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#Sabbath burden

A gift, a command, a
burden or all three? 14

Church member survey uncovers
uncertainties around key theological
beliefs 11

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FOOD BE A GIFT? MEDICINES? SANITARY
NAPKINS? SCHOOL BOOKS?
A TOILET?...**

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Making Sabbath school creative

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

Was it awkward? At times a little. But it was already awkward for me being a visitor, so I just went with it.

One exciting thing about travelling and visiting a new city in a foreign country is attending a new church. There is a curiosity, an awareness that we're all one family of believers no matter where we worship in the world. It is interesting to see how things are familiar and similar, while at the same time being significantly different. There is also trepidation, nervous anticipation. Will anyone talk to me? Should I go to Sabbath school? If I arrive in time, which group shall I choose?

Recently I visited Newbold College church in Bracknell, England. I don't know why but I've always been interested in visiting Newbold and on a recent trip, I managed to get the opportunity. I had taken a tour of the college late in the week and was staying in the area for Sabbath so I could attend church there. The campus itself features an old manor, Moor House, which has recently been refurbished; a grand old building ready for hosting events and a restaurant for the community on Sunday. When I was there the walls were covered with red ivy, a striking colour for the changing season.

The church itself however is modern, a low-set building with grass on the roof, skylights in the ceiling and a beautiful garden.

Unaware there were two services, I arrived early: half-way through the first service, and I sat in a small hall filled with chairs and tables, waiting for the service to finish and Sabbath school to start.

I was passed from the greeter to the pastor and followed a crowd of people to the other building on campus where they were holding adult Sabbath schools. I followed dutifully, with a little concern at the increasing age demographic of those I was travelling with.

Oh well, I thought, whatever happens next, I'm sure I'll get something out of it.

Thankfully when we arrived at the doors of the hall (which were locked; we had to wait for a key), there were some people around my age. I met a friend from Facebook, who I had never met in person, a fellow writer and creative. He invited me to the class his sister was going to run for the first time—a creative Sabbath school. Intrigued I said yes, somewhat glad to have found some people I at least knew from the internet.

There were probably 15 of us and Karin, the class leader, explained that it might be a little different to what we were used to.

It certainly was. Karin has a background in art therapy, and she used those skills to great effect. There were movement and improv activities, as well as reflection and sharing times. Everyone was involved and everything pointed back to the lesson. The lesson, about the parable of the persistent widow, was brought to life and new light was shed in profound ways.

Was it awkward? At times a little. But it was already awkward for me being a visitor, so I just went with it. If you're reading this and you are an introvert, you are probably cringing right now. But it wasn't that bad even for the introverts among us. It was a safe space, Karin was kind and generous, provided room for people to participate or not, and the awkwardness soon gave way to appreciation, as people experienced a familiar Bible story in a new way. People went deeper more quickly than they might have normally, although their vulnerability was protected as it was not challenged or questioned; it just existed naturally in the space that was created.

It reminded me of the importance of creativity and innovation in the way we do Sabbath school. Not every Sabbath school can be run like that, and it may not be sustainable to do that every Sabbath. But as a test, an example, a hope to get people thinking and involved and engaged in a different way, it was a great success.

The value of travelling is that you're exposed to new ideas and new contexts and it can help refresh and shape your own context as we all strive to learn and grow in our discipleship journey.

I'm glad I visited Newbold College church that Sabbath and I'm glad I went to Sabbath school.



INSIGHT:

Blessed to be a blessing

Glenn Townend
South Pacific Division president

The General Conference and South Pacific Division annual meetings this year both had the theme “Chosen for Mission”. When Abram was chosen for mission, he was blessed by God to be a blessing. Scripture says, “Go from your country . . . to the land I will show you . . . and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing . . . in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3, ESV).

Abram was a blessing when he interceded for others and rescued Lot (Genesis 13,14,18,20). However, Abram was not a blessing when he lied about his wife and when he let Hagar leave (Genesis 12,16,20,21). He did not always live up to God’s chosen mission. Despite this, God was always faithful and continually reminded Abram he would be blessed to be a blessing (13:14-17, 14:19,20, 15:1, 17:4-6,19, 18:10). Six different affirmations in 25 years! Abraham believed in God and His promises and he was credited as being righteous (15:6).

