

# R

## WHY I LEFT THE CHURCH . . . AND FOUND MY OWN ODD WAY BACK

THOUGHTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE  
LEAVING THE CHURCH 14

### NEWS

200 PASTORS ATTEND TPUM  
BIBLE CONFERENCE 6

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## INTO EVERY HOME

One evening as I returned to my home in Auckland, I remember thinking to myself that it is getting increasingly more difficult to get past the front door of people's homes. People are resistant to the Christian message and messenger. They often resent being interrupted by someone with religion. And then with equal force came the thought, *What about media?*

What if we could get into every home with the Adventist message on every television or radio? And not just for one hour a week, but 24/7. What difference would that make to the Church's ability to get its message out and how would it impact the city for Christ?

So was born a dream and began my journey in media ministry.

Today the Church shares good news to hundreds of thousands of people every day through its media programs. It does this in New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Australia, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Kiribati through radio, television and online channels. And it is making a difference. Every week I hear of a story of someone walking into one of our churches because they heard or saw a timely message from our media. Praise God!

Since becoming involved in media I have become convinced of the following four principles:

1. There are many types of media and all can be used to bring a person to Christ. Print, television, web/digital and radio. We are learning to use Facebook to create an interest and build a community. *Mums At The Table* has more than 2100 mums in a closed group, talking and interacting together.

In a recent report produced by the Australian Government, titled "Online & On Demand 2017: Trends in Australian online viewing habits", the following conclusion is shared: "Despite disruption from SVOD (streamed video on demand), overall use of broadcast TV remains fairly stable, while other existing platforms such as broadcaster catch-up and other AVOD (eg YouTube) have seen an increase."

The reality is that different media types appeal to

different demographics and, while broadcast TV is still the dominant player in the media market, online based media is increasing quickly, especially with the under 50s, and we need to learn how to work effectively in this area.

2. Media, if used wisely and well, can have a significant influence on a person's discipleship journey. Stories like Ken, who saw a *Signs* magazine half buried in the sand, picked it up and read himself into the kingdom. Or Adele who was searching for answers after the loss of a loved one and one day while channel surfing came across Hope Channel NZ. She said, "Whenever I had a question I would go to Hope Channel and found answers." She also found Christ and began attending her local Seventh-day Adventist church.

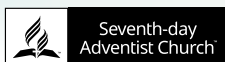
3. Media crosses boundaries and cultures. Gates and doors can't stop it entering. There are no limits to its reach other than transmission, reception and our willingness to be part of the process. This is why we are working on beaming radio into Wallis. It is a country that is 99 per cent Catholic and the village gate is not open to Adventists.

4. We all use media and therefore can use it to do something to share Jesus with someone.

The Scriptures say, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7-10, NIV).

Today, we can proclaim peace and bring good news in so many different ways and through so many different media types. But for this to happen your support is needed. One way you can to do this is to subscribe to *Signs* magazine and then share it with a friend. Another way is through the Media Evangelism offering on August 10.

**BRAD KEMP**  
ADVENTIST MEDIA CEO



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"Young woman smiles in the  
morning light."

## REASONS FOR HEALTH

When Adventist pioneer Ellen White received her first health vision on June 6, 1863, the leaders of the small Seventh-day Adventist Church were not in good shape. Her husband James was exhausted from overwork. John Andrews was continually distressed and anxious.

The health reform movement started in the US in the 1830s, but Adventists were not a part of it until Ellen White's vision. Ellen White steered the Adventists past crazy ideas to accept the principles we can now, in the 21st century, say are scientifically valid. The health message was given so Adventists could have the energy and longevity to present God's last day message.

As I write this, 25 of us are preparing to walk the Kokoda Track with ADRA to raise funds for the 10,000 Toes campaign. Type 2 diabetes is ravaging the South Pacific, with an amputation every 20 minutes. Adventists know a lifestyle that can prevent much of type 2 diabetes. PNGUM health director Gad Koito will present health talks and train leaders in using detection kits given to each village along the way. ADRA health workers will follow up with health training at a later stage.

The Church's Global Health Summit was held at Loma Linda University in July. Numerous health professionals from the South Pacific attended and presented research from Avondale College, Australasian Research Institute, SPD and Sanitarium.

David Williams, a Harvard academic, shared research on lifestyle intervention activities in dealing with the Western world's latest health challenge—Alzheimer's. Exercise, plant-based nutrition and gratitude were shown to be more effective than pharmaceutical products in reducing the effects and improving lifestyle.

If we all followed these health principles we would bring newness to the disciple-making movement we dream of—a healthy one at that.



**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT  
/SPDpresident

## EVANGELISTIC SERIES HAS BIG IMPACT

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Local church pastors in the Victorian Conference are busy following up the hundreds of contacts made through the recent "Revelation Today" evangelistic series.

The series—hosted by popular *It Is Written* speakers, Pastors John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger—ended on June 1 and the primary focus is now on keeping in touch with the 1018 attendees.

"Throughout the campaign we had the local pastors introduced up the front and we had one session in a local church to try to transition guests from the presenters to the local pastors," Revelation Today/Harvest Victoria project manager Pastor Fraser Catton said.

"So by the time the campaign ended they knew their local pastor, they already had visits from them, and the local pastor is now able to follow them up with his/her elders and ministry team members. So that's the big focus now."

At the conclusion of the series there were 159 requests for baptism—so far 44 baptisms have been held.

"It's great to see what God has been doing and to see the Holy Spirit moving," Pastor Catton said. "One of the comments I heard a lot was that many of the guests just wanted to know what the Bible has to say so they can follow it. They were trying to find a place to learn that information so they can know the truth for themselves and that's what they received at Revelation Today."

The series also has had a significant impact on church members, with over 300 regularly attending as volun-

teers. "We were really excited to see the lay member commitment to support and participate in the outreach," said Conference general secretary Craig Gillis.

According to a survey conducted at the end of the series, 78 per cent of members said it had increased their biblical understanding, 88 per cent said it reaffirmed their belief in the Adventist message, and 87 per cent said they were now more likely to share the good news of Jesus with others.

"It's hard to quantify the value of a campaign but those results definitely said there was value in it for members. It reignited their passion, enthusiasm and commitment," Pastor Catton said. "I think it also goes to show that from both a qualitative analysis and a quantitative one, public evangelism still has its place. If it's done well it can have a big impact both for members and non-members."

Revelation Today was held in four locations around Melbourne and is a key part of the Victorian Conference's five-year Harvest Victoria strategy.

Conference Personal Ministries director Andrew Jasper said: "Revelation Today has not only seen a fruitful harvest, budding church plants and more members engaging in mission, but moving forward it's starting a whole new conversation about how we do evangelism in our Conference. Great things are ahead."



