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Christians no longer majority in New Zealand

Howick, New Zealand

For the first time in more than a century, New Zealand is no longer a predominately Christian country.

Census figures released in December 2013 show that 47 per cent of New Zealand's population identify themselves as Christian, down from 56 per cent in 2006.

The Anglican Church suffered the most significant decline, losing almost 100,000 members over the past seven years. The Catholic and Presbyterian churches also showed a drop in numbers.

"The census figures, while a worry, do not come as a surprise," said New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) president, Dr Brad Kemp. "What we see in New Zealand is mirroring what we see in Australia: a significant rise in the number claiming to be secular or of no religious affiliation, and the growth of the non-Christian religions."

The number of New Zealanders claiming no religion has risen 26 per cent over the past seven years. The population of Hindus has jumped from more than 64,000 in 2006 to almost 90,000 in 2013, with Muslims also seeing a steady increase.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was an exception to the overall Christian decline, with 14,613 Kiwis identifying

themselves as Adventist at the 2013 census, up from 13,815 in 2006.

Despite the growth, Church leaders are conscious of the tremendous challenges presented by the rise of secularism.

Dr Kemp said he is "encouraged that both the North and South

New Zealand Conferences are seeking ways to be effective in reaching the secular New Zealander", but that the Church also needs to look carefully at how to reach other faith communities.

"Global Mission is helping with this by supporting a project to the Jewish community," Dr Kemp said. "However, a lack of funds has meant that a ministry project to the Muslim community has had to be put on hold for the present.

"Much more needs to be done in this area." —*Linden Chuang*



Church defrauded \$US0.5m

Silver Spring, Maryland, US

The world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventists Church has been the victim of cyber theft, which has defrauded the Church of approximately \$US500,000.

The theft involved funds that were being transferred on behalf of a denominational entity.

Church officials are cooperating with US federal authorities in the ongoing investigation and working with banks and insurance companies to determine what recoveries may be possible. Although it cannot be ruled out at this time, indications do not suggest any insider involvement.

"No personal information such as private information, personal donor records or internal accounts were accessed or compromised in the scheme," said Adventist World Church treasurer Bob Lemon. "We are modifying procedures to do our best to prevent this from happening again." —*ANN staff*

Controversy over 'evil' carvings

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

A debate over the role of religion in politics has erupted in Papua New Guinea (PNG) after the Speaker of the nation's parliament ordered a number of carved wooden heads be removed from the parliament building and destroyed.

Speaker Theo Zurenoc took the action unilaterally, saying the carvings are an evil spiritual influence.

Critics are calling for Mr Zurenoc's sacking, saying it was beyond his official capacity to remove the carvings and that he should not impose his personal Christian beliefs on others.

Christians in PNG are divided on the issue of whether the carvings are spiritual objects reflecting animist beliefs or are just cultural objects. Some, including the president of the nation's Council of Churches, Danny Gukatells, have condemned Mr Zurenoc.

But a number of other Christian leaders, including the president of Papua New Guinea Union Mission, Dr Leigh Rice, share the Speaker's concerns.

"Embedded in the PNG constitution and ethos is the concept that PNG is a Christian country," Dr Rice said. "The previous prime minister signed a covenant and we now have a public holiday to commemorate the signing."

Dr Rice said that while Christian symbols might be appropriate in PNG's parliament building, the head carvings are widely recognised as having a negative spiritual influence. —*Kent Kingston with ABC News*



Speaker Theo Zurenoc.



Faithful servants

James Standish

In 1991, I found myself on a bit of a sticky wicket. I was wrapping up my MBA in what was dubbed the worst year to graduate into the American job market since World War II. And if that were not complex enough, I didn't even have the legal right to work in the US. On top of that I had a little pile of student debt to worry about. Still, I had interviews with Solomon Brothers brokerage on Wall Street, Bell bike helmets in Los Angeles (LA) and a wide array of outfits in between.

I was very enthused for all things environmental at the time after a summer internship working on environmentally friendly products. Which was the reason I found myself sitting in the LA offices of Greenpeace for what I found at the time, a very strange interview. Rather than discussing my expertise and experience, they focused obsessively on one thing: my personal philosophy.

I now get it. Greenpeace isn't about simply being effective and efficient. They are about advancing a very particular philosophy. So being competent isn't good enough. Employees have to be passionate about the very specific approach Greenpeace takes and the specific views they advance. Philosophical dissonance can't be tolerated because their "product" is their philosophy.

And fair enough. After all, the worst thing an organisation can have is a highly effective employee dedicated to undermining its core values. As Jesus put it: A "house divided against itself, will not stand" (Matthew 12: 25).

Which makes me think of the Adventist Church. Despite our rigorous theology, we are remarkably tolerant in our philosophical employment standards. Yes, people who work for the Church agree to uphold our fundamental beliefs. But when an employee uses his position to actively undermine one of our core beliefs, we tend to tolerate it in the belief that by so doing so, we are showing grace. But what of those whose faith is destroyed by rogue employees in the process? Where is the grace for them?

Of course, some claim that maintaining philosophical employment standards is a violation of freedom. But there's no right to stay on the payroll when we are working directly against the core beliefs of the organisation that employs us.

Don't believe in a six-day creation? That is our right. Accepting a salary and undermining a six-day creation to students at an Adventist educational institution? That is unethical.

Don't accept the Adventist belief on sexual morality? That is our right. Use our paid church position to publicly undermine the Church's position? That is unethical. Believe Adventists are wrong on the seventh-day Sabbath, the state of the dead, the investigative judgement, the Godhead, salvation by grace through faith, the Spirit of Prophecy or any of the other 28 core beliefs? That's our right. Use our Church-paid position to publicly undermine those beliefs? That's unethical.

But then how do we grow or progress if employees can't question Adventist beliefs? First, there are a wide range of areas of process and policy that employees can, and do, question (witness this column from time to time). And there is much unsettled in our theology—our theology of ordination, for example. Second, when it comes to our 28 core beliefs, we have a deliberative process to effect change. At the last GC Session, for example, a Dutch delegate proposed we change our belief on human sexuality (he was overwhelmingly voted down). We also have annual meetings at which leaders from around the world meet and vote on issues. And we have regional sessions at which proposed changes can be debated.

Do representative processes always work as quickly as we'd like? No. Do representative bodies always reflect our idiosyncratic views? No. But if we are employees, that is the process we work through to achieve change. We don't have a right to use a position entrusted to us, and for which we are financially supported by faithful church members, to undermine the Church's core beliefs. We might believe we are mavericks of truth. We really are unfaithful employees who lack the courage to leave the comfort of church employment to ply our trade in the substantially less tolerant open market.

Greenpeace did both of us a favour with its focus on philosophy. It flushed out that I was just a guy who wanted to make the world better by advocating for pragmatic change that is within our reach. Greenpeace, on the other hand, wanted to radically re-engineer society. No doubt they found the person they were looking for. And I went on to find a position with an organisation I was philosophically aligned with. Church employees who use their position to undermine the core beliefs of the Adventist Church should have the integrity to do exactly the same.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

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"Young people portray Mary and Joseph at Christchurch's Road to Bethlehem."

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SEVENTH-DAY
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knows
experiences
and shares
our hope in Jesus Christ



Attitude of gratitude

Vania Chew

At 53, John Kralik felt like he had hit rock bottom. Every aspect of his life seemed to be failing—relationships, family, finances and health.

On New Year's Day, 2007, he was alone on a mountain—exhausted, frustrated and in the pit of despair. Suddenly he heard a voice say, "Until you learn to be grateful for the things you have, you will not receive the things you want."

John didn't know where the voice came from, but it made him think. He decided to try being grateful for what he did have. Inspired by an unexpected thank you note he received, he resolved to write 365 thank you notes that year.

At first, he struggled to find something—anything—in his life to be grateful for. But as the year went by, he found himself writing notes to anyone and everyone—school friends, past business associates, even the barista who served him daily at the coffee shop. And yes, his life did change for the better and he wrote a book about his journey, *A Simple Act of Gratitude*.

After reading John's story, I immediately started my own thank you note project and a gratitude diary. As I reflect on the 2013 entries and remember what I was thankful for, it's a real blessing.

Today, John continues to write thank you notes. People from around the world tell him that his book has changed their lives. They say he has taught them to be thankful, no matter how dire their circumstances might appear.

Less than 2000 years ago, another book was written that has a similar message and is still changing lives today.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul tells us to "rejoice evermore" and "in everything, give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". Hang on. Did he just say in everything?

There are days when it feels like everything is going wrong and you seem to be hit with one challenge after another. When you question whether your life makes any difference to the world. And when someone tells you to be positive, you scoff. They can't understand what you're going through.

I'm not advocating we just think happy thoughts and close our eyes to reality. Living as a Christian in this world will never be easy and trials are bound to come our way. We're not perfect people and we will have bad days. But even in our darkest days, we have reasons to praise God.

