

APRIL 19 2014

# Adventist Record

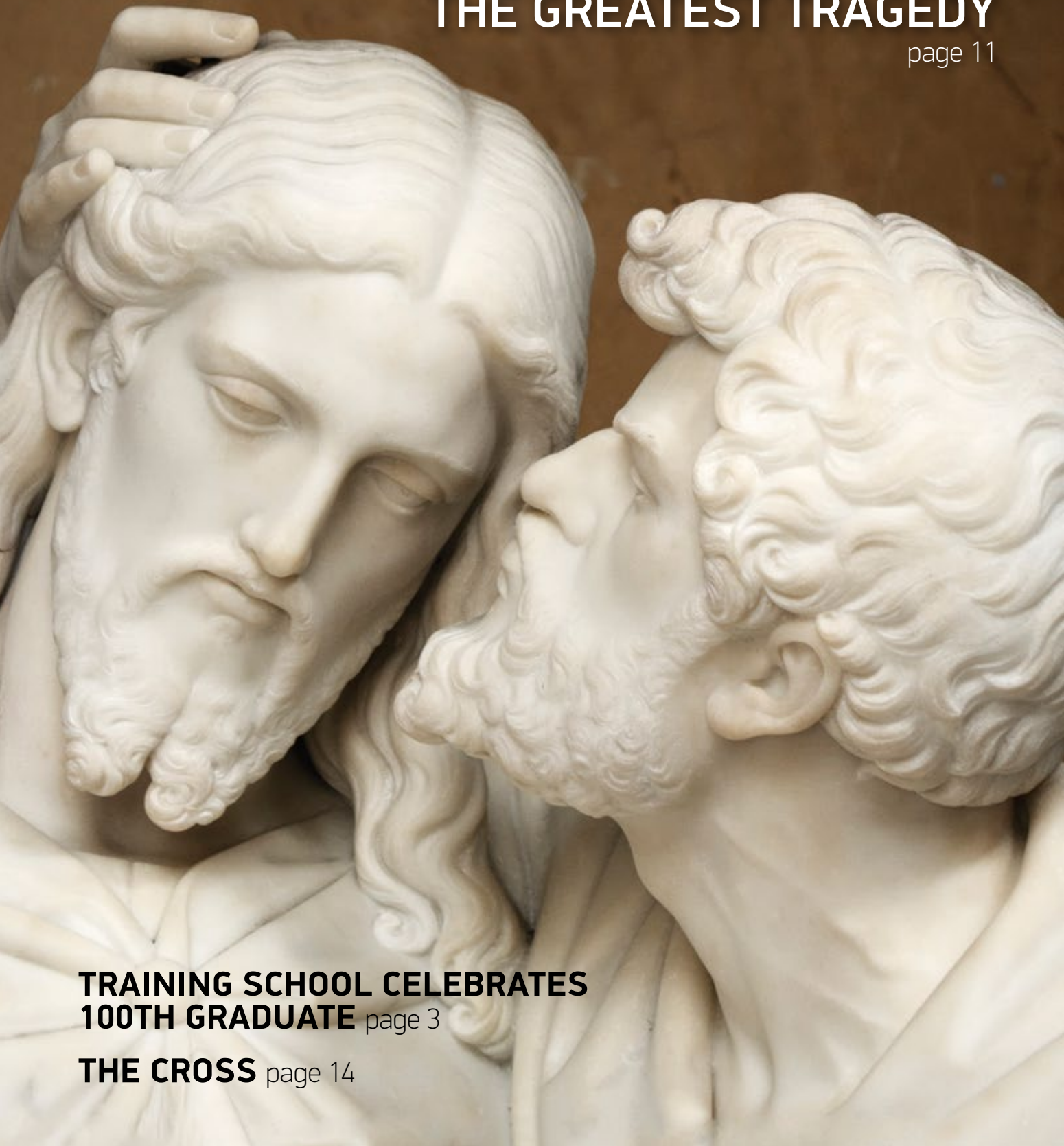
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## THE GREATEST TRAGEDY

page 11

**TRAINING SCHOOL CELEBRATES  
100TH GRADUATE** page 3

**THE CROSS** page 14



# Will you stand with Syria?

The Syrian crisis is not only a crisis of today – it's a crisis that will be felt long into the future if we don't act now.



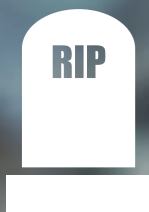
15th of March marked  
3 years of conflict



It is the worst  
humanitarian crisis of  
the 21st century



2.5 million Syrian's are  
living as refugees



Over 100,000 people  
have been killed

Today you can help  
ensure a brighter future  
for Syrian families

Your gift towards ADRA's Syria Crisis appeal  
can help us raise \$100,000 still needed  
to provide education and support to  
Syrian children.

Just \$20 can provide a child  
with the school supplies they need  
to gain an education.

Visit [adra.org.au](http://adra.org.au) or call  
**1800 242 372** to get  
involved and donate.



Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia Ltd.  
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## Training school celebrates 100th graduate

*Launching Place, Victoria*

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) Training Centre has celebrated its fifth year and graduated its 100th student.

Held each year in February at Jumbunna Lodge, just outside of Melbourne, the centre offers two study streams—lay pastoral assistant and youth Bible worker.

This year's 12 graduates have completed two six-subject, three-week intensive blocks, with at least eight months practicum in between and bring the total to 108 graduates since 2010.

Centre director Roger Govender said the course is very much hands on. "Our key focus is to make all that we teach as practical as possible," he said. "That is intentional. It is a three-step process. Sharing the information, making it applicable and creating an environment where change can take place, where the Holy Spirit can work and discipleship can happen."

The school's purpose is to offer church members an opportunity to gain theory and practical skills that will aid them in local church ministry and community service, according to the Training Centre Handbook.

The courses cover topics such as how to preach and develop Bible studies, Adventist identity, discipleship and door-to-door evangelism.

The courses are accredited through

Andrews University's Lay Adventist Seminary and upon completion students receive two semester graduate credits as well as a certificate and transcript.

Lecturers are very active in their field, like Pastor Loren Pratt or well-regarded as experts, like Dr Allan Lindsay.

"We're eager to equip you for active ministry and outreach, to encourage you to work together, empower you in your area of giftedness, and to engage you in fulfilling service and leadership," AUC president, Pastor Chester Stanley, writes in the handbook's welcome message.

Many of the participants are sponsored or recommended by their local conference or the AUC and pastors report that they are returning to their churches and making a fantastic contribution to the mission of the Church.

"The quality of individuals who go through these courses and their level of commitment is absolutely huge," Pastor Govender said. "They are passionate about their church and want to make a difference. They go home as active, dynamic members, making a difference in their communities." —Jarrod Stackelroth

More information at <[www.auctrainingcentre.org.au](http://www.auctrainingcentre.org.au)>.



This years graduates.



Beryl Landers receiving certificate.

## ADRA calls on Aussie PM to stand with Syria

*Wahroonga, New South Wales*

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), along with other members of the #WithSyria coalition, are calling on the Australian Government to "make this the last anniversary of the Syrian conflict".

An online petition calling on Prime Minister Tony Abbott and government MPs to end the conflict was launched last month, with the campaign seeking 2500 signatures.

A United Nations official earlier this year described the civil war as "the great tragedy of this century—a disgraceful humanitarian calamity with suffering and displacement unparalleled in recent history". The conflict has displaced more than 6.5 million Syrians, with more than 2.4 million fleeing to neighbouring countries in search of safety.

More than 100,000 people have been killed (including 10,000 children) since the war began three years ago.

"It's a larger crisis [in terms of how many people have been affected] than the Asian tsunami, the Haiti earthquake and the recent cyclone in the Philippines combined," ADRA

Australia CEO Mark Webster said. "Yet all of us as non-government organisations struggle to gain the support and raise the funds that we need to make an impact on people's lives."

Other organisations that are part of the #WithSyria coalition include Amnesty International, Act for Peace, Caritas Australia, Save the Children Australia and World Vision Australia. Visit <[www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/petition-the-australian-government-and-members-of-parliament-to-stand-with-syria](http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/petition-the-australian-government-and-members-of-parliament-to-stand-with-syria)>. —ADRA Australia/Record staff



ADRA calling for the war to end.



## Mists

James Standish

I almost never rent a GPS. I like to figure out my own way. A friend told me it's a "man thing". Maybe it is. But I think it's something more. I like to understand how a city knits together. Driving to directions leaves me with a superficial familiarity; driving without them demands attention to detail. And, I suppose, I've found my way around cities from Moscow to Manhattan without a GPS, so why would I need one to visit Melbourne?

It's for that reason I was hopelessly lost early one morning recently. I knew where I was going. I'd been there before. But as I drove back and forth on roads that all seemed to look the same in the predawn haze, I just couldn't find the right turnoff. Like in a dream, I was lost in a mental fog, entirely incapable of finding my way home—home to my father.

A dirty dawn broke through overcast skies as I stumbled on the narrow entrance to the "memorial park" I was searching for. On this day, the home I was visiting was his final resting place to reflect on the profound silence that is death.

Visiting my father's grave is always an intensely emotional experience. When I visited it a year after his death, I noticed his was the only gravestone in the row that didn't have even a single flower on it. This man who once could command an enthusiastic audience in much of the world, a man whose hands had healed people around the globe, a man whose books sat on shelves from Sydney to Saskatchewan; completely alone in death. Without even a flower to mark his grave.

I went to a florist and bought artificial flowers so that at least his grave would be marked by one sign of remembrance, love, respect.

