

A large, white, stylized letter 'R' is positioned in the upper left corner of the image. The background is a photograph of a man with a beard and a young girl with curly hair, both smiling and embracing each other. The man is wearing a brown shirt, and the girl is wearing a light purple shirt.

# R

## God's Little Messenger

How a child's faith left a legacy <sup>14</sup>

Sabbath Gift reaches 1.4 million <sup>5</sup>

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Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

ADVENTIST HERITAGE

# Adventist Heritage MONTH

## Events OCTOBER 2023

7 October

Picnic on the Lawns at Sunnyside

14 October

Record 125 Anniversary, Wahroonga

20 October

Sunnyside Sabbath Singalong  
with Sandra Entermann

Sabbath  
Singalong

21 October

The Great Appointment 2.0  
The South Pacific  
Pathfinder Honour, Kahoot  
+ special guests

29 October

E G White Symposium

Daily Devotionals sign up @  
[heritage.adventistchurch.com](https://heritage.adventistchurch.com)



[heritage.adventistchurch.com](https://heritage.adventistchurch.com)



EDITOR'S NOTE:

## Leaving a Legacy

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“  
We can leave a  
legacy by the simple,  
everyday things we do.

Legacy. I've been thinking a bit about it in connection to a few special projects I've been working on this year. Firstly, there is the upcoming celebration for 125 years of *Adventist Record*. Also, the broader Adventist Heritage Month in October and editing the connected daily devotional (see page 7 for details). I'm honestly so excited for you to read all the entries—the unbelievable true and sometimes unreported stories of faithfulness, dedication and conviction.

My maternal grandparents became Adventists around 1950. They fairly much headed straight to Avondale before devoting their lives to working for the Church, in the mission field and at home—well into retirement, volunteering in remote churches like Port Pirie, SA and Lord Howe Island.

My paternal grandparents both studied at Avondale. My grandfather worked almost his whole adult life for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. I remember he never went anywhere without his Bible and Sabbath school lesson. Further back on that side, my ancestors arrived in Australia as faithful Lutherans fleeing from religious persecution.

Faithful heritage is no guarantee of anything. As Jesus told Nicodemus, we all need to be born again (John 3). God has no grandchildren. Yet, reading these stories, remembering my own family history, is an important reminder of exactly how much impact our actions and decisions can make on our lives and the lives of those who come after us.

Remembering is an important theme in the Bible. The word “remember” as listed in the fourth commandment, is found 232 times in the Hebrew text.

These memories come from the legacy of faith we've been passed. From stories of sacrifice and mission, my parents' regular church attendance, Adventist education and the Avondale experience. These were legacies I was gifted by my parents, their parents and those who came before me.

But what about my life. What does my legacy look like? My wife and I are in the thick of raising our family. How will my life and faith contribute to that of my friends, acquaintances, children, siblings—everyone I'm connected with?

We need to understand the impact of our choices and the examples we set each and every day. Don't take what I'm saying the wrong way. I'm not trying to put extra pressure on or guilt anyone into feeling like they're not achieving enough, not working hard enough.

We can leave a legacy by the simple, everyday things we do. Being an encouraging presence in our workplace by smiling and listening to people, adding a word of hope where we can. We can be loyal, dependable, faithful to keep our word when we give it. We can be generous, giving to those in need, to friends and family of our time, talent and treasure. We can pray every day for opportunities to fill a need.

Like the Sabbath school song says, we can read our Bibles and pray every day to be filled with the Holy Spirit. His presence in our lives will overflow to those around us and impact them in a lasting way.

In these ways we can leave a lasting legacy, not by building a pyramid to be remembered for, but by building good practices.

Often at a funeral, you hear about how the deceased made someone feel, not how many projects they completed, how much money they made or raised, how many things they built.

If I make the big, difficult decisions in my life by answering the question, “How can I glorify God and do His will in this situation?”, I've provided the baseline for leaving a legacy to be proud of.

But all of my interpersonal relationships, my little choices and interactions each day, can also make a huge difference in the lives of those around me.

Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to “not grow weary in doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Joshua and Moses both had legacies that shaped nations and both, at the end of their lives, addressed the people calling them to have courage, not forget the way the Lord led them and to remember His promises. If we can do the same, we too can leave a legacy.





INSIGHT:

## Church planting everywhere

Glenn Townend  
South Pacific Division president

Two Seventh-day Adventist families had been living in high-rise apartments in north Noumea when their local pastor challenged the whole church to serve those around them. These two families visited everyone in the apartments. This took months but as they visited, they took people shopping, cared for children so parents could make appointments, listened and helped.

On the ground floor of one of the apartments they befriended an older man who had disabled grandchildren. The man was so thankful for their support he wanted to have regular prayer. He asked spiritual questions and the Adventists were able to give him good biblical answers—just by reading the Bible with him. This man knew everyone in the high-rises and offered his house as a place for Bible study on Sabbath—he invited everyone to participate.

When I visited this group named “Jerusalem”—because it is reaching people at home (Acts 1:8)—they’d been meeting for 14 months. The local police said that crime has gone down. Four people, including the man who opened his home, have been baptised. An elder, trainee elder and local people are leading this new church that is largely full of the local indigenous Kanak people.

Sione was a pianist for an Adventist church in American Samoa because they did not have one. They paid him well to lead in the music part of worship. Sione always stayed for the sermons and as he listened he began to question his beliefs and explore what the Bible said about the truth in Jesus. As he read and talked with the Adventist members and pastor he decided to give his life to Jesus in baptism and become an Adventist. The church he played for was a long way from his home. He continued to play for other denomination church services on Sundays. Eventually he and his family donated some land to build a new Seventh-day Adventist church where they live. Today, because of a weekly visitation program in the local neighbourhood and strong biblical preaching, this church has grown to more than 70 members. I don’t have space to tell you about all the new churches I’ve recently visited in many of the countries of the South Pacific. God is definitely creating a church planting movement in places. I am humbled and grateful when I see this.

**Record Live**  
*with Jarrod and Zanita*

As seen on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, Record Live now has a podcast. Just search Record Live Podcast on your favourite podcasting platform to hear an interesting interview every week.



Short videos share the benefits of the Sabbath. The videos can be viewed at <sabbathgift.info>.

## Sabbath Gift reaches 1.4 million

📍 Wahoonga, NSW | Record staff

More than 1.4 million people have viewed positive messages about the Sabbath as part of an innovative social media campaign launched in the South Pacific Division (SPD) in June.

The Sabbath Gift initiative has been designed to draw attention to the benefits of the Sabbath as a time of rest and restoration, community and connection in today's stressful, fast-paced and isolated world. And, most importantly, to share that the Sabbath is a gift from a loving God. The promotion encourages Adventists from across the South Pacific to create and share a simple video clip on their platforms, highlighting their personal connections and experiences with the Sabbath. Participants are also encouraged to share others' content and to pray for the promotion's success.

Since its launch, the promotion has drawn nearly 20,000 people to the Sabbath Gift website, which serves as a central hub for engagement. On this platform people can register to participate in a four-week Sabbath Challenge, where they're invited to try the Sabbath and experience its benefits. So far 53 people have joined the challenge.

A series of four webinars were held in July. These live events delved into various aspects of the Sabbath's benefits, featuring topics such as its impact on health, disconnection from daily stressors, foster-

ing community and spiritual significance.

Most recently, there has been an opportunity to partner with Adventist Schools Australia to engage school communities and help students understand the benefits Sabbath can bring to their lives.

A further addition to the promotion is the launch of a *Sabbath Gift* sharing book by Dr Bruce Manners—to be sent to conferences and churches in November.

The inspiration behind the promotion stemmed from a study conducted by McCrindle research company in 2022. The research highlighted a lack of awareness about the Seventh-day Adventist Church among Australians and New Zealanders, with only 4 per cent considering the Church as relevant in the 21st century. Most people also expressed a lack of understanding about what Adventists believe and how we are different to other churches. One of the study's key recommendations was to clearly communicate the core beliefs and principles of the Adventist Church.

