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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Poison in the air-conditioning

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

Fear harnessed by politicians and leaders is a powerful force to get people to do what they ordinarily would never do.

The Palace of the Parliament in the Romanian capital of Bucharest is a monument to fear.

The building, began under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, was not finished until after the dictator was taken out in the 1989 Christmas Revolution.

It is the second largest building behind the Pentagon and the heaviest building in the world. Made of marble, it is incredibly heavy. So much so that our guide told us that it is sinking at a rate of 6 millimetres a year. There are estimated to be 15,000 chandeliers in the building and to run all the lights and power to systems in the building would take as much as a quarter of the power needs of Bucharest. There are 10 storeys above ground and at least three below.

Another interesting feature he pointed out, were the ventilation panels in the ceilings. Ceausescu demanded that there was no air-conditioning system installed as he was afraid it would be used to poison him. His paranoia didn't end there. One room was designed to have a retractable glass roof so he could land his helicopter.

Dictators are notoriously paranoid, and Ceausescu was no exception.

Tunnels are rumoured to stretch out underneath the building in all directions.

The building now has air-conditioning. It never got its retractable roof as the building was finished more cheaply than it was started, the exorbitant costs of the original design one of the reasons for the start of the revolution.

The world we live in is gripped by fear. With war zones in Europe and the Middle East and a terror attack in Belgium, there is a growing feeling of uncertainty, discomfort and stress. Even in the relatively distant South Pacific, we are still affected by the news cycle.

The problem with fear is that it leads to paranoia. It causes us to distrust others, shut ourselves off from life experiences, pull back from relationships and often even protect ourselves at the cost of others. Fear harnessed by politicians and leaders is a powerful force to get people to do what they ordinarily would never do. It can cause us to betray our morals and the stranger in our midst for the illusion of safety.

Fear is not the animating principle that Christians should use to convert others or be cowed by.

Thankfully the Bible provides an antidote. Love. John tells us, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

The Message paraphrase puts it this way: "There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear."

In a world gripped by fear and isolationist tendencies, Christians have the opportunity to swim against the current. Could we once again be known for our love? In a time of scarcity and living pressure, could our love be shown as generosity to those who are less fortunate?

As certain groups of people are made out as our enemies, will we have the courage to love them, as Jesus called us to do?

We have a hope in a world greater than this one, but we should not ignore the current problems. We should look to solve them with love.

We can be countercultural and revolutionary once again. As love fades from public discourse and everyone around us is picking sides, we have the chance to choose a different path.

We have the opportunity to love the ones we are close to. But also to show kindness to those we don't know. Let's commit to make every day a better experience for someone. A simple smile can go a long way.

I'm talking to myself here. The past few years have made us all withdraw in some ways into ourselves. It's time to be more open, inviting and loving. God's love is the only thing that can save the world. And He invites us to join Him in loving that world. Will we answer that call?



INSIGHT:

Big mission, small acts

Brett Goods
CEO Adventist HealthCare

Being entrusted with a mission can be daunting. The Lesson Quarterly over the past few weeks has reflected on characters in the Bible who were given missions by God. They weren't perfect people. They sometimes balked at the mission; they had legitimate fears. Often they doubted their ability to carry out these seemingly impossible missions. And yet when they aligned themselves with God's purpose, extraordinary things happened.

At Adventist HealthCare (Sydney Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby), mission has underpinned our work since we opened in 1903. Our mission is "Christianity in action: caring for the body, mind and spirit of our patients, colleagues, community and ourselves". The small part each of us plays in delivering that mission may not change the world, but every interaction with a patient has the potential to impact their life.

Some of life's most pivotal events happen in hospital—whether that's a difficult diagnosis or the joy of birth, the grief of loss or the relief of suffering. During hospitalisation, people are often confronted with questions they may never have had to deal with before, such as how do I make sense of this, what does the future hold, what does this mean for me and my family?

Every day there are numerous opportunities to reflect God's love in the way we care for patients and each other. When nurses, doctors, support staff, chaplains, spiritual care ambassadors, volunteers and administrators come alongside patients with kindness and care—meeting their needs where they're at—God can use that to bring comfort, healing and hope.

Not everyone is comfortable being given a "mission" or feels adequately equipped to carry it out. We may feel reluctant or uncertain we have the skills to have a deeper conversation or pray with patients. However, we diminish God's power when we make it about us—our capabilities or lack of. Our small, genuine kindnesses may plant the seeds, and God waters the soil and transforms lives.


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Adventist Record celebrates 125 years of ministry in the South Pacific

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

Sabbath, October 14 was a high day in the history of *Adventist Record* as a special program was held to celebrate the magazine's 125th anniversary.

The event, at Wahroonga Adventist Church in Sydney, brought together past and present members of the *Record* family—those who have contributed to the ministry of *Record* over the decades—for a day of reflection and thanksgiving. Those who couldn't attend in person were able to watch on the livestream.

Highlights of the morning service included video messages from former long-time *Adventist Review* editor Dr Bill Knott, ex-*Record* editor James Standish and former assistant editor Dr Gary Krause.

"I am delighted to be congratulating *Adventist Record* for 125 years of service to this Union, this Division and frankly the whole world, because we all read your content even if we sometimes wish we had written it ourselves," said Dr Knott in his video message.

"The reality is it's been such a solid source of good information, high quality journalism, great graphics. There are times as an editor when I have wished that my stuff looked so good."

Current *Record* editor Jarrod Stackelroth presented a thought-provoking sermonette titled "What God Has Done". News editor Juliana Muniz and assistant editor Danelle Stothers provided a life sketch outlining *Record's* rich history, while former editorial assistant Scott Wegener engaged the audience—both young and old—with a children's story that explained the process of producing the *Record* each fortnight.

Following the worship service, attendees enjoyed a fellowship lunch, including the cutting of an anniversary cake.

Highlights of the afternoon program included video messages from the Trans Pacific Union Mission and the Signs Publishing team, and a prayer of thanks and rededication of *Record* by South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend.

Former SPD president Dr Barry Oliver presented a keynote address on "*Record* and the mission of the Church" while former editor Dr Bruce Manners gave a talk on *Record* editors past and present.

"The existence of the *Record* for 125 years demonstrates the importance of good communication in the context of the mission of the Church," said Dr Oliver in his presentation.

"The strategic focus put in place in the early years continues to serve the Church well and while ever the *Record* directs attention to the primary mission of the Church and its members it will have a place in the life of the Church in the South Pacific."

Pastor Townend extended his congratulations to *Record* for 125 years of ministry: "During that time you've told our story—the story of God working in the South Pacific Division—and that's what the *Record* is all about, telling our story, our testimonies, our challenges, what we face and then also what God is doing amongst us."

Reflecting on the heritage of *Record*, Mr Stackelroth said there is much to celebrate. "It is important to recognise where we've come from, to celebrate the contribution *Record* has made to the Church in the South Pacific Division, and to rededicate the work to God as we keep on telling stories of what God has done.