Not long after my dad's death, his belongings burned up in the Black Saturday fires. So, in a matter of months, he was gone, his belongings were gone, and all that was left were ethereal memories. Even the best of us, the greatest of us, the kindest and bravest, disappear into dust. I knew that. I just never expected it could happen so quickly. And never imagined it would happen to my dad.

On this day, it wasn't the flowers, the dawn, the fresh dug

graves or the slow dribble from an indifferent sky that caught my attention. It was one of the graves nearby. There, on a gravestone not so far from where I was standing mourning my lost father, smiled the prettiest of girls. The picture was new—like it had been taken yesterday. There were a couple more photos of her, arranged like a schoolgirl's scrapbook. The inscription told of a family's anguish for their little angel.

Who was she? How did she die so young? I could only guess. That she was a bright, attractive girl full of life was clear. And yet, here she was, a beautiful girl who would never be anything else in this world.

I paused and looked into the eyes of this beautiful young girl. How could someone so lovely, so precious, so perfect, be dead? Gone. Buried. And then I thought of my own child who died in utero. My child who never had a chance to laugh, sing, to be pretty, cute, grand or bold. My child who I would give everything I have to hold, to comfort, to share a little of this life with. To tickle, play, run and laugh.

But that isn't how life is.

We don't get second acts here.

In milliseconds accidents take the wisdom and love of fathers away from their children.

For no good reason, beautiful girls die.

And sometimes parents, full of hope and joy, leave the hospital without words to express the hole torn in their hearts.

That is the world we live in.

It feels like an incoherent joke of darkest proportions. Except for one slim hope. A hope we can only grasp with our broken fingers clinging to a slippery rock of faith; a Saviour we cannot see; a Lord who, in our darkest moments, can seem so far away, lost in mists of space, enthroned in a heaven that is divided from us by an impenetrable barrier. A Saviour who Himself felt the despair of separation; the agony of affliction. A God who understands my depth of loss, because He experienced it Himself.

*James Standish is editor of Record.*

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"The statue sculpted by Ignazio Jacometti (1854) represents Judas kissing Jesus Christ as a sign of betrayal."

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 Vol 119 No 8



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



## Food for thought

Kent Kingston

Talkback radio was crackling with indignation late last year, after six miniature horses were found dead with their throats cut at a horse stud south of Adelaide. Last month, when the man accused of the crime left his court hearing, he was accompanied by a security guard, such was the community outrage at the allegations.<sup>1</sup>

But somehow, amidst the furore, the fact was seemingly forgotten that, on the same day those pet horses died, another 432 horses were also slaughtered in Australian abattoirs. If Wikipedia is to be believed, Australia is the world's sixth-largest producer of horsemeat. And on that same day, about 126,000 cows, sheep and pigs died in similar circumstances. Oh, and there's also the small matter of 1.14 million chickens.

A quick web search on animal cruelty in meat production will get your stomach churning and leave images in your mind you'll wish you never saw. Animals are often raised in unnatural and overcrowded conditions, pumped full of hormones and antibiotics, injured and exhausted during long transport, and panicked and abused at the slaughterhouse. Despite the best efforts of governments and their animal welfare legislation, the bottom line of meat production is . . . the bottom line. That means animals are primarily viewed and treated as units of production rather than the sentient miracles of creation that they are.

For about 150 years, Seventh-day Adventists have promoted a vegetarian diet as part of our health message. But I was surprised to discover that Ellen White was also concerned about the suffering of animals in meat production:

"Think of the cruelty to animals that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness with which we should regard these creatures of God! . . . What man with a human heart, who has ever cared for domestic animals, could look into their eyes, so full of confidence and affection, and willingly give them over to the butcher's knife?"<sup>2</sup>

Somewhere along the way, we Adventists lost this wholistic vision of vegetarianism and now focus almost solely on its health benefits. It's a self-centred focus that can limit our hospitality to those of like mind and tends to shut out the world and its uncomfortable problems. It's easy to identify the hypocrisy of those who rise up in anger at the slaying of six pet horses – waving a protest placard in one hand, while clutching a beef-burger in the other. But we, noble vegetarians and hypocrisy free, are failing to rise up at all, unless you count a trip to the fridge.

<sup>1</sup> <<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-03/man-faces-court-over-killing-of-six-horses/5294690>>  
<sup>2</sup> *Ministry of Healing*, 205-209, 1905

Kent Kingston is assistant editor for *Record*.

## Just Jesus?

I could be really misunderstood for what I am about to say. But I need to say it anyway.

I thank God that we belong to a church family that has a wonderfully balanced, wholistic approach to life and faith. That is not the part which might be misunderstood. Now for that part: it worries me when I hear and see people who seem to be wanting to overemphasise one aspect of life and faith at the expense of that balanced perspective. For example, I hear preachers and people from time to time say things like "Only preach Jesus" or "Jesus only". And I wonder what they mean by that. In fact I wonder if they know what they mean by that. Is it just some sort of reaction to what they perceive is an over-emphasis on doctrine, or concentration on lifestyle issues or even legalism?

The potential problems I see are these. First, the fullness of the Godhead is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our life and faith must relate to the fullness of God, not only to Jesus in His incarnation, as precious as He is to us. Second, Jesus was and is multidimensional. You and I cannot talk about Jesus without understanding His life and His teachings—all of them. And beyond that, the story of salvation revealed by revelation through the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit must be taken seriously if we are serious about authentic faith.

I guess what I'm saying is that a vibrant, exciting faith journey is a wonderful thing that God intends for all of us. But beware of being too simplistic. Simple faith is beautiful. Simplistic slogans may be hazardous to Christian health.



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





## Walk for justice

A Baptist pastor has walked more than 600 kilometres from Melbourne to Canberra, towing a small wooden boat. At the age of eight, Tri Nguyen and his family found safety in Australia after a traumatic boat journey from Vietnam. Now he wants to say thank you and encourage similar hospitality to new arrivals. —<TheGiftOfRefuge.org.au>



## Help needed

Jamaica's Minister of National Security, Peter Bunting, has challenged Adventists to engage more effectively with their communities. Jamaica has more churches per square kilometre than anywhere else around the world, but also hovers near the top of global crime statistics. Adventist leaders have committed to do their part. —ANN



## Final curtain

After more than 20 years as one of New Zealand's largest live music events, the Parachute Festival is calling it quits, citing financial strain. CEO Mark de Jong says this year's Christian music festival lost \$NZ250,000 and the board has decided to focus instead on encouraging Christian artists. —Parachute Music



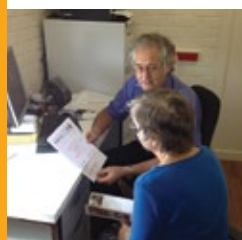
## Massacres

Tribal violence in Nigeria's Kaduna state has resulted in more than 150 deaths in three villages, with a pastor's wife and three children among the victims. The attacks by Muslim Fulani tribesmen also left 240 houses and three churches ablaze. Church leaders say the violence had religious motivations. —World Watch Monitor



## Backflip

Two days after World Vision US announced it would begin employing legally married same-sex couples, prompting a storm of criticism, the organisation reversed its decision. During the two days, the Assemblies of God denomination urged its members to switch their support to other charities and around 2000 child sponsorships were dropped. —Christianity Today



## Fair loans

Baptist Community Care in Newcastle, NSW, has opened a one-stop shop, offering three different types of small, low and no-interest loans, as well as budgeting support and food parcels. The organisation says it's offering an alternative to struggling people who are being exploited by demands for high interest rates by predatory lenders. —ABC News

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LOCATION	EVENT DAY	REGISTER BY
Townsville	11 May	4 May
Sunshine Coast	18 May	11 May
Brisbane	25 May	11 May

## City evangelism moves to the atolls

Tarawa, Kiribati

The City Evangelism series, often run in the world's largest cities—from as far as New York to Sydney—has been extended to atolls in the central Pacific.

A three-week program is being held in Betio Town, Kiribati, by Pastor Gary Webster, director of the Institute of Public Evangelism.

"Betio has a population density of almost 10,000 per square kilometre, which is among the highest that we know of," Pastor Webster said.

In preparing for the program, he spent four days on Tarawa Island attending a combined service that involved members of the Bairiki, Betio, Bikenibeu, Bonriki and Korobu churches. Tarawa is a small atoll facing rising sea levels associated with climate change. At the combined service, 10 people were baptised in the lagoon.

Kiribati Mission president, Pastor Titau Tavita, described his country as probably the Pacific region's most difficult

mission field, in light of its remoteness, ongoing population pressures, coastal erosion and economic challenges. "Despite these harsh realities, we will play our part as we are convinced of the imminence of Jesus' return," he said.

The Adventist work in Kiribati began in 1947 and the Mission was established in 1954. There are more than 2200 church members. The 247-student Kauma Adventist High school is the evangelistic centre for the Church. —Henry Sanday

A full report on the "atoll" evangelism program will be in the next issue of Record.



Paster Gary Webster.

## Adventist minister dies after 40 year ministry

Popondetta, PNG

North East Papua Mission (NEPM) farewelled one of its great men and an experienced pastor earlier this year.

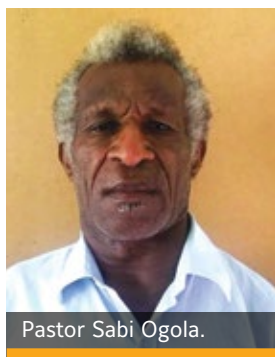
Pastor Sabi Ogola, who began his ministry in 1972, has served the local mission in various capacities for more than 40 years. He passed away at Popondetta General Hospital on January 30. He was a District director for Wamabe until the time of his death.

