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THE SHOEMAKER'S GIFT

I think I could make a pair of shoes.

I would start with a piece of leather, cut it into patterns and stitch the pieces together. I would then fit that around the wooden “last”—an instrument used in shoemaking that has a shape similar to a human foot—hammer in the nails at the base, glue the shoe and sew the final pieces. And I think I would probably be able to finish the whole thing in a reasonable period of time—though definitely not as quickly as a cobbler could!

I am not a shoemaker. But I have seen many times how a shoe is made. I did not intentionally set out to learn, nor did the shoemaker intentionally set out to teach me. Rather, I learned by pure assimilation—because I saw my grandfather make hundreds of pairs of shoes.

I loved going into his workshop. As a child, for me, it was a whole new world. The interesting tools, the smell of the leather mixed with the glue and discovering a whole trove of treasures. And there was always something new; something I had not seen before. Out of the corner of his eye, my grandfather would watch what I was doing and where I was. Sometimes he would direct me not to do or get into certain things, but he would always allow me to be there.

In our living room hangs a framed photo of my grandfather and beneath it is the leather chair he used to sit on, one of his tools, his wooden last and his cast iron three-point cobbler anvil. Every time I see these things, I think of my grandfather. When he sat on his chair, he would also fetch a tiny seat for me so I could sit next to him. For hours, I would just watch how he crafted and created a shoe from scratch. What I learned in his workshop has been embedded in my life and my mind.

Church life and discipleship are very much like my grandfather's workshop—often we can learn by watching how they are done. I learn to be a disciple when I see another disciple in action. I learn what it is like to be in an accepting, loving, encouraging church when I am in the midst of a church like that. I learn when I see passion and fervour in the church members. I learn when I am exposed to a whole “trove of treasures” in local churches. I learn by

looking—even though people are not intentionally wanting to teach me. But just by being in their presence, I assimilate and I learn.

All those years ago in my grandfather's workshop, I learned to make shoes. But outside of his workshop, I also watched him—and I learned. Every morning, I saw my grandfather prepare breakfast for my grandmother and serve it to her. After they finished their breakfast, I saw them study their Sabbath School lesson. Always. Every single day.

I saw my grandfather active at church. He would get there on time, was involved as an elder, a deacon and in the worship service, and I don't remember him ever criticising another church member.

No wonder Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Be imitators of me, as I also am of Christ.” For many of us who have never seen Christ in action in the physical realm, we get to “see” Him in action in the pages of Scripture—interacting. And that is challenging for all of us.

In our local churches around Australia, we are trying to create a thriving disciple-making movement. Ultimately, we want to be a movement of disciples

who, through our actions, tell the story of Christ. People normally ask, “How will we know whether we are being a thriving disciple-making movement?” For me, there are three key points. A thriving disciple-making movement is:

1. A movement of disciples who are communing with God; spending time with Him;
2. A movement of disciples who have good relationships with their brothers and sisters, not just internally but are linking with the communities in which they live; and
3. A movement of disciples who are focused on the mission of the Church.

It is my prayer, as we watch one another and what is happening in our churches in this country, we may ultimately be encouraged to imitate Him.

JORGE MUNOZ
AUC PRESIDENT



I LEARN TO BE A DISCIPLE WHEN I SEE ANOTHER DISCIPLE IN ACTION.

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“Jimmy Dunn.”

adventist record is the
official news magazine of the
seventh-day adventist church's
south pacific division

abn 59 093 117 689
vol 123 no 8



WHAT DOES THE UNION DO?

Since Luke documented the organisation of the early church, structure and organisation have been the topic of interest and debate. Adventist pioneers avoided formal organisation for as long as possible. However, in response to the rapidly growing Advent movement and the sheer logistics of managing mission, personnel and finances, the Church eventually organised in 1863. Since that time the structure has matured and been adapted.

What is the Australian Union (AUC) and why do we need it? If we step back, the role of the local conference is to advance the Church's mission in its territory by providing spiritual leadership and raising up churches. Over time ministries and institutions such as schools and aged care institutions have been developed to enhance mission. The constituents of conferences are local churches. The AUC is a constituent of the General Conference (GC), and the AUC's constituents are conferences. Essentially, as constituents of the GC, the Union is the basic building block of the world Church. So where does the Division fit into Church structure? The Division is not a constituent entity; rather, it is a branch office of the GC, carrying out work of the GC in its region.

The role of the AUC is to strengthen the mission and the work of the conferences. What does this mean? The Union has a role to foster missional alignment amongst the conferences and undertake ministries that are best done together rather than separately. Faith FM is a prime example of this—other examples include Mamarapha College and the Ministry Development process, to name a few. The AUC also provides support, counsel, training and mentoring for local conference leaders.

In many ways, the role of the Union is not to be highly visible in the life of the local church. Rather, it is there to facilitate mission and to resource and support the work of the local conferences.

MICHAEL WORKER
GENERAL SECRETARY



MEDIA MINISTRY TO FOCUS ON YOUNG ADULTS

MARITZA BRUNT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) has announced a new strategic plan for its media ministry, setting the direction and mission for the next few years.

A focus on digital platforms and reaching secular/unchurched young people will be key for this new media initiative, with AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz saying the AUC is open to any idea that will help it reach a younger generation.

"We want to have a broader picture and a larger view of media, incorporating opportunities such as radio, video on demand through a digital platform, social media and online content through projects such as Digital Discipleship," he said. "We also want to explore the possibilities of animation and acquiring digital property."

The AUC has also appointed Pastor Murray Hunter to the role of media coordinator. Pastor Hunter has worked in South Queensland for the past 20 years, most recently as the communication director and the



PASTOR MURRAY HUNTER.

associate secretary for the Ministerial Association in the area of Education, and says he's excited that he has already been able to secure plenty of interest and engagement from the young people he has had the opportunity to consult with so far.

"It is so encouraging to speak to young people from all over the country who are keen to see the project come to fruition as soon as possible," he said. "Many have said that they've been waiting for something like this to happen for years and they appreciate the AUC investing in a ministry that is pointed at and speaks to 'our' generation."

ACA HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN TO MORE MEMBERS

JARROD STACKELROTH

ACA Health Benefit Fund has announced it is opening up its range of private health cover to local church officers.

Originally set up in 1934 as a health insurance provider for Seventh-day Adventist employees and their families in Australia, ACA is expanding its services to those who hold offices at local churches, including elders, deacons, treasurers, secretaries and other volunteers.

"We are thrilled to now offer local church officers and their families our products," said Jody Burgoyne, ACA Health's fund manager. "We work hard to continually provide our members with value-for-money health cover at a great price."

According to a press release, this



JODY BURGUYNE.

year's ACA Health premium increase came in at 1.23 per cent lower than the industry average of 3.95 per cent and during the 2017 financial year it paid \$A22.2 million in benefits to members.

ACA Health products are only available in Australia.w

CONFERENCE LEADERS MOTIVATED FOR MISSION

JARROD STACKELROTH

For the first time, 250 key leaders from the Adventist Church in South Queensland gathered together for a summit focused on starting a “servo-lution”.

The “Shaping for leadership” conference was intentional about inviting younger leaders, with many of the attendees aged under 30.

“We have a major focus on the inclusion of young adults as a part of ‘the Church’ and not just another ‘side

ministry,’” said Pastor Greg Pratt, from the South Queensland Conference.

The event was designed to refocus the Church on mission and to give leaders practical stories and ideas of how they can share the love of Jesus—including simple acts of service, friendship evangelism, centres of influence, ADRA projects and more.

“We wanted every leader to leave the weekend and head back to their church saying ‘I can do that,’” Pastor Pratt said. “The leaders were challenged to consider how this would look in their own lives and churches. All leaders present made a stand and accepted the call to begin a servo-lution in their towns, cities and communities where they live.”

Speakers included South



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AT THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.



MISSION BROTHERS: PASTORS GLENN AND BRETT TOWNEND.

Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Glenn Townend, South Queensland Conference president Pastor Brett Townend, SPD Church planting expert Pastor Wayne Krause, Pastor Gary Krause from the General Conference and Pastor David Jamieson.

Conference general secretary Pastor Colin Renfrew said the event grew out of the Mission to the Cities emphasis. “We want to reach the people living in the cities and we can’t do it on our own, so we need to be serious about equipping our members, especially our young leaders, to make an impact right where they live and work,” he said.

PRIME MINISTER THANKS ADRA VOLUNTEERS

JOSH DYE

A team of ADRA volunteers has been personally thanked by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian for their efforts responding to last month’s devastating bushfires in south-eastern NSW.

