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**MAY 7
RECORD
OFFERING**

"I WAS WAITING FOR THE TA-DA MOMENT.

The idea for baptism had been planted but I still wasn't sure. When I saw a story in

Record of 50 people baptised in crocodile infested waters, that did it. I made up my mind to be baptised!"—Charen Cauton

TELLING
CONNECTING
SHARING

OUR

STORIES
FAMILY
HOPE

See Charen's full testimony in the May 21 issue of Record.

Vanuatu Adventists receive Women's Day awards

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Two Adventist women have been recognised for their contributions to Vanuatu society with awards from the Australian High Commission.

May Garae received the 2016 Andy Lynch award and Ketty Napuat the Hanson Mataskelekele award at an afternoon tea reception to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8.

Mrs Garae, from Potoroki Seventh-day Adventist Church in Port Vila, was recognised for a project she established in Malakula to help families recover from Cyclone Pam by donating 15 sewing machines to four villages so the women and girls could build up their communities. She also established a community kindergarten for 26 children. A permanent classroom is currently being built.

Mrs Napuat, from Bethel church on Tanna, was recognised for her role as Secretary-General of Torba Province. She manages public service delivery and rural development at the provincial level in line with the Government's Na-



tional Development Strategy. Before moving to Torba, Mrs Napuat was based in Tafea Province as the country's first female Secretary-General for its six provinces.

The awards, presented by Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Brier, are funded by the Australian Government and are a joint initiative of the Lynch and Mataskelekele families and the Australian High Commission. —Henry Sanday/Jean-Pierre Niptik

Video tribute for the special women in our lives

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Hope Channel has produced a special video tribute that is available for Mother's Day church services and worships and will also be played on Hope Channel.

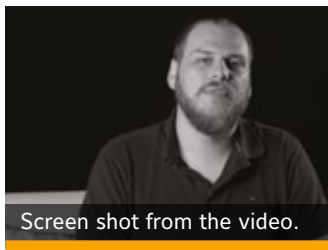
The video depicts *Record* associate editor Jarrod Stackelroth writing an emotional letter to the mothers—and others—who have dedicated their lives to raising, nurturing and loving us. "Mothers are amazing. I was

blessed with an awesome one," Mr Stackelroth said.

"But I started thinking about what Mother's Day meant to those who were not able to be mothers, for one reason or another. And I started thinking about those women in my life who had been a mother figure for me and never had kids of their own. For many people, Mother's Day is really hard and I wanted to acknowledge them as well."

The video fits with Hope Channel's new vision to create content for young families.

"Dear Mum ..." is available for free download at <<https://vimeo.com/162792802>>. —Record staff



Five countries unite for Hope

Suva, Fiji

Volunteers from Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have assembled in Suva for Project Hope 2016.

The initiative is the result of a partnership between Hope Channel South Pacific Division (SPD) and the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM). It aims to produce more than 300 television episodes for the community in just under a month, with the programs covering a variety of topics including biblical sermons, health, music and relationships.

Project Hope was officially launched on April 10 by TPUM secretary Pastor Bob Larsen. Approximately 50 technical volunteers from all local missions in the Union

were present.

"The mission of our Union . . . is to create a vibrant Adventist movement living our hope in Jesus and transforming the Pacific," said Project Hope manager Ronald Stone.

Pastor Wayne Boehm, director of Hope Channel SPD, noted that this project was unique because it involved five different countries, languages and cultures. "We're getting some Bislama, Samoan, Fijian and Pidgin, which makes the editing room a really interesting place to be," he said.

For daily updates on Project Hope, please visit the official Facebook page: <<https://www.facebook.com/TPUM-ProjectHope/>>. —Vania Chew





Super

James Standish

"If Batman and Superman had a fight, who do you think would win?" I ask Ben, the teenage son of friends. To me the answer is obvious. Batman is just a rich dude in stretchy pants and a fancy car. Superman on the other hand—he is from another planet! Come on peeps! He doesn't even need a car. Or a plane. And he certainly doesn't rely on a flimsy utility belt! So Ben's answer takes me off guard: "Batman, of course."

"Batman? Are you kidding me?" "You're thinking of the old Batman," explains Ben. "The new Batman has technology that's beyond imagination. Besides, he's got Kryptonite knuckledusters . . ."

Well, Kryptonite knuckledusters are, I must admit, a game changer. "What if Batman went head-to-head with Spiderman?" I ask. "Still Batman," Ben replies with confidence. And if anyone knows I'm quite sure it's Ben.

I'm still trying to reconcile my new understanding of superhero hierarchy when I see a poster stating: "I'm a mum, what's your super power?"

And that got me wondering. If Superman, Spiderman or Batman went up against a mum, who would win? True, most mums aren't faster than a speeding bullet. Nor can they shoot spider webs from their wrists. And they don't drive the gloomy streets of Gotham in a jet-engined car! But they have a super power more impressive than all those combined: mums have been endowed with the power to actually create life. Can your comic-book superhero do that?

So what can we do to honour the superhero mums in our communities? Everyone gives lip service to how great motherhood is and how we should give mums chocolates, roses and cards. In celebration of Mother's Day tomorrow, we may even pin flowers on mums as they arrive at church today. And all of these things are wonderful.

But have we ever asked mums with young children what they really need? I have, and overwhelmingly the answer isn't platitudes or sweets; it's time. Time to breathe in their own space. Time to think. Time for quiet. Time to reconnect with their spouse. Time to be themselves.

I don't think it's because mums today are more selfish

than in times past. I think it's that our society has changed. It's common for families with young children to live too far from their extended families to have regular assistance. And even if they live nearby, many grandparents are both still working and simply don't have the energy left at the end of the day to help out.

Meanwhile, living costs put enormous pressure on today's mums to return to the workplace as quickly as possible after having their babies. It's the perfect storm that leaves many mums feeling exhausted, overwhelmed and stressed. At least that's how many of the mums with young children I know are feeling.

Which is both a challenge and an opportunity to help.

I live in a part of Sydney where there is a lower density of Adventists than in Tokyo. When we've tried traditional outreach—giving out literature or running prophecy campaigns—the results have been meagre. But what if we took a different approach—instead of giving our community what we want, why don't we give our community what it desperately needs? And what if we started by meeting the needs of the mums with young children?

How?

Instead of mailing copies of *The Great Controversy* to strangers, what if we pinned to local noticeboards an invitation like this: "You deserve a little 'me time' this weekend. So drop off your kids from 9am–11am on Saturday at our church. We'll have stories, songs, crafts and games for them. You can log in to our secure webcam to see what your kids are up to at any time. All volunteers have appropriate child safety checks and first aid training. It's just a small way we can serve our community. It's free, your kids will love it and so will you!" Every once in a while the children could take part in the church service. And their mums and dads could be invited to stay to hear their children speak about our loving God.

Ellen White says that only Christ's method of evangelism works. Central to His method? Meeting people's practical needs. If we can begin doing that for mums with young kids, well, wouldn't that be . . . super?

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"Suzanne Bocking, Safe Place
Services Training and Development
manager."

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

THE *Pregnancy Diaries*

DAY
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INSIGHT

Renewed vision

Her eyes grew to the size of ping-pong balls and her lips, shaped to form the words that were about to come out of her mouth, froze as she took a step back, shielding her young child behind her.

Did I just say I was planning to harm her child? I'm sure all I said was, "I don't want children." I looked at her, confused.

Reactions like these taught me about 10 years ago to keep my lack of desire to populate the earth to myself. It meant I didn't have to constantly explain the difference between hating children and not wanting my own, and that just because I enjoy playing peekaboo with a child, it does not in any way indicate my biological clock has started ticking.

While I would not judge anybody else for their choice to have children, I just never thought it was something for me. I have always struggled with my "point" for having children. Any reason I could think of eventually led to what I felt was self-centredness: having someone to look after me when I get old; to bring more joy into my life; because babies are adorable . . . and perhaps underpinning all of these was the knowledge that the world is overpopulated and under-resourced. And with so many orphans needing a loving home, if I really wanted an offspring, why shouldn't I adopt one instead of introducing a brand new human being into the mix?

