

# R

## Screen-free Sabbaths

Reclaiming the  
seventh-day of the  
week <sup>16</sup>

Pavilions named Australia's  
best for retirement <sup>7</sup>

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Celebrating 125 Years of following God's leading



**SPECIAL OPENING SABBATH EVENT**



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

South Pacific



**#weRtheCHURCH**

An event of inspiration, music and  
prayer coming to you August 4 from beautiful Fiji

**I WILL GO TO MY NEIGHBOUR**

**Hosted by Pr Glenn Townend and Meri Vuloaloa**

Uplifting music: from the Fulton Adventist University College choir

Inspiring stories: Smoothie outreach in Australia, Barber ministry in Fiji, Pampering project  
in New Zealand, Homeless food initiative in Papua New Guinea, Aussie I Will Go Ride and  
**MANY MORE**

Prayer: Join an SPD-wide prayer session after each screening

**TIME** 5pm (AEST) and 7pm (AEST)

**WATCH** Adventist Media Facebook page, Adventist Media YouTube channel, Hope Channel

**VISIT** [adventistchurch.com/werthechurch/](http://adventistchurch.com/werthechurch/)



EDITOR'S NOTE:

## Things I'm thankful for

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

I'm so grateful that God chooses to use me in His purposes both broadly and specifically.

What am I grateful for? It's an important question to stop and ask from time to time. Do you ask it? Do you ask it often?

When I pray with my three-year-old much of the content is thanksgiving. Thanks for people in our lives that she loves, thanks for school (aka day care) and her teachers and friends. Thanks for good sleep and good food and a nice place to live.

I'm thankful for warm winter sunshine through glass. I'm thankful for crisp morning air. I'm thankful for the smell of fresh cut grass and baking bread. I'm thankful for the taste of fresh coconuts and Pacific pineapples. I'm thankful for sand between my toes. I'm thankful for the laughter of my children and the sound of rain on a tin roof.

I'm thankful for my two little miracles. They keep my wife and I on our heels, but they are a surprising and exciting adventure every day.

I'm thankful for relationships. My parents, siblings, in-laws, colleagues, friends and acquaintances from all around the world. But especially my wife. Marriage is hard, some days more than others, but I've learned so much about myself and others by being with her. She challenges me and I'm grateful to have her by my side, walking this journey together.

I'm thankful for the church—local and global—in all its expressions.

I'm thankful that I'm part of the South Pacific Division. A most beautiful part of the world, where mission and cooperation have always been central. All of you, our church members, whether in Tuvalu or Kiribati, Pitcairn or Perth, Tasmania or Rabaul, from one end of this Division to the other—for your dedication, belief, passion and mission focus.

I'm thankful for our forebears who took the gospel around these distant regions at much personal cost and risk. I'm thankful for Ellen White and her foresight during her time in Australia that ensured that we have been set up for success—with a system that has health, education, media/print, health food and local churches all working together.

I'm thankful for good theology. For the assurance of God's love and Christ's victory. For the peace that comes knowing God keeps His promises: to come back and defeat death and the grave. Speaking of the grave, I'm grateful for the hope we have that death is not the end, that the dead know nothing until the trumpet call and that we'll see our loved ones again. I'm thankful for the Sabbath and guilt-free rest with God, family and friends. I'm thankful I'm not expected to be perfect but glad I'm encouraged to be better, that the Spirit is remodelling my character. I'm thankful for God's character, that my theology helps me make sense of this broken world in which we find ourselves.

I'm so grateful that God chooses to use me in His purposes both broadly and specifically. He has called us "out of darkness and into His marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). I'm thankful we've been called to partner with Him in His ministry of reconciliation with the world (1 Corinthians 5), to share the "everlasting good news" (Revelation 14:6), be His witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) as salt and light in the world (Matthew 5). I'm thankful for my own personal calling, to write and communicate light and life for the world. And to use that calling in the service of the Church and Adventist Media.

I'm so thankful for the ministry of *Adventist Record*—125 years of serving the Church in this region, for educating, informing, inspiring, nurturing members and building up our community. I'm thankful for the ministry of *Signs of the Times*, its 136 years of service and the chance to share an accessible Adventist worldview with a broader community audience.

I'm thankful for education and freedom, to think, question, believe, learn and grow. I'm thankful to live in a part of the world where those things are accessible and I'm thankful to those who don't—they inspire the rest of us by their convictions and suffering.

So I ask you again: What are you thankful for? Take some time today or this week to thank God for His goodness and grace.





INSIGHT:

## A topsy-turvy weekend

Eva Ing  
South Pacific Division associate officer

We have all heard the saying that “life can change in the blink of an eye”. One weekend in June was a topsy-turvy weekend that emulated this saying. We experienced two days of incredible highs and terrible lows.

On the Friday night, we had witnessed the baptism of two young men, who had grown up in the Adventist church. Their decision for baptism was made at one of our Seventh-day Adventist schools. This was the best example of our church and school working together to bring young people to the Lord.

Then on Sabbath, another great high. My second granddaughter Chloe was born! We were so happy to have a new baby in the family. She came without fuss, perfect and beautiful.

Then on Sunday, in the blink of an eye, tragedy struck. Our good church friend Sandra McCutcheon passed away from a major stroke, suddenly and without warning. We had had a wonderful Sabbath together, enjoying Sandra’s company at Epping church, not knowing that it would be our last. Sandra and Alan had been married more than 50 years and for the last seven of them, been members of our church.

They had transferred to Epping church from a neighbouring church, and had become Seventh-day Adventists as mature people, having diligently studied the Word and decided that our faith community was right for them. Sandra was the kindest and most unselfish person. Someone who would put the welfare of others before her own. Someone who you could count on to help with kitchen duty, to visit the sick and help those in need. Sandra and Alan would regularly go Sabbath afternoon door knocking, handing out leaflets, meeting and praying with people.

Over the weekend we experienced life at its beginning and at its end all in a matter of a few hours. It reinforced that life is birth and death and that in the short time in between, what you make of it must count. It’s our relationship with God that makes a difference to our lives and can have an impact on family and community.

As Christian Adventists, we want to be able to say of our lives, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

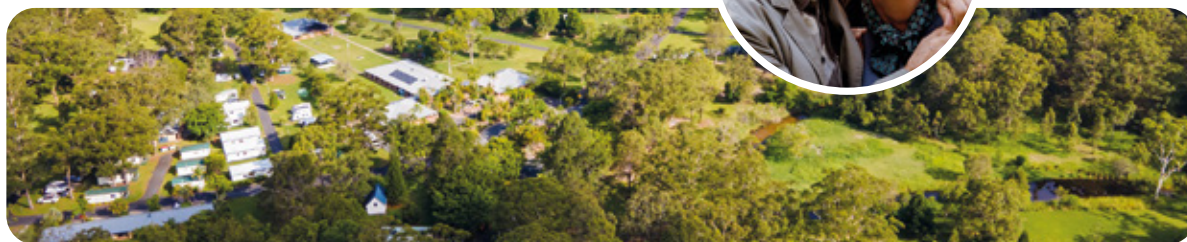
Vale Sandra, until the great resurrection morning.

***The two camps you love are now under one brand.***



The sister entities of **Stuarts Point Convention Centre** and the **Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth Centre** have unified visually through the adoption of a common name and logo.

Welcome to the new  
**Yarra Adventure and Holiday Parks™**



***Discover your next adventure or holiday at [yarra.org.au](http://yarra.org.au)***



Hosts Pastor Glenn Townend and Meri Vuloaloa.



Fulton Adventist University College choir.

## Stunning Fiji backdrop for #weRtheCHURCH 2023

📍 Suva, Fiji | Record staff

#weRtheCHURCH returns on August 4 and this year it's coming to viewers from beautiful Fiji.

Breaking away from the traditional studio setting, this year's program is set against the picturesque beachside backdrop of the church campground at Deuba. And that's not the only difference viewers will notice this year. For the first time #weRtheCHURCH features a choir on set, joining hosts Pastor Glenn Townend and Meri Vuloaloa for a unique opening Sabbath. The choir, from Fulton Adventist University College, reflects the rich cultural diversity of the South Pacific region, with students from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and American Samoa. Another special element for 2023 is a live online prayer session immediately after the program which everyone is invited to join.

