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New era for Adventist higher education

Wahroonga, New South Wales

A new phase in the strategic development of Adventist post-secondary education has begun, with leaders of the South Pacific Division's (SPD) accredited higher education providers signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 19.

The MOU "recognises the value of working together for the advantage of the students and staff, the support of each institution and the benefit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific region".

"The MOU is the first of its kind for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific," said Adventist Education director Ken Weslake. "The signing formalises the working relationship between our higher education institutes and their willingness to support one another moving forward."

Signatories of the document included SPD president, Dr Barry Oliver, Avondale College of Higher Education president, Professor Ray Roennfeldt, Pacific Adventist University (PAU) vice-chancellor, Professor Ben Thomas, Fulton College principal, Dr Steve Currow, Mamarapha College

principal, Pastor David Fletcher, and Atoifi Adventist College of Nursing principal Humpress Harrington. Joe Ponduk, Papua New Guinea Union Mission's Education director, signed the MOU on behalf of Sonoma College principal Isako Esekia, who was unable to attend.

The period of the MOU is five years, with the duration and scope able to be extended by mutual consent.

The event was the inaugural meeting of the Division's Higher Education Committee. —*Linden Chuang*



Hands-on children's resource launched

Melbourne, Victoria

The Victorian Conference's Children's Ministries department has launched a new resource to assist parents in sharing the stories of the Bible in a hands-on, interactive way.

Studies have shown a strong link between play and learning in children. Story Bag contains props and an easy-to-use instruction guide to bring the Word of God to life.

"I am excited to support Story Bags," said Julie Weslake, Children's Ministries director for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific. "It's a great family worship resource that ties in well with GraceLink. I love that children will be engaged in their learning with their parents." Visit vickids.adventist.org.au to find out more. —*Katherine Darroch*



Two Samoan church plants opened

New South Wales

Two new church groups have been planted by the Samoan community in Australia.

The five Samoan congregations in the Greater Sydney Conference gathered together on February 15 to open the "Liverpool Samoan" church plant.

Held at the Mt Druitt Samoan church, special guests included Greater Sydney Conference president, Pastor Michael Worker, and the conference's director of Sabbath School, Personal Ministry and Church Planting, Dr Sven Ostring.

The vision to establish another Samoan language congregation in the south-west corridor of Sydney was a collaborative initiative of the existing Samoan churches and companies in the Conference. This church plant is part of the Conference's strategic plan for the city of Sydney. It underscores the demographic reality of the city, and the shifting Pacific Islands population of Sydney towards the south and the west. At the opening, 12 families publicly made their commitment to be part of the core membership of the new Liverpool Samoan Group.

In November, Pastor Paul Geelan, general secretary of the North New South Wales Conference, joined more than 50 people celebrating the Newcastle Samoan group's establishment. Pastor Talai Mohr said the group was open to anyone and would use both Samoan and English in its services. About a quarter of those attending were not Samoan. —*Margaret Kitona/Talai Mohr/Northpoint*





One weekend

James Standish

At the time, the song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” was playing everywhere. You remember that little number, don’t you?

Here’s a little song I wrote

You might want to sing it note for note

Don’t worry, be happy . . .

But I was worried. And I most certainly was not happy.

The previous week I’d started my first real job at Shell Oil, Australia. It couldn’t have come soon enough. I was sleeping on the living room floor of my brother’s share house in Erskineville, Sydney, recovering from a particularly bad case of glandular fever and I was flat broke.

Not only did I start a job with what at the time seemed an immensely generous salary, but I was given an electric blue Holden Commodore company car to go with it. I dubbed it “the Blue Bullet of Destiny” and prepared to drive it through the Harbour City singing “the future’s so bright, I gotta wear shades . . .” Except it wasn’t.

The first weekend I had the Blue Bullet, I smashed it into the rear end of a car on the Pacific Highway. Examining the damage, I was full of fear and loathing. But, as it turns out, for no good reason. Come Monday, my new boss thought my debutante driving disaster a great hoot. All my colleagues were ordered out of the office to examine the damage in the parking lot, retell their various mishaps in company cars over the years and have a good laugh.

It turns out, crashing a brand new car on your first weekend on the job is quite humorous. Particularly when it’s not actually your car. And it’s not your money that’s going to fix it . . .

That weekend still stands out in my mind, however, as what it means to have a truly awful weekend.

Which is in stark contrast to last weekend.

There is something quite odd about the best times; we often don’t notice them until they’re gone. But at the end of last weekend it hit me how extraordinarily fortunate we are, and that much of that fortune is because we are part of a caring and fun-loving community with God’s love at its centre.

The weekend began when I picked up my children from our local Adventist school. The school seems rather normal

to me. But talking to parents who transferred their children into the school, I’ve got a picture of just how unusually nurturing the school is. It’s a place where love rules—because God rules. And it isn’t all just soft fuzzies. It turns out when kids are loved and valued, they excel. So maybe it shouldn’t surprise anyone that the school is at the very apex of academic performance in the nation (see p 9). Happy kids progressing well in spiritual, mental, physical and social spheres at a great school = the perfect place to start a great weekend.

On Sabbath morning, we went to church where our kids are treated to music, stories, crafts, quizzes and their thoughts on the deepest questions in life are listened to respectfully by adults who care for their spiritual journey. All run by volunteers who have busy lives of their own and could just as well be having a bit of a sleep in. From time to time my children participate in the church program as well. What a confidence building experience to, from a young age, stand up before hundreds of people and be listened to and appreciated.

Sabbath afternoon, friends from church popped over and our kids played happily. No appointment necessary. All seamless and comfortable.

On Sunday morning, we headed for the Weet-bix Try-athlon; another great opportunity for our kids to get into a healthy, active lifestyle. They ended the day proudly wearing their medals. But the weekend wasn’t over just yet. That afternoon, the Pathfinder club held swimming honours at the San pool, complete with veggie hotdogs and watermelon. All run by volunteers who love God and love our kids. And don’t mind getting pushed into the pool by kids having an awesome amount of fun.

No, I am not seeing last weekend through rose-coloured glasses. The truth is that Adventists have created for my children, and for anyone else who chooses to come along, a wonderful, nurturing community that provides a great variety of positive opportunities to grow in nearly every facet of life.

It’s an excellent formula for a great weekend.

Every weekend of the year.

James Standish is editor of Record.

Dr Barry Oliver Senior consulting editor
James Standish Communication director
Jarrold Stackelroth Associate editor
Kent Kingston Assistant editor
Vania Chew PR/editorial assistant
Dora Amuimuia Sales & marketing
Tracey Bridcutt Copyeditor
Linden Chuang Assistant editor—digital
Loopeck Lewis Graphic designer

Letters editor@record.net.au
 News & Photos news@record.net.au
 Noticeboard ads@record.net.au
<http://record.net.au>
 Mail: Adventist Media Network
 Locked bag 1115
 Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia
 Phone (02) 9847 2222
 Fax (02) 9847 2200

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 (03) 5965 6300

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 “Wahroonga Adventist School teacher Johnny Edwards with one of his students.”

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Our vision is to be a church that...
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 and **shares**
our hope in Jesus Christ



Google generation

Linden Chuang

I'll admit it—I'm part of the "Google Generation". I have a Gmail account, I use Google Maps to get around and I'm a bit of a [recovering] YouTube junkie. When I need to find out something, I don't search through books or seek out the counsel of a wise and learned individual. I go to Google.

In the past couple of weeks, I've googled everything from the crisis in Syria to the Canadian National Anthem (did you know the anthem used to be in the Adventist hymnal?). I've also looked up information on lyrebirds, *The LEGO Movie* and the life of Nelson Mandela.

It's quite handy having the answers to all my questions just a few clicks away. But as great as that sounds, there is a downside.

In making the wealth of the world's information so easily accessible, Google has created an undesirable breed of "instant experts". All it takes is a few minutes of searching and one can suddenly talk about topics in which they have no business.

"Boy, that was a great game by the Seattle Seahawks in February. They absolutely dominated the Broncos. That defence by Chris Clemons at the end of the first half was huge. Kam Chancellor also came up big!"