Paul's conscious choice to be thankful didn't mean he had a life of comfort and ease. He was arrested, flogged, imprisoned, shipwrecked and stoned. If anyone had a reason to lose heart and faith, he did. Yet he chose to keep believing in a God whose strength would make use of his weaknesses. He chose to rejoice in God's goodness rather than dwell upon his own infirmities. Will we do the same in 2014?

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for RECORD.

A sceptic . . . in 2014?

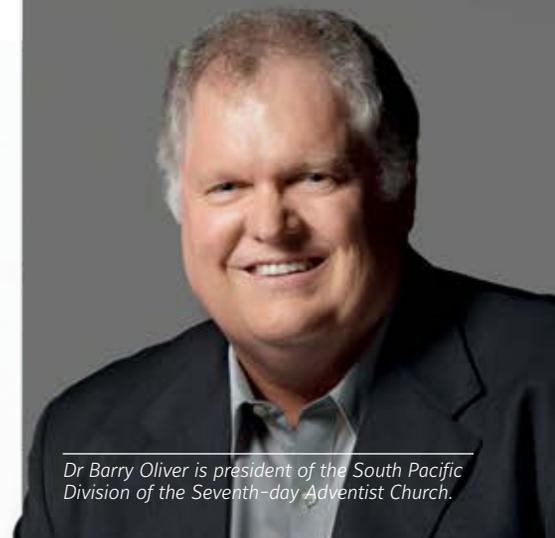
Sometimes it 's too easy to be sceptical.

When confronted with a small boy and a very small lunch Andrew asked of Jesus: "What is the use of these five loaves and two fish among so many?" (John 6:9). From the lunchbox of that boy Jesus fed more than 5000 men, women and children. Andrew must have been left with a very red face!

Reflect with me for a moment on the nuances that are embedded in Andrew's question. We can, for example, be too small in our thinking. We can overlook those whom we think do not have very much to bring to the table. We can be too dismissive of the possibilities of that which is right in front of us. We can think we must go searching for exotic solutions to our problems. We can be "glass half empty" rather than "glass half full" kind of people.

The beginning of a new year at least gives us an opportunity to reflect on the attitudes we bring to the challenges and possibilities before us. God only knows the future and what could be. And He has a habit of surprising us. Not only did Andrew see the people fed. He and his colleagues gathered 12 baskets full of leftovers—all from one small lunch. A very red face indeed.

"But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).



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

REVIVED BY HIS WORD

February 1—14, 2014

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

1 – Prov. 28	5 – Eccl. 1	9 – Eccl. 5	13 – Eccl. 9
2 – Prov. 29	6 – Eccl. 2	10 – Eccl. 6	14 – Eccl. 10
3 – Prov. 30	7 – Eccl. 3	11 – Eccl. 7	
4 – Prov. 31	8 – Eccl. 4	12 – Eccl. 8	



Clearing the way

Bible translating is increasingly hi-tech, but there's an unexpected tool that's essential to some projects. Wycliffe Associates helps maintain 15 grass airstrips in Papua New Guinea, sometimes by the purchase of a lawnmower. The airstrips are essential for translators to get to villages that are otherwise only accessible by several days walking. —Assist News Service



Counting the cost

Christian organisation Open Doors says 2123 Christians were reported to have died for their faith last year. Actual numbers are probably higher. North Korea remains at the top of Open Doors' World Watch List for the twelfth year running. New entrants include the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. —Open Doors



Bruising boozy blues

Gymea Baptist Church in Sydney's south is calling for an end to the city's alcohol-fuelled carnage, including deadly random violence. The church says the NSW government should consider the success of earlier closing times for pubs and clubs in Newcastle, where alcohol-related street violence has dropped by 37 per cent. —Karl Faase



A year without God

An Adventist ex-pastor says he's spending 2014 ignoring God. Californian Ryan Bell, who was dismissed last year over doctrinal differences, says he wants to answer the question, "What difference does God make?" Instead of prayer, Bible study and church attendance he'll be reading atheist books and attending atheist meetings. —Huffington Post



Sweet and nasty

The role of sugar in obesity, diabetes, heart disease and tooth decay is under examination. A leaked draft World Health Organization paper recommends a radical reduction in sugar intake from 10 per cent to no more than 5 per cent of total calorie intake. That's less than one can of Coke. —The Australian



Teaching the teachers

The Australian government says the nation's school curriculum is too secular and too politically correct. Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne has announced a review of the recently approved national curriculum. His supporters say Australia's Judeo-Christian, liberal democratic heritage is being neglected, in favour of emphasising indigenous, environmental and other issues. —ABC

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Youth in action in French Polynesia

Tahiti, French Polynesia

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in French Polynesia dedicated the month of November to training, empowering and mobilising youth for evangelism.

"I'm truly humbled and impressed by seeing what God is doing in French Polynesia, and especially in youth ministry," said New Zealand Pacific Union Conference Family Relationships director, Pastor Victor Kulakov.

Two-week training programs were held at three locations in the Papenoo district of the South Pacific country, with attendees participating in community projects and public evangelism.

The theme for the month was "Living for Christ and Witnessing for Christ". Young Adventists were among the keynote speakers, including 20-year-old Matakovi Fetia, 18-year-old Roopinia Faatuarai and 26-year-old Teriitapunui Vaiana.

Matakovi and Roopinia were baptised earlier in 2013.

"I could hardly believe that young people, who were not

trained in theology and didn't have extensive church leadership experience, were preaching and generating such a positive response," said Pastor Kulakov.

Approximately 180 non-Adventists took part in the training programs in Papenoo, with a number of guests now attending a Seventh-day Adventist church or taking Bible studies.

More than 900 young people gathered at Pic Vert, the grounds of the old Tiarama Adventist College site in Papete, on the final Sabbath of the program to celebrate and thank God for what had been achieved.

—Jenny Toa/Victor Kulakov/Linden Chuang



The event was a highlight for young people in French Polynesia.

Fire damages Adventist church

Inverell, New South Wales

A fire caused significant damage to Inverell Seventh-day Adventist Church in early January.

The blaze started in the kitchen and quickly spread to the hall, foyer and main chapel. The roof and internal fittings will need to be rebuilt; however the main structure of the building should be able to be restored.

Inverell pastor Adam Cinzio thanked the local Uniting church, which has offered its facilities for Sabbath services until the church is rebuilt. He also acknowledged the efforts and assistance of head deacon and deaconess Cliff and Evelyn Hoey, and church members Vic and Merryl Murphy.

"I am grateful no lives were lost and that the church can be rebuilt," Pastor Cinzio said. "Following Jesus doesn't guarantee there will be no problems in life, but it does mean God is with us in every challenge we face."

Inverell has set up a building fund for those who wish to donate. Visit <egiving.org.au> and select Inverell church to make a contribution.—Vania Chew



Inverell Seventh-day Adventist Church

New book challenges people to get active

Cooranbong, New South Wales

A new book may save you from what its author calls an "inactivity crisis".

"We're 60 to 70 per cent less active than we were 30 years ago—that's like walking 15 kilometres less every day," said Dr Darren Morton, whose book, *Live More: Active*, was launched in the Chan Shun Auditorium on Avondale College of Higher Education's Lake Macquarie campus.

The book opens with a section on how to sit less, move more, oxygenate, and strengthen and stretch. It closes with a 21-day challenge that gives readers the principles and strategies to enact behavioural change.

"The world is full of people who know what to do but just don't do what they know," said Dr Morton, a senior lecturer in health and exercise science at Avondale and president of the Avondale Lake Macquarie Multi-Sport

Club. "So, *Live More: Active* provides the will and the way."

The book has benefitted from the support of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) and Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing.

Dr Morton and Signs plan to re-release their first collaboration, *Seven Secrets for Feeling Fantastic*, as *Live More: Happy*.—Brenton Stacey



Dr Morton dedicated the book to his father, Peter, who continues to be "a great role model."



In Memoriam

For more than 120 years, Adventist missionaries have risked it all to spread the gospel in the South Pacific Division. This website has been launched in loving memory of those families who paid the supreme price while in active service throughout the South Pacific.

Visit:
www.spd.adventist.org/in-memoriam

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
 — John 15:13*

Christchurch hosts Bethlehem drama

Christchurch, New Zealand

While New Zealand has been in the media spotlight for serving as the backdrop for Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* film series, a far more important production has captured the hearts of New Zealanders—the story of the birth of Jesus.

In December 2013, Christchurch hosted its first *Road to Bethlehem*, with approximately 1000 people turning up to experience the interactive outdoor drama over three nights at the local Adventist school.

The event featured all the hallmarks of a typical *Road to Bethlehem* production, including authentic sets and costumes, live animals and a real baby playing the role of Jesus.

Production manager Debra Beckett said one of the main reasons for bringing *Road to Bethlehem* to Christchurch was the ever-growing secularisation of Christmas.

