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*Give them
the keys*

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JULY 11
2015

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Rebuilding of churches begins in Vanuatu

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Four months after Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu, the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) has begun the process of rebuilding and repairing local churches.

According to official reports, 53 Adventist churches were destroyed when the Category 5 cyclone hit the country. Following the disaster, South Pacific Adventist leaders appealed for prayer and support for the Church in Vanuatu.

"We would need our brothers and sisters to help to rebuild our churches and schools at least, not to mention our homes," said Pastor Nos Terry, president of the Vanuatu Mission. "The extent of the damage is beyond our capabilities."

People responded to the appeals. HopeChannel South Pacific's fundraiser raised enough funds to rebuild six churches so far. At this stage donations from several entities, including the General Conference, the Southern Asia Pacific Division, and various church groups and individuals across the South Pacific Division, total almost \$A450,000 specifically for church rebuilding. Additional funds are still to come in from local conferences in Australia.

With the total cost of repairing and rebuilding all damaged church property estimated at nearly \$A700,000, the Vanuatu Mission is two-thirds of the way towards its goal.

TPUM president Pastor Glenn Townend recently met with Peter Koolik, a builder from Brisbane, who is coordinating the rebuild and repair of churches in Vanuatu.

Mr Koolik has designed a prefab iron building that can be constructed on site in five to seven days. The building is rated to withstand Category 5 cyclones and can be insured.

With some slight adjustments these buildings can also be used as classrooms for school rebuilds.

ADRA Connection teams from Australia and New Zealand are constructing and funding school rebuilds and several churches have volunteered their services to assist in church building projects. The first churches are expected to be on site in October.

"This is an amazing effort and the Church needs to read, see and hear about this," Pastor Townend said. "TPUM and Vanuatu Mission would like to give a huge thank you to God's people and to God." – *TPUM/Vania Chew*

For information on how you can help rebuild churches in Vanuatu, email Peter Koolik (pete@koolik.com.au) or Adventist Volunteer Services (MaryanneJakovac@adventist.org.au).



Mautoa church, Efate, was one of dozens of Adventist churches badly damaged or destroyed in the cyclone.

Expo encourages Church leaders to shape lifelong faith

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Shaping lifelong faith in children is incredibly exciting, as evidenced by the people who participated in a "Shaping Faith Expo" at the Maranatha Centre in June.

There was a notable buzz among the 550-plus participants as church leaders, pastors and parents from across the Solomons learned about the "7 Essential Experiences" young people need to shape their faith and grow as disciples.

The week-long event was organised by the Solomon Islands Mission's (SIM) Children's Ministries department. Keynote speakers included General Conference Children's Ministries associate director Dr Saustin Mfune, South

Pacific Division (SPD) Children's Ministries director Julie Weslake and Trans-Pacific Union Mission Children's Ministries director Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa.

Another special

guest was mother and musician Kylie Stacey, from NSW, who taught songs from her "Playful Worship" Sabbath School resource with the help of her two oldest children, Jaxon and Ryan.

A number of resources were distributed to each participant during the expo, including the latest children's prayer journal, copies of the 28 Adventure Bible Studies and Book of Hope, and the Playful Playgroup resource.

The Solomon Islands Mission also distributed some of the 8000 illustrated Children's Bibles that were purchased by the SPD from the world Church's 13th Sabbath offering in 2013. An additional 2000 Bibles have been ordered, highlighting the Mission's commitment to shaping faith in its local children.

"We spend a lot of money on adults," SIM president Pastor George Fafale said. "But we need a big budget for children—for lamb shelters, for evangelism, for Sabbath School lessons and for family worship."

SIM Children's Ministries director Pastor Fraser Reuben said he has received a lot of positive feedback from those who attended, and he hopes to organise similar events in the future. – *Julie Weslake*



Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa and Dr Saustin Mfune with other "faith shapers".



Loss

James Standish

"What do you think of that guy Bono?"

The question might not be all that surprising from a friend. But it wasn't exactly what I was expecting to be asked by the President of the United States on arriving in the Oval Office.

I didn't get a chance to provide the President with my opinion of Bono, the lead singer of U2. If I had, my assessment of the Irish musician would have been glowing. You see, I love U2's music, I love their message and I love the way Bono uses both.

Bono's work on behalf of the poor isn't just a celebrity photo op. He has worked seriously and doggedly over decades—and he has literally changed the world for the better. And he's married to the same woman he went out with in high school: he's a rock star who understands the beauty of commitment. Who thought it possible? I also admire that all four band members get equal writing credit for the music, thereby avoiding battles over royalties that have split groups from the Police to Destiny's Child. By sharing, they've built a pie so large their pieces dwarf anything they could have created alone. If only every business was as enlightened.

U2's latest album includes "Iris", a song that paints a poignant picture of profound loss—"The ache in my heart is so much a part of who I am . . ."

This isn't indulgent self-pity. The song is based on the loss of Bono's mum, Iris, when he was 14 years old. She died of a cerebral aneurism that burst at her own father's funeral. "Iris" was released exactly four decades after her death. Four long decades, and Bono still aches for his mum.

I understand. My father was killed in a car accident seven years ago. I had a dream that I bumped into him recently. Just out walking in the city. Came around the corner and there he was. I blurted out in joy, "so that's where you've been all these years!" The dream was so vivid that waking up was like losing him all over again.

Losing a parent is, I suppose, among the most devastating experiences a human being must go through. As Bono so elegantly puts it, it leaves an ache in our heart that can

never be entirely filled. Not in seven years. Not in 40.

Which makes Bono's recent support of same-sex marriage all the more tragic. We all want to be kind, generous, inclusive, open people. And none of us wants to say no to another adult. But when it comes to marriage, saying yes to what some adults desire, inevitably means saying no to what all children need.

Children have a natural right to a mother and a father. While we cannot always guarantee that right in a world where tragedy and heartache occur, we should craft public policy around the imperative to protect and advance that right as best we can.

Redefining marriage to include same-sex couples does precisely the opposite. It uses the law to create a new social norm that inevitably results in more children living in homes without a father or without a mother. Bono is still writing songs to work through the pain of his mother's loss four decades ago. But what about the children who will never know a mother to miss?

Who among us would casually give up having our dad around? Who of us would voluntarily sacrifice our mother? And yet we have adults who are happy to sacrifice on the altar of political popularity the right of a child to grow up with the love of both their mother and their father. Yes, there are abusive and neglectful biological parents—that is why we support a robust social service safety net. The answer to this tragedy is not to encourage more heartache by deliberately robbing children of their natural rights.

If children could vote, how many would vote to lose their mother or their father? None. So what moral right do powerful adults have to strip powerless children of their natural rights to both parents?

We've done social experiments on children in the past, with catastrophic results. This will be no different. In four decades time there will be a new generation of Irish kids writing songs of immense loss and the heartache that goes with it. A heartache deliberately inflicted by adults who chose the popularity of the moment over the responsibility of a lifetime.

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Cover Credit: Various | "Then and now—snapshots from around the South Pacific Division."

Official news magazine of the South Pacific
 Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
 Vol 120 No 12



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



Hell-raising

Vania Chew

"YOU'RE GOING TO BURN IN HELL FOREVER!"

It was a Sunday afternoon in Sydney. Mum and I were heading to the shops when we heard the noisy chanting. Ever protective, Mum did her best to lead me away. But, ever inquisitive, I insisted on inching even closer.

"The time is coming!" roared one participant, shaking his fist at the curious crowd. "You're going to BURN!"

"Psycho Christians," muttered a man as he pushed his way past.

I've met many self-proclaimed atheists and agnostics over the years. Some were former Christians who abandoned ship in their youth. Others had never experienced Christianity and had no interest in doing so. They were different ages, nationalities and personalities. But they all agreed on one thing—if God existed, He was vengeful, venomous and vindictive.

How could a loving God see suffering and not intervene? How could an omniscient God punish Adam and Eve, knowing they would sin? And surely only a tyrant would torture souls for all eternity.

Many Christians tussle with the same questions.

"I can't think of anything more politically incorrect to preach in 21st century America than the wrath of God, or the justice of God, or the doctrine of hell," says American theologian R C Sproul.

