

R



WHY ARE SO MANY LEAVING THE CHURCH?

SOMETHING CENTRAL SEEMS TO BE MISSING 14

NEWS

278 YOUNG PEOPLE BAPTISED AT THE TPUM CAMPOREE 8

ADVENTIST RECORD | FEBRUARY 15, 2020
ISSN 0819-5633





“It’s like a wave of understanding that comes along with reading your magazine. Your article about not being the perfect mum resonated with me so much. I loved its honesty. Your magazine played a pivotal role in my moving forward—in many ways than one. It’s given me hope and encouragement. May God continue to bless your efforts!” —Bee

Share hope with mums

SUBSCRIBE AND SHARE
MumsAtTheTable.com



Perfect for church playgroups and children’s ministries!

EMAIL Subscribe@MumsAtTheTable.com

PHONE 1800 035 542 (Aus) 0800 770 656 (NZ) or +61 3 5965 6316

ADVENTIST ANTI-CHRISTS

Seventh-day Adventism is in danger. It is a danger that has long been present and continues in many circles to make us the very thing we most despise—Anti-Christ.

The conditions are ripe for the growth of this virus in our Adventist body. Let me explain.

When I was a kid, there was nothing I liked more than a good Bible prophecy study or seminar—the beasts, the history, and the way it all fit together and proved that God was in control. I found it beautiful and interesting. I still remember our pastor preaching a series on the book of Daniel when I was around eight years old. It made an impact. And it should continue to. But it must be presented in balance and the right spirit.

In the same way that old revival preachers painted the image of a terrifying hell to urge people to repent (a doctrine Adventists reject), many of our own people use the images of end-time events, the times of trouble, persecution and conspiracy to manipulate and control people into belief. Reminiscent of propaganda campaigns to dehumanise the enemy (think “there’s a red under every bed”), these preachers and ministries set us up for an us against them mentality.

Religion based on fear is a white-washed tomb, a sepulchre of control, and empty and dead inside. Christ’s kingdom is founded on love, the most powerful force in the world.

God is not coercive or controlling. His choice to respect the freedom of all and to use love as a motivating tool finds its equal and opposite in the tool of the devil—fear. Control is a tool of the devil.

When our Church operates with fear as its primary motivator, it is playing into the enemies’ hands.

Control is what the Babylonians tried to do to Daniel and his friends. Their names were changed, their dress and diet, even their relational and sexual freedoms were taken away. They were owned and treated like possessions by the empire state.

Another thing we must guard against is overstating or being too speculative—otherwise we can undermine ourselves when our “predictions” don’t come true. We must make sure we don’t demonise other groups in our

efforts to scare people into the kingdom, tactics that are far more reminiscent of a nationalistic state gearing up for war, than of a movement of end-time people who live out Jesus’ testimony (Luke 4:18,19) and try to obey God’s commandments. Some ministries hijack the message to make us fearful and suspicious, even of our own denomination.

There is a name for those who have an unhealthy obsession with trying to initiate themselves into “hidden” mysteries—occultists. Ironically, if we stare for too long into the belly of the beast, we risk becoming the very thing we are so afraid of. Promoting a gospel message using or based on fear is anti-Christ by nature.

John tells us that perfect love (Jesus) casts out fear (1 John 4:18). Love is the opposite of fear, not hate because hate is often driven by fear.

Be clear, I’m not saying that our traditional understandings are incorrect or irrelevant. They are just as important as ever.

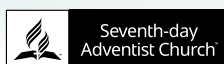
But when we fearfully chase after every new problem suggesting it is some conspiracy; when we shelve critical thinking and embrace things we watch on the internet, just because they confirm our prejudices or play on our fears—then we have let ourselves be controlled by a narrative that is not from God.

Our fear-mongering can only lead us to bad theology and even worse practice.

We need to rediscover how to study the Word of God for ourselves, we need to find some consistency in our messaging and our interpretive principles, and we need to make love for God and our neighbour our guiding light, rather than fear and polarisation.

If we start with God’s love and His character, as outlined beautifully in Adventist theology already, then our hope-filled message can have impact in this questioning modern world.

JARROD STACKELROTH
SENIOR EDITOR
@JStackelroth



South Pacific

abn 59 093 117 689
vol 125 no 3

senior consulting editor

glenn townend
senior editor
jarrod stackelroth
assistant editors
maryellen fairfax
copyeditors
tracey bridcutt
kent kingston
melody tan

graphic designer

nerise mcquillan
template designer
theodora pau'u
noticeboard
julie laws
letters
editor@record.net.au
news & photos
news@record.net.au

noticeboard

ads@record.net.au
subscriptions
subscriptions@record.net.au
+ 61 (03) 5965 6300
mailed within australia and
nz \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00 other
prices on application.
website
record.adventistchurch.com

adventist media

locked bag 1115
wahroonga nsw 2076 australia
+ 61 (02) 9847 2222
cover credit
nerise mcquillan/freepik.com

THREE ANGELS MESSAGES

A conference president is continually preaching it; two younger pastors have done a series of three podcasts; I heard a devotional on it at a recent GC meeting; young people are asking me—what's so relevant about the three angels' messages?

Found in the heart of Revelation (14:6–12), the three angels' messages have global and eternal significance. That is why angels shout from the heavens—they want every tribe, language and people to hear the messages. In context, the world around is described as Babylon, a conglomerate of human devised religious and political systems that promote human autonomy and glory. Most people worship or follow Babylon but it leads to confusion and chaos—life has no meaning, it's not fair and there is no justice.

In contrast the three angels' messages reveal, "First, there is hope, God is just, trust and follow God's plan in Jesus. Second, don't be deceived humans don't have the solutions to the universal problem of justice and third, if you think they do there are consequences." In other words, despite the global challenges, life can have meaning and be fair—but you have to know and trust God.

Knowing that Jesus has conquered sin, death and the unjust consequences (our basic issues) for all humanity, following Jesus in faith and worshipping the creator God who is just is key. Distinct gospel messages of judgement bringing God's justice, a character-building lifestyle, the 10 Commandments and the seventh-day Sabbath are a part of the package.

To take the three angels' messages to the world is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's mission. So we have the privilege of working with angels in taking God's last message to the entire planet.

All of heaven is behind this—are we part of that team?



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
/SPDpresident

THE BIGGEST BIG CAMP IN TUI RIDGE

KIRSTEN ØSTER LUNDQVIST

More than a thousand attendees gathered in Tui Ridge Park (NZ) for North New Zealand Conference's (NNZC) Big Camp—"Vision 2020"—from January 3–11. An additional 300 visitors joined each Sabbath, making it the most well-attended Big Camp on the current site.

A highlight of the camp was the decision of four young people to be baptised: Daniel Arama, Sophiea Gill, Nomazwe Sibanda and Jay Crichton.

The young adult tent also witnessed the handover of NNZ youth ministry from Matthew Moore to Pastor William Ilerua.

Lead pastor at La Sierra University Church, Pastor Chris Oberg, and Light Bearers ministry director Ty Gibson, were guest speakers in the adult tent this year.

Pastors Joshua Stothers and Jesse Herford—hosts of the Burn the Haystack podcast—alongside a team of excellent musicians and singers, led worship for the adults.



KIDS ENJOYING A WATER ACTIVITY.

Other age groups received messages from Pastors Orlando Pule, Ray Moaga, John Smolka, Sarai Stevens and other departmental leaders.

This year, the Big Camp ADRA Fun Run broke previous records and raised more than \$NZ1000. Along with other entities, ADRA had an exhibition booth at the "Market Square", where ministries were showcased.

Reflecting on the event, NNZC president Pastor Ben Timothy shared, "We prayed for a renewed vision of God's purposes for His Church, of having His vision, seeing the people of the world through Jesus' eyes."

POLISH ADVENTIST CONCERT RAISES \$4200 FOR HUMANITARIAN FIGURE

DANIEL KUBEREK

Polish Adventists gathering at the 22nd Australian Polish Adventist Congress in Melbourne (Vic) raised more than \$A4200 for Tomasz Grzesikowski—an Adventist man with cerebral palsy renowned for his charitable activity in Poland.

During the event's fundraising concert on December 28, 2019,

Dandenong Polish church Pastor Roman Chalupka, reflected on Mr Grzesikowski's ability to inspire others to humanitarian action.