So what are my blessings? How am I a blessing to others?

The book *BLESS: 5 everyday ways to love your neighbor and change the world*, by Dave and Jon Ferguson, gives simple, practical ways each of us can be a blessing to others. They made an acrostic of the word BLESS that is easy to remember.

Let me illustrate these in my experience.

Begin with prayer: I’ve had great prayer experiences at the pastors’ meetings in Australia, New Zealand and PNG. There have been Zoom prayer sessions for Avondale and #weRtheCHURCH, and for community and religious liberty issues.

Listen to others: Soup kitchens, food pantries and op-shops minister because they have heard the needs of the people around them. The 10,000 Toes campaign is responding to the great need of dealing with type 2 diabetes with lifestyle.

Eating: Something we do well—but are we including our friends and neighbours?

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A Members Health Fund



SPD Executive Committee members gathered at Avondale University for year-end meetings.

SPD meetings emphasise mission

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

A strong focus on mission flavoured the 2023 year-end meetings of the Division Executive Committee of the South Pacific Division (SPD).

Under the theme “Chosen for Mission”, the meetings were held on November 8 and 9 in the Ella Hughes Chapel at Avondale University. Members from across the South Pacific were joined by General Conference representatives Dr Billy Biaggi (vice president), Ray Wahlen (under treasurer) and Dr David Trim (director of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research).

The meetings commenced with worship sessions each morning, setting the tone for the day’s deliberations. Time was regularly dedicated to prayer.

The first day featured a diverse range of reports, beginning with the secretary’s report and followed by updates from the four union presidents. Leaders from the SPD institutions—Adventist Media, Avondale, Sanitarium, Adventist HealthCare and Pacific Adventist University—provided Mission and Ethos reports.

Reports were also presented by Adventist Technology and SPD legal counsel Igor Radonjic, and from the Ministry and Strategy Team on discipleship, stewardship, health, ADRA South Pacific and leadership.

The second day began with the CFO’s report, which generated substantial discussion. Reports were also presented by the SPD departments of education, communication, public affairs and religious liberty, field and ministerial, women in ministry, and Adventist Mission.

Associate officer Eva Ing provided reflections on the 2020–2025 SPD strategic plan and funding process. A development committee has been established to oversee and guide the strategic planning process, working towards a refined plan for the 2025–2030 quinquennium.

Commenting at the conclusion of the meetings, SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend welcomed the focus on mission.

“We are reintroducing mission partnerships between conferences and missions within our Division,” Pastor Townend explained. “We are challenging these entities to actually create places for volunteers, and we are wanting to send volunteers to other places to serve and to learn.”

Dr Trim also appreciated the mission focus: “A highlight of the last two days for me has been the overwhelming commitment to the Church’s mission, whether it be in PNG, or the Polynesian islands or the Melanesian islands, or in Australia and New Zealand that are so postmodern, there’s a determination to find the right way to do mission according to the local context.”

making headlines

Women’s impact

Leadership of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the General Conference hosted the first annual conference to explore the significance of women in Adventist history. The event, held at Washington Adventist University, highlighted the indispensable roles women played in making Adventism what it is today.—EUD



Freezers and faith

Adventist businessman Inácio José da Silva has provided more than 500 unemployed Adventists and community members with free technical refrigeration courses over the past decade in Brazil. He includes an hour of Bible study and prayer in each class, resulting in more than 80 baptisms. The businessman aspired to be a pastor and now brings the message of the Bible to hundreds of people using his professional knowledge first.—SAD

