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EX-GANGSTER FACILITATES RECONCILIATION

page 3

NEPAL APPEALS FOR HELP AFTER MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE

page 9

INTO THE BLACK

page 10

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sydney Adventist Hospital

Pacific Adventist University

Avondale College

ACA Health Benefits

Sanitarium Health Foods

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Ex-gangster facilitates reconciliation

Popondetta, Papua New Guinea

Newly-baptised Adventist man Sam Oivo has used his influence as a former criminal ringleader in Papua New Guinea to bring three local gangs together with community leaders in a reconciliation ceremony.

For many years people in Popondetta town have had their freedom of movement restricted by gangs seeking to control their various territories. Hostility between the gangs has been fed by violent encounters and long-lasting grudges.

With the support of the Popondetta and Bangoho Adventist churches, Mr Oivo gathered more than 50 gang members, mostly young men, for a reconciliation ceremony within his old Goruta Street territory.

Representatives from each of the street gangs made public apologies for the many years of trouble they had caused one another as well as the problems created for their families and communities. The speakers expressed commitments to forge new and better relationships with one another, noting that the way they've consumed alcohol has contributed to the ongoing tensions.

Community leaders and members congratulated the young men on their positive decisions and encouraged them to support one another as they leave behind their high-risk behaviours and seek better lives.

Traditional reconciliation ceremonies in the Popondetta region require planning and resources beyond the reach of most gang members.

Mr Oivo, while he facilitated a process in which compensation money changed hands, challenged

the gang members to accept God's way of simple forgiveness and suggested church would be a good place to learn more. He also thanked the mothers of the Popondetta and Bangoho Adventist churches for providing food that was shared in a peacemaking meal.

Mr Oivo, who was baptised during last year's Popondetta '14 evangelistic campaign, worships with his wife and children, who he recently led into sharing his new-found life. —Benson McRubin's/Record staff



Part of the reconciliation service.

Adventists contribute to justice conference

Melbourne, Victoria

Almost 40 Seventh-day Adventists from Victoria and interstate joined more than 500 for the Justice Conference, held in Melbourne, and organised by a coalition of 29 not-for-profit organisations, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia.

ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster and Signs Publishing book editor Nathan Brown co-presented a workshop entitled "Stop: Sustain, Transform", which explored the biblical principle of Sabbath-keeping in pursuing justice.

"The key to sustainable work for justice is in taking time regularly to ground our spirituality in prayer and com-

munion with God, to breathe in before we breathe out, and to renew our courage and our focus," Mr Webster said. "This is an important practice for life, faith and justice doing. But the biblical practice

of Sabbath is also a spiritual discipline that is inherently an act of justice.

"Our Church does a lot to serve others all around the world. What we do as ADRA is part of a larger whole that is informed by the unique perspective that we have as Adventists. Being able to share some of that with others through a workshop on Sabbath-keeping was a wonderful opportunity."

The conference was the first of its kind in Australia and follows a number of previous conferences held in the United States since 2010. It is one of the largest international gatherings on social and biblical justice.

Keynote speaker, author and Seattle-based pastor Eugene Cho shared his personal passion for justice. "I care much about justice because I care much about the gospel," Pastor Cho said.

Attendee Megan Jaworski said the conference was a reminder that social justice issues are at the heart of following Jesus. "Justice is about sacrifice, not a token gesture. The conference brought this home for me, as well as providing me with opportunities to do something tangible to make a difference," she said.

ADRA Australia co-sponsored the conference and there are plans to hold it again in 2016. —Josh Dye



The Adventist group.



Get out

James Standish

American artist Andy Warhol predicted that in the future everyone would be famous for 15 minutes. Here we are in "the future" with 7 billion people in the world, so that's 105 billion 15 minutes of fame to fit everyone in. An 80 year life consists of roughly 2.8 million 15-minute segments. So for everyone to get their 15 minutes in the limelight, we need 37,500 media markets producing palpable levels of fame for a new individual every 15 minutes.

However we define fame, it may not be making it big for the 15 minutes between 3.15 and 3.30 am in the world's 37,500th most important media market. But has social media made all of us stars in our own very small world? Maybe. But are we missing out on something in the process?

In the '70s, Australia ran a public service campaign, "Life. Be in it.", featuring "Norm" turning off the TV and getting active. A good idea, but the amount of time Australians spend watching screens has actually increased dramatically in the years since that ad campaign.

To underscore our screen obsession, a recent parody asked what the TV show *Friends* would look like if remade today. Its answer? A group of hipsters absorbed in their phones, ignoring each other, only stopping to take selfies, and decidedly annoyed when someone interrupts their Instagram session by splashing fountain water. "I'll be there for you." Or not.

And it's not just hipsters. We recently moved, and our home internet provider informed us it would take six weeks to connect our wireless internet. At first, it was a crisis. But then the oddest thing happened. With no internet, we found we talked to each other more, read more, played more games together, and got out and enjoyed life a little more. After a couple of weeks of this forced diet of reality, we've decided we rather like it more than staring at screens. So we're now flying TV and internet free at home.

Real life has, it turns out, a lot to recommend itself.

I wonder if as an Adventist community we might also want to consider the benefits of real life a little more closely. I've now been to seven conference camps in Australia. Each was a pleasure in its own way. South NSW

has the mountains, North NSW the beach, Tassie a great town, South Australia the vineyards and Northern Australia a beautiful river. What about South Queensland? You're in Queensland, isn't that good enough? And of all the camps we've been to, we managed to have the best time in WA—even though it's not by water, mountains or vineyards.

All the camps had great speakers. Fabulous music. Wonderful people. And some pretty good food, too. But most were almost completely invisible to anyone outside the campground. Which makes me wonder if we're a little more like the hipsters in the *Friends* parody than we might think—so absorbed within ourselves we miss out as the rest of the world passes us by?

What if we got out of our tents and into the streets? What if each of our camps organised something to bring the love, joy, faith and excitement that is wrapped up in our camps to the community in which they are located?

Wouldn't it be something special if the North Australian camp put on a concert down on Townsville's glorious Strand? When I last visited Townsville, a group of dreadlocked fire-eaters were putting on an impromptu show by the water's edge. If they can do it, can't we?

And wouldn't it be fabulous if that amazing band and choir I enjoyed in WA took their worship down to Langley Park for a lunchtime concert for city workers? Why not serve up a lunchtime feast of beautiful music, with a good slice of the gospel in the middle? In South Australia, our camp coincides with the Barossa Vintage Festival. We invite the community to a concert, which is terrific but shouldn't we be in that parade as well, celebrating our 100 year contribution and communicating our message? Wouldn't it be great if the best of the music from the South Queensland camp was performed at Streets Beach on Brisbane's South Bank? And why not a concert at Devonport's Bluff Beach?

Yes, it would be time-consuming, complex and distracting. But shouldn't we make church a little dangerous again? Isn't church all about reaching the whole world, not just our microcosm? Why hide our lamp? There's a real world out there. Let's get out more.

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"Sam Ovio (with one leg) and his family."

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



Faithful

Jarrod Stackelroth

He was a quiet man—bowed and slowed by age and illness—but a fixture at the church I grew up in. He would sit in the same pew with his wife every Sabbath. His name was David Maywald and he passed away recently at the age of 96. To me, he was Mr Maywald or one half of the Maywalds, on account of him never being separate from his wife Ruth. The Maywalds' old, white VW Beetle was one of the first cars in the car park every Sabbath.

What I didn't know about him was the amazing life he had led.

He kept every Sabbath as a medic during World War II for three and-a-half years. Called to serve his country in Papua New Guinea, he also refused to bear arms and swapped his beer rations for other items. He built the church I grew up in and attended it loyally every Sabbath until he no longer could. On his return from the war, he resumed his work at Sanitarium, where he spent the next 37 years until his retirement.

To me, his life demonstrates faithfulness—a quality that is all too rare in this material age. The spirit of the age is consumerism—having the best, the latest and greatest is a must. This outlook and attitude extends to each area of our lives, from fashion to gadgets, from our workplaces to our homes and even to our churches. We are quick to discard and upgrade. But this is not a rant against materialism. Rather it is an affirmation of commitment.