**PASTORS MICHAEL MOHANU AND DANIEL MAHER BAPTISE ONE OF THE ATTENDEES.**

# DIGITAL DISCIPLES GATHER ON GOLD COAST FOR FIRST TIME

DANIEL KUBEREK

Seventh-day Adventist creatives from across the South Pacific gathered on Australia's Gold Coast for the Digital Discipleship Conference (DDC) 2019 on July 5–7.

The Digital Discipleship Conference aims to train and equip church members for discipleship on online platforms. The fourth annual conference focused on the theme "Future Beyond the Future", featuring keynotes and workshops centred around evangelism through digital media. Digital marketing, blogging, podcasting, social media and film-making were just a few of the many disciplines included.

"I didn't truly see how intricately God had been working on our behalf behind the scenes until the end of the event," said event organiser Rachel Aitken. "Since the beginning of planning the 2019 Digital Discipleship Conference so much conflict, hardship and struggle surrounded the event."



CREATIVES PACKED THE MEETING ROOM AT THE MANTRA LEGENDS HOTEL IN SURFERS PARADISE.

Photo: Charmaine Patel

Attendees had the opportunity to explore their creativity in two practical sessions on the Sabbath, with creatives in the music workshop creating a song they shared later in the afternoon. The international flavour of the event was highlighted by visitors from Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, as well as keynote speakers from the United States and Brazil.

DDC is run by the Australian Union Conference, and was held for the first time on the Gold Coast after the

previous three events were hosted in Sydney.

"I praise God for the hardship and the struggle of planning the 2019 Digital Discipleship Conference because through it I am able to measure the success of the event as I observed a countless number of God-ordained moments that took place that were totally out of my control," Mrs Aitken said.

A New Zealand edition of the DDC is planned for August 9–11.

# LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS EQUIPPED TO THRIVE

WA WRITING WORKSHOP/JARROD STACKELROTH

Local church leaders from the Western Australian (WA) Conference came together for a weekend of leadership training at Thrive 2019, held at Carmel College from June 22–23.

With around 30 presenters and 200 attendees, participants learnt skills on everything from discipleship to social media and more.

"Thrive was the first focused leadership training for our Conference for some years," said WA Conference president Pastor Steve Goods. "We ran Thrive to invest in leaders who are involved in local church. Volunteers are key in the local church and our focus is on growing people who share the good news."

Keynote speaker Alina van Rensburg, who is young adults leader for the South Queensland Conference, introduced the key principles of "growing young".

"I was really happy with the way the weekend went with clear focus given by our plenary speaker Alina on the issues of engaging with young people and ways we can move forward," said Pastor Goods. "This obviously tied in well with what we are wanting to do as a conference with our strategy of each church being a place that encourages intergenerational healthy churches."

The WA Conference executive launched the Conference's strategic plan at the event.

"It's been a long process" said Lucy Dessington, a member of the WA executive. "But it's exciting to hand an empowering vision to the people of WA."

"Our Conference team placed a



KEYNOTE SPEAKER ALINA VAN RENSBURG SPOKE ABOUT GROWING YOUNG.

clear direction of involving young people in the running of the weekend event and the number of young people attending clearly indicates to more experienced people like myself that they want to be part of a church that includes them," said Pastor Goods.

"The feedback we have received from the weekend has been really positive and we intend to make it a regular event."

## 200 PASTORS ATTEND TPUM BIBLE CONFERENCE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Four Vanuatu government ministers were guests at the opening of the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Bible Conference, held June 25-29.

Guest speaker at the opening was Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Ralph Regenvanu. Home Affairs Minister Andrew Napuat, Lands, Geology and Mines Minister Alfred Maoh and Youth and Sports



VANUATU MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE, RALPH REGENVANU.

Minister Simeon Seule were also present.

Held every five years, the conference was attended by about 200 pastors from the 10 countries of the TPUM. It is the first time it has been held outside of Fiji.

The conference is designed to keep pastors up to date with theological issues and to support them in their work. This year's theme was Orthotomeo, which is Greek for "rightly dividing" or "guide along a straight path".

The event was held at the Epauto Multi-Purpose Centre and featured 21 sessions, including topics such as Bible Hermeneutics, Preaching from the Gospels and Biblical Spirituality. Most of the presenters were from Andrews University in the US.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said the pastors felt it was



DELEGATES FROM AMERICAN SAMOA WITH THE CONFERENCE PRESENTERS.

the best Bible conference they had attended. He said the presenters were excellent and Vanuatu did a great job in hosting the event.

Dr Jiri Moskala, dean and Old Testament professor at Andrews University Seminary, expressed his delight at being involved in the conference.

"The Bible Conference was indeed one of the highlights in my life," he said. "It was unique and we were all very blessed. [There was ] excellent comradery and collaboration. The Word of God and Christ were shining. Thank you for the joy of being part of this conference."



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## WATER MINISTRY QUENCHES THIRSTY SOULS

TERRY KOIM

A Papua New Guinea mother's water ministry is making an impact in Port Moresby.

Esther Badia heads up a team of active volunteer youth workers in the Central Papuan Conference. Every week she fills up to a dozen 15L jerry cans from her house and, with the support of her husband and children and the youth workers, walks seven kilometres to distribute water to people in Sabusa, a village with no access to clean water. It is one of many places in the area that this water ministry has opened doors to the gospel message.

An elderly man whose only son died a few years ago found solace and comfort in Esther's kind act of supplying him with

water. Recently, he offered his land for a new church to be built there. With the support of Joyce Koi, whose husband is the secretary for the Central Papuan Conference, a makeshift shelter has been erected on the land to cater for the increasing number of new people coming to learn more about the gospel.

Fifteen of the young people in the village have joined the local Pathfinder club at Doromoku, and one of the first new converts to be baptised was Thomas. Up to 30 people are in the baptismal class and the number is steadily climbing.

Mrs Badia attends to them every Sabbath. With a local population of 3000 people and growing, the need to provide clean, safe drinking water is something that requires urgent attention.

"A good water supply project would be an entering wedge for the gospel to make real inroads into quenching the spiritual thirst of weary souls like Thomas and those who are preparing for baptism," said Doromoku church elder Gabriel Selibu, who supports Mrs Badia with the ministry.



A GROUP IN FRONT OF THE SABUSA MAKESHIFT SHELTER CHURCH.

## NEW ABC STORE DEDICATED IN PNG

RECORD STAFF

Adventist Book Centre (ABC) staff from Madang Manus Mission, Papua New Guinea, relocated to a new rental premises at the Madang Town Plaza on July 3.

