the 90th anniversary of the arrival of missionaries to the St Mathias group of islands in Papua New Guinea. There were also updates on the Adventist response to recent disasters in North NSW and Tonga, along with a thankfulness segment from Mountain View Adventist College in Sydney, plus beautiful music from Betikama Adventist College in the Solomons, Tweed Valley Adventist College in North NSW, and the Epauto Adventurers and Pathfinders in Vanuatu.

Viewers expressed their appreciation for the program, with positive messages posted on the various platforms where the program was hosted.

"Great stories from different part[s] of Australia and the Pacific Islands that

helps us all to stand firm in the Lord," Susanna Taulapapa posted.

Lee and Liz Dunstan also acknowledged the variety of content. "Just watched weRtheChurch—good job. Loved the range and breadth of the coverage in both testimonies and music. Great stuff!" they said in an email.

On Sabbath afternoon, August 6, Hope Channel South Pacific director Pastor Wayne Boehm hosted a live #weRtheCHURCH workshop on prayer and mission, with guests including retired Andrews University professor Dr Dan Augsburger and Alyssa Truman, assistant director in the communication department at the General Conference.

During the workshop viewers got a glimpse into the life of Ellen White with live crosses to Ellen G White Research Centre director Mark Pearce and Avondale chaplaincy student Karelle Mason, who were live-streaming from Mrs White's former home, *Sunnyside*.

Viewers tuned in from around the South Pacific and expressed their appreciation for the content.

"Blessed with the sharing this afternoon," Trief Manea Cecile posted.

Both the program and workshop are available for viewing at <adventistchurch.com/werthechurch/>. English and French captioning is available.



Pastor Mel Lemke.

## Tributes flow for dedicated SQC leader

📍 Brisbane, Qld | Juliana Muniz

Church leaders from around Australia have sent tributes and paid their respects to South Queensland Conference (SQC) ministerial association director for Education, Pastor Mel Lemke, who passed away on July 27 at the age of 64.

Pastor Lemke had experienced a heart attack a week earlier and was recovering from complications of the necessary medical procedures.

"[On Wednesday] Dad went to rest in Jesus. Our hearts are heavy, but our minds have turned upwards to our Saviour—the one whom Dad dedicated his whole life to serve," said his son Blair

Lemke, North NSW Conference young adults director, in a Facebook statement.

Throughout his life, Pastor Lemke served the Adventist Church in many different roles, including youth director at SQC and Trans-Tasman Union, South Pacific Division (SPD) Adventist Volunteer Service director and Avondale School chaplain.

The SQC ministerial association team also shared a statement about Pastor Lemke's contribution: "Mel has made a huge impact across many ministry areas and was an inspirational and insightful member of our Ministerial Association advisory."



114 people being baptised at Tebara district in the Wainibokasi River.

## Almost 1000 baptised throughout Fiji in July

📍 Suva, Fiji | Joni Vatuvatu/Juliana Muniz

A family in Bureni, Naitasiri (Fiji), started observing the Sabbath and built a church two years before they got baptised in the Adventist Church on July 30. They were included in the more than 1400 people baptised in Fiji this year.

Semi Tubuduadua Lutunacagibula, 67, was a staunch Methodist lay preacher until he was confronted by the Sabbath truths in a piece of literature in 1987.

Wrestling with his discovery for years, he resolved to leave his church in 2017 and two years later asked his family to decide within three months whether they would like to keep the Sabbath or return to their previous faith.

"At the end of the three months, we all decided to be Sabbath keepers and become Adventists and to observe the Lord's Sabbath," said Esala Madanavosa, the youngest of Mr Lutunacagibula's two sons.

On July 30, Semi Tubuduadua, his wife Josefini Qativi and their children's families were baptised in Naisilisili,

Naitasiri. One of their sons-in-law, Semi Vakamoce Volau, was a former minister of the Methodist church.

Fiji Mission (FM) president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa said it was a joy to witness lives changed and committed to following Jesus into the waters of baptism.

"July is our harvest month and what a blessing to witness churches, church members and ministers unite their efforts in soul winning," said Pastor Lutunaliwa.

According to Pastor Lutunaliwa, FM had baptised more than 500 people by June this year, with an additional 938 baptisms performed in July, bringing this year's total number of baptisms to 1447.

Pastor Lutunaliwa explained that the Tebara and Naitasiri districts recorded the highest numbers, with more than 100 baptisms in the past month alone. Baptisms are still taking place each Sabbath in most newly entered areas in Fiji.



Dr David McClintock.

## SPD education director announces retirement; new appointments follow

📍 Wahrenonga, NSW | Juliana Muniz

After 43 years of service in Adventist Education, South Pacific Division (SPD) education director Dr David McClintock has announced his retirement at the end of this year.

Throughout his career, Dr McClintock served as deputy of three schools, and a principal of six schools in Papua New Guinea, Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland conferences—three of those boarding schools. He also served as education director at conference, union and division levels.

Reflecting on his career, Dr McClintock said his passion has always been Bible teaching and seeing students' lives being transformed by God. "I think the highlights for me are not the roles in senior administration so much as when I have been used by God to touch lives for Him," he said.

SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend affirmed Dr McClintock's contribution

to the Adventist education system in the South Pacific. "I will miss David's spiritual insights he shares and his insightful cross-cultural perspectives and wisdom," he said.

Following Dr McClintock's retirement announcement, current Fulton Adventist University College principal Dr Malcolm Coulsen was appointed the next SPD education director on July 13 during the Division's Executive Committee's quarterly meetings. Dr Coulsen will start in the position early next year.

"Succession planning is something that is important. I am so delighted to be able to pass the baton on to such a capable and experienced administrator," said Dr McClintock.

With Dr Coulsen leaving his position at Fulton, the TPUM has appointed Fulton's current head of the theology department, Dr Ronald Stone, as the new principal from 2023.



A scene from the new Adsafe video.

## New video to raise awareness about abuse

📍 Wahoonga, NSW | Record staff

Adsafe in collaboration with Adventist Media have created a video to increase awareness about abuse and its impact within the Seventh-day Adventist Church's organisational context.

The video will be circulated to all churches and schools in Australia and New Zealand in readiness for enditnow, a global Adventist Church initiative to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence around the world. This year's focus is on "abuse of power", with an emphasis day scheduled for this Sabbath (August 27).

"The statistics in Australia alone on domestic violence and child abuse demonstrate how big the problem is—statistics that are based on reported cases of physical and sexual abuse only often don't consider emotional abuse or the fact that many survivors suffer in silence," said Adsafe general manager Ann Beaumont.

"In a 2016 report published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, it was highlighted that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 16 men had experienced physical or sexual abuse perpetrated by their partner. One in 4 girls and 1 in 8 or 9 boys in Australia will experience child abuse before the age of 15. These figures provide a small glimpse of the magnitude of the issue of abuse. However, the statistics don't show the emotional/psychological toll of abuse on the survivor, their family or the community.

"Protecting children and the vulnerable is a shared responsibility that is close to God's heart," Ms Beaumont added.

"We can choose to make a difference for the one hurt and vulnerable person we meet. How we individually support, comfort, accept and believe those who are hurting can help a survivor on their healing journey. Choose to make a difference for someone today."

In 2016, the Seventh-day Adventist Church—South Pacific Division established Adsafe, a company that provides protective services for children and vulnerable adults through supporting survivors, risk management and safeguarding/educational services.