"He's always inspiring to serve others," Pastor Chalupka said. "I recall when he got together an action for people to give blood. There were more than 100 individuals who donated blood."

The diverse concert closed out six sessions of meetings, which also featured Andrews University associate professor Dr Cedric Vine, Polish Union Conference youth director Pastor Marek Micyk and Pastor Andrzej Adams.



A CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMING AT THE EVENT.

“ADOPT-A-CLINIC” RESULTS IN 42 BAPTISMS

KARYN ALDRIDGE

Park Ridge Adventist Church (Qld) recently completed a successful “fly’n’build” to Mt Diamond Secondary School in Papua New Guinea, resulting in 42 baptisms and decisions for Christ and 1500 Bibles distributed to the school’s young people and staff.

The team of 15 volunteers recently returned from the 14-day service trip, making them the sixth fly’n’build group from Park Ridge church to contribute to the Mt Diamond “Adopt-a-Clinic” program in the past 10 years.

Park Ridge Adopt-a-Clinic co-ordinator Alan Aldridge stated, “We are blessed each year through our relationship with the Mt Diamond School and Adopt-a-Clinic program.”

The “Adopt a Clinic” concept was developed by the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Adventist Health department as a way to assist the 56 rural health facilities operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church across the Pacific.



SOME OF THE TEAM FROM PARK RIDGE.

Park Ridge Church first partnered with the SPD under the Adopt a Clinic program in 2007 and, two years later, sent their inaugural fly’n’build team to Mt Diamond to construct the first dedicated health clinic on the Adventist school grounds. Since then, a team from Park Ridge has returned every two years to support the clinic and conduct maintenance and build extensions.

Throughout 2019, Park Ridge raised more than \$A20,000 to construct accommodation for nursing staff on-site.

“Supporting the clinic has been a whole church focus,” said Mr Aldridge, “plus our Men’s Shed members from the wider community were also involved and built the interior fit-out of the ‘Nurse’s

Inn’. Providing this housing means nursing staff are able to live on-site and meet the needs of locals, who often require treatment after-hours.”

The opening and dedication of the Nurse’s Inn was officiated by Pastor Rex Koi, general secretary of the Central Papua Conference, Sai Suwary, principal of Mt Diamond Secondary School, and Pastor Gary Kent, director and presenter of the *Incredible Journey* TV program. Apologies from PNG Prime Minister James Marape were received, with his office contacting the team directly after their return to Australia.

“Working for the good of others brings . . . our young people and our seniors together. When we talk with our community neighbours, they see that we are not insular but are eager to help, and they join with us in reaching out to those less fortunate,” said Park Ridge head elder Luke Robinson.

The Park Ridge youth team led a Week of Prayer program for the Mt Diamond Adventist Secondary School at the same time as the fly’n’build. Each day, Park Ridge’s ministerial intern, Pastor David Penate, preached to the 800-plus students and staff at the school, culminating in 42 baptisms. The baptism was attended by Pastors Gideon Aguzi, Kiroko Aruna and Gary Kent.

Pastor Aguzi was honoured with the opportunity to baptise his son, Junior Aguzi, and Pastor Aruna also had the honour of baptising his granddaughter Gina Kitoko. Both are Year 10 students at Mt Diamond.



PR GARY KENT BAPTISING ONE OF THE 42 CANDIDATES.

NEWS GRABS



CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

Adventists in Ontario, Canada, have opened a “centre of influence” aimed at catering to secular society. The 2300 square metre facility will offer services including plant-based cooking lessons, free oil changes, boot camps, summer camps, sports nights and indoor rock climbing. It will also operate as a worship centre on Sabbath.—*Adventist Review*



INTERFAITH PRAYER

More than 100 people from diverse faith traditions attended the second annual Religious Freedom Prayer Breakfast hosted by the North American Division on January 16. Adventist, Jewish, Muslim, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and non-denominational Christian representatives offered petitions, prayer and music.—*NAD News*



VOLUNTEER EFFORT DOUBLED

More than 20,000 Adventist volunteers spent part of their southern hemisphere summer vacation serving other people in two north-east Brazilian states. This number has doubled in just one year. Volunteers have offered free nutrition and counselling services, conducted blood donation drives, Bible studies and cleaning services.—*SAD News*

HOT TOPICS



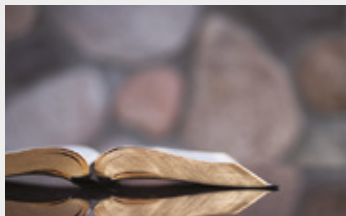
HUMAN-POWERED COMPOST

Thanks to new laws that will be passed in May, residents of Washington (USA) will soon be able to compost their body when they die. Priced at \$US5,500, the process involves using wood chips and other organic materials to turn the body into nearly a cubic metre of clean, odourless soil in a matter of months. —*The Seattle Times*



MONKEY LUNGS

A decade-long study of rhesus macaque monkeys in California has revealed that monkeys exposed to bushfire smoke at an early age grew lungs with 20 per cent less capacity than healthy monkeys and developed pulmonary fibrosis. Experts believe these findings may give insight into possible future health effects of the recent Australian fires. —*ABC News*



RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION RISING

The 2020 "World Watch List" published by international religious freedom advocate Open Doors has revealed that 260 million Christians—from all denominations—were persecuted between November 1, 2018, and October 31, 2019. This is an increase of 15 million from the previous year, with 1 in 8 experiencing extreme persecution. —*Open Doors*

SAH RAISES \$20,000 FOR BUSHFIRE RELIEF

LEISA O'CONNOR

Sydney Adventist Hospital has so far raised more than \$A20,000 for the Red Cross bushfire relief appeal.

Staff have generously donated \$10,000, which has been matched by hospital administration.

Many staff have also been personally involved in the firefighting effort as volunteers, including radiology department medical secretary Debbie Staggs. She and her husband are both members of the Berowra Rural Fire Service.

"I joined nearly 10 years ago when two of my daughters were in the Junior RFS brigade and I had free time so I decided to give it a go," Mrs Staggs said.

"This fire season I have attended Gopers fire (Wollemi), Three Mile fire (Central Mangrove), Crumps Complex fire (Wollombi) and Currowan Fire (Nowra).

"I have a medium rigid truck licence, so I drive the Cat 1, which is the big fire truck, and the Cat 7, which is our smaller truck.

"We are involved in putting out fires, backburns, hazard reduction and property protection. Our brigade also gets call-outs to the M1 [motorway] for accidents."

San Radiology clinical nurse specialist Neil Mendonsa has been using his specialist skills as a volunteer with St John Ambulance since he left school more than seven years ago.

During the recent fire crisis Mr Mendonsa was flown into Armidale and based at a camp at Yarowitch in northern NSW.

"It's the first deployment I've been involved with," he said. "I was partnered with another nurse from Queensland.

"We did 24/7 call/response for the firefighters for seven days. We also ran a general health type clinic during shift change hours and

treated various injuries and ailments, mostly minor, including some minor burns, smoke inhalation and smoke in eyes, and other respiratory conditions.

"The nearest back-up ambulance crew was at the hospital around an hour away so we were mostly focused on keeping patients on-site and thankfully didn't have anyone who needed transport.

"We had access to helicopter retrieval teams if necessary and it was great to see the collaborative effort between organisations like St John Ambulance, NSW Ambulance, NSW RFS, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the SES."

Hospital CEO Brett Goods said it has been humbling to hear the selfless efforts of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other hospital staff who have volunteered.

"I'm heard amazing stories of how San staff have volunteered, travelling far from home to places they've never been, to help people they've never met," Mr Goods said.

"However I'm not surprised. Our staff and doctors care about people, which is why many of them work here at the hospital.

"Dozens of others were not actually involved in fire-fighting but again have shown their great community spirit by donating to our campaign as part of the Red Cross fire relief appeal.

"I'm incredibly proud of everyone. We are a community hospital and this is another way to show it."



SAN HOSPITAL'S DEBBIE STAGGS VOLUNTEERS AT THE BEROWRA RURAL FIRE SERVICE.

HOPE CHANNEL FIJI GAINS MOMENTUM

RECORD STAFF

Hope Channel in Fiji has recently received positive news from across the country about the reach of its television programs:

SELF-APPOINTED HOPE CHANNEL AMBASSADOR

A senior Methodist reverend is now a big fan of Hope Channel Fiji.