In his book *Love Wins* (2011), celebrity pastor Rob Bell argued that the idea of God punishing people with infinite torment for what they had done in their finite lives raised disturbing questions. He couldn't reconcile hell with a God of love—perhaps hell was just a place of our own making.

The backlash was tremendous. Fellow Christians accused him of being a universalist and twisting the Bible for his own purposes. The controversy eventually saw Bell leaving Mars Hill, the church he himself founded.

Theology aside, *Love Wins* has its thought-provoking moments. Bell notes he wrote the book because the faith Jesus invites us into doesn't skirt around the big questions about hell, but takes us into the heart of them.

Many Christians tend to fall into one of two camps. There are the fear-mongers who urge conversion to avoid eternal damnation or those who simply avoid the topic.

I grew up in the Adventist Church. I've been a member of several churches and visited countless others. However, including prophecy seminars and a screening of *Hell and Mr Fudge*, I can count the number of times I've heard Adventist sermons about hell with the fingers of one hand. That's a shame.

Hell isn't the place Hollywood makes it out to be. The devil doesn't have dominion over it. And God isn't a sadistic tyrant. But that's not all.

Consider this—would a loving God let injustice go unpunished?

Think of the heartbreak, hurt and havoc caused by Hitler and Stalin. Think of paedophiles who go to their graves without a thought for the children they've abused. Think of every time you've seen an injustice in this broken world and wondered whether someone would ever be held accountable.

Hell is not infinite torment. That's good news. And God, in His wisdom, will assess each case and restore justice. Who better to judge human hearts than the One who created them? That's great news.

Let's not shy away from conversations about hell. Let's not fear the fire. Hell? Hell's worth raising.

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.



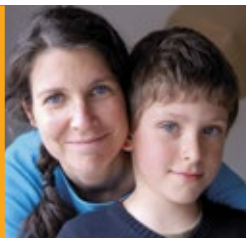
Time for Hope

I've just returned from the mid-year executive committee meetings of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. In those meetings I listened as Union president Dr Brad Kemp cast a vision for the road ahead. He focused on the mission of the Church to make disciples for Jesus as we look forward to the time of His soon return.

One of the exciting initiatives he described is that HopeChannel will soon be available to almost every home in New Zealand. Up until now a special satellite dish had to be installed. No longer is that so. Local programming that is produced in New Zealand and the South Pacific along with a range of very attractive Christian features will be shown on free-to-air television. The intent will be evangelistic. Every effort will be made to reach a broad audience in order to attract them to the gospel and eventually lead them into our churches.

Remember that HopeChannel is the official TV channel of our Church. There are other channels that carry some good programming but they do not come under the oversight of the Church organisation. The funds raised by those entities are not monitored by the Church, nor are they audited by the Church, or in any way disbursed by those who have been elected by the Church to lead in its administrative functions. HopeChannel on the other hand comes to us fully produced and endorsed by our Church globally. It can only get stronger as we all give it our support. This is an amazing opportunity for the Church in New Zealand, soon in Australia, and right across our Division as HopeChannel is about to become our most effective evangelistic opportunity.

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



Struggling

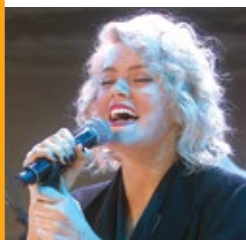
A new report from The Salvation Army suggests that as many as 2.5 million Australians are living below the poverty line. The survey of 2406 Salvos clients found that, on average, they had \$18 to live on per week once they paid for accommodation expenses.

—salvos.org.au



Cleaner world

Some Australian religious leaders say there's a "moral imperative" to take strong action on cutting pollution levels. In open letters to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader, the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change challenged the nation's leaders to consider a 40 per cent reduction in the 1990 level of carbon emissions by 2025. —ARRCC



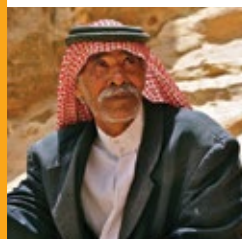
Dominant

In what's becoming a predictable achievement, Sydney-based worship band Hillsong United has once again topped Australia's album charts with its new album, "Empires". The album is also headed for a top 10 spot on the US-based Billboard charts, the second Hillsong United album to do so. —TheMusic.com.au/Billboard



Original and best

The United Nations (UN) is concerned about the change in eating habits in Mediterranean countries, which has seen an increase in the consumption of imported meats and dairy and a decrease in traditional home-grown produce. The UN says the change in eating patterns is leading to an increase in lifestyle diseases, such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. —UN



Fresh perspective

American missionary to Palestine, Reverend Terry McIntosh, says DNA research from Hebrew University reveals that the majority of Palestinians are descended from the remnant of the 10 lost tribes of Israel. In that case, he says, Palestinians should be claiming Israel as their divine inheritance, alongside the Jews.

—JCEmbassyPalestine.com



Surprise renovation

Adventists in Jamaica gained local media attention when they repaired a 96-year-old woman's house for free—replacing rotten weatherboards and windows and repairing flooring and a leaking roof. Church members struggled to fund the project so they completed the repairs in several phases. —Jamaica Observer

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National accreditation for Fulton College diplomas

Nadi, Fiji

Fulton College has reached a major milestone in its quest to have courses internationally recognised.

The Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) recently advised the college that all of its Level 4-6 programs have been accredited according to the Fiji Qualifications Framework. The programs will be issued with a certificate of accreditation and subsequently registered on the Fiji Register of Qualifications and the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards.

This is a significant step for the college as it means that graduates from these programs now have international recognition and transferability. A degree registered on the Pacific Register of Qualifications is equivalent to a degree on Australian and New Zealand Registers. The newly accredited programs include diplomas in business, marketing information systems, education and theology, as well as a certificate in foundation studies.

"This is a major milestone for Fulton College and for

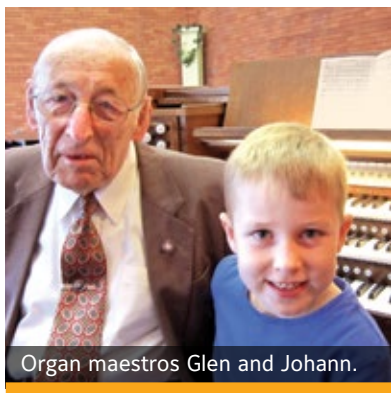
Adventist education in the Pacific," said Fulton College principal Dr Steve Currow.

Fiji has two different processes for the accreditation of qualifications. The FHEC is responsible for accreditation up to a Level 6 Diploma, while the Committee for the Accreditation of University Qualifications establishes review panels to accredit Levels 7 and 8 programs. The committee is currently establishing its protocols and assessing its first batch of programs.

Fulton has submitted qualifications for accreditation of Levels 7 and 8 programs.—*Vania Chew*



Fulton College's new campus opened in Nadi in February 2014.



Organ maestros Glen and Johann.

Organ marathon raises \$3000 for Vanuatu

Cooranbong, New South Wales

Twenty-two organists tag-teamed for an organ marathon in May to raise money for cyclone-devastated communities in Vanuatu.

The three-hour marathon was hosted by Avondale Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cooranbong, and featured an intergenerational group of Suzuki organists.

Among the group were seven-year-old Johann Thompson and 90-year-old Glen Laurie (pictured left).

More than \$A3000 was raised for building supplies for Vanuatu at the event, with hundreds of church and community members dropping in to the church to donate money and listen to the music.

Among the items played by the team of organists were gospel favourites, hymns and Bach preludes. The marathon finished with Avondale Memorial church pastor Vadim Butov reading Psalm 150 to close the Sabbath.—*David Clark*

Healthy lifestyle aids fight against cancer

Wahroonga, New South Wales

It's well-known that a healthy lifestyle can reduce the risk of cancer but what if you do all the right things and still get cancer anyway?

According to an article published by Cancer Research UK, evidence is emerging that people diagnosed with bowel cancer may have a better chance of survival if they've

had a healthy lifestyle prior to the diagnosis.

The European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) study analysed 520,000 men and women from 10 countries over six years.

Of the 3292 participants who were diagnosed with bowel cancer, it was determined the strongest indicators of survival were a healthy weight and a high consumption of plant foods.

