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SAVING SEX

We need to talk. I'll warn you—this may not be a comfortable chat. But it's necessary, and important. Maybe if you've got young children, don't let them read this bit. But it's for their sake we need to talk. Because the world is changing and the Church and society are struggling to keep up.

We need to talk about sex. I acknowledge the topic is taboo in many of the cultures in the South Pacific, including older generations in the West. But with a proliferation of porn and the "sex sells" mantra all around us, the problem is not going away.

Even those who have no moral objections are recognising the problems porn is causing and politicians, in the face of the rampant growth of the online porn industry—three of the top 10 US websites are porn sites—bemoan the fact we still have analogue laws in a digital age.

According to a recent ABC News report, around 90 per cent of boys and 60 per cent of girls have watched porn, while 88 per cent of the most popular porn is classified as "violent". Experts realise that the porn being consumed is having a further reach into society than first anticipated, with the content having a dehumanising effect, objectifying women and causing young people to experiment to recreate the high of what they have seen, leading to serious injury, abuse, relationship breakdown, lack of trust, poor intimacy and performance—even within marriage (see page 14).

While we may feel the Church is also outdated in this respect, we actually possess the Creator's blueprint. We could be promoting a healthy, biblical understanding of intimacy and marriage, while not shying away from compassion and care for the realities experienced by those who don't share our worldview.

Yet we have often failed to provide this alternative.

It's no surprise that Satan is at war with godly sex. Like many of God's good gifts introduced in Eden—Sabbath, marriage, life, food—sex was very good. Intended by God for pleasure, intimacy, procreation, transparency and closeness, Adam and Eve were naked with each other and unashamed.

Then shame, secrecy and darkness were introduced—

the enemy's weapons. But when things are uncovered to the light, the enemy loses the ability to twist and corrupt.

We, the Church, must take some of the blame for leaving our young people on their own in this arena. Religion has, in many ways, abandoned the field, leaving it to culture and education.

After school I had acquired knowledge but no understanding. I knew sex was "bad outside marriage". But real life brought temptation and experiences that I was not equipped to deal with.

The Church just says "No". But there have been problems with purity movements. And youth pastors saying things like, "if you wait till marriage, it will be mind-blowing!", leads to unhealthy, unrealistic pressures on young, married Christians who discover that, even in marriage, sex can be hard. Hang-ups and bad habits, porn use, unhealthy role models, abuse, lack of appropriate or too much inappropriate affection—all these problems and more we bring into a marriage.

Experience is a hard teacher but my local church gave me biblical principles, non-judgemental counsel, and the raw and authentic experiences of others, shared to lift others up and stop them from making some of the same mistakes. It has been marriage saving. I wish all churches had this right.

But it's not all bad. Young people today are open to honest conversations (even appreciate them). Many of our youth leaders are willing to tackle the topic, as well as men's retreats and cell groups.

We must trust our young people enough to have difficult conversations. We must take away the inherited shame and the cultural prudishness about sex—a screen the devil can play behind. Instead let's lead the way—teaching sex as an important function of a healthy relationship and a God-given gift—and be open about the difficulties sex brings in a fallen and broken world.

We need to reclaim sex.

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INTERNATIONAL FILM PROJECT PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON DADS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Australia is part of a Seventh-day Adventist international film project that puts a spotlight on the role of fathers.

Adventist businessman and father-of-two Justin Stafford is one of six dads featured in *Fathers*, an intercultural documentary initiated by Adventist media entities in Europe.

The film's director Adrian Dure said the project is all about creating content that can inspire, motivate and orient families, and show the importance of fathers in today's society.

"The role of fathers for the family is very important and there is not too much material about fathers or for fathers," he said.

"The movie shows the lives and types of relationships of six fathers, from six different countries, with their children.

"The idea of the movie is to show the value of being a father for our families around the world. The cultural aspect is also important, to see the difference and similarities between families."

Dads from Cuba, Spain, Lebanon, South Africa and South Korea also feature in the documentary.

Mr Dure, coordinator for network projects for Stimme der Hoffnung (the Adventist Church's European Media Centre), said the project came out of discussions

between European members of the Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN).

"Even though this is originally a European project, we decided to produce the documentary including many countries and cultures from other parts of the world, because we considered that the cultural aspect is very important," he said.

Adventist Media in Sydney shot the Australian footage. Producer Mariana Venturi said the scenes of Mr Stafford and his two young children depict their daily routine and interaction, from morning until bedtime, on the family's rural property in northern NSW.

"Being in communication with our European colleagues and being part of this bigger project is so exciting . . . there's possibilities for us to do it more and more from now on," she said.

"It shows that we are part of a wider mission. We have this amazing network of talent of people on different continents and it's great to be able to collaborate on something like this."

The project is multi-media and includes podcasts and print resources.

Father will be premiered at this month's GAIN meetings in Amman, Jordan (February 22-March 1). The resources will then be made available for the rest of the world to use.



JUSTIN STAFFORD AND HIS DAUGHTER HANNAH HAVING FUN DURING THE SHOOT.

LIFE ON THE RUN

Much of my schedule is pre-programmed—all I have to do is follow along and do my part. Union and General Conference Executive meetings, boards (Sydney Adventist Hospital, Sanitarium, Adventist Media, Avondale, Pacific Adventist University), sub-committees, strategic and administrative meetings, as well as Biblical Research, education, discipleship, leadership, culture—committees make up more than half of what I do and have a regular cycle.

Discretionary time is hard to find. The rest of life has to fit in around the tight schedule and preparation for such events. I'm sure others have similar challenges.

Before I moved head long into this year, I wrote down some reflections about 2018—accomplishments (personal, professional and for the Church and its organisations), ongoing challenges and things I learnt. One thing I learnt: *I need to take time out to process the issues and my thoughts and feelings about those issues.*

Each board or committee makes decisions that impact people. We pray, get relevant information and follow good process to make the best decisions possible—no decision is taken lightly. Sometimes there are personnel changes—decisions are positive for some and negative to others. Other decisions are not popular and people attack you personally. All of this has an emotional, mental and spiritual impact on decision-makers, like me. I feel it.

If I don't acknowledge my thoughts and feelings they build up in me. I have an emotional outburst or get sick (my body telling me something is wrong). So as I live life on the run, I must take more time to listen to myself, reflect and process. Perhaps this is what the psalmists, prophets like Jeremiah, and the letters of Paul do. As well as dealing with the issues in their hectic lives, they share feelings and thoughts too. Perhaps it's a healthy way of growing as a disciple of Jesus.

GLENN TOWNEND
SPD President
● /SPDpresident



PATHFINDERS SHINE FOR JESUS IN NZ

LINDITA VANI

After lots of preparation, fund-raising and travel, 1300 Pathfinders and leaders from around the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) gathered for five days of activities and worship in the White Rock hills.

Fifty-nine Pathfinder clubs, representing New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, and the north and south islands of New Zealand, took part in the NZPUC Pathfinder Camporee held near Christchurch, New Zealand.

The opening ceremony began with a *powhiri*—a Maori welcoming ceremony—as the Pathfinders marched past. The theme for the week was *Illuminé*, Shine, and in his opening address South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross emphasised how Jesus lived a life of light. NZPUC president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i concluded the opening ceremony with prayer.

Every evening worship began with a drama entitled "The Lesser Disciples". Written and directed by Pastor Lance Boulton, NZPUC Adventist Tertiary Student Ministry director, the drama touched on everyday issues teens face, such as self-esteem, bullying and relationships.

Isabella MacPherson, one of the 13 young adults who practised weekly for this Christ-centred play, said, "Being here makes the past six months of practice worth it."

Guest speaker Rome Ulia, who pastors in the North New South Wales Conference, encouraged the Pathfinders through animated and powerful presentations. He shared about God's transforming power through gospel stories and his own personal testimony. He passionately pleaded with the Pathfinders to call on Jesus and prayed that all present would have faith like the centurion (Matthew 8:5-13).