"It was great that some former staff and editors could attend [the anniversary program] and even two of the late [former editor] Bob Parr's daughters came to represent their dad. That was special.

"*Adventist Record* is unique in the world Church as a division-supported magazine that is provided to church members free, and we are so blessed and privileged to be part of it."

To view the anniversary program visit the Wahroonga church website:

<wahroongasda.com.au>.





Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa (left), Jay Nasilasila and Pastor Maveni Kaufononga with other TPUM and ADRA staff at the handover ceremony.

Adventist Church in Fiji commits to creating accessible spaces

📍 Tamavua, Fiji | John Tausere

The Trans Pacific Union Mission office in Fiji is now a disability-friendly space, thanks to extensive retrofitting work coordinated by ADRA Fiji.

The official handover ceremony of the new accessible facilities was held on September 26 at the TPUM headquarters.

This initiative is part of the larger Fiji Disaster Ready Churches project, funded by the South Pacific Division of the Adventist Church through ADRA South Pacific.

The Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF) joined the celebration, which marked a significant step forward in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the FDPF community.

FDPF Disaster Risk Reduction program coordinator Jay Nasilasila emphasised the importance of this milestone for the FDPF community.

"We believe that everyone, regardless of their physical abilities, deserves the same opportunities and access to public spaces," he said. "It is a fundamental principle of equality that we hold dear. Today, we are taking concrete steps to turn this principle into a reality."

He emphasised that this effort was

not just a legal obligation but a testament to the Church's commitment to creating a more inclusive society. "We firmly believe that accessibility is a shared responsibility, and for the Church to be setting this example, we hope you will inspire others to do the same."

As part of the Fiji Disaster Ready Churches Project, a total of seven church properties of the Fiji Mission have undergone retrofitting to become more inclusive. This initiative supplements the nationwide disaster risk management training in local churches, equipping members with knowledge to prepare for any disasters.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga expressed his gratitude to ADRA Fiji for initiating the project. He emphasised that this endeavour is an acknowledgment of the love and care the Church has for its members with disabilities.

ADRA South Pacific advisor Ana Albuquerque emphasised ADRA's commitment to helping churches in the Pacific become disaster ready, given the region's vulnerability to disasters. She noted that the team is actively working to assist five regional countries.



Dr Unia Api and Pastor Rusel Gaio baptise Phillippa Lole, a PAU student—one of the 37 baptismal candidates.

Baptisms surge at PAU's Festival of Faith

📍 Port Moresby, PNG | Kym Piez

A total of 37 students and members of the local community were baptised at the end of Pacific Adventist University's (PAU) Festival of Faith, held October 1-7.

The number of baptisms in 2023 at PAU now totals 50.

"We are so excited to see 50 students and community members baptised at Pacific Adventist University this year," said PAU vice chancellor Dr Lohi Matainaho.

"This is a testament to the power of God's Word and the impact that it is having on our students and community members."

Festival of Faith is an annual event at PAU that brings together students, faculty, staff and members of the

surrounding community to worship and celebrate their faith in Jesus. This year's guest speaker for the week was Pastor Grego Pillay from Newcastle, NSW. In his morning and evening presentations, Pastor Pillay shared his music gifts and stories of the power of the gospel.

"We are grateful that our speaker was used by the Holy Spirit to share powerful God-centred messages, and we pray that these new believers will continue to grow in their faith," said Dr Matainaho.

Contributions from the seven worship sites across campus added to the success of the program. "In my experience, the enthusiasm and participation I witnessed at PAU were truly exceptional," commented Pastor Pillay.



Damage in Gaza Strip during the October 2023 conflict—Wikimedia Commons (Palestinian News & Information Agency (Wafa) in contract with APAINimages)

Adventist Church calls for prayer following escalating conflict in the Middle East

📍 Tel Aviv, Israel | Adventist News Network/Record staff

The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has issued an urgent call to prayer in the wake of the tragic situation unfolding in the Middle East.

At the time of writing, almost 5000 people were reported to have died in the conflict, which erupted when Hamas launched a surprise attack in Israel on October 7. As the rockets continue to fire and thousands of people are being displaced, the humanitarian crisis is escalating.

A statement from the General Conference, released on October 8, acknowledged the pain and suffering experienced by all those affected by the conflict.

"The Adventist Church has a modest but meaningful presence in Israel, with 15 churches and 839 members," the statement reads. "At this time, none of our congregations have been directly impacted by the current conflict. The escalating violence poses challenges for our church members in Israel, including concerns for their safety and the continuation of regular church activities. The situation also raises questions about how best to offer spiritual and, where possible, humanitarian support during these trying times.

"As we navigate these turbulent times, our collective prayers are focused on several crucial areas. We fervently ask for an immediate halt to the hostilities, praying that God will open avenues for diplomatic discussions to bring a quick end to the violence and prevent further loss of innocent lives. Our hearts and prayers also go out for the protection of all civilians caught in this conflict, including our Adventist community members in Israel. We pray for God's protection and for safe havens in these perilous times.

"While Adventist teachings indicate that wars and conflicts will arise before the second coming of Christ, it does not diminish our desire for peace or our commitment to being ambassadors for Christ's love in a world in desperate need of both. We invite our global Adventist community to unite in prayer and purpose, trusting that God will work in miraculous ways."

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend added to the call for peace and understanding: "There are no winners in war. It's barbaric and horrifying. My heart goes out to all those experiencing pain. I pray for them and for peace. I encourage others to do the same."

making headlines

Adam, the Adventist robot

Adventist engineers at Sahmyook Health University (Korea) have developed an AI-powered robot named Adam. Capable of learning the Bible and 28 Fundamentals, the plan is to train Adam to answer faith-related questions. "If you come to our university in a year, this robot will give you a tour of our campus. Adam will also work as a campus guard. He will be able to work 24/7 and will always be kind," said university president Joo-hee Park.—**Adventist Review**



194,000 baptised

More than 194,000 people have been baptised after an evangelistic series held in Kenya. The September series, with international guest speaker Pastor Mark Finley, saw the unprecedented establishment of 20,000 downlink locations in 11 countries throughout the East-Central Africa Division.—**AR**

Global mission

A church planter from Spain is following in the footsteps of the first official Adventist missionary, John N Andrews, by moving to Switzerland to proclaim Jesus' soon coming. The move comes as part of a General Conference initiative urging support to send missionaries to the world's most challenging mission areas.—**Adventist Mission**

Clutter-free living

One-third of people aged 65 and older fall each year; however, a review has revealed that reducing home hazards, such as clutter and inadequate lighting, can lower the risk of falls by 26 per cent, while other measures like prescription glasses, special footwear and education, show no compelling evidence for reducing falls.—**University of Sydney**