Pastor Ogola was one of the many who pioneered the Mission's work and maintained its operation. One of his legacies is the renaming of Tetebedi district to Wamabe district.

NEPM president, Pastor Peter Yorio, described Pastor Ogola as one of the most dedicated and humble servants of God who contributed a lot to the growth and expansion of NEPM.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and four grown-up children and grandchildren.

— Paul Kos/Eastern Wind (NEPM newsletter)



Pastor Sabi Ogola.

## Author launches faith vs finance book

Launching Place, Victoria

A new book, *Help! I've Been Blessed!*, aims to help people maintain a strong relationship with Christ in the current materialistic culture.

"I've actually been a bit overwhelmed by the volume of interest," author Julian Archer said.

He presented *Help! I've Been Blessed!* to Adventist Book Centre managers at their annual marketing seminar last month at Jumbunna Lodge in the Yarra Valley, Victoria.

Mr Archer said the book began "as a very personal project, almost a journal, where I recorded the spiritual battles I had been facing in the areas of faith and finance. I wanted to know whether I could be financially secure without becoming spiritually bankrupt."

He said he's "just a normal guy who helped run some businesses that the public really liked". So much so that he retired from his family's businesses in his 30s and

established Faith vs Finance as a personal ministry.

"We first need to recognise that we have a problem—that we love money and

our lifestyles more than we love Jesus," he said. "I know very well that this admission is not an easy step but until we admit it, at least to God, we can't move forward."

*Help! I've Been Blessed!* is supported by a website—[www.faith-vs-finance-org](http://www.faith-vs-finance-org)—that offers further appendices, video clips and discussion sheets, which fit this book for use in small groups and similar settings.

*Help! I've Been Blessed!* is available from Adventist Book Centres. —Nathan Brown







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- Natalie (Parent)

## Youth encouraged: 'Be the sermon'

Hundreds of thousands of Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults took part in service projects in neighbourhoods and communities worldwide as part of the second annual Global Youth Day.

The March 15 event was also broadcast on the internet live, highlighting projects from 20 sites. This year's event had nearly three times the live online participation from last year, with more than 27,000 media publications on the event's website and Facebook page.



Young people serve food at a prison in Fiji.

General Conference Youth Ministries director Gilbert Cangy said the event helps bring unity to Adventist youth around the globe and is a chance to express creativity in service.

"While our young people are scattered around the four corners of the world, they are bound by a unique and common calling to proclaim the everlasting Gospel and prepare the world for the soon coming of Jesus," said Pastor Cangy, former South Pacific Division (SPD) Youth director.

The event asks youth to skip hearing a sermon and instead go out to "Be the sermon". Youth from Namibia to Norway visited the elderly in nursing homes, sang songs of support to prisoners and offered health and nutrition information in city squares. Many offered prayers for passers-by, all adding up to millions of acts of service worldwide.

Around the SPD, young people attended youth rallies and participated in community outreach. In Fiji, activities included a prayer vigil for Syria, distribution of 10,000 GLOW tracts in main towns, providing meals for the homeless, prisoners and the elderly, visiting hospitals, street singing and donating blood. They also offered free health checks.

Instead of attending a normal Sabbath morning church service, Adventist young people in Tulagi, Solomon Islands, took to the streets to share God's Word. Central Province deputy premier Charles Bisa was among those who welcomed the youth into their homes. Mr Bisa encouraged the youth to keep up the great work. Other young people in Solomon Islands also donated blood.

"I was amazed with the creativity and diversity of initiatives that youth around the world came up with," Pastor Cangy said. "They were all outstanding."

Pastor Cangy said the event highlighted partnerships from many of the denomination's ministries, including Youth Ministries, Communication, Adventist World Radio and Hope Channel.

Next year's Global Youth Day is scheduled for March 21. —Adventist News Network/Record staff/Solomon Star

### REVIVED BY HIS WORD

## April 19—May 3, 2014

**READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER**  
**ONE CHAPTER A DAY**

19 – Isa. 54	23 – Isa. 58	27 – Isa. 62	May
20 – Isa. 55	24 – Isa. 59	28 – Isa. 63	1 – Isa. 66
21 – Isa. 56	25 – Isa. 60	29 – Isa. 64	2 – Jer. 1
22 – Isa. 57	26 – Isa. 61	30 – Isa. 65	3 – Jer. 2





# Stories star at arts festival

A Seventh-day Adventist arts festival has staged and screened two Australian premieres to critical and popular acclaim during its annual celebration of faithful creativity.

*Chariot: the Eric Liddell story* and *Hell and Mr Fudge* both featured at the Manifest Creative Arts Festival, which Avondale College of Higher Education hosted at its Lake Macquarie campus, March 20–23.

*Chariot* tells the story of a British Olympian who is asked to run in the games for his country on his sabbath. It starred David Robinson and Michael Taylor of Searchlight Theatre Company. The United Kingdom-based drama troupe staged the production with eight supporting actors from Avondale. The cast members “contributed to making this an engrossing and very human story,” wrote Ken Longworth in the *Newcastle Herald*.

Almost 1000 people saw *Hell and Mr Fudge* at screenings presented by Manifest and Adventist Book Centres in Melbourne, Sydney, Cooranbong and Brisbane. The faith-based, period feature film is based on the true story of preacher Edward Fudge who questioned his church’s belief in an ever-burning hell—and what those questions cost him.

Executive producer Pat Arrabito introduced the film before each screening. She spoke to more than 400 people at Springwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (Qld), which had sent letters of invitation to more than 200 contacts. Fudge’s emphasis on grace and how he came to understand the immortality of the soul impressed senior minister Pastor Travis Manners. “*Hell and Mr Fudge* highlighted the importance of using story to communicate a message,” he says. “Jesus used stories. Why don’t we use them more, too?”

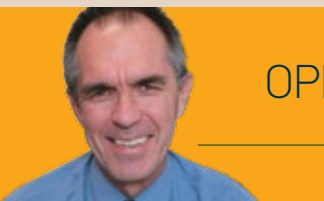
The screening at Avondale followed Manifest’s first major event, the *Breath* fine art exhibition. Curator Shelley Poole used works by 22 Adventist artists to tell the story of creation. Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud opened the exhibition by noting how the concept of breath—from descriptions of the Holy Spirit to God giving life to man—is embedded in the story that is fundamental to Adventist identity. “Despite our long history of not quite knowing

what to do with the arts, the breath, the creative spirit is core to our existence.”

This is particularly true for the recipient of the Gabe Reynaud Award, named after the pioneering Adventist filmmaker. Avondale alumnus Graeme Frauenfelder dedicated it to the everyday creatives who will never receive an award. Mr Frauenfelder is a casual academic, a storyteller and a trainer. But he is best known as a clown, particularly at community-building festivals coordinated by Christians during the past five summer Olympics. He regularly travels the world to enrich the lives of others—a camp for those displaced by the Sichuan earthquake in China, cross-cultural community-building and enrichment festivals in Johannesburg, South Africa, and creativity training in villages in Zambia, for example. His philosophical approach and sophisticated intentionality in the practice of creativity is impressive, says Manifest co-convenor Joanna Darby, an Avondale alumna and artist who is a previous recipient of the award. “But what’s more impressive: he’s persisted without privilege, often without funding or institutional support, and he’s consistent, pouring creativity into his personal relationships and daily interactions with people.”

Manifest awarded others for excellence in faithful creativity. Teacher Blake Robinson won the Avondale Choral and Instrumental Music Prize while Melbourne-based tertiary student Jayneen Orwa won both the Institute of Worship and Psalter Music Prizes for song composition. Brothers Karl and Nick Lindsay each received a prize: Karl the Avondale Fine Art Photography Prize and Nick his second Hope Channel Prize. Writer Linda Brooks won the Signs Publishing Prize.

The festival closed with a cathartic concert. Despite singing his songs and appearing on the cover of one of his albums, vocalist Sally Hilder and contemporary Christian music pioneer Robert Wolfram had never performed on stage together. “All My Friends Are Sinners”, which doubled as the launch of three re-released albums from Galilee Records and a new book about the label, reunited the artists for the first time in 35 years. —Brenton Stacey



## OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster

### Seven signs of Christ's return

The recent Papal plea to charismatic Protestant leaders for unity, and their overwhelmingly positive response, should have made every Seventh-day Adventist sit up. But why? And what are the most significant signs our Lord will soon return?

#### Sign 1: Global influence of the Church of Rome

a. The Bible warned of a falling away from truth in the Christian church before Christ's return. This apostasy, already begun in Paul's day, would lead to the revelation of the "man of sin"—the prophet Daniel's little horn—which "thinks to change God's laws" that define sin, and which "casts down truth". For centuries Catholic and non-Catholic Bible students have seen in these passages the predicted rise of the Church of Rome.

**Read** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7; Daniel 7:25; 8:12; 1 John 3:4.

b. Daniel and John prophesied that this power, known as "the Anti-Christ", would wage war triumphantly against Christ, His people and His laws for 1260 literal years (3½ prophetic years, 42 prophetic months or 1260 prophetic days). Again Bible students saw in the activities of the Church of Rome between 538 AD and 1798, the fulfilment of these prophecies.

**Read** Ezekiel 4:6; Daniel 7:25; 8:10-13; 1 John 2:18; 4:3; Revelation 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5.

c. John prophesied that at the end of this period, the Church of Rome would receive a deadly wound. The imprisonment of Pope Pius VI in 1798, exactly 1260 years after the church's rise to power, was seen to be a fulfilment of this prophecy. Even Pope Pius VII called it a "deadly wound".

