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Final edition of Diggings magazine

Wahroonga, New South Wales

After 22 years of exploring the wonders of ancient civilisations around the world, the final issue of *Archaeological Diggings* magazine has been published.

Associate editor Lee Dunstan said *Diggings* had succumbed to the same pressures afflicting the print industry that has led to the closure of magazines like *The Bulletin*.

"Adventist Media attempted a rescue of the magazine some three years ago, taking it over from its founder David Down, who for 20 years had produced the magazine," he said. "Having refurbished the magazine and launched a new interactive digital edition, we then built a state-of-the-art subscriptions system.

"However, we were not able to build sufficient subscriptions to maintain it. This was compounded by the loss of our US distributorship and North American sales in 2014; then the crises in the Middle East of the past two years resulted in the cancellation of *Diggings* tours, which had helped to offset the costs of producing the magazine."

Editor Gary Webster said Adventist Media made the

decision to take over the magazine "because we believed archaeological discoveries support the substantial historicity of the Bible, reinforcing belief in the Bible". "I want to thank our contributors and loyal, long-term subscribers for your support," he said. "It has also been a great privilege to work with churches in proclaiming Christ through the related *Diggings* seminars, and in taking numerous church and community members on our tours. Many have thus found Christ or had their faith strengthened."

While the print edition has ceased, an online presence will continue and an archaeological-related email newsletter will be launched in July. —Tracey Bridcutt

For more information go to <<https://www.hopechannel.com/au/magazines/archaeological-diggings>>.



123 years young: Church begins school partnership

Kellyville, New South Wales

One of Australia's oldest Seventh-day Adventist churches is embarking on a new journey at a different location.



Members of the 123-year-old Kellyville church in Sydney celebrated their last Sabbath at their Spurway Drive location in late February and have started meeting on the Hills Adventist College campus.

The new location represents an opportunity for the church and the school to work together more closely. Planning for this process began back in 2004, reported church member Rod Long. The church was only being used one day a week, he said, and its members wanted to find out how they could be more community focused and best use the assets God had given them.

The church is temporarily meeting on the school campus until a new multi-purpose centre is built. —Jarrod Stackelroth/Rod Long

Sopas nursing school links with university

Wabag, Papua New Guinea

A meeting between representatives of Pacific Adventist University (PAU), the Sopas Hospital-based Enga College of Nursing (ECON) and the Enga Provincial Government has concluded with agreement that the parties will work towards formally affiliating ECON with PAU.

PAU vice-chancellor Ben Thomas commented that Adventist Church leaders at division, union and local mission levels are all supportive of the idea of affiliation. "We will do all we can to get the partnership working," he said.

Sopas Hospital, along with its nursing school, was originally established by Seventh-day Adventist missionaries and was a proud icon of the Church in the Highlands region. However, because of tribal fighting in the area, the hospital was closed for 14 years, with the provincial government reopening the facility and nursing school dur-

ing the past few years. Almost the entire workforce at Sopas are Seventh-day Adventists. There are about 163 students currently attending ECON and the college is developing rapidly, with discussions currently being held with Australian foreign aid and the provincial government to fund the building of student dormitories. —Solomon Paul



Professor Ben Thomas, Dr Jeff Crocombe, ECON principal Noelyn Koutalo and students cheering on the affiliation.



YouWho?

James Standish

It was a lazy sunny afternoon at home when I decided to do a little fact checking. I started searching the web to see what comes up for the search terms "Adventist" or "Seventh-day Adventist". I searched in Chrome. I searched in Safari. I searched in Firefox.

And then I went over to YouTube. I pulled up the "most views" filter and began my search again. I was astonished. Then I searched "Sabbath"—and that? That pretty well blew my socks off. When I tell you the results you'll see why. But before I get to that it's worth noting why YouTube matters.

YouTube's growing like *Clostridium perfringens*. During the past three years its viewership has increased 50 per cent per year, every year. If our Church grew that fast it would take less than 15 years until every single person on the planet is an Adventist! Though it may take quite a bit longer until everyone is a tithe-paying Adventist . . .

YouTube's managing to grow rapidly even as it has become enormous. It hit more than 1 billion individual visitors per month all the way back in 2013. Remember the good old days of 2013?

And YouTube reaches the young. It has more viewers than any major US cable channel among people under 50. And it's not just in the US. Today 80 per cent of YouTube viewers are outside the US. Why does reaching young with media matter? Ask advertisers—the young are more malleable. And once you've got them doing what you want, you have them for a lifetime. A little scary but that, in a nutshell, is the art of advertising.

YouTube's advertising revenue in 2015 was \$US67.39 billion—almost twice what it was in 2011. Do you think you know how to reach people better than the most sophisticated advertisers in the world? No? Me neither.

All of this put together makes YouTube a pretty big deal. At least for anyone in the business of sharing ideas. Anyone like, say, us.

Which leads me back to the top 10 most viewed Adventist YouTube videos.² Four are compilations of hymn singing. Well, hymns are good so that's nice, isn't it? One involves Ben Carson's political ambitions. There is a terrifically animated debate between an evangelical and an

Adventist in the Philippines that's worth a look even if you, like me, can't understand a word of it. And then there is Oprah being schooled on the Sabbath. That leaves three more videos—including the second highest viewed "Adventist" individual video in history. And that's where it got really surprising. At least for me.

Why? Because I was involved in all three of them. For two of them I contributed to the script, arranged the filming and organised the talent. The third video I was able to acquire after working long and hard with the staff of the talent. That I was involved in three of the top 10 is, to be honest, not good news at all. I assumed a televangelist or General Conference president or maybe some really off-the-wall college kid would have come up with something that broke the internet for our Church. Not yet.

But it gets far worse when I searched for "Sabbath". No, I didn't get an evangelist expounding on Exodus or Acts. What I got was a British heavy metal band from Birmingham. In fact, the band dominated the most viewed "Sabbath" videos, I tired of scrolling through the search pages before coming upon anything remotely related to God's Holy Sabbath day. Lots and lots of very loud, very low quality music. No God. Not good.

We could blame the Brummies¹ for this but I wonder if we should focus our attention a little closer to home. While YouTube has been taking over the world have we been preoccupied by the media of yesterday? Maybe. But no more.

You'll see a series of short videos designed for YouTube and social media sharing coming out from our team over the next six months. I've written a series of scripts myself. I hope you enjoy them. I hope you share them. But more than that, I hope you make your own. I hope that somewhere between us we can find a way to outdo the echoes of yesterday. Apparently cute cats are a good place to start . . .

1. A Brummie is a person from Birmingham, England.

2. The list is dynamic, so varies slightly from day to day.

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Cover Credit: Tracey Bridcutt

"Hope Stayz volunteers Irene Gilmore (left) and Zan Long."

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Our vision is to be a church that...
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Demands on a leader



Living intentionally

Jarrod Stackelroth

There comes a point in everyone's life when they must decide—decide what she will be, what he will do, what she will create, what he will leave behind. These are important decisions. They can take a lot of time and a lot of prayer. But sometimes we just live . . . passive. After the decision to follow Jesus, we just follow.

Naturally we react to things around us. When placed in a challenging or new situation, we observe and make decisions on how we should act. But reacting properly, reacting well, is a matter of preparation. It's the reason that so much training goes into professional athletes or soldiers. Professional athletes build muscle memory so they can react in the way they have been trained. Anyone who has seen Stephen Curry shoot a basketball can attest to this. And this is why spiritual disciplines are so important. Paul recognised the discipline required in the spiritual realm: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Corinthians 9:25).

The more we learn about God and ourselves the more effective disciples we can be. How?

Paul knew a little bit about discipline. As a Pharisee he would have spent hours at study, poring over the scriptures, praying and fasting, equipped to debate and present his ideas and win over the thoughts of others. When God found him and changed him, He used Paul's knowledge to good effect. Still Paul preached and debated, still he travelled to synagogues and presented the things that he lived for with as much force as he had when persecuting the church. But he had made a choice on how to use his skills.

First we must understand God's plan, the gospel. Then we must examine our spheres of influence and our lifestyles. In what areas can I intentionally represent Christ? In what areas of my life am I missing opportunities because I am just living and reacting every day rather than understanding and utilising the gifts and connections God has given me?

God doesn't always call you into the ministry but He always calls you to minister. Wherever you are, whatever your training, your background, your social circle, God can use you. He doesn't necessarily want us to form Adventist enclaves (I'm looking at you Cooranbong!) but to live in the communities we are in and impact them for Him.

Timothy Keller in his book, *Center Church*, talks about the key ingredients for every-member gospel ministry. He says that it's organic (it just happens in everyday life), it is relational, it is Word deploying (brings the gospel into people's lives) and active (each person takes personal responsibility).

