



**SOLOMON ISLANDS CLINIC
GETS FACELIFT** page 7

ESCAPING THE DEVIL page 14

A PIRATE'S LIFE—NOT FOR ME page 18



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Baptism and Bible studies in Tahiti

Pirae, Tahiti

Thirty people were baptised in Tahiti on September 27, marking the end of a two-phase Mission to the Cities initiative held across Faa'a in June and September.

Approximately 2200 church and community members attended the special ceremony at the Aorai Tini Hau venue in Pirae, with 52 people responding to a closing appeal for baptism.

A further 200 people asked to begin Bible studies at the conclusion of the "Faa'a for Christ" evangelistic series in September. In June, 30 campaigns were held across the Faa'a region of Papeete, with 250 people requesting follow-up Bible studies.

French Polynesia Mission president Pastor Roger Tetuanui said a number of people chose not to get baptised at this stage as they first want to get their marriages right with God.

"The main issues for most people are that they live in a de facto relationship or work on the Sabbath," Pastor Tetuanui said. "Otherwise many more people would have been baptised, maybe over 200 additional people."

Regarding next year's evangelism plans, Pastor Tetuanui said the French Polynesia Mission will focus on events to meet the physical, emotional and material needs of non-Adventist families. A key part of this strategy will be to teach local biblical health principles, as "health is the right hand of the gospel".

The Mission would also like to see more home churches established in Faa'a in 2015 as land and buildings in the area have become very expensive.—*Linden Chuang*



Pastor Auguste Gentilhomme prepares a candidate for baptism.



Family ministry impact in Tarawa

Tarawa, Kiribati

Families in Tarawa, Kiribati, have been strengthened after 23 people graduated from the Family Ministry Leadership program run by the Adventist Church.



Graduates of the Family Leadership program.

The training was provided by Family Ministry directors Pastor Mike Sikuri (Trans-Pacific Union Mission) and Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa (Fiji Mission) from August 19-29. Pastor Sikuri also preached publicly to about 300 people during the second week of the program, which saw 11 people baptised. "This program brought revival and transformation in people's lives," said Kiribati Mission president Pastor Titau Tavita. "They were very emotional in their responses. It was just what we needed. This focus is on making more and better disciples."—*Jarrold Stackelroth/TPUM Newsletter*

Nauru President meets Adventist leaders

Nauru

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders have met with the President of the Republic of Nauru after the Church was officially registered there.

Nauru President Baron Divavesi Waqa hosted Pastor Glenn Townend, president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM), his wife Pamela and Nauru's Adventist pastor, Paula Toroca, in his office on September 12. Pastor Townend thanked Mr Waqa for registering the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nauru last year and for signing over some land donated by a church family for a church building and ministry centre on the island.

Mr Waqa spoke about the challenges Nauru faces and their desire, because of their Christian values, to support asylum seekers housed at the island's detention centre.

Pastor Townend prayed for Mr Waqa and Nauru and gave him a GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tract on health and a set of *Beyond* DVDs.

Earlier that day, Pastor Townend officiated at a prayer and ground-breaking ceremony for the new church ministry centre. The Church in Nauru is waiting for volunteer builders to erect the new centre. Contact TPUM for more details.—*Jarrold Stackelroth/TPUM Newsletter*



Church leaders meet President Waqa.



Wake-up call

Vania Chew

Ring! Ring!

We awoke at the same time and stared at one another with bleary eyes. Who could be calling us when it was still pitch-black outside?

My friend and I were vacationing in Vanuatu. It was the first time either of us had been there and we loved it! We soon forgot about clocks, stopped looking at our phones and fell into the rhythm of "island time".

"It's the world's happiest country," one local told me. "Yes there is poverty and unemployment . . . it is not perfect. No country is perfect. But our people are very happy."

After a week of Bislama lessons, learning how to weave with coconut palm branches, a traditional Melanesian feast, splashing in the azure water and climbing up Mt Yasur to see an active volcano, we were pretty happy ourselves.

"I never want to leave!" my friend declared on the last night of our holiday. "Let's just stay here forever."

We fantasised a while about staying in Vanuatu but eventually acknowledged it was just that—a fantasy.

"Don't forget to set your phone alarm. We need to get up early tomorrow," I reminded her.

And that was the last thing I remember saying before the phone began to ring.

I answered it sleepily. "Hello?"

The voice on the other end of the line was urgent. "Are you catching the early flight to Sydney? You need to wake up! The ferry is waiting!"

Wait, what? Why hadn't the alarm woken us up? I looked over at my friend, who was already drifting back into sleep mode.

"Wake up!" I exclaimed, shaking her frantically. "We need to leave. The ferry is waiting for us and we still need to check out!"

The next few minutes were a whirlwind of frenzied activity as we scrambled into our clothes, splashed water on our faces and gave our bungalow a cursory once-over.

When we boarded the plane we breathed sighs of relief. We'd made it. We were finally on our way. And it was all thanks to the wake-up call.

Needing that wake-up call reminds me of the parable of

the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. It begins with the word "then"—a continuation of the previous passage, Matthew 24, about the signs of the second coming.

This parable holds a solemn message for God's people. All of the virgins were expecting the Bridegroom. They knew He was on His way but that didn't stop them from falling asleep. Perhaps they missed the signs sent to wake them up, just as my friend and I missed hearing her alarm. Perhaps the initial excitement wore off as time went on.

The Laodicean church in Revelation 3 is admonished for being lukewarm and blind to the seriousness of their spiritual condition. As far as they are concerned they have everything they need. In reality, they are miserable, wretched, poor and naked. And they sound a lot like believers today.

There is a growing complacency among Christians—especially those of us who have been raised in Christian homes. Many of us live in countries where we can worship freely in church, access the Bible with the swipe of a finger and share the gospel without fear of imprisonment. Yet we make comments like: "Nah, I don't read the Bible. It's too boring." "I don't have time to do devotions." "I'm not going to Sabbath School—I'm sleeping in." "Why should I give a Bible study? That's what pastors get paid to do." We shy away from talking to other people about God or standing up for what we believe in. We'd rather "fit in".

Do we call ourselves Christians when, in reality, we are indistinguishable from the world?

My friend and I didn't think about Australia when we were in Vanuatu. Why would we? We were surrounded by natural beauty, eating delicious food and making friends with some of the nicest people we'd ever met. But the wake-up call reminded us that that beautiful place was no substitute for our real homes.

Jesus is coming soon. He wants to take us to our real home: heaven. Are we ready for Him to return? Or do we need a wake-up call? As Romans 13:11 says, ". . . it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed".

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Cover Credit: Kent Kingston

"Kristen Cochraine makes friends with girls from the Hambere church, Kolombangara, Solomon Islands."

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

The argument for creation

Some time ago the Education Department of the General Conference conducted a global conference on faith and science. Because Seventh-day Adventists accept their commission from Jesus to make disciples of all peoples and because we enact that commission in the setting of our understanding of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, we affirm our belief and we worship "Him who made heavens and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters".

One of the arguments that can raise questions that evolutionists cannot answer in a manner consistent with their philosophical presuppositions is the argument for intelligent design. As believers in creation we argue that complex systems cannot generate over time without an intelligent designer. This assertion seems to be a compelling argument. But atheists such as Richard Dawkins have countered that if we are to accept intelligent design we must accept that the designer must be the architect of both good and evil; the perfect and imperfect.

Don't be perturbed by such a response. The existence of evil is not an argument against design or a designer, it is an argument against the goodness of God. Christians have abundant evidence of the goodness of God exemplified in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Seventh-day Adventist Christians, with our understanding of the great controversy between good and evil, understand that the goodness of God has been called into question by Lucifer and that He has been working ever since to convince everyone he can of the legitimacy of his question.

We are called of God to refute Lucifer's claims. Are we up to it?



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



Three years of forever

Jarrod Stackelroth

Guys look at me like I've just had a stroke . . . of genius—"Why didn't I think of that?" Girls give me a look that's hard to read (then look at their partner): "Why didn't you think of that? That way you'd never forget."

These are reactions to the fact I got married on my birthday, 11/11/11. Some people think it's a disadvantage to share my birthday. I think it's a winner. I get two presents, share my celebration with my wife and I can't forget (at least until old age or ill health steal away my memory). Well, we're about to hit three years of marriage so here are some things I've learned.

Disclaimer: Three years is not long. I'm no expert. But I've learned a lot and I'm still learning every day. If you've been married for ages, some of this may not be new to you; just reminisce and have a chuckle.

Marriage is hard. I thought marriage would be awesome—all dates and dinners, "love" on tap, special times with your favourite person. And it is. But it takes real work. The idea of marriage and actual marriage are two different things. No matter how well you think you know your future spouse it doesn't compare to living together.

The first year of marriage is really hard. Seriously! Together you prepare for W-day. You've been planning towards achievable goals. Blast off! Now you're strapped together and floating in orbit. Attitudes have to change, adjustments must be made—and while some of this change is about focusing less on yourself and more on your other, it can also leave you complacent and secure, not putting in the same effort as dating. You've arrived and achieved. As my wife puts it, "Letting myself go, getting too comfortable."

Love is spelt commitment. If you commit to marriage—with time, money and talents—then your marriage will be strong. Fight for your marriage; don't just expect it to happen. Choose to commit to each other.