In a letter sent to an Adventist district close to Nausori (eastern Viti Levu), he said that he personally encourages his 12 churches to watch the channel. He has even invited Navitalai Ligaitamana—the host of the Fijian Sabbath school discussion segment—to preach at his churches and village gatherings. Some of the churches have asked for Sabbath school lesson booklets.

After watching Hope Channel, the minister said that he has quit kava drinking and smoking. He now calls himself a self-appointed “Hope Ambassador”.

HOPE CHANNEL FANS

Hope Channel Fiji is encouraged by the report that a community in rural Fiji start their small generator at around 7:45pm every Wednesday to watch the Fijian Sabbath school segment on Channel 8. They congregate to watch the discussion.

“BAPTISE US!”

A landowner in Kalabu village (near Suva), Josaia Droka, recently asked to be baptised with his family after watching Hope Channel.

He stumbled across the program after switching through channels on his television. After watching Hope Channel director, Pastor Lepani Ledua, preaching on “The Lamb and the book of Revelation”, Mr Droka immediately drove to the Adventist mission office to ask for Pastor Ledua’s phone number.



THE WEEKLY SABBATH SCHOOL DISCUSSION PROGRAM.

Their conversation led to a series of Bible studies and baptism in December. Mr and Mrs Droka and their three teenage boys were baptised in the Raiwaqa Seventh-day Adventist Church (Suva).

HOPE CHANNEL FIJI GOES INTERNATIONAL


Hope Channel Fiji’s YouTube channel is being watched by Fijians of all denominations living outside Fiji. Many share the show on their Facebook accounts so that their own families can watch.


Got a
**CREATIVE IDEA TO
DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE?**

**WE CAN FUND
YOUR IDEA!**
Apply now!



Find out more

 *like* LITERATURE MINISTRY

 *visit* LITERATURE.ADVENTISTCHURCH.COM

HEARING GOD'S CALL AT THE TPUM CAMPOREE

PETE NAVOSAILAGI

More than 4500 Pathfinders from across the Pacific islands came together for the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Pathfinder Camporee over the year-end break near Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands had the largest number of attendees with more than 2000 Pathfinders.

With the theme "Hear the Call", the camporee kicked off on December 16. The 119 clubs were warmly welcomed at the opening ceremony by Solomon Islands Mission (SIM) President Pastor Silent Tovosia.



CLUBS GATHERED FROM ALL ACROSS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

"On behalf of the SIM, it is an honour and humble privilege for me to welcome you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the 'Hapi Isles'."

The camporee was declared open during the official address by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

Other special guests included world Church Pathfinder director, Pastor Andres Peralta, South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross and TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga.

The five-day event was held on SIM property next to the Lunga River. The camp was split into six sub camps, with a chaplain and sub camp director allocated to each. The 8.5 hectare property with the Maranatha Hall and playground allowed for a wide range of outdoor activities—based on the lives of Bible characters like Peter, Deborah, Esther, Paul, Samuel and Luke who

accepted the call through the power of the Holy Spirit.

During the evenings, clubs gathered at the main ground to hear Pastor Peralta deliver God's message. The nightly worships also included a highlight video from each day, and each local mission was allocated a night to prepare a song and drama based on Bible characters who heard God's call and stood up and made a difference in the lives of their people.

The Sabbath was a special day where church members and Pathfinder leaders witnessed Pathfinders giving their lives to Christ in the waters of baptism. Initially, 19 Pathfinders were scheduled for baptism but the Lord changed the agenda. The hearts of the Pathfinders and even four of the media team who were shooting that day were touched, and a total of 278 walked into the Lunga River for baptism.

On Sunday, the lowering of the camporee flag marked the closing ceremony.

Pastor Steve Aquila, SIM Youth director, thanked the committee members and local mission youth directors for working tirelessly for preparation until the last day.

"The success of the camporee is another evidence of God's existence," said Pastor Aquila. "The camporee re-echoed God's call to all Pathfinders and their leaders that we are living in the edge of time."

Local mission Youth directors, sub camp chaplains, directors and TPUM staff were presented with gifts as a token of appreciation for their sacrifice and commitment to the camporee.

In addition, about 90 Pathfinders from Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu,

American Samoa and Papua New Guinea were awarded with Long Service Award pins in support of their spirit of leadership, participation, cooperation, initiative and responsibility in pathfinding for the past 10 years.

"After taking over from the leadership of Pastor Fa'afetai Matai with less than 12 months to prepare and plan—with all of the local mission Youth directors involved in key segments of the camporee—it was an absolute honour and privilege to lead them in the running of the 'Hear the Call' camporee," said Pastor Charlie Jimmy, TPUM Youth director.

During the closing of the camporee, the Tongan Pathfinders performed the *Sipi Tau*—a Tongan ceremonial war dance—as they invited Pathfinders for the next TPUM camporee in 2027 to be hosted by the Kingdom of Tonga.

"It is about living life with Jesus who loves us so much that He gave His life for us and He is there beside us every day, calling upon us to walk with Him," said Pastor Kaufononga. "I would like to thank all the leaders, volunteers and parents who see the enormous possibilities for the kingdom of God in the ministry of Pathfinders."



A PATHFINDER BEING BAPTISED IN THE LUNGA RIVER.

Celebrating love

Why is your special someone God's greatest gift to you?



SATYA NHEP

CABRAMATTA CHURCH, NSW

I am truly blessed and know that God loves me when He brought me and my husband together 15 years ago. He has been my support, comfort and prayer warrior when I struggled through the ups and downs of life. I am looking forward to many more years together with him!—*Thavy Ouch*



DANIEL WATSON

CANBERRA, ACT

I have known my husband for my entire life, literally as long as I can remember. God has blessed us with the rare opportunity to grow up together and transform our friendship into the love that we now share. That is why he is God's greatest gift to me. —*Brianna Watson*



ZITA AKIPO

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Zita Akipo is a lovely lady and has put a smile on my face since we met in 2017. She's studying medicine and this year is her final year of study. I have great respect for her and she respects me as well. I always thank my Heavenly Father for her because she is a fighter. Being the only Adventist among her family is tough. I love her and actively make sure that Jesus is the centre of our love. —*Simon Kawakena Hagayo*



TARANI MOALA

SANDY BEACH, NSW

Tarani is the sweetest, most generous and kind-hearted person I have ever met. She has an infectious smile, loves her family and has always been someone I can depend on. She makes me laugh all the time. As the mother of my newborn child I love her even more!—*William Moala*



FELIX EDIAN

NEW SOUTH WALES

God's great gift to me is you, my husband. After 15 years together our love and faith continues to grow together. You pick me up when I am down, no matter how many times I fall. You encourage me to keep serving the Lord, even when I don't feel like it at all. I love you yesterday, today and forever.—*Suchhada Eidan*



CALLUM STANFORD

MORWELL, VICTORIA

Callum is God's greatest gift to me because he is so patient with me and loves me no matter what. God knew I needed a patient man! He has remained by my side through some very tough times and I'm so blessed to call him mine.—*Sharon Stanford*



DEBRA TAVITA RATUMAIYALE

FIJI

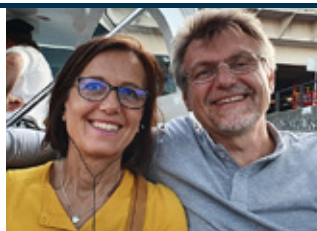
To describe her as God's great gift to me would simply be the words of Proverbs 18:22: "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour from the Lord." I praise God for His gift. She's from Samoa. Love you Debbie!—*Viliame Ratumaiyale*



MELE AND VAI LOLOHEA

COORANBONG, NSW

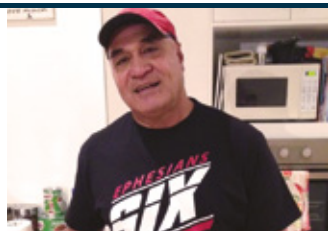
Here are some words about my parents: the love story they share has been tested and tried yet reflects a love that can't compare. Kindness, loyalty and integrity they share with us but most of all the love for God, family and themselves makes me appreciate them most. We love you "oldies" more than you'll ever know. —*Melenaite Lolohea*



BRANIMIR SCHUBERT

NEW SOUTH WALES

He's been by my side, encouraged and chastised, helped and mentored, taken me to places far beyond my imagination. He is trustworthy, reliable and sober. He is very progressive—keeps getting new gadgets and technology all the time, but he keeps me. —*Danijela Schubert*



SAMUELU SIO

GOLD COAST, QLD

I thank God every day for my husband Sam who laughs hard, loves passionately, prays constantly, works diligently, gives unreservedly and supports enthusiastically. He is the cement in our family that binds us strongly, yet is not afraid to wear his heart on his sleeve. I am blessed with the best.—*Nora Leiatua Sio*

A TRIAL OF FAITH



Viliame Vakamoce and his wife, Mere Serukalou, were married in 2010, when they were both in their very early 20s. They lived with Viliame's family in Navua, a little town about 39 kilometres from Suva, Fiji.