Pratt family celebration

Pastor Andrew Pratt was ordained as a minister on August 26 at Forresters Beach church (NSW). Pastor Pratt has served in many churches in the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference, including Wingham, Gloucester, Byron Bay and Kingscliff, and now serves in the ministerial team at Forresters Beach. The ordination service included testimonies, a special item and a sermonette presented by Australian Union Conference (AUC) ministerial secretary Dr Brendan Pratt. NNSW secretary Pastor Abel Iorgulescu and AUC associate ministerial secretary Pastor Lyndelle Peterson delivered the ordination charge. Pastor Pratt said, "I'm incredibly humbled to see this longstanding calling on my life acknowledged and affirmed."—**Megantha Kiruwi**



Multicultural feast

Members of Hillview church in Morisset (NSW) celebrated their diverse community at the church's second annual International Night on September 30. The celebration, organised by social leader Claudia Campos Diaz, gathered more than 100 attendees—some in traditional costumes. Held in a hall decorated with flags and banners, the event featured a variety of international foods. "Attendees were treated to a mouthwatering buffet with dishes from more than seven countries," said church member Mary Fedorow. Organisers said the aim of the event wasn't only to celebrate diversity but also to foster unity. "It was a night of laughter, learning and taking the opportunity to learn more about each other's cultures and appreciate the beauty of diversity within the church," said Ms Diaz.—**Mary Fedorow/Juliana Muniz**



Inmates church

Inmates sang and gave praise to God during a worship service held recently at the multi-church hall at Kerevat Correctional Services in PNG. More than 300 church members from Kabakada and Rarokos and 43 Adventist inmates attended the service, with the message presented by New Britain New Ireland Mission president Pastor Andrew Opis. In his message, he promoted the 2024 "PNG for Christ" campaign, revealing that the New Britain New Ireland Mission will supply Bibles and godpods to the churches in the Mission, including Kerevat Correctional Services.—**Garry Laukei**



New chapter

After 35 years of service, Pastor Doug McLeod has retired from full-time ministry. Pastor McLeod started in ministry in South Africa. In 1997 he moved to North New Zealand with his wife Angie where they've ministered to churches in Palmerston North and Auckland. Although starting a new season, he is committed to continuing to answer God's calling to minister to people in the community.—**Plugin**



High note

More than 50 former students of Beulah Adventist College returned to their old school on September 13 to donate a new set of brass band instruments valued at more than \$A100,000.

The students, formerly members of the school brass band, now live in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. One of them emotionally expressed how encouraging it was for him to reunite with his former school band members and to return to his old school in Tonga after more than 30 years living in Australia.

Tonga Mission president Pastor Fanueli Mataele, who is also chair of the school board, dedicated the new instruments for God's purposes and further encouraged all former school brass band members overseas and in Tonga to continue to uplift the name of Jesus through music.

At the beginning of the academic year, Beulah Adventist College embarked on a music development project worth \$A150,000 that saw the redevelopment of the school brass band, which had been silent over the past couple of decades.

"In an effort to further enhance Adventist ethos in Adventist schools in Tonga, respective schools have been encouraged to offer music and provide other related musical initiatives such as school choirs," said Dr Elisapesi Manson, education consultant for Adventist Schools in Tonga.—**Record staff**

have news to share?

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



Changed by example

After a group of five young men from the Olgai Walile tribe in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea publicly renounced their marijuana addiction and were baptised on August 26, more followed their example. Tendago Pera, a hard-of-hearing man who also struggled with marijuana addiction, was among those inspired by their act. Learning about the Adventist teachings through sign language, Mr Pera was deeply moved by the public burning of marijuana crops. Witnessing this act led him to join 15 others in baptism on World Pathfinder Day, September 16.—**Harry Nasi**



Discipleship tools

Dr Daryl Gungadoo, director of the *Adventist Review* Media Lab at the General Conference, presented a digital discipleship course at Avondale University (Australia) in September. Hosted by the Centre for Discipleship's Catalyst program, Dr Gungadoo presented on some of the practical tools to communicate with different target audiences—from creating effective memes to the art of podcasting, and recording appealing and short, shareable videos. Adventist Media digital marketing assistant Jan Rhais Amantiad said he found the workshops and seminars both practical and eye-opening. "I liked the part where he talked about cognitive biases, which helps us to methodically approach different situations in the digital space," he said. "I learned that once we understand this, we can connect to our followers on a personal level."—**Tracey Bridcutt**



The world is changing (2000–2005)

The Twin Towers

"September 11 has been described as the day that changed the world forever" (*Record*, November 17, 2001).

Millions watched television screens around the globe in silence as the unbelievable events transpired before their eyes. Disbelief, shock, horror, fear, dread, panic, grief, hatred, anger, desperation and terror—every emotion imaginable was felt upon hearing the devastating news of the terrorism attack on the Twin Towers.

"This act of terrorism occurred at a time least expected. It caught America and the rest of the world by surprise. This barbaric act has left in its wake a nation in shock, thousands of grieving loved ones and a globe encased in fear" (*Record*, November 17, 2001).

There were nearly 3000 deaths in the September 11 attacks, with nine Seventh-day Adventist church members among them (*Record*, October 6, 2001). Around 6000 people were injured. The world was shaken. Innocence was henceforth tainted. Fear reigned in the hearts and minds of many. But the Church did not remain silent.

In the horrors and distress of these terrorist attacks, many were questioning the reason why. Why did this atrocity happen, and where was God in all of this? Dr Angel Rodriguez presented a response to these questions, pointing out that as "tempting as it is to speculate concerning the role of God in those events, we must simply acknowledge that they were the result of the presence of evil in this world" (*Record*, October 6, 2001). God was not bringing anger or judgement against America; these tragic events were merely the sorrowful result of sin metastasising in our world. Dr Rodriguez went on to offer encouragement and hope, remembering that "God can bring good out of an unspeakable evil, without either being its cause or part of the process of justifying it."

Messages of hope and encouragement provided a lifeline for many. The whole world came together in prayer, offering prayers of comfort for the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families, as well as all those who were suffering



or hurting from the experience (*Record*, October 27, 2001). Many were reminded of the promised hope of Jesus' second coming and His answer to evil, pain and suffering—that He will "destroy evil completely" (*Record*, October 6, 2001).

"The day isn't far distant when peace and freedom will be guaranteed forever and terrorism in all its forms will be no more" (*Record*, November 17, 2001).

Sanitarium Turns 100

As New Year's Eve, 2002, clocked over to New Year's Day, 2003, the Sydney Adventist Hospital officially turned 100. The original Sydney Sanitarium opened on January 1, 1903, being named the "Sanitarium" on account of the principles it employed in its healthcare practices (*Record*, February 22, 2003).

Ahead of its time, the Sanitarium in the early 20th century promoted hydrotherapy, fresh air, exercise and a healthy diet—entirely revolutionary ideas in comparison to the medical practices of the day. At the time it was founded, the most prominent methods used to treat the common diseases of the day included bleeding, inhalation of resin fumes, blistering

to parts of the body, as well as enclosure in dark and airless rooms (*Record*, February 22, 2003). As a result of its counter-cultural healthcare, the Sanitarium experienced immediate success, which only continued to grow.