**Read** Revelation 13:3.

d. However, John also prophesied that the deadly wound would be healed and the whole world would follow the beast or Church of Rome. The ascendancy of the Church of Rome to its position as one of the most powerful political and religious players in the world today is a clear fulfilment of this prophecy.

**Read** Revelation 13:3.

*Pastor Gary Webster is director of the Institute of Public Evangelism.*



## OPINION

Brendan Tucker

# A violent culture: movies and the Bible

In a recent study conducted by the scientific journal *Pediatrics*, it was found that a staggering 94 per cent of popular movies from the past 25 years contained at least one—if not more—scenes of violence.

I remember watching *Jurassic Park III* at the age of eight, anticipating dinosaurs and high adventure. What I got instead was a horrific scene featuring a pack of velociraptors tearing apart a hapless man.

This movie was rated M, and appropriately so, but it seems that these days the amount of gore and violence being allowed to trickle into PG and G rated movies is steadily growing. A US-based CNN article recently declared that "gun violence in PG-13 movies has tripled".

Such figures are astonishing—and more than a little bit troubling. A new trend is emerging and it's permeating popular culture to the very core.

So what should we, as Christians, do about it? Should we be concerned? After all, the Bible contains its own fair share of violence: Peter lopped off a soldier's ear; Jael drove a tent peg into a man's head while he slept; Jesus Himself was flogged and brutally bashed before being crucified. Is it hypocritical then to protest the rising level of violence in films?

Certainly not.

But it's not the violence itself that's worrying; the real concern is the accessibility of that violence, in particular to children. By placing violent content in G and PG rated movies, the film industry is tacitly saying that it's okay for children to view such content. Furthermore, films are obviously visual pieces—a medium that is incredibly immersive, lending itself to poignancy and impressionability. That is to say, movies have significant psychological effects.

Looking back at the Bible, one must concede that this holy Book is indeed rampant with scenes of violence. But this is to be expected. It's inevitable that the Bible would reflect the culture within which it was created. Take a closer look though and you'll notice that the Bible also challenges that culture. It does not simply accept it.

Perhaps we should do the same.

Jesus declared that His "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). But films can be entertaining and relaxing. Is simply watching a movie wrong?

I don't think so, but a balance must be struck. Violence needs to be moderated—forced back within its historic boundaries so that it no longer hems us in on all sides. Children have highly malleable minds, and surrounding them with scenes of violence and gore must be having a detrimental effect.

It's a malady of society that must be cured. And, if it can't be cured, we must begin to guard ourselves against it.

Just because a movie has a PG rating, doesn't mean it's suitable for children.

In a culture such as ours, vigilance must be maintained.

*Brendan Tucker is currently studying a Bachelor of Communication at the University of Newcastle.*





# The greatest tragedy

by Linden Chuang

There he hung. Motionless. Lifeless. Nothing more than a broken body with a broken heart. Just a few hours earlier he'd been sitting around a table among friends, sharing a meal. Now, he was alone, strapped to a tree. A life cut short. Finished.

It's the most tragic story of the New Testament, one we should all find time to reflect on this Easter—the death of Judas.

Wait, what? Don't you mean Jesus? No, I mean Judas—the one and only Mr Iscariot.

Don't get me wrong—there's no denying the extremity and significance of the suffering of Christ. What He endured will forever remain unparalleled. But there's also no denying the amazing things that stemmed from His death—the resurrection, the conquering of sin and the saving of humanity.

The same can't be said of Judas. There's no silver lining to his story. He is and forever will be known as the man who betrayed the Son of God unto death . . . nothing more, nothing less.



The story of Judas Iscariot is incredibly tragic for a number of reasons.

## 1) He walked with God

Not in the way that Enoch walked with God, but in the literal sense. Judas was handpicked by Christ (Matthew 10:4) and for three years walked side by side with Him. He would have heard the parables and witnessed the miracles, including the resurrection of Lazarus. One couldn't hope for a better opportunity to get to know Jesus.

## 2) He was skilled

Ellen White in *The Desire of Ages* describes Judas as "a man of keen discernment and executive ability" (p 294). He was also a great leader who the disciples looked up to, and was "called upon to provide the needs of the little company and to relieve the necessities of the poor" (p 717). Imagine the good that could have been achieved if Judas had fully surrendered his heart and talents to the mission of Christ.

## 3) He was warned

Jesus knew the heart of Judas and gave him every chance to change. "He placed him where he might, day by day, be brought in contact with the outflowing of His own

unselfish love" (p 294). When the time for subtlety had run its course, Jesus also tried the direct approach.

"Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, 'Rabbi, is it I?' He said to him, 'You have said it'" (Matthew 26:25).

" . . . But Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?'" (Luke 22:47).

The Bible is clear that "Satan entered Judas" (Luke 22:3), but this doesn't mean he was beyond restoration. If that were so, Jesus wouldn't have warned him. The fact that He reached out to Judas showed there was still hope of repentance.

## 4) He wouldn't repent


"Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood' . . . Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:3-5).

Remorse is of the Holy Spirit. Thus, consider this sequence as God's last-ditch effort to reclaim the life of Judas. But remorse without repentance is useless, and Judas "felt no deep, heartbreaking grief that he had betrayed the spotless Son of God" (*Desire of Ages*, p 722).



The story of Judas may not make for an uplifting read, yet it's one we all need to consider. Why? Because we are all Judas Iscariots—people handpicked by God, with every opportunity and warning to surrender our lives to Christ.

So are you following Christ or are you a follower? There's a stark difference. Judas spent three years with Jesus, but "did not come to the point of surrendering himself fully . . . He did not give up his worldly ambition or his love of money. While he accepted the position of a minister of Christ, he did not bring himself under the divine moulding" (p 717).

After his act of betrayal, Judas cast himself at the feet of Jesus (p 722). The eyes of the Saviour looked pityingly upon him, as if mourning a life of what might have been. Each of us will one day find ourselves at the feet of Jesus. How will He look upon us—with pity or with pride? 

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





## A matter of heart

Open Heart International (OHI) has once again been selected as one of four beneficiaries for the Novus Foundation Gala in 2014. The Sydney Adventist Hospital-run charity provides free specialised healthcare to patients in developing countries. Funds raised through Novus will help support the purchase of additional equipment. The dinner will be held in Sydney on May 31. Details: <ohi.org.au>.

## "Sewing" seeds of hope

Dora Creek (NSW) church's craft group recently raised enough money to send 38 sewing machines to women in Tanzania as part of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) "Grant a Wish" project. The initiative was organised by the church's Women's Ministries leader Dorothy Bowd, who received a Certificate of Appreciation from ADRA.—George Drinkall

## Firm foundation

The foundations of the new Te Kao church, located at the most northern tip of New Zealand, were laid in early March. The new building will allow the church to move out of its old place of worship—a World War II army barracks—and provides a bigger complex for hosting community events. 2014 is an exciting year for Adventists in Te Kao, as the church celebrates its 70th year in the region.—Errol Murray



## "Breath" tells creation story

Order of Australia Medal recipient Melvin Duffy's *Highland Spring Haze* was featured as part of the *Breath* fine art exhibition at this year's Manifest Creative Arts Festival. For an interview with the multi-award winning landscape artist, visit <record.net.au/features>.—Brenton Stacey

## Drum fun and intuitive art

Workshops at the Manifest Creative Arts Festival, such as Kylie Stacey's drum fun and Angela Miller's intuitive art making, encouraged participants to express their creativity.—Brenton Stacey

## Writer speaks; writers write

Becky De Oliveira travelled from the United States to present the Manifest Creative Arts Festival keynote, writing workshops and writers' retreat, where participants spent half a day creating a publishable piece of work. Becky is the author of a collection of essays called *Keeping It Real in the Real World* and two children's books—*Your Angel* and *What Shall I Dream About?*—and is editor of Christian lifestyle magazine *LIFE.info*.—Brenton Stacey



## Successful run

More than 1400 young athletes took part in the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in February. Canberra Christian School teamed up with Sanitarium to provide food for the 3700-strong crowd, serving up to 500 Veggie Delights hot dogs and 330 Bean Supreme mushroom burgers. For details on upcoming TRYathlons visit <try.weet-bix.com.au> or <try.weetbix.co.nz>.—Sanitarium

## 102 and counting

Josefina Cabrera (Chepita) celebrated her 102nd birthday with her North Brisbane Bilingual Spanish church family on March 22. Born in El Salvador in 1912, Chepita continues to be engaged in evangelism and winning souls for the kingdom of God. She attributes the source of her longevity to the love and power of God through daily Bible study—something she encourages her fellow church members to persevere in.—Marcos A Escobar

## Bamboo with a view

Soccer matches are popular in Wamabe, Papua New Guinea. A good view of the match, however, is usually hard to come by. The local Adventist youth recently found a solution to this problem by manufacturing their own grandstand. It's amazing what you can make with a couple of bushknives and some bamboo.—Job Omave/Eastern Wind



## Alzheimer's—What's your risk?

A new report out of the US has found that men over the age of 65 have a one in 11 chance of developing Alzheimer's disease. Even more concerning is that women over the age of 60 were twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease as men the same age. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, a disease that affects behaviour, thinking and the ability to perform activities in daily life. It's a serious condition, which has devastating effects not just on the person with the disease, but on their family and support network.

While there is currently no cure and no treatment available to stop Alzheimer's disease progressing, science has identified a number of risk factors associated with a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease. While some of these, such as age and genetics cannot be changed, the good news is many risk factors are in our control such as:

- Alcohol consumption—a high intake of alcohol can damage the brain, leading to increased risk.
- Diet—evidence suggests a healthy diet can play a role in good brain health. Aim for a diet high in vegetables, fruit, legumes, nuts and low in meat, saturated fats and sugars.
- Activity—regular physical activity is associated with reduced risk of dementia.
- Smoking—smoking is a risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, with some studies showing even passive smoking can increase risk.