"When looking at what to communicate, the seventh-day Sabbath stood out as being positive and relevant, and something that could harness appeal in a society that is struggling with burnout, depression and isolation," said SPD communication director Tracey Bridcutt.

To discover more about the Sabbath Gift go to <sabbathgift.info>.



San CEO Brett Goods speaking at the Homecoming service at Wahoonga Adventist Church.

## Homecoming service celebrates the 120-year history of the San

📍 Wahoonga, NSW | Alexandra Ristway/Record Staff

Past and present Sydney Adventist Hospital workers gathered at Wahoonga Adventist Church on Sabbath, August 19 for the annual San Homecoming service. This year marked a celebration of the 120-year history of the hospital and especially honoured nursing graduates of 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2013.

Citations were awarded to Maurie Ibbott and Diana Martin in recognition of longstanding and exceptional service at the hospital. Four alumni were also

honoured: Daphne Misbrenner (1963), Thelma Woods (1953), Rose-Marie Radley (1953) and Enid Webster (1943).

"The San's existence would not have been possible without the innovative and progressive spirit of our visionary leaders," said San CEO Brett Goods. "From their stories we learn how—in spite of obstacles—they were able to bring people together to enact progressive change and ultimately transform the state of health care in NSW and further afield."



The volunteers at Namtipsavan Bilingual School.

## AUC launches first STORMCo trip to Laos

📍 Xiangkhoang, Laos | Kimberley McMurray

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia took a small group of seven volunteers on a STORMCo mission trip to Laos from July 7 to 21.

Service To Others Really Matters (STORMCo), an initiative run by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) youth ministries, has been running for more than 30 years internationally and across Australia.

The mission trip was the first of its kind to be held in Laos, as part of the AUC's Global Mission Partnership Program. The group was hosted by Phon-sivan's Namtipsavan Bilingual School, a kindergarten, primary school—up to grade 3—and an English language centre located in Xiangkhoang Province. While there, the team conducted a STORMCo/VBS program for the 60-70 junior and teen young people in attendance.

"Each day began with team members being immersed in classrooms teaching English," said Pastor Murray Hunter, AUC associate ministerial. "The afternoon was filled with singing, stories, games, craft, as well as the team being taught the finer points of traditional Lao cooking!"

"This first STORMCo mission was a resounding success despite the challenges that can present themselves while ministering in a country that is 95 per cent Buddhist and communist controlled," said Pastor Hunter. "It's hoped that this trip will be the first of many that will leave our shores to go and help the Church spread the gospel respectfully and sensitively in a country full of opportunity and possibility."

Planning for three STORMCo mission trips to Laos in 2024, the AUC also aims to send volunteers annually to the region.



Pastor John Bradshaw is the presenter.

## Hope Channel NZ and local churches partnering for innovative new series

📍 Auckland, New Zealand | Tracey Bridcutt

For the first time Hope Channel New Zealand is partnering with local churches in an innovative evangelistic series titled *Unbreakable Hope*.

Launched on September 24, the series features long-time *It Is Written* presenter and New Zealand-born pastor John Bradshaw. Broadcast on both free-to-air TV and digital platforms, the primary objective is using media to connect with the community through local churches.

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i said it's an exciting initiative that virtually all local churches in both the north and south islands are participating in.

"It's something we haven't tried before, and we believe it will produce not only baptisms but opportunities for planting new groups and new churches in places where we don't have a presence. So I think this is just the beginning of something significant in New Zealand."

*Unbreakable Hope* encompasses eight episodes, with the initial six airing on Hope Channel over six weeks. Each episode will be repeated at various times

over the seven days, before transitioning to the next episode the following week. This is designed to capture as much of the viewing audience as possible.

The last two episodes have been produced to show in churches, facilitating a connection between Hope Channel and the local church environment. Viewers are directed to participating local churches via the *Unbreakable Hope* website. Additionally, they are able to take advantage of free offers featured throughout the episodes via a text-based service, thus enabling ongoing conversations with the new contacts.

"Our church families were encouraged to share the program in their communities, and on their own social media profiles, as well as thinking through what they can do in the lead up, so that when people walk through their doors—or make contact—as churches we are ready to receive them," said South New Zealand Conference president Pastor Ben Martin.

For more details and viewing times visit <bit.ly/3LhiVUj>.





Adventist Heritage Month will feature several events and a special daily devotional.

## Adventist heritage celebrated with events throughout October

📍 **Wahroonga, NSW** | Jarrod Stackelroth

This year, the South Pacific Division (SPD) is celebrating Adventist Heritage Month in October by holding a number of events and compiling a daily devotional. Church members can take part in these events in different ways in their local churches or as individuals as many of the programs will be livestreamed.

"Heritage Month allows us to delve into and connect with our story—with daily devotionals, events and programs each weekend which all link to our heritage," said David Jones, Adventist Heritage director.

On the first Sabbath in October there will be a picnic for church members on the grounds of *Sunnyside*, Ellen White's former home in Cooranbong, NSW, however those who are not locals are being encouraged to join their church family and friends for a picnic, wherever they are.

On October 14, Wahroonga church will host the 125th anniversary of *Adventist Record*, as the publication's rich history of reporting on mission will be celebrated and the publication rededicated.

The weekend of October 20 and 21 will be The Great Appointment 2.0 with an event at Avondale University, a Sunnyside Singalong on the Friday night, and the launch of a new Pathfinder honour.

On the final Sunday of October, the second instalment of the Ellen White Symposium will be streamed online, featuring a number of high-quality presentations on how Ellen White relates to contemporary Adventism.

The daily devotional and other parts of the month have been worked on as a joint effort between Adventist Heritage, *Adventist Record* and the SPD's ministry and strategy team.

"You may be wondering what Adventist heritage has to do with vision and strategy in ministry," said Sven Östring, the SPD director of Ministry and Strategy. "Remember what Ellen White herself said: *We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.* As you dive deep into the faith journey of your family, the lives of other people around the Pacific, and in the history of our Adventist Church, you will find fascinating and encouraging stories. These stories will motivate and inspire you to courageously step out with Jesus on His mission and become actively involved in His thriving disciple-making movement."

For more information and to sign up for the devotional, visit <heritage.adventistchurch.com>.

## making headlines

### Cartons to cosy homes

An Adventist school in Brazil has collected more than 4300 milk cartons to be used to insulate the homes of those who live in houses made from scraps of wood that suffer from the area's harsh climate. The students not only collected the cartons but also did all the work of sanitising them and cutting them up to make the plaques.—**ANN**



### 7 Adventists, 1 epic trail

CNN has posted a news story highlighting the exploits of an Adventist family of seven hiking the longest and most famous trail in the United States—the Pacific Crest Trail—which stretches from the border of Mexico through to Canada. In 2020, the Netteburgs and their then four kids (the youngest aged four) hiked the Appalachian Trail, which crosses the US east coast from north to south, in seven months.—**AR**

### Fruitful future

ADRA is kicking off its 40th anniversary celebrations in Africa by planting 40,000 fruit trees across Zimbabwe. "ADRA is dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and raising awareness on the impact of climate change," said Judith Musvosvi, ADRA Zimbabwe director. "Fruit trees have been specifically chosen for this effort because they are less likely to be chopped down in the future."—**ADRA**

### Cry-free cooking

Crying over onions could be a thing of the past with a new variety available that promises to be "tearless". Scientists have crossbred existing onions that were naturally less irritating to create onions that have fewer of the enzymes that cause tears and irritation.—**ABC News**



## Strategy talks

ADRA leaders from across the South Pacific Division and ADRA International recently met to consider strategic priorities and direction. The discussions, facilitated by ADRA South Pacific, welcomed 30 attendees, including ADRA International president Michael Kruger. Central to the discussions was a review of the ADRA network strategic framework for the 2023–2028 quinquennium. Developed by ADRA International in consultation with the broader ADRA network, the framework identifies three strategic themes: Collective Impact, Faith and Values, and People and Systems. “The next step for our South Pacific leaders is to contextualise and apply the strategic framework to their specific territories,” said ADRA South Pacific director Greg Young.—**Tracey Bridcutt**