"We like to be innovative with #weRtheCHURCH and give it a fresh perspective each year," said SPD communication director Tracey Bridcutt. "Filming the program in Fiji has given it a wonderful vibrancy, colour and atmosphere like never before. And the inclusion of the Fulton choir on set is simply amazing. Their voices are extraordinary—you won't want to miss it!"

"We have been delighted to work with teams from Hope Channel Fiji, Fiji Mission

and the Trans Pacific Union Mission, plus two film specialists from Papua New Guinea, Rayner Paul and Laurence Korup. They have worked tirelessly to put together a truly special program that will leave a lasting impact. We look forward to sharing it with everyone on August 4."

This year's theme, "I Will Go To My Neighbour", shines a spotlight on the innovative ways Adventists are engaging with their communities across the South Pacific. Inspiring stories will be shared, including a smoothie outreach in Australia, a barber ministry in Fiji, a pampering project in New Zealand, music ministry in Tahiti, a homeless food initiative in Papua New Guinea and the Aussie I Will Go Ride.

To ensure viewers from different time zones can participate, the program will be screened twice (5pm and 7pm AEST). Each screening will be followed by a prayer session, the first to be hosted by SPD secretary Pastor Mike Sikuri and the second by Pastor Townend. And the children don't miss out—before the main program begins, they will be treated to episodes of *The Tuis*.

Now in its third year, #weRtheCHURCH continues to unite the SPD church family for a time of worship and prayer, inspirational stories and uplifting music.

For more details and viewing platforms go to [adventistchurch.com/werthe-church/](http://adventistchurch.com/werthe-church/).



The four different locations of the Kellyville congregation over the past 130 years.

## Kellyville church celebrates 130 years

📍 Kellyville, NSW | Ken Long/Juliana Muniz

Kellyville Seventh-day Adventist Church, situated in Sydney, NSW, celebrated its 130th anniversary on May 20, gathering past and present members to honour its long history and commitment to mission.

Reflecting on this milestone, senior Pastor Martin Vukmanic expressed admiration for the congregation's journey. "This is our fourth building, but all our churches have been connected by a love for God, a desire to share His message and a commitment to serving our community. Our members have always been ready to give their time and skills to build up the church," he said.

Australian Union Conference secretary Pastor Michael Worker was the guest speaker at the celebration. He talked about the hard work and strong faith of the Kellyville church members. "The theme of the day was 'Faithful Then, Faithful Now', which is a testimony to the courage and tenacity of Kellyville church members over the last 130 years," said Pastor Worker.

Kellyville church, one of the oldest Adventist congregations in Australia, started humbly with a tent mission on February 10, 1893, with 26 people in attendance.



New TPUM education director Talonga Pita with his wife Teeraineta and daughter Jolisa.

## TPUM announces appointment of new education director

📍 Suva, Fiji | John Tausere

Talonga Pita has been appointed the new Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Adventist Education director. He replaces Mere Vaihola, who was appointed deputy vice-chancellor at Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea earlier this year.

Mr Pita's appointment is considered a proud moment for the small Pacific nation of Tuvalu as he is the first Tuvaluan to assume a departmental director's post at the TPUM.

With 38 years of experience, Mr Pita has served in various leadership, academic and ministry roles across the South Pacific Division.

According to Mr Pita, he and his family look forward to fulfilling this new calling. "For us, it's coming back home as we have served throughout Fiji and the Pacific for many years. We are now blessed to serve God through our Pacific Adventist schools as TPUM education director," he said.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga said he is certain that Mr Pita will uphold TPUM's commitment to wholistic education and spiritual development.

"With his extensive experience, dynamic leadership and dedication to Adventist education, TPUM is confident that Mr Pita will continue the good work Mrs Vaihola has done," Pastor Kaufononga said. "He will play a crucial role in the growth and success of the mission of Adventist Education."

For the past year Mr Pita has been serving as head of the mathematics department at Gilson College in Victoria, Australia, where he previously served as head of the science department from 2016 to 2022.

Mr Pita is in ministry with his wife, Teeraineta Lise, and their three children Gloria, Minute and Jolisa.



Pastor Gary Webster with some of the attendees at the recent training in Goroka.

## Join this mission experience of a lifetime

📍 Lae, PNG | Tracey Bridcutt

Want to join a mission experience of a lifetime? Adventists in the South Pacific are needed for a unique opportunity to bring people closer to Jesus.

An evangelistic campaign called "PNG for Christ" is set to take place in Papua New Guinea in 2024. This ambitious initiative will span across the entire country, encompassing 2000 evangelistic sites. For two weeks, from April 26 to May 12, nightly meetings will be conducted to engage and inspire individuals in their spiritual journey. While a significant number of preachers will be locals, there is a pressing need for additional volunteers from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands.

Not only pastors and evangelists are being sought, but anyone passionate about sharing the message of Christ is encouraged to sign up. Training and resources will be provided to equip all participants.

"Our primary goal is to bring people to the Lord—that is what PNG for Christ

is all about," said Pastor Gary Webster, director of the Institute of Public Evangelism at the South Pacific Division.

"We need at least three hundred preachers from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands. It's going to be an extraordinary and uplifting experience and I would encourage anyone interested to embrace this opportunity."

Recently, Pastor Webster visited Goroka in PNG to provide training to some of the preachers who will be actively involved in the 2024 campaign.

"The Spirit is moving in PNG and we know that countless souls will be brought to the kingdom through this event," he said. "So don't miss this opportunity to contribute to something truly special in bringing people closer to Jesus."

For more details and to register your interest contact Torika Laweloa at the Division office on +61 2 9847 3214 or <torikalaweloa@adventist.org.au>.





Inside view of one of the apartments.

## Pavilions named Australia's best for retirement

📍 **Nunawading, Vic** | Juliana Muniz

Pavilions Blackburn Lake, a luxury retirement village developed by the Victorian Conference (VIC), has been acknowledged nationally.

The new development has received two significant awards—Best Retirement Village Development and Best Luxury Retirement Village Development for 2023—from the Property Council of Australia at the annual gala event on June 22.

"Pavilions is the result of an approach that challenged the typical mindset of downsizing equalling downgrading. We wanted to make downsizing an upgrade," said Galen Gan, project lead for Pavilions and VIC infrastructure committee coordinator. This commitment to quality saw the team engage award-winning consultants and designers.

A focus on people, rather than just building form, is what Mr Gan believes sets Pavilions apart from other senior living facilities. He explained their goal is to make this the best retirement living experience for the residents.

When completed, Pavilions will comprise 126 apartments spread over seven residential buildings expected to accommodate more than 200 residents. Construction began in July 2018 with Stage 1 completed in December 2020. Stage 2 is due for completion in October 2023, while Stage 3 is set to begin in November 2023 and be completed in the first quarter of 2025.

The road to success has not been without challenges. Mr Gan notes, "The enemy did not want this project to happen—why would he? He threw everything at us to knock this project off course and deprive the Church of the mission potential that this project would bring."

Winning these two prestigious awards is a significant accomplishment for the Church and the team behind the project. "It is a surreal, humbling experience and a worthy recognition of all the many people who have worked so tirelessly for 15 years to make Pavilions the success that it is," Mr Gan said.

As for the future, Mr Gan sees quality, lifestyle-focused senior living facilities like Pavilions playing a crucial role.

According to Mr Gan, feedback from residents and the community has been very positive: "The greatest validation is when I bump into one of our residents and they tell me that moving to Pavilions was the best decision that they ever made." The local community, which was initially apprehensive, has warmed up to Pavilions, with locals frequently visiting the on-site Miss Lucy Café.

To find out more about Pavilions visit [pavilionsblackburnlake.com.au](http://pavilionsblackburnlake.com.au).

