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Scriptural Interpretation

Three simple tips to cut straight to the heart ¹⁴

New educators' Bible to deepen faith and fellowship across SPD schools ⁶

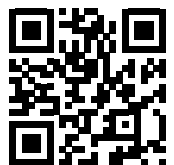
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EDITOR'S NOTE:

We need to do better

Juliana Muniz
News Editor

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How many incredible projects do we run that don't reach enough people because they're not adequately reported on?

I remember the very first time I stepped into a TV news studio as a nine-year-old. It was at the network where my mum was a radio host. That childhood wonder intensified when the anchors invited me inside and planted a seed of passion for journalism. As I pursued this passion academically, I could only see my professional future in the mainstream media, because I didn't see how a journalist would be professionally relevant to the Church.

Yet, God had other plans. Soon after graduation, I found myself working for the Church. That was when I started understanding that communication is not only relevant, but an essential tool for the Church to fulfil its mission.

Often overlooked, the communications department should serve as the right arm of every department that composes the Seventh-day Adventist Church, supporting and amplifying the reach of initiatives and projects run by other departments, advising on effective communication practices.

Growing up, I looked up to those news anchors who invited me into the studio—and to many more journalists. But as much as I believed—and still do—their work to be essential, with more maturity and experience in the area, I realised the important task of reporting is one that God calls all of us to do. Jesus commanded us to share the gospel—the good news—with the world (Matthew 24:14). He called us to be reporters of the kingdom.

I won't get into the impact of storytelling. We know about the power of sharing testimonies. But what about news sharing?

In a recent issue of *Record*, we featured a snippet in the Making Headlines section reporting that the Brazilian Federal Senate approved a National Pathfinders' Day—quite the accomplishment. You may feel tempted to dismiss this as due to the Christian-friendly culture. But a lot of ground work had to go in to create this wider acceptance of Adventists.

Having served the Church in Brazil as a communications officer with public relations as part of my role, I was part of the efforts to raise awareness and create a positive perception of the Adventist Church in the community. For every relevant initiative run by any department, we would write compelling press releases and always get media coverage. Pathfinders was no different. And because of that, a good portion of the population knows about Pathfinders and how helpful they are to our communities.

Even in secular countries like Australia, the power of news reporting can significantly boost the Church's visibility. While volunteering in communications for the North New South Wales Conference a few years ago, I sent a press release about summer camps and their community benefits to a local newspaper in Stuarts Point. Soon after, the youth director shared exciting news: locals had begun reaching out, eager to learn more.

How many incredible projects do we run that don't reach enough people because they're not adequately reported on? As renowned journalist and author Gay Talese said, "News, if unreported, has no impact. It might as well have not happened at all." A comment from the '60s is even more true today, in the information era.

We are part of this incredible movement of hope called the Seventh-day Adventist Church and we have so much to offer. Unfortunately, according to the results of the recent community perceptions study conducted by McCrindle, a Sydney-based research company, 77 per cent of Australians and 70 per cent of New Zealanders don't know of a Seventh-day Adventist church in their area. The study also found that in both countries only one out of 10 people believe helping people is a key characteristic of the Adventist Church.

We need to do better. We need to plan and strategise before we act. We need to prioritise our communications departments and, most importantly, work together in a combined effort. Because at the end of the day we all want the same thing: to see Jesus face to face and as soon as possible.

So keep your eyes and ears open, and whenever something worth telling happens in your area, let us know. *Adventist Record* is here to share and amplify your stories. You can submit stories through <news@record.net.au> or via the form on our website. And if you don't feel confident about writing, we are here to help so that no good news goes unreported.



INSIGHT:

Supporting our shepherds: a duty or a blessing?

Terry Johnson
Australian Union Conference president

When was the last time you shared a word of affirmation with your pastor? I'm not talking about the platitudes you may share after they've preached an excellent sermon, but meaningful affirmation that is specific and personal. A word of affirmation or appreciation is like putting petrol into the spiritual tank of your minister and their family! The apostle Paul, who understood the need to affirm, in his first letter to his young intern wrote: "The pastors who lead their church well, are worthy of a double honour, particularly those who toil hard in preaching and teaching the Living Word of God!" (1 Timothy 5:17).

Our pastors carry an incredible weight that each of us will never truly understand. As chair of the church board, nominating committee and business meetings, they take the verbal brunt of unpopular decisions that we as members may not agree with, but those decisions are often the catalyst to help us move forward and transform us into a soul-winning movement. They support our faith journey, help our relationships when in crisis, teach us biblical principles and lead seekers into saving relationships with Jesus. They often move far from friends and family to serve people they've never met in places many of us would never live. Their family are vulnerable because the pastor is doing Bible studies, visitation and having church meetings late into the night. Their Sabbaths are scheduled, and their Sundays filled with church related work. They are tasked to cultivate a healthy, vibrant church through empowered mission-focused relationships and to make disciples of Jesus who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel in preparation for His soon return while inspiring a thriving disciple-making movement! Pastors don't work to make much of themselves but to make much of Jesus!

Could today be the day to find a way to affirm your pastor? Could you fill their spiritual tank with meaningful appreciation that will galvanise them for the next segment of the road less travelled? "Esteem your pastors highly in love because of their work and be at peace" (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

A big THANK YOU our pastors, for your dedication and commitment to the cause of Christ. May the blessing and anointing of the Lord be upon you!



♥ A Members Health Fund



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The 59th NNSW constituency meeting saw Pastor Cristian Copaceanu elected president and new departmental directors appointed.

New president appointed at NNSW session

📍 **Stuarts Point, NSW** | Juliana Muniz/Megantha Kiruwi

The North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) held its 59th constituency meeting on September 17, where 402 delegates gathered at Yarra Holiday Park (Stuarts Point) to elect a new president and department directors.

Pastor Cristian Copaceanu, who had been serving as president of the South NSW Conference since 2019, replaces Pastor Adrian Raethel, who is planning to stay in NNSW as a local church pastor.

"Cristian is an innovative, intellectual theologian who has a very strong sense of business," said Australian Union Conference (AUC) president Pastor Terry Johnson. "He's missional, he listens well, he's a great supporter of pastors and the teaching, educational sphere. I believe he will do incredibly well as the president of the NNSW conference."

"I am sad to see Pastor Adrian go, who is a friend, a colleague and who I think has done a good job as conference president for the past four years through a tumultuous time."

Pastor Copaceanu previously served as AUC personal ministries, Sabbath school and stewardship director and also Faith FM manager. He is married to Erika and they have two daughters, Katylin and Sienna.

"It is an honour to work with and for Jesus, and a privilege to be asked to do so with the committed and passionate team of members and employees in the NNSW Conference," said Pastor Copaceanu. "We also want to express

our deep gratitude to our SNSW church family who have made the past five years a truly memorable experience of mission and service."

Pastor Abel Iorgulescu and Russel Halliday will be resuming their respective roles as secretary and CFO.

Several non-incumbents have been appointed as departmental directors for the next four years. Pastor Travis Manners, who's been serving as mission and strategy coordinator at the Greater Sydney Conference, has been appointed ministerial secretary with Danuta Stockwell, current ATSIM associate director, as the new associate ministerial secretary.