Hundreds of people were evacuated to Bega and Bermagui following the Tathra blaze that rapidly spread

on March 18. It destroyed 69 homes, while dozens of others were partially damaged. Some residents were forced to flee their homes at short notice and take shelter on the beach.

ADRA volunteers at the Bega showground evacuation centre helped arrange accommodation for 160 people and provided remote assistance to the Bermagui evacuation centre.

The ADRA volunteers worked alongside volunteers from other agencies and community groups. Mr Turnbull and Ms Berejiklian personally thanked ADRA and other volunteers when they visited the Bega evacuation centre.

ADRA’s NSW emergency coordinator Janice Frey paid tribute to the volunteers.

“These volunteers displayed enormous generosity in giving

their time to help people displaced by the fires,” Mrs Frey said. “It all happened so quickly and people had to leave urgently. The ADRA volunteers did a terrific job responding and providing immediate assistance.

“The local community have taken ownership of this disaster and are doing a great job looking after their own. They are extremely supportive of those who have been impacted and are easing the distress that comes with grief and loss.”

ADRA and other organisations encourage cash gifts, which are useful and efficient, rather than donated goods, which may not be needed, can overwhelm the community, and involve significant time and effort to sort, store and distribute.

An ADRA volunteer shares his experience of the crisis: p 16.



PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL SPEAKS TO ADRA VOLUNTEER SONYA WATTS.

Photo: Ian Campbell



DIGITAL MINISTRY MOVES, EXPANDS

JARROD STACKELROTH

The Digital Discipleship (DD) movement, a ministry started by the Greater Sydney Conference, will be relocating to the Australian Union Conference.

Greater Sydney approached the Union about running the ministry after they saw it had grown bigger than Sydney. Last year's Digital Discipleship weekend attracted attendees from all around Australia and even New Zealand.

"I think [the move] is exciting," said Rachel Lemons Aitken, DD organiser, "because it's allowing us to resource more churches and ministries to be more affective in the digital space."

The first DD conference, held in 2016 at the University of NSW's Randwick campus, was attended by more than 100 people who were interested in learning more about being disciples of Jesus online. Since that first weekend, the ministry has grown into an online Facebook community, has developed an online course and is working on providing more specific resources to help churches with their social media and websites.

The third DD conference will be held again in Sydney this year, but Mrs Lemons Aitken said that, with the Union taking ownership, there is a possibility that future events may be held elsewhere in Australia. "We've had great attendance at the Sydney event, and we don't want to lose that, but we

will look at where else we can hold it. We had a huge group come up from Melbourne last year so there are other possibilities," she said.

Local churches can get involved in digital discipleship in three ways, which the DD ministry would like to support and empower. The first is using digital topics to address their communities in a physical space, for example educating parents about keeping their children safe online. Secondly, using the digital space to evangelise, whether through livestreaming an event or activity at a local church or sharing faith online both corporately or individually. Finally, DD is there to equip creatives and technical people to use their talents for ministry both in their local church and in their own lives.

"Being at the Union, we have permission to be truly global, like the online space. We have seen in the online groups we have collaboration all over the world. We see a huge benefit from collaborating and sharing the gospel story online in a louder voice," Mrs Lemons Aitken said.



RACHEL LEMONS AITKEN.



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"Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight" (Matt 20:34)



NEW DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES AIM TO CONNECT

BRENDAN PRATT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) recently launched the first book in a series of Australian Adventist pioneer stories for children.

Launched at the AUC Ministers' Convention in February, *Leaves of Hope—The John Corliss Story* is an amazing story of God's leading in the face of discouragement and is the first in the "The Angel Said Australia" children's series.

The stories are written by Amanda Bews and are beautifully illustrated by Jade Zivanovic using oil paintings. The series is published by "Seeds of Faith"—the publishing imprint of the Australian Union Conference Resource Centre.

"Seeds of Faith was set up specifically to answer the call for more Australian resources," said AUC Resource Centre director Pastor Tony Knight. "When you see the Seeds of Faith logo, you will know you are buying a quality Australian Union Conference product."

The series aims to promote the values of servanthood and ministry and have the next generation capture a dream of their place in the bigger story of our Church.

The Adventist Church in Australia is working on a range of resources and strategies that engage and equip young people for ministry. These books are part of the AUC Ministerial Association's "Next Generation" project.

Author Amanda Bews emphasised the importance of telling our stories and engaging the next generation into the wider story of "us" as a movement, saying she hoped her work will inspire young people to live beyond themselves.

"The Adventist story in Australia and New Zealand is simply amazing," said Pastor Knight. "The Angel Said Australia



storybooks vividly reveal the sacrifice, courage and sheer mental toughness our pioneers demonstrated in the face of huge obstacles, and link their experiences directly to the lives of our kids in a way that is sure to motivate and inspire."

The book includes downloadable pictures for telling the story publicly, along with links to further resources, including a pioneer walking trail. Seven books are planned in the first stage of the series. The second book, *Peddalling the Gospel—the Story of Joseph and Julia Steed*, will be launched at this month's South Australian Big Camp and both books will be available at Adventist Book Centres across Australia.

The Resource Centre has also launched a new picture book, which highlights the character and impact of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. The high-quality glossy picture book is designed to be shared with family and friends, given as a gift or left on coffee tables at home or work to pique curiosity and start conversations. It outlines the core values of the Church, how it meets the spiritual and social needs of its members, and its service to the wider community through local church ministries and institutions like ADRA, Sanitarium and Sydney Adventist Hospital.

"These new resources have been produced with our mission of discipleship in mind," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz. "We are excited about the new resources, and those yet to come, and pray that they will be another way for us to connect people to Christ."

To view or order any of the books, visit www.disciple.org.au.



COVER ARTWORK OF LEAVES OF HOPE.

NEWS GRABS



LEITO RETIRES

Inter-American Division president Israel Leito recently announced his retirement. President of the IAD since 1993, Pastor Leito has witnessed growth from 1 million to 3.7 million members. He also holds the record for being the longest-serving division president and has completed nearly 50 years of denominational service worldwide.—*Adventist Review*



CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Youth and children from the Adventist Church in Romania partnered with ADRA to distribute 7000 gift packages across the nation on March 17. The project, called "Children Helping Children", was to encourage volunteering among children and young people.—*ADRA Romania*



TRINIDAD MOURNS

Seventh-day Adventists in Trinidad are devastated by the loss of three of their members, who were victims of a violent knife attack on March 13. "This has shaken our Church here," said Kern Tobias, Caribbean Union president. "We continue to mourn the loss of these lives and pray for the surviving family members." Authorities are still investigating the crime.—*IAD*



HOT TOPICS



GREAT SAMARITAN

An Australian man recently made headlines when he decided to buy a church, mow the lawn and hand the keys back to its original congregation. Andrew Wilson, from NSW, said he bought the Anglican church because he'd been driving past for 50 years and had always admired the bush surrounding it. The church was sold last November to raise money for compensation for victims of institutional child abuse in the region. —*Stuff.co.nz*



FAITH-BASED FILM FLOURISHES

Faith-based film *I Can Only Imagine* released to just over 1000 theatres on its opening weekend, but it averaged a higher take per site than major movies like *Black Panther* and *Tomb Raider*. Some predictions had the movie making only \$2 million. It made \$17 million. —*Relevant*



GET UP!

Just 60 minutes per week of physical activity significantly lowers the risk of depression, according to a Norwegian study of 34,000 adults. Researchers also found walking was just as beneficial as more strenuous exercise, which is good news for people of all ages and fitness levels. —*American Journal of Psychiatry*

AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY: AUC STRUCTURE REVIEW UPDATE

KEN VOGEL

Extensive consultation of Seventh-day Adventist Church members and leaders across Australia has revealed a strong common desire to be a church that responds to the harassed and helpless.

The consultation—held in the latter half of 2017—has revealed a commitment to ensure that nothing stands in the way of helping people to know about and experience God's love and forgiveness and helping them to grow in a living relationship with Him.

That said, it is now time to back such sentiments with action. It is one thing for members and leaders to declare a commitment to creating a thriving disciple-making movement across Australia. It is quite another to be prepared to actually make the changes necessary to our individual lives and to the life and structure of the Church that are essential to achieve that.

Change can be looked upon as an opportunity with warm enthusiasm. But realistically, the uncertainty element that comes with change can also have the effect of freezing forward momentum. Which will it be for the Church in Australia at this time?