Thirteen Pathfinders entered the waters of baptism in a celebratory service on the Sabbath afternoon in the Okuku River—six of them were from Rehoboth Pathfinder Club in Auckland. District director Pastor Vitali Shevchenko expressed his joy

in announcing that the other half of this club had also made decisions for baptism and will be followed through in their local church.

Many of these young people's families do not attend church, but they are very dedicated, and thanks was expressed to club director Ana Ahoiatu who invests hugely in them. The newly baptised Pathfinders emphasised how the club is like family and not just a place to receive badges.

Pastor Victor Kulakov, camporee director and NZPUC youth director, noted that the network and supportive environment the Pathfinder ministry provides for future disciples is enriched by the leadership and development journey from Pathfinder to Master Guide and beyond.

"Pathfinders is discipleship," he said. "Staff and Pathfinders spend time together, share their faith in God and encourage one another."

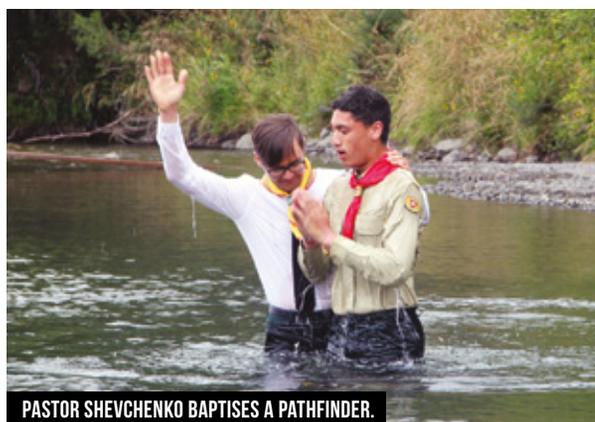
During the camporee a further 213 young people asked to be baptised soon in their local churches while another 469 asked for Bible study.

Two special highlights were when 100 Tahitian Pathfinders sang "Let your little light shine" in French and when about 700 Pathfinders from the NNZC sang "My God loves me!" in 12 languages.

The camporee was intentionally bilingual. All camp material was provided in French and English and the team of subcamp leaders were also chosen to have both French and English speakers. Simultaneous translation was provided by a team of three rotating volunteers every evening.



WORSHIP SERVICE.



PASTOR SHEVCHENKO BAPTISES A PATHFINDER.

At the end of the camporee Pastor Ulia and Dr Kross were presented with a *maui* (a fish hook), chosen by the NZPUC to be the symbol of discipleship for the Union. Pastor Kulakov invited administration staff, camp directors, counsellors, district directors and all club leaders up the front. He said they are the pillars of Pathfinder ministry, pouring their lives into this ministry and are the ones who grow disciples.

The site for the camporee was private land kindly provided by the Tooley family. They, along with a team of hardworking volunteers, installed water, electricity and made possible the facilities.

Pastors Kulakov and Boulton stressed that the key component for the successful and smooth running of the event was the many volunteers who kept on giving of themselves beyond what was expected. Local businesses and a lot of South Island hospitality made sure that NZPUC Pathfinders can continue to *Illuminé*, Shine, for Jesus.

NEW CHIP FACILITATORS TRAINED IN PACIFIC

JARROD STACKELROTH

CHIP facilitator training has been completed in two remote Pacific nations that have some of the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in the world in an effort to help stem the disease.

Nearly one in four people in Kiribati and more than a quarter of people in Nauru have the lifestyle disease, which is a leading cause of death and disability in the Pacific.

Trans Pacific Union Mission Health director Dr Paul Wood travelled to Nauru and Kiribati to conduct the



DR PAUL WOOD WITH DR JAMES AUTO, NAURU'S DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

training.

In Nauru, 12 new CHIP facilitators have been trained and are looking forward to conducting the country's first Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP).

While in Nauru, Dr Wood met with the country's director of Public Health, Dr James Auto. During this meeting, the 10,000 Toes campaign strategy was discussed along with the recent launch of the South Pacific Society of Lifestyle Medicine, a society that is being established to equip and train health professionals across the South Pacific in evidence-based strategies to combat non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease. The South Pacific Society of Lifestyle Medicine is a direct beneficiary of funds raised by the 10,000 Toes campaign.



KIRIBATI'S NEW CHIP FACILITATORS.

On the island of Tarawa, Kiribati, 19 people were trained as CHIP facilitators and they are also planning to run their first program.

As a group-based lifestyle education program, CHIP is equipping people in the Pacific islands with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively combat the pandemic of type 2 diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. Training CHIP facilitators is a component of the Church's 10,000 Toes campaign.

To learn more, visit <10000toes.com>.

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SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLESHIP METHODS USED IN PNG

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A Papua New Guinean youth leader says there are two important ingredients for sharing faith: one is food; the other is the Discovery Bible Reading program.

Sepik Mission youth leader Pastor Misikaram Guguna said disciple-making and Discovery Bible Reading (DBR) are key focus areas of his ministry.

In June 2018 he and his wife Pamela started a small DBR group with their babysitter Gloria. A month later Aries Mateson and his wife Dalen joined the group. Then in August, Mrs Guguna started inviting a young husband and wife, Junior and Debora Silvester, to their home on a weekly basis for dinner. They have now become part of the group and Mr Silvester asked that his parents be introduced to DBR.

"We decided instead of doing Bible Discovery with his parents on the first contact, we must

cook some dinner and eat with them," Pastor Guguna said.

"His parents were delighted [with the hospitality] and asked us to give them Bible study though DBR. His father is the chief of the village."

Recently, Pastor Guguna had the joy of baptising one of the couples: the Matesons. "It's a joyous feeling when you baptise your own Discovery Bible Reading Group member," he said.

"Please help pray for us here as we take movement building and Discovery Bible Reading into a new reality."



NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR GSC SCHOOLS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Greater Sydney Conference will allocate seven annual Sabbath offerings collected for education to a new scholarship fund for disadvantaged students in Adventist schools.

Conference CFO Eva Ing said they came up with the initiative after it was realised that, for some families, an Adventist education is beyond their financial means.

"Previously, our offerings were used to buy things like library resources and playground equipment for our schools, which is great," she said. "But we believe



our offerings should really focus on students and giving them an opportunity to come to our schools."

South Pacific Division education director Dr Carol Tasker praised the initiative. "I am excited about this groundbreaking initiative, and would love to see it adopted by other conferences across Australia and New Zealand," she said.

"The mission for education in the SPD is 'to offer attractive, affordable and authentic Adventist education, providing each student with the best possible preparation for this life and the life to come'. Community families of faith value our education system and are delighted to find a place in an Adventist school.

"We don't want to see any families missing out on quality Adventist education because it is beyond their weekly budget."

The scholarships will begin in the 2020 school year. Donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

NEWS GRABS



RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY

Pastor Mikhail Kaminsky, president of the Euro-Asia Division, has released a statement offering condolences to the families of victims affected by a deadly gas explosion in southern Russia. The explosion ripped through an apartment building on December 31, with 31 people confirmed dead and 10 still listed as missing. —ANN



FREEDOM, FINALLY

In one of the first actions of his new administration, Brazil's new President, Jair Bolsonaro, signed a bill allowing students to skip exams and classes held on Sabbath. The bill, passed in November 2018, was awaiting the presidential signature, and is being lauded a "victory" for religious freedom in the country. —Felipe Lemos



SPECIAL OCCASION

The Pêsaroj Pathfinder club held its very first investiture service on November 30, 2018. The club, created for Syrian children from the Kawergosk refugee camp in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, has been helped through its first year by ADRA Kurdistan and several overseas volunteer teams. —Pathfinders Iraq

HOT TOPICS



ANDROID APOCALYPSE?