Commit to forgiveness. Choose to forgive. Don't get stuck on the marry-go-round of grudges, resentment and mayhem. Unforgiveness will undermine your marriage. As the Disney musical says, "Let it go".

Men: marriage needs you. It is not an institution designed by women to curb your freedoms and make you change. Marriage was designed by God and it's an equal partnership—equal parts fun and responsibility.

Paul's challenge to men in Ephesians to love their wives as Christ loved the church hits me right between the eyes. Would I lay down my life for her? And how does that look in less extreme circumstances, in the day to day? It means putting her first no matter what she has done. This is no cheap, easy love but reflects God's love—loving someone who hurts you deeply, sometimes intentionally, and keeps doing it.

If men need to love, women need to submit. Dr Emmerson Eggerichs in his book *Love and Respect* outlines this concept clearly. He highlights studies showing men *need* respect and women *need* love. This is not about oppressing women but about spouses using language the other can understand.

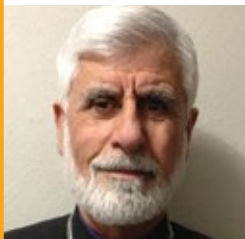
My wife says, "Hearing the word submit makes me cringe! At first, it didn't sit well with me because I didn't fully understand what it meant. To be honest I still have trouble understanding now but there are times I choose not to understand. For me it's about being equal as husband and wife with our roles at home but it's also respecting my husband."

Equal but different. That's something we can both agree on. That, and how blessed we are to have each other.



Fair go

The leaders of the 20 most powerful countries in the world will be meeting in Brisbane this month. Christian campaign organisation Micah Challenge is advocating for world leaders to ensure multinational companies pay their fair share of tax—money that can be used to benefit the world's poor.—*ShineTheLight.com.au*



Welcome mat

A Kiwi Christian leader is calling for increases in New Zealand's intake of Assyrian refugees fleeing Islamist violence in Iraq. Aprem Pithyou, a priest with NZ's Assyrian Christian community, says he supports the current military intervention but is keen for humanitarian issues to be more of a priority.—*NZ Herald*



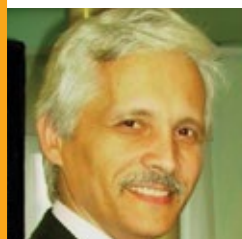
Nitty gritty

The Adventist women's ordination debate has prompted public statements on the doctrine of "headship". A document from Andrews University, USA, upholds Jesus as the only Head of the church but an appeal statement from a range of pastors and academics defends headship—including male headship in the home and church.—*Adventist Review*



Rights for all

Religious leaders, including Uniting Church representatives, have gathered in front of Parliament House in Canberra to express their concern about anti-Muslim discrimination in Australia. They're calling for Australia to stand firm in preserving its democratic values—freedom of speech, freedom of religion and an inclusive culture.—*ABC News*



Fears for safety

In Horlivka, eastern Ukraine, an Adventist pastor has been abducted at gunpoint during a church service. Pastor Sergei Litovchenko was serving communion when the unidentified men entered the church and demanded he accompany them. The men said the region was an Orthodox land and that there was no room for other Christian groups.—*Adventist Review*



Saving money

Leaders at Adventist world headquarters were impressed recently when a stewardship conference involving about 10,000 people from 83 countries was run for just \$US20,000. The secret? An online conference, which cost a fraction of the \$US1.1m expense a live conference, involving flights, accommodation and meals, would have incurred.—*Adventist Review*



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Solomon Islands rural clinic gets facelift

Kukudu, Kolombangara, Solomon Islands

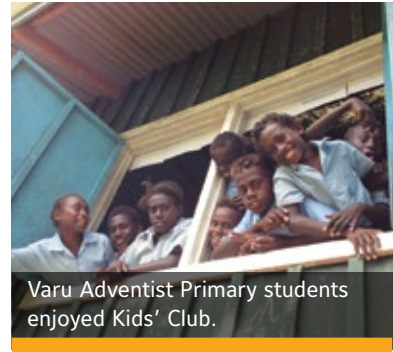
A team of 17 Australians has spent 10 days sprucing up the Kukudu Rural Health Clinic in Solomon Islands, painting it inside and out and building a roof over an outdoor walkway to the maternity ward.

The volunteer team was drawn mostly from Hillview Adventist Church in NSW, which sponsored the project. Supporting ministry Sonship, under the leadership of Trevor and Helen Oliver, provided coordination.

The mission trip is the latest expression of a 10-year relationship between Hillview and Kukudu—a connection that inspired the South Pacific Division (SPD) to launch the Adopt-a-Clinic program that now sees local churches in Australia and New Zealand sponsoring 42 rural and remote clinics in the Pacific islands. “The results and the impact of Adopt-a-Clinic is enormous—it’s amazing,” said Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist Health for SPD and a Solomon Islander. “Churches go there with

their teams—they come back different people. But then on the ground, there’s a huge impact in the life of the community.”

The Hillview team left some artistic touches behind in Kukudu, painting two murals of natural scenes on the clinic’s internal walls. They also spent time visiting nearby communities, conducting kids’ clubs complete with songs, puppets, craft and games. Despite the language barrier team members connected quickly with the children. “Making so many new friends with the Solomon Islander kids and then having to leave and say goodbye—that was probably the biggest struggle,” said team member Josephine McElroy. —*Kent Kingston*



Varu Adventist Primary students enjoyed Kids’ Club.

Church given \$75,000 by anonymous donors

Concord, New South Wales

An Adventist church in Sydney has received donations totalling \$75,000 from anonymous donors.

“We don’t know who donated the money but we give glory to God for providing,” said Adam Kavanagh, a member of Concord church. “It’s actually an answer to prayer. Our church building is in need of restoration. Six months ago, as a church, we decided to step out in faith and begin council preliminaries for renovations, not knowing where the funds would come from.”

Donations will contribute to the costs of restructuring the pulpit, renovating the church, hall and Sabbath School rooms. —*Vania Chew*



School returns home after 2010 cyclone

Aitutaki, Cook Islands

Te Kaaroa Adventist School celebrated the opening of its new building in August, marking the end of a four-and-a-half year journey since the destruction of the school by Tropical Cyclone Pat

The new building was officially opened by Te Kaaroa land owner Tereapii Meti and former school principal Tai Turi, with guests from across the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia gathering for the special event.

Also attending was Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna, who reminded the Aitutaki community of the importance of the school in instilling quality Christian values in Cook Islands society.

Tropical Cyclone Pat struck the Cook Islands in February 2010, causing a significant

amount of infra-structural damage across the country’s 15 atolls.

Among the worst hit was the island of Aitutaki, with an estimated 90 per cent of housing damaged in the cyclone.

Prior to the opening of the new building, the Te Kaaroa school community had been meeting in the vacant Amuri School. During the opening ceremony, Cook Islands Mission president Pastor Eliu Eliu expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Church for helping them find a temporary home while Te Kaaroa was being rebuilt. —*Linden Chuang/NZPUC newsletter*



Students celebrate their new school building.



Prime Minister Henry Puna.

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Project Valasi in the spotlight

Wahroonga, New South Wales

In 2013, 17 volunteers from Adventist Media Network (AMN) went on a fly'n'build to a remote area of Solomon Islands.

HopeChannel has produced a 57-minute documentary, *Project Valasi*, about this mission trip. We caught up with director/producer Gilmore Tanabose to learn more about the documentary.

A R: How did Valasi change you?

G T: I have experienced the power of God working in ways that I wouldn't have seen had I not been part of the project. The team experienced tough travelling experiences that have made us thankful for daily blessings and resources we use and take for granted here.

A R: What was involved in producing the documentary?

G T: Once the idea of filming a travelogue on the project was confirmed, there was a good amount of research and planning done. A suitable compact lightweight camera (Sony NX30P), appropriate accessories and additional gear was purchased that would suit the humid and unpredictable tropical Solomons climate I would be filming in. Growing up in the islands helped me understand and prepare well for those conditions. Pastor Lyle Southwell (director of the Discovery Centre at AMN) provided the commentary throughout the filming. Other team members added to it as well. I wanted to portray the harsh raw reality of the project while also showing the natural beauty of the environment we were working in.

A R: If people don't have HopeChannel is there anywhere else they can watch it?

G T: It is available to watch online on the HopeChannel website. The short web address is: <hop.ec/valasi>.

A R: Any final words for the viewers?

G T: For those who view the travelogue on HopeChannel TV or online, I hope you are inspired to go on a volunteer mission trip and experience being able to help serve those who are less fortunate. You don't need to be a skilled carpenter or experienced builder to be effective on mission trips. You just need to be willing to serve in any way, capacity or form. Just like our team, you can learn new skills and experiences by being part of the project. You will be blessed. And the friendships you form with your team and the communities you serve during those mission trips will be lifelong.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Project Valasi.



Gilmore Tanabose, director and producer of *Project Valasi*.



The AMN team pose for a photo with Valasi children.