Erin Keegan, registered nurse and ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre wellness coach at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, has been appointed health director.

Paul Fua, principal of Tweed Valley Adventist College, has been appointed education director.

Na Shen, a NNSW Schools accountant, has been appointed stewardship director.

Beryl Landers, a former women's ministry director of the Greater Sydney Conference, was appointed women's ministry director.

In response, the South New South Wales Conference appointments committee met September 24 and appointed Pastor Justin Lawman as president. Pastor Lawman, since 2021, had been providing pastoral support for ministerial interns and younger pastors in the conference.



ALC director Raijieli Caucau in the new space.

PAU opens Academic Learning Centre

📍 **Port Moresby, PNG** | Kym Piez

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) re-opened and dedicated its larger renovated Academic Learning Centre (ALC) on Monday, August 14.

The ALC is designed to provide students with the resources and support they need to succeed academically.

"The ALC is a place where students can come to get help with their studies," said Raijieli Caucau, director of the ALC. "We offer a variety of services, including group assistance, class help, one-on-one tutoring and seminars on

academic skills."

The ALC also provides students with access to a variety of resources, such as flyers on writing abstracts, academic style, active reading, assignment writing, critical reading, literature review, proofreading, research proposals and seminar presentations.

"We want to help students become independent learners," said Ms Caucau. "The ALC provides them with the tools and resources they need to succeed on their own."



Pastor Murray Hunter, Dr Jean Carter and Jacques Calais holding copies of the new Abide Bible.

New educators' Bible to deepen faith and fellowship across SPD schools

📍 **Wahroonga, NSW** | Kimberley McMurray

Adventist Education has rolled out 8000 copies of a special Abide Bible across the South Pacific Division (SPD) designed for Adventist schools staff. The two-year project was supported and funded by the SPD and its four unions.

The Abide Bible contains additional resources created and compiled by Australian Union Conference (AUC) ministerial associate secretary for chaplaincy and media coordinator Pastor Murray Hunter, specifically developed for everyone within Adventist Education. These resources were designed to support personal time with God and growth in personal relationships with Jesus; the building of friendship and fellowship among staff within the school by connecting, supporting and encouraging each other's spiritual journey;

and to act as a guide to confidently share Jesus' love with others.

Jacques Calais, Adventist Schools Australia associate national director, expressed his hopes for the initiative, saying, "It is our prayer that the Bibles will be a catalyst to impact every single person within Adventist Education and support them to be passionate, committed disciples for Jesus.

"Every single person employed within Adventist Education is a frontline minister—whether they be the bus driver or cleaner, deputy or principal, receptionist or canteen supervisor. Each plays a vital role in impacting students for Jesus, and we pay tribute to everyone within Adventist Education for their incredible ministry and service," Mr Calais concluded.



Almost half of the students enrolled at Avondale in September this past year completed the 2022 Student Experience Survey, well above the national average response rate of 37 per cent.

Students rank Avondale a top-tier university

📍 **Cooranbong, NSW** | Brenton Stacey

Avondale is a top-tier university for domestic and international student experience, according to the latest and only comprehensive national survey of higher education students.

The 2022 Student Experience Survey ranks Avondale first (international students) and second (domestic students) among undergraduates for quality of educational experience compared to the 41 other universities in Australia.

When you include both student cohorts and aggregate data over two years, Avondale is the top-ranked university in Australia for quality of educational experience and quality of teaching practices.

Its Bachelor of Nursing course is number one across all focus areas—skills development, learner engagement, teaching quality, student support, learning resources and quality of the educational experience. This is the best result—for the third consecutive year—of the 37 Australian universities and higher education providers offering the course.

Avondale's teacher education courses are number one for quality of educational experience, quality of teaching practices and learner engagement, compared to

the 36 universities and higher education providers offering similar courses.

"Our students appreciate the personalised experience and the care they receive from our staff," said vice-chancellor and president Professor Kerri-Lee Krause.

Professor Krause mentioned co- and extra-curricular offerings such as the Avondale Character Experience Laboratory wellbeing program, and activities and services—including chaplaincy and service learning—provided by the team from Avondale Student Life as helping create a sense of belonging. "These complement top-quality teaching and the rigour of academic study."

Almost half of the students enrolled at Avondale in September this past year completed the 2022 Student Experience Survey, well above the national average response rate of 37 per cent.

Visit <compared.edu.au> to explore and compare higher education institutions and study areas. The website aggregates data over two years and includes domestic and international student and graduate responses for more consistent and accurate results.



The doco series, in its second episode, explores the healthy lifestyle of the Adventists in Loma Linda, USA. (Photo: Screenshot from YouTube)

Netflix documentary highlights Adventist healthy lifestyle

📍 **Wahroonga, NSW** | Juliana Muniz/Felipe Lemos

A new Netflix documentary series released in August highlights the longevity-promoting lifestyle of Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda, California.

The documentary covers, in four episodes, the lifestyles of communities in regions considered to be the longest-living in the world. Titled *How to Live to 100: The Secrets of the Blue Zones*, the series was produced by Dan Buettner.

The American author has dedicated more than two decades to research seeking to understand the reasons why men and women from at least five regions around the world achieve a longer lifespan.

In the episode titled “An Unexpected Discovery” the documentary shows the healthy lifestyle adopted by Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda. The series features interviews with elderly individuals who maintain a vegetarian diet, regular exercise, hold strong family values and observe a weekly Sabbath rest. Their stories emphasise a comprehensive healthy lifestyle, which the Adventist Church refers to as NEWSTART principles—nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest and trust in God.

In an interview with the South American Adventist news website, Mr Buettner commented that “Adventists lead an impressive life, viewing health as central to their faith. They live up to a decade longer than most and much of their longevity can be attributed to vegetarianism and regular physical activity.”

He added that one of the keys to such longevity is “finding a sanctuary in time; a weekly pause from the demands of daily life. The 24-hour Sabbath provides a moment to centre on family, God, friendship and nature.”

Across the South Pacific, the Adventist Church has launched various initiatives emphasising a comprehensive approach to health: The ELIA Wellness initiative—which incorporates the ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre—and Sanitarium’s Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) in Australia and New Zealand, and the 10,000 Toes Campaign in the Pacific islands.

According to Dr Geraldine Przybylko, Adventist Health director for the South Pacific, the aim is to have 100 ELIA Wellness hubs across Australia and New Zealand and 300 10,000 Toes wellness hubs across the Pacific by 2025.

“We want to help people live their best life by taking them on this journey to whole-person health,” said Dr Przybylko.