There are people in all of our churches who have committed their lives to the Church. They have done amazing things and stood up for their faith in trying situations and times. They are the church members you see, week after week, year after year. Many of them are older; some of them are unremarkable except for their faithfulness.

It's easy these days, particularly for those who live in urban areas where there are a number of Adventist churches nearby, to attend different churches each week, to go where the programs are best. It's harder to support and be involved in your local church and community, especially if there are difficult people there or things aren't run exactly in the way you want them to be.

Persevere. God is faithful to us through thick and thin. He never wavers. Yet we treat Him like an eternal vending machine. We want Him on our terms, never making us uncomfortable, even down to which churches we prefer to attend.

Sometimes the faithful find change hard and stick doggedly to tradition. That's OK. We need people who push us forward and we need those who call us back. That's the beauty of a multi-generational, multi-ethnic faith like Seventh-day Adventism. We need all types, especially the faithful ones.

I encourage you to approach someone at church who is not in your age bracket and find out a bit more about them. Maybe they have an amazing testimony of how they became an Adventist or how they held onto their faith under fire. Maybe they built the church you worship in or five in another country. Maybe you'll be surprised.

We don't always know what treasures are hidden in our own churches and sometimes we find out too late. Let us celebrate faithfulness, celebrate our elders and celebrate the God-given opportunity we've been blessed with to belong to this movement.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Adventist Record.



Health and happiness

There should be no such thing as a Seventh-day Adventist church that does not uphold principles of health. You see, to be a Seventh-day Adventist is indeed to uphold the very principles that make for a healthy body, healthy mind and a healthy spiritual relationship with God.

Our church building may have a beautiful sign out the front that says "Seventh-day Adventist Church", but if the people in the pew are not living this marvellous message of love from God then the name is meaningless and we are failing at one of the most significant attractions that differentiate us from the rest of the Christian world. The message of vibrant health is not a nice quaint anachronism from the past. It is as relevant in 2015 as it has ever been and should place the message of this Church right in the community mainstream. But is that happening in practice?

The wholistic, integrated understanding of each person (mental, physical, spiritual and social) is the genius of the Seventh-day Adventist view of life and it should continue to inform everything that we are and everything we have to say. Are we making enough of it? Probably not. Do the people not of our communion know what we stand for? Almost certainly not. Are we trying to hide it? I sincerely hope not.

Health and happiness: let's live it and share it!

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



Martyred

In two shocking copycat attacks about 30 Ethiopian Christians have been massacred in Libya by Islamic State militants. An IS video shows two groups of men being killed—by shooting and beheading. An IS representative identifies the victims as “worshippers of the cross” and calls the Ethiopian Orthodox Church “hostile”. —*Christian Solidarity Worldwide*



United against pirates

Hillsong Church has welcomed planned laws that will block pirate music websites. Hillsong United is believed to be one of Australia’s most pirated bands despite the fact that Christians are their biggest market. Hillsong says it supports proposed laws under which courts can require internet service providers to block pirate websites. —*Nine News*



Blood feud

Church leaders in Papua New Guinea are struggling to make headway against the deeply entrenched practices of sorcery related violence. Four people accused of placing death curses have been tortured to force them to confess to witchcraft. On the word of a spirit-worshipping “glassman”, they may now be in danger of being killed. —*The Guardian*



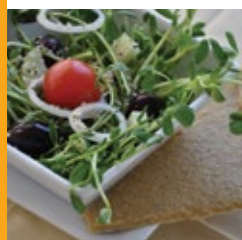
Defend the oppressed

Adventist leaders have spoken out against attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa and provided practical assistance to those affected by the violence. Thousands of migrant workers from neighbouring countries fled their homes after attacks that killed seven people. ADRA and other Adventist volunteers provided meals for more than 1500 displaced people. —*ANN*



Rescue plan

As Greece’s economy hangs in the balance, the national church says it wants to help. Leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is the country’s largest private landowner, say they’re willing to cooperate with the government in developing some of their land, with the profits going to offset the nation’s spiralling debts. —*Reuters*



Healthy body, healthy brain

Researchers from Chicago’s Rush University Medical Centre have identified a MIND diet that can help reduce the onset of Alzheimer’s disease. Their findings reinforce the evidence for a plant-based, low fat Mediterranean diet, but highlight the benefits of “brain-healthy” foods such as leafy greens, berries and nuts. —*Wall Street Journal*

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SPECIAL HEALTH OFFERING MAY 23

ACA Health joins health fund alliance

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Seventh-day Adventist owned ACA Health has joined 14 other not-for-profit and mutual health funds to establish Members Own Health Funds.

The Members Own Health Funds alliance was created in response to the Australian government selling Medibank Private. Members Own wants to give Australians an alternative to funds run to benefit shareholders and overseas owners. Members Own funds now represent one-third of the health insurance providers in Australia.

ACA has been a registered health fund for more than 40 years. Prior to that it ran as a health scheme for Church employees. Families of people working for an Adventist company are all eligible to join ACA Health, even if the employee chooses not to become a member.

"We believe in supporting the Church's mission by providing assistance to employees and their families dur-

ing stressful and difficult times," ACA spokesman Richard Poole said. "We are focused on people and not profit."

ACA Health resources cannot be taken as profit.

They can only be used for paying benefits to policy holders or dependants and covering the running costs of the fund.—*Record staff*



Leaders of the Members Own Health Funds.

Reopened hospital still under threat

Wabag, Papua New Guinea

Tribal fighting continues to be a problem for Sopas Hospital in Papua New Guinea, 14 years after the Adventist Church ceased operations at the site.

Two people were killed during a recent skirmish and local media has reported claims that local clans are employing mercenary fighters with automatic weapons.

Although the Adventist Church no longer owns Sopas Hospital, Church members hold a number of key positions. Last year health administrators from the Enga provincial government opened a school of nursing at Sopas and transferred a number of medical services to the site.

Adventists at Sopas have asked for prayers of protection for the hospital and everyone affected by the violence.—*Kent Kingston*



Local people before the fighting broke out.

Church makes official statement on vaccination

Silver Spring, Maryland, United States



The vaccination debate has reignited in Australia, with the Australian government tightening religious exemptions and threatening to withdraw benefits from parents who choose not to vaccinate their children.

The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has

issued an official statement on vaccines, saying it "encourages responsible immunisation" and has no faith-based reason to discourage believers from participating in immunisation programs.

The full statement, titled "Immunisation", says:

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church places strong emphasis on health and wellbeing. The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writing of E G White (co-founder of the Church) and on peer-reviewed scientific literature. As such, we encourage responsible immunisation/vaccination, and have no religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our adherents to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunisation programs. We value the health and safety of the population, which includes the maintenance of 'herd immunity'.

"We are not the conscience of the individual church member and recognise individual choices. These are exercised by the individual. The choice not to be immunised is not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."—*Adventist Record/Adventist Review*



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Nursing to thank for enrolment gain

Cooranbong, New South Wales

The most popular undergraduate course and most postgraduate courses continue to grow as enrolment at Avondale College of Higher Education rebounds from a downturn.

Enrolment for semester one is 1436. This equates to 503,716 full-time student loads, an increase from 2014 but still down from semester one over the three previous years.

The increase is due, in part, to continued growth in the Bachelor of Nursing—the course is up from its record in semester one this past year.

Associate Professor Paul Race described the increase as part of a “groundswell of interest” in nursing. “It’s a rewarding career and, with a shortage of nurses tipped in the future, there are reasonable opportunities for employment,” said Professor Race, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Nursing and Theology. Avondale’s Christian worldview may also be a factor—students equate nursing with mission service, which is an integral part of the Avondale experience, he said.

A successful application to the federal government for an adjustment in its allocation saw all Avondale nursing and education students who met eligibility criteria receive a Commonwealth supported place. This also helped increase enrolment, said registrar Dr Gwen Wilkinson, “especially when we’re competing with universities that have uncapped places.”