## Legacy of humility

Hundreds gathered at the funeral service for former Fiji Mission (FM) president Pastor Tom Osborne on August 17. Members from across FM, faculty and students from Fulton Adventist University College and families from various regions gathered to pay their respects and reflect on his legacy. Speaking at the funeral, one of Pastor Osborne’s sons, William, said, “His passing was unexpected, but we understood the impermanence of life.” His daughter Georgina reflected on his dedication: “despite his commitments, he always made time for our family”. Commenting on Pastor Osborne’s character, former FM secretary Joe Talemaitoga said Pastor Osborne was known for his humility and consistent character. “He was a humble man with a great sense of humour,” said Mr Talemaitoga.—**Lepani Dakai/Juliana Muniz**



## Health boost

Western Highlands Mission’s (WHM) health department recently reopened an aid post in Omben, Avi village, Jiwaka Province of Papua New Guinea. The post had been closed for more than 30 years due to management issues and other concerns. During its closure, the Avi community, with a population of more than 10,000 people, had to travel several kilometres to access medical care. “Through this service, we (the Mission) are expressing our gratitude to God,” said WHM health director Anitha Kup.—**Ronald Luke**



## San Steppers

A team from the San joined the thousands of competitors who stepped out for this year’s City2Surf fun run in Sydney on August 13. Twenty-two “San Steppers” participated in the annual race from Sydney’s CBD to Bondi Beach, a distance of 14 kilometres. It was not only a test of their fitness, but the event also gave the runners an opportunity to fundraise for charity. The team raised more than \$A14,000, which will contribute significantly to supporting the vital services and programs provided by the San Foundation.—**Alexandra Ristway**





## Marijuana burned

A group of five young men from the Olgai Walile tribe in Imbounngu district, Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, publicly gave up their addiction to marijuana and were baptised on August 26.

The young men were heavily addicted to smoking marijuana and used to cultivate the plant alongside other crops in their backyards and gardens.

After making the decision for baptism, the group decided to burn their marijuana crops. The burning was a public event, witnessed by their community, including church members, the local police force and friends, some of whom also used marijuana.

Impacted by the group's initiative, some of their friends who witnessed the burning event have also chosen to leave their addiction and be baptised, with a ceremony planned for September 16, on World Pathfinder Day, as of the time this article was written.

The baptism on August 26 was a direct result of a year-long program run by the Kerenda Seventh-day Adventist Church. The initiative, part of the church's Total Member Involvement (TMI) program, focused on small group evangelism.

Now, as official members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the group is "focused on receiving *theopneustos*"—or God's inspired word—and is "committed to make faith a constant part" of their lives.—**Juliana Muniz**

## have news to share?

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



## Ordained to share God's love

The Longburn Adventist College chapel in New Zealand was filled on Sabbath, August 12, for the ordination service of Pastor Midori Ierome. Church members, pastoral colleagues, family and friends gathered in person and online for the special occasion. Starting full-time ministry in 2019, Pastor Ierome ministered first in Hawkes Bay before pastoring the Fielding and Mosaic Adventist churches while also a chaplain for Palmerston North Seventh-day Adventist School. During the ordination service, his wife Temu was acknowledged as an important support to his ministry. Their four children also participated in the service. Considering his calling, Pastor Ierome said, "my desire is to deepen my relationship with Jesus and passionately share the love of God and the hope found in Him through both my words and actions".—

**Plugin**



## Sharing hope

Harvey Adventist Church in Perth (WA) held a "Great Assembly" afternoon on August 12 in preparation for distributing *The Great Controversy* to every home in the rural town. Many hands worked together to apply "with compliments" labels and pack the books in preparation for delivery. Volunteers stayed for an evening of prayers, testimonies, Bible readings and hymns. On August 20, a team of around 40 volunteers arrived early, ready to roll out the delivery to 1500 homes in the community. Groups of 10 armed with maps completed the roll-out in less than three hours while others remained at the church to pray for God's protection over the volunteers and every book distributed. According to personal ministries director Graham Weir, seeing the church members fully united in the project was a thrilling experience.—**Megantha Kiruwi**



# Writing one's own obituary (1985–1990)

## RECORD

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Another period of progression for the magazine—during this time, the name changed from the rather wordy *Australasian Record and Advent World Survey* to the no less wordy *South Pacific Record and Adventist World Survey* when it was voted in 1985 to rename the region the South Pacific Division. By 1987, the publication had shifted again to be known simply as RECORD, a much simpler designation.

In the last issue we detailed the coverage of the Chamberlain case and in this time period (March 1, 1986), we find this note in Flashpoint: “WE WISH we could tie a yellow ribbon round each copy of the RECORD today to show exactly how we all feel at the return to her family of our dear sister Lindy Chamberlain. What a Sabbath of rejoicing we experienced! We praise God for this answer to our prayers and await His further leading. Our love and best wishes are expressed to the whole Chamberlain family as they re-establish their family unit. Our editorial next week will express our sentiments more fully.”

The editorial the next issue (March 8), written by editor Geoffrey Garne, is entitled “A Sabbath of rejoicing” and links the suddenness and excitement of Lindy’s release with the suddenness of Jesus’ return.

Another significant event in 1986 was the opening and dedication of Avondale College (now University) church on March 8. Designed by Adventist architect, Dr Bruce Judd, the announcement was made in the issue of the same date.

A number of initiatives and campaigns are run as full page ads and inserts during this period. Quit smoking programs, the 1000 days of reaping campaign, calls to donate a church to PNG where growth is rapid and church frames are needed—the list goes on. The Mission 90 logo is a regular feature.

The look, tone and feel of *Record* starts to change more quickly during this period. There are more full-page pictures

on the front cover and images inside get bigger and more frequent. There are illustrations on the cover and it is during this period that Berto’s “Just a coincidence” comic appears—a cartoon that was printed on and off until around 2017.

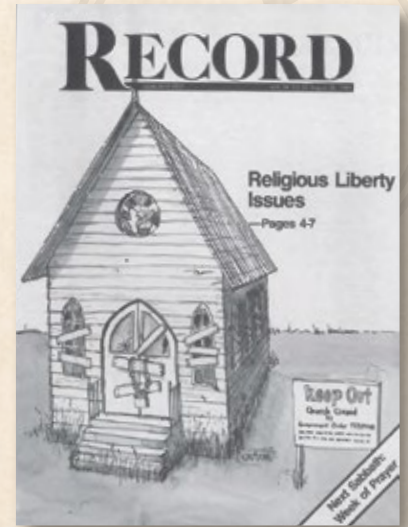
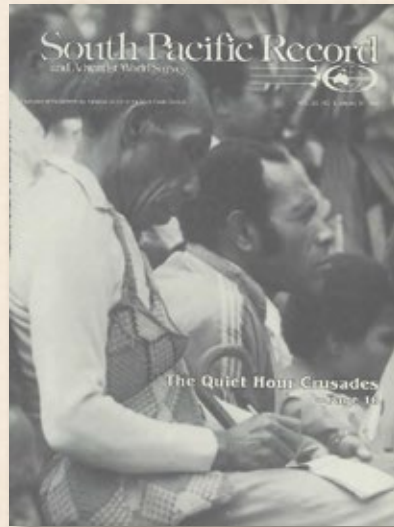
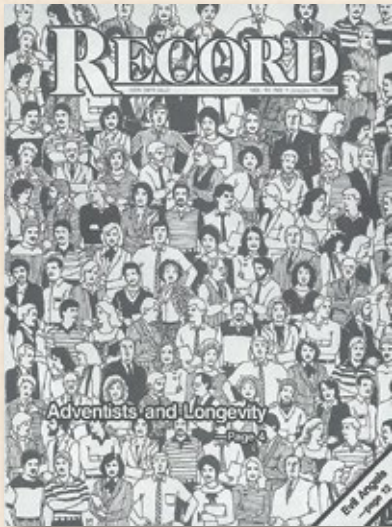
A number of the changes witnessed in this period can be put down to editorial style, as an American with Australian connections, James Coffin, took over from South African Geoffrey Garne. Garne’s last editorial appeared in the August 30, 1986 issue. Garne’s editorial style was often focused on news and world events. For example, he would focus on event’s such as the Pope’s visit to Australia, highlighting his background in *Signs of the Times* (he was the South African editor of that publication before he came to Australia). He seemed to take himself and his role quite seriously, while perhaps never quite feeling comfortable (B Manners, “Adventist Record”, *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*). When Garne finished he was 60 years old. Coffin was 35, a pastor who had worked as news editor at *Adventist Review* and that background in news he used to bring a more editorial flavour to the magazine.