REVIVED BY HIS WORD

November 1—15, 2014

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

1 - Mala. 4	4 - Matt. 3	7 - Matt. 6	10 - Matt. 9	13 - Matt. 12
2 - Matt. 1	5 - Matt. 4	8 - Matt. 7	11 - Matt. 10	14 - Matt. 13
3 - Matt. 2	6 - Matt. 5	9 - Matt. 8	12 - Matt. 11	15 - Matt. 14

Faa'a Faa'a away (but closer than you think)

by James Standish

"I didn't expect Tahiti to be, well, so urban," an American tourist says as she surveys Papeete. The Tahiti of Gauguin paintings vanished years ago. Today there are traffic jams, condo complexes, even a skate park replete with graffiti that looks more like New York City than an isolated tropical paradise. Global trends are changing Tahiti and chief among them is urbanisation. It's therefore no surprise that one of the centres for the Adventist Church's Mission to the Cities evangelism is Faa'a—an urban area adjacent to Papeete.

"Most people here are originally from the outer islands," says Pastor Roger Tetuanui, president of the French Polynesian Mission. When I enquire whether it's likely people will show up at the three centres for evangelism under a tent on a rainy Monday night, he replies casually, "Yes, we hope." I'm sceptical. I see satellite dishes on the homes. I see restaurants crowded with people. There's no way people will show.

Our Church in French Polynesia has about 4800 members. But it's remarkably vibrant. In a recent poll, our FM radio station was voted the most popular religious station in the region. We also have a prophecy TV show hosted by Marcel Milaud in French and a second program in Tahitian that is just starting. Two Adventists are ministers in the government of French Polynesia and Adventists occupy other prominent positions in society. But it would be wrong to pretend all this activity and our high profile is resulting in rapid church growth. It's not.

Along with urbanisation has come increasing secularisation. People are busy earning the money to buy stuff they are told they need by the advertisements they absorb as they sit mesmerised in front of their TVs projecting hour upon hour of triviality wrapped in perversity. If obesity, environmental destruction, traffic jams and familial disintegration are progress, we have had stacks of it across the South Pacific—even Tahiti. And it's gaining momentum.

The first meeting in Faa'a begins. The tent is near a sharp cliff with views of the city and over the Pacific Ocean. The music is wonderful, the AV superb, I'm covered

in kisses from greeters on the way in and the preaching—in French and translated with vigour into Tahitian—is enthusiastic. But the tent is largely empty. And those in attendance are, I perceive, mostly church members.

We leave discreetly to go to a second site. I wonder if public evangelism is past its prime. "It's true," Roger says, "that 10 years ago we had better turnouts. But wait and see."

We drive down the mountain to the second site. What a difference! The tent is full and there's a buzz in the air. I catch Manuel Terai, who recently retired from his post working with the French Polynesian government, and ask how things are going. "We have a reasonable crowd tonight but expect it to build. This location is more central. We're right by the main road. It's very visible. That largely accounts for the difference in turnout."

Christine Estall, who has an administrative role in the French Polynesian government, is registering attendees. "We have 28 non-Adventist adults attending tonight," she says. There are also about 20 children from non-Adventist homes. That's 48 non-

Adventists out on a rainy Monday night. Not insignificant.

Windolina Natua, a public school teacher, is managing registration at the third site: Pamatai Adventist church. "We have 59 adults and 40 children from the community," she reports. "But our experience is that more people start coming as the series progresses. We did a build-up event to this series in June. Crowds built night after night. Combined, we had 566 non-Adventist adults and 162 children. We expect to grow again this time."

James Standish is editor of *Adventist Record*.





Sweet 17

An Open Heart International team recently travelled to Myanmar to help local children in need of life-transforming surgeries. The team of 28 volunteers completed more than 150 operations at three different hospitals during their nine-day visit. The trip marked the 17th time the Sydney Adventist Hospital charity has visited Myanmar. A team will return to the country in February 2015. —*OHI*



Grey nomads

Dozens of cars, caravans and motorhomes converged on the Adventist Alpine Village in Jindabyne (NSW) in October for the South New South Wales Conference's second Grey Nomads camp. Highlights included "grace" talks by Pastors Ian Howie, Laurie Landers and Mike Faber and a special tree-planting ceremony at the end of the week. —*Gavin Howie*



Special gift

Operation Food For Life volunteers visited the Red Cross Special Resource Centre in Port Moresby (PNG) in September, providing school students and teachers with a Bible and a fresh plate of fruit. Students at the centre come from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds, and live with various physical and mental illnesses. The centre has been in need of Bibles for some time but has never been able to afford them. —*OFFL*



Four ordained at Fono

Pastors Moi Tipasa, Junior Gaia, Peni Leo and Saifonoi were ordained to the gospel ministry during the annual "Fono" training event in Apia, Samoa, in July. Trans-Pacific Union Mission Ministerial Association secretary Dr Ron Stone and Samoa-Tokelau Mission president Pastor Uili Solofa officiated at the ordination ceremony. The Fono, as well as the ordination ceremony, were very well attended, with people expressing their appreciation for the "spiritual food" provided in the meetings and workshops. —*TPUM newsletter*



Worth the wait

After 20 years of waiting and fundraising, the Milton Ulladulla Seventh-day Adventist church (NSW) finally has a new home. The building—called Woods Cottage—was officially opened on September 27, with the church's 10 dedicated members and their guests coming together for the special event. Local, state and federal government members were also in attendance. It took the church almost two decades to raise the \$320,000 needed to fund the project, which was coupled with a \$30,000 grant from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships scheme. —*Milton Ulladulla Times/Record staff*



Gold rush

Avondale College's women's touch football team has exceeded expectations to win gold at the Australian University Games for a second consecutive year. A semifinal win over Bond University (Qld) led to a gold medal final against The University of Melbourne (Vic), where the Avondale Eagles prevailed 4-3. The gold medal qualifies the team for the division one competition next year. —*Lawson Hull*



Green thumbs

Gilson College's Year 8 students recently took part in a revegetation project at Organ Pipes National Park (Vic). Earlier this year, the school received a joint grant with the Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park to re-establish a very degraded section of the park. The area the students worked in has been dubbed "Gilson Hill", signifying the school's long-term commitment to the project. —*Titilia Hafiz*



First communion

Hundreds of newly baptised members in Vanuatu took part in their first communion service on Sabbath, September 27. Services were held at 15 churches across Efate for those baptised at the conclusion of the "PV14: Hope for Port Vila" evangelistic series. —*Adventist Media: Vanuatu*



OPINION

Monica Gallasch

The blessing stealers

Once upon a time there was a big fat liar. Actually he was small and slick, and so were his lies. The lies were clever—just enough truth to sound legitimate while still remaining deliciously gossipy. And as rumours tend to do, the lies spread like a fox on fire in a wheat field. You're probably wondering what the gossip was but I'm not going to tell you because it was about me.

The gossip jeopardised four of my friendships. Friend One called me up immediately and demanded to know what was going on. We talked, we patched things up and we're still friends today. Friends Two and Three took a little longer. They eventually emailed me a few days later but they, too, gave me a chance to explain and we've since moved on as friends. But Friend Four was a casualty of gossip—never to be heard from again. Friend Four chose to believe the gossip. Friend Four didn't want to find out the truth for themselves and was content with second-hand information. Sadly, Friend Four is not a friend anymore. It hurt so much to lose a friend like this; knowing that just one conversation might have salvaged the blessing that had been our friendship.

Last year I had the immense blessing of attending the European Youth Congress in Novi Sad, Serbia. I met many wonderful people from all over the globe but there is one particular person I won't forget. She was my hotel neighbour and we were fast becoming friends.

We covered all the usual "getting-to-know-you" topics and started discussing literature. When the question of what we were currently reading came up, I told her that I was reading *Daughters of God* by E G White.

My new friend was disappointed by this revelation. "Ellen White? Really? I'd never read her writings!" Surprised by her vehemence, I pried a little further, asking why. "All she has done is cause arguments in the Church and she doesn't make sense anyway," my new friend replied. "She says we won't go to heaven if we eat meat but she also tells women that they should wear miniskirts!"

Following some further discussion I learned that my friend had never actually read any of Ellen White's writings. She had not bothered to look up the context behind the quotes she had heard and discover for herself what Sister White had written about modesty and health. Instead she was content to listen to the gossip of others. By not reading the books for herself, she was being robbed of untold blessings.

We've all heard the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover", but maybe we need to add, "Don't judge a book by the gossip surrounding it". So often we're willing to take other people's words and experiences as gospel truth without checking them out for ourselves.

The Bible discourages this type of attitude. Psalm 34:8 tells us to "taste and see that the Lord is good". You can't rely on someone else's experience to satisfy you—you need to experience it for yourself.

The writings of Ellen White can certainly be confronting but I believe they are confronting in a life-saving way. If you've never read them for yourself, I encourage you to give them a go. They are just another avenue for God to reach out to you, desperately wanting to bless you with a more abundant life. But please don't take my opinion for granted. I might be lying to you. I might have heard that somewhere else. Find out for yourself. Start reading. And don't let anyone else steal your blessings.

Monica Gallasch writes from Sydney, NSW.

OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster



Jesus and the One Project (Part II)

Jesus and doctrine

Last study we saw that to be truly Adventist is to be Jesus centred in the totality of our living. It also means to be Jesus centred in our doctrine. Being called "the doctrine of Christ" it is both inseparably linked to Him and vital for salvation and nurture. In this and the next study it will be seen that to truly talk of Jesus as number One is to take doctrine seriously and to ensure He is at the centre of all doctrine.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6, 16; Hebrews 6:1, 2; 2 John 1:9

Jesus, God our Creator and Sustainer, and therefore the Lord of the Sabbath, in awesome love spread out His mighty arms on the cross to reconcile us to Himself.