Enrolment in most of Avondale’s postgraduate courses—notably its Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Teaching (Primary) and Master of Nursing—increased, albeit slightly, and off a small base. “It indicates we’re gaining recognition as a quality provider of postgraduate courses and that we’re meeting the needs of a growing market,” Dr Wilkinson said.

While education—with 538 students—is the most popular study discipline at Avondale, the Bachelor of Nursing is still the most popular course, enrolling 386 students this semester.

The enrolment increase is “a pleasing result,” said college president Professor Ray Roennfeldt, “particularly given the present turmoil and uncertainty in the Australian higher education environment.” —Brenton Stacey



Nursing is the most popular course.



May 16—June 6, 2015

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

16 – 1 Tim. 6	20 – 2 Tim. 4	24 – Philm.	28 – Heb. 4	June	4 – Heb. 11
17 – 2 Tim. 1	21 – Titus 1	25 – Heb. 1	29 – Heb. 5	1 – Heb. 8	5 – Heb. 12
18 – 2 Tim. 2	22 – Titus 2	26 – Heb. 2	30 – Heb. 6	2 – Heb. 9	6 – Heb. 13
19 – 2 Tim. 3	23 – Titus 3	27 – Heb. 3	31 – Heb. 7	3 – Heb. 10	



Nepal appeals for help after massive quake

The president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nepal has appealed for urgent help for scores of church members who have lost everything in the country's worst earthquake for 80 years.

Pastor Umesh Pokharel, president of the Nepal Section, an attached field of the Adventist Church's Southern Asia Division, said they needed warm clothing, drinking water and tents to cope with living outdoors in cold, sometimes rainy weather, after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck on April 25, killing thousands of people and leaving many more injured.

The exact number of Adventists requiring assistance is unclear because the earthquake—with an epicentre 80 kilometres from the country's capital Kathmandu—disrupted communications across central Nepal.

The Adventist Church has about 1700 members and 36 workers, including pastors, worshipping in 14 churches in the affected area. Four Adventist churches were damaged and one young boy from an Adventist family was hospitalised after being struck by falling stones.

Pastor Pokharel said the situation was difficult at the 130-bed, Adventist-run Scheer Memorial Hospital, with more than 200 people seeking treatment the day after the earthquake alone. "Our church members and church workers are also helping at the hospital," he said.

Even with these challenges the local Adventist Church has begun to provide relief in the community.

Pastor Pokharel said his office had secured 100 tents, 100 sacks of rice, 100 cartons of noodles and drinking water for distribution to earthquake survivors.

Governments and aid agencies across the world are also providing assistance.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), based at the General Conference's headquarters, dispatched an emergency response team to Kathmandu to assist members of its Nepal office in providing shelter to

the new homeless.

ADRA said it had procured 400 tarpaulins and 348 tents from Nepalese vendors and expected 17 pallets containing 1360 tarpaulins to arrive from Dubai. The tarps, worth about \$US21,000, were being airlifted by a United Nations relief group on ADRA's behalf.

ADRA Australia's Humanitarian Program officer Beryl Hartmann has been deployed to lead the recovery planning.

"ADRA is working in coordination with other organisations in Nepal," Mrs Hartmann said. "All ADRA staff are accounted for and are safe. However, they have been traumatised by the quake."

Some of the worst damage is in the Dhading and Kavre district, where ADRA Australia has a number of existing projects, leaving the agency well-placed to respond effectively.

Amid the tragedy, Pastor Pokharel said he had a personal reason to thank God for His care. Pastor Pokharel had planned to travel to Makwanpur, 300 kilometres from Kathmandu, for a baptismal service on the day of the earthquake. But an unexpected development prompted him to cancel his plans at the last minute. Several fellow Adventists urged him to reconsider but he refused to yield.

"Some of our people were not comfortable with my decision but I was sure that it was God's decision, not my own," Pastor Pokharel said.

He said he realised now that if he had made the trip he would not have been with his wife and two young children when the earthquake struck.

"That would have caused more panic for me and my family," he said. "Also, I wouldn't have been able to come home on the badly damaged roads, and my family wouldn't have managed to live outdoors without me." —Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review/Record staff

To learn how you can help, visit <adra.org.au/Nepal>.



Into the Black

by James Standish

NO-ONE WAS EXPECTING A RETRO AMERICAN jazz sound to hit it big in the 2000s. And even if they were, they weren't looking for it to come from of all places a small jazz club in London's Soho entertainment district.

But that was before a girl named Amy Winehouse walked in.

She was tiny. She was young. And she was decidedly working class.

But when she opened her mouth, the world stood still. Not only for her powerful, soulful voice but for her poignant, delicately woven compositions. The songs she wrote were so personal, so honest, so transparent, that when you listened to her music you couldn't help but feel like you knew her.

The person fans got to know was vulnerable, troubled. She struggled with alcohol; she struggled with rejection. She took fans into the darkest nights of her soul and

somehow, when they arrived, they felt a sense of strange belonging. As if by understanding her pain it made their pain a little less unbearable.

And what a lot of pain she had—much of it stemming from her tumultuous relationship with Blake Fielder-Civil.

Amy met Blake in a pub in Camden. It was love at first sight. She was just 20 years old. Like a moth drawn to a flame, Blake's bad boy swagger not only attracted Amy but it ultimately defined her.

Amy had always opposed the use of hard drugs. But the charismatic Blake changed that. Soon they were snorting cocaine together. And from cocaine she followed Blake's lead down the dark tunnel into heroin.

Between the drugs and alcohol their mutually destructive relationship increasingly overshadowed Amy's music. They were the perfect fodder for paparazzi who thrived on selling photos and stories of their drunken fights and drug-induced humiliations.

But in the middle of all the madness Amy's second album—*Back to Black*—stormed the charts, becoming one of the best-selling albums of the 21st century.

The songs were inspired by Amy and Blake's stormy relationship, with the title track focusing on Blake leaving Amy for another woman. Art was imitating the very real pain of Amy's life. Newspapers began to publicly express concern for the singer's health, as did her father. A photo emerged of Blake and Amy leaving the Sanderson Hotel smeared in blood after a drunken argument.

Amy's concerts degenerated into a series of embarrassing letdowns, with crowds turning nasty when she was too drunk to perform.

In the midst of it all Blake was convicted of beating a man in a pub and subsequently trying to bribe him to remain silent. He was sentenced to more than two years in prison.

At the time, Karen Heller of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* put it this way:

"She's . . . crashing headfirst into success and despair, with a codependent husband in jail, exhibitionist parents with questionable judgement, and the paparazzi documenting her emotional and physical distress."

Despite the controversy—or maybe in part because of it—Amy's *Back to Black* album won five Grammy Awards—a monumental achievement. Due to a drug arrest she was not granted a US visa to perform at the Grammy ceremony. So she performed via satellite. Viewers held their breath prepared for another Winehouse train wreck. To everyone's surprise she wowed the world with her powerful voice and flawless performance.

For a moment, it appeared, Amy's life was back on track.

But new footage emerged that managed to shock even the most hardened of Amy's fans—she was filmed smoking what appeared to be crack. The person who sold the footage to the media? One of Blake's pals.

In Amy's biggest hit she sang, "They tried to make me go to rehab, I said, 'no, no, no!'" The song had arrogance in abundance. But in real life the emaciated Amy was finally checked into a rehabilitation clinic to kick her drug and alcohol habit.

It didn't work.

Not long after getting out of rehab, Amy's lifeless body was discovered at her Camden home. Her body, weakened from years of intense drug and alcohol abuse, had finally given in. She had died all alone.

It's hard to imagine a woman so talented, with so much to live for, dying so young and so abandoned. And yet for much of the world, the reason for Amy's demise was obvious—the man she had met when she was just 20 years old.

Would Amy have ever messed with drugs if she hadn't hooked her wagon to Blake? Even he doesn't think so.

**It's hard to imagine
a woman so
talented, with so
much to live for,
dying so young and
so abandoned.**

Talking on *The Jeremy Kyle Show* in 2013, he said:

"I've admitted I was there when she had [heroin for the] first time, it was my doing. I don't think she would have ever experienced it without me."

Blake also admitted that the woman who depended on him for companionship, friendship and love was, ultimately, "the loneliest person I ever met".