His editorials had a lighter tone, sometimes with a cynical, self-deprecating edge like “To beard or not to beard” (and the follow up issue) about Adventists being unwelcoming. His first editorial, “Writing one’s own obituary” (October 4, 1986) demonstrated this lighter, more modern writing style (his name was Coffin after all).

Here is an excerpt from the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* about the transition.

“The South Pacific Division president, Walter Scragg, an experienced communicator within the church, and other senior church officials wanted the *Record* to move on from the theological issues that had impacted the church. Coffin was chosen as a ‘younger mind’ (in his mid-30s at the time of his appointment) and instructed to make the *Record* contempo-





rary, to enliven it in a 'deliberate attempt to move down a generation'. Significantly, he was given freedom to publish letters that attacked the church's decisions.

Scragg said, 'We tried to make the *Record* more representative of the whole church, not just administration. The idea was that we should convey the idea that the *Record* is owned by the whole church and you have your right to be heard . . . even though it wasn't something that the editor or the church leadership agreed with.'

Coffin negotiated with Scragg for a journalistically sound magazine that was selective in what was printed, with more time spent on editing and rewriting, if necessary. 'My goal was to support the 27 fundamentals of the church, but at the same time allow people a significant amount of latitude to express views and opinions and try to use this as a sort of catharsis to help bring healing.'"

The world was heading toward the end of the Cold War and the USSR era. A report from January 17, 1987 describes a visit to the General Conference by a Soviet leader:

"In May last year, just two weeks after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, a delegation, led by the General Conference president, visited the USSR and met with several highly placed Soviet officials in Moscow. Late last year, church leaders hosted Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs, in a whirlwind tour of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, and Takoma Academy. The four-hour visit concluded with a vegetarian luncheon in the GC dining room."

At the time, it was estimated there were 32,000 Adventists in the Soviet Union. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

While different columns have come and gone since, this was the era when *Record* became much more like what it is today, in terms of the balance of news and features, the way news is edited and the style of the letters' page.



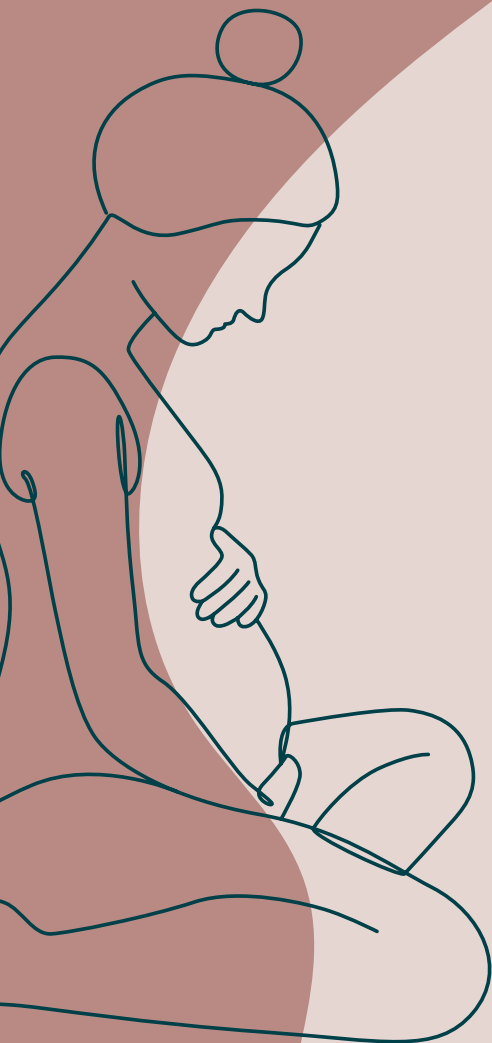
Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Council on Religious Affairs for the Soviet Union (holding the magazine), expressed great appreciation for the use of colour and illustrations as he toured the Review and Herald Publishing plant in Hagerstown, Maryland, USA, with Harold Otis, plant president (left), and Kharchev's interpreter (between them). John Brown, the Review's assistant to the vice-president for manufacturing, and President Neal C. Wilson also made the tour.

## Sunday laws:

Leaders of a coup in Fiji introduced a Sunday Observance Decree in 1987, forcing all citizens to worship on Sunday and refrain from all work. Fijian Adventists turned these circumstances to their advantage by visiting, holding meetings and doing missionary work. The church advised members to follow the laws in place but also made submissions to the government on behalf of religious liberty (*Record*, August 26, 1989). The Sunday Observance Decree stayed in force until October 1995.



# Spared to reveal God



I lay in my family's typical Pacific Island open hut, listening and pretending to sleep as my mother recounted her memories of being in labour with me and my brother. She described being ministered to by traditional midwives and her joy in the middle of her pain, listening to her brothers catching fish from the seashore. It was a tradition to provide the mother with fresh fish to celebrate the birth of a child. In this case, twin boys. The story ended there as she was interrupted. I would not learn the untold story, a dark family secret, until years after Mother had died.

My mother's joy soon turned to unbelievable sadness as a family feud erupted over what to do with the unexpected twin boys. At that time, twins were taboo, so a forceful decision that the healthy twin boys must be killed and buried was made. Holes were dug. But by divine intervention, the Lord worked through an uncle with medical training and my maternal grandfather to save the twins. My grandfather was paramount chief and claimed us as his own, naming us with names meaning we were placed under his protection. God was working to reveal His plan to a people steeped in spirit worship and pagan customs.

Some 18 years later, one of the twins returned from university during the Christmas holiday and shared with his brother and a younger cousin-brother about his Bible discovery journey—finding God and the Sabbath truth. With a quick visit to the local Adventist Book Centre to buy Bibles, hymnals and reading materials, and two Bible studies with a local Adventist pastor, the three boys set out to bring the good news about Jesus to their people on Takuu Atoll (Mortlock islands) found off the northeast coast of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The people there had been exposed to outside influence for more than 120 years but had remained in their pagan cultures. They had resisted attempts by early missionaries to land on the island.

Sadly, the young mother died a few years after that first “missionary” visit. But she was part of God's plan to deliver her people. Seventh-day Adventism has since become perhaps the dominant church on the isolated island, with hundreds of followers, many scattered throughout Papua New Guinea. Four decades later and by God's divine plan the twins continue to share the love of God.

God has blessed those three boys, all with PhDs, myself in pharmacology, my twin brother in engineering, our cousin in computer and mathematics, and we still share the gospel. We were spared to reveal God to our people.

## Verse of the day:

“But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded, but saved the male children alive.” Exodus 1:17 (NKJV)

You can read more inspirational stories of faith like this as part of the Adventist Heritage Month's daily devotionals. Sign up or find out more at <[heritage.adventistchurch.com](https://heritage.adventistchurch.com)>.

### Dr Teatulohi Matainaho

is one of the twins in this story, and is vice chancellor of Pacific Adventist University, Papua New Guinea. He loves reading the Bible, sharing the love of Jesus and spending time with his family.







## A CLOSE-KNIT FAITH

**D**oreen Woodward turned 101 on March 7, but even today she continues to find new ways to minister and share the gospel of Jesus.

Doreen's nativity set ministry began around six years ago when she knitted a nativity set for family members for Christmas. When the members of her family and friends saw it, they were charmed and asked Doreen if she would make more. It was then that she realised she could perhaps turn this hobby into a ministry. Since then, she has made at least 12 nativity sets, each fetching between \$A50 and \$100, with all the profits going to ADRA.