Read John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-22; Hebrews 1:3; Mark 2:27, 28; Exodus 20:8-11

Jesus, God in human flesh for eternity, revealed the depth of God's love for all humanity.

Read John 1:1, 14; Isaiah 9:6; 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23; John 3:16; 17:6

Jesus, our Redeemer, forgives, justifies, reconciles, saves, sanctifies and gives victory over Satan and sin to all who lean solely on Him, trusting and glorying in nothing but the cross.

Read Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:9, 10; Hebrews 13:12; Galatians 6:14; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 12:11

Jesus rose from the dead to justify us and to bring us a forever living hope beyond death.

Read Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:18

Jesus, who ascended to the right hand of the Father, ever lives to intercede for us in order to bring us mercy when we fall, and help in every temptation and trial of life.

Read Acts 7:55, 56; Hebrews 7:25; 4:14-16

The one project the world so desperately needs today is the proclamation of Jesus in His totality. Then people will be drawn to Him. Determine today to embrace and share the whole doctrine of Jesus.

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

Katie's special hand by Marian de Berg

CHILDREN'S TIME IN OUR CHURCHES EACH Sabbath is a very special event for so many of our youngsters. But story time in church for the little ones was not included in the program in the early days of our Church.

The children of our church congregations in the 1890s would feel extra special if Ellen White worshipped there on Sabbath. She would make a point of meeting with them in the lobby at the close of the service and have a special time just for them while their parents visited together. Gathering the children around her she would often tell a Bible story or a story with good morals.

Little Katie was about four years old when she first met Ellen White. She was a quiet, shy little girl with a hand defect that caused her much distress. She had been born with the little finger missing on her right hand. To Katie it was devastating to be bullied by the other children over this small defect. She would try to hide her right hand by covering it with her left hand or positioning it so it wouldn't be seen. Hanging back at story time she did not want to be noticed or see the other children giggling over her "funny-looking hand".

Seating herself, Mrs White would greet the children and look around for any new children she had not met before. Katie described her experience:

"Noticing that I was hanging back, she urged me to join the group. Hesitantly I began to move toward her. Suddenly realising everyone was looking at me, I covered my right hand with my left and stopped. Hearing some of the children joke about my deformed hand, I wanted to turn and run. But glancing up, I saw Mrs White look at me with a comforting smile. She held out her hands, motioning


for me to come right up to her. I stood, embarrassed and afraid. Suddenly with helpless resignation I blindly ran to her for protection.

"Taking both of my hands in hers, Mrs White felt the differences in my hands—one full and normal, the other long and narrow. Apparently having heard the undercurrents of comments by some of the children, she took my deformed hand and commented so all could hear: 'Katie, Jesus has given you a special hand' ("My 'special hand'" by Harold Baasch, *Adventist Review*, July 3, 1980)."

Ellen White made a special deal with young Katie: "Let's make an appointment to meet in heaven. Let's go to Jesus and ask why He gave you that 'special hand'." Katie never forgot those words. Towards the end of her life she could tell her family that when they get to heaven, "after I see Jesus and my

family, guess whom I'm going to look for?" (Ibid).

On December 11, 1917, Katie married Albert Munson who was under appointment to Java as a missionary. For 18 years they served as missionaries in Java and Singapore, and pioneered new work in the Celebes, New Guinea and Borneo. She was "Mother Munson" to hundreds of servicemen in Hawaii and at Fort Ord, California. She delivered lots of babies, knitted hundreds of booties and sweaters, and also fed dozens of Adventist servicemen each Sabbath while her husband was an army chaplain after their mission service.

A child's life touched by Ellen White; a life of faithful service to humanity. What a life well lived. 

Marian de Berg is administrative assistant for the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College of Higher Education.



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

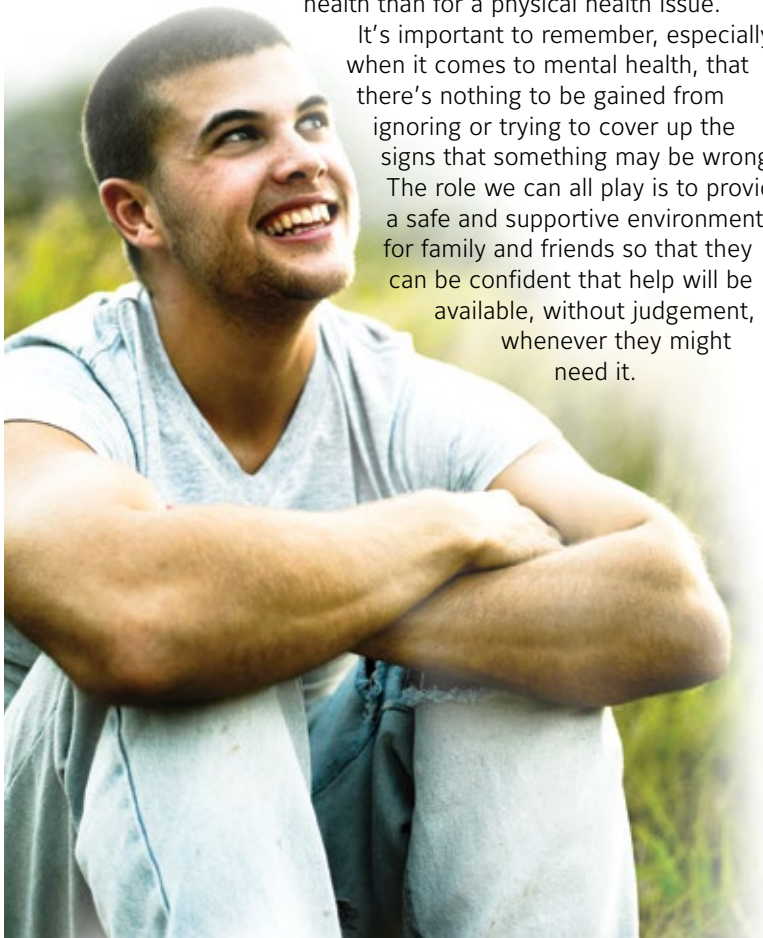
We have a problem, seriously

Health and wellbeing information is everywhere at the moment. There is a constant stream of daily news stories, television shows are being launched and celebrities are putting their names behind websites covering everything related to body, mind and spirit. The good news is that the reason these kinds of things seem to be popping up every day is that they're popular. The general public is not only eager for health information but increasingly aware that true health involves more than just physical fitness.

But there's one portion of the population that still lags behind when it comes to acknowledging the importance of health. A recent study by the Movember Foundation, which surveyed men on a variety of health issues, found that one in three men don't take their health seriously. With mental health becoming a rapidly growing area of concern, it's even more worrying that half of the respondents were unfamiliar with the symptoms of depression.

We clearly still have an issue around the perception of the importance of mental health. Men in the survey indicated that they were three times more likely to lie to their boss to get time off for mental health than for a physical health issue.

It's important to remember, especially when it comes to mental health, that there's nothing to be gained from ignoring or trying to cover up the signs that something may be wrong. The role we can all play is to provide a safe and supportive environment for family and friends so that they can be confident that help will be available, without judgement, whenever they might need it.



Spinach and feta cannelloni

Preparation time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 20 minutes Serves: 6

- 100g reduced fat ricotta cheese
- 100g reduced fat feta cheese
- 250g frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed of excess moisture
- ½ cup Sanitarium So Good soy milk
- 4 fresh lasagne sheets, cut into thirds
- 400g can no added salt tomatoes
- ⅓ cup parsley, chopped
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese, grated

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Mix together ricotta, feta, spinach and So Good.
2. Lay a lasagne sheet flat and place a strip of the spinach mixture along one edge. Roll up to form a sausage. Place seam side down in a large baking dish. Repeat with remaining ingredients.
3. Mix together tomatoes and parsley and pour over pasta. Sprinkle with parmesan and bake for 15-20 minutes. Serve with salad.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
640kJ (155cal). Protein 11g. Fat 6g. Carbohydrate 11g. Sodium 330mg. Potassium 340mg. Calcium 260mg. Iron 1.8mg. 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 (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



Escaping the Devil

by Vania Chew

I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T LET YOU LEAVE. NOW YOU'RE all going to die. I'm going to kill you!" Six-year-old Everton Goncalves shivered as his uncle David's eyes rolled back. The car sped up as David accelerated, and his aunties in the backseat began to scream. David laughed at their fear—an evil, sinister laughter bordering on maniacal. "This is it," Everton thought. "The spirits were right. We're going to die."

It sounds like a Hollywood horror movie. But for the Goncalves family this was real life.

You see, Everton's family was involved in *macumba*—a form of spirit worship that originated with African slaves who brought the tradition to Brazil.

"Uncle David was a medium who received messages from the spirits," Everton explains. "They would possess him and he would begin speaking in what I can only describe as the satanic version of speaking in tongues. My parents were the translators. They interpreted the spirits' messages for everyone else."