Fear can be addressed and any potential freeze can be thawed through the first and foremost call by the consultation's participants that together we seek God's leading.

"I want to invite every church member, every small group, every local church, every church employee and every leader to join me in praying as we have never prayed before," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz. "We have an opportunity for change that will make a difference—that difference being led by the Holy Spirit."

In order to progress what the Church's stakeholders have called for (see summary at <https://corporate.adventist.org.au/australian-church-structure-review>), all nine local conference executive committees across Australia are being thoughtfully engaged. These executive committees have been elected by the membership in each respective



region to be responsible for overseeing the progress of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They, along with local church leadership, will work together with the Church's national leaders to respond to the opportunities that lie immediately ahead.

The nationwide consultation on Church structure has revealed (see diagram above):

- A desire to seek God's leading for change.
- That the local church must be more central to planning, support and resourcing.
- The need for far more intentional alignment and collaboration, including amongst local churches.
- A commitment to be excellent at everything the Church does in order to be effective in mission.
- The value of effective leadership.
- That the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs total member involvement.
- A need to develop models for church, schools and aged care governance and administration addressing duplication and effectiveness.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church must not be just another Christian denomination. It has the opportunity to be a fluid movement responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit, as was the early Christian church and even this Church's own pioneers. With Jesus' return very much on the horizon, may our Church be a thriving disciple-making movement.



FLASHPOINT



MEALTIME ON MILTON

Australia Day 2018 was especially exciting for members of Mackay Central Adventist Church (Qld), on Milton St, as they held their first ADRA Community Dinner as part of their "Mealtime on Milton" ADRA project. Healthy burgers were on the menu and more than 30 people from the community came to share the meal, listen to live music and meet new people. The dinners are held every second Monday during the school term and, in one month, the numbers increased by 20 people. Volunteers from the local Adventist churches in the Mackay region have teams who run the dinner on a rotation, and Mackay Pastor Ragoso Tagalao says this project is about connecting with others and "being the hands and feet of Jesus". — *Top News*



MARKET CONNECTIONS

Over the past year-and-a-half, members from the Horsham Adventist Church (Vic) have been attending various markets in order to connect with community members and share the love of Jesus. The outreach idea has already seen several church members attend the Horsham and Natimuk markets, and the Warracknabeal Show. As a result, the church now has two people attending and has made connections with the community, as well as distributing approximately 200 copies of *Steps to Christ*, 200 Sanitarium superfood recipe books, and a range of other literature and DVDs. "It's a great opportunity to meet people and connect the community with faces from the local Adventist church," said one of the team members. — *IntraVic*



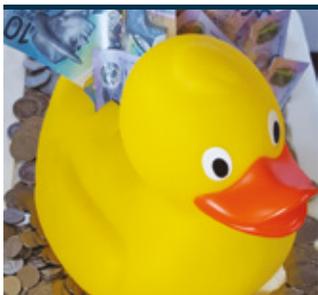
THE GREATEST SHOW

Avondale School's (NSW) Primary Campus hosted its annual Super Week of Mega Praise (SWOMP), themed "The Greatest Show". During the week, many of the primary students were involved in singing, drama, musical performance, dance and interactive activities. Newly-appointed Gateway Adventist Church pastor Norman Hurlow spoke for the week, encouraging the students to see how they are all part of the greatest show the universe has ever seen. He shared about how all are unique and gifted in different ways, and how in life each of us has a choice to make: to go our own way or follow God's way. SWOMP week concluded on Sabbath morning with a special service at the Gateway campus church. — *Colin Chuang*



REVOLUTIONISE

Adventist young adults in Adelaide (SA) spent the weekend of Global Youth Day (March 16, 17) focusing on putting God first. Friday night worship was held at Henley Beach, with a free sausage sizzle and bottles of water handed out to those walking by. On Sabbath, a combined youth rally was held, with guest speakers Annie Ruthven, Pastor Roland Talamivoa and *Adventist Record* senior editor Jarrod Stackelroth speaking on the theme "Revolutionise" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The interactive-style worship service gave practical tips for seeking God and opportunities for the young adults to connect with one another through discussion. — *Maritza Brunt*



THE DEVONPORT DUCK

The children's Sabbath School class at Devonport Adventist Church (Tas) has found a fun way to raise funds for various projects each quarter. Last quarter, the offering was collected in a plastic yellow duck, with the children each taking turns to collect the offering. At the end of the quarter, the duck contained \$A355 and weighed 4.4kg! The money will go towards providing children's school lunches in Syrian refugee camps—an ADRA project. The duck has made Sabbath School more fun for both children and adults alike. This quarter, "Pedro the Piñata" is collecting funds for the Bible Society's Nicaraguan Children's Cancer Hospital Project. — *Tasda*



BEING THE BODY

More than 80 young people attended the first Young Adult evening held in February at Livingston Adventist Church (WA). Themed around 1 Corinthians 12:27, the inspirational messages were delivered by several young people, who explained what it means to operate as the body of Christ. The night also featured worship and special items, and all in attendance are looking forward to the next event. — *Adventists WA*



PRAYERS ANSWERED

February 10 saw more than 100 people from Adventist churches from the Tablelands to Tully, right through to Mossman (Far North Qld), gather for a baptismal event at Behana Creek. The weather forecast predicted heavy rain throughout the weekend, but as the members prayed, the skies cleared as eight people were baptised and two young people accepted a call for further Bible studies and baptism. — *Top News*



WELLNESS WELCOMED

Tumut's Community Wellness Centre, an initiative of Tumut Adventist Church (SNSW), recently received \$A7000 in Federal Government funding from the Stronger Communities Grant Program. Eden-Monaro MP Dr Mike Kelly presented the cheque and expressed his appreciation for the centre, saying, "The work of your volunteers says a lot about the community around you. To me, you are living the Christian ideal." — *Imprint*





CHURCHES

you may not have heard of

"Nothing on earth has greater potential to change lives and carry out His kingdom work in your community than your local church."

—Bill Hybels

1. CANNINGTON, WA

Just south of the Perth CBD sits Cannington Seventh-day Adventist Church. What was once a tiny old church is now a thriving, multicultural and multi-generational church that's engaged with its community. For the past few years, Cannington has served soup and buns to the community through its ADRA Community Café. The members also run a community garden on church property and are looking to turn their church into a centre of influence.

2. TENNANT CREEK, NT

It's all about relationships at this little church in the Northern Territory. Martin and Michelle Tanner, with the help of some of their church members from Tennant Creek Adventist Church, run an extra service on Sabbath in Mungkarta, an Aboriginal community

about 80km away. "Martin used to drive out there in the mornings to pick them up, bring them to church and then take them home," Michelle says. "But now, because we actually have church in the community, a lot more people come. We have really become a part of the community there."

3. KUBIN VILLAGE, QLD

This unique church is located on Moa Island, an island of the Torres Strait Islands archipelago that is located 40km north of Thursday Island. Pastor Mark Collins travels by boat from his home on Thursday Island to run church in Kubin Village, one of the two Indigenous communities on Moa Island.

4. BROKEN HILL, NSW

It might be an isolated mining town, but the Adventist church at Broken

Hill is making a concerted effort to be active in its community. Two of the members hold concerts on a regular basis for the town, and the church's playgroup, which has been running for many years, recently played a part in Broken Hill's two most recent baptisms.

5. THE BAY ISLANDS, QLD

This thriving community group, located on Russell Island in Brisbane, has only been around for a few years but has already made a splash. Community outreaches include running a food ministry for those in need, serving breakfast each Friday morning to the 230 primary school students on the island, and making visitors feel welcome and included with fun programs such as a talent show that is open to the community.





6. SEEDS, NSW

Located in Newcastle, this church plant is focused on helping its community flourish personally and spiritually. Plant-based workshops, a running club, and craft and chat workshops are all designed to spread the health message in ways that are fun and interactive.

7. NORFOLK ISLAND, NSW

The church at Norfolk Island may be small but it has a secret weapon to reach its community: its Conference (Greater Sydney) owns the TV station on the island. This means all the locals have 24/7 free-to-air access to four channels, including Hope Channel and a channel featuring sermons and health talks. "We know that a lot of people are watching as we get a lot of comments that are all positive," says church pastor Dion Fourie. "We

invite anyone we meet to programs, and we're praying like mad for every person we know and every person we don't."