Ellen White writes on the importance of the Adventist home. She says, "Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes. If we will open our hearts and homes to the divine principles of life, we shall become channels for currents of life-giving power" (*The Adventist Home*, p33).

Sometimes the greatest challenge and the most impactful place we can be is right where God planted us, with the friends and family, with the industry, with the interest groups, that we've got. But we have to choose to see those places as our mission field. In those places, we are the light-bearers.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of *Adventist Record*.

I have just returned from five days with General Conference president Ted Wilson and his wife Nancy in Vanuatu.

It was a hectic blessing.

We helped the Vanuatu rebuild team and local villagers at Epika on Efate to put up the major beams of their new church. Ted worked with the rest of us. In five days, we had five welcome ceremonies as well as one farewell ceremony. At each event Ted remembered key people's names and thanked them. He acknowledged the many hours of preparation and honoured and valued the people, their cultural practices and gifts.

At different times we met the President of Vanuatu, two Ministers in the Vanuatu government and four different provincial leaders. On each occasion Ted was able to share with these civic leaders the Adventist Church's philosophy of mission; how ADRA, education and medical work contribute; and how he wants the Church to be a solution in society as we wait for Jesus' return. He was also able to share an appropriate Bible promise and pray for each of them by name. He showed statesman-like dignity.

At each location people wanted to talk with him. Ted took time to listen and encourage, and never said no to the photos—although preferring to be out of the limelight. Everywhere we went, he showed interest in those he met.

He also had radio and TV interviews and presented sermons. As we rushed from one appointment to another, whether by car, boat or plane, he chatted with those in the delegation.

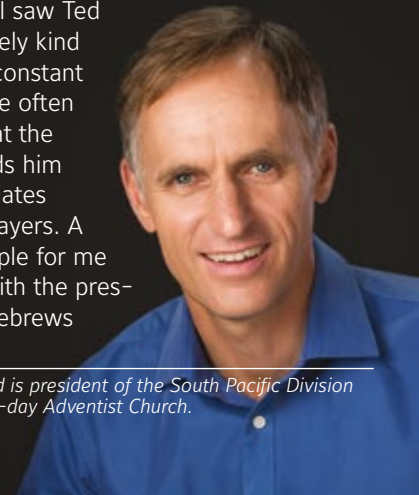
Most days we spent 10–12 hours in public view. Nancy told me that the busy itinerary was similar to every other place they visit as part of their Church work.

From what I saw Ted

was genuinely kind under this constant pressure. He often remarks that the Lord upholds him and appreciates

people's prayers. A good example for me as I cope with the pressure too (Hebrews 13:17).

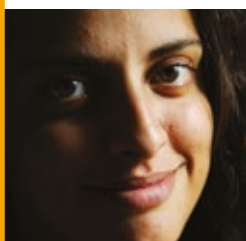
Glenn Townend is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.





Growing family

More than 4000 people were baptised during an evangelistic celebration in Venezuela last month. Eight months of intensive effort across the east of the country saw 5000 small groups reaching out and Global Mission pioneers planting Adventist churches. The final celebration, at a stadium in the capital Caracas, attracted more than 20,000.—*ANN*



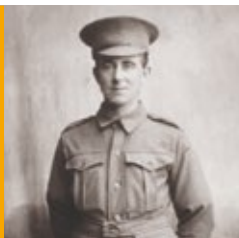
Yes, it's genocide

The Australian parliament is believed to be the first to recognise ISIS attacks on the largely Christian Assyrian population of Iraq as genocidal. Shadow federal treasurer Chris Bowen's motion condemning targeted attacks on Assyrians and destruction of their homes, churches and historical artefacts was unopposed.—*Record staff*



Questions raised

Media claims that Adventist leaders in South Africa have fraudulent qualifications have led to recent GC appointee Pastor Paul Charles being asked by the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division to relinquish the use of titles referring to his doctorates. Pastor Charles' studies were at unaccredited and unrecognised institutions.—*SID/The New Age*



Bible returned—101 years later

Arthur Cooper was gifted a Bible before he left Melbourne to fight in World War I. Wounded at Gallipoli he dropped the Bible, which was picked up and kept by a Northern Irish soldier. Recently a Belfast historian read the inscription and tracked down Cooper's descendants in Goulburn (NSW), who enthusiastically welcomed the Bible home.—*Goulburn Post*



Slave to fashion?

Baptist World Aid's Australian Fashion Report has tracked an improvement in clothing companies' awareness of where and how their merchandise is made. By increasing transparency in the fashion industry Baptist World Aid aims to reduce the risk of forced labour, child labour and exploitation, and help consumers make more ethical choices.—*Baptist World Aid*



Departure from the script

Last Days in the Desert follows Jesus (Ewan McGregor) in an imagined chapter from His 40 days in the desert. He struggles with the devil, also played by McGregor, over the fate of an ordinary family in crisis. The film hit US cinemas on May 13 but it's likely to be a DVD-only release in our region.—*lastdaysinthedesert.com*

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Centre of influence to be established in Sydney

Sydney, New South Wales

Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) has purchased a building in Redfern that will be used for inner city outreach as well as being the home of The Way church.

The \$A3.25 million Redfern property will be used as a "centre of influence", according to GSC president Pastor Michael Worker. He hopes the building will become an important hub for the GSC's inner city outreach activities including The Way church, and will be used by university church groups and Bible workers as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Ministries (ATSIM).

The two-storey building is on Cleveland Street, a major city thoroughfare, and is located just three kilometres south of Sydney's central business district.

GSC chief financial officer Eva Ing described the purchase as an answer to prayer. "In 2015, we learned that The Way was going to be evicted from its current venue due to building redevelopment," Mrs Ing said. "They had nowhere else to go. We started looking at property in June and initially couldn't find anything in the area. This building is in a prime location and is much closer to many of the people who attend The Way."

Currently The Way runs a community kitchen every Monday night where a group of volunteers mingle with the locals, enjoy a meal together and have a Bible study. Between 60 and 100 people turn up for the weekly dinner, which is donated by Australian charity OzHarvest.

On Sabbaths, they run an informal church service and kids' club, followed by a lunch prepared by volunteers from churches across Sydney.

"We're not your typical church—I call it a street church," said Horace Evans, pastor of The Way, which has been meeting for more than a decade. "We're focused on meeting community needs and giving them a picture of what God is like. We don't have a membership roll—we're more interested in actively making a difference to people's lives." He paid tribute to the volunteers, describing them as "heroes".

"We're excited about the doors that will open," Pastor Evans said. "Having our own building enables us to dream big dreams. It gives us an identity and a place to be. God did amazing things in less than ideal circumstances. We're looking forward to seeing what He can do now."

The building will undergo renovations before it can be used, including the installation of extra bathrooms.

"We're following the calling of Mission to the Cities to make disciples in the city of Sydney," Mrs Ing said. "What a privilege to have an Adventist presence in Australia's largest urban centre." —*Vania Chew*



New venue for city outreach.

World president visits South Pacific

Utulei, American Samoa

Pastor Ted Wilson, leader of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, has made a flying visit to the South Pacific Division (SPD).

His first stop was American Samoa, where he took a service at the American Samoa Government Lee Auditorium and met the Governor of American Samoa.

"This is his first time here," reported Tala Ropeti-Leo. "It is actually a very big thing for American Samoa."

Pastor Wilson, accompanied by Trans-Pacific Union (TPU) president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga and the Samoas-Tokelau Mission administration, continued his tour of the South Pacific by visiting Samoa.

In Vanuatu, he showed support to the communities affected by Cyclone Pam by visiting and helping to rebuild at the site of one of the churches that was destroyed. At Epike village, four presidents, representing all the administrative levels of the Church, worked together to help the rebuilding effort. Pastor Nos Terry (Vanuatu Mission), Pastor Kaufononga (TPU) and Pastor Glenn Townend (SPD) joined Pastor Wilson in carrying beams and building the frame of the Category 5 cyclone-proof church.

"Elder Wilson's visit gave a spiritual boost to the people

in Vanuatu who have had their lives challenged with Cyclone Pam in 2015," Pastor Townend said.

"Many times I heard them say to him, 'Thank you for remembering us—in

this isolated place in the world.' The people from Vanuatu meant it as Ted spoke to thousands at each location."

Pastor Wilson also travelled to Aore Adventist Academy, the first General Conference president in 20 years to visit the school.

During the Australian leg of his journey, he visited remote churches in central Australia at Alice Springs and the Finke, before finishing his South Pacific tour in Perth. Here he met with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries leaders and members, and paid tribute to the work of the Adventist Church and Australian Union Conference among Indigenous Australians. —*Jarrod Stackelroth*



L-R: Pastors Wilson, Terry, Kaufononga and Townend.