Smartphones are heralds of the antichrist, according to the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. In an interview with state-run Russia-1 TV, Patriarch Kirill said smartphones presented the danger of global control from one place, adding that the Apocalypse would be brought closer by the use of social networks. —*Christian Today*



REDEFINING RED MEAT

The Impossible Burger 2.0, a new plant-based alternative to red meat, was recently named “Technology of the Year” at CES, the popular consumer electronics show that takes place yearly in Las Vegas. Impossible Foods CEO Pat Brown says the company is now working on engineering a plant-based steak fillet targeted at meat eaters. —*Forbes*



JUST FOR KIWIS

A new audio Bible read and recorded in a Kiwi voice has been released by Bible Society New Zealand. The Kiwi Audio Bible took five years to produce, and was designed with busy Kiwis in mind. —*NZ Christian*

SCHOLARS ON SHOW AT AVONDALE GRADUATION

BRENTON STAGEY

A growing research culture has seen Avondale graduate the largest number of higher degree by research and PhD students in the one class in 2018.

The presentation of awards during the ceremony (December 9, 2018) began with the robing of Drs Warrick Long, Anthony MacPherson, André Reis, and Peter Williams. They bring the number of Doctor of Philosophy graduands into double figures (since 2011).

Dr Long, an Avondale Business School lecturer, considered the lived experience of Australian university accounting academics. Drs MacPherson and Reis wrote theological theses, examining the great controversy as a theodicy response to the evidential problem of evil and the day of atonement in Revelation. Dr Williams, also from the business school, studied school leadership succession in a faith-based education system with a focus on perceptions of different hierarchical levels.

Assistant academic registrar and project manager Grace Paulson followed the four across the Chan Shun Auditorium stage as only the second Master of Philosophy graduand. She used the biblical stories of Esther (Hadassah) as a comparative study of female agency.

“We’ve acknowledged for many years the value of research to support our academic program,” said Dr Gwen Wilkinson, the academic registrar. “But this milestone, the record number of HDR graduands, is evidence of the way we’re maturing in our scholarly activity. We’re now acknowledged as a valued contributor to the development of new knowledge through research.”

Relief and relationships were front of mind as the graduands spoke at a ringing of the bell ceremony on the Lake Macquarie campus on December 7: relief for completing not only a professional but a personal journey through

research; and relationships with family members and supervisors that provided support and strength.

A biblical reference—Mark 5:19—provided the inspiration for the class motto, “Your Story”. “It encompasses flavours of reflection, personal journeys and also the greater story—that of Jesus Christ,” said graduation class co-president (Lake Macquarie campus) Bianca Maggs. “While our time at Avondale has been a chapter in our story, we are about to go into the world and share our stories and His story, too.”

Ms Maggs and her Sydney campus co-president Michaela Entermann led graduands who were eligible to march down the auditorium’s centre aisle during the ceremony.

Avondale president Professor Ray Roennfeldt said the size of the graduation class, 320, although a good figure, is a challenging one for Avondale. “It’s wonderful to see so many students successfully completing their study programs,” said Prof Roennfeldt. “However, we now have to replace all those students—and more—and we will miss them as well.”

His advice? “Tell your story! You are the best advertisement for Avondale and the impact it has had on your life.”

The graduands again honoured Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church for its support. The class gift, with support from private donors, has funded a welcome desk where a team will connect with visitors.



DR PETER WILLIAMS RECEIVES HIS TESTAMUR.

Photo: Jared Martin



EXTRA SPACE

When God led Operation Food for Life (OFFL) to the very remote village of Kivori Poe in Papua New Guinea to build a second literacy school, those in the area told founder Dennis Perry to expect up to 50 children to attend over a start-up period of 18 months. With that in mind, Mr Perry and his team built a bush school and two temporary single toilets. But within 12 months of the school's opening, 250 children were enrolled. In December, OFFL completed a modern, nine toilet block facility, with full sewerage. The next major project is to build another three classrooms to accommodate the growing number of children. —OFFL newsletter



HEALTH EXPO

Members of Wahroonga Adventist Church (NSW) conducted a successful community health expo that coincided with the annual Sydney Adventist Hospital Carols by Candlelight. Based on the NEWSTART model (nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest and trust), the expo featured a number of health testing stations, measuring things like lung capacity and blood pressure. While the expo took place outside the church, the sanctuary was open so members of the community could go inside, with an opportunity to pray with a pastor. Forty-nine people had their health tested, while about 10 families had a look inside the church. —Tracey Bridcutt



THE POWER OF CONFESSION

Siguzato Adventist Church (Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, PNG) recently organised a "community confession" event with positive results. Church leaders, members and those from the community all came together to confess things that they wanted God to forgive them for, offering prayers, sharing food from their gardens and singing songs. After the program, marijuana was uprooted and thrown away and young people from the community committed to a better life. A monument was erected by the community to remind them of their decisions and forgiveness, with 16 people choosing to be baptised the following Sabbath. —Misek Komiloko



COORANBONG CAROLS

Avondale School (NSW) continues to raise the bar with its Community Christmas Carols, this time attracting an estimated 5800 people to their December event. Children's performer Justine Clarke and Josh Cunningham, from The Waifs, headlined a list of talented performers, including characters from the kids' show *PJ Masks*, and a selection of judges from the Channel Seven program, *All Together Now*. A community band comprising Avondale School staff and friends led the carols singing, putting the birth of Christ as the reason for the season, while a stunning fireworks display capped off a great night. —Lakes Mail



HOPE FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Hope FM has officially hit the airwaves in Papua New Guinea, broadcasting to Lae and Port Moresby. The new studio was opened on December 6 by South Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Glenn Townend, who also unveiled a special plaque. An initiative of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), president Pastor Kepsie Elodo said the goal in establishing a radio station was to reach the people of PNG to help them spiritually and socially through promotional programs, including health and education. Talks are now underway to set up a further 28 frequency towers in other local missions to provide a wider coverage. —Natalie Cholohei



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

December was a special month for Blenheim Adventist Church (South NZ) as they celebrated eight baptisms. Each of the new members came to the church through several evangelistic programs, including creation, health, depression and anxiety recovery, and the Prophetic Code. Blenheim regularly runs community-focused programs and has had a wonderful response from the community as a result of these initiatives. —Paul Gredig



BOXES OF LOVE

South Coast Adventist Company (SA) recently asked God for an outreach idea to suit the abilities of their congregation, and the "stationery boxes" were born. Each church member, along with church members from Fleurieu Central and Tooperang, received a box to fill with basic school supplies for a primary-aged child, which were then distributed to disadvantaged students in the lower Fleurieu area. —Dawn Peterson/Grapevine



TRUE EDUCATION

Staff from Navesau Adventist High School (Fiji) held a retreat at the Fiji Mission Conference Centre on January 11–12. With the theme "True Education", the retreat gave staff the opportunity to network and spend time in prayer. "What happens on our Adventist campuses will define the quality, strength and future of our leaders, our Church and our Mission," said Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe. —Fiji Mission

meet the



Move over '90s cartoons, there's a new family in town. And although they only arrived on screens across the Pacific last November, the Tui family have been on Litiana Turner's mind for years.

Starting in the children's ministries department for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific (SPD) 13 years ago, Litiana was inspired by the many children's resources available to families in this Division.

"[Those before me] have done a fantastic job in creating resources for children and families, but there was one obvious fact: the majority of our resources come from the General Conference and then we contextualise them to fit our audience," she says. "Although we had plenty of resources, there was a real need to have something 'home-grown'."

It was a thought she'd come back to many times over the next few years. An initial plan to create a video resource explaining the Church's 28

Fundamental Beliefs to children came into fruition around the same time as Litiana was appointed children's ministries director for the SPD. But this couldn't be just any ordinary video. Litiana began to brainstorm with her Discipleship Ministries team and a production team from Adventist Media. What could they make that introduced the 28 Fundamentals to children, especially those in the islands, in a way that was creative, succinct and, most importantly, relevant?

Enter the Tuis. An animated series about a Pacific island family living in Northern Australia. The family comprises Dad Josefa, Mum Marica, 12-year-old Salome, 9-year-old Jonathan and baby Tuks. Each episode sees the family involved in a different activity, including camping and geocaching.

"We wanted a resource that not only told a story to kids, but really supported parents as well," says Litiana. "We've had parents who have asked, 'How can we talk about these

topics with our children?' We want our parents to be the ones to hero Adventist principles and stories of our Church to their children. Our hope with these videos is that parents can use them as the beginning of the conversation."

Adam Kavanagh, a father of two young children who oversaw the production of episodes at Adventist Media, says he was inspired when he watched the videos.