By 2003, the Sydney Adventist Hospital was the largest and most comprehensive acute care private hospital in NSW and was ranked in the top 10 hospitals in Australia (*Record*, February 22, 2003). On February 9, 2003, the San commemorated its centenary birthday on the front lawn with more than 1000 people attending and participating in the celebrations (*Record*, March 9, 2003).

HIV/AIDS Strategy in the South Pacific

At the turn of the millennia, the issue of HIV and AIDS prevalence in the South Pacific came to the attention of the Church and a strategy was developed to help tackle this epidemic.

While Australia and New Zealand had effectively curbed the spread of HIV/AIDS, the disease was spreading at an increasing rate in Papua New Guinea, with a prevalence rate of about 1 to 2 per cent and a rate of increase between 13 and 30 per cent (*Record*, June 21, 2003). HIV/AIDS was the main cause of death in the Port Moresby hospital, with some 15,000 people in PNG infected. In addition, Papua New Guinea during this time had the “highest prevalence rate of sexually transmitted infections, which, together with other

factors, contribute to the easy spread of HIV” (*Record*, June 21, 2003).

South Pacific Division leaders determined at their mid-year meeting in 2003 to form a comprehensive strategy to help confront this growing problem. As part of this, the Church released a commitment statement, which recognised the Church’s failure in the past to prevent the spread or diminish the impact of the disease on society and church

members. The statement also emphasised a commitment to working towards compassionate and intelligent education on the issue and addressing the disease in homes, places of work and worship, churches, schools, clinics and hospitals (*Record*, June 21, 2003).

The strategic framework developed by the Church proposed integration and cooperation with ADRA and other church organisations and external agencies to provide widespread education on prevention, as well as supporting treatment and relief programs for those diagnosed with HIV and AIDS (*Record*, June 21, 2003).

First National Breakfast Program Launched

On February 11, 2004, the first national breakfast program was launched by the Good Start Breakfast Club—an initiative run by the Australian Red Cross in conjunction with the Sanitarium Health Food Company. This was a national program to provide breakfast to school children in areas of greatest need around Australia. This initiative began after it was discovered that 4 in 10 Australian children attended primary school on an empty stomach. The Good Start Breakfast Club served 100,000 breakfasts in areas of most need within its first month of operation. But the program was about more than just providing food—its goal was to teach children “good habits they can take with them throughout the day and, potentially, throughout their lives” (*Record*, March 13, 2004).



Sanitarium’s support has enabled the Australian Red Cross to expand their breakfast program nationwide.

First national breakfast program launched
Woolloomooloo, NSW

Also of note during this period:

- March 27, 2004 marked the final editorial by then *Record* editor Dr Bruce Manners. He reminded readers of the purpose of the magazine: to display the honest reality of our Church. “Our endeavour with *Record* during this time has been to present the reality that is the church, not some idealised picture.” Dr Manners was succeeded by Nathan Brown.
- From February 7–10, 2003, Avondale College (now University) hosted its first ever Women in Ministry Conference. The primary objective of the conference was to “facilitate and promote the education, employment and ministry of women within the Seventh-day Adventist Church” (*Record*, March 8, 2003).



In a world where medical miracles can be few and far between, the remarkable story of Tony*, a man who faced the life-threatening condition known as Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), stands as a testament to the power of faith, dedicated healthcare professionals and the strength of the human spirit. TEN—an exceedingly rare disease affecting the mucosal membranes and the skin—had Tony’s life hanging in the balance, but with a combination of medical expertise and intercessory prayer, he defied the odds.

TEN is triggered most commonly by antibiotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antiepileptics. With an incidence rate of just 0.4-1.6 cases per million in the population, it remains a little-known condition. However, for those who experience it, TEN is a harrowing ordeal.

Typically affecting adults over the age of 40, TEN often begins with flu-like symptoms, a fever and stinging eyes, before skin lesions become apparent. The lesions, which start as red, bruise-like flat areas, turn grey as the outer skin layer dies and separates from the inner layers, leading to the formation of painful blisters. This separation results in skin that appears scalded and is incredibly sensitive to even the slightest touch.

Tony’s journey with TEN began with a course of antibiotics for a leg infection caused by trauma. A week later, he developed a fever, felt generally unwell, and noticed a rash on his face, neck and upper chest. Doctors in Papua New Guinea, where he was based, decided he should be transported to Cairns Hospital for specialist care and his employer was able to arrange a medical evacuation the same day. The speed of this response was nothing short of miraculous, considering medical evacuations from Port Moresby usually take three to four days to organise.

Tony’s parents, Joan* and Tom*, flew to Cairns to be with him. That evening his condition deteriorated—his severe skin pain necessitating airway intubation and assisted breathing. He was transferred to the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH), where a team of experts led by a dermatologist, intensivist, ophthalmologist and dedicated nursing staff took charge of his care. His parents requested intercessory prayers from their families and close friends.

TEN had affected a staggering 95 per cent of Tony’s body surface area, making his condition extremely critical. The pain he endured was comparable to severe thermal burns, and the loss

of the skin’s protective function made him susceptible to severe infection, which is often fatal.

With no specific treatment available for TEN, meticulous nursing care was vital for Tony’s survival. His daily regimen included burns baths and careful skin dressings to prevent further trauma to his fragile skin. These procedures, coupled with a multidisciplinary approach to managing his overall health, were essential for his recovery. Tony’s parents continuously prayed for his healing, and soon, their church member friends and contacts across the South Pacific Division joined in these intercessory prayers.

After three gruelling weeks in the ICU, Tony’s condition improved enough for him to be extubated, and his dermatologist marvelled at his rapid healing, declaring it a “miracle”. He was subsequently moved to the Burns Unit for further treatment and rehabilitation, as his prolonged immobility required active physiotherapy. Finally, after a month-long battle, Tony was discharged from the hospital.

Today, Tony is back in Papua New Guinea with his wife and family, enjoying good health with no lingering skin scarring or eye issues. While he did lose his fingernails and toenails, they are gradually regrowing, along with his body hair. Equally important, he now has a list of medications to avoid to prevent a recurrence of this rare condition.

In reflecting on his journey, Tony is deeply grateful to the medical professionals who cared for him. He expressed his thanks to everyone who offered up prayers on his behalf. He and his family acknowledge that it was God’s love, grace and mercy that saw him through this challenging ordeal.

In the words of Ephesians 3:20, “God is able to do exceedingly more than we ever ask or think.”

*Tony has requested the use of pseudonyms in this article, as family members wish to ensure that any praise and glory for his healing is attributed to God.

Dr John Lewis
retired dermatologist and a member of
Wahroonga church, NSW.



The power of *prayer*



Adventists digging in to help their community

Armed with mowers and whipper snippers, Adventists in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales have started a “backyard blitz” in their local community.