And then my husband and I decided to get pregnant, throwing out all my arguments. I could easily blame my husband for my hypocrisy, that he was the one who wanted children, but that would be like blaming him for me being married to him. So now we're counting down the months to the start of our sleepless nights after falling in love with the foetus growing inside of me, and I'm still wondering about the point of having children.

But perhaps the desire to have children is as inexplicable as our longing to find someone to love and marry. It's just an innate personality quirk we inherited from our Father. After all, "God is love" (1 John 4:8) and for some of us, that translates to a love for a partner or a child.

God first gave His instructions to "be fruitful and increase in number" (Genesis 1:28) to Adam and Eve, in a perfect world. The world may have changed due to sin, but I'd like to think that humans, marred as we are, continue to hold on to the remnants of God's character and who He wanted us to be, and for some (or many, judging by the number of parents in the world), that means wanting children. Maybe there is no logical point for having children, but as children of God, wanting them (for ourselves or for others) is just part of who most of us are.

Yes, we are about to add yet another human being to an overpopulated and under-resourced world. The only things we can hope to do are to tread lightly on this earth, be responsible for the environment, sponsor as many children as we can through aid agencies, and maybe by our example teach our child to do the same.

Melody Tan is associate editor of **Signs of the Times** and is expecting her first child.



I had not seen her for more than 20 years but at 96 years of age, Aunt Pansy recognised me immediately when she opened her front door. I was surprised. She was as bright as a button.

I was in Christchurch where earlier in the day I had given a presentation to pastors on vision and discipleship. That evening I would be speaking to leaders from the South New Zealand Conference on the vision for a disciple-making movement. One of the pastors had kindly lent me a car and I had a couple of hours to catch up on emails. However at lunch I asked some of the pastors if they knew my grandfather's younger sister and her address. She has lived in the same house for nearly 60 years. Luckily one of the pastors was able to provide directions.

As I sat in the living room with the warm autumn Christchurch sun streaming through the window, Aunt Pansy and I caught up on happenings with various family members. We also chatted about the Church and my new role and its challenges, along with her life and expectations. Aunt Pansy hopes to see the decade out as she likes to complete things with round numbers. Noting her vibrancy, her clean house and her ability to cook me a nutritious meal, there's every chance that this will happen, but if not she says, "It doesn't matter, we have incredible hope." She then went on to say that at times she sits in her favourite chair, looks out the window and imagines what Jesus' return will be like. The divinely bright sky, the clouds rolling back, seeing Jesus her Saviour face to face and being called up to meet Him.

As she described the scene I, too, could picture it because it was so real for her. Hearing her express her faith has given me a renewed vision of the future. All who believe and follow Jesus are destined to meet Him and I thank God that Aunt Pansy put that vision more clearly in my mind and now hopefully yours.

Glenn Townend is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.





PNG drought deaths

Despite rain and food distribution efforts to drought-stricken areas of Papua New Guinea, some remote communities have received no aid and are struggling to recover. In one Highlands village three children and two adults died from malnutrition or contaminated drinking water. Farming new crops is difficult for physically weakened villagers. —ABC News



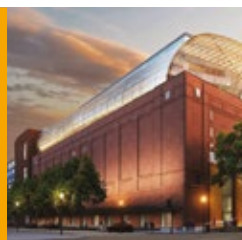
Unlikely alliance

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) has voiced its support for a Greens plan to ban gambling advertising during sports TV broadcasts. Greens leader Richard Di Natale said gambling ads should disappear like tobacco advertising has. The ACL is urging the major parties to support the Greens bill in parliament. —ACL



Dying for a taste

Researchers from the Queensland University of Technology have stumbled on evidence that the brain's reaction to sugar and addictive drugs is similar. Changes in dopamine levels can lead to cravings and withdrawal symptoms when someone decides to quit sugar "cold turkey". Sugar addiction is linked to binge eating, low motivation and depression. —news.com.au



Writ large

Christian family business Hobby Lobby is building an eight-storey Museum of the Bible in Washington DC that will feature a life-size reproduction of first century Nazareth, a biblical plant garden and a 500-seat theatre as well as the usual exhibitions, research labs and offices. The museum is scheduled to open in late 2017. —Museum of the Bible



Unexpected

The head of the Church of England, Archbishop Justin Welby, has discovered through DNA testing that his real father was in fact Winston Churchill's private secretary, Montague Brown. "I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics," said Archbishop Welby. "My identity in Him never changes." —ABC News



Stamp of disapproval

An Australian Senate inquiry into food certification said the domestic halal certification sector is "in disarray" and should be more transparent and consistent so consumers can more easily choose certified or non-certified products. The committee largely rejected religious freedom concerns and found no evidence linking halal certifiers with terrorism. —Record staff

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Tributes flow for Lloyd McMahon

Melbourne, Victoria

Lloyd McMahon, who provided legal advice to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many decades, passed away in late March.

"Lloyd made a tremendous contribution from a professional perspective to the life of the Church that very few are aware of," said Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division (1998-2007). "In many ways he knew us better corporately and legally than we knew ourselves.

"Lloyd never looked for accolades or recognition from the Church and certainly did not look to profit from his association with it," continued Pastor Evans. "Nothing was too much trouble for him to follow up for the Church and he was always willing to visit island fields and other areas of the Division to deal with changes in constitutions and complex issues."

"He helped significantly with a number of our institutions over time," agreed Warrick Stokes, Division treasurer, 1995-2000. "But in my view, his contribution was greatest for the Division itself. Our structure was set up in the 1940s. Corporate law had changed tremendously by the 1990s. It left the Church very vulnerable. It was Lloyd [with the help of his son and legal partner Brett] who

were able to break through the noise on the issue and credit goes to them for the modernisation of our legal structure."

Mr McMahon's impact was also substantial at the conference level. "When I was Victorian Conference president, Lloyd assisted us on a broad range of issues. Often he provided advice free to church leaders and I always greatly valued his advice," Pastor Calvin Townend said.

Mr McMahon worked hard to push for adequate child protection procedures in the Church. And he played a central role in establishing Trust Services. With Pastor Wilf Rudge, he visited many churches, outlining to the members the advantages of providing for their families first, while also remembering God's work when considering how final assets would be distributed. He checked more than 1200 wills per year, and continued doing this up until Christmas 2015. Funds contributed to the work of the Church as a result have been significant. —James Standish



Lloyd McMahon.

Youth share God's love with the community

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Young people from around the South Pacific joined Adventist youth from around the world to "Be the sermon" for Global Youth Day (GYD) on March 19.

GYD participants were encouraged to use the Sabbath to impact their communities by helping the homeless, displaying random acts of kindness, holding a blood drive and other activities.

Events were held across the South Pacific Division, including in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Niue, New Zealand, French Polynesia and Fiji.

The Alofa church youth group, in American Samoa, decided they would reach out to people with disabilities and special needs. Tala Ropeti-Leo reports that March had been designated as the month to celebrate disabilities and special needs by the American Samoan Government. The Alofa group prepared gifts, songs and prayers for their communities.

In Sydney, Australia, after a youth rally, the young people went into the city streets to collect tins of food for ADRA Blacktown among other outreach ac-

tivities.

In Popondetta, Papua New Guinea, the young people took part in a blood drive and visited the sick in hospital, while in Madang, they fed prison inmates.

In Fiji, they brought hope to communities recently devastated by Cyclone Winston. In Ra Province, one of the worst hit areas, the youth spent time with children, giving them snacks and clothes, telling stories about Jesus and providing a place to share their cyclone experiences. The young people of Savutalele sang and served at the Leprosy Hospital.

Videos of the GYD events posted by Hope Channel Fiji show people unable to hold back on their emotions as they were moved by the songs and prayers of the youth.

At Galoa village, a comprehensive health outreach was run featuring government doctors and health talks. Entire churches went out to "Be the sermon"—the theme of this year's GYD.

Many events were streamed online and photos posted on the website <www.globalyouthday.org>. —Jarrod Stackelroth



A young person from Alofa church meets community members.



Vatulaulau youth, Fiji.



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Young people converge on next level living

Youth congresses have changed since the days of a fully catered week of motel-type accommodation with all meals and activities provided.