"It's exciting to see it all come to life from a script, but it's good for me to sit back and watch as well, because after listening to the dad [Josefa] and how he relates to the kids, it actually makes me want to be a better dad," he says. "How he engages with his kids, talks to them and encourages them makes me reflect on how I can be a better parent myself. That's really exciting for me because that's really what the creation of the series was about—parents taking responsibility for their children's spirituality."

The pilot episode, entitled *Dragon*



Master, relates to the fundamental belief on health. In the video, young Jonathan has become addicted to playing a popular video game called (you guessed it) *Dragon Master*. As the episode progresses, his health deteriorates, prompting his father to have a conversation with him about choosing healthy habits in all areas of his life. While there is no outward mention of the word “fundamental” or “belief”, the principles that come through are evident.

“Kids these days are into video games; [popular game] *Fortnite* is a clear example of that,” says Litiana. “This episode was about kids making good choices, so mums and dads are able to have the conversation with their child about that.”

Litiana is also quick to note that the Tuis are not a standalone resource.

“As well as the videos, we also give additional information for kids and for parents,” she says. “We have a family worship workbook that accompanies each video, including activities, ques-

tions, colouring in and readings from [Ellen] White. These videos are meant to be used in partnership with other resources already created about the 28 Fundamentals.”

Dragon Master premiered at the SPD Executive meetings last November, receiving positive feedback, especially from the islands. It’s available to stream and download online, with future plans to distribute USBs with the episodes and workbooks across to families in the Pacific islands, who may not have access to high speed internet.

Adam, Litiana and the team are currently working hard to finish the first group of nine episodes, with the second group of nine also in progress. Creating one 11-minute episode is no easy feat. More than 100 people are involved in the process worldwide, including animators, voice actors, editors, script writers and music producers. Once a video is finished, Adam, Litiana and the team have a 24-hour window in which to view

the product and send it back with any feedback.

“Of course it’s a big job, but it’s a blessing to be able to create something that will help both kids and parents alike,” says Adam.

The Tui family has only just graced our screens but the ministry is already taking off, and the team hope it will be a blessing to families across the Pacific in making disciples. Each episode has been thought through carefully, written intentionally and prayed over, down to the last detail—including, of course, the name that started it all.

“The word *tui* is a Pacific island word that means ‘king’,” says Litiana. “They’re the children of the King.”

The second episode, Robot Butler, has now been released. To watch the episodes, as well as access the worship workbooks, visit <TheTuis.tv>.

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR,
ADVENTIST RECORD.



tomorrow is in our hands

“We are the future, a promise just begun. We’re the next generation, tomorrow’s in our hands. In a world of problems, we’re going to make a stand.”

That’s the opening verse of the song, “We’re the Pathfinders”. With the recently completed 2019 AUC Pathfinder Camporee in Molesworth, Victoria, and the NZPUC Camporee in White Rock, I couldn’t help but think back to my days of Saturday night meetings, camping trips and expeditions. I never fully appreciated some of those experiences at the time. It’s only in growing up that I’ve realised how awesome my Pathfinder days were.

My first ever camporee was “12th Gate” at Stuarts Point (NSW) in 2007. In the Pathfinder world, camporees hold a mythical and legendary status. Clubs would sometimes form a year ahead of time just to be able to attend one of the week-long events. Suffice to say I was hyped, and 12th Gate did not disappoint. With around 6000 in attendance, the marching techniques from other clubs (in particular from the islands) were a sight to behold. As part of the Adelaide City Pathfinder Club, our campsite was next to a club from Solomon Islands and we ended up exchanging cultural food throughout

the week. But my favourite memory was an activity involving running through the scrub before entering a clearing with a massive water fight. Nothing more satisfying than pegging wet sponges at random people!

Then there were the evening meetings. Each night was topped off by visiting speaker Pastor Jose Rojas, and in one presentation he told a story of how his wife saved his life. Pastor Rojas was meant to be having a business breakfast at the top of the World Trade Center in 2001, but his wife insisted he stay home to do some cleaning. He hesitantly agreed, not knowing what was about to unfold—the day was September 11.

But Pathfinders is not only about having fun and listening to inspirational sermons, it’s about creating leaders. I love the line in the Pathfinder song, “tomorrow’s in our hands”. It epitomises how Pathfinders plays a key role in developing young people in the Church to serve. Talking to people around the Adventist Media office, it’s amazing how true this statement is. Not only did most of my colleagues attend Pathfinders at some point, there were a few who also helped organise camporee events. Hope Channel director Pastor Wayne Boehm co-ordinated one of the daily activities for 12th Gate. And the *Adventist*

Record reporter for that week was Melody Tan—12 years on, we now work together!

Pathfinders and camporees are also a place where decisions are made. More than 10,156 Pathfinders have collectively attended the Fiji Mission, Solomon Islands Mission, New Zealand Pacific Union and Australian Union camporees in the past year. Fifty-six young souls have been baptised, and a further 721 have asked for baptism. Incredible numbers.

I can’t overstate my gratitude to all the leaders and volunteers who made things happen during my Pathfinder days—from the cooks and leaders at my club, all the way through to those organising the camporees. It’s incredible to now see close friends my age stepping up to the plate and running their church’s Pathfinder clubs.

For anyone out there on the fence about whether to join Pathfinders or enrol their children, being a part of it teaches you a valuable life lesson that is found in the chorus of the Pathfinder song: “We’re the Pathfinders, believe us when we say, we’re headed in the right direction ‘cause Jesus leads the way.”

DANIEL KUBEREK ASSISTANT EDITOR, SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

VEGIE DELIGHTS SEEKS CREATIVE, DELICIOUS RECIPES

“Changing lives every day through whole person health.”

This is the purpose of Adventist Church-owned Life Health Foods. The Life Health Foods business and its more than 270 employees in Australia and New Zealand are passionate about producing great tasting, healthy and convenient plant-based foods.

In 2014 the business acquired Sanitarium’s Vegie Delights brand and has since been dedicated to building on the brand’s longstanding history. Which is no easy feat. After all, the Vegie Delights canned range—including iconic products such as Nutmeat and Nutolene—has been around since 1912.

“It is the first packaged vegetarian meals range made and sold in Australia, and many families have relied on these products for their versatility and convenience for generations,” says Life Health Foods Australia general manager Dean Epps.

“The recipes have become wonderful memories for people over time. Positive memories of family time; memories of special occasions over food—long before vegetarianism or veganism were trendy. I am a Nutmeat fan through and through—sorry Nutolene lovers!

“In all seriousness though, even after 100-plus years, the canned range is not taken for granted by us. These products were pioneering when launched and we keep that pioneering spirit going today in everything that we do. We are committed to making these products for as long as it is viable.”

To keep up with times and to meet younger generations’ expectations, the Vegie Delights range—including the canned products—underwent a major packaging design change in 2018.

Mr Epps explains: “We appreciate that buying foods in a can format is off many people’s radar in today’s day and age. That’s one of the reasons why we have refreshed our packaging and that’s why we want to encourage our loyal customers to continue to share their recipes and serving suggestions to show how versatile and delicious these products really are.”

If you are keen to share your favourite Vegie Delights recipes with other Vegie fans, now is the time. Vegie Delights is giving away \$A1000 in prize money this February for the most creative and delicious ideas. Head to vegie delights.com/recipecompetition or page 2 in this Record for more information.



CANNED PRODUCTS FROM THE 1940S.



LIVING HIS WORD WITH WAYNE BOEHM

LESSONS FROM JOSEPH

The scene opens with Potiphar’s wife as she desperately acts to cover her forbidden desires. **CONSIDER** Genesis 39:6,7.

