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SABBATH ON A CRUISE SHIP

The cruise ship had just sailed through the Sydney Heads on a hot and balmy Friday evening. The sights of Sydney city were fading in the setting sun and the open sea beckoned on our way to Auckland. My brother and sister and their spouses (one of them having their two sons with them) were on a 12-day cruise to celebrate our mum's and dad's 80th birthdays.

The best place to take in this grand fresh perspective was the top deck. As the sun began to set, we made our way to the chapel on the deck below to open Sabbath. The 10 of us filled most of the 16 chairs. On the table was some cranberry juice in a jug, a twisted loaf of bread and napkins, and two lights that were like candles. As family we were just catching up—as we had not seen each other for months—when a middle-aged lady came and sat down with us.

Her accent told us she was from the United States and we asked a little about each other. She was from a house church—her denominational church wasn't meeting her, nor her husband's or (she thought) her community's needs.

She had come to the chapel to open the Sabbath and knew the meaning of the items on the table: Jewish symbols. So did my brother. He led out in a Bible reading from Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 6—the two presentations of the law and the Sabbath—represented by the two candles Jewish women light just before the Sabbath begins. The reason to remember the Sabbath in Exodus is because God is Creator. We observe the Sabbath in Deuteronomy because God is Redeemer—He rescued His people from Egypt.

We prayed together and some ate some of the bread and drank the cranberry juice. It was very meaningful. In the conversation that followed we discovered "Janice" believed the seventh day was the Sabbath. She was looking for Jesus to return and believed in prophecy. She apologised for the way some Christians had treated Sabbath-keepers in the past. We left to rest very blessed.

The next morning our family decided to have Sabbath worship in the chapel again around 10.30 am. As the chapel is a public place, and given our experience from the previous night, it was no surprise that an older couple from Mexico, a middle-aged man from Hawaii (all Catholics), an older Adventist from Australia and a young Adventist couple from the Caribbean eventually joined us. The chapel was full.

I led out in a Bible reading group. We read a short passage about Jesus from John's gospel in two different translations, and then one of the group repeated the story in their own words. I then asked some simple questions (based on the Discovery Bible Reading method): "What is new? What surprises you?

What can you do differently this week? Who could you tell?"

The discussion flowed freely; everyone had a thought or a perspective. I sat back amazed as I listened to people who had never met each other—and from very different cultural and religious backgrounds—talk about Jesus and what He meant in their

lives. Jesus was the comfort, the reason for existence, the One who understood, the model, the Saviour . . . in their lives. We prayed and some stayed and continued to chat.

My last conversation in the chapel was with my family. We were amazed at how God led people to us, the quality of the Bible discussion and real fellowship with other followers of Jesus. We admitted some "Adventist prejudice" toward other faiths. Jesus did say He has people in many churches (John 10:16). He will call them together at the right time (Revelation 18:4). In the meantime, we are to live and speak faithfully about Jesus at every opportunity—even on the Sabbath on a cruise ship.

GLENN TOWNEND
SENIOR CONSULTING EDITOR
/SPDpresident



I SAT BACK AMAZED AS I LISTENED TO [THEM] . . . TALK ABOUT JESUS AND WHAT HE MEANT IN THEIR LIVES.



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CARDBOARD TESTIMONIES

Mamarapha College graduation is a special event. It is a celebration of achievement—a stage completed. It is the joy in knowing the objectives of the college are being accomplished. It is an acknowledgement of God's guidance upon the lives of the students, and the leaders and teachers who minister at the college.

There's another reason I enjoy the event—the presentation of the "cardboard testimonies". Every year, students film their testimonies—their stories before and after coming to Mamarapha—written on a piece of cardboard. More than any other moment, it fills me with the complete joy of witnessing the saving power and grace of the gospel. The stories are powerful, transformational, real and inspiring. They confront me with the change that is taking place in my own spiritual journey.

I've seen the "cardboard testimonies" many times. I always ask myself, *What would I write this year on my cardboard? How does the story of Jesus and His example challenge me to make a radical change in my life?*

And radical changes they are. When the students go back to their communities, others notice, pay attention and realise that there is something new and different.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of seeing many of the Mamarapha graduates at ATSIM's national camp. They were not alone, but came with new friends, family and future Mamarapha students.

I come back to my own "cardboard testimony" and wonder if we tell each other—spouses, children, church—about the transforming power of Christ in our lives. Hearing and seeing what God is doing in each other's lives is inspiring but also a powerful weapon for the kingdom of God.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11).

JORGE MUNOZ
AUC PRESIDENT



CHURCH PLANTING CONFERENCE SEEKS TO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES

MARITZA BRUNT

Adventist Church members from across the Pacific were motivated to multiply disciples at the February 10-13 church planting conference.

Held at Avondale College (NSW) and hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific (SPD), the conference focused on maturity and multiplication within discipleship and church planting.

"We plant churches because we want to make disciples," said Dr Wayne Krause, the SPD's church planting liaison and one of the conference's key organisers. "But we want disciples to continue a lifelong process of maturity. So during this week, we've explored the idea of what that looks like practically for us as church members."

Following on directly from the SPD's Mission to the Cities symposium, the church planting conference was oversold for the second year in a row, with just under 200 people attending. Keynote speakers from South America, North America and Europe were shared between the two conferences. But in an effort to keep the content local, 15 of the 16 workshop presenters were from churches and institutions across the South Pacific.

"What we're doing is important to our local area, so we want to highlight the people who are trying things and doing things in our

Division," said Dr Krause. "But we can also learn from global projects, which is why we had overseas speakers as well."

Workshop topics covered a wide range of practical topics for church planting, from the basics of how to go about planting a new Seventh-day Adventist church, to how to mature into an effective church planter, with case studies highlighting everyday challenges to building lasting friendships. More specific workshops focused on small groups, creating a house church movement, reaching the next generation and even learning new models of witnessing to Hindu neighbours.

"As church members, sometimes we make really bad blunders with people, and it has to do with baggage," said Dr Danijela Schubert, SPD women's ministries leader who presented the workshops on maturing into an effective church planter. "Our childhood can give us baggage—some people have been damaged more than others—and unless we address those things, our church plants won't flourish as much as they could."

Round-table discussions during the presentations and case studies allowed for discussion and feedback of ideas, with those in attendance able to network and connect with fellow church planters.

"The most selfish thing you could ever do is be happy to go to heaven by yourself," said Dr Krause. "That's why we run these conferences and plant churches: it's the best place for new disciples to grow."



DR WENDY JACKSON PRESENTS AT THE CONFERENCE.

ADVENTIST MEDIA STAFFED FOR SUCCESS

JARROD STACKELROTH

Recent strategic staffing additions at Adventist Media (AM) will strengthen the business and help get its products out to a wider range of people, according to AM CEO Dr Brad Kemp.

AM recently appointed commercial manager Jean Tiran and marketing manager Tim McTernan, who are both based full-time at the Wairoonga office in Sydney.

Mr Tiran comes to AM from Life Health Foods—one of the Sanitarium group of companies—where he served as finance manager for both Australia and New Zealand from 2007.

“I have a passion for people,” said Mr Tiran. “Although incredibly passionate about our food business, my prayer was to pursue a purpose-driven life at the forefront of our Church’s mission.

“A few months ago I heard about the role with Adventist Media. I knew

straight away that this was where I was meant to go. I am extremely excited to be joining the AM team and hope to make a real difference.”

Mr Tiran grew up in South Africa, becoming an Adventist through the influence of friends, Pastors Norman Hurlow and Adrian Webster. Before moving to New Zealand in 2007, Mr Tiran spent four years working with cheetahs.

Mr McTernan started his career at Sanitarium before working in a number of commercial companies, most recently as a marketing manager in the telecommunications industry.

“[Tim’s] marketing background is not just how to get a product out there but validating through testing and market indicators,” said Dr Kemp. “He has a good handle on whether the product is the right product.”

“I’m excited about joining the team at Adventist Media,” said Mr McTernan.



“The role of marketing and sales manager combines my passion to share the good news about Jesus and my interest in marketing. I’m grateful to have been given the opportunity.”

Mr McTernan, his wife Nikki and their two children Jaden (14) and Keira (11), have relocated from the South Coast of NSW. Mrs McTernan has also started a new role this year as a teacher at Wairoonga Adventist School.

“Both guys are passionate about mission, committed to the mission of the Church and see that by being part of Adventist Media they can make a contribution to advancing the mission of the Church,” Dr Kemp said.