If this article has raised concerns for you, you can reach out for support on: Adsafe +61 2 9847 3488, 1800 220 468 (AUS), 0800 442 468 (NZ) Lifeline (AUS) 13 11 14, Lifeline Aotearoa NZ 0800 543 354 and 1800 RESPECT (737 732). If you would like more information on how to support a survivor, please feel free to contact Adsafe on the above numbers.

## making headlines

### Police station clean-up drive

In Haiti, more than 500 Adventist young people cleaned up 24 police stations and welcomed police officers representing the stations to special Sabbath programs in 11 churches to honour them for their service. "By transforming police workspaces into clean, attractive places simply out of love, young people sent a powerful message about the difference the love of Christ can make," said Pastor Gerald Jean, North Haiti Mission youth ministries director. —InterAmerica



### Gift of shoes

Three Adventist churches in Oregon (US) have collaborated to give away 425 pairs of shoes to children who live on nearby tribal lands. The event was a positive step in building a lasting partnership, with the tribes appreciating the cultural sensitivity and respect their visitors displayed. —NAD

### Free Bibles

A UK evangelistic tool offers free premium Bibles to online participants who complete 28 Bible quizzes which explore the essentials of Adventist belief. Local church members deliver the Bibles to make personal connection and offer further study. —tedNEWS

### More than a smart watch

Australian researchers have found fitness trackers, pedometers and smart watches motivate us to exercise more and lose weight. Wearable activity trackers encourage us to walk up to 40 minutes more each day, resulting in an average 1kg weight loss over five months. They can also help lower blood pressure and cholesterol in people with type 2 diabetes, and improve depression and anxiety through an increase in physical activity. —UniSA



## Double celebration

Mountain View Adventist College (MVAC) in Sydney (NSW) closed term two on a high note with the baptism of two Year 12 prefects, Michaela Koroitamana and Abi Grassi. Coming from a non-religious home to study at MVAC in 2014, Abi found God during her time at the school and wanted to conclude her Year 12 journey by declaring her love for Him. Along with Michaela, she has been doing Bible studies since the beginning of 2022. "Both girls are amazing student leaders and role models, and we are so excited to see where God leads them as they continue to journey with Him," said MVAC chaplain Pastor Paul Moran.

—Daniel Lavaimat



## Called to serve

Pastors Solomoni Taipo and Jerry Hiwa were ordained to ministry at the Epauto Adventist Multi-purpose Centre in Vanuatu on July 30. Trans Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga officiated at the ordination service. A graduate of Fulton Adventist University College, Pastor Taipo has been working as district ministry leader in Ampa District with the support of his wife Esther. In his response, he highlighted his commitment to the people and country of Vanuatu stating, "I will work and die in Vanuatu." Pastor Hiwa is also a Fulton graduate. Married to Anna Charlie, he is a father of two boys. Pastor Hiwa worked as a layman for 11 years and is currently serving on Tanna Island. After their ordination, both pastors performed their first baptism.

—Kymberley McMurray



## We the Girls

Launched in an online format in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, "We the Girls"—a North New South Wales Conference initiative for teenagers—had its first in-person event on May 28. More than 250 women gathered at Avondale School in Cooranbong to worship, hear the Word of God and fellowship. "The team was surprised and delighted to have such a large turnout for the debut of 'We the Girls' in person," said Pastor Bethany Chapman.

—Juliana Muniz



## Christmas in July

Hillview Adventist Church in Morisset (NSW) hosted a joyful Sabbath on July 30 with a special Christmas in July program. Organised by Hillview worship leader Sharmila Saggurthi, the program took attendees on a journey from the creation story through to the climax of the second coming. The afternoon program featured musical items interspersed with meaningful narrations of Jesus' birth and life. "It was a program that will long be remembered by all present," said Hillview leader Mary Federow.

—Record staff





## Wilding the school

Knowing that greenery can boost well-being and provide a respite for over-stimulated minds, Wairoa Adventist School is committed to “wilding” its physical environment.

Affirming its commitment and celebrating National Tree Day, Wairoa students spent time outside on July 29 planting trees and shrubs at Coups Creek and the school campus alongside the Wairoa Waterways Landcare leaders.

Local MP and NSW minister for science, innovation and technology, Alister Henskens, joined in the planting. Challenging students to think about a sustainable future, he commented on the positive impact that students can make toward the environment by planting, recycling and using science and technology to find creative, innovative solutions to current environmental issues.

“It was fantastic to see the students work together to wild/green our school and our local community,” said head of the science department Leisly White. “Individual actions like these, no matter how small, help to create a better future for us all.”

Principal Julia Heise said it is a blessing to have a school community who cares for its environment and nature. “Greening and wilding our schools provide the opportunity not just for curriculum to be taught, but for a life-long love of the natural environment to be nurtured in our future leaders,” concluded Mrs Heise.—**Record Staff**



## Stolen bell

A 110-year-old school bell at Longburn Adventist College (Palmerston North, NZ) is believed to have been stolen during the week commencing July 25. Longburn principal Brendan van Oostveen said they weren't sure which day it had been stolen. The missing brass bell, which was specially made for Longburn, was cut from its frame and appeared to have fallen and damaged the wood and concrete steps underneath. The incident happened a week after the theft of another bell from a nearby school, which was returned on August 1. “It goes without saying, we would love to see our bell returned. It is a *taonga* [Maori for treasured possession] to the school and its alumni. Any information on its whereabouts will be appreciated,” the school stated in a Facebook post.—**Juliana Muniz**



## Welcomed to ministry with a korowai

Maranatha Adventist Church in Rotorua, New Zealand, was full on Sabbath, July 16, for the commissioning of South NZ Conference (SNZ) discipleship director Pastor Sarah-Jane Riley. Church leaders from SNZ, NNZ, NZ Pacific Union Conference and South Pacific Division attended the special occasion and were part of the service. In addition to a typical program, the service included a *powhiri* (traditional Maori welcome). Acknowledging the significance of the occasion Pastor Riley was gifted with a *korowai* (Maori cloak of feathers) by her *whangai* mother and sister on behalf of the church family and a group of men performed a *haka* (ceremonial dance). “My heart was full and my cup overflowed with the richness of all it meant to be back home with my *whanau* (family) and my village,” she said.—**Juliana Muniz**

# Night walk



I went on a possum walk last week. About 30 people signed up for a guided walk to see possums and owls. We had been having a few frosty mornings (minus 3 degrees Celsius twice in a row) and I was expecting the night walk to be cold. I layered up: thermals and wool; five layers on my upper body. It was a local walk, but I hadn't been there before. We started in a car park and I met some of the early bird attendees in the dark. Then it got busier, as people started to arrive and the walk leader ticked off their names.

Eventually we had an introductory talk and started our walk. I had never walked this track before. I didn't have a torch, but I followed the leader. I kept close so I could hear him speak, and see what he showed as he directed his strong light beam into the trees around us.

He said he was good at spotting possums. He said he noticed eyes as he scanned. He would scan the surroundings with his white light beam quickly moving, then swap to a red beam and stop—highlighting a possum.