The research did not conclude what would happen if a healthy lifestyle was implemented after cancer diagnosis.

However, Adventist Health associate director Dr Paul Rankin said healthy lifestyle changes should never be regarded as "too little too late".

"It's obviously much better if you've been on a healthy lifestyle all along," he said, "but there is a growing body of evidence from the EPIC study and from Dr Dean Ornish's research into prostate cancer showing that changing to a healthy lifestyle can make a significant difference."—*Record staff*



Get fit and fight cancer!

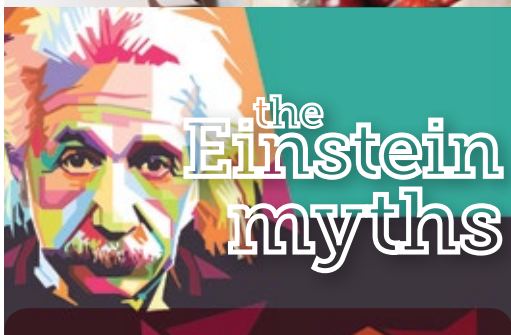
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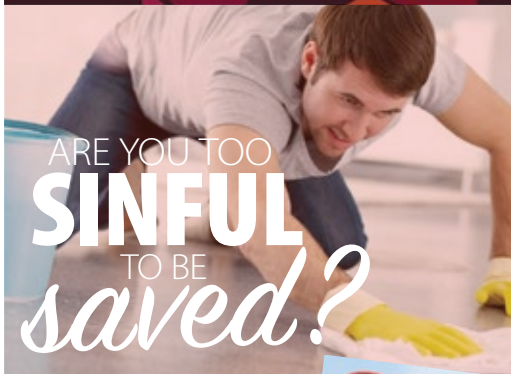
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R NEWS

Kiwi kids told: eat your words

Auckland, New Zealand

The Sanitarium Nutrition Service (SNS) is delivering a vegetarian education program in New Zealand schools that's having some success in changing the minds of children who say they don't like eating vegetables.

It's a promising start for a country where about one-third of children are overweight or obese.

The "Eat Your Words" program is named after a fun activity where students cut up veggies and arrange the pieces to spell out their names . . . and then eat them. The philosophy behind the program is that if children become more familiar with plant-based foods—the seasons when they grow, how they're prepared and how they taste—they'll be more likely to include these foods in their diet as they grow.

The three-hour workshop held in seven New Zealand primary schools last year began with a 20-minute interactive nutrition session explaining the importance of vegetables, grains, legumes, fruit, nuts and seeds, followed by knife-handling training. Then it was on to the signature "eat your words" activity, after which the children watched a cooking demonstration and then had a go at preparing their own lunch: chickpea patties and coleslaw.

To evaluate the program, the SNS team used questionnaires before and after the workshop and found that there was a 22 per cent increase in knowledge about what plant-based foods are and their health benefits. The questionnaires also showed that on average across the 13 foods surveyed there was a 28 per cent shift in the children's preference towards liking those foods.

This year the SNS team is exploring different ways of presenting the workshops and trialling a longer series of three workshops that cover extra topics such as the four food groups, the importance of a healthy breakfast, a healthy lunch box, and reading food labels—all done in a fun and interactive way to ensure children stay engaged.

The next challenge is connecting with parents. So far a key finding has been that providing parents with a cookbook containing cheap, healthy, plant-based recipes is likely to be a beneficial way to engage them and facilitate change.—SNS team/Kent Kingston



Who knew words could be so delicious and nutritious?

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6 – Rev. 13, Rev. 14
7 – Rev. 15, Rev. 16

8 – Rev. 17, Rev. 18
9 – Rev. 19, Rev. 20
10 – Rev. 21, Rev. 22

www.signsofthetimes.org.au



#JesusChristChallenge

by Daniel Matteo

A video of a simple South American children's game was posted to Twitter recently. The game works on similar principles to a Ouija board. The players balance one pencil on another and ask for the presence of a spirit called "Charlie", which proceeds to answer questions by moving the pencil to point to "yes" or "no" answers written on paper. What made the game remarkable was the video appeared to show that a supernatural force was answering.

Children became fascinated and retweeted—with the hashtag #charliecharliechallenge—their own videos of successfully trying the game. Today the game is being experimented with across the world, including right here in the South Pacific. And students at Adventist schools are not immune to what seems to be an intriguing phenomenon. As a school chaplain I feel a heavy responsibility to the children under my spiritual care, which is why I am writing.

From a purely scientific perspective it's possible for a balanced pencil to move, seemingly of its own volition, because of wind, breath or other factors. However, that's not what is widely reported to be happening. In this "game", the pencil moves to answer questions in different directions and always stops exactly over the answers. And I believe the reports that indicate this is a supernatural manifestation.

What's more, it has had supernatural side effects. When I attended a Bible study recently, the couple I was visiting requested a house blessing. Their daughter and her friends had been playing "Charlie Charlie" and they reported that a figure of a dark man had begun manifesting in their home, along with other unexplained occurrences. Similar reports are beginning to appear across the world. One man reports being held on the ground, scratched and beaten by an invisible force when he mocked "Charlie". Other children report that not playing the game by the proper rules results in the offender becoming bodily possessed by the entity.

It's easy to dismiss these accounts as excited hype. But for those of us in the South Pacific with knowledge of how the devil manifests himself in our region, we know that possession and supernatural occurrences are very real. Some have dismissed the whole phenomenon as a marketing ploy for a horror movie. The problem? Myth-busting

website snopes.com looked into it and found no connection between the game and the movie. There is every reason to believe this is real, and that it's just the latest manifestation of the devil's long-standing tactic to ensnare people using the supernatural.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we believe in a very real controversy between the power of Satan and the love of Christ. Leviticus 19:31 warns: "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." When we disobey God we are placing ourselves outside of His protection and the enemy is able to get to us in ways that are not His will. Satan's ultimate desire is to destroy us. However, God's loving protection is freely offered to all who cry out to Him in faith. As the psalmist says: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1 NIV).

In 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Paul warns us of "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" in the last days. I believe that Satan is making a direct attack on our children. It falls to us as parents, church leaders and spiritual uncles and aunties to warn our children in the tenderness of the Holy Spirit of the dangers of not only the Charlie game, but the rising tide of demonic films, computer games, TV shows, music, books and magazines that are overwhelming them with the message of the enemy.

Revelation 12:11 says: "... they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they were not afraid to die."

I propose another challenge—a much more exciting and rewarding one. It's the Jesus Christ Challenge—#jesuschristchallenge. It's found in Jeremiah 33:3 and goes like this: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

If you want to know the secrets of the universe, who better to ask than the One who created it, who vanquished the Prince of Darkness and is coming back soon to take us to a place where the mysteries of the ages will be revealed?

Pastor Daniel Matteo is chaplain of Cairns Adventist College, Queensland, Australia.



Strength through adversity

by Wayne Blakely

IT WASN'T EASY GROWING UP WITH SAME-SEX attraction. At a very vulnerable age I faced rejection and alienation both inside and outside the Church.

I was thought of as peculiar—an outsider, someone you couldn't trust. It's ironic that today we face exactly the same thing. But this time the hostility, distrust and shaming isn't coming from those who fear or hate gay people; it's coming from people who claim to be defenders of those of us who experience same-sex attraction.

A recent incident in London illustrates just how much hostility there is towards Christians with same-sex attraction who have decided to obey God's law.

My colleagues and I were scheduled to present seminars on "Holy Sexuality" in London earlier this year. Prior to our arrival, the inviting church produced flyers and posters announcing our seminars. Almost immediately an intense campaign to smear us began. In just 24 hours more than 40,000 Londoners signed a petition to ban us from speaking there.

We were falsely tagged as promoting "reparative therapy". These programs claim to "cure" gay people and make them "straight". Such therapies have no regulations and

many of the tactics can be bizarre. I've never associated with such therapies and, in fact, I think they are deeply damaging. Our seminars about sexuality are drawn from God's Word and what He desires of us—and have nothing whatsoever in common with these dubious "therapies". We only want to respond to God's call on our lives. In every way we want to be faithful to God's Word.