To join the movement to bring health, healing and hope to your community, visit <eliapartner.com>, or contact <info@10000toes.com>.

making headlines

Jungle joy

Indigenous tribal chief Norberto Chipiage and his family, who live in the Venezuelan jungle, surrendered their lives to Jesus thanks to an Adventist radio station. After a year of listening, Mr Chipiage accepted the Adventist faith, was baptised with his family and has donated a house to establish the area’s first Adventist church. —**IAD**



Blessed reunion

For the first time since 2016, a group of Adventist deaf and blind members from across Europe met together in France. In total, 82 participants attended from Austria, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the US. “God blessed these days together on site, so that all participants could go home again . . . with a happy and joyful heart,” said an Adventist Possibility Ministries staff member. —**AR**

God’s Closet

Myrtle Creek Adventist church (US) have started an initiative called “God’s Closet”, which provides children’s clothing, school supplies and other goods to those in need in their community. —**The News Review**

Weekend workouts count

People who fit an entire week’s recommended exercise into a couple of days have a similarly low risk of heart disease and stroke as those who spread out their physical activity, researchers say. The results from a major study suggest that even when people are too busy to exercise in the working week, making up for the inactivity at the weekend can still improve cardiovascular health. —**The Guardian**



Hungry regional

The southern Auckland (NZ) cluster of churches gathered on August 26 for their first regional since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Themed "HUNGRY", the region's pastors planned the gathering to focus on united prayer. The program featured worship, Scripture reading and six prayer sessions in which attendees interacted with a prayer journal. According to the organisers, "the church families hungered in prayer for God, His love, His Word, the kingdom, movement and joy. It was a deeply spiritual time with the Lord."—**Plugin**



Award nominee

Mums At The Table has been honoured with a finalist nomination in the Christian Media & Arts Australia Excellence in Media Awards 2023. The Adventist Media ministry was recognised for its work in supporting mums through its partnerships with local Seventh-day Adventist churches. Mums At The Table was nominated in the "Community Impact Award" category, which was ultimately won by "Water for Africa", an initiative of Sonshine 98.5FM. "It's such an honour to be a finalist in an awards with other organisations such as Compassion Australia and Vision Christian Media," said Melody Tan, project manager of Mums At The Table. "The only reason Mums At The Table is a finalist is because of the great work and sacrifices our volunteer moderators have made to support the mums in their local communities." Churches or individuals interested in being part of the ministry can contact Mums At The Table at <hello@MumsAtTheTable.com>.—**Record staff**



Heart for ministry

In the heart of Lae (Papua New Guinea), women's groups from Buimo and Boundary Road churches united to form the "Heart to Heart Ministry" in 2020. What began as Bible studies quickly blossomed, drawing women from the community near and far. Recognising personal needs, the ministry expanded to offer classes in cooking, sewing, handcrafts, counselling and, most notably, literacy. On July 12, 10 women proudly graduated with Level 1 certificates in literacy.—**Nixon Yuti**



Indigenous ministry

Ten people from the Aboriginal community of Wujal Wujal (Qld), located 71 kilometres south of Cooktown, became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 3. The nine baptisms and one profession of faith were the result of ongoing ministry over the past six years, supported through Global Mission funds. A highlight from the baptism was the testimony of baptismal candidate Dion Williams, who has a history of substance abuse and, before knowing Jesus, described himself as an "angry person".—**Eddie Hastie**



Loved retreat

Around 250 women from across the North New Zealand Conference (NNZC) gathered at Tui Ridge Park, Rotorua, for the “Loved” women’s retreat held from September 8 to 10.

Featuring special messages presented by guest speaker Heidi Tompson and music by Kristie Sipek and Sandra Entermann, the event was attended by women of different age groups and cultural backgrounds.

According to NNZC women’s ministry coordinator Lynelle Laws, one of the highlights of the event was having the attendance of “the newer people in our churches or those not yet fellowshiping with us”.

“New facilities at Tui Ridge made this event all the more pleasant and gave us the space to meet our Maker in peace and tranquillity,” added Ms Laws.

Feedback from participants was positive. “I’m so grateful to God for this wonderful opportunity to meet all my sisters and grandmothers and mothers from all over the North Island and to just feel so loved and a sense of belonging,” said one of the attendees.

Another participant commented that the retreat met the spiritual needs she couldn’t address during Big Camp due to her obligations including her focus on supporting her children’s spiritual journey.—**Record staff**

have news to share?

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



Building the kingdom

The Warakum Seventh-day Adventist Church in Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea, has commenced constructing buildings for its three new church plants near Mount Hagen City—Rondon Ridge, Solo Village and Gimbba Settlement. Being the furthest along in its building stage, Rondon Ridge represents a new mission area. While it currently has only five members, the under-construction church building is designed to accommodate more than 100 people. Funded by Warakum church members and under the leadership of the senior elder, young men from the church are assisting with the construction, aiming to complete the church by the end of December.—**Juliana Muniz**



“Come to PNG and help us”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in PNG needs help as it plans for the 2024 “PNG for Christ” evangelistic campaign. From April 26 to May 12, there will be at least 7000 evangelistic meetings happening across the country, which means that many preachers are needed—both lay members, including young people and retirees, and ministers. Pastor Gary Webster, director of the Institute of Public Evangelism at the South Pacific Division, said the preachers will include General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson. “They will be coming from around the world and from throughout the South Pacific Division to help the Church in PNG share the good news of Jesus and His soon return,” he said. Each preacher must pay for their own visa and return airfare to the site in PNG where they will preach. The Church in PNG will care for the preacher’s food and accommodation. If you would like to join the team of preachers, contact Pastor Webster without delay on <garywebster@adventist.org.au>.—**Tracey Bridcutt**

International reporting (1990–1995)

April 3, 1993

RECORD

During the period between 1990 and 1995, various countries around the world experienced political upheaval and governmental reform, leading to spiritual re-awakening and renewal. Of special note was the abolition of Apartheid legislation in South Africa and the democratisation of Albania following the collapse of their government. These two countries both experienced a significant and profound change to the spiritual and religious condition of the people, seeing a shake-up of beliefs and renewal of faith.

Albania:

"Albania is a country in a blind panic. Its politicians have run away from government, its police and army have lost grip on law and order, and its people are left to fight even for a daily loaf to keep themselves alive" (*Record*, July 4, 1992).

For the first time in almost 50 years, Albania in 1991 underwent parliamentary elections, resulting in serious political and social turmoil as the country moved from a communist regime to a democracy. During these 50 years of communism, religion had been outlawed by the constitution, and the country had an isolationist policy which prevented external support (*Record*, September 21, 1991). During the communist years, Albania held fast to an extreme interpretation of Marxist philosophy, being recognised as the first atheistic state and the most isolated country in all of Europe due to its strict regime (September 21, 1991;¹). The fall of communism in Albania on

March 31, 1991 heralded a new era of political and religious freedom, however the impact of decades of communism and the fallout of the political revolution was devastating (*Record*, September 21, 1991).

Shops right across Albania were empty. Firewood had run out. Almost all trees along country roads had been cut down and many railway sleepers stolen to be used as firewood. Children were even sent onto the street to burn rubbish to keep warm (*Record*, July 4, 1992). Hospitals lacked basic necessities like food, baby products and basic medicine, with not even aspirin being available to relieve pain (*Record*, February 19, 1994). In 1992, over 50 per cent of the population were out of work (*Record*, July 4, 1992), escalating to an unemployment rate of 80 per cent by 1994 (*Record*, February 19, 1994).

A shocking report was made by journalist Bill Hamilton on the lived experience of families in Albania in 1992 while he was there with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA): "As if all this was not bad enough, 10,000 children are now at risk of permanent starvation. It's the tiniest and most vulnerable who are having to endure so much of the suffering. Mothers who are malnourished cannot provide breast milk.