Wearing their distinctive orange shirts emblazoned with “Adventist Community Services”, the volunteers not only tame wild gardens, but also lend their hands to property repairs, painting and cleaning. And it’s creating a real buzz in the community, with locals curious to discover more about these kind helpers who are providing a much-needed hand to those who need it.

The activities have sparked conversations about faith and spirituality with community members. Some of the locals have started Bible studies. One lady is soon to be baptised—a spiritual journey ignited by the simple act of tidying up and painting her home.

The initiative kicked off six months ago and is a collaborative project of Bray Park, Tumbulgum, Kingscliff and Murwillumbah churches, with support from students from the Arise Bible school. The churches already operate an op-shop in the area and wanted to extend their community outreach. Funds generated from op-shop sales have helped to purchase gardening equipment and two trailers for the project.

“Many people in the region are experiencing financial struggles, so we wanted to follow Jesus’ example by meeting their needs,” said Bray Park pastor Steven Teale, who also leads a church plant at Pottsville.

“What’s really cool is that when we’re helping people, their neighbours are coming out and asking, ‘What’s going on, who are these guys?’ They can’t understand why people would do what we’re doing for nothing. And they want to know more.

“And what we’ve discovered is that as soon as you meet people’s immediate needs, they begin asking questions about our faith. We leave books like *Steps to Christ* at the places we’ve worked on, and these are being shared around the neighbourhood. Bible studies are now starting to happen. It’s a simple project but it’s working.”

Along with the “backyard blitz” initiative, the local churches are extending their support in various other ways, such as distributing food hampers, providing tents for the homeless, operating soup kitchens and organising cooking workshops. They offer car washes and oil changes. And if you don’t have a car and need transport, they even have a few vehicles available to loan.

Earlier this year, they helped the Pottsville and District Returned and Services League sub-branch by cleaning the local cenotaph and tidying up the gardens ahead of Anzac Day.

Sub-branch honorary secretary Wendy Bower expressed “gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work” in a heartfelt letter to the group. “The support you gave us was fantastic and certainly contributed to our Anzac Day success,” she said.

The activities are helping to create awareness and a positive feeling about Adventists. “We’re hoping that as more and more locals see our orange shirts and the Adventist logo, they’ll come to recognise us,” said Pastor Teale. “They’ll know that we’re from Adventist Community Services and we’re here to help.”

Tracey Bridcutt

Communication director, South Pacific Division

Sometimes silence *isn't golden*



Most humans are earth bound. Unless we have a certain perverse turn of mind and no interest in the future of our children and others, then our concern also rightfully involves the health of our planet. Some of earth's sicknesses have been given prominence by the media, such as those caused by the Agent Orange herbicide debacle in Vietnam (1961–1971), the Chernobyl nuclear disaster (1986) and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill (2010). These disasters are noted particularly, as they impacted not only the environment but human health, habitations and livelihoods. Impacts of human activity on our planet most frequently are silent and creep upon us in stealth. Take the silent flood enveloping the agricultural lands in Australia. The indiscriminate tree clearing activities leading to dryland salinity have been recognised for more than 100 years, but this event has been characterised with an equally long period of official suppression of information and inaction. But heartening action and innovative solutions are now emerging both in the public and private sectors.¹

Adventists are keenly interested in healthful living. We run public programs and variously practise eight fundamental principles. These principles were introduced originally by God through Moses, and some concepts, such as what we eat, have relevance to environmental concerns. Earth Day (April 22) and World Environmental Awareness Day (June 5) are

just some of the environmental emphasis days on the world calendar. These are designed to raise awareness and challenge individuals and groups to action and contribute to creating a world that is more sustainable.²

Even though we may not have participated in the activities on these days, Christians have a fundamental interest in the environment. This commences generally with a concern about personal health and then expands to a concern for the health of others.

Called to be Ambassadors

Some Christians argue for the continual exploitation of earth's resources as long as the end result is more goods and services for the benefit of humanity. They express scepticism about overpopulation, global warming on account of human activities, and doubts about immense species loss. Human fruitfulness and the continued exploitation of the earth's resources for human benefit are among the key beliefs held.³

Others see little point in exerting much effort on environmental issues since Christ's coming is soon and everything will be destroyed by fire. In order to avoid the problem of futility, others argue that the world will not be destroyed by fire, giving them licence to be happy to conserve nature now.⁴ Both ideas appear to be flawed.

Today's believers in the words of the Bible are spoken of

as ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). As such, they are urged to follow Christ's example and function as good stewards. Ambassadors appreciate the handiwork and beauty evident in creation. These tell of the character of God. Despite human blindness, all nature reflects glory on the Creator and, to some extent, offers praise to Him (Isaiah 35:1,2; 44:23; 55:12).

Even the humble dwellers in the soil proclaim their presence and activity. Eavesdropping on their activities has revealed their drumming, tapping, singing and slithering activities. Even plant roots add to the cacophony of sound and insect larvae communicate with each other in activities not connected with mating urges. Animals feeding on soil insects are acutely attuned to detect vibrations associated with insect activities underground. Even humble plants appear to show some reaction to sound. All this exotic sound from the underground orchestra is fascinating, particularly as intense agricultural activity lessens its intensity, suggesting a link with lessened biodiversity and to soils showing reduced health.⁵

Stewards also recognise that the book of nature is the principal means by which some have and continue to gain knowledge about God (Romans 2:14–16). Thus, it devolves on them to preserve it as a witness to their Creator (cf. Revelation 11:18). Human moral failures are responsible for the deterioration noted in the natural world; following God's ways can lead to restoration (cf. Ezekiel 47).

Preserving the environment is not a wasted effort. The experience of Noah shows that faithfulness is the key idea. Noah preached for 120 years to save those about him. He was only marginally successful (Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20). Did he decide to lessen his appeals because few responded? No, he was a faithful steward. Christ's instruction to His disciples is to "Do business till I come" (Luke 19:13, NKJV). In His parable about stewardship, the individual who questioned the master's motives and methods and put no effort into the allocated task was condemned (Matthew 25:24–26).

Making Appropriate Comparisons

When Christ was on earth, many ideas were conveyed by example. On other occasions He used words. He upheld the Sabbath, tithing, adherence to the principles of the Ten Commandments by His statements (Mark 2:27; Luke 11:42; Matthew 5:17). In this He was in agreement with the prevailing sentiment expressed by the religious leaders whom He thoroughly condemned in other matters (Matthew 23:14, 23). There is no justification in condemning concerns expressed over environmental matters on account of its support by groups we otherwise do not agree with. This should be evident when God has recorded some rather pointed words on the subject in Revelation (11:18, last part).