While a cure may not be available, it's good to know that there are things we can do to reduce our number of risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. By knowing what our risks are, we can be as proactive as possible.

For those dealing with dementia, Alzheimer's Australia does some great work in providing support, counselling, training and education to people with dementia, their families and carers. For more information on Alzheimer's Australia go to [www.fightdementia.org.au](http://www.fightdementia.org.au).



### Mango and coconut lassi

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: nil Serves: 4.

**2 mangoes, peeled, flesh chopped**

**2 cups crushed ice**

**1 cup So Good Almond and Coconut milk**

**Juice of 1 small lemon**

**1.** Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.

**2.** Pour into long glasses and serve with a straw.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** 336kJ (80cal). Protein 1g. Fat 1g. Carbohydrate 17g. Sodium 28mg. Potassium 215mg. Calcium 60mg. Fibre 3g.



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](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.com.au) (Australia) or [nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz) (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website [www.sanitarium.com.au](http://www.sanitarium.com.au) or [www.sanitarium.co.nz](http://www.sanitarium.co.nz)

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# The Cross

by Jarrod Stackelroth

CROSSES ARE EVERYWHERE. PEOPLE WEAR THEM around their necks, on their wrists or even ink them into their flesh. They place them on top of churches, altars and buns—even in their homes, on their car bumper stickers—everywhere. Most of them are nice and symmetrical, clean and neat, perfectly proportioned and bare—a logo of the Christian faith.

Sometimes there is a figure on the crosses—a sad looking Jesus in a loincloth, who doesn't much look like He wants to be there.

It's familiar to us; comfortable and familiar.

But it's time we stopped sanitising and merchandising the cross. I want you today to use your imaginations. Strap yourselves in and journey with me.

You see a Man, fairly average—height, weight, build—He's nothing special to look at. He's in a courtyard and He's tied up. He's surrounded by soldiers.

You know that He's innocent. You've heard the stories of His miracles, His teachings.

All of us, we are there, surrounded by curious onlookers. It's a particularly nice day, the sun is shining down hot. This is probably all just a misunderstanding; some scare tactics by the local God squad, trying to protect their turf. Should all be cleared up by the end of the day. But soon

it starts to turn ugly. You can feel anger beginning to boil over. The guy in charge yells an order. Out steps a burly soldier—a mean-looking brute—he's the one to carry out the sentence.

In his hand he holds a whip. With a short wooden handle, wrapped in a leather band, the leather splits and splays out at the end.

Tied into the leather are pieces of metal and bone. The Prisoner's shirt is stripped off and His arms are tied together at the top of a large pole. The soldier begins the flogging. Bright red stripes open on the Prisoner's back. Blood splatters as the soldier whips, again and again. The pieces of bone cut down into the flesh as the back and sides of the Prisoner become mashed into a bloody pulp. The bones and muscles are exposed.

After this they take a branch from a thorn tree. It has been wrapped around and woven together into a rough circle. The thorns stick out at all angles. Can you imagine four to six centimetre thorns, thick and sharp? They ram the circle down on His head, mocking Him and calling Him King of the Jews.

Can you imagine stinging pain all over your body from a whipping? Your eyes are stinging from the blood, sweat and tears. Every time you move the thorns rip a differ-



ent part of your head, digging into your scalp and your forehead.

Now we see the cross: a rough-cut plank, with splinters and jagged edges. It's heavy but Jesus must carry it. He stumbles under the weight and it digs into the open wounds of His back.

As He falls to the side, you can see where the flogging has sliced through to the bone. And He is marched to the place of the Skull. Golgotha. Only Simon, a foreigner, helps Him. He's nailed down, with seven-inch nails through His wrists and feet. And He is then hoisted above the heads of the angry mob.

Imagine as they lift the cross into place and it drops into its resting hole. Imagine the jolt that would go through His wrists and feet as they hold Him in place.

The Romans were a technologically advanced society and the cross was the cruellest way to die that they could devise. They would not even kill their own citizens this way. You would hang from the crossbar until your arms could no longer support your own weight. And then you would fall, dislocating your shoulders by the heaviness of your own body. As you slumped down low, you would not be able to breathe.

Every time you wanted a breath, you would have to pull up and push up on your hands and feet, supported only by the nails. The pain would be searing and intense. Your lungs would scream for air, your raw back would scrape against the rough wood.

And people looked on and taunted.

This is pure pain. Imagine the most pain you've ever experienced. Now imagine it all over your body. You can't begin to understand the physical agony of the cross. There was no cheat, no short cut, Jesus felt it all as a human, as you or I would.

At that point, Jesus understood loneliness. Jesus, who talked often and for a long time with His Father. Jesus, who knew the plan, had predicted this very event. Jesus should have known.

But up there above the heads of men, hanging from that cross, surrounded, not by the love of His Father who He had known for all eternity but by a wall of suffering and pain. A wall of hatred. Jesus was alone.

Have you ever felt alone? Bullied, pushed to the margin, not accepted, hated. Jesus knows how it feels. He went to the extreme.

Once we've been struck by the raw severity and barbarism of the cross, it's hard to look at it in the same way.

And when we come to terms with the how of the cross what about the why? That's much harder to define and defend. We talk about words like sacrifice and substitute but some people find it hard to swallow that a loving God would need an atonement sacrifice, like the gods of other

nations. However author Ty Gibson in *A God Named Desire* (p 123) says we need to view the cross through the lens of the incarnation. "Once we understand the incarnation, we realise that the One hanging on the cross is none other than God Himself." He goes on to say, "Rather than channel His justifiable anger towards us and demand that we pay for our sins, God chose rather to bear the loss in Himself, to take the hit our sin dealt to Him and refuse to return the hit to us."

There are so many texts that describe the process of the cross and what it means, even from the Old Testament: "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all . . . because he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:6,12).

The mystery of the cross is hard to grasp but that's where the faith element comes in. Even if we don't fully understand the mechanisms of universal justice, even if we accept the concept, sacrifice, atonement and debt, we still have to accept the cross. We have to make it a part of our daily lives. What are the ramifications of this act?

If what happened at the cross was reconciliation to God, then I can live my life without shame. I will still feel guilty when I miss the mark but I know that if I accept the cross, the sin is washed away. Shame is a weight, a burden that you carry with you. Shame

accompanies unrepentant sin. Jesus was heaped with shame so I don't have to carry it around. That makes my life fuller and lighter and more beautiful.

Also, the cross, which Jesus instructs us to bear, is a reminder of the humility and service of God. We can spend our lives in service to others because of the example of Jesus. Any trials we face, He's faced before. Any worries ahead, the cross shows us that the God of the universe understands. We have an example at the cross that encourages us that nowhere is too low to stoop and no-one is too lost to help.

Finally, the cross means nothing without the resurrection. Timothy Keller, in his book, *King's Cross*, calls the resurrection "the hinge upon which the story of the world pivots" (p 221). The resurrection means that God has power over death. So even though death, loss and suffering here on earth are hard, painful and hurt a lot, the resurrection gives us hope.

"The joy of your glory will be that much greater for every scar you bear. So live in the light of the resurrection and renewal of this world, and of yourself, in a glorious, never-ending, joyful dance of grace." (Keller, p 225) ➤

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Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor for Record.



# The Spirit of God

by David Tasker

**I**F THE OLD TESTAMENT LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR all biblical teaching, then what does it teach about the Holy Spirit? In answering this question we should remember the classic words of R A Torrey: "Before one can correctly understand the work of the Holy Spirit, he must first of all know the Spirit himself."<sup>1</sup> Let's see what the ancient Scriptures say to help us understand a little more of the Person of the Holy Spirit. In so doing we must avoid imposing philosophical structures upon the Hebrew Scriptures, but let them speak for themselves<sup>2</sup>. The Holy Spirit is referred to more than 100 times in the Old Testament in a number of ways: the Spirit of God (*Elohim*)<sup>3</sup>, the Spirit of the Lord (*YHWH*)<sup>4</sup>, and simply, the Spirit (*Ruach*)<sup>5</sup>.

It's interesting to note that they all pursue similar themes. I will focus on what we can learn from the *Elohim* and *YHWH* formulation for the Holy Spirit in my next article. In this piece, I focus exclusively on instances where the word *Ruach* (Spirit) is used by itself—or prefixed with "my", "his", "your" or simply "the". These various expressions occur 56 times in 49 verses, and they describe divine attributes, define what God does and outline ways that people are empowered to serve Him.

## Divine attributes

The Spirit (*Ruach*) may sometimes be described as having divine attributes: "good" (Psalms 143: 10), "generous"

(Psalms 51:12) and facilitating what "might" and "power" are unable to achieve (Zechariah 4:6). The Spirit is everywhere (Psalms 139:7), is grieved by human rebellion (Isaiah 63:10) and remains among God's people as He promised at the Exodus (Haggai 2:5). Foremost in all this activity is God's role as Creator. Psalms 104 describes God's activity in creation and His role in upholding creation: "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth" (Psalms 104:30 NKJV). Job recognises this instrumental role of the Holy Spirit when he says, "by His Spirit, He adorned the heavens" (Job 26:13 NKJV).

## What God does

The *ruach* references to God's activity include the Holy Spirit "striving" with people before judgement, then in judgement, then in restoration. The first reference to the Holy Spirit's striving is in the context of the Flood: "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever" (Genesis 6:3).