I didn't watch the Super Bowl. In fact, I've never watched a game of NFL. Yet all it took was a quick Google search for me to become a so-called "expert" on one of the world's biggest sporting events.

This sort of research isn't really research; it's regurgitation. The information is quickly consumed and just as quickly disposed. This process fails to produce real, lasting knowledge.

Why is this important? Well, it's not if we're talking about trivial matters like the Super Bowl. The issue becomes serious, however, when it comes to our knowledge of God and the Bible.

"Your word I have [googled on my phone], that I may not sin against you."

In an age of uninterrupted access to technology and the internet, the temptation to replace authentic Bible study for a Google search is all too real. I'm guilty of this as much as anyone. I did it a few weeks ago for one of my editorials. Instead of taking the time to open my Bible, I opened my web browser. It took only a minute for me to find the verse I wanted. No worries, no time wasted, but no real knowledge. I can't even remember the location of the verse.

This approach simply isn't good enough. I need to do better; my God deserves better.

You don't see too many Bibles these days with copious amounts of notes scattered across pages. And that's a shame. Messy as it may be, the scribbles serve as a sign of a person earnestly seeking to learn more about God.

Maybe it's time we brought the messy Bible back into fashion. After all, if we want to get to know God and to please Him, we need to be more than "instant experts" with a fleeting knowledge of Scripture. We need God's Word etched in our minds and hearts.

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I may not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11)*.

Let's spend less time on Google and more time in the Word of God.

* *This verse was not googled.*

Linden Chuang is assistant editor of *Record—digital*.

Called to the worship of God

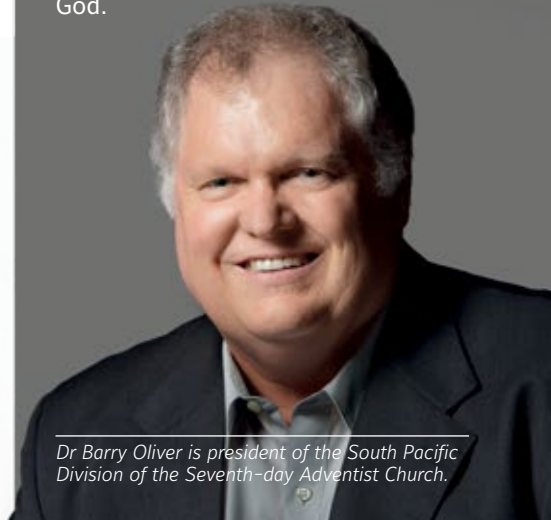
Before the creation of the earth, the Bible tells us that Lucifer challenged God and His government. It was his intention to elevate himself. At the same time he did everything he could to belittle God. He claimed God was not fair and not just. He did not understand the nature and character of God because he was too full of himself and his own viewpoint.

Tragically there are still those who are trying to bring God down to the level of their understanding or viewpoint. Even within the Seventh-day Adventist Church there are those who are belittling God by claiming that Jesus is not fully God in the same sense as God the Father, or that the Holy Spirit does not have personhood in the same way as the Father and the Son.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has described the nature of God in the following words:

"There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration and service by the whole creation" (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 14:7). Fundamental #2

Do not listen to those who, though they may be well meaning, are attacking the tried and true position of the Church and in fact, are belittling our God.



Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Prison term for nun

An 84-year-old Catholic nun, Sister Megan Rice, has been sentenced to three years in a US Federal prison for breaking into a high security nuclear facility. In 2012, she and two other activists hung banners, spray-painted slogans and sprinkled small bottles of human blood on a bunker used to store weapons-grade uranium. —*Transform Now Plowshares*



Uncertain future

Australian missionary John Short has been arrested in North Korea, accused of trying to spread Christianity. Mr Short has been working in Asia for the past 50 years, focusing on literature ministry to China and surrounding countries. It's believed Mr Short was arrested after he left gospel pamphlets at a Buddhist temple. —*Sydney Morning Herald*



Offer of help

After riots and one death at the Manus Island detention centre for asylum seekers, Catholic and Anglican leaders, as well as Papua New Guinea's National Council of Churches, are expressing their concern. Catholic leaders have offered to send counsellors to Manus Island to provide assistance and help calm the situation. —ABC



Freedom and forgiveness

After nearly two years behind bars, unjustly accused Adventist pastor Antonio Monteiro was released from a prison in Togo, West Africa, and has spoken about his ordeal. During his incarceration Pastor Monteiro was able to baptise fellow prisoners. He says he has forgiven his captors, but mentioned the ongoing imprisonment of fellow Adventist, Bruno Amah. —ANN



Faith swap

Two friends in the UK—one a Christian, the other an atheist—took on the challenge to swap beliefs for a month. Bentley Browning, the Christian, abstained from church and prayer, which he admits was difficult. Simon Capes, the atheist, was surprised at how comfortable he felt at church. —*Premier Christian Radio*



Off the shelf

US pharmacy chain CVS Caremark has announced it will stop selling tobacco products, despite a \$US2 billion dent on annual revenue. In Australia, supermarkets sell about half of all cigarettes and so are directly connected to half of Australia's 19,000 annual tobacco-related deaths. Some are calling for the end of retail tobacco sales. —*tobacco-ban-australia.org*

Be Part of Something Big

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is the biggest kids triathlon in the world and getting bigger, over 35,000 kids in Australia and New Zealand will take part this year!

The next events in the 2013 series are in Perth and Adelaide. If you would like to participate in the event, or volunteer as a HELP TEAM member on the day go to try.weetbix.com.au and follow the links to register your child. If you are over 16 you can apply to be a volunteer at www.tryathlon.weetbix.com.au/parents/volunteer.

LOCATION	EVENT DAY	REGISTER BY
Perth	30 March	16 March
Adelaide	27 April	13 April

ADRA active after Victorian bushfires

Wallan, Victoria

Adventist volunteers provided vital assistance after bushfires ripped through several areas of Victoria, destroying around 40 homes and 180,000 hectares of land. One of the hardest-hit regions was around Wallan, north of Melbourne.

Volunteers from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) responded to a request from the Wallan emergency relief centre, preparing food hampers for families separated by roadblocks from outside assistance. Local businesses donated food and help was provided by the Northpoint, North Melbourne Samoan and Plenty Valley Adventist congregations to pack the 50 food hampers.

"Community members responded quickly to our request for non-perishable food and our volunteers came together to pack them within seven hours," said Rebecca Auriant, director of ADRA Services in Victoria.

This response is the first for ADRA since negotiations began with the Victorian Government regarding a formal

role for the agency in emergencies. In other parts of Australia, ADRA holds official agreements with government to facilitate short-term emergency accommodation for people affected by disaster. ADRA leaders in Victoria hope to formalise a similar agreement later this year.

For more information about ADRA Australia's work visit <www.adra.org.au> or call 1800 242 372. —*Braden Blyde/Kent Kingston*



Local businesses gave generously to support the fire affected.

Health professionals imitate Jesus' mission

Melbourne, Victoria

Members of the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network Australia (AMEN Au) met in Melbourne recently for their second annual conference.

AMEN Au is an organisation that aims to motivate, train and equip Seventh-day Adventist health professionals to team with pastors and members to restore Christ's ministry of healing to the world.

Among those attending the conference were dentists and doctors from a wide range of specialty areas, nurses, allied health professionals, church ministers and lay members with a pas-

sion for health evangelism. Attendees expressed appreciation for the unity, enthusiasm and networking opportunities provided by the conference.

Highlights included presentations from Pastors Don Mackintosh and Geoff Youlden, inspirational testimonies of local church outreach and reports from mission trips to healthcare facilities within the South Pacific Division.

Delegates took home a new appreciation for the breadth and power of the Adventist health message. The emphasis was on imitating Christ's healing work and taking care of people's physical needs as well as spiritual.

The next AMEN Au conference will be held in Sydney December 5-7. Visit <www.amenaustralia.org/>. —*Justin Jackson*



Pastor Geoff Youlden.

Singles discover South Pacific

Pacific Ocean

Seventy singles from all parts of the Australian Union Conference recently experienced the beauty and wonder of the South Pacific on a Royal Caribbean Cruise.