We saw 10 to 15 brushtail possums, up to five ring-tail possums and two, probably three, squirrel gliders in a two-hour period. Not once did I feel scared. I wasn't tired. I wasn't cold. Nor was I lost, though I didn't exactly know where I was, and I didn't know more than three people in the group and had only exchanged names with three others. I remember the names of the two leaders, though I doubt I would recognise them by sight. I learned quite a bit about them from listening and observing. Both are passionate in their separate interest fields.

On Sabbath I went back to the same place in daylight. To check it out, and to walk the dog. The trees, full of night life, looked dull and dead mid-winter. I didn't find the native grass patch I had seen a few nights earlier. The new planted grasses in their weed mat beds hugged a path in patches; a path I hadn't really noticed on my night walk. Our two-hour walk probably wasn't more than a kilometre! The most interested party of my day walk was the dog. She was terribly excited about the smells and unfamiliar territory.

I live in a darkness. I can't see. I don't know where I'm going. I don't know the people I'm with. I don't have the innate ability to light up the night. But there is a Leader I can follow who knows the path and the highlights of the journey. He knows that it is a short time and distance, even though it may take all my life. If I follow closely, I am less likely to trip or lose my way. If I listen carefully, I will learn a great deal. If I watch closely, I will see amazing things.

My journey won't be the same as your journey. We may not see the same possums. But, if we follow the same Leader, we will have a fabulous life even in the darkness, and we will arrive safely to our destination.

Too often, I forget what I am doing. Darkness closes in, isolating me. I can't feel progress. I don't have confidence or direction. I don't know where I am or where I am going.

The best thing is that my Leader hasn't left me alone in the dark. For some reason I have forgotten I'm on a night walk looking for possums. The Leader hasn't left me behind. I've turned away, and am lost and struggling. If I turn back and fully participate in the night walk the Leader is taking, I will be okay.

Jesus said, "I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life" (John 8:12 CEV last part).

*This piece was written for Sarah who was baptised on August 13.*

**April Wood**

church librarian and on the Junior Sabbath school team at Albury church, NSW where she also works at the local public library.

# Enditnow : Abuse of Power

"With great power comes great responsibility."

This ancient adage, made popular through the Spider-Man franchise, rings as true now as it did centuries ago. It acknowledges the universal truth that positions of power come with their share of responsibility. And those with power have a responsibility not to take advantage of the power for their own gains.

"Abuse of Power" is this year's focus for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's enditnow Emphasis Day (today, August 27). Much as we would like to believe the Church, its ministries and members are immune from issues like the abuse of power, the sad reality is we know this is not the case.

According to the South Pacific Division office, the prevalence of women experiencing domestic violence in the Pacific is 70 per cent and 60 per cent for Indigenous women. Devastatingly, these statistics are the same within the Church as they are in general society.

This was never God's intention.

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

The golden rule of Matthew 7 is what it looks like to love one another. The parable of the Good Samaritan is what it looks like to love one another. Loving one another does not look like violence. It does not look like financial, emotional or sexual abuse. Using a position of power to control someone else is not what it looks like to love one another.

For people like Nali\*, a mother of five in Papua New Guinea, abuse of power came from someone who claimed to love her most.

"My husband would verbally and physically abuse me when I got home late from class," says Nali.

Before participating in adult literacy classes, life was very challenging for Nali and her husband. They worked as subsistence farmers, but the money they made selling crops was never enough. Their children were missing school and the family was living hand to mouth.

Nali was delighted to learn about an adult literacy class

made available through ADRA's Church Partnership Program. And, at the end of the literacy class, sewing training was available to help students expand their skills.

But Nali's husband didn't like her classes. If Nali was late coming home, her husband would yell and beat her. But she persevered with her attendance, and gradually her husband began to see the value in her newly acquired skills.

"Her husband was so impressed because he saw his wife sewing dresses for women and selling them for K50 and she was earning a lot of money," says ADRA staff member Linda. "He began to support her by purchasing fabric materials. Her children were happy because they have new clothes to wear."

And with her literacy skills, Nali was delighted to be able to support her children with their homework.

"The project has made Nali's experience peaceful instead of family violence, abuse and negligence from her once abusive husband," Linda says. "It has also increased the level of family income and created a conducive environment for her children's learning."

Nali's experience highlights the damage domestic violence can have not just on an individual, but on a family's wellbeing.

Every child, woman and man deserves to live as God intended, experiencing life to the full. There is no space for abuse of power in God's vision for this world. As a Church, we need to be setting the example for the world, not falling into the trap of sin.

It is time to talk within our churches about uncomfortable issues and to reinforce healthy uses of power. We can do so much good with the power we hold, as a church and as individuals.

Church leaders in Papua New Guinea are modelling this through the establishment of Adsafe and the use of the Theology of Human Equality. How will you and your church draw attention to this important topic?

\*Name changed for safeguarding purposes.

**Ashley Stanton**

media and communications  
coordinator for ADRA Australia/NZ.



## Lessons from a Palmy winter

**W**hen I was the pastor of a church plant in Palmerston North, NZ, one of our regular duties was the set-up on Friday night and pack-down on Sabbath afternoon after church had finished. As we were a small church, there weren't many hands to help and because of this, I usually was there every Friday night to help set up. Suffice to say I now have a greater appreciation for cable management and sound technicians! Sometimes, the school we hired from would accidentally double-book another event on the same night. When that happened, we would need to wait for the event to end before we could begin setting up for church. When you need to set up sound equipment for a full band AND 100 chairs, not to mention decorations, it can be stressful!

I remember one night we had been double-booked once again. The rest of my team had other commitments, so it was left to me to do the set-up alone after the group had left at 9:30. If you've never experienced setting up for church on a Friday night in the middle of a Palmy winter, let's just say I don't recommend it.

Servant leadership is a concept often bandied about in church circles. More recently, thanks to the work of thought leaders like Simon Sinek (particularly with his book *Leaders Eat Last*), it has become "in vogue" for the business community. In *Leaders Eat Last*, Sinek says rather profoundly: "You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him." To me, this is the heart of servant leadership. The image that most often resonates for Christians is of Jesus washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper. This act of humble service was reserved for the servant class of the day. Though some of us might yawn at the modern communion service, for Jesus' disciples, this act was shocking. The act

of a rabbi humbling Himself to perform a servant's obligation challenged their view of hierarchy and authority. For this and His ultimate act of humility on the Cross, God exalted Jesus and bestowed on Him "the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11 NIV).

As I was grumbling to myself that Friday evening, alone in that hall, I was suddenly struck by a thought. I realised how insignificant my discomfort was compared to that endured by Jesus. I realised my priorities were all wrong. Following Jesus isn't about honour and recognition—it's about serving people and God. The Lord I serve didn't come to be served—rather, "to serve others, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28 NLT). Where I had once aspired to a "worldly" standard of success, I realised that real ministry often happens in the moments that aren't recognised. From that point on my perspective changed. I began to let go of my ego's need to be validated, honoured, praised. I still have a lot of work to do but when I'm tempted to play by the rules of the world, I can't help but return to the enrapturing image of Jesus the servant Leader. The One who, "though He was God, didn't think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being" (Philippians 2:6,7 NLT). May we be transformed by this God and follow in His footsteps.

**Jesse Herford**

associate editor, *Signs of the Times*.



## Good fathers from the Bible



### Jairus

Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, showed how much he loved his daughter by publicly falling at Jesus' feet to ask for healing over her. Through his faith, his daughter was healed: "Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, 'My child, get up!'. And at that moment her life returned, and she immediately stood up! Her parents were overwhelmed . . ." (Luke 8:40-56).