CHURCH MEMBERS SUPPORT TOWNSVILLE AFTER DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

As the city of Townsville (Qld) continues to recover from the recent flood disaster, Seventh-day Adventists have been busy lending a hand to those in need.

Working under the banner of ADRA, dozens of volunteers were out in the community as the waters receded, going door-to-door helping those impacted.

Northern Australian Conference president Pastor Darren Slade went

with a car-load of volunteers into one of the worst-affected streets. They found residents who not only needed physical help but emotional support.

“It’s just phenomenal to see in some streets the entire household contents just sitting out on the kerbside,” he said.

“What we did were simple things, like carting soggy furniture, and cleaning the mud from inside and outside of homes, but it made a huge difference. Everyone was so appreciative.”

While the local conference, churches, school and campground escaped damage, the homes of up to a dozen church members were impacted.

“There was one family who lost a lot of stuff; they had to move out of their house,” Pastor Slade said.

The conference office and school were closed for three days due to the flooded streets making road travel dangerous.

As the crisis unfolded, Adventists worked alongside community volunteers and emergency services personnel, filling and distributing sandbags. They collected donations of food and clothing for families in evacuation centres and provided food to SES workers and other emergency services personnel.

Aitkenvale church youth leader Nathan Burke, who coordinated teams of church volunteers, said the disaster has helped the community learn more about ADRA and the Adventist Church.

“Being the hands and feet of Jesus, that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

The Townsville ADRA Op Shop also showed its community spirit by offering free clothing and goods to those in need.



'BILL A THREAT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY'

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Religious freedom is under threat from proposed amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act, Pastor Michael Worker told an Australian Senate committee hearing in Sydney.

Pastor Worker, general secretary of the Australian Union Conference, was among a number of church, community, school, human rights and LGBTIQ+ representatives who were invited to present at the public hearing at NSW Parliament House on February 7. A representative of Christian Schools Australia (CSA) presented on behalf of CSA and Adventist Schools Australia. It was one of two hearings held around Australia as part of an inquiry by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination Against Students) Bill 2018. The bill proposes to "remove the capacity of bodies established for religious purposes

that provide education to directly discriminate against students on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status".

On the face of it, Adventist leaders have no issues with the proposal, but are concerned with the breadth of the bill and the consequences if passed in its current form.

Pastor Worker told the hearing, "We believe that the bill, as it stands, has the potential to threaten religious freedom in this country."

Church leaders are concerned the bill could have consequences outside the classroom, for example, the teaching of Adventist beliefs and principles in Sabbath School classes and at Pathfinder meetings.



PASTOR WORKER OUTSIDE NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

"We would call for a more considered and balanced approach, giving equal attention to the removal of unfair discrimination with the need to provide adequate positive protections for freedom of religion and belief," said Pastor Worker after the hearing.

The committee tabled its report on February 14. It recommended that the bill not be passed and that it be referred to the Australian Law Reform Commission for full consideration.

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AVONDALE OFFERS POSTGRAD COUNSELLING COURSE

BRENTON STACEY

Those seeking to enhance or commence a counselling career can now do so at postgraduate level through Avondale College, following approval of a new graduate diploma.

Students need no previous training or experience to complete the two-year course. "The major or specialisation of your first degree doesn't matter," said Counselling Strand convenor Paul Bogacs. "The Graduate Diploma in Counselling is an entry-level program that can be your pathway into setting up a private practice, working in an agency or working as a school counsellor, drug and alcohol counsellor or case manager."

Avondale offers the course in two modes: by distance with four one-week intensives, or face-to-face on campus. "You have options," said Mr Bogacs. "Study online and just come to Avondale for the intensives. These will give you practical experience and the opportunity to meet your lecturers and counsellor-in-training colleagues. Or study on our Lake Macquarie campus."

The Graduate Diploma in Counselling, approved by Avondale and Charles Sturt



NEED TO CHANGE COURSE? CONSIDER COUNSELLING.

University as part of a Jointly Conferred Award Scheme, is now offered in addition to a three-year counselling specialisation or major as part of the Bachelor of Arts. Both courses include a one-year clinical placement and meet the requirements of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.

"Counselling is one of the most satisfying careers," said Mr Bogacs, who moved into the field more than 20 years ago after a career in ministry. "I love it because I value emotional health and I'm passionate about helping people."

SAN REGIFTING FAIR A BIG SUCCESS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Sydney Adventist Hospital's inaugural Regifting Fair was a big success, raising \$A3845 for women in need.

The San encouraged people to donate unwanted Christmas gifts to the fundraiser, such as books, toys, homewares, skincare and beauty products, and



SAN HELP TEAM VOLUNTEERS.

received a huge response, with hundreds of items donated. The gifts were then snapped up by eager buyers at the fair on February 14.

The initiative raised \$2845, with a further \$1000 being donated by hospital administration.

"We sold just about everything," San human resources director Melva Lee said. "I was blown away, it was just amazing. The coronary care staff and the Help Team volunteers worked hard to pull it together and it all came together so well."

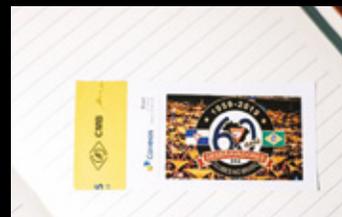
The money is being donated to the Hornsby Women's Shelter, which provides accommodation and refuge for women facing challenges, including ill health, unemployment, homelessness and domestic violence.

NEWS GRABS



CHRIST'S METHOD ALONE

A total member involvement initiative in Kenya has seen more than 270 people baptised. The Nairobi Central Adventist Church worked with the government to serve Siaya County by teaching people how to grow vegetables, donating an electrical transformer for light and running kids' clubs.—ANN



ADVENTIST STAMPS

The largest Brazilian mailing company, Correios, has issued commemorative stamps for the 60th anniversary of Pathfinders in Brazil. It's the beginning of an initiative that will create 75 stamps in the following four years, and Church leaders are hoping the project could also attract new collectors with stamps that tell the history of the Adventist Church in Brazil.—Jefferson Paradello



FEED MY SHEEP KITCHEN

Over the past three years, church members in Belize have fed an estimated 15,000 school students through a soup kitchen. The needy children, from six different primary schools in the heart of Belize City, arrive for lunch twice a week, before returning to their classes.—IAD

HOT TOPICS



WICKED WAYS

Christianity may be on the decline among millennials, but another spiritual practice has seen a massive rise: witchcraft. A Pew study found the number of self-described Wiccans has exploded from 8000 in 1990 to more than 340,000 in 2018, and it continues to rise, now outnumbering Presbyterians in America. —*Relevant*



ALCOHOL ABSTINENCE

A new survey from LifeWay has found most Protestant Christians still abstain from alcohol despite modern attitudes moving in the other direction. Eighty-seven per cent of respondents said they believed the Bible was against drunkenness, and 59 per cent said they never drink at all. —*LifeWay*



PHILIPPINES PERSECUTION

Filipino Christians are in mourning after terrorists attacked a Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines, killing 20 and injuring at least 90. The tragedy comes less than a week after surrounding islands voted to form an autonomous region among the Muslim strongholds in an effort to end ongoing clashes between Philippine forces and separatists. —*Christianity Today*

SANITARIUM HELPING KIDS TO FLOURISH

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

When it comes to helping children to flourish, Sanitarium Health Food Company is advocating a simpler, more wholistic approach.

Sanitarium recently launched a campaign aimed at helping children reach their potential, based on a report by the University of Notre Dame Australia. It promotes a wholistic view in tackling rising rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes and mental health issues.

"It's not about 'quick fix solutions' but rather going back to basics," said University of Notre Dame dean of medicine, Professor Christine Bennett, who led the research team that developed the *Little People, Big Lives Report*.

"Active play, good sleep, limiting screen time, love and care are all vital to a child's positive self-worth and social connection."

Commissioned by Sanitarium, the report examined the foundations needed for Australian children to reach their physical, social and emotional potential and flourish in life. It is split into five essential action areas: Safety, Security, Love and Belonging; Healthy Eating and Drinking; Active Play; Healthy Sleep; and Positive Screen Time.

"Spending time without technology—making time to eat together as a family, as well as play, sing, dance and read are all critical to childhood," Professor Bennett said.

"I think many parents will be interested to know these simple activities have the potential to be powerful contributors to their child's physical health and emotional wellbeing."