A dedicatory prayer for the new premises was conducted by Mission president Pastor Garry Laukei, who was joined by staff from the Mission headquarters.

Centre manager Dellas Naime said they are expecting more customers than in their previous location because the store is now in the heart of town with easy access to parking.

"I am pleased to see that the ABC in Madang Manus Mission is producing results, [with] literature being sold and read throughout Madang," Pastor Laukei

said. "Moving into the main town centre is a wise choice and I believe many customers who come into town to do shopping will end up in our ABC shop."

The ABC shop contributes 10 per cent of its annual profit from the sale of books, Bibles, CDs, DVDs and other materials to Madang Manus Mission.



OPENING OF THE NEW ABC PREMISES IN MADANG TOWN PLAZA.

## NEWS GRABS



### 370 BAPTISED

Two trial court judges, two medical doctors, other health professionals, some teachers, businesspeople and government employees—all Seventh-day Adventists—have teamed up to do public evangelism. They decided to take turns preaching, singing and giving lectures every night for one week in Tagum City, Davao del Norte, in the Southern Philippines. The initiative resulted in the baptism of 370 people, they said.—*Adventist Review*



### BOOK CAFE

Türi, a small town in central Estonia, celebrated its birthday on July 2 with a series of garden cafés across the town. For the seventh year running, the Türi Adventist Church participated with a "Book Café". The café had food and spiritual books on offer, while youth and adult musicians from the church put on small concerts each hour.—*TED*



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On the 104th anniversary of Ellen White's death (July 16), world Church president Dr Ted Wilson encouraged members to read the Bible and Mrs White's writings "to help us in daily living, our mission outreach and our focus on Christ's soon coming". "They have made a huge impression in my life and my goals for mission," he said.—*ANN*

## HOT TOPICS



### HONG KONG PROTESTS

Christians have been active during recent protests in Hong Kong, providing food and shelter at demonstrations, and holding prayer circles to call for peace. A hymn called "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord" has become an unofficial anthem of the protests, which were sparked by a proposed law to allow extraditions to mainland China.—*New York Times*.



### TIPS TO PREVENT DEMENTIA

The World Health Organization has released tips to prevent dementia, which is predicted to triple over the next 30 years. Maintain a healthy blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar; exercise regularly, don't smoke, avoid harmful use of alcohol, control weight and eat a healthy diet.—*WHO*



### BIBLICAL TOWN DISCOVERED

Macquarie University (Sydney, NSW) archaeologists have taken part in the discovery of another key site in the stories of the Old Testament. They have found Ziklag, the town where David found refuge while fleeing from King Saul. University lecturer Kyle Keimer said the site was small but very significant.—*Eternity*

## ADVENTISTS ORGANISE FIRST-EVER HEALTH EXPO IN PORT VILA

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A parade through the main street of Port Vila (Vanuatu) heralded the start of Adventist Health Week, which included the city's first-ever health expo.

The Vanuatu Mobile Force Brass Band led the parade, which also included students from Epauto Adventist Senior Secondary School, representatives from the Vanuatu Ministry of Health, Vanuatu Mission office staff, church members, school teachers and an ambulance from Vila Central Hospital.

Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Health, George Taleo, and representatives from the World Health Organization were among invited guests to the opening program. Mr Taleo acknowledged the work being carried out by the Adventist Health Department. He said he would like to support Health Week annually and announced that it would now become part of the Ministry of Health business plan as one of the programs to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Port Vila's first-ever health expo, held from June 18-20 in Faiwa Park, had the theme "Prevention is better than cure". Adventist Health partnered with the Ministry of Health and Vila Central Hospital to provide essential health information, food sales and health screenings for the public. Booths were run by a number of groups, including ADRA, Hope Books, Adventist Welfare Society and the Blood Bank of

Vanuatu.

Topics covered included diabetes, food safety, the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP), antibiotic resistance awareness, tobacco and drug laws, oral health, practical lifestyle choices, mental health and wellness, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy and neglected tropical diseases.

Other activities included morning exercise sessions, a display by the ambulance and paramedics' service, interviews with national leading health professionals, evening praise and worship, and film screenings.

"The Adventist Health department praises God for the support and participation seen throughout the program," said Phalguni James, Adventist Health director for the Vanuatu Mission.

"Many lives were touched and we hope to bring healing and hope to more through the health ministry.

"Every day Faiwa Park was filled with people hungering to know more about health and hope. Many people saw the connection between our health and spiritual lives because never before did a church run public health programs other than just screenings.

"We hope we can run more health expos on large scales, not just in Port Vila, but all around Vanuatu and this can be made possible with the help and participation of local churches and their communities."



"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE" WAS THE THEME OF THE FIRST-EVER HEALTH EXPO.





## MISSION-MINDED CAMPERS

Pathfinders from Kama Seventh-day Adventist Church in Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (PNG) have turned their weekend campout into an opportunity to share Jesus with the community. Travelling three hours from Goroka to the Western Highlands Mission, the 111 Pathfinders surprised residents of the Jiwaka Province by blowing a trumpet very early on Sabbath morning and conducting branch Sabbath school programs featuring singing and preaching. Community leaders expressed their gratitude for the Pathfinders' ministry and joined the group for a combined Sabbath program. —*Leighton Kasimo*



## EAGLES SOAR

The Avondale Eagles will play against teams from the top universities in Australia after claiming silver in men's touch rugby at UniSport Nationals Div 2 on the Gold Coast (Qld). Led by captain Jesse Fua, the team won seven and drew one of their nine games. Their only loss: to eventual champions The University of Queensland. In keeping with their usual practice, the team members formed a circle with the opposition players, took a knee and prayed at the end of the match. "We wished them well for their studies," said Fua, who described the post-game prayer as one of the highlights of his week. —*Brenton Stacey*



## STUDENTS' GREAT DAY OUT

Northpine Christian College (Qld) was featured on Channel 7's *The Great Day Out* on June 27, with the school's Year 2 students taking part in an "insect hunt" at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre in Brisbane. Teacher Heidi Richardson explained to show presenter Courtney Thorpe that "[the children] love being in the classroom, but an excursion is such a hands-on experience that they really enjoy and that they'll remember for years to come". Earlier in the month, the *Great Day Out* team visited the Bribie Island Butterfly House, with Adventists Ray and Delphine Archer sharing their story and how they use the attraction to raise money for charity. —*Northpine/Jeff Crombie*



## SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

A recent high tea held by Freshwater Community Church, an Adventist church plant in the Northern Beaches (NSW), has raised close to \$A600 to support breast cancer survivors. The event was organised by the church's Women's Ministries department to raise funds for the Heart2Heart project, an initiative to make support pillows for breast cancer patients. "We have a commitment to donate 100 pillows in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month," said church member Minerva Sindac-Lebmeier. "These much-needed funds will go towards this commitment. We are so grateful for everyone's support." —*Vania Chew*



## KIDS HELPING KIDS

A group of children, some as young as three, from Kiminiga Mission Compound (PNG) visited Mt Hagen General Hospital's children's ward on Sabbath morning, July 6, bringing with them soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, tissues, and other small gifts to present to the young patients and their carers. Team leader Elivna Billy presented a devotion, with the children helping out by singing songs and praying for the sick. Pathfinders from Pispond church were on hand to visit other wards at the hospital. —*Leighton Kasimo*



## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Nellie Tooley, resident of Bethesda Care (Auckland, NZ), celebrated her 100th birthday on July 3. Her sons Bruce and Pastor Cranville Tooley, along with most of Nellie's family, including grandchildren and great grandchildren, were on hand for the special occasion. Her advice at 100 years of age? "Always remember God. Jesus is always there and He says 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'" —*North New Zealand Conference*



## NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

Hills Adventist College (Sydney, NSW) welcomed dignitaries from state and local governments to officiate at the opening of its new middle school building on June 26. NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell, local Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne and MP Ray Williams attended the event. The new building houses purpose-built science laboratories, bathroom facilities and change rooms, and four additional general-use classrooms. —*Linda Taskis*



## WORSHIP WITH INMATES

Adventist tertiary students in Papua New Guinea shared worship with 200 prisoners on July 6. The 124 students from Divine Word University, Madang Teachers College and Madang Technical College visited the Beon Prison Camp as part of their yearly outreach program. Madang Manus Mission president Pastor Garry Laukei challenged the inmates to see their stay in prison as an opportunity to make decisions for Jesus. —*Francis Yasaking*

# NZ CHURCH LEADERS ISSUE APOLOGY FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH

Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Zealand have issued a heartfelt apology to survivors of child sexual abuse in the Church.

"Such instances of abuse are intolerable and inexcusable, and to those survivors of such abuse we are sorry," the apology letter (right) states.

"We are also aware of the many instances where survivors of abuse have suffered further trauma because as a Church community we have not listened to, believed, cared for or supported survivors of abuse. For this too we are truly sorry."

A royal commission into child abuse will commence in New Zealand later this year, with the first public hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 29. The Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry will include those abused in faith-based institutions such as churches and religious schools. Its scope will be broader than Australia's royal commission, covering not only sexual abuse but also other forms of abuse such as emotional and physical abuse.

Adsafe\* general manager Ann Wooldridge encouraged survivors to share their experiences with the royal commission. "It is important for your experiences to be heard and acknowledged," she said. "The sexual abuse of a child is a terrible crime and is one of the greatest of personal violations against the most vulnerable in our community. Child sexual abuse can have long-term and far-reaching effects on survivors, their families and their community."

*\*Adsafe is the independent agency responsible for creating safer environments for children and vulnerable adults in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you would like any further information about the NZ royal commission or you would like to learn more about what our Church is doing to keep children and vulnerable persons safe, please contact Adsafe on 1800 220 468 (Australia) or 0800 442 458 (New Zealand). For more details about the NZ royal commission go to <[abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz](http://abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz)>.*

Seventh-day  
Adventist<sup>®</sup> Church  
*New Zealand Pacific*

Tena Koutou Katoa,

*He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*

*What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.*

As leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Zealand we have personally heard and been told stories of the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable people in our Church communities. Such instances of abuse are intolerable and inexcusable, and to those survivors of such abuse we are sorry.

We are also aware of the many instances where survivors of abuse have suffered further trauma because as a Church community we have not listened to, believed, cared for or supported survivors of abuse. For this too we are truly sorry.

It saddens us deeply that children and vulnerable people were abused by trusted members and leaders of our Church community who should have protected them. The Church has often failed in this regard.

The Church must learn from the mistakes of our past and assure those who were abused that we have heard their stories, and that we will learn from their stories and continually strive to create safer environments within the Adventist community.

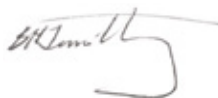
We want to see Jesus' compassion and justice in our Church and its institutions. Jesus did not ignore abuse and nor should we. As a Church we must all join together to create a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse.

Jesus says the kingdom belongs to those who accept it as a child. It is the Church's privilege to ensure that Seventh-day Adventist communities are safe places where people, including children and the vulnerable, can continue to seek, experience and develop a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ until He returns to make all things new.

Blessings through Jesus,



**EDDIE TUPAI**  
PRESIDENT  
NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC



**BEN TIMOTHY**  
PRESIDENT  
NORTH NEW ZEALAND



**MIKE SUKURI**  
PRESIDENT  
SOUTH NEW ZEALAND





# Speared! The supreme sacrifice

**B**rian Dunn was born on June 29, 1940, in Hertfordshire, England, and graduated in 1964 from the four-year nursing course at Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) in Australia.

After graduation, Brian married Valmae Ruth Benham, also a SAH nursing graduate (class of 1959). The young couple arrived at Atoifi Adventist Hospital, then a 90-bed facility, on the island of Malaita, Solomon Islands, on November 23, 1965, to begin their term of mission service.

Just a few days later, on Thursday evening, December 16, 1965, Brian was returning from treating a patient when out of the darkness he was speared, right through his back, at the front door of his home. He called out to his wife for help, "Honey, I've got a spear right through me!" The spear, made from a piece of sharpened steel reinforcing rod, was soon cut off from behind him with a hacksaw.

With the point of the spear protruding from his chest and the remaining shaft out his back, there was no way Brian could get comfortable, but morphine supplied by a nearby Roman Catholic priest who came to assist must have helped.

Assisted down the long hill to the boat, after midnight, Brian climbed aboard the mission vessel himself. Unable to lie down, the back was cut off a dispensary chair and all through the long night Brian was supported by two young men—sailing, at times through rough seas, until they reached Kwailabesi where he was transferred aboard the mission vessel *Dani* that sailed for the Anglican mission hospital at Fuambo on the northern point of the island, arriving there on Friday at around 3:30pm.

Because the road to the airstrip was some 15 miles distant and rough, the *Dani* took Brian further up the coast and as near as possible to the airstrip. Brian was able to climb down into the dinghy and was rowed ashore, driven

along the rough road to the airfield and flown to Honiara.

Taken by ambulance, once more on a rough road, to the hospital, five doctors began to do what they could to save the young missionary's life but in surgery at around 8:30pm his heart failed.

