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# Adventist Record

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SUMMER EDITION



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**JANUARY 8-18, 2014**

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## Religious liberty initiative kicks off in PNG

*Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea*

The first South Pacific chapter of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) was launched in Papua New Guinea last month.

IRLA secretary general Dr John Graz, who was in PNG for religious freedom events, said he was delighted by the creation of the new chapter. "The promotion of religious freedom through strong national chapters—and the key relationships, events and policies they develop—is vital in the response to the growth of violent religious extremism and restriction of faith," he said. "We hope that this first chapter in the South Pacific will be the first of many in the region. PNG is leading the way."

South Pacific Division religious liberty director James Standish said there are lots of complex questions facing the nations in our region. "We need the organisational and intellectual infrastructure that comes from being linked into the global IRLA network to adequately address our challenges," he said.

The Honorable Delilah Gore, PNG minister for Community, Youth and Religion, represented the Prime Minister at a religious freedom symposium on the campus of Pacific Adventist University. She presented the new chapter with a K10,000 government grant. "We need to expand the religious liberty movement in PNG," she said. "Even

though PNG is a predominantly Christian nation we have non-Christian religions coming here. A new chapter of the IRLA will help us peacefully and sustainably manage our growing religious diversity."

Sir Gibbs Selika, deputy chief justice of the PNG Supreme Court, will coordinate starting the new chapter. "It is important that the new chapter is properly organised by being incorporated under PNG law," he said. "This new PNG IRLA chapter will provide us with an opportunity to work with fellow chapters around the world—we can learn from each other and together we will be strong."

"The establishment of this new chapter is a fitting outcome of the symposium sponsored by Pacific Adventist University and the Adventist Church in PNG. It ensures this won't just be an event but rather will have sustained impact," said Dr Leigh Rice, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in PNG. —*Record staff*



Dr John Graz, Delilah Gore and Dr Leigh Rice.

## 4800 baptised in El Salvador

*San Salvador, El Salvador*

A crowd of 52,000 people gathered in Central America's largest stadium, Estadio Cuscatlan, on November 29 but they weren't there to watch football. They were there to learn more about God in a country that struggles with criminal gangs and one of the highest murder rates in the world.

"We sponsored 93 evangelistic campaigns across the nation and the stadium meetings were the climax of these campaigns," said Australian evangelist Pastor John Carter. "We brought in 93 pastors to lead out in the meetings and they were assisted by 100 local pastors."

Pastor Cesar Cardenas, a Colombian-born Australian citizen, was Pastor Carter's translator.

Former vice president of El Salvador, Ana Vilma de Escobar,

attended the meetings along with other officials. "These meetings are just what is needed at this time," she told Pastor Carter.

More than 4800 people were baptised over the course of the three-week campaign. "We were impressed by the spiritual hunger of the people," Pastor Carter said. "Glory be to God." —*Vania Chew*



Ana Vilma de Escobar with Pastor John Carter.

## EG White makes top 100

*Silver Spring, Maryland, US*

A leading scholar on Ellen G White welcomed a decision by *Smithsonian* magazine to name the cofounder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as one of the 100 most significant Americans of all time.

The magazine places Mrs White in a group that includes the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr and Helen Keller in its Spring 2015 issue. The individuals were chosen using an algorithm that measures data taken from Wikipedia pages and Google book scans.

"It is good to see an institution of Smithsonian's calibre giving proper acknowledgement to Ellen White," said William Fagal, associate director of the Ellen G White Estate, a depository of Mrs White's writings.

The main publication of the Smithsonian Institute, the world's largest museum, does not rank the 100. Instead, it divides them into 10 categories of 10 people each. Mrs White appears in "Religious Figures". But the magazine gave her more space than the other nine choices—a full-page article illustrated with a full-page drawing. —*Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review*



## Robespierre's shadow

James Standish

Roseville Cinema on Sydney's well-to-do north shore went all out for *Les Misérables*. Caught up in the emotion of the moment, you could almost imagine the bourgeois crowd leaping to its feet to man the barricade as, on screen, Combeferre appeals:

*Will you join in our crusade?*

*Who will be strong and stand with me?*

*Beyond the barricade*

*Is there a world you long to see?*

*Les Misérables* is not set in the lead-up to the French Revolution, as may be supposed, but during the lead-up to a significantly less memorable uprising that occurred four decades after the revolution. But that only begs the question why uprisings against the elite were necessary so long after a revolution so bloody and so complete? It certainly would have surprised Maximilien de Robespierre, the man behind the Reign of Terror.

The tragedy of Robespierre was not that he suffered from a lack of good intent; his intentions could hardly have been loftier. Asking himself the rhetorical question of what the French Revolution would accomplish, he answered: "The tranquil enjoyment of liberty and equality; the reign of that eternal justice . . ." You could hardly do better than that, could you?

Indeed, his aspirations were so lofty, they justified in his mind widespread abuses of human rights in order to achieve them. Terror, he noted, is just swift justice that naturally emanates from virtue. After all, if the swift elimination of "counter-revolutionaries" would result in the building of a utopia, why wait any longer than necessary?

Strangely enough, despite history's rich lessons, today the shadow of Robespierre's logic can be seen at work in Western nations. In order to build the utopian world in which equality is perfectly secured, it's argued we must be willing to make certain necessary sacrifices, including freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of religion.

These calls are not without logic. There is both a complementarity and a tension between freedom and equality. An illustration in the economic realm illustrates the paradox.

State intervention is required to achieve a semblance of economic equality. In Western societies this is generally done through regulatory means ranging from minimum wages through to progressive taxation and antitrust laws. Communist states go much further in the quest for equality, but in order to get there, they must curtail economic freedoms much more dramatically. Ironically, in the process, they got neither freedom nor equality.

The trend in many Western nations today is towards equality trumping freedom and a new hierarchy of freedoms where religious freedom sits at the bottom of rights. In the recent Victorian elections, for example, the winning party promised that in order to promote equality it would strip faith-based schools of their right to hire those who share the school's ethos. But if the women and men in faith-based schools do not share the faith how can they be exemplars of it? You can't teach what you don't have.

True equality is treating people with deeply held but differing good faith perspectives with the same level of respect. It gives people equal rights of expression, equal rights of association and equal rights to practise their religion or follow their beliefs. It supports the rights of those who want a genuine faith-infused education, as guaranteed in Article 18(4) of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. Suppressing these fundamental freedoms destroys the heart of a vibrant, diverse democracy. How can we claim to respect the multicultural fabric of our society in one breath and criminalise the expression of our diversity in another?

True equality cannot be built on coerced homogeneity and an enforced hierarchy of attributes that put people of faith at the bottom of our society.

Were Robespierre to read the Victorian proposal he would agree with its thrust wholeheartedly. And he would likely predict it will result in "eternal justice". He would be dead wrong. In *Les Misérables*, Courfeyrac echoes Combeferre's "is there a world you long to see?" with the instruction: "Then join in the fight, that will give you the right to be free!" Today, as freedom is in the balance, it's a challenge everyone should take up.

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"Naomi Wilo, a PAU nursing graduate with her proud parents."

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



## Eat, pray, love

Jarrod Stackelroth

If you're anything like me you're returning to work around this time extremely enthused about the new year, ready for any challenge. Truth be told, you've missed working, the thrill of deadlines, the exciting mental gymnastics of important decision-making or the comforting familiarity of repetitive motions. OK, OK, I'm being slightly sarcastic. Don't get me wrong; I'm happy to have the opportunities and blessings I do but sometimes it's hard to get motivated, especially after returning from a holiday. Let's be honest: I'm falling asleep at my desk and not too ready to kick back into work mode. Sometimes we need holidays from our holidays. Hopefully you've survived without major sunburn or a few extra kilos of Christmas cheer.

You're surveying the year ahead with a mixture of anticipation and expectation but also trepidation. Like most years there will be surprises (good and bad), disappointments, planned events that bring joy and fellowship, milestones and anniversaries passed and the routine of life. There may be new opportunities and doors that close. There may be tragedy. There is no way of telling.