Viliame came from an Adventist family and studied at an Adventist school. Mere was not an Adventist, but was baptised two years after they married.

After she joined the Church, Viliame left—joining his friends partying and drinking every day. Viliame was a diver and every day he went out diving, returning home drunk and causing trouble for his family. Mere and her mother-in-law

never stopped praying for Viliame.

On Sabbath, the family would go to church while Viliame would go with his friends for a rugby game and drinking session to follow. It was a tough time for Mere and their three children, but for seven years they never stopped praying.

Early in 2019, Viliame and his wife lost their jobs and life got harder. In July, Viliame got baptised after attending two weeks of the Pentecostal Harvest evangelism program in Fiji. The family was happy and kept thanking God for this change. Following his baptism was an intense two weeks of Bible study with Fiji Mission president, Pastor Luke

Narabe, who is a member of the Navua Church.

Viliame shares that those four weeks were mind-blowing because he had never read and studied the Bible like this. "In the past, I have always come to church because my parents were Adventist and coming to church was more of an obligation as opposed to something I have to celebrate and rejoice upon."

Viliame's life and perception toward church began to change. Every Sabbath, he would attend church with his family and his friends would laugh and tease him because of the sudden change they saw in him.

Life was still difficult as the couple

2020 PERSPECTIVE

Having endured several painful counselling sessions with friends, God now confronts Job with a series of 77 questions that challenge his perspective of God and life. **IMAGINE** the loss, isolation and pain Job endured through this trial. **CONSIDER** who initiated the trial and Job's search for answers as he tried to comprehend the tragedies that had unfolded before his eyes. Job sought answers to understand his predicament, but it's his response to God's questioning that leaves him (and me) absolutely speechless.

In Job 38, God challenges the men's perspective and lifts their campfire discussion to consider the Creator and the universe. God's questions change everything. Job longed for an opportunity to defend himself (Job 13:3), but when the opportunity came, Job sat in stunned silence. **CONSIDER** some of God's questions: Job 38:4-7, 31-33, 41:11.

In Job 31:37 and 40:4,5, he boasts, "I will meet God as a prince" yet when confronted by God, recognises that he is vile. What a dramatic change of perspective. Like Job and his friends, we gather at times to expound our great understanding of God, we approach Him like a prince without recognising our 'vile' condition. **CONSIDER** Revelation 3:17. Job plucks up the courage to reply. "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." This was Job's new perspective. He saw the righteousness of God and the extent of his own sinfulness. As a people, we have the uncanny ability to overestimate our goodness and underestimate our sinfulness. In seeing the glory and righteousness of his Creator, Job gained a new perspective on life and so can we.

remained unemployed. Prior to Viliame's baptism, the couple applied for Viliame to join the Corrections Department as a prison officer. A few months later, Viliame's application was accepted and Viliame was called to the Prison Complex in Naboro for induction the weekend after his baptism.

Viliame was happy that he was finally going to be employed, but this meant that he would have to work on the Sabbath. After contemplating this, the couple sought God's advice.

That Friday, Viliame went to camp for his induction, assuming that it was going to be a one-day exercise. To his surprise, they were required to stay the whole weekend to train. Training would start early Sabbath morning. Viliame was devastated. He regretted attending the induction, but continued to pray. He felt so guilty that Sabbath morning as he trained for work. He knew he was disobeying the essence of the commandment.

The following weekend, Viliame returned to camp. That Friday evening as he studied his Bible before bed, he pleaded with God to show him a sign. As he opened his Bible, Exodus 20:4 was highlighted in front of him and he knew it was God speaking directly to him. He closed his Bible and knew immediately what to do.

The next morning was Sabbath. Before training, he went to the officer-in-charge and requested to resign, effective immediately. The officer said to him, "You have no right to yourself once you've sworn an oath to join the department. There's no turning back from now on, go change and return to your team."

Viliame was disappointed and prayed for God to help him. He knew he needed the employment because of his family back home. He had waited and prayed for months and here was an opportunity. As he thought long and hard about this, Matthew 16:26 came into his mind: "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

Viliame was further troubled at the

thought of the text. That morning, during the team-bonding activity, as Viliame was running uphill, he collapsed and fell flat on the ground, unconscious for a few seconds. A few officers and team mates came to his rescue and, as he returned to consciousness, one of his team mates asked him what his religion was.

Viliame said he was an Adventist. The team mate admitted that he was an Adventist as well and said that Viliame collapsing was an answer to both their prayers about working on the Sabbath. The two returned to camp and agreed to resign. The next morning, the two young men handed in their resignations. According to the officer-in-charge, no one had ever resigned on religious grounds during the induction phase, only on health grounds. The two were detained in camp; their reason for resignation deemed unreasonable.

This demanded immediate attention. On Monday, five senior officers came to the camp to see these two young men and tried to convince them not to resign. The two young men, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, were adamant and refused to give in to the senior officers' demands and requests. The officers reminded them they had sworn an oath and could be charged for this act.

Unapologetically, the young men responded that they would rather obey God's commandment than the command of men. By Wednesday evening the two young men were sent home with their resignation accepted after three days of detainment.

Viliame and his friend haven't seen each other since, but as they parted ways, both were encouraged to stay true to God and to share their incredible testimony wherever they went. Today Viliame and his wife remain unemployed but have peace knowing that while jobs in this life may fail them, God remains true and faithful.

**KESAIA VASUTOGA-FANNING PROGRAM
QUALITY COORDINATOR FOR OXFAM IN THE PACIFIC
AND A MEMBER OF THE SAMOA ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN FIJI.**

FLEEING EDEN: LOCAL CHURCH OR NOAH'S ARK?

We weren't going to evacuate originally. But when the warning came through that they couldn't guarantee Eden could be saved, we thought that was too scary for us to deal with."

Vicki Telfer and her mother, Norma Allen (pictured bottom left), live in Eden on the south coast of New South Wales. But when the bushfires were threatening their town, the pair decided to leave for the relative safety of Bega, the closest accommodation centre that would accept pets.

"We made the house as good as we could, and then we left," says Vicki. After grabbing their important documents, some family photos, a wooden echidna keepsake, their beloved dog Ted and a few groceries, they began the drive to the evacuation centre in Bega.

When they arrived at the show-ground, they joined more than 2000 people and their dogs, all seeking shelter from the bushfires.

"It was really hot in the hall and it was a bit scary for Ted and for us too because there were a lot of people there, some very distressed people," says Vicki.

Even with an airbed, Norma, who is in her 90s, opted to sleep in the car for fear she wouldn't be able to get

back up off the ground again.

"We had not much sleep that night," Vicki says. "It was so uncomfortable and hot in that pavilion. And the next day was the hideous Saturday. We were planning to do the same thing, but we didn't quite know how we were going to manage it. That Saturday, the sky was so red."

At the same time on that 43-degree Saturday, a team of members from Bega Seventh-day Adventist Church made the decision to open their church as an overflow for the overwhelmed accommodation centre nearby.

"We just knew that we had an air-conditioned building, it was hot, and so we opened our doors," says Bega member Kylie Ward (top right). It was then that Bega church partnered with ADRA and received funding to maintain what has been a relatively large operation.

Vicki and Norma were the first two to come across to the Bega church hall. Their relief was instant. Apart from the air-conditioning, the thing that stuck out the most to Vicki and Norma was the personable and caring response.