### Joseph

The earthly father of Jesus, Joseph is described as a "righteous man" who was willing to obey God's instruction to marry Mary and take on parenthood, even though he faced public humiliation by doing so (Matthew 1:18-24). He did all he could to protect Mary and baby Jesus, faithfully listening to what he was told in a dream and safely escaping with them to avoid Herod.

### Jehoiada

When the young king Joash was rescued as a baby and hidden in the temple for seven years, his uncle Jehoiada the priest watched over him, eventually restoring him to his rightful position as king of Israel. Through Jehoiada's fatherly counsel, a Godly covenant was established "between the Lord and the king and the people that they would be the Lord's people" (2 Kings 11:17). Not all fathers are biological!

### Mordecai

When a young Esther was left as an orphan, her cousin Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. Throughout the book of Esther, we see many examples of Mordecai's faith, love, care and fatherly guidance to Esther.

### Caleb

As a father, Caleb ensured his daughter, Achsah, married a brave and godly man. When Achsah respectfully approaches her father to ask for an extra blessing of more land with a source of water (as the land she had been given was desert), her father is willing to give her much more than she requests (Joshua 15:16-19 and Judges 1:12-15).

### Job

Job was an excellent example of faith for his 10 children. He would "get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them" to purify them after family gatherings just in case any of his children had sinned and "cursed God in their hearts" (Job 1:1-4).

### Manoah

The father of Samson, when his wife told him that an angel had appeared to her with news that she was to become pregnant, Manoah humbly accepted God's will. He asked God for further guidance on how to raise the baby in a way that was pleasing to God, so that Samson could live up to his God-given destiny (Judges 13).

### Jehonadab

He was a father who left a legacy, teaching his children to walk in faith and setting strict rules for his family, the Rechabites. These family rules were respectfully obeyed through the generations (for more than 200 years!), with God using the Rechabites' faithfulness to teach His people an important lesson (Jeremiah 35:12-17). God blessed the Rechabites through Jeremiah, saying, "You have obeyed your ancestor Jehonadab in every respect" (Jeremiah 35:18). What a legacy.

### Noah

Described as "a righteous man, blameless in his generation", Noah "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). He raised his three sons in the most corrupt time on earth, provided an excellent example of working hard (in building the ark), and because of his faith, saved his sons and their families from perishing in the flood.

### God the Father

The best father of all is God our heavenly Father. During His time on earth, Jesus told us about God the Father's perfect love for His children (us!). He is a great listener, slow to anger, promise keeper, excellent provider, protector and a reliable Guide through life.



# BMX, DRUGS AND FINDING JESUS

## Greg's miracle recovery

I stopped attending church when I was 15 or 16. At a young age, I'd been taken off my parents after false accusations, and I questioned how God could do that to good Christian people. So, after leaving home, I got mixed up in drugs and alcohol and started to live a reckless life.

I got into the BMX scene and was lucky enough to get some sponsorships. I rode with some guys who were really good but also were travelling a lot for BMX.

I thought I would become a famous rider but that's not what happened. Instead, I had three major accidents.

In 2007, I fractured my skull in two places and had a bleed on my brain. I woke up in the hospital on a spinal trolley, thinking *Oh no. My life's done*. It took 12 months to walk again and the entire time, I was housebound. To cope with it, I turned to alcohol and drugs.

I had my second accident in 2009. I fell off the back of a car when we were "out bush" drinking with mates. This one really messed me up. Doctors said, "If you hit your head again, you're going to die."

I recovered miraculously and started riding again a few years later. But, in 2012, I came off my bike again. When I hit the ground, I went into violent convulsions. I was rushed down to Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney. Turns out, I'd gained severe epilepsy with my third brain injury. I would have two, three, sometimes four seizures every day causing incontinence, just totally knocked out on the ground, not breathing—"grand mal" seizures. There was not much hope for me.

Doctors told me, "You'll never work or drive again. This is your life now."

Hearing that, I just gave up. I started to drink more. I started to get on really hard drugs: not just pot, but chemicals and ice.

I really started to get into some bad stuff. With that lifestyle and no job, you have to find a way to pay for drugs. I ended up stealing copper and doing jobs for people that I shouldn't have been working for to earn cash to feed my addictions.

My life just got worse. Doctors told me I'd die if I didn't stop living the life I was living.

My ageing parents were worried. People in the community would pull me up and say, "You're a dead man walking. We can see that your life isn't going to last." I just thought, *Who cares! It's over for me*.

That's why I got into the tattoo scene. A lot of my tattoos are skulls. My theory was that I was going to be buried in a coffin with no clothes, just a full suit of tattoos—death written all over me because I was going to die.

My dad would send pastors to me all the time. *Here we go*, I would think. *This guy is going to tell me about some fairy tale that's written in this little book*. I'd just push them off until one day I met Steve Magaitis, who came to pastor here at Grafton church.


He'd led a life like mine, doing similar things. When I met him, he never mentioned God. He just built a friendship with me. Then one day he said, "I want to study the Bible with you."

I took that as an opportunity to take another pastor down.

Before the study, I was at my mate's place, getting on the gear and drinking, so I arrived at that Bible study off my face. I remember sitting on my parents' lounge rubbing my hands, waiting for Steve to come in so I could show him what his Bible was really all about.

We opened in prayer and he started reading from the beginning of the Bible—the book of Genesis.

"God created the heavens and the earth." So simple. As



he read down the passage—about God speaking and things coming into existence—before I could even get a word out, the Holy Spirit hit me in the face, like a brick. I hung my head in shame, crying, knowing there was a God out there who loved me, even though He knew everything I had done. I heard that still small voice the Bible talks about, whisper to me and God said, “I know where you’ve been. I know what you’ve done. And I still love you.”

The next day I woke up and I decided, *That’s it. No more drugs.* I went out to the coast and just cried out to God saying, “If You’re really there, You need to change me. You need to pull me away from the scene I’m in, from the people I’m around. My friends are going to jail, people are getting sick with too many drugs.” And my life was that way too. As I prayed that prayer, I made the decision not to touch drugs again. Alcohol took a little bit longer and smoking was the last one.

A few weeks later I had another hospital visit. When the doctor came into the room she looked different. “Your epilepsy: it’s gone!” she said.

“What do you mean it’s gone?” I asked. “That’s not possible.”

If you know anything about epilepsy, you will know it doesn’t just disappear. “It’s gone. Your brain function is normal. Your scans are clear. You’ll be able to get your driver’s licence back. You’ll be able to live a normal life. We can’t explain how this has happened. This is a miraculous recovery.”

“I know it’s possible,” I told her. “God healed me.”

“Well, if that’s what you believe, that’s what you believe,” she said. But I knew God had answered my prayer and had something special in store for my life.

I went home and stuck my head in the Bible. I wanted to get to know the Person who knew everything about me and still cared.

I got my (driver’s) licence back. I returned to work. And as my relationship with God grew, I wanted to share with other people that their life didn’t have to be in chaos and turmoil; chasing drugs and running from the police. It was possible to live free from it all.

In the process of coming back to God, I began praying for my little girl—taken from me when she was only three months old.