The signatures were presented to the event organisers. They cancelled the event. None of them reached out to us. For two days we were in a state of shock, feeling like we had been kicked in the stomach. And then one of our speakers was summarily removed from another speaking appointment in the UK.

It was like we were back in our youth—ostracised and marginalised because we are different. To say it was immensely painful is an understatement. It rocked our world.

If those of us with same-sex attraction can't talk openly about our struggles and decisions to follow Jesus no matter what the cost, what hope is there for the millions of men and women facing the same struggle that we face? If our community wilts at the first sign of opposition what future do we have? Where is the courage of our convic-

**It was like we
were back in our
youth—ostracised
and marginalised
because we were
different.**

tions? Where are those men and women who will be true to duty like the needle to the pole? Ellen White foresaw this era when she wrote:

"The world is fast approaching that point in iniquity and human depravity when God's interference will become necessary. And at that time His professed followers should be more marked for their fidelity to His holy law . . . Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers. The promise is: 'Them that honour Me I will honour.' Shall we be less firmly attached to God's law because the world at large have attempted to make it void? . . . Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defence of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test" (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 5, pp 135,136).

But God has a strange way of turning human disaster into divine victory. Not long after we arrived in Italy, Helena Horton, a journalist for the UK's *Daily Mirror* newspaper, contacted us. The *Daily Mirror* has an average daily circulation of almost a million copies and a very popular news website to accompany it. Helena has close

ties to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community and found the accusations about us disturbing. But rather than believe secondhand sources, she searched us out and invited us to talk with her. We talked via Skype and shared what Coming Out Ministries is all about. While she did not agree with everything we shared, she confirmed that we had been falsely accused and that the truth about Coming Out Ministries needed to be presented to the public.

Here was a journalist who had no connection with Adventists but was dedicated to telling the truth and clearing our names from false reporting. This, even as some in our own community repeated the false accusations. So ironically we were treated much more fairly and decently by the secular press than we were by some who claimed to be part of our church family. And despite being banned we reached a much larger audience than we ever could have hoped with the wonderful news that Jesus forgives sin, gives new life and through Him every person on earth has value and hope—and if we only accept His life-changing love we will have eternal life! R

You can read the reporter's story here: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/uvsth3m/imagine-being-christian-thinking-god-5570230>.

Wayne Blakely has spoken in Adventist churches across the world, including in Australia, and is part of Coming Out Ministries. Visit their website at www.comingoutministries.org.

R OPINION

Do for one

We talked late into the Kathmandu night, every night. We just wanted to catch up on years apart. Or maybe we really didn't want to sleep, knowing that aftershocks would rock our already damaged hotel.

Simon Lewis had also spent years in Nepal doing humanitarian work and had been called back after the quake to lend an experienced hand.

We talked about life, faith and raising children. As always, Simon didn't just scrape the surface, he wanted to dig deep into the very heart of faith and spirituality—to mine pure ore at the rock face, where the realities of living on a sin-infected planet grind mercilessly against our faith and hope.

Feeling frustrated by how little I could do to help Nepal's suffering, and knowing that Simon had faced these challenges before, I asked for his thoughts.

"Julian, when we realise that we can't help every person in need, we need to do for one what we wish we could do

for everyone."

I wish I could help everyone, and fund missionaries to go to every "nation, kindred, tongue and people".

I can't.

But I can do for one what I wish I could do for everyone.

Can you?



Julian Archer (right) with ADRA leaders in Nepal.

Julian Archer is the author of *Help! I've Been Blessed!* and writes from Toowoomba, Queensland.



Education for eternity

More than 170 teachers representing 16 schools from across the Central Papua Conference (CPC) and surrounding provinces recently gathered at Mt Diamond Adventist Secondary School to learn about "teaching the whole child for eternity". The week-long convention was organised by the CPC's education department, with South Pacific Division Education associate director Dr Carol Tasker and Adventist educators from across Papua New Guinea serving as guest presenters. The convention gave teachers an opportunity to showcase some of their students' work and to learn new ideas and skills from each other. —*Beverly Balik*



Students helping students

A group of retirees from Avondale Retirement Village (NSW) recently went on a fly'n'build mission to Buca Bay (Fiji), bringing skilled workers to help repair Vatuvonu School's buildings and facilities. Upon returning to Australia, the retirees raised funds to purchase a 40-foot container and items for the school. As part of Avondale School's Service to the Community program, Year 12 students helped load the container with school supplies, including 40 flat pack beds, mattresses and even a tractor. —*Kerrie Howells*



Charity garage sale for Nepal

Members of Gold Coast Korean Adventist Church (Qld) raised \$A2500 for Nepalese women in need by holding a charity garage sale. It was the first garage sale the church had held—all church members collected items and provided vegetarian food to sell. The money raised was given to South Queensland Conference's Women's Ministries department, in support of its project, "My Sister's Health Appeal". —*Focus*



Arson attack

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency Op Shop in Albury (NSW) was the target of a recent arson attack. Firefighters were called to the scene when a table outside the shop went up in flames. They were able to extinguish the fire quickly. Albury police are investigating the incident. —*The Border Mail*



Family fun

Cairns Adventist College (Qld) recently held its first Family Fun Day. The day's events included stretch Humvee rides, jumping castles, animals, crafts and competitions. Several community organisations also held stalls. The day was well supported by church and school family volunteers. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, noting that it did a lot to showcase Cairns Adventist College to the local community. —*Clinton Bond*



Reaching out

Pathfinders and Adventurers in Wainadoli (Fiji) have reached out by inviting children in the local community to participate in first aid awareness training. The training was conducted free of charge by the St John Association for Fiji. Approximately 22 children aged 10–16 years participated in the training as well as a handful of adults. With the support of the church, the Pathfinders and Adventurers will continue to invite the community to future events. —*Savaira Manoa*



Men unite

About 30 men gathered at Camp Kennedy in Western Australia for Albany Men's Camp 2015. Topics discussed included men as spiritual leaders in the home, how men could support each other within and outside the Church, and men's spiritual and mental needs. Discovery Centre director Pastor Lyle Southwell was the main speaker. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, listing 4WDing, sharing their testimonies, Saturday night games, Bible studies and male bonding time among the highlights. —*John Tenge*



R HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Adding life to years

We're living longer than ever and we've never been sicker. New research has found that one-third of the world's population dealt with more than five health problems in 2013. Shockingly, the research, which looked at data from 188 countries, also found that during the same period only 4.3 per cent of people had no health problems.

We often look at longer life expectancy as a good thing, a sign of great living conditions and good health. But the latest research shows that a long life on its own is not a guarantee of good health. In fact, a key measure of quality of life—years lived with disability (YLD)—is not dropping at the same speed as mortality rates.

What this means is that while on average we are living longer, a larger proportion of quality of life is being lost to poor health. A range of conditions were found to lead to YLD but the leading causes were lower back pain and major depressive disorder. Both are highly prevalent in parts of the world we normally associate with high quality of life and great access to health care.

So what's the takeaway message from all of this? The path to good health starts well before we walk into the doctor's office. It starts in our homes and our workplaces. It starts wherever we have the ability to make healthy choices and the power to re-engineer our environments to promote health and wellbeing rather than sickness and disability. It's great to see the average years in our lives going up but we also have a real opportunity to improve the life in those years.



Berry breakfast trifle

Preparation time: 5 minutes
Cooking time: 0 minutes Serves: 4

- 2 cups low fat natural yoghurt**
- 2 tablespoons honey**
- 2 cups wholegrain breakfast cereal**
- 1 cup raspberries or strawberries (fresh or frozen)**
- 1 cup blueberries (fresh or frozen)**

1. Place yoghurt and honey in a bowl and mix well. Divide half the yoghurt evenly between four small bowls or tall glasses. Top with half of the cereal and then half of the berries.
2. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:
960kJ (230cal). Protein 11g. Fat 1g. Carbohydrate 43g. Sodium 150mg. Potassium 520mg. Calcium 380mg. Iron 2mg. Fibre 4g.