When Everton was six his parents decided they needed to leave the movement. They applied for a visa to Australia, knowing the only way to truly escape *macumba* was to leave Brazil.

When David heard their application had been accepted he was furious.

"My uncle was possessed by an evil spirit at the time," Everton recalls. "He pointed at our family and said, 'I will never let you leave this country.'"

A few days before they were due to leave, the family decided to go on a day trip. It was a long drive home and

Everton's father was feeling quite tired. David offered to drive and Everton's father gladly accepted.

And then it happened.

"I could tell a spirit had possessed him," Everton remembers. "When I saw his eyes rolling back I knew what was happening."

His father, who was sitting in the passenger seat with Everton on his lap, knew he had to react quickly.

Without hesitation he reached over and pulled the handbrake. The car spun around two or three times, eventually stopping by the side of the road as though it had been parked. Everton's father leaned over and pushed David out of the car. David got up and wandered off by himself, still laughing.

"He often disappeared for a few days when he was possessed," Everton explains. "No-one would know where he went or what he was doing."

On the day of their scheduled departure Everton's family was understandably tense. The spirit's words still rang in their heads—"I will never let you leave this country". Would they really be prevented from leaving? Would something terrible happen if they did?

"No-one in our family had ever been on a plane before," Everton comments. "Our relatives were excited to have an excuse to go to the airport. They wanted to come and see us off."

Shortly after leaving home, however, they got a flat tyre. Everton's dad got out of the car and changed it.

A few minutes later they had another flat tyre. This time

On the day of his baptism David was on his way to the font when his eyes began to roll back. He was being possessed.

they had to use someone else's spare.

When they got their third flat tyre it began to feel like more than a coincidence.

"We had to use the tyre from our relatives' car," Everton says. "We said goodbye to them in the street because they could no longer come with us to the airport."

They were almost there when . . . you guessed it, the fourth tyre went flat.

By the time they finally made it to the airport boarding time was over and the gates were closed.

Everton's father begged airline staff to let his family onto the plane and his pleas were heard.

"We came to Australia determined to start afresh," Everton says. "My father vowed we would never get caught up in something like that again."

Shortly before the family left for Australia, Everton's father randomly picked up a pamphlet on the street. It turned out to be a flyer advertising a quit smoking program.

"So much rubbish litters the streets of Brazil, it really is a miracle that my dad picked that pamphlet up," Everton says.

Everton's father didn't smoke but his relatives did. He gave the flyer to his wife's family and promptly forgot all about it.

Not long after the Goncalves family had settled in Australia they received a phone call from Everton's Uncle Jose, who had some exciting news to share.

"Remember that pamphlet you gave me?"

Everton's father did. "Did you stop smoking?" he asked.

"Even better than that!" exclaimed Jose. "I've found the truth!"

Everton's father stiffened as Jose began to tell him about the Adventist Church. After his experience with *macumba* he was wary of Jose's new religion.

"I don't want anything to do with it," he said firmly. "Leave me out of it!"

He hung up the phone and turned to Everton and his mother, shaking his head in disbelief. "I don't know what's wrong with your family—always getting mixed up in these crazy things," he told his wife.

Meanwhile, back in Brazil, Uncle Jose was spreading the news about Adventism and converting his relatives with the message of the gospel. Pretty soon almost all of the family had become Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

But Uncle David hadn't.

It took some convincing but David was finally persuaded to visit the Adventist Church. He was blown away by its truths and made a decision for baptism.

On the day of the baptism David was on his way to the font when his eyes began to roll back. He was being possessed.

"Leave me alone!" he snarled.

Recognising what was happening the pastor immediately began to pray out loud, asking for the Holy Spirit

to come and drive the evil spirit away. The congregation began to pray too.

Eventually he calmed down and was baptised.

The oncemedium is now a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"He has never been possessed by another spirit since," Everton says.

When Everton was nine, his mother decided to take him back to Brazil for two months.

Everton had to share a bedroom with his Uncle Gerald, who took the opportunity to tell the young boy a Bible story every night. Soon it got to the stage where Everton found himself eagerly anticipating night-time because he knew it meant he would get to hear another exciting story.

"I was amazed when Uncle Gerald told me about Jesus," he says. "I wanted to be a Christian."

When they returned to Australia, Everton's mother announced that she wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist. She began attending the Portuguese church in Ashfield (NSW) and was baptised.

Everton wanted to follow through with his decision to become a Christian but there was one problem: he loved playing soccer and soccer games were always held on Sabbath.

"When I was 12 I finally decided it was time to give up soccer and start attending church," he says. "My dad was impressed by the changes in our family. He decided to become an Adventist too."

Today Everton's family still attends the Portuguese church his mother first joined. His wife Patricia is a member too.

"God is good," he says. "It doesn't matter what your past looks like. He has a plan for your future."



(L-R) Ani, Joao, Everton and Carina.



(L-R) Ani, Everton, Joao, Patricia, Carina, Marcelo.

Burnout, theology and the prosperity gospel

by Esther Collier

I'M A THIRD GENERATION ADVENTIST. GROWING UP IN the church has given me a spiritual heritage that I identify with and claim personally. It has also given me a unique perspective. My grandparents began helping out in Church evangelism not long after they were baptised; even now my long retired "Poppy" is busy all through the week doing visitations and giving Bible studies. My parents began their relationship during an evangelistic series and all three of their children (me included!) were dedicated in church plants. One of my earliest memories is Sabbath afternoon letterboxing. I don't remember not being involved in evangelism.

As I have grown up and matured in my own walk with God there is something that I've noticed that has bothered me a lot: people I used to know are missing. Now let me share what is probably the most unexpected common factor among many of my friends and loved ones who have silently faded away from church fellowship: they were active in ministry.

But that's not supposed to happen, right?

It's the sad truth though. Many of the former Adventists, disillusioned Adventists and the no-longer-bothered Adventists that I know were at one time Bible workers, preachers, pastors, evangelists or kids of all of the above. Meanwhile, many of the families I knew who attended a "mainstream" church and then went home to sleep off potluck lunch every Sabbath are still pretty much as they were.

We've been taught that being active in the Church will keep our spiritual life vigorous and strong. So why doesn't it always work out that way? I think it all comes down to a story Jesus once told about men who started to build a tower and couldn't finish it (read Luke 14:28 for more context). From my observation a lot of us don't count the cost of Christian discipleship until we reach the point of spiritual burnout.

I know because I got to that place too. It's the result of the Adventist version of the "prosperity gospel". I can't tell you how many times as a kid that I heard the idea in church or Bible study groups that when we follow God good things happen in our lives. When you follow God's guidance you find open doors and moved mountains. When you have problems at home or at work He resolves them. When you're fully surrendered He brings a man or woman

into your life to begin a relationship. He protects you from dangerous situations, heals you when you have cancer and helps you find a car parking space in a busy carpark. It sounds great and everything (and God does do these things) but it's not the complete gospel. We are misled if this is our understanding of what it is to be a Christian.

The early Christians didn't follow Christ because He helped them find a parking space or a set of lost keys. In fact the encouragement that Paul and Silas gave new believers sounds pretty harsh. They strengthened "the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Paul even went so far as to say, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12).

It's an interesting correlation to make but, to be truthful, from the day I made an agreement with God to let Him have 100 per cent of me, bad things as well as good have happened in my life. Sure, there have been many evidences of God's love for me and also what I would consider small miracles along the way. But for the large part it has been

tough. This year wore me down a lot. In fact, this week I was feeling the most spiritually discouraged that I have felt in my life. I began to wonder if maybe I would also become an Adventist statistic, too emotionally tired to keep fighting the good fight of faith. I prayed last night and a very broken-hearted whisper came out: "God, I believe you love me but why haven't you done anything about all the pain I've gone through?" The answer found itself a little bit later. "The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat with my Father on his throne" (Revelation 3:21). We follow Christ not for happiness but for holiness, the end of which is joy that doesn't have an end.

Somehow it's comforting to me. To be a Christian is to suffer but that's okay. The happiness that a Christian is pursuing is worth fighting and waiting for. "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep . . . so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:19,20,22). R

We follow Christ not for happiness but for holiness.

Esther Collier is a music teacher who writes from Melbourne, Victoria.

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.

MISSIONAL SCHOOLS

Ken Weslake, director of Adventist Education, SPD

I read with interest Silas Wagi's "My story" (October 4).

The last three paragraphs in particular express some of the real challenges we are facing in Adventist education. There is the challenge of being truly missional as we accept non-Adventist and now many non-churched students into our schools.

But the challenge doesn't only belong to the school. It is a church challenge also. So much more would be accomplished if our churches would seriously search for ways to work with the homes and our schools in supporting what our teachers are trying to accomplish on a daily basis.

Silas's challenges are not unique to his school alone. His name could be replaced by many others heading up the more than 350 schools across this Division.

NEED SOME SUBSTANCE

Leopold Hamulczyk, Vic

In reply to the editorial "Shorter, smarter, better" (September 20).

While I agree that out worship services could be more child and family-friendly and the order reworked, I take issue with the assertion that it should be shorter, especially the sermon.

A few points:

1. Do you notice that some kids can sit through the service and some can't. And usually those groups remain the same from week to week. Why is it so?