It's back to reality. My good intentions of getting up early, shaving and ironing, preparing a healthy and tasty breakfast and starting the working year on the right foot. . . well it didn't really happen. New year's resolutions are like that. If you made any, you've probably slipped up already and it's just making you feel guilty.

A new year in some ways feels like a new start, a second chance. But rather than feeling guilty about goals not achieved, I think it's important at this time of year to look into the past and the future and be thankful for what we have.

I had a thought about what I would like to aim for this year. Let's phrase it positively.

The phrase "Eat, Pray, Love" comes from a popular novel that was made into a movie. I haven't seen it but the phrase resonates with what I want to achieve this year.

**Eat:** Often people have the goal of not eating or at least losing weight in the new year. But that's negative. When you sink your teeth into that first cream bun or ice-cream of the year it often feels like failure. This year I want to eat. I love eating, especially with friends and family. But I want to eat responsibly. Eat less, eat healthy, eat cheap and eat with others.

**Pray:** Connect with God. In the rush of life and events that accompanied the end of another year my prayer and devotional life suffered. I need to talk to God as well as spend time listening to Him and His Word.

**Love:** I need to be more loving. Love God more so His love rubs off on me. Love my wife and not keep score. Love her family as much as mine. Love my family and forgive their faults. Love my friends and be more generous. Love strangers by being patient, honest, kind, giving and forgiving.

These are positive goals that will bring fun and fellowship. This year might be tough but God's will for us is to rejoice and be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of *Adventist Record*.



## First things first

The first *Adventist Record* of the new year! Believe it or not 2015 is already well underway. And this is a great time to talk about priorities.

Priorities are the things that are most important to us. Actually they are very similar to values—it's just that priorities are often expressed in terms of actions whereas values are expressed in terms of underlying determinants of those actions. Often they are unconscious or unstated. We do not necessarily have them posted on the door of our house or even on our refrigerator. But we all have them. They make it possible for us to answer the questions about how we spend our time and our resources and who we spend them with and on!

Now a question: How often have you intentionally stopped and thought about your priorities? Can you actually list them for today? How about for the next week or for this year? What about the next five years? And think about the various areas of your life that call for priorities: your relationships, family, health, career/schooling, finances, even your holidays. And then there is your connection with God. When it is listed among all the others, where does it really come for you on the list? We are the only ones who can actually answer that for ourselves.

It's a new year—2015. A great time for putting first things first. Blessings to you this year.

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





## Digital parish

Celebrity pastor Rob Bell left church ministry after criticism of his 2011 book on hell, *Love Wins*, but now he's aiming at a larger audience than he ever had at his 11,000-strong Mars Hill church in Michigan. Late last year *The Rob Bell Show* launched on Oprah Winfrey's cable/satellite TV network. —*Religion News Service*



## Set them free

Over the next five years, congregations in churches, mosques and temples will hear the message that slavery is forbidden by God. Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Orthodox, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist leaders met in Vatican City to sign a pledge to work towards eradicating slavery by 2020. —*WalkFree.org*



## Razor poised

Caritas and ADRA are among the community groups raising the alarm over suggestions the Australian Government will once again cut foreign aid. Under the current and previous governments the foreign aid budget was cut. Bipartisan promises to increase aid to international Millennium Development Goal targets are looking increasingly out of reach. —*Sydney Morning Herald*



## Grateful

After surgery and several months of treatment for breast cancer, the world's most well-known worship leader, Darlene Zschech, says she's praising God that she's cancer-free. She will need to continue with check-ups and medication for some years. Ms Zschech says she's grateful for the gift of the second half of her life. —*Darlene Zschech*



## Silent sermon

This year is the first time that each of the Adventist Church's 13 world divisions has appointed deaf ministry coordinators. Only about two per cent of deaf people are Christians. The development of resources for the deaf includes a new website, [adventistdeaf.org](http://adventistdeaf.org), with sections for both those who are deaf and can hear. —*Adventist Review*



## Priority shift

A proposed shift in Federal funding from Australia's public universities to TAFEs and private institutions has turned into a stoush over the separation of church and state. Labor has questioned whether the government should pay for the education of clergy. Family First says funding the training of religious workers is a plus. —*The Age*

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## Sanitarium adopts new health star ratings

*Berkeley Vale, New South Wales*

Consumers across Australia and New Zealand now have access to clearer, more convenient nutrition information to help support informed food purchases, following the introduction of Health Star Rating labelling on Sanitarium products in November.

Endorsed by the Australian State and Federal Governments in June, the Health Star Rating system scores products on a scale of 0.5 to five stars based on nutrient and whole food content, and is strongly aligned with the Australian Dietary Guidelines.

Sanitarium Australia general manager Todd Saunders said Sanitarium was one of the first companies to support the voluntary Health Star Rating labelling system and is proud to be taking a leading role in implementing the important national initiative.

"Sanitarium is committed to the health and wellbeing of all Australians, and we want to ensure the nutritional information on our products is transparent and easy to understand. The Health Star Rating system is an effective way to deliver this and we see the use of a consumer-friendly visual guide on packs as a great way to empower shoppers to make healthy food choices.

"The launch of Health Star Ratings is a big consumer win and a positive step forward for the health of the nation," he said.

Mr Saunders said market-leading offerings UP&GO, which scored four and a half stars, and Weet-Bix, which was awarded five stars, hit shelves with new front of pack labelling in November and December, with more products

set to roll out until mid-2015.

Dr Neal Blewett, former Australian Health Minister and chair of the 2011 Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy, said he welcomed the decision by Sanitarium.

"This initiative will directly benefit consumers

by making the challenge of seeking healthy food choices simpler and therefore easier. I hope that other food companies will follow Sanitarium's example so that the Health Star Rating system ultimately becomes universal on all packaged foods."

The Health Star Ratings system has also been implemented in New Zealand, with Weet-Bix the first product to adopt the new labels in October. New Zealand Food & Grocery Council chief executive Katherine Rich congratulated Sanitarium for spearheading the new initiative.

"Weet-Bix is one of New Zealand's most recognised and favourite brands, so it's significant that the company chose that from its big product range to launch the system in this country," said Mrs Rich. —*Sharyn Brady*

Consumers can find Health Star Ratings for Sanitarium products on the Sanitarium website, visit <[www.sanitarium.com.au/health-and-wellbeing/health-star-rating](http://www.sanitarium.com.au/health-and-wellbeing/health-star-rating)>.



Weet-Bix now has new packaging.

## Graduates prepared for ministry

*Kainantu, Papua New Guinea*

Students at the Omaura School of Ministry in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) celebrated their graduation on November 21-23.

More than 100 students from across PNG received certificates for one year of study and 20 received certificates for two years of study.

The graduates, mostly men, will offer themselves as ministers throughout the country. Some will find employment through the local mission; others will work as volunteers. The women—some advanced in years, others much younger—have studied the theology subjects along with the men but separated for some of the more practical subjects.

Dua Mara lives in the Omaura village. He spoke emphatically of how God gave him a vision that this property was to be used for a Bible school, not a business. He even spent time in prison because of his beliefs. He is now an old man but passionate about what this school is all about.

Established in 1940, the school has gone through some hard times and was even closed for a few years when hostilities between the tribes caused friction and fear. It's

set in rolling green hills amidst beautiful tall trees in the mountains of PNG. A long and tedious muddy road leads to and from it. Principal, Pastor Johannes Fezamo, a PNG national, is a man of vision, enthusiasm and has an infectious personality. He is managing to build up the school after some years of decline. The gardens are extensive, the airstrip is in perfect condition, new buildings are replacing the old and the church is packed every Sabbath. The church is alive with young people and children and the future looks bright. —*Joy Butler*



Graduates receive their certificates.





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## Family celebrates graduation together

*Cooranbong, New South Wales*

Two generations of one family received three awards in as many levels at Avondale College of Higher Education's year end graduation celebration, December 12-14.

More than 30 years since first enrolling as an undergraduate at Avondale, Paul Rankin is the second student to graduate with a PhD but the first to begin and end the award at the college of higher education. His son Caleb received an undergraduate award—a Bachelor of Environmental Science—and youngest daughter Rachel a vocational education and training award—a Diploma in Outdoor Recreation.