"Converge" was advertised as a time where you could "Hang out with Jesus and your mates."

Young adults from all around Australia were amazed to see the power of Jesus take Converge to the next level during the weekend of February 12-15 at Stuarts Point, NSW. It was a bring-your-own camping gear event, with a price of just \$79 for those who got in quick.

Converge was a refocus of the old youth congress model that had traditionally taken place every four years for the past 60 years or more. Congress needed a new face in Australia and Converge was designed to provide that. The Australian Union Conference (AUC) youth directors spent more than 12 months planning the event, and were delighted when more than 300 young adults, aged 18-30, attended and were blessed with perfect weather.



Jeremy Anderson.

The weekend was built around three guest speakers, presenting nine inspiring and practical sermons, and lots of free time to build community in the Convergefest café or at the beach. Jeremy Anderson ("Next Level Living" USA), Pastor Pako Edson Mokgwane (associate youth director for the General Conference) and Pastor Murray Hunter (South Queensland Ministerial director) allowed

God's Spirit to use them in mighty ways.

"The young adults of Australia were certainly inspired to step out for Jesus when they arrived back to their homes," said Pastor Jeff Parker, AUC youth director. "I believe that many of them will be used by Jesus to reach their friends and disciple them in 2016 and beyond."

The weekend's theme of "Next Level Living" was based on Luke 9:23: "Then Jesus said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'"

Lives were changed, life-long friendships were formed; others gave their hearts to Jesus for the first time. God's Spirit inspired over and over again through powerful testimonies, practical sermons and uplifting worship.

The young adults of Australia want more of Converge and Pastor Parker agrees: "It will be back soon. Watch this space!" - Jeff Parker/Record staff



Young people were inspired by Converge.



Photo credit: Charmaine Patel

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

To download a touching video tribute to mothers for your church's Mother's Day program, visit www.record.net.au.



New online training tool

by Tracey Bridcutt

Adventist Church leaders and volunteers working with children and vulnerable persons now have an innovative new training tool at their fingertips.

Safe Place Services (SPS) has launched an eLearning resource that enables training to be undertaken conveniently and easily via laptops, tablets and smart phones. It's accessible 24/7—anywhere there is internet availability.

Created by Adventists for Adventists, it provides standardised training across all conferences in Australia and New Zealand, and positions the Church at the forefront of online child protection training. "I'm really proud of the training," SPS Training and Development manager Suzanne Bocking said. "We have created it with all the wisdom and experience of 16 years of Safe Place Services in the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Training was previously only available face to face, creating the near impossible task of conducting sessions for the approximately 850 churches in Australia and New Zealand, many in remote areas. "Only a few of the conferences were providing training and it was difficult to get around to all their churches, and often times when they did key people would be missing," SPS director Pastor David Robertson said. "Now we get to reach a lot more people than we have ever reached before."

There was a sense of urgency, too, as a result of the ongoing hearings by The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia. The Commission has emphasised the need for more education and training—seen as a major way of preventing the alarming rates of child abuse.

"The latest statistics are staggering," Ms Bocking said. "Every nine minutes a child is sexually assaulted in Australia; that's about seven every hour. And in New Zealand,

up to one in three girls will be subjected to an unwanted sexual experience by the age of 16."

Various training modules will be rolled out progressively, including specific topics on the responsibilities of church elders and local church Safe Place coordinators.

Learners can progress at their own speed and for those with low literacy, English as their second language or a preference to listen rather than read, ReadSpeaker is available on every page. "Right now the Safe Church Awareness Training is available and this is required by all people who hold positions in their churches and those working with children," Ms Bocking said.

"We appreciate the contributions of a dedicated and skilled team to this Adventist initiative," Pastor Robertson added. "The new resource doesn't replace face-to-face training. It provides for those conferences and locations where that's not possible."

SPS eLearning is an initiative of Safe Place Services, which is a service of the Australian Union Conference (AUC). AUC president Jorge Munoz welcomed this new development. "It's critically important that the Church has best practice in relation to child protection," he said. "This is a wonderful initiative and we are very thankful to the team at SPS, and especially to Suzanne Bocking for her tremendous work here. We want to encourage all of our members and our pastors to get well acquainted with this great resource."

The AUC and South Pacific Division are also working toward the implementation of a new independent office for the protection of children and vulnerable persons.

For more information and to access the training go to: <http://elearning.safeplaceservices.org.au>.

**The latest
[sexual assault]
statistics are
staggering.**

Tracey Bridcutt is copyeditor for Adventist Record.

Mum's THE WORD

Mother's Day: the one day of the year where we pause to honour this most treasured woman in our lives, who loves us no matter what, and who provides encouragement and support through all our successes and failures.

Over the centuries many people have penned their thoughts on motherhood, including nineteenth-century English poet Robert Browning, who aptly wrote: "Motherhood: All love begins and ends there." Indeed, it's through our mothers that we get a glimpse of God and how much He loves us.

To celebrate Mother's Day, *Record* journalist Tracey Bridcutt interviewed mums from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Papua New Guinea about their joys and challenges, and raising a family from a spiritual perspective.



Tertia Ryan (mum to Teuila, 21, Aidan, 15, and John Oskar, 14)

Monitoring what my children watch on their computers and other devices is probably my biggest challenge as a mother.

It's about trying to find the right balance—letting them know that technology is good for their studies but at the same time it can be dangerous if they let themselves be led astray. We don't really put bans on them using their devices. We counsel them and say that we trust them and have faith that they will make the right decisions.

Being a mum is a real joy. It's lovely to watch them grow and discover what talents and gifts God has blessed them with.

My husband and I were baptised in 2007. It really helped when we found the Lord. It changed the whole dynamic of our family.

I try to always have

special time alone with the children because they are all different with unique personalities. It's important to have that open conversation with them where they know they can talk to you, share their problems and challenges, where they don't feel judged. You are listening to them, providing counsel and finding the opportunity when appropriate to bring Scripture into the conversation.

I don't force them to do things; rather I guide them. It's about allowing them to have their freedom while at the same time equipping them to make the right choices.

Lenka Martin (mum to Joshua, 3, and Zachary, 11 months)

Motherhood is an incredible journey. One of the joys is being able to watch these little people growing up. It's quite amazing—really—someone who wasn't here before and now they are very much here and they look to you for everything!

One of the biggest challenges is trying to juggle everything—work and other relationships—and to find enough time in the day. My parents and my husband's parents live in different countries so it has also been a struggle at times facing some of the hurdles of life without that close family support.

I remember something my mum told me when I had my first baby: it's three steps forward and two steps back. I think what she was trying to



say is that it's a journey, that there's no right or wrong. That has really helped me when things have been tough, like when the boys haven't been sleeping well.

It's definitely helped knowing that God is with me and that there's Somebody Else who is looking after the boys, not just me. He also gives me patience to handle the day-to-day tasks and challenges that motherhood brings.

Litiana Rakarakatia Turner (stepmum to Olive, 24, Leslie, 21, and Jope, 19)

Stepmums are not always portrayed in a positive light—after all they are usually witches in children's books!

But I've found it to be a wonderful, at times challenging, experience. When I reflect on my life as a stepmum I think that this is how God must feel at times—you choose to love these children whether or not they love you back. You make decisions based on your desire for their good, even though this may not always be understood.

I got married seven years ago into a family with three children whose mum had passed away.

For years I'd been reading books on how to raise kids, nurture and discipline them, because as a secondary school deputy principal I often dealt with young people facing crises: emotionally, academically and at times spiritually. But having experience with lots of kids and becoming a stepmum wasn't the same. I had all the head knowledge and none of the 24/7 home experience.

When I became an instant mum I remember my mother saying to me: "You are not running a school, this is a family!" You see initially it was easiest for me to create rosters and organise my home according to the tasks that needed to be accomplished.

I'm very grateful to my mum for the way she raised



me and I have tried to do the sorts of things that she did. Traditions like putting flowers around the house in preparation for Sabbath and cooking the kids' favourite meal on Friday nights. On Sundays we had family conferences where we could share our thoughts and challenges.

I believe that good communication between the parents is the number one priority to keep everything running smoothly. And it's all about teamwork—each family member should share the responsibilities of being a part of the family.