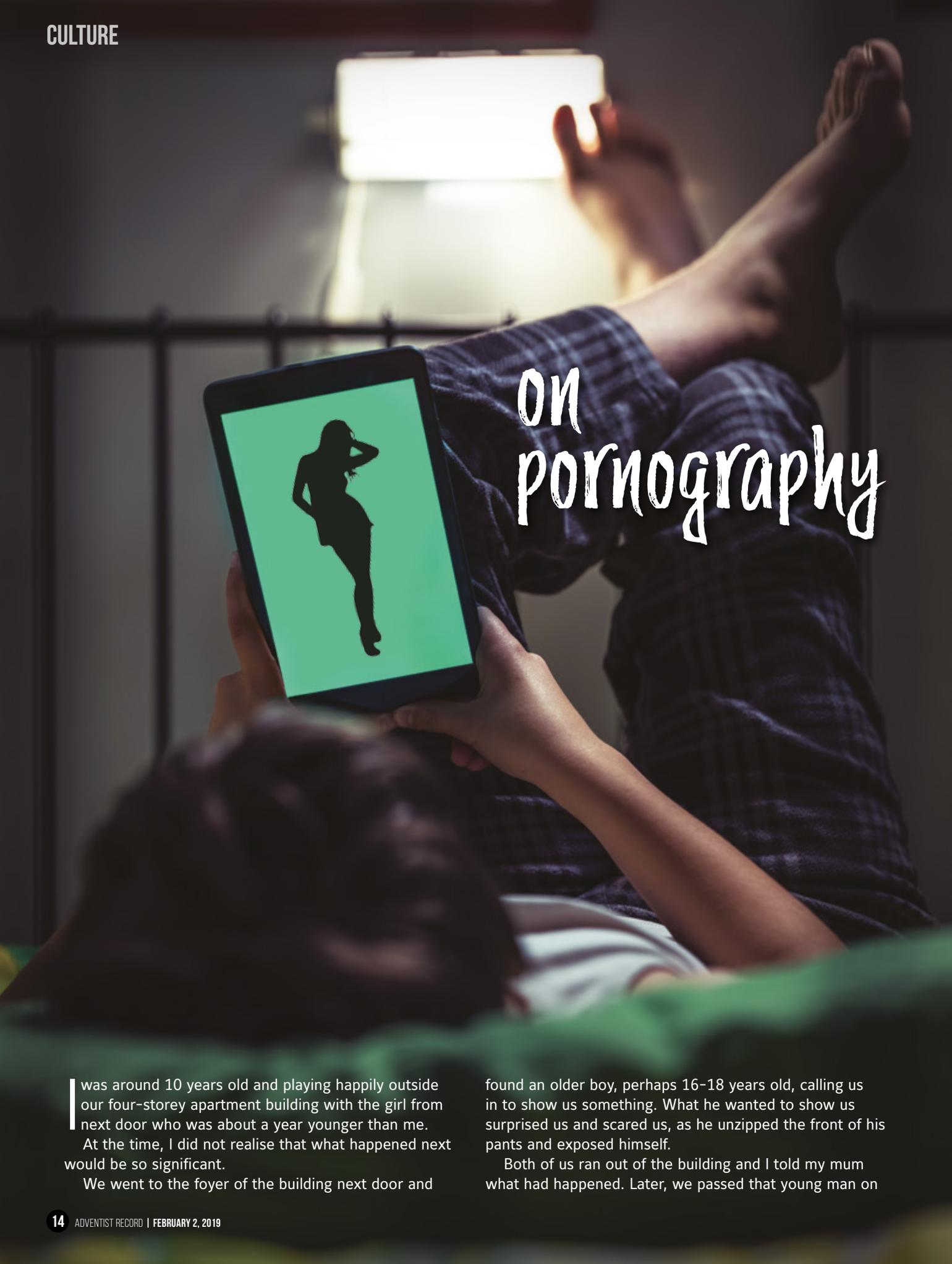
This observation about handsomeness is only made about two other characters in the Bible: 1 Samuel 9:2, 16:12.

Known only as “his master’s wife”, her intent was clear as she cast longing eyes towards Joseph. Joseph’s determined resolve is also clear—“he refused” her. In Jewish literature, these words are clearly emphasised, indicating Joseph’s determination not to compromise the trust of Potiphar or his faith in God. **CONSIDER** Genesis 39:10.

Clearly, this was not a one-off request—the Bible notes she persisted day after day. **WHAT** can we learn from Joseph’s response to this temptation? See Genesis 39:10.

Potiphar’s wife ups the ante and catches Joseph by his garment. A piece of material again takes centre stage in Joseph’s narrative. **CONSIDER** how Potiphar’s wife, like Joseph’s brothers, uses this garment to cover her own desires. See Genesis 39:12,13,16,17. **CONSIDER** Matthew 22:1-14. After a string of rejections to the wedding feast invitation, servants are told to go out and invite other people—the invitation is extended to the good and bad and the hall was filled with guests. The king noticed a guest without the appropriate wedding garment who was promptly cast out. Without the provided garment, our sins are exposed.

Jesus’ call to the people in Laodicea is very clear. You and I, by faith, need to accept the garment Christ provides so that like Joseph’s brothers and Potiphar’s wife, our nakedness may be covered. See Revelation 3:18.

A person is lying in bed, wearing blue plaid pajamas, holding a tablet computer. The tablet screen shows a black silhouette of a woman in a revealing pose against a red background. The person's legs are raised and bent at the knees. In the background, a lamp with a white shade is lit, casting a warm glow. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a bedroom at night.

ON pornography

I was around 10 years old and playing happily outside our four-storey apartment building with the girl from next door who was about a year younger than me. At the time, I did not realise that what happened next would be so significant.

We went to the foyer of the building next door and

found an older boy, perhaps 16-18 years old, calling us in to show us something. What he wanted to show us surprised us and scared us, as he unzipped the front of his pants and exposed himself.

Both of us ran out of the building and I told my mum what had happened. Later, we passed that young man on

the street and I told my mum that he was the one. She found out where he lived and we both went to his house. My mum exchanged some strong words with his mum and he never bothered me again. But I remember him forever and every time I pass by his house, I remember what happened. This event has left a scar on my memory.

Unfortunately, this was only the first experience of this type that deeply affected me as a person. The next two were more devastating.

My brother, who was eight years older than me, purchased a pornographic magazine that he used to help him satisfy his sexual needs. I found that magazine and kept coming back to see the images. It was very addictive. My body was reacting to what it saw and wanted to see it again and again.

This time I did not say anything to my mum. Or anybody else.

Later, I was cleaning offices in a big shipyard during summer vacation. Several men who worked in the building had time on their hands and invited me to watch something “interesting” with them. I was curious. This was the time when videotapes started to be produced. I was about 16 when I saw a full-length pornographic movie.

All of these events had a lasting impact on me.

We tend to think of pornography as only a male problem. It is not.

In Australia, in 2006 it was “found that 93 per cent of males between the ages of 13–16 and 62 per cent of females have viewed pornography over the internet”.¹ That was 12 years ago. A lot has changed since then. I dare say, not for the best.

There is, however, a difference in how pornography is experienced by male and female teens exposed to it. Older teen males tend to find it exciting, arousing and amusing while females express shock and distress. Males are more likely to deliberately seek pornographic material and more frequently. Exposure to younger children (9–12) of both sexes is particularly distressing to them.

These exposures deeply affected me. For years those images kept replaying in my mind. They affected how I saw myself, how I saw others; it affected my relationship with my boyfriend and husband later on.

If pornography was a problem more than 40 years ago when I was young, it is almost unimaginably a bigger problem now. Accessibility of such material is far easier today than it was then. In the US, 90 per cent of children aged between 8 and 16 claim to have viewed pornography on the internet.² Ninety per cent! From as early as eight years of age!

There are many studies showing the negative, long-term effects of pornography on young people.

Pornography is associated with:

- Unsafe sexual practices.
- Sexual dissatisfaction, anxiety and fear.
- Increased levels of self-objectification and body surveillance.
- Stronger beliefs in gender stereotypes, more likely viewing women as sex objects.
- Sexual aggression.
- Physical and verbal aggression, predominantly by men towards their female partners.

Those who have been unwittingly exposed to pornography experience strong and lasting negative emotions, which are difficult to overcome. Anger, embarrassment, disgust, disturbance, fear, sadness, shock, sickness, surprise, repulsion. It is rape of the mind.