With massage, function was restored and on Sabbath morning his prospects looked better. He told his wife that he would be fine "by the end of the week". On Saturday night he became delirious, and when he briefly regained consciousness several times, he took the opportunity to tell those with him that he was "ready to die". He died on Sunday afternoon, December 19, 1965.

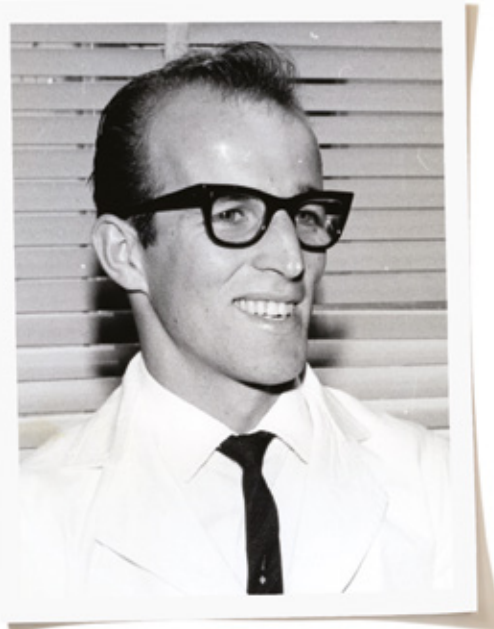
It was later determined the spear had grazed his pericardium wall and there had been internal bleeding around his heart and lungs.

Brian was buried in Honiara the next day at 3:00pm, with the leading dignitaries of the town among the 300 people in attendance.

"When I got him into the house on Thursday night, he prayed and kept praying for forgiveness for the unknown man who speared him," Valmae later noted.

This young missionary couple had been married less than a year when Brian was murdered, the "first expatriate Seventh-day Adventist to die violently in the South Pacific" and just days after commencing their term of medical missionary service.

Brian was just 25 years of age when he died; making "the supreme sacrifice". Valmae returned to Australia to spend some time with her parents, noting then that "I may have to go back soon." And she did; just a few months later, serving as a missionary nurse in a Hansenide (leper) colony in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.



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

# THE TEN

## Pacific missionaries *who died far from home*

### BUNOA, PAULIASI

1918–Fiji

Served as a Methodist missionary in Rabaul for 30 years. Was ordained as an Adventist pastor in Australia in 1906. Died of Spanish influenza in Fiji.

### DASVALU, RATU TEVITA

May 23, 1928–Papua New Guinea

Missionary from Fiji. Died of black-water fever.

### KEMBU, BELINDA

February 2, 2012–Papua New Guinea

Morobe Mission accountant. Died in MV Rabaul Queen tragedy (aged 24).

### KUKA

1938–Papua New Guinea

Mussau missionary. First Adventist missionary murdered in PNG.

### MAJA

1940–Papua New Guinea

Missionary from Ranongga, Solomon Islands. Died of chest infection while serving in Manus.

### MASIKUKU

Papua New Guinea

Missionary from Emiara. Died while hiding in a cave from Japanese during World War II.

### SIMI, MARY

1929–Solomon Islands

Wife of teacher. Clubbed to death.

### SINGOI, MATTHEW

April 23, 1973–Papua New Guinea

Medical missionary. Killed in plane crash at Goroka (aged 35) along with his two sons Remah (11) and Harvi (3), and pilot Lawrence Shields.

### SOLOMON, TERAJ

Papua New Guinea

Missionary from Cook Islands. Died of complications from pack horse accident (aged 62).

### TAVODI, PENI

October 9, 1918–Papua New Guinea

Missionary from Fiji. Assisted Septimus and Edith Carr in bringing the Adventist message to PNG. Died of snakebite.

*This list pays tribute to those of Pacific Island heritage who died in mission service. It is by no means exhaustive. If you would like to read more, there is a list of Adventist missionaries from all nations who have died in the South Pacific region at <[corporate.adventistchurch.com/in-memoriam](http://corporate.adventistchurch.com/in-memoriam)>.*



# WHY I LEFT THE CHURCH

*and found my own  
odd way back*



## Thoughts on young people leaving the Church

I left church when I was 11 years old. It didn't feel like church had a space for me. I was an antsy kid who liked creative activities. I loved Sabbath school, but when kids turned 10 in our church they would go to a different Sabbath school where they would study the Bible and sit and read nicely.

I wanted to stay with my younger friends who got to do the fun stuff. For the first time I felt expectations from church; to behave a certain way to fit in. I didn't like it, I felt unwelcome, so I stopped going.

I avoided the Bible or any religious topic at home—it was just a recipe for conflict in the house. My dad told me not to trust anyone or anything (especially church people). But Mum invited me to come with her to church every Sabbath.

While reading *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, I recognised the themes from the stories I'd heard as a kid. Jesus being a lion made perfect sense to me. I caught a glimpse of the implications of Jesus dying on the cross for the first time when I saw Aslan walk into the camp of Queen Jadis to take the place of Edmund. Aslan could have easily taken her out, but that wasn't the point of his mission. Edmund was me and I needed a fable to comprehend salvation and the great lion had to sacrifice himself to restore the deep magic of Narnia. I started reading the Bible in secret.

I'm not saying "start a fantasy book club in church", although maybe that's not such a bad idea. What I am saying is I believe God meets us where we are and for

some people that is not in church.

When I was 14 my friend dragged me along to youth group on Saturday nights. I expected to sit and cringe but the leader was wonderfully creative.

She told the gospel through arts and crafts, made it relevant and would illustrate Bible stories and talk about them in abstract ways. No question was too big or stupid. Some questions got answers, some didn't, but we felt safe to explore our faith like we were all on this great big adventure. She was not afraid to answer our questions with "I don't know."

She had worked in Côte d'Ivoire, Africa, and introduced us to mission work. It gave church purpose. I don't know if I would be in church today if it wasn't for that youth group. Young people are particularly susceptible to hypocrisy and many people don't feel they are safe to ask questions or share their views in church without being judged. I was fortunate to find a nurturing environment where my curiosity was encouraged.

I didn't get baptised until I was almost 20. Making the decision to publicly declare my love of Jesus was connected with a lot of anxiety. Because my parents were polar opposites when it came to faith I felt if I chose to join church I would side with Mum and if I left I was on Dad's side.

It wasn't until I was able to let go of those debilitating thoughts and realise that my decision to get baptised had nothing to do with my parents and everything to do with my own life and Jesus loving me first, that I knew what I wanted to do.

I asked my pastor to baptise me without telling my parents about it until that morning, when I couldn't hold it in any longer.