In a chilling admission in a UK television documentary, Blake said simply:

"I loved crack and smack more than I loved Amy."

Amy's music gave the world a clue as to why she had fallen so heavily into drug and alcohol abuse.

In her hit song "Rehab" she expressed her aching for true friendship:

"I don't ever want to drink again,
I just need a friend."

She found immense fame. She found millions of fans. She found Blake whom she described as the love of her life. But she never found a real friend. And so she filled the hole in her heart with alcohol, heroin and crack.

Amy isn't alone. We all have a hole in our hearts that can only be

filled by the warmth of true friendship.

Not the kind of friendship that devolves into codependent self-destruction. But the kind of friendship that is all about building each other up; friendship that can be relied upon, that gives strength, hope, encouragement, deep and lasting love.

It's unlikely we'll find that kind of love in a pub. And it's certain we can never find it in a drug.

But there is a place to find real comfort, a place where hope burns bright, a place where love is deep, broad and all encompassing. It's in the arms of Jesus.

Our hearts ache when we remember the story of Amy Winehouse. She should have produced great art for decades. She should have blessed her family with love and support. She should have felt complete and cherished; she should have been whole. Instead all that is left is emptiness and the pain that goes with it.

But that doesn't have to be us. We don't have to die alone and abandoned by those in whom we put our faith. We can be accepted, forgiven, cherished and loved. We can have a Friend who loves us far more than we can ever love Him. We never need be alone. **R**

<www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2020352/Amy-Winehouse-dead-Blake-Fielder-Civils-mother-pleads-dont-blame-son.html>.

Amy Winehouse, Bio., <www.biography.com/people/amy-winehouse-244469#awesm=~oHooMQoq1e9CkY>.

Amy Winehouse, *The Guardian*, <www.theguardian.com/music/amywinehouse>.

Interview with Blake Fielder-Civil, *The Jeremy Kyle Show*, 2013.

Amy Winehouse, *The Untold Story*, Channel 5 (UK).

Amy Winehouse, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Winehouse>.

James Standish is editor of *Adventist Record*.

RISK COORDINATOR WAHROONGA, NSW

RMS is looking to appoint a Risk Coordinator to support the Church's risk transfer and financing operations.

The key responsibilities of this position include:

- Coordinating the workers compensation program within Australia.
- Assisting with the placement of insurance.
- Managing and assessing loss events.

We are looking for a person who:

- Is passionate about protecting and enhancing the mission of the Church.
- Is a team player, excellent communicator and able to build effective relationships.
- Enjoys and embraces diversity in their work and has energy and enthusiasm.
- Preferably has degree/diploma qualifications and/or 5+ years of workers compensation or insurance experience. (We'll consider candidates from other professions who've got a willingness to learn - we'll train you.)

For more information about this position visit:

www.adventistemployment.org.au

Applications close: 25 May 2015

Risk Management Service (known as RMS) is a dedicated service department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. RMS administers the insurance program for the Church in the South Pacific and helps Church organisations with safety and risk management. Visit our website to learn more about us.

Margaret McKay
Port Macquarie church

There is a battle being waged in our society to undermine the Bible and thereby destroy faith, and at the forefront of that battle is the indoctrination of evolution. It's on TV, it's in our museums, it's on our most-loved nature programs and in our newspapers. But there's a compelling counter-narrative. A counter-narrative that is both faithful to the evidence and confirming of inspiration. I have a real burden to provide this counter-narrative to our children—and their parents.

The media is saturated with evolution and our children cannot escape the bombardment. My concern is that in this battle we are not teaching our children to defend the Bible and equipping them with the ammunition to do it. For the past 10 years I have become serious about running Creation programs in our church for children and have been teaching Creation at a local Christian school—the principal considers what I teach as important or more important as the three-Rs. And he's right. The difference in these children's spirituality is amazing even after only a few months of weekly lessons.

In addition, our Creation program on Sabbath afternoon has grown in six years from eight children to 55—along with many parents. We have to now run it in the church as we cannot fit in the Creation Room—one of the Sabbath School rooms.

I was a public school teacher for 30 years but have never felt the excitement of teaching as I do when talking about and defending the Bible. The children respond to the beautiful truth of God's creative power. As one child told me, "the lessons are awesome, are so interesting and I just love it!" It's their faces and their hearts that keep me going strong.

We also run an annual International Creation Sabbath Service in October with the children capably taking the entire service. Last October the church was absolutely packed. Dr Timothy Standish visited us about six years ago and got us started on this annual service. I wish every single Seventh-day Adventist Church across the South Pacific Division would set aside an annual Creation Sabbath. God's masterwork is all around us. But if we don't intentionally set time aside to consider His creation, we can easily fall into a faith-destroying half-narrative—accepting half the Bible as accurate and half as fable. When reality is precisely the opposite—the evidence for creation is overwhelming and growing, so much so that even the most sceptical scientists are increasingly admitting there must be intelligence behind life.

Once the children understand the importance of the lessons and understand the topics, their faith in God and His Word rapidly increases and they have boldness in their Christianity and want to share it with others. They are not afraid to politely tell adults the truth when they hear evolutionary statements made. They are so proud to tell me how they "politely" defended the Bible at the local museum or observatory when on a school excursion.

Those proclaiming that we are here by a cosmic accident are not shy in imposing that view on all of us. It's great to be raising up a generation with the overwhelming evidence and skills to be a voice for God's creation.

Revelation 14 calls us to worship who? A god of cosmic coincidence? The fumbling god who was forced to use eons of death and destruction before he got it right? No! We're called to worship a God of immense power and creativity. A God who created the heavens and the earth, the seas and the springs of water. Let's stand up, speak up, let's not be afraid to say, yes, we worship the God of creation.





Sorting fact from fiction

The internet is a wonderful tool. It has never been easier for anybody with a healthy curiosity to connect with the work of world experts. Indeed, the ease with which we can share knowledge has never been greater and it's an amazing opportunity for us all.

But there's a darker side to this opportunity. With the ease anyone and everyone can share information, it's becoming increasingly difficult to sort knowledge from opinion. And this is no truer than when it comes to information on health. Even for experts, the complexities of health science often raise more questions than answers. While we know a great deal about living a healthy life, some conditions such as cancer, still hold many questions.

Recently, the media has covered the story of an internet blogger whose claims of curing cancer with alternative therapies turned out to be false. Profitable books and smartphone apps were sold and a loyal following was built. But the story they told of a remarkable, natural cure was untrue.

This is not to say that complementary treatments don't have their place in health care. It also doesn't mean that we shouldn't feel empowered to be an active participant in our own health care. But when we do, we should look first for credible sources and be alert for opinion masked as knowledge by slick packaging. For more on the latest credible information on cancer prevention and treatment go to the Cancer Council Australia's website: <www.cancer.org.au>.



Mini vegetable frittatas

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes Serves: 12.

2 teaspoons oil

1 onion, finely chopped

1 large carrot, grated

1 large zucchini, grated

½ cup drained canned corn

¼ cup grated low-fat cheese

½ cup wholemeal self-raising flour

½ teaspoon salt

3 eggs, lightly beaten

¼ cup oil

2 tablespoons sunflower kernels

1. Heat oil in a frypan and sauté onion until soft. Place in a large bowl. Add carrot, zucchini, corn, cheese, flour and salt to the bowl.

2. Combine eggs and oil and stir into vegetable mixture.

3. Spoon mixture into lightly greased muffin pans. Sprinkle with kernels and bake in a moderate oven (180°C) for 30 minutes.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
470kJ (110cal). Protein 4g. Fat 8g. Carbohydrate 6g. Sodium 164mg. Potassium 138mg. Calcium 37mg. Iron 0.8mg. Fibre 1g.

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

what's the connection?

by Kevin Price

HAVE A FRIEND—WELL I HAVE MANY FRIENDS—BUT this particular man has been a friend for a long time. One of the things we have in common is our interest in older cars; we think of them as being classics. For us they are classics because they come from the era of our youth. True, that makes them old cars! You may well ask, what is the connection between old cars and Health Week? Keep reading!