## making headlines

### Helping paws

Joinville Adventist Academy in Brazil organised a "Happy Pet Day" campaign, where students collected pet food and financial donations for two local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who rescue and protect pets in the area. They also organised an event in the local square, providing free pet services like veterinary check-ups, pet gifts, a dog agility course and kittens available for adoption. —SAD



### Penang's success

Penang Adventist Hospital in Malaysia has been named the Nuclear Medicine Service Provider of the Year 2023 in Asia Pacific. The award not only recognises the hospital's healthcare services but also demonstrates its unwavering commitment to embodying Jesus' healing ministries. —SSD

### 11,400 new believers

Seventh-day Adventist pastors throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) welcomed more than 11,400 new members through hundreds of baptismal ceremonies at churches, beaches, lakes and rivers on May 27. Coined as "Pastors Baptism Day", the event's aim was to highlight the primary mission of local church pastors to disciple members and lead people to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ through baptism. —IAD

### Buzz off mosquitoes

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem developed a repellent capable of reducing the number of mosquitoes feeding by 80 per cent. The results are considered so promising that further human studies are planned, with a view to having the coating approved by regulators ahead of commercial use. —The Guardian



## 1+1+1=1

Aiming to make theology approachable for children, Hillview church in Morisset (NSW) conducted a church service on June 18 exploring the concept of the Trinity or the idea that God is simultaneously Three in One. Themed 1+1+1=1, the program, led by children's ministry leader Bev Christian and assisted by Tiani Page, used simple and relatable object lessons to convey the complex idea to the young audience. Ms Christian created a mock laboratory setting to help illustrate the idea of unity in diversity. Using water, steam and ice—all different forms of the same molecule—she demonstrated the concept of separate entities being fundamentally interconnected. "Through this demonstration, the children began to grasp that the mystery of God surpasses human comprehension," said church member Mary Fedorow. —**Juliana Muniz/Mary Fedorow**



## Kingly honour

Beulah Adventist Primary School in Tonga has received royal recognition for its agricultural learning practices. During the Royal Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Trade Show on June 10, the King of Tonga, Tupou VI, presented Beulah with the top school award in the primary and middle school category for best practices in agricultural learning. Dr Elisapesi Manson, education consultant to Adventist schools in Tonga, received the award on behalf of the school. She commended Beulah school principal Melefatai Fukofuka and her team for their commitment to aligning the school to the Quality Adventist School Framework, which she said has been influential in paving the way toward this significant milestone. Integrating farm practices with Adventist education is seen as not only faith-building but also character building. —**Record staff**



## Fruitful visit

Sydney Adventist Hospital (San) said goodbye to their special international guests from Adventist HealthCare (AHC) in Washington, DC and Maryland, USA, on June 21. During their 10-day visit, ideas and experience were exchanged, fostering potential future collaborations. The San has a history of partnering with overseas hospitals to bring innovative concepts to Australia. To mark the end of their stay, the visitors, joined by the San's Executive team and doctors, enjoyed the scenic beauty of Sydney Harbour. —**Alexandra Ristway**



## Honesty is a virtue

Naha Adventist Primary School held a Spiritual Emphasis Week from May 15 to 19. Students from Kindy to Year 6 led morning worship with the theme "Honesty is a virtue of Adventist Education". They emphasised the importance of honesty in daily life, reaching out to others with these messages. Parents also participated, praising the students' presentations. Head teacher Wellington Soga thanked everyone for the successful program, urging continued prayers and sharing the good news with neighbours. —**TPUM news**





## Inspiring entrepreneur

Perth teenager Shamira Martinez, an inspirational Adventist entrepreneur, has been recognised for her remarkable contributions to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

She has received prestigious awards, including the Shine On Award from the Rotary Club of Southern Districts and the Ida Lloyd Fellowship Award for Inclusion from VisAbility.

Despite living with blindness, hearing impairment and spinocerebellar ataxia, Shamira (Sham) launched her inclusive business, Sham's Beauty Products, offering accessible and high-quality soaps, hand creams, bath soaks and scrubs.

Sham utilises assistive technology, such as the OrCam MyEye 2 and Phonak FM system, to enhance her independence and business operations.

With dedication to excellence, Sham crafts her products with natural ingredients, catering to diverse needs. Her customers have praised the outstanding quality of her creations, emphasising the positive impact of her accessible packaging featuring braille.

"The achievement I feel by being able to have my own business is huge. I can do things other people do in my way. It has opened up opportunities I didn't think were possible for me," said 18-year-old Sham, who attends Livingston Adventist church".

—Tracey Bridcutt

## have news to share?

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



## New health ambassadors

Kama Adventist Church in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, conducted what is believed to be the first 10,000 Toes ambassador training run by a local church in the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission from March 27 to 30. With a total of 73 participants, the training was run for church members from Kama and other neighbouring local churches. Participants had the opportunity to conduct risk assessments amongst themselves as a practical part of their training. Other practical sessions included therapeutic juice demonstrations. The event concluded with a graduation ceremony attended by two representatives from the Provincial Health Authority. Each of the 73 participants received 10,000 Toes certificates and ambassador badges. —Thomas Aliku Motou



## A voice for generations

The South Pacific Division (SPD) office at Wahroonga (NSW) took part in National Reconciliation Week from May 29 to June 1 with a line-up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander speakers for staff worship, training and presentations on this year's theme "Be a Voice for Generations". Additional to the thought-provoking presentations, 40 copies of the book *A House on Fire: How Adventist Faith Responds to Race and Racism* were gifted to staff throughout the week. "National Reconciliation Week should mean a lot to Adventists because we have been given 'the ministry of reconciliation' (2 Cor 5:16)," said SPD Adventist Missions director Dr Wayne Krause. "Reconciliation with First Nations brothers and sisters should not just be a one-week event but a high priority for us all the time," he added. —Juliana Muniz



# The year of jubilee 1960–1965

In 1960, the Adventist Church celebrated its “Jubilee” of 75 years of Adventism in the South Pacific. Specifically, the date referred to the first Sabbath school held in Australia on July 4, 1885. Seventy-five years later, on July 4, 1960, the *Australasian Record* released a “Jubilee Year Special” that was distributed in colour. We believe it to be the first issue of *Record* released in colour.

The cover of this issue showed an illustration of Ellen White’s vision of global evangelism. She saw lights spreading like stars, growing brighter as more lights were kindled. The whole world was illuminated by these lights. When questioned if these countries were named, Mrs White said, “I did not hear any names, except one. I remember the angel said, ‘Australia’.” Thirty-one years later, Pastor Ole Andres Olsen recalled Mrs White’s plea for Australia. She had foreseen people in Australia searching for truth and becoming a glorious people in God’s kingdom.

To celebrate the jubilee year, a combined, coordinated evangelistic endeavour—“the greatest that has yet been undertaken in this field”—was planned for the South Pacific. Each conference/union set themselves a goal to gain new members, with the overall number being 5000 “new souls” gained throughout the year. George Burnside, the ministerial secretary for the Australasian Division, wrote: “This Jubilee year is the year of opportunity. Five thousand baptisms in 1960 will give new life and strength to the church. This united purpose will fittingly celebrate the seventy-five years of advent preaching in Australasia. Let us as one go forward with one purpose to perform the one essential task.”

The Jubilee edition featured reports on the growth and progress of all church organisations and entities in the South Pacific Division. Here we share interesting snippets from three of these reports.

Treasurer of the Australasian Division, Pastor Eric Johanson, wrote:

“It was not long after the Advent Message came to this field that our people in Australia and New Zealand had placed upon them the privilege and responsibility of carrying it to what we have come to know as the island field of the South Pacific. And right loyally have they responded with both men and means, so that today we have something like 200 white missionaries in this area and a church membership of more than 37,500. Naturally, to maintain such a force requires a strongly supported and well-organised home base. This we have.”

President of the Bismarck-Solomons Union Mission, Pastor Eric Boehm, wrote:



“World War II interrupted the work but failed to destroy it. European missionaries were withdrawn, but national workers held the ship on its course. With the return of the white missionaries at the close of the war the mission was still found to be strong and flourishing. Post-war missionaries laboured to establish schools, first in the villages, then at higher levels. Aside from village schools a well-qualified training school for Christian workers now operates under the name of the Jones Missionary College. . . God has blessed His work in the Bismarck-Solomons Union Mission. Today, with a church membership of 8,084, every thirty-first person within its territory is a baptised believer, and its 16,095 Sabbath School members represent one Sabbath-keeper for every fifteen of the population. This year we have set ourselves an aim to baptise 900 souls.”