It was a great day. My dad was somehow moved to tears when I came out of the water and he hugged me. Dad usually never cried and he never hugged me. It was as if the shackles were taken off my feet and for the rest of my life I would dance in celebration because now I was untouchable, free and I had my place of belonging wherever I went—my church community.

I think everyone has to figure out for themselves what their spirituality looks like and how it changes as life happens. You can't simply take someone else's faith and adopt it as your own.

Church should be about community. We need community. But when people get self-centred and focus on becoming perfect, they are less likely to hang out with people who are different to them. This can happen anywhere; church can become an isolated bubble, but church needs to burst every bubble.

People who don't know how to relate to other people have a dangerous problem. We can't be scared to reach out our hand because we're afraid the receiving hand will pull us down from our high seat.

Western Australian pastor Marcos Torres from The Story Church Project highlights a huge problem in one of his

podcasts, saying, "[Church] people are more willing to go to war than sit down and have a conversation." This is an unhealthy culture and we cannot accept it in church if we want it to be healthy place.

Church is meant to be a place for broken people to come and be healed. I think that sometimes people become good at pretending they are healed when they are not. When people are acting selfishly or out of fear, that is not from God. With freedom we can choose to be self-centred and strive for our own perfection, success and enlightenment, or we can be selfless and useful to others.

God is love; love is selfless and fearless. Young people need to feel unconditional love. Astrid Lindgren, one of my favourite children's book authors, once said, "Give the children love, love and more love and they'll become decent people on their own."

Victor Hugo wrote, "to love another person is to see the face of God." And Jesus said in Mark 10:14,15, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

What do little children do? They come with an awful lot of questions, wonder, curiosity and unconditional love. They are unapologetically themselves. Don't shut them out; embrace them. Explore with them. Never stop seeking and loving.

Luke 11:9 says, "Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

When I listen to other people's stories of why they left the Church, I can't always blame them for leaving. If the young people are seekers there is nothing to worry about because they will find God eventually.

What we should worry about is whether or not church provides an environment where seeking is accommodated and questions and thoughts are welcomed and encouraged.

No-one is perfect, however much they pretend to be. If you are reading this and someone acted badly or said things they shouldn't have in a space where you should have been safe, loved and looked after, I'm so sorry it happened to you. It is understandable that you feel angry, upset and hurt. Please be encouraged that God is complete and perfect love.

I don't believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church or Christians in general have a monopoly on what is good in this world or that haystacks will be served on all Sabbaths in heaven. I think we have lots to learn from people of all religions and walks of life.

Be gentle with people. Love them. Listen to them. Heal them. Pray for them. Laugh and cry with them, all while keeping your eyes unapologetically on Jesus. And maybe they'll find themselves coming back to church.

**LINDA EDORSSON** ORIGINALLY FROM SWEDEN, LINDA IS AN AVONDALE COMMUNICATION STUDENT WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP AT ADVENTIST RECORD.



## Dr Mark: from aspiring priest to mission station medic

**B**orn in Zimbabwe, Mark Turnbull grew up in a Roman Catholic family that attended church every Sunday. He was so devout that he dreamed of becoming a priest one day.

But his life was turned upside-down when his father was killed in a car accident shortly before Mark's eighteenth birthday. He didn't understand why his father had died. He decided to go to Australia where his uncle resided and travel around the country on a working holiday visa.

"One Saturday night in 1985, I went to Circular Quay with a friend," Mark said. "We saw a group of young people singing songs on the street and giving out books."

Curious, Mark and his friend stopped to talk to the group and find out more about what they believed.

Mark was impressed by how easily the people responded to his questions and that all their answers came directly from the Bible.

"We spent about three hours talking. I thought my questions were getting harder and they just kept answering them," he commented. "I didn't know what denomination these people were but I knew that they loved God and followed the Bible. I wanted to be like them."

At the end of their conversation, a man named Richard gave Mark a copy of *Steps to Christ*.

"Do you go to prayer meeting?"

Mark asked him. Richard said yes and wrote the details inside the book for him. Mark attended the prayer meeting and was again greatly impressed. He began attending church and Bible study and was baptised as a Seventh-day Adventist a year later.

Mark knew that he wanted to dedicate his life to God's service. Initially studying theology at Newbold College (UK) and Avondale College of Higher Education, he ended up doing a degree in biomedical science and then completing a postgraduate degree in medicine at the University of Queensland.

After a stint at Uchee Pines (a health institute in the US where Mark also met his wife Naomi) and some experience at Maluti Adventist Hospital in South Africa, Mark planned to head to Vanuatu as a medical missionary.

"Naomi and I chose Vanuatu because we felt Vanuatu was the nearest and neediest place outside of Australia," said Mark. "In 2005, we purchased a small fibreglass boat in Port Vila and went to Torba province in Northern Vanuatu. We wanted to step forward in faith and go there as volunteers."

Gradually Mark established a small mission station, a midway stop between remote area clinics and hospitals. When someone generously donated a Maule aircraft, Mark started doing medical aviation work.

The aircraft made it possible for

Mark to pick up patients and fly them to his station for treatment. His work as a doctor is recognised and respected by the Vanuatu government and the locals affectionately know him as "Dr Mark".

When Mark and Naomi first arrived in the province, the local Adventist presence was weak. They helped build up the church plant there and eventually started Matafanga Adventist Primary and Special Needs School at the request of Vanuatu Mission.

"It has outstanding academic results and it's the only school in Vanuatu that seriously caters for special needs children," Mark said. "It's been running for six years. We have close to 100 students and are thankful for volunteers from the South Pacific Division who help our team of teachers."

With the approval of the Vanuatu Mission, Mark and Naomi's next dream is to establish a wellness centre that offers organic food, massage and other lifestyle treatments. They are dual citizens of Australia and Vanuatu and have since adopted two children from Vanuatu as well.

"We are blessed—we have a church, a mission station, a school and hopefully soon a wellness centre," said Mark. "And by God's grace, our journey all started with someone handing me a copy of *Steps to Christ*."

**VANIA CHEW ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST RECORD.**



# THE RACE

As  
I begin to hang my head  
In  
front of failure's face,  
My  
downward fall is broken by  
The  
vision of a place.

And  
hope refills my weakened will  
As  
I recall that scene;  
For  
just the thought of that reward  
Renews  
my being.

He  
isn't standing there, mocking  
He's  
a helping hand, an undeserving grace,  
Running  
too, cheering me on  
People  
in heaven I wish to embrace.

"Quit!  
Give up! You're beaten!"  
The  
liar shouts at me and pleads.  
"There's  
just too much against you now;  
At  
this point, you can't succeed!"