For Health Week 2015 we are asking a question: What is the connection between spiritual health and physical health? It's a question we want you to think about, especially during this coming week focusing on health.

What is health? Is it more than just not being sick? I believe it is so much more. The creation story reveals that God intended for us to all enjoy high levels of complete wellness. In Genesis we read of our God creating His ideal world for His "made in His image" people. Repeatedly this newly formed ecosystem is described as being "good" (Genesis 1:1-25). Then God forms mankind to manage this ideal environment. He indicated that the seeds, fruits and plants are to be the optimal wholesome foods (Genesis 1:26-30). Genesis gives a lot of detail about the creation of man and this new "God designed" and "God given" environment. God's reflective conclusion was that it was all "good, so very good" (Genesis 1:31, *The Message//REMIX*).

The final act of Creation week was the Sabbath, a constantly repeating gift of time blessed by God. It was established as a "holy day". We mark the completion of His creative activity with a period of rest from work (Genesis 2:1-4).

We know it to be a blessed time for relating to God through worship and enjoying the evi-

dence around us of His love and creativity.

God also recognised the need for Adam to have a close relationship partner. In the making of "woman" (Eve) He acknowledges that "it is not good for the man (Adam) to be alone, I will make him a helper, a companion" (Genesis 2:18).

I maintain that in the first chapters of Genesis we see God's definition of ideal health:

- God intended for us to be involved in managing our surroundings. We see an environmental connectedness that is linked to physical activity, work and life purpose. This ecological connectedness is also linked to appreciation of design, science, creativity and aesthetics. I believe that God gave this to us for our physical, mental and emotional health.
- God gave a simple, plant-based diet of foods that grew from the ground. We see a nutritional connectedness that leads to optimal physical (body/brain) health.
- God intended for us to experience close relationships. We see here the importance of social connectedness that is allied to our relational and emotional health.
- God also gave us a day of physical and mental rest. A day set aside for a change of pace, for worship, and for contemplation of His creative and redemptive activity. The Sabbath becomes a powerful contributor to our mental/emotional and relational fitness as well as to our spiritual wellbeing.
- God gave us an extraordinary affiliation with Himself that operates on a spiritual, intellectual and relational level. God's plan was for us to experience a close, strong and personal relationship with Him. Thus our spiritual health is directly linked to a

Sibilla Johnson—Director, Adventist Health, Victorian Conference

Physical and spiritual health work best together. Our motives for following a healthy lifestyle should relate to our relationship with God. If our minds are clear and our bodies are healthy we are better able to understand the will of God and in turn serve others. Good health enables us to be joyful witnesses to truth, love and compassion, and makes us more effective for our wonderful heavenly Father.

I have experienced during my years of service in health ministry that the health work can very effectively break down prejudice against spirituality as nothing else can. Ellen White said this, and I constantly have the privilege of seeing this happen. I praise the Lord every time!

We can offer people something better than they now have, to be healthy in body, mind and spirit. For me, ministry of health and healing is central to the faith and practice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



transcendent connectedness.

In this ideal environment health, as we define it today, was not an issue as disease was not yet a problem. We should never forget that the Genesis account had established the most important comprehensive health principles in advance of the entry of sin and resulting death. We see in the Creation story what was, and still is, God's ideal for us.

So is there still a connection between spirituality and health? I think of the many outstanding Bible texts that link physical health with spiritual health. Texts like:

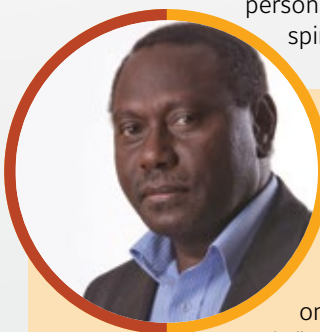
- "Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you" (Exodus 23:25).
- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27).
- "Your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost . . . Ye are not your own . . . Ye are bought with a price . . . Wherefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).
- "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2)

Today there is a significant body of research that demonstrates a link between spiritual involvement and the resulting physical health benefits.

At a recent Health Professionals Conference held at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Dr Gerald Winslow from Loma Linda Hospital and University spoke about research showing the health benefits of prayer,

Dr Chester Kuma—Associate Director, Adventist Health Ministries, South Pacific Division

I believe the Bible presents a strong connection between spirituality and health. "Shalom" is one of the most beautiful Hebrew words in Scripture. True, it is a common Hebrew greeting but it has a far deeper meaning. More than a greeting it is a wish for peace on the one being greeted. I believe the word "shalom" comes the closest to defining health in Scripture as it presents the desire for "wholeness" of life and not merely physical health or healing. It connects the spiritual and the physical dimensions together in an intricate way. Shalom means: completeness, soundness, health, prosperity, peace, wholeness and balance, suggesting a state in which all the needs of a person are fully satisfied. It means to be whole, to be complete, to have physical and spiritual resources sufficient to one's need, and encompasses a state of physical, mental, social and, most important of all, spiritual wellbeing. Thus it enlarges our understanding of health as a "wholeness" of existence in God.



forgiveness, Christian service, belonging to a faith group and the importance for health of having hope for the future and faith in God. Interestingly, Dr Winslow also rotated the connection around the other way. He talked about the connection between physical health and spiritual health. He pointed to Ellen White's contribution that good physical health can lead to optimum brain health and spiritual perceptiveness with a resulting increased receptivity to God's will in our lives. I'm grateful for the wonderful counsel given to our Church that physical and spiritual health are so interlinked (For an example, see *Testimonies*, Vol 3 p 62).

Which leads me to my friend and his classic car. I know you were wondering about that connection! You see my friend inherited his father's car. It's a 1960s Ford Fairlane with a rumbling V8 engine. It was old and tired and needed a lot of work. It was a big decision but he decided to fully restore the car. The engine, the gearbox and the differential were reconditioned. He combed the world for replacement pieces that would make it like new. The body was stripped back and then repainted. Carefully all was put back together. It was an act of devotion to a car and to his father. It was a very proud day when the fully restored Ford was driven out onto the road looking and sounding just like new.

I suggest that God is in the business of restoration. The whole gospel story is about how God is working to restore what He originally gave us before sin entered our environment. Christ came to restore His Father's world. His death was the ultimate act of loving restoration (John 3:16). Christ was definitely a Restorer. Every act of healing was an indication that He wanted to get people closer to the Garden of Eden state of true complete health. Now we are all looking to the time of ultimate restoration described in the book of Revelation. John pictures Eden restored as the day when there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain (see Revelation 21:4).

Just as Christ is in the restoration business,



Adrielle Carrasco—Director, Adventist Health New Zealand and the South Eastern Pacific

Through my professional life I have seen many changes in the way we approach the treatment of lifestyle diseases. In most instances we have become more aggressive in our approach to using medication and we still place huge importance on diet and physical activity, but it is my belief that more than ever there is a need to focus on the spiritual health of our community.

Living with a chronic disease can be debilitating both physically and mentally. It is taxing to live day after day relying on modern medicine to keep you functioning and often people find this difficult to maintain. Through the years I've often been told by patients that they've not been "good enough" or have been "bad" with their management. This negative thinking has resulted in them feeling less accepted by their family, friends, community or health professional—how sad is that?

This is where the spiritual element of health is closely linked to physical, mental and emotional health. The resilience one needs for living with a health problem can be strengthened when a person experiences a greater sense of meaning or value in their life. For Christians this is grounded in a belief that we are important in the eyes of God. There isn't anything we can do that will ever change that (Romans 8:39). How much more powerful a message can be given to those who struggle to see their worth? If we are able to assist those struggling with low self-worth to see how important they are to God we will give them the strength to cope with their chronic health conditions, their overall wellbeing will improve and their belief in themselves will be restored.



Associate Professor Ross Grant— CEO Australasian Research Institute (Sydney Adventist Hospital) and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Sydney Medical School

As a researcher in the neurosciences (especially neurodegenerative diseases) it is very clear to me that if the body is not healthy, the mind and its capacity to perform at its best will be compromised.