So the question comes to mind: What are we doing about it?

I’m glad my mum stood up for me back then. We need to stand up for our children.

There are different ways to do that:

1. We need to be vigilant, monitoring what our children are viewing on the internet as well as in magazines. Set up rules and stick to them. Some rules could be that children:
 - will not have a mobile phone until a certain age, or at least not a smartphone.
 - will use a computer only in the presence of adults.

• will not use smartphones or computers in their bedroom.

Remember: as a parent you are the most important and most influential person in a child’s life.

2. We need to foster warm, open and communicative relationships with our children. I remember when, as we were washing the dishes one day, my teen son asked me, “What is our Church’s view on foreplay, Mum?” I was a bit shocked, but did not show it. We had an interesting and open conversation, and the dishes were done in no time.

3. Help them to think critically, to evaluate what they are seeing/doing/listening to. Ask questions such as “Who made this? What does it mean to you? What do you want to do as a result?” Help them to evaluate what they read for school, what they watch on TV. Make it a habit. Porn will be one of those issues you will discuss.

4. Educate ourselves about the issue. Technology is changing. If we want to help our children navigate through life, we need to be up to speed with their world. Furthermore, learn about the pornography industry as well; learn the effects it has on children’s brains and their development.

5. Provide support to those exposed to the evils of pornography. This could be your child, other children, young adults as well as adults in the church or neighbourhood. Young women and men featured in pornographic materials also need help and prayers. Many of them are sex slaves.

Pornography is another evil in the quiver of the thief who “comes only to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10). Let’s work together to “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

1. Quadara et al. The effects of pornography on children and young people. Australian Government, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2017. Accessed online.

2. An Overview of Research on the Impact that Viewing Pornography has on Children, Pre-Teens and Teenagers, Bravehearts Foundation Ltd, 2017, p 9. Accessed 27/9/2018.

ARE WE LISTENING?

The gift of prophecy

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction and correction to the Church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Numbers 12:6; 2 Chronicles 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28,29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 22:8,9.)

Prophecy is a gift. Not so much for prophets though. For us. For you and me, and everyone to whom the special messages from God are addressed.

For the messengers, the gift of prophecy is a privilege and a burden. They hear from God directly, seeing what others haven't—a taste of heaven or the future unfolded before their eyes. But their gift comes up against unbelief, trouble and persecution. The overwhelming weight of their responsibilities clashes with misunderstanding and people's distorted expectations.

Prophets are human. Yet, despite their failures, this gift—God's revelations communicated to us—has been in action across the ages, changing the lives of both messengers and recipients.

I'm part of the latter group.

My mother was a granddaughter of Adventist pioneers in a rural part of southern Brazil. However, my father was not an Adventist, and our home was more than 600 kilometres from any Adventist relatives. On Sabbath,

Mum would faithfully take my brother and I to Sabbath School. After we arrived home, Dad—with good intentions—would take us to the shops and pick a cartoon for us to watch.

Mum would teach us principles like Leviticus 11, then later at a barbecue with friends, Dad would give me pork sausage to try. The differences in worldview permeated my childhood in a place surrounded by non-practising Catholics and Protestants.

Right at the critical time when I left childhood, between the ages of 12 and 15, God touched my heart deeply. I started to read the Bible. I wanted to understand what it means to live with Him, by faith, in our age. I searched all shelves and cabinets at home for Christian literature—until I found a book printed 30 years earlier, with Jesus on the cover. It was a daily devotional compiled from Ellen White's writings.

Despite outdated Portuguese, the content spoke to my young mind and inspired my early walk with God.

Visiting my grandmother soon after, I found an old volume of *Messages to*

Young People. It had belonged to my grandfather who had died when I was little. I flicked through the old brown pages coloured by his highlights, made 50 years earlier. Handwritten notes filled the margins. I was moved. I could read my grandad's thoughts from the time he was young and single. The book became a treasure as I got to know God, the Bible and my grandfather better. Half a century apart, we both learned counsel that encouraged and strengthened us to live according to the Bible in our youth.

That experience shaped my faith. I kept reading other titles from the Spirit of Prophecy collection during the challenging years of peer pressure in high school and college. Right when I was most vulnerable, they prevented me from going through many troubles that other adolescents experience.

The messages helped me to be kind and bold in my new Christian life, boosted my learning and character development. Even Dad acknowledges that. Those writings are a precious gift, changing not only me, but also my



family's lifestyle and future for good.

"Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in His prophets and you will be successful" (2 Chronicles 20:20). One of the most climactic and powerful chapters of the Bible, this passage illustrates what prophecy is about. When we think about the gift of prophecy, we often read it as a talent or supernatural power. But it's more than that. It's a wonderful, thoughtful and gracious gift that God has provided to communicate with and bless His people, in the most decisive moments—to remind us that yes, we have a stand to make, but the battle is His.

The main purpose of prophecy is not to forecast. I Corinthians 14:3 tells us "the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort".

So how is this gift relevant today? In my own personal life:

- Listening to the gift of prophecy helps me to be bold and brave. Especially against evil. In the same spirit of courage shown by Nathan before David (2 Samuel 12) and Elijah before King Ahab (1 Kings 18), I'm inspired to face sin and repent. Here I am not referring to pointing fingers at other people's flaws. I'm challenged to be defiant against my own temptations, my own tendency to judge others, my own sinful nature and stand against the choices that separate me from God.

- It helps me to be alert in the

present and prepare for the future. Studying the prophecies of Daniel and John enables us to discern the times we live in and our role. There's a reason why God unfolded the succession of empires to the final chapter of Earth's history and what happens with Christianity before Jesus' second coming. Most recently, He emphasised the great controversy between good and evil in panoramic visions given to Ellen White. Learning those revelations helps us to understand our heritage and not be deceived.

- It tells me that my limitations are not a barrier to serve God and His mission. None of the prophets were perfect. No matter how great their responsibility, God chose people to share His vision despite their weaknesses and flaws. Despite God's answer "I will be with you", Moses and other giants of faith still hesitated. Abraham lied about his wife twice. Jonah, Jeremiah and Elijah complained after witnessing God's incredible care in action. But He didn't give up on them, and they accomplished their mission.

- It's a gift for our emotional, physical and spiritual health. The health reform vision given to Ellen White amazingly shows how much God cares for our wellbeing. I remember the impact of reading a *National Geographic* feature article in 2005, portraying Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda as some of the happiest and healthiest people on the planet. Living the health message given to Mrs White can result in 12 more years of life than an Adventist who does not follow the counsel. God is offering us not only abundant life, but vitality to be a blessing to others.

- It draws me closer to Jesus. That is the ultimate purpose of all prophecies: to connect us to the eternal gospel. In the lyric representation of the Messiah in the Psalms, in the moved proclamation of John beholding the

Lamb of God right in front of him, from the most ancient announcement of redemption to the beautiful words of *Steps to Christ*, messengers of all ages have revealed to us different aspects of the one and only Saviour.

As Graeme Bradford wrote in *Prophets are Human*, "It's like a tapestry. If you look at one side, you'll see what appears to be a mess with pieces of material going in all directions. And that's how it appears when you begin to consider how God impresses His messengers. But if you look on the other side, at the finished product, you find a beautiful picture. God has used many different ways to paint a picture of His Son for us. We ought not to get too hung up on looking at how He has done this. Our main concentration should be on looking at the beautiful portrait of His Son."

God knows how easily we forget. Prophecy is a gift of God's mercy, pointing to a Father who does not leave His children walking in the dark. He gives us the amount of light we need, according to the path we are on. He sends us warnings and the opportunity to move from our own doom, as He did when He saved Nineveh, as He did with Israel. Prophets are spokespersons of God to shepherd His people at times when they are in danger of getting lost. "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren. You must listen to him" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

Through prophecies, God gives us the gift of changing our future. Are we listening?



MARIANA VENTURI

Video producer,
Adventist Media.