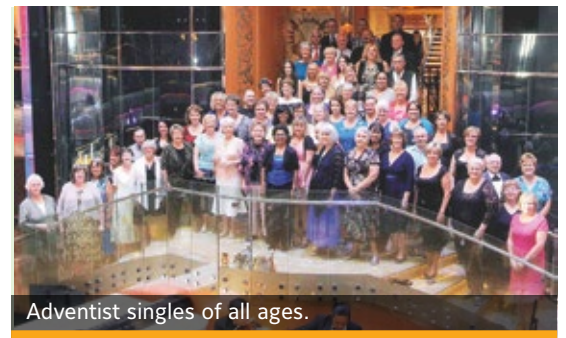
The group sailed the Pacific Ocean for four days and met people on the Isle of Pines, Lifou Island, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

"I keep telling people how wonderful it was," said one of the cruise participants. "We made new friends, enjoyed outstanding entertainment, endless food, and the highest quality of care and service from the staff has left us feeling spoilt, rested and wanting to experience more of our great South Pacific Division territory. I hope and pray I get the chance to go on another cruise some day."

The bi-annual singles conventions, fly 'n' repair to

Betikama, Solomon Islands, and the South Pacific cruise have all been projects planned by the National Singles Board.

For more information, log onto <www.adventistsingles.net.au>. To view upcoming events visit the Adventist Singles Facebook page. —*Adventist Singles SPD*



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District director dies in Vanuatu

Malekula, Vanuatu

Vanuatu Mission is mourning the loss of an Adventist pastor and district director on the island of Malekula.

Pastor Warren Manasseh died suddenly from a kidney problem on January 5. Only 44, he had been a minister for 20 years and is survived by his wife and two children.

"Pastor Manasseh leaves behind a big gap for the Vanuatu Mission," states the Mission newsletter, *Talemaot*. "A visionary young man with a passion for ministry, he will be a person hard to replace."

Born at Aore Hospital in 1970, he was adopted by Pastor Manasseh and Ruth Joseph who put him through school and influenced him to take up a diploma in ministry at Sonoma Adventist College in Papua New Guinea.

His career as a minister began in 1994 in Sarakata church in Santo. He served three and-a-half years on Pentecost Island, a year at Aore as church pastor and men's dean, three on Amabe, three on Epi, one on Maewo, three on Ambrym, two on Tongoa and three on Malekula.

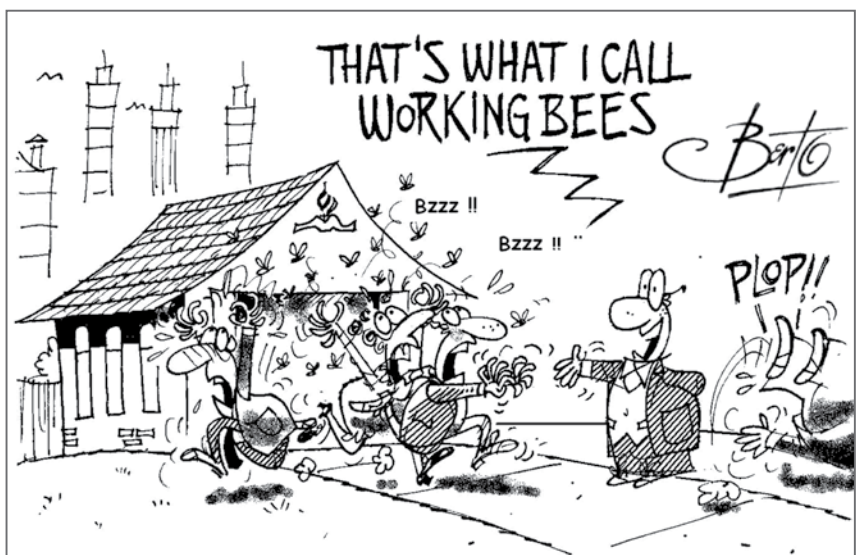
"Events happened so quickly that we were left stunned for many days after," said his wife, Linda. The couple met on Pentecost Island and married in 2002 at Aore Adventist Academy. "Our dad is dedicated to his work and very faithful in making sure we have morning and evening worships. He keeps telling us 'hemia hemi work we God I kivim lo yumi mekem' (This is the job God has given us to do)."

For the people of Malekula, Pastor Manasseh will be remembered for his leadership in the purchase of land for their district centre at Lakatoro and putting together a plan that will see a new office co-built by Vanuatu Mission and the South Queensland Conference in September 2014. This will make Malekula the first island to have something like this outside Port Vila and Santo, and fulfils one of the major strategic directions of the Vanuatu Mission.

"I will miss him, particularly being with the people and serving them wherever pastor went. I do not like sitting around like this. I miss ministry," Linda said. —*Talemaot*



Pastor Warren Manasseh.





Adventist school among nation's elite

"I didn't realise just how well our students had performed," laughs Michelle Streatfeild, principal of Wahroonga Adventist School in Sydney, "until I started getting calls from parents desperate to enrol their kids. In mid-2013, *The Australian* newspaper printed the NAPLAN test scores of the top 100 primary schools in the nation and apparently we were 28th. Not too bad."

Not too bad? There are more than 7600 primary schools in Australia¹, so being 28th in the nation puts Wahroonga Adventist comfortably in the top one-half of one per cent nationwide for the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The NAPLAN is a standardised test designed to assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

"When I get calls from parents wanting to place their children with us because they hope we will ensure academic success, I point out that we are certainly not simply about academics," Mrs Streatfeild continues. "We are about developing the whole person—I am very up-front about that.

"The last thing we want to become is a high-pressure cauldron, robbing children of a well-balanced childhood. We measure success by the kind of people students become, not by a score they receive. So, while the NAPLAN scores are useful, they are only one way we measure our success."

Jenny Price, a lawyer whose six children have all attended Wahroonga Adventist, agrees: "The NAPLAN scores are a good indication that our children are progressing well academically, but there is a lot more to a great education than performance on standardised tests. We value the

school's spiritual environment and its emphasis on creativity. We want our children to be critical thinkers and complex problem solvers and, most of all, we want them to love God with all their hearts. It is the school's success at nurturing spiritual development and creativity that we value most."

The NAPLAN has been criticised because some schools have instituted programs specifically designed to prepare students to take the exam. Further, scores can be distorted because schools have academic-based admission criteria in primary school or such high fees that only the most privileged students can attend.

Does Wahroonga Adventist engage in any of these practices? Once again, Mrs Streatfeild laughs.

"Absolutely not! We do what we do not because of the NAPLAN, but because it is part of a well coordinated curriculum that has a love and knowledge of Jesus Christ

at its centre. The NAPLAN scores are just a bonus."

This all sounds so sensible and so low key that it's easy to forget what Wahroonga Adventist School has achieved. If you are Australian, think of the 200 primary schools closest to your home. If those schools are representative of the entire nation, Wahroonga Adventist School would have outscored every one of them. Not bad for a little school with modest fees, no academic prerequisites and that's refreshingly free of pretence.—*James Standish*

1. <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

(Note: The total includes primary schools and schools that combine both a high school and a primary school).

"We do what we do not because of the NAPLAN, but because it is part of a well-coordinated curriculum that has a love and knowledge of Jesus Christ at its centre."



The great tragedy of this century

by Beryl Hartmann

"Syria has become the great tragedy of this century—a disgraceful humanitarian calamity with suffering and displacement unparalleled in recent history. The only solace is the humanity shown by the neighbouring countries in welcoming and saving the lives of so many refugees." —Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

YALDA STRETCHED TO PASS ME A CUP OF steaming tea. She smiled. Her generosity was an act of traditional Arabic generosity, but not at all reflective of the gravity of her personal situation.

As I sat on the cold ground amongst her young Syrian family I was humbled and shocked by her story. She told me of the life-risking trek they had made across the Lebanese border from their home of Syria. She told me how loved ones, homes and futures had been destroyed. She told me about the suffering they continued to face.

Although grateful for the safety and support found in the informal settlement camp, they could hardly be described as happy. Staring through me, she stated matter-of-factly the daily consideration she gives to returning to their home, even as airstrikes and terror continue.

