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## Living Kingdom

New series reveals the power of story <sup>14</sup>

Prime minister opens PNGUM business session <sup>8</sup>

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## Finding silver linings: thankful and excited for 2021

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Senior editor  
📧/JStackelroth

“

I wanted to use this opportunity to thank you, our readers and our community.

Well we made it! While 2020 was a year many would like to forget, it still contained joy and silver linings too.

2020 sometimes proved to be a brutal teacher, but the lessons we learned in hardship and restriction may prove valuable in the future.

The Church has had to adjust and adapt, relying on technology and being reminded of the importance of relationships.

I've been reminded that God is stronger than COVID, conspiracy and collapsing economies. He's still working out His plans through His people, still changing lives and making miracles happen.

My heart has been warmed by the stories I've heard of how *Adventist Record* has helped us stay connected through this pandemic, how pastors and lay leaders have been able to visit or deliver *Record*, how more copies were able to go to the islands due to less being sent out in lockdown-affected areas. You've stuck with us and kept connected and we are truly grateful.

I wanted to use this opportunity to thank you, our readers and our community. We know you don't just read *Record*—you've found jobs, started ministries, engaged in conversations and written letters, you've joined us online and we appreciate you. We appreciate your feedback, your news, your testimonies and stories that you've shared with us. Yes, it's been a tough year, but we managed to keep printing and distributing (even if a few issues were late).

I want to thank my team. Their tireless work and adjustments through lockdowns and a difficult year. They've been unstoppable and, while 2020 wore everyone down, we've managed to make some exciting plans for this year and beyond.

We've had some transition over this year end with Linden, our assistant editor—digital, and *Record's* main graphic designer for the past few years, leaving to pursue a teaching career. I'd like to wish Linden all of God's blessings on this new adventure. He's been a great asset and friend during this time and *Adventist Record* will miss his faithful dedication. A new year means new beginnings and we will have new staff joining the team.

I want to thank the team at Signs Publishing for their tireless work. In lockdown-affected Victoria, they've had difficult work conditions but have continued to print and give us support all the way through every challenge that has been thrown at them. Sometimes understaffed, issues with postage and freight, multiple adjustments to subscription lists—nothing has deterred them as they've worked faithfully to help us deliver *Record* everywhere it needed to go. Without their support, *Record* would not have been able to go out this year.

As we begin the year, you'll notice *Record* looks a bit different. We've taken the opportunity to freshen up our look and to add some new columns that we think you'll really enjoy. I'm especially excited about our new series, Living Kingdom, where we look at the parables of Jesus and what they teach us about living here and now (page 14).

We are looking forward to spending 2021 with our South Pacific family, and hopefully more time together in churches.

God has been working and we look forward to receiving more amazing stories about what God is doing in your local church, school and community.

We hope you continue to let us know how we're doing, engaging with our articles and sharing your thoughts, either online, via social media or even good old email.

My prayer is that in this new year you "look to the Lord and His strength; seek his face always" (1 Chronicles 16:11).





INSIGHT:

## Giving one's life for life-giving Scripture

Glenn Townend  
South Pacific Division president  
i/SPDpresident

**W**illiam Tyndale is considered one of the most significant Englishmen of all time. Born about 1494 in Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire, he graduated from Oxford University with a BA in 1512 and an MA in 1515, and later also studied at Cambridge (1517–21), where he learnt seven languages and read the Protestant writings of Martin Luther and Erasmus from Rotterdam. He dreamed of translating the Bible from the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), and from the available Latin, into English.

In discussion with church superiors at his first job, Tyndale was told that, "We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's." Tyndale responded: "I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!"

Tyndale was following the desires of Jesus to have the Scriptures translated; to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), and to proclaim the everlasting gospel to every nation, tribe, language and people (Revelation 14:6). Seventh-day Adventists value every translation in every language as God's inspired Word (2 Timothy 3:14–17). William Tyndale had to move to Europe to translate the Bible into English because of antagonism from the Church and Crown. When his first English New Testaments were smuggled into England, the Church bought as many as they could and burned them. This did not deter Tyndale and his supporters who continued to translate, publish and ship English Bibles into England.

In 1536 Tyndale was captured by Spanish soldiers of the Holy Roman Empire. He was imprisoned, tried and finally burnt at the stake on October 6, 1536 in Vilvoorde, Belgium as a heretic. His last words were "Lord open the King of England's eyes."

Within a year, the King ordered an English Bible to be in every church in England. When the King James Version was translated by a group of scholars 80 years later, more than 80 per cent of the language they used was from Tyndale's translations.

Life transformation comes through regular reading of Scripture. If people gave their life for that privilege, then surely I can create a daily Bible habit this year.





ADRA workers in Vanuatu. (Photo credit: Jean Pierre Niptik)

## Vanuatu achieves development milestone

📍 Port Vila, Vanuatu | Tracey Bridcutt

Vanuatu has graduated from the United Nations' official list of Least Developed Countries (LDC).

The graduation is "testimony to years of effort resulting in hard-worn sustainable development gains", UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said in a message.

Vanuatu has become the sixth country to achieve the milestone since the development categorisation was created in 1971. It graduated despite severe setbacks due to accelerating climate change, natural disasters including Cyclone Pam, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the graduation, ADRA South Pacific regional director

Greg Young said, "Graduating from the list of least developed countries is an achievement, but Vanuatu is still classed as a developing country and thus still vulnerable to economic and environmental challenges."

According to the UN, Least Developed Countries are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets. Given their special circumstances, LDCs have exclusive access to certain international support measures such as in the areas of development assistance and trade.



Former Miss Fiji Zaira Begg receiving her award from Pastor Mavani Kaufononga.

## Fulton holds graduation ceremony

📍 Sabeto, Fiji | Record Staff

Fulton Adventist University College (Fiji) conducted its graduation ceremony on Sunday, November 22.

Students graduated from courses in business (bachelor awards in accounting and management, information systems and marketing as well as diploma awards), education (bachelor and diploma awards) and theology (bachelor and post graduate diploma awards). Families from around the Pacific who could not attend the program in person were able to watch their daughters and sons graduate thanks to live-streaming by Hope Channel, Fiji.

Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) president Pastor Mavani Kaufononga presented the Sabbath service. He was then kept very busy on Sunday as he presented each graduate with their award. The graduation address was presented by Dr Pauline Potter, who just weeks earlier received confirmation of her PhD award from Avondale University College.

A highlight of this year's graduation was the first group of instructors from the Fiji Police Academy, who were awarded the National Certifi-

cate in Teaching of TVET training. Dr Rejeli Liligeto, the deputy principal and chair of the Academic Committee, acknowledged the hard work of staff in delivering the TVET program on top of their very challenging commitments in completing the academic year.

Director of Training, Senior Superintendent of Police Kasiano Vusoniilawe, said the graduation is significant in enabling officers at the academy to attain internationally recognised qualifications.

Fulton principal Dr Malcolm Coulson acknowledged the support and leadership offered by the TPUM office, the members of the college board and the support from the presidents of the Union missions, which was greatly appreciated as Fulton worked to complete the academic program.

The graduating class motto was "the courage to be brave", which was referred to many times throughout the graduation service.

The weekend program included many testimonies expressing gratitude to God for His leading and His protection during the years of study for the graduates and especially in 2020.



Dr Pauline Potter with some of the graduates.





SPD leadership and professional development manager, Dean Banks.

## Church leaders equipped by leadership course

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Record Staff

Two cohorts of senior leaders from across the South Pacific Division (SPD) have completed an online executive leadership course called “Leading organisations in disruptive times” through INSEAD Business School.