President of the Coral Sea Union Mission, Pastor John Keith, shared:

“Converts were not easily gained, for after forty years the fruitage was only forty. At the end of December 1959, we had a membership of 3,939 in Papua, and I am sure you rejoice with us in this wonderful growth and feel gratitude to those who sacrificed all to sow the seed for this harvest.” Statistics from 2021 have Papua New Guinea Union Mission at 1107 churches with a membership of 390,680.

Thanks to Adventist Statistics we have found the membership gain that the jubilee year evangelism drive was able to achieve. Unfortunately, they were just short of their goal of 5000 new members—gaining 4569 new members in 1960. Which is still an amazing achievement!



# News in

1885 saw the first converts accepting the Advent Message in this territory, Brother J. H. Stockton in Australia, Brother Edward Hare in New Zealand.

The first church building in Australasia was erected in Ponsonby, Auckland, as the result of a vigorous evangelistic tent mission conducted by Pastor A. G. Daniells in 1886.

The first camp-meeting held this side of the equator was convened in Napier, N.Z., in 1893. Eighteen tents were occupied by fifty-three people. Many others occupied rooms near by.

It was in 1900 that Pastor and Mrs. A. H. Piper, the first missionaries to leave these shores, sailed from Auckland, N.Z., for Rarotonga. Pastor E. H. Gates quoted this statement from the Spirit of prophecy in 1903: "Upon the Australasian field there rests the burden of carrying the message to many of the islands of the Pacific."

In 1892, Mrs. White declared: "The missionary work in Australia and New Zealand is yet in its infancy, but the same work must be accomplished in Australia, New Zealand . . . and the islands of the sea as has been accomplished in the home field," referring to America.

At that time there were 450 believers in the advent cause in this territory. The Spirit of prophecy predicted that workers would be trained in Australia for many missionary fields, especially those under the British flag.

Pastor J. E. Fulton, the Union Conference president, in 1910 reported a total membership of 4,047.

The total value of trade books sold from July 1, 1909, to June 30, 1910, throughout the Union Conference was £1,821.

For two years ending June 30, 1910, the sales of subscription books for Australasia were £23,604 for 46,146 volumes delivered.

In 1910 the membership of our 84 Young People's Societies in the Union was 1,764.

In 1910 the New South Wales Conference membership was 1,126 and the tithe receipts amounted to £5,251.

# Contrast

★ W. E. BATTYE

In this Jubilee Year of 1960 our membership has grown to 51,033.

Today we have 741 such buildings in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Seas, 30 of them in the Sydney area alone.

Now aside from other accommodation, North New Zealand alone requires 300 tents for its encampment.

Today, in fulfilment of this instruction, 198 European workers with hundreds of trained native evangelists span the South Pacific, proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Today we witness the expansion of the work over the whole of Australasia, with thousands annually accepting the message of the coming of the Lord.

At the present time 52 missionaries from these shores are serving in Africa, India, and the Far East, 34 of them in India and adjacent fields, thus fulfilling the prediction.

The latest reports reveal that some of our local conferences individually either approach or exceed this figure: Victoria, 4,319; North New Zealand, 4,115; Greater Sydney, 4,041.

At the recent Victorian camp-meeting, £2,410 worth of such books were sold in ten days!

During the past two years ending December 31, 1959, the number of book titles delivered was 144,351 for the sum of £424,837—truly big business for the King of kings.

Since then the JMV Societies have been formed. These, combined with the MV Societies, number 912, with 35,131 members.

The territory is now divided into three conferences—Greater Sydney, and North and South New South Wales, with a total membership of 9,222, and tithe income of £286,056. What a wonderful achievement in 50 years!





## Growing, Indigenous and Adventist

**T**he history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Australia's First Peoples is mixed, but it is one of growth and of growing towards reconciliation and Indigenous empowerment and leadership.

The first Adventist missionaries arrived in Melbourne in 1885, initially focusing on evangelism in Melbourne and Sydney. However, by 1897, their ever-widening mission led the small group of Adventists to set up a committee to explore how they might reach out to Aboriginal people in Australia and to the Pacific islands. As the Church grew, pastors and church members began to work with Aboriginal communities in Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

The first work of the Church with Aboriginal people is recorded in 1910 in the Kempsey region, including at Burnt Bridge and the Nulla Nulla Mission at Bellbrook, with photographs of campmeetings and evangelistic meetings suggesting that this work commenced earlier. A report of this work in *Australasian Record* in 1919 urged that Aboriginal people be trained to minister to their own people.

In 1913, the Church established Mona Mona Mission near Kuranda, which operated until 1962. Some of its students served as missionaries in Papua New Guinea in the 1930s. While the Church established Mona Mona with missionary intent, it increasingly worked in cooperation with the Queensland Government's regime of Aboriginal "protection" of that time. The Adventist Church made an apology in response to the report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families in 1997.

Karalundi Mission was established in 1954 in central Western Australia in response to a challenge by church member and Indigenous activist Ava Curley. Wiluna Mission was established the following year. Karalundi closed in 1974 but re-opened as an independent, Adventist-affiliated school in 1986.

In the late 1960s, a school was also established in the Macleay Valley (near Kempsey) to educate Aboriginal young people, and this region became a centre of the Church's "Aboriginal work". In 1975, George Quinlan—from Bellbrook—was employed as an assistant pastor in Kempsey and, in 1980, he became the first Indigenous person ordained as an Adventist pastor. He pastored across Australia and became a leading voice in Indigenous ministry.

Pastor Quinlan's years of ministry were closely connected to the formal development of Adventist ministry to Indigenous peoples, with the first publication of *Good News* magazine—

which continues today—and the establishment of the "Aboriginal work" as a department of the South Pacific Division, with the leadership of Pastor Bruce Roberts. In time, the department became known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) and transferred to the union level of church administration with the leadership of Pastor Eric Davey.

These ATSIM leaders, among other church leaders, sought to encourage the training of more Indigenous pastors and, in 1997, the first classes of what would become Mamarapha College were hosted at Carmel College in Western Australia. Mamarapha now has its own campus near Perth. Growing numbers of Indigenous pastors, Bible workers and community health workers now serve their communities across Australia as graduates of Mamarapha College.

With the creation of the Australian Union Conference, ATSIM was incorporated as a ministry department of the national leadership of the Church, with an advisory role for church leadership in relation to opportunities and issues affecting Indigenous peoples, as well as being a ministry department in most conferences in Australia. Five of these leadership roles are now filled by Indigenous pastors, including current ATSIM director Pastor Darren Garlett.

The Adventist Church's ministry to, for and then with Australia's Indigenous peoples grew slowly and has included missteps and mistakes. Some of these were characteristic of those periods of history, others were uniquely "Adventist". Yet the Adventist Church can be proud of ATSIM and its ongoing work as one of the fastest-growing ministries of the Church in Australia, making a valuable contribution to the faith, health and lives of First Peoples in cities, towns and remote communities across Australia. While Indigenous peoples comprise about three per cent of Australia's population, they are about six per cent of current Adventist Church membership.

In turn, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is enriched by the contributions of its Indigenous leaders, churches and members. Indigenous pastors now serve in a variety of ministry roles and cross-cultural contexts, and pastors and members serve on a number of church committees and advisories, making an ongoing contribution to the life and mission of our Church.

**Nathan Brown**

book editor at Signs Publishing and author of *Pastor George: The Story of the First Aboriginal Adventist Pastor*.



# FROM SLAVERY TO *freedom*



In the book of Isaiah, we encounter a profound chapter that reveals both the brokenness of humanity and the incredible love of God. Isaiah 59 paints a vivid picture of a society entangled in sin, injustice and spiritual separation. Yet, even in the midst of darkness, God's love shines through, offering hope, redemption and restoration. Here, we will dive into this chapter and explore how God's love motivates us to seek Him and be agents of transformation in the world.