The Rankin family: Caleb, Paul and Rachel.

Dr Rankin first visited the Lake Macquarie campus as a six-year-old in 1963. Four years later, his father Ian graduated from the theology course. Dr Rankin returned in 1980, also as a theology student. He helped establish what is now the Avondale Students' Association and served as its first president before graduating in 1983.

These experiences and the opportunity to study with one of his "great mates," fellow hang gliding enthusiast and supervisor Dr Darren Morton, brought Dr Rankin back to Avondale. His children have also benefitted from this level of care and encouragement. "The support Avondale's given to us has impressed me," he said.

Some of Caleb's lecturers worked out of hours to mentor him throughout his course. Now, his academic achievements have enabled Caleb to consider applying for an honours degree.

Classmates of Rachel—the 18-year-old enrolled after completing Year 10—"almost adopted her as a younger sister", Dr Rankin said. The academic and social support she received helped enhance her leadership skills. Rachel is volunteering at Jombok Hoas, an adventure learning centre operated by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Cambodia, for six months next year.

While academic registrar Dr Gwen Wilkinson enjoys celebrating the success of each graduate, "the level of enjoyment increases when I see the success of a family group such as the Rankins".

Paul, Caleb and Rachel are three of the 264 graduates who marched into the Chan Shun Auditorium during the graduation service on December 14.

—Bianca Reynaud/Brenton Stacey

# REVIVED BY HIS WORD

Jan 17—Feb 7, 2015

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER  
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

January	20 - John 12	24 - John 16	28 - John 20	February	4 - Acts 6
17 - John 9	21 - John 13	25 - John 17	29 - John 21	1 - Acts 3	5 - Acts 7
18 - John 10	22 - John 14	26 - John 18	30 - Acts 1	2 - Acts 4	6 - Acts 8
19 - John 11	23 - John 15	27 - John 19	31 - Acts 2	3 - Acts 5	7 - Acts 9





# Adventist protests in PNG

People generally march when they are aggrieved. In France they have a habit of going one step further—angry farmers dump watermelons across roads or truck drivers park their big rigs across freeways. Now that is a proper protest!

But whoever heard of a rally when people are happy? On December 5, thousands of people from a number of Christian denominations marched in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), to say “thank you”—thank you to God, the government and the people of PNG for the religious freedom enjoyed in this nation.

“Does PNG face religious freedom challenges?” asked Dr Leigh Rice, president of the Adventist Church in PNG. “Yes, of course it does. There is the persecution of the marginalised who are accused of sorcery, for example, and this is something we take very seriously. But when you look at PNG compared to the vast majority of countries in this world, it is doing very well respecting the religious freedom of its diverse population. We say thank you for the freedom we enjoy in this nation. It isn’t something Adventists take for granted. We know many of our members around the world live under enormous pressure. How wonderful that this nation grants freedom to us, and not just to us, but to a broad range of religious practices.”

“This is my first time to PNG,” said Dr John Graz, Religious Liberty director at the world headquarters of the Adventist Church. “I travel to some of the most difficult nations on earth for religious freedom. It is good to come to a country where religious freedom is a central part of the national identity. No nation is perfect—every country has room to improve. But it is good to stop for a minute and be thankful for what we have in PNG. We love our religious freedom here and we want to keep it.”

The priest who is secretary general of the PNG Catholic Bishop Conference, Victor Roche, expressed thanks for religious freedom. He compared PNG’s liberty with the

violence sweeping much of the world—and illustrated his point talking about the Christians, including many Adventists, murdered by Islamic extremists in Kenya recently. “We must be thankful—in PNG if we want to worship on Sunday, we can, if we want to worship on Saturday, we can, if we are Muslim and want to worship on Friday, we can!” He implored the crowd to pray that the freedom enjoyed today continues unabated.

His Excellency Pastor Bienvenido Tezano, Philippine ambassador to PNG, spoke passionately about the advancement of religious freedom in his own nation after Dr Graz instigated a Philippine chapter of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). Students were barred from taking exams on any day other than Saturday at the time. The IRLA chapter focused on this problem, and after serious efforts, “today students have the opportunity to take exams on a day that does not violate their conscience. This is the practical difference religious freedom makes.”

“As Christians, we must remember that God gives human beings the freedom to choose,” said Dr Barry Oliver, president of the Adventist Church in the South Pacific. “As Christians, we have no right to take away what God has given.”

During the rally, the IRLA awarded four medals to those who have been outstanding defenders of religious freedom in PNG:

- Sir Gibbs Selika, deputy chief justice of the PNG Supreme Court and Adventist member
- Pastor Nellie Hamura-Oa, associate chaplain at the University of Papua New Guinea
- William Fey, the Catholic bishop of Kimbe
- His Excellency Pastor Bienvenido Tezano, Philippine ambassador to PNG.

*James Standish is editor of Adventist Record and director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.*



# The 7% Club

**R**EMEMBER TWO NUMBERS: 5000 AND 350. 5000 is the number of applicants Pacific Adventist University (PAU) estimates it will receive for the 2015 school year. 350 is the number of spots the university has.

For every 14 people who apply, only one will get to call him or herself a PAU student—only 7 per cent of applicants will get a coveted PAU slot.

To put this into perspective—PAU is now more selective than Harvard University (7.6 per cent of applicants are accepted), Yale (8.5 per cent), Stanford (9.3 per cent), the University of California (22.8 per cent) or New York University (32 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

Maybe that explains the depth of thankfulness and joy expressed by graduates. At last month's graduation dinner, I sat with a nursing graduate and his family. His mother was beaming with pride. He is not alone. During the graduation weekend I bumped into Naomi Wilo with her parents on each side of her. "Are you proud?" I asked. The



Naomi Wilo, a nursing graduate who is joining the staff of Port Moresby General Hospital, with her proud mum and dad.

response was overwhelming. On this day, every graduate is marching with the hopes and dreams of their families and their communities behind them.

Heda Silih, from Manus Island, is another example. She is graduating with a business degree. "I chose to study business as there are quite a few projects going on in Manus and we don't have the people to staff them. I hope to make a contribution to my community. I want to give back because I have been given so much." Given so much by who? "I had a brain tumour when I was 12 years old," she explains. "The Rotary Club sponsored surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. I come from a religiously divided family. My dad, who is an Adventist, really pushed to get me help. He had faith something could be done. Some of my non-Adventist family said to my dad, 'She is too sick to survive, we have to leave her to die.' My dad's faith really impressed me. After my recovery I was baptised."

And how has PAU impacted Heda? "PAU has changed my life. What impressed me is the cleanliness of the campus and the rooms. I've adopted the practices I've learned. It has also strengthened my faith, including my observance of Sabbath. Originally the employer who has hired me asked me to work seven days a week. I asked for Sabbaths off and they accepted my request. I look forward to the life that awaits me."

During the dedication service each school recited pledg-



Heda Silih.



es unique to their discipline. All expressed high ideals but two caught my attention. The business students' pledge included a promise to refrain from corruption, even when corruption is the norm. Sadly, that is a pledge that will be tested very quickly. The theology pledge, which is the length of a small book, includes very practical promises, including the promise not to engage in sexual impropriety; another pledge that will be tested sooner than many may realise.

Piula Fukofuka, senior lecturer in Arts and Humanities, extolled the students to be a generation of men and women who are "'true to duty, like the needle is to the pole' . . . All the Hebrews who bowed down on the plain of Dura, what happened to them?" she asked. "They became the subordinates of the Hebrews who were faithful . . . If you remain faithful, God can similarly use you."

As he waited in line to go into graduation, Reverend Sabadi, the first PAU masters in theology graduate from the United Methodist Church, reflected on his time at PAU. "The level of biblical scholarship at PAU is very high.



I've learned a lot that I will take back to my congregation. Ultimately my goal is to use the knowledge and skills I've learned to make this world a beautiful place."