Many babies, some weighing a half a kilogram less at four or five months than when they were born, have already died." (*Record*, July 4, 1992). Some parts of Albania, such as Sarca, had no running water, proper housing or sanitation, with up to 10 families





sharing one lavatory with sewage flowing out into the streets where the children played (*Record*, July 3, 1993).

The horrific conditions faced by Albanian residents made news around the world, sparking donations and widespread support, with ADRA receiving millions of items to be given to Albanian people. ADRA was one of the first non-government agencies welcomed into Tirana, Albania, for almost half a century. ADRA provided essential food, medicines and clothes directly to those who were in desperate need (*Record*, July 4, 1992). The assistance provided by ADRA not only offered survival and fulfilment of basic needs to millions across Albania, but it also gave hope to those who thought hope was lost (*Record*, July 3, 1993).

Faith grew as hope spread, with Seventh-day Adventists meeting together in Tirana for the first time in 50 years. One member of this group, Meropi Gjika, had been the only Adventist for 60 years in Tirana (*Record*, September 21, 1991). As the church in Tirana grew, they needed a larger location to gather on Sabbaths. The multi-million dollar Hoxha museum became the meeting spot. This museum, ironically, had been erected in 1988 by the man who “considered the eradication of religion from Albania his finest achievement” (*Record*, February 19, 1994). The church experienced significant and ongoing spiritual growth as the nation received more and more support, restoring hope and freedom to the people of Albania.

South Africa:

The period of 1990 to 1995 was also a significant period for South Africa, being the time in which the Apartheid legislation was retracted, and all-race national elections were held for the first time since 1948.

While significant developments were being made on the political scene in South Africa, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was slow in keeping up to date with these developments in equality and progress. For 25 years, the Adventist Church in South Africa had been divided into two unions, the Southern Union Mission and the South African Union Conference—separating black and white from one another in accordance with the Apartheid legislation. There had been little communication between these two unions during this time, leading to misunderstanding, uncertainty and inequality across the two unions which remained after Apartheid was removed (*Record*, November 2, 1991).

There were calls to unite the two unions, though expressions of hesitation were made in response. Some of this



hesitation was founded in the financial problem which would arise from merging the two unions due to the wage differential between white and black staff across the two unions, recognising that financial support would be needed from the world Church (November 2, 1991). Another source of hesitation came from the fact the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa had been separated by vote of the General Conference, and uniting the two unions again proposed an administrative nightmare. President of the South African Union Conference, Pastor James Bradfield, compared uniting the unions to reassembling a broken egg: “Not only is it a sticky business for all concerned, but it also has the hallmarks of being impossible” (November 2, 1991).

While these administrative difficulties were very real and present, it was widely understood that Apartheid was a “structure of the powers of darkness” and that, “no vestige of that structure must remain in the administrative structure of the church in South Africa. If it does, it will divide the church” (November 2, 1991). The Church in South Africa itself was supportive of uniting the two unions, with there being a new spirit of unity growing among the believers of all ethnic origins in the country (November 2, 1991). Powerful testimony was provided in support of this move to unite the unions by Pastor DWB Chalale: “The church has to move or perish. People have died in South Africa—both white and black. The church was quiet. The church must now act. It can never be the same Adventist church again.”

On December 10, 1991, the Southern Union Mission and the South African Union Conference took formal steps to unify the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa, forming the Southern Africa Union Conference. While the Adventist church was the last Christian denomination to unite in South Africa, it was a momentous occasion celebrated by church members across South Africa who recognised that this progress would “bring honour to God and the church” (*Record*, December 14, 1991).

1. <https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/Albania.pdf>.

5 simple hacks to cut back *on sugar*

Looking to cut back on sugar but struggling with the cravings? You're not alone.

According to the World Health Organization, we should limit our intake of added sugar to around 50g per day or around 12 teaspoons. That may sound like a lot, but it quickly adds up when you consider most of the added sugar consumed comes from processed foods and drinks.

To cut back on the amount of sugar you have, make it an easy long-term lifestyle change, don't make it an all-or-nothing approach. If you focus on eating more whole foods, especially plant foods that are rich in fibre, such as wholegrains, legumes, vegetables, fruit, nuts and seeds, it will help you naturally eat less sugary foods. Choosing whole foods that have a low glycemic index will also help stabilise blood sugar levels and reduce sugar cravings.

So how do you get started? Here are five tips to help make your approach to cutting back on sugar easy:

1. Downsize the portions

Reducing your portions of sugary foods and drinks is one of the easiest ways to cut back on sugar. By reducing your portion sizes, you are still allowing yourself to enjoy the sugary foods and drinks, but in smaller amounts, which will help manage sugar cravings too.

2. Snack smarter

If you always reach for sweet snacks, try swapping them for healthier whole foods. Look for snacks that are rich in protein or low GI because they fill you up and give you long-lasting energy. Snacks such as fruit and nuts, yoghurt and berries, veggie sticks and dip, wholegrain crackers and peanut butter. Reducing the frequency of sugary snacks will make a big impact in your overall sugar intake, even if you reserve one daily slot for a favourite treat.



3. Swap to low sugar options

Choosing lower sugar options can help you easily cut back on sugar. For example, swap soft drink for sparkling water, sugary cereals for low sugar wholegrain options or sugary cakes for a low sugar homemade version naturally sweetened with fruit.

4. Start your day right

Choosing the right breakfast can help cut back on sugar and reduce cravings throughout the morning. You may even be able to resist the call of the biscuit barrel at morning teatime. So, what do you need to look for? Choose a cereal that's made with wholegrains and provides a source of fibre, such as Weet-Bix™ or porridge, and sweeten it with fresh fruit if you need. Another quick and tasty option is scrambled eggs or baked beans on grainy bread.

5. Swap to home-made treats

Many commercial cakes, bars and muffins are high in added sugar and while they may taste great, they aren't providing your body with much nutrition. They are okay to enjoy now and then, but if they are your go-to, it's a good idea to swap these foods for more nourishing snacks. Some healthier and lower sugar options could include homemade cakes, wholegrain fruit muffins, homemade muesli bars or whole food options like fruit and nuts.

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



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ELIA Lifestyle Medical Centre breaking new ground

The South Pacific's first ELIA Lifestyle Medical Centre (ELMC) has emerged as a beacon of hope for individuals grappling with lifestyle-related health issues.

The centre, located at Sydney Adventist Hospital, has already produced notable results in the first six months since its official launch on March 26.

With a wholistic, compassionate and integrated approach to health care, the centre has been running a pilot program for a small group of individuals with diabetes and other metabolic disorders. At the end of the 12-week program, participants experienced significant reductions in their weight and waist circumferences. Their diabetes health markers improved, and they were able to reduce medications. All achieved significant gains in their strength and fitness.

Apart from embracing a new love for exercise and a positive, whole-food approach to eating, they're also in a much better mental state, according to centre medical director Dr Andrea Matthews. "They are in a place where they have hope—they feel cared for and supported," she said.

"We want participants to learn at our centre two things: how to adopt an optimal lifestyle for achieving their best self, and how to keep moving forward with a positive mindset."

The program is designed to be a comprehensive journey, offering individualised assessments, dietary guidance, medical support and health coaching, while also emphasising the importance of community and shared experiences through group sessions

such as exercise and cooking demonstrations. In addition, patients grow together as they learn and discuss critical topics such as managing stress, the importance of forgiveness, and the role that meaning and purpose play in spirituality and mental health.