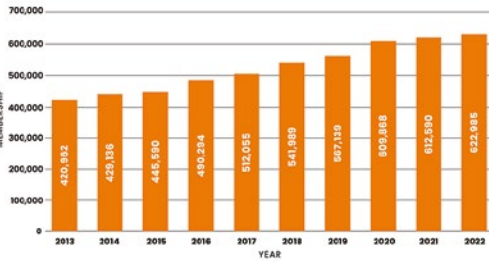
Melodies of service

Adventist pastor Jermaine Johnson is one of 72 people who received a Governor General Medal of Honour in Jamaica for significant and exceptional contributions to his community and the nation. Through his motivational and musical work, Pastor Johnson has contributed to national development as a social transformational leader.—IAD

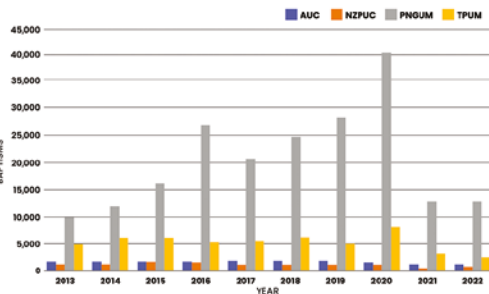
Shake the salt, live longer

The average Australian eats far too much salt—almost double the recommended maximum. That raises blood pressure, and condemns thousands of people to live with hypertension, heart disease and the consequences of stroke. Each year, more than 2500 Australians die from illnesses caused by high salt intake.—Grattan Institute

SPD Annual Membership 2013-2022 +



SPD Baptism by Union 2013-2022 +



Latest membership data (2013-2022 +).
Top: SPD annual membership. Above: SPD baptism by union.

One Seventh-day Adventist for every 74 people

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

There is one Seventh-day Adventist for every 74 people in the South Pacific Division (SPD), according to the latest data presented at the Division Executive Committee year-end meetings.

Presenting the secretary's report, associate officer Eva Ing revealed that the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) has an incredibly high number of Adventists in the population: one Adventist for every 18 people.

"I believe it's one of the highest in the world," Mrs Ing said.

In the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) the ratio is 1:30, New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) 1:266 and the Australian Union Conference (AUC) 1:405.

According to the data, church membership in the SPD now sits at 622,985, reflecting steady growth over the past decade. In the PNGUM, membership has exceeded 400,000 for the first time.

"Most of the growth, as it has always been in the past 10 years, is in PNGUM," Mrs Ing said. "And that is a real testimony to the effectiveness of evangelism in

that territory, how God is really blessing in that Union Mission.

"No doubt when PNG for Christ is launched next year that membership will explode and that is a very exciting initiative for us in the South Pacific Division."

However, as the numbers tell a compelling story of growth, concerns arise over the challenge of retaining new members. Indeed, in some years membership losses are more than half the number of baptisms.

"That is a really concerning trend," Mrs Ing said. "[Retention] is not a really emotive word but there's a lot behind that. Are we a thriving disciple-making movement? Is there a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose in our churches today? We need to really understand what it means by these losses.

"Statistics are more than just numbers; they tell a story and it's important for us to heed this data because it shows how the Church has grown . . . [and] where the issues are. A lot of this data will inform the strategy we are developing for the next five years."

Growth in tithes and offerings

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

Tithes and offerings have shown good growth in the past year, a remarkable result given the current economic conditions and cost of living pressures.

Presenting his report during the SPD Executive Committee year-end meetings, CFO Francois Keet noted a slight dip in offerings during the pandemic that has since rebounded.

"If you look at the percentages from 2019 to 2023, we are at the same level of growth in both tithes and offerings, and we can only praise God for that result," Mr Keet shared with committee members.

In terms of global Church finances, the SPD is pulling its weight, being the fifth largest contributor.

"We are a net giver and not a recipient of appropriations, which is also a positive thing. For our small division size, [this] is something we should be thankful for," Mr Keet said.

Moreover, the SPD is also a leader

in allocating substantial tithe funding to evangelism initiatives. The Southern Asia Division tops the list, directing 56 per cent of tithe funding to pastors, evangelists and frontline evangelism, followed by the Northern-Asia Pacific Division (53 per cent) and the SPD (51 per cent). Beyond evangelism, tithe funding supports diverse areas such as education, literature evangelism, media outreach and administrative expenses.