Hundreds accept Christ

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Hundreds of people have given their lives to Christ through baptism following an evangelism program hosted by the Central Papua Conference.

Tasmanian Conference president Pastor Gary Webster, who heads up the South Pacific Division's Institute for Public Evangelism, conducted the program. He preached for three weeks on the theme "Ancient Mysteries Reveal The Future" at the Hohola Adventist church in Port Moresby.

The preaching was uplinked via satellite to more than 230 sites across the conference and televised on Click TV. Thousands of Click TV subscribers watched the program in the comfort of their homes in PNG and other places in the Pacific. The messages brought hope and motivation for change in young and old, among believers, non-believers and many other people from different walks of life.

Pastors have been busy conducting baptisms since the program ended on March 26. At least 800 people have been baptised so far with more baptisms to take place later this year. Among those baptised were prominent leaders and believers from other denominations, high profile community figures, former Adventists, couples, families and students.

Darei Romaki, officer-in-charge of the Manabo coconut plantation, had been attending the United church but was convicted by the Holy Spirit after listening to the Sabbath message.

Alex Aia Apana, a former Catholic catechist (doctrine teacher), also joined the growing number of new believers when he was baptised at the Hohola church. "I looked after 1500 people in my church at Babiko village," he said. "Our church authority was the Pope and our doctrine was from the catechism. I had no idea of the Bible and never read a Bible in my life. I didn't know the truth."

Pastor Webster said he had been greatly blessed by his time in PNG. "When you share the Word of God you are enriched," he said.

Conference president Pastor Kove Tau thanked Pastor Webster and everyone involved in ensuring the program was a success. A follow-up program is scheduled for June when Pastor Webster will return to Port Moresby and speak about the seven seals in the book of Revelation.

—Jacqueline Wari/CPC Sivarai



Pastor Cameron Wari conducts a baptism.



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LIFESTYLE
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Giving hope

by Tracey Bridcutt

FEARING FOR HER LIFE, SHARMA* HAD TO FLEE HER country with a young child to escape from a violent partner.

"It was a horrible experience," she said. "But now that we are living in Australia we are happy. I want to move forward instead of being fearful all the time. With God's help we have come through so far but we still have a little bit of fear there."

Sharma was one of 12 women who participated in Hope Stayz, a three-day program for disadvantaged women and their children hosted by Adventist Women Greater Sydney Conference in partnership with Crosslands Youth and Convention Centre in the April school holidays.

Adventist Women director Beryl Landers (pictured above, right) said most had suffered domestic violence. "They have come from difficult circumstances," she said.

"These women won't probably ever be able to afford to take their families on a holiday. This has been an opportunity for them to have some time out while receiving practical help to get their lives back on track, boost their self-esteem and restore some value.

One of our goals was to help them understand that even when they are facing struggles in life, God is with them and He loves them."

Hosting the retreat for the first time was an enormous undertaking, but Mrs Landers was buoyed by the amazing support she received.

"God has provided above and beyond," she said. "I took

the Hope Stayz concept to the Breathe 2015 Adventist Women's Conference and in a single offering the women of Greater Sydney Conference gave \$10,000. It was an extraordinary response."

Similarly, when a call-out was made for clothing and shoes for the women and children, donations flooded in from churches around the Conference. The donations were used to stock the Hope Stayz "pop-up boutique"—with its beautiful decorative touches and welcoming atmosphere it brought the women incredible joy. "It was such a beautiful surprise I was nearly in tears," said Emily, a mother of three, after coming away from the boutique with a bag filled with clothes. "It made me feel very special."

The mums attended talks on budgeting, raising children and improving self-esteem, along with a special beauty and pampering session—relaxed in the knowledge that their children were having plenty of fun at the kids' club. Games and crafts were among the activities enjoyed by the 30 youngsters, including Sharma's six-year-old son who couldn't wait to join in the fun. "He's loving it; he even woke up at 3am today asking if it was time for the kids' club," she said.

The program involved 47 volunteers—from cooks to counsellors to kids' club carers—who all helped to make it a success.

"We will be following up with the women by connecting them with their local Adventist church and we are going to invite them to this year's Breathe conference," Mrs Landers said. "And with donations already coming in, it's looking positive that we will be holding Hope Stayz again next year."

* Names changed to protect identities.

Tracey Bridcutt is copyeditor for Adventist Record.



ANY DAY ANY TIME

by Sven Ostring

JESUS IS COMING SOON!" IT IS THE RALLYING CALL that brings an immediate thrill to our hearts as Seventh-day Adventists, no matter where we live or what our culture. It is the very reason for our existence. It is the motivation for our global mission. It has been the focus of the Adventist message for more than 171 years.

But that is where the potential problem lies. One hundred and seventy one years is a long time. All of the original Adventists who enthusiastically and courageously proclaimed that Jesus was coming soon have long since died. New generations of Seventh-day Adventists have risen up to take their place, but how long will we need to continue doing this? How many times will we need to pass the baton until we finally cross the finish line? Could Jesus really come any day at any time, like a thief in the night, or is our Adventist hope extraordinarily gullible and aimless?

As a movement we have also been very committed to using science and technology to aid us in spreading this incredible message of Jesus' soon return, but science has potentially added another dampener to our enthusiasm. It is coming up to 100 years ago that Albert Einstein revised our cosmological thinking by elucidating the mathematical equations that describe the theory of general relativity. Within 10 years these equations were used to project the fact that the universe itself had a beginning—the Bible was now being vindicated! But as the handles of the mathematical machinery were turned, Einstein's theory yielded the projection that the universe was 13.8 billion years old and that it had been formed through a rather chaotic process, at least to start with, which Sir Fred Hoyle disparagingly called the Big Bang.

Cosmologists decided to fast-forward the model of the universe into the future as well, and based on the accelerating rate at which they believe that our universe is expanding, they are now projecting that we are headed towards a Big Freeze. From the explosive barrel of the Big Bang, they believe we are heading towards the cosmic freezer, with everything in the universe expanding at an accelerating speed, becoming darker and colder as time goes on. Ultimately, our sun will run out of fuel, the stars will cease to shine, and life as we know it will slowly fade away and become extinct until everything is just one vast sea of particles, with the unstoppable cosmic rip of dark energy driving them further apart and into the darkness.¹

Of course, you don't have to worry about this happening any time soon—cosmologists predict that it will take trillions of years before all of the cosmic lights go out. But isn't Jesus supposed to be coming soon to take us home? Aren't we supposed to be living forever on the new earth one day in the near future? Will our bright Adventist hope be ultimately swallowed up by the cosmic darkness?²

Enter the Higgs boson, one of the most fundamental particles whose existence has only recently been confirmed by physicists. Sensationally and inappropriately named the "God particle", the reason why the Higgs boson is important is because it's the particle that gives all matter its mass. As physicists have learned more about the Higgs boson, they have been able to calculate some of its properties, including the Higgs potential.

Cosmologist Stephen Hawking stunned the world in September 2014 when he apocalyptically announced that the value of the Higgs potential showed that the universe is not in the most stable state that it could be and,

because of that, the universe could undergo a massive, rapid transformation without any warning.³ He wrote: "This could mean that the universe could undergo catastrophic vacuum decay, with a bubble of the true vacuum expanding at the speed of light. This could happen at any time and we wouldn't see it coming."⁴

Think of a bubble that emerges inside your glass of sparkling grape juice or a can of soft drink. Imagine though, that instead of staying the same size, this bubble starts growing at a phenomenal speed, the speed of light to be exact. Soon it would engulf you, the room you are sitting in and everything around you. Indeed, our entire solar system would be engulfed by the bubble within hours.

Sounds like something out of a nightmare or an apocalyptic, end-of-the-world movie! But Hawking is not the only cosmologist to predict this possibility. Physicists Michael Turner and Frank Wilczek raised the prospect back in 1982 in a letter they sent to the prestigious *Nature* journal.⁵ Two other cosmologists, Fred Adams and Gregory Laughlin, wrote a book called *The Five Ages of the Universe* in which they describe how this bubble transforms the universe: "The expanding bubble then enveloped an ever larger portion of the universe. Because of its phenomenal velocity, the shock wave impinged upon regions of space with no advance warning. No light signals, radio waves or causal communication of any kind could outrun the advancing front and forewarn of the impending doom. Preparation was as impossible as it was futile . . . The old universe, with its old version of the laws of physics, simply ceased to exist . . . Inside the bubble, with its new physical laws and the accompanying new possibilities for complexity and structure, the universe has achieved a new beginning."⁶

When would this happen? Adams and Laughlin predict it could occur "at virtually any time, as soon as tomorrow".⁷ Any day, any time, without any warning at all, the universe could be dramatically dissolved into something totally new.