Participants were selected from Pacific Adventist University, Adventist Media and the four Unions.

Subsidised by the SPD, the initiative supports the SPD leadership strategy to intentionally develop existing leadership capacity and actively grow future leaders over the coming years.

“This is a tangible way to accelerate our leaders’ professional growth; interacting with global thought leaders from one of the world’s top three business schools,” said the SPD’s leadership and

professional development manager Dean Banks. “It also promotes networking and knowledge-sharing with external industry leaders.”

With a focus on the unique challenges facing senior leaders today, the course highlighted cutting-edge research, aimed at developing faster decision-making, accelerating change processes and cutting through difficult cultural challenges. An action learning project also helped leaders apply their learnings to their immediate context.

“I’ve found the learnings extremely helpful and am already incorporating this into our Conference journey,” said Pastor Mike Sikuri, president of the South New Zealand Conference.



Tarenne Greenwood receives her Bachelor of Ministry and Teaching award from vice-chancellor and president Professor Kevin Petrie. (Photo credit: Brenton Stacey).

## Avondale hosts COVID-safe graduation

📍 Lake Macquarie, NSW | Record Staff

Students marched in multiple COVID-safe ceremonies as a graduation unlike any other ended an academic-in-a-pandemic year at Avondale University College.

Presenting eight ceremonies over two days (Sunday, December 13, and Monday, December 14) helped ensure Avondale complied with public health orders. Each ceremony featured no more than 40 graduands grouped by course. The number of guests attending with each graduand and the number of academic staff attending were also limited. All ceremonies were live-streamed and held in a new venue: Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In his first graduation message, vice-chancellor and president Professor Kevin Petrie noted how some students “were unsure if they would even complete their course requirements—let alone have a formal graduation ceremony. Yet here we are at the end of 2020, celebrating together.”

For many, he added, the uncertainty has been challenging. “Yet this in itself provides an analogy of life after graduation. None can be sure where their jour-

ney will take them. . . . As the past has taught us, however, we can trust ourselves in the hand of God who sees all things and knows the paths we should take.” Prof Petrie ended by describing the 258 students in the graduation class as those who will be “a transformative power in the world”.

Callan Bolst and Abi Jones represented the students as class co-presidents. Both completed placements—Mr Bolst at Avondale School and Ms Jones at Sydney Adventist Hospital—despite the introduction of restrictions. “I’m so grateful to the staff for getting placements organised,” said Mr Bolst. “Most of my friends at other unis, their placements were cancelled.” Ms Jones found hers, with the introduction of strict infection control measures, as good preparation for future employment. “I’m a frontline worker ready to go.”

The passage of Scripture selected by the class is timely: “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strength . . .” (Romans 5:3,4, NLT).





Adventurers Rally in Victoria.

## New Adventurer curriculum to better engage children

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Lorraine Atchia

The Australian Union Conference (AUC), in partnership with a team of Adventurer specialists from across Australia, is launching a new website that will enable Adventurer leaders and parents to easily access awards, activities and resources for their local clubs.

Launched on January 15, the website adapts the new Adventurer curriculum created by the General Conference to an Australian context. Leaders and parents will be able to print out awards and activities designed to meet the needs of each specific age group. These can be completed in class or at home.

Notably, the new curriculum will involve Adventurer class booklets designed for children to work through at each meeting. At investitures, each child will receive their A5, passport-like booklet as a record of their achievements for the year. These are available to order from the AUC Resource Centre.

"We are really excited about the new Adventurer curriculum and website that has been developed. The exciting thing is it will all be accessible with a click of the mouse. The new user-friendly curriculum will be a great move forward for Adventurers in Australia," said Pastor Jeffrey Parker, AUC youth director.

Since 2019, the team of Adventurer specialists has been working to enhance the Adventurer program in Australia. In April 2020, a Facebook group called "Australian Adventurers (AUC Seventh-day Adventist Church)" was created to help leaders and parents share resources and ideas, and in 2020 the General Conference announced it was updating the Adventurer curriculum. The team was able to use this, along with their concepts, to create the website.

To download the new program and resources for your adventurer club, please visit <[adventurer.org.au](http://adventurer.org.au)>. You can also join the Australian Adventurers Facebook page.

## making headlines

### Adventist pastor abducted

Pastor Elie Henry, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America (IAD), along with his adult daughter Irma, were released unharmed on December 28, 2020, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The pair were taken captive on December 24, when returning from the Adventist hospital where Irma works as a physiotherapist.—**Adventist Record**



### Sanctuary shopping

A travelling exhibition of the Old Testament tabernacle, "Expo Santuario", visited Santa Maria Shopping Centre in Brazil's capital of Brasilia from November 28–29. The exhibition consisted of a presentation of sanctuary furniture and explanations of each item. More than 1500 participants walked through the exhibition.—**Adventist Review**

### Medical research app

Google has announced it is launching a new research app for Android phones that will enable anyone to participate in medical studies. The first study run through the app, "Google Health Studies", will look at respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.—**ABC News**

### Anti-ageing secrets

A large study by Duke University (North Carolina, US) tracking 1000 people from birth through to age 45 has revealed that children with higher levels of self-control age more slowly than their peers, with biologically younger bodies and brains.—**Science Daily**



# Prime minister opens PNGUM business session

📍 Lae, PNG | Jarrod Stackelroth/Jacqueline Wari

Papua New Guinea prime minister James Marape used his address at the opening of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission's sixteenth business session to challenge Adventists, suggesting the Church is not growing at the same rate as PNG's population and that it should aim to reach 1 million members by the end of the next five-year term.

Mr Marape, himself a Seventh-day Adventist, was unable to attend in person during the opening program on November 29, which was live-streamed on Facebook, but shared his favourite verse, Romans 8:28, and reminded attendees that God is in control and knows what is best for each one, collectively and individually.



Newly appointed PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani.

While the PM has no scope to influence Church strategy, his speech seemed to inspire delegates and was a highlight of the first day of the meetings.

Mr Marape encouraged the Church in PNG at a time when the newly appointed administrators were taking up the mantle, while he also commended those who had gone before.

Much of the opening program was spent introducing the new administration team of Pastor Malachi Yani (PNGUM president) and Pastor Leonard Sumatau (secretary) and thanking the outgoing team, Pastors Kepsie Elodo and Henry Monape—with all four giving speeches.

Russell Strahan had already been appointed as PNGUM CFO however Kenton Ghona was appointed as the under-treasurer and two associate CFOs Emmanuelito Ligsay and Neil Bayeta were appointed.

Delegates in the auditorium of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Lae campus, joined with international guests from the South Pacific Division (SPD) on Zoom. The reports and worships for the week were also live-streamed on Facebook and aired on Hope FM for church members and those around the Pacific to join.

Outgoing president Pastor Elodo gave an overview of work in PNGUM during the past five years. Pastor Elodo said although COVID-19 had affected church work and especially the "PNG For Christ" campaign set for May 2020, it had a positive impact.

"The pandemic has grown the Church through small groups and other evangelistic ways," Pastor Elodo said.

Outgoing secretary Pastor Monape highlighted some of the achievements for the past five years. These included the implementation of the Adventist Church Membership System, plotting of local mission and conference boundaries, the establishment of an archives and filing system and the introduction of lands and surveying work.

Mr Strahan reported the church experienced a "37 per cent increase in tithe" between 2015 and 2019. However, there was only a five per cent increase in planned giving offerings, which he said was a concern.