The divine "concern" for human rebellion is also seen in the prophetic oracles: "For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighbouring peoples" (Nehemiah 9:30 NIV; see also Zechariah 7:12).

The connection between the Holy Spirit and judgement is reinforced in Psalms 106:33—the people "rebelled against the Spirit of God", resulting in God "[handing] them over

to the nations" (verse 41). That judgement finally came as an act of cleansing "by a spirit of judgement and a spirit of fire" (Isaiah 4:4) when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians<sup>6</sup>.

Consistent with the pattern observed in the Hebrew Scriptures is the restoration that God promises after judgement. It's significant that the Holy Spirit is linked to that process as well. Isaiah champions this aspect of divine action when he states that there will be limits to the judgements to come, and that judgement will continue ". . . till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest" (Isaiah 32:15 NIV).

The "Spirit" would define the limits of divine judgement by being instrumental in restoring the land. Isaiah continues in a later chapter, repeating the assurance of a restored land ("I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground") and adds, "I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants" (Isaiah 44:3 ESV). This Spirit, placed upon His people, "shall not depart" from the mouths of the people and their descendants "from this time on and forever" (59:21). Restoration after judgement is therefore a divine action of recreating and restoring God's people by Him putting his Holy Spirit within them again (Zechariah 12:11).

This same idea is repeated in the biblical wisdom literature. Wisdom calls to the young with the assurance, "Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you" (Proverbs 1:23 NKJV). The hint is that a life of "foolishness" can be turned around and become a life of success from that moment the Spirit is "poured out" on someone. The same principle is at work in the later prophetic statements that speak of judgement and restoration.

## People empowered

The third way in which *ruach* is used is in connection with the empowerment of leaders—both political and prophetic. The 70 elders who were to assist Moses were given of the same "Spirit" enabling them to "bear the burden of the people" along with Moses (Numbers 11:17). When this was done, the elders "prophesied" but only on this one occasion (verse 25). Reports came to Moses that two of the elders who were not able to attend the special ceremony also prophesied, because "the Spirit rested on them" as well (verse 26). Commenting on this, Moses declared that he wished God would put His Spirit upon all of His people (verse 29). It's interesting that the prophet Joel prophesies that God would in fact do just that—He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28). In the context of the Exodus,

this universal gift of the Spirit was to instruct and to nurture them (Nehemiah 9:20).

In the same way that the elders were empowered by the Spirit that had rested on Moses, Joshua too was empowered by that same Spirit (Numbers 27:18). Elisha was similarly empowered by the Spirit that empowered Elijah (2 Kings 2:9, 15). Isaiah develops the concept further with the Servant of *YHWH* motif—the one who would both free His people from the Babylonians and bring justice to the Gentiles because of God's Spirit on him (Isaiah 42:1; 48:16).

Ezekiel adds interesting dimensions to this discussion. In his vision of the moving throne of God, it's the Spirit that directs where the wheels should go (Ezekiel 1:20). And it's the Spirit that physically directs Ezekiel in his movements as well. The Spirit sets Ezekiel on his feet (2:2; 3:24) and lifts him up (3:12, 14; 8:3; 11:1, 24; 43:5). In another of his visions the Spirit of *YHWH* "took" him and "set him down" in a valley filled with dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1)<sup>7</sup>.

A similar physical manifestation of the Spirit may be observed in the account of the God-fearing servant of idolatrous King Ahab. He was afraid that Elijah would be spirited away from him before he had a chance to return with the King (1 Kings 18:12), and later, the "sons (i.e. students) of the prophets" went looking for Elijah after the Spirit of *YHWH* took him from them (2 Kings 2:16).

## Conclusion

The description of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew Scriptures is very rich. As we will see in the second half of this piece, the two other names for the Holy Spirit are similarly associated with the powerful working of God. From creation through redemption, the Hebrew Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in the lives of humanity. Let us all open our hearts to His leading as we need His indwelling now more than ever. ➤

## ... the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in the lives of humanity

1. R A Torrey, *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Zondervan, 1974), 9.
2. For a helpful summary of various traditional approaches, see Gary Fredricks, "Rethinking the Role of the Holy Spirit in the Lives of Old Testament Believers." *Trinity Journal* 9, no. 1 (March 1, 1988): 81-104.
3. Gen 1:2; 41:38; Exod 31:3; 35:31; Num 24:2; 1 Sam 10:10; 11:6; 16:15; 16, 23; 18:10; 19:20, 23; Job 33:4; Ezek 11:24; 2 Chr 15:1; and 24:20.
4. Judg 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14; 1 Sam 10:6; 16:13, 14; 19:9; 2 Sam 23:2; 1 Kgs 18:12; 19:11; 22:24; 2 Kgs 2:16; Isa 11:2; 40:7, 13; 59:19; 63:14; Ezek 11:5; 37:1; Hos 13:15; Mic 2:7; 3:8; 2 Chr 18:23; and 20:14.
5. Gen 6:3; Num 11:17, 25, 26, 29; 27:18; Num 27:18; 2 Kgs 2:9, 15; Isa 4:4; 30:1; 32:15; 34:16; 37:7; 42:1, 3; 48:16; 59:21; 63:10, 11; Ezek 1:20, 21; 2:2; 3:12, 14, 24; 8:3; 11:1, 24; 43:5; Joel 2:28, 29; Hag 2:5; Zech 4:6; 6:8; 7:12; 12:10; Mal 2:15; Ps 51:11, 12; 104:30; 106:33; 139:7; 143:10; Job 26:13; 33:4; Prov 1:23; Neh 9:20, 30; and 1 Chr 28:12.
6. Richard J Skiba observes that the people of Israel lost their land when they violated the covenant that originally made possible the gift of that land, Skiba, Richard J, *Reflections on the Role of the Spirit in Exile*, 3. Skiba then outlines a number of exiles in the post-Babylonian era, each contributing to an understanding of the Spirit, *ibid.*, 3-9.
7. The NT describes something similar in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. After Philip finished conversing with the Ethiopian, the "Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away" and he "was found at Azotus" (Acts 8:39, 40).

*Dr David Tasker heads up the South Pacific Division's Biblical Research Committee.*



# Reformation Lands Study Tour May-June 2015

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**R**  
MY STORY

In November 2011, Danuta Stockwell had what her husband calls "a divine appointment" with Les Doole.

Danuta, a literature evangelist, was door-knocking in the north-west NSW town of Brewarrina and struck up a conversation outside the police station with Les, an Aboriginal liaison officer. She asked him whether he believed in God.

Les had not set foot in a church for eight years, but there was no hesitation. "Oh, yes," he responded with a huge smile on his face. "He is coming very soon—it's not long now!"

Les and his wife, Joyce, have been married for 50 years. Throughout their marriage they had occasionally visited churches but had never been satisfied with their visits. They both desired to have Jesus in their lives.

Soon after this first meeting, Danuta and her husband, Keith, began visiting Les and Joyce regularly.

In May 2013, after one of their visits, Les turned to Keith and said, "Brother, I have a favour to ask you. I'd like you to baptise me. I have been working for the police for 25 years, but now I would like to retire and work for the Lord."

Overjoyed by his decision, Keith began having Bible studies with the Dooles. In July, he also started running a Sabbath service in the Dooles' home with a fellowship lunch afterwards.

True to his word, Les retired in November, ready to dedicate his life towards doing God's work.

"We need to share Jesus with the people because they need to know who Jesus is and that He's coming soon," he said.

On December 7, 2013, Les and Joyce committed their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism. They were baptised at the local swimming pool—the first Adventist baptism in Brewarrina and the first in the Bourke region for more than 20 years.

"I have been searching for many years, and now I have found the truth. There's no turning back—only going forward," Joyce said.

"We would like to extend our thanks to Pastors Justin Lawman and John Lang, our new extended family from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, families from Brewarrina and Bourke, and Adventist Aviation for attending our baptisms and sharing our special day," added Les.

Regular church services at the senior citizens' hall in Brewarrina commenced the following Sabbath and continue weekly now in the youth centre. Brewarrina is predominantly an Aboriginal community.

Each Sabbath, a few adults from the local community attend, as well as 25–30 children and young people. The Dooles have their own mini bus, and Les and one of the local parents pick up the children for church. Breakfast and lunch are provided for them each week.

If you wish to support this ministry, please contact the NNSW conference office or Pastor Keith Stockwell at <keithstockwell@adventist.org.au>.

—Vania Chew



# 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.*

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

Keith Miller, Qld

With multiculturalism pervading many countries, linguistic communication is giving way to the non-verbal skills of body language, logos and graphics signage.

Hence, in order to announce our position as a Church to the population, there is a pressing need for a moderate and modest display of a cross on our institutions. Without that observable evidence of our allegiance, the populace can be ill-informed about our Christian status.

After all, with a pork-free diet, Saturday worship and no display of crosses, our denomination could be confused with our non-Christian brethren. Churches that display the signage of the cross send a non-verbal message of loyalty to the One who used the metaphor of Calvary, when He said, "take up your cross and follow Me".

We sing with lusty enthusiasm many hymns that focus on the cross. Also in our expressions of fervour, we use the word cross to define crucifixion, but we seem shy about looking at its visual form. Remember, He who turned water into wine and changes sinners into saints, transformed what was an instrument of Roman shame and torture into an emblem of glory.

The three angels' messages are a fixed tenet of our prophetic destiny. Nevertheless to display them instead of the cross speaks a language not generally understood. They could even be misunderstood as being the angel Moroni in triplicate. "In the cross of Christ, I glory."