"This is our third year in a row that we have the biggest graduating class in our history,"

vice chancellor Ben Thomas states. "Today 188 graduates are receiving their degrees and we'll have a further 35 in February. We are also awarding associate degrees through our sister institution, Sonoma College, and we're planting a new campus in the Solomon Islands. Developing Christians with a deep and growing faith is our first priority. That is why God is such an important part of this graduation weekend and a baptism was part of our program. I'm also delighted by the way students are taking initiative at PAU—real life begins here, not after. For example, a student group launched Eco-elites this year—to focus on ecological



issues in PNG. Our students are not just learning about service, they are actually serving, and that is an ethic they will take with them.

"We aren't naive," he continues, "our

students are going to face all manner of temptations after graduating. This isn't an easy society to stand apart for God—maybe nowhere is. We have asked God to guide us every day to prepare them for the challenges and temptations. Now is their time to fly. There is no height they can't scale if they keep a humble attitude with submission to God at the core of their lives. That is my prayer for them."

"PAU is our Church's only fully fledged university in the South Pacific," observes Dr Leigh Rice, president of the Adventist Church in PNG. "Integration and partnership is in the strategic interest of our higher educational institutions across the Pacific.

I believe the PAU Board of Governors stands ready to work closely with other entities who are interested in achieving university status. PAU already has relationships with a number of universities, including James Cook and Deakin Universities in Australia. And we are ready to work with our sister institutions in a new, deeper partnership as we move forward."

During graduation events the PAU anthem is sung over and over again. It's a real earworm—once you've heard it a couple times you can't get it out of your head. The Christian values and ideals students learn at PAU will similarly be lodged in every graduate's intellect and heart. Whether they employ them consistently is up to them. What is not in doubt is the remarkable work PAU is doing in very challenging conditions; PAU is a credit to our Church.

For some, Dr Rice upholding an institution in PNG as a model to the rest of our Church colleges may seem ironic—but it's only ironic to people who haven't visited this remarkable place. But if you want to come and study here, you better get in early as applications are expected to double within three years—then only one applicant in 28 will get a coveted slot at our premier university in the South Pacific.

Do you think you have what it takes to make the cut? **R**

1. <http://www.collegeatlas.org/lowest-acceptance-colleges.html>; other sources give a slightly different acceptance rate for each university, but are within a couple of percentage points.



Professor Tracie Mafile'o, deputy vice chancellor, gave an emotional address as she reflected on her upcoming return to New Zealand, with Pele Alu, registrar, and Karo Matainaho, bursar.



Adjunct professor David MacLaran, James Cook University, wearing his kilt.



## Record effort at Epauto

A record 99 students were baptised at Epauto Secondary School in Vanuatu in 2014. The baptisms are a testament to Adventist schools across the country increasing their commitment to Bible studies and prayer. Last year at Epauto, one class every Thursday was devoted to Bible studies for the whole school. "We are preparing students for heaven," principal Joses Seth said. "That is why we are intentional." — *Adventist Media: Vanuatu*



## In the valley of widows

A team of 10 volunteers, made up primarily of Fox Valley Community church (NSW) members, travelled to East Timor late last year to construct toilets for widows and disabled residents in the village of Kraras. Known as the "village of widows" after the 1970s massacre of hundreds of locals, it is located approximately 300 km from East Timor's capital Dili. — *Mark Baines*



## Christ for the crisis

More than 200 people attended the "Christ for the Crisis" evangelism series held at Pago Pago, American Samoa, late last year. The three-week event was hosted by Dr Walton Rose from Andrews University (US). Hundreds of others watched the event via three downlink sites set up across the island nation. The program was also broadcast live on HopeChannel. — *TPUM newsletter*



## Legacy of love

Operation Food For Life (OFFL) co-founder David Woolley has retired from his frontline responsibilities with the organisation after many years of energetic and passionate service. Mr Woolley was given an emotional farewell during a trip to Papua New Guinea late last year. He was presented with a traditional bilum from the ladies at Bomana prison in Port Moresby, and given a cultural farewell from children and teachers at the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School. Mr Woolley, who also served as secretary/treasurer of OFFL, will continue to serve on the charity's executive committee based in Australia. — *Dennis Perry*



## Going the distance

More than \$NZ78,000 was raised for ADRA New Zealand projects in Vanuatu, Myanmar and the Philippines during the not-for-profit organisation's annual charity run in Auckland on December 7. More than 1100 runners accepted the challenge to "Take Up The Distance", with hundreds of others gathering at Mission Bay to cheer them on. "It was a brilliant day filled with fun, laughter and hope," ADRA New Zealand CEO Matthew Siliga said. "To be doing this for over 10 years is a real blessing and we are very grateful for the runners and 120 or so volunteers who make the event happen." — *Linden Chuang*



## 18th birthday

Macedon Ranges Adventist church (Vic) celebrated its 18th birthday on November 29. The event brought together former and current church members, with Victorian Conference ministerial secretary Pastor Darren Croft reminding them they were "18 years closer to heaven". A special afternoon concert was held by Gavin Chatalier and his family, who have been involved with the church since its opening. — *Justin Martin*



## Fun in the sun

Macquarie College (NSW) hosted its annual spring fair late last year, with hundreds of people from the community flocking to the school campus to enjoy a variety of stalls, rides and live entertainment. The hit of the day was a giant waterslide, which was unsurprising given the day's sunshine and soaring temperature. The event raised more than \$A16,000 for the school. — *Alysha Knopper*



## Bearded bunch

The beards were out in force at Adventist Media Network in Wahroonga (NSW) in November. No, the facial hair growth wasn't part of a united "Movember" fundraiser. It just sort of happened, and thus we thought we'd share with you a snapshot of some of the faces behind your favourite media ministries ([www.adventistmedia.com.au](http://www.adventistmedia.com.au)). — *Record staff*





## A pill that replaces the treadmill

A team of researchers at Harvard University recently made headlines for a discovery that some believe could eventually lead to a future treatment for obesity. Researchers believe they have found a mechanism to turn "bad" white fat into brown fat cells, which generate heat by burning calories.

Human infants naturally have a higher proportion of brown fat to help them regulate their body temperature but as we get older this proportion of brown fat greatly decreases. In terms of calorie burning, the potential treatment has been described as "a pill that replaces the treadmill".

Living in a world with high overweight and obesity rates, any new tool to help combat these problems is definitely welcome but we shouldn't forget the tools we already have. A potential future medication that burns calories as effectively as exercise gets headlines. What doesn't get headlines is that exercise doesn't only burn calories but also improves cardiovascular health, has anti-inflammatory effects, improves cognitive function and works as a natural anti-depressant. It can also be a great social opportunity, giving us the ability to spend time with friends and family and connect with other members of the community.

Even if you're at a healthy body weight those benefits are pretty hard to pass up and they're there for all of us to have right now. Modern medicine will continue to make amazing advancements in health but we also have the power to ease some of its burden right now.



### Tomato, borlotti bean and rocket salad

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 20 minutes Serves: 4

**200g punnet of cherry tomatoes**  
**3 cloves garlic, whole**  
**Olive oil spray**  
**400g can borlotti beans, drained and rinsed**  
**220g tub of bocconcini cheese, sliced**  
**70g baby rocket**  
**¼ cup fresh basil leaves, torn**  
**1 tablespoon olive oil**  
**½ tablespoon balsamic vinegar**

1. Place cherry tomatoes and garlic on an oven tray and lightly spray with olive oil spray. Bake in a hot oven, 200°C, for 10 minutes or until tomatoes are soft and shrivelled. Roast garlic for a further 10 minutes.
2. In a large salad bowl combine borlotti beans, bocconcini cheese, rocket and basil.
3. Once cooled slightly, add roast tomatoes and any juices. Combine olive oil, vinegar and mashed roasted garlic in a small bowl. Toss dressing through salad and serve immediately.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** Kilojoules 1080kJ (255 cal). Protein 16g. Total fat 13g. Carbohydrate 17g. Sodium 170mg. Potassium 430mg. Calcium 260mg. Iron 2.5mg. Fibre 3.6g.

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Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE  
MEDICINE  
SERVICES





# In a class of its own

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) is one of Papua New Guinea's most respected tertiary institutions. Vice chancellor, Professor Ben Thomas, reflects on PAU's progress and future.