8. CHURCH IN THE HILLS, SA

"Discipleship works best in community and relationships," says church pastor Roland Talamaivao. In a unique move, these 45 church members meet in three different houses every Sabbath, sharing a potluck meal, Bible study and discussion. Their focus is on connecting as a community and non-Christian friends say they feel more comfortable in this environment.

9. MELBOURNE CITY, VIC

As a Church, one of our biggest mission fields is the cities. The Melbourne City Adventist Church, planted by Roy and Jinha Kim, meets in the heart of the CBD each Sabbath,

and runs a plethora of Bible study, small group, social and exercise events aimed at young professionals, university students and those living in the urban centre.

10. DELORAINE, TAS

A few years ago, the Adventist church in the little riverside town of Deloraine acquired a new "ministry bus". It is used to collect people for church services and to attend local markets as part of fundraising activities—and it's still going strong. The church, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this month, is about to build a shed on church grounds to house the bus. The Deloraine youth also use it—every second Sunday they put ministry into action and do community service for locals around town.





A afraid of losing momentum, the early Seventh-day Adventist movement resisted forming an official structure for almost two decades. Reflecting on past Protestant movements-turned-institutions, our pioneers vowed to avoid any structure inhibiting the march of present truth toward Zion.

So now, faced with relatively stagnant net growth, have the fears of our forebearers materialised, at least in the Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church? A Church better known for our breakfast foods than our soul food? If so, can the tide be reversed?

At a recent AUC Executive meeting, pastors and lay leaders from around Australia committed to lead the Church in becoming a “thriving disciple-making movement”. But what does this mean, and what will it take to become a thriving disciple-making movement once more? Communion, relationships and mission.

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Zero. That is our guaranteed mission success rate if we do not have a thriving, growing experience with Jesus each day (John 15:5). God has no need or desire for us to finish His work; rather, He longs to finish His work in and through us. To do so we must have constant and continuous communion with Jesus.

“Read your Bible and pray every day” is more than a children’s song—it is the essential blueprint for communion with divinity. Are you daily spending time communing with God through prayer and Bible discovery? Are you listening and cooperating with that Still Small Voice as you go

about your day? Before fixing our families, our churches, our structures, our communities, I would encourage and challenge you to reach up for a deeper communion with God each day, allowing Him to work in you so He can work through you.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

According to the apostle John, “sin” is “breaking the law” (1 John 3:4). Jesus explains that the law is essentially an imperative to love God and others (Matthew 22:38-40). So, by deduction, sin is the act of not loving God and others. Jesus died to restore us to loving God and others. Put another way, Jesus lived, died and rose again so we can have healthy, vibrant, loving relationships with Himself and those around us. He died to restore us to positive relationships, not merely to cleanse us from past wrongs.

How are your relationships? How would your spouse, children, parents, friends, church members, colleagues, bosses, neighbours or fellow motorists describe you? Do your family members aspire to have your faith and character? What is your relationship like with your brothers and sisters at church? How many young people in your local church see you as a role model?

Ask God for love, wisdom and strength to reach out to those around you so the world may truly know we are disciples of Jesus by our love for one another.

MISSION MOVEMENT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church exists to demonstrate the love and power of God in redeeming and

restoring humanity to happiness, health and holiness (Matthew 5:14-16).

But we cannot be a movement if we don’t move. Move out of our homes and into our neighbourhoods, out of our churches and into our communities, out of our comfort zones and into the war zone of the greatest controversy in history. How many friends do you have who are not Adventist? How many new friends outside of your faith are you regularly making? How much time do we spend actively being in (but not of) the world?

Follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Leave home and mingle with people where they are—make friends, eat together and, when asked, tell others what Jesus has done for you. As you place yourself in places and spaces in need of divine light, God will shine in and through you to reach out to His children there. He will impress you with loving actions, healing words, genuine sympathy at the right time, in the right way, to draw others to you and ultimately to Himself.

The question we should be asking ourselves is not if the Seventh-day Adventist Church is still a movement. We should be asking whether or not we, as individuals, are still moving. Are we moving closer to God, closer to our fellow believers and closer to our communities? The sum is greater than the parts—the Church will move and be a movement as you and I commit to move in our sphere of influence.

CRISTIAN COPACEANU PERSONAL MINISTRIES,
SABBATH SCHOOL AND STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR,
AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE.



JIMMY DUNN: SECOND CHANCES

I was born in Kempsey, NSW, one of seven siblings and a brother to many other children my parents raised. We all grew up on Bellbrook Aboriginal Reserve, west of Kempsey, in the Nulla Nulla Creek area.

The Seventh-day Adventist faith came to Bellbrook in the early 1900s, many years before I was born. Some of my earliest memories are of attending Sabbath School under the trees and on the school verandah. My mother taught us well-known Bible stories and my nan encouraged us to attend church, making sure we were always nicely dressed.

My childhood was a lot of fun. We played, rode horses, speared fish and went camping with family. There was also plenty of hard work, helping our grandparents and uncles as they pulled corn, cut cork leafing for medicine, fenced and grubbed stumps.

Our teacher at Bellbrook was very strict and I struggled to learn via his methods. I did well at mathematics, but couldn't master reading and spelling. I stuttered badly as a young boy; maybe that was part of the problem, but most days I gazed out the window or annoyed the others in class. When I left school, I found work that didn't require me to read. If I ever needed to fill out paperwork I would just get help from family or go to the Centrelink office.

My mother died when I was 17. Dad grieved terribly after Mum's passing and he died from cancer six months later. Their deaths left a big hole; my life was filled with sadness and grief, and I began to lose my way. I eventually started drinking and went on to become a drug dealer.

Maree, my childhood sweetheart, knew what I was up to but was powerless to stop me. I continued to deal for more than 20 years. I thought I had joy and happiness because the drug money supplied our needs. We could

buy whatever we desired—a car, bikes for the kids, and I always had plenty of cash in my pocket.

My family often encouraged me to return to church, but there was little room for God in the life I had chosen. One day, my oldest son Henry told me about Pastor Darren Garlett, who had just moved to Kempsey. Henry wanted me to meet Pastor Darren because we were both interested in old cars. I said I would, but really had no intention of turning up, even though my son kept asking me to.

My first major wake-up call came one Saturday when I went down to Sydney with some mates. We were driving home late that night when the driver went to sleep and rolled the car. I remember crying out, "Jesus, help us!" I woke up on the side of the road, and was flown to hospital with a suspected broken neck, but was released the next day with only minor injuries. God had answered my prayer.

Despite this experience, I was hard-headed and wandered away from God again. But Maree had other ideas and threatened to leave me if I didn't change my ways. She had a look in her eyes I had never seen before and I knew she really meant it. She gave me the silent treatment for a week and I started to get desperate. I now know the Holy Spirit was working on my heart, and I suggested that we both start attending church. Maree agreed, and now all these years later we are still attending. God totally changed my life—before, I would iron my clothes on Friday to go out partying on the weekend; now, I iron my clothes to attend church on Sabbath morning.

Pastor Darren and his wife Cathy kept encouraging us with visits and Bible studies. On one visit, Pastor Darren suggested I attend Mamarapha College in Western Australia.

"No! I can't do that," I said. "I'm dumb; I can't read and write."



But Pastor Darren didn't give up, and after about two years, I surprised us both by agreeing to go.

Mamarapha was very different to my school days—it had an atmosphere of care and sensitivity. Every student was given a Bible and we read verses together. This took away my fear of being exposed as a non-reader.

The changes in my life have been good for the whole family. My grandson Malik was always in trouble at school, disturbing the class and fighting with other children, just like me. But as I attended Mamarapha, we decided to have family worship. At first, we read from Malik's little picture Bible, but soon, he began to read to us himself. After starting family worship, he went from the bottom of the class to become one of the better students.

God has really blessed me. My youth was wild; I was full of hate, always arguing with people and selfish to the core, but, thanks to Jesus, I now have a life of purpose, a caring family and a wonderful wife who loves me. I am now studying pastoral ministry at Mamarapha College and it is my hope that I will lead others to Jesus as I was led, so they will love Him too.

This story was extracted, with permission, from the book Our stories, God stories, published by the AUC Resource Centre.





FRONTLINE faith

Here are the foolproof requirements to being on the frontline of a battle: a kind heart, a willingness to be used and an unwavering faith. Sound unusual? Perhaps. But then again, if there's one thing we can learn from the Bible, it's that God often calls the unlikely people. In August 2016, he called Yuli Tjokoro. As she describes it, ending up on the frontline was completely an accident—but, as it turned out, it was exactly on purpose.