Even though there is the barrier of sin—"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1 ESV)—we are not left to die! These words remind us that no matter how deep our sin or how distant we feel from God, His love and power is not limited. His hand is not too short to save us, and His ear is not dull to our cries for help. We can find comfort and motivation in knowing that God's love surpasses any barrier we may face. Even when we reap the consequences of sin—"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear" (Isaiah 59:2 ESV)—we have hope. Sin creates a separation between us and God. It disrupts our connection with Him and hinders our prayers from reaching His ears. However, even in the face of these consequences, we must remember that God's love remains constant. He longs for our repentance and desires to restore the broken relationship caused by sin.

It is God's initiative of love as seen in verse 15—"The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice" (Isaiah 59:15 ESV)—that brings about redemption and restoration. God's love for justice and righteousness is revealed in this verse. He sees the brokenness in our world, the injustices that grieve His heart. His love motivates Him to intervene on behalf of

the oppressed, to bring about change and restoration. As His children, we are called to reflect His love for justice and actively seek ways to make a difference in the world around us. The Redeemer's promise gives hope: "'And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,' declares the Lord" (Isaiah 59:20 ESV). Amidst the darkness, God gives us the promise of a Redeemer who will come and bring salvation. This Redeemer is Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's love for us. Through His sacrifice, we are offered forgiveness, redemption and the restoration of our broken relationship with God. This promise reminds us of the unfailing love God has for His people.

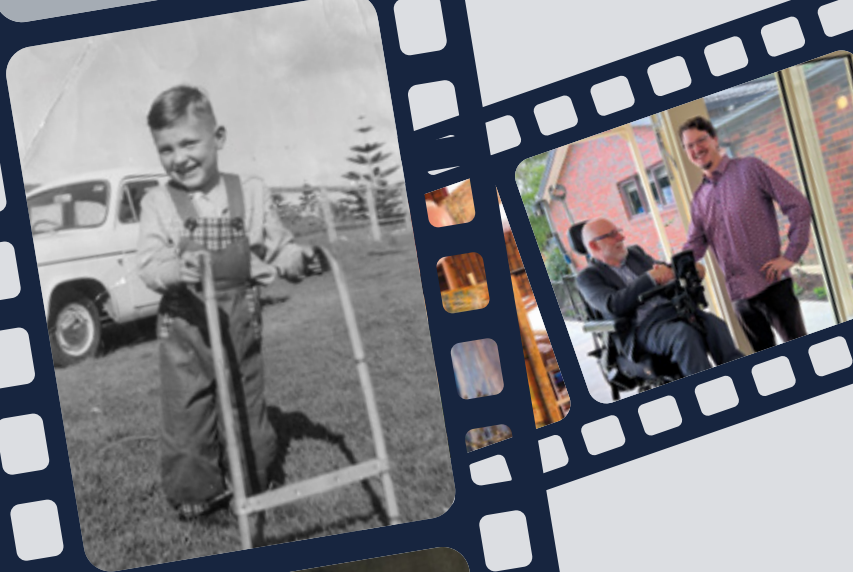
Isaiah 59 showcases the depths of human brokenness, the consequences of sin, and the longing for justice and righteousness. But more importantly, it reveals the unwavering love of God that transcends our failures and shortcomings. His love motivates us to seek repentance, to be agents of justice and righteousness, and to embrace the redemption offered through Jesus Christ. As we reflect on this chapter, let us be encouraged by the fact that God's love is not limited by our circumstances or the darkness around us. Let His love motivate us to extend grace to others, actively pursue justice and share the hope of the Redeemer with those who need it. In embracing God's love, we find the motivation to live lives that reflect His character and bring transformation to the world.

*This message is an excerpt from a sermon that appeared in the Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist Church (NZ) email newsletter on June 8.*

**Pastor Victor Kulakov**

NZPUC Discipleship pastor and Papatoetoe church elder.

# Just a man with CP



I have been living with cerebral palsy since the day of my birth—now almost 70 years ago. I am a twin. Fortunately, my twin brother was born without disabilities.

Over the decades perceptions of disability have changed. The change is reflected in the words we use to describe disability, regulations providing better access to buildings and, most recently, in the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia.

As a person living with cerebral palsy (CP), I am a keen observer of these changes. Great changes for the better have occurred in some





areas and I am a recipient of the improvements which the changes have brought about.

As a Christian, and a member of the Lilydale church in Melbourne, Victoria, I'm particularly grateful for the acceptance I have experienced in the church by all members of the congregation. Recently a teen Sabbath school leader invited me to speak to the teen group.

During my presentation I reflected on how I have been able to keep my faith in God despite my disability. Of course, it has not been an easy road. For some, this is considered sufficient reason to give up their faith in God. For me, it is even more reason to keep trusting in God—that is what faith is!

Too often people are ready to blame God for the things that happen in life that they see as unfair. God gets "bad press" so to speak.

Questions come to mind like: if God is a God of love, or if He even exists, how come He allows suffering in its many guises, including disability? Perhaps you regard this as a question which has no answer. You cannot reconcile the existence of disability with faith in God. It is an irreconcilable dilemma.

I believe that God did not cause my disability, but He allowed it to occur. He is Sovereign over it. My disability is not permanent. I only have it while I remain on this earth. In the new earth I will have a new body, bearing no trace of disability. Jesus has made this possible through the sacrifice He made for me.

Apparently CP is the most common physical disability in childhood, affecting at least 34,000 people in Australia and more than 17 million people worldwide. (See [cerebralpalsy.org.au](http://cerebralpalsy.org.au) for further information)

My disability belongs to me, I cannot cast it aside. Since it is mine, I must possess it with dignity and do the best I can with it. Each day gives me the opportunity to face life with an "attitude of gratitude". I'm known among my peers for my positive attitude to life.

I love these words from the Bible: "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9, KJV). This verse shows that my life can bring glory to God and that is my desire.

I do have times of frustration. I face daily challenges. But my God meets me in my daily circumstances and proves Himself faithful. This is why I can maintain my faith in a God who is faithful to me.

God is not vindictive, wishing to inflict punishment upon me in the form of a disability. Rather, He daily blesses my life with His abundant mercy and grace. He promises:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10, KJV). This gives me every reason to praise God.

Not everyone finds it easy to relate to a person with a disability, I know. This was the concern expressed in one of the questions asked by a teen at Lilydale. While there may be a

genuine desire to communicate with a disabled person, at the same time, there may be a reluctance to do so.

If this is your experience, you are not alone. Until you get to know someone, it's not easy to talk to them. If you really wish to know a disabled person, endeavour to draw them into your circle. The first step may be just a simple "Hello".

And if you know their name, use it. We are people with names. My name is a mark of my identity. One of the best things you can do for anyone you want to get to know is to pay attention to them; give them your time.

When you do this, you demonstrate the value you place upon them, just as Jesus Christ did. I would like to thank Lilydale church for its inclusive ministry. Those with "special needs" like me are also members of the Body of Christ. Your ministry demonstrates the value you place upon us, and the reality of Christ's love shown in love for one another.

What follows is a piece I wrote to illustrate how I have come to terms with the reality of living with CP and maintaining my faith in God.

## Just a man with CP?

Do you ever have those days when your mind drifts effortlessly to the time when you were a child? Those images play in your mind. You're the star on a movie set. The camera is rolling. Sometimes you wonder how you've ended up with this script and no time to learn your lines.

Did the Director get it wrong? The lines don't seem to fit. You need more time to rehearse your part and refine your skills. Then you realise you've been thrown in at the deep end. This is not a rehearsal; this is the real deal! The lines were written for you. You've passed the screen test!

It's an awesome privilege to be on the set. When you were first handed your lines, the innocence of childhood played its part. You were blinded to the complexities of the role you were set to play. You were a child after all. Life is good in Studio One. This is where the action is.

Then it dawns on you that there's another world out there. The door to Studio Two has been left open. The props are different. Where are the crutches, the wheelchairs, the callipers? Even the speech is different.

Suddenly, you have an overwhelming urge to be part of what's going on in Studio Two. The set seems better there, the lines easier to learn. And the props? Where are the props?