**I** AM ABSOLUTELY FOCUSED ON STAYING TRUE TO OUR mission—it must be at the forefront. So every decision has to be made using this criteria: will it make this a better place to develop a relationship with God or not? We have no value proposition if we lose our unique spiritual component. If we lose that our reason for existing disappears.

We could grow by 15 per cent instantly by adding day students. But day students miss much of the spiritual content on campus, from our morning and evening worship to our spiritual activities on the weekends. So before we add a large contingent of day students we have to be sure we have a plan for them to be spiritually engaged.

As our boarding student numbers grow—we have close



to 2000 people on campus now—we are adapting to ensure they are spiritually active. Currently we have two churches. But there are only so many people who can be active in the program of a large church during a given service. So we are in the process of setting up four additional worship service centres around the campus. The idea is to significantly increase the opportunity for spiritual leadership and active engagement.

I believe a significant reason I'm still in church is that when I was 14 I was made a junior deacon in my local church. I had to be at church on Sabbath because my church needed me. I had a job. I want to make sure our students have the same experience.

Each school puts on a weekend of spiritual emphasis each semester. This is in addition to our four separate weeks of prayer each year. One school did theirs in the nearby prison training facility. They camped in a hall there. All the kids—dorm and day—along with the faculty participated in ministering to the inmates. These kinds of events reinforce that deans and faculty have a spiritual mission along with an academic mission.

Our director of spiritual services and academic dean are working together to integrate spiritual values into our classes. We want both the spiritual team and our academics to help each other think about how their roles integrate and inform their respective work.

On the academic front we're looking at our assessment. Traditionally we've used the curve to grade. That is, the students' grades were arranged from top to bottom and grades assigned by a predetermined spread. The problem is that this grading system doesn't necessarily ensure that students have mastered the core subject matter. Currently we're moving to criteria-based assessment. That is, grades will be assigned for achievement in assessment where criteria are aligned to learning outcomes. After the transition, an entire class could do well or do poorly or we could have an inverse curve based on how well they perform against the criteria aligned to learning outcomes. Dr Jeff Crocombe is working on this with a team of faculty members and they are doing an outstanding job. This is a challenging process. But we're doing it because we're dedicated to excellence.

When we started we had 27 faculty and 109 students. Staff and students really got to know each other well. There's a lot of mentoring that goes with that. Today we're so large it makes that personal touch hard to maintain. As we grow further the personal interaction will continue to diminish unless we address it. In part to address the scale of the university, we're working to ensure each school is a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone else and the faculty are there not just to teach but to model and mentor.

But growth also has tremendous advantages. First, we

are reaching far more people. Second, we're able to build a level of depth, breadth and sophistication of programs. This enables us to serve the Church better and to assist the Pacific nations in nation building.

We have had very positive meetings on ways PAU can assist in other areas of our Division. One of the areas we've been asked to help is the Solomons. It's too early to say how these things will work out. But the most important thing is that we are working together in a wonderful spirit of unity.

In the past two years we've finished five student duplexes, two faculty duplexes, a new girls' dorm, a health sciences extension and now we're building a new school of business and a three-storey men's dorm. There's also a new high school on our land operated by the Central Papua Conference. The long-term goal is to have a 1200 student high school, a 1500 student primary school and a preschool for 300 children. We will use it as our demo school, integrated with our education program.

In all this growth, we like to think PAU will remain a great place to contribute to our mission. Others seem to think so. This year we won the Employer of the Year Award from the PNG Human Resources Institute. Kay Humble is our director of Administration, Policy and Planning, which includes the HR

function. She is doing an outstanding job.

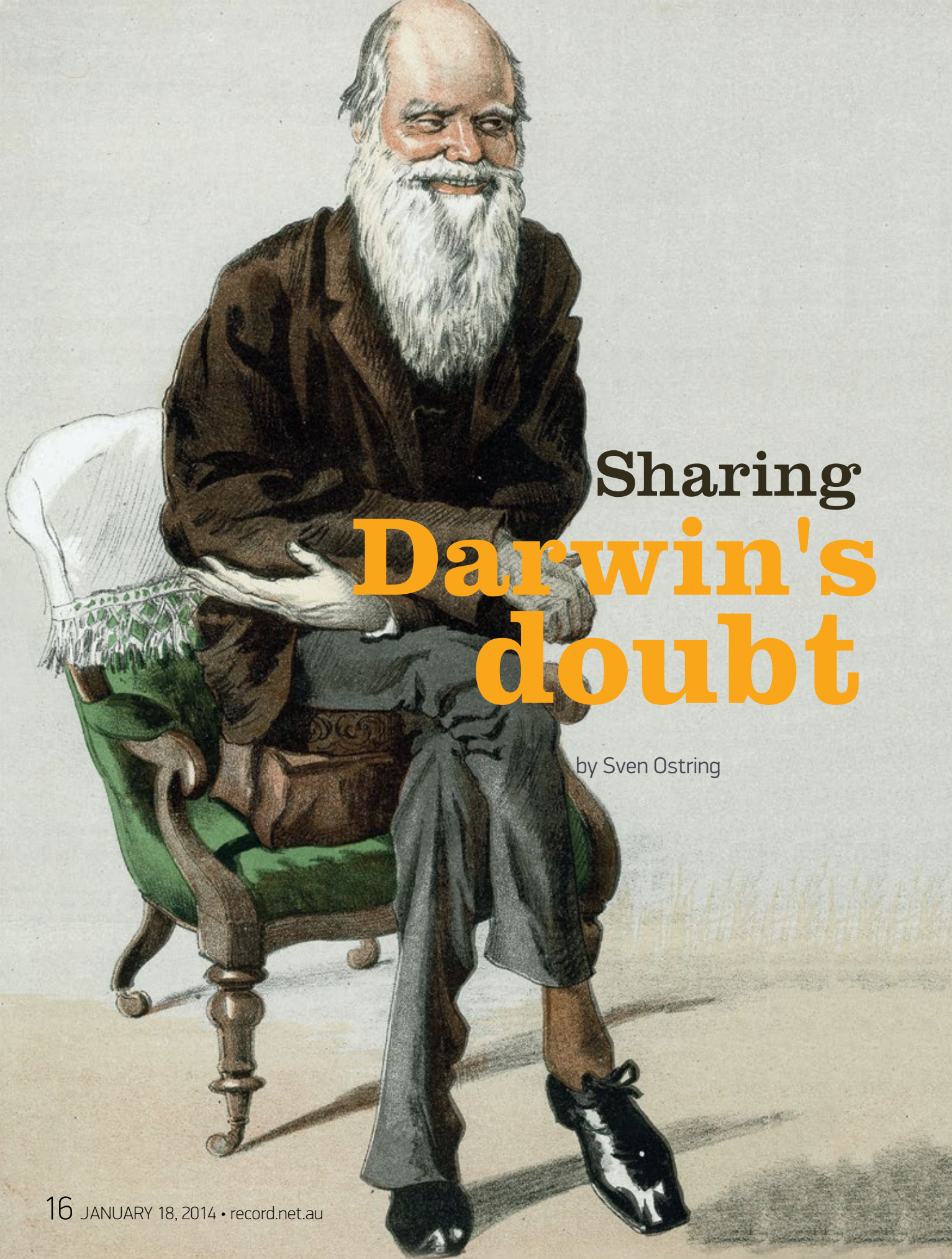
Professor Tracie Mafile'o, our deputy vice chancellor, with the assistance of Dr Lalen Simeon, director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, oversees our research efforts and is passionate about turning our campus into a centre for knowledge creation relevant to the Pacific context. The research our faculty is engaged in is quite broad and very important. For example, we are doing biofuel research that has the potential to revolutionise the production of fuels in PNG—and possibly further afield. Another area we are at the forefront in is HIV/AIDS research—this has included our own Church responses in PNG. Other communicable diseases are also of interest to our health sciences faculty and our business/economics team is active researching factors that can turn the economic development of PNG into substantive gains for all its citizens.

Among Adventist universities, PAU has an almost unique position as we are a leading university for this nation. That comes with a responsibility and it is a responsibility that we take very seriously as we work to build PAU into a university that is world class. But in the process we want to keep our spiritual values at the forefront of all we do. God is the centre of this campus and knowing Him is the beginning of all our learning.