A graphic designer by trade, Indonesian-born Yuli was applying for a job after taking a 10-year break to raise her children. She asked Pastor Cristian Copaceanu, who'd previously been her church pastor, to be the referee on her resume. He said yes, and she got the job. But God had other plans.

"I didn't know it at the time but Cristian was actually looking for a personal assistant!" laughs Yuli. "We

discussed the opportunity of working for the Australian Union Conference (AUC), and here I am."

For Yuli, who'd joined the Adventist Church at age 26, the job came with a whole range of blessings and challenges she hadn't expected.

"It was daunting because I didn't grow up in the Church," says Yuli, "so my understanding of church administration was very minimal. Being a personal assistant to a director of personal ministries, Sabbath School and stewardship, I didn't know where to start! But at the same time, God has blessed me with a wonderful team. I really appreciate a work environment where people pray for us."

On a daily basis, Yuli's job can include things such as organising mail-outs, corresponding via email, and distributing resources to both internal and external contacts. But there's one thing that makes her role a little

different from a typical PA job: she is the first point of contact for anyone calling to talk about Faith FM, the Adventist radio network in Australia.

When Yuli was approached to see if she could help with Faith FM, she was a little lost. She had heard of Faith FM but was unable to get reception for it where she lived, so had no idea how she could be of help. But she was willing. And when Pastor Copaceanu mentioned that it would include answering listeners' phone calls about program requests, presenter details and donations, she was happy.

"I thought, 'OK, I can do that!'" says Yuli.

But the first few phone calls weren't any of those simple requests.

"They were very confronting and intimidating—all I could think was, *Wow, how do I deal with this?*" Yuli reflects. "But when that thought hit, as I was listening to the comments and

feedback the listener gave, I immediately just switched to God. I thought, *Lord, this is not about me, this is about a disagreement related to who You are. Please help me not to take it personally and to calm down his temper.*"

Since then, there have been several calls that Yuli gracefully describes as "unpleasant".

"Customer service is no fun when you receive these kinds of phone calls!" she smiles. "But each time, I just pause for a prayer."

Thankfully, the positive phone calls far outweigh the negative, and Yuli has many stories she's eager to share.

A lady by the name of Kati accidentally stumbled upon a sermon on Faith FM one afternoon. A few days later, she felt impressed to call and ask for more information. But there was a problem—she didn't remember the number to call, the frequency on her radio or even the name of the station. She called a local Christian radio station, which referred her to a larger Christian radio station in her area.

"I don't think it's you," Kati said to the operator taking her call. "Your music is too secular for a Christian radio station!"

"Oh, I think I know who you might be talking about," said the operator. "Try Faith FM—I'll give you their phone number and their frequency."

When Kati made her third phone call that day, Yuli picked up on the

other end. "It's amazing how I got your number," said Kati, and told her the story. Now, Yuli is telling Kati's story—including how she is now a regular listener and loves all the programs.

Another favourite story of Yuli's is that of a man named Brett. Fixing a caravan one afternoon, he switched on the caravan's radio and it just happened to be tuned to Faith FM.

When Yuli answered Brett's call, he told her he was calling to say thank you.

"I loved what I listened to that day," he said. "If you asked me what it was, I wouldn't be able to remember! But I love all the programs and the music playing on air. Listening to Faith FM that day was a miracle."

And it was all Brett needed to make a connection to the Adventist Church. He's now in an Adventist small group, and tells Yuli he's happy with the friends that he has made there.

Stories like these warm the heart, but Yuli says they also help to strengthen her own faith.

"Not every day is rosy and bright," she admits. "Sometimes things happen to make me glum, but I come to work and receive phone calls from listeners who say, 'this program that [Faith FM] has just broadcast has changed my life.' That is like a road sign for me—a road sign that directs me to make a U-turn and return to God."

Yuli and her "second family"—the Faith FM team—meet weekly to pray

for all the people who have called in.

"Even if someone disagrees or has negative feedback, something—or Someone—prompted them to call us and we need to be praying for them," she says.

Listeners are family too, according to Yuli, and she sometimes feels impressed to ask if she can pray for them over the phone. "It's interesting that sometimes I feel like I'm helping our listeners, but really, it's the other way around," she smiles. "I cannot thank God enough that the team we have here is so supportive."

In August 2016, God called a softly-spoken, petite woman with a gentle smile and warm eyes to the frontline. Yuli is living proof that God can use anyone—they need only be willing to do something as seemingly simple as answer a phone call.

"Initially, it was a challenge," Yuli reflects. "It was a realisation that I am on the frontline and how I speak will reflect back on Faith FM. But then I just remember: I would like to represent Faith FM just like Jesus would if He was here. And so it lessens the stress levels and picking up the phone for any kind of phone call—whether it be enquiries, answering a Bible quiz, free giveaways, negative feedback—it is all part of a journey to help others come to Jesus."

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR OF ADVENTIST RECORD.





calm in the crisis

I had seen the news: a raging bushfire was burning homes and threatening lives in Tathra, southern NSW. So when my phone rang, I packed my bags, hugged my wife goodbye and jumped in the car.

Arriving at the Bega showground, I was met with chaotic scenes. Cars lined the streets surrounding the perimeter of the evacuation centre. I squeezed my car into a spot between a trailer fridge and some rubbish bins. There were caravans, media vans with satellite dishes and cameramen in hi-vis trousers. I slipped on my ADRA vest, scooped up bags of stationery, grabbed my laptop bag and headed for the entrance. I was anxious to get inside.

Entering the pavilion, I was met with the sound of distracting chatter as people tried to be heard above the din. There was the smell of dust that came up from between wooden floorboards that hadn't experienced this much foot traffic for a long time.

Spotting the ADRA booth, I made my way over, squeezing between volunteers carrying trays of cut watermelon, journalists holding cameras and notepads, and displaced residents anxious to know the fate of the homes they had just fled. ADRA was positioned between Family and Community Services (FACS), which ran the evacuation centre, and Local Land Services, which was providing stock and pet care.

After greeting our team leader, I

was tasked with confirming accommodation availability from the local providers. It soon became evident that we would have to place some people in venues outside Bega as many of the local rooms were taken by media, emergency services personnel and other volunteers.

We set about working the phones, calling every motel, hotel, holiday rental, caravan park and B&B on our list. The constant hum of chatter from hundreds of people packed inside the high-roofed hall made phone conversations difficult. There were details to be gleaned: were pets allowed, availability of cots, the room and bed configurations, and disability access.

While my wife and I had taken part in previous disaster simulations, this was a much greater scale. It was only then I appreciated the training and preparation from ADRA leaders in the past who drilled us on the process of placing people in safe emergency accommodation.

Our top priority when meeting people referred to us was to help them maintain their dignity as they accepted the help needed in this interim phase. Their demeanours varied: from the mature folks who remained philosophical despite losing everything, to those in tears who needed comfort and reassurance in the uncertainty. My heart went out to them as I reminded myself that I may need care of a similar kind one day. It also reminded me of the value of the basics we take

for granted, like the security of health and life.

While there were brief intervals when the workload eased or other team members covered for each other so we could take meal breaks, eventually there was a weariness from the tension of the situation and the constant noise in the centre. We were tired but grateful for the opportunity to play a small part in helping people to get back on their feet.

When I look back and reflect, I'll remember the teamwork. The small contributions of a vast number of individuals who collectively made a huge difference to people during a temporary crisis in their lives. Everyone had their role: the Red Cross as the first port of call for people entering the centre; St Vincent de Paul, with mountains of clothing and towels; the Salvation Army, helping with food distribution; the disaster recovery chaplains, providing a listening ear for people to offload their trauma; and Anglicare, distributing sanitary packs and soft toys for kids. And all of these organisations staffed by wonderful, selfless volunteers.

I felt proud and privileged to represent ADRA. Despite the complexity and the need to operate within certain boundaries, ADRA is fulfilling its Christ-given purpose: to serve people wholeheartedly and humbly.

RUSSELL ALSOP ASSISTANT MANAGER,
ADVENTIST ALPINE VILLAGE, JINDABYNE, NSW.





A reunion to remember

Snakes don't bother me that much, and a spider or two plodding through the house is no real cause for distress either (unless it's bigger than a pizza). What really makes me snap to attention and begin to fret are reunions!

Reunions are those events, usually a significant milestone date, when it seems you've only got around three months to come up with a good account of what you've been up to over the years. The pressure is trying to come up with a story good enough to remotely compete with those who'll be at the function sporting laugh lines around their pockets or a back catalogue of achievements the length of a fluorescent light or two.