One major talking point was the PNGUM Survey Commission, which looked at mission structure staffing and funding in-depth, to address some issues and help PNGUM's missions mobilise for success in the field. PNGUM has appointed a consultation committee, comprising Ray Paul and Ahu Baliki, to consult with the missions and membership before working on a final recommendation. PNGUM currently has nine local missions and one conference while the government only uses four provinces to administer the country. One of the recommendations of the survey looked at the impact of adopting the model of administrative units to four.

A strong emphasis on discipleship and total member involvement shone through many of the presentations at the "Jesus is Coming, Get involved" themed session.

Pastor Yani challenged the Church to be innovative to grow the Church. "God has blessed us this quinquennium. Growth has become a curse. We need to be innovative to make our church grow.

"The laity needs to work together with the church to extend the Gospel. We have not improved enough."

Pastor Yani also thanked Pastors Elodo and Monape, former CFO Bob Butler, departmental directors and associates, ADRA, Adventist Aviation Services and heads of education institutions for their hard work and leadership.

Many of the mission reports testified to the effectiveness of the Discovery Bible Reading method and the small groups that have been embraced this year, even as larger gatherings and "PNG for Christ" had to be abandoned due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Church planting expert and author, Dr Peter Roennfeldt, who has spent much time during the past five years running training programs throughout PNG, joined SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend in taking worships throughout the week.

PNGUM departments and nine mission administrations were also appointed during the session. The reports are available to view on the PNGUM Facebook page.



## SPD releases Statement on Immunisation

*The Health Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific has worked in consultation with its medical professionals and academics to provide church members with this statement and information on the recent developments regarding COVID-19 vaccines. The intention is to enable our members to make informed, evidence-based decisions.*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a rich history of promoting health and wellbeing in our communities.

The Adventist understanding of health and healing is based on biblical revelation, the writings of Ellen White, and peer-reviewed scientific literature. We believe that all healing ultimately comes from God, that Christians are called to live by faith, and that healing occasionally occurs in miraculous ways. However, we also believe that, more often than not, God works with or through the gift of increased medical knowledge, which He has so graciously provided to us.

While some mistakenly assume that seeking the expertise of medical practitioners demonstrates a lack of faith in God and His ability to heal, this view fails to recognise that God created us to learn, to think and to do. The New Testament refers to individuals known as “physicians” (see Colossians 4:14) and acknowledges their limitations (see Luke 8:43); however, while recognising that medical care is not infallible, the Bible does not suggest that medical care should be avoided.

In line with this thinking, we encourage responsible immunisation/vaccination and have no religious or faith-based reason to discourage our adherents to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunisation programs. The Church, however, is not the conscience of individual church members and recognises individuals’ rights to make choices. The choice not to be immunised is not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Further information on this topic is available in the addendum “COVID-19 Vaccination”.

Visit <<https://bit.ly/34xzAOa>> to read the Addendum to “Statement on Immunisation”. For the General Conference statement, visit <[adventist.news/en/news/covid-19-vaccines-addressing-concerns-offering-counsel](https://adventist.news/en/news/covid-19-vaccines-addressing-concerns-offering-counsel)>.







## Lismore celebrates

Lismore Adventist Church and Blue Hills College (NSW) have celebrated several baptisms. Year 12 student Leah began Bible studies and was baptised in the Jordan River on a trip to the Bible Lands in January 2020. She later joined the Adventist Church through a profession of faith. Ned, a student at Southern Cross University, became friends with some Adventist young adults who, through their influence and friendship, led Ned to have Bible studies and be baptised on November 21 into Lismore Church. Diedre was baptised on October 24 after church member Neville Leeson letterboxed leaflets advertising online programs and then began Bible studies with her.—**Sherree Merritt**



## Jesus in hope

Hundreds of people attended a two-week Aulua evangelistic campaign held in south-east Malekula (Vanuatu) in early November. Themed “Jesus in Hope”, each night the meeting venue was packed with people. During the day, attendees visited homes, prayed for the sick and invited them to the meetings. Some church leaders from another denomination prevented their congregations from attending—but according to program leaders, many snuck out to attend anyway. At the end of the meetings, 21 people were baptised on Sabbath, November 14. Event organisers praise God for what He did in and through the evening programs.—**Macsell Jones**



## 11 baptised

Following three weeks of evangelism at Wainadoi Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vuniso (near Suva, Fiji), 11 young people made the decision to be baptised. Hundreds of friends and family gathered outside to watch the candidates being baptised in the church’s outdoor font. Wainadoi church publicly thanked its young people for their dedication to the meetings and for sharing their talents.—**Wainadoi Adventist Church Facebook**



## Hillview kids

After months of COVID-19 challenges and disruptions to worship services, members of Hillview Adventist Church (NSW) were pleased to see 21 children, all beautifully costumed, lead out in a pre-Christmas item entitled “What News?” which announced the birth of Jesus. From live-streaming, to more recently meeting in three venues at the same time on the church property, Hillview looks forward to meeting in one place again soon.—**Mary Fedorow**



## International success

A North American edition of *Food As Medicine* by Dr Sue Radd was launched on November 10. A scaled-down edition of the award-winning cookbook developed and published by Signs Publishing, this new edition was published by Skyhorse and distributed by Simon & Schuster. While this new edition features all the recipes and photos of the original book, weights, measures and some terminology have been adapted for use in kitchens in the United States and this edition has a smaller trim size while remaining a 400-page book.—**Nathan Brown**



## Boundary road

Boundary Road Seventh-day Adventist Church had a two-week Revelation of Hope meeting at One Mile Field, Lae District, Morobe Mission (MM), PNG. MM secretary Pastor Samuel Mollen was the guest speaker for the event. More than 60 decision cards were distributed to new interests who attended the meetings, and 35 people were baptised at the conclusion of the event.—**Doulos Ken**



## Fasting success

After four months of prayer and fasting, the chief of Ambakura village on Malo Island (Vanuatu) invited Adventists to conduct two weeks of meetings. Excited to finally share the gospel message with the people, members went door-to-door sharing food, clothes, books and praying for the sick. Each night was fully packed with friends and family and 22 people were baptised at the end of the program.—**Bolango Nicholson**



## Prep to Year 12

After commencing its journey to become a complete Prep to Year 12 school in 2016—and after more than 50 years of difficult leadership decisions—Wahroonga Adventist School (WAS) welcomed its first cohort of Year 12 students at the commencement of Term 4, 2020. To mark this major milestone, the school celebrated with a special assembly where the new Year 12 cohort were presented with their Year 12 jackets.—**WAS**



## Kids' club in a box

With COVID-19 restrictions in full swing, it would have been easy for Lilydale church (Vic) to give up, but with an 11-year history of running kids' clubs, they persevered with "Kids' Club in a Box". Their program ran for three days online, plus Sabbath. In total, 136 children registered for the program, and each was given a box full of craft, games and snacks in paper bags for each day. Two gift books were added for the parents. The boxes were delivered to each home, to be used alongside a 90-minute YouTube program recorded by Lilydale teens, youth pastoral workers and the kids' club team. The drama group also recorded a performance in six individual homes, before editing the footage together to tell the story of Joseph.—**Rosie Croft/IntraVic**



## Ida turns 102!

Narrandera (NSW) church member Ida Gaff celebrated her 102nd birthday on November 26 at the RSL Remembrance Village in Wagga Wagga. Her daughter Mavis Gaff and great granddaughter Hannah-Rose Roberts joined her to celebrate. Sons Dale (Qld) and Paul (California, USA) were unable to attend due to travel restrictions. Ida and her late husband Hector were baptised in the Marthaguy Creek on their property "Broadwater", Warren (NSW) on February 16, 1949 by Pastor Thomas Kent.—**Mavis Gaff**

## have news to share?

Email info and photos to <news@record.net.au>





## Sharing Jesus with Alcoholics Anonymous

For Graeme Larsen, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is the place he feels called to do ministry.