It reminds me of something that Peter wrote almost 2000 years ago: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed" (2 Peter 3:10 ESV).

Of course, it's important to understand that theoretical physics is not specifically predicting the second coming of Jesus! However, since cosmologists agree that a dramatic, unexpected event could totally transform our universe, we should not shrug off and dismiss the Bible's prediction that Jesus will physically return on any day, at any time, and that He will physically transform this world when He returns.⁸

Cosmologists like Stephen Hawking, though, cannot tell us what we should do in preparation. The Bible gives us the advice we need: "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:11-13 ESV).

Rather than quietly ignoring what the Bible predicts about Jesus' soon return or living life perpetually frozen in fear, let's pay attention to the Bible's wise counsel, preparing patiently and expectantly within the power and protection of the Holy Spirit, until we actually get to see Jesus—the Person who loved us so much that He would die on the cross for us—coming in the clouds of heaven. What an absolutely incredible day that will be! ✠

**Ultimately, our
sun will run out of
fuel, the stars will
cease to shine, and
life as we know it
will slowly fade
away . . .**

1. Beatrice Tinsley, "From Big Bang to Eternity?" *Natural History Magazine*, October 1975, p105. For an accessible summary of the ways that science predicts that the world will end, check out the BBC Big Questions story: <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150602-how-will-the-universe-end>.

2. The fact that the Big Freeze predicts that the universe will ultimately become totally uninhabitable and devoid of intelligent life is reason enough for us as Seventh-day Adventists to reject the Big Freeze as the actual description of the future of the universe. As William Lane Craig has noted, "Theological eschatology therefore takes the findings of physical eschatology to be at best projections of the future course of events rather than actual descriptions." <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-end-of-the-world>. Since God

also has the power to create the universe much more recently than what the Big Bang projects, as well as having the power to recently create astronomical entities within the universe in a more miraculous and immediate way, it is advisable for us as Seventh-day Adventists to abstain from making a commitment to believing that the standard Big Bang model is the way that God actually brought the universe into existence.

3. The current state of the universe is called a metastable false vacuum.

4. <http://www.livescience.com/47737-stephen-hawking-higgs-boson-universe-doomsday.html>.

5. Michael Turner and Frank Wilczek, "Is our vacuum metastable", *Nature* 298 (1982): 633-634. Abstract available at: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v298/n5875/abs/298633a0.html>. Article available at: [http://ctp.lns.mit.edu/Wilczek_Nature/\(72\)vacuum_metastable.pdf](http://ctp.lns.mit.edu/Wilczek_Nature/(72)vacuum_metastable.pdf).

6. Fred Adams and Gregory Laughlin, "The Five Ages of the Universe: Inside the Physics of Eternity", Free Press, 2000, p154.

7. Fred Adams and Gregory Laughlin, "A Dying Universe: the Long-Term Fate and Evolution of Astrophysical Objects," *Reviews of Modern Physics* 69:2 (1997): 364. Available at: <http://arxiv.org/pdf/astro-ph/9701131v1.pdf>.

8. William Lane Craig's reflections on what an impending quantum phase transition of the universe means for us as Christians in his article "The End of the World" are valuable to consider. Available at: <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-end-of-the-world>. Some Adventists may be quick to remark that a number of major prophetic predictions, like the global rise of the Beast and the legal and economic enforcement of its mark, remain to be fulfilled. The prophetic counsel Jesus has given us is valuable in response: "Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones", *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p11.

Pastor Sven Ostrin is director of Discipleship Movements for the Greater Sydney Conference.



PNG Adventists help fellow students

Adventist students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) have made donations to fellow students affected by a dormitory fire. The April 1 blaze destroyed the property of more than 100 students. With the help of UPNG Adventist Church, affected students were provided with basic necessities such as bed sheets, towels and toiletries. Church elder and Personal Ministries leader Arilla Haro said the integral part of this donation was highlighting communal responsibility where students could help each other in times of need. —*EMTV News*



For His glory

Yong Shin Chee was recently ordained into pastoral ministry at the Forrester's Beach church (NSW). The afternoon service featured special items, a sermonette from Pastor Justin Lawman (president of the North New South Wales Conference), reflections from Pastor Chee's parents and the ordination charge from Pastor Brendan Pratt. "My friends who I grew up with in Malaysia probably won't even recognise the kind of person I am today but that's how God works," Pastor Chee said. "He transforms and He moulds and He uses us for His glory." —*Northpoint*



Adventist honoured for youth work

An Adventist in western Sydney has been honoured for her work with at-risk youth at Mt Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency. At the 2016 Women of the West Awards, Jocelyn Sio was named highly commended in the Young Women of the West category, which highlights the achievements of female western Sydney residents aged 18-28. A major focus of her work is helping at-risk young men move away from bad habits and find pathways that match their own interests. "I try to build up the character of boys, to help them identify with what real men are about—I want to enable these young men to see they have great skills," she said. —*St Marys-Mt Druitt Star*



Preaching welcomed

A series of evangelistic meetings at Salamei settlement on Los Negros Island, near Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, attracted 400 people each night, some walking as far as 12 kilometres to attend. Retired pastor Sam Pakop Savat (pictured) delivered the message on the theme "Come out of her" to an audience that included many Catholics who appreciated hearing what the Bible says about the last days. Local Adventist leaders are planning a Revelation seminar for attendees who are interested in exploring the issues in more depth. —*Garry Laukei/Wilson Kuve*



Heart for community

Waihi church (New Zealand) recently celebrated the first anniversary of its partnership with Welcome Baby, part of ADRA's Church Partnership Program. The program currently involves 55 local projects run through Adventist churches across New Zealand. It includes support for new mums and their babies, youth mentoring, family budgeting, family health and parenting support projects. "Thank you, Waihi church! They may be small but they have such a large heart for their community," said a post to ADRA New Zealand's Facebook page. —*ADRA New Zealand*



Production update

More than 70 local programs have been filmed for Hope Channel Vanuatu as part of Project Hope, the collaboration that aims to produce more than 300 programs for five different countries with the help of volunteers from around the South Pacific. The programs filmed for Vanuatu cover a variety of topics, including health, preaching, music and testimonies. Via social media, the Vanuatu team requested that we pray for and support Hope Channel so they, by God's grace, can reach every home with the gospel. —*Record staff*



Breaking the cycle

We've long been told that quick fix weight loss solutions don't work. Short term fasts or "cleanses" can lead to quick, rapid weight loss, but the weight often returns just as quickly and often with a bit extra for good measure.

One of the reasons for this is that the body defends itself against losing weight. This might seem like an unhealthy behaviour given our current obesity epidemic. But in times past this was a very important survival strategy for the body, when access to food was sporadic and any excess needed to be stored and used efficiently.

A recent research paper has shed some light on how we might be able to override this natural tendency of the body. Danish researchers found that when an overweight person was able to maintain an initial weight loss for a year, the body appeared to "accept" the new weight and not try to gain the excess back.

Research like this highlights the difficulties of maintaining a healthy weight with short-term measures, but it also suggests that to maintain a healthy weight long-term there are ways to tip the odds in our favour. Healthy lifestyle changes such as adopting a diet full of foods with a lower energy density like whole vegetables, legumes, fruits and wholegrains, building activity into our daily lives and re-engineering our environments to support these behaviours are a great place to start when looking to maintain a healthy body weight and break the pattern of steady weight gain.



Sweet potato rosti with cannellini beans

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 5 minutes Serves: 6

- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 550g sweet potatoes, grated
- 1 red onion, grated
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 2 tablespoons margarine

Baked Beans

- 1 can cannellini beans
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 sprigs sage, chopped
- 1 can reduced salt crushed tomatoes

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Whisk the egg and flour together in a bowl. Squeeze excess moisture out of the sweet potatoes. Stir the potato into the egg mixture, then add the onion.
2. Heat oil and margarine in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Form the potato mixture into four similarly-sized balls. When the butter starts to brown, add the balls in batches and press down with a spatula to form patties. Cook for 4-5 minutes, until brown. Transfer to the oven and cook for 5-7 minutes.
3. For baked beans, drain and rinse the beans. Heat the oil in a medium saucepan. Add garlic, sage, tomatoes and beans. Simmer for 10 minutes. Serve on top of rosti.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: Kilojoules 1345kJ (320 cal). Protein 10g. Total fat 10g. Carbohydrate 47g. Sodium 210mg. Potassium 515mg. Calcium 144mg. Iron 2.2mg. Fibre 5g.