The Australian Union Conference is about to celebrate a milestone date: 125 years of the creation of a union in Australia—which happened to be the first union in the world. But not this year. Next year. The Australian Union Conference—it has actually had a few name changes over the decades—came into existence officially in 1894 and that marks next year as its 125th anniversary.

But the story started earlier than that, on May 10, 1885, when 11 Americans set sail from San Francisco with hopes to “open up a mission in Australia”. Pastor Stephen Haskell,

Pastor Mendel Israel, Pastor John Corliss, Henry Scott—a printer from Pacific Press—and William Arnold—an Adventist bookseller—would eventually become the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

They arrived in Sydney on June 6, 1885. While Haskell and Israel stayed in Sydney, the others went on a three-day ride in a small coastal steamer to Melbourne, the city selected to be the base for the Church's Australian activities. The following year, after both successes and triumphs, the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Australia, the Melbourne Seventh-day Adventist Church, was formed on January 10, 1886, with 29 members.

Establishment of local churches, schools, medical facilities and a deliberate commitment to spread information through literature distribution saw the Advent message spread across the country very quickly in those early days. In his brief address to the 10th Annual Session for the Central Australian Conference—held in Balclava, Victoria in 1898—president AG Daniels expressed “deep gratitude” to God for the “innumerable mercies of the past years”. His further encouragement and response from those with him is indicative of the passion and

commitment to ministry both laity and those employed had for the work of the Lord.

Meeting minutes from the early years testify to the fact that mission, as a response to the great commission (Matthew 28:19, 20), was at the forefront of the Union's strategic goals. By the first quarter of 1918, what had begun with a couple of families just over 20 years earlier had grown to around 6500 church members.

Today, our Church membership has reached more than 63,000—not including children—and our goal remains the same, plainly and simply: mission. But as the years continue to rumble by, how will the Church account for what has transpired over those 125 years in Australia? As we look to our pioneer roots, it's interesting to note that the mission of the Church has not been diluted by time and culture. So how then can we as individuals, in our churches, educational institutions, medical facilities, aged care facilities and the like, continue to bring the message of a living Christ to a dying world?

As it was in the beginning, so it remains today: it's all dependent on our commitment to the gospel commission and mission of the Church. Continue to pray that, as we march toward our 125th anniversary, it will be a time of praise for the ways the Lord has led us individually and corporately in the past. May it be a time of thanks for the ways He promises to lead us in the future. May it be a time of recognition and appreciation that the gifts of the Spirit continue to promise unity for the Church and the fruit of the Spirit brings harmony among our ranks. And may it be a time where we continue to focus on mission.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done” (Revelation 22:12, NIV).

Now that's a reunion I'm really looking forward to! Are you?

MURRAY HUNTER MEDIA PROJECT
COORDINATOR, AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE.





CHALLENGES OF A CONSUMER CULTURE

I'm intrigued when I go to Bunnings on a Sunday morning. People check their children in for a craft. Dads go to a DIY class. We give to a community cause and have a fellowship BBQ as we aim for a makeover like the one we saw on TV. Why Bunnings? Well, it has far more choice than the little family hardware store that used to be down the road. For many, a trip to Bunnings is a spiritual experience.

Australia is one of the most consumer driven cultures on the planet. We live in what Mark Sayers describes as a "hyper-real consumer culture". Each day we see more than 3000 advertisements that tell us we need to be something different or that we need more. In our culture, consumerism has taken the place of what sociologists call folk religion. Folk religion is the thinking grid that we live within to determine our identity, actions, meaning and hope.

Consumerism shapes our sense of identity and personality. We are sold the lie that we are a purchase away from happiness. We continually think "I need more" and that somehow "I am missing out."

Some people might be very wealthy by our standards, but score low on consumer scales—they realise what they have is all from and for God and doesn't actually belong to them. Their self-identity is not tied up in what they own. Others might have relatively little, however their driving desire and hope is for what they don't yet have. Like greyhounds racing after a fake rabbit, they run real hard after the elusive promises of consumer culture.

Consumerism teaches me that things exist to make me happy, that I can have gratification now, and that products are disposable and always being updated. Sadly, we don't just treat products this way. We commodify people and can end up using them as products—for our happiness, to meet our needs, disposable or needing an update. I want my "needs" met now, regardless of who is hurt or mistreated along the way. Consumerism puts me at the centre and makes me think life is about my own little story and everything is for my glory. I disengage from the wider stories of religion, history and a world in desperate need, to pursue my own little empire of self-happiness.

We even start treating God and church as products. Church becomes an event I watch, rather than a community to be involved in. The main meas-



urement becomes, “did I like it or not?” The Bible becomes a book of consumable suggestions rather than a big story of God’s love for humanity. God becomes a cosmic prosperity vending machine to provide me with more rather than a loving Being who desires a growing relationship with me.

Our rampant consumerism also has environmental and social implications. We are consuming non-renewable resources at an alarming rate and see the natural world as raw material for production rather than God’s creation to be cared for. We source products because they are a bargain, and forget about stewardship of the natural world and the dignity of people in the process. We are obsessed with economic growth at the expense of fairness and wellbeing. We care about battery hens but have forgotten about battery people—trampled in the producer/consumer story.

God had a lot to say about empires that dehumanise and crush people.

Paul writes in Romans 12 that we get “conformed to the patterns of this world” without even thinking. Paul wasn’t writing about consumerism but he was talking about how the dominant values of the empire have a way of moulding who we are.

Consumerism is a modern institutionalised expression of the same selfishness that has always been the problem. As Christians we are called to live with a different hope and desire, and remember we are shaped for a greater purpose.

Jesus spoke often about the chal-

lenge of consumerism. Sure, there weren’t all the advertisements, brands, cosmetics and fashion magazines in New Testament times, but He did explain in Luke 12 how things have a way of taking hold of our hearts and becoming our master. He talked about how we can so easily give our heart to the wrong treasure, define ourselves according to the wrong grid and end up serving money.

So how do we find a way out—live in the world but not be of it? The reality is that we are going to consume. We will buy shoes, clothes, food and more. Consumerism is not so much the fact we buy, but rather the meaning we place in the process. The biblical story of Daniel highlights how we can live, and even thrive, in Babylon—an empire that symbolises false worship. Daniel purposed in his heart that he belonged to a more significant empire. He prayed with and sought support from friends with similar values. He re-calibrated around God’s purpose for him often—at least three times a day—and remembered that everything, including his intellect and ability to interpret dreams, was from God and that only God was worthy of ultimate glory. When we start with knowing we exist for God’s glory we view the world differently.

As the Church in Australia, we are taking steps to address the challenge of consumerism in this country.

We’re creating healthy church resources that focus on building loving, biblical communities. Our schools and our churches are lifting the “serving

temperature”, which grows people to be less consumer driven. We’ve developed a faith-shaper children’s engagement strategy, which includes fostering intergenerational connect- edness.

Our Youth Engagement Summit, which is planned for late May, will work through strategies to re-engage the home and family as the primary place for discipleship. This will include addressing the consumer culture that chokes out discipleship in the home. We’ve developed discipleship resources, produced especially to explore consumer culture and what it means to live beyond it. And our new Pioneer book series engages children into the story of our Church with a focus on servanthood. Engaging in our story is one of the best ways to address the consumer challenge.

As Christians we are called to give our life to a different story. Rather than be conformed, we are to be transformed (Romans 12:1-3).

We will find our hope, desire and identity in Jesus and, ironically, find our life by giving it away—shifting from our agenda to serving God’s. We will value people, take time to grow, serve, share and worship in ways that resist commodification. We will live to God’s glory in a world that focuses on self. This is the starting point of a significant life that matters for now and eternity.

BRENDAN PRATT MINISTERIAL SECRETARY,
AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE.

TIPS FOR LIVING BEYOND CONSUMER CULTURE

→ Think about what advertising is telling you and why you might be choosing a particular product.

→ Focus on people. Intentionally slow down to spend time with family, church community and neighbours.

→ Lift your capacity to serve in your home, church and world.

→ Be generous with your time, talents and treasure. Generosity breaks the hold of consumerism. Tithing 10

per cent of your income is a great way to guard against the greed of consumerism and remind you that your bank account is actually for God’s glory.

→ Celebrate Sabbath. The Sabbath stands as a mark against consumerism and reminds me I exist for a bigger purpose of growing, serving, connecting, sharing and worshipping.