"To me, it's what medicine should look like," Dr Matthews said. "It's about spending quality time with patients, working with them and taking a wholistic approach."


While lifestyle medicine is gaining traction in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, it's still in its infancy in Australia, so the centre is breaking new ground in this space.

"We need to get the message out there that lifestyle medicine can be used as an intervention, that it has significant potential to prevent, treat and remit chronic diseases," Dr Matthews said. "It's about changing the narrative about health care."

While raising awareness with the medical profession and the general community is essential, equally important is sharing the message with our church members.

"It can be challenging to convey the importance of lifestyle changes to individuals who say, 'I already have the health message'," Dr Matthews said. "While they may not smoke or drink alcohol, their lifestyle may not be optimal in other areas such as diet, exercise and stress levels. So, this is a mission field in itself, and there are opportunities to help our members embrace healthier lifestyles."

Starting a new venture can often be filled with challenges and the team have encountered their share of



setbacks. But Dr Matthews has seen God at work throughout their journey and she is encouraged to see patients improve their health outcomes.

"I can see the evidence of His influence in the small victories and in some of the spiritual conversations that patients have initiated," she said. "Team worship and prayer are an integral part of our daily activities, and we can see God at work in both the lives of our patients and our staff."

The opening of the centre is timely given the alarming rate of chronic disease in Australia and New Zealand. According to World Health Organization data, nine out of 10 adults in these countries are dying from chronic disease.

Despite the grim outlook, ELIA Wellness executive director Dr Geraldine Przybylko said there is potential for reducing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease through lifestyle practices such as regular physical activity, consuming a healthy diet, weight management and not smoking.

"Research tells us that 80 per cent of people want to become healthier, but they don't know how," she said. "This is why we established the ELMC—to empower people to whole-person health, touching lives one person at a time to give them hope and a future."

The ELMC is a project of ELIA Wellness, an initiative of Adventist Health South Pacific. For more details visit <eliamc.com/>.

Tracey Bridcutt

Communication director, South Pacific Division.



CUTTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF *Scriptural Interpretation*

In 2019, I immersed myself in a transformative spiritual assembly tailored to address the challenges within the Seventh-day Adventist Church across the South Pacific. Orchestrated by the Trans Pacific Union Mission, this unique conclave summoned more than 200 pastors to the idyllic shores of Vanuatu.

At the heart of our spiritual dialogue was the enigmatic Greek term *Orthotomeo*, drawn from Paul's poetic ink in his second epistle to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:15). Often rendered as "rightly dividing" or "skilfully navigating" the Word of Truth, this term beckons to mind a meticulous, even surgical, method of deciphering God's sacred text. It advocates for an intellectual and spiritual deep dive into the Scriptures, far beyond a mere surface-level perusal. While the concept might seem deceptively simple, many a soul has stumbled by not "slicing" through the Scriptures with due care and precision.

As you embark on your odyssey through the biblical tapestry, consider these three cornerstone principles when wrestling with the enigmas and mysteries tucked within its verses.

1. Pay attention to the overall counsel of the Bible on the topic

Revelation 1:7 declares, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him." Some Adventists have inferred from this verse that the "righteous dead" and those "who pierced Him" will be resurrected during Jesus' second coming. However, this interpretation seems at odds with the more comprehensive biblical teaching on the "first" resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 elaborates that individuals included in the "first" resurrection won't experience the "second death", essentially implying eternal life for them, free from final judgement or destruction symbolised by the "second death".

This creates a theological quandary if we assume that those “who pierced Him” (often interpreted as wicked or unrepentant individuals) would also be resurrected alongside the “righteous dead” during Jesus’ second coming. Passages like 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17 suggest that those resurrected at Jesus’ return would be granted eternal life. Therefore, including the wicked in this resurrection would suggest they, too, receive eternal life, a notion conflicting with the broader biblical teachings about judgement and the fate of the unrighteous.

The more reasonable interpretation is that those “who pierced Him” are resurrected at a separate time, distinct from the resurrection of the righteous. This leads us to our second guiding principle, which further elaborates on the sequencing and purpose of the resurrections, ensuring they align with the broader biblical doctrine.

By meticulously studying and reconciling the biblical text with the larger context, we can deduce principles that harmonise with the overall biblical narrative. Such analysis underscores the importance of distinguishing between the resurrections of the righteous and the wicked, thus preserving the consistency and integrity of biblical teachings on eternal life and judgement.

2. Always consider the Bible’s time, place and context on the subject

Revisiting Revelation 1:7, the time is clearly stated as “Behold, He is coming”, marking the actual return of Jesus. Regarding location (place), Jesus appears in the sky, surrounded by clouds, while the saints are on earth. The central theme of this verse focuses on the fact that “every eye will see Him”. It’s important to note that the emphasis here isn’t on the resurrection of the dead but rather on who will witness Jesus’ return. This group includes not just the righteous but also some of the wicked, specifically those “who pierced Him”.

So, how does the Bible address this complex issue? The answer can be found in the prophecies of Daniel, which provide additional context and clarity.

“At that time Michael shall stand up,

the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:1–3, NKJV).

In the prophecy of Daniel, the time and location are identified as the moment “Michael shall stand up” to protect the saints during a unique “time of trouble”. This aligns with Revelation 7:1–3, where divine mercy for humanity will one day end, and probation closes. Following this, the world enters a period of significant upheaval.

The situation Daniel described occurs briefly between the end of this probationary period and Jesus’ second coming. During this time, Daniel foretells a “special resurrection”. The righteous and some of the wicked will be resurrected: the righteous to “everlasting life”, and some to “shame and everlasting contempt”, as further detailed in Mark 14:61–63. This explanation offers a coherent interpretation that aligns with the broader context of the Bible on the subject.

3. Always pay attention to the general principle of the Bible on the subject

The third principle aims to prevent misinterpretation of biblical texts. It’s crucial not to formulate an entire doctrine based on a single verse or isolated text. Any interpretation of a challenging passage should align with the Bible’s broader teachings on the subject.

Biblical teachings are interconnected and consistent; they don’t contradict each other. If our interpretation clashes with other biblical teachings, it’s a sign we’ve either drawn incorrect conclusions or misunderstood the text. The Bible is internally consistent, so this principle encourages us to thoroughly study, compare and evaluate to ensure our understanding aligns with the Bible’s overarching messages.

Moreover, our interpretation should also be consistent with the Spirit of Prophecy. For an in-depth exploration of the “special resurrection”, you can refer to Ellen White’s *The Great Controversy*, specifically chapter 40, titled “God’s People Delivered”. The “special resurrection” event is distinct from the general “resurrection of the saints” discussed in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4, which occurs at Jesus’ return.

Conclusion

By steadfastly anchoring ourselves to these three cardinal principles as we voyage through the labyrinthine corridors of the Bible, we greatly minimise the chances of veering off into the weeds of misinterpretation. The Greek term *Orthotomeo*, an eloquent kernel of wisdom tucked into Paul’s second letter to Timothy, beckons us to embark on a rigorous, spiritually-minded scrutiny of God’s divine script. It urges us not just to skim the surface but to plunge into the text’s depths and unravel its complexities while ever seeking celestial guidance.