Does this describe how you sometimes feel about your life? You're in Studio One and you've drawn the short straw. The role you've been given is in a B grade movie. Why were you overlooked for a role on the set in Studio Two? Your lines would be easier if you were there, and the story make more sense; or so you think. Just hand me the script now.

In reality, the two worlds intersect. The characters in each production are part of the same story, but the role of each of us is unique and critical to the development of the story. Play your part well.

The Director has chosen you especially for your role. The camera is rolling! God bless you today.

**Geoffrey Panckhurst**  
writes from Ringwood, Victoria.

# Screen-free SABBATHS



I am from the last generation to have had an analog childhood—an “Xennial” (the micro-generation between Gen X and Millennials born between 1977 and 1983 who had an analog childhood and a digital young adulthood). Sometimes referred to as “The Lucky Generation”, we had a childhood without parents distracted by smartphones; where we had to wait a whole day or sometimes a week to watch the next episode of our favourite TV show, went shopping at the mall, chatted with our friends—in person, and were fortunate not to have our teenage years rendered into a digital record.

These days the first thing many of us do when we wake is

check our phones. We begin our day with the news, a quick scroll through a social media platform or two and then again at breakfast, on the toilet and, if possible, as we commute to work. Some of us then work on a screen all day and then come home to relax in front of a different screen. In the evenings we binge on Netflix to unwind, with our phones in hand to scroll Facebook and Instagram, while messaging friends or family. Then off to bed, not to sleep but to Google celebrities and online shop and maybe check Facebook one last time. Our smartphones allow us to have constant unrestrained access to information, entertainment and distraction.



It's an understatement to say the world has changed dramatically in the last few decades. John Mark Comer describes our digital reality as living in "a world of noise". In what now seems prophetic, in CS Lewis's brilliant satire, *The Screwtape Letters*, senior demon Screwtape calls the devil's realm a "Kingdom of Noise" and claims, "We will make the whole universe a noise in the end."<sup>1</sup> We are all fighting a daily battle with our screens for our time, focus and attention and whether you're a top executive or a stay-at-home mum, we all feel perpetually overwhelmed. That quiet childhood of mine was a last gasp of breath. We desperately need to develop healthy digital boundaries to keep from drowning.

For centuries, God's people have observed a weekly day of rest—the Sabbath. It was a day to look forward to when people worked long, hard days doing manual labour just to survive. Today though, many of us need a different kind of rest. More and more I am realising I need a Screen-Free Sabbath. One day out of seven where I can switch off the noise and be in the quiet. Instead of looking down (at my phone), looking up at God's beautiful creation. Instead of "liking" a Facebook post, practising hospitality, talking and laughing face to face with real-life friends; instead of watching another Netflix show, looking my husband and children in the eye and enjoying the precious time I have with them; instead of shopping online, sitting back in gratefulness for all God has blessed me with; instead of fuelling my fears and angst with the politics, crime and scandal of the news, I can pray for our leaders and communities and reflect on where God is at work in the world.

"How do you pray, read scriptures, sit under teaching at church, or rest well on Sabbath when every chance you get, you reach for the dopamine dispenser that is your phone?"<sup>2</sup>

"The great threat of the digital age is that it is robbing us of the capacity to be present."<sup>3</sup> What if Sabbath became a day of rest from the noise so that in the quietness, we could be present to God, to our own souls, to our kids, our spouses and to be present to what God is doing in our world?

Psalms 10:4 says, "In his pride, the wicked man does not seek Him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God."

A screen-free Sabbath gives us room for God. By turning off the noise we can hear the "still small voice" of God (1 Kings 19:12). When I fill every margin and spare minute with "noise" I cease to be able to tend to my soul. Moments of boredom are rare when my phone is within reach. I lose opportunities to imagine, dream, reflect, evaluate, process the highs and lows of each day and centre my life on God's truth.

Often, rather than sit with grief or loneliness or anger, I escape it with distraction and entertainment. A screen-free Sabbath allows me to be present not only to God but to my own soul.

As a parent, Sabbath is not always the day of rest I long for. I recently listened to Ruth Hayley Barton interview<sup>4</sup> her daughter Charity about keeping Sabbath with children and she spoke about the paradigm shift they had when they began to see Sabbath as a day to be present to their children.

"The greatest gift you can give the children in your world is your undivided attention,"<sup>5</sup> writes Sarah Boyd of Resilient Little Hearts. A screen-free Sabbath gives our children the gift of our time and presence as well as an opportunity for us

to enjoy our children. How many precious moments have I missed with my children by being on my phone? A screen-free Sabbath makes conditions perfect for those relationships that matter most, helping families make meaningful connections in a media-heavy world.

Finally, a screen-free Sabbath allows me to be present to what God is doing in the world—by listening to others with undivided attention and discerning the work of the Holy Spirit ever drawing each of us to our Heavenly Father.

The idea of a screen-free Sabbath is so simple it hardly needs any instructions, but I do have several suggestions. Firstly, you need to prepare for it. If you are planning to meet up with others, make a plan and let them know you are switching off for the day. Warn family and friends your phone will be off. Print off a map if you need it for any travel. And if you use your phone for music or a camera, get creative or old-school. I know some people who dig out the old CDs, cassettes or records on Sabbath or even play songs on their piano or guitar. Choose to go camera free on a Sabbath and just enjoy the view without needing to share the moment on Facebook. Some people have a Sabbath box that they symbolically put all their devices in for the Sabbath hours. I recommend, at the very least, switching all devices off and putting them out of sight. It sounds simple but it's harder than it seems. Our phones have become like an extra appendage. It's normal to feel a bit anxious, even naked without it and I have found it quite revealing how addicted I truly am.

Screen-free Sabbaths are a chance to prioritise our families and our wellbeing. They offer a sanctuary: a space in stressful times to be present and celebrate the joy of life beyond ad-supported screens.

Andrew Sullivan, in his hard-hitting and deeply inspiring piece on our digital age, writes, "If churches came to understand that the greatest threat to faith today is not hedonism but distraction, perhaps they might begin to appeal anew to a frazzled digital generation."<sup>6</sup>

Our generation of Sabbath keepers has a unique opportunity. We have an opportunity to be a prophetic witness to the life God has on offer—people of peace in a world of noise.

1. CS Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* (Collier Books, 1982), p120.

2. John Mark Comer, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2019), p122.

3. John Mark Comer Teachings Podcast: Unhurrying with a Rule of Life E4 "The Power of Quiet in a World of Noise" (December 16, 2022).

4. Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership with Ruth Hayley Barton Podcast: "Sharing Sabbath Presence Within Our Families" (Season 17, Episode 6).

5. Sarah Boyd, @resilientlittlehearts, June 18, 2020.

6. Andrew Sullivan, "I Used to Be a Human Being," *New York Times Magazine*, September 19, 2016.

*Adventist Media has created a new website on how Sabbath-keeping can lead to a healthier, happier life. Visit <Sabbathgift.info>.*

**Emma Dyer (nee Weslake)**

from Upper Hutt, NZ, is currently enjoying being a stay-at-home mum to her 5-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son.

# What are legumes and how to cook them?

While many of us are aware of the benefits of eating more fruits, veggies and wholegrains, the humble legume often gets overlooked!

Legumes are a powerhouse of nutritious goodness not to mention delicious, budget-friendly and easy to use. So, here's all you need to know about legumes, why they're good for you and how to use them.

## What are legumes?

"Legume" is a broad term that refers to all types of lentils, beans, pulses and peas from the Fabaceae (or Leguminosae) botanical family. These include chickpeas, butter beans, kidney beans, cannellini beans, lentils and soybeans (plus many more).

They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours—you can buy them canned or cooked, frozen or dried, and even ground into flours or made into milks. In fact, there are nearly 20,000 different species of legume.

## How do I cook legumes?

This all depends on how you buy them.

- **Tinned**—One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to enjoy them is by buying canned legumes so you have them on hand and ready to go whenever you need them. Simply drain, give them a quick rinse and they are ready to go!
- **Frozen**—You can also buy some varieties frozen and ready to cook such as peas and edamame.
- **Dried**—Not all legumes need to be soaked in advance. However, dried black beans, chickpeas, kidney beans, navy beans and white beans are among those that you will need to soak before you cook them. It helps them cook faster, more evenly and helps our bodies digest them.