"Oh, it was wonderful, just so wonderful," says Vicki. "I remember well Kylie wanting to feed everybody chocolate Bavarian, which was so lovely. Really nurturing and comforting."

"That kindness and compassion and love, just like your ADRA



shirts say," Norma says. "It felt very much heartfelt, very much nurtured. And we felt very cared for."

For Kylie, it was an opportunity to not only help out a community in need, but to also show God's love through the actions of the church and ADRA. "By that afternoon we had 35 people and 15 dogs," Kylie says. "It was just amazing. It was church like you've never seen before."

Vicki and Norma stayed in the Bega Church hall for two nights before securing a motel room. But, before they could get settled, they received word from their neighbours that it was safe to return home.

The activities at Bega are one example of the many ways that ADRA, through the network of Seventh-day Adventist churches, has been able to respond to the bushfires plaguing Australia. Sabbath, February 15 is ADRA's Disaster, Famine and Relief Offering. The money from this offering ensures that ADRA can stay ready to help people in times of disasters both in Australia and overseas. Visit adra.org.au/respond for more information about this important offering.

ASHLEY STANTON
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,
ADRA AUSTRALIA.



Sailing through life

An outdoor activity I enjoy is sailing. To sense the power of the wind filling the sails really gives me a thrill of exuberance, but also respect for what the wind can do to the ocean by creating waves.

On one occasion, I volunteered to sail with a friend from Port Vila, Vanuatu, to Noumea, New Caledonia. We were assured by the local weather forecaster that all was good to go.

We left the peaceful waters of the harbour at 4pm. About six hours later—out in the middle of the ocean—during the middle of the night, the wind picked up, necessitating constant sail changes to keep on course and creating waves that any professional surfer would be enthused to ride.

Our yacht took a considerable pounding and I began to feel a little concerned for our safety. Reluctantly, but wisely, we decided to head back to dry land.

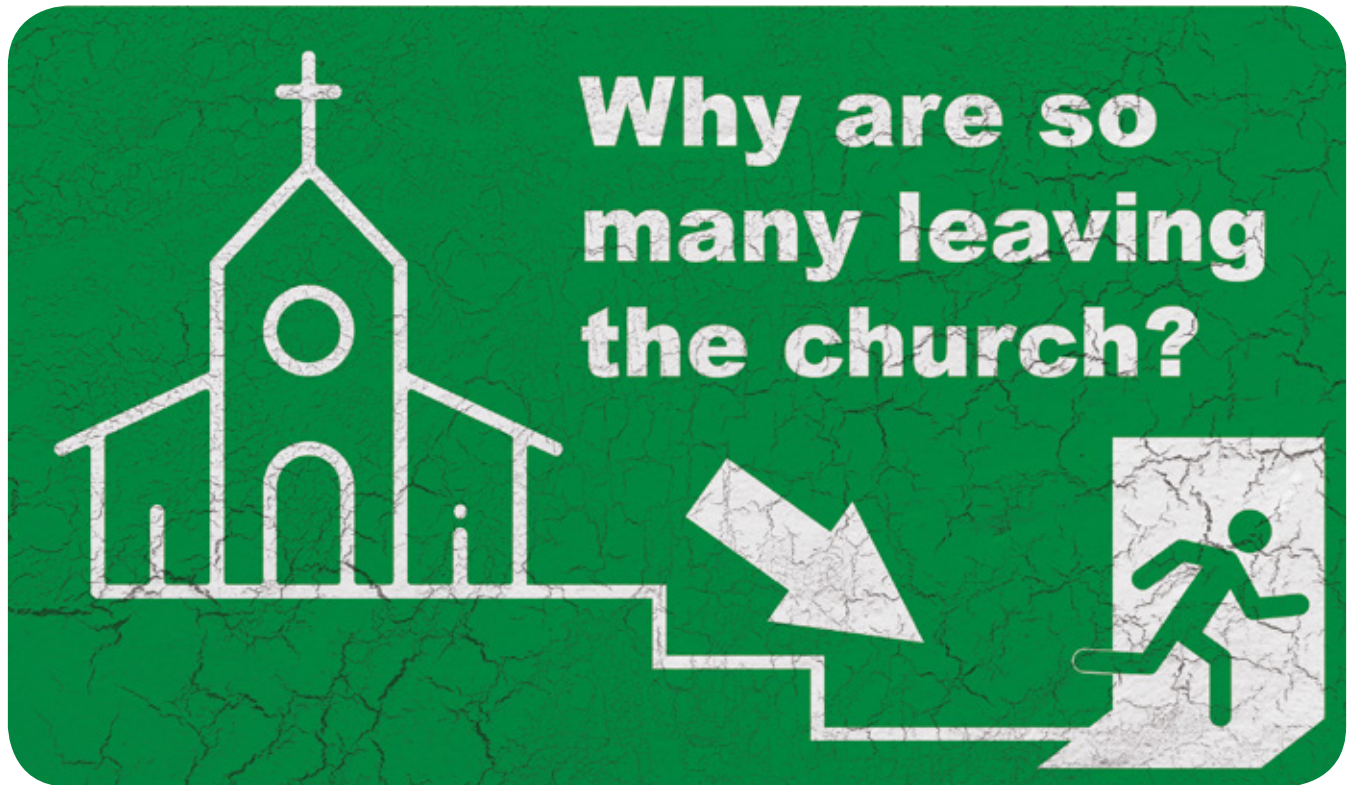
What a relief after a few hours of constantly being showered with stinging salt spray to see, in the far distance, a light. For another three hours I kept my eyes fixed on that glimmer of hope, until finally we sailed into the calm waters of the harbour again. I believed if I kept the bow of the boat pointing at the light I would eventually reach safety.

There have been times in my life when everything was plain sailing and other times when I've tried to sail against the wind. Just when I was getting comfortable, the wind would change and I would find myself going in another direction.

God has a mysterious way of giving me what I need when I need it. Somehow I've always arrived at a destination where God wants me to be. I believe if I keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, He will guide me to a safe anchorage.

James 1:6 says, "He must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

STAFFORD ORMSBY



Why are so many leaving the church?

His name was Mark—a young Austrian in his early-twenties. I met him as I was leaving the Hare Krishna temple in New Delhi, India. I had been travelling India to find out what attracts Western youth to Eastern mysticism. I boarded a bus back to the city centre and Mark, who had also been at the temple, came on board and sat next to me. He fingered a string of Buddhist prayer beads in his left hand, while he flipped through some flash cards with Hindu sayings, in his right.

In our conversation he asked me what I did. “I’m a Christian minister,” I said. His eyes lit up and his voice brightened, as he said, “I read the Bible and loved Jesus.” I was intrigued, to say the least. “How come you’re into Eastern meditation,” I asked. “Is that compatible with the teachings of Jesus?” His reply threw me. He said, “I started to go to church and lost Jesus.”

He lost Jesus in church! How could that be? If Mark had gone to an Adventist church would his new-found love for Jesus have been nurtured or would he have become a statistic of the more than 42 per cent who have left the Adventist Church in the past 50 years or more?

Jeff Parker, Adventist youth director for Australia, revealed at the Youth & Young Adult Engagement Summit (May 25–27, 2018), that “around 62 per cent of young people who attend a church in Australia leave before they’re 30.”¹

Adventist Church researcher Monte Sahlin said survey findings show that the cause of members leaving the Adventist Church has less to do with doctrinal disagree-

ments “than with problems people experience in their personal lives”.² Statistician David Trim also said the “creeping secularisation” of our world is a factor.³

IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING?

But this begs the question: If knowing our doctrines does not sustain members during personal crises or fortify them against secularism, is there something missing from our teaching?

US pastor Lee Venden, in conducting revival programs among Adventists in North America, found for members who attend church:

- Less than 25 per cent spend any personal time in daily Bible study and prayer.
- The majority lack assurance of salvation and openly admit that they don’t have a daily walk with Christ.
- While those joining the Church see our doctrines as biblical, they don’t see Jesus as the centre of each of them. Too many come to church but don’t come to Jesus.⁴

Many members, obviously, are struggling spiritually. We’ve taught them our doctrines, but somehow haven’t introduced them to Jesus.