## PRINCIPLE NOT PREJUDICE

Razmik Cachatoor, NZ

The Bible talks about two types of ordination: ordination to be a deacon and ordination to be an elder/bishop (in Greek, the word elder and bishop are the same position—not two different positions).

There is no third category in the Bible for pastors. The idea that pastors should be ordained in a distinct manner comes from the Roman Catholic tradition of imbuing priests with special powers not available to lay people. This Catholic lay/clergy divide is in direct tension with the New Testament model.

We have no credible Bible-based reason for treating the ordination of pastors differently from the way we treat the ordination of elders. The Adventist Church already ordains women as elders. It should, therefore, ordain them as pastors.

How can six division Biblical Research Committees be for woman's ordination and six against (News, *Record*, February 15)? And why does the split come down along the lines of how women are treated in the general society? In my view, the current split decision is based on cultural prejudices, not on sound biblical principle.

## UNEXPECTED BLESSING

Susan, via email

I have just been diagnosed with stage 3 inflammatory breast cancer—very sudden and unexpected. A friend sent me a beautiful poem and I replied with the beautiful promise from Proverbs 3:5,6: "Trust in The Lord, with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways

acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

I opened the *Record* and saw Tracey Bridcutt's article "Out of Control!" (Editorial, March 29). I read it—wow! God directed her hand. And out of all the Bible verses I had claimed, she cited the verse I sent across the miles. How "supernatural" is that?

Great article, and yes, how blessed we are to know of the love of Jesus for us so we can have faith in His guidance and comfort, all through our life in times of good and the not so! How blessed we are. Keep sharing it! So many need to hear it.

Thank you. I look forward to more articles from you to pass on.

## Editor's letter:

The piece on Wahoonga Adventist School's outstanding NAPLAN scores, "Adventist school among nation's elite" (News Feature, March 15), failed to mention that Nunawading's Adventist school also appeared in the top 100 schools in the nation. I apologise for not recognising Nunawading's academic achievement. I read through the list of the top 100 schools three times and didn't notice there was a second Adventist school in the list. Why not? Because Nunawading sadly no longer goes by the name "Adventist".

I imagine almost no-one else reading the list noticed there were two Adventist schools in the list either. What a wasted opportunity to build a system-wide reputation for excellence!

How to avoid this problem going forward? Consistently use the name of the Church that procured the land, invested in the infrastructure and nurtured our schools over the decades. When we drop our name, we obscure our identity.



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## R MY STORY

Rodney Timothy

I am from the north of New Georgia Island in the western province of Solomon Islands. I am studying theology at Fulton College. My main interest in theology is to know more about God to help me understand Him so that I can effectively witness to my people in the Solomons.

I have worked for 22 years as a pastor but have never had the opportunity to study. It's a challenge to come to Fulton College and learn many things I've never learnt, like computers, academic writing and English. In the Solomons everything was in Pidgin. I came here with my wife and daughter. The Solomon Islands Mission helped to sponsor me. I struggled in my first year but have been given another chance. I love learning about Revelation and Daniel.

When I was small I was interested in listening to the pastor. I thought it was good work to share the good news. Then at high school I met Pastor Errol Wright, who encouraged me to join the ministerial league and then I attended Sonoma College for three years.

We are in the last days and this is a very important message. Here at Fulton I have been taught how to run seminars. We ran an outreach at Korovo last year, which I really enjoyed. God is blessing me as I learn more about Him.—as told to Jarrod Stackelroth

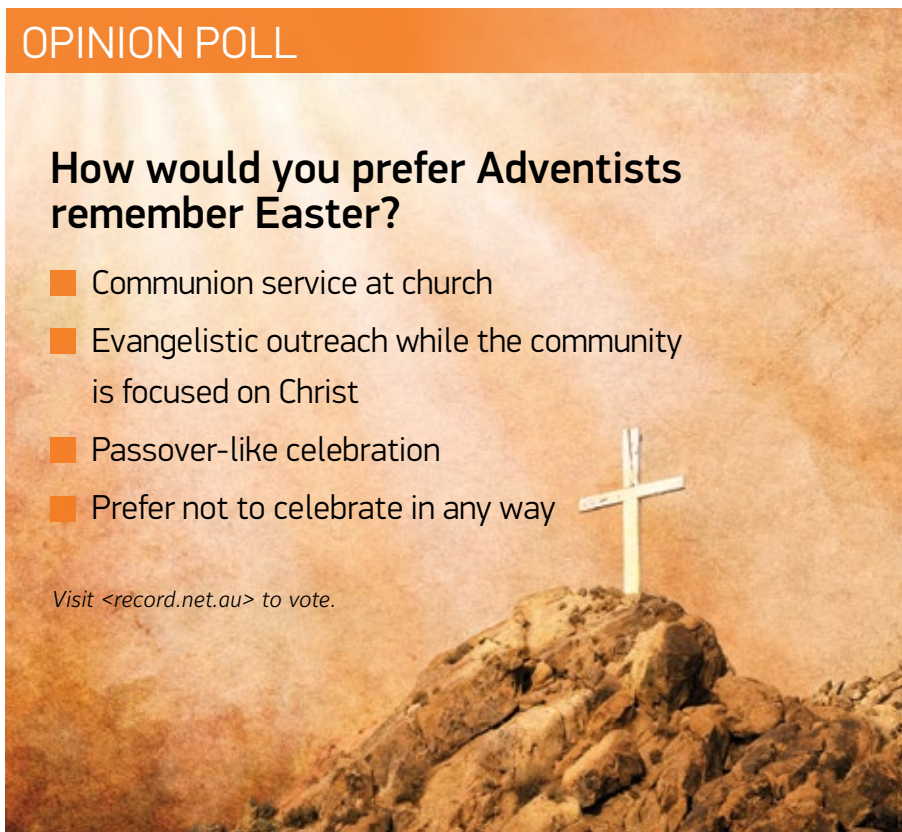


## OPINION POLL

### How would you prefer Adventists remember Easter?

- ☐ Communion service at church
- ☐ Evangelistic outreach while the community is focused on Christ
- ☐ Passover-like celebration
- ☐ Prefer not to celebrate in any way

Visit [record.net.au](http://record.net.au) to vote.





# HELLO KIDS!

## Kids' Space

Paul is giving a farewell sermon in the top floor of a two storey house. A boy called Eutychus fell asleep in the window, falls out and dies. How terrible! Paul rushes down the stairs and prays over Eutychus. God brings Eutychus back to life!

### CROSSWORD

1. There are lots of these in heaven and they have wings

2. Eutychus fell out of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ in the upper room.

4. There were lots of \_\_\_\_\_ listening to Paul preach.

5. Jesus's father.

6. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ to God and He healed Eutychus

### SERVICE MESSAGE

collect the letters in the pink circles to fill in the space

I serve \_\_\_\_\_ by helping people in emergency situations.

### MEMORY VERSE

collect the letters in the yellow circles to fill in the space

"For He \_\_\_\_\_ command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" Psalm 91:11

# The Doc is back!



In his battle with cancer, the score is  
Dr James Wright = 1  
Cancer = 0

For the first Health InFocus segment since July 2012, Dr Wright explains the tragic link between a rare balding condition and teenage suicide.

For your free consultation, visit [infocus.org.au](http://infocus.org.au) and explore the videos in the "Health InFocus" channel.

Record **infocus**

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**FOXTEL**

## POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Chef, Adventist Alpine Village—South New South Wales Conference Ltd (Jindabyne, NSW).** Join a vibrant team as the head of catering for group bookings at this exquisite location. Chef qualifications preferred but not essential. Experience in group catering is required. Further details and job description available on enquiry (02) 6249 6822 or email <kendellcobbin@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **April 30, 2014.**

■ **Aircraft engineer—Adventist Aviation Services PNG (Goroka, EHP, Papua New Guinea).** The successful applicant will have an interest in serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea and have experience in maintaining aircraft. You will be responsible for helping maintain the fleet of two aircraft (P750XL), looking after the spare parts store and helping to maintain the ground support equipment. Address all expressions of interest or applications to Nathan via email <mm@aas.org.pg>. Please attach a resume. Applications close **August 30, 2014.**

■ **Pacific Island manager (full-time)—HopeChannel (Wahroonga, NSW).** HopeChannel is a ministry of Adventist Media Network and is seeking a manager who will be based at Wahroonga, but the job will also involve travel within the Pacific Islands. HopeChannel, in conjunction with the local missions, is looking to increase presence and extend distribution networks throughout the Pacific Islands. The position involves working with the local mission to develop the strategic direction to encourage, foster and oversee the growth and development of HopeChannel; to determine distribution network expansion opportunities and negotiate contracts; to produce local content, develop production facilities and acquire appropriate production equipment; to train production teams; to encourage use of HopeChannel as an evangelistic agency; and to work with external stakeholders to achieve objectives. The successful applicant must be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with full commitment to its message, mission and lifestyle. He/she should have experience working with church administration and leading teams in the Pacific Islands; proven experience in training local missions; technical expertise in network distributions; and completed a tertiary degree. Overseas applicants should ensure they satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for this position. Applications and enquiries should be directed to Calvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close **April 23, 2014.**

■ **Payroll officer—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking a highly experienced and dedicated payroll officer to join our growing treasury team. The role requires an organised person who can consolidate the payroll functions for the South Pacific Division office. The successful applicant must be a practising, baptised member of the Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission; be eligible to hold a missionary licence with the Seventh-day Adventist Church; a bachelor degree or equivalent in business, accounting or commerce; 2-3 years of payroll experience; good written and oral communication skills; a sound understanding of accounting principles and practice; be computer literate and possess experience in the use of relevant computer-based accounting package(s). For more information and a full job description, please contact Korey Dowling on (02) 9847 3208, or email <koreydowling@adventist.org.au> or visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. Applications close **May 9, 2014.**

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



## ANNIVERSARY



**Dawes.** Gordon and Cynthia (Maseyk) Dawes celebrated their

60th wedding anniversary on 17.12.13. They have been members of the Tumbulgum church for some time. They have been blessed with four children; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Tumbulgum church congratulates the Dawes on their anniversary and looks forward to celebrating many more with them.