"Christ appears less and less in Christmas each year," said Miss Beckett, who first saw the production in Tauranga in 2012. "The biggest question that kept running through my head was, 'How do we get Christ back into Christmas in Christchurch?'"

With a support team of 20 local people, and help from *Road to Bethlehem* organisers from Tauranga and Australia, the production came together in less than a year.

Miss Beckett said the event was tremendously significant for the people of Christchurch as they continue to rebuild following the devastating earthquakes of 2011, which killed 185 people and damaged much of the city.

"People are still looking for a reason to hope," said Miss Beckett, whose house was damaged in the earthquakes and is still undergoing repairs, "and there is no better story of hope than the birth of Jesus.

"God gave me a vision, we got a committee and the rest was a faith-walk."

Road to Bethlehem was held at Tauranga Adventist School for a fifth consecutive year and also in four locations in Australia: Brisbane (Qld), Erina (NSW), Livingston (WA) and Nunawading (Vic).

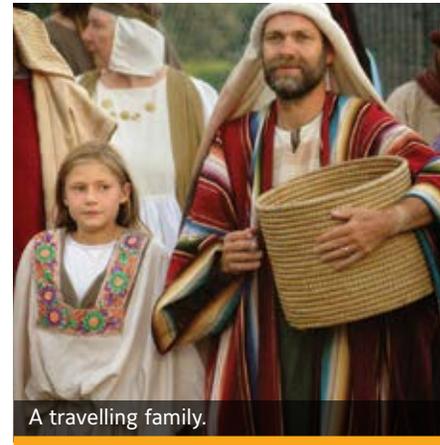
In Victoria, the event draws approximately 15,000 people every year. Despite costs in the range of \$AU70,000 to host the production, *Road to Bethlehem* does not charge for entry—the event is a gift to the community.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the production. Organisers are currently working on bringing *Road to Bethlehem* to Tasmania in December.

For event dates and more information, visit <www.roadtobethlehem.org>. —Linden Chuang



Herod's Palace



A travelling family.



People of all ages enjoyed the program.

Love for Lani

by RECORD staff

IN AN ASTOUNDING ACT of grace, John Brereton, publishing director for the Seventh-day

Adventist Church in the South Pacific, has met with the drunk driver who almost killed his daughter, Lani.

Although Lani was still in a coma at the time, Mr Brereton stated: "I don't want to open the door to anger," and thanked God for giving him the strength to forgive.

The driver expressed deep gratitude for the forgiveness extended to him, responding: "There is not a minute in the day I am not praying for you and your family."

Lani Brereton's vehicle was struck head on by an unregistered, speeding car driven by the man on Sabbath afternoon, December 14.

Lani, 28, suffered critical injuries and had to be resuscitated during the medevac flight to hospital. Many of her bones were broken and she needed several operations once she was in a stable enough condition. Lani's daughter, who was in the back seat at the time of the accident, also received injuries, but has been discharged from hospital.

The Brereton family rejoiced when Lani awoke from the coma but discovered she was suffering from post-traumatic amnesia—a state of confusion that follows traumatic brain injuries.

Each day, as Lani wakes up confused about her surroundings, Mr Brereton patiently goes through the story of the accident. As a father, he notes that seeing her physical injuries is heartbreaking enough, but witnessing her frustration and confusion is the worst thing of all.

Lani's short-term memory is slowly improving and her family is encouraged by the progress she has made.

"Personally, I believe that everyone's prayers have made the difference," Mr Brereton says. He describes the day she woke up as the best day of their lives.

During the time Lani was in a coma, thousands of people across the world rallied to show support for her and her

family, by taking photographs of themselves making heart symbols with their hands—the same symbol that Lani would use to lift the spirits of those around her.

Bec Brereton, Lani's sister, describes the support from everyone as "overwhelming".

"We get so many in-box messages, emails, texts and phone calls for Lani that we seriously need a secretary," she says.

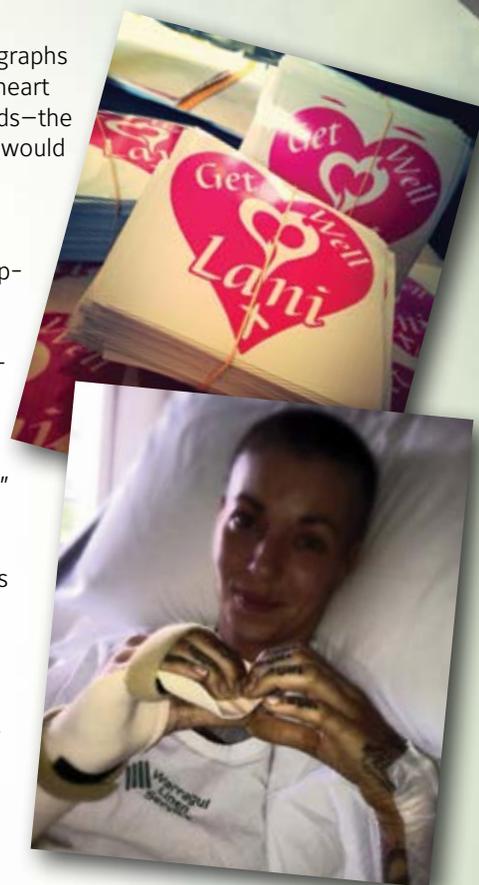
The family set up a Facebook page that has received almost 6000 likes and Lani's story has received coverage in local television news programs and newspapers.

"The outpouring of love, community spirit, and show of faith and hope is so inspiring . . .

If you search for it, amazing blessings can even be found in torturous hardships," Bec says.

Others are contributing to help with Lani's recovery. Her work colleagues have chipped in to send her daughter to summer camp. All proceeds from Gavin and Trudy Chatelier's song, *In your Hands*, will go to help Lani's recovery.

The lead doctor treating Lani told Mr Brereton his daughter's progress was remarkable. "We know it is miraculous," says Mr Brereton. "It is the direct result of all the prayers from people all over the world."



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Yobe Dame
Associate Education Director
Papua New Guinea Union Mission

I'm from the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG); Kundiawa is my home town. I was raised Lutheran but I had a few Adventist friends. They used to gather and sing on Friday evening. One evening I woke up and opened my Bible. As I was reading I came across the Sabbath truth. It was obvious then. I went to church that Sabbath and in tenth grade I was baptised.

I came home and told my parents and they were not at all pleased. But I explained why I'd been baptised. Eventually both my mother and brother were baptised (my father passed away).

After high school I went to Sonoma College in East New Britain. It's a long way from my home and a very different culture—it helped me learn how to live and work in different cultures.

I came back to the highlands to teach. I became principal of my school. Then I went to Pacific Adventist University to complete a BA before returning to the highlands. I then did an MA in educational administration at Avondale College through its winter school program. A year after graduating I was called to my current position.

Our greatest need in our schools in PNG is upgrading our infrastructure—particularly our IT facilities. We are living in the 21st century and we want our students to be prepared to compete in the global market. We want to provide them with the highest quality of education. We are also working to instigate a program of maintenance and upgrading of our school buildings. In our schools we want to maintain our special nature—physical, spiritual, social and mental development. Spiritual is the most important—so we are dedicated to centring on Jesus. Since we commenced participating in the unified system—the government system—found it a challenge to maintain our strong spiritual emphasis in our schools. So we are working hard to get back to our core mission. We want to reach one child at a time.

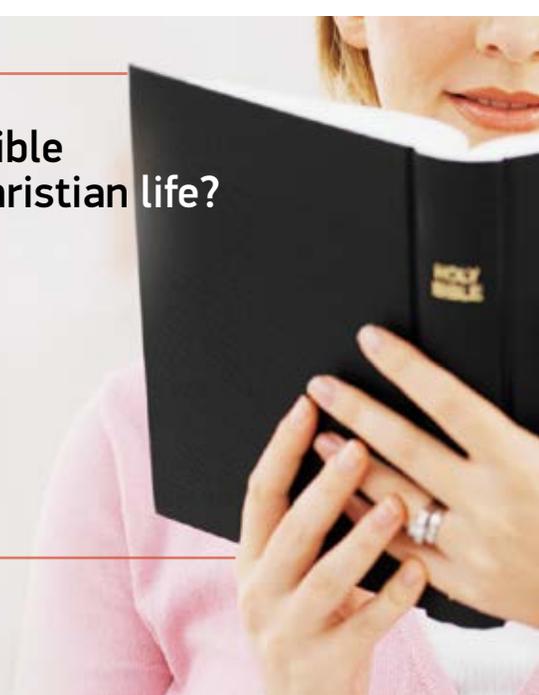


OPINION POLL

How important is Bible prophecy to your Christian life?

- Central
- Informative
- Irrelevant
- I need to know more

Visit record.net.au to vote.