Sanitarium has enlisted Australian media personality and mum Ada Nicodemou as ambassador for the "Little People, Big Lives"

campaign, which will include articles and videos giving advice and stories on how everyday mums and dads are helping their children live their best lives.

"I'm the first to admit family life is incredibly busy; that's why the practical recommendations in this report resonate with me," Ms Nicodemou said.

"It's the little things like family dinners, playing in the backyard and one-on-one conversations before bedtime that set up our kids for a lifetime of good physical and mental health."

Sanitarium Australia and New Zealand executive general manager Todd Saunders said the report examined the latest evidence-based recommendations for optimal child development.

"We want the principles in this report to help every family enhance their day-to-day lifestyle and to spark a vital conversation about what is really important, including the little things that can make a big difference to lifetime health outcomes," said Mr Saunders in a foreword to the report.

To download the report, for practical tips and more information: <www.sanitarium.com.au/features/little-people-big-lives>.



ADA NICODEMOU (WHITE T-SHIRT) WITH THE MINTER FAMILY WHO FEATURE IN ONE OF THE "LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG LIVES" VIDEOS.

FLASHPOINT



FIRST CAMPOREE

More than 1000 Pathfinders in Vanuatu attended the first-ever Vanuatu Mission Pathfinder camporee in Luganville from December 9–17, 2018. Mission youth and Pathfinder director, Pastor Andric Tanghwa, gathered a committee that came up with activities such as games, worship and marching displays. The camporee was opened by the town mayor of Luganville, while local Mission officers, including president Pastor Nos Terry, and provincial dignitaries were also present. “Camporee is building future leaders for the Adventist Church and for Vanuatu,” said Pastor Tanghwa. —*Vanuatu Mission*



NEXT LEVEL CHRISTMAS

With a three-night festival, a re-written nativity script and more fun activities in the market area, Hillview Adventist Church (NSW) attracted hundreds of people to their church property in December, including an estimated 1100 who witnessed the centre-piece of the event, “The Stable Door” nativity play. Involving 70 costumed actors, live music and a safely harnessed angel zip-lining from a 20-metre high steel cable, the progressive drama occurred in 15 locations around the church property. Feedback from participants—many of who were not regular churchgoers—was overwhelmingly positive, with some moved to tears by the drama’s final manger scene. —*Kent Kingston*



GARDEN OF GOODNESS

Sanitarium New Zealand’s So Good Garden of Goodness project cleaned up at the recent Best Awards, celebrating New Zealand’s best design. An edible pop-up garden in the heart of Auckland, the garden won gold in both the Exhibition & Temporary Structures and Designed Objects categories, bronze in Environmental Graphics, and was considered as a candidate for two prestigious Purple awards. Winning at the Best Awards is the highest honour in New Zealand for creative industries, featuring all areas of design work. The awards are highly contested, with more than 1200 entries. —*SanCo News*



DISPROVING EVOLUTION

Byron Tolhurst, a 12-year-old member of Coastlife Adventist Church (Qld), recently competed in the international Quest gifted and talented competition. Working with a team of two other Year 6 students, Byron completed challenges in the areas of Mathematics, Humanities and Science, eventually making it to the national finals. In the area of science, the teams were challenged to use the theory of quantum mechanics to disprove another scientific theory. Byron and his team chose to take on the theory of evolution. The team scored 96 per cent for the science category and finished the competition in second place overall—the best result ever achieved by their school. —*Wes Tolhurst*



STUDENTS UNITE

University students from across Papua New Guinea recently came together for the Papua New Guinea Adventist Tertiary Students Association (ATSA) 2018 Convention. Held at the Habare Mission Ground in Hela Province, the week-long convention saw more than 500 Adventist students engage in worship, prayer, community service and activities. Keynote speakers included Dr Burnett Robinson and Pastor Randy Skeete of the North American Division, who led on the theme “Created to be Saved”. “This was the most successful convention in the history of ATSA,” said ATSA president Jethro Massimato. “To God be the glory.” —*PNGATSA*



GOD FIRST FOR SUVAVOU

Primary school students from Suvavou Adventist Primary School (Fiji) were blessed with a Week of Prayer from February 4–8. With the theme “God First”, the young students were reminded throughout the week of the importance of giving tithes and offerings, and to be faithful stewards for the Lord. —*Fiji Mission*



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Children have been taking to the pulpit during church services in Morobe Mission (MM), highlighting an increased focus on children’s ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the region. MM Children’s Ministry director Nancy Enopa said the “Kids in Discipleship” (KID) global theme is now the main focus of the department and churches everywhere in the Mission are actively involved. —*Adrian Ales*



STARTING YOUNG

Three-year-old Alannah Przybylko, from Parramatta Central/Woollahra Adventist Church (NSW), may have been the youngest “medical missionary” to attend the recent Adventist Global Leadership Summit in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Little Alannah, who attended with her parents Daniel and Geraldine, helped where she could, including on the blood pressure booth. —*Record staff*

URBAN MISSION CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON CONNECTION

More than 4800 people move into Sydney and Melbourne every week, according to Dr Wayne Krause. “That means every year, more people move into our cities than the entire Adventist membership of Australia and the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. That’s a challenge.”

This challenge and the opportunities presented by rapid urbanisation across the South Pacific region were the catalyst for the 2019 Mission to the Cities symposium, held at Avondale College of Higher Education, February 7–10. Dr Krause, who focuses on church planting and urban mission in his role with the South Pacific Division’s discipleship ministries team, was convener of the symposium—the second such event since the inaugural gathering last year.

International presenters included Pastor Tiffany Brown, who directs the REACH Centre for Urban Mission at Washington Adventist University, Dr Kleber Goncalves, who heads up the General Conference’s Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies, and Pastor Simret Mahary, a local church pastor in Germany who also leads the “PRESENCE kultur-lounge” project in Frankfurt.

Speaking to *Adventist Record* at the end of the symposium, Pastor Matt Hunter, who leads a local church in Elizabeth, South Australia, said Pastor Mahary’s presentation was the most “stretching” in terms of expanding his understanding of what mission means and what it can look like.

“He’s created this ‘culture lounge’. He invites people to come in to experience different aspects of art, culture and food—to invite people to share their stories. It’s an exchange between people in the community,” recalled Pastor Hunter. “It’s openly a Seventh-day Adventist-run project. He said it’s not our job to create experiences where people connect with God—God’s already speaking to them. It’s just up to us to help them join the dots.”

While various case studies and practical issues were explored, a number of speakers focused on relevant research and theory, including a well-received presentation on the theology of city evangelism from Dr Wendy Jackson, a senior lecturer at the Avondale Seminary and one of a number of Australia-based speakers. “Don’t come as a teacher; come as a learner to a community,” said Dr Jackson. “When we listen to a community, we come to



appreciate their culture and values. Not only do we come to see through new eyes; people see *us* through new eyes.”

“Unfortunately we have developed this anti-urban attitude over many years as a Church,” commented Dr Goncalves after Dr Jackson’s presentation, “but when we have the right theology in our minds; when we really understand and we start to develop this love for the city—as God loves the city—we do have so many opportunities. One of them is community development; people out there are looking for a place to belong and there’s no better place to really offer that than the church.”

The theme of genuine relationships as the foundation for effective urban mission was restated multiple times by multiple speakers.

“People are not projects; they’re friends. Not only friends, but partners with you in your ministry,” said Dr Krause from the lectern as he closed out the symposium. “Are we willing to put the time into people, rather than just projects? We’ve been hearing some exciting ideas; the initiatives some of you are involved in. I’d like to see some of these ideas multiplied throughout this Division and throughout the world.”

Attendees—about 80 Church administrators, local church pastors and a number of laypeople interested in urban mission—responded positively to the presentations, asked questions of presenters and actively used the opportunities given throughout the symposium to discuss issues and pray in small groups.

“It’s my first time to the Mission to the Cities conference,” said Pastor Ben Timothy, president of the North New Zealand Conference. “I’ve found it very useful in terms of understanding what the Church is trying to put in place to facilitate and improve the way we connect with our populations. I can resonate with just about all that’s been shared here. We’ve barely scratched the surface in understanding how to connect.”

I KENT KINGSTON SIGNS OF THE TIMES EDITOR.

ageing, retirement and God



Retirement is changing because, in the developed world, we're living longer. This comes from better health and nutrition, better medical care, better sanitation and public health campaigns (anti-smoking, for instance). Importantly, there's also an expectation that people will be living younger for longer.

When the Australian age pension was introduced in 1908, men could receive it at 65 years of age, and women at 60. However, the life expectancy was only 55.2 years (males) and 58.8 years (females).