I’ll never forget the day I had in court. Family court was packed. People were standing around the walls but there as I was sitting in the waiting area, there was a spare seat next to me. It was the same thing in the courtroom—people decked out along the walls, but once again a spare seat next to me. This happened three or four times as I went in and out of the courtroom.

I began to think, *Man, do I stink or something?* I heard that small voice again saying, that seat is for Me. It was God’s way of telling me “I’m here with you today.” To my surprise and joy, I was awarded 100 per cent custody of my daughter. I took her home that day.

As I studied the Bible my hunger for God grew. I decided I needed to work for Him. And, to do that, I needed to leave my job. But now I had a daughter to take care of. So I prayed,

asking God, how is this possible? God seemed to respond: *Give Me everything.* I decided I was going to serve God wholeheartedly and yet I didn’t know how we were going to survive. Yet through miracle after miracle God provided for us.

I would pull out my Bible at Bible studies and 100 dollar notes would fall out. We got down to our last carton of eggs—all the food we had in the house—and there was a 50 dollar note in the carton. Money arrived in my account from people I didn’t know. The local church supported me. I was a single dad, but life was starting to come back together. I knew I had to do further study so I enrolled in a program that would show me what the story of the Bible was all about, from beginning to end.

The only problem was that I didn’t own a computer. Nor did I have access to a printer or the internet. I was barely literate (I learned to read through reading the Bible). So I prayed again. Someone who had never bought me a Christmas present before bought me a laptop. Somebody else gave me a printer. Then my church decided to pay for my internet for 12 months so I could study while sharing Bible studies in Grafton.

During that time, I had a call from a girl who wanted Bible studies. “How many days are you in town?” she asked. “Two,” I said. “Well, I’ll have studies on both days,” she replied.

Bonita had a real passion for God; I could see it in her eyes. She ended up helping me give Bible studies to others and attending church. Our friendship developed. I had the privilege of baptising Bonita and we got engaged and were married within a few months. I proposed to her in Grafton Seventh-day Adventist church.

Soon after we married, we had our first child together—a honeymoon baby. With my oldest daughter who is now eight and four foster children—her half siblings—we now have a full house. And my wife is pregnant again!

God truly delivered everything I had lost. There are still tough times, living in a broken family. God forgives you for what you have done, but the consequences are still there.

However, I can deal with today’s tough moments instead of giving up, because now I have Jesus. He’s always there to pull me through life’s trials.

There is always hope because if God can bring me from that sort of life to where I am today, God can do that for you too.

Greg’s wife, Bonita, recently shared her story with *Signs of the Times*. You can read it at <https://bit.ly/signsbonita>.

Hear more of Greg’s miraculous story at a free live event on Friday, September 9 at 7pm (AEST). For details go to [bit.ly/gregsmiracle](https://bit.ly/gregsmiracle).

### **Greg Fernance**

serving his home community as the pastor of Grafton Seventh-day Adventist church, NSW.

# Living by Faith: Endurance Race or Boat Trip?





**W**ould you like to join our Zoom Sabbath school class?" was the message that caught my eye as I scanned my Gmail inbox one day. The COVID-19 pandemic had closed churches and homes for all gatherings. My wife and I played YouTube recordings of Sabbath school and church services to fill the void, but something major was missing—no interaction with real people.

*Oh, this message is from our neighbour! Well, OK, let's try it!*

We learned that, in this Sabbath school, the lesson study was handled by a different presenter for each day's section, with opportunity for comments and questions after each presentation. No need to hurry to finish in time for church—there was no church. We were hooked!

Even though it was just pictures on a screen and noise coming out of a box, somehow it provided the interaction and fellowship that had been missing. It also stimulated us to increased Bible study during the week in preparation.

It has been such a joy that the Zoom Sabbath school still continues even though COVID-19 restrictions are not currently in place.

Recently my Zoom class assignment was "The Righteous Will Live by Faith" with the key text being Hebrews 10:35-39. The *Clear Word* paraphrase reads like this:

"So don't throw away your confidence in what Christ has done for you, because your faithfulness to Him will be rewarded. But you need to keep on doing the will of God, then someday you'll receive what He has promised. As the Scriptures say, 'Just a little longer, and He who did come will come again and will not delay. The one who is right with Me will be given life because of his faith. But if he draws back and throws away his confidence in Me, I will not be pleased with him.' We are not the kind who draw back and are lost. On the contrary, we are

people of faith and will go on believing and be saved."

I told the Zoom class those verses got me thinking about the analogy of the Christian life of faith to running an endurance race, found in Hebrews 12:1,2. However it seemed there was a place where that analogy breaks down. I asked them to consider if, in my Christian life of faith, I start to think *I'm tired of this. I think I'll take a break from being a Christian for a while*, is that like stopping for a few minutes of rest during an endurance race? What harm is there? Can't you just pick up where you left off? Isn't the finish line the same distance away as before you rested?

My thoughts had then turned to when I was a teenager and we moved to Bairnsdale, Victoria. My two older siblings had left home and my parents purchased a row boat for me to use for exercise on the Mitchell River which flows slowly through town, into connected waterways and lakes which drain into the ocean at Lakes Entrance.

One day we loaded the row boat onto the trailer, drove towards Lakes Entrance and my dad dropped the boat and me off at a loading ramp. He said "Bye, I'll pick you up at Lakes Entrance."

I learned later that he and my mum stopped at the lookout overlooking Lakes Entrance in order to view my progress. They were soon conversing with a local man who warned them of strong currents near the ocean entrance and of boats that had come to grief there.

Meanwhile I was enjoying an easy row. The tide was going out, so the water was flowing towards Lakes Entrance. There was minimal wind, the water was smooth and everything was going well . . . Until . . .

Until I arrived at Lakes Entrance and had to make a left turn into one of two side channels to get picked up. If I kept going straight ahead, I would wind up in the ocean in a small rowing boat.

And I could already see waves

breaking on the sandbar. As I got closer, I noticed with some concern that there was significant flow of water OUT of both side channels on the left, because tidal water was draining into the main channel.

I decided to attempt to row against the current into the first channel. Then, if I couldn't make it up that channel, I would have another chance at the second channel. So, I manoeuvred the boat to one side of the main outflow current where the flow was less, rowed like crazy and fortunately was able to just beat the water flow and get the boat into safer waters.

The point being, that if you compare the Christian life to a row boat trip, if you stop rowing, you may go backwards, because we all have natural evil tendencies. So, maybe a better analogy is to compare the Christian life of faith, not to an endurance race, but to a kayak trip up a river. Not a row boat trip because, in a row boat, you see where you have been. In a kayak you see where you are going. Hebrews 12:2 reads, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (KJV). So long as you are persevering in paddling faster than the downstream current—which means maintaining your faith in Jesus—all is well. If you stop paddling, just remember that there is a waterfall downstream!

There was laughter from the noise box and a voice said, "You should send that to the *Record!*"

**Dr David Bland**

semi-retired physician living in Cooranbong, NSW.

# Wholegrains help support

heart health

Getting enough fibre does far more than keep you regular, it can help look after your heart, brain and gut.

We are now learning that some fibres may be better than others, especially when it comes to reducing inflammation naturally and lowering the risk of heart disease. A new study by researchers at Columbia University followed the lives of 4125 people for 26 years, tracking their diet and testing their blood. It revealed that eating more fibre helped to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

What's particularly interesting with this study is that the researchers looked at specific sources of fibre. Fibre can come from fruit, veggies, legumes (dried peas, beans and lentils), grains, seeds and nuts, basically any plant food.