God's invisible characteristics can be appreciated by observing the beauties and studying the workings of nature (Romans 1:20). The task of recognising these characteristics could be commenced by considering that the interesting and exquisite details seen in nature reflect the profound nature of God and the values He possesses. For example, the sun and the rain come on the just and unjust (Matthew 5:45). This illustrates the love and care of God to all without distinction (vss. 46–48). The existence of social insects illustrates the

value placed on such arrangements and the existence of meaningful social relationships among members of the God-head. The homeostasis shown in complex biological systems illustrates rather well the order and precision of God's thinking. The beauty in the natural world indicates that He is a lover of beauty. The splendour and immensity of the heavens declare the unfathomable riches of God's mind and abilities and gives us a glimpse of His glory (Psalm 19:1). All this provides incentives for an outpouring of thanks and joy by humans (Psalm 92:4,5). The Sabbath is a memorial and a reminder of creation and salvation. It calls for us to rejoice in the promised new heavens and earth.

We can imagine that Adam and Eve wept as they saw the glories of their Eden garden tarnished. Today many may be less impressed by the destruction of natural resources and the devastation created by diseases rampaging through the plant and animal world. While the care of the environment is not meant to be our primary focus, a balance is required.

The apostle Paul's statement in Romans (2:14–16) gives us an interesting perspective. Caring for the environment is a form of witnessing. It has been and still may be the primary form of God's witness to people in isolated and under-provided regions of the world.

Our Response?

The story of Tower Hill in south-western Victoria provides heartening information. Well over a century ago the natural beauty of the volcanic site had been mutilated. Before this happened, one early landowner commissioned a painting by a well-known artist, showing the details of plant cover in unspoiled areas that formed a key part in the restoration efforts commenced in 1961. Government agencies, with the willing help of school children and volunteers, were responsible for the rebirth of the site.⁶ Each is called to make a personal response that will make a difference in protecting and fostering the flora and fauna in our sphere of influence. This may be as small as being conscientious in disposing of waste thoughtfully or may extend to more substantial enterprises. First and foremost our concern is to function as good ambassadors for God. In so doing, health benefits will flow to us and we can contribute to the wellbeing and joy of others.

1. <aph.org.au/2018/12/soil-salinity-in-australia-a-slow-motion-crisis/>
2. <ituabsorbtech.com/calendar-environmental-days/>.
3. <cornwallalliance.org/landmark-documents/the-cornwall-declaration-on-environmental-stewardship/>.
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5. <knowablemagazine.org/article/living-world/2022/life-soil-was-thought-be-silent-what-if-it-isnt; Rillig MC, Bonneval K, Lehmann J (2019). "Sounds of Soil: A New World of Interactions under Our Feet." *Soil Systems*. Available from <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-8789/3/3/45>
6. Parks Victoria. <towerhill.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Heritage-story-Tower-Hill-Reserve-history-and-heritage.pdf>.

Warren Shipton

agricultural specialist, former dean of science and university president, given professorial status in perpetuity by the Thai government.

ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND ARMAGEDDON

We can't escape it. The news is everywhere. Missiles, massacres, mourning. It seems like the situation is out of control, and it sounds like it's only going to get worse.

How could Israel be so unprepared? How could Hamas justify their aggression? And how can Israel justify their response?

Emotions have always boiled and simmered in this ancient part of the world, egged on by other nations. America vs Iran. West vs East. Christianity vs Islam. It's not hard to see this latest Arab-Israeli conflict morphing into a larger war, perhaps even World War III. Or could something even more terrifying be unfolding? Could this war be the start of Armageddon, the final battle between good and evil that brings about the end of the world?

So much is frightening and unknown. But with everyone's attention absorbed by wars, financial markets, politics, health

crises, costs of living pressures, our favourite sports teams and the latest streaming shows, it appears that no-one is ready for the most terrifying and traumatic event of all time. Christians don't talk about it. Adventists seem to have gone silent about it. And yet with every passing day this great calamity gets closer and closer.

Do you know what it is?

The apostle Paul explains: "Jesus will not return until there is a great rebellion against God and Satan is revealed. Satan will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God and claim that he is God. Satan is already at work secretly, but God is holding him back until the end of time when He will permit Satan to reveal his true character" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-7)¹.

Ellen White, co-founder of the Adventist Church, describes

Satan's rebellion like this: "As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will impersonate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the fulfilment of its hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come.

"In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among humanity as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in Revelation.² The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' . . . This is the strong, almost overpowering delusion."³

The war in Israel is shocking. The actions of both sides are horrific. The threat of this war embroiling the world's superpowers and largest religions into a worldwide conflict is very real. But what the Bible describes is far more chilling: Satan faking the second coming and pretending to be Jesus.

Are we ready for this?

As the missiles rain down and the bullets fly, as the banking system collapses and a global recession devours jobs and homes, as political parties become so divided that governments grind to a halt, as the cost of living stresses families and cripples people's mental health, as a new pandemic consumes millions of lives, as pollution increases and ecosystems collapse, as racism, sexism, classism, ageism, privilege, harassment, oppression and abuse of every description spiral out of control . . . suddenly, out of nowhere, a supernatural being appears. He speaks kindly. He heals diseases. With wisdom and power that surpasses anything the world has seen, he ends conflicts and brings peace. Responding to his displays of divinity and majesty, the world's political and religious leaders declare their loyalty to this exalted being.

None of this surprises the followers of the true Messiah. They

know from the Bible that this is what Satan has always wanted: "I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14)⁴. This was his boastful plan since the beginning of his rebellion, but he failed in heaven, and he failed in the Garden of Eden. So for thousands of years, with intelligence and ability that exceeds every human being, Satan has worked to perfect his end-time appearance. Now, as he puts his plans into action and fakes the second coming, billions are deceived. But a remnant—a small group of Christians who remain passionately loyal to Jesus—understand exactly what is happening.

First, there are the physical signs. While the fake messiah walks around on the ground, the remnant know that the real Messiah will not touch the ground; He'll remain in the sky (Matthew 24:30). While the fake messiah can only be in one place at a time, the real Messiah will be seen by everyone around the world at the same time—whether you are inside, outside, in a submarine or working in an underground mine, "every eye will see Him" (Revelation 1:7). While the fake messiah sets up his kingdom on earth, the real Messiah resurrects those who died believing in Him, and together with His followers who are alive, they "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)—they can fly! And they fly away from planet earth, through the galaxies, until they arrive in heaven where they reside for a thousand years (Revelation 20).

The physical signs are obvious, but what happens when Satan starts playing the part of a theologian? What happens when he turns his incredible intelligence to corrupting biblical doctrines, twisting religious practices and counterfeiting the way of salvation? We like to think that his deceptions will be as obvious as night and day, but Satan's subtlety will be like nothing the world has ever seen, and billions will be deceived unless they cling to the truths of the Bible and listen to the Holy Spirit. While Satan's power

is certainly great, the Holy Spirit is infinitely more powerful, and just as Jesus promised, He will guide His people to discern what is real and what is fake (John 16:13).