"Quit!  
Give up, you're beaten!"  
The  
Tempter will still shout in my face.  
But  
another voice within me says:  
"GET  
UP AND WIN THE RACE!"

**TEWESTA HUSSEIN** YEAR 7 STUDENT FROM  
HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, TASMANIA. POEM  
SUBMITTED BY HIS TEACHER, KATY MATTEO.

## LIVING HIS WORD

WITH WAYNE BOEHM

### LAMB OF GOD

It was the most anticipated declaration in 490 years: "Behold the Lamb of God." Jewish leaders knew the 70-week prophecy was about to conclude and eagerly looked for its fulfillment. They listened to John's message and questioned his authority to speak with such bold authority—was he the anticipated Messiah? **CONSIDER** the significance of the enquiring questions raised by the Sadducees in John 1:19–22.

It was not the Sadducees' questions that arrested the people's attention but John's declaration, "Behold the Lamb of God", that echoed throughout the universe. Perhaps the crowd looked eagerly at each gathered face in an attempt to catch the first glimpse of the Promised One—they were standing in the presence of the Messiah, the One anticipated since the fall of mankind.

John not only identified Jesus as the Messiah, he was crystal clear on His role—the Lamb of God was to "take away the sin of the world". Notice sin is referred to in the singular, not plural; the Lamb was to be man's substitute for sin in its entirety. **CONSIDER** Genesis 22:8,13,14; Isaiah 53:12; 1 Peter 1:19.

One commentator states that the question in the Old Testament is "where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:8). The emphasis of the four Gospels, however, is "behold the Lamb of God", while in the book of Revelation (5:12), the heavenly choir sings, "Worthy is the Lamb."

John was clear on Who he was looking for and equally clear on the role the Messiah would play in the salvific history of the world. It was these convictions that propelled John forward in disciple making and helped him endure the objection of the Jewish leaders. John's declaration was foundational to his ministry. **CONSIDER** the cornerstone to your calling to be a disciple of Jesus and, like John, live it out with determined anticipation.



## GOOD MOOD FOODS: CAN YOU MUNCH YOUR WAY TO HAPPINESS?

We all know that eating well is important for your health, but did you know it can impact your mood as well? Your brain works 24/7 and, just like a car, it will perform better with premium fuel.

What you eat can make a big difference to your mood, anxiety and even depression. Research from Duke University shows that if you change your diet you can feel the benefit in a relatively short space of time.

Nutritious foods that contain lots of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants nourish and protect the brain. They can reduce inflammation and restore a healthy balance of gut bacteria.

Good gut bacteria not only influence what your gut digests and absorbs, but they also impact your mood, behaviour and energy levels. In fact studies have shown that when people take probiotics to restore their gut health, their anxiety levels, perception of stress and mental outlook also improve.

The gut is also responsible for producing a neurotransmitter called serotonin—about 95 per cent of it is produced in your digestive system and it is influenced by good bacteria. Serotonin helps regulate sleep and appetite, mediate moods and inhibit pain.

On the flip side, diets high in refined sugars have been linked to impaired brain function and poor diets have been shown to impact an area of the brain important for learning, memory and mood regulation.

So what are some good mood foods you should be adding to your shopping basket?

### NUTS

These crunchy morsels include a wide range of nutrients that are important for brain health, including vitamin E, magnesium, calcium, zinc, iron, manganese, copper, B group vitamins and healthy fats. Regularly eating nuts can improve cognition and memory, and boost learning skills.

### LEAFY GREENS

Dark leafy greens like kale and spinach are packed with magnesium, which boosts mood, combats tiredness and helps you produce energy.

### MOOD BOOSTING FOODS



#### CITRUS

Fruits such as oranges, lemons and mandarins are particularly high in flavonoids—nutritional compounds important for maintaining cognition and memory as we age. If you are not a citrus fan, try apples and berries for a flavonoid boost.



#### FERMENTED FOODS

Healthy gut, healthy mind. Fermented foods contain probiotics and research shows that probiotic-rich diets help to reduce stress and improve memory. Fermented foods include yoghurt with active cultures, kefir, tempeh and sauerkraut.



#### WHOLE-GRAIN BREKKIE

Eating breakfast every day should be a “no brainer”. It can lift your mood and has been associated with improved cognitive function and concentration in school kids. For long-lasting energy choose healthy brekkie options such as whole-grain cereals or oats, low fat yoghurt and fruit, or whole-grain toast and spreads. Whole-grain cereals and breads are also a good source of fibre, important for good gut health.



### Tempeh and vegetable stir-fry

Made from fermented whole soy beans, tempeh is a great source of protein and probiotics and low in saturated fat. Combine it with ginger and garlic for a tasty and nutritious dish.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: [sanitarium.com.au/recipes](http://sanitarium.com.au/recipes)  
New Zealand: [sanitarium.co.nz/recipes](http://sanitarium.co.nz/recipes)





**BLIND FAITH**

Re editorial: "Religious Liberty is Human Rights" (June 15).

"For people to have the choice to worship freely, they must be educated, fed, clothed, autonomous and protected from hatred and prejudice."

How is this idea of state-managed security and

control compatible with the glorious faith of early Christians who "loved not their lives unto the death!"?

Our pioneer religious liberty exponent, A T Jones, countered all efforts to be confused on the principles of religious liberty with inspired logic and learning.

His extensive material can be read online.

"If religion or religious observances be a proper subject of legislation by civil government, then there has never been, and there can never be such a thing as religious persecution.

"Because civil governments are ruled by majorities, the religion of the majority must of necessity be the adopted religion: and if civil legislation in religious things be right, the majority

may legislate in regard to their own religion.

"But all this Jesus refused and overturned. All the claims of the Roman empire were swept away by the principle of Christ:

'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.'

"That principle is: civil government can never of right have anything to do with religion or religious observances."

We now benefit from the heroism of resistance endured for 2000 years by true Christians.

But through the relentless dissemination of false ideas, people now look to government for every need.

The world has been seduced by the phantom

of Human Rights and is pursuing a utopian collectivism.

It has evolved through a million conferences and a billion regulations and is the satanic counterfeit of the glorious kingdom of Christ.

For our Church to equate it with religious liberty is a blindness that defies belief.

**Gillian Cunningham,**  
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.



**17 August 2019**  
**San Homecoming**

A warm invitation to all nursing graduates, doctors, former and current staff, friends and family of Sydney Adventist Hospital. Please join us for this opportunity to share experiences and reconnect with friends.