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



Structuring for the future

by Warrick Long

THIS YEAR I WILL BECOME A GRANDFATHER FOR the first time and it has caused me to reflect on many things, in particular how different the world will be for my grandchild compared to the one I grew up in. For example, she or he will be working with technology not yet invented and in careers not yet thought up. My grandchild will face a world we have not yet imagined and will need to deal with change at a faster rate than we have ever experienced. And our Church will need to plan for a future that includes globalisation, secularism, diversity and technology, the likes of which no other generation has ever seen.

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) is being proactive about this and has commissioned a review of the way the Church in Australia is structured. The review is to “give study to the effective and efficient structures for achieving the missional objectives of the Church in Australia while remaining true to the Church’s global

governance structure”. In short, is our current structure still the most appropriate way of achieving our mission in Australia?

On one hand the current structure has survived and serviced the Church in Australia since its origins at the beginning of the 1900s and is familiar to many people.

On the other hand those same structures were designed for an institutionalised society that couldn’t imagine a world that includes the information superhighway, fly-in fly-out workers and multimedia ministries using satellites in space. The structures of our beginnings served the Church well for a long

time but does a new context call for a new structure to ensure mission remains foremost?

In any discussion about structure it’s important to remember that structure is not an end in itself; instead it’s only a tool to achieving a goal of being mission-focused. The structure is not sacred, the message is. So the challenge is to find the best tool to ensure the message is

**... is our current
structure still the
most appropriate
way of achieving our
mission in Australia?**



most effectively communicated.

As a beginning step all Australian conference and AUC administrators and executive committee members were surveyed towards the end of 2014 through to early 2015 to gain an understanding and awareness of how these leaders of the Church in Australia felt about the possibility of review. The idea was strongly endorsed and many leaders said there's a need to see a "big-picture approach" and that the Church risks "becoming irrelevant without change".

The survey respondents identified four main advantages of the current structure: that it's established ("comfortable and familiar"); has identity (local regions well represented); is grassroots based (small distance between the local constituency and administration); and has accountability (greater access to conference leadership and personnel).

The four main challenges of the current structure were diagnosed as: duplication of services and functions; financial sustainability of smaller entities; top-heavy decision-making ("slow and cumbersome"); and the struggle to find enough suitably qualified people to fill the numerous leadership and specialist roles throughout the structure.

The purpose and process of the review and the possibility of change were considered by the respondents, and consistent throughout the responses was an emphasis on ensuring mission is and remains prominent and that change is not undertaken just for the sake of change. Respondents also cautioned that any restructuring needs to contribute to Church growth and that the local church must not be disadvantaged. An overwhelming theme expressed by many respondents was the need to consult and communicate frequently throughout the review process, enabling as many people as would like to have a voice.

And so as part of this consultation process the AUC Church Structure Review Project would like to hear from you about the idea of reviewing the Church structures in Australia. The web address at the end of this article connects to an online survey that seeks input about a range of issues associated with Church structure. This is your opportunity to connect and have your say. Feel free to share this link with other church members in the AUC who may also be interested. The link will remain open until the end of July.

In brief, the survey seeks your thoughts on the current structure (advantages and challenges), issues associated when discussing restructuring, lessons from previous restructuring experiences and an opportunity for general comments. The more people who respond the more informed the process will be. At this point there is no proposed replacement for the current structure. This review is to see if an alternative may be appropriate and if so what it might be.

Interestingly, other entities within the Adventist Church worldwide are also talking about structure, including the North American Division (NAD). In a special edition of the *Adventist Review*, former Columbia Union Conference president Harold Lee makes the point that, "to be more faithful to its calling, the Church must be representative, responsible, mission-driven, grace-oriented and as participatory as possible".

The challenge for you and I as the Church in Australia is to determine the best structure to do just that. ➤

For more information or to take part in the survey go to: <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AUCReviewProject>>

Warrick Long is head of Avondale Business School at Avondale College of Higher Education. Prior to his current role, he spent more than 20 years as a senior church administrator in conferences and unions across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Avondale Business School has been commissioned by the AUC to conduct exploratory work for the AUC Church Structure Review Project.

Hezekiah: between a rock and a hard place

When you get caught between a rock and a hard place—you've lost your job, have a terminal illness, the one you loved has walked away or perhaps you failed an important exam—what do you do?

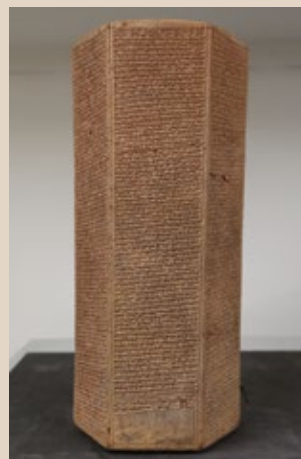
In 701 BC the Assyrians, under Sennacherib, marched into Judah. The Bible records numerous details of this campaign, which have been confirmed by archaeology. Such discoveries include: Assyrian wall reliefs of the Battle of Lachish; the Assyrian siege ramp; the discovery at Lachish of Assyrian arrow heads, sling stones and helmets; an account of taxes paid by Hezekiah to Sennacherib; and Hezekiah's water tunnel in Jerusalem.

Read 2 Kings 18:13-37; 19; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Isaiah 36,37.

The Assyrians would skin people alive, impale them on stakes and behead captives. Little wonder Hezekiah, on hearing the Assyrians were coming, prayed—the only sane thing to do when caught between a rock and a hard place. In answer, God destroyed the Assyrian army. Sennacherib's clay prism is mute testimony to the power of prayer, for after mentioning the Judean cities that were captured, all it says of Jerusalem is that he "shut up Hezekiah like a bird in a cage". Nothing is said of its capture.

Read Isaiah 37:21, 33-37.

Whatever your problem, like Hezekiah, take it to God right now, asking Him for His mighty help. The Sennacherib Prism (pictured right) is tangible evidence from God that if He helped Hezekiah He will surely help you.





Changing history one heart at a time:

the South Pacific Division report¹

by James Standish

THINK OF A GLOBE. DIVIDE ITS CIRCUMFERENCE into thirds in your mind. And then imagine a division so immense it stretches one-third of the circumference of that globe. That is the South Pacific Division (SPD). It stretches almost 13,500 kilometres from the Cocos Islands in the west to Pitcairn Island in the east, and from the Antarctic in the south to above the equator in the north.

The SPD is not only the largest Adventist division by territory, it's also the most diverse. It features ultra-modern cities along with some of the most isolated locations on earth. Papua New Guinea alone has roughly 850 different languages. Our Division includes one of the world's most southern cities where cold winds from the Antarctic blow, through to consistently balmy tropical atolls. It includes nations that are majority Polynesian, Melanesian, Micronesian and Caucasian. There are large Indian, Chinese, Arabic, Sudanese and Chilean communities, among many others, within its borders.

So how do we reach a territory so immense and a population so diverse? By remembering that we have nothing to fear when we remember how God led in our history.

It was 1908 when the first Seventh-day Adventist missionaries, Septimus and Edith Carr and Peni Tavodi, arrived in Port Moresby, the capital of what is today Papua New Guinea (PNG). The governor of the day had previously

divided the area around Port Moresby between the various Christian denominations. The Adventists met a cool reception from the other missionaries when they arrived.² But they weren't deterred. They headed out of Port Moresby to a remote area in the mountains to start their mission among the Koiari people.

From the start it didn't go well.

The Koiari were noted by early explorer Alexander Morton to be particularly warlike.³ They certainly weren't interested in the gospel. The Adventists set up a mission station and laboured in the remote Bisiatabu for a full year without a single baptism. The next year also ended without a baptism. The same pattern repeated over the next three long, hard years.

Finally, in the sixth year, a teenage boy was baptised. But soon after the boy's father pulled him out of the Adventist mission and that ended his association with the Church.

If this beginning wasn't discouraging enough, in 1918 Peni Tavodi, who was now married to Aliti, was bitten by a venomous snake. He died, but not before making a passionate appeal to the young men at the mission to give their lives to Jesus.

Imagine the scene after Peni died. Ten years of extraordinary labour and all to show for it was one teenage boy who had abandoned the faith, one dead missionary,





his widow and his fatherless children. Would you wake up the next day and preach the gospel again?