In a world of constant uncertainty, Christians have a message of hope to share. Jesus is returning soon, and He guarantees to end every war, unite every family, wipe away every tear and destroy every shred of evil. No matter how powerful Satan's final deceptions are, Jesus reminds us, "Don't forget what I've told you about the future, because when it happens, you'll know that you can trust and believe in Me."⁵

Jesus declares that He is returning soon (Revelation 22:12) and that means that the fake second coming is close. As we think about how the future will unfold, the apostle Paul reminds us that, "At that time, the Lord Jesus will destroy Satan with the splendour of the real second coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8)⁶. The night is always darkest before the dawn, but a glorious future awaits those who believe in Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. Just as He was victorious on the cross, He will be victorious at the end of time. When we remember this, we realise that we have nothing to fear for the future; only hope remains!

To learn more about the real second coming, visit: <adventist.org/second-coming>

1. My paraphrase.
2. Revelation 1:13-15.
3. Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 624, (archaic words updated).
4. All quotes are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.
5. See John 14:29.
6. My paraphrase.

Jared Martin

senior pastor of Coastlife church in Queensland, Australia. He is currently studying a Master of Arts (Theological and Biblical Studies) at Avondale University as well as a Graduate Certificate in Ellen G White Studies and Seventh-day Adventist History through Andrews University.

Five exercise snacks for *better health*

As the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to spring clean your exercise routine and move your body more.

It is recommended that we do at least 2½ hours of moderate physical activity per week for good health—but that doesn't have to mean hitting the gym three times a week. There's growing evidence through new research that even short bursts of exercise or "exercise snacks" could be good for your fitness and overall health.

These new studies reinforce the health and lifestyle benefits we can learn from the world's longest-lived populations. Those living in the world's Blue Zones have been exercise snacking for years. It's only now that the rest of us are catching on to the beauty of this simple, yet beneficial approach to living.

The people of the five Blue Zones—Loma Linda, California; Okinawa, Japan; Ikaria, Greece; Sardinia, Italy; and Nicoya, Costa Rica—ensure they move their body every 20 minutes or so, integrating movement into their day. Try these five exercise snacks to help you stay healthy and happy.

1. Take the stairs

Have the choice between stairs and an elevator when you arrive at work? Choose the stairs for an exercise snack straight off the bat. Taking the stairs will burn more calories and because your heart will be pumping when you walk in the door your body will be flooded with endorphins, so your mood will be boosted as well!

2. Walk the dog

Like us, dogs don't like to sit still for too long. Let your pooch be your excuse to get up off the couch for a hit of fresh air



and feel-good vibes alongside your exercise. Research shows walking every day can be more beneficial than people think, warding off heart disease and stroke. And if your pup picks up the pace in excitement on the way to the park, join in on the enthusiasm. The more quickly you walk the better the health benefits.

3. Vacuum the house

Household chores are the quintessential incidental exercise. They need to be done and if we do them with gusto, keeping in mind the activity is helping to boost overall health as well as keep the house sparkling, the benefits will be two-fold.

4. Enjoy music while you cook

Whether you like to bake or only cook to eat, adding some tunes into the mix will get your foot tapping and your heart pumping. Make it something upbeat and groove to the music while you flit around the kitchen making your meal. Moving while you cook will up the vibe, release endorphins and burn more calories.

5. Plant a veggie patch

Whether you live on acreage or have a tiny courtyard, there's likely a place for a veggie patch in your home (or windowsill). Gardening not only helps to keep you active, with all that digging, planting and harvesting, but it works wonders for your mental health too. Plus, time spent outdoors provides a hit of vitamin D.

For more information and research references check out the full article on the Sanitarium website: <sanitarium.com>.



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Conversations

Big camp

A BIG congratulations to South Queensland Camp organisers!

Living Media Ministry were wisely chosen to care for the live feeds to YouTube. The programs in the Big Tent were inspirational and dynamic. The music, kids' time, features, services and overall spirituality are to be commended. The live broadcasts made it very accessible for those of us who do not live in Qld.

Thank you.

Phil Lomman, NSW

We need to do better

I was reading the October 7 issue of *Adventist Record* and I agree with you that "We need to do better" (Editorial).

Including how we show our appreciation to outgoing directors and other voted in church officials. For example, I was disappointed to hear there was no thank you or show of appreciation for

the outgoing NNSW president after four years of dedicated service.

In fact, there were no thank you for your services or goodbyes for any outgoing officers of the Church.

In comparison, I did read an almost full page splash dedicated to the new department directors, which is all well and good, but for people-orientated Christians I think we need to do better.

Thank you all retiring and former directors—you have done a great job for the Adventist Church and the majority of us do appreciate the hard work you have put into your former roles.

D Sarren and Alissa Holt, via email

You are not alone

As one who has committed my career to contributing to Indigenous health, the defeat of the referendum on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constitutional recognition has left me despondent. But that feeling must be

minor compared to that experienced by my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers. I want to assure Indigenous church members that you are not alone. Many of us stand with you, valuing your voice in our country and our Church, keenly aware of the horrors and injustice in our shared history, and equally as committed to work with you for justice and improved life opportunities.

Paul Johanson, Qld

Thank you pastors

So grateful for all that is not seen ("Supporting our shepherds: a duty or a blessing?", *Insight*, October 7).

Pastors carry many burdens of those they care for. Nothing is too much with the power of the Holy Spirit. A special thank you to the pastors and their families here in the South Australian Conference.

Megan Butcher, via Facebook

[Hello Kids!]

KIDS SPEAK

God's presence changes our lives.



Lion Lunch

Find the Words

Daniel is an old man. He has seen the rise and fall of empires. When Darius appoints him as the senior statesman, it makes others jealous. The only area in which his opponents can trap Daniel is in his worship of God. Although Daniel knows the consequences, he refuses even to give the appearance of turning away from God. God does not prevent Daniel's enemies from throwing him in the den of lions. He allows it in order to make his deliverance even more remarkable. This is a lesson about worship. Daniel stands as an example of fearless worship. Even though he recognised the consequences of his actions, he did not falter in worshipping God. As God was with Daniel, so He is with us, protecting us and helping us to triumph through the power of grace.

G P W H E N I A M A F R T C A
 N I S I D I P U T M Y R T O R
 I H E S U O L A E J I U S N L
 T S R T I N Y O U U I N G S I
 C R I O D W D H M O S E W E O
 E O P O R A D P I P R A I Q N
 T W M S R E H I N G O D I U S
 O T E I N A M S E T A T S E D
 R R U F E A R L E S S U I N E
 P S O P P O N E N T S M T C N
 A E C N A R E V I L E D N E D
 A M E S I A R P N N O T C S A
 F R A I D W H A E T C A A N M
 E R E M D A N I E L R O R T A
 L S D O T O M E ? G P S A L M

Memory Verse

After you find all the words, transfer the remaining letters to the spaces below.