In essence, Scripture becomes not just text but a dialogue—conversations with God frozen in ink that we thaw through study and contemplation. One might liken this to an intricate jigsaw puzzle, where each biblical verse is a piece that snaps into a grander tableau. Only by cross-referencing one part of the sacred tapestry with another can we “rightly divide” or accurately decipher the full spectrum of biblical teachings.

In adhering to these guidelines, we accomplish twofold: first, we fortify our understanding, constructing a sturdy scaffold of faith and knowledge. Second, we act as responsible stewards of God’s Word, mitigating the peril of leading fellow seekers down convoluted pathways of misunderstanding. This is the essence of *Orthotomeo*—a term that captures the spiritual rigour needed for exploring the divine text, thus ensuring that our understanding aligns harmoniously with the celestial symphony of the Word.

Dr Limoni Manu O’Uiha

Head of theology, Fulton Adventist University College, Nadi, Fiji.



THE ONLY ONE TO *stand*

Aura Ebron Steedman was born in Talisay, Camarines Norte, Philippines, approximately 338 kilometres from Manila. She is the seventh of 10 children to Rosa and Levy Ebron. Rice farming was their main source of income. Her parents were diligent workers and were out in the field planting the rice before sunrise every day. The children had been brought up with strict rules. When the parents were not around, the older siblings would step in by doing household chores, like cooking, and ensuring that every one of the children were working together and everything was done before they headed off to school. It was a hard life, but Rosa and Levy did all they could to help the family survive.

There was minimal money to buy food, at the best of times. There were tough times when the typhoons came and destroyed the crop. It would take four months for more rice to grow, and so during that time they went without, because there was simply no money to buy food.

When Aura was eight-years old she discovered she could make a little money by selling vegetables in the neighbouring

town close to her elementary school. Every day, around 6am, she would carry a big bundle of vegetables on her head, hoping to sell them before school, which started at 7:30am. One generous customer often bought all her vegetables for a few pesos. This helped pay for items needed for school.

Another way Aura earned money was to sing. When she did this people gave her a few pesos or some vegetables. Singing became a way of survival.

Up to this time she had little religious training. Her father had been a Seventh-day Adventist growing up, and her mother was a Catholic, but neither attended church. Her paternal grandmother was a Seventh-day Adventist but sadly died when Aura was 12. Maybe she had planted a few seeds of God's love in Aura's heart!

When Aura was 15 and in her third year of high school, a group of Seventh-day Adventists from Sta. Cruz church conducted an evangelistic seminar for two weeks, close to where she lived. Out of curiosity, Aura decided to go. She was very interested right from the start. The topics were all new to



her, and she learned about Creation, the Trinity and the Sabbath. As soon as she heard about keeping the Sabbath holy, she immediately thought that it was not going to be easy to do, given her situation at home. She decided to keep the Sabbath anyway.

The seminar concluded with an appeal from the pastor, "Whoever wants to accept Jesus as your personal Saviour, please stand?" The only person to stand was Aura!

Her baptism was arranged to be held at the Adventist church in Daet, on a Sunday at 9am. The only problem was, the church was quite a long way from her house. On the day of her baptism, she had only two pesos, which would cover only one way by public transport, which meant she would have to walk home. But God had a plan. God sent an Adventist tri-cycle driver into that very crowded town. Aura approached him, introduced herself, and said she was to be baptised that day and needed to get to the church. The driver told her that the day before in their church service it had been announced about the baptism, but he did not

know who it was. He drove her to the church and he drove her all the way back home free of charge. Praise God!

Her mother had no idea about her decision to be baptised until the following Saturday when Rosa saw her preparing to go to church. Aura explained that she had been baptised as a Seventh-day Adventist and she wanted to attend church every Sabbath. But every Saturday, all the children had to help on the farm, either planting or harvesting rice. Aura told her mother that she was willing to work all day Sunday instead, but Rosa became angry. Children were expected to obey their parents. Aura loved her mother, but she was determined that she would serve God by keeping His Sabbath no matter the consequences. Her first Sabbath was not a happy one, because Aura knew she was disobeying her mother.

One thing that Aura was confused about was in the Ten Commandments where it says to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" but it also says, "Honour your mother and your father". If her parents did not want her to go to church, should she listen to them?

She spoke to a church elder and he responded by saying, "Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Although it was difficult, nothing would stop her from going to church.

After graduating from high school, Aura attended the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), studying a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She was working and studying at the same time to pay for her tuition, but during her last year she needed to study full time. Her parents did not have enough money to cover tuition fees for her final year.

It was the policy that the students needed to pay a percentage of the fees each semester before they could sit their final examination. Each semester Aura always asked for an extension, which initially was granted, but during her last semester the extension was declined. Her only choice was to pray and seek the mercy of the AUP president. Aura had no appointment and waited from 8am until finally, at 11am, she was given permission to enter his office. After explaining her situation, she noticed him writing on a paper and placing it in an envelope. She was told to give it to the Student Affairs Department. To her surprise, he had paid her full tuition fees of P43,000 (around \$A1000). God is so good.

During her time at AUP, and unknown to her, the church in Santa Cruz had been sending people to visit her parents. You can imagine her joy at hearing that her parents had also been baptised. That weekend she travelled home, and for the first time was able to attend church with her parents. What a joyous day that was. Since then, seven of her siblings have been baptised.

In April 2007, a group of Australian youth, volunteers from the Hoxton Park church in Sydney, Australia, went to the Philippines to conduct an evangelistic crusade near her home in Camarines Norte. The group initially stayed at AUP, and Aura asked if she could hitch a ride in their bus back to Talisay. She joined them on the bus and immediately noticed a handsome young man sitting at the back. She, however, had been allocated a seat down the front. His name was Chris Steedman and the next day, on Sabbath afternoon, they spent time getting to know each other. That was the beginning of their love story. Chris was new to the faith, having been baptised five months earlier.

In October 2007, Aura travelled to Australia and met Chris's family and was happy to meet all the Hoxton Park church family. On January 6, 2008, Chris and Aura were married. Two days later Aura had to return to the Philippines. She completed all the requirements for a spouse visa, which two months later was granted.

Aura and Chris have now been married for 15 years and have two lovely daughters, Acacia and Trisha. Aura works as a registered nurse serving elderly people and veterans in the community. Aura is also the Primary Sabbath school teacher at Hoxton Park church, which she loves.

Aura says, "I will continue to serve God for as long as I live. He has been so good and faithful to me."

Sandra Lehn

Communications, Hoxton Park church, Sydney, NSW.

Hello Kids!

Kids' Space

We reveal
God's love by
serving others.