→ Spend time with older people

who have stories but are often overlooked.

→ Spend time in nature. People who do are often less consumer-driven and more likely to value creation.

→ Take some time to recalibrate around what really matters. Put in place some heart-building habits that connect you with God.



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HI KIDS!

KIDS SPACE

ALTAR TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Paul is in Athens. He is distressed that there are idols all around. He talks about Jesus to whoever will listen. Some people call him a babbler. Paul is invited to the Areopagus (a place where philosophers meet) to explain more about his God. He refers to their altar that was dedicated "to an unknown god" and proclaims to them the true God. He tells them about the resurrection of Jesus. Some people sneer, some want to hear more and some become believers.

LETTER SHUFFLE

REARRANGE THE LETTERS TO SOLVE THE WORD - ALL THE VOWELS ARE ALREADY THERE TO HELP YOU.

DLOIS I ○ O ○ ○ ○

HESOHPIPRSLO ○ ○ I ○ O ○ O ○ ○ E ○ ○ ○

LVIEERBES ○ E ○ I E ○ E ○ ○ ○

STLEL ○ E ○ ○ ○ ○

OEPEL ○ E ○ ○ ○ E

HEANTS ○ ○ ○ E ○ ○

SGOUAREPA A ○ E O ○ A ○ U ○

MSPCAILRO ○ ○ O ○ ○ A I ○ ○

SERVICE MESSAGE

PLACE ALL THE LETTERS IN THE PINK CIRCLES TO SOLVE THE MESSAGE.

I ○ E ○ ○ E

God when I

○ E ○ ○

○ ○ E ○ ○

about Him.

FIND-A-WORD

FIND ALL THE WORDS ABOVE IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

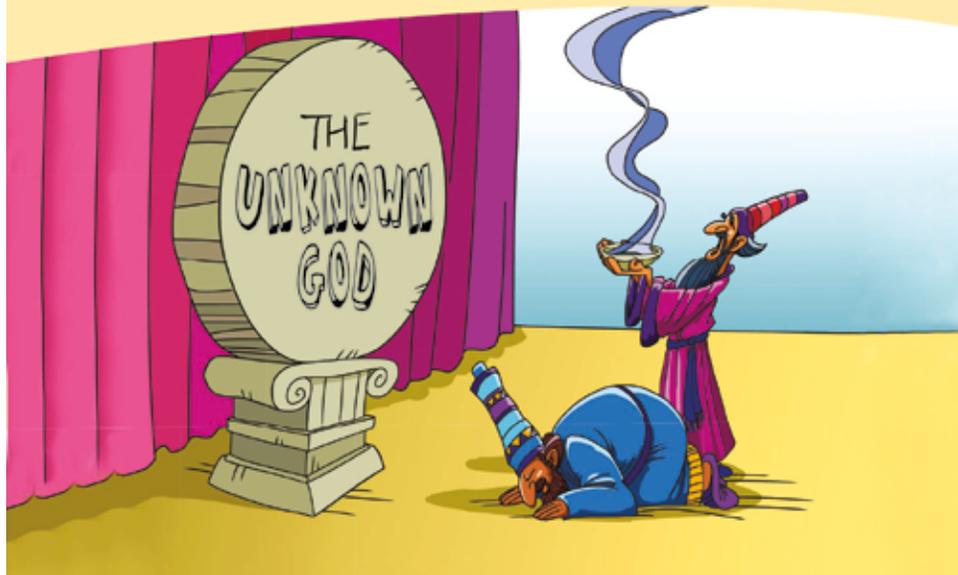
PHILOSOPHERS
 GSUGAPOERAOL
 DLSLETISNOTO
 FARFROHMEACD
 SREVEILEBHOI
 PEOPLEENFU
 PROCLAIMSS

MEMORY VERSE

USE THE LEFTOVER LETTERS IN THE CROSSWORD TO FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW

" _____ "

ACTS 17:27 (NIV)





Not a lot is known about the north-western suburbs of Melbourne, except that there are two ways to soar to great heights. The first is to catch a plane from Melbourne International Airport, in Tullamarine. The second is to become a part of the Gilson College community.

If you live outside Victoria, you'd be forgiven for possibly not recognising the name. But Gilson College, located in the suburb of Taylors Hill, about 30 minutes north-west of the Melbourne CBD, is actually the biggest Adventist school in Australia, with more than 1000 students from Foundation to Year 12. The school has certainly had its fair share of struggles—almost closing down at one point—but has met each challenge with determination and prayer. Now, Gilson is thriving, having established a strong Adventist presence in the community with its campus church.

"We started the Gilson College Community Church (GCCC) as a small group, but over the years it has really expanded and grown," says school chaplain and assistant pastor Hannah Andrykanus. "We try to make church really engaging and innovative with the way we do worship."

Senior church pastor and chaplain Mau Tuaoi has been with the school and church for seven years now, and says what made GCCC different was an intentional shift of focus on its mission field—the college community.

"Three or four years ago, the church was actually called Living Waters Community Church," he says. "But we realised we couldn't just be an ordinary church down the road—if our mission field was the school commu-

nity, then our church had to be a true campus church. The product that people believe in is Gilson College, and so when we changed the name from Living Waters to Gilson College Community Church, suddenly people began to say, 'We have a campus church?' There was a change of understanding—this was a church for the school, integrated with the school, rather than a separate entity."

The result was powerful. Not only did the school grow, but the church now has around 200 people worshipping each Sabbath.

"We're actually a part of the school," says Pastor Tuaoi. "[School principal] Mark Vodell and the chaplaincy team are all on the same page. We sit, we talk, we pray, we dream, and God becomes the first focus in all that we do, in our school and in our church."

"We have been given a huge mission field at the school," says Pastor Andrykanus. "We try to focus our ministry and our outreach within the school community."

Not only has the shift in mission impacted the community, it has also made a difference in the lives of students.

"At that school, we've had kids come through who were atheist and had no connection with Christ," says Adventist Schools Australia director Dr Daryl Murdoch.

"But they were a part of the campus church and that changed something for them. Those kids studied at Avondale [College], came back to Melbourne and are now teaching kids about Jesus at the same school where they had learnt about Him."

Involving students in the church is a

key focus of the pastoral and chaplaincy team. And again, this came with a shift in the way church was done.

"One of the things we have that has been established for a while is Gilson Student Day, where a whole year level takes the church service," says Pastor Andrykanus. "They prepare skits, special items, praise and worship, welcome teams, and they have the freedom to be involved in and create a space of worship. They come from different backgrounds, not necessarily Christian, but it gives them an opportunity to serve in the church and gain a taste of what church is like. On those Sabbaths, we can have between 300 and 400 people at church."

"There are quite a few parents and grandparents who are now part of the church purely because they've seen a change has happened in their children," says Pastor Tuaoi. "They love it because they get to see their kids utilise their skills and gifts, but they also love it because they get to come and do community, and that's really the key. Ninety per cent of our Gilson students are from different faith backgrounds. With those kinds of stats, the mission field is huge."

Dr Murdoch says his vision for all Adventist schools is to recognise the opportunity for mission and discipleship within their communities. "School-church partnerships excite me as our schools are neutral middle ground for the community," he says.

"Many people won't darken the door of a church—but they will send their children to an Adventist school."

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR OF
ADVENTIST RECORD.

@maritzaemunoz



Anniversary

MARTIN. Family and friends met to celebrate Dick and Joy's 60th wedding anniversary at Manna Park church hall, NZ, on 29.1.18. The gathering of church friends and family, some travelling from as far as Australia, made the celebration especially joyous. Throughout his life Dick has been well-known in Adventist circles as a builder, and he has been especially appreciated because of his construction of many church buildings both in New Zealand and in the mission fields. Joy is known as a homemaker and for her crafts and sewing talent.

Weddings



BELL-SOUTHCOMBE.

Lindsey Dean Bell, son of Dean and Karen Bell (Deuchar, Qld), and Brianna Elizabeth Southcombe, daughter of Andrew and Annette Southcombe (Murrumba Downs), were married on 11.3.18 at the Bell family property in Deuchar, where they will set up their home. Lindsey is a farmer and Brianna works in hospitality. The couple met in Canada while both were on a working vacation.

Sid Griffith

CHUEN-HAN. Alex Teng Chuen, son of Chung and Lo Tjiung Yinwa, and Helen Han, daughter of Edward and Francis Han (Bonnells Bay, NSW), were married on 10.3.18 on a beautiful day at North Head, Manly, NSW.