CHRIST AND COLD CEMENT

We arrive at the bridge after a church board meeting. It's 10 pm on a cold Toowoomba evening. I get out of the car with the other pastor and an elder of my church. We walk down a long gutter until we are underneath the bridge. Here, every night, many people will sleep. Tonight our group of about 90 will join them, leaving our comfortable beds and warm homes behind. Our group is made up of pastors, teachers, make-up artists, health professionals and many others.

We are not there long before we're forced to move. A fight has broken out and a group of homeless people have started a fire and warned our group to stay away. It's unsafe to stay.

We find our way to an old flour mill and set up our sleeping gear in the loading bay. It isn't fully covered but it's better than being in the open. The ground is neither welcoming nor comforting. All through the night I toss and turn as I feel the cold cement underneath me. As morning comes closer I feel the cold dew inside my sleeping bag. Every minute gets colder and colder. No protection from pests, strangers or the weather. By the time morning arrives I sure am glad to get up, pack up and leave that street and I hope to never end up there again.

I learned a few things through this small experience. I realised that my cynicism about life and what it throws at me is irrelevant as I sit in front of my computer, in the warmth of my house with my wife



sleeping in our room and my fridge full of food. I had assurance of a home and comforts waiting for me. Many don't.

I now realise that what I do have I will appreciate. When I forget this I will grab my bag and sleep out in the cold again.

I have also realised it's easy to think that people need to just try harder or pick up their act. To empathise means to know what another person is going through because of a mutual experience you both have. I've never slept on a street before. I've never been forced from my bed because I'm encroaching on someone else's territory. I've never wondered if my bed will be a safe place for the night. Many do have to think about these things every night.

Jesus was once told by a would-be disciple, "I'll follow you wherever you go." Jesus knows what this truly means. Preparing to go to Jerusalem, to a cross, He tells him, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head" (Luke 9:57,58). God is not disconnected and in His comfortable bed at home. He's sitting with the broken, sleeping on the cold cement of this world. I know God cares because Jesus has experienced what it's like to have nothing.

And then I realise that God doesn't call me to be aloof and distant, but to empathise with the plight of the poor, the widow and the orphan. Devotion to uplifting the most vulnerable in society is considered a greater religious devotion than fasting (Isaiah 58:6-11). Why? Because in those moments we are in closest affinity with the God who is "A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows" (Psalm 68:5).

JACOB UGLJESA FOLLOWER OF JESUS, LOVER OF BOOKS AND PASTOR
SERVING IN TOOWOOMBA, QUEENSLAND.





5 EASY HABITS TO GET YOUR FAMILY HAPPY AND HEALTHY

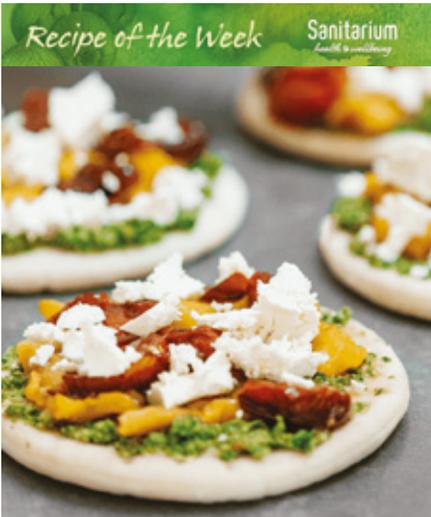
We all want the best for our children, but being endlessly busy and bombarded with conflicting information and advice can make raising healthy kids seem like rocket science. That's why it's little comfort to hear that while today's kids might be healthier than ever before, the gains of the last century are at risk as new health issues emerge—from obesity to mental health issues and non-communicable diseases like type 2 diabetes.

But setting your kids up for a long, healthy and happy life doesn't have to be overwhelming; in fact, it's simpler than you might realise. With Sanitarium's support, a new University of Notre Dame report examines what 21st century kids need to be able to thrive. It's called "Little People Big Lives" and it calls for a more holistic approach to children's health and wellbeing. Here are some of the recommendations:

- **Safety, security, love and belonging:** These are considered the most prominent aspects of wellbeing. When children feel emotionally supported in loving relationships, they become more confident and develop a healthy sense of self.
- **Healthy eating and drinking:** Your children may not feel that eating healthy is always the fun and tastiest option, but a healthy diet is key for their strong growth and development.
- **Active play:** This is a big part of your child's development, with physical, behavioural, social and emotional benefits. With the rise in screentime, encouraging your kids to play, or move incidentally, is more important than ever.
- **Healthy sleep:** Poor sleep negatively impacts a child's cognitive performance, memory, behaviour and sleep performance. Adequate sleep is vital for kids to grow and function effectively.
- **Positive screentime:** Even though kids are spending a lot of time on their devices, technology is a big part of our world and it's important to show your kids how to use it positively.

Try some of our easy habits you can incorporate into your daily routine.

View the full "Little People Big Lives" report at <sanitarium.com.au/biglives>.



Roasted vegetable pesto pizzetta

Get the kids to help you make these little pizzas, which are full of vibrant colour and flavour. The pesto makes for a great alternative to traditional tomato sauce.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/recipes
New Zealand: sanitarium.co.nz/recipes

 / [sanitariumaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumaustralia)
/ [sanitariumnz](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumnz)

HEALTHY HABITS TO HELP KIDS THRIVE



GET MOVING

Incorporate incidental movement into your routine. Try heading out for an evening walk after dinner. Or taking alternative transport solutions to school—if you have to drive, park a block away and walk the rest of the way.



STORYTIME

Sharing stories is a really fun way to encourage feelings of love, security and safety. Ask your child to tell you about their day via a dance or song.



KITCHEN FUN

Getting the kids in the kitchen can teach them many lessons. From science (why do cakes rise?) nutrition (choosing a rainbow of colours), measurement (how many grams in each dish) and even cultural studies (pick a dish that's relevant to your culture or from around the world to broaden your horizons).

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing

THE TEN

biblical characters with a FAMOUS SIBLING

1. NATHAN (2 SAMUEL 5:14)

Named after the Old Testament prophet, King David and Bathsheba's third son had several younger brothers, and an older brother Solomon, who would eventually become the wisest man on earth.

2. MIDIAN (GENESIS 25:2)

Recognise this name? Moses eventually settled in the land of Midian, where he met his wife Zipporah—but many years earlier, the original Midian had been sent to colonise the area by his father, Abraham. Midian's mother was Abraham's second wife Keturah, making him a half-brother to Isaac and Ishmael.

3. Joses (MARK 6:3)

Also a brother to James, Judas, Simon and several sisters, Joses (who is referred to in some translations by his Hebrew name, Joseph) had the most famous Brother in the world: Jesus Christ.

4. RADDAI (1 CHRONICLES 2:14)

The middle child syndrome would have affected poor Raddai—he had four older brothers, two younger brothers and several sisters (it's unknown whether they were older or younger). Last to join the family, however, was baby David—who would eventually grow up to be king of Israel.

5. MIRIAM (NUMBERS 26:59)

The daughter of Amram and Jochebed, Miriam is best known for watching over her baby brother Moses as he floated on the Nile River in a basket, eventually returning to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

6. ARCHELAUS (MATTHEW 2:22)

A political leader in Samaria, Judea and Idumea for nine years, Archelaus, unfortunately, didn't have the most wholesome sibling—his brother Herod Antipas wanted to kill Jesus as he had done with John the Baptist.

7. DINAH (GENESIS 30:21)

After having six boys, Leah finally gave birth to a baby girl and named her Dinah. The daughter of Jacob, Dinah had a lot of brothers, but none more famous than Joseph.

8. NAHOR AND HARAN (GENESIS 11:27)

Keeping it in the family, the Bible mentions several interactions between these two brothers and their third brother Abram—After Haran's death, Abram was the one to raise Haran's son Lot, and when Abram needed a bride for his son Isaac, he sent a messenger to his brother Nahor's house.

9. JOTHAM (JUDGES 9:5)

You may have heard of Abimelech—the man so driven to become king that he slaughtered 70 of his own brothers, sons of his father Jerubbaal. But Jotham, the youngest son, hid during the massacre and was able to escape shortly after.

10. LAHMI (1 CHRONICLES 20:5)

Not a lot is known about this giant Philistine except that he was struck down in battle—much like his brother, Goliath.