Commenting on the General Conference's Mission Refocus initiative, Mr Keet stressed the need to think big and strategically. He urged a strong emphasis on disciple-making and resource mobilisation to support mission objectives. When using strategic funds, he also emphasised the importance of evaluating the impact and success of projects, rather than doing the same things over and over again.

"It's going to encourage us to innovate the way we are doing things," he said.



Division CFO Francois Keet presents his report.



Sydney Adventist Hospital.

San voted best in NSW for outpatient cancer care

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Alexandra Ristway

For the sixth consecutive year, the Integrated Cancer Centre at Sydney Adventist Hospital (ICC) has topped New South Wales in the annual Outpatient Cancer Clinics Survey by the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) in partnership with the Cancer Institute NSW.

The purpose of the survey is to gain an understanding of patients' experiences of multiple aspects of their cancer care. Patients were asked to evaluate their experience including access to services, care planning, facilities, coordination of care, complications, follow-up and support.

In the report, the San's ICC achieved the highest ranking with 12 measures being significantly higher than the NSW results. This was the highest number for any facility in the survey. Some of these measures included: overall experience of care received; well-organised care; polite and courteous staff; comfort and cleanliness of facilities; and how well the healthcare team worked together.

"This is fantastic and humbling feedback from our patients," said ICC clinical director Professor Gavin Marx. "Earning the top state ranking consistently year after year is a clear demonstration of our entire team's unwavering dedication to providing the best possible care for those

undergoing cancer treatment."

According to Professor Marx, while the team is very proud of the results, they are always striving to improve the patient experience during cancer treatment. "While it is great to know patients experience excellent cancer services here, we won't rest on these results—each year we continue to look for ways that we can improve our services," he said.

Many factors contribute to Australia's high rates of cancer, and the San has long been committed to not only the early diagnosis and cutting-edge treatment of disease, but also to prevention and research.

"The San's purpose and mission is whole-person health," said CEO Brett Goods. "And perhaps in no other area is this more important than in the area of cancer. We are very grateful to our superb team at the Integrated Cancer Centre.

"Receiving this recognition for the hospital's cancer services just spurs us on to deliver even better outcomes for our patients and their families. Alongside the ICC, our cancer support services—as well as research—all contribute towards efforts to treat disease and promote survivorship and wellbeing for our community."



Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa (right) and deputy prime minister Biman Prasad (centre) at the National Diabetes Awareness Week launch.

Adventists support Fiji's fight against diabetes

📍 Deuba, Fiji | John Tausere/Juliana Muniz

Adventists teamed up with Fiji government efforts to bring attention to an escalating health issue during the country's National Diabetes Awareness Week.

"In Fiji, diabetes alone causes one in four deaths, which is very significant and is about 1500 per year—the highest rate in the world. This is very alarming!" said deputy prime minister Biman Prasad in the launch event, held at the Adventist campground in Deuba on October 30.

The event marked the opening of a week-long series of educational activities and health services leading up to World Diabetes Day on November 14. The events were organised by Diabetes Fiji Inc in partnership with Hope Clinic, the Ministry of Health Medical Services Fiji and international partners including

ADRA Australia.

A team from Granite Hilltop Adventist Church in Sacramento, California, provided free medical services at the Deuba campground, performing several minor surgeries and offering dental and eye care to the local community. The medical mission, which ran through to November 3, drew hundreds of Fijians seeking healthcare.

During the health-focused week, Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa and Hope Clinic director Dr Akuila Tabuavou, announced plans for a new clinic in Nakavika, Namosi. Funded by the American church, the proposed clinic will include four consultation rooms, a delivery room for surgeries and three beds for patients needing overnight stays.