Hero of health

by Lester Devine

SIEGFRIED (SIGI) KOTZ WAS BORN OF MISSIONARY parents in Africa. At the age of four his family moved to Switzerland and Germany before emigrating to the United States when he was 10. Interested in health issues from an early age, he graduated from medicine at Loma Linda University in 1940. During his time there as a student, he married Ethel Carr and to this union were born three children: Arlagene, Darlene and Siegfried Jnr (Freddy).

Over the next decade Siegfried spent a lot of time in post-graduate study collecting a number of prestigious academic awards—too many to list here. After spending some years in private and hospital medical practice, Siegfried and his family accepted a call to missionary service in Africa where he was medical director at several hospitals. It was during that time he was ordained to the gospel ministry. After a couple of years living back in the United States, Siegfried was called to be the medical secretary of the Australasian field—and it is because of his sterling work in that role that he's best remembered.

Dr Siegfried was deeply committed to promoting the Adventist health lifestyle, not only within the Church but particularly to the wider public. He made sure Australian physicians such as Errol Thrift had an opportunity to visit health lifestyle centres in Europe and systematically worked to bring the health outreach of the Church to prominence in every conference and mission, all strongly supported and funded from the Division headquarters in Wahroonga, Sydney.

In 1963, Greater Sydney became the first conference to have a full-time medical secretary: Pastor Eric Hon. In 1964, the Trans Tasman Union became the first union to have a full-time health secretary when it called Pastor Hon to that role, with Pastor Ward Nolan replacing him in Greater Sydney. During 1964 part-time medical secretaries were appointed for each of the other unions and in many of the local missions in the Coral Sea and Bismark–Solomons Unions. Many churches appointed local health secretaries. The first ever medical council for the Division was held along with similar pioneering medical councils in Greater Sydney, a Medico-Ministerial Council and a Church Workers' Council.

The department of Physical Medicine at Warburton (Victoria) was upgraded and Dr Thrift sent overseas for specialist education. A School of Hygiene and Public Health was established at Sopas Hospital in Papua New Guinea (PNG) under the direction of Dr Robert Wood.

In cooperation with the Sanitarium Health Food Company, cooking demonstrations were promoted, particularly by Pastors Hon and Nolan. These demonstrations became a new feature of camp meeting programs and in local churches. Medical samples and equipment were collected in a systematic way, particularly at the San Hospital and Warburton, and shipped out to the South Pacific mission field. Meetings with the Sanitarium leadership led to strategies being developed to make each retail shop "more effective as a health education centre".

Five Day Plans to stop smoking proliferated and chaplains were appointed to Adventist hospitals "for greater patient impact". Health education materials were prepared by Sanitarium, the hospitals and temperance departments for the use of churches. Public health tapes were prepared. Sopas began training nurses for service beyond PNG. New Life–Health lessons were prepared for use by the Australian *Voice of Prophecy* radio program.

In reading the minutes from the meetings of the time two things become very apparent about Sigi Kotz: he was a dynamic health leader and educator who achieved an incredible amount in just four years; and his denominational promotional skills are very evident.

The Church always has more plans—lobbied with enthusiasm by its departmental directors—than money to realise them, but Sigi Kotz had the exceptional ability to not only get his dreams heard, but funded and implemented. He rallied church leaders at all levels—the minutes of his various conferences and committees list those attending as a veritable "who's who" of the Church at the time.

Thus, the sudden death of Dr Siegfried from a heart attack on March 5, 1967 at only 52 years of age was an enormous loss, not only to his family but to the Church and its health ministry as well.

Dr Lester Devine is director emeritus of the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College of Higher Education.



Terrific Townend

Townend Adventist Primary School in Auki has been named the "most outstanding primary school" in the Malaita province of the Solomon Islands. Malaita Education Authority school inspector Golman Holi relayed the news to the staff, students and parents at a school year-end event in early December, citing excellent student behaviour, the school's dress code and the tidiness of the campus as reasons for the title. —*Solomon Star/Jannelle Eric*

Bringing joy

To celebrate the first day of summer and kick-start the festive season, a number of Avondale School students donated their time to bring joy to the faces of children and families living with special needs on the Central Coast (NSW). The Special Needs Christmas Party, organised by Autism Projects Australia, was held at San Remo's Camp Breakaway and featured puppets, face painting and balloon animals. —*Felicity Pittaway*

Deaconesses ordained

Gatton church (Qld) held a special ordination service for its deaconesses on January 4. Pastor Andy Krause conducted the service, with Mariana Dabali, Jocelyn Trow, Lorna Petit, Coral Harvey, Val Arthur and Grace Uljarevic recognised for their role as deaconesses. —*Andy Krause*



Carols on the Lake

More than 200 people climbed aboard the *TSS Earnslaw* in December for the inaugural Carols on the Lake event at Lake Wakatipu in Queenstown (NZ). The morning cruise included Christmas cake and carols, with Perth-based pianist Wayne Turner providing the accompaniment on the shipboard piano. "It totally made my Queenstown trip," said Nicholas, a visitor from San Francisco (US). The event was organised by members of Queenstown church, with support from congregations from Invercargill and a number of local and international volunteers. —*Graham Roebeck*

Polish party

Hundreds of people of Polish descent gathered in Melbourne (Vic) for the 19th Congress of Polish Adventists in Australia from December 26-29, 2013. The theme was "... that I may gain Christ" (from Philippians 3:8), with Herb Kersten serving as keynote speaker. Highlights included a picnic at Lysterfield Lake Park and a Gala Charity Concert, which raised more than \$7000. During the congress, Polish Community Council of Victoria president Adam Drahan honoured participants by expressing his appreciation and best wishes for 2014. —*Roman Chalupka*



A sweet, sweet project

Tiarama Adventist College in Papeete, Tahiti, launched a bee-keeping project on the grounds of the old college site, Pic Vert, late last year. The college hosted a training session for students, with the Grade 6 class given the honour of participating in the installation of the first hive a few weeks later. The school hopes to obtain enough hives for each class to manage its own. —*Yann Atger*

Christmas cheer

Members and friends of Esk church (Qld) helped usher in the Christmas season at Brisbane Valley Care and Concern by donating food hampers and toys for distribution to those in need. Church members also brought some Christmas cheer to the residents of Esk Caravan Park, distributing food hampers and vouchers to spend in local shops. —*Jaith Dorrington*

Farewell feast

Kilcoy church's (Qld) Recipe Club held its end-of-year banquet at the local RSL hall in early December. The event featured vegetarian dishes made from recipes that had been presented during the year. The club meets on the first Monday night of each month, with up to 30 people attending. The end-of-year banquet raised more than \$A500 for women and girls caught up in human trafficking in Asia. —*Audrey Donaldson*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with special guest Dr Darren Morton

Is your 'device' making you unhealthy?

Results of a recent Australian-based "Healthy Living" survey¹ highlight the effect that electronic devices are having on our health.

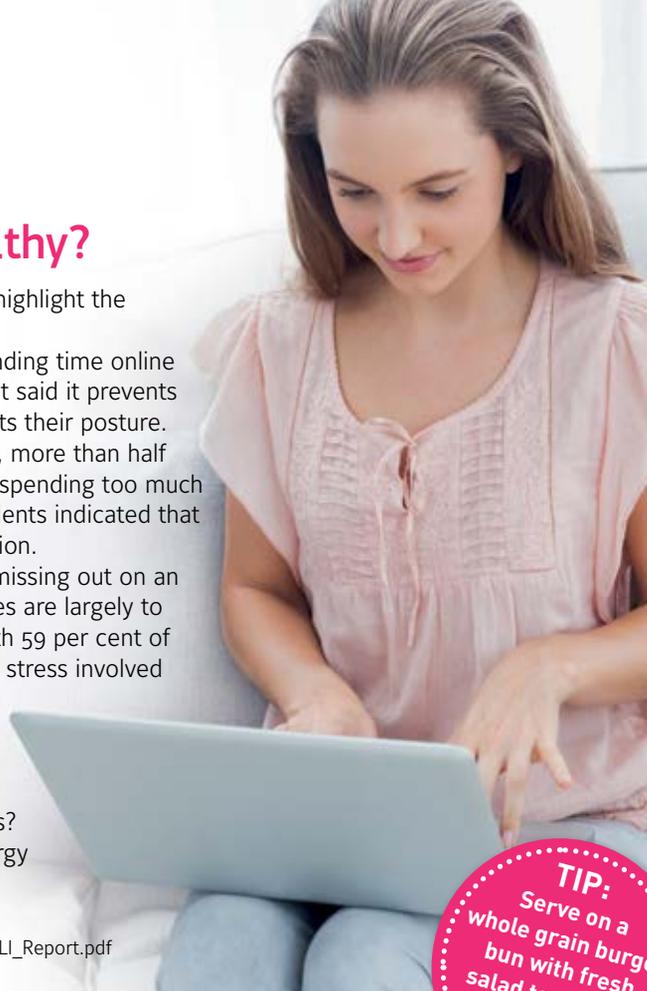
More than half of the Australians surveyed indicated that spending time online prevents them from getting enough exercise. Further, 45 per cent said it prevents them from getting enough sleep and 59 per cent claimed it affects their posture. Yet with the internet becoming an ever growing part of our lives, more than half of those surveyed claimed they find it hard to break the habit of spending too much time in front of electronic devices. In fact, almost half of respondents indicated that social networking or spending time online is becoming an addiction.