"Although I haven't had the desire to drink for many years, I have the desire to pass on the message of hope and recovery to other people," he says.

It was at a recent AA meeting in his hometown of Nelson, New Zealand (NZ), that Graeme had the opportunity to share Jesus with 26 people at once.

"A lady on the other side of the room blurted out, 'I saw you on TV last night!' Everyone was looking at me. I'd been asked to share at this meeting, and had no idea what to say, so I shared about what program I had been part of and why. And in that moment, 26 other people learned all about Hope Channel," he says.

Graeme appeared in episode two of *Finding Home*, a series produced by Hope Channel NZ, in which he shared his testimony alongside other members of his local congregation at The Haven Adventist Church.

"I keep a certain amount of anonymity in my story, not so much for myself but to protect others," he says. "Anonymity is an absolutely essential part of AA (that's why it's called Alcoholics Anonymous). There's people in the fellowship from all walks of life—politicians, doctors, lawyers, bankers, people next door—and addiction is very sensitive and personal so we all respect that."

In the episode, Graeme explains how a history of workaholicism led him into a 10-year alcohol addiction, and eventually destroyed his marriage.

"I lost focus of home life, lost focus of the things I loved and put things I thought I loved in their place. It took me to some very dark places," he explains.

After living in Australia for more than 30 years, Graeme moved back to Nelson in 2007 to look after his dying father. It was here that he met his wife Nicqui.

"I introduced Nicqui to the church, and now she is cur-

rently serving as an elder," he says. "I come home sometimes and say to my wife, 'You just wouldn't believe what God's done today!'"

With an active presence both at church and at AA, Graeme says he combines these aspects of his life to have a greater ministry impact.

"I try to take what I learn in my Christian life into my AA life, and from my AA life into my Christian life," he explains. "I'm actually really blessed because we've got a church home group that is really important to both Nicqui and I, where I can share things I've learned from AA."

"In AA meetings people soon know I'm a Christian. I often get atheists and agnostics and people who cuss and swear, asking me if I'm religious and I say no. Then they ask me if I go to church and I say yes. They ask me what church I attend, and I say it's a Seventh-day Adventist church and that while our services are held on Sabbath (Saturday) I'm a seven-day Christian."

Doctors Kim and Wayne Hurlow—close friends of Graeme and Nicqui who also attend The Haven—occasionally refer people struggling with alcohol addiction to Graeme, who introduces them to the AA fellowship. He also often takes people out onto his boat, shares a meal with them and listens to their stories.

"I've just had a guy leave my home who I've been doing studies with through the 12 steps of AA," says Graeme. "I'm working through them with him. The 12 steps are biblically-based and for our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God. Our leaders are just trusted servants."

*To learn more about Graeme's inspiring ministry and personal testimony, you can visit <[hopechannel.nz/show/finding-home/](http://hopechannel.nz/show/finding-home/)>.*

**Maryellen Hacko**

Assistant editor, *Adventist Record*



with Maryellen Hacko

# JOSH MOSES

*Writer, poet.*

For as long as Joshua Moses can remember, language and music have been powerful forces in his life.

"For me, my writing typically happens at night, but I also get creative spawns of thought whilst listening to music. I love the emotion of music, even without words. It's been since childhood that I've found peace in music, so I'd say my love of creative writing came from my love of music," he ponders.

Although reluctant to label himself a "well-educated" writer, Mr Moses expresses a unique honesty that resonates with readers.

"Poetry helps me hone my storytelling as I try to convey narrative in my writing. It keeps me in check, forces intentionality and helps me clarify my thoughts," he explains. "For me, writing is very natural. My poetry probably emphasises metre and rhyme more than structure and poise."

Originally from Texas, Mr Moses enjoys living with his family in regional NSW and attends Port Macquarie Adventist Church.

"I enjoy the peace and quiet it brings," he says. "We've been meeting on the beach or in parks when possible during COVID-19. Throughout COVID, I've found a lot of peace in writing. I've enjoyed writing for myself for around seven years now, but it's been this year that I've placed more emphasis and time into it."

Writing about topics like identity, relationships, masculinity and spirituality, Mr Moses says his writing is about the "big picture" topics of life.

"Admittedly my journey of understanding God comes in waves," he says. "I'm not ashamed to say it as I think it's important to note the lows and highs of spirituality. I feel that by sharing about my lows and highs it may help someone else feel less anxious about the fragility and finality of life and focus on enjoying the journey of self-discovery."

Mr Moses, who writes purely for the enjoyment, says discovering that these topics resonated deeply with people from various faiths or walks of life was surprising.

"My writing has been, and I hope will always be, for me," he notes. "I got to the point that I braved sharing it with a few people who told me I should be sharing it broadly. I started doing so via Instagram and the response has been surprising and humbling."

Although Mr Moses doesn't anticipate what lies ahead on this creative path, he hopes that it will continue to improve the lives of his readers.

"I have no idea what's next, but I do know that my writing contributes greatly to a sense of wellbeing for myself and, as such, will be a part of my life as much as I can. Beyond that, I'm open to whatever happens. My only hope in sharing it is that it makes others think more deeply about their journey and that they think of how they can maximise their positive impact on others."



Follow [@itsjoshmoses](https://www.instagram.com/itsjoshmoses) on Instagram.



# LIVING KINGDOM

## The power of story

Matthew 13:11-13

### Why did Jesus use parables?

*“Because the knowledge of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.” Matthew 13:11*

Story changed my life. No exaggeration. Telling stories is now my life work and passion.

While studying for my master’s degree, I pursued this fundamental idea: story has the power to change people. That’s right. Stories have life-changing power. Stories hold influence, a power beyond the sum of their parts. There’s a reason I believe this. A number of reasons perhaps. God has shown me glimpses of this idea through the years, and I have sought out theory and evidence to back up and understand what I had experienced.

Sitting in a church camp, my wife and I wept alongside someone who was bravely sharing their story. That weekend we heard preaching, yes, but what changed us were the stories: personal, heartfelt testimonies of lives changed by God’s power. We heard stories we related to, stories that bumped us out of our comfort zone and stories that caused us to reassess our lives and choices. This started us on a journey of re-engagement with church and opened a pathway to healing and ministry that changed our lives and the lives of others.

I would go on to learn that the emphasis on story that weekend was intentional and I would grow and be disciplined in my understanding of the power of stories to change opinions and challenge established ideas.

The stories my wife told me of her trauma and experiences before she met me helped me to peel back the layers and understand her in a deeper way. Those stories

paved the way for empathy and understanding to be a larger, more integral part of my dealings with people. I began to leave behind some of my own judgement and impatience as I sought instead to discover stories first.

Stories were working on me before I even knew they were. As a child, stories inspired me to see what the world could be. Some days they were an escape from the painful things: bullying, fear and inadequacy. Some days, they translated me to a higher, more joyous plane; I would look up and the hours would have flown by as I lived someone else’s story; revelling in the joy of creativity, the rhythm and roll of the words rolling through my imagination.

Stories helped me make sense of the world. As a kid, stories helped me to love and live outside of myself; to feel and experience and walk in the shoes of others.