2. Why can kids sit through hours of cartoons, TV drama,

computer games, sports events, even school, and then we are told they can't sit through a worship service?

3. For some people the Sabbath service is all the spiritual food they will receive all week. Are you going to feed them a "sermonette" to breed a "Christianette"? Feed them the sound bite or slogan for the week? The sermon part of the service is essentially information. The more time you devote, the more information you can give. The sermon is not so much a speech like the Gettysburg address, it is more like a lecture. How can you encourage someone to grow as a Christian in only 15 minutes once a week?

I think the problem lies largely in two issues: television and the notion that everything for children must be entertaining. Children spend the week glued to flickering screens and scene changes every few seconds. This is known to decrease attention span. They are also fed everything in an entertaining way. Then comes Sabbath and of course it is boring in comparison.

Children need to learn that some things simply need to be done and that much of life is mundane. When it comes to learning differential equations in high school maths, how will you make that entertaining? It just needs to be done.

I believe the sermon should be at least as long as the preliminaries, at least 45 minutes long. If my church had regular 15 minute sermons I wouldn't waste my time; rather I'd stay home and watch the satellite feed or something from the internet.

SAY AMEN
ET, NSW

Your editorial "Shorter, smarter, better" was one that I felt everyone, especially mothers and fathers with young children, could say "amen" to.

I certainly endorsed it as I have watched our own church service, which normally finished at noon, now go to 12:30pm and beyond. I've been wondering why worship leaders feel that they have to "preach" the offering, "preach" the prayer and "preach" the hymns or sing the latter three or four times.

I really do feel sorry for the kids and also for some of the elderly who have health problems and need to eat at a regular time. I am hoping your suggestions can be implemented in churches for the benefit of everyone.

ARE OUR CHURCHES POISON?

Judy Ward, Qld

I have been ill almost every Sabbath afternoon for several years. I eventually realised that I was allergic to something in the air at my local church.

So the senior deacon opened church windows on Friday night and again on Saturday morning before Sabbath School. I was able to concentrate on the sermon much more easily. And I have had my healthiest Sabbath afternoon in years.

Like most churches, our local church is effectively sealed off from outside air for months at a time. So the fumes of several months' worth of cleaning chemicals are almost all trapped in the air in the church.

I strongly recommend all Adventist churches air out their buildings before their services.

A pirate's life— not for me



by Linden Chuang

HI, MY NAME IS LINDEN, AND I'M A PIRATE. NOT the seafaring, swashbuckling, Captain Jack Sparrow sort of pirate but the law-breaking, life-destroying, illegal downloading sort of pirate.

It's a topic most people tend to brush aside. Admit it—how many of you have actually read through the copyright warning message that pops up at the start of a DVD? But piracy is serious. I wasn't kidding when I said there were lives at stake.

Law of the land

International treaties have been established to protect the rights of authors of literary, scientific and artistic works.¹ Copyright law itself, however, differs from country to country. For the sake of this discussion, I'm going to focus on the law in Australia.

Creative works in Australia are protected under the Copyright Act 1968. This policy protects an author's right to "control the reproduction of their material and the right to control the communication of that material to the public".²

The implications of the law are many.³ But in regards to content made available on the internet it's really quite simple: "uploading, downloading or sharing unauthorised copies of a movie, album or software" is an infringement of copyright law.⁴ It's also illegal to "save material from a website onto a hard drive without express or implied permission".⁵

Land of pirates

The law is clear. Many Australians, however, don't seem to care.

A study released in 2011 found "a third of the Australian adult population (aged 18+) is active in some form of movie piracy".⁶ Attorney-General George Brandis has even gone as far as declaring Australia the "worst offender of any country in the world when it comes to piracy".⁷

Among this group of offenders are Christians, which is disconcerting given the Bible's explicit instructions to "not steal" (Exodus 20:15) and obey the law of the land (Romans 13:1-2). Ellen White also didn't mince her words when it came to stealing, saying the eighth commandment "demands strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life".⁸

The victims

"So it's against the law but is it really that bad? Who's getting hurt? Multimillionaire movie stars and musicians? A few illegal downloads wouldn't even dent their bank accounts."

It's a fair argument. Fair, but flawed, for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, stealing is stealing, no matter who the victim is. Is there a difference between stealing from a minister or a mob boss? Is cheating on your taxes any less of a crime than cheating on your tithe? The Bible says "all wrongdoing is sin" (1 John 5:17).

Secondly, Hollywood superstars are not the only victims. In the 12-month period to the third quarter of 2010, movie piracy cost the Australian economy \$1.3 billion.⁹ Approximately 6100 full-time equivalent jobs (a conservative estimate) were also relinquished during that same period, including “nearly 2300 forgone directly by the movie industry and retailers”.¹⁰

Who’s getting hurt? Thousands of fathers, mothers and hardworking individuals trying to make an honest living.

Death by sitting

Pirates can count themselves among the victims too.

The average Australian spends more than three hours a day watching television and almost four hours online.¹¹ This sedentary lifestyle is a killer. A study released in June found adults who watch TV for three hours a day “may double their risk of premature death”.¹² Physical inactivity has also been linked to a number of ailments, including diabetes, heart disease and some types of cancers.¹³ Finally, it also lowers your sperm count.¹⁴

With more Australians—particularly the younger generations—choosing to watch their favourite TV shows online, it’s perfectly reasonable to suggest illegal downloads are serving as a major contributor to this culture of inactivity. Torrent sites and peer-to-peer sharing have given “screen junkies” unbridled access to hundreds of videos that shouldn’t be freely available. The result: hundreds more reasons to spend hundreds more hours slouched in front of a screen.

Time is of the essence

Stealing TV shows is a crime; stealing time from God is a catastrophe. Our lives are but “a vapour” (James 4:14) and we can’t afford to waste so much time staring at screens.

“Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time . . . The value of time is beyond computation. Christ regarded every moment as precious, and it is thus that we should regard it. Life is too short to be trifled away.”—Ellen White¹⁵

Some of you may still regard excessive screen time as nothing to write home about (sorry, doing it anyway). And you’d be right—there’s a whole lot of nothingness going on. But as C S Lewis wrote, “Nothing is very strong: strong enough to steal away a man’s best years not in sweet sins but in a dreary flickering of the mind over it knows not what and knows not why.”¹⁷

So as a very wise man once asked, “how long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?” (Proverbs 6:9).

Time to cut back

Contrary to what some of you might think, television is not the problem. Like any other tool it can be used constructively or destructively. The same goes for the internet. We don’t need to go “cold turkey” on our screen time but we could all stand to cut back. Removing all illegally downloaded content from your computer or hard drive is a good place to start. You just might save yourself thousands of dollars in fines in the process.¹⁸

Such a step isn’t easy. I know—I did it a few months ago. As far as life’s problems go, deleting a collection of pirated movies and TV shows shouldn’t be that big of a deal.

However, as a movie fan, I can honestly say it was difficult.

Funny how positive lifestyle changes are like that.

What I thought would be limiting, though, actually turned out to be liberating. Less time in front of the TV has meant more time reading and exercising. Playing the guitar is no longer just a Sabbath afternoon activity either.

Pirates who sail the seas aren’t so different from the ones who slouch in front of screens. Both

break the law and destroy lives—behaviour not befitting of a Christian. Thus, “let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need” (Ephesians 4:28).

“Savvy?”¹⁹

✉

1. http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/other_treaties/text.jsp?file_id=172836
2. Australian Copyright Council, *Internet: Copying & Downloading*, May 2014.
3. Visit <www.copyright.org.au> to learn more about copyright law in Australia.
4. Australian Copyright Council, *Internet: Copying & Downloading*, May 2014.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Ipsos Media CT, *Economic consequences of movie piracy (Australia)*, 2011.
7. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-17/choice-backs-australians-who-pirate-game-of-thrones/5530710>
8. Ellen White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 63 (emphasis added).
9. Ipsos Media CT, *Economic consequences of movie piracy (Australia)*, 2011.
10. *Ibid.*
11. McCrindle Research, *Australia: The digital media nation*, 2013. A study on New Zealanders revealed similar results.
12. <http://newsroom.heart.org/news/watching-too-much-tv-may-increase-risk-of-early-death-in-adults>
13. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs385/en/>
14. Audrey Jane Gaskins, *Physical activity and television watching in relation to semen quality in young men*, 2012. Published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, February 2013.
15. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-30/australians-prefer-digital-over-television-for-media-consumption/5636434>
16. *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 342.
17. *The Screwtape Letters*, page 56.
18. [http://www.mpdAA.org.au/customers/mpdaa/mpdaa.nsf/\(PDFAnti-Piracy\)/AFACT_Consumer_Guides_Movies.pdf/\\$FILE/AFACT_Consumer_Guides_Movies.pdf](http://www.mpdAA.org.au/customers/mpdaa/mpdaa.nsf/(PDFAnti-Piracy)/AFACT_Consumer_Guides_Movies.pdf/$FILE/AFACT_Consumer_Guides_Movies.pdf). On the spot fines for movie piracy are \$1320. Additional penalties can be as high as \$60,500 and up to five years in prison.
19. Common phrase of Captain Jack Sparrow from *The Pirates of the Caribbean* movie franchise.