When I look back over the past seven years, I have been blessed with a wonderful husband and great kids. Raising them together has been an awesome adventure!

When our children become our friends they can trust us and are able to discuss all their challenges.



Jennifer Litau (mum to Anne, 25, and Samuel, 23)

God has given me a healthy perspective to mothering and raising my children.

I found being a mum especially challenging when I was a new mother, not knowing exactly how to go about working with them at that age. And again when they came into their teenage years when they faced different moral and spiritual challenges. At those times, as much as possible, I either prayed and took counsel from God's Word or read

books and took counsel from other more experienced mothers, just to understand and get some tips on how to deal with the challenges of mothering posed by different life stages of the children.

I have really strived to have quality time with my children, to chat about their lives and their dreams, and just make friends with them. When our children become our friends they can trust us and are able to discuss all their challenges.

It's important to recognise that children are the property of our Heavenly Father and as parents we are the stewards so we need to respect them. For example, in some areas of Papua New Guinea children have a low status. Sometimes they get to eat only scraps of food while adults eat the best. We need to love our children, and respect and appreciate them like God does.

Motherhood is such a rewarding experience to see how everything we have done has helped our children to become useful young people in society. It's not an easy job and that's why I emphasise that good mothering comes from getting that spiritual perspective right. God's love and His wisdom help me to be a better mother.



You saw us through from the beginning.
You encouraged us, chastised us, hugged us,
And most importantly loved us,
Through every high point and low point.
Words cannot describe the specialness,
Of this most important day.
Remembering the greatness,
Of the one and only "Mum".
—love from David and Tim



Early in your marriage, your husband was taken away from you by a drunk driver. You raised four children, worked two jobs and sacrificed so much of yourself so that we could have all we ever needed. You are a pillar of strength and we are forever grateful that God blessed us with you as our mum. You are a blessing to many people and we just want you to know that we appreciate you and love you Mum and Nana.—Toai, Irasa, Set and Tupu, and grandchildren, Juliet, David, Lenaiya, Juvina, Spiros, Alexis, Andre, Levi, Poppy, Cleo and Knox



Mothers give love to their children in miraculous ways, and yours to me is something that helps me survive. You're a relentless giver, confidant, support structure, travel buddy and best friend. Thank YOU for having the heart that you do and for being mine! Loving you from London, Christine Jones.—love Clare



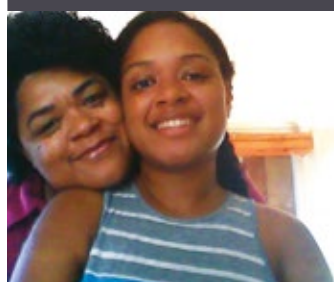
My mum, Pat Stackelroth, is amazing; she is my best friend and always supports everything I do. She is loving, caring, funny, brave, smart, strong, good-hearted, hardworking and understanding. She always tries to make people happy and keeps a smile on her face. Thanks, Mum, for being everything I have always needed you to be. I am grateful to God for giving me the best mum that I could have.—Jane Stackelroth



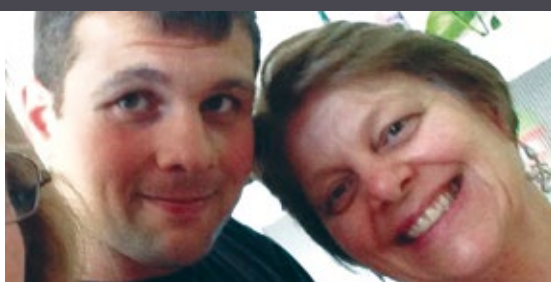
To my beautiful wife, thank you for loving both Zara and me. Proverbs 31:28,29: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.'"—love always Daddy (Richie)



My mum is a wonderful person. She is what I would describe as "beauty plus brains". I owe her a lot in life especially for being the strong woman she is during our difficult moments. We may have arguments and disagreements but I will forever cherish and love you Mum. Your love is why I stand and live today. You are brave, smart and strong. Above all I know you love God with all your heart. God bless you always. Happy Mother's Day Mrs Motufaga Wise.—love Jacob



"I am my mother's daughter" is a phrase that pushes me to fight. It is a blessing to be the daughter of a woman whose life thoroughly defines how profound the divine gift of a woman's strength is. Even at your worst you're still incredible. Thank you for choosing to be a mum above all. I love you infinitely.—Anastasia Rabuka



When I was a child, my mum, Jenni Matteo, would read me books like *Bedtime Stories* or *The Bible Story* by Arthur S Maxwell every night. When we finished, we'd read them again! I didn't always walk with God but when I came back to Him, I found that even though I hadn't read the Bible in years, I knew large portions of Scripture by heart, from Mum's stories. When I studied at Avondale I found that knowledge of tremendous value. This is my fourth year in full-time ministry. God used Mum to begin my theological training before I could read.—Daniel



We don't tell you this often enough but we really love you. You are important in our life. We thank you for all the sacrifices you have made for the betterment of our family! Just know that all you have done is noticed. We love you, Nau! Happy Mother's Day.— your loving daughter Vere Lomani



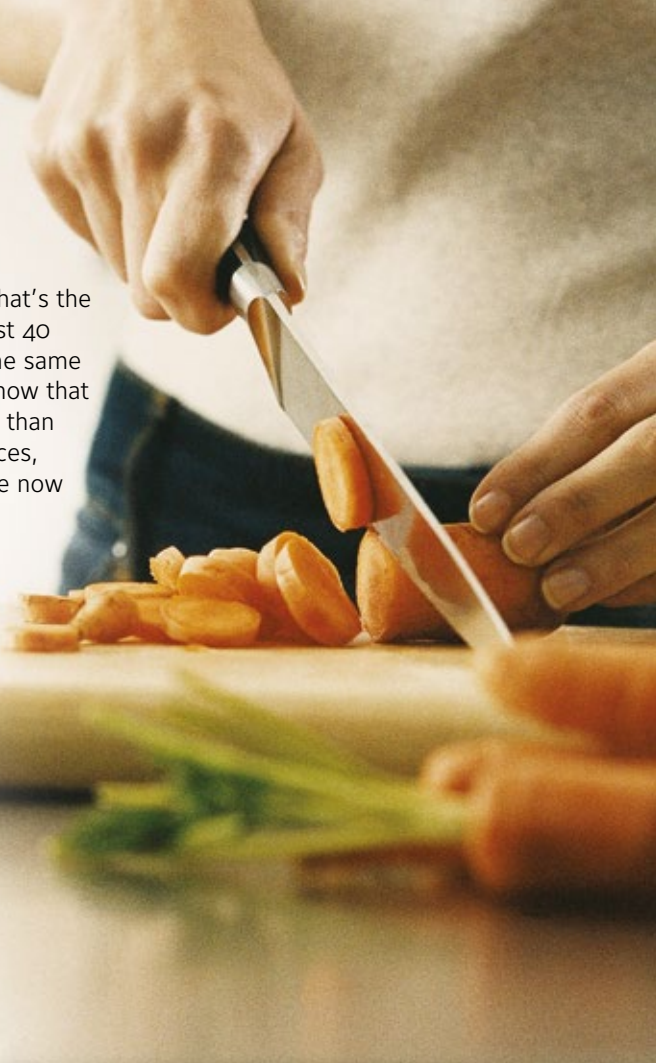
A weighty issue

One in five adults around the world will be obese by 2025. That's the grim prediction of a recent study, which found that over the past 40 years the number of obese adults has more than doubled. At the same time the number of underweight adults has dropped. Studies show that in 1975 the number of underweight adults worldwide was more than double that of obese adults. But by 2015 they had switched places, with more obese adults than underweight ones. More adults are now suffering the ill effects of obesity than malnutrition.

When we contemplate the issue of malnutrition, we usually think about people suffering from famine in low income countries. But the opposite is true of obesity, with almost one-fifth of the world's obese adults living in six high income countries, including Australia and New Zealand.

When we look at malnutrition and the devastating effects it has on a community, it's clear that a lack of resources is usually a major hurdle to restoring health. But the same cannot be said for obesity, which grows day after day in the most well-resourced countries in the world.