- PROTECTING
- WORSHIP
- EMPIRES
- JEALOUS
- DARIUS
- TRIUMPH
- STATESMAN
- FEARLESS
- OPPONENT
- DELIVERANCE
- CONSEQUENCES
- LIONS DEN
- PRAISE
- ENEMIES

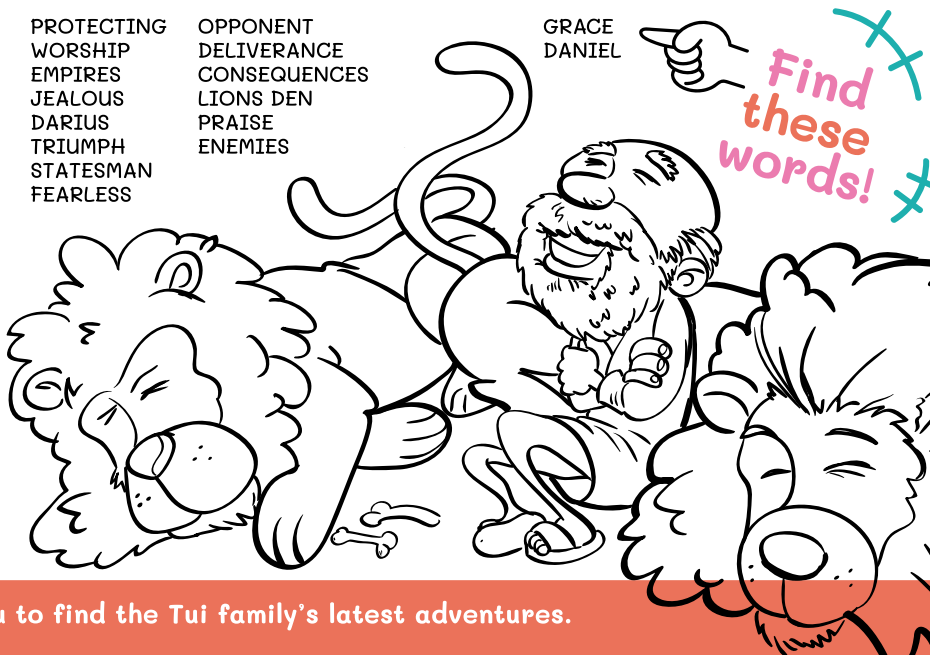
GRACE DANIEL

Find these words!

“ _____

 _____ ”

(_____ 56:3, 4).



Obituaries



BENTLEY, John Alfred, born 25.10.1931 in England; died 19.8.23 in South Australia. He

is survived by his wife, Lorna; three stepchildren, Stephen, Julie and Lynda; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Everyone loved and respected John as he was well known for helping the elderly and for his involvement in the church. John was hardworking and loved spending many hours in his well-tended garden before his illness. John is now awaiting the resurrection where Lorna looks forward to joining him on that day when Christ Jesus comes back to claim His own.

Mark Wilson



SONTER, Margaret Ruth (nee MacLennan) born 26.7.1932 in Brisbane, Qld; died

25.7.23 in Taree, NSW. Margaret is survived by her husband, Allen; and children, Betty Stace, Wendy McKeon, Robert, and Carolyn (Callie). She lived a long and productive life as a career missionary alongside her husband, Dr Allen Sonter. Margaret, a talented musician, trained as a teacher and served first in New Zealand and then in Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and finally in Papua New Guinea. Revered for her industrious ways, hospitality and generous nature, she now awaits her Saviour in the Avondale Cemetery.

John Hammond

Advertisements

MISSIONARIES LUNCH, 1PM DECEMBER 9, KRESSVILLE ACTIVITIES CENTRE

Current and ex-missionaries, descendants and friends are invited. Please prepare a short talk on a significant person in your time in the mission field. Enquiries to Warren Martin 0428 727 384.

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.

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.

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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Positions Vacant

PRIMARY TEACHER—CAIRNS ADVENTIST SCHOOL (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, 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.

CEO—ADVENTIST AVIATION SERVICES GOROKA, PNG

Adventist Aviation Services PNG are seeking applicants for the position of chief executive officer to direct the overall operations of Adventist Aviation Services thereby exercising full operational control of the organisation on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea. Applicants who are active Seventh-day Adventists, mission oriented, professional, hard-working and adventurous, with commercial aptitude for business management, are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit <adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia or email <hr@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close January 24, 2024.**

SPD INTERNAL AUDITOR—CORPORATE SERVICES WAHROONGA, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) is seeking expressions of interest from qualified and experienced internal auditing professionals to support the work of the Church in this full-time internal auditor role. For full details please visit <adventistemployment.org.au> or email hr@adventist.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>. Early 2024 start. **Applications close November 21 or once an appointment is made.**

ADRA AUSTRALIA—RELATIONSHIP MANAGER WAHROONGA, NSW

If you are an experienced and motivated relationship manager, passionate about delivering exceptional results, nurturing relationships and growing new networks, then this is an opportunity for you. Join our team and use your expertise to develop and implement an effective supporter care and acquisition strategy. You will work within the supporter engagement team and you will be responsible for identifying and delivering a pipeline of major donors (\$5K+) and nurturing existing supporters. You will be tasked with living out our values of connected, courageous and compassionate in all interactions with others and will thrive being outward facing, relational and representing ADRA. Further details including the candidate information pack are available on our website <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> or by contacting the HR coordinator at <HR@adra.org.au>. ADRA Australia is an inclusive child-safe, PSEAH committed and EEO employer.

ADRA AUSTRALIA—EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER WAHROONGA, NSW

As the emergency management program officer, you will work within ADRA Australia's emergency management team with responsibility for managing the disaster ready church program in Australia, selected international humanitarian projects and associated partnerships, the emergency management business development portfolio and supporting partner capacity, strengthening initiatives and responses following disasters. As the emergency management officer, you will work with a number of stakeholders including Adventist churches, programs personnel, volunteers, beneficiaries etc. You will have a degree in the humanitarian sector or related field and at least five years' experience within the development and/ or humanitarian sector, with exposure to project management and emergency response in cross-cultural contexts. Further details including the candidate information pack are available on our website <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> or by contacting the HR coordinator at <HR@adra.org.au>. ADRA Australia is an inclusive child-safe, PSEAH committed and EEO employer.

ADRA AUSTRALIA—PROJECT FACILITATOR (ONE-YEAR MAXIMUM TERM) WAHROONGA, NSW

We are seeking a passionate, organised and confident person with proven interpersonal skills to join our team as the project facilitator. The successful individual will have experience in planning, researching, presenting, relating well to people of various ages and backgrounds. Reporting to the national programs director, this role consists of two main areas: developing a national ADRA representative program and supporting church mobilisation in NSW. As the project facilitator you will work with a number of stakeholders including Adventist churches, programs, personnel, volunteers, beneficiaries etc. You will work efficiently, professionally and in a timely manner to provide a best-in-class support to the national programs team. Further details including the candidate information pack are available on our website <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> or by contacting the HR coordinator at <HR@adra.org.au>. ADRA Australia is an inclusive child-safe, PSEAH committed and EEO employer.



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