New facilities

Vatuvonu Adventist College recently opened new toilet and shower facilities funded and constructed by the Natuvu Mission. The opening ceremony was attended by members of the Fijian school's management team, church members and visitors. The facilities will serve the needs of the school, church and visitors. "The generosity of the Natuvu Mission, the hard work of its employees, and the support of the school, church and visitors have culminated in a facility that will play a vital role in the life of the community for years to come," a spokesperson said. "This milestone serves as an inspiration to all, highlighting the power of collaboration and unity in achieving remarkable goals."—**Michael Qiokata**



Minister of the gospel

Pastor Midori Luteru Ierome was ordained to ministry on August 12 at Longburn Adventist College Chapel in New Zealand. Representatives from the NZ Pacific Union Conference—discipleship director Pastor Victor Kulakov and president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i—and North NZ Conference president Pastor Bob Larsen conducted the service. Graduating from Avondale in 2018, Pastor Ierome joined full-time ministry in 2019 as a church pastor and school chaplain in Hawkes Bay. Since 2022, he's been pastoring Mosaic Community and Feilding churches, and serving as a chaplain at Palmerston North Adventist Christian School. Pastor Ierome is married to Temu Rosie and they have four children. "As a minister of the gospel, my desire is to deepen my relationship with Jesus and passionately share the love of God through both my words and actions," he said.—**Record staff**



Record fans

Enthusiastic about reading *Adventist Record*, church members on Lihir island, in New Britain New Ireland (PNG), are also sharing it with the community. Predominantly Catholic, the island has 300-plus Adventists who, according to church member Kathleen Mormai-Ratnasingam, "vigorously preach the three angels' messages" through printed content. Upon receiving the August 25 issue of *Record*, each Lienbel Adventist branch church member was given two copies—one to be shared with a friend within the community.—**Record staff**



Spreading health

Maleny church (Qld) has been inspiring the community to be healthier. Around 20 people attended the church's plant-based cooking program on October 15—one of many run by the church. According to organisers, there has been a substantial increase in community members wanting to learn about healthier lifestyle choices. With positive feedback from attendees, the church is already planning programs for 2024.—**Margaret Owens**



Anzac expert

An Avondale University academic is the inaugural visiting historian at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park. The appointment is "an exciting opportunity to extend my research and contribute to the work of the principal war memorial in NSW", said Professor Daniel Reynaud from Avondale's humanities and creative arts discipline.

That research includes a doctorate in Australian war cinema, recovery and reconstruction of Australia's first Gallipoli movie, a biography of Anzac chaplain William "Fighting Mac" McKenzie, and a publication record from his reading of the diaries and letters of more than 1000 soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Force.

Dr Reynaud is an expert "across topics such as Anzac food and drink, music, religion as well as Anzac cinema and the evolving role of Anzac in Australian culture", said the memorial in announcing the appointment. "We look forward to his contribution of in-depth specialist military history expertise."

The one-day-a-week position will see Dr Reynaud conduct research using items in the collections held by the memorial and the Royal United Services Institute.

With Dr Reynaud also publishing articles and presenting seminars, the appointment is a win-win: the memorial "gets academically credible output and Avondale gets enhanced reach and profile", he said.—**Brenton Stacey**

have news to share?

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"Serve where He leads"

Cambridge church in New Zealand was filled for the ordination service of Pastor Harvey Gangadeen on August 19. North NZ Conference president Pastor Bob Larsen presented the message and NZ Pacific Union Conference president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i gave the prayer charge. Graduating from Avondale University in 2014, Pastor Gangadeen has served Royal Oak, Rotorua and Murupara churches, and Rotorua Adventist School. Since 2021, he's been pastoring Cambridge, Matamata and Tirau churches. Married to Belinda, the couple has two daughters. "Ours is a family journey through and through. Through it all I have sensed and felt God's presence and leading, and it is my privilege to serve where He leads," said Pastor Gangadeen.—**Record staff**