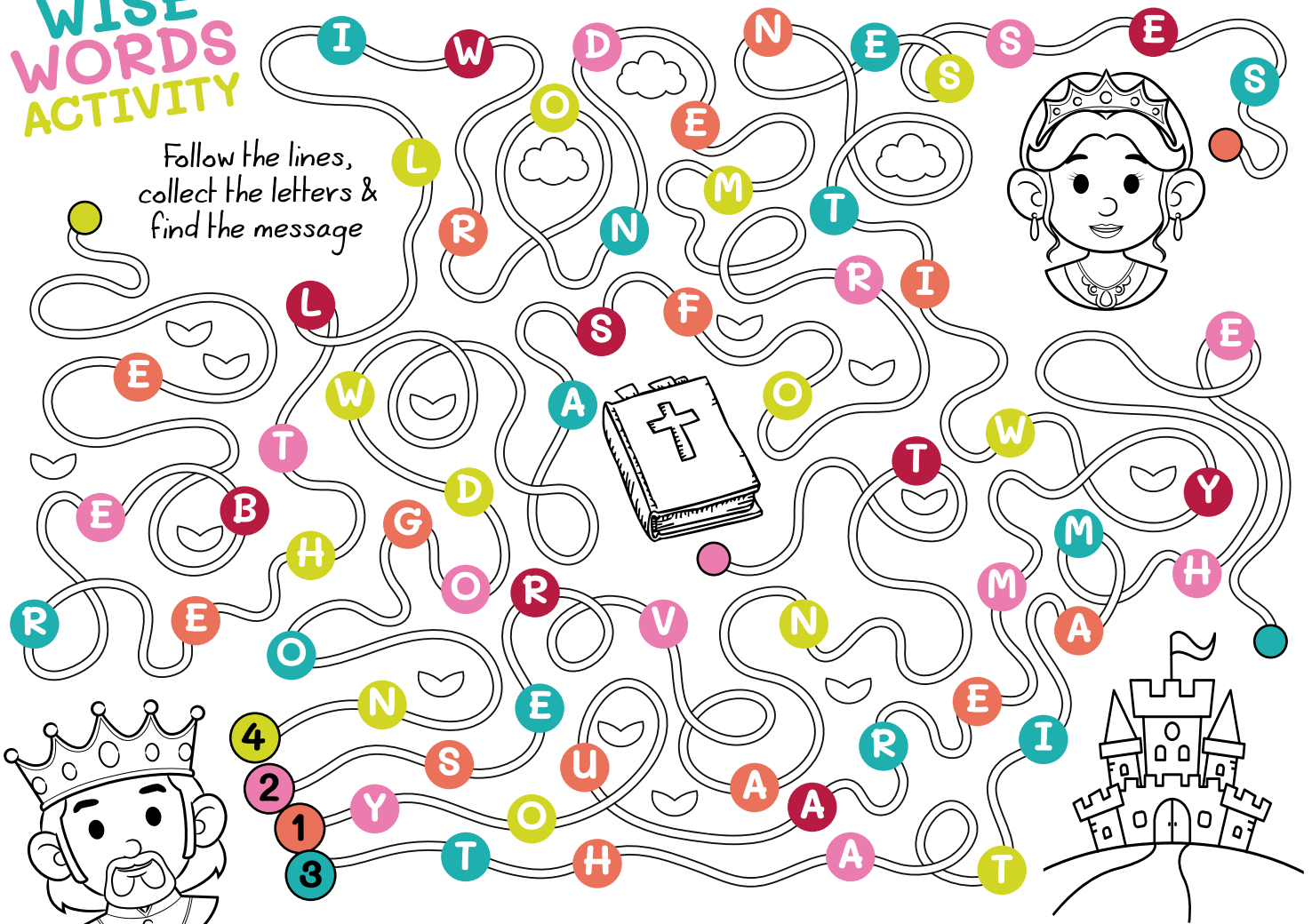


It's a Match!

The queen of Sheba hears of King Solomon's wisdom. She visits Solomon to witness his wisdom. Solomon's words and actions, as well as the words and actions of his people, make an impression on the queen. Because of what she sees and hears, she acknowledges the true God in heaven. She sees justice in the way Solomon deals with the people and she also sees the righteousness of God in the words and actions of Solomon. God uses Solomon to witness to the queen of Sheba.

WISE WORDS ACTIVITY

Follow the lines,
collect the letters &
find the message



MEMORY VERSE

“⁶⁶ **1** _____, declares the LORD, ‘and my **2** _____ whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand **3** _____. Before me **4** _____, one after me’” (Isaiah 43:10).

Addressing the cost of living crisis



"We went into hardship on our mortgage and my sick pay ran out, my annual leave ran out, everything ran out, and we were living off nothing."

Perri and her husband were living the Australian dream: they had a mortgage on a home and Perri was facing a promotion that would secure the couple's future. But an injury turned her whole world upside down.

"Life changes very, very quickly," Perri says. "I had a very comfortable job and I was due to have a promotion. Unfortunately, I had a fall at home and I fractured my right leg very, very badly. It took 18 months for me to recover."

Perri is a nurse, and her injury prevented her from working. During this time, Perri used all her leave from work before falling back on her savings. Her husband was working casually, but his work was unreliable.

"It got to the point where we just could not live anymore," Perri says. "I had to try and find help. One of the hardest things I ever had to do in my life was to ask for help."

Perri found herself at ADRA in Ferntree Gully, Victoria. The program operates out of the local Seventh-day Adventist church building and is entirely run by volunteers who are a mix of church and community members.

"I got bags and bags and bags of groceries that I wouldn't have been able to buy," Perri says. "I came in here in tears and left with food and a smile on my face and a full belly that night. And that made all the difference."

When Perri recovered, she applied for a new job. But before her new job could get off the ground, her husband suffered a stroke, and Perri became his full-time carer.

Perri now receives a carer's allowance and her husband receives the age pension. But when compared to the cost-of-living, they were still considered to be food insecure. ADRA's food support is helping to relieve that pressure.

"That extra money that we're not spending on food I can spend on the electricity and gas," she says.

Over time, Perri was so touched by the support she decided to join the team of ADRA volunteers to give back in any way she could. "I love being a volunteer and it warms my heart. I go home on a Monday absolutely exhausted, but my heart is full."

As a client and a volunteer, Perri is in a unique position. Her experience allows her to connect in a personal way with the clients who walk through the door every Monday.

"I've been there, that's the bottom line," Perri says. "I've felt the failure of [thinking] like, what do I do tomorrow? Am I going to lose everything? And that's how a lot of them come here."

"People are really embarrassed asking for help because, you know, yesterday they were fine, but today they're not. And to ask for help is embarrassing."

Over the past couple of years, the number of people seeking ADRA's support has increased vastly. The impact of COVID-19 compounded by the cost-

of-living crisis has new people coming through ADRA's doors every week.

"Our clientele has doubled, if not tripled, with the cost of living going up now," says Perri.

For so many like Perri who are staring at empty shelves, ADRA provides essential food support. But equally important to the clients is the love and support they feel every time they step through the church doors.

"ADRA is food support. But more than food support, it's emotional support for me," Perri says. "It's seeing friendly faces every Monday, whether they be clients or the other volunteers here. It makes me whole again after a long week as a carer and it just makes me happy and fulfilled when we close the doors and we know people have got full tummies."

"I just want to thank you for your support for people like me and for the people that walk through our doors. It means so, so much."

ADRA Australia has over 100 Australian community projects, run in collaboration with local Seventh-day Adventist churches. With the increased cost of living, it doesn't take much to push people over the edge into financial hardship, food insecurity or even homelessness. Your gift by October 31 can provide Aussies, just like Perri, with the support they need to get back on their feet. Donate today at adra.org.au/appeal

Ashley Stanton

Media and communications senior officer, ADRA Australia.