Testimonies and missionary stories on Sabbath afternoons taught me the power of conviction, inspired me to be used by God and see where that would take me. And the stories of the Bible and the parables of Jesus are no exception.

We should not be surprised that our Creator—described as the Author and Completer of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)—understands how our brains are wired to react to story.



John weaves two stories into one as he opens his gospel. "In the beginning . . ." he starts, filling our minds with images of creation—"was the Word . . ."

With just a few words, John points us back to the great story of Creation, he proclaims Jesus as Creator, tying Him into the great narrative of God through history. He points us to the power of words and the Word, His Word.

The Word was with God and the Word was God. God spoke the world into existence. There is no denying words have power but when we seek meaning and place words into story, they transcend the sum of their parts.

Story is one of the most powerful and potent arrangements of words you can have. People love to quote the statistic that you're 22 times more likely to remember a story than a fact. Marketers and advertisers have cottoned on to this fact. Concepts like developing a story brand, building customer avatars and selling products using narrative are well established in the industry.

The Macquarie dictionary defines a parable as "a short allegorical story, designed to convey some truth or moral lesson".

There are ancient precedents for this. Ancient Greek teachers and rhetoricians often utilised *paraboles*—short stories to illustrate a point. The Mishnah, a preserved collection of early rabbinical oral history, is filled with parables and there are examples of parables in the Old Testament (Judges 9:7–15, 2 Samuel 12), known in Hebrew as a *mashal*, a technique that is thought to have been common at the time of Jesus.

So when the disciples came to Jesus and asked "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" (Matthew 13), they should not have been shocked or surprised by His methods. It seems they were really asking, "why don't you explain everything you teach?" or perhaps, "why are your stories sometimes hard to understand?"

Jesus' explanation seems to support this (v11–13):

"He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables:

'Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.'"  
He did not want to make it easy to understand.

Part of story's power is that those who truly seek to un-

derstand it—who sit with it and let it wash over them, who spend time with it—will find its meaning and its core. If Jesus had straight-up said, as a command or a statement, what He truly taught, He might have been killed a lot earlier than He was. Being prescriptive or issuing commandments would have left less room for nuance or application across a number of layers of meaning.

Jesus' parables often came in answer to a challenge. The brilliance of these simple stories was that Jesus provided an answer that seemed to address the question but didn't allow His opponents to pin Him down in the traps they had devised.

Jesus' stories are not just clever teaching aids. They are tangible, understandable portraits of what the kingdom should look like. They tackle problems or failings of human nature. They point to what His Kingdom Come should look like on Earth.

Jesus' stories are universal. Jesus' stories are simple but contain immense depth of meaning.

Jesus' stories are earthy. Jesus used everyday examples; things from farm and village life, events like weddings, that were familiar to everyone He was speaking to. They could relate and understand. And people from all cultures across the past 2000 years have been able to connect to the agrarian and home-based situations Jesus described.

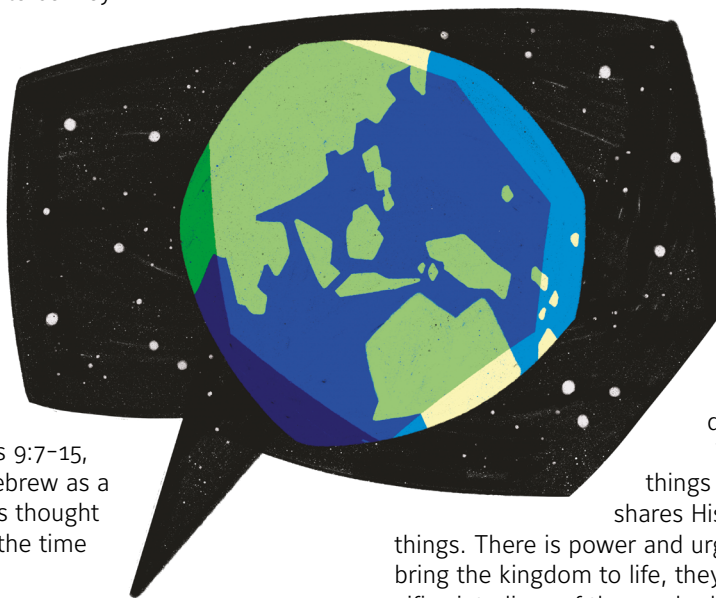
The Word of God spoke all things into existence and when He shares His parables, they are living

things. There is power and urgency in His words. They bring the kingdom to life, they are dynamic, speaking specifics into lives of those who hear (or read).

Jesus left us a great gift; not only the Holy Spirit, but these teachings that can change and challenge our lives.

When the Creator of the universe tells a story about His kingdom, those words have life, power and permanency.

As we spend time with the parables of Jesus, we are invited to examine our own lives and actions and how they measure up with the kingdom Jesus invites us to hold citizenship in. The stories will hopefully draw out life-changing and challenging lessons. For the next year-and-a-half we will journey through Jesus' parables to rediscover where we fit in Jesus' living kingdom.



**Jarrod Stackelroth**  
Adventist Record editor







# The divinity of Jesus

The whole Christian faith  
hinges on this doctrine

**T**he Christian faith would not exist if Jesus was simply a great moral teacher or prophet.

Everything about the Christian faith rests on the divinity of Jesus, hence its importance for Christian faith, life and practice. The Bible provides compelling evidence of Jesus' divinity and so in this article, we will explore how His divinity is revealed in and through His person, His fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, His ministry of healing and His acceptance of worship. Due to the constraints of this article we cannot refer to the claims of Jesus: His power to forgive and ability to predict the future.

We turn to the Gospels that "were written within living memory of the events they recount."<sup>1</sup> Matthew identifies Jesus as *Emmanuel*, which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:21). Emmanuel describes the concept of the incarnation—God becoming man. The identity of Jesus as "God with us" is consistent with John 1:1, which refers to Jesus as the "Word who was with God, and who was God". The mind-wrenching reality John tells his readers is that this God—the God who is the Word—became flesh (*sarx*) (John 1:1,14). It is shocking that the height of the self-revelation of God in John 1 is God becoming flesh.<sup>2</sup>

Each of the Gospel writers quote Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'" In Isaiah, the Lord refers to Yahweh, but now the Gospel writers see this prediction fulfilled in Jesus, whom they understand to be Yahweh incarnate. We read of Jesus performing many miracles in the Gospels and demonstrating power over nature and demons (Mark 5:1–20; 6:30–50). The question that confronts us is whether Jesus acted as God or simply as a prophet requesting the Father to perform the works. The words of Jesus and the reaction of those impacted by these miracles suggest that Jesus was acting as God and not simply as a prophet. For example, Jesus healed people who were demon possessed, epileptics, paralytics and lepers (Mat-

thew 4:23,24; 8:2,3). The healings had to be accomplished with divine power. Sometimes the people had to just touch His garment and they were made well (Matthew 14:36). At other times Jesus knew "in himself that power had gone out from him" (Mark 5:30). When Jesus healed the great multitude, "power came out from him and healed them all" (Luke 6:19). Jesus is so keen, so willing, that at times His power goes ahead of Him to heal.

Jesus accepted worship from believers and even demons (Matthew 14:33; Mark 1:34; 5:6–10). The leper in Matthew 8:2,3 worshipped Jesus. Since Jews were monotheistic, either Jesus was flagrantly denouncing this Jewish teaching and His own heritage or He did, indeed, understand Himself as the divine Messiah and hence worthy of worship.