Doreen's intention when starting out in this ministry was to provide the nativity story to "homes where there was not much mention of Jesus". She said her hope in doing this was that "at least once a year children would ask what it would mean". In her mind, Christmas was an opportunity to share the story of Jesus to those who would otherwise not have an opportunity to learn or talk about Jesus.

Doreen recollected, "the first one I made ended up going to Poland. Another went up to Queensland." The nativity set which went to Queensland belonged to a teacher who worked in a public school and used the nativity set to teach his students about the story of Christmas. Doreen has been able to spread Jesus to many through her ministry. Her carer, who is not a Christian, has learnt about Christianity and what

it means while caring for Doreen as she knits her nativity sets, even wanting to get involved and knit an angel herself to give to her landlady.

For Doreen, the biggest blessing from her ministry has been "seeing the joy people have when receiving them". She says it is "a joy to know that I can do something—witness".

Doreen lives in Glenorchy, Tasmania, and has been actively involved in church life ever since her baptism when she was 17. A real highlight of her church life was when her husband Charlie joined the church by profession of faith aged in his 90s. Over the years, she has taught children's Sabbath school, served as head deaconess and church clerk, and at 101 she still regularly hosts church fellowship meetings in her home.

When asked what her secret is to living a long life, Doreen replied that the secret is to be content with what you have and to simply allow Jesus to take care of the frets and worries of this life.

Doreen's life has been a true example to people of all ages of how to minister to others and live a purposeful life. We commend you Doreen for your 101 years of faith and ministry that has inspired us all.

**Olivia Fairfax**

Editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.



## God's little messenger, *sent to us*

One Thursday evening, my wife was rushed to hospital. She was experiencing labour pain for the first time. We'd been eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first baby. It was exciting but scary at the same time. Nervousness and impatience crept in for both of us. She was in distress and so was I. But I had to put on a brave, encouraging face to cheer her up. I could almost feel her fear in the delivery room, but the nurse was chatty and kind, creating a relaxing environment.

Finally, a strange, small, sweet voice was heard—our beautiful and healthy little princess announced her arrival with a cry. It was Friday, December 1, 2017. The day when everything changed. A family I have, a child we hold in our arms, what more could we ask for?

Tears of joy, relief and happiness in full measure—I could not find a word in my entire vocabulary fitting enough to describe the moment. She was so tiny and fragile—an almost helpless little bundle, lying there in her crib. I didn't dare to carry her yet for fear of hurting her. We named her Viniyanna, the best name we could think of for our sweet little angel.

She grew, bringing joy and purpose into our lives. Each day, after work, what a joy to come home to the most beautiful “women” of my life. Viniyanna had a way of saying “I missed you, Daddy.” As a couple, my wife and I had mountains to climb and many rivers to cross, but Viniyanna's smile and giggles were enough to soothe our anxieties and frustrations. The happiness and joy she brought into our home were beyond description. We thanked God for her each day. She became the centre of our little world.

The most beautiful gift we could give her was “How to love Jesus and others”. We taught her biblical principles of love, sympathy, kindness, gentleness, caring, selflessness and contentment with whatever may come. Prayer and Bible study were very important to her because that is where she learned to love God. My little Viniyanna would practise these principles even beyond our own expectations. We were proud of our “little messenger sent from above”.

At the age of four, Viniyanna developed asthma. She was often in and out of the hospital, at times several times a week. Our prayers were consistent

appeals for God to heal her. She trusted and believed Jesus would heal her. She would thank Jesus ahead of time for her healing. The attacks intensified. She had to live with an inhaler to relieve her discomfort. Doctor's appointments were frequent. Sleepovers at the hospital became the “new normal” for the family.

Despite her struggle, she enjoyed life: going to school, to church, Adventurers meetings and family gatherings. At church, she would share the little she had: plain biscuits and water for example. She enjoyed the company of relatives and church families so much that she wouldn't miss any opportunities. She loved sitting at the feet of older folks and listening to their stories. She enjoyed being of service to others. She was often found chatting with people. An outgoing person was our little Viniyanna. Often appreciated and loved by those around her, an extrovert personality, she would go out of her way to help anyone. At that age, she taught me a lot about life. A unique and special child she was, and I will cherish her forever.

At the age of five, an aunt of hers paid a visit to our home with her daughter. Unfortunately, my sister did not



pack spare clothes for her little one. Our daughter was about the same age and size. My Viniyanna noticed and didn't hesitate to act. She went to her room, picked up a brand-new T-shirt, which she had not used, and gave it to her cousin. This same shirt was a gift from her aunt. She decided it was the right thing to do, and so it was. That taught us a very valuable lesson—to always give our best to others as we would do to God. Proverbs 3:27 says, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act." She acted within her little power to give the best she had.

My angel was always concerned about other people's wellbeing. The day she received a "penny bank" from her mum, she started collecting all the loose coins she could find, as well as those gifted to her.

One evening in October 2022, Viniyanna had to be admitted to hospital, on the doctor's advice. As we returned home the next day, she had a conversation with her mum. She felt she needed to share something with her newly found hospital friends. The penny bank was opened, gifts were bought, and off to the hospital we went. The smile on the faces of her new friends warmed my heart as I saw my little angel's satisfaction in "being like Jesus". She gave all that she had saved.

A favoured Scripture of mine is found in Psalm 150:6: "let everything that has breath, praise the Lord". My Viniyanna loved singing, even though the words often seemed strange to her. On the final Sabbath of 2022, opportunities were given to church members, young people and children to share how God had placed challenges in their way and how He had blessed them. While many adults were brave enough to stand and speak, my Viniyanna struggled. But she managed to say in three words all that she had in her heart: "THANK YOU, JESUS". Little did we know those would be her final moments in our local church.

On Sabbath January 7, God called our little angel to rest. Her asthma attack had worsened. Doctors tried their best to no avail. Our hearts were shattered into a million pieces. It was hard to accept this reality. Our only comfort was found by "looking for that blessed hope,

and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Reflecting on this sudden circumstance, Job's experience became a challenge to me. Losing 10 children at once and being robbed of his wealth in one day, Job maintained his habit of worshipping God. Something I could not do, and yet I lost one daughter. It felt like losing everything. I was left hopeless. Job exclaimed, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). We welcome and embrace good things and wealth from the Lord, but when the tide of life turns around, our attitude changes. Our commitment and relationship with God are negatively impacted. Matthew 6:20,21 admonishes us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." Our focus and priority should be heaven-bound so that when the toil of life grips us, our commitment, relationship and trust in God remain unshaken, like Job.

Looking back on Viniyanna's life journey, I can confidently say that she was sent from God to bless us and all those who became acquainted with her. All she ever did during her short time here was to bring happiness and smiles into our lives and the lives of others. She shared whatever she had with everyone, however small—the best she could give. Several times, she gave up everything she had to cheer up the lowly and sickly, praising God at any given opportunity and being a lovely child.

While questions may remain, Isaiah 57:1,2 reminds me "good people pass away, the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die." To those who have had to say goodbye to their little loved ones early, be encouraged that God is calling His faithful ones before their time. Be sure that He is a loving and caring God and does not want to see these little ones suffer. Ellen White stated that "many little ones are to be laid away before the time of

trouble. We shall see our children again" (*Selected Messages*, 2:259).

We have allocated a small piece of land in our front yard to the Lord, to be used as a "lamb shelter". It was consecrated and dedicated by Pastor Thomas Seth to the Lord on February 5. In memory of our precious angel and all her good deeds, the site is called "Viniyanna Seth Memorial Lamb Shelter" under the leadership of our local church, Napakou Seventh-day Adventist Church in Port Vila. It will operate as a branch Sabbath school, to start off with, where the targeted audience will be children. The Napakou Sabbath school department will be responsible for organising the early Sabbath morning worship services and visitation around the lamb shelter vicinity. My wife and I will support the worship services in memory of our beautiful daughter. Your prayers are very much needed to support the ministry of this lamb shelter.