*Professor Ben Thomas is vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University.*

**God is the centre  
of this campus  
and knowing  
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# Sharing Darwin's doubt

by Sven Ostring



**E**VEN THE BEST OF PEOPLE HAVE HAD THEIR doubts at times. Thomas is probably one of the most famous, when he emphatically told his fellow disciples that he would not believe their story about seeing Jesus alive again unless he had personal, physical evidence that it really was the same Person he had seen crucified who was alive again. We can sympathise with Thomas because it's sometimes hard to believe someone else's testimony, particularly when it goes beyond the experiences that we have had.

It becomes even more fascinating when a person has doubts about their own ideas and theories. In 1859, Charles Darwin published a book called *On the Origin of Species* in which he developed his theory of evolution that all living organisms had evolved from a common ancestor through the process of natural selection. In 1881, however, Darwin wrote a letter to William Graham in which he revealed his own doubts whether he could trust our ability to think, if we had evolved from animals:

*But then with me the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man's mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy. Would anyone trust in the convictions of a monkey's mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?*<sup>1</sup>

Darwin clearly saw that we cannot be confident that unguided evolution can produce intelligent minds that are able to generate beliefs that can be trusted. This means, ironically, that atheistic evolution actually undermines itself because it removes our ability to trust our own thoughts. In short, it's irrational to be an atheist and at the same time believe that we evolved.<sup>2</sup>

But what about a Christian who believes in evolution? What if we try to add God into the evolution equation? What if we consider the possibility that God guided the long-winded and convoluted evolution process to the point where we arrived as intelligent human beings? This is called theistic evolution and is promoted by a number of Christians as a way of integrating the Christian faith with evolutionary biology.

The problem is that theistic evolution does not really dispel Darwin's doubt. There's no greater reason to trust what a chimpanzee has concluded about physics, the universe and the origin of life as compared to what a simpler, tree-climbing lemur from Madagascar has concluded. Evolution claims that we are merely more advanced along the evolutionary pathway with respect to intelligence than both of these critters but it does not provide a solid foundation

on which we can trust human intelligence. We would not seriously take a monkey's concept of how monkeys developed into consideration even if God had supposedly guided an evolutionary process for monkeys to come to be swinging from tree to tree. This is because we recognise that monkeys do not have the capacity to reach valid conclusions about these sorts of things. Why would we assume that slightly more evolved humans have this capacity?

This identifies that one of the key problems in theistic evolution is the process by which human beings acquire this far-reaching intelligence and moral awareness. Some Christians simply assume that God spiritually inserted an immortal soul into an evolved, monkey-like animal and this resulted in the first human beings. However, for us as Adventists, this explanation is inconsistent with our understanding of human nature because

our study of the Bible has revealed that our nature is wholistic. There is no intelligent, conscious soul that has been added into or can be separated out from our human bodies.

This identifies the reality that the basis of our confidence in human intelligence comes from another source and process. Most of us believe that we are unique as human beings because we have an intelligence that includes rationality, freedom of choice and an awareness of moral values and duties. This is actually grounded on the concept that God created us in His image, as described in Genesis 1:26,27, in a single special act of crea-

tion. We are intelligent because we have been specially created to reflect God's intelligence. This is a capacity that no other animal possesses.

I share Darwin's doubt. This leads me away from evolution and to what the Bible says about how we were created in God's image. Darwin's doubt also leads me to reject theistic evolution as well. Instead, the Bible provides me with the basis for trusting that God specially created all of life on earth in six days. I am grateful that Darwin shared his doubt with William Graham. I am even more grateful that God has shared the certainty that He created us in His image. What an incredible thought and privilege! ➤

**Some Christians simply assume that God spiritually inserted an immortal soul into an evolved, monkey-like animal and this resulted in the first human beings.**

1. Charles Darwin's letter 13230 to William Graham 3 July 1881: <http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-13230/>

2. Refer to Professor Alvin Plantinga's book *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion and Naturalism*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

*Dr Sven Ostring is director of Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Stewardship and Discipleship for the Greater Sydney Conference.*

# CATCH UP WITH Record InFocus

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MY CHURCH

## Hand-grenades and hallelujahs

Korobosea Seventh-day Adventist church isn't your average church. When I arrived, I was greeted by Papua New Guinea's Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Then by the first secretary of the Ministry of Finance. And seconds later, by the first secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Before I left, the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of Finance greeted me. I've been to a lot of churches, and I've met a lot of wonderful people, but I can't recall a line-up quite like this.

Not that God is a respecter of persons. He doesn't care if we are rich or poor, powerful or marginalised. And that's what makes this church family so refreshing. People from all walks of life mix easily and with obvious affection.

Getting to the church, however, isn't always easy. On this particular morning, the police are in an armed standoff with the army. The police blocked off the church's street because their headquarters is on the road and they are determined to protect it from an attack. Coming to the roadblock, Dr Mark Paul, senior elder of the church, negotiates patiently and skilfully with the heavily armed police unit. The M16 toting commander, who has something that looks suspiciously like hand-grenades on his belt, waves us in. Either this is the safest church in PNG—or the most dangerous!

What sparked the friction between the police and army today? A drunken argument on Friday night. What a blessing to be alcohol-free and worshipping with around 1000 other people who didn't get into fruitless drunken arguments last night, didn't wake up with a hangover, whose eyes sparkle with clarity and whose hearts are singing the praises of God.

The church family is meeting in a large Salvation Army facility. They have outgrown their church building and now a new one is being built that will seat more than 1000 people and is costing K10 million. It is a Mission to the Cities project, supported by the South Pacific Division, the Papua New Guinea Union Mission and the Central Papua Mission.

"Our greatest goal is unity," Pastor Jeffery Tangea says. "It's stressful when you move locations and, of course, building a new facility always has its frustration. So unity as we go through this process is critical. The reason our church is so large is that this church family doesn't leave the sharing of Jesus to the pastor. They love Christ and they want to pass their love for God on. Look around this church—that is why it is full to overflowing."

Pastor Tangea is originally from West New Britain. He first graduated with a diploma from Sonoma College in East New Britain. Last year he graduated with a BA in theology from Pacific Adventist University. "My vision is for us to have many satellite churches—we are dedicated to church planting. We recently planted two churches: one in a village and another in a settlement. Our young people are leading the way."

Informal settlements are growing on the edges of Port Moresby as people move to this urban centre in order to access economic opportunities. The circumstances they live in are often quite dire. "We want our church to be a light and provide practical love to our brothers and sisters in the settlements," Pastor Tangea says.—with James Standish



Pastor Jeffery Tangea



# Loss

by Jacklyn Barr

The rain was coming down so hard I could hardly see out of the windscreen as I drove to the hospital to pick up my husband. A truck passed, I swerved and in a split-second my car careened off the road, down a gully and flipped. I called out "Lord please save my life!" He did. But barely. I was airlifted to hospital with my neck and back broken.

As I lay in hospital for nine weeks, I wondered why I'd been preserved. Why me and not my daughter?

Seven years previously my daughter took a lunchtime ride with a friend in her open-top SUV. A car came down the road, her friend swerved and the SUV went off the road, then back onto it again. She lost control and the vehicle flipped. My daughter was thrown out. The SUV landed on her. She died instantly.

She was a beautiful person. A really loving girl. It was only two weeks after her 21st birthday.

Before all this happened my husband had always had a very hard time relating to God because he didn't grow up with a dad. My husband did Bible studies. He liked the material on God's love. He found prophecy and the judgement very difficult. Eventually he was turned off.

But then Robert and Sally Ann Dehn came to our community to pastor our church. There was something special about them. My husband and my children, including my daughter, were drawn to them. For her 21st, she didn't want a party. She wanted to ask Robert and Sally Ann and our family out for dinner. She hadn't been to church for quite a while. But because of their influence she told me, "I'm coming to church this Sabbath." That Friday she died.

My husband requested Robert take the service. It was so touching, so hopeful, so complete. During the service my husband walked over and hugged Robert. They grieved together. My husband was so thankful for the support of our church family. They were there for us, night and day.