Obesity will continue to flourish if we keep following the same path we have over the past 40 years. The good news is that we don't have to. By moving to simpler diets built around whole plant foods and building activity into our daily lives we can bring back the benefits of the past to build a better future.



Eggplant, tomato and rocket spaghetti

Preparation time: 15 minutes **Cooking time:** 30 minutes **Serves:** 4

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
350g eggplant, trimmed, finely diced (about 1cm)
600ml tomato passata sauce
½ cup vegetable stock
½ cup basil leaves, chopped
250g cherry tomatoes, halved
250g wholemeal spaghetti
¼ cup pine nuts, toasted
50g reduced fat feta cheese
25g rocket leaves

1. Heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic. Cook, stirring often, for 3 minutes. Increase to medium-high. Add eggplant. Cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes. Stir in tomato sauce, stock and basil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes until eggplant is tender. Stir through cherry tomatoes.

2. Meanwhile, cook spaghetti in a large saucepan of boiling salted water for 15 minutes or until tender, then drain and return to pan.

3. Add eggplant mixture to spaghetti. Gently toss to combine over low heat. Spoon onto serving plates. Sprinkle with toasted pine nuts and crumbled feta. Serve with rocket.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: Kilojoules 1530kJ (365 cal). Protein 13g. Total fat 14g. Carbohydrate 42g. Sodium 150mg. Potassium 675mg. Calcium 115mg. Iron 3.5mg. Fibre 10g.

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

A pregnant woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, is shown in profile from the waist up. She is looking out a window with a brick wall on the left. The background is a blurred view of a residential neighborhood with houses and trees under a bright sky. The title 'Love & loss' is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font with a slight shadow effect.

Love & loss

MOTHER'S DAY.

These words may conjure up memories when you hear them. Images. Feelings. A messy breakfast in bed served with a side of wilted garden flower. Sticky cuddles and roughly wrapped gifts. Or maybe it's a laughter-filled phone call with a mother who is now called friend. Mother's Day is a celebration of the determined, unbreakable bond between a

mother and child. A celebration of love.

LOVE. A short four-letter word. It doesn't usually grab the eye as text on a page. But this one word has power unsurpassed by any other. It's the word that spells commitment and sacrifice. It ties families, binds communities and overcomes the world. In its truest form, love is completely unbreakable. Unshakeable. True love never fails. It's a word that becomes tangible when witnessing

the verb "mother".

A mother's love: this sacrificial and unshakeable love is worth the pause of one day a year to celebrate. But for me, Mother's Day is a deep breath and a day to muster up courage. A day that requires invisible strength. Because in the midst of this beautiful day of celebration—of love—has grown a seed of another kind.

LOSS. A short four-letter word that has the ability to linger on. And on.

I vividly remember the phone call from my mum. Terminal cancer. I was 20. She was 47. I remember at that very moment looking down at the garden through which I was walking. A garden vivid with joyful yellow carnations celebrating spring. It seemed so jarring to my reality. I couldn't lose the mum my heart held so close. I loved her. I still love her. But it was this love that made the loss so sharp . . . so jarring.

LOSS. A pain surpassed only by the love it was born from.

She passed away less than two years later. And I have grieved that missing puzzle piece from my heart every Mother's Day since.

LOVE. Marriage came and years of blessings. Joy.

Reaching the five-year milestone of marriage we decided to start our own family. Within a couple of months a positive pregnancy test. Pure excitement followed by a flurry of planning. Prayers for the little one whose existence had only just begun. I was amazed how quickly this deep love grew inside of me. A love so strong and protective, leaving no doubt. My world instantly viewed through different eyes. I was a mother.

It ended as quickly as it began. Just a few weeks later, bleeding followed by deep grief. Having to hide behind an exterior of normality, I desperately wanted acknowledgment and the healing balm of sympathy. But society says to carry this grief privately.

LOSS. A pain surpassed only by the love it was born from.

It wasn't long before I was pregnant again. This time although the love once again was instant we were a little more reserved in our excitement. But no matter how hard I tried to be cautious, love is vulnerable. It can't be escaped. It once again took over my heart. A fire I couldn't control. But yet again another loss. Compounding grief. The pain I felt unrecognised by a society who defined it in medical terms. But I knew God had been knitting this child in me for six weeks. A six-week masterpiece.

Time passed. Teaching patience. Another pregnancy and again another loss. Three in total. Three God-designed masterpieces. My mind often keeps track of what ages they would be had things gone differently. What my life

would look like. Mother's Day has become the raw realisation of my emptiness without the ones I love: my mother and three beautiful children.

People say time heals. And yes I am happy. I have joy again. I am blessed. God is teaching me to be content for it is He who gives me strength. But even as time passes, loss lingers. Because loss is strong. It is something God never intended us to experience.

But Jesus understands. It was Jesus who moments before His death saw His mother at the foot of the cross. Desperate grief etched on her face and sliding down her cheeks in tears. **LOSS.** Her Son was dying in the most cruel way, right in front of her and she could do nothing to stop it. Although the weight of the world was bearing down upon Him, crushing out His very life, Jesus felt the rawness of her pain. And He helped her in her time of need.

"When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'" (John 19:26,27).

Thank you Jesus for acknowledging a mother's loss in Your darkest moment. For being Sympathiser and Saviour to humanity. "A man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief" (Isaiah 53:3).

LOSS. A pain surpassed only by the **LOVE** it was born from.

It was You who heard the cries of Hannah in the temple and compassionately answered.

It was You who interrupted a funeral procession to place a widow's

son back in her arms.

It is You who comforts the children without mothers. The mothers without children. The growing grief of the silent woman struggling with the battering disappointments of infertility. The wounded hearts of silent loss.

And it is you who will joyfully bring mothers and children back into each other's arms on the resurrection morning. Who will heal brokenness, disappointment and emptiness. Wipe away tears. Healing our loss. Where "there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; for the former things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new'" (Revelation 21:4,5).

And "They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Loss eternally surpassed by **LOVE.**

A truly perfect Mother's Day.



Amy Cherry is a teacher who currently supports her husband in ministry in Sydney and after their difficult journey they are now anticipating the soon birth of a full-term healthy baby. This article was written on Mother's Day 2015.



Our hands, His touch

by Paul Rankin

MEN ARE FROM MARS." THAT WAS THE TITLE on a flier handed out at Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church (Morisset, NSW) some weeks ago. While the title caught my attention, I was a little sceptical as to whether or not it was worth paying \$10 each for my son and I to attend a men's health event.

But it was.

This wasn't your typical "boys' night". It was 96 men sitting down together for a wonderful meal—prepared by the women of the church—and a couple of excellent presentations on sleep apnoea and depression. The discussion around my table was lively and I made some new friends. A significant percentage of the attendees were not members of my local church, but each went away having had an enjoyable night yet challenged to think about who they were as men.

The evening itself was simply a dinner and a discussion but it made a difference to the men of the Southlakes community. It served as a reminder to me that the formula for ministry really is rather simple. Reach out to people and let God do the rest. It's "our hands, His touch".

It's a method in tune with Jesus' ministry. "God's kingdom was his theme—that beginning right now they are under God's government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases and of *the bad effects of their bad lives*" (Matthew 4:23, *The Message*, italics added). Jesus was making a difference in the lives of the people He interacted with. It's our challenge as followers of Jesus to replicate what He was doing.

Throughout the South Pacific Division (SPD), local churches are using the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) to live out this "our hands, His touch" model.

While in her early 70s, Catholic sister Pat Quinn thought her life was going downhill and that she would be confined to her chair until the day she died. That's when her

local Adventist church reached out through CHIP. Sister Pat completed the program and, four years later, she has lost more than 40 kilograms, is pain free and is back working full-time. She is currently helping to run CHIP and has personally brought along more than half of the participants attending the program at Toowoomba Seventh-day Adventist Church (Qld).

In Christchurch (NZ), Russell, having recently retired, was told that he needed multiple coronary artery bypasses. He decided to give CHIP a go. Eight years later and Russell is loving life and enjoying his retirement—that's when he's not relieving at his old job. The best part: he hasn't needed any major surgery.