Despite the loss in our family, greater blessings have been added. The lamb shelter will require dedicated and committed people to teach these children. Though it may seem unimportant, it is a sacred responsibility. It is a blessing because Jesus Himself loved and blessed children, as we prepare them for heaven and eternity. With the apostle Paul, we would love to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day" (2 Timothy 4:7,8).

Viniyanna loved Jesus very much and took every opportunity to live her faith. The Lord decided it was time for her to sleep for a little while until that glorious morning. "We have this hope that burns within our hearts", the hope of eternal life with Jesus and our loved ones. It is this hope that encourages and uplifts us. The day is coming when we will meet our sweet little Viniyanna and never be separated again.



**Davidson Seth**

Senior accountant, Vanuatu Mission.



# The bittersweet music *of life*



There is nothing like discovering new music, particularly those songs which speak to your heart and soul through crescendos, trills, rests, diminuendos and a skilful orchestra. These songs can awaken a range of deep emotions that don't always have a name, but which lead us to ponder the bigger questions of life.

I often use music to cope and express my emotions, and this has become something I have relied upon greatly in recent months. Recently a person I was close with experienced a life-altering health issue. Doctors could not explain the cause of the issue despite weeks of searching, testing and observing. The impact the health issue had was devastating to this person and to those close to them. They had to pick up the fractured pieces of their life across the next several months, living with the fear that life might never be the same again. Watching them go through this heartbreaking journey of suffering and loss led my mind to ponder this question with great frustration: why does God let bad things happen?

Johann Sebastian Bach is a well-known name, up there with Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and the classical music greats. Born in 1685 in Germany to a musical family, Bach was a man renowned for his skills in composition and musical aptitude, producing one of the largest quantities of classical music on record, at 1128 pieces in 65 years, with a further 23 compositions lost or unfinished. Approximately three-quarters of his music was written specifically for the church, with much of the rest maintaining religious undertones. In one of the greatest sustained feats of creativity in history, for three years Bach created a new cantata every week.<sup>1</sup> This involved setting a German religious or biblical text to music, creating scores for each instrument, copying the scores for each part, rehearsing the work, and finally directing it at church—all in one week. Astonishingly, Bach rarely repeated himself from week to week, consistently producing fresh music of extraordinary impact and beauty.

Bach's life was built upon three pillars—music, family and faith. To him, music and faith were inseparable, saying that the purpose of all music was “nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit”. Bach was not a natural prodigy, but worked tirelessly to master instrument after instrument until he became a skilful composer and church music director. Not only did he religiously study instruments and music, but he was also devout in his study of the Bible, annotating it and writing in the margins—even correcting errors where parts of verses were left out. For him, music was the means through which God was displayed in his life, being described himself as “a theologian and preacher who communicated in music”.<sup>2</sup> Upon finishing a composition, Bach would often write at the end of the song, *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning “to God alone be glory”.

Bach's musical life, despite its widespread renown, was not without immense hardships. In fact, many have proposed that the complexity, depth and intricacy of his music comes from the intensely painful experiences he endured. Bach lost both his parents before reaching 10 years of age and was raised by his oldest brother. At 22 years of age, Bach married Maria Barbara and together they had seven children, of which only four survived to adulthood. Then, after a two-month overseas work trip, Bach returned home to find his wife had died suddenly and been buried without his knowledge. Within such a short time

frame, Bach had lost both his parents, his wife and three of his children—it is needless to say that Bach was familiar with deep sorrow. After some time, Bach remarried. His second wife was Anna Magdalena with whom he had 13 children, however only six of these children lived to adulthood.

They say the hardest pain is that of losing one's child . . . like the biblical Job, Bach lost 10.

No words can describe the magnitude of loss that Bach suffered.

When you hear Bach's music, you know it comes from the depths of his heart. His inner despair and heartbreak carried through to his music, creating some of the most moving pieces of music in history. Yet despite the sorrow, each piece of music was infused with his unwavering faith in God.

The authenticity of Bach's music transcends human experience and transports the listener to a spiritual dimension, capturing the heart and moving the soul to meditate upon God. Even confirmed atheists have admitted experiencing emotions they can only attribute to faith upon hearing Bach's music. Hungarian composer György Kurtág said, “consciously I am certainly an atheist . . . but if I look at Bach, I cannot be an atheist”. Even Friedrich Nietzsche, the father of atheism, upon hearing Bach's composition of “St Matthew Passion” (three times), admitted, “each time, I had the same feeling of immeasurable admiration. One who has completely forgotten Christianity truly hears it here as gospel.”

Light shines brightest in deepest darkness. Perhaps faith works the same. Perhaps the greater the darkness and despair we face, the more powerful the “music” of faith in our lives. It was because of the trauma and anguish that Bach endured that he could tell so profoundly of the wonders and majesty of God's love through his music. Times of trial provide an opportunity for us to draw close to God, and the tighter we cling to God through the storms of life, the brighter the light of hope which shines for others.

Romans 5:3–5 puts it like this: “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Why does God allow horrible events to happen? Perhaps there is no rhyme or reason for our pain. Not everything happens for a reason . . . but reason can be made from it.

Our struggles can offer solace and a shared understanding to others going through similar experiences. Remaining faithful to God in our suffering can reveal to others the truth of the gospel—that the God we serve is not one who is immune or indifferent to our pain. Our God is found in the heart and life of Jesus, who came down to Earth to experience our griefs, our sorrows and hardships alongside us, so that we never have to walk through the dark valleys of life alone.

1. <<https://canonjohn.com/2020/11/28/heroes-of-the-faith-johann-sebastian-bach/>>.

2. *ibid*.

**Olivia Fairfax**

Editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.



# Vegetable burgers

Serves 6 Prep 15 Cook 15

These vegetable burgers are low in saturated fat and full of flavour. They're a perfect addition for your next barbecue or picnic and can be served as a main with a side salad, or veggies on the side.

## Ingredients

- 1 small carrot, grated
- 1 small zucchini (courgette), grated
- 400g can lentils, drained and rinsed
- 1 small can corn kernels (no added salt)
- 1 cup dry breadcrumbs
- 1 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 6 medium bread rolls
- 6 tomato slices
- lettuce leaves, to serve

## Tips:

- Once cooked, patties can be kept refrigerated for up to 4 days.
- Try substituting different grated vegetables in place of carrot and zucchini (courgette) for a variety of flavours.

## Method

- Combine carrot, zucchini, lentils, corn kernels, breadcrumbs, mayonnaise, egg and chives in a bowl and shape 1/3 cup of mixture into patties. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
- Pre heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat, add oil and cook burgers in batches for 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
- Place in oven for 5 minutes to cook through.
- Serve on rolls with tomato, lettuce and salsa of your choice.

## Nutritional Information (per serving)

ENERGY	CALORIES	PROTEIN	FAT	SATURATES	CARBOHYDRATE
1460kJ	349	13g	10g	2g	48g
SUGARS	FIBRE	CALCIUM	SODIUM	IRON	POTASSIUM
6g	7g	88mg	460mg	2.6mg	385mg



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# Conversations

## No update?

While I assume the column about the Glacier View events ("Record Rewind," August 26) to be comforting and reassuring for some, it was difficult for others (or more specifically, me, and maybe I'm the only one). I wondered at the editorial team's reasoning for revisiting these troubling times.

The accurate reproduction of the *Record* snippets is not in question. However, including the 1975-1980 reports without referencing what has been learned since, creates a misleading narrative. One example, to quote that the "majority of both groups (administrators and scholars?) were thoroughly satisfied that the historical positions of the church have better support than the alternative positions offered" is a carefully written, somewhat true, but largely false, assertion given what has been published. Any number of subsequent presentations have identified significant scholarly concerns about the historical positions, and their subsequent administrative override.

To reassert what was dictated more than 40 years ago without any update risks jeopardising the reputation *Adventist Record* has of being a key

communication "contributor in the life and confidence of the church".