We are admonished by Christ Himself to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). The apostle Paul said "... whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). God's engagement with man always occurs in a way that elicits man's "intelligent" response. Impaired brain function, especially of those parts of the brain specialising in decision making, will also inhibit spiritual growth. As an inspired voice counselled many years ago: "Whatever injures the health not only lessens physical vigour but tends to weaken the mental and moral powers" (*The Ministry of Healing* 128).

so we should be. Health for Adventists is about restoration for here and also for the hereafter. Our health message is way above what we "do not do"—it is about what we do do and why we do it. True health is more than just a physical restoration; it is about a full restoration. Is it about health just for personal pleasure? Maybe, but it is more about health for a purpose—a much higher and holier purpose. Here is the connection between health and spirituality. Our health work is to be a part of God's work of restoration. Restoring the right connections between us and others, between us and our world, and between us and our Saviour—or should that be our Restorer? R

Kevin Price is director of Adventist Health for the South Pacific Division.

Family of God

by Trafford Fischer

SOME TIME AGO BILL BAKER OF LONDON MARRIED Edna Harvey. Edna happened to be Bill's granddaughter's husband's mother. That was pretty confusing for Bill's granddaughter, Lynn. She said, "My mother-in-law is now my step-grandmother. My grandfather is now my step-father-in-law. My mum is my sister-in-law and my brother is my nephew. I'm now married to my uncle and my own children are my cousins."

Aren't families fascinating! Living in any kind of family can be challenging. Some of us belong to a family that might be considered quite small while others live in large families. Consider Susannah Wesley, the mother of John and Charles Wesley: she was the 25th child in her family! Imagine meal times, bath times and buying Christmas gifts. She went on to have 19 children of her own, but sadly only 10 survived.

In Genesis 14:16 we read that when Abram heard that Lot had been captured, "he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan". That's 318 soldiers born in his family, and if all of them were married and had children . . . that's a seriously big family.

One of the most recent large family events occurred at Saint-Paul-Mont-Pénit in France on August 12, 2012 where the Porteau-Boileve family got together for a family reunion—all 4514 of them!

The Psalmist wrote, "God sets the lonely in families . . ." (Psalm 68:6). It's in families where we learn what it means to belong. We are not alone, nor abandoned, nor neglected. Somebody cares. Somebody is on our side. We are highly loved. Our family name declares we are more than "one"—we are "us".

"God sets the lonely in families . . ." It's in families where we discover how to love; at least that's where God intends us to find love. It's where we learn to be honest, reliable and dependable; to be patient, kind and gentle towards others. It's where we should learn what's valuable in life and to seek only the highest good. It's where we learn to find value, worth and dignity in all that we are, and do. We learn how to treat others in kind and respectful ways, and to avoid any form of bullying or abuse. We learn tolerance and understanding. We learn the importance of accepting other points of view, other ways of seeing life.

"God sets the lonely in families . . ." It's in families where we learn to deal with some of the harsh aspects of life—to learn to take the knocks and bruises and still keep going. We learn that not all people will value what our family values. We will learn that there are many who strive to do only good while others appear to seek only evil. We learn that we can still hold on to our own self-respect when others fail to show us kindness or respect, or treat us with dignity. We learn that we are still valuable and whole even when others might suggest we are worthless.

"God sets the lonely in families . . ." But some of us don't have loving families. Some of us are alone. Some of us have

parents who abandoned or abused us. Does that mean that God has abandoned us too? No way! In Psalm 68 we read that God, the Creator of the entire universe, the most powerful and the most awesome; God who is surrounded by angels and heavenly beings, our God has a very, very special place in

His heart for those of us whose parents, for one reason or another, aren't in our lives. God tells those of us battered by this most sharp of pains that He, God Himself, will be our "father to the fatherless". What a beautiful promise.

"God sets the lonely in families . . ." It's in families where we find a glimpse of what it is to be a child of God. We discover what it is to be a daughter and a son of the best Father. Our Father loves us, seeks after us and only desires the best for us. He is our secure place, our hiding place, our safe place. God, our Father, is clearly on our side and we are not alone. He is the "Door" that is constantly open, the "Bread" that feeds our hunger and the "Light" that shines in the dark times and leads us. He is our Father who runs to welcome us home and greets us with a kiss, a ring and a party. That's serious family!

National Families Week began yesterday. Let's reach out to our parents, our children, our siblings and, most importantly, to our Heavenly Father in a very deliberate way this week. God designed us to be part of a family, His family. And that's a wonderful thing. ✠

Trafford Fischer is director of Family Ministries for the South Pacific Division, and, more importantly, husband of Caryl and father of two adult children and four granddaughters.

Our family name declares we are more than "one"—we are "us"

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.

MEAL TICKET

Beryl Dorrington, via email

There is a general trend today on our campgrounds to offer a hot meal on Sabbath through the purchase of a meal ticket prior to Sabbath. But although we are not "buying" on Sabbath, could it be that in purchasing such a ticket in advance we are agreeing to the employment of someone to work for us on the Sabbath and therefore they become the "neither thy manservant nor thy maidservant" of the fourth commandment?

When we pay for the ticket don't we expect that a hot meal prepared by the camp cooks will be waiting for us when we come out of church? Are we being duped right on the borders of Canaan into breaking the fourth commandment? Is this meal preparation on Sabbath a necessity? Has making arrangements and preparation to have food ready on Friday for the Sabbath become so difficult that others have to be employed to prepare the meal?

Preparation has to be made to care for the delegates but because the number of delegates is smaller than campers their meals can be prepared prior to the Sabbath hours. Camp cooks need the blessing of Sabbath too.

ORIGINAL MEANING

Geoff Drewer, via website

Thank you for a thought-provoking editorial ("Peace", April 25). The notion of killing someone who is about to kill others is a tough ethical choice. One must examine the breadth of Scripture before rushing to a conclusion.

One thing I did notice—the word for kill/murder in Exodus

20:13 [*ro se ah*, Strong's Concordance 7523] is different from kill in Numbers 31:17 [*hir gu*, Strong's 2026] or accidental killing [*mak keh*, Strong's 5221] versus murder explored in Numbers 35:15–25. One should always understand the meaning in the original language as meaning can be lost in translation to English.

POSTMODERN WEST

Errol Webster, via website

Thank you for the informative, though disturbing editorial ("Jesus who?", April 4) about the inconsistency of many professed Christians. It highlights the fact that in the West we live in a postmodern culture where there's a loss of moral absolutes.

Individuals become their own subjective authority and live comfortably with contradictions; where practice doesn't have to match profession. We're all affected by a powerful media that communicates these concepts. How important for those who do believe in the objective truths of the Bible to stand against the culture and be the salt and light for a dying world by living consistent Christian lives.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Joy Butler, PNG

Thank you for speaking so strongly on [the domestic violence] issue ("Domestic violence", Insight, April 25). At every camp meeting and church event in the South Pacific Division (SPD) where I have participated over recent years, I hear of domestic violence issues.

It has been overwhelmingly tragic. The people who perpetuate these crimes are in no way Christian. I believe this should be spelled

out loud and clear to the Church. We cannot hide this matter anymore. We must be called to account and speak out strongly for those who cannot and dare not speak for themselves.

God bless the SPD leadership for leading the way.

RESEARCH REALITIES

Dr Liliana Endo-Munoz, Qld

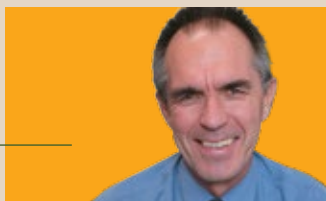
Thank you for this educational article on the science of ice cores ("Ice core science", Feature, March 7). It serves to highlight the shortcomings of the scientific tools we have at our disposal.

Those of us who perform cutting-edge research in the field of molecular biology understand and acknowledge how inaccurate and imperfect our standard and advanced scientific measuring tools can be. Many of these techniques, although extremely good, can be imprecise even when we measure biological reactions fresh, as they happen, in real time. Some measurements can be difficult to perform and to replicate accurately. Thus, we constantly repeat experiments under different conditions and incorporate statistical analyses that measure the degree of error.