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

Hope, peace & prayer

a story of redemption

by Jayne Susanne Evans

I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS "SPECIAL". I blame my parents for that!

From a very young age I was told that I was special because they CHOSE me! I was adopted by George and Loma Evans a few months after my birth in November 1965 and I sincerely believe that God Himself chose these wonderful people to be my parents and for Greg and Peter to be my siblings. Keep reading and I think you'll see why.

I had a happy childhood. I attended Wahroonga Adventist Church in Sydney with my family and went to school at Wahroonga Adventist Primary then Strathfield Adventist High until we relocated from Sydney to Dora Creek and I then attended Avondale Adventist High.

As I entered my teen years I became rebellious. Despite my parents' concerns, I chose to attend church less and less and began following my own path.

In spite of this, God continued to provide blessings in my life—probably due to my mother who has never ceased praying for her children. Parents: never stop praying for your kids. God does hear and He promises to return them to His love.

I completed high school and studied nursing at the University of Technology Sydney. I loved my studies and when I began work, I loved being a nurse. But I was still too busy for God. I had a generous and loving family, great friends, I did well in uni and then at work. Why did I need

God? It was while I was at university that my brother, Peter, became very ill with HIV and eventually succumbed to AIDS shortly after I completed nursing. I blamed God. We had all prayed so hard that he would be healed but there was no miracle of physical healing for Pete and this left me feeling bitter and confused.

Mum reassured me that a miracle had indeed occurred as Peter had embraced God before he died, after having been an atheist for most of his adult life. She explained that sometimes God sees a better path . . . Peter was safe from temptation and was asleep and waiting for the return of Jesus. I, however, wanted Peter healed and present in my life as we had been very close. This was a significant blow to my faith at the time. Now my walk away from God wasn't just a casual drift out of disinterest; it was a deliberate rejection. God had failed my family, I felt. I didn't want anything to do with Him. And yet God still continued to bless me.

In 1991, Murray Gould and I married and God gave us two lovely children: Angela, born in 1992, and Peter, born in 1996. Sadly our marriage did not last and we divorced after seven years. We both went on to remarry and we have been fortunate enough to retain good family relations and friendships with each other and the extended family. I still think of Murray's family as my own and am kindly treated that way when our paths cross.

I had remarried and lived for some time in Bonnells Bay with my children and husband, Phil. Phil is an atheist, having had no exposure to religion until he met my family. I think our Christian background has made an impression on him as he often comments on the lovely relationships we share with each other and the peaceful way we conduct ourselves when together. I live in hope and pray that one day he will accept Jesus as his Saviour. I pray for my children to be awakened to their need of God, and also my friends and family. Prayer is such a powerful tool in the Christian life.

Three years ago we sold up and relocated to Berry Park, near Morpeth. Twelve months after our move, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I elected to have surgery and then chemotherapy; feeling reassured by my doctors that my chances of relapse were very low. I still didn't need God. I was going to get well! I had my treatment and returned to work.

Eight months after I finished chemotherapy, I started to suffer very bad back pain. On investigation it was discovered that cancer had returned and was now attacking my bones and liver. To say I was shocked was an understatement. This wasn't supposed to happen to me. I was special! But here I was . . . given 12 months to live. At almost the same time, my dad was diagnosed with cancer, as was my husband's mum, Ethel. It was an awful triple whammy.

As news got around about my illness, I know that many people started praying for me. I believe these prayers continue to sustain me and have been instrumental in me turning back to my faith. I am so grateful for those prayers.

For a couple of months after my diagnosis I became very depressed and disappeared down the rabbit hole of grief. Sometimes I would wake in the early hours of the morning and pray. It was one night, after I said "amen", that I had the most beautiful experience. Lying there in the dark with tears running down my face and feeling no hope for a long and happy life with my family and friends, I heard that still, small voice. He said, "Your name is written in the Book of Life." A sense of peace like I had never experienced before came upon me and I fell into a deep and restorative sleep. That was the moment I realised that Jesus had never forgotten me. He had been waiting for me to recognise my need for Him. I had hope and peace. Something I thought I would never experience again.

As the Bible says, "Though you were once far away from God, now you have been brought near to Him because of the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13 NLT). And "I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone O Lord will keep me safe" (Psalm 4:8 NLT).

The next morning I woke up and started my day with

prayer. I went to my bookcase and pulled out *Steps to Christ* by Ellen White. This had been a gift from Eveline Simpson, the director of Nursing at Avondale Retirement Village many years ago. She wrote in the front of this little book: "Remember the Lord loves you and His word to you is 'Fear not: For I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine'" (Isaiah 43:1). Wow! This was just what I needed to read. I was hungering for more of God's word and picked up my Bible. I started to read and pray on a daily basis and my hope and peace grew stronger with my new-found faith. I experienced the promise: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3 KJV).

Jesus in His love has given me wonderful family and friends but in His infinite wisdom, He knew I would benefit from some company on this spiritual journey and I soon received a phone call from my ex-husband's wife, Liz Gould. She asked if she could visit me. I agreed and we had a lovely time together and Liz asked if I would like her to come weekly and study the prophecies with me. I gratefully accepted and we have been meeting each week for six months and studying God's Word. A couple of months ago, Liz asked me about baptism—something I had already

been giving serious thought to. I was convinced that Adventists had the truth and I wanted to follow Jesus and His way. Baptism was the next logical step in my spiritual journey. I met with Pastor Danny and then Pastor Vadim and set the date for my baptism.

I lost my earthly father, George, in September last year and we lost my mother-in-law, Ethel, in January this

year. I don't know how I would have coped without my faith. We have a hope that we will see our loved ones again one sweet day when Jesus returns to take us away from this sad earth and restore us to eternal life with Him. I hold onto the promises: "I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow" (Jeremiah 31:13 KJV). "And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Revelation 21:4 KJV). "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:18).

If you haven't invited Jesus into your life, I can highly recommend the experience. It's my belief that our time on earth is very short and that Jesus will soon return to claim His believers and destroy Satan and sin forever. How I long to see that day! I pray that we will all be ready to go home with Him.

I've always thought of myself as special because of the extraordinary love of my earthly parents. Today, I know I'm special because of the extraordinary love of my Heavenly Father. I face the challenge of cancer with complete trust in Him.



Jayne Susanne Evans is a nurse, a mother and animal lover.

**As news got around
about my illness,
I know that many
people started
praying for me.**

WHY AM I A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST?

by Kevin Wilson

?

“POTLUCKS.”

“FAMILY FEEL.”

“HAYSTACKS.”

“MY PARENTS.”

“MY TEACHER.”

“SABBATH.”

“NUTMEAT AND WEET-BIX.”

AND THE LIST GOES ON when one's asked about why they are a Seventh-day Adventist.

In light of the recent notoriety the denomination received in the US presidential campaign, I had to revisit this question myself:

“Why are YOU a Seventh-day Adventist, Kevin?”

I'm not going to lie. This was a tough one. When I reflected on my 25 short years as an Adventist, however, I was able to boil it down to a single sentence.

The only reason I am a Seventh-day Adventist is that I believe we have the clearest, richest and fullest picture of the love of God in the Person of Jesus Christ.

That's it.

The following is the “un-packaging” of this long overdue, comprehensive explanation I owe to you, my reader. Hopefully by the end, you'll not only get a better look into why I believe what I believe, but also understand why I do and say the stuff I do and say. Here we go:

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE TRINITY

exalts Jesus as One with the Father and the Spirit—distinct yet equal in authority. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit live out their lives in each other, through each other, and this other-centred love has been poured out full strength to the human race through the Person of Jesus Christ.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND CREATION presents Jesus as One through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. I believe that He is the soundtrack of all nature and the Sustainer of all life.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH reminds me of what was created through Jesus and what was redeemed by Jesus. This is a time where I can fully rest from my need for validation and rest in the love of God.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF HUMANITY lets me know that I am known, valued, understood, appreciated and enjoyed because I've been created by Jesus. Because I'm fearfully and wonderfully made, my life finds its purpose, joy, and function in and through Him.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE "GOD-STORY" OR THE GREAT CONTROVERSY presents Jesus as the conquering Hero who has successfully completed the ultimate rescue mission in earth's history. I find my place in this story as a beloved, victorious son of God who'll one day see the face of his Creator, Redeemer and Friend.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS elevates Christ as the theme and song of all biblical history. We believe that His account isn't localised within just the first four books of the New Testament, but from