Owen Weeks, from Lifestyle Matters Pty Ltd, has been in the retirement industry since the 1970s. Back then, he says, people retiring at 65 were usually dead by about 70.

In 2008, 100 years after the introduction of the aged pension, the life expectancy for males had risen to 79.3 years and for females to 83.9 years.

Lynda Gratton and Andrew Scott, from the London Business School, predict that a child born in the developed world today has a 50 per cent chance of living to 105; a 20-year-old an even chance of reaching 100; one out of two 40-year-olds will live to 95; and a 60-year-old has a 50 per cent chance of living to 90+.¹

Currently, the number of 100-year-olds is increasing dramatically. A decade ago, one person handled the cards the Queen sends to centenarians around the Commonwealth. Now it takes a staff of seven.

In Japan, the government began giving a silver sake dish to all who turned 100 in 1963: 153 that year. In 2014, 29,350 were sent, but it was

discontinued the following year. It had become too common! There are currently about 59,000 centenarians in Japan.

This is why governments worry about funding pensions into the future, why retirement ages are being lifted, and why having a plan to not run out of money before running out of life in retirement is important.

THE RETIREE'S CALLING

Calling? Isn't that for pastors and church leaders? Yes, but not limited to them. The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus, begging them (and us) to "lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God" (Ephesians 4:1, NLT).

Every Christian is called by God to live for God. We can't simply shrug off our calling at retirement. It matters. And it comes in at least three forms:

It starts within the church. Paul added: "Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love" (Ephesians 4:2, NLT).

Retirees have much to offer in our churches as supportive, caring and open people. Life experience should have taught them the value of the individual.

Then, Jesus called us salt and light (Matthew 5:13,14). Our role is to give the world an enhanced flavour with good deeds shining "for all to see", bringing praise to the Father.

We're to be a presence. A neighbour. There for people—particularly when they're in a dark place.

Finally, each of us has gifts and

skills. Gifts are God-given (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, NLT). Skills come naturally or are learned. How can you use these for God? Only you will have the best answer to that question.

THE ROAD BEST TRAVELLED

"Long life is a gift from God, to be stewarded with wisdom and imagination," say Richard and Leona Bergstrom in *Third Calling*. They urge retirees, "Follow your calling and what you believe God wants you to do in this season of life." Besides, retirement "can be an exciting and liberating time as you begin to think about your life not as a mission accomplished—but as a time for finding new purpose that will give your life meaning and might just become your most joyous and nourishing time on earth".²

Don't get me wrong, retirement is an opportunity to live at a slower, more measured pace. But with the possibility of 8000 days or more of retirement, it's also an opportunity to live them with purpose—for God.

"In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. . . I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel" (Ephesians 4:1, MSG).

1. Lynda Gratton and Andrew Scott, *The 100-Year Life*, Bloomsbury, London, 2017, p 13.

2. Ken Dychtwald cited in Richard and Leona Bergstrom, *Third Calling, Re-Ignite*, Edmonds, Washington, USA.

BRUCE MANNERS RETIRED PASTOR AND AUTHOR OF RETIREMENT READY, AVAILABLE FROM ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRES.



Brilliant Bible teacher

Alfred F J Kranz was born in South Australia on August 5, 1900, into a pioneering family of German descent. Because he was a good student with parents who valued education, the family moved from their farm into the town of Wirrabara so he could continue his education.

By the age of 16 he was studying by distance education through Adelaide University and getting excellent results. He began work as a student teacher in the government school system.

By 1918, though still very young, he was appointed principal of Iron Knob Primary School, a state government institution. As a consequence of reading his Bible, Kranz became a Christian. A year later, at the age of 19, he accepted the Sabbath after reading some Adventist literature.

Soon those working in the South Australian Conference office heard about this unusual young man who kept the Sabbath “as a day of worship”. Following a visit from the Conference president, church members sponsored Kranz for a year of study at Avondale College.

Kranz initially worked as a colporteur so as to fund a second year as a student at Avondale. But Conference leadership asked him to stay on in South Australia and so, at the age of just 21, he found himself the principal of the Adventist Primary School in Adelaide. While in Adelaide he boarded with the Collins family and on

April 12, 1922, married their eldest daughter, Ethel.

After serving as the principal of Ponsonby Adventist School in Auckland (NZ) for two years, Kranz served as preceptor (dean of men) and teacher at Longburn College (1925–27), and then as the Bible teacher (1928–29) there. The Kranz family had two sons during these years—Lyndon and Russell.

Ordained in 1928, Kranz was the Bible teacher at Avondale College from 1930–39. During this time he wrote many of the Bible textbooks for which he became renowned. At Avondale the students began to affectionately refer to Pastor Kranz as “PK”—though never, ever, within his hearing!

From 1940–46, PK was principal of Carmel College near Perth (WA) and during this time he and Ethel adopted their daughter, Val.

By this time the Church in Australasia had recognised the need to upgrade the qualifications of its senior educators and the Kranz family was sent to the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Washington DC on study leave. But before PK could enrol in the MA Theology degree program he first had to complete his BA. In order to expedite the process, PK challenged several classes his advisors were requiring him to take. Allowed to take the final examinations for each, PK was asked when he wanted to schedule them and he always consist-

ently said “tomorrow” in each case, to the amazement and surprise of the seminary faculty. He passed each of those examinations easily as he had taught those subjects at Avondale, Carmel and Longburn colleges for about 15 years and had published textbooks for each.

While on study leave in Washington DC, PK completed his BA degree and subsequently took out an MA in Theology as well. Returning to Australia in 1949, PK, with Pastor Nelson Burns, who had also just completed his MA degree in Theology, headed the Bible Department at Avondale College until the end of 1954.

During his many years of teaching at Avondale, PK twice served as acting principal for months at a time, though the role was never made permanent. Possibly this was because he was too valuable as a Bible teacher.

By the mid-1950s the first lecturers with doctorates were in training or joining the faculty, and so in 1955 PK returned to Longburn College, this time as principal, until his so-called retirement in early 1965.

For some years after stepping out of his leadership role, he continued to teach Bible there and served as registrar and librarian, but he gradually reduced his workload until his move to Napier, a town some 200 kilometres or so north of Longburn, in late 1973.

After Ethel died Pastor Kranz married Joy Carter, but this happy



LIVING HIS WORD

WITH WAYNE BOEHM

FINAL LESSON FROM JOSEPH

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20). **CONSIDER** As you look back over your life, can you see difficult events or people that, in the end, have given cause to a change of heart and blessings to others?

Difficulties and trials mostly come within the context of relationship.

REVIEW some of the difficult relationship issues found in Genesis.

In the early chapters, we discover a couple in conflict seeking to become like God, while at the conclusion, a humble man acknowledges the absolute sovereignty of God. This transformation was not easy nor instant, but came through hardship and trial. *Patriarchs and Prophets* provides some fascinating insights into Joseph’s mindset as he was being led into captivity: “Then his thoughts turned to his father’s God . . . He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord” (PP213). Joseph had every right to be angry and unforgiving towards his brothers. However, during these dark experiences his understanding of God’s sovereignty developed to a level that not only impacted his life but a whole nation.

Throughout Genesis, Moses recorded the stories of fractured relationships, deception, betrayal and idolatry. The deceptions that had long plagued this family line now end with Joseph’s famous words.

Perhaps you’ve been trapped by bitterness because of an unforgiving spirit and a desire for revenge.

CONSIDER Joseph’s example and begin living the life God has called you to live. Matthew 6:14, Romans 12:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:15, 1 Peter 1:6-8, 4:19.

union was cut short as Joy was soon to struggle through a difficult journey with terminal cancer. During these years with Joy, PK was also deeply saddened by the death of his son Lyndon from a heart attack in May 1976. He was just 52.

In 1984 PK married Marlene Broad and they had almost nine companionable years together. During his final decade, PK filled many speaking engagements, kept an immaculate garden and thoroughly enjoyed his large personal library. In February 1993 he had a stroke, which hospitalised him. Three weeks later, feeling better than he had for some time, he quietly slipped into his final sleep while resting in a hospital chair.

Alfred S Jorgenson, in reflecting on the enormous influence Pastor Kranz had on all who knew and worked with him and were students in his classes, said it best: “Alfred Kranz reigned supreme in the classroom . . . Dignified, somewhat reserved, but extremely energetic, exuding an enthusiasm that

was contagious, his class sessions were dynamic expressions of his own intense study of the Bible and his desire to share with his students the values and blessings he had received from it . . . when I left Avondale, the desire uppermost in my mind was the prayer that maybe one day God would enable me to be a Bible teacher like PK.”