It wasn't until 1920—12 years after the first Adventist missionaries arrived and two years after Peni died—that a boy named Baigani accepted the gospel. This time, however, things were different. The grace of God descended on him and Baigani served Jesus for many years, having a profound impact.

More missionaries followed. In 1924 Pastor William Lock baptised 11 young people at Bisiatabu. By the mid-1930s Adventist missionaries were in many new areas of PNG. And the Lock family moved along a rugged trail known as the Kokoda Track, inland to the village of Efogi. There they set up a mission school and clinic. All along the Kokoda Track the Adventist message was preached.

At the time, however, no-one knew that in just a few short years, the Kokoda Track would go from being an obscure trail in a forgotten part of the world to the centrepiece of one of the greatest dramas in human history: the battle between the Imperial Japanese forces and the Australians, New Zealanders and their allies.

But unlike most battles, the lasting symbolism of the Kokoda Campaign is not a fighter, general or weapon. Rather, it's the Papuans who displayed remarkable kindness and selflessness, assisting wounded soldiers to safety. So impressed were Australians by the Papuans they called them Kokoda "angels". Bert Buros, an Australian combat engineer, captured the admiration and thankfulness Australian soldiers felt for those who helped the wounded in a poem:

*Many a lad will see his mother
and husbands see their wives
Just because [Kokoda Angels]
carried them to save their lives*

An Australian soldier at the time put it this way: "Believe me, when this war is over and its history written there is one chap that should get a large share of the praise. He is the [Papuan] . . . He sometimes arrives with bleeding shoulders, puts the wounded gently down, shakes himself, grins and off he goes for another trip."⁴

Captain John McCarthy agrees: "These [men], so gentle

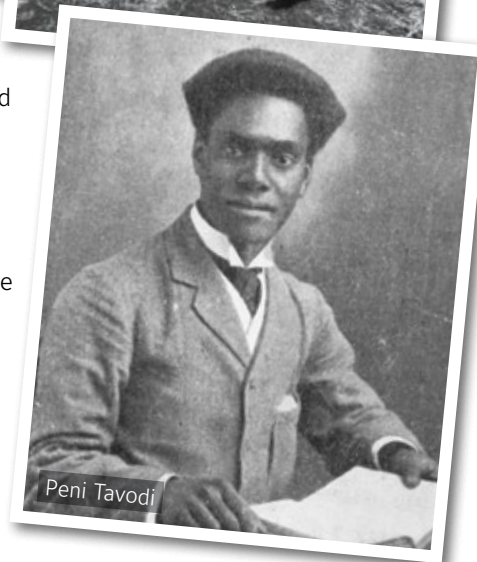


and compassionate with men in pain . . . hold a justly honoured place in the esteem of every Australian."⁵

Speaking at the 50th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, former Australian prime minister Paul Keating stated: ". . . above all, we should honour and express our profound admiration for the Papua New Guinean carriers whose stalwart support was crucial to the final victory. The support they gave to Australian soldiers, the terrible conditions and dangers they endured with the soldiers, the illness, injury and death many of them suffered, constitutes one of the great human gestures of the War—maybe the great humane gesture of our history."⁶

In recent years academics have striven to demythologise the Papuans who saved the wounded Australians and New Zealanders. They point out that many were coerced by the Australian military into service. While this provides texture and context for the story, it still fails to explain why people who were so mistreated were so kind in return? After all, the early accounts of the people were of a warlike, blood-thirsty culture. What changed?

For that you have to go all the way back to 1908. Because, it turns out, those 12 long years struggling to find a



Peni Tavodi

single person to accept the gospel had, by the time of the Kokoda Campaign, borne fruit. Alan Smith writes that, "By the time World War Two erupted, every village along the Kokoda Trail had come under some measure of Adventist mission influence, with baptised members in most villages . . . The Koiaris had become so transformed that when the Japanese penetrated the area in their advance toward Port Moresby, the Koiaris decided to remain loyal to their missionary friends."⁷

Alan Smith's account is confirmed by Pastor Steven Barna, whose grandfather was a Kokoda "angel". Pastor Barna, who today leads our Church in the villages along the Kokoda Track, explains, "it was because of [Christianity]—it was love that drove the hearts of the people to help . . ." Pastor Barna's view is backed up by firsthand accounts.

Writing out of thanks to Adventists along the track for their courageous and compassionate assistance, Lieutenant R I McIlray, states:

"Dear Pr. Lock, I am writing this letter to tell you of the grand job done by the [Papuan] of your mission . . . the good work of your people who apparently have by your example and teachings reached a stage where they can teach us something of Christian ideals . . ."⁸

Maybe even more extraordinary is the report from Robin Sydney McKay, an Australian Commando:

"[Y]ou had your loyal [Papuan], and your disloyal [Papuan] . . . without being in any way sectarian, we found that the Seventh-day Adventists were by far outstanding in loyalty. I know of not one Seventh-day Adventist adherent who was any way disloyal. I don't know what it is, but it just worked out that way . . . The other religions could be one way or the other, but the Seventh-day Adventists for some reason were particularly loyal and . . . well, they always were a cleaner people, they taught them cleanliness and respect and loyalty and cheerfulness. And, you know, I've got no beef for the Seventh-day Adventists . . . [but] if you had to rely on a [Papuan] without knowing him, or knowing the circumstances, you know, the fact that he was a Seventh-day Adventist would swing you."⁹

In a time of great trial, the change the gospel makes in people's lives came through.

Today roughly 10 per cent of Papua New Guineans identify themselves as Seventh-day Adventists on the national census. That's almost half a million more people claiming to be Seventh-day Adventists than the Church counts as members! Maybe it's because of the wonderful impact the Seventh-day Adventist Church has in PNG today. Adventists occupy many high government offices; more than 50 per cent of the students studying medicine in PNG are Adventists; Adventists run an outstanding education and health network across the country; and Pacific Adventist University is among the most selective universities in the world.¹⁰

And PNG is only one part of the SPD where the gospel is still changing history one heart at a time.


According to national censuses, the Seventh-day

Adventist Church is now the fastest growing multi-ethnic church in both New Zealand and Australia. Adventists run the premier health and wellness company in both nations—a company that organises the biggest children's triathlon series in the world and produces New Zealand's and Australia's most trusted breakfast food. Avondale College of Higher Education continues to gain recognition. Two Adventist primary schools beat out 7600 competitors to make it into the top 100 academic schools in Australia. Sydney Adventist Hospital is now the largest private hospital in Australia. And Adventist Media is widely recognised as the leading Christian media organisation in the region.

Across the Trans-Pacific, Mission to the Cities initiatives have resulted in exceptional growth. In 2014, baptisms in Vanuatu were up by more than 550 per cent, baptisms in Solomon Islands were up by more than 250 per cent and 2013 saw baptisms in Samoa increase by 400 per cent.

Is the growth real? Jesus said where our money is, that's where our heart is. So let's look at dollars and cents.

Over the past five years, SPD tithe is up 24 per cent—growing at more than twice the increase in the cost of living in four of the five years. The SPD now gives the highest world mission offerings as a percentage of tithe of any division in the world. Australia, with its small population, today is the fourth highest tithe paying nation on earth, with Australians averaging almost 50 per cent more tithe per member than North Americans.¹¹

Is it all good news? No! The Adventist Church in the South Pacific is in desperate need of the Holy Spirit. Our only hope is . . . Jesus. The same Jesus who walked with those early missionaries out of Port Moresby and down the Kokoda Track. The same Jesus who lived in the hearts of the Koiaris as they carried broken men back to safety. The same Jesus who today continues to change history across the South Pacific, one heart at a time. 

1. Major sources for this article include interviews with Alai Waigari, Pastor Steven Barna and Dr Jeff Crocombe (PAU); Lester Lock, *Locks that opened doors: Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific 1885-1985*; Milton Hook, *Lotu Bilong Sevenday—Early Adventism in Papua New Guinea*; John Garrett, *Footsteps in the Sea: Christianity in Oceania to World War II*, and a number of articles from *Adventist Record* and its predecessors.

2. John Garrett, *Footsteps in the Sea: Christianity in Oceania to World War II*, p 61.

3. Alexander Morton, Notes of a trip to the Islands of Torres Straits and the south-east Coast of New Guinea, 1877.

4. Ibid, quoting from: "New Guinea heroes tell their battle stories", *The Australian Women's Weekly* (Sydney, online edition), 24 October 1942.