Genesis to Revelation, every chapter and every verse, echoes His love ultimately manifested through His sacrifice on the cross.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND SALVATION magnifies Jesus as the Author, Provider and Finisher of our salvation. We are justified by His blood, sanctified through His Spirit and will one day be glorified through His grace.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH transforms every waking moment of our existence as a spiritual experience through the spirit of Jesus. The dichotomous relationship between the "sacred" and the "secular" is decimated through Him. The more I'm aware of His presence in my life, the more I grow into His likeness so I can treat others as He did—with compassion, justice and mercy.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE CHURCH honours Jesus as the foundational "adhesive" who unites all His children together. This is a community where everyone is entrusted with embodying and telling someone the God-Story. It is a refuge in the midst of this stormy world where we pray together, play together and process together, all the while praising Him who has our back.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE MISSION OF GOD'S REMNANT finds its reason and method in Jesus. We are to introduce others to His

love, experience joy in Him and live out our lives in Him as we approach the end of this sojourn on earth.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND BAPTISM as a symbol of our new birth finds its impetus and rubric in the life and death of Jesus. As I rise up from the "watery grave", it's an outward expression of an inward change that has taken place because of Him.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE LORD'S SUPPER as an emblem of Jesus' experience invites all His friends to authentic service, brotherly love and faithful community in Him.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE GIFT OF PROPHECY highlights Jesus as its theme of contemplation and admiration. The ministry of this prophetic gift through Ellen White has brought me closer to Jesus than anyone has ever done.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE LAW OF GOD honours Jesus as the mode and purpose for relational faithfulness between God and us. Because of what He did for me on the cross, I no longer work towards victory but from it.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND STEWARDSHIP acknowledges Jesus as the Provider of my time, talents and resources. I am entrusted with them to better the environments I find myself in, whether it be within the community of God or outside of it.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND MARRIAGE as a heavenly institution finds its reason for existence in Jesus. His selfless love poured out to His bride—the church—gives me a model from which I can learn to love my spouse.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND CHRIST'S MINISTRY in the heavenly sanctuary elevates Jesus as not only my Saviour and Friend, but also as my Judge, Advocate and High Priest who prays for me even right now!

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE END OF LIFE honours Jesus as the Conqueror of death! Death is not the end but a sleep. The real and living hope of reuniting with loved ones energises my life's pursuits.

HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE MILLENNIUM, THE NEW EARTH AND THE SECOND COMING lauds Jesus as the King of a new kind of existence—one where there will be no more sickness, no more pain, no more death and no more sorrow. A place filled with inexpressible joy and unfathomable happiness and peace. A place where I can finally see my ever faithful Friend face to face. There it is. The package and its contents.

I don't have 28 reasons why I'm a Seventh-day Adventist.

I have One. And He's all I need.



Kevin Wilson blogs at Cross Culture Christian. This post was reprinted with permission.

MONEY AND THE END OF THE WORLD

Imagine the country's average income was \$100,000 a year and you earned \$125,000. Sounds pretty sweet doesn't it? Now imagine the country's average income was \$200,000 and your income was \$175,000. Which situation would you prefer to be in? The one where you earned more than the national average, or where you earned more, but less than the national average?

When this survey was conducted in England a few years ago, the majority of people said they would rather have the possibility of lower spending opportunities if it kept them ahead of the pack!

In this month's Hope Channel *Signs of the Times*, former editor Bruce Manners explores our strange relationship with money and the many lessons Jesus taught about it. Here's a sneak peek:

"To obtain something is to create an exchange that leaves all parties feeling whole and holy in their comings and goings with each other. Money used as a spiritual tool in this way has the potential to leave everyone resting in a place of peace, of shalom."

And in his regular column debunking the many end-of-world theories, Kim Peckham discovers there may be more similarities between terrorist group ISIL and Christianity than we would care to have.

Hope Channel's *Signs of the Times*—a modern Christian perspective on our world today. Get your hands on a copy, share it with your friends and visit

<hopechannel.com> where you'll find a selec-

tion of some of the latest articles and much more. And whatever you do, don't forget to share links with your friends and neighbours.



R MY STORY



Charen Cauton

Mum was Catholic and Dad was Methodist. He worked most of the year in Saudi Arabia. Growing up in the Philippines, we would sit around in the evenings and have a family discussion. Little did I know it would prepare me for Sabbath School.

When my sister moved to New Zealand, I soon followed her. She eventually started attending Papatō-

toe Adventist church in Auckland and was baptised by Pastor Brendan Pratt. If I didn't have to work, I attended church with them because I lived in their house. When they moved to Australia, I stopped attending.

I was working shift work at the airport. In 2008, I decided, with a friend, that I should look around for a church to attend. I even went to a Samoan church for about a month. The pastor had to preach in English because I was there and I felt bad for him.

In 2009, I found a church. Well, it was a building with a cross on it. Inside it was plain, with rows of chairs like an auditorium. There was a drum kit and some instruments up the front. "Now," I thought, "I love music, this is the church for me!"

It was Tuesday and I stressed all week about asking my supervisor for Sunday off so I could attend church. I prayed, "Lord, I really want to go to that church but I'm scared to tell the boss about skipping Sunday." On Friday I read something that said, if something doesn't kill you, just try it. So I asked if I could start at 12pm instead of 9am and the boss said yes.

The church was Baptist. They had questions and answers in the bulletin that you could fill out from the screen. I never brought a Bible but every Sunday it seemed like God was talking to me.

After my parents had some health problems I decided to move to Australia to be with the rest of my family. They were attending Werribee Multicultural Seventh-day Adventist Church. Eventually I started attending and discovered so many things I'd never heard about the Bible, like "Really, there's a talking donkey in the Bible?"

My family and I were comfortable and regularly attending Werribee. One day before the service, Pastor Hensley Gungadoo came up to me and asked, "So Charen, when are you going to be baptised?" "I'm waiting for the ta-da!" I replied. He explained that there was no ta-da moment but the idea had been planted. A few weeks later my brother-in-law was sharing with me a story in *Adventist Record* about 50 people who were baptised in crocodile infested waters. That did it, I made up my mind to be baptised and the following week I told my Sabbath School teacher. I was baptised on January 21, 2012, at a beach with my mother!

But it wasn't necessarily all easy from there. I was glad to be baptised in January because the next month I had to return to NZ for work. I was worried and wanted the armour of God on me. I was afraid of what my friends would say if they discovered I wouldn't go out on Friday nights or wouldn't eat pork. I was also worried about what my boss would say if I asked for Saturdays off. I had always worked on Sabbaths in New Zealand previously. But without even asking my boss told me, "Charen, take Saturday off OK?" My heart leapt for joy. I've since worked in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin—everywhere I go, my training partner has given me Saturdays off! And every church I visit, I'm invited home for lunch. God is good. —with Jarrod Stackelroth



Large-hearted Christian

Pastor Nelson "Nubby" Burns was a missionary to India in his early years and later to Fiji. These experiences were an endless source of sermon illustrations and coloured the years that followed.

In 1944 Nubby arrived at Avondale with a recently obtained MA degree from Walla Walla College and took up the role of Bible Department head. For almost 20 years he had a huge influence on the training of two generations of ministerial students. Nubby saw the good in everyone, even when the Discipline Committee of the college could not, and he was an able advocate in such meetings. On one occasion, Nubby did not respond quickly enough when asked to comment on a student in trouble, which led to the committee chairman declaring, "Then he must be hopeless!"

His preaching ability was exceptional and his Friday night Vespers programs at Avondale were much looked forward to by the students who insisted he could find a sermon illustration anywhere, including the contents of his car glovebox or off the label of a Nutmeat can. On one occasion he spoke powerfully on the parable of the 10 young virgins, which led into an effective testimony meeting until one earnest young man assured all present that when the Lord came he would not be found sleeping with the five foolish virgins. The resultant mirth meant all present went home early to the dormitories that evening!

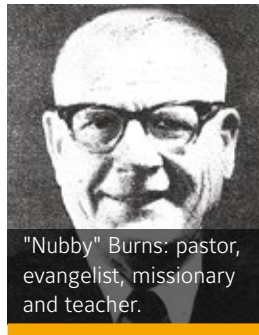
Nubby was more interested in the character and spiritual life of his students than their grades and his approach to marking was unconventional. At a time when Avondale was making the transition into a degree granting institution, Nubby's grades were seriously inflated, causing concern among his faculty peers. His colleague, Pastor AFJ Kranz, once asked him how he could get through his marking so quickly compared with other faculty members. Nubby's response: "Well, I look at the name and think, 'Well, he is such a godly boy, I'll give him a 'B''"; a response that did nothing to diminish the concerns of his fellow lecturers!