LESTER DEVINE DIRECTOR EMERITUS, ELLEN G WHITE/ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.



STEADFAST LOVE

I have a favourite word in the Bible. It is also the most incredible word in the Old Testament. It is variously translated into English by the words "love", "unfailing love", "loving kindness" (NIV), "steadfast love" (RSV), "goodness", "mercy", "merciful kindness" or "faithfulness" (KJV). It is the Hebrew word *chesed* or *hesed* (the "c" is almost silent and produces a guttural sound). The RSV and NRSV tend to be the most consistent by translating *chesed* always into "steadfast love".

The entire confessional background of the Hebrew faith that makes up the cathedral of the Old Testament rests on three grand pillars: grace (*chesed*), covenant (*berit*) and teachings (*torah*).

These three words are key in understanding the Jewish faith. Tragically, the current NSW Higher School Certificate religious studies course component on the Jewish religion leaves out the most important one and mentions only the last two.

Chesed is a powerful word! *Chesed* is an act that has no cause! The ultimate act of *chesed* is Creation: "out of nothing". No-one merits existence; we only exist by the gift of God. Our relationship to God depends on *chesed* because He owes us nothing. God does not save us because of what we do, but because of who He is! Loving kindness (RSV) is an act that has no cause. It is a character trait of God because "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

Look at the following passage from the RSV (my preferred translation because of its literal transcription from

the original languages of the Bible). This passage from Psalm 89 is talking about the promise of the Davidic Covenant, which was just a reiteration of the various covenants that went before it, all the way back to Eden.

*28 My steadfast love I will keep for him for ever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.*

*29 I will establish his line for ever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.*

*30 If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my ordinances,*

*31 if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,*

*32 then I will punish their transgression
with the rod*

and their iniquity with scourges;

*33 but I will not remove from him
my steadfast love,*

or be false to my faithfulness.

*34 I will not violate my covenant,
or alter the word that went forth
from my lips.*

35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;

I will not lie to David.

*36 His line shall endure for ever,
his throne as long as the sun
before me.*

*37 Like the moon it shall be established
for ever;*

*it shall stand firm while the skies
endure." Selah*

Notice the word *selah* at

the end of verse 37. That is a musical term that means "pause and think about what you are singing". All three of the pillars are in these verses, but the most staggering thing is Yahweh's affirmation to stand by His word no matter where the nation of Israel goes or how far they wander into disobedience. Verse 34 is amazing! God changes not (Malachi 3:6); He is the same yesterday today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Of course verse 36 is referring to the ultimate seed of David. We also know what happened to the seed of Abraham in the New Testament. These words and the ones I am going to follow with, all belong to us. Our hope rests on the promise of God and that is the heart of Psalm 89.

God is faithful; His will must ultimately triumph, but whether or not we triumph depends upon how we relate ourselves to that will. Ask yourself, "Is the will of God my sovereign law?"

Notice the essence of Psalm 117, the Jewish Doxology, comprising 17 Hebrew words arranged in two parallel couplets. This psalm was sung as part of the six psalms that Jesus sung at The Last Supper. Here again *chesed* ("steadfast love", RSV) is prominent, along with the word faithfulness (RSV) or truth (KJV). This doxology of praise gives us Yahweh's chief attributes in His dealings with humanity and the chief reason for our praise.

Chesed is love that stoops, love that departs from the strict lines of descent and retribution. *Chesed* is love

that is kind when justice might make it otherwise. *Chesed* is love that condescends to that which is far beneath. This steadfast or unflinching love is the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament word "grace" (Greek: *charis*) and shows us that the plan of salvation has been the same throughout history. "The law was given through Moses; grace and truth come through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

Faithfulness (RSV) or truth (KJV) blends with steadfast love (*chesed*) to become the attribute of God's fidelity to every obligation under which He has come—faithfulness to promise. This is His character. Faithfulness will last as long as God Himself does!

Why would we not reverence such a God! Why would we not bow down and worship Him who "made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them" (Exodus 20:11). Wait a minute—there it is! *Chesed* in Exodus 20:6.

How significant that Psalm 85:10 says, "Steadfast love (*chesed*) and faithfulness have met together" and are inseparably blended—they have "kissed each other". Paul said that God, "can be just and yet the justifier of them who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26, KJV). A marriage of eternal consequence!

God displays *chesed* in making promises and exhibits truth or faithfulness (KJV/RSV) in fulfilling them. Both meet in the covenant, at the incarnation and on the cross. Both meet in the conversion of sinners and both will be perfected when the saints reach heaven.

Chesed without faithfulness would be powerless, just like truth without grace would be legalism. But together they tell us that God can justify the sinner because His justice has been satisfied by His grace.

Remember these

words that Yahweh spoke to Moses from the cloud on the mount, after the first set of tables of stone had been smashed (there's a message there):

6 The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . ." (Exodus 34:6,7, RSV).

How can I finish?—there is so much more. My suggestion to you: find out which word your preferred translation uses in the examples I have given for *chesed*, and then as you are reading the Bible, your spirit will leap when you see the word and say "that is the Hebrew word *chesed*". It is a rich and amazing word! It is my favourite word

in the Old Testament!

Psalm 86 (RSV)
5 For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on thee.

13 For great is thy steadfast love toward me;
thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

15 But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

1. Psalm 136 uses *chesed* in every one of its 26 verses.¹

ROSS CHADWICK VOLUNTEER PASTOR AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER AT DUNGOG, NSW.



28 FUNDAMENTALS

MORE THAN MEDIOCRE

The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Genesis 1:1,2; 2 Samuel 23:2; Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.)

When I graduated from Avondale several years ago and became an intern pastor, I was 23, idealistic and convinced I could change the world.

Sound familiar? Assigned to a large church in beautiful New Zealand, I charged in headlong, sure of myself and excited for what lay ahead.

However, I was in for a rude awakening. I soon learned that not everyone in my new church resonated with my passion and (shockingly) not every great idea that came from my frenetic mind was met with enthusiastic applause. Looking back, I cringe at some of the mistakes I made. However, I'm also incredibly grateful for the learning that took place. Through that season, I had to confront a lot about myself: my biases, my shortcomings and areas in my life that needed improvement. At times I felt like Israel being shaped through the Refiner's fire (Isaiah 48). It was also

during that time that I came face-to-face with one of my greatest fears: mediocrity.

Some people are afraid of spiders. Some, the dark. Others are terrified of heights. I'm afraid of mediocrity. While that might sound strange, I'm betting that deep down, you are, too. Don't get me wrong; mediocrity isn't a death sentence, nor will it keep you out of heaven. Mediocrity is, however, a one-way ticket to missing out on the big, wide-open life God has planned for you.

We've all had dreams. Whether it was the dream of the perfect job, perfect spouse or perfect house. Many of us have dreamed of changing the world. I certainly did! But, like me, perhaps you've also been disappointed. The dream fell on deaf ears. The funding didn't come. Rather than eagerness, it was met with criticism. When that happens, maybe like me, you were tempted to give up on the

dream and settle for mediocrity.

The reason why mediocrity is one of my greatest fears is because of both its allure and its horror. It's easier to play it safe. It's much more attractive in the short-term to live without risk. Such a way of living is free from a lot of the pain associated with risk, challenge and the potential for failure. And yet, mediocrity neither motivates nor inspires. As Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, "mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself". I believe that the human heart, made in the image of God, rails against mediocrity. I believe that under the surface still lives a longing of what could be and should be. For many of us, the dream isn't dead; it's still there, but it's fighting for breath.

In his book *Hero Maker*, author Dave Ferguson makes an audacious claim: "Take your current dream for your church and multiply it by one million."¹ It seems ludicrous, doesn't



it? It certainly doesn't sound very biblical. It sounds more like an excerpt from a self-help book. And yet, this idea doesn't originate from Tony Robbins, but from Scripture.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" (Ephesians 3.20, 21, NIV).

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more . . ." That's a bold assertion. It's idealistic; impossible, even. And yet, I'm guessing most of us would accept it far more readily than Dave Ferguson's claim. After all, it's in the Bible so it has to be true, right? But do we actually believe it? Do we believe that the potential God has placed in our hearts is greater than anything we could ever dream of or imagine? Do we believe that what God has planned for our lives is greater than the plans we've made? If you had told William Miller in the 1830s that his small Advent movement would go on to spawn a church with a combined worldwide membership of more than 21 million people, I wonder what he would have said? When we consider movements that change the world, we must consider the unlikeliness of their success. Why did these dreams flourish, where others floundered?