One study of Adventist millennials (born between 1980 and 2000) who still attend church revealed that they have a more negative view of the Adventist Church, than US millennials, in general, have about their churches.⁵ That being the case, we can see why the Summit on Nurture and Retention recommended “that building loving and *Christ-like relationships* within the local church must be an

urgent necessity".⁶ (Emphases added throughout, unless otherwise stated).

Another survey of 18 to 35-year-olds who have stayed with the Church, revealed that less than 1 in 4 engage in Bible study daily and nearly three quarters (73.5%) had no assurance of salvation.⁷ If this is true of a majority of young adults who remain in the Church, what could this indicate about those who have left the Church?

A SECULAR SOCIETY

What Dr Trim stated about the "creeping secularisation" of our society and its effects, particularly via the entertainment media, is true. Today, in the West, we live in a post-Christian society, characterised by a lack of meaning and purpose. Truth is relative. In deciding what's right or wrong, the individual becomes his or her own subjective authority. People live comfortably with contradictions; profession and practice don't have to match.

Research organisation Barna Group's 2018 Gen Z report agrees: "Moral relativism is taking deeper root in America. One-quarter of Gen Z [born between 1999 and 2015] strongly agrees that what is morally right and wrong changes over time based on society . . . each individual is his or her own moral arbiter. Only 34 per cent of Gen Z agree that 'lying is morally wrong'."⁸

To illustrate, *Post-truth* was named the 2016 international word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries, after the contentious "Brexit" referendum and a divisive US presidential election. It denotes an appeal to emotion and personal beliefs in shaping public opinion, more than to objective facts. The prefix "post" has usually meant "after", as in "post-war". In post-truth it means truth "has become unimportant or irrelevant". Oxford Dictionaries president, Casper Grathwohl considers post-truth could become "one of the defining words of our time".⁹

This is the era of "fake news", "alternative facts", "conflicting narratives" and where "truth isn't truth".

Fake news, defined as "false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting" was named the Collins Dictionary Word of the Year in 2017.¹⁰

In their "Trends Shaping a Post-Truth Era" (January 9, 2018), Barna Group found that "truth is increasingly regarded as something *felt*, rather than something *known*".¹¹ Since the 1960s, Western society has become progressively more subjective.

On the effects of this "creeping secularisation", Dr Trim concluded that "the fabric of most Adventist local churches is not sufficient to stem this tide".¹² Can people have a life-changing experience that can fortify them against secularism and personal crises, without coming to Jesus?

NOT JUST IN THE WEST

It's not just in the West where members have joined the Church, but not "come to Jesus". Rwanda was a nation where 95 per cent of the population claimed to be Christian, including almost 300,000 Adventists, about 10 per

cent of the population. Church leaders described Rwanda as the most Adventist country in the world. That is, until 1994, when genocide took place, as the Hutu majority slaughtered more than 800,000 minority Tutsis. The dead included more than 12,000 Adventists.¹³

The terrible truth is that many Adventist church members *and* pastors were involved in the genocide and, it's reported, they maintained their Adventism by scrupulously resting from killing on Sabbath.¹⁴

What Robert Folkenberg, the then General Conference president, saw when he visited Rwanda moved him more than anything he had ever seen. "*What happened in Rwanda*," he declared, "*is largely the result of unconverted people who carried the name of Christ*" (original emphasis).

After spending time on his knees, Folkenberg came to one conclusion: "the gospel did not fail. The cross of Christ did not fail, the Holy Spirit did not fail. . . . We as pastors failed. . . . As religious leaders we let down God, Christ and the people of Rwanda. . . . We must confess our sins before God.

"What's required," declared Folkenberg, is for "spiritual leaders to call for *conversion* and *transformation*".¹⁵ Have we taken the implications of what happened in Rwanda and Folkenberg's words in response, seriously?

People can be quite religious and be sincere about it, without being Christians.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Baptism does not equate to conversion. Should we have more emphasis on conversion to Jesus, rather than on baptism? Could it be that we spend more time talking about the Beast, creating righteousness by fear, rather than talking about the Lamb, who credits us with righteousness by faith?

Carlyle B Haynes was an Adventist evangelist, bringing people into the Church, when the realisation came to him that he "had been preaching for 15 years and yet was an *unconverted* man".

"I had neglected the first simple childlike step of coming to Jesus Christ for myself and, by faith in Him, receiving pardon for my own sins," he writes, "God brought me back, after 15 years of preaching this message, to the *foot of the cross*."

When we turn away from our "own works and look alone to Christ for salvation," Haynes shared, "God declares that [person] just. This declaration of God is *grounded* on the *finished work of our Lord*."¹⁶

This is the good news of the gospel.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many," Mark 10:45 (NKJV).

1. Full reference list online.

ERROL WEBSTER, A RETIRED PASTOR LIVING IN BATHURST, NEW SOUTH WALES. AUTHOR OF TRY JESUS LESSONS.

Porn at 6: HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT SEX



My daughter was six years old when she first encountered online pornography. It was during her “Angelina Ballerina” phase when one day, while she was looking for ballerina images online, a pornographic image popped up on her screen. She got a fright and shut her screen, but didn’t say anything to her dad, who was sitting right next to her but missed seeing what she’d seen.

Research suggests that the average age of first exposure to pornography is getting earlier.¹ Many parents tend to assume that careful monitoring of their children’s online activities can prevent unintentional exposure to pornography. This, however, is not true. Most experts agree that it is not a matter of “if” but “when” a child will encounter online porn.

A friend of mine recently told me that her eight-year-old son came home from his Adventist school and said, “Mummy, my friend showed me pictures of naked ladies on his phone.” When she responded, “Well, that’s OK, you’ve seen Mummy naked before,” her son replied, “Oh no, Mummy, these were fancy ladies.”

Considering the many documented harms of pornography to children,² as well as the reality that parents cannot prevent exposure, even through very careful monitoring, what’s a parent to do?

First, when the parent-child relationship is based on love and trust, children feel safe talking to their parents about their lives, including confusing or disturbing experiences. Furthermore, when parents and children have a positive relationship, children are open to parental influence. If we want our children to talk to us about their lives—and if we want to have permission to speak into their lives—we must nurture a loving, trust-based relationship with them. As you contemplate how you might be more intentional in doing this in your home, never forget that, for children, LOVE is spelled T-I-M-E.

Second, begin conversations about sexuality early. As parents, we’re often reluctant to talk to our chil-

dren about sex. Usually, this is due to our own parents’ inability to talk to us, and so we have no model or vocabulary for these conversations. As a result, many parents fear they will say too much or the wrong thing. But when we say nothing, we are still teaching our children important lessons about sexuality: we’re teaching them that we have nothing to say about sex; that Scripture and our faith community have nothing to say about sex; and that, evidently, God must have nothing to say about sex. And so our children learn that the messages they hear from their friends and from the media are true.

This results in their being caught between “two competing narratives”.³ When sex is a taboo topic in the home, children learn that sex is bad. This “traditional” narrative has roots in Greek dualism, which dichotomised the body and soul, declaring the body bad and the soul good. Adopted by the medieval Christian church, this narrative continues to influence the way in which many Christians think and talk about sex.

An alternative narrative emphasises personal satisfaction, freedom and self-expression, and declares that sex is great and it’s about me! This “individualistic” narrative, unrelentingly taught by popular culture, has given rise to “cheap sex”, i.e., sex that is readily available through hook-up culture and free, high-quality pornography—no relationship required.⁴

Consider your own experience. How did you first learn about the story of sex? For most of us, our earliest lessons about sexuality are learned within the tension between these two competing narratives. But neither of these narratives represents the relational story of sex outlined in Scripture, which teaches that sex is good (Genesis 1:31; 1 Timothy 4:4); that it’s about relationship (Genesis 2:22, 25); and that it’s about God (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

My daughter was six years old when she first encountered online pornography. But because we’d worked on intentionally overcoming our awk-

wardness around the topic, we’d been talking to her about sex from a young age. And because the message she was hearing from us was that sex is good, that it’s about relationship and that it’s about God, she already had a mental framework for processing the pictures she saw that day.

Third, learn all that you can about how to talk with children about pornography. In our home, the conversations that began in early childhood continued, so that when a high school friend told my daughter about a struggle with pornography, she knew she could bring that conversation home too. I wish we’d been more equipped to talk about pornography addiction, about its impact on relationships and about how to help someone struggling with such an addiction. But while we really didn’t know how to talk about these things, we worked on keeping the communication lines open and muddled through somehow, learning together with our children.