The survey suggested that many people feel sleep deprived, missing out on an average of 1.4 hours of sleep from what they desired, and devices are largely to blame. Devices were also blamed for increasing stress levels, with 59 per cent of respondents suggesting that their typical method of dealing with stress involved sedentary activities such as watching television and movies, which goes against one of the best antidotes for stress—exercise.

Could you benefit from reducing the time you spend using devices? Could other areas of your life benefit from having a certain hour or period in the day when you put down the devices? To learn how you can switch off devices and switch on your energy levels, check out my book *Live More Active*^{*}.

1. AIA Australia, Healthy Living Index survey, available at: http://www.aia.com.au/en/resources/aa7ce7804215e37491c3fb0f2cbf090/2013_HLI_Report.pdf

* Grab a copy of Live More Active today at www.dr DarrenMorton.com



TIP:
Serve on a whole grain burger bun with fresh salad to create a healthy burger option.



Lentil and Sesame Rissoles

Preparation time: 45 minutes Cooking time: 20 minutes Serves: 6

- 4 cups cooked brown lentils**
 - ¼ cup water or 1 tsp oil**
 - 1 small onion, finely chopped**
 - 4 cloves garlic, crushed**
 - 4 cups diced mushrooms**
 - 1½ Tbsp chopped fresh thyme**
 - 2 tomatoes, finely chopped**
 - ½ cup walnuts, finely chopped**
 - 4 Tbsp no-added-salt tomato paste**
 - 1 carrot, finely grated**
 - 2 tsp curry powder**
 - 3 tsp ground cumin**
 - 1 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce (optional)**
 - 1½ cups dried bread or rice crumbs**
 - ½ cup sesame seeds**
1. Preheat oven to 350°F/180°C.
 2. Sauté onion and garlic in water until soft and slightly brown, then add the diced mushrooms and cook until mushrooms start to brown.
 3. In a large bowl, combine cooked lentils, onion, garlic, mushrooms and thyme. Add tomatoes, walnuts, tomato paste, carrot, curry powder, cumin and soy sauce and mix well. Add 1 cup of bread/rice crumbs and combine.
 4. Combine remaining bread/rice crumbs with sesame seeds in a separate bowl.
 5. Divide mixture into ¼ cup-sized balls, flatten and coat in bread crumb mixture.
 6. Line a baking sheet/tray with baking paper/parchment or spray baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray. Place patties on tray and bake with broil/grill element on for approximately 6 minutes on each side. Turn broil/grill element off and bake in oven for a further 5–8 minutes.

NUTRITION INFORMATION

PER SERVE: 378 Cal (1578kJ); Protein 20g;
Total Fat 13g; Saturated Fat 2g; Carbohydrate 39g;
Total Sugars 7g; Fiber 11g; Sodium 367mg; Potassium
897mg Calcium 93mg; Iron 5.6mg; Zinc 2.9mg

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

Sanitarium | LIFESTYLE MEDICINE SERVICES



Keep breathing

by Gary Krause

ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY, ALEC HOLDEN WENT down to his local “bookie” and bet 100 British pounds that he’d live to the age of 100. Sure enough, 10 years later—alive and well—

he returned to the bookie and collected a cool 25,000 pounds. Now I’m certainly not advocating gambling, but you have to admit that this was a very nice way for Mr Holden to start the second century of his life.

The media asked Mr Holden for the secret of his longevity. He gave a few suggestions, but the one I remember was this (said, I’m sure, with a twinkle in his eye): “You’ve got to keep breathing. If you stop breathing, you’re in real trouble.”

Unfortunately, many Adventist churches have stopped breathing spiritually. Sure we meet every Sabbath and we have Sabbath School and a worship service, but the spiritual life has been choked out—and it’s almost like we’re just going through the motions. The baptismal font sits up the front and basically it’s a decorative piece. The Church isn’t growing.

In the book of Acts, we see a church that’s alive and spiritually breathing. After an initial hiccup in the first few verses of chapter 5, we see the early church continuing to grow with signs and wonders. We know this church is spiritually alive because new groups are being planted, lives are being changed, people are being healed, miracles are performed, Jesus is lifted high.

But you know, when it comes to the spiritual life there are killjoys—party-poopers, grouches—ready to suck the spiritual life out of anything new, innovative or non-traditional. “We’ve never done it that way before.” “That’s not orthodox.” “Just preach the Word.” And sure enough, what was the reaction of the High Priest and his fellow Sadducees? They were jealous! (Acts 5:17).

What do we know about the Sadducees? Well, to start with John the Baptist called them a “brood of vipers” (Matthew 23:33). He said they held tightly to tradition, but tradition wasn’t enough. Jesus warned His disciples about their teaching (Matthew 16:12) and said they didn’t know the Scriptures or the power of God (Mark 12:24). Now that’s incredible. Here they were, the religious elite, leaders of the spiritual lives of Israel, and they didn’t know the first thing about spiritual breathing.

Compare them with the young Christian church, which was sharing “the full message of this new life” (Acts 5:20). This was a holistic message—taught not only through words, but demonstrated through action. They were on an exciting, Jesus-inspired adventure, transforming their communities for Jesus. At the same time, the leaders were teaching tradition, focusing inward on the temple and its functions, mainly interested in maintaining the bureaucracy.

Can you imagine what would have happened if the religious leaders had united with and supported the fledgling

Christian church instead of undermining it? Today in our mission we need the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of the young. But we also need the wisdom, experience and lessons learned of the older. We are only strengthened as we work together in a common mission.

Ellen White beautifully summarises Jesus’ method of ministry in five steps: mingling with people, showing them sympathy, ministering to needs, winning confidence and bidding them to follow Him (*Ministry of Healing*, p 143). The early Christians followed His example and were in the community mingling: “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 5:42, NIV). Search the entire New Testament and you won’t find any stories of Sadducees involved in witnessing or mission. They specialised in temple maintenance! And so, when the temple was destroyed in AD 70, the Sadducees ceased to exist. Sad but true. They had no life apart from the institution, the bureaucracy of religion.

How is it with you and me in our spiritual lives? Are we still spiritually breathing? Are our lungs full of the spiritual life-giving oxygen that only Jesus can give? Because as Mr Holden reminds us, if we stop breathing, we’re in real trouble.

Revival and reformation is not a goal in itself—it’s an action step. It must have a purpose. That’s why I like the slogan “Revival for Mission”.

But I would like to take it even a step

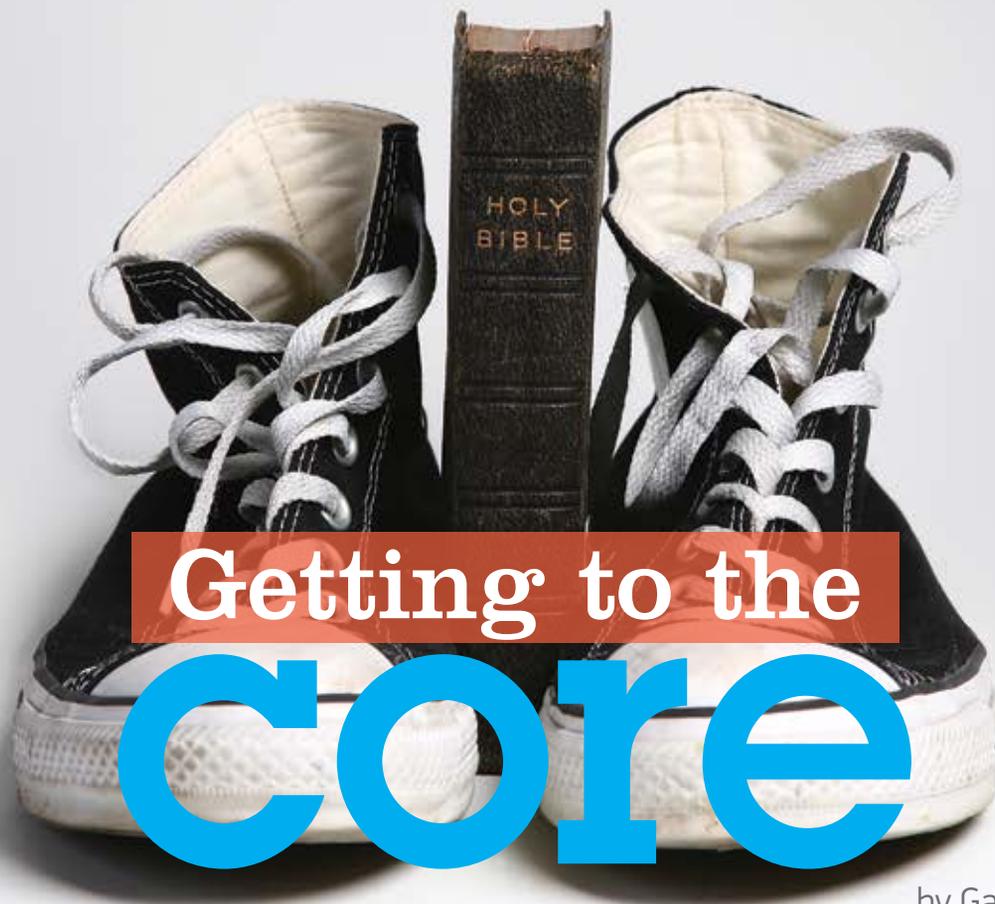
further. Ellen White tells the story of a man nearly chilled to death in deep snow. He was about to give up struggling for his life, when he heard the moans of a nearby fellow traveller. His first impulse was to rescue the other man. When he found him, he chafed his frozen limbs. He finally got him to his feet and carried him through the drifts to safety. “Then the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbour, he had saved himself also”—the blood was now flowing in his own freezing veins (see Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p 319).