**Program at Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
From 9.30am – Sabbath school, worship service & lunch

**Program at Sydney Adventist Hospital**  
From 2.00pm – Museum visit, hospital tours and afternoon tea  
From 4.30pm – San Stories book launch and closing Sabbath

**Dinner at Fox Valley Community Centre**  
From 7pm (\$50 per person)

For more information go to  
[www.sah.org.au/san-homecoming](http://www.sah.org.au/san-homecoming)  
call 9487 9871 or  
email [rsvp@sah.org.au](mailto:rsvp@sah.org.au)



KIA ORA KIDS!\*



God can use my life to influence others for good.



Add some jewels to your crown

## ESTHER IS QUEEN

The king invites young women throughout the kingdom to come before him so he can select a new queen. Mordecai, a Jew, has raised his uncle's orphaned daughter, Esther.

She is taken to the palace and the king chooses her to be his new queen.

She is an influence for good in the palace. Her positive influence lays the groundwork for later events.

God placed Esther in a place where she could serve Him and His people through her influence as queen.

Today He places us in positions where we can serve Him through our influence as we associate with others.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"

Matthew 5:16, NIV

Punch holes here




### MASK CRAFT

YOU CAN BE AN ESTHER - LISTEN TO GOD, HE HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE TOO.

Cut out the mask or trace it onto cardboard. Punch holes into the sides and attach some ribbon or elastic to hold the mask onto your head.

\*Hello - NZ Maori




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ADVENTIST MEDICAL EVANGELISM NETWORK

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## Acknowledgement

Re: "Picture rolls making comeback in PNG" (news story, July 20). The South Pacific Division would like to acknowledge the work and contributions of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (based in the US), who donated the picture rolls that are being distributed to communities in Papua New Guinea.

## Wedding



### METZ-LENNOX.

Travis Nathaniel Metz, son of Gerard and Janell Metz (Palmerston North, NZ), and Madelyn Beth Lennox, daughter of Greg Lennox (Taigum, Qld) and Lucy Lennox (Boondall, Qld), were married on 2.7.19 at Walk-about Creek Discovery Centre, Enoggera. Travis and Maddy met at Avondale College and will continue their careers in high school teaching.

*Mike Brownhill, Jacob Ugjesa*

## Obituaries



**FLEMING, Patricia** Jean, born 3.1.1947 in Sydney, NSW; died 21.6.19 in Sydney. She was predeceased by her sister, Janice Foley. She is survived by her sisters, Lynette Fleming and Dr Margaret Ginger; niece, Emily Ginger, nephew, Andrew Ginger and nephew, Glendyn Foley, his wife Danielle and their daughter, Elizabeth. Trish, as she was known, was a humble servant of the kingdom of Christ with an intense yearning to help people and acquaint them with the Lord she loved. She was a member of Parramatta church and served in many ministries, including as an elder. Her impact on church and community was evidenced by the large number of people who attended her funeral.

*Garth Bainbridge, David McKibben, Rein Muhlberg*



**MCGRATH, Ronald**, born 9.1.1926 in Perth, WA; died 18.6.19 in Perth. On 15.3.1950 he married Coraline Sharp. Ron is survived by his wife (Perth); children, Lesley and Ken (Perth), Maxine and Ray (Sydney, NSW), Geoff and Debbie (Sydney), Neil and Raewynne (Brisbane, Qld), and Bridget and Kenny (Perth, WA); 12 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren;

one great-great-grandchild; and sister, Betty (Perth). Ron served his country with the RAAF in Papua New Guinea during World War II. Following his discharge, Ron accepted Jesus as his Saviour after attending evangelistic meetings in Manjimup. He served his community as a St John Ambulance officer, and served his church as an elder and lay preacher throughout his life.

*Andrew Skeggs, Roger Millist*

**MCAHON, Ronald** Richmond, born in Casino, NSW; died 23.1.19 in Lismore, after a 12 day stay at St Joseph's nursing home. He is survived by Adele, his wife of 41 years. Ron was so loved and is so sadly missed by all his family and many friends. He was kind, caring and helpful to everyone. He was a very gifted and practical person, who turned his hands to many different interests, always self taught. Thanks to all who were led by the Spirit to minister to Ron from the Lismore church. We eagerly await and are comforted in the hope of the resurrection at the soon return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Tim Merritt*

**PRAM, Annette** Mary (nee Smith), born 1.2.1967 in Hawkes Bay, NZ; died 24.6.19 in Whangarei. On 15.4.1990 she married Dennis Pram. Annette is survived by her husband (Whangarei); daughters, Kirsten (Dunedin) and Breanna (Christchurch); and son, Samuel (Whangarei). Annette was an adored and sassy friend of many. A service was held at Morris & Morris Funerals' chapel to celebrate a life well lived. Many friends and family of Dennis and Annette gathered to share and hear the stories of how Annette's life touched so many people. After Annette was awarded a Bachelor of Science Diploma in Nursing, she worked at Onerahi and Tui Medical Centres in Whangarei, and was dedicated to others' wellness. She was unique and unequalled.

*Dennis Brownie, Leanne Brownie, Jordan Spangler*



**WELSH, Thomas**, born 24.2.1931 in Birkenhead, England; died 12.6.19 in South Brisbane, Qld. He was married to Helga Konrad, who predeceased him. He married Elnora De Juan in 1980. He is survived by Elnora (Chambers Flat); children, Susan Walshaw (Kingston), Michael Welsh (Darra), Angela Nelson (Perth, WA), Jacque Hartley

(Beenleigh, Qld), Christopher Welsh, (Eagleby), Stephen Welsh (Salisbury) and Eldjie Cojocar (Chambers Flat). Tom will be remembered as a man who always had a smile on his face and a greeting for all. He loved his Lord, he loved his family and he loved his church family.

*Neil Tyler*

## ADVERTISING

### BEAUDESERT CHURCH 70TH ANNIVERSARY

August 31, 2019. Past and present members invited: 45 Anna Street, Beaudesert, Qld. Sabbath School at 9.30am; service 11am with lunch afterwards. For catering purposes, please contact Fernand (0435648970).

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## NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST WORLD, AUGUST 10

## POSITION VACANT

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (PEOPLE SERVICES), SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION WAHROONGA, NSW

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited is seeking an experienced human resources manager who can develop effective relationships across the organisation and provide a professional HR service to the Church in the South Pacific. This full-time role will be based at the Division head office in Wahroonga, NSW, and will report to the general manager of People Services. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early; only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including a cover letter, CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email: <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close August 6, 2019.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:  
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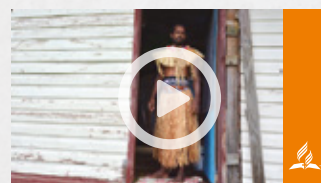
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