Yalda's children have not attended school for close to two years. The knowledge that her children's futures will be deeply impacted by these interruptions to their schooling has forced Yalda to face what Husain, another Syrian refugee I met, called "the two bad choices": the decision between returning to danger to give his children the chance of an education or to stay in safety and watch them lose out. It's a decision no parent should have to make.

Globally, governments have contributed less than 45 per cent of the United Nations' \$US6.5 billion appeal to fund their response. And, with the interests of media outlets quickly and consistently diverted, the Australian public has failed to grasp the desperate reality of the situation in Syria and surrounding countries.

In short, the assistance needed will not be able to be delivered unless more is done.

I hate to sound like a bleeding heart, but my visit to Lebanon made it real. The longer we wait, the deeper hunger grows, the higher the death toll climbs and the longer Syrian children remain out of school.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is one of just a handful of agencies granted access to deliver humanitarian assistance inside Syrian borders, and is working across Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq to support those forced to flee.

This week marks the third anniversary of the beginning of Syrian civil war and we are joining with other Australian agencies to ensure this is the last anniversary marked with bloodshed.

As part of this weekend's campaign I will be lighting a candle for Syria. I will be lighting a candle for Yalda and her children. I will be lighting a candle as a symbol of the hope I want to bring to their situation. I hope you can join me.

To mark the three year anniversary and publicly call for more to be done in Syria and surrounding countries, ADRA is encouraging Adventist groups across the country to join or hold candlelight vigils to commemorate and pray for those affected.

For more information or to support ADRA's work in the region visit www.adra.org.au/syriacrisisappeal.

Beryl Hartmann is the humanitarian coordinator for ADRA Australia and recently returned from Lebanon where she worked with ADRA staff to plan ongoing projects.



Brain activity

We all know that keeping active and moving more is great for our physical fitness, but new research is shedding light on how it can also be beneficial for the fitness of our minds. A recent study looking at 120 participants aged between 60 and 80 found that 30 to 40 minutes of brisk walking a day, three times a week, was enough to encourage the regrowth of structures in the brain that are linked with cognitive decline later in life.

The study was conducted over a year, with before and after brain scans showing that those participants in the walking group saw growth in their prefrontal cortex and hippocampus, while these areas shrank in participants asked to only do stretching exercises.

This shrinkage in the stretching group has been considered in the past to be part of an inevitable decline that comes with ageing, but this research suggests that this may not be the case. The physical changes to the brains of the walkers also led to functional benefits, with participants in this group doing better at tests of memory, language ability and attention.

The changes seen in just 12 months were equivalent to reversing age-related decline by one to two years.

Research like this can serve as a good reminder that activity doesn't need to be exhausting to be effective and that it's never too late to reap the benefits. Why not take a walk with family and friends today to help with a little peace of mind?



Potato rosti

Preparation time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 40 minutes Serves: 6

500g washed potatoes, with skins
½ tablespoon almond butter
½ teaspoon salt (optional)
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon onion powder
2 tablespoons chopped parsley

1. Place washed potatoes in a saucepan. Add enough water to completely cover the potatoes. Cook until still slightly firm. Remove from heat, cool, then grate the potatoes.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C with grill setting on. Combine grated potato with almond butter, salt and seasonings, and form into patties.
3. Place patties on a tray that has been lightly sprayed with non-stick cooking spray. Put tray under grill element for 6–8 minutes, turn patties, and grill for 6–8 more minutes or until lightly browned.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
281kJ (67cal). Protein 2g. Fat 1g.
Carbohydrate 11g. Sodium 202mg.
Potassium 437mg. Calcium 9mg.

Call and arrange to speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

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LIFESTYLE
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Lani's story continues

Amazing Grace

by James Standish

HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM," LANI BRERETON SAYS OF THE drunk driver responsible for the horrific accident that nearly claimed her life. Then she stops, takes a deep breath and continues, "after all . . ." She pauses again and all I can hear is sobbing on the other end of the phone, ". . . after all, I was once a drink-driver myself." There is another long pause and then, "I'm just glad it was him who hit me, not me who hit him."

It's now more than two months since the catastrophic accident that left Lani in a coma, with multiple fractures to her skull and limbs, and crushed lungs. Two months since she died in the Medevac helicopter that airlifted her and her daughter from their car—smashed beyond recognition, sitting silently overturned on the road. Two months since the medics struggled to resuscitate her in flight. Two months since doctors warned her family that the swelling on her brain was so severe she would likely die in hospital or be left a vegetable. Two months since the moment that, in an instant, changed her life forever.

In that time, Lani's story has been covered on television news, a Facebook page dedicated to her recovery has gone viral with people from across the world posting themselves making hearts with their hands to send love to Lani, and thousands of people have promised to keep Lani and her family in their prayers. "I can feel the love and I can feel all those prayers," she says. "It's the love and prayers

"I'm just glad it was him who hit me, not me who hit him."

that keep me going. I know it's God who brought me back. And I'm so, so thankful. My dad (John Brereton, publishing director for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific) brought [a copy of] the *Record*. I cried as I read the article about my accident. I just can't believe all the love for me."

Lani's recovery has been far from smooth sailing. She still can't walk due to the severe nature of the fractures and muscle loss. And she has been plagued by crushing headaches and amnesia. "After Dad asked people to pray for me, my headaches cleared up. And now I am back to 100 per cent mentally. Physically, I still have a long way to go."

As difficult as it has been physically and mentally, it has also been a rough ride emotionally. "Before the accident I had a partner. Honestly, we weren't living a healthy lifestyle. I knew something wasn't right, but it was hard to know how to turn things around or move on. Two weeks ago, he left me. He has moved overseas while I'm still here bedridden in the rehabilitation hospital. I suppose when things go wrong, you find out who really loves you."

When it comes to the subject of love, Lani can't stop talking about her dad. "My dad has been here for me every single day. When I was suffering from amnesia, he explained what happened to me—over and over and over again—as many times as I asked. What kind of father does that?" She stops to take another big breath and again I can hear crying. Through her tears she continues, "Because of

(Continued next page)

ANYTIME ANYWHERE



everything that has gone on in my personal life, my dad and I hadn't been as close as both of us wanted. But this . . . this has brought us so much closer—and that will never, ever change. I want to be more like my dad—completely full of love.”

How is Lani's 10-year-old daughter handling the tremendous shock, upheaval and stress? “She is just so strong. She gives me courage. All I want to do is to get out of rehab and back to being her mum, caring for her.

“My colleagues from Myers have been great, too,” Lani says. One visit to Lani's Facebook page and you can see what she's talking about. “They've raised money to help me through this and have been incredibly supportive. You know, I always liked work and the people I worked with. But this has made me see a whole new side of them. They have a depth of caring I never could have imagined until now.”

But what of the drunk driver whose car was on the wrong side of the road when it slammed into her vehicle? “I've just completed the Victim Impact Statement for the court. I've written that I don't think prison is the answer. I'd rather they make him do just about anything but prison. Prison doesn't make people better people. I hope they read my statement out in court because I want him to know I've forgiven him. What he is suffering—the guilt and regret—that is worse than any sentence they can give him. My hope is that something good comes out of this—something positive. Punishment and prison isn't going to make anything better. Forgiveness and love will.

“I believe that even very negative things can bring about good. This accident certainly has. It has brought people together in love—my family, my colleagues, my community. And I needed to head back in the right direction. This has given me a new start. And it's a new start I will never take for granted as it's a start I very nearly didn't have.”

R

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

OPINION POLL

Does your screen time:

- interfere with your faith
- build your faith
- a bit of both
- have no impact on your faith

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REVIVED BY HIS WORD

March 15—29, 2014

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

15 – Isa. 19	18 – Isa. 22	21 – Isa. 25	24 – Isa. 28	27 – Isa. 31
16 – Isa. 20	19 – Isa. 23	22 – Isa. 26	25 – Isa. 29	28 – Isa. 32
17 – Isa. 21	20 – Isa. 24	23 – Isa. 27	26 – Isa. 30	29 – Isa. 33

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Angels and Devil priests

by Jarrod Stackelroth

AS A BOY, MY YOUNG MIND WAS CAPTIVATED BY the stories of men and women who chose to move overseas to spread the Gospel. I would spend hours reading about them on Sabbath afternoons—discovering new tribes in Africa, under attack from cannibals in the Pacific, experiencing strange, new and uncomfortable situations—and wondering just how Jesus would finally break through to these people who knew nothing about Him. It was exotic, it was uncomfortable, it was fulfilling, it was adventurous, it was glorious.