CHIP is even changing the lives of children. I recently met nine-year-old Talia in Western Australia. She told me that her mother, after doing CHIP, found so much more energy to play with her and her brother. The change prompted Talia to turn her birthday party into a healthy event. Afterwards one of her friends thanked her for the change because she didn't get sick like she usually did at birthday parties.

In this article I've talked about CHIP but there are many ways we can use our hands to be His touch—anything from men's and women's health events, to cooking demonstrations and depression and anxiety recovery programs. February 2017 will also see the launch of the Forgive to Live Seminar in the SPD—another health tool you can use at your local church. "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work" (1 Corinthians 12:5,6).

God works in and through us. Will you let your hands be His touch today?

Email info@adventisthealth.org.au for more information.

Paul Rankin is CHIP in Churches coordinator for the South Pacific Division.

My Vanuatu experience

My experiences in Aore, Vanuatu, have opened up my eyes. January 2016 marked my third trip with my family and the youth of Reedy Creek church (Qld) to Aore Adventist Academy. Each time I visit, I'm reminded how little these people have in terms of material goods, yet how happy they are with what they have.

Helping out at the school in July last year, showed me how fortunate we are in Australia and how we take getting an education for granted. These students have to wash their own clothes, provide their own meals during weekends and assist after school by doing either house or yard work for the teachers on the island. And yet they are happy and grateful to be attending school.

As I walked through the school I was shocked by the state it was in. The classrooms had old blackboards, and the wooden desks and chairs were falling apart. The home economics room had a broken stove and few utensils to share amongst the students. The computer lab was also run-down and the computers outdated. I didn't even know what rooms they were at first. The only place I recognised was the science lab, and even that room didn't look suitable for use. The library had hardly any books and I was devastated at the sight of the boys' dorms. Yet I felt happy—that's because I knew the school wasn't going to stay in its current state forever, not if we could continue to help update its facilities.

This year our main project was to build a sewerage system for the boys' toilets and shower area. It gets hot very quickly on the island. By 8am you can get sunburnt. We would work from 8am to 12:30pm, have lunch, go back and work a bit more, and then have some free time to cool off. Poor cooks: they never had free time because once lunch was finished they had to start preparing dinner.

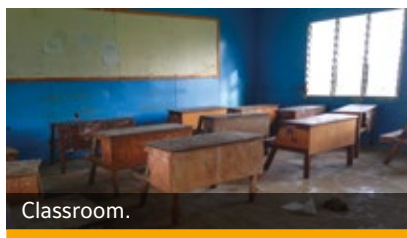
Everybody worked hard and teams were split to help where needed. I felt uplifted when I helped redo the render and paint

the dining hall exterior. I won't forget hammering a pick axe into the powdered earth to dig trenches that laid the pipework for the sewerage system.

Aore is where our young people get a chance to do something for somebody else. It's not a holiday—it's hard work, especially if you are not used to it. It's a place to go because there is a need that needs to be met and as a young person, I'm grateful that I have had the opportunity to be part of the Vanuatu experience.



Aore Adventist Academy.



Classroom.



Jessalyn painting.

Jessalyn Brzeski, 16, is in Year 11 at Gold Coast Christian College, Qld.

OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster



Re-digging the wells for renewal: the Smyrna factor

As Isaac removed the dirt from Abraham's wells at Gerar, so we must remove the obstructions to revival and renewal in the church today. Another obstacle to renewal is our lack of faith in the sovereignty of God—that, out of His love and ability to do all things, He rules and controls everything according to His own will, with nothing happening without His direction or permission. He not only has the power and right to govern all things, but does so.

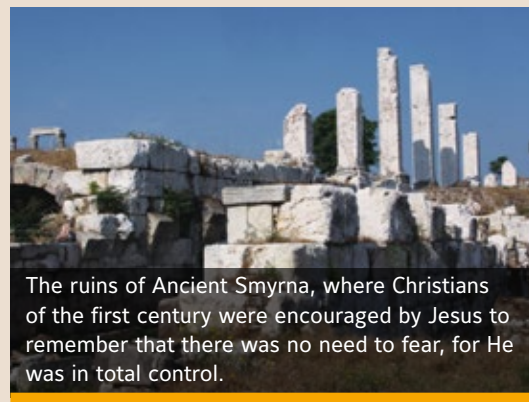
Read Genesis 8:14; Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:11; Psalms 115:3; Jeremiah 32:27; Mark 14:36.

It is usually in trials that our belief in God's loving sovereignty is put to the test. We wonder why He seems to sit on His hands. The church in Smyrna was at risk of losing its life and light due to extreme trials. Therefore Jesus turned their attention to the fact that He is the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega, and thus Jehovah, God Almighty, the Sovereign over all, including death itself.

Read Revelation 2:8,9,10; 1:8; 22:12,13; Isaiah 44:6.

In all circumstances we can trust our Sovereign God, who has Himself suffered even to death and come back to life. Absolutely nothing can separate us, who lay hold of Christ by faith, from His love. He will bring good out of the worst that Satan throws at us. Such faith brings the mighty reviving power of the Spirit of God. Throw yourself by faith on Christ daily and experience His mighty presence through His Spirit.

Read Revelation 2:8; 1:5; 5:6; Romans 8:28, 38,39; Galatians 3:2; Ephesians 1:12-14; John 14:16-18; Matthew 28:20.



The ruins of Ancient Smyrna, where Christians of the first century were encouraged by Jesus to remember that there was no need to fear, for He was in total control.



Touched and changed

by Chester Kuma

HE SAID TO ME, "MY NAME IS JOSEPH." HE COMES from the mountains of Malaita in Solomon Islands. Born into an animist family, Joseph was the eldest of 10 children. His father was a popular devil priest, an important link between his people and the demons believed to be the spirits of their ancestors. His role as a priest was to appease the spirits by performing daily sacrifices and in return expecting good harvests, health and protection.

Joseph, being the eldest in the family, had been chosen to replace his ageing father as the next devil priest. Joseph had never been to school and so he could neither read nor write and as he grew up he decided to focus on learning about the customs of his forefathers and how to become the most powerful devil priest in the region. This experience brought him deep into the dark world of witchcraft and the occult.

In early 1993, Ruth, Joseph's wife, became very ill and despite numerous offerings offered to the spirits on her behalf, her condition worsened. Joseph tried all means and every trick he knew to get Ruth back to good health but nothing worked. By now they had run out of all their pigs and there was nothing left to offer to the spirits. Joseph was convinced that his wife was going to die. However, there was one last option available to them. Not far away from where they lived was Atoifi Adventist Hospital.

He decided to focus on . . . how to become the most powerful devil priest in the region.

With hope all but gone, Joseph decided to take his wife to the hospital despite strong opposition from his father. Upon arrival, Ruth was immediately attended to by the nurses. A doctor was called to review her case and within a few hours a diagnosis was made and treatment commenced. To Joseph's surprise, Ruth slowly began to show signs of improvement over the weeks that followed.

Joseph and Ruth saw some amazing things that attracted their attention while at the hospital: the doctors and nurses were very caring, kind and compassionate. Nurses were praying with the patients and took time to listen to their concerns. Hospital staff took the opportunity to feed patients who had no food or relatives to care for them. They thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful singing by staff and students in the wards every Sabbath morning and enjoyed the wonderful sermons preached from the hospital chapel every morning and evening.

One particular Sabbath morning an Adventist pastor they had never met, from a nearby village, came to visit. In his hand was a plate of food. He greeted them with *usugani lea*, meaning "good morning" in the local dialect. They responded *usugani lea* and the pastor, with a big smile, handed Ruth the plate of food. After a short conversation he asked if he could pray with them. They both agreed and that gave the pastor an opportunity to share



Joseph.

a short message about Jesus and His great love for them. He then offered a special prayer for healing upon Ruth. After the prayer Ruth said she felt that a miracle had taken place and she knew that at that very moment she had been healed by God.

This experience and their time at the hospital challenged Joseph and Ruth's worldview about the spirits they served and their belief and understanding about the supernatural. They began asking many questions about the Jesus they heard about in hospital and why people were so kind and generous. This led to a series of Bible studies and at the end of 1993 they were baptised.