**D Graham Stacey PhD, NSW**

## Test of orthodoxy

The article about Glacier View was unexpected (Record Rewind, August 25). I think it is time for us to face the fact that 1844 has little place in the practical life of the average Adventist. It is near impossible to maintain the fervent excitement of the early Adventists beyond the nineteenth century; any attempt to do so simply perpetuates the "great disappointment".

I was part of the small group at Glacier View that authored the so-called "10-point statement". I was responsible for only point-2, "The Day of Atonement in the Epistle to the Hebrews". The point-2 affirmed the fulfilment of the Day of Atonement in the first century through the death of Jesus. Dr Desmond Ford agreed with this position; I know this because I gave him my draft to read before I submitted it. Another committee of mainly administrators composed the following paragraph.

But we do deny that His entrance into the presence of God (1) precludes a first-apartment phase of ministry or

(2) marks the beginning of the second phase of his ministry.

The independent nature of this paragraph is indicated by the sudden shift from the third person ("There is also general acceptance . . .") to the first person (But we do deny . . .). The affirmation of a two-apartment ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary was also not part of the original point-2. I did not author this paragraph and in fact it is not only contrary to the rest of my point-2, but it also opposes the Consensus Document that was unanimously supported by the delegates on the Friday morning.

Since I affirmed Dr Ford's views on the Letter to the Hebrews I feared my point-2 would be mutilated by a sub-committee, so I persuaded him to accept my final sentence, namely, "this is an unwarranted reduction of Adventist belief". This lacked candour and I regret this sentence profoundly now, in fact I tried to have it modified on the Friday morning of the conference. The 10-point statement was never voted on and was never intended to be used as a test of orthodoxy. Its misuse for this purpose is indefensible.

**Norman Young, NSW**

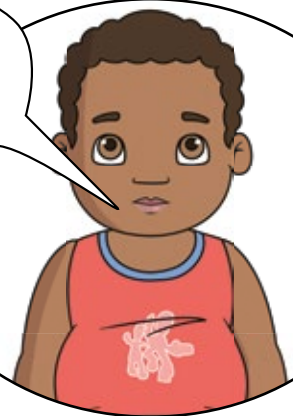
# Hello Kids!

# Kids Sports

## Wisdom Rules!

Two women who share a house come to Solomon with a problem. Both have infant sons. One night one infant dies and the mother of the dead son switches the baby with the live one. In the morning the mothers argue. They go to Solomon for help in solving their conflict. The wisdom God has given Solomon enables him to judge correctly and give the baby to the true mother. Solomon wanted to be fair to two women to whom life hadn't been fair. Even more he wanted to be true to God and reveal God's love and compassion to them by being a true servant of His.

We reveal God's love by serving others.



## WISDOM GAME

SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES AND FINISH THE GAME.

**Start Here**

All players spin. If you land on 'Bad Decision' stay at the start until your next turn.



**STOP HERE**  
You are in a test and find it difficult. Do you cheat or are you honest and just do your best?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Someone left money on a table. Do you take it?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Someone is sick. You have a choice to help.  
Spin to find out what you will do.

**STOP HERE**  
A person asks for help but you are having too much fun. What do you do?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Your friends find it fun to tease someone in your class. They do it every day. This is called bullying. What do you do?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Jesus asks you to spend time with Him so your friendship can be stronger. Are you too tired?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Your friend asks you to lie to your parents. What decision will you make?  
Spin to find out.

**STOP HERE**  
Your parent asks you to vacuum but you are enjoying your game. What will you do?  
Spin to find out.

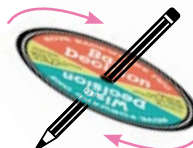
**You Win!**



1. Cut out the circle.
2. You can stick it on some cardboard to make it stronger.
3. Then push a pencil through the centre to make a spinner.



Use these tokens for your moving pieces or make your own.



## MEMORY VERSE

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13).





# Lessons from the hospice

I've stayed at accommodation attached to a hospital for a few weeks now while supporting people I love.

I've observed a lot.

I see people come in from visiting their sick or dying relatives looking emotionally haggard . . . wrung out . . . you can see the lines etched a little deeper into their faces each day—the anxiety, even desperation, is palpable.

You can feel the heaviness all around.

There is sobbing in the quiet hours, coming from dorm rooms or toilets—in the early hours of the morning. Not just little sobs, but loud, gut-wrenching sobs. Somehow things just feel darker and sadder at night when all is still and quiet. People watching their loved ones going through unimaginable suffering—slipping away from them.

I've seen a father and daughter, hand squeezing orange juice for their wife and mum in ICU—there is SO much love squeezed into that juice. I hear their voices crumble as the cleaner asks, "How are you today?", as they say, "Fine, thank you", while discreetly wiping at a rogue tear.

I see a man numbing out in the TV room each night, temporarily escaping the pain of watching a partner growing weaker each day, as they go through chemo.

I've seen a couple of sisters wheeling their mum, who is dying of lung cancer, outside several times each day to smoke.

The worried looks, people sleeping on makeshift beds, fetching this and that to try and make last days more comfortable. People sitting awkwardly, not knowing what to say, but doing their best to show love and support by being present.

As our family sing songs of hope and the love of God, I see a man in a wheelchair lingering by the door, ears straining to capture a few words of life and hope.

People REALLY need hope here; they clutch onto it like pieces of GOLD. I just want to hug them all, and tell them it's going to be okay . . . but it's not okay . . . not really.

Our faces are probably a little haggard too, but we are the "lucky" ones; there's peace in our room, peace that passes understanding, peace that the world can't give. There are songs of heaven, and talk of re-uniting in a world where there

is no more pain, no more suffering, no more goodbyes. Love fills the room—there is no fear here.

Yes, there are tears at the thought of losing one we love; but we sorrow not as those who have no hope. We have a solid anchor, fixed upon a more solid, immovable rock, even though the storm rages around us, and the wind and waves smash upon us, our anchor holds.

The end of life teaches us what is important and what isn't. I see joy as remembrance is made of the many lives that have been touched through the life of our loved one, the value placed on relationships, and family. The satisfaction and joy our loved one received in praying a last blessing on each family member, and their children. The warmth of a hug, the holding of a hand, words of love and appreciation said while the people are still able to hear and appreciate them. Joy in the simplest of things: a bird outside the window, a beautiful flower, a sweet fruit, another day of life with our loved one. Friends from far and near offering love, support and prayers.

We learn to live, and find joy, in the "present", for it is just that—a present. We may not have tomorrow.

My heart aches for the empty rooms, where people die alone with no friendly face, no loving words, no warm hand easing the path to the grave and no hope beyond the grave.

How dark and lonely that must be.

This was never meant for us—pain, sickness, suffering. We were created to enjoy a world that was good—VERY good—we were created for relationship. With one another, and our Creator. We were only supposed to ever know and experience good. But because of love, we were created with free choice, the ability to say yes to love . . . as well as no.

We were sold a lie . . . and we bought it, and are still buying it today—disregard God, do your own thing, you can be your own God, you can experience good and evil.

We already knew good but we wanted to know good AND evil, and so Pandora's box was opened and evil of every kind filled our world.

Untold misery and woe have been the result; unimaginable suffering. It would be all doom and gloom EXCEPT the Creator had a plan, before we even went astray, to buy us back from the ruin we have caused, to restore all that has been lost, to put an end to evil, to suffering, sickness, pain, goodbyes and death. He has placed eternity in our hearts, He has gone to prepare a place for us and He will come again and take us home to live in eternal peace, love and joy . . . but even if all we had was this life, and there was no eternity, I would STILL choose EVERY time the peace, love, joy, comfort and hope that knowing Him brings.

Heaven is a person, and that person, and His love, peace and joy, is in our heart . . . here . . . and now, not just "in the sky by and by". Those things are not dependant on circumstances, so, no-one can take them away.

In the meantime, He walks beside us, through the darkest valleys. He saves our tears in His bottle, and one day He personally will wipe them all away and there will be no more mourning, death, sorrow, pain or CANCER!!