Anniversary



SHEARER, John and Lois (nee Woolley) were married on 18.4.1963 in the Papanui Seventh-day Adventist Church in Christchurch, NZ. This marriage was blessed with five children, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Their 60th wedding anniversary was celebrated with family in Rotorua over the Easter weekend. John and Lois faithfully served in many different roles together in the Ilam church in Christchurch. When they were first married they had to drive an hour to church from their family farm, but later when they moved to a high country station in the Lewis Pass, they had a two-hour drive to church, and continued to be a serving part of their faith community. May God continue to bless them in the coming years as they continue to serve their Lord and Master.

Obituaries



MCQUILLAN, Andrew Robert, born 22.3.1956 in Matura, NZ; died 28.7.23 at home in

North Parramatta, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Jenny (nee Glass); children, James (North Parramatta), Sarah (Stanmore) and Rachael (Penrith); their partners; eight grandchildren; and siblings, Ian, Jim, Margaret, Elizabeth, Ada, Rosalind and Cynthia (all of New Zealand). Andrew possessed a keen intellect, sharp wit and punny sense of humour. His passion for studying and sharing the Bible touched the lives of many. Andrew had been a member of Lower Hutt and Royal Oak churches in New Zealand and more recently Kellyville church, NSW. He enjoyed leading discussion groups and collecting on the annual mission appeal. Andrew remained positive through his health issues and PD diagnosis and died knowing his salvation was sure in Jesus.

Aubrey Harrington



MURCHISON, Dorothy Betty (nee Bingham), born 16.2.1924 in

Warracknabeal, Vic; died 5.9.23 in Avondale House, Cooranbong, NSW. On 15.10.1944 she married Joseph Bingham, who predeceased her in 1988. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Lynette in 1988. On 17.4.05 she married Alexander Murchison. Dorothy is survived by her husband (Cooranbong); sons, James and Janelle Bingham (Maryland, USA) and Robert and Carole Bingham (Brisbane, Qld); daughter, Julia and Gordon Smith (Toronto, NSW); 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; and brother, Lindsay Tattersall (Geelong, Vic). Dorothy had lived to serve others, leading out in almost all departments of her Geelong church. She left a legacy of love, compassion, kindness and caring for others. She died in the certain hope of soon seeing her Saviour.

Gordon Smith



WILSON, Iris Olive (nee Johnson), born 8.5.1925 in England; died 30.7.23 in

Elizabeth Lodge, Wahrenonga, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Bruce in 2011. Iris is survived by her children, Ian and partner (Eleebana) and Vicky Johnson and partner (Berowra); and grandchildren, Brendan and Jill (Atlanta, Georgia, USA) and Nicole and Joe Stevens (West Wallsend, NSW). Iris was a long-time member of Wahrenonga church. She loved playing the piano and singing and listening to music. She played for Cradle Roll Sabbath school in Wahrenonga church for many years and taught her children to play the piano. She is waiting for God's soon return.

Bob Saunders

Advertisements

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This month
in Signs...



signs

of the times



THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF VLAD MALLEY One man's incredible journey to hell and back through a multitude of dangers including Nazis and Soviets



IN SEARCH OF THE CREATOR AI, robots and our sense of humanity



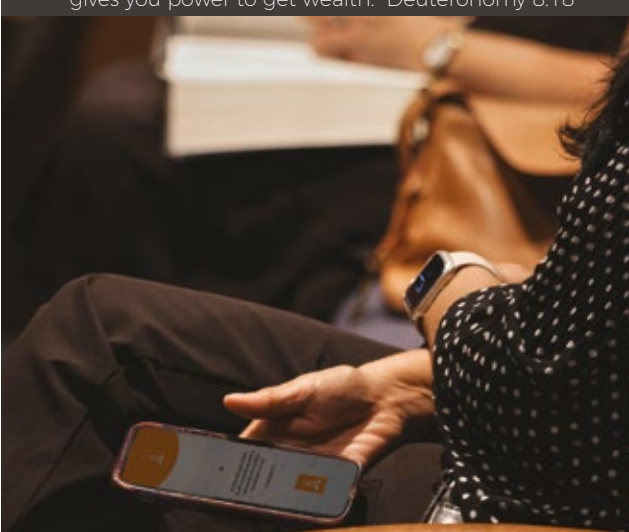
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PACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING JULY 5-7, 2024.

To all past and present students and employees, Pacific Adventist University is proud to announce the upcoming 40th anniversary Homecoming which will be held at Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea) on July 5-7, 2024. You can register your interest by emailing <alumni@pau.ac.pg>, visiting <pau.ac.pg> or joining PAU's Facebook page for more information.

BOOLAROO CHURCH

celebrates 100 years of God's leading on Sabbath, October 21. All past and present Boolaroo members are invited to come and praise God for His blessings over the past century. Sabbath school: 9:30am, Divine Service: 11am. Lunch is provided. Afternoon program: 2pm that will feature testimonies, music and a visual presentation. For catering purposes and/or to contribute photos, contact Patrice: 0412 491 944. Email <patricewinter@hotmail.com>.

ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS

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

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>.

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.

Adventist Record

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125

YEARS OF HOPE

October 14, 2023
Wahroonga Adventist Church

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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:
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If you can't attend, watch the livestream on our website and social channels.

Positions Vacant

PRIMARY TEACHER—CAIRNS ADVENTIST COLLEGE (2 POSITIONS) CAIRNS, QLD

Are you a primary teacher who loves to make a difference? Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Ltd is seeking a creative, dynamic and expert educator to teach primary at Cairns Adventist College. This is a full-time teaching position, starting term 1, 2024. Cairns Adventist College is located in Gordonvale and set on 10.5 hectares and is surrounded by canefields. To learn more about the college, please visit <cas.qld.edu.au>. The successful applicant will hold a formal teaching qualification (degree level) and be currently registered with the Queensland College of Teachers to teach in Queensland. Applications can be emailed to Graham Baird, Director of Education, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia Ltd) at <grahambaird@adventist.org.au>. Applications should include a letter of application and a current resume with a minimum of three referees including contact details.

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>.



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Danelle Stothers

Editorial assistant
Olivia Fairfax

Copyeditor
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Graphic designer
Theodora Pauu

Noticeboard
Julie Laws

Letters
editor@record.net.au

News & photos
news@record.net.au

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Mailing address
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Wahroonga NSW 2076
Australia
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Ellen White AND Contemporary Adventism

SYMPOSIUM 2

OCTOBER 29, 2023

ONLINE EVENT

PLUS 2 VIDEOS ON ELLEN WHITE
Ellen White:
Social Warrior
Ellen White
and the Youth

PROGRAM

10AM-3PM

1. The Emergence of the Prophetic Voice: Why it was needed
2. Ellen White and Salvation
3. Relevance of Ellen White writings for the contemporary generation
4. Is Ellen White still relevant to our young people?

SCAN ME



GUEST SPEAKERS



Mark Pearce



Darius Jankiewicz



Chantal Klingbeil



Jarrod Stackelroth and friends

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

adventistchurch.com/EllenWhiteSymposium



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

people of thy holiness have
den down thy servants' sake
we are not called by thy name

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



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