Faith and science

Hillview church in Morisset (NSW) celebrated Creation Sabbath with a program that featured presentations, an educational drama and a baptism on October 28. The drama presentation was titled "Cooking With Science: How to Make an Earth Cake". Performed by teens Ally Mae Agafonoff, Daniel Lowe and Amaya Drury, the drama depicted a chef who followed a fictional recipe mirroring scientific theories of Earth's formation while another chef unveiled a completed cake, symbolising God's creation. The event also featured a sermon by Pastor Les Ncube and a presentation by two other members of the congregation—Dr Trevor Hurlow, on the complex design of the human eye, and Dr Sven Östring on how scientific exploration can enhance the understanding of divine creation. The celebration extended into the afternoon with the baptism of Nathanael Östring.—**Mary Fedorow**



240

220

200

One thousand ways

The unusual noise from the engine did not worry STORMCo leader and bus driver Dr Paul Wood too much, because it didn't last for long, but when the temperature gauge slowly started to rise, that was another matter!

The bus was carrying a tired but happy group of young people from the two Adventist churches in Kempsey on the mid-north coast of NSW who were returning from a very successful week in Bourke.

Service projects in the mornings consisting of putting a new kitchen in the Bourke Seventh-day Adventist church hall plus other repairs and community yard clean-ups, then kids' club in the afternoons with puppets, face painting, balloons, games and ending with a meal provided for the community had everyone fully involved. The arrival of the Pinnacle of Terror on Friday ended a great week with the local young people and the STORMCo team alike.

And so here they were 75 kilometres from Moree on their way home and all looking forward to having a good shower and sleeping in their own beds that night.

But the temperature gauge was relentless, giving Dr Paul no choice but to stop beside the highway next to a couple of sad, spindly trees.

A few mechanically minded young men soon discovered the reason—after scrabbling under the bus, emerging with a broken, shredded fan belt and announcing that two other belts had been displaced as well.

Phone calls soon revealed the bus was probably not with the NRMA (NSW road assistance service) and if it was, parts are not carried for Mitsubishi Rosa buses. Repco in Moree had nothing, Supercheap was the same.

What to do? It was hot, there were flies and everyone was getting hungry. And we were 75 kilometres from Moree.

After consulting together, our young mechanics reckoned that if they could get those two displaced belts back to where they needed to go, then we could probably make it to Moree.

No-one knew what was going to happen after that, especially as this was the Monday of the October long weekend in NSW. Just about everything was shut!

It was time to pray and so one of the leaders, Andrew

Kingston, led out in a prayer, saying that we had absolutely no idea what to do next, but we knew that God would work it out and that He would have something in mind.

We made it to the outskirts of Moree when Dr Paul again pulled the bus into a side road as the temperature gauge was dangerously high.

As he looked around wondering what to do now, he noticed that he had pulled up right opposite a bus company and that the big roller door was up and this was the Monday of a public holiday!

It didn't take him long, together with some of our young mechanics, to find somebody and ask if they had a supply of bus fanbelts.

And yes, they did and while it might not be exactly the right one, it would do the job!

Then the boss turned up and after seeing the STORMCo shirts, told us that he was a former Adventist who had actually been to Avondale and trained for the ministry. He invited everyone into their airconditioned meals area to have lunch there, while the fanbelt was being replaced.

Which we did, all marvelling at the power and goodness of our Heavenly Father.

With one of their mechanics helping our young men, the job was soon done. There were warm handshakes and heartfelt thanks and we were on our way again praising God and giving Him thanks for His love and watch care.

So even though we arrived three-and-a-half hours later than planned, everyone slept in their own beds that night!

Our Heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing! (*Desire of Ages*, p330)



Andrew Kingston

retired pastor, administrator and Youth director who is enjoying being involved in the Kempsey church, NSW.



Church member survey uncovers uncertainties around key theological beliefs

Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific Division (SPD) are grappling with theological uncertainties around the state of the dead and other key beliefs, according to data from the latest Global Church Member Survey.

Dr David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research at the General Conference, presented some of the survey findings for the South Pacific region to the Division Executive Committee at the year-end meetings on November 9. Of the 146,821 church members globally who completed the survey, 1415 were from the SPD.

A notable concern revolves around beliefs regarding the state of the dead. In response to the statement “The soul is a separate spiritual part of a person and lives on after death”, 55 per cent of SPD respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.