My oldest son played a lovely song on the piano, with tears running down his face. My youngest son was nine. Our family was united in a sort of suffering that I don't have the words to describe. Maybe for that reason we still find it hard to talk about our shared profound loss.

My husband died in 2009 from a heart attack; he was only 63. Just a week before his sudden passing we had a beautiful conversation about life after death. It turned out the Sabbath School lesson that week was on "hope beyond the grave". I read it through to him. I think God wanted him to hear it. The joy went out of his life when our daughter died. I think that message of hope meant something deep to him.

I had a dream to work as a literature evangelist. My recovery from the crash allowed me the mobility to fulfil my dream but I couldn't as I was caring for the man I loved with all my heart for 41 years, as he suffered later in life with debilitating Parkinson's disease. I'm a shy person but I felt God calling me to share His love. I greatly enjoyed the experience. I retired recently and now focus on giving Bible studies to people I met during my wonderfully rewarding literature evangelism years. Those relationships are so precious to me.

Am I bitter about the loss in my life? No! I am thankful for a loving heavenly Father. I don't understand everything that has happened. But I have faith I'll hold my daughter in my arms again. I hope my two wonderful sons, who are men now, will be there to hug their beautiful sister again. And I hope my husband will be there with me, our family reunited, all the pain washed away, complete in a world where fathers never die, where daughters are never snatched from us and where the perfect love of God fills every question, quiets every fear and fulfils every longing. I wouldn't give up that hope for anything. And I want to share it with everyone God brings to my path.

R

# 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.*

## ORDINARY MINDS

A E Hobbs, via website

Like the author [of "Build" (Editorial, December 6, 2014)], I too admire the work of intellectual giants whom God has blessed with great minds.

We are told that in the last days God will work in ways few people will anticipate and raise up workers taught by the zeal of the Holy Spirit and not necessarily by the outward training of scientific institutions that can only furnish the exterior qualifications (5T 80,82).

That is not to say that great intellectuals can't also be ordained by the Holy Spirit. I am certain some are! But God also called fishermen to be His disciples and has used (and will use) children impelled by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the truth and "build the case for Christ".

"It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than brilliant talent, tact or knowledge. An ordinary mind trained by a 'Thus saith the Lord' is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities but do not employ them rightly" (RH November 27, 1900).

## MAKING MISTAKES

Ranald McLeish, via email

Thank you for Anthony McPherson's 1844 article (Feature, November 15, 2014). He is right; God can use our mistakes. However our mistakes are not all in the past. That one in three members currently leave our Church indicates the world Church is facing serious problems.

One of our central mistakes is that we are not listening to the prophet God has given for our time. As we move further and further away from these counsels and instructions we

are becoming less spiritually dynamic, less distinct from the world and less able to enunciate compelling reasons for being an Adventist today.

If "A great mission is preceded by great trial and refinement," did God allow Glacier View, a trial that rocked the Church to its very core, for doctrinal "refinement?" The current back door figures indicate many in the Church continue to suffer bad experiences that are directly or indirectly associated with Glacier View. Furthermore, it appears we are witnessing a corresponding lack of interest in sound doctrine and prophecy as people appear to be frightened of opening old wounds. Consequently, will we learn from the Glacier View experience and heed the counsel that God has given through the Spirit of Prophecy and dig for the deeper understanding of the books of Daniel and Revelation? This counsel promises "a great reformation" that "will provide believers with an entirely different religious experience" (see TM 112-114).

## BIG PICTURE

Michelle, via website

(Re: "When God says No", Editorial, December 6, 2014).

This is another wonderful article regarding our great need to surrender our every-

thing to God, trusting totally in Him to provide that which is best for us in this life.

There is definitely a greater picture that we cannot begin to comprehend in this life. When you think you're missing out, just remember 1 Corinthians 2:9: "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor our sinful human hearts imagined all that our loving, generous God has prepared for those who love Him." May God bless us all with understanding and great patience.

## PREVENTION

Julie Weslake, NSW

(Re: "Caution", Editorial, November 1, 2014). A much-needed reminder. Children need trust and security from authentic relationships and these abusive experiences have adverse effects on life-long emotional, physical and spiritual health. Prevention is essential.

## GREAT JOY

Lomani Uilou, WA

It is a joy to have read what God is doing in and through the lives of pastors who share the gospel of Christ with people who are searching and seeking to find God with all their hearts ("4800 baptised in El Salvador", January 17). Praise God for your ministry and glory be to Him alone.







Jesus is healing and teaching lots of people, including the Pharisees and teachers of the law, in a house in Capernaum. Because they can't get through the crowd, four men make an opening in the roof and lower their paralysed friend. Jesus says, "Friend your sins are forgiven." Then He tells the paralytic to get up take his mat and walk home. The man does what Jesus says, and the people praise God.

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## APPRECIATION

**Porter, Pastor Robert.** Raelene, Pam, Lisa, Trina, Tania and their families sincerely thank you for your prayers, visits, phone calls, texts and cards during Rob's illness. You are all much loved and much appreciated by us. Rob was the ultimate treasure and we thank the Lord for lending him to us. Please Lord Jesus, hasten the day when you shall return.

## ANNIVERSARY



**Grice.** Ian and Georgine (nee Kazy) celebrated their 50th

wedding anniversary with family and friends on the Sunshine Coast, Qld. They were married 1.11.1964 in Adelaide, SA, by Pastor Claude Judd. Because they had 41 years of shared denominational service, 31 years being in India, Singapore and Philippines, messages were received from across the world as well as their homeland. They especially enjoyed messages from daughters Helen and Gina, who are living in the US. Ian and Georgine praise God for His guidance.

## WEDDINGS

**Billington-Rakich.** Jason Mark Billington, son of Steven and Carole Billington (Argyle, WA), and Monica Jane Rakich, daughter of Mark and Sharon Rakich (Swan Valley), were married 2.11.14 in Wanneroo Botanical Golf Gardens. Jason and Monica have set up their home in Donnybrook, where Jason will continue his work as a builder and Monica as a sales assistant.

*Cameron Hooper,  
Robert Kingdon*

**Ratsara-Davies.** Paul Ratsara and Joanne Davies were married 16.11.14 in Auckland, NZ in the presence of their family and friends. Joanne has made a huge contribution to media and marketing in the South Pacific Division and Paul is currently the president of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division.

*Jerry Matthews, Barry Oliver*

## OBITUARIES



**Bennetts,** Rosalie (nee Judd), born 5.10.1940 in Traralgon, Vic; died 25.2.14 in

Koo Wee Rup. She is survived by Lyle, Dean and Tracey, Kym-Maree, Jarrod and Courtney, Joshua, Ashlee, Archie and Charlie. Rosalie loved God, her family, friends and church. She was a doer who gave all she had to her passions and interests and now rests with the blessed hope of Jesus' soon return.

*Fraser Catton*

**Brown,** Clifford, born 22.3.1928 in Radcliffe, England; died 11.9.14 in Wahroonga, NSW, after a brief illness. He is survived by his devoted wife, Phyllis; his children, Jeff and Bronwyn and their families; and his siblings in England. Cliff learned of the Advent message through the witness of a fellow boarder when he arrived in Australia at 21 years of age. After his baptism in Hurstville, Cliff was accepted into the fellowship of the Parramatta church in January 1953, and so began more than 50 years of faithful service and witness in a variety of offices and with his broad range of practical skills. He awaits the Saviour's call to life on the resurrection day.

*David McKibben*

**Jenkins,** Elizabeth (Beth) Ann, born 31.1.1941 in Detroit, US; died 13.11.14 after a prolonged illness in Brisbane, Qld. She is survived by her loving husband, Ron; son, Daniel (Melbourne, Vic) and daughter, Donnarae (Brisbane, Qld); and four devoted grandchildren. Beth had a deep compassion for children and ministered many years as a much-loved teacher. Her self-sacrificing love for others will long be remembered in the lives she touched with grace and acceptance.