May that day be soon.

**Julie Baum**

Bible worker, Port Macquarie, NSW.

## Obituaries



**FRY**, Samuel Jack, born 15.5.20 in Lismore, NSW; died 7.5.23 in Lismore.

Sammy is survived by his parents, Darryn and Vivika; sister, Colten (Emily); grandparents, Keith and Beverley Fry (all from Lismore); aunt, Delwyn and Stephen McPaul; and cousin, Lachlan. His cheerful, happy disposition and smile won the hearts of all who came in contact with him.

Tim Merritt



**HICK**, Yvonne Avis (nee Naismith), born 3.9.1943 in Perth, WA; died 30.8.23 in Cooranbong, NSW.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Melinda; and son, Dalwyn. Yvonne is survived by her husband, Warren (Cooranbong); daughter, Debra Cooper; son, David; grandchildren, Jessica, Joel and Zane; and step-grandchildren, Michael, Robbie, Stephen, Lachlan, Tom and Lily. Yvonne left a legacy through small and repeated acts of

kindness. She never preached a sermon or wrote a book but was always the hands and feet of Jesus. Many people shared the things she did for them: cooking, sewing, haircuts and befriending people who were lonely. Yvonne was the living gospel in verity.

Dave Hamilton



**HUGHES**, Eric Wesley, born 19.11.1937 in Kandanga, Qld; died 31.3.23 in Sunshine

Coast University Hospital. On 30.1.1966 he married Beth Miinchow, who predeceased him in 2020. Wes is survived by his children, Frank and Martha (Marsden) and Bronwyn (Ipswich); and granddaughters, Charlotte and Kimberley. Wes had an incredible knowledge of the Bible and enjoyed sharing this gift through preaching and teaching Sabbath school lessons. He loved his Saviour and lived his life in service of the church in various capacities. Most of Wes's working career was with the Church, serving as a pastor for seven years, followed by various responsibilities with Sanitarium.

Scott Wareham, John Rabbas



**KOVACIK**, Anna (nee Šcasná), born 18.2.1930 in Pusté Sady, Czechoslovakia; died 17.3.23 in Erina,

NSW. She is survived by her husband, Vladimir; daughters, Anna and Frank Cidorik (Toowoomba, Qld), Vilma and Paul Golstajn (Alstonville, NSW) and Vladka and Bryce Henley (Erina); grandchildren, David Stankovic, Jason Stankovic, Timothy Golstajn, Linda Bainitabua, Emma Henley and Sarah Henley; great-grandchildren, Anita Stankovic and Isaac Bainitabua; and sister, Maria and Ondrej Smolej. Anna was a gracious and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her love for her family was beyond measure. She loved all people and she loved her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the most.

Janusz Jagiello

**RATH**, Joan Hilda, born 9.1.1944 in Wycombe, UK; died 5.4.23 in the Gold Coast Hospital, Qld, surrounded by her immediate family. She is survived by her husband, Chris; children, Graham (Port Macquarie, NSW), Sandra Petty (Brisbane, Qld) and Janine Walkom (Canberra, ACT); six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Joan was an active member at the Canberra National Church as head deaconess and florist and in her last years was actively involved in the Mount Tamborine church, Qld. Joan loved the Lord dearly; she was known for her beautiful smile and warm hugs and now awaits the coming of Jesus.

Young Je



**SMITH**, William James (Billo), born 21.9.1930 in Brisbane, Qld; died 31.7.23 in Brisbane. He is

survived by his third wife, Ellen; son, Philip (Perth, Qld); daughter, Kate De Waal (Gold Coast, Qld); and cousin, Mary (Blue Mountains, NSW). At the time of his sudden death, Billo and Ellen were members of Beaudesert church, Qld. Billo was an accomplished saxophone and clarinet player, whose musical career spanned seven decades. He even performed for Queen Elizabeth II, as a member of his father, Billo Smith Snr's Big Band. Following his retirement in the mid-1990s, Billo often played lead in the Springwood church ensemble. He also collaborated on musical composition projects with

Dr Aleta King, Darren Scott and Pastor David Gilmore. The fervour of his faith will outlast the fragrant melodies of his saxophone.

**WALSH**, Dorothy May, born 23.5.1953; died 30.6.23 in Nambucca Heads, NSW. She is survived by her husband, Ray. Dorothy passed to her rest following a long illness. Close to our hearts, she will always stay, loved and remembered every day.



**WILLSHIRE**, Patricia Mary, born 19.10.1951 in Charleville, Qld; died 20.7.23 in Dove House, Caloundra.

Trish is survived by her son, Brian Lucas (Ipswich); daughter, Debbie Lucas (Sunshine Coast); daughter-in-law, Lorna Cross (Sunshine Coast); sisters, Dorothy Wilson (Nanango) and Joy Newbould (Bundaberg); and brother, Clyde (Townsville). Trish loved her family, friends and Saviour and was greatly loved. Throughout her life she experienced the Lord's comfort and strength and remained always faithful to Him.

Scott Wareham

**WINCH**, Melva Iris (nee Franklin), born 1.8.1933 in Koo Wee Rup, Vic; died 24.8.23 in Cooranbong, NSW. She is survived by her husband, Colin (Cooranbong); daughters, Kerry Hawkes (Buderim, Qld), Carol Davis (Mandalong, NSW) and Nerolie Barren (Wingham); son, Christopher (Cooranbong); and their families. Melva was a loving wife, mother and great-grandmother. She spent her life in service to her family and her God.

Kenn Duke, Ross Goldstone



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Join us as we celebrate God's leading, reflect on the history and imagine the future. Wahroonga Adventist Church, October 14, church service at 11am and an afternoon program at 2:30pm. RSVP: <editor@record.net.au>. If you can't attend, watch the livestream on our website and social channels.

### AVON VALLEY SDA CHURCH

invites all past members/attendees to celebrate its 40th anniversary. November 4-5, 2023, featuring Geoff Youlden. Queries or to share stories/photos to Pastor Malcolm <malcolmeastwick@adventist.org.au>.

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### 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.

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A fantastic opportunity to develop and lead a culture of innovative ministry at the South Pacific Division utilising current trends and research. The ideal candidate will be a thought-leader, innovator and influencer able to bring together a wide group of people, ideas and strategies towards a disciple-making movement across this Division. For full selection criteria please visit <adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please email a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor to <hr@adventist.org.au>, attention HR Manager, People Services, South Pacific Division. **Applications close October 8, 2023 or once an appointment is made.**

### CATERING SUPERVISOR/COOK—CAMP HOWQUA HOWQUA, VIC

Camp Howqua is seeking a full-time catering supervisor/cook to be part of our team, working in a spacious, modern commercial kitchen. Camp Howqua is a busy, 200-bed facility catering mainly for school groups during the week and seminar, family and youth groups on weekends. We are seeking someone with appropriate trade qualifications and/or extensive experience in fresh, high volume quality cooking, proven ability to plan menus with experience and skill in catering for vegetarian and diverse special dietary requirements while working within a budget, staff supervisory experience, strong customer focus with good interpersonal and communication skills, strong work ethic with the ability to work unsupervised as well as within a close team and the right to work in Australia. We pay very competitive rates commensurate with skills, qualifications and experience. For more information, visit the South Pacific Division's employment website <adventistemployment.org.au>.

## Position Vacant (Volunteer)

### ADRA AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBERS

ADRA Australia is the official humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through our global network, our reach extends into more than 120 countries. We exist to restore relationships so that people thrive in a world not only created but also living in God's image. We work to inspire and collaborate with others to responsibly facilitate transformational development and relief projects overseas and in Australia. Are you passionate about making a difference? We are seeking ADRA Board Members who are Seventh-day Adventist Church members from diverse groups and areas of expertise including fundraising, international development, First Nations community development, and people and culture. Four board meetings held annually; three in Sydney and one in Melbourne. If this is for you, please submit any inquiries and/or application to Michael Worker, General Secretary, Australian Union Conference at <MichaelWorker@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close October 13, 2023.**



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