I believe there is no "silver bullet"; no sure-guarantee for success, bar one: The Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit anointing is the antidote to mediocrity

and the key to living the wide-open life God has called us to live. He is the One who dares us to try God and see what He can do with our small gift, our small talent, our small dream. As Dave Ferguson says, we all need to "think big . . . see the scale of God's dream and realise, 'There is far more that God wants me to do than I can do all by myself.'"² No excuses! No exemptions!

Journeying through the pain and frustration of disappointment has taught me many valuable lessons, but I thank God that it hasn't killed my hope and enthusiasm. Just the opposite, in fact: it has enlarged them! Having said that, disappointment has changed the way I think about my dreams. It's easy to conflate my dream with God's dream. It's tempting to think of the Holy Spirit as a magical power source whom we must invoke in order to achieve our dreams and our desires. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Rather than asking whether the Holy Spirit is on *our* side, perhaps instead we need to ask if we are on *His* side.

After all, the Spirit's primary mission is the advancement of the kingdom of heaven on earth. When Jesus said to His disciples, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works . . ."³ I believe He was telling the truth. Wherever the Spirit of God is made manifest, there too is the kingdom established.

In my ministry I have had to ask hard questions: are my dreams building God's kingdom or my own? Do my dreams elevate Jesus or elevate me? I believe that when we humble ourselves and say, "not my will, but thy will be done", the Holy Spirit blesses and enlarges us.

I believe that when we devote ourselves to seeing heaven come on earth, the Spirit grows our vision, our

hope and our hunger to see more people transformed into followers of Jesus. Too many of us (I place myself in this camp) have become enamoured with growing our own kingdom, and in doing so, have missed out on what the Spirit wants to do in our lives to grow the kingdom of heaven.

If I could offer one final challenge, it would be this: who is the Holy Spirit to you? There are numerous roles He fulfils: Comforter, Conscience, Gift-giver, Guide and Illuminator of truth.

However, as we see from the life of Jesus and the explosion of the early church, He is also our Source. He fills our lives with power if we let Him; the power to proclaim the name of Jesus and expand the borders of the kingdom through preaching, discipleship and the arts (to name a few methods). He confronts the temptation for mediocrity and reminds us that though fallen, we are sons and daughters of God. We are seated in heavenly places and we were created for more than the mundane; we have eternity in our hearts.

So ask for the Holy Spirit daily. Don't depend on your own flesh, but on the power that He gives so generously.

May you live with confidence, speak truthfully and love wholeheartedly. May the Holy Spirit use you in a mighty way to lead people to Jesus, make disciples and transform your community. And may Jesus come soon!

1. Ferguson, Dave. *Hero Maker* (Exponential Series), Zondervan, p 77, Kindle Edition.

2. *ibid*

3. John 14.12, NLT



JESSE HEREFORD

Pastor, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

what we teach

Jesus' Great Commission has been repeatedly dissected and parsed since His disciples were first so commissioned on that mountaintop overlooking the Sea of Galilee and across to the pagan lands on the "other side" (see Matthew 28:16–20). Among the directions He gave, there's the "go"—or "as you are going"—and the "make disciples". Then the "baptising" and, finally, there's the "teaching"—the ongoing work of learning and living as a disciple of Jesus.

When Jesus specified that His disciples were to teach new disciples "to obey all the commands I have given you" (Matthew 28:20),¹ His disciples' thinking most likely went to their memories of His sermon on another hillside further around the lake-shore.

It's intriguing to recognise that Jesus' teaching was noticeably different from what is often taught in churches today. Jesus usually didn't teach doctrine in a way that fits our modern-day formulations. Similarly, He never publicly taught anything that sounds like the contemporary, individualised, confess-your-sins-and-accept-Jesus-then-go-to-heaven salvation message that most of us are familiar with.

Rather, Jesus told stories that invited people into the alternative living reality of the kingdom of God and when He gave commands—as the Great Commission referenced—they most often related to how to resist the pressures of a violent, unjust, inauthentic and uncertain world, and to live and love well with both personal faithfulness and public action. In short, "the way of discipleship and the commands of Jesus are most

explicitly taught in the Sermon on the Mount".²

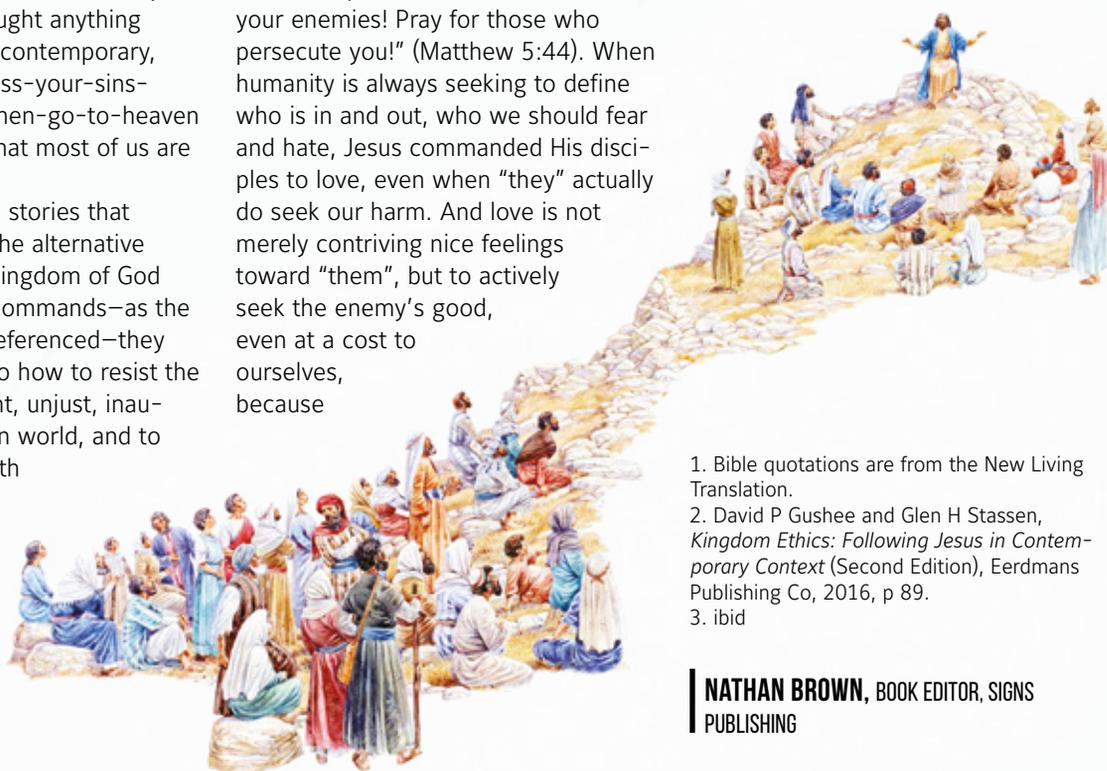
As such, the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5–7) deserves our renewed attention, particularly in what we mean by disciple-making. The early followers of Jesus understood that this was what Jesus meant in the Great Commission. Church historians note that this sermon was the most referenced biblical passage in the first 300 years of the church: "This was the main way the early Christians were taught how to be disciples."³ But the ethical teachings of Jesus seemed to fall out of favour and then almost out of sight as the church changed, becoming more focused on form, theology and doctrines, as well as politics and power structures. Possibly because what Jesus taught was increasingly uncomfortable in the context of what the church had become.

Consider, for example, Jesus' ethic for the worst-case-scenario in human relationships—the command to "love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" (Matthew 5:44). When humanity is always seeking to define who is in and out, who we should fear and hate, Jesus commanded His disciples to love, even when "they" actually do seek our harm. And love is not merely contriving nice feelings toward "them", but to actively seek the enemy's good, even at a cost to ourselves, because

we are not worrying about the stuff of our own lives (see Matthew 6:25).

Not only was this counter-intuitive and counter-cultural in Jesus' day, it has been ever since and remains so today, if we are to take and teach Jesus' commands seriously. And this will change not only our personal relationships, but our public engagement—how we listen and speak, how we vote and advocate, how we seek to include and welcome people who are different into our lives and communities.