The early Christians continued to worship Jesus as God in the doxologies that refer to Him (Romans 9:5; 2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 1:5,6), in the prayers offered to Him (Acts 7:59,60; 2 Corinthians 12:8,9), and in the songs and hymns sung to Him (1 Corinthians 14:26; Philippians 2:5–11; Colossians 3:16,17).<sup>3</sup> The New Testament writers understood that Jesus is not just God-in-action or God-by-revelation but rather that He is both God-in-nature and God-by-action.<sup>4</sup>

The Gospels record Jesus raising people from the dead: including Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:23–26), the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:14) and Lazarus (John 11:35–45). In His divinity Jesus demonstrates how much He cares, especially as He grieves for Lazarus (John 11:44).

Furthermore, named persons involved in Jesus' miracles—people like Zacchaeus, Lazarus, Bartimaeus and others, would serve as "authoritative guarantors" of these miracles, as they were directly involved in them.<sup>5</sup> In the years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, these named persons could testify to what Jesus had done and said to them personally. These named persons

add further historical credibility to the Gospels.

After a tough day of ministry, Jesus sent the crowds away and the disciples into a boat. "Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on the land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them," says Mark (6:47,48a). In spite of the distance and the darkness, Jesus saw them in their anguish. For Mark, with his high Christology, Jesus was Yahweh of the Old Testament who saw His people in distress (Exodus 3:7).<sup>6</sup> Mark continues, "he was about to pass by them" (v 48b). Mark's words are saturated with the language and thought world of the Old Testament. The language of "pass by" (*parelthein*) is an allusion to Old Testament theophany<sup>7</sup> stories in which God revealed His glory (Exodus 33:19–23; 34:6; 1 Kings 9:11; Job 9:11). Jesus wanted to pass by and reveal His glory to the disciples but their fear and lack of perception did not make this possible.<sup>8</sup>

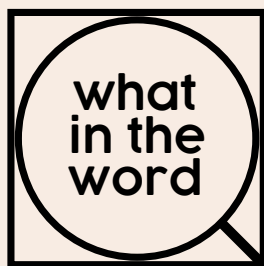
He desired to manifest His glory to the disciples but for their lack of faith. May we grow our faith in the divine Christ so that we may see more of His glory.

1. Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006), 7.
2. Grahame Cole, *The God who Became Flesh* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013), 108.
3. Millard Erickson, *The Word Became Flesh* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991), 470–471.
4. Murray Harris, *Jesus as God: The New Testament use of Theos in reference to Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), 291.
5. Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, 7.
6. M Eugene Boring, *Mark*, NLTG (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), 190.
7. Theophany means a visible manifestation of God to humanity.
8. Above n 6.

**Kayle de Waal**  
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presented by  
Avondale Seminary

# hope:

**noun:** ἐλπίς [*elpis*] | [el-pece']



Hope is expressed casually today. It suggests expectation, but has overtones of doubt. "I hope you're right," means "I wish you were right, but I doubt it." It may indicate wishful thinking—"I hope I live to 100", while to "hope for the best" can suggest underlying pessimism.

The ancient Greek word for hope—*elpis*—had similar meanings. Pagans generally recognised hope's role in life, as a counterpart to fear, to provide comfort in crisis. But hope could be deceptive and dangerous—and was always uncertain. Some, the Stoics, wanted nothing to do with hope. To them, whatever happened was meant to happen, and it was wrong to hope for something else.

In the New Testament, *elpis* occurs 51 times. Some passages refer to the Old Testament messianic hope (Matthew 12:21)—traced back to Abraham who "hoped against hope" for descendants (Romans 4:18). This hope fulfilled in Jesus, was initially shattered by His crucifixion (Luke 24:21) but restored by His resurrection (Acts 2:26–31). New Testament writers also speak of their own hope, the "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). This is not peripheral to faith but is the "hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1:23)—the hope to which we were called (Ephesians 4:4) and into which we were born again (1 Peter 1:3). This hope is listed as one of the three cardinal Christian virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13).

There is *one* Christian hope (Ephesians

4:4), but it is characterised in various ways: hope "in the glory of God" (Colossians 1:27); hope for the renewal of creation (Romans 8:20); hope of righteousness (Galatians 5:5); hope of salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8); and "hope of eternal life" (Titus 2:13; 3:7). All this points to the return of Christ (1 Peter 1:13) and the end of sin. For us, this means, above all, the resurrection of the dead (Romans 8:23). Since the epigraph on Roman graves was usually a bleak "Farewell", it is no wonder that Paul could characterise pagans as having "no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Christian hope deviates from other "hope". It is not mere wishful thinking or pessimism thinly overlaid with optimism. It is certain (1 Timothy 6:17)! We will never be ashamed (Romans 5:5) by its non-realisation. Jesus will return; death will be vanquished. Indeed, with Christ's resurrection, the final resurrection has begun. Our hope is no longer purely in the future. It is "laid up for you in heaven" (Colossians 1:5), like a gift already wrapped ready for Christmas. This hope is anchored "within the veil" of the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ our High Priest has gone as our forerunner (Hebrews 6:18–20). Christ is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1).

The Christian's hope has current, albeit partial realisation now, in the lives of all who are "in Christ". The Holy Spirit's presence in a Christian's life—"Christ in us" (Colossians 1:17)—is

the beginning; the down payment on the hope to be fully realised at Christ's return (Romans 8:20–26). Thus, hope is linked with joy (Romans 12:12); peace (Romans 15:13); courage (Philippians 1:20); steadfastness (1 Thessalonians 1:3); renewal (Titus 3:5–7) and purity (1 John 3:3). Objectively the hope is certain; subjectively it is conditional on us holding "to the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:18; 10:23).

The relationship of faith, hope and love is clear. Faith looks back to salvation accomplished in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Hope looks forward to its full realisation at His return. Between these two great reference points, Christians live out God's love—because they already live the life of the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Today's world is beset by many apparently intractable problems—social, political, economic, environmental. The platitudes of the world's leaders often amount to resigned encouragement to "hope for the best". In such a world, "the hope of the gospel"—real, certain, already partially manifest—is "good news" indeed.

**Dr David Thiele**  
Conjoint senior lecturer,  
Seminary Avondale  
University College





## ARE YOU DEVELOPING A FOOD ALLERGY?

You can develop an allergy at any age, to any food, despite having eaten that food without any prior symptoms. While allergies are most common among children (affecting 10 per cent of Aussie and Kiwi infants and only two to four per cent of Aussie and Kiwi adults), a study of 40,000 US adults found almost half of those living with allergies developed them after the age of 18.

### SO WHAT IS AN ALLERGY?

An allergy occurs when your immune system overreacts to a normally harmless substance, like food, pollen or dust mites, and determines that the substance is a threat. This then causes a reaction in your body—usually in the form of hives, swelling or breathing symptoms.

### CAN YOU DEVELOP AN ALLERGY AS AN ADULT?

Yes you can. As you age, some researchers suggest that your immune system may weaken naturally, which may be why you're suddenly struggling with that creamy milkshake or feeling itchy after some grilled fish. Certain events (like pregnancy or illness) can also compromise your immune system, which may trigger a new reaction.

### INTOLERANCE OR ALLERGY?

If your symptoms mainly involve the digestive system (like stomach pain, bloating and gas) a few hours after eating certain foods, this is likely an intolerance. Like your immune system, your digestive system can be affected as you age which may see you develop an intolerance later in life.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AN ALLERGY?