John Kosemier



HUGHES-LIEBKE.

Lachlan Hughes, son of David and Stacey Hughes (Nanango, Qld), and Jaime Liebke, daughter of Steve Liebke and Shontelle Fraser (Nanango), were married on 16.3.18 at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens in Brisbane. Lachlan and Jaime are high school sweethearts who met in Year 9 at Nanango State High School. They plan to live and work in Brisbane. They are both studying at university. Lachlan is a category manager, while Jaime is an assistant function manager. They both love cycling and Lachlan has been heavily involved in Pathfinders with his parents who were district directors.

Gideon Okesene



ING-RORIMPANDEY.

Michael Ing, son of Victor and Eva Ing (Sydney, NSW), and Prunella Rorimpandey, daughter of Nicolai and Mimi Rorimpandey (Sydney), were married on 4.3.18 at Allegro Function Centre, Kenthurst. Michael and Prunella met through mutual friends and dated for two and-a-half years. Their wedding was in a beautiful bush setting, very spiritual, with family and friends. Michael is an engineer and project manager. Prunella is a scientific research assistant. They plan to set up their home in Sydney.

Nigel Ackland



ING-YEE. Dr

Matthew Ing, son of Dr Alvin and Nhan Ing (Sydney, NSW), and Stephanie Yee, daughter of Dr David and Vanessa Yee (Sydney), were married on 1.10.17 at the Rose Garden Pavilion in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney. Matthew and Stephanie were childhood friends. Matthew will continue his medical studies and Stephanie will continue working as a registered nurse. They will set up their home in Sydney.

Nigel Ackland

STRAHAN-PARKER. Russell Strahan, son of Douglas and Marion Strahan (Brisbane, Qld), and Jenene Parker, daughter of Pastor Lewis and Dulcie Parker (Burrpengary), were married on 21.2.18 at the Centenary Lakes Park, Caboolture. Russell and Jenene initially met at Avondale College 34 years ago and have been friends ever since. Russell is on study leave pursuing a doctorate. Jenene is a relief teacher around Brisbane. They will live in Burrpengary.

Mitchell Strahan, Joe Webb

Obituaries

GRIFFIN, Ray, born 21.12.1922 in Sydney, NSW; died 16.2.18 in Port Macquarie. He is survived by Robina, his wife of 66 years; children Margaret and John and their spouses; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Ray was the fourth of five children. His father was Pastor Cecil Griffin and his mother Ruby (nee Taber), and thus was related to many residents of Lord Howe Island. Ray trained for the ministry, working for a time in Tasmania. He also worked for many years with Sanitarium. He was always

very well versed in the Bible and maintained his strong faith. Ray was buried on February 21 in Wauchope Cemetery.

Bruce Roberts

JONES, Kathleen Annie (nee DeLandgrasst), born 27.6.1921 in Bridgetown, WA; died 11.2.18 in Rossmoyne. On 12.5.1942 she married Hector, who predeceased her. Kath is survived by her children Dennis, Alan, Debbie, Derek, Nick and Randall; 27 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and many others who Kath "adopted" from her extended families. Kathleen was a talented and industrious lady who worked hard all her life to provide for the needs of her own family and for the many others she met. Kath knew "Whom she had Believed" and maintained her faith and friendship with Jesus throughout her life regardless of the circumstances. Her faith and belief shone out in her love, acceptance and willingness to forgive and offer help to everyone she met.

B Reynolds, R Millist

MA'AE, Foaolagima (James), born 12.9.1966 in Samoa; died 30.1.18 in Melbourne, Vic. He is survived by his wife Maine and son Elijah. James was a fun-loving man who was always putting his family and others first. He was active around the community, helping people shift house, mowing lawns and gardens for free for the elderly, and active in various sporting groups where he made a positive impression on many of the members. He was an employee of the Signs Publishing family and an active member of the Warburton church. He will also be missed by his extended family in Samoa, New Zealand and Australia, and his Warburton family. We look forward to continuing to sing with James in a better land.

Kevin Geelan, Quinten Liebrandt

PACEY, Gloria Margaret, born 6.3.1942; died 4.3.18. She is survived by her husband John; children Chris, Susan, Wayne and Michelle; and 12 grandchildren. Gloria will be remembered with delight as a gentle Christian who was dearly loved by her family and also by her Mitchelton church (Qld) family. She radiated sweetness and kindness and was lovingly cared for by her family at home. She always welcomed visitors to chat and read the Bible with her. Gloria spent a short time in hospice care and, once again, was happy to be surrounded by her family and friends. She asked

for a funeral full of hope and looked forward to the resurrection with joy. Her impact will be a gentle footprint left behind.

Ted White, Allan Savage

WOODS, Colin Graeme, born 28.8.1944 in Brighton, Vic; died 1.12.17 in Melbourne. On 2.9.1974 he married Glenys. He is survived by his wife and son Colin, both of Sunbury. Colin was much loved and appreciated by his immediate family and Greenvale church family. Always active and enthusiastic, he now sleeps in the assurance of the resurrection at Christ's second coming.

Rod Anderson

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understands our Adventist philosophy, on 1300 982 803 or mobile 0408 458 452. Call us even if you have already prepaid your funeral. <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>.

*Finally . . .
If not us, who? If not
now, when? -Ronald Reagan*

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DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR ADVENTIST RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CARSP) AND LECTURER IN THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, PNG

Pacific Adventist University is seeking qualified applicants for the position of CARSP director and theology lecturer. The ideal candidate will have a research-based postgraduate masters or doctoral degree in Adventist history, Ellen White studies, church history or related field with a demonstrated capacity to strengthen teaching, research, scholarly and professional activities. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahoonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close May 14, 2018.**

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR & RECEPTIONIST MELBOURNE, VIC

The Australian Union Conference is seeking to fill the role of social media coordinator and receptionist. The position is full-time, commencing in May 2018. Enquiries, position description and applications, together with CVs, resumes and references, may be submitted by email to HR Coordinator Lorraine Atchia via email: <lorraineatchia@adventist.org.au> or by post: PO Box 4368, Ringwood VIC 3134. Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Australia. The Australian Union Conference reserves the right to fill the role prior to the close of applications date. **Applications close May 8, 2018.**

ASSISTANT EDITOR—ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, NSW

Adventist Media is seeking an assistant editor to be part of a team producing a variety of print and online content. The role involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the South Pacific Division. Applicants must have excellent oral and written communication skills, high attention to detail, a positive work ethic, and an ability to meet deadlines and work in a collaborative team environment. Ideally, they will be digitally focused, with experience in social media and online platforms. Interested applicants should send a resume and a letter of application, including CV and references, to the Office Manager at Adventist Media: <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. **Applications close April 30, 2018.**

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SECRETARIAT WAHROONGA, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking an executive assistant to support the work of the Division secretariat by providing high quality administrative and operational functions for the SPD office. This full-time role will report directly to the Division secretary and be based at the Division head office in Wahoonga. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahoonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close April 29, 2018.**

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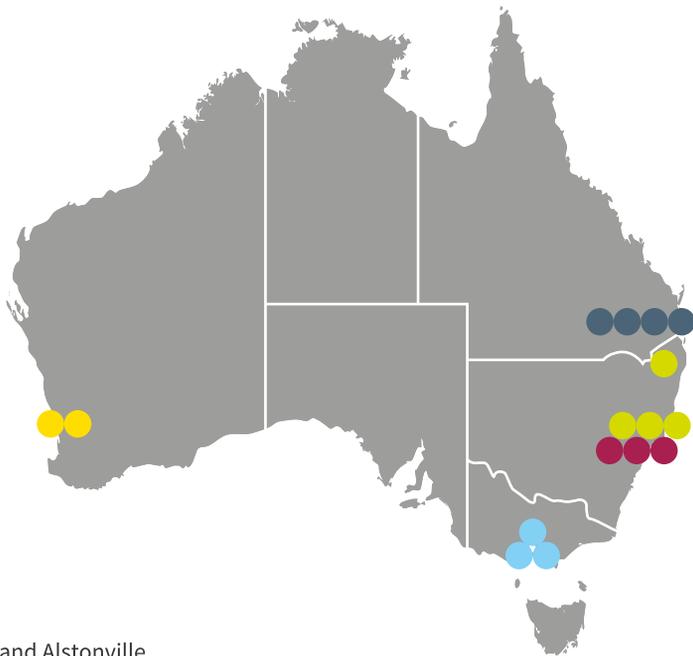


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