The teachings of Jesus—as summarised in the Sermon on the Mount—are the rock on which we as His disciples are called to build our lives and our faith (see Matthew 7:24). With the power and presence of Jesus (see Matthew 28:18, 20), it's a life that resists what is wrong around us and in us, that loves well even when it costs, that seeks first the reality and priorities of the kingdom of God (see Matthew 6:33). It's a life worth teaching to new disciples and inviting others to share.



1. Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.

2. David P Gushee and Glen H Stassen, *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context* (Second Edition), Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2016, p 89.

3. *ibid*

NATHAN BROWN, BOOK EDITOR, SIGNS PUBLISHING



MAKING HEALTHY FOOD FUN FOR KIDS

One of the most common challenges families face is trying to get their kids to enjoy healthy food.

We all know the importance of those early childhood years when it comes to forming healthy habits that allow our kids to grow to their full potential. Recent studies have even revealed the surprising links between the foods we eat and our mental health, which start from a young age.

But it isn't always easy to get kids on board. We can all relate to the struggle of vegetables being pushed to the edge of the dinner plate and uneaten apples and bananas buried in school backpacks!

In fact, the recent "Nutrition Across The Life Stages" study from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 99 per cent of kids aged 2–18 years do not eat the recommended daily serve of vegetables.

Meanwhile, today's parents list "eating more vegetables" as the healthy behaviour they would most like to see their children adopt (52 per cent), as well as eating more fruit (43 per cent) and reducing the amount of sugar in their diet (36 per cent), according to a recent YouGovGalaxy study.

It's important to get your kids excited by nutritious foods so they can develop healthy habits from a young age. A great place to start is to simply make meal preparation fun for kids.

Researchers from the University of Notre Dame found that kids who are involved in food preparation are more likely to eat home-made meals and make wiser food choices.

Transform helping out in the kitchen from a "chore" into a "masterclass" by tapping into your inner master chef. Walk them through how you're preparing the meal step-by-step, while supervising them to help with age-appropriate tasks like rinsing, peeling and mashing vegetables.

Why not try some of our other ideas to make healthy eating fun?

View the full *Little People Big Lives Report* from Sanitarium and the University of Notre Dame at sanitarium.com.au/biglives.



Crunchy peanut boats

The perfect simple snack with super crunch and delicious peanut butter filling! An easy and fun recipe to make with the kids.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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

 / [sanitariumaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumaustralia)
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TIPS TO MAKE HEALTHY EATING FUN



CREATE GAMES AROUND FOOD

Involving the kids in shopping and choosing menus gives them important life skills. Dreading a supermarket visit? Make it fun with a game of grocery bingo. Let your kids pick the items—the first to four in a row wins.



BACK TO VEG

Kids love getting in touch with nature, so learning how foods grow is a fun way to pique their interest. Visit a local nursery or farm, or take it a step further and plant your own veggie patch.



CREATE A SWAP SWATCH

Have a handy swatch of healthy foods that you can "swap" when you're looking for a snack—think soft drink for water or milk, or a bag of chips for nuts. The kids can help make a board with drawings of healthy foods.

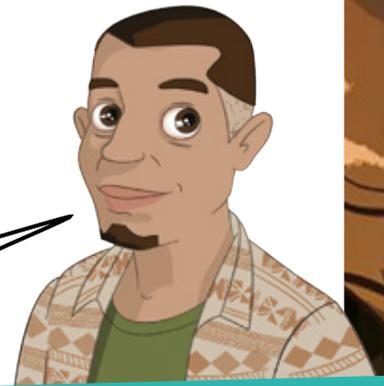
Sanitarium
health & wellbeing

KIDS SPACE

Hola Kids

(Spanish for Hello)

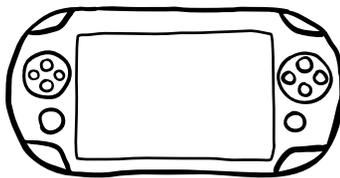
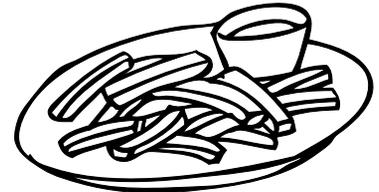
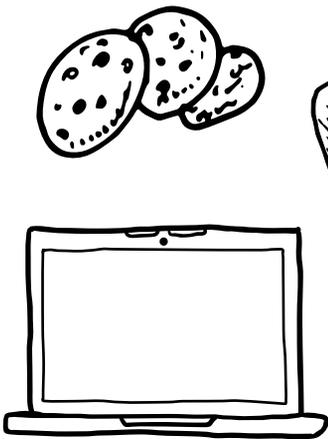
I thank Jesus
for choosing to
save me



A BITTER CHOICE

Jesus and His disciples go to Gethsemane to pray. He asks the disciples to pray with Him. But they are very tired and go to sleep. Jesus struggles and prays alone. He suffers terribly, but He chooses to do what must be done to save us. He feels even more pain when He is betrayed by Judas, arrested and taken away.

What are some
of the things
you find hard
to give up?



Memory Verse

"Father, if you are willing, take
this cup from me; yet not my
will, but yours be done"

Luke 22:42



Go to <http://thetuis.tv/> and find out the latest adventures from the Tui family.



PORNOGRAPHY PANDEMIC

I just want to thank the author of "On Pornography" (February 2) for her courage in sharing her story and thoughts on the unadmitted pornography pandemic plaguing our society and our Church. As a recovered addict myself, I echo her sentiments. Many of her experiences from early life are also mine and, I guess, many others. For those struggling [with pornography], I would just like to add one thought. Victory over this evil is possible. However it cannot be done in our own strength. Only by pleading the merits of the blood of Christ and asking for the omnipotent power of the Spirit of Christ can we be free of this chain to live in the purity and cleanliness that He wills for us. We also need someone we can trust who can support us and keep us accountable. Divine power plus human support equals growth.

Daniel Matteo, *Tas*

DISCUSS THEOLOGY

Why is "our present truth stuck in past interpretations"? (See "Reading Revelation, January 26)

Simply because we are discouraged from discussing theology.

The light of the "foolish virgins" faded out because they would not discuss theology.

We must be given sufficient time and space in our congregations to discuss theology; otherwise the old light will become darkness for us, and we will be judged blind (Revelation 3:14-22).

"Greater light shines upon us than shone upon our fathers. We cannot be accepted or honoured of God in rendering the same service, or doing the same works, that our fathers did. In order to be accepted and blessed of God as they were, we must imitate their faithfulness and zeal—improve our light as they improved theirs—and do as they would have done had they lived in our day. We must walk in the light which shines upon us, otherwise

that light will become darkness" (*Testimonies Vol 1*, p 262).

Henry Firus, *Vic*

NEW ORDER?

Had the many books mentioned as having been read by our editor ("Reading Revelation") included some I have read, he could not have drawn the conclusions featured in his editorial.

We have always seen Christ as the centre of prophecy and the focus of Revelation. This is evident even in the writings of Uriah Smith and Stephen Haskell, both of whom wrote commentaries on Revelation. I must say these straw men who are occasionally set up are unfair and indicate either shoddy research or an agenda influenced perhaps by reading "books of a new order".

John Cunningham,
via email

ARRESTING TRUTHS

The comment found in the letter "Should we?" (January 26) regarding confidence in the Reformation doctrine of justification is both an

evidence of the assault of evangelical thought within the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a tragedy with monumental consequences.

The faithful wilderness church survived the long apostasy and the Reformation was but the beginning of a wider restoration of the pure truth of God's Word.

The later Puritan and Wesleyan movements of England and America prepared minds to receive the fuller light God would reveal at the end of the 2300 days.

The arresting truths of the three angels' messages WILL be proclaimed in all the world. *The Great Controversy* sets forth the biblical reasons of this message clearly. Those who are faithful to it will meet the same opposition as the two previous Elijahs.

Gillian Cunningham,
NSW

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

Why do we "say a prayer"? The expression sounds shallow rather than heartfelt. Or "Let's have a prayer"? There are many

things we can casually have.

Will you "do the prayer"? We do our hair and a lot of other things. Rather: "Let's pray" or "Let us join together in prayer" or "Mary Smith will lead us in prayer". And by all means let's kneel in prayer unless that is not reasonable in the circumstance.

And at meal times, why do we "say grace"? Can we translate that into another expression? Why don't we follow Christ's example and meaningfully "give thanks"? The expression is quoted 10 times in the New Testament, from the feeding of the 5000 to the instituting of the Lord's Supper. Why not follow the Lord's example?