CHRISTMAS PAGAN?

Re: “No Hannukah No Christmas” (December 22). [The idea that] December 25 results from mixing paganism with Christianity has no basis in history. The birth of Christ was celebrated on December 25 at least since 202 AD, following the Jewish tradition of the integral year of a prophet where it was considered a prophet died on the same day he was conceived. This tradition is not correct but it leads to a date of December 25 for Christ’s birth. The pagan celebration of the unconquerable sun on that day was instituted later in 274 AD. The Mithra connection cannot be sustained as the Babylonian calendar does not perfectly align with our calendar. Let’s enjoy this wonderful celebration to the glory of God!

Emanuel Millen, Vic

CHRISTMAS STORY

I was surprised by “Christmas hospitality” (Editor’s Note, December 22, 2018), which stated, among other things, that “Jesus . . . was born into an average family in an average house.”

In the Christmas story, according to the Spirit of Prophecy, “Angels attend Joseph and Mary as they journey from their home in Nazareth to the City of David . . . But in the city of their royal line, Joseph and Mary are unrecognised and unhonoured. Weary and homeless, they traverse the entire length of the narrow street, from the gate of the city to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a resting place for the night. There is no room for them at the crowded inn. In a rude building where the beasts are sheltered, they at last find refuge, and here the Redeemer of the world is born” (DA, 44).

When the angel of the Lord came upon the shepherds and they were sore afraid, the angel related the good tidings. “At these words, visions of glory fill the minds of the listening

shepherds. The Deliverer has come to Israel! Power, exaltation, triumph are associated with His coming. But the angel must prepare them to recognise their Saviour in poverty and humiliation. ‘This shall be a sign unto you,’ he says; ‘Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger’” (DA, 47).

It saddens me to learn [the author] hasn’t picked up these details when trying to relate the story in a new and fresh way.

Angela Kochanski, Qld

INSPIRED FACTS

I just finished reading the December 22, 2018 edition of *Adventist Record*. “Christmas hospitality”, largely taken from the book *Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes*, was very disappointing.

It sounds exciting and interesting that the Christian church has had the birth of Jesus all wrong for 2000 years, and now we need to re-think it all, except turns out that’s just straight up incorrect.

The narrative we’ve been taught since babies is right. Ellen White describes it in

Desire of Ages, p 44. Why do we have to try and be different and find holes in a Christian narrative? That would be just what a sceptic or an atheist would love to hear from Christian leaders.

Hope we can take our facts from inspiration and not man in future.

Clare Baldacchino, NSW

Editor’s response:

We received a number of letters about “Christmas hospitality”. Most of them use the same quotes and ideas represented here. After consulting with an Ellen White expert, we have decided to briefly respond with a few things to remember.

1. Scripture is the ultimate authority for Seventh-day Adventists (preamble to the Fundamental Beliefs and Fundamental Belief 1). The writings of Ellen White are considered as prophetic but a lesser light (FB 18).

2. The biblical writers focus on the divine origin, the prophetic fulfilment and spiritual significance of Jesus’ birth (Matthew 1:18-2:12, Luke 1:26-2:20). The specific details of Christ’s birth are minimal

with little social or cultural insights given. But the Bible is clear on the following: the wise men came to a house to give their gifts (Matthew 2:11), Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem for Jesus’ birth and placed Him in a manger (Luke 2:6,7).

3. In the *Desire of Ages* chapter “Unto You a Saviour”, Ellen White focuses on the spiritual and pastoral aspects of Jesus’ birth. Heaven extends hospitality to broken humans but the Jewish people in the main at that time were not ready to receive Jesus. Again there is little social or cultural insight given. The challenge for us is to be ready to receive Jesus and accept the grace He extends in our need.

Thank you to all who engaged with this topic.

NOTE: Views in “Have your say” do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Comments should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All comments are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all comments received are published.

Obituaries

DOSE, Fredrick Walter (Fred), born 21.10.1936; died 18.12.18 at his home in Morphett Vale, SA. He is survived by Anita, his wife of 57 years; son Stephen and daughter-in-law Robyn, daughter Sonya and son-in-law Paul Gates; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two brothers John and Christopher. Fred had a varied career, working as a delivery boy, a station hand and a literature evangelist in both Adelaide and Perth. As a carpenter he helped to build an Adventist school near Newcastle. He concluded his career by starting his own business, High Point Windows, in Hackham (SA). Fred was a keen student of the Bible and had a strong faith and trust in Jesus. We look forward to the resurrection morning when we will meet again.

Allan Croft, Travis Manners

LONG, Doreen May (nee Crane), born 12.5.1929 in Hobart,

Tas; died 2.8.18 in Adventist Retirement Village, Kings Langley, NSW. In 1953 Doreen married Eddie Long at Glenorchy church (Tas) after meeting as students at Avondale College. Eddie predeceased Doreen on 15.8.00. Doreen is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law Sharyn and Ian Low, and Wendy and Ken Smith; her son and daughter-in-law Rodney and Suzanne (all of Sydney); nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. As a young married woman Doreen served her local Parramatta church. She was a foundation member of Dundas church, then served at Galston and Adventist Retirement Village (Kings Langley) churches until her passing. Doreen was known for her hospitality, kindness and graciousness, which touched many people. More than this she was known for the way she loved.

Peter Theuerkauf, Tuni Laikum

MUNRO, Lyle (Dr), born 10.4.1927; died 3.12.18. He is survived by his wife Marie; and

children Denise, Kevin and Garry. Lyle died 19 days before he and Marie's 65th wedding anniversary. The funeral service was held at Macquarie Park Cemetery and the memorial service at Wahroonga church on 10.12.18. The family is grateful for the many cards and support they received.

Alban Matohtiti

POTTER, Janice Heather (nee Ferguson), born 16.8.1949 in Crows Nest, NSW; died 12.12.18 in Kurri Kurri. She was formerly married to David Potter. Jan is survived by her three daughters Lynda Potter, Heather Potter and Karen Hansen (all of Melbourne, Vic); mother Heather Sheens (Charmhaven, NSW); and four sisters Wendy Ferguson (Melbourne, Vic), Beverly Ferguson (Brisbane, Qld), Nerida Silva (Kurri Kurri, NSW) and Glenda Ferguson (Charmhaven). Jan started her teaching career in sole charge of Hurstville Adventist School in 1971 and also served with her husband for 16 years in

South New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati.

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ADVENTIST WORLD,
FEBRUARY 9

POSITIONS VACANT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT WAHROONGA, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking a highly suitable candidate to fill this role to support the function and operation of the presidential office and the director of programs and strategic projects, including undertaking designated research and special projects. This full-time support role will report directly to the Division president and the director of programs and strategic projects, and be based at the head office in Wahroonga. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website: <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, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close February 14, 2019.**

ASSISTANT MANAGER ACA WAHROONGA, NSW

ACA Health Benefits Fund is looking for a qualified, highly competent and experienced accountant with excellent managerial skills to join our management team. To do this role effectively you will need a CA or CPA qualification; a minimum of five years accounting experience; proven exposure to organisational management; proven ability to

effectively manage a team; and excellent computer skills, including a good grasp of Microsoft Word, Outlook and a high level of proficiency in Excel. You will need to multi-task and focus on both the financial and operational aspects of the business. Previous experience in the insurance or health industry would be ideal but not essential. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply for this position. For more information please contact fund manager Jody Burgoyne: <hr@acahealth.com.au> or 1300 368 390. **Applications close February 28, 2019.**

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER RINGWOOD, VICTORIA

The Australian Union Conference is looking for a people and detail-orientated part-time human resources manager (24 hours per week) to provide leadership in organisational culture and human resource management. The successful applicant will be responsible for creating and maintaining relevant policies and procedures as well as facilitating appraisals, employee recruitment and cultivating employer/employee relationships. Human resource management qualifications and experience, together with a commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, are essential. Full position description available on request. If you would like to join our team, please email your CV (including cover letter) to general secretary Pastor Michael Worker: <MichaelWorker@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close February 13, 2019.**

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