The researchers found that cereal fibre from wholegrains was consistently linked to a lower risk of heart disease and less inflammation, something they didn't find in the fibre from fruit and veggies. While more research is needed, it adds to growing evidence that there is something very special about cereal fibre in wholegrains.

## Why is cereal fibre so good?

Many of the cereal fibres and antioxidant compounds found in grains are unique and often found in higher amounts than in any other plant-based foods.

In the gut, they feed gut bacteria and deliver long-lasting antioxidant protection where it's needed most, including to areas of the colon that are prone to cancerous changes. Fibre, including cereal fibre, also helps the gut to produce short-chain-fatty acids, which may help reduce the risk of inflammation, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.



**The takeaway message**—wholegrains can complement the goodness you get from fruit, veggies and other plant foods. Eating 2-3 serves of wholegrain foods each day, you can reduce your risk of developing chronic disease by 20-30 per cent. So, look for ways to eat more wholegrain foods such as wholegrain breakfast cereals, rices and delicious grainy bread.

## 10 ways to eat more wholegrains:

- Swap white bread for a brown, grainy loaf
- Choose wholegrain and high fibre breakfast cereals
- Swap mashed potato for a side of quinoa or brown rice
- Add some pearl barley to hearty winter soups
- Try buckwheat pancakes for a weekend breakfast
- Enjoy wholegrain crackers with peanut butter or avocado
- Swap white pasta or rice for wholemeal pasta and brown rice
- Add grains such as quinoa or buckwheat to a winter salad
- Add wholegrain cereal such as oats to your smoothies
- Experiment with your favourite baking recipes—replace half the white flour with wholemeal flour

**Tip:** Increase your fibre intake slowly, as a sudden increase in fibre may lead to abdominal discomfort associated with bloating. Make the switches to your diet gradually and remember to drink plenty of water!

For more information and research references check out the full article on our website: <[sanitarium.com.au](http://sanitarium.com.au)>.



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# HELLO KIDS!



## DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Joseph is the most important ruler in the country next to the king. When a famine comes, his brothers travel to Egypt to buy food. They have to ask Joseph for food. He knows who they are, but they don't recognise him. After some time he tells them who he is, and they are afraid. But Joseph forgives them for trying to kill him so many years before. He reminds them that God's plan for his life helped save their lives during the terrible famine.

### Find the hidden message.

Write down every third letter to solve the memory verse.

Start

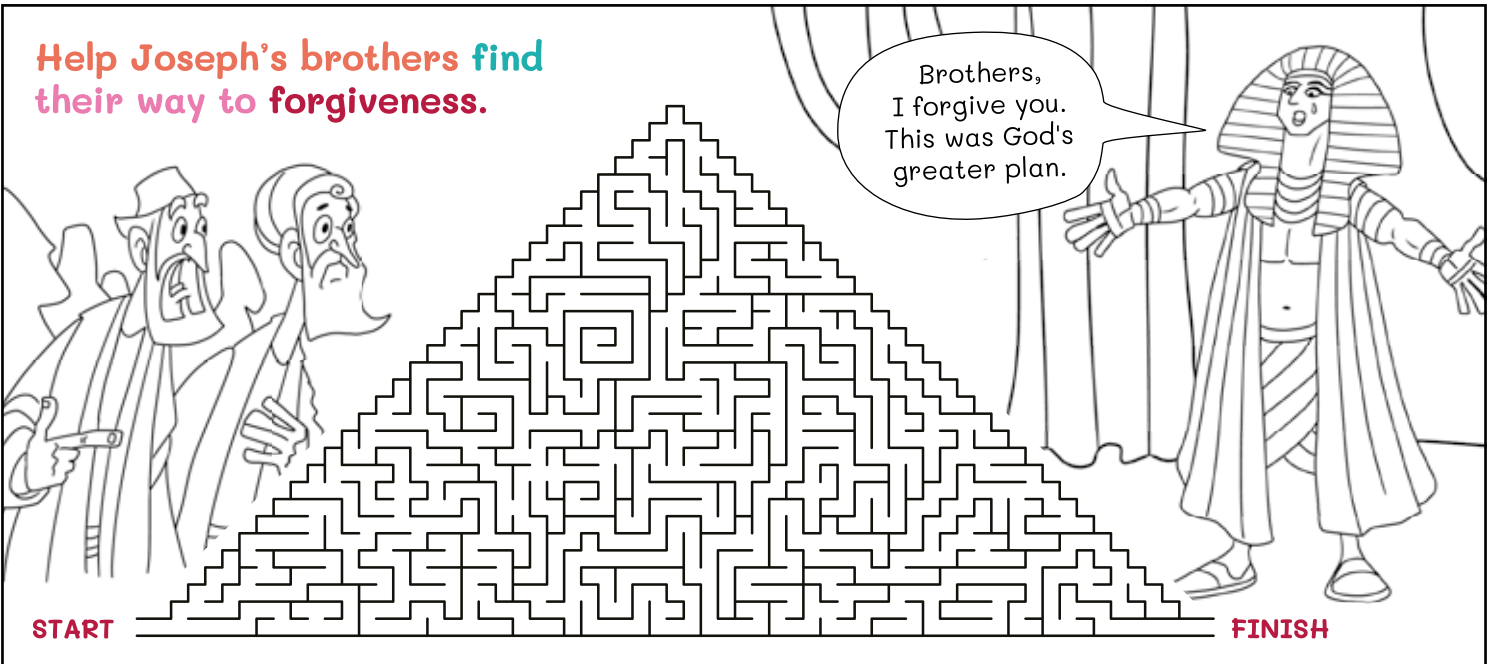
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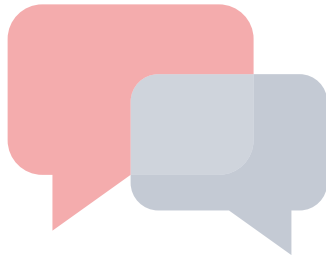
Finish

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Be kind and \_\_\_\_\_  
to one another, forgiving each  
other, just as in Christ God  
\_\_\_\_\_ you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Help Joseph's brothers find their way to forgiveness.





# Conversations

## Membership stats

Re: "1 million people join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2021" (News, July 2). That over 1 million people joined the Adventist Church in 2021 is something to be excited about. Praise God that the number of baptisms and professions of faith rebounded after the marked decline during the pandemic (more than 1 million losses during 2019). The actually number who joined in 2021 was 1,049,735. Yet the membership only increased by 188,169. How come? Allowing for 82,317 deaths for the year, this means that a staggering 779,249 left the Church in 2021. According to Dr David Trim, from another report, two-thirds of those who leave are young adults at the time (62.5 per cent).

In his report to the General Conference Session, Dr Trim revealed that during the last five years (2017-2021), 5.9 million joined the Church and 3.6 million left. If two-thirds are young adults, this means for every 100 baptisms, about 61 members leave, 40 of whom are young adults. In some world divisions the average membership age is older than the general population. The data is clear, says Trim, the Church is ageing. I did read of a rumour that the leaders

were going to supply members with hair dye, to stop the greying of the church. But seriously, that doesn't answer the question: "Why are so many leaving the Church?"