So yes, we need revival and reformation for mission. But in an important sense, revival also comes through mission. Many years ago the wise man Solomon summarised it well: “Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25, NIV).

Are some of our churches freezing to death, like that man in the snow? Are some of us settled in the pews—comfortably wrapped in our security blankets despite the chill in the air? The only way we can rekindle our first love for Jesus is to spend time in prayer and His Word, and to reach out into our communities to chafe the spiritually frozen limbs of those who don’t know Jesus. In saving others, we will save the Church. 

Gary Krause, General Conference director of Adventist Mission, is speaking at the Adventist Youth for Christ convention in Melbourne, starting February 13.

So yes, we need revival and reformation for mission. But in an important sense, revival also comes through mission.



Getting to the core

by Gary Webster

WOULD YOU TELL ME, PLEASE, WHICH WAY I ought to go from here?"
"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.
"I don't much care where," said Alice.
"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.
- Lewis Carol, *Alice in Wonderland*

The point? If you don't know the direction you're headed, you may as well go anywhere or do anything. It could be the mantra of post-modernism. And increasingly, it may be the reality of the Christian world generally, and even Adventism.

So it's worth reminding ourselves what we're here for. What is our destination? What is our core mission? Because once we know that, once we remind ourselves of what we're here for—what we're called to do—then we will spend our time doing what really counts.

To understand our core mission, we have to understand how God called this very special movement into existence. It all starts in the books of Daniel and Revelation. And many of us have forgotten completely about it. How long since you've reviewed these beautiful books to be reminded of their meaning? Could you explain them to others? Let's remind ourselves of the powerful message that gives our movement its momentum.

Understanding the ancient prophecies

Revelation 10 portrays a mighty angel standing over land

and sea with a book open in his hand. Swearing by God the Creator he declares that time is up. After being told to take and eat the book, John finds that while it's sweet in his mouth it gives him a stomach ache. After this sweet-bitter experience he is told to prophesy again (Revelation 10:1-3,5-11). What's it all about?

This passage is probably the strongest allusion in Revelation to an Old Testament passage. It's a clear reference to Daniel 12:4-9 and it's vital for God's end-time mission that his people understand it. Firstly, what is the book? The phrase "a little book open" in the original language means that this book was once shut, but has now been opened (Revelation 10:2).

As Daniel came to the end of his book he was told, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4,9 KJV).

So the book of Daniel was to be closed to human understanding until the time of the end. But more specifically, one of Daniel's prophecies was to be closed to human understanding until the time of the end.

In Daniel 8, after seeing the little horn stand against the Prince (the Commanding Officer) of the host, cast down the sanctuary, take away the temple services, and cast down truth and God's people, Daniel heard the cryptic question, "How long is all this going to go on for" (Daniel 8:13)? The answer given was, "And he said to me, 'For two thousand

three hundred days (evenings and mornings); then the sanctuary shall be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14 NKJV). When Gabriel appeared before Daniel, he declared, "And the vision of the evening and the morning (the 2300) which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days" (Daniel 8:26 KJV). Gabriel also stated that "the vision refers to the time of the end" (Daniel 8:17). In other words the 2300 day prophecy was to be sealed or not to be understood by God's people until the time of the end.

It's so clear. The book of Daniel, and in particular the 2300 days, was to be closed to human understanding until the time of the end. When this time came many would run to and fro through the book to understand its messages. So when is the time of the end? Daniel's last chapter—the very passage that Revelation 10 alludes to—provides the answer: "Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, 'How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?' And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things. And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:5-9 KJV).

Daniel couldn't be more clear—the time of the end is at the end of a period called a time, times and half a time. That period of time is defined in Revelation as 1260 days, which according to the biblical year/day principle is a period of 1260 literal years (Revelation 12:14,6; Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).

Because of events that took place in 538 AD, the declaration of the Roman Emperor Justinian that the Bishop of Rome was "the head of the church, the true and effectual corrector of heretics" was able to be set in motion. There followed at the hands of the Church of Rome 1260 years of persecution of God's people. This period ended in 1798 when the Bishop of Rome was imprisoned by Napoleon's forces. Thus "the time of the end" began" in 1798.

In other words Daniel and John predicted that at the end of 1260 years (from 1798), the sealed portion of Daniel (the 2300 days) would be opened to human understanding. But there is more. John continued, "So I went to the angel and said to him, 'Give me the little book' . . . Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, 'You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and

kings" (Revelation 10:9-11 NKJV). God was predicting that after a sweet experience that turned bitter, a movement would rise to globally proclaim the sealed portion of Daniel's book—Daniel 8:14 in particular.

History informs us that the French Revolution of the 1790s was marked by violence, immorality and atheism. These things reminded Bible students at that time of the signs of Christ's return. As a result they began to study the 1260 day/year prophecy. They knew of Justinian's decree and what happened in 538 AD. When the Bishop of Rome was imprisoned by Napoleon's forces under General Berthier these students recognised in this event the fulfilment of the 1260 day/year prophecy. Bible scholars of many denominations then turned their attention to understanding Daniel 8:14—the 2300 day/year prophecy. Thus the sealed portion of Daniel, which Gabriel said almost 2500 years ago would be sealed until "the time of the end"—1798—now began to be "eaten" or studied.

Most of these Bible students believed, based on Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 9:24-27, that something was to happen in 1843/1844. Many didn't know or say what would happen. However, William Miller, a Baptist farmer, came to believe that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844. His was an inter-denominational group of some 500,000 people. They began to herald the "sweet" news that Jesus was about to return.

But Jesus did not return on that date and they experienced what has become known as "The Great Disappointment!" Sadly many gave up their faith in God after this sweet-bitter experience. However some among this group sought to discover what went wrong. They knew the date 1844 was correct because the 70 weeks or 490 years that were part of the 2300 day/year prophecy were a proven and precise fit—an exact fulfilment: in 27 AD Jesus was baptised right on time; in 31 AD Jesus had died on time; and in 34 AD the 70 weeks or 490 years ended right on time when Steven was stoned and the Gospel began to be proclaimed to non-Jews.

Jesus Himself had acknowledged the fulfilment of this first part of the 2300 day prophecy when, after His baptism in 27 AD, He had declared: "The time is fulfilled . . ." (Mark 1:15). Since this part of the 2300 day prophecy was absolutely correct, then they rightly concluded that the rest of the 2300 day/year prophecy, which ended in 1844, had to be correct.

Convinced that the date was correct, they more carefully examined the phrase ". . . then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14). Miller and his followers had taught that the sanctuary or temple was the Earth. Since the sanctuary (the Earth) was to be "cleansed" (Daniel 8:14), they believed this must be a reference to Christ's return, when the Earth would be cleansed with fire.

However, as they studied Hebrews and Revelation they

However some among this group sought to discover what went wrong.



OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster

Cloning Christ (Part 8: Christ the mighty Michael)

Our last portrait from Patmos is Michael our Commander. The vision of the awesome Son of Man given to John on Patmos was first given to Daniel at the commencement of his final prophecy of Daniel 10-12.

Read Revelation 1:10-18; Daniel 10:5,6.

Michael, heaven's Commander

After Daniel had been praying for three weeks, he saw a vision of a Heavenly Being, who he learned was Michael, heaven's Chief Commander, who had come to assist him.

Read Daniel 10:10-13.