We understand these measurements as a reflection or indication of the biological activity we are observing. In the scientific literature we favour using words such as "our data indicate" or "suggest". It is not surprising that techniques and tools that attempt to measure activity that (i) happened in the very distant past, (ii) is no longer active and (iii) cannot be repeated in real time, can only yield a very poor and imperfect reflection of the reality.

OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster



Jews in the news (Part V): safe to save

After Daniel and his friends entered Babylon, God sought by their faith and faithfulness, and by prophecy and miracles, to draw Nebuchadnezzar to Him. Finally after some 43 years he was converted. In Daniel 4 we discover key factors that will help God's end-time Israelites fulfil His purpose for their lives.

1. Prophecy impacts secular minds

This was the second time God had spoken to this pagan king through a prophetic dream. Reaching secular minds through prophecy is God's idea. We must join God in His method of reaching people.

Read Daniel 2; 4:5

2. Share unpalatable prophecies faithfully and lovingly

Daniel faithfully, tactfully, lovingly and at great risk, delivered an unwelcome prophetic message of judgement to the king. After personal tragedy, the prophetic message led the king to trust in God for salvation. God has given us unpopular messages for both the church and unchurched. We too must deliver them tactfully and lovingly.

Read Daniel 4:19-27; Revelation 14:6-12; 18:1-4

3. Share your story

Now safe in God's grace, Nebuchadnezzar immediately sought to save others by his personal testimony, which like Paul's included: 1. His life before he knew God; 2. How God changed his life; and 3. His life since meeting God. We who have tasted God's saving grace are to do the same.

Read Daniel 4:1-3; 4:4,29,30; 4:4-34: 4:34,36,37;
Acts 26:1-23; Luke 8:39

As with Nebuchadnezzar, God's long-suffering love does not give up on our family, friends and neighbours. Let us determine right now to seek to reach them by our prayers, prophetic insights and personal testimonies.

Pictured: Part of a building inscription at the Ishtar gates of Babylon that confirms Nebuchadnezzar's boastful claim of Daniel 4:30.



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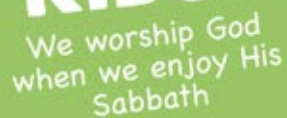


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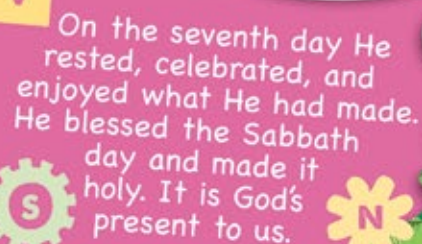
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Kids' Space



SPOT THE 15 DIFFERENCES

For six days God created wonderful things to make a beautiful world and creatures to inhabit it.



MEMORY VERSE

Use the letters
in the shapes - to
solve the
memory verse



Genesis 2:3 NIV

APPRECIATION

Lawson, Pastor Robert Neil. Frances, Shelley, Brayden and Kaitlan, Andrew and Sonya, Jade, Amy and Zack sincerely thank everyone for the outpouring of love shown to them during Neil's illness and then at his passing. The distance people travelled to attend the funeral, the flowers, special music at the church, cards and messages of sympathy have "really blown us away". As did the ministry of their three ministers (Graeme Christian, Lawrence Landers and James Toogood) and Pastors Barry Oliver and Ken Vogel. As a family they thank the Lord for Neil's love and for the influence he had on each of their lives. "We know that he fought the good fight and we really miss him and look forward to the resurrection."

ANNIVERSARY

Sonter, Allen and Margaret were married on 7.1.1955 at the North New Zealand camp at Ardmore. After serving Adventist Education

together for 40 years in NZ and many islands across the Pacific, they retired to Toowoomba, Qld, in 1995, where they actively support the Glenvale church and Adventist school. On 4.1.15 they celebrated 60 years of marriage at Callie's home in Newcastle, NSW, with children Betty, Wendy, Bob and Callie, their grandchildren and close friends.

WEDDINGS



Bolst—Thompson. Joshua Bolst, son of Len and Sharon Bolst (Gosford, NSW), and Sara Thompson, daughter of Greg and Angie Thompson (Gawler, SA), were married 15.3.15 in The Tree House, Brunkerville, NSW. The outdoor wedding in a magnificent bushland setting was interrupted by a wild thunderstorm, causing a rapid redeployment to the reception venue where the service was completed with much good humour—one wit commented appropriately, "Wet

knots are harder to undo!" Josh and Sara met while students at Avondale College where Josh is now employed in the IT department. They plan to live in a house Josh has been renovating for his bride in Mirrabooka.

Ian Howie

Cummings—Peterson. Paul Cummings, son of John and Patricia (deceased) Cummings (Anglesea, Vic), and Sarah-Jean Peterson, daughter of Errol and Colleen Peterson (Korumburra), were married 21.3.15 at Beaconsfield Country Golf Club, Beaconsfield Upper. The wedding took place on a beautiful sunny afternoon in the gardens of the golf club.

Tony Campbell



Ewing—Mark. Cameron Dale Ewing, son of Richard and

Lea-anne Ewing, and Aleksandra Elzbieta Marek, daughter of Jan and Janina Marek, were married 2.3.15 at Loxley on Bellbird Hill, Kurrajong Hills, NSW.

Trafford Fischer, Gabriel Alegre



Higgins—Rusterholz. Timothy Higgins, son of Brett and Sharon Higgins (Nowendoc, NSW) and Naomi Rusterholz, daughter of Daniel and Sharon Rusterholz (Hogarth Range), were married 22.3.15 in Clydesdale Motel, Casino. Tim and Naomi will be living in Casino where Tim is a carpenter and Naomi a childcare worker.

Paul Geelan



King—Pearce. Eric John King and Daphne Olive Pearce were

married 25.1.15 at the home of the bride's eldest son in Reedy Creek, Qld. They are now living in Kingaroy.

Mark Pearce



Popovsky—Jackson. Rene Popovsky and Andrea Robyn Jackson were married 22.3.15 in Redcliffe church, Qld.

Mike Brownhill

Sanders—Johnson. Alan Steven Sanders and Reniet Leigh Johnson (both of Stanthorpe, Qld),

were married 15.3.15 in the Stanthorpe church. Children from the previous marriages of both bride and groom were in their wedding party. The great number of church members, loved ones and friends present showed the high esteem in which the couple are held. We wish them God's blessing as they live for each other and Jesus Christ.

Reg Harris

Stanko—Navarrete Guzman. Timothy Stanko, son of Joseph and Milica (deceased) Stanko (The Summit, Qld), and Ludin Alejandra Navarrete Guzman, daughter of Alfonso Navarrete Mendoza and Ruth Guzman Aranda (Santiago, Chile), were married 22.2.15 in the Morning-side Spanish church, Brisbane, Qld. Tim and Alejandra will set up their home in Brisbane.

Joseph Maticic, Walter Flamenco

OBITUARIES

Dawes, Gordon Ronald, born 4.8.1931 in Auburn, Sydney, NSW; died peacefully in Murwillumbah. On 17.12.1953 he married Cynthia Maseyk. He is survived by his wife; their children and their families: Peter and Leanne, Robert and Wendy, Deborah and Tim (deceased), Bevan and Jayne, and Dennis and Trish; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Gordon was known for his love of family, his great love of Jesus, and his humble, gentle character. Cynthia determinedly cared for him at home in his last few years as he suffered from Parkinson's disease. He told his family, "Do not miss me when I'm gone. It will only be a short time before we see each other again in the coming of our Lord."

Errol Wright, Ron Thomas

Groves, Raymond Edward (Ted), born 1.7.1939 in Broken Hill, NSW; died 9.10.14 in St Anne's Nursing Home, Broken Hill. On 2.9.1959 he married Kay Webb. He is survived by his wife; his daughter Sandra Groves and his son and his wife, Trevor and Amanda Groves; and grandson Daniel. Ted was a loved and respected member of the Broken Hill church. He had a great knowledge of the Bible and accepted the assurance of the resurrection at the soon return of Jesus.