Retirement came, and when his wife died he felt very much alone, even neglected. His health suffering, he felt life no longer had much purpose. When he moved into the Coronella Retirement Village in Victoria those in village leadership wisely appointed him honorary chaplain and soon the old sparkle was back. He visited, organised worship, and on occasion took great delight when introducing the speaker of the day as one of "his boys".

Pastor Burns, to quote a tribute later written about him, "never lost his dignity or eloquence. When he stood up in the Coronella dining room to pronounce what was to be his final blessing, at the noonday meal, it was a beautiful prayer. Seconds later he collapsed; an hour later his lips were sealed."* He was 82.

Soon, in the kingdom, generations of his "boys and girls" will have the opportunity to rise up and call him blessed, to hear that fine musician sing once more and speak again of the Jesus he loved. "So many will be there because of a loving and lovable Christian called 'Nubby'".*

*Australasian Record, May 21, 1979.



"Nubby" Burns: pastor, evangelist, missionary and teacher.

Re-digging the wells for renewal: the Josiah factor

As Isaac returned to the wells of Abraham at Gerar, so we must return to proven methods for revival in the church today. In every genuine revival the Word of God has been pivotal, for through the Spirit it cuts to the heart, convicts of sin, righteousness and judgement, and gives life.

Read John 16:8, 6:63.

The centrality of the Word of God in revival is perhaps best exemplified in the experience of King Josiah. After Hilkiah the High Priest discovered the law of God in the temple, Shaphan the scribe read it to the king, who repented deeply and read it to the nation. Both king and people then made covenants to follow the Lord and keep His Word with all their heart and soul. A great reformation followed.

Read 2 Kings 22, 23.

Daniel's prayer of confession revealed that disobedience to God's law and prophets lay at the foundation of national ruin. We all need to read God's Word, not for warm, fuzzy feelings, but, like Jesus, that we might do whatever God says in it. We also need to turn back to God's instructions through His servant Ellen White and follow them, rather than seeking to avoid or argue with that which God has so plainly revealed.

Read Daniel 9:4-7, 11; John 14:31.

The timely contemporary call to make disciples will surely succeed if as leaders and people we decide today that the reading and following of God's instructions through His prophets will be central to us and those we lead.



The gate complex of Megiddo, Israel. Josiah was tragically killed in battle at Megiddo by Pharaoh Necho (2 Kings 23:29).



KIDS! kids' SPACE

MAZE CHALLENGE

FOR THE PROPER TIME WE

CHOOSE AN ARROW AND
HELP THE DOVE FIND NOAH
WILL REAP J



NEXT CHALLENGE

TO REVEAL THE MEMORY
VERSE, CROSS OUT THE WINNING
LETTER EVERY TIME IT APPEARS AROUND
THE YELLOW CIRCLE

MEMORY VERSE

" _____

_____ , _____.

•

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.

PIOUS VIOLENCE?

Bill Miller, via email

Re: "A time for war" (Editorial, April 16). Did abuses exist during Christ's time on earth? Yes—but do we find Jesus recommending the use of "pious violence" to right the wrongs He saw? We have a resounding "No". Instead, He stated in the face of the greatest injustice in history, "My kingdom is not of this world, if it were, My servants would fight . . ."

When "Christians" engage in violence, is it possible that they are not being faithful servants of Jesus Christ?

While the term "just war" may sound beautiful in theory, in practice, war is innately unjust as the innocent are slaughtered. If each of us, individually, decided against killing, there would be no wars. It is the "little foxes that spoil the vines".

One of the devil's masterpieces is to delude humans into believing that slight variations in the "road" present no danger. There is only one "strait and narrow" way that leads to heaven. Following that requires implicit obedience to the "Law and the Testimony", even when our senses (or our concept of justice) seem to indicate otherwise. That is why we have the pointed admonition, "ponder the path of thy feet".

STILL A SIN

Hermann Bodenmann, via website

The length of an editorial ("A time for war", April 16) seems to me too short to discuss such a difficult aspect of Christian responsibility in society. I suggest that you take up this topic again and explore it more deeply.

By the way: If you refer

to Dietrich Bonhoeffer to support your view that there is something like a Christian approved behaviour to pull the trigger you should: (1) not mix our problems today in constitutional democracies with the brutal and unjust Nazi regime in Germany; and (2) we should always be aware that Bonhoeffer was very clear on the fact that killing Hitler is without any discussion a violation of the sixth commandment and a sin. The difficult and inhuman situation in those times was for Bonhoeffer no justification for a "just" or "justified" homicide. In Bonhoeffer's sight it was still a sin—even to kill Hitler.

FOREIGN AID

Steve Cinzio, Qld

Listed among ecclesiastical dignitaries in *The Australian* on April 20, 2016, I was very pleased to see the name of Jorge Munoz, the Australian Union Conference leader.

What is he doing adding his support along with 12 Australian clerics of Catholic and Protestant persuasion? Simply uniting with them to lobby the Australian Federal Government not to cut back on foreign aid in the May budget. In my life as an Adventist this is the first time that I have become aware of our Church uniting with other Christians for a cause that some may say is on the verge of politics. I applaud the fact that my Church has grown confident enough to disregard the naysayers and has proudly aligned itself in the move to help the poor.

Like them, who will always be with us, so will we ever have those in our midst who find what they are looking for and ignore the imperative of

the gospel to act responsibly towards the less fortunate. We can all be proud of a Church like ours.

THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE

Maurice Pratt, NSW

I read with interest the article "Light on the Track" (Feature, April 16). A few years ago, I walked the Kokoda Track and had the privilege of experiencing the difference the gospel has made to the villagers and the effect it has on those lucky enough to visit.

As you walk along the track, the difference between Adventist villages and those that are not is plainly obvious. We found that the Adventist villages were welcoming, very clean and not a pig to be seen.

A highlight for our group was when we were fortunate to arrive at Efogi on a Friday afternoon, in time to join the locals for Friday night vespers. Many of our hiking party, curious at the ringing of the bell, followed the villagers into the church. We were all very warmly welcomed and were offered the few chairs they had, while they sat on the hard, concrete floor. In the darkness we sang hymns and prayed as we welcomed in the Sabbath, each of us being moved by the beautiful singing and the simplicity of worship.

The witness of the villagers at Efogi and at the other Adventist villages along the track led the other trekkers to ask the three Adventists in our group many questions about what we believed.

I commend these Adventists for living their faith, despite the significant employment challenges they face.

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Digital marketing officer—Avondale College of Higher Education (Lake Macquarie Campus, NSW).** We have a unique opportunity for a digital marketer to join our marketing team. This role will see you devising digital marketing tactics and implementing and maintaining best-practice digital marketing principles and activities to drive enrolments across all course areas. For a full job description and selection criteria please visit our website <www.avondale.edu.au/information/employment>. Enquiries may be directed to Elysha Stephens, marketing manager, on (02) 4980 2381. Applications, addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications close **May 29, 2016**.

■ **Television panel presenters (part-time/casual)—Adventist Media (Wahroonga, NSW).** Are you vivacious, informed and opinionated about current events, entertainment, Christian faith and the challenges facing families in 2016? Adventist Media is looking for witty, intelligent and passionate communicators of all ages to appear on a new women's panel TV show. You'll need to devote time to researching the topics and commit to several hours of shooting in the studio every fortnight/month. Applicants in good standing at their local Adventist church, and with qualifications/experience in journalism, media, acting, public speaking or performance are especially sought. For more information or to submit your letter of application, please contact the producer, Kent Kingston, at <kentkingston@record.net.au> or +612 9847 2218. Applications close **June 10, 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.

■ **Human resources manager (People Services)—South Pacific Division. Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking an experienced human resources manager who can develop effective relationships across the organisation and provide a professional HR service to the Church in the South Pacific. This full-time role will be based at the Division head office in Wahroonga and will report to the general manager of People Services. The successful candidate must be eligible to work in Australia. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website <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. Or email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax to: (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **June 5, 2016**.

■ **Business analyst—student systems—Avondale College of Higher Education (Lake Macquarie Campus, NSW).** Avondale College seeks to attract a suitably qualified and experienced person to provide system-level support to all users of Avondale's Student Management System (SMS) and to provide a data analysis and reporting function to the Academic Registrar's office. For more information,

a job description and selection criteria, visit our website <www.avondale.edu.au/information/employment>. Applications, addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications close **May 31, 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**.