- **Ready made** – You can buy a variety of tasty, ready-made legume dishes in your local supermarket including hummus, baked beans, tofu and ready-made veggie burgers.

## Are legumes good for you?

They can provide:

- Nutrients such as B vitamins, iron and zinc for energy, plus calcium and magnesium for bone and muscle health
- One of the best sources of plant protein
- Gut-friendly fibre, including prebiotics fibres to support a healthy digestive system
- Phytonutrients (powerful plant compounds) and are low GI

Research on legumes has linked regularly eating the humble bean to some big health benefits, including a reduced risk of heart disease and some cancers, better weight management and living longer.

## How often should I eat legumes?

You should try to enjoy a serve of legumes (approximately 100g) at least 2-3 times per week. But you don't need to stop there—if you're already enjoying legumes, try including them in more meals to make the most of their health benefits. A serve could be 1 cup of cooked kidney beans, ½ a can of drained chickpeas or about half a block of tofu.

**For more information and research references, you can read the full article at <[sanitarium.com](https://www.sanitarium.com)>.**



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# Conversations

## Capability of submission

Regarding “Agree to disagree” (Conversations, June 17), I believe there is another way to approach disagreements.

The poet John Keats coined the term “negative capability”, which he describes as “being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason”. Rather than coming to a set conclusion about an idea, Keats suggests one should rest in doubt and continue probing to understand the issue more completely. This fits in with the apostle Paul’s love chapter (perhaps written to address divisions in the Corinthian church), where he says “we know in part, and we prophesy in part”, looking towards the time when “that which is perfect is come” (1 Corinthians 13:9,10).

A similar sentiment is expressed in 1 Corinthians 4:5,6 (ESV): “Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart . . . that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favour of one against another.”

Keats developed this further with the idea of “capability of submission”, which describes humility, being ready to change your mind when further light is revealed. Clearly those who form firm opinions and go on to defend them are the least capable

of submission when further insights are offered, so perpetuating the disagreements. I find that generally, disagreements in the church are outside of the 28 Fundamental doctrines, and so can be classed as “minor matters” (about which Ellen White has much to say). Therefore, having doubts and being inconclusive on these “minor matters” is not advocating heresy, or “wavering” as in James 1:6. (Acknowledgements to Richard Gunderman, *The Conversation*, February 23, 2021).

Peter Tung, Vic

## Jesus gives us rest

Might I suggest it is Christ who transforms us and not the Sabbath (“God’s gift of the Sabbath”, June 3). It is in remaining in Christ the “true vine” that we “bear much fruit”, showing we have been transformed by the Holy Spirit’s indwelling and are His true disciples (John 15:1-8; Galatians 5:22-25). As the South Pacific Church embarks on the Sabbath Gift promotion, one must be very careful not to worship the Sabbath, while forgetting the “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8), as the Pharisees did.

It is interesting to note that the founder of the Christian church, Jesus Christ Himself, never preached a sermon on the gift of the Sabbath. He never spoke to the people of how wonderful it was and how blessed they would be if they shared in this gift.

In fact, in almost all cases of where the Sabbath is mentioned in the four Gospels, the Pharisees were the ones who brought up the Sabbath issue by confronting Christ on His acts of healing, casting out of demons and the actions of His disciples. It was these offences that led to them plotting His death (Matthew 12:14).

It might be worth challenging people to give Jesus a try rather than “giving the Sabbath a try”, because as Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:29, it is in fact “Jesus Christ who gives us rest”.

Instead of making a big deal about the “gift of the Sabbath”, why not make a big deal about the God who gave us the Sabbath. In doing so we might avoid falling into the Pharisees’ trap of allowing the Sabbath to become an idol of the heart, while being blind to the teachings, principles and practices of the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. It is a personal, day-by-day, moment-by-moment relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit that enables us to represent the God of the universe to the people of this earth.

What a privilege that is.

Surely encouraging this personal engagement will do far more to bring about revival and growth in His church, than focusing on what we do on one day of the week. Christ wants us to be at rest in Him on every day of the week. This is the real gift.

David Lawson, WA

# Hello Kids!



We discover God's purpose for our lives.



## GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

Noah and his family spare no effort in trying to convince the people to join them in obedience to God's word. Finally they have no alternative but to enter the ark and leave the others to their own choices. It must have been a difficult decision to make, and yet Noah understood that God has both a plan for salvation and a plan for destruction. The choice to be saved or destroyed is left to the individual. Noah chooses to encourage those around him, no matter what their choice.

### MEMORY VERSE

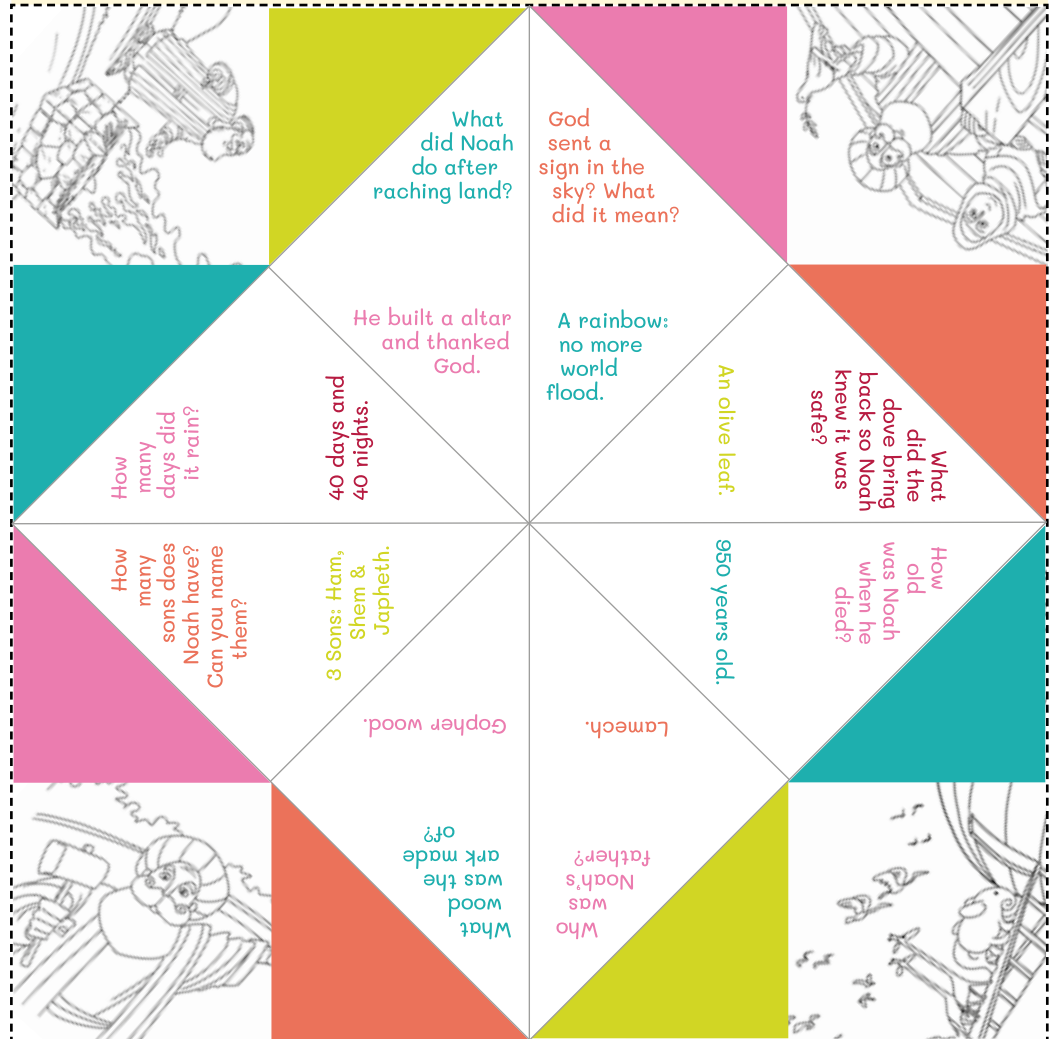
"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"

(1 Thessalonians 5:9, 11).