But what about today? With most of the nations in the South Pacific already “Christianised” and marching rapidly toward modernisation, are the same sorts of opportunities available?

Meet Peggy Kendall (Hockey) and Ron Hockey from Queensland. Peggy is CEO of the Atofi Adventist Hospital in Solomon Islands, while her husband, Ron, is in charge of maintenance. Peggy’s eyes light up when she talks about their experience.

“The past year has flown by,” she says. “There’s always something happening, something to look forward to.” Her passion bubbles out, while Ron quietly affirms with a nod or a comment here and there.



Peggy Kendall (second from the left).

Nestled on the slopes above Uru Harbour, Atofi is a beautiful place. With green mountains standing like sentinels behind, the ground

in front of Atofi opens out onto a beautiful blue lagoon.

“Good fishing,” quips Ron.

But it’s not always smooth sailing in paradise. And this is no vacation. Peggy is the hospital’s first female CEO with a medical background. Without her prior contact with Atofi, she feels it would have been a real challenge to build up the trust of the local chiefs. But more on that later.

The challenges are those faced by most outpost hospitals—particularly a 90-bed, church-run facility that provides free health care to villagers. There’s the challenge of affording up-to-date equipment and medicines. Every month, Ron takes a 10 to 12-hour boat ride into town to buy supplies.

Then there are more naturally occurring challenges: frequent (although thankfully not large) earth tremors; rain every day; and when it’s not raining, it’s humid. Nothing is ever dry and it’s a constant battle to keep buildings, tools and heavy equipment mould and rust free.

“Keeps me busy,” smiles Ron.

Then there are the “natives”.

“I was sitting on the toilet one day and a huge rat ran across my feet,” explains Peggy. There are rats everywhere. Big ones, the size of cats. Once when Peggy and Ron had travelled into town a rat got in and chewed a hole in their long-life milk carton. The resultant spill meant that by the time they had returned, the pantry floor was writhing with maggots.

“It took a while for me to get used to,” Peggy admits. “I would lie in bed at night wondering if something was going to crawl over me. I always check under the bed before turning in for the night.”

Turning in is always at 9 o’clock. After that, the hydro power may shut down. “You have to be a good Scout or Pathfinder and be prepared. Have a torch by the bed. It really makes you appreciate things; it makes you more tolerant.”

The real highlight, however, is the people. Peggy counts herself as friends with some “devil priests”, has won the

respect of the local tribes and loves the challenge of getting to know people and learning about their culture.

One of the major accomplishments for the hospital this past 12 months has been to build a specialised tuberculosis (TB) ward. Local superstitions meant some people were uncomfortable with treatment taking place in the same building as the obstetrics/maternity ward so the decision was made to build a separate ward for TB patients. A lot of consultation was needed but it was a challenge that Peggy loved. "We have learnt so much about the culture. We were sitting in our lounge room having a lovely, funny conversation about periods with the devil priests. This experience is so unique."

It marks a shift from some of the attitudes in the past. When Peggy first arrived, she remembers hearing someone say that Atoifi was a Seventh-day Adventist Hospital so it should be for Adventists.

"When we first got to the hospital, we went out and found a village up behind the hospital with about 20 people," Peggy explains. "They were not Adventist but they really wanted to build a church." The team has taken the four-hour walk a number of times now, singing songs and telling stories for the village people. They lived so close to the hospital but it seemed no-one had really reached out to them before.

"After that I took a staff worship on how it's important not to stay in our own circles," Peggy says. "[As a hospital] we may have missed opportunities but that is changing."

As she tells her story Peggy is incredibly excited. They have been invited up to the village, where her friends the devil priests live, to stay a few nights. According to their friend, an anthropologist from James Cook University, she is the first female to be asked there since 1990. It's a great honour so she didn't want to do anything culturally inappropriate.

"I asked if I should bring toilet paper," she laughs. "Apparently I can't but they will show me the big, non-scratchy leaves!"

It's not only the local people benefiting from Peggy and Ron's presence. Staff at the hospital are learning a lot from Peggy's 38 years of nursing experience.

The first thing Peggy did as CEO was to organise a staff survey to get to know what the staff thought about working at the hospital and what they needed. One strong message that came out was a lack of communication—from the top down as well as between departments. So she has really been working on this with team building days and staff BBQs, welcoming any feedback and creating an open working environment.

Inconsistent phone and internet connections make it hard to stay in touch with people back home. But Ron and Peggy have made friends and family with the staff and

people of Atoifi.

The lack of equipment can be a challenge—very different from when she worked as the after hours hospital nurse manager at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane.

With limited finance, the hospital relies on donations from churches and the community—something the couple really appreciate. After all, their own journey with Atoifi began in March 2011, when Peggy's church, Park Ridge Adventist (Brisbane), organised a short-term mission trip. They asked Peggy if her husband, a painter, would like to go with the team. Although not an Adventist, Ron said he would go. Peggy and her daughter, both registered nurses, also decided to go.

While there, Peggy had an experience that would change her life. Helen, a young obstetrics patient, had lost her baby and was bleeding badly. She had lost eight litres of blood, had a cardiac arrest and had to be given 14 bags of blood. The local pastor came to pray over her as doctors said she would surely die. But somehow, at this remote island hospital, Peggy and her daughter managed to save Helen's life. Eight days later she was discharged. Helen's father was overjoyed. Every day he came to Peggy and said, "you are angels sent by God".

Peggy went home, knowing that she had to do something. So she started Atoifi Angels, a group who take a medical team from Australia every eight weeks to help at the hospital. This built up the trust and respect of the local chiefs and the hospital staff, who had seen Peggy work alongside them and coming back regularly.

Such is her exuberance that she now has three hospitals and a number of churches donating and collecting for the hospital. Springwood church (Brisbane) donated 150 chairs for the hospital visitors, who had nowhere to sit and would often lie on beds meant for patients. Ipswich, Esk and Parkridge churches have recently sent a large number of donated items for Atoifi. A doctor from Melbourne donated a washer and dryer. Before this, the clothes and bed sheets had to be hand-washed. They've even had a lot of paint donated by Ron's former employer.

Sometimes it's the small things that make a difference. Soap and pyjamas have been useful in keeping patients clean and tidy. In fact, Atoifi Hospital was rated by a government inspection team as having the "best infection control in the country".

Finding resources for the hospital is not their biggest challenge, however—it's the expense of transporting the donations. It costs Ron and Peggy \$A3000-4000 per container to ship the gear.

The other need is for short-term teams of volunteers, both health teams and tradies, to help with the projects.

But as the Atoifi Angels' motto says: "Energy and persis-

(Continued next page)



OPENING HIS WORD

David McKibben

The marvel of the church

The Christian church is an enigma; it has arguably the most controversial and chequered history of any organisation this world has ever known. The great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi once said the church was the greatest barrier to the spread of Christ's message on the Indian subcontinent. What is the church and what should be our attitude towards it? What illustrations or metaphors does the Bible use to describe the church?

- The church is the body of Christ; a vibrant and living organism. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 and Ephesians 1:22, 23.
- The church is the building or temple of God. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17 and 1 Peter 2:4, 5.
- Christ looks upon the church as a husband regards his bride. Read Ephesians 5:25-27.
- The church is a family. Read Ephesians 2:19 and 3:15.

What is the source of the church's power and authority?

- Jesus is the Head of the church. Read Colossians 1:18.
- Jesus is the Foundation of the church. Read Ephesians 2:19-22.
- The church derives its authority from Christ. Read Matthew 16:13-20.
- Jesus gave the church the promise of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of spiritual gifts to equip His followers. Read John 16:13-15, Acts 1:4, 5 and Ephesians 4:7-16.

What is the church called to do?

- It is to serve as the guardian of the truth. Read 1 Timothy 3:15 and Jude 3.
- It is to be a revelation of God's grace and transforming power. Read 1 Peter 2:9, 10.
- Its great commission is the worldwide proclamation of the Gospel. Read Matthew 28:19, 20 and Acts 1:8.