■ **Principal—Hills Adventist College, Greater Sydney Conference.** Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Greater Sydney) Ltd is seeking to appoint an experienced principal for Hills Adventist College, a dual campus school, operating a P-12 education system. The successful applicant will be a practising and involved member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have a minimum of five years' teaching and administration experience in schools. The applicant will hold a teaching degree, with a Masters or higher qualification a preferred option. BOSTES registration and a current Working with Children Check clearance are essential. The core competencies of this role are: leading teaching and learning; developing self and others; leading improvement, innovation and change; leading the management of the school; and, engaging and working with the community. If you would like to lead an active team in a growing and developing Christian College as part of the mission of the Adventist Church, then this is the opportunity for you. For more information and a detailed position profile, please contact Ian Low (HR officer) on (02) 8876 5240 or email <ianlow@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **June 7, 2016**.

■ **Campground caretaker—Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, Qld)** is seeking caretakers to manage the Riverside Campground and Convention Centre, commencing by the end of August 2016. This multi-faceted, live-in position would suit a caring, committed couple with good organisational and people skills. Ongoing marketing, cleaning, maintenance, gardening and handyman experience is required. This is more than a job, it's a ministry. For further information phone Rob Ellison on (07) 4779 3988 or email <robellison@adventist.org.au>. Applications in writing should be sent to the General Secretary, PO Box 51, Aitkenvale, Qld, 4814. Applications close **June 17, 2016**.

■ **IT senior software developer—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd is seeking a highly experienced software developer to be responsible for the development and support of approved software applications employed by the South Pacific Division. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor, to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **May 30, 2016**.

ANNIVERSARY



Ward. Charles and Ruth still hold hands every day, 70 years after their marriage. They met when they were members of the Youth Hostel Association at the end of World War II. They were married 9.2.1946. Almost 15 years after their marriage Charlie became an Adventist at Ryde church in Sydney, NSW. A year or so later Ruth was also baptised and since then a dozen of their relatives have also been baptised. Charlie is well known for his model of Noah's Ark. He has presented lectures on the ark all around Australia. Charlie and Ruth have retired and now live at the Adventist Retirement Village, Brisbane, Qld. They have three sons Philip, John and Danny (dec), 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Wendy Lawman, and Tori-Anne Mills, daughter of Diane and David McElroy, were married 31.1.16 in Hillview church. Tori and Caleb met at a Super Fridayz program at Wallsend church in 2014. They are both studying at University of New England and live near Armidale.

Rick Hergenhan



Twine-Stokes. Geoffrey Walter Twine and Rhonda Aileen

Stokes, were married 6.3.16 in Swan Valley church, Stratton, WA.

Lynn Burton

OBITUARIES

Brown, Ita Josephine, born 7.3.1923; died 22.5.15 in Napier, NZ. She is survived by Kevin Smith (Coffs Harbour, NSW).

Phil Laws, Anton Van Wyk

Cassie, Shirley Rose (nee Brooks), born 4.2.1937 in Lismore, NSW; died 5.3.16 in Logan Hospital, Qld. On 19.1.1957 she married Allen Cassie. She was predeceased by her husband and her grandson Justin. She is survived by her children: Linda, Kenneth, Brian, Rodney and Neville. Shirley was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She worked at many places, including Ashgrove Disability Services, Australia House, Wilson Youth Detention Centre and Bardon Home for Children. Shirley was a faithful member of Mitchelton church, serving as deaconess and Pathfinder leader. She now awaits the call of Jesus, "the Life-Giver".

David Lamb

O'Hara, Ivy Bertha (nee Briggs), born 16.10.1927 in Warragul, Vic; died 7.3.16 in Ipswich, Qld. She was predeceased by her son Barry Sparkes. She is survived by her husband Alexander; daughter-in-law Mary; grandchildren Peter and Catherine; and her sister Joy Bowers. On 21.3.09

Ivy was re-baptised at Esk, Qld. She was a bright, energetic lady who was much loved by all who knew her. Ivy was always looking out for the good of others. She loved Jesus, had total faith and confidence in Him, and looked forward to His second coming.

John Rabbas

Tipple, Margaret Ruth Leslie, died 21.9.15, aged 91. She was the much-loved wife of the late Frank and adored mother of John (Terrigal, NSW), Stuart (Terrigal), David (Christchurch, NZ), Trudi (Alstonville, NSW) and Barbara (Brunei) and their families. Margaret was a very special lady known as Grandma to many, including her 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Stuart Tipple



Ward, Ruth Constance, born 10.9.1926 in Marrickville, NSW; died 9.3.16 in Victoria Point, Qld. On 9.2.1946 she married Charlie Ward; they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary just a month before she died. She was predeceased by her son Danny in 1978. She is survived by her husband; sister Margaret; two sons Philip (and Judy) and John (and Gwen); 12 grandchildren; and about 16 great-grandchildren (including step and foster). Ruth and Charlie became Adventists in the early 1960s. Ruth used her gifts of craft-making and singing to God's glory, particularly in Ryde, Waitara, Caboolture and Bribie Island churches. She and Charlie were renowned for their hospitality and kindness in opening their home to the needy. Ruth was a natural leader, full of life, exuberance and fun.

Mike Brownhill, David Gibson

ADVERTISEMENTS

Northern Australian Conference Quadrennial Constituency Meeting. Notice is hereby given

of the 26th Constituency Meeting of the Northern Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be held at the Riverside Convention Centre, 55 Leopold Street, Aitkenvale, Townsville. The business session will be held over the Saturday evening, August 6, 2016, and on Sunday, August 7, 2016, commencing at 7pm on Saturday evening and recommencing at 9am Sunday morning. Registration will be required prior to the commencement time. Delegates are to be appointed in harmony with the constitution. The business of the constituency meeting will be as provided in the constitution, incorporating the presentation of reports and financial statements for the quadrennial period 2012-2015 inclusive. The executive officers, executive committee and other committees, as provided in the constitution, will be elected and consideration of constitutional changes, all in accordance with the conference constitution.

—Robert Ellison, general secretary

Accommodation and conference centre. Seeking a peaceful venue on beautiful Lake Macquarie in the Hunter region? Disability-friendly accommodation with ensuite. Conference facilities for 100+ people. 20 mins to Avondale College, Newcastle and beach. 0402 460 000. Visit <www.catalinacc.com.au> for details.

Finally . . .

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

—Maya Angelou

Next RECORD June 4

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.

WEDDINGS



Coltheart-Brinsmead. Teijo Glen Coltheart, son of Pastor

Alvin and Pirjo Coltheart, and Juanita Joy Brinsmead, daughter of Calvin and Joy Brinsmead, were married 13.3.16 in the Braeside Chapel, Merrimac, Qld. They were surrounded by family and friends who wish them God's blessing as they set up their home in Brisbane.

André van Rensburg



Keeley-Weslake. Reuban Keeley,

son of Mark and Raewyn Keeley (Muswellbrook, NSW), and Mica Maree Weslake, daughter of Lance and Sandra Weslake (Kel-lyville), were married 10.1.16 at Thornton Community Centre, NSW.

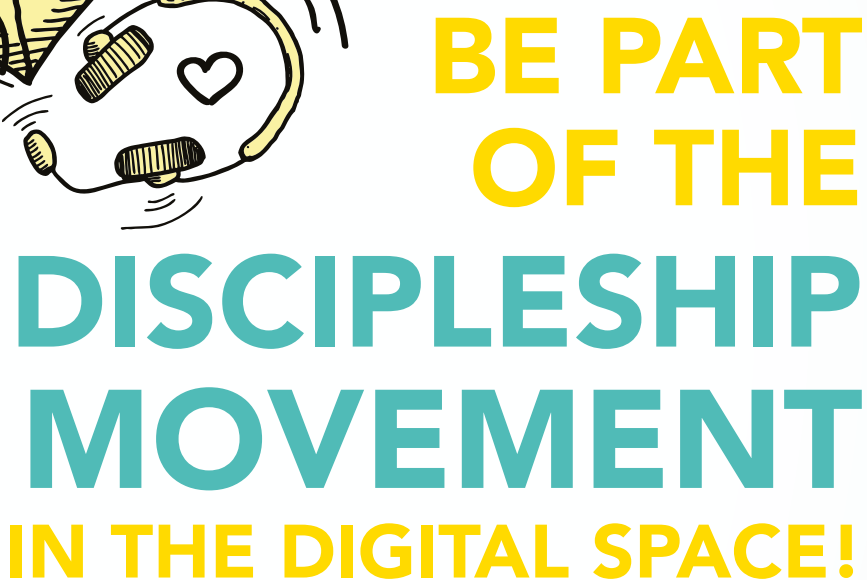
David Cherry, Wayne Boehm



Lawman-Mills. Caleb Lawman,

son of Justin and

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A stylized illustration of a hand holding a blue smartphone. The phone has a grey screen with diagonal lines, a small square home button at the bottom, and a speaker grille at the top. The hand is drawn with simple lines and shading.



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