Michael is Christ

John and Daniel saw the same Being. Since the one John saw was clearly Jesus, and Daniel's Being was Michael, then Michael is also Christ. Michael is also called "The Archangel". The word angel means messenger, not a created being with wings (though some messengers or angels had those characteristics). Jesus was called the Messenger or Angel of the covenant, whose coming John the Baptist announced. The Angel of the Lord who met Moses at the burning bush was clearly Jehovah God, as was the Commander of the Lord's hosts who met Joshua. Jesus said His voice will raise all the dead to life, and Paul states the voice of the Archangel raises the dead to life, again revealing Jesus is Michael the Archangel.

Read Malachi 3:1; Matthew 11:10; Exodus 3:1-6; Joshua 5:13-15; John 5:27-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Jude 9.

Michael's ability to help

Michael in Scripture is usually triumphing over Satan and the forces of evil. In Christ, we too can be more than conquerors over everything the devil throws at us. Though we may walk through the valley of death, through Michael the best is yet to come. Michael in Revelation 1 is walking in the midst of His church in order to help it bring light to a dark world. He can help you to shine brightly for Him wherever you are. Finally, Michael our Commander gave His life in this great conflict, but now lives to encourage His soldiers of the cross. Why not claim Michael's victories as yours right now?

Read Revelation 21:3,9,12,14; 22:3,4; John 14:1-3.

discovered there was a sanctuary or temple in heaven, which also needed cleansing (Revelation 11:19; Hebrews 9:23). Examining the sanctuary and its rituals they discovered in Leviticus 16 and 23 that the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) or cleansing of the sanctuary, was regarded by the Jews as an annual day of judgement.

Thus they saw that the cleansing of heaven's temple was a reference to God's end-time pre-advent judgement, and that 1844 marked the commencement of that pre-advent judgement. A comparison of the parallel prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 makes this obvious because in each prophecy there appears a little horn doing similar things (casting down God's people and His truth or laws). At precisely the same point where in Daniel 7 the little horn is brought to account when heaven's judgement sits, in Daniel 8 the sanctuary is cleansed (Daniel 7:8-10; 8:9-14). Clearly they refer to the same event.

Out of confusion, a clear mission

But from Revelation 10 these people saw more than just the fulfilment of the prediction that the book of Daniel, especially the 2300 days, would be opened to human understanding in the time of the end, and the fulfilment of the prediction of a sweet-bitter experience. They discovered their mission—they were to "prophesy again". They got it wrong the first time; now they saw they were to proclaim to the world that the judgement was now in session and that Jesus was soon to come. Their mission was to proclaim the everlasting gospel of God's gracious saving love in the context of His judgement that had commenced in 1844 (Revelation 10:11; 14:6,7).

This is the core of our mission as Seventh-day Adventists. It should set the priorities of every Adventist member, church, department and institution. There is an urgency to what we are called to do because time IS running out. This is no time to sit down and do nothing. This is not the time to doubt or lay aside this God-given message. To do so is to disobey our Commanding Officer—Christ the mighty Michael Himself, for it is He in whose hand the book of Daniel, and especially Daniel 8:14, lies open (see study "Cloning Christ", left). It is He who commands us to "prophesy again" (Revelation 10:11). All of us are called to live good lives and do good to others, but we are also all called to share the words of God's love with others (1 Peter 2:9-12; Revelation 22:17). We will do it in different ways of course, according to our gifts. But do it we must because it's the Commanding Officer who calls us all to "prophesy again". In fact there is no more important work for all of us as Seventh-day Adventists to do than to share the Gospel in the context of a judgement that is soon to finish.

"A great work is to be accomplished in setting before men the saving truths of the gospel. This is the means ordained by God to stem the tide of moral corruption. This is His means of restoring His moral image in man. It is His remedy for universal disorganisation. It is the power that draws men together in unity. To present these truths is the work of the third angel's message. The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in the world at this time" (Ellen White, *Testimonies*, vol 6, p 11).

Souls are in peril and we have the solution. The plight of people outside of Christ who face God's judgement moved the apostle Paul to action (2 Corinthians 5:10,11,14-16). Let us, filled with God's love for people, arise and fulfil our God-appointed mission for a world in desperate need of His life changing love.

We know where we're going—what we're here for. We don't have to go in circles in a state of confusion. Our Commanding Officer is with us at the head of our mission. Let's all work together as a team under Christ to fulfil the mission God has given us.



Gary Webster is director of the Institute of Public Evangelism for the South Pacific Division.

Kids' SPACE

Shalom KIDS*



Help Moses get to the Israelites
collect letters along the way to finish the message and memory verse

Moses went up Mt Sinai to meet God. He was gone for such a long time. While he was away the Israelites pressured Aaron to make them an idol out of gold - a golden calf.

God told Moses to go down the mountain because the people had sinned.

Moses was angry but asked God to forgive His people.

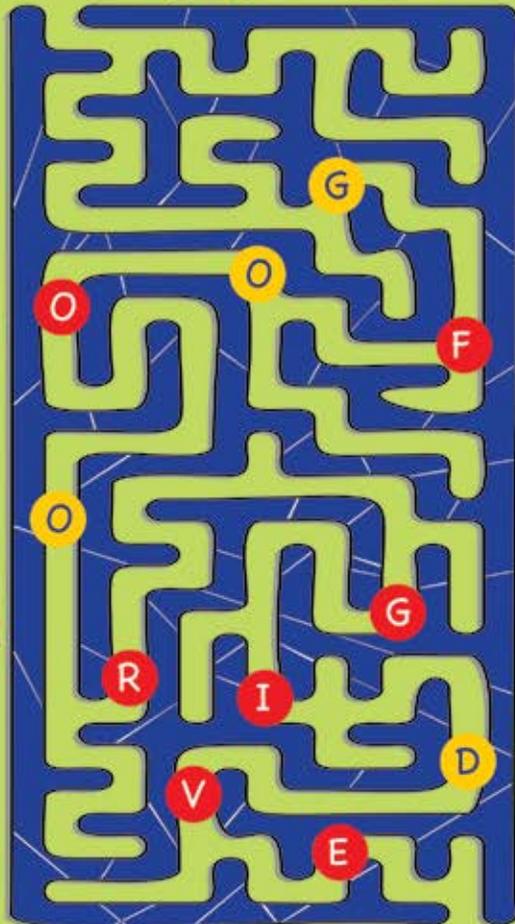
GRACE MESSAGE

God is always ready to _____

MEMORY VERSE

"You are forgiving and _____
O Lord." Psalm 86:5

* Peace in Hebrew (Israel)



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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.

FIRST LANDING

Colin Winch, retired pastor
Pastor Humble is correct ("Flying facts", Letters, December 21, 2013) in saying the Omaura airstrip was in existence prior to the hostilities that affected the Omaura Training School.

On checking my personal pilot's logbook, I noted the date for the first landing to take place on the Omaura airstrip was March 3, 1988.

It was flown into by pilots Roger Millist and Max Mulligan under my supervision from the co-pilot's seat as the South Pacific Division chief pilot.

My logbook does not indicate the pilot's name who made that first landing but I note we did three circuits and fullstop landings, which would seem to indicate we all wanted to have a go. There is a special thrill in landing an aircraft where no-one has ever landed one before.

The event took place during my yearly Division-wide visits to put the Seventh-day Adventist Church's pilots through their annual flight checks.

COUNT THE COST

Warren Millist, Qld

The editorial "Too much of a good thing" [October 19, 2013] raises the important issue of the excessive complexity and cost of our current church administrative structure and processes.

It is to be hoped that current administrators and laity will heed the urgent call for redistribution of scarce resources from administration to funding our front-line institutions.

The real mission of the church is to preach the Gospel in all the world—not to

administer in all the world!

A visit to many of our island schools, clinics, etc, will show the desperate need for even basic equipment and supplies.

Are the costly "fly in" meetings really necessary or just tradition? Why not use modern technology such as tele-or video conferencing for communications instead? Such options were not available when the original organisational structure was set up in the past century.

Just as we are using modern electronic means of preaching let us use the same technology for administration.

In our island missions there are faithful workers fulfilling the gospel commission under conditions of personal hardship with limited resources. Opportunities to place workers in new areas are often passed over because of lack of funds. Less administration could mean more workers to utilise these opportunities.

Is it time to even re-evaluate the need for the massive cost of the General Conference sessions? If the millions of dollars spent on this event were spent on our mission hospitals, schools, etc, what a difference this could make in spreading the Gospel and hastening Christ's second coming.

Let us rise to the challenge and use the available resources for the real purpose for which members have donated the fruits of their labours.

GRATEFUL FOR HELP

Gerry Buck, via website

I can commiserate with Linden ("Love more: The story of Linden and Bri", Feature, December 21, 2013). I was always the one doing for others; the one they came to for help.

After more than 20 years driving for a living, my health took a downturn.

It has been galling and I have been feeling sorry for myself because I have to depend on others to do simple tasks. But after reading this story, I recognise that I have been truly blessed because I have people willing to help me.

Congratulations to the two of them.

If the Lord doesn't come back before, I hope they have as many and more years together as my wife and I do now. Thank you for this piece.