In summary, therefore, the church is not perfect; it's a hospital for sinners rather than a museum of saints. Despite its imperfections and mistakes, however, the church is dearly loved by God and it is precious in His eyes. As Ellen White stated in memorable words, "the church is the supreme object of Christ's regard and His appointed agency for the proclamation of the Gospel."

Pastor David McKibben is senior pastor of Guildford and Parramatta churches, NSW.

tence conquer all".

"We've had a very busy year," Peggy says. "We focused on the nursing side of things and have really achieved a lot; the staff are happy, the patients are happy."

And Peggy is happy. The island diet of fresh fruit and vegetables is doing wonders for her health and she has lost 15 kilograms. She even ran in the Honiara marathon, where she came 64th out of 100. She hopes to better her time next year.

"When I came back to Australia, people expected me to look a bit haggard. It has been a busy year. But I feel the best I have in a long time." This is ironic as more and more Pacific Islanders are introducing Western processed foods into their diets and the incidence of lifestyle diseases is skyrocketing.

Ron has had some interesting milestones of his own—transporting his first dead body and assisting with a birth in the back of a tractor.

There will certainly be a number of other firsts for Ron and Peggy as they work to help the people of Atoifi.

"We have put everything on hold in Australia," Peggy says. "But I don't really class this as mission work. It's a dream." Peggy wasn't born in the Church but as a young person had a dream to be a missionary nurse. And all these years later, it has come true.

Has it all been worth it? We'll leave the last word to Ron: "I wish we'd done it earlier. We would have had more time." R

For short term mission opportunities at Atoifi email <peggykendall9@gmail.com>.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of RECORD.

MY CHURCH

Wainadoi, FIJI

Fulori Salusalu Manoa

I was a student at Fulton College in the 1960s and until last year I was a lecturer in Foundation Studies at the University of the South Pacific for 14 years.

I attend a little church about 25 kilometres from Suva. It's a fairly new church, which started in 2007. We have about 10 families with a mix of age groups but everyone knows and looks out for each other.

Soon we will be running an outreach for the Indian community, which will involve visitations and a mission program, although we are doing things like Pathfinders and Adventist Youth programs every week. Our young people also run outreach programs for neighbouring communities. We are building a church hall for activities but are finding it difficult to raise the money to complete it. At the moment we rely on pledges. Even with these challenges, I love my church. It's a nice little church and for me it's just right.





The atheist church challenge

by Bruce Manners

A CHURCH FOR ATHEISTS, LAUNCHED IN LONDON IN January 2013, now claims to have 40 congregations across the world. Called Sunday Assembly, its growth was dramatic after its “40 Dates and 40 Nights: The Roadshow” in October and November. The roadshow was also referred to as a “global missionary tour” or “global mega launch party” and included Australia.

Sunday Assembly began in a deconsecrated church as the brainchild of two comedians: Sanderson Jones and Pippa Evans. But this is no joke.

Their website lists: “Our motto: live better, help often, wonder more. Our mission: to help everyone find and fulfil their full potential. Our vision: a godless congregation in every town, city and village that wants one.”

Jones says, “Sunday Assembly has been called the atheist church, but we prefer to think of it as all the best bits of church but with no religion and awesome songs.”¹ No religion. No God. No Jesus. One respondent on their website suggests it’s “like church without the guilt”.

Writer Katie Englehart visited the London site in April and reported that it “had a wayward, whimsical feel. At a table by the door, ladies served homemade cakes and tea. The house band played Cat Stevens. Our ‘priest’ wore pink skinny jeans. Many attendees were modish 20-somethings, and pretty obviously hung-over.”²

The “liturgy” is based on the Church of England approach, which helps make it recognisable to those who attend. The sermon is replaced by a secular, sermon-like talk. For the Melbourne event, comedian Catherine Deveny (why so many comedians?) spoke about Winston Churchill’s challenge, “If you are going through hell, keep going”.³

The assembly recognises the significant advantages of gathering for church regularly. It builds a sense of belong-

ing and community; it challenges people to improve themselves; and, together, church people can have a significant impact in their community for good.

What we churchgoers tend to forget is that we have something quite special in our weekly gatherings. It’s something that’s admired by those who don’t experience it. For Evans, who stopped believing in God at 17, it wasn’t God she missed, but the church.

Will Sunday Assembly last? The fact that they meet only monthly will probably work against them. The response, despite the roadshow, has so far been muted. And there are signs that there isn’t the kind of commitment they were hoping for. They’d set a 500,000 pound (\$A928,000) fund-raising target and received only 36,000 pounds (\$A67,000).

But there’s a far bigger problem. A church cannot be a church without Jesus. You can call it a club or an assembly, but it isn’t church. Paul the apostle defines the church as a body with Jesus as the Head. Jesus is vital and central.

The Bible Society’s Sophie Timothy said she had a good time attending the Melbourne Assembly, but suspected that the group would not be as sustainable as religious churches have been. “The Christian church is a local expression of the body of Christ,” she said, “not just a bunch of people with similar ideas.”⁴

The Sunday Assembly’s “atheist church” experiment is a reminder and a warning that the church is only made “full and complete” in Jesus (Ephesians 1:23, NLT). R

A church cannot be a church without Jesus. You can call it a club or an assembly, but it isn't church.

1. www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-09/church-for-atheists-comes-to-australia/5080996
 2. www.alternet.org/belief/atheism-starts-its-own-megachurch-it-religion-now
 3. www.crikey.com.au/2013/07/09/godless-congregation-coming-to-the-city-of-churches/
 4. Ibid.

Pastor Bruce Manners is senior pastor of Lilydale church, Victoria.



Hell and Mr Fudge

A film review

by Nathan Brown

WHAT WE BELIEVE MATTERS. HOW WE BELIEVE matters. And stories matter.

I was reminded of these truths while watching *Hell and Mr Fudge* in the company of Dr Edward Fudge, the “Mr Fudge” of the film title. He introduced the story of this part of his life by telling us he had seen the film 16 times—as well as being closely involved in the development of the film and even having a cameo role in the final movie—and has been moved to tears at a different place in the stories each time. That’s why stories matter. They move us—and “based on a true story” stories can draw us into the lived experience of another person, another family, another church.

That’s why this story told in film is so valuable. The experience of a young man and burgeoning theologian is not merely about doctrine; it’s a story of why what we believe matters to our lives and our faith.

Edward Fudge’s particular focus came after a challenge from an evangelist who offered to pay him to research what the Bible says about the traditional belief in eternal torment in hell for those who do not accept God. As the movie portrays, this was a question that had troubled him through life experience and this commission sparked a period of intense research and personal wrestling.

Set in Alabama in the 1950s–1970s—and the period has been carefully re-created, filmed in many of the locations in which the stories actually happened—the drama of the movie comes with the reactions of church members and critics to the questions he raises about aspects of faith and some of the conclusions his research leads him toward. Ultimately, Dr Fudge’s research was published in the 500-page *The Fire that Consumes* in 1982.

Described as “theology lite”, *Hell and Mr Fudge* might be better labelled a theological drama, perhaps an under-appreciated and under-populated genre in the history of cinema. It is first—and had to be when presented in this format—a human drama. As such, the film works to raise questions more than drawing out answers. But the best discussions start with questions, not answers. This is the

strength of this story and the way it has been told.

Adventist churches have used the film across North America as an evangelistic opportunity, a low-confrontation invitation to share a story and glimpse questions outside much of Christian tradition. For those interested in pursuing the questions for themselves but in company with the Mr Fudge they have got to know through viewing his story, a new smaller, general-readership version of Dr Fudge’s research—*Hell: The Final Word*—is being sold as a companion book.

This resonates with the central message of the film. By its story, *Hell and Mr Fudge* urges that we should not be afraid of new ideas, we should be prepared to learn and be led into a greater understanding of the Bible and what it teaches, and to stand up for what is truth even in the face of tradition, opposition and criticism. This is often not an easy journey—as evidenced by the tears re-visiting the story brings to Dr Fudge even today. Following truth brings its joys and its sorrows—but we have to trust that it also brings hope, whatever our circumstances or difficulties.