**Errol Webster,**  
*via email*

## Family home

Thank you for the article "Breaking up with the church" (Feature, August 6). A painful reading for some of us, but acknowledgment of this reality is the first positive step in recovering our missing members.

Sometimes our leadership in our Church does not realise that this Church is the family home of Jesus, and that it is their task to be "morally blameless deacons" enabling all of the members to be the same as them, we are all equal in the family home of Jesus (see Ephesians 4:12).

The word *oikodom* in the Greek of the New Testament stands for the church, and its full meaning translates: "the church is a building where a family lives, it is a home".

To remind ourselves let's put up a sign at the door of our church: "*Oikodom* your family home, where we live together with Jesus."

**Henry Firus,** Vic

## Criticism has an evil effect

Re: "Breaking up with the church" (Feature, August 6), asking for sermons to focus more on Jesus' love: about 30 years ago this same call was made and the result was that many young people and those new to the faith were not grounded in the Bible truths. Jesus' love shines out to us from every topic in God's Word if it is presented properly.

I have always believed that every sermon reaches someone's heart even if it didn't particularly touch me that day.

Through all the trials of my life which could have caused me to give up going to church, it is always the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that keep me grounded.

No Sir, it is NOT the Church, but you! I would ask you to listen to the sermons with a humble heart, asking the Lord Jesus to show you what it is He wants you to hear. I don't believe letters criticising messages from the pulpit should be regarded as humorous—all criticism has an evil effect; we need to encourage our pastors.

**Name supplied**

## Weddings

**LIPSHUS—CHAPLIN.** Gregory John Lipshus, son of Max and Jean Lipshus (both deceased), and Lisa Marie Chaplin, daughter of Wayne and Suzette Cooper (Jandowae Lowood, Qld), were married on 22.7.22 at Picnic Beach, Magnetic Island.

Bob Possingham



**STEPHENS—CATER.** Brian John Stephens and Donelle Joy Cater were married on 1.5.22 at Rossmoyne Waters Adventist Retirement Village Chapel, Perth, WA. Brian and Donelle's marriage was a "high day" witnessed by their family, children and grandchildren on both sides and their many friends from Rossmoyne Waters, their church and the community.

Roger Millist



**WHITLING—POLAND.** Jack Rowan Whitling, son of Bill and Pauline Whitling (Fishing Point, NSW), and Danika Ashley Poland, daughter of Leon and Leanne Poland (Brassall, Qld), were married on 23.11.21 at Wategos Beach, Byron Bay. With COVID restrictions, immediate family and a few friends witnessed their love for each other and their God in a beautiful beach wedding. The bride and groom were excited to have Danika's grandmother, Melva Grosse, as one of their witnesses on their wedding certificate before her passing. Jack and Danika were finally able to celebrate with more family and friends on 11.5.22 at Summergrove Estate, Carool, NSW.

Dada Fialho

## Obituaries



**ALESSI, Maria** (nee Aloisi), born 2.3.1924 in Sicily, Italy; died 9.6.22 in Blacktown Hospital, NSW. In 1952

she married Frank, who predeceased her in 2012. Maria is survived by her daughter, Josie and Stewart Walker (Kenthurst); grandson, Luke (Baulkham Hills), granddaughter, Keira and Lenox Tweneboa (Macquarie Park); great-grandchildren, Levi and Micah; and many nieces and nephews. Maria loved her Lord and cooking and gardening. She started life in Australia at Turrumurra. The family later moved to Drummoyne where they were introduced to the Adventist faith, resulting in Maria and Josie attending Drummoyne church. When she and her husband moved to Canada Bay, Maria started attending Concord church and continued until recent years when she was eventually moved to Kings Langley Nursing Home.

Lenox Tweneboa

**FELKEL, Maria**, born 29.8.1935 in Poland; died 17.6.22 in Bright Hospital, Vic. She was married to Eugene, who predeceased her.

Maria is survived by her children, Richard and Renee; daughter-in-law Sandra; and three grandchildren. Maria was a devoted wife and a beloved mother, who loved God and His Church.

Richard Felkel



**GROSSE, Melva** Gweneeth (nee Parker) born 4.9.1927 in Melbourne, Vic; died 15.3.22 at her home in

Alstonville, NSW. On 12.10.1950, she married Noel Bernoth, who predeceased her on 18.3.1970. On 17.12.1972, Melva married Pastor Harold Grosse, who predeceased her on 12.6.15. She is survived by her children, Glenn and Margaret Bernoth (Warwick, Qld), Rodney and Colleen Bernoth (Toowoomba), Kevin and Janette Bernoth (Coorabong, NSW) and Leanne and Leon Poland (Ipswich, Qld); stepchildren, Athol and Zoe Grosse (Perth, WA), Yvonne and Paul Watson (Brisbane, Qld) and Bruce and Elaine Grosse (Hobart, Tas); 18 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; brother, Pastor Ross Parker (Buderim, Qld) and her foster sister, Sue Pascoe (Melbourne, Vic). Melva was a selfless, cheerful and hospitable Christian who loved her Lord, her

OUR CHURCH:  
**MEMBER PERSPECTIVES**

How has COVID impacted your **LOCAL CHURCH**?  
 Did COVID change your **CONNECTION** to your church family?  
 Do you believe both men and women are called to serve in pastoral **MINISTRY**?  
 How has COVID impacted **FAMILY WORSHIP** in your home?  
 Did you **GROW SPIRITUALLY** and **CLOSER TO GOD** during the lockdown?

**WE WANT TO KNOW!**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JS8CJRN>  
 13 August - 10 September

**The Australian Union Conference will be conducting a survey in August 2022**  
 and we would like **YOUR** perspectives to gauge the climate of our church in Australia and how we can help.

family, her church and local community.

Dada Fialho

**HARJUNEMI**, Miriam (nee Koskelainen), born 20.4.1926 in Valviala, Finland; died 13.7.22 in Finlandia Village, Thornlands, Qld. On 25.11.1967 she married Pentti, who predeceased her in 1988. She was also predeceased by her son, Juhani Kay in 2014. She is survived by her children, Ritva Karppinen, Seija Klyza and Kari Kokkila (all of Brisbane). Miriam was always giving time and material gifts to people. She was a self-taught dressmaker and artist. Family was everything to her and she was an excellent mother. A committed Christian, she now awaits the coming of her Saviour.

Bob Possingham, Ritva Karppinen



**HOGAN**, Valmai Myra, born 8.5.1930 in Bathurst, NSW; died 27.12.21 in Coffs Harbour. On 27.8.1949 she married Bruce, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her sons, Max and Ross. Val is survived by her children, Kay and John Taylor, Ruth and Phil Foster, and Chris and Annette; and siblings, Enid and Ira. Val and Bruce moved to numerous

places in NSW but eventually settled back in Coffs Harbour, where Val continued as a regular member of the Coffs Harbour church. Val now awaits the call of the Master Life-Giver.

Bob Manners

**INGLES**, Ruth Grace Jeanette (nee Ferguson), born 20.1.1930 in Perth, WA; died 28.12.21 in Campbelltown, NSW. She is survived by her children, Arthur (Qld), Martin (Qld), Chorrissa (NSW), Calvin (NSW) and Vaughne (NSW). Ruth was a regular member of Campbelltown church. Life was not always kind to her but she lived and died with courage.