*Chris Foote*

**Langsford,** Edgar Arnold Richard, born 9.2.1918 in Auckland, NZ; died 3.9.14 in Melbourne, Vic. On 4.9.1944, he married Mabel Maunder, who predeceased him in 2008. He is survived by his children, Graeme and Lorraine Langsford (Gold Coast, Qld) and Beverly Langsford-Willing (Balwyn North, Vic); grandchildren, David, Nicole and

Melissa; and great-grandchildren Sophia and Frances. Edgar was a fine Christian gentleman whose influence went far beyond what he could have ever imagined.

*Brian Lawty*

**Mulligan,** Elizabeth (Betty) (nee Hambridge), born 4.8.1933 in Paddington, NSW; died 29.10.14 in Hervey Bay, Qld. On 27.9.1958, she married Desmond Mulligan in Mittagong, who predeceased her. She is survived by her daughters and their families, Wendy Mulligan, Debbie and Phillip Burnap, and Suzanne and Terry O'Grady (all of Hervey Bay, Qld); and grandchildren, Natasha, Jonathan, Andrew, Colin, Robert and Craig. Betty studied nursing. She lived at Bargo and Tamworth, then in 1993 moved to Hervey Bay.

*Gary Roberts*



**Nash,** Charles Alan, born 18.3.1934 in Townsville, Qld; died 28.10.14 in Clayton,

Vic. He was predeceased by his brother, Malcolm. He is survived by his siblings, Delphine Dunnett (Mackay, Qld), Ronald Nash (Giru) and Clive Nash (Cooran-bong, NSW); and 14 nieces and nephews. Alan was a long-time member of Springvale church where he was a loyal Sabbath School teacher, organist and elder. His interest in planes and trains led him on many adventures. While waiting at the station to go on one more train trip, his heart stopped and he passed away in Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. Many tributes were spoken at his funeral showing how much his church will miss him.

*Malcolm Reid, Clive Nash*

**Pascoe,** Patricia Marjorie (nee Swarbrick), born 10.10.1921; died 13.9.14 in Gisborne Hospital, NZ. She is the beloved wife of Ernie Pascoe, much-loved sister-in-law of Cyril Pascoe and lifelong friend of Agnes Haskins of some 75 years. Patricia trained as a nurse at Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW, and then worked in Samoa, England, Australia and New Zealand, finally serving as a maternity nurse in the Gisborne Hospital. A faithful and lifelong member of the Gisborne church, her broad knowledge of Adventist identities, events and her friendship will be sorely missed.

How she looked forward to the resurrection.

*John Smolka*

**Porter,** Pastor Robert John, born 21.5.1941 in Melbourne, Vic; died 30.9.14 at Mary Potter Hospice, North Adelaide, SA. On 28.12.1960, he married Corrie Kensen in Mt Gambier, who predeceased him on 8.7.11 after 50 years of marriage. On 27.10.12, he married Raelene Hennig. He is survived by his wife; his daughters, Pamela and Paul Seru (Sydney, NSW) and Lisa and Paul Dabrowski (Adelaide, SA); his grandchildren, Marissa, Robbie, Chantelle and Grace; siblings, Pastor George, Barton and Anne Morris; stepchildren and their families, Trina and Paul Hoens, Tania and Andrew May, and step-grandchildren. Robert was a vibrant and loving family man who enjoyed an intimate personal relationship with his Saviour and spent all his energy compelling everyone he met to commit to Jesus.

*D Ford, A Kingston, G Porter*

**Reibelt,** Nellie Mavis, born 14.6.1917 in Ganmain, NSW; died 31.10.14 peacefully at Akooramak Aged Care Facility, Warwick, Qld. She is survived by her loving husband of 79 years, Laurie; children, Mercia, Laurence and Patricia; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Mavis was one of the founding members of Warwick church and until her move to Akooramak was a loyal and faithful member. Despite age restricting her attendance, Mavis still continued to contribute to the church she loved. She was a silent achiever with a very strong faith in God and only too willing to help others around her. Mavis will be greatly missed but we rest assured in seeing her again in glory. Till we meet again, sleep now dear sister.

*Trevor Mawer*

**Shepherd,** Bert (Robert) Gardham, born 10.5.1924 in Yorkshire, UK; died 1.11.14. He immigrated to Australia in 1965, where he and his wife raised their three children, Allan, David and Susan in Queensland. He was a caring, dignified Christian gentleman who attended a Revelation seminar in Cleveland, run by Capalaba church. He was baptised and



joined the Capalaba church on 8.12.1984. He became part of the fabric of his church and enriched the lives of his fellow members with his care for those in need, his positive outlook and encouraging words. Robert was confident in the love of his Saviour and looked forward to the blessed return of Jesus. He is sadly missed by his family and church family.

*Alvin Colthart*

**Shepherd,** Jennell Muriel (nee Wells), born 8.9.1961 in Royal Brisbane Hospital, Qld; died 22.10.14 at home in Brisbane. On 3.2.1984, she married Malcolm Leslie Shepherd. She is survived by her husband; their daughter, Julie (both of Brisbane); Leanne Thomas (Ipswich); and her brother, Hilton Wells (Springfield). Jennell was a beautiful, vivacious and happy person who had a number of battles in her life. She was so grateful to be loved and accepted, which brought her a lot of courage and strength. She will be greatly missed.

*Murray Hunter, Reg Harris  
Bob Possingham*

**Stanley,** Adrian Charles, born 2.12.1964 in Mount Gambier, SA; died 16.8.14 in Hervey Range, outside of Townsville, Qld, after a welding accident. On 19.4.1987, he married Theresa Maria Kendrick. He was predeceased by his sister, Kerrie Ann Forbes, in 2011. He is survived by his

children, Kate Stanley (Ipswich), Rachael Stanley, Sarah Stanley (both of Hervey Range), Connor and Tory Stanley (Perth, WA), Aaron, Luke and Daniel Stanley (all of Hervey Range); his father, Denis and Vicky Stanley (Narbethong, Vic); his mother, Elaine Stanley (Forest Lake, Qld); and brother, Craig Stanley (California, US). Adrian was passionate about his God, his family, mission work in PNG and service to others.

*Cranville Tooley*



**Tasker,** June (nee Fardon), born 16.6.1923 in Nimbin, NSW; died 4.11.14 in Cooranbong. On 22.11.1939, she married Raymond. She was predeceased by her husband and her son, Ronald. She is survived by Sharon Gillis (Cooranbong), Lorrelle Graeme (Inverell) and Janette Gale (Qld). June was very talented and helped support the family by picking peas and beans, milking cows and dressmaking. Her home was always open to anyone in need. June served as Dorcas leader supplying the community with food parcels, emergency fire kits and clothing in times of distress. June and Aunt Jean started the JMV club, now known as Pathfinders. She served as a deaconess and children's Sabbath school leader during 54 years with her church.

*Craig Gillis*

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Dietitian/nutritionist—Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat (Kangaroo Valley, NSW)** is seeking an applicant who is passionate about nutrition and being part of a health ministry team. Other desirable skills that may be helpful include counselling, cooking, fitness instruction, IT and presentation skills. Available from early-mid 2015. For more information email us at <info@cedarvaleretreat.com.au> or phone (02) 4465 1362.

*The above ministry is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.*

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## Finally . . .

The true gospel is a call to self-denial, not a call to self-fulfilment. — John MacArthur

**Next RECORD Feb 7**

## POSITION VACANT

■ **Project manager/principal—Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre (Brewarrina, NSW).** The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is seeking a self-motivated, energetic person to assist the Currawah working group to re-open Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre. Currawah is a years 7-10 co-educational Christian boarding school located 45 kilometres south of Brewarrina. The successful applicant will initially be employed on a 12-month contract with duties including project management responsibilities to ensure physical site compliance and infrastructure completion by the targeted dates; developing and contextualising curriculum and policy documentation relevant to the mission and purpose of the school; preparing and submitting funding proposals to relevant government departments and the submission of the application to reopen the school; working with NSW Board of Studies and the Association of Independent Schools; playing a key role in the selection and appointment of suitable staff for the 2016 school year. While the initial contract would be for a 12-month period, it is envisaged that the successful applicant will transition to the role of principal of Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre in 2016. For further information please contact Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ministries Australia, <stevepiez@adventist.org.au> or phone 0409 357 701.

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