Joseph is now a trained village health worker and a very committed and successful lay preacher. But the story does not end there. Following his baptism he began sharing the gospel with his own people and particularly his family—his children, parents, brothers and sisters. By the end of 2004 the whole family had accepted Jesus and were baptised.

Joseph was responsible for the establishment of two rural health clinics in the mountains of East Kwaio, Malaita, that have over the years saved many lives. He built a church in his village, which now has a membership of 40 and is rapidly growing. He recently established a church in the jungle with five new members already attending. These people, like Joseph, have come out of the dark world of animism and spirit worship into Christianity; from darkness into the marvellous light. And it all began with Joseph and Ruth's contact with Atoifi Adventist Hospital in 1993!

It was a daring vision the pioneers had in the estab-

lishment of Atoifi

hospital in 1965. It was a difficult journey right from the beginning. The enemy was relentless in his attacks and caught in the middle of this fierce battle between good and evil were some precious lives. Today, I pay tribute to Mary Simi, wife of pioneer missionary Pastor Simi; Brian Dunn, first expatriate nurse to Atoifi hospital; Lens Larwood, first hospital manager; and Lance Gersbach, former business manager. These great warriors of truth paid the ultimate sacrifice for the benefit of others and at each point, when those tragic events took place, it appeared as though God had been defeated.

When I met Joseph and Ruth and heard their story—and similar stories from many others from around Solomon Islands who have joined ranks with God's church and are today faithful followers and witnesses of Christ—I praise God for the faithfulness of the pioneers. Out of apparent defeat, victory has been won. Out of what appeared to be utter hopelessness has sprung light, truth and hope for thousands of people. This has been made possible by willing hands having the Master's touch—the hands of the pioneers, the hands of those who came after them and the hands of those serving today. Joseph and Ruth were touched and were changed and today they are God's hands to their own people, bringing blessings, healing and hope!

R

Dr Chester Kuma is the South Pacific Division's health representative.

THIS MONTH IN



Can you buy joy?



ISIL and Christianity



Truth and the Bible



The colouring in books craze

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HELLO KIDS!



Kids' SPACE

Noah is a good man who loves God. He and his family live during a particularly wicked time in earth's history, so wicked that God decides He should start over. God tells Noah He plans to destroy the world with a flood. He gives Noah plans to build a huge boat that will carry him and his family to safety.



MATCH THE TIMBER & DISCOVER THE MEMORY VERSE

1 "Teach me	for you
2 your will,	God" Psalm
3 are my	10, NV
4 143:	to do

1 _____ 2 _____ , _____
3 _____ . 4 _____ :

MATCH THE TOOLS & DISCOVER THE MESSAGE

1 People	will.	want
2 family	do	
3	to	
4	His	in God's

1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____

Noah follows every detail of God's plans. It takes 120 years and the help of many people to build the ark.



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.

KIDS CHURCH OR ADULT ENTERTAINMENT?

Name supplied

As a mother of three, aged seven to 12, I really appreciated your editorial "Just Kids" (April 2).

A few weeks ago at my home church we had a kids' church day. My 12-year-old boy finds his weekly church experience, shall we say, challenging. After lamenting to me yet again that "church is boring", I encouraged him with the exciting prospect of today being different as it was kids' church.

The program varied slightly from usual, in that we had a series of special items performed for the congregation by the various children's Sabbath School classes. The sermon was presented by the Children's Ministries Department but it was directed towards the adults.

My son seemed to be no less challenged than usual. I came away from the service disappointed—for him and questioning—was the kids' church for the kids or was it merely adult entertainment?

Your editorial has encouraged me to continue questioning how we can improve church so our kids determine to follow Him.

A QUESTION OF WHY

Ross Ecclestone, NSW

Perhaps the writer [of "A question of why?", Letters, March 19] underestimates our pioneers.

I imagine they would be thrilled that we have continued in their mould of enquiry in order to grow in our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. How narrow-minded and unloving to condemn the

Pope as an evil man on the basis of the historical atrocities committed by his church.

Perhaps the reason for the writer's view stems from the fact that his "faith is based on prophecy". He questions if we have completely forgotten the three angels' messages. He appears to fail to grasp that the central issue of the book of Revelation, and particularly the three angels' messages, is the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the basis of our faith and the identifying feature of the remnant church.

I too sigh and cry for the lack of acceptance of the centrality of the gospel and of what Jesus has done for every one of us—including the Pope!

TOO MANY COMBINATIONS

Dr David Pennington, NSW

Re: Richard Dawkins' godless delusion by Stephen Ferguson (Feature, March 10). I much appreciated Stephen's article on this topic.

Recently, a computer called Alpha-Go defeated the human world champion of the ancient Chinese game "Go". Unlike chess, there are too many combinations (more than the number of atoms in the universe) for any known computer to try every combination possible. It requires an intuition that mimics the human brain.

The Alpha-Go computer is designed to mimic human neural networks . . . that is, it is a replica, albeit crude, of our brains. No random generation of possibilities can win that game, only an intelligence that can teach itself.

The implications here for evolution are huge: we already know that nothing we manufacture as humans is

not designed, and frequently is copied from nature. We know that mathematically the simplest form of life has so little chance of spontaneous formation that even if all the atoms in the universe could react with each other, it would take 10 to the 30th power or more years for a single strand of meaningful DNA to form.

If there was nothing before the "singularity" that supposedly formed the universe, then Dawkins must admit that his "god" is "nothing". But our God, who formed everything from nothing, is "Everything" to us.

INSENSITIVE

Barrie Westley, Vic

I commend *Record* for its variety and thought-provoking articles. But no matter how dysfunctional a church business meeting may be, Berto's cartoon of March 19 was quite insensitive and belittling to the victims of terrorism and to those who work to prevent terrorist actions.

I think an apology is called for.

FEEDBACK CRUCIAL

Len Knott, via website

Thank you for this informative article: "Evaluation" (Editorial, March 19).

Evaluation/feedback/criticism is so much a part of life today—try and play sport without it!

Our Adult Sabbath School classes is where evaluation of our belief systems can/should occur—sharing, listening and evaluating what each other is saying.

Sharing what Jesus has done for each of us and our love for Jesus.

Thank you for stimulating my mind.

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 details, a full job description or written applications, including your CV (including the contact details of your church pastor), please contact Ian Low <ianlow@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **May 17, 2016**.

■ **Manager—Camp Somerset, South Queensland.** Full-time position commencing mid-2016. The successful applicant will be a practising member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have management experience preferably relating to convention centres/recreational camps. Qualifications in management/outdoor education and licences in the operation of machinery and heavy vehicles an advantage. Should have good communication and relational skills dealing with staff, church members and the community, and a clear commitment to the mission of the Church. Request job description from <scotthopkins@adventist.org.au>. Written applications to: Chief Financial Officer, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SQ Conference) Ltd, PO Box 577, Spring Hill, QLD 4004. Administration of Seventh-day Adventist Church (SQ Conference) Ltd reserves the right to appoint this position. Current residents of Australia or New Zealand only should apply. Applications close **June 3, 2016**.

■ **Business manager—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community (Meekatharra, WA).** Karlundi is a co-educational K-12 Christian boarding school that serves the Aboriginal people of Western Australia. The successful applicant will be a self-motivated, energetic person who has a passion to share Jesus and His Word; have senior management experience and an interest in the development and training of Aboriginal young people; have the ability to manage the assets, finances, human resources and business operations of the organisation; cooperate with the principal to provide leadership to Karlundi as a whole; be able to engage government and NGOs to maximise funding opportunities; have cross-cultural experience together with a willingness to learn from others; and be a team builder and have excellent problem solving and conflict management/resolution skills. For further information please contact Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries, via <stevepiez@adventist.org.au> or phone 0409 357 701.

■ **Regional humanitarian advisor (ADRA South Pacific)—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited is seeking an experienced individual to be responsible for facilitating the development and management of the humanitarian aid program for ADRA and the Church in the South Pacific region. This two-year contract role will report to the director of ADRA South Pacific. The successful candidate must be eligible to work in Australia and be available to commence in July 2016. For the full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website on <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including a cover letter, CV, three work related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; or fax (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **May 29, 2016**.