Panapa Leuluai



**JOHNSON**, Christopher James, born 4.1.1961; died 24.5.22. Chris is survived by his wife,

Liza; children from a previous marriage, Kathleen, Jemima, Kyle and Talitha; and siblings, Wayne, Roy, David and Anne. Chris tragically died in a car accident. We look forward to the day we can all reunite again at the Lord's return.

Anne Johnson, Musu Amuimuia

**LAMEY**, John, born 20.9.1936 in London, England; died 10.3.22 in Hurstville, Sydney. In 1965 he married Joan Robinson. John is survived by his wife; sons, Sheldon, Mathew and Jonathan; and five grandchildren, all of Sydney. He met Joan on her working holiday in England. He was an Adventist all his life, serving the church as head deacon for 25 years. He used his trade skills maintaining Strathfield Adventist College for 23 years. He sang in choirs all his life using his lovely tenor voice. He loved his family, his church and his music. John was a faithful Christian man.

Jimmie Cha

**MAHER**, Norma Gwendoline, born 17.4.1927 in Turramurra, NSW; died 4.12.21 in Elizabeth Lodge, Wahroonga, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Les in 1989 and son, Terry in 2014. Norma is survived by her sons, Ross (Nelson, NSW) and Philip (East Maitland) and their spouses; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Norma loved making cakes and her cakes won a number of awards and adorned many weddings, birthdays and other special occasions. Norma was a faithful member of Fox Valley Community church and will be sadly missed by her family and church family but she now rests in the Lord awaiting His call on the resurrection morning.

David McKibben

7.7.22 in Woolloongabba, Qld. On 13.11.1970 he married Narini Kaukura. Teio was predeceased by his son, Kavea in 1980 and wife in 2019. He is survived by his children, Kopu Kaukura (Springfield); Lawrence (Inala), Terito (Woodridge), Teio, (Inala); Solomon (Redbank); Michael (Inala); Narini (Rochester, Vic) and Ngametua (Inala, Qld). Teio was a gentle, faithful and dedicated Christian. He loved his Lord and he loved his family. He went to sleep in the sure and certain hope of the soon-coming resurrection.

J Neil Tyler

**NOBLE**, Merle (nee Butler), born 27.2.1935 in Perth, WA; died 21.7.22 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 26.2.1961 she married Leslie, who predeceased her in 2017. Merle is survived by her children, Elizabeth Lane (Surf Beach, Vic), Clifton (Cooktown, Qld), Merilyn (Morisset Park, NSW) and Calvin (Cooranbong). Merle was the daughter of Pastor and Mrs Sydney Butler. Prior to her marriage she taught in Adventist schools. Later she devoted her life to her extended family. An avid researcher, Merle compiled a book recording the escape of her husband from the Communist regime in Hungary. Deeply loved, her funeral was held in the Avondale Cemetery chapel in the presence of her extended family and friends.

Ross Goldstone, Len Tolhurst

**MOWDAY**, Shirley, born 22.7.1932 in Summer Hill, NSW; died 15.5.21 in North Avoca. On 25.11.1952 she married Des. She is survived by her husband (North Avoca); sons, Daryl (Terrigal) and Barrie (North Avoca); daughters, Glennis (Stanmore), Sharon (Glenorie) and Lynette (Duns Creek) and their families; and her sisters, Roslyn and Jennie. Pastor Des and Shirley served the Church in three conferences in Australia, overseas in England and in a chaplaincy role at Sydney Adventist Hospital. She played an outstanding role in their lifetime of ministry. Shirley was a gifted musician and an accomplished singer and she worked tirelessly to support Des as a teacher and an evangelist. She passed away peacefully at home with the hope of seeing the family again on the day of resurrection.

David McKibben

**PAYNTER**, Max, born 4.4.1935 in Hobart, Tas; died 30.5.22 in Rosetta. He was predeceased by his wife, Rita Fehlberg in 2002. He was also predeceased by his daughter, Gaylene Absolom and son, Shane. Max is survived by his son, Glenn (Hobart). Max was described as being jovial, with a sense of humour, hard-working and kind, as well as being a "straight shooter". Max also liked to grow vegetables.

Peter Watts

**CORRECTION:** The date of birth in the August 6 notice for Russell Woolfe was written as 1.3.1940. The correct date is 17.3.1940.

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**NGAU**, Teio, born 18.9.1944 in Titikaveka, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; died

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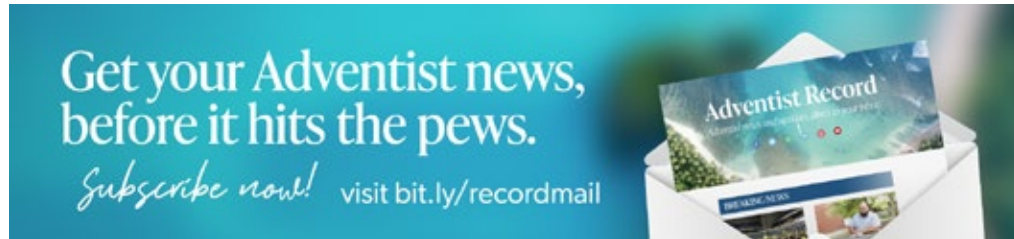
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## Positions Vacant

### HEALTH COURSE COORDINATOR (FULL-TIME) MAMARAPHA COLLEGE, KARRAGULLEN, WA

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia has a unique opportunity for a passionate health educator to join the small, yet dynamic Mamarapha team. Mamarapha is a mission-focused Adventist First Nations Bible college that trains faith leaders of tomorrow in health and ministry, while serving a student community from diverse Indigenous cultures. We invite expressions of interest from persons with health-related qualifications, preferencing experience in VET teaching and assessment, and excellent communication skills appropriately sensitive to Aboriginal cultures. The successful candidate will positively impact Indigenous health in Australia through building strategic partnerships and deliver high quality teaching and learning opportunities. For further details contact <AUCHR@adventist.org.au>. NB: The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia will be considered. **Applications close August 31, 2022**

### ASSISTANT MANAGER, CAMP HOWQUA HOWQUA, VIC

A full-time position has become available as part of the management team at Camp Howqua. Camp Howqua is an educational, recreational and camping facility owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The position is "hands on" with an outdoor lifestyle. The successful applicant will have extensive all-round building/machinery maintenance experience and will be able to demonstrate outstanding customer relations skills across a diversity of ages and cultures. The possession of recognised outdoor qualifications such as high ropes, canoeing etc. would be a distinct advantage. Onsite accommodation is provided. Applicants must apply in writing, possess the job description mandatory requirements and address the key selection criteria, as well as provide their resume complete with references. To apply please contact the Camp Howqua manager on (03) 5777 3509 or email <howqua@adventist.org.au>. The administrative committee reserves the right to interview and fill the position before the closing date. **Applications close September 12, 2022.**

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (PRIMARY), PRESCOTT COLLEGE PROSPECT, SA

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SA) Ltd is seeking to find an experienced deputy principal (primary) for a full-time position commencing at Prescott College Southern in January 2023. The role of the deputy principal (primary) is to co-manage the day-to-day workings of the school. The successful candidate will also need to support the spiritual and academic program of the school, with an emphasis on developing purposeful relationships with staff, students and parents. A position description is available upon request. Applicants are invited to send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, professional and faith references to the director of education, Steve Cowley: <stevecowley@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close September 5, 2022.**

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