5. Ibid, quoting from: Allan Dawes, *Soldier superb: the Australian fights in New Guinea*, Sydney, F.H. Johnston Publishing Company, 1943, p 51.

6. Speech by the Prime Minister, The Hon P J Keating, MP, Anzac Day, Ela Beach, Port Moresby, April 25, 1992.

7. Alan Smith, "The [Kokoda] Angels: the Adventist Connection," *Adventist Record*, September 9, 1995, pp 8,9.

8. Lester Lock, *Locks that opened doors*, p 40.

9. Robin Sydney McKay, 'M' Special Unit, interviewed by Daniel Connell for The Keith Murdoch Sound Archive of Australia in the War of 1939-45.

10. James Standish, "The 7% Club", *Adventist Record*, December 10, 2014.

11. Based on 2014 numbers.

James Standish is director of Communication, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and editor of Adventist Record for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

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.

NO MORE SAME OLD

Jeff Crombie, via email

Camps may be enjoyable but they pretty much follow the same routine, year in and year out. We listen to Adventist sermons, eat Adventist food, read Adventist books and talk to Adventist friends.

Wouldn't it be great if we did something different for a change—if for just one day of camp we did something not for ourselves but for the community? Some great ideas for sharing our musical talents with the community were outlined in the editorial "Get out" (May 16).

Other ideas for engaging the community include fun runs, clean-up campaigns, inviting the community to on-campus cooking or nutrition schools, or even the simple distribution of tracts. I'm sure there are countless other ways we could serve the community if we just stopped to think about it for a while.

Ancient Israel missed the opportunity of sharing her blessings with the surrounding peoples. But we can benefit from hindsight. We can get out of our tents, onto the streets and start mingling, serving, reaching out and even having fun with our local community.

No more same old, same old. This would be something different to talk about. But is there a conference game enough to try it?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

John Ball and Andrew Skeggs, WA

In response to the letter "Meal ticket" (May 16), we appreciate this lady's concern to uphold the Sabbath. But consider the following:

Fellowship on the Sabbath

day is biblically-based, and the sharing of a meal builds community in the Church and makes visitors feel included. Many of Israel's religious festivals involved feasting and most early Christian gatherings included a meal (1 Corinthians 11:20,21). However, a Sabbath lunch will not be a blessing without willing servants to prepare the meal, even if the food has been pre-cooked. Jesus taught that it was lawful for some to labour on the Sabbath so that others might benefit (Matthew 12:5).

Providing food at a church event can be seen as a way of blessing people with spiritual fellowship, particularly those who have travelled far or are non-Adventist visitors who are not always prepared. In upholding the Sabbath, let us also be wary of missing the bigger picture—for it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath and bless others even if sometimes it takes some effort.

COUNTING THE COST

Steve Cinzio, Qld

Thank you for giving the Adventist membership a little peek into the Church's ledger books ("Opening the books", Feature, May 2). I, along with others, would benefit from a series of occasional articles outlining the "workings" of various aspects of the Church.

James's article prompted me to think of another book that we need to seriously consider—the Adventist Church membership book. Recent statistics by secretary Dr G T Ng of the Adventist world Church reveal that over the past 40 years we have baptised 31.8 million souls. During that time 11.4 million have disappeared from the

books. Alarming, that figure does not include those who have died!

A landmark survey conducted and analysed by Dr David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, tells us that "about 9 out of 10 people who left the Church were never contacted by their pastor after they stopped attending". This reminds me of the experience of my late sister Marianne. She became an Adventist in Italy and the only time she received a pastoral visit was when the minister learned that she was marrying a Catholic!

Dr Trim's research also revealed that from 2000 to 2012, 13.6 million people became church members. In that period 5.9 million were lost. Again, this did not include those who had died.

This is not a Church problem. Rather it's every church member's responsibility. Let us all count the cost.

REINVENTION

Christine, via website

Re: Insight, "Reinventing the Church" (June 4).

Personally, I have been teaching the kids from seven years and up to learn to study. I have also been working towards helping them understand that Christianity is not about "I am special to Jesus" but that God is holy and God is love, and that one of those concepts can't stand without the other.

I don't think we need to reinvent the Church (presumably you're talking about how to run church, Sabbath School, socials, etc), other than to "reinvent" ourselves as a people of the Book.

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HI KIDS!
My name is King
Josiah. I am 26 years
old. I am going to
order the restoration
of the temple.

After studying the Bible
Scrolls Josiah learns about God's
laws & promises. King Josiah
promises to follow God's law & his
people want to follow God too.



FIND THE RIGHT PATH
AND FILL IN THE
BLANKS BELOW



COMMUNITY MESSAGE

God leads His as we study
and obey His word.

MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a to my feet and a
for my path" Psalm 119:105, NIV

Give them the keys

by Nick Kross

YOU HAVE A GIFT. YOUR GIFT IS A KEY. YOUR KEY can open hearts to the One who gave it all for you. You have the chance to give someone else the opportunity to use their key.

It's time to engage young people in the mission of the Church, in the mission of Jesus. Let's give our youth the keys this July by supporting the General Conference initiative to provide funding to local youth groups across the world and empower them to unlock hope in other people's lives.

Coinciding with the General Conference (GC) session in San Antonio Texas, a special worldwide offering will be collected. It will be dedicated to promoting local youth outreach initiatives. Church, school and university groups are eligible for the funding that will be divided between the four unions in the South Pacific Division of the world Church. So begin dreaming up ideas to share Jesus with your friends and local communities.

It means entrusting the overwhelming passion of our youth with the keys to give our local communities the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus through creative outreach ideas.

This special offering will take place on July 11 on the final Sabbath of the GC session. Together we can help the dream of supporting our youth reach out to others become a reality. All funds received by the General Conference will be fairly distributed between the SPD union conferences in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. What you give will be directly used to support approved local

church or school outreach projects led by young people.


Young adults, teenagers and children: this is your offering. Be inspired to think and reach for ideas bigger than yourselves. Give Them The Keys is your support network where you can apply for funding to help youth-driven mission projects across Australia and the Pacific. Whether it's a short-term or long-term project, this offering has the power to launch youthful hearts into creatively spreading the love of Jesus through action. All you have to do to be-

come part of this worldwide outreach movement is put your plans in writing and submit them to your local youth department for endorsement before October 30. Your allocation will be forwarded to you upon approval.

There's a fire in the hearts of our youth and we have a chance to entrust them to let the fire catch on beyond what we can see. Let's support them in reflecting Jesus' love to their local communities in tangible ways.

You have the power to give real hope to people in Australia, New Zealand and the islands, to those who are yet to hear of the hope you have.

We create because He first created; we can love because He first loved us; and we give because He first gave it all for us.

"But our God said to me, Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for wherever I send you, you will go, and whatever I give you to say, you will speak" (Jeremiah 1:7). 

Dr Nick Kross is Adventist Youth Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

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WEDDINGS

Benjamin-Hollings. Linus Christopher Benjamin, son of Christopher and Nivedita Benjamin (London, England), and Chantell Elise Hollings, daughter of Roy and Dale Hollings (Valla, NSW), were married 3.5.15 at Bonville Golf Club Resort, Coffs Harbour. Linus, a medical specialist, and Chantell, a physiotherapist, were married in a beautiful outdoor setting during terrible storms that pounded Coffs Harbour, yet the sky remained clear for the duration of the service.

Gordon Smith



Goods-Howie.

Christopher Goods and Robyn Howie were

married 9.5.15 in the presence of their children. They will make their home in Fitzroy North, Melbourne, Vic.

Steven Goods



Ross-Rigby.

Nathan Ross, son of Ruth Williams and Michael Ross

(Adelaide, SA), and Shelley Rigby, daughter of Glynn and Sue Rigby (Cooranbong, NSW), were married 5.10.14 in Woodside, Adelaide Hills, SA. Nathan and Shelley enjoyed the company of family and friends in an outdoor wedding. The couple live in Adelaide where Nathan is a police officer and Shelley a midwife.