As a parent or grandparent, you have the privilege of shaping your child’s sexual knowledge, values and behaviours. Imagine if your children could avoid the messages of the traditional and individualistic narratives, and instead, learn the relational narrative of Scripture. This will not happen without your intentional effort to overcome your awkwardness and reluctance to talk about sex, because remember, whatever you choose not to teach, your children will learn elsewhere.

1. <burnet.edu.au/news/852_pornography_the_norm_for_young_australians>.
2. <humanrights.gov.au/our-work/legal/submission/inquiry-harm-being-done-australian-children-through-access-pornography>.
3. David Kinnaman, “You Lost Me: Why Young Christians are Leaving Church . . . And Re-thinking Faith” (Green Press, 2016).
4. Mark Regnerus, *Cheap Sex*, (Oxford University Press, 2017).

**DR EDYTA JANKIEWICZ FAMILY MINISTRIES
SPECIALIST FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION’S
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES TEAM.**



TOP TIPS FOR HEART HEALTHY LIVING

In Australia and New Zealand, heart disease is the leading cause of death. According to the World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of lifestyle diseases can be prevented if positive health changes are made, like following a healthy diet, increasing physical activity, reducing alcohol consumption and abstaining from smoking.

So what can you do to keep your heart healthy?

BE ACTIVE!

Regular physical activity will increase your HDL “good” cholesterol and keep your heart fit and strong, as well as helping you feel more energetic, happier and relaxed. Try to be physically active most days of the week for at least 30-40 minutes.

KEEP A HEALTHY BODY WEIGHT

Losing excess weight will help to improve your cholesterol levels, reduce blood pressure and reduce inflammation. Try to keep your weight within the healthy range for your height. Speak to your health practitioner and dietitian for support.

REDUCE SALT

High salt intake can increase your heart disease risk by increasing your blood pressure levels. While limiting the amount of salt you add to your food is important, most of your salt intake can come from processed foods. Read your food labels regularly and aim for foods with less than 400mg of sodium per 100g.

CHOOSE WHOLEGRAINS

The research on wholegrains and heart health is strong as they are full of fibre and rich in nutrients. Try to replace refined grains in your diet with wholegrains like brown grainy breads, wholegrain cereals, rolled oats, brown rice, quinoa, buckwheat and sorghum.

DID YOU KNOW?

A recent Danish study of 55,000 adults followed over 13 years showed that those who ate the most amount of wholegrains had a 25 per cent lower risk of having a heart attack than those who consumed the least.



Recipe of the Week

Shredded Jackfruit Street Tacos

Ready in just 15 minutes, this jackfruit taco recipe is perfect as a weeknight dish. It wins on flavour, texture and nutrition and is sure to become your new favourite recipe.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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



HEART HEALTHY FOODS



GOOD FATS

Fats should account for 20-35 per cent of the energy you eat. Healthy fats, like avocados, supply valuable fatty acids that help nurture your body and brain, and absorb important fat-soluble vitamins and nutrients like vitamins A, D, E and K.



SOLUBLE FIBRE

Soluble or viscous fibres are components of plants that create a gel-like texture when soaked or cooked. These fibres help catch cholesterol in your gut, preventing it from being absorbed into your bloodstream. Studies show about 10g of viscous fibres each day can lower LDL cholesterol by around 3-5 per cent. Up your legume intake to reap the benefits.



EAT MORE SOY

The soy protein, fibre, omega-3 fatty acids and isoflavones in soy foods can help lower your cholesterol, improve blood pressure and help keep your blood vessels flexible. One to three serves of soy per day can help lower your LDL cholesterol by around 3-5 per cent.



HI KIDS



We worship God when we trust Him in every situation.



NINE TIMES NO!

Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Nine times Pharaoh refuses. Each refusal results in a plague. Each plague attacks some part of the Egyptian religion. God undermines the Egyptians' confidence in their own gods, and forces them to recognise Him as the true God. God is with His people and protects them from the plagues. God gave the Egyptians the opportunity to learn about Him and to worship the true God. Although He showed them how useless their gods were, they chose not to listen. We, too, have a choice. When we choose to follow God, we may experience difficulties, but God will be with us. He will help us, just as He did the Israelites.

LIST THE TEN PLAGUES IN ORDER

Clue: read Exodus chapters 7 - 11

1. Water turns to blood
2. Frogs
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



ZIG ZAG PUZZLE

Connect the plagues in the correct order with straight lines (hint: use a ruler). Follow the lines to solve the puzzle of this week's memory verse.

"PRAIS _____

 _____"

Psalms 103:2 NIV

Help Pacific Adventists **SHARE JESUS**



THERE ARE
440,000 SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS
in the Pacific islands
AND SO MANY OF THEM ARE
**ON FIRE
FOR GOD!**



Your donation will ...

place *Signs of the Times* magazines in their hands so that they can share the good news with their friends, neighbours and communities.

A special one-off Pacific edition of *Signs* magazine has been developed that is culturally targeted at readers in the islands. *One million* of these magazines will be printed over the next few years and distributed to selected outreach projects that are well placed to make a positive evangelistic impact.

for more info

info@signsofthetimes.org.au
+61 (0)2 9847 2218

YES I would like to donate \$ _____

Name _____

Street/PO Box _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone (so you can tell us your CVC/CVV number) _____

Email _____

Enclosed is a cheque/money order for \$ _____ payable to Adventist Media, OR charge my MasterCard / VISA.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name on card _____ Expiry date / / _____

Signature _____

R3/20



DIGITAL AGE

“Digital and marketing staff join Adventist Media team” (February 1) [is a] step in the right direction! The next step should be a dedicated digital and social media and marketing manager for all conferences. Their role should then include marketing for conferences and supporting local churches with digital strategies and graphic design.

There is so much we as churches could collectively do if there was a central support system to help with consistent and quality messaging. Unfortunately we have too many doing the best they can with little practical support from local conferences.

It’s time do do away with hard-copy conference newsletters (including a simple PDF version of what would be printed) and instead work on more dynamic media, interactive newsletters and much more video content (side-note, each conference should also have a dedicated media ministry with studio focusing on video, podcasting with access to this equipment available *free* to churches in the conference so long as they are willing to travel to a set location/s to use it).

Josh Wood, Vic

JOURNEY OF GROWTH

My thanks to Dr Edyta Jankiewicz for being so real and vulnerable in her article “Discipleship and Family Life” (Feature, December 21, 2019).

As another who is finding the journeys of marriage and parenthood a source of learning and character growth, I found it very encouraging.

Suzanne Rosenberg, NSW

KEEP THE CONTEXT

“The Bible alone” (Have your say, December 21) quotes the statement, “The words of the Bible, and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit.” It is important to read this statement in its context, in *Prophets and Kings*, pp 624-626. The passage speaks about the “widespread iniquity” in the world that has resulted from a failure to “study and obey the Scriptures”.

“With the setting aside of the Bible, has come a turning away from God’s law” (p 624).

“Infidelity prevails to

an alarming extent, not in the world only, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith” (p 625). Because of this, “God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit. Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life” (p 626).

In other words, the churches should study the Bible, not the opinions of men. This passage is talking about the situation in the Christian church generally. It is not talking about the use of EG White’s writings in Adventist pulpits.

Of course our sermons should be solidly Bible-based, but we should not rule out the judicious use of Ellen White’s writings from the pulpit. Many times she wrote letters with the specific instruction that they be read to the churches.

For example, at the end of a letter to a man in Queensland, she adds “I send you this that you may read it to the church” (Letter 106, 1898; quoted in *Pastoral Ministry*, p 146).

Alan Fisher, NSW

BIBLE NOT SILENT

Response to “Silent Scriptures” (December 21). I used to be very strongly opposed, but revised my position on these matters some years ago.

Though there has been some imbalance since the Fall, it has not precluded women from holding various positions within the church organisation.

In the New Testament we have the interesting case of Phoebe, a deacon in the early Christian church (Romans 16:1). Various translations give servant, minister, leader, deaconess or deacon. The Greek has *diakonos*, meaning deacon. We would call her a deaconess.

The fact that we ordain deacons but not deacon-

esses I find puzzling. It may even be hypocritical.