**Miller—Stafford.** Ray Miller and Georgina Stafford were married

2.3.14 at Lyrebird Falls, Kalista, Vic. Ray and Georgina were introduced by friends just over a year ago. Ray operates a civil engineering business in Bega, NSW, and Georgina is an oncology nurse in Melbourne, Vic. They plan to set up their home in the Bega Valley, NSW, and continue to be involved in the running of Georgina's orphanage in Kenya.

*Jeff Parker*

## WEDDINGS



**Brown—Wicks.** Matthew James Brown, son of Steven and Norelle Brown

(Wagga Wagga, NSW), and Tammy Rochelle Wicks, daughter of Peter and Lynette Wicks (Kempsey), were married 6.10.13 at the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne.

*David Edgren*



**Amos,** Colin Brian, born 24.12.48 in Hamilton, NZ; died 3.2.14 peacefully in

Hospice Waikato. He is survived by his loving wife, Helen; his children and their families, Keren and Matthew Dravitzki (Welling-ton) and Glendyn (Gold Coast, Qld); and four grandchildren. Colin's faith and love for the Lord

## OBITUARIES

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Traineeships in health ministry.** Two positions exist for a one-year program featuring several nationally accredited courses, including Certificate IV in Massage. Be trained in a health retreat setting and mentored alongside a team of dedicated professionals, including a doctor and dietitian. A great opportunity to become involved in health ministry. Positions commence July 2014. Visit <www.cedarvaleeducation.com.au> or email <info@cedarvaleeducation.com.au> or phone (02) 4465 1362. Applications close **May 16, 2014.**

*Cedarvale is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.*

## VOLUNTEER

■ **Volunteer tradesmen needed for a 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.

■ **Volunteer tradesmen needed for adopt-a-clinic in PNG.** Builders/plumbers/skilled labour volunteers needed for a mission trip to PNG where we will be building a medical clinic in a remote area of the Eastern Highlands. Approximate dates are July 9–27, 2014. If interested please contact Allen on 0478 706 054 or Peta on 0402 676 528.

*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>.*



were strong to the end. We have farewelled a wonderful friend, businessman, church and community leader. He was a presenter on a community radio station and many knew him from North NZ big camp's radio station and camp store as part of a Hamilton church fundraiser. Many young families received a set of the Bible stories from his hands. Colin signed off with the words, "see you in the morning".

*Ben Martin, Adrienne Afele*

**Broom, Natalie Alicia**, born 21.12.1988 in Orange, NSW; died 27.11.13 in Wentworth Falls. She is survived by her parents, Julie and Steven Broom; and her brother, Mathew (all of Orange, NSW). Natalie, who loved walking, tragically died from a fall near Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains. She had a keen mind and did well in her studies, receiving several awards for excellence. She graduated with a BA in Sociology in June 2013. She then commenced a teaching degree with the goal of becoming a university lecturer. She had a healthy scepticism but was impressed with her mother's quiet faith and during the past year read the Bible and books on the life of Jesus. She came to see the truth in her mother's faith.

*Errol Webster*

**Cable, Ronald Winston**, born 10.1.1927 in Perth, WA; died 26.2.14 in Calamvale, Qld. On 10.5.1951, he married Ula Stevens. He is survived by his wife; his children, Russell and Kerry; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Ron was a teacher and helped start the Queensland Teachers' Credit Union, serving as director for 18 years. A joint fact-finding trip to the United States resulted in the installation of the first automatic teller machine (ATM) in Australia in Fortitude Valley. He had a special interest in hymnology, contributing to the book, *Singing with Understanding*. His hymnology collection was acquired by the State Library of Queensland in 1988. Ron and Ula were also editors of *The Anchor* newsletter. He lived for the great hope of Jesus' return.

*Andre van Rensburg  
David Gillespie*

**Frost, Ronald Keith**, born 22.2.1924 in Ardrossan, SA; died 3.1.14 in Box Hill, Vic. Keith is

survived by Joan, his wife of 68 years; his children, Kay (Hervey Bay, Qld), Robyn (Ferntree Gully, Vic), Barbara (Langwarrin), Graeme (Barooga, NSW) and Lyndsay (Wandin North, Vic); 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Keith served in the Australian Imperial Force's Water Transport Division (small ships) during World War II. After the war, Keith settled in Boro-nia, Victoria, where he lived for more than 65 years. A boyhood friendship with Ivan Manners led Keith to become an Adventist. The hope of the resurrection was shared at the graveside and at the celebration service held in the Ferntree Gully church.

*Trevor Rowe*

**Veld, Pastor Jan**, born 28.9.1930 in Holland; died 10.3.14 in Papamoa, NZ. Jan emigrated to New Zealand in 1950. He married Ann in 1956, the year in which they were both baptised. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Rosemary Bouverie, and son, Chris Veld; grandchildren, Matt, Emma, Stacey and Kelsi; and great-grandson, Joseph. He served as a literature evangelist for six years and became a successful pastor evangelist for 26 years in North New Zealand Conference. After training under Mark Finley in the US, Jan returned to New Zealand to set up and operate a Church Ministries course at Longburn Adventist College, impacting and inspiring his students, some to full-time pastoral ministry. The Gospel was the heart of his life and he loved to share the good news.

*Bob Larsen*

**Wishart, Andrew**, born 17.3.1988 in NZ; died 7.2.14 in Newcastle, NSW. He was predeceased by his mother, Freda, and sister, Kerrie, in 2003. He is survived by his father, Reyce; brothers, Colin and Jonathan; and sister, Sophie. Andrew was an inspirational young man who lived his life for others. The impact that Andrew had on the youth of his church and the North NSW Conference was huge. He was a man who stood strong for Jesus even when things were difficult. He had a saying for all those around him as they watched him get weaker with his illness: "harden up". Andrew lived and breathed STORMCo and at his funeral there was a guard of honour of some

150 youth in their STORMCo shirts. More than 500 people attended the funeral, sharing stories of this short but amazing life. His dad said: "We all will be waiting for you at the second coming" and "You are missed so much."

*Jeff Parker*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Macksville Adventist church building 30th anniversary**, May 3, 2014, commencing with Sabbath School at 9:30am and an 11am worship service, sharing memories, praise, potluck lunch and afternoon program. Contact Pastor Paul Richardson on 0414 628 739.

**House for sale.** Great location, Gawler, SA. 3 b/r, brick, low maintenance. Built 2000. B/R 1 with ensuite and WIR. Spacious living, dining, kitchen with W.I. pantry. Sep. lounge room. A/con. 12 panel solar. Large d. garage UMR-will house, car and caravan. \$340k. Phone Bryce on (08) 8522 6738 or 0498 799 815.

**Court Solicitors & Barristers** is a Newcastle-based law firm also servicing Sydney. We offer experienced legal services in most areas of law including family, criminal, civil/commercial, employment, wills and conveyancing. Call us on (02) 4963 2631.

**Law firm in Melbourne: McMahon Fearnley Lawyers Pty Ltd.** Areas of law include the sale and purchase of property, litigation, commercial transactions (including shareholder and partnership agreements, franchising and leasing), wills, estates and probate applications. Adventist lawyers include Lloyd McMahon and Michael Brady. Please call (03) 9670 0966 or email <mb@mcmahonfearnley.com.au>.

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us. Our region offers an excellent climate, with comprehensive medical, educational and recreational facilities. Affordable housing with good shopping also available. A variety of work and business opportunities exist. Consider making our church your new home. Contact our pastor on 0424 002 551, or just come and visit.

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## Finally . . .

It's not what happens to you it's what you do about it that makes the difference.  
—Wilson Mitchell

## Next RECORD May 3



  
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## CANNED MEALS SPECIAL

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Available in the health food section of Woolworths Supermarkets. Vegie Delights range of vegetarian meal ingredients offer a quick and easy meal solution and can be used in a variety of dishes.



\*Savings depend on product(s) purchased. 25% saving based on Nutmeat 415g RRP of \$4.10.

Note: Products may not be available in all stores. Products Include: Nutmeat and Casserole Mince. While stocks last. Savings based on recommended retail price. Savings available in Australia only.

Vegie Delights is now managed by Life Health Food (LHF Ltd), proudly part of the Health Food Department of the South Pacific Division of the SDA Church

### VEGIE DELIGHTS CASSEROLE MINCE COTTAGE PIE

#### What you need:

- 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion - finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic - finely chopped
- 1 carrot - peeled and finely diced
- 1 stick of celery - finely diced
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce (vegetarian)
- 1 x 415g can Vegie Delights CASSEROLE MINCE
- 2 tsp fresh thyme - chopped
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- sea salt
- 3-4 cups creamy mashed potato (made using 3 large potatoes)

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. In a medium saucepan add the olive oil and heat on medium to high. Add onion, garlic, carrot and celery. Fry until starting to brown and well softened. Add tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, CASSEROLE MINCE, fresh thyme and black pepper. Season with salt and simmer for 15 minutes. Adjust seasoning then pour into a 1.4L baking dish.
3. Top with well seasoned mashed potato then bake for 20 minutes until the top is nicely browned. Set aside to cool slightly then serve. Serves 3.

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