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

APPRECIATION

Dever. The family of Doris Dever sincerely thank all those who supported them with flowers, well wishes and hospitality during their recent loss. Special thanks to friend and neighbour, Wendy Croker of Cooranbong (NSW), who tirelessly helped care for Mum through her final illness. We look forward to the day when we will meet again.

Heise. The family of Pastor Vern Heise wish to express their appreciation for the flood of messages of condolence, which they continue to receive following the death of their father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Vern's life of ministry and service has impacted people all across the country and beyond. For details on how to contribute in his memory to Avondale's Vern and Edna Heise Award of Excellence, contact <lyell.heise@avondale.edu.au>.

ANNIVERSARIES



Boyd. Charles and Rosalind Boyd were married on 20.2.1954 in Wyong, NSW. On 22.2.14, they celebrated their diamond anniversary with 47 family members and friends at a surprise party organised by their family. Rose and Charles now live in Dalby, Qld, close to two of their three children, five of their 10 grandchildren and six of their eight great-grandchildren. We thank God for His generous blessings to them through the past 60 years and thank all who attended, making their evening one to be remembered.



Stevenson. David and Ruth (nee Aikenhead) recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends, including David's sister and brother-in-law, Gwen and Barry Freeman from Adelaide, SA. David and Ruth met at Avondale in 1952 and were married on 22.7.1954 in Launceston, Tas, by Pastor Howard Rampton. They moved to Brisbane in 1956 and have three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandsons. David and Ruth praise God for

His leading in their lives.

Kelly Richards

WEDDINGS



Corletto-Bullas. Alexander Corletto, son of Maria and Franco

Corletto (Adelaide, SA), and Ebony Bullas, daughter of Mitsy and Rodney Bullas (Adelaide), were married 6.7.14 at Concordia College Chapel, Highgate. Ebony and Alex have set up their home in Adelaide. Alex will continue to work as a teacher while Ebony completes her training as a dental assistant.

Lilian Panozzo



Dammasch-Prestwidge. Markus Peter Dammasch, son

of Elvira (Caboolture, Qld) and Ernst Dammasch (deceased), and Camille Anne Prestwidge, daughter of Brad Prestwidge (Beerwah), were married 24.8.14 at Glengariff Historic Estate, King Scrub, Qld.

Mike Brownhill



Hawkins-Ivey. Anthony Keith Hawkins, son of Calvin and Robyn

Hawkins (Narromine, NSW), and Belinda Emma Ivey, daughter of Peter and Jennifer Ivey (Wingham), were married 14.4.14 in the beautiful setting of Harrington Waters Community Church, Harrington.

David McKibben



Rabo-Long. Jonacani Rabo, son of Levani and

Neli Rabo (Auckland, NZ), and Jolisa Long, daughter of Warrick and Kerrie Long (Cooranbong, NSW), were married 24.5.14 at Lake Macquarie. Jonacani and Jolisa were wed by the lake with family present. They have set up their home in Cooranbong.

Wes Tolhurst

OBITUARIES

Adderton, Ruhamah Iris Grace (nee Scragg), born 31.1.1922 in NZ; died 17.8.14 in Victor Harbor, SA. She was predeceased by her husband, George, and younger brother, Pastor Walter Scragg.

She is survived by her two sons, David (SA) and Gary (Tas); grandchildren, Joshua, Alyssa, Nathan, Sharni, Sophie and Remy; great-grandchildren, Amelie, Ash and Elouise; and her brother, Dr Roy Scragg. Her father, Pastor Walter Scragg (Snr), chose the career path for each of his three children—for Iris it was teaching in which she excelled. She taught in Tasmania and served as a missionary teacher at the Scheer Memorial Hospital, Banepa, Nepal, while George worked in the maintenance department. After returning to Australia they retired in Victor Harbor, where Iris became involved in the community by volunteering her time and energy.

Allan Croft

Bergh, Beryl (nee Collingwood-Boyes), born 20.7.1927 in Johannesburg, South Africa; died 14.8.14 on the Gold Coast, Qld. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Carol, Alan, Katherine, Kyle (Johannesburg, South Africa), Lenore, Ron, Justin (Gold Coast, Qld), Robert, Angela, Candice and Bradley (Johannesburg, South Africa). Beryl became a devout Adventist after she met her beloved husband, Leon, and he told her about the Sabbath. She was a wonderful support to him and a leader in the children's divisions for many years. She told wonderful stories and was very artistic. Beryl became involved in Meals on Wheels and over the 22 years that she served as organiser and president, she served nearly 250,000 meals. She moved to Australia aged 80. She was widely loved and respected. She was elegant and Christ-like.

*Andre van Rensburg,
Hennie Murray*

Braidwood, Sylvia (nee Pasco), born 18.10.1927 in England; died 15.4.14 in Albury, NSW. She married Brian Pasco, who predeceased her in 1981. On 11.8.1985, she married Ray Braidwood. She is survived by her children, John Pasco, Stephen Pasco, Ann Cobbin and Darina Foots; 16 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Sylvia and her late husband, Brian, worked for Sani-tarium throughout New Zealand for over 20 years. We await the joyful reunion.

Benjamin Galindo

Carr, Neva Dorothy (nee Orth), born 29.7.1922 in Melbourne, Vic; died 29.7.14 in her home, East Mt Gravatt, Qld—her 92nd birthday. She loved nature—particularly flowers, animals and birds. Neva trained as an accountant and was very proficient in her work. She was a keen follower of sporting events. She married Stan Carr at Brunswick, Vic. Stan worked as an engineer for many years until he retired to care for Neva after she became an invalid. On 23.10.1954, they were baptised by Pastor K S Parmenter at the East Prahran church. They moved in recent years to East Mt Gravatt to be close to family. Even though they lived a quiet life because of Neva's health condition, they were a very caring influence in the community.

Don Bain



Dever, Doris Hazel (nee Cox), born 15.3.1917 in Timaru, NZ; died 17.6.14 in

Wesburn, Vic. She graduated from nursing at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in 1943 and married John Dever after he returned from war service in Papua New Guinea in 1944. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her children and their families, Ken and Joyce Dever (Numurkah, Vic), Delmae and Kevin Geelan (Wesburn) and Merilyn and Ken Aveling-Rowe (Oberon, NSW); nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. The couple served in PNG, South NZ, North Qld, including Kuranda, Pitcairn Island and after retirement Doris continued her active and caring ministry in the Cooranbong community. She went to Wesburn for a holiday with her family, stayed for seven months and after a short illness passed away.

Hall, Keith Neville, born 7.7.1925 in Cardiff, NSW; died 19.8.14 in Bethania, Qld. On 9.5.1984, he married Patricia June Matthews. He was predeceased by his son, Daniel. He is survived by his wife (Eagleby); his children, Fay Hall (Port Macquarie, NSW), Jean Kingdom (Lansdowne), Neville (Ipswich, Qld) and Greg (Maitland, NSW); and stepchildren, Bryce Matthews (Gold Coast, Qld), Mandy Matthews (Edens Landing), Susan Matthews (Maylands, NSW), Sharon Matthews (Port Macquarie) and Mark Matthews

(Gold Coast, Qld). Neville was a wonderful handyman, so clever with his hands that he could do almost everything. He loved his wife, children and Lord.

Neil Tyler



Heise, Pastor Verner John, born 3.4.1921 in Brisbane, Qld; died 7.8.14 in Cooranbong, NSW. His wife, Edna, predeceased him in 2006. He is survived by his children, Lyell and Gaylene Heise, Vhonda Copertino, Geoffrey and Keren Heise; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Vern ministered in Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and North New South Wales. He had a life-long admiration of teachers and scholars and this was often reflected in his ministry and preaching of the Word. He will be remembered for his love and pride of family, strong faith, quest

for excellence, kind generosity and appreciation of gospel and classical music.

Roger Nixon, Ray Roennfeldt



Hodder, Malcolm John, born in the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney, NSW; died in Singleton. He was predeceased by his father, John Hodder. He is survived by his mother, Mullie Hodder; his sister and brother-in-law, Gayle and Nigel Brewer (all of Singleton); and family from various places. Malcolm was baptised in 1980 at Narrabri by Pastor Harold Edmunds. He was a man of simple faith who loved his family, driving and his Lord. He and his late father were the best of mates. Malcolm was farewelled at Singleton church by many family members, friends and his church family.

Clive Nash

Hunt, John Roberts, born 12.10.1941 in Adelaide, SA; died 12.7.14 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Caloundra, Qld. He is survived by his sister, Joanne Eakins (Sunshine Coast), and brother, Roger (Hawthorndene, SA). John loved his Lord and took great delight in God's creative handiwork in nature.

Bob Possingham, Steve Ward

MacNaught, Joan Annette (nee Atkinson), born 15.6.1944; died 25.8.14 in Brisbane, Qld. She married Tony MacNaught and they became faithful disciples of Jesus many years ago. After studying the Advent message they were baptised at Eight Mile Plains church on 20.7.13. Joan had a strong faith and a passion for healthful living. She is lovingly remembered and survived by husband, Tony; and her children, David, Jonathan and wife, Pauline; and Sarah. She awaits the voice of Jesus on Resurrection morning.