Such is the value of a true, well-told story of someone who did. R



Nathan Brown, Dr Edward Fudge and Pat Arrabito, the film's executive producer.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE SCREENINGS:

- Melbourne: March 15, 6 pm and 8.30 pm @ Lilydale Adventist Church
- Sydney: March 19, 7 pm @ Fox Valley Adventist Community Church
- Cooranbong: March 20, 8.30 pm @ Ladies Chapel, Avondale College of Higher Education
- Brisbane: March 22, 7 pm @ Springwood Adventist Church

Nathan Brown is a co-convenor of Manifest Creative Arts Festival (www.artsmanifest.info) and book editor at Signs Publishing in Warburton, Vic.



Special day for Steve

Pastor Steve Piez and his wife, Kym, were ordained during the Adventist Church’s Victorian Regional Day in Melbourne in November 2013. Since his call to ministry 23 years ago, Steve has dedicated much of his life to the Indigenous community of Australia. He has worked as a teacher and administrator at the Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre in WA, and has spent the past seven years serving as director of the Australian Union Conference’s Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) department. Prior to his role as ATSIM director, Steve spent four years in his boyhood home of Lae, Papua New Guinea, where he served as national director of Adventist Schools. Steve and Kym have two daughters, Kelly and Leah, and two sons, Madison and Noah. –*Good News*



Special delivery

During a recent cruise through the South Pacific Islands, Discovery Centre media response assistant Sylvia Stilinovic delivered some children’s books to an Adventist woman she had met on the island of Santo (Vanuatu) on a previous cruise. Among the resources was the iconic Children’s Bible Stories series. The family were overjoyed at the gesture. The woman’s husband, who is not an Adventist, said he was so happy his children now have books to read.



Ace achievements

2013 was a year of achievement for Macquarie College, NSW. The college is ranked third among independent schools in the Hunter region and seventh among all schools from the Central Coast to Nelson Bay. Overall, the college ranked 132nd among all NSW schools. Twenty per cent of year 12 students received final scores in the 90s. –*Marvin Anderson*

Waterskiing wonder

Avondale School Year 9 student Connor Rogers was recently named the 2013 National Barefoot Waterski Champion in the slalom category. Following a great showing at the National Championships in 2013, Connor ended the year ranked third overall in Australia and 10th in the World Barefoot Waterski Association rankings. The age bracket for the junior boys’ category is 14 to 17. Connor is 14. –*Felicity Pittaway*

Sweet success

Christchurch Adventist School (CAS) in Papanui, New Zealand, continued its run of very strong academic results in 2013, with the school achieving 100 per cent pass rates in all three National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) levels. Ninety-five per cent of CAS graduates also gained university entrance for 2014. –*Tracey Ling*



Fighting fires

The Solomon Islands government has released regulations that require graphic warnings on all tobacco packaging by the end of the year. The new regulations also tighten up the rules for non-smoking areas and scientific testing of toxins in tobacco products. “We are totally committed to supporting the government in this area,” said Solomon Islands Adventist Health director, Dr Silent Tovosia. “Already we are working on a number of programs including the CHIP program to promote eating healthy and other risk factors like smoking.” –*InFocus Adventist news*

Fresh start

Cairns Adventist College (CAC) recently conducted a sod-turning ceremony on its new 10.5 hectare parcel of land in Gordonvale (Qld). Local State MP Curtis Pitt, Northern Australian Conference president, Pastor Brett Townend, and college principal Clinton Bond officially turned the first sod on February 6, with dignitaries, staff and students gathering to witness the historic milestone. After purchasing the land in 2010, CAC won a major victory in the Planning & Environmental Court in 2013, paving the way for the college’s relocation. “We are looking forward to our new school later this year and marvel at God’s leading in the past,” Mr Bond said. –*CAC*

LETTERS

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

HALF TRUTHS

Fred Malawae, PNG

Thank you for the editorial "What's in a name?" (February 15). I support everything that was mentioned in the article.

I just want to mention that the name "Seventh-day" is now being left out in our identity.

For example: Pacific Adventist University, Sonoma Adventist College, Avondale College, Fulton College.

The Seventh-day is missing. We are telling half the truth and that very fact puts us in a dangerous position.

I believe we should include the full name in all our institutions.

LET IT SHINE!

Allan Lindsay, NSW

An excellent article ("What's in a name?", February 15) and long overdue. Seventh-day Adventist is a name to be proud of—not to be hidden under a bushel!"

QUIET PLACES

Jenni Guilfoyle, Qld

Just catching up on my reading after being on holidays late last year. I so agree with A Hemsley on the issue of lack of reverence in our churches ("Holy Sanctuary", November 16, 2013).

This has been a very contentious issue for me since returning to the fold in 2002. I consider church to be a sanctuary or haven where one should find peace and quiet to commune with our Lord after the busyness of our week.

I have never been able to get anyone (ministers or elders) to take action to achieve this for those seeking solace in our churches, even well before Sabbath School commences. I have described the babble as

like a pub at closing time.

I know God can hear us wherever we are but it is very difficult to feel close to Him when one cannot form one's thoughts into a prayer because of the noise. I have found a lovely, quiet place to be after a hectic week—at home.

IT IS A VERB

Boyd Trevithick, Qld

I was interested to read "The volume of reverence" (Editorial, February 15) on a subject seldom addressed and usually relegated to the "too hard" basket.

The author's critique is well presented. However, the statement, "Reverence is not a behaviour. It's an attitude" merits a look in the dictionary.

Reverence is both a noun and a verb. As a noun (name) –it is the act of revering or capacity to revere. As a verb (what a person or thing does) –it is to regard or treat with reverence. Revere is also a verb meaning to hold in deep, affectionate or religious respect.

As it is both a name and an action word, reverence is both an attitude and a behaviour.

DOUBLE STANDARD?

Erwin Wegner, via website

Interestingly enough, in a Catholic church or cathedral, Muslim mosque or Buddhist temple we, as Adventist people, would behave totally differently (sort of reverently) without any discussion.

How is it that we need so many excuses for covering up misbehaviours of our youngsters and often even "mature" members during times of worship?

I am from a family with nine kids and we had not a drop of

a problem with understanding where we were and how to behave. My children also, normally full of life and joy, know how to show true reverence at the place of worship.

How would we behave during an audience at the Queen's palace?

DISSENT OR DIFFERENT?

Paul Johanson, Qld

("Faithful servants", February 1) In our Church there is such a pressure to conform that no-one forms a disparate view lightly. If someone at variance then remains in the Church, that is a measure of their loyalty.

Surely independent thinking and loyalty are valued in our leaders. We need maturity drawn from confidence in our beliefs and confidence in each other as faithful Christians that provides space for a range of views.

Rather than view difference as dissent, we should foster debate. Developing collective skills in respectful dialogue is a priority as questions over creation and sexuality are not going to go away.

MOVING MOVE

Olepa Ki-Korenhof, NZ

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord God Almighty for His good plans for the youth of the South Pacific nations.

This is a moving historical relocation for Fulton College ("Fulton College opens new campus", News, March 1).

Praise God for all the doors He has opened to make this relocation happen. May His Name continue to be exalted in the nations of the Pacific and beyond as Fulton College continues to be a place of education for eternity!

Kids' Space

SZIA KIDS

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JONAH IS RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD ON A SHIP FOR TARSHISH. THE BOAT IS CAUGHT IN A STORM.

WHEN HE TELLS THE SAILORS THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE. THEY THROW HIM OVERBOARD..

tak

gi

ALTHOUGH JONAH IS NAUGHTY. GOD STILL LOVES HIM. GOD SENDS A LARGE FISH TO SWALLOW JONAH.

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THREE DAYS LATER THE FISH SPITS JONAH ONTO DRY LAND. JONAH IS ALIVE!

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FIND THE FISH AND CONNECT THE MISSING WORDS!

COMMUNITY MESSAGE:

God helps me to admit my and make them right.