Further, the lists given in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 and Ephesians 4:8,11 are not gender specific since they both contain prophets.

The Bible has male and female prophets in both testaments. If the prophets in these lists can be either male or female then so can the other ministries/offices mentioned.

Stephen Buckley, NSW

Editor’s note: Thank you for your comment. Please note, however, that in the current Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, deaconesses can be ordained (page 80).

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.

Obituary



BOLST, Janice Kaye (nee Harders), born 27.2.1952; died 16.11.19 in Gosford Hospital, NSW. On 20.1.1974 she married Bob. Jan is survived by her husband (Woongarra, NSW); sons, Dale (Busselton, WA) and Bradley (Sydney, NSW); and daughter, Nicole Williamson (Wadalba). Jan was a highly respected member of her church and workplace. She worked at the South Pacific Division for 24 years and was the go-to person for simple and complex events that were common in her portfolio. Her quiet and gentle manner won her many accolades from family and friends. She battled with a rare form of cancer for 12 years and she passed to

her rest on Sabbath at 10.30 pm. She will be greatly missed by family, church and community members whom she touched with kindness and compassion. We await the return of her Lord to see her once more.

Bob Bolst, Wayne Krause, Bryan Craig, Trafford Fisher.

ADVERTISING

FORRESTERS BEACH SDA CHURCH OFFICIAL OPENING

(formerly Erina and The Entrance churches). We warmly welcome past members, pastors and friends to the official opening of our new Forresters Beach church complex on Sabbath morning, March 21, 2020. The program will commence at 10.30 am and will be followed by a luncheon. Location: 7 Kyte Place, Tumbi

Umbi. For further information please contact Delyce on <newsletter@forrestersbeachdentistchurch>.

OBERRAMMERSGAU PASSION PLAY

Experience the "once in a decade" Passion play in 2020 with like-minded Adventists. Fully escorted group tour with European tour options: river cruise, Switzerland, Mediterranean. No surcharge for singles. Visit <lawsondiscovery.com>. Telephone (07) 3272 2167.

SHEPPARTON CHURCH OFFICIAL OPENING SERVICE, MARCH 21

Everyone is welcome to join us in our new building—a blessing from God. We will dedicate the building to Jesus, serving Him and the wider community. Stay with us for lunch, fellowship and rejoicing! We are now located at

124 Graham Street, Shepparton. Service starts at 11 am. For catering purposes, RSVP to <RussellBryan@adventist.org.au> before March 2020.

ASDAH'S JUBILEE

Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School is having a reunion on April 3-5, 2020. Details and registration <ivyvy.com.au/event/ASDAH20/>.

Finally . . .

His Grace is more powerful than our sin.

Romans 6:14

POSITION VACANT

POLICY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION WAHROONGA, NSW

Seeking a highly skilled and experienced person to develop policy, procedures and programs, provide advice and monitor legal compliance within the workplace. This includes work health and safety (WHS), equal employment opportunities (EEO), privacy and other employment legislative areas. The successful candidate will ensure an overall safe, healthy and accident-free work environment is achieved for all staff. For more information, visit <adventistemployment.org.au/spd-vacancies> and for a full job description and enquiries, please email <DavidPotter@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please email your cover letter, CV, three work-related referees and the contact information of your church pastor to <hr@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 31, 2020.**

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION WAHROONGA, NSW

Bring a wealth of life experience and inspired ideas to the table and be constantly challenged to do your best in this exciting role. The South Pacific Division's People Services team 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 role requires a strong commitment to the teachings, values and mission of the Church, comprehensive working knowledge of the Church and its management throughout the SPD, tertiary qualifications in human resource management/business, organisational development, and/or a related discipline, extensive knowledge of and experience within a HR environment, superior interpersonal, influencing, coaching, communication, negotiation and consultative skills at all levels and a proven ability to handle pressure and manage conflicting demands. For more information, please visit <adventistemployment.org.au/spd-vacancies> and for a full job description and enquiries, please email <DavidPotter@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please email your cover letter, CV, three work-related referees and the contact information of your church pastor to <hr@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 31, 2020.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT: ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU



NEXT ISSUE: RECORD, FEBRUARY 29



POSITION AVAILABLE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, FULL-TIME WAHROONGA, NSW

ADRA Australia is seeking a qualified and experienced financial and business management professional to join our senior management team. Reporting directly to the CEO, the Director of Finance provides financial and commercial leadership which includes the development of strategy and the management of operations for ADRA Australia's finance and IT functions. The role also involves supporting our national and international program partners to comply with finance and accounting requirements. The successful applicant will be someone who thrives in the financial and general management arena and demonstrates skills in Accounting, Strategy and Planning, Team Leadership and Culture, and Risk and Compliance.

ADRA Australia is the official humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Motivated by our faith we enable people and communities in Australia, the South Pacific, Asia and Africa to improve their health and livelihoods and assist people to prepare for and recover from disasters around the world.

Candidates should address the selection criteria in their application letter providing examples of past experiences and qualifications. Forward your letter and resume by March 1, 2020, along with the names of three work related referees to: <alisonyoung@adra.org.au>.

FOR A COPY OF THE CANDIDATE INFORMATION DOCUMENT PLEASE CONTACT: Alison Young, ADRA Australia, phone 02 9473 9503 or email alisonyoung@adra.org.au

NOTE: Neither the editor, Adventist Media, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Classified advertisements in *Adventist Record* are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. All advertisements, appreciation, anniversary, wedding and obituary notices may be submitted via <ads@record.net.au> or online at <record.adventistchurch.com>. Notices will not be reprinted unless there is an error of fact caused by *Record* staff.



Tammy and Brett Jee's property was destroyed by bushfire in Cobargo, NSW. An immediate cash grant from ADRA helped meet their most urgent needs.

Every year millions of lives are devastated by disaster in Australia and overseas.
You can help!

Give now to be there when people need help the most!

ADRA'S DISASTER AND FAMINE RELIEF OFFERING

Donate through your church on 15 February, or anytime at adra.org.au/respond, by using the form below or by calling 1800 242 372

Complete and return this form to ADRA Australia.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone: *Required* _____
 Email: *Required* _____ Age: _____ Church: _____
 Please accept my one-off **or** monthly gift of: \$20 \$50 \$120 \$400 Other \$ _____
 Credit Card Number: Visa Amex MasterCard CVV: *Required*
 Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____ Expiry Date:



ADRA Australia, Reply Paid 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076 ABN 85 109 435 618
Donations of \$2 AUD or more are tax-deductible. CHURCHFR>RECORDAD19/20 Type: DFRO

Called to be... A TEACHER?

SECONDARY

BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR OF TEACHING (SECONDARY)

Which teacher had a positive impact on you in high school? You could be that teacher for someone else. Study a **Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) (BA/BTch (Sec))**

- | Start prac in a school from second year of study
- | See an emphasis on holistic wellbeing
- | Study on-campus at Lake Macquarie
- | Be highly sought after in Adventist schools

“ Studying the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) has shown me the value of investing into the future generations. Through placements I have been inspired by the impact we as teachers make on students and I’ve seen a different side to education. It has also given me a new confidence in who I am as I have been able to develop and mature as a person.”

Charlotte Lewis

SECONDARY FIELDS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Biology | Home Economics |
| Business Studies and Commerce | Industrial Technology |
| Chemistry | Legal Studies ** |
| Computing Technology – Information Systems** | Mathematics |
| Design and Technology | Music |
| English | Outdoor Education** |
| Food Technology | Physics |
| Geography | Religious Studies |
| Health and Physical Education | Science |
| History (Modern and Ancient **) | Technology and Applied Studies |
| | Textiles |
| | Technology** |
| | Visual Arts |

** Offered as a minor only

APPLY NOW

87.4% OF AVONDALE TEACHER EDUCATION GRADUATES WERE EMPLOYED WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF COMPLETING THEIR DEGREE*



Commonwealth Supported Places and FEE-HELP available for eligible students, see www.studyassist.gov.au

www.avondale.edu.au | study@avondale.edu.au | +61 2 4980 2377

*Based on the 2017-2019 Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) for Avondale undergraduate teaching courses, qilt.edu.au

Avondale University College Ltd

CRICOS Provider No.: 02731D | RTO: 91191 | TEQSA: PRV12015 | ABN: 53 108 186 401