Bert Cozens, *NSW*

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.

Wedding



MACLEAN-JOHNSEN. Callum Maclean and Lucy Johnsen were married on 6.1.19 at Swallowfield Vineyards (Vic). Many friends and family from around Australia came to witness their special day. Callum and Lucy met while studying at Avondale College. They are now both living in Melbourne where they work as teachers.

Leathan Fitzpatrick, Morris Krieg

Obituaries



BAILEY, Judith (nee Living), born 6.12.1943 in Maryborough, Vic; died 15.10.18 in

Tweed Heads, NSW. She was married to Lynton (Bunty) Bailey, who predeceased her in 2009. Judith is survived by her daughter Kaylene Irvine (Sunshine Coast, Qld) and sons Adrian (Murwillumbah, NSW) and Wayne (Gold Coast, Qld) and their families; and four grandchildren: Nathan and Joshua Irvine and Zander and Tait Bailey. Judy was a loving wife and mother. She attended Avondale College in 1960-61 and studied

dressmaking. Judy was an active member of Murwillumbah church, serving as a deaconess and assistant treasurer. Judy believed that a person must not neglect to pray each day and that prayer helps us to stay connected to God.

Ashley Smith



DAVEY, Linton Ashley, born 2.1.1920 in Glen Innes, NSW; died 24.12.18 in

Tara, Qld. He was predeceased by his first wife Gwendoline in 1946 and his daughter Julie Burnett in 2017. On 10.10.1950 Linton married Thelma Tuelon. He is survived by Thelma (Tara); children Marilyn and Robert Craig (Sydney, NSW), and Alan Davey (South Johnstone, Qld); grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Linton died eight days before his 99th birthday. On 6.3.1942 he joined the 2/15 Battalion of the Australian Army and served until 1945. He served in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. Linton was loved and respected by all who knew him.

David Edgar

DU PREEZ, Archie, born 4.8.18 in Brisbane, Qld; died 18.1.19 in Brisbane. He is survived by his parents Steven and Jenna; twin

brother Henry; grandparents Hennie and Joan du Preez and Modona and Bruce Shackelford, and family. Archie was born with a lung disease and had numerous medical procedures. He passed away in the arms of his parents, resting under a mango tree at Hummingbird House, Brisbane.

The service with family and friends was held under the same tree. Archie lived just 167 days but he will be forever remembered. His family look forward to being together again under the tree of life in paradise restored.

Andre van Rensburg



EISZELE, Thomas (George), born 22.2.1927 in Hobart, Tas; died 10.11.18 in

Hobart. On 10.7.1950 he married Joan (nee Dadson). He is survived by his wife; children Georgina Lockington Milsom (Canberra, ACT), Harvey Eiszele (Hobart, Tas), Annette Donoghue (Sydney, NSW) and foster daughter Lana Tran (Sydney); and grandchildren James, Caitlin, Cosmin and David. George began employment with Sanitarium in 1949 and retired in 1985. He then served as a volunteer to resettle refugees into Hobart, for which he received a Pride of Australia Award in 2006

and an Order of Australia Medal in 2007. He was an active member of New Norfolk church up until 1950 and then Glenorchy church. He was faithful in church attendance and never missed Sabbath School unless he was very sick.

Cosmin Dan-Marica



HUNT, David Ronald Stanley, born 20.2.1962 in Miranda, NSW; died 3.10.18 in

New Zealand. He is survived by his parents Anne and Ron Hunt (Casino); daughters Tegan, Tayla and Brianna (all of Erina); and siblings Tony Hunt (Riverstone) and Debbie Price (Burringbar). David grew up with many cousins and his grandparents. He was very keen on fitness and cycling and did much to encourage his daughters in this activity. Sadly, he passed away while on a bicycle ride in New Zealand. Many friends, workmates and family attended his funeral. He rests in the hands of a knowing God.

Harold Harker

ADVERTISING

LAKESIDE CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Warmly welcoming past members

North New South Wales

grey nomads

2019 CAMP

The North New South Wales Conference's annual Grey Nomads Camp will be held from 10-18 May, 2019, at the Adventist Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW. The event is open to grey nomads from across Australia (and beyond!), and is an excellent opportunity for retirees to meet and fellowship together. Applications now open at nsw.adventist.org.au.

Speakers: Pr Pavel Goia & Pr Michael Goetz

For more information, contact Debbie (02) 4944 3220 or greynomads@adventist.org.au.

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of Lakeside church (formerly Brightwaters) to our 50th anniversary celebrations on Sabbath, July 13. For further information phone Pam Hill on (02) 49771840 or email <pamhill38@icloud.com>.

HOMECOMING 2019, AUGUST 23-24

All Avondale alumni and friends welcome. Honour years: 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009. Featuring: Avondale Conservatorium and Institute of

Worship's Hymns and Songs of Praise. Register: <avondale.edu.au/homecoming>.

ALLROUND TRAVEL

Specialists in individual and group travel to all parts of the world. Great tours in 2019. Bible lands Israel and Jordan-April 2019, led by Dr Peter Roennfeldt. Israel and Jordan-August 2019, led by Dr Peter. Bible lands with Egypt extension, led by Pastor Gary Kent. We welcome your enquiry. Please call Anita or Peter on

0405260155 or email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

VOLUNTEER SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Volunteer software developer for .NET on a windows platform. If you are interested in doing some volunteer work in the Pathfinder space helping to further develop and refine an event management web app specifically designed for Pathfinders, please contact Randall Ibbott on <randall.ibbott@gmail.com>.

Finally . . .

Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. - C S Lewis

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST WORLD, MARCH 9

POSITIONS VACANT

SENIOR FINANCIAL SYSTEMS SPECIALIST, RMS WAHROONGA, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking a highly qualified and experienced candidate to be the senior financial systems specialist to manage the information technology capacity and achieve the business objectives of Risk Management Service. This full-time role, based at the SPD head office in Wahroonga, is responsible for ensuring the successful completion of analysis, design, building, testing and implementation of solutions, as well as providing ongoing support of solutions and data management. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website: <adventistemployment.org.au>. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this vacancy at its discretion and close applications early. 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 March 17, 2019.**

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT, NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE WALLSEND, NSW

This position is pivotal to the organisation's Treasury department, with the successful applicant developing a deeper understanding of the Church's financial management systems and methods. The position will report directly to the CFO, and will require sound management accounting skills and experience. In addition to the operational-related finance matters, the position will be responsible for the supervision and training of direct report positions in the Treasury department. To discuss the role or to request a performance profile, please contact: Amy Edwards (02) 4951 8088 or via email: <amyedwards@adventist.org.au>. Applications are to be submitted in writing via email: <amyedwards@adventist.org.au> addressing the essential and desirable criteria outlined in the performance profile. **Applications close March 5, 2019.**

REGISTERED NURSE, ADVENTIST AGED CARE WAHROONGA, NSW

Adventist Aged Care, Wahroonga, a non-profit organisation, currently has an exciting opportunity for a registered nurse who is driven to

provide the best care for our residents. You will play a pivotal role within the nursing team, provide leadership and direction to the members of the care team and ensure the delivery of a high standard of care, customer service and Christian culture that represents the values of Adventist Aged Care, Wahroonga. If you have any questions regarding the position, please contact Asmitra Musk at 0431 049 839 or email <asmitramusk@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 8, 2019.**

DIRECTOR, STUDENT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION COORANBONG, NSW

The director of student administration is responsible for the general administrative and operational oversight of Avondale's Student Administration Services department, and particularly the Academic Office, to ensure the effectiveness and timeliness of admission and enrolment processes, the accuracy and security of all academic records, examination procedures, academic integrity and graduation processes, and compliance with relevant government agencies and legislation. A key function of this role is to act as the academic registrar of the college. For full job description and selection criteria please visit <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications, with a statement addressing the selection criteria and contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications close March 15, 2019.**

CHAPLAIN, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION COORANBONG, NSW

Avondale seeks to appoint a college chaplain to join the Student Life Services team. The chaplain will provide pastoral support and pastoral counselling to students and develop programs, policies and structures that provide pastoral care and spiritual development for all students on the Lake Macquarie campus. These programs, policies and structures will focus on faith development of young Christians and ways for students to internalise and share their Christian experience with others. Please visit <employment@avondale.edu.au> for full selection criteria and a job description. Applications, with a statement addressing the selection criteria and with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications close March 29, 2019.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:
ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU



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