WORD  
sCrAmBLE

## ORIGAMI Chatterbox

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINES & FOLD: Fold the square in half, both ways. Fold each corner to the middle. Flip it over and do the same thing on the other side. Fold in half and unfold. You can now put your thumb and forefinger inside the square pockets to move the chatterbox! If you have never made a chatterbox before, look up some folding instructions on YouTube or ask someone older.



Unscramble all the clue words.  
Take the letters that appear in the circles and place them in order to find the answer to the phrase.

God sent a rainbow as His

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

there will never be a world-wide flood again.

1. CLUE  
Humans

PPEELO

ETWRA

3. CLUE  
Colours

OINWRBA

NAAMA

5. CLUE  
2 by 2

SMAALIN

DSVAE

VIDEO

2. CLUE  
Wet

4. CLUE  
Noah's Wife

6. CLUE  
delivered

7. CLUE  
Bird



## Obituaries

**CUTTING**, Dean, born 2.1.1939 in Mile End, Adelaide, SA; died 30.11.22 in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide. Dean is survived by his wife of 31 years, Maureen; children, Geoff, Jen, Glenn, Deanne and Jacque; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Dean's funeral service was held at Trinity Gardens church. He was a kind and reliable man, who possessed tremendous strength of character. In his final weeks Dean gave his life to Jesus and urged others to do the same. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and we look forward to being reunited at the resurrection day.

Maureen Cutting, Hugh Heenan



**ROBERTS**, James (Jim), born 22.7.1928 in Sydney, NSW; died 1.6.23 in Wyong Hospital. On

31.10.1955 he married Esma Brown, who predeceased him in early 2004. He was also predeceased by a child and two grandchildren. On 18.9.05 he married Mima Burgher. He is survived by his wife (Cooranbong); children, Anthony and Maree

(Donvale, Vic), Sherrie (Blackburn) and Rodney (Bonnells Bay, NSW); and four grandchildren and their partners. Jim was an accountant who gave a lifetime of service to the Church, working for Sanitarium in Windsor (Vic), Newcastle, Perth and Lewisham. In 1970 he became secretary-treasurer of the South Australian Conference followed by the Victorian Conference before becoming property manager at the South Pacific Division until his retirement in 1992. Throughout his retirement, Jim continued to maintain a vital interest in his local church, holding numerous volunteer roles.

Ian Howie



**ROSE**, Joyce Yvonne (nee Jenkins), born 13.7.1933 in Brisbane Qld; died 19.5.23 in Coopers Plains. On

26.3.1959 she married Barry, who predeceased her in 2008. She is survived by her son, Kelvin and Anita (Algester); daughter, Marea and Graham Benard (Murwillimbah, NSW); and brother, Ron Jenkins (Rosedale, Qld). Joyce loved her family and her Lord with an unflinching love. She looked forward to seeing them again when Jesus comes to claim His own.

Bob Possingham, Neil Tyler



**TANNER**, Ella Florence, born 4.4.1942 in Windsor, NSW; died 26.5.23 in Bundaberg, Qld. On 6.12.1964 she married Reg at Parramatta church. Ella is survived by her husband (Bundaberg); children, Martin and Michelle (Whyalla, SA) and George and Rosie (Brisbane, Qld). She attended Avondale College from 1960-1962. She lived in Kellyville, Merrylands, Crosslands, Taree (NSW) and Bundaberg (Qld). Ella was very active in church and community work. She is now awaiting the resurrection morning.

Ernie Wojnar

## SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON ON AUDIO CD

Christian Services for the Blind produces an audio CD of the Sabbath school lesson quarterly for those with vision impairment. If you or someone you know could benefit from this free service please contact us. Phone: +61 (0)2 9847 2296. Email <csfbhi@adventistmedia.org.au>. Post to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

## AVONDALE FAMILY FUNERALS

offer a comprehensive funeral service, personalised with utmost care, compassion and respect to communities from Sydney to Newcastle. As committed Adventists, our family is here to guide you every step of the way. Contact Mark Windus on 0411 797 854 or <director@avondalefamilyfunerals.com.au>.

## Advertisements

### BOWRAL ADVENTIST CHURCH

Celebrating centennial anniversary, October 6-7, 2023. All previous pastors and church members are invited to join us for this special event. Any historical contributions are appreciated. Please contact Pastor Evonn Reyno <evonnreyno@adventist.org.au>.

# join us for an Online Prayer Gathering

11th August 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

## Presenters



**Dr Nick Kross**  
SPD Public Affairs &  
Religious Liberty



**Greg Young**  
Director ADRA  
South Pacific



**Leonard Sumatau**  
PNGUM General  
Secretary



**Igor Radonjic**  
SPD Legal Counsel





## Positions Vacant

### **SIGNS PUBLISHING COMPANY WARBURTON, VIC**

Signs Publishing Company, part of Adventist Media, is a print, publishing and distribution organisation seeking to fill a number of full-time positions based at its manufacturing site in Warburton, Victoria.

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PREPRESS TECHNICIAN**

Signs Publishing is seeking to employ a person in the role of graphic designer and prepress technician. This is an opportunity for someone to extend their design and/or workflow skills in a busy production environment using industry-standard software to create and prepare artwork for a variety of purposes, including in both printed and digital formats. This role will utilise prepress software, digital workflow principles, proofing equipment, colour-management systems and platemaking equipment. Web design and electronic publishing skills would be considered an advantage. A willingness to learn and work across various areas is essential.

#### **OFFSET PRINTING TRADESPERSON OR APPRENTICE**

Signs Publishing is seeking to employ an experienced offset printer or an individual looking to undertake an apprenticeship in offset printing. This is an opportunity for a print tradesperson to extend their skills using large-format Heidelberg printing equipment in a modern production plant, or for a suitable person to undertake training as an offset printer. As a printer, you will have experience running and maintaining multi-colour sheet-fed presses and have exceptional colour-management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines. You will have mechanical aptitude, be willing to learn new skills and be flexible, as some shift work may be required. This role involves working with a variety of machinery and includes manual handling of both light and heavy items. You will need to have a reasonable level of fitness and be willing to submit to a pre-employment assessment. A forklift licence is an advantage.

#### **PRINT-FINISHING MACHINE OPERATORS**

Signs Publishing is looking to employ persons to operate a variety of print-finishing equipment in our bindery department. This role involves the set-up and operation of cutting, folding, stitching and gluing machinery. Mechanical aptitude and a willingness to learn are essential for this role. The successful applicants will have either a trade certificate in print finishing or be willing to learn how to operate various print finishing equipment. If required, training is available to the right candidate. This role involves working with a variety of machinery and includes manual handling of both light and heavy items. You will need to have a reasonable level of fitness and be willing to submit to a pre-employment assessment. A forklift licence is an advantage.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The successful applicants for all roles will have a commitment to producing high-quality work, be customer focused with high attention to detail and have a genuine interest in fulfilling the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Training will be provided as required to the successful applicants. Applicants should ensure that they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for any position. Adventist Media reserves the right to fill vacancies at its discretion and to close applications early. These roles are also advertised on the <adventistemployment.org.au> website. For further information or to learn more about these roles email <lesley.wood@signspublishing.com.au> or call +61 3 5965 6300 during business hours. Applications should be emailed to <lesley.wood@signspublishing.com.au>. **Applications close August 1, 2023.**

### **DIRECTOR MISSION INTERGRATION—SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL WAHROONGA, NSW**

An outstanding mission leadership position is available at Adventist Healthcare (AHCL). This role is responsible for leading our mission team, who are entrusted with the role of faithfully articulating, promoting and integrating our Adventist mission into the operations of our large and vibrant healthcare community. We are a healthcare leader and your role will truly make a difference by influencing the culture and heart of who we are. If you have a deep understanding of the principles of and strategies for mission integration (ideally in a healthcare setting) and can articulate Adventist Christian beliefs and enliven the AHCL mission, then this could be the role you have been waiting for. We offer a competitive salary and exceptional employee benefits. Please email your resume to <CEO@sah.org.au> to apply or to request more information/copy of the position description.

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