Unlike an intolerance, an allergy can be serious. Your symptoms would mainly involve an immune system response after eating or coming into contact with an allergen. Symptoms will appear quickly—usually within 20 minutes to 2 hours. They may start off mild, but progress rapidly. The most dangerous reactions (anaphylaxis) involve the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and are extremely serious.

## COMMON ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES



### LACTOSE INTOLERANCE

Everyone is born with the enzyme lactase, which helps your body digest the lactose in foods. As you get older and your lactase production declines, you may find yourself suddenly struggling with high lactose dairy products like milk, and experience mild to severe symptoms like bloating, wind and diarrhoea if you have too much.



### GLUTEN INTOLERANCE

Gluten is a protein found in wheat, wheat varieties like spelt or farro, and is also found in rye, triticale, oats and barley. Unlike coeliac disease, gluten intolerance is often self-diagnosed as there are no tests to determine gluten sensitivity.



### NUTS

Peanuts and tree nuts are among the most common allergies in adults, along with fish and shellfish. The most common triggers of food allergic reactions in childhood are peanuts, tree nuts, milk and egg.



### Recipe of the Week

#### Nut-free muesli bars

Little hands love muesli bars—and with no nuts, these are the perfect make ahead lunchbox treat. Full of wholefood goodness such as iron, protein and fibre from seeds and wholegrains.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: [sanitarium.com.au/recipes](http://sanitarium.com.au/recipes)  
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# HI KIDS!

# Kids Speak

God wants me to speak out for others.



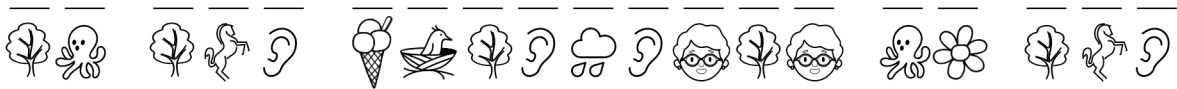
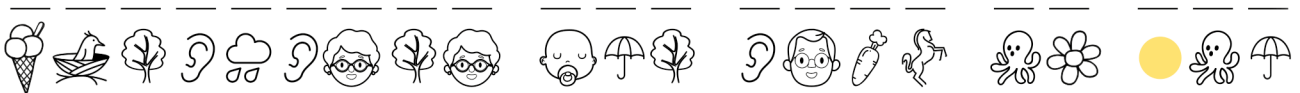
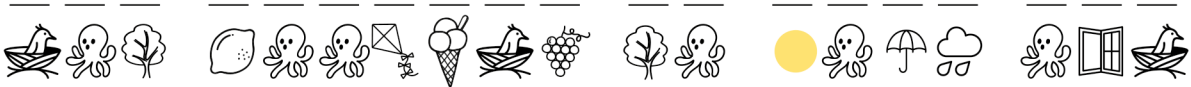
## HEAVENLY VISITORS

Abraham invites three travellers to stop for food and water. As they eat, Sarah is inside the tent listening. When one visitor says Sarah will have a baby, she laughs. One traveller says, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Then Abraham and Sarah know their guest is the Lord. When the Lord tells Abraham that Sodom will be destroyed, Abraham pleads for the people there and begs God to spare them.

### CRACK THE CODE

Place the first letter of the picture on the line above to solve the puzzle and to see this weeks memory verse, ie

 = N for Nest

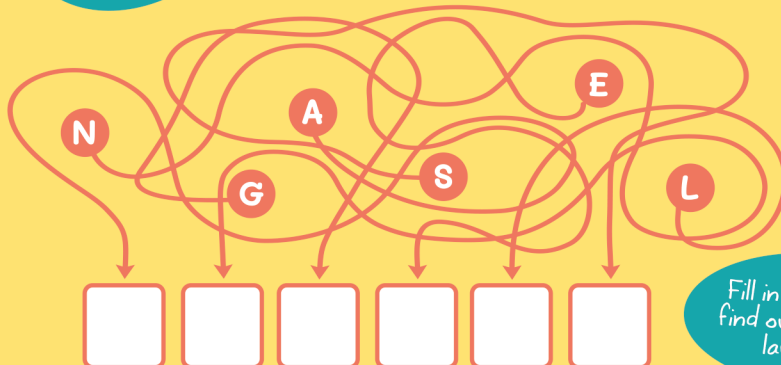
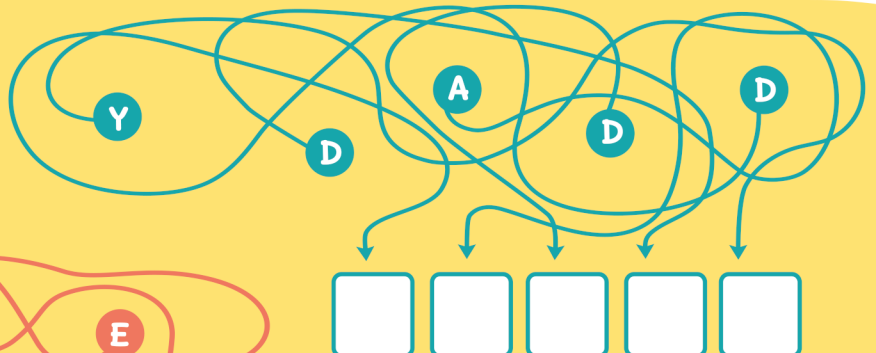


### SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Fill in the letters to find out what Abraham will be in 9 months.



Philippians 2:4



Follow the arrow lines

Fill in the letters to find out what Sarah laughed at.

Hi, I'm Sarah and I laughed at three



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

# Welcome little children



Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for what He knew was the last time—His crucifixion was near. Crowds were following Him. Mark tells us: "People were bringing their children to have him touch them but the disciples rebuked them (10:13)". The Living Bible reads: "They shooed them away." Obviously in their eyes Jesus was too busy with adults who could understand His message. The little children were unimportant.

"When Jesus saw this, he was indignant (v14)". Another version says "very displeased". I would add and very frustrated. Would they never learn?

Just a few days earlier, coming into Capernaum, the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest. Jesus' response in 9:35,36 is very significant: "Sitting down Jesus called the twelve and said: 'If anyone wants to be the first he must be the very least and the servant of all'. 'He took a child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms he said to them: Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.'"

Here they are, just a few days later, trying to stop little children gaining access to Jesus. No wonder Jesus was indignant!

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to them. I tell you the truth anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like little children will never enter in. And he took the children in his arms and blessed them" (Matthew 18:5).

We may ask, how callous and uncaring were His disciples treating children that way? But are we any different today?

When parents with, say, two small children arrive at our church door for the first time hoping to find a place where their children will meet Jesus, where is our attention?

As a church attendee of many years and a visitor to numerous churches I can vouch that almost universally the parents are the centre of our attention. "Welcome to church this morning. Is this your first visit here? We have a church lunch today we would love to have you join us." In view of Jesus'

interest in and concern for little children maybe it's time to update the greeting format.

In the church where I've worshipped for many years, the children, especially of visitors but also of our regular members, are the first ones to be greeted. How do parents respond when they are relegated to second place by the greeting team? Affronted? No, they love it.

There is an old saying and it's very true:

"When you take a child by the hand you take a parent by the heart." Parents have told us that they've chosen this church because of the welcome attention that was shown to their children. It is common to see children of two and three years of age leave their parents and run the final metres to the church door to receive their welcome. It's a heart-warming experience. By their teenage years, these children have developed a warm relationship with their church: they feel they are welcome, wanted and belong.

Today we have a fine group of teens and twenties who are actively involved in church life including the church service. We also have one on our greeting team.