ANNIVERSARIES



Edwards. Evie and Albie were married 3.10.1965 by Pastor Eric House in the Mt Lawley church, WA. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Armadale

church on 11.10.15 with their bridesmaid Karen Allsop, family and friends. They have two sons Roy and Dale; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren. Evie and Albie moved to Tasmania in 2007 after spending all their lives in WA.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

■ **Traineeships in health ministry—Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat (Fitzroy Falls, NSW).** Applications exist for a one-year program. Includes several nationally accredited courses as well as on-the-job training in a health retreat setting. Be mentored alongside a team of dedicated professionals. This is a great opportunity to be trained and be actively involved in health ministry. Positions commence July 17, 2016. For more information visit <www.cedarvale.org>. Applications close **June 1, 2016**.

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

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Executive care manager—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd.** This position involves the oversight of all clinical aspects of the organisation, the development and monitoring of consistent policies and procedures, and working with local care managers to ensure the best possible care for residents and the compliance with Aged Care Accreditation standards. The successful applicant should have a tertiary qualification and experience in nursing administration with previous experience in caring for aged and disabled persons. They should also have current registration with the Queensland Nursing Council or be able to achieve such registration. As a key member of the senior executive team, the ability to communicate clearly and professionally in both written and verbal forms is imperative. Computer literacy and an understanding of the Commonwealth Government funding policies and procedures for residential aged care are also essential. Detailed position profiles are available on request and written applications for these positions, including detailed curriculum vitae and referees, should be forward to the CEO, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Limited, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, QLD 4000. (Facsimile: 07 3218 7790 or email <ericanderson@adventist.org.au>). Applications close **May 21, 2016**.

■ **Specialists/managers/leaders—ADRA (South Pacific Division) (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking expressions of interest from suitable candidates who are specialists in the area of leadership and strategic management within the NGO context. The ideal candidates will provide visionary and strategic leadership to local ADRA offices in the South Pacific to fulfil ADRA's mission as the humanitarian development and relief agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The role ensures that the quality of ADRA's humanitarian aid and community development programming is participatory, innovative and results in positive impacts in the lives of beneficiaries. The role would also make certain that ADRA's administrative operation is professional, efficient, financially accountable and sustainable, provides a positive and challenging work environment for personnel, and is an exemplary model of Seventh-day Adventist values. For more information visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. Please send a letter of interest, your latest CV and three references, including one from your church pastor, to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943.

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





Gildersleeve.

Doug and Elsie celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 27.2.16. Elsie, who is from an early pioneer family in Fremantle (WA), met Doug at her Bibra Lake family home. Along with her administrative job, Elsie worked at her father's dairy while Doug was a medic in the army. They married after the war. Doug designed and built the Fremantle church where he served in many roles. The couple have been very active volunteers with St John Ambulance. Doug was recently made Commander in the Order of St John for 70 years service and received a standing ovation for being the longest serving member. Love brought Doug and Elsie together and gave them a best friend for life.

Perth in 1951 seeking a better life and supported her family as a dressmaker specialising in exquisite wedding gowns. She was an energetic, positive person who chose to never focus on life's hardships. She lived to care for and help those less fortunate.

Roger Millist

Noble, Jason Joshua, born 23.3.1987; died 4.8.15 in a work accident. He lived in Macksville, NSW. This was an awful shock to his wife Rachel, little son Hunter, mother Mary, family, work-mates and friends. The church, hall, foyer and courtyard areas overflowed as a community came to pay their respects and grieve together. In choosing to be on God's team Jason had picked the winning team in life's big game. While we do not have an answer for this tragic loss, we look forward to Jesus' second coming.

Paul Richardson

OBITUARIES

Forrester, Dallas Gertrude (nee Brooker), born 9.10.1931 in Kawakawa, Bay of Islands, NZ; died 2.8.15 in Nambucca Heads, NSW. On 7.1.1957 she married Kelvin Forrester. She is survived by their children: Carolyn Diaz, Brian, Elisabeth Forrester and Darren; nine grandchildren; and sister Margaret Hampson-Tindale. Dallas moved to Australia in 1950 to study nursing at Sydney Adventist Hospital, yet she retained a strong affection for the place of her birth. Dallas lived a full life that included pioneering health and nutrition programs that were recorded on regional TV news. On 7.8.15 she was laid to rest at Macksville Lawn Cemetery.

Paul Richardson



Hootton, Dulcie Beatrice (nee Ellis), born 31.8.1922 in Bangalore, India,

where her father served in the British Army; died 28.2.16 in Adventist Residential Care, Rossmoyne, WA. On 24.7.1949 she married Reginald Jack Hootton. She was predeceased by her husband in 1997, her son Barry in 2009 and sister Ivy Prior in 2010. She is survived by her daughter-in-law Leonie Hootton; grand-daughters Tracy and Chris Stockdale, and Tania and Neil Richards; and great-grandchildren William, Jack, Ruby and Alex (all of Perth). Dulcie emigrated to



Pearce, Janette Margaret (nee Clarke), born 30.5.1943 in Brisbane, Qld; died 16.1.16 in Grantham, UK. On 3.5.1998 she married David Pearce in Grantham. He predeceased her in 2011. She is survived by her sister and family: Sharon and Jeff Parkinson (Sydney, NSW), Lisa, Tahnia, Caiden and Estelle Parkinson (The Rock), Brendon Parkinson (Sydney), and her stepsons and their families: Brian, Alyson, Josh, Sam and Jake (Grantham, England) and Russell, Danny, Aaron and Alex (Moffat, Scotland). Jan worked for Sydney Adventist Hospital, Auckland Adventist Hospital and Stanborough Press. She loved her God, her family and all those she came into contact with, and never allowed her physical difficulties to stop her leading a full and rich life.

John Ferguson, Solon Kyriacou



Skeers, Eileen May (nee Burgess), born 15.7.1917 in Wagga Wagga, NSW; died 17.2.16 in Warburton, Vic. On 30.12.1938 she married Frederick William Skeers. She was predeceased by her daughter Nancy and husband Peter. She is survived by Bill and Lorraine Skeers (Wagga Wagga, NSW), Fred and Nola Skeers (Perth, WA) and Ruth and Emrys Phillips (Yarra Glen, Vic). Eileen was a faithful member of Wagga Wagga

church all her life and loved her Bible study and church family. She was a quiet lady but lived her life as a powerful witness. She loved the ADRA Appeal and shared Jesus with anyone who would listen. Her influence touched many lives.

Glynn Slade

Wallrodt, William Basil, born 7.3.1948 in Bunbury, WA; died 19.12.15 in Perth. On 16.4.1972 he married Sherrilyne. He is survived by his wife (Armadale); children Brad and Sarah (Perth), Trevor (Perth), and Jennifer and Liam Calley (Perth); and grandson Haree-Noel. Bill was a Path-finder leader at Northam in the 1970s-'80s. He worked as an electricity linesman and a paramedic, and ran first aid classes.

Robert Kingdon

Wareham, Russell William, born 3.9.1927 in Ouyen, Vic; died 20.1.16 in Ballarat. He married Ruby Dudley. He was predeceased by his son Kevin and daughter Roslyn. He is survived by his wife; their children Linda, Carol, David and Darrell and their families. Russell worked for the Church for 37 years, including time at Mona Mona Mission, Qld, Perth Sanitarium Factory, WA, and Warburton Health Care Centre, Vic. He served as a lay minister for many years and was a much-loved member of the local community. Russell was married to Ruby for more than 63 years.

Mike Collum

ADVERTISEMENTS

Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village, October 3-8, 2016. 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 150 attendees. To receive an application form and details of accom-

modation options please contact Robyn Howie. Phone: (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

Innisfail Adventist Church's 75th anniversary. All past ministers, members and friends are invited to attend this celebration on May 28, 2016. For information or RSVP phone 0412 155 121 or email <rbidois11@gmail.com>. Any past photos would be greatly appreciated.

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Finally . . .

If I had six hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend the first four hours sharpening the axe.

—Abraham Lincoln

Next RECORD May 21

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