TRUE LOVE

Polly, via website

This is one of the most beautiful love stories ever ("Love more: The story of Linden and Bri"). Just as our Saviour searches us for the same thing, TRUE love is found in the HEART.

I pray the Lord continues to bless this couple abundantly with double portions of faith, strength, love and determination. They are witnessing to [those] of us watching their story from afar what real faith and love can accomplish. God bless you both!

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS

Shane M, via website

As a youth leader I definitely agree with [the] editorial, "Rehoboam's blunder" (December 7). There can be a false confidence in teen/youth spirit. Respect for the more experienced can be lacking many times. I believe a truly functioning church is a blend of wise heads and energetic youth. God bless!

WEDDINGS

Macdonald–Tyas. Malcolm David Macdonald, son of David and Denise Macdonald (Lismore, NSW), and Jeanette Elizabeth Tyas, daughter of Alfred and Carol Tyas (Toronto, Canada), were married 22.12.13 at Grafton Village Inn, Ontario.
David Macdonald

Schubert–Withers. Rodney Arthur Schubert, son of Leo and Heather Schubert (Strathalbyn, SA), and Tracy Withers, daughter of Barbara Beesley (Adelaide), were married 30.11.13 at Wistow church, Wistow.
Robert Porter



Swain–King. Andrew (Andy) Swain, son of David and Anne Swain (North Turramurra, NSW), and Melissa (Missy) King, daughter of Gavin and Lynelle King (Thornleigh), were married 10.9.13 in the beautiful All Saints Chapel, Hamilton Island, Qld. Their wedding reception was held at the Dent Island Golf Club.

Andy and Missy are actively involved in the Wahroonga church where their musical and audio visual talents are much appreciated. They have established themselves in a new home in Sydney. We wish Andy and Missy God's blessing.
Eric Winter

OBITUARIES

Bishop, Dorothy Jean (nee Lynch), born 23.6.1927 in Hobart, Tas; died 27.10.13 in Sandy Bay. On 5.4.1944, she married Alan Wolf, who predeceased her. In 1972, she married Fred Bishop, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her children, Ken, Kevin and Rose-Anne. She is survived by her children and their families, Harry and Gloria (Huonville), Paul and Wendy (Verona Sands), Morrie and Christine (Middleton), Charles and Theresa (Goodwood), Alan and Jojo (Stanley) and Geoffrey and Maryanne (Old Beach); 28 grandchildren; and 39 great-grandchildren. Dot was a caring nurse who loved her children, grandchildren and great-grand-

children. She liked to knit and crochet, loved God and became an Adventist through the ministry of Pastor Bill Cross.
Bruce Grosse

Houston, Gwendoline Elsie (nee Binnie), born 28.9.1930 in Toowoomba, Qld; died 11.11.13 in Millmerran. On 16.2.1951, she married Ron Houston, who predeceased her in 2011. She is survived by her daughters, Christine Barty (Murpheys Creek) and Maxine McGowan (Deception Bay). Gwen and Ron were very well known in the Millmerran community. For many years Gwen ran the VBS program and was deeply involved in Meals on Wheels, the respite centre and Neighbourhood Watch.
David Macdonald

Kuhnemann, Edith Emily Matilda (nee Clifford), born 16.9.1912 in Warwick, Qld; died 10.11.13 in Toowoomba, aged 101. On 1.6.1935, she married Fred Kuhnemann, who predeceased her in 1988. She is survived by her sons, Trevor Ashby (Brisbane) and Brian Kuhnemann (Toow-

oomba). Edith joined the Adventist Church in 1961 followed by her son, Trevor. She remained a faithful member all her life and awaits the Lord's coming.
David Macdonald

Schultz, Raymond, born 11.11.1925 in Mulgowie, Qld; died 19.9.13 in Caboolture. On 15.11.1950, he married Glenice Savige. He was predeceased by his son, Ivan. He is survived by his wife; and his children, Carol and Lyndon and their families. Ray graduated from the building course at Avondale College in 1947. He spent 17 years on the staff at Avondale, teaching woodwork, metalwork and later building construction, and was made head of that department. He served in Papua New Guinea for 10 years, teaching at Kambubu and Kabiufa Adventist Secondary Schools. He also taught in Victoria and New Zealand. Ray was a faithful church member; a kind, thoughtful and loving husband and father; a sincere Christian; and a loyal friend.
Russell Willcocks

POSITION VACANT General Manager | Sydney Adventist Hospital

AHCL Board is seeking applications from suitably experienced and highly motivated individuals for the position of General Manager Sydney Adventist Hospital.

SAH is currently operating 360 beds and 14 operating theatres and is undergoing a major development project. The new development will see the hospital expand bed capacity by 192 beds and 10 new operating theatres and an integrated Cancer Centre. The new Clark tower will include 40 state of the art maternity beds and 9 delivery suites.

The successful applicant will have a strong commitment to the beliefs and philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and must have the following:

- Previous healthcare management and leadership
- A proven management track record in terms of effective leadership, strategic thinking and positive organisational commercial outcomes
- Effective communication and customer focus. A proven ability to negotiate effectively, is articulate and persuasive
- Demonstrated ability to liaise and build relationships with internal and external stakeholders, community partners and government
- A minimum of 8 years management experience, including managing large numbers of employees and familiarity with human resources.

For further information please contact: Dr Leon Clark Phone: 02 9487 9421 Email: Leon.Clark@sah.org.au
Position description available from Human Resources or at www.sah.org.au/job-vacancies
Applications to: Melva Lee, Director Human Resources, Adventist HealthCare Email: Melva.Lee@sah.org.au
Applications close 5pm 27 February 2014



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Finally...
Forgiveness is the most powerful thing you can do for yourself on the spiritual path.
—Wayne Dyer

Next RECORD
February 15

CEDARVALE HEALTH @ LIFESTYLE RETREAT

Managers, Acacia Grove Health Education Centre—Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc (Hervey Range, Queensland). Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc, is looking for a successful applicant, preferably a married couple, to manage the Acacia Grove Health Education Centre. The successful applicant will be spirit directed and passionate about the Adventist health message. Acacia Grove Health Education Centre is an organic farm, a health retreat and an education centre. Minimum commitment 12 months. References will be required. Applications can be emailed to Beverley Krogdahl at <info@mmti.org.au>. For more information please phone 0458 536 115. Applications close **February 22, 2014.**

Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc. is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.

Note: Neither the editor, Adventist Media Network, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A68 +GST; each additional word, \$A2.26 +GST. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 4) for contact details.

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Royal Commission project officer—Australian Union Conference.** Safe Place Services requires a project officer for a period of up to 18 months to: prepare documents for presentation to the Royal Commission on child sexual abuse in institutional settings; develop a detailed response to the Royal Commission outlining the Church's policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse; advise church administrators and directors on the Commission's issues and demands; coordinate a media response to issues related to and arising from the Commission's work; develop guidelines for future directions for the Church's child protection policies and procedures in response to the Commission's findings and recommendations. Applications in writing should be sent to: The Director, Safe Place Services, PO Box 650, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 or email to <safeplaces@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **February 7, 2014.**

■ **Compliance officer—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited is seeking a highly skilled and experienced person to plan, direct and implement compliance in the areas of health and safety, return to work, gender equality, and other compliance-related areas within the South Pacific Division head office. Based in Wahroonga, NSW, this full-time role will report directly to the general manager of People Services and ensure an overall safe, healthy and accident-free work environment is achieved within the office. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website: <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications must include your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your local church pastor, and be sent to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW, 2076, Australia; or email <hr@adventist.org.au>; or fax to (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **February 16, 2014.**

■ **Accounts/cashier/payroll clerk—Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, Qld)** has a vacancy for an accounts/cashier/payroll clerk to work in Treasury and assist in the Adventist Book Centre. Further, this position requires a person who is self motivated and able to work unsupervised and has clerical experience. Expressions of interest for this position are now being received. The applicant should be a practising Seventh-day Adventist who is committed to serving the mission of the Church and possesses good clerical and personal skills. Competence in computer software packages are essential for this role. Send applications with CV and two written references to the General Secretary, Northern Australian Conference, PO Box 51 Aitkenvale Qld 4814, or email to <robellison@adventist.org.au> or fax to (07) 4779 8891. A position description is available from the Conference General Secretary. The Conference reserves the right to make an appointment. Applications close **February 26, 2014.**

■ **Receptionist/claims assessor/customer service (full-time)—ACA Health Benefits Fund (Wahroonga, NSW).** Looking for a great opportunity to join a dynamic team? We are looking for someone with an excellent phone manner and people skills who will work well in a team. In this role you will be the first point of contact for the health fund and you will be responsible for processing all types of health insurance claims. This role would suit you if you have reception, administrative or clerical experience. Experience in the Australian health system or 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 1300 368 390. Applications close **March 2, 2014.**

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