Just recently a 20-year-old shared with one of our greeters: "I would not be worshipping here today were it not for the warm greetings I got when I was a young child and right through my teenage years. I now feel I belong."

The two-year-old little girl who ran for her greeting is now 13 and preparing for baptism. She and her younger sister still reach the greeters before their parents.

A note handed to a greeter said: "I love my greeting and can't resist a big smile."

So choose your greeters wisely. They need an outgoing personality and a genuine love of children. If we give children priority, we may see a lot less of our teenagers exiting the back door if this simple practice is implemented at the front door.

**Pastor Walton Pitt**

Retired, writes from Forest Hill, Victoria



## Obituaries

**THEUERKAUF**, Peter, born 2.8.1939 in Mackay, Qld; died 9.11.20 in Kings Langley Adventist Aged Care, Sydney, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Wendy; children, Andre, and LaDeane; grandchildren, Jessica, Arthur and William; and sister, Carmel. Peter's ministry was deeply appreciated in his role as a church pastor in the North and South New Zealand, and Greater Sydney Conferences. His inspirational and caring ministry blended perfectly with a wonderful sense of humour. He so treasured a Bible that was presented to him by a prayer group from his Hoxton Park church, that it was placed in his hands in the coffin. On 17.11.20, 50 mourners attended the memorial service in the chapel at the Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park, Palmdale. Mourners were comforted by the wonderful message of the gospel that climaxes with the return of Jesus to call His people from their graves and unite loved ones again.

— Peter Jack

## Advertising

### CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Notice is hereby given that, due to unforeseen circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sixth Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Zealand Pacific Union Conference previously scheduled for February 12–14, 2021 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 128 Albert Street, Auckland, will now be held February 14 and 15, 2021, at East Auckland City Seventh-day Adventist Church, 47 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga Heights, Auckland. Registration will be from 10am on February 14, with the meeting commencing at 11am. The first order of business will be to consider amendments to the constitution to enable the participation of delegates by remote means, brought about by restriction of movement across international borders. The Executive Committee has voted the recommendation for these changes to the delegates at the Constituency Meeting.

For this agenda item, only those delegates physically present and voting will be able to participate, while those delegates from remote places will be able to attend as "observers" only. Following a majority vote for the constitutional change, all appointed delegates can fully participate in the meeting by being present or by electronic means, and may vote on who the Officers and Executive Committee of the Union will be for the next quinquennium, as well as consider further proposed changes to the Union constitution. Various administration, ministry and financial reports are to be presented and considered by delegates. For more information, please contact Kingsley Wood CPA, secretary treasurer, NZPUC.

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND RECORD ON CD

The SPD's Christian Services for the Blind (CSFBHI) produces a monthly audio compendium of articles from recent *Record*, *Adventist World* and *Signs of the Times*, along with Sabbath School lessons, for the vision impaired. If you or someone you

know could benefit from this service, mail or email CSFBHI including postal address. Email <CSFBHI@adventistmedia.org.au> or write to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076. For the legally blind in Australia and New Zealand, CSFBHI also has a large audio library of Christian and denominational books available.

### ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS

The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy. Contact us on 1300 982 803 or 0408 458 452 or <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>, even if you have already paid for your funeral.

### TRUCK FOR SALE

Southern Illawarra Adventist Church is selling its 2009 Isuzu Refrigerated Truck. It is 4.5 tonne gross, 4 pallet pantech, auto trans, car licence, has low kms and is in good condition. Rego to May 2021. \$A29,500 neg. For information and photos contact Alan Blake 0403 164 310.



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## Positions vacant

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

#### *Adventist Media, Wahroonga, NSW*

Adventist Media is looking for an enthusiastic associate editor to join our Communications, News and Editorial team. A key part of this role will be proof-reading print and online content for our various platforms, so excellent spelling and grammar skills are essential. The successful applicant will work closely with our editors, and will need to be well organised, have meticulous attention to detail, be flexible and have the ability to work in a team. The full-time position is based at the Adventist Media offices in Wahroonga, NSW. For more information, interested parties should request a copy of the full Job Description (JD) by emailing <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. To apply, please email a cover letter addressing the requirements, skills, knowledge and experience section of the JD, along with your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor to <traceybridcutt@adventistmedia.org.au>. Overseas applicants should ensure they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for this position. Adventist Media reserves the right to fill this vacancy at its discretion. **Applications close February 15, 2021.**

### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

#### *Adsafe Ltd, Wahroonga, NSW*

Great opportunity available to join Adsafte Ltd, working with our Seventh-day Adventist entities to enhance safe Adventist environments, through the delivery of a safety framework, resources and training in this 12 month fixed-term contract located at Wahroonga, NSW, with the flexibility to work remotely. Reporting to the Safeguarding Services manager, this role is part of the Safe-guarding team. This position will specifically focus on developing and delivering training and resource material to increase the knowledge base of, and provide support for, leaders and those in child-related roles in our local churches located throughout Australia and New Zealand. For further information about the position please go to <employment.adventistchurch.com>. **Applications February 1, 2021.**

### CASE OFFICER, SURVIVOR SERVICES AND REDRESS

#### *Adsafe Ltd, Wahroonga, NSW*

Great opportunity available to join Adsafte Ltd in its provision of protective services for children and vulnerable persons across Seventh-day Adventist entities. The role of case officer for Survivor Services is to receive and assist with coordinating responses to abuse allegations. This involves being the point of contact for a complainant throughout an investigation, and being Adsafte's point of contact for survivors of abuse. Based at the South

Pacific Division head office in Wahroonga, NSW, this will be part-time (24 hours p/w) 12 month fixed-term contract, reporting to the team leader of Survivor Services and Redress. For further information about the position please go to <employment.adventistchurch.com>. **Applications close February 1, 2021.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL

#### *SPD, WAHROONGA, NSW*

The South Pacific Division is seeking a highly skilled and versatile office administrative professional, committed to furthering God's mission. As a key support person to a busy administration team, your attention to detail whilst multi-tasking is critical to manage diverse situations, and your flexibility and willingness to jump in wherever needed will be appreciated. As a team member you will apply initiative, discretion and confidentiality whilst exercising a high degree of diplomacy. Understanding of cultural sensitivities, advanced computer skills with experience in general analysis and reporting is ideal. For full details including the selection criteria please visit <employment.adventistchurch.com>. To apply, please email a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, your CV, three work related referees and the contact details of your church pastor to <hr@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close February 1, 2021.**

### MARKETING COORDINATOR (PERMANENT/FULL-TIME POSITION)

#### *Adventist Media, Wahroonga, NSW*

Do you have digital marketing experience and are you looking for a role with meaning and purpose? This new role primarily focuses on developing and implementing marketing plans to grow the sale of Signs Publishing books. Industry experience in email marketing, SEM and SEO are important as well as marketing qualifications. Join a team who are passionate about sharing Jesus, better health and wellbeing through literature. If this sounds like you, please email <timmmcternan@adventistmedia.org.au> for the full job description then prepare a letter of application addressing the selection criteria as set out under the requirements, skills, knowledge and experience section of the JD; attach a copy of your CV/resume and send it to <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au> or call +61 (02) 9847 2245 for more information. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and to close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close January 29, 2021.**

See more available positions at  
<[adventistemployment.org.au](http://adventistemployment.org.au)> or  
<[facebook/sdajobs](https://facebook.com/sdajobs)>.



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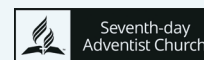
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