MEMORY VERSE: "If we our

he . . . will us." 1 John 1:9

* hello in Hungary



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- Natalie (Parent)

OBITUARIES

Harker, Ruby Elisma (nee Ramp-ton), born 1.2.1921 in Hamilton, NZ; died 7.12.13 in Brisbane. In 1944, she married Pastor Stewart Wallace who predeceased her in 1967. In 1983, she married Albert Judd who predeceased her in 1990. In 1995, she married Stan Harker who predeceased her in 2010. Ruby is survived by two of her sisters, Olivine Coso (Wollongong, NSW) and Coral Grogan (Ocean Shores); her three sons and their families, John, Anne, Matthew, David (all of Sydney) and Alisa Wallace (Perth, WA); Peter and Jennifer, (Brisbane, Qld), Steven and Andrew Wallace (Sunshine, NSW); Keith, Karen, Talia and Mitchell Wallace (Brightwaters). Ruby was a quiet and generous lady who will be fondly remembered.

Harold Harker, Keith Grolimund

Kenny, William George (Bill), born 5.12.1933; died in Mulgrave, Vic. On 2.9.1959, he married Ann. He is survived by his wife (Glen Waverley); children, Graeme (Glen Waverley), Neil and Sandra (Carlton), Allison and Ian Manning (Rowville); and grandchildren, Bethany, Melissa, Matthew, Isabel, Patrick and Finn. Bill's life of faithful service and witness to God was an inspiration to all those who knew him. He sleeps awaiting the day of resurrection.

Brian Lawty

Laxton, George Arthur, born 24.9.1924 in Melbourne, Vic; died 21.12.13 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 14.11.1950, he was married to Doreen Rudge in the Wahroonga church by Pastor L C Naden. He is survived by his wife; and his daughters and their families, Julie and Dr Elton Edwards, Duncan and Sophie (Melbourne, Vic) and Nerida and Ian Miller, Kerrilee and

Ethan (Newcastle, NSW). At 17, George attended the Australasian Missionary College (AMC), graduating from the business course and later ministry. At 24, he joined the faculty at AMC teaching business subjects part-time while finishing his degree. He worked in many church entities, including Longburn College, AMC, Sydney Adventist Hospital, the South Pacific Division and ADRA. George was passionate about skiing and spent many winters driving to Thredbo with his family and later his grandchildren.

Barry Gane

MacKenzie, Tena Morivea, born 25.7.1932 in Scotland; died 20.1.14 in Bethshan Nursing Home, Wye, NSW. In 1950, Tena's family moved to Myall Lakes, NSW. She then moved to Kurri Kurri to study nursing. She was baptised by Pastor Mitchel. Tena worked at the Warburton hospital and

then the Sydney Adventist Hospital until retirement. She was a quiet and caring lady who loved to help others.

Ken Love



McIntyre, Robert Colin, born 18.7.1923 in Parkes, NSW; died 31.8.13 in the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, after a long battle with cancer. Bob enlisted in the Australian Army at 19 and was called up for service in 1942 as a non-combatant soldier during World War II. He was a committed Christian and before going to war, requested to be baptised. As a qualified accountant he served as a medical orderly in New Guinea. After the war, he oversaw the repatriation of 80,000 enemy soldiers back to Japan before coming home to Australia to marry his childhood sweetheart, Nerelle Maisey, on

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Departmental assistant—Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW)** is seeking an enthusiastic and competent individual to provide support primarily for the Education department. Based at the Conference office at Epping, NSW, this full-time position requires an individual who is self-motivated, well organised, has a high level of computer skills, and excellent written and oral communication. An appropriate secretarial/office administration qualification or similar is desirable together with a desire to serve God. The successful applicant will be an active church member who upholds the ethos and values of the Church. For further information and a full job description, please contact Pastor Adrian Raethel at <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 8876 5288. Applications close **April 4, 2014**.

■ **Customer service/membership officer (full-time)—ACA Health Benefits Fund (Wahroonga, NSW)**. Do you have a passion for administration and customer service? If you have an excellent phone manner, exceptional attention to detail, brilliant data entry skills and can work well in a team, then you should apply! In this role you will be responsible for processing membership applications and all membership changes. You will be a key part of the customer service team, answering member phone calls and emails and discussing product options with members. This role would suit you if you have customer service, administrative or clerical experience. Experience in the Australian health system or the private health insurance industry would be an advantage but is not essential. For more information about this role visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply in writing, contact Kate Lawson, ACA Health Benefits Fund Assistant Manager by email <hr@acahealth.com.au> or phone (02) 9847 3390. ACA Health reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close **March 31, 2014**.

■ **Lecturer (Mathematics)—Avondale College of Higher Education (Lake Macquarie, NSW)**. Avondale College seeks applications from suitably qualified and experienced academics for the position of lecturer in Mathematics. The successful applicant will be expected to undertake teaching and research within the School of Science

and Mathematics, with a focus on pure and applied mathematics and statistics. For a full job description and further details please visit <www.avondale.edu.au/jobs>. Enquiries may be directed to Dr Lynden Rogers, Head of School of Science and Mathematics, via <lynden.rogers@avondale.edu.au>. Applications, addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications close **March 21, 2014**.

■ **Teacher (Years 3-4)—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (NNSW) Ltd (Port Macquarie NSW)**. We are seeking an experienced, innovative and qualified teacher for Port Macquarie Adventist School. The school is a vibrant and growing K-6 primary school. The position will involve teaching students in a composite 3-4 class and also assisting in extra-curricular activities. For more information, contact the principal, Phillip Lillehagen, via email <principal@portmacquarie.adventist.edu.au> or Marilyn Hansen <marilynhanzen@adventist.org.au>. Please email your application to Marilyn Hansen, Associate Director of Education, <marilynhanzen@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **March 29, 2014**.

■ **Senior accountant—North New South Wales Conference (Wallsend, NSW)**. This position is pivotal to the organisation's Treasury Department, with the successful applicant developing a deeper understanding of the Church's financial management systems and methods. The position will report to the CFO, and will require sound management accounting skills and experience. In addition to the operational related finance matters, the position will be responsible for the supervision and training of direct report positions in the Treasury Department. To discuss the role or to request a job description please contact: Gillian Knight (02) 4951 8088 or via email "mailto:" gillianknight@adventist.org.au Applications are to be submitted in writing via email to "mailto:" gillianknight@adventist.org.au addressing the essential and desirable criteria outlined in the job description. Applications close **March 24, 2014**.

Sign up for job updates and find more vacant positions at <adventistemployment.org.au>



23.5.1946. He grew up attending Ashfield church where he met Nerelle, his wife of 67 years. Over the past 50 years, Bob worshipped at Epping church, where he was adored and admired by everyone who came to know him. Bob was a wonderful man and exceptional Christian; an ordinary man with an extraordinary faith. In the words of his family and friends, "He was a true gentleman." He is survived by his wife and daughter, Colleen.

Ramese Tupe



Rigby, Derek William, born 4.9.1929, in Watford, England; died peacefully 5.1.14 in

Cooranbong, NSW. On 10.3.1952, he married Jean Turner and they spent 61 wonderful years together. He is survived by his wife; sons, Michael and Glynn (wife Sue); granddaughters, Rebecca, Karen and Shelley; and three great-grandchildren, Leia, Ryan and Eli. For 42 years Derek served in positions of high responsibility in the Sanitarium Health Food Company in New Zealand and Australia. As a charter member of Hillview church, NSW, he served as senior elder, head deacon and personal ministries, social committee and Pathfinder leader. Derek had a wonderful sense of humour and a great talent for making people happy and uplifting their spirits. He loved the Lord and raised three generations of Christian young people.

Kerry Hortop, Fred Chileshe

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Finally . . .

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."—Psalms 118:29

Next RECORD March 29

Avondale School
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VOLUNTEER

Volunteer tradesmen needed for fly 'n' build in Mongolia. Mongolian Mission is building four church/community centres this year. We are looking for experienced tradesmen, especially block layers (from mid-May to mid-July), brick layers and carpenters (in July and August) willing to volunteer. The living conditions will be very basic and meals will be provided. People can volunteer from two to six weeks at a time. For more information or to express your interest please contact Anna Downing, Adventist Volunteers, South Pacific Division (02) 9847 3278 or email <annadowning@adventist.org.au>.

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