Andre van Rensburg

Nash, Maurice Fredrick, born 15.2.1927 in Auckland, NZ; died 8.7.14 in Brisbane, Qld. In 1950, he married Lois Sluggett, a primary school teacher at Carmel College, WA, and they made a wonderful team over the next 64 years. He is survived by his wife and their family, Peter and Julie, Zonetta, Samuel, Neriman, Karen, Frankie and Daisy. Maurice studied at Longburn College and then taught woodwork, building construction and art at Carmel College for 13 years. They returned to Longburn to teach and then five years later were called to ministry in North NZ. In the years that followed they worked in South NZ, South Australia, Solomon Islands and South Qld. Maurice loved music—he played the organ and wrote music for children. His skills in art,

printing and technical drawing were a great asset to the Church and institutions where he served.

Zeny Vidacak, Don Bain



Peterson, (Ivy) May (nee Lang), born 15.5.1929, in Fiji; died 31.5.14 in Gosford Hospital, NSW. She was predeceased by both of her husbands, George Thomas and Kenn Peterson. May's life was celebrated by her family at Gosford church, by her brother, Lynn Lang (Cooranbong, NSW), her sons, John Thomas (Kulnura) and Kenn Thomas (Kariiong), and her sister, Diane Manners (Tickera, SA). May was remembered as a faithful and loving mother who was a very hard worker for her large family, as well as her amazing work for Pathfinders and her local church on the Central Coast of NSW.

Don Boehm, David Price

Powell, Lawrence Vivian, born 21.10.1926 in Kadina, SA; died 8.9.14 in Woodcroft. On 29.8.1967, he married Irene Howe. He was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy Shepherd, and his son, Christopher. He is survived by Rosemary Powell and granddaughter, Alicia (Adelaide); and Cathie and Stephen Morris, Ronan and Sierra Morris (Stirling). Lawrence was born into the Adventist Church and remained faithful all his life, serving in many different capacities. A man of many talents, Lawrence loved singing in a male quartet and building and sailing his yacht. He was also a gifted artist.

*Nigel Ackland, Allan Croft
George Hirst*

Sparkes, Barry Graham, born 8.5.1951 in Ipswich, Qld; died 8.1.14 in Coominya. On 18.1.1975, he married Mary Patricia Beevors

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Maintenance manager—Adventist Aviation Services PNG (Goroka, Papua New Guinea).** Adventist Aviation Services PNG is a small aviation company run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church based in Papua New Guinea (PNG). It operates two modern turbine-powered Pacific Aerospace P750XL aircraft with a mission to support the Seventh-day Adventist Church in PNG and help it grow by providing transport and other essential services to the people and church members. Adventist Aviation Services is looking for a new maintenance manager to commence in 2015. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at < www.adventistemployment.org.au >. All applications must include your CV and three work-related referees and be sent to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email to <hr@adventist.org.au>; or fax to (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **January 18, 2015.**

■ **IT systems administrator (Pacific islands focus)—South Pacific Division—The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking a highly skilled and experienced systems administrator to join its busy information technology team and focus on the needs of the Pacific islands. This role will be based at the Division head office in Wahroonga, NSW, but will provide support remotely as well as travel to Papua New Guinea. The IT systems administrator will be responsible for installing and supporting IT systems hardware and related infrastructure in an education context; providing service desk troubleshooting and support; as well as training, managing and mentoring local IT staff. The successful candidate must be eligible to work in Australia. For the full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including cover letter, CV, three work-related referees and contact details of your Adventist church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; or email <hr@adventist.org.au>; or fax to (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **November 10, 2014.**

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



SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITIONS

■ **Traineeships in Health Ministry/Certificate 4 Massage.** Two positions (female) exist for a one-year program, commencing January 2015. Includes accredited courses and training in a retreat setting. Be mentored alongside a team of dedicated professionals including a doctor and dietitian. A great opportunity to become actively involved in health ministry. Visit <www.cedarvaleeducation.com.au>; email <info@cedarvaleeducation.com.au>; or phone (02) 4465 1362. **Applications close November 7, 2014.**

The above ministries are independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but are supportive of the Church.

at Coorparoo, Brisbane. He was baptised on 21.3.09 in Esk. He is survived by his wife (Coominya); children, Peter and Carolyn Sparkes (Brisbane), Catheren and Wayne Fellows (Ipswich); mother, Ivy (Coominya); and grandchildren. As a young man Barry had a good church experience but like many wandered away and made a life outside of the Church, becoming a butcher by trade and builder of beautiful, well-engineered street rods in his spare time. Later in life he recognised his need of a Saviour and came back to his Lord and the Church. He was a quiet, deep thinking man who was fastidious in all that he turned his hand to. He and Mary renovated their home with all the skill of a trained joiner/ builder. Barry was loved and respected by all and his trust was totally in Jesus.

John Rabbas

Tola, Geleta Haile, born 10.12.1974 in Ethiopia; died 11.8.14 in Hallam, Vic. He was predeceased by Lamesa Haile Tola. He is survived by his parents, Haile Tole Qerenso and Likyelesh Wolde Gossa, and sister, Hawani Haile Tola (all of Hallam). Geleta was a kind, compassionate man with a keen sense of humour. He was very patient with his parents and was always the one to open the door or take a phone call. Geleta loved traditional Ethiopian food and computers. Reading the daily *Herald Sun* kept him in touch with the world. Born and raised in Ethiopia, he did accounting and business management studies in Kenya before moving to Australia. He will be sadly missed.

Malcolm Reid

Van Vliet, Gerda, born November 1932 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands; died 23.8.14 in Wollongong, NSW. She is survived by her husband, Cornelius; three daughters, Jenny, Judy and Jackie; two sons-in-law; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Gerda was a woman of strong faith and during her last days at home testified that she was at peace and ready for Jesus to come. The Wollongong church was packed with mourners for her memorial service. They then gathered at the Wollongong Memorial Gardens Lawn Cemetery, prayers of faith spread across the world during the funeral. A granddaughter and

two great-grandchildren living in Dubai, and her sister, Roulie, living in Rotterdam, were all in prayer at the very time of the funeral service.

Peter Jack

Wilson, George Francis, born 5.1.1931 in Melbourne, Vic; died 12.8.14 in Southern Cross Aged Care, Keon Park. On 22.5.1956, he married Patricia. He was predeceased by his daughter, Denise. He is survived by his wife (Reservoir); children, Lynette (Adelaide, SA) and Allan (Sunbury, Vic); and grandchildren, Elise, Michelle, Bethany, Glen, Natasha, Kaitlyn and Jessica. George was a charter member of Preston church and was actively involved, being the Mr Fix-it and go-to man for many people until he became too ill in July 2013. He was also a missionary teacher at Rumba School (Bougainville) and Kamububu College (PNG) from 1957 to 1963 and a long-time volunteer for the SES and St John Ambulance services. George loved God and took strength in the hope of the second coming.

Iutini Rimoni, James Kent

ADVERTISEMENTS

Giant book sale. Ignore false rumours. I am still collecting books, yes, still collecting books. Not only religious, any topic, any age, any condition. However, due to church renovations, the next book sale will be around April 2015. Erick: (03) 9763 7653 (evenings).

Macedon Ranges church, New Gisborne is celebrating its 18th birthday and homecoming on November 29, 2014. You are invited to join in the celebrations. Photos of the church can be sent to PO Box 522, Gisborne, Victoria 3437, or email <justin.martin@gilson.vic.edu.au>. RSVP Sylvia on 0410 055 609 or Gladys on 0403 667 510.

Dear brothers and sisters from former Yugoslavia, please join us for our special 25th anniversary convention at Avondale College, January 2-5, 2015. To book your accommodation for this special event, please email Julian Tamas <juliantamas@hotmail.com>, or Pastor Dragan Kanazir <dragankanazir@adventist.org.au>. See you soon.

Three-room tent, all accessories incl. ensuite toilet, beds, tables, etc—everything for four people. Will help erect on Victorian Conference camp site. As new, cost \$2000, sell for \$1000. Contact (03) 5495 2592 or <rvs@southernphone.com.au>.

Celebrations: make your special event an exceptional occasion with drinks for both non-drinkers and drinkers from ALCOfree. Check out: <www.alcofree.com.au>.

Stuarts Point Convention Centre open. The camporee relocation has meant Stuarts Point Convention Centre will again be open for Christmas holiday camping and accommodation as per usual. Bookings essential: 02 6569 0576; or email <stuartspointcc@adventist.org.au>.

Saving the world never tasted so delicious! Buy Vissot Cambodian curry and help raise funds for an Adventist health centre in Cambodia. Go to <www.jomnin.org> to buy curry or support the cause.

Missionaries lunch-Avondale graduation, December 6. A combined lunch after the church service for missionaries, ex-missionaries, families and friends will be held in the Education building. Please bring a plate of food. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Come prepared to give a short talk on "A touching experience in the mission field". Contact Ken Boehm on (02) 4365 3033/0408 072 313 or Warren Martin (02) 9489 5907 or email <warrenjmartin@hotmail.com>.

Absolute Care Funerals is an Adventist family owned and operated business, providing personalised attention for you in that time of need. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy, on (02) 9482 9069 or mobile 0408

458 452. Covering Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>.

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>.

Finally . . .

"The tongue is the strongest muscle in the human body; use yours to lift someone up today."

— Terri Ann Armstrong

Next RECORD Nov 15



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