Adam Tonkin

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Administrative assistant—Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (GSC) Limited is seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and experienced administrative assistant to the president, ministerial secretary and Trust Services director. The successful candidate will also be the Conference membership secretary. Based in Epping, NSW, this full-time position requires the successful candidate to facilitate a productive administration through the efficient processing of enquiries, documents, scheduling appointments, secretarial work and administrative functions. The successful candidate will be a member of the Church who is committed to its teachings, values and mission. For more information, a full job description or written applications including your CV (including the contact details of your church pastor) please contact Pastor Adrian Raethel <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close May 28, 2015.**

■ **Software development internship—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW).** The Information Technology department of the Division is seeking a skilled graduate to gain experience in the specific areas of the Church's accounting systems and related activities in this 12 month fixed term internship. The role will primarily provide support, documentation, testing and development tasks for accounting and related systems. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor, to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax to (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **May 24, 2015.**

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



Hart, Lorna Irene, born 7.8.1924; died 25.2.15 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by their three children: Sonny, Sharon and Shan; and three granddaughters, Leesa, Amanda and Kristen. Lorna was a resident of the retirement village for 10 years. She had a strong faith, evident from the many texts underlined in her Bible. As a result of her faith, she died in the blessed hope of Jesus' soon return.

Neil Peatey

Hough, Pamela Audrey, born 10.10.1926 in The Rock, NSW; died 12.3.15 in Maroondah Hospital, Vic. In November 1955 she married Granville Hough, who predeceased her in 2009. She is survived by Christopher (Melbourne) and Troy. Following a post-war move to Melbourne, Pam worked for Denyers Podiatrists and it was at this time she joined the Adventist Church. Pam was devoted to God, her family and her church. After some years at Albury, NSW, the couple retired to Wingham and became active members of the Taree church. When her husband died Pam moved to Melbourne and lived with her son Chris in Rowville for her remaining years.

Tony Campbell, Paul Kotanko



Jackson, Dr Merrill Stanley, born 21.12.1925 in Murwillumbah, NSW; died 16.3.15 in Ocean Grove, Vic. On 5.1.1950 he married Linette Isabel Robinson. He is survived by his wife, his children and their families: Lindy and Ian Judd (Ocean Grove), Nomi (Upwey), Deane and Ruth Jackson (Cambo-dia); grandchildren Justin, Leighton, Dwane, Natalie and Branton; and five great-grandchildren. A forward thinker for his time, Merrill was well known for his integrity, compassion and lifetime service to his church. Recognised as a worldwide expert in the fields of reading disability, moral development and delinquency, his university career spanned more than 30 years with a further two decades helping people as a clinical and educational psychologist. A strong family man, artist and lover of the Australian bush, Merrill had an inquiring mind and

an unwavering faith in the Bible.
Deane Jackson, Darrell Croft

Jones, Douglas Mervyn Frederick, born in Ipswich, Qld; died in Ipswich. In 1949 he married Joan, who predeceased him on 22.12.1997. He is survived by his sister Valmay Petersen; four sons Wayne, Craig, Brett and Warren; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Doug was a hard-working man all his life. He always put his family first and was so proud of his boys. He loved playing his harmonica and after the passing of his beloved wife Joan it helped to fill the lonely void. Even in hospital he played his harmonica and a nurse with a beautiful voice began singing; the effect on other patients in the ward was almost magical. Doug loved his Lord Jesus and is now awaiting the call of the Life-giver on the resurrection morning.

David Lamb

Moulding, Ellen Frances (nee Johnson), born 7.12.1936; died 29.11.14. She married Arthur George who predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by her children Bill, David, Edward, Claire and Arthur, and their respective spouses; and four grandchildren. She loved the Lord and was laid to rest with the blessed hope of seeing Jesus face-to-face on the resurrection morning.

Paul Glover

Schmidt, Alwin Georg, born 29.6.1937 in Olecko, East Prussia; died 10.2.15 in AdventCare Whitehorse, Nunawading, Vic. He was married in October 1967. He is survived by his son Conrad (Vic); and his sister Wendy Hill (Qld). In 1966 Alwin immigrated to Australia where he married and had one son. He worked as an accountant and loved playing the organ and using his computer.

*Tony Campbell, Lindy Sperring
Pawel Ustupski*



Stannard, Joan, born 10.5.1934 in the UK; died 20.1.15 in Redcliffe, Qld. Joan and her husband Len migrated to Australia in 1968. Len predeceased her in 1990. She is survived by her two sons Ian and Paul, and their wives Ethel and Cherie; eight grandchildren Michael, Sharnie, Christine, Brad,

Nikki, Micaela, Cody and Drew; and two great-grandchildren Tara and Caleb, and many friends from BallyCara Nursing Home at Scarborough on the Redcliffe Peninsula. Joan is resting in peace until the resurrection.

Mike Brownhill



Ward, Isabel May (nee Henry), born 29.6.1931 in Gympie, Qld; died 22.8.14 in Monto. She married Thomas Frank Ward. She was predeceased by her husband in 1998, daughter Muriel in 2003, grandson James in 2014 and great-grandson Hayden in 1992. She is survived by her children James and Michelle (Toronto), Marie and Malcolm (Monto), Patricia and Kenneth (Brisbane) and Frances and Raymond (Bundaberg); 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Isabel lived for her family, always enjoying special family occasions. Nursed by her children, she died peacefully at home.

Glenn Grey

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Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village. October 5–10, 2015. Plan now to attend the South New South Wales Conference Grey Nomads camp for a spiritual feast and social fellowship at Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. Set

in the beauty of the Australian Southern Alps, numbers are limited to 200 attendees. Guest speakers include Pastor Andrew Kingston and Dr Allan Lindsay. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options please contact Robyn Howie: phone (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

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Finally . . .

Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.

—Frederick Buechner

Next RECORD June 6

VOLUNTEERS

■ **Assistant boys' dean volunteers—LAC House (Palmerston North, NZ).** Positions available, start date July 19, 2015, for 12 months or ASAP. Must be 21 to 30 years old, have a heart to see God's work in young people's lives (aged 11–18), flexible with work hours and fluent in English. Stipend of \$NZ330 p/f, food and accommodation provided on premises. Local transport included. Email <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

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WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

Explore the connection between physical health & spiritual health

- Adventist Health Ministries provides
- Health Resources
 - Health Outreach Programs
 - Health Training
 - Health Research

Adventist Health Ministry Report

Our Comprehensive Health Ministry goals are for optimal health for every Adventist and each member and church involved in a form of community health outreach. We are also focusing on the connection between physical health and spiritual health. Some of the major projects and programs include:

The Health Promoting Churches Initiative

This is a Division-wide program where our health message addresses Pacific Island health challenges. Four major training events for ministers, teachers and other church workers have been conducted in PNG. Training weeks have also been conducted in Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. Further events will soon be held in the Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga. The importance of our health message is being restored across the Pacific. This comprehensive health emphasis will also be a major ministry strategy across Australia and New Zealand.

Adopt-a-Clinic

We are working across the Pacific on Adventist clinic upgrades and refurbishments. Amazing contributions have been made by church members, churches and volunteers with all clinics completed in Vanuatu and nearly all upgraded in the Solomon Islands. There are some clinics still to be completed across PNG. (Briggett, the face of the Adopt-a-Clinic, now has a clinic in her village.)

Isolated Medical Outposts

This involves establishing new clinics in remote and much neglected areas of the Pacific. We are also focusing on areas where there is not yet a strong Adventist presence. A new clinic and a staff house have been completed at Buhalu in the highlands of the Morobe Province, PNG. A new clinic has been built and is serving the people of Arufi in the very challenging South West Province of PNG. A third is now being built in Bonvor on the southern end of Malekula in Vanuatu.

Health Programs, Training, Resources, Research and Conferences

Every Conference and Mission is involved in extending the impact of our health message as part of our Churches ministry to its members and their communities. We are supporting and promoting the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) and the Depression Recovery program, along with Mrs Sibilla Johnson's Community Health Education Program (CHEP Certificate IV and Diploma courses). Major health conferences have been conducted in Australia and PNG with more to be held in Fiji and New Zealand. The third Adventist Health and Lifestyle Survey has been staged with results being analysed and communicated to Church leaders.

Your involvement in and support of Adventist Health Ministries is greatly appreciated.