Mark Borresen

OBITUARIES

Cherry, Elva Anna, born 23.11.1921 in Terowie, SA; died 4.5.15 in the Avondale Nursing Home, NSW. She trained as a nurse at the Sydney Adventist Hospital and later married Jim Cherry. After Jim completed his studies at Avondale they conducted evangelistic meetings in Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand and South Africa. After their retirement Jim continued to preach. Elva supported her husband until he passed away in 2014. Elva is survived by her children and their families: Sandra and John, and Russell and Gail; and grandchildren Jamie, Kate, Scott and Alyce. Elva was laid to rest in the hope of the joyful resurrection.

Alwyn K Gersbach

Dunne, May (nee Harrington), born 6.6.1922; died 26.12.14 in Avondale House, NSW. On 31.12.1942 she married Alan Dunne. She was predeceased by her husband in 1980 and by her brother Cyril. She is survived by her four children and their partners: Evan (Cooroy, Qld), Peter, Anne Martin (both of Cooranbong, NSW) and Paul (Mooroolbark, Vic); 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and her sisters Ruby Ferguson and Wilma Gotts. May enjoyed the family atmosphere at Alton Villas for three decades. Relatives and friends gathered at Cooranbong Chapel and Cemetery, where hymns of praise were sung and passages of Scripture echoed the "blessed hope".

French, Janice; born 30.5.1942 in Sydney, NSW; died 23.2.15 in Sydney. She is survived by her brother Garry (North Parramatta). Jan was a wonderfully devoted daughter and sister who put her family first as she cared for the needs of her dad, mum and brother. She made an impact for God in many ways, especially with children.

Wayne French



Harris, Roy Norman, born 13.4.1929 in Adelaide, SA; died 22.4.15 on the

Sunshine Coast, Qld. On 7.7.1996 he married Christine Roberts. He is survived by his wife (Ninderry); his children Alwyn Harris (Adelaide, SA), Robert Harris (Adelaide) and Lynden Harris (Wahroonga, NSW); his stepchildren Robert McArthur (Tas) and Holly Wells (Sunshine Coast, Qld); three grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister Zelma Edwards. Roy's life was dedicated to praising God through orchestral music. His love for the Lord was unwavering and inspirational.

R E Possingham

Moffit, Euan Robert, born 19.5.1928; died 3.4.15 in Orange, NSW. Euan was both a farmer and an electronics pioneer who, among other achievements, set up the first cable TV system in Australia. After becoming an Adventist, he set out to advance the message through electronic media. For years he made available almost at cost satellite

systems to receive HopeChannel, and often installed them himself. A faithful member of Orange church, he served in many practical ways and was always ready to share his love for the Lord. Left to mourn him are his wife Trish; son Robert and daughter Helen; grandchildren Tayah, Corinne and Stefan; and his brother Paul. Euan is now resting until the day breaks and his Lord returns.

Colin Richardson

Pannell, Serena Muriel Joyce (nee Manners), born 2.11.1923 in Wallaroo, SA; died 27.9.14 in McLaren Vale. On 3.1.1945 she married Will Pannell, who predeceased her in 2005. She is survived by her children: John and Marlene Pannell (Adelaide), Lorraine Moltedo (Adelaide) and Peter and Lois Pannell (Sceale Bay); six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her siblings Joan Kevern and Owen Manners. Joyce was baptised in 1939 by Pastor Ray Kent. She was an accomplished artist, sharing her talents by teaching those with disabilities. She was caring to all, and her cheerful disposition and words of wisdom, along with her avid reading of history, biographies and politics, endeared her to staff at the nursing home.

Gerry Duykers, Nigel Ackland

Parr, Betty McBride (nee Chermiside), born 19.5.1929 in Remuera, Auckland, NZ; died 29.4.15 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 17.4.1952 she married Reginald, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children: Mary and Gordon Stafford (Perth, WA), Leslie and Sue Corbett (Ireland), Jenny and Robert Balancoire (Cooranbong, NSW), Beth-ley and David Beaden (Palmwoods, Qld), Catherine and John Duffy (Cooranbong, NSW); 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and her siblings June Gilmore (Sydney) and John Chermiside (Cooranbong). A wonderful mother and wife, Betty loved and served others with courage, patience, trust, mercy and hope.

Gordon Stafford



Robinson, Pastor Eric Albury, born 12.12.1927 in Foxton, New Zealand; died 25.4.15 at Thames Hospital. He

POSITION VACANT

■ **Lecturer in theology-Fulton University College.** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is seeking applications for the position of Theology lecturer at Fulton University College in Fiji. The lecturer will be responsible for teaching theological studies, including Adventist, historical and systematic theology and other subjects within the discipline of Theology, and contributing to the academic administration within the department. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW, 2076 Australia; email to <hr@adventist.org.au>; or fax to (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **July 13, 2015.**

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



VOLUNTEERS

■ **Single volunteer position available for 12 months doing youth ministry in Northern Ireland (Irish Mission).** Start Jan 1, 2016, Belfast Adventist Church. You will work with the youth leader and teens running youth ministry events with spiritual leadership, Bible studies and visitation. Shared flat/house, stipend, insurance provided. Must have manual car licence and 19+ age. Contact: <volunteers@adventist.org.au> or phone +61 2 9847 3275

was predeceased by his first wife Thelma, who he married in 1950, and his son Ian. He is survived by his second wife Ruth, who he married in 2010; and his three sons Brian, Graham and Owen and their families. Eric was a very active minister who led many people to know the Lord. He died with a strong hope of the second coming of Jesus, and he was looking forward to the resurrection morning.

Rex Jackson



Starceвич, Glenice (nee Bone), born 13.4.1950 in Kalgoorlie, WA; died 29.4.15 in Perth following an extended battle with cancer. In 1970 she married Lawrence Molloy. She married Morris Starceвич on 3.1.1988. She is survived by her husband; her children: Steven and Martina Molloy (Esperance), David and Joanne Molloy (Wiluna), Susannah Molloy, Matthew Starceвич, Emma Starceвич (all of Esperance); grandchildren: Ash, Tiahnee and Callum; stepchildren: John, Adam and Luke Starceвич (all of Perth); and siblings: Ken and Margaret Bone (Perth), Sandra and John Greenfield (Busselton), and Teena and Klaas Zuideveld (Bunbury). Though small in stature Glenice was larger than life. She was a positive, outgoing person who touched and influenced many lives with her infectious laughter, hospitality and selfless attitude and actions.

Roger Millist, Brad Thomas, Anthony Manu

Waldvogel, Edith Evelyn (nee Fuessel), born 29.7.1930 in Leipzig, Germany; died 27.4.15 in Lilydale, Vic. In 1961 she married Kurt Werner, who predeceased her in 1999. She was a loving stepmother to Ralph Stavely and his wife Maureen (Melbourne,

Vic); and Ralph's children Brooke and Blake. Despite many hardships in life, Evelyn's life was testimony of the love of God and His guidance and protection. While Evelyn will be deeply missed, she was ready to sleep awaiting the coming of Jesus.

Darren Croft

ADVERTISEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the 56th constituency meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, North New South Wales Conference, will be held at Melville High School auditorium, 44-50 Nicholson Street, South Kempsey. The meeting will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2015 commencing at 9.30am. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution. The business of the constituency meeting will be as provided in the constitution, including the presentation of reports and financial statements for the quadrennial period 2011-2014 inclusive. The executive officers, departmental directors, associate departmental directors, executive committee, constitution commit-

tee and appointments committee for the North New South Wales Conference will be elected.—Pr Paul Geelan, general secretary.

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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>.

Finally . . .

The problem with organised religion isn't that it's too religious but that it's too organised.—Gary Hamel

Next RECORD July 18



Grey Nomads Camp Perth—WA 6-12 September 2015

Calling all Grey Nomads for the inaugural camp in Western Australia. Join us during peak wildflower season for uplifting worship, bible study, and experiencing the beauty of Perth and its surroundings.

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As we approach the end of another quinquennial (5 year) period of church management we are again looking to the church's rich resource of lay members to fill positions on the church's key boards. Over the last 5 years the South Pacific Division has been blessed to have lay members making outstanding contributions and giving of their time to our key boards of management.

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