Dr Trim highlighted that globally, one in three Adventists holds a dualist perspective, believing that the soul lives on after death. However, the SPD stands out with the highest number of church members agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement.

Additionally, nearly one-in-four responded with either “strongly agree”, “agree” or “I am not sure” to the statement, “People who have died believing in Christ are in heaven right now”, and one-in-five responded in the same way to “The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living”.

The survey also identified uncertainties around the Personhood of the Holy Spirit. Despite fundamental belief number five affirming the Holy Spirit as a Person equal to the Father and Son, 65 per cent of SPD respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “The Holy Spirit is God’s power in the world, not a person”.

Issues surrounding the sanctuary doctrine, spiritualism and legalism emerged as additional challenges. Almost 80 per cent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “The sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology”. However, 16 per cent of participants responded with “I am not sure” and the “strongly agree” response was less than for statements around other key beliefs such as the seventh-day Sabbath and Christ as the head of the Church. Dr Trim emphasised the need for some work to clarify and underscore the importance of the sanctuary doctrine and its centrality historically to Adventist theology.

Regarding spiritualism, 30 per cent of respondents expressed agreement with the statement, “Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing”. Legalism also surfaced as a significant challenge, with three in four participants agreeing with the statement, “I will not get to heaven unless I obey God’s law perfectly”.

While some theological uncertainties exist, the survey indicated positive Bible reading habits among church members. Notably, 52.6 per cent read their Bibles daily, surpassing the global average. When it comes to the Sabbath school lesson, 41.1 per cent study the lesson each day. However, just 13.5 per cent read Ellen White’s writings daily and one-in-four had not read her writings in the past 12 months, presenting an opportunity for increasing engagement in this space.

“We had many questions [in the study] about doctrines and beliefs,” Dr Trim said. “I’ve just pulled out a few where there are challenges. There are others in which the South Pacific Division is doing admirably well, so the focus on the ones where there are challenges is not to imply that everything is doom and gloom, because it’s not, but these are ones where there are some challenges.”

Tracey Bridcutt

Communication director, South Pacific Division.

God encounter on the *high seas*



On August 22, Elle and I sailed out of Sydney harbour for a 10-day cruise. Several days later, after seeing people milling around, I remembered how Jesus looked at the multitudes milling around like sheep without a shepherd and had compassion on them. When I woke early and started thinking about this, I got up, without disturbing Elle, knelt down on the cabin floor and asked God to give me an opportunity to encourage someone with direction in their life. I quietly closed the cabin door and made my way up onto the deck, passed a few people huddled under a shelter smoking and climbed to the highest deck on the ship.

I had a magnificent view of the P&O ship cutting through the Pacific Ocean. The cool August breeze and spectacular view was also being enjoyed by a tough-looking, heavily tattooed man who was up there exercising and stretching. We exchanged greetings and he stopped when I expressed pleasure in our lofty perspective and the solitude of the early morning. We talked about the privilege of cruising and he talked about how much the cruise meant to him, his wife and son. He then told me that his life had not always been so good.

In fact he said that he had lived on the streets homeless for several years when he was a teenager. He commended the Salvation Army who "rescued" him by inviting him into a sheltered workshop where he learned basic cabinet-making.

He said, "I was able to get work and a place to live after that." I asked, "Did they ever talk to you about spiritual things?"

"No, they didn't. What religion are you?" he asked.

"I'm a Seventh-day Adventist."

"Really! When I was a kid I went to an SDA school in the Philippines and right now my 14-year-old son goes to an Adventist school. And he prays too. He then told me that he had had many partners in his life but had married for the first time only five years earlier. He said, "My wife is Catholic so I go to church to make her happy but I don't go along with all the crosses, imagery and rituals."

I asked, "Do you have your phone on you?"

"Yes!" He said reaching for it.

"Open up your notes," I suggested. He followed and I said, "Now write this name. Morris Venden. He has a series of YouTube presentations on righteousness by faith."

He typed away, and said, "All my life I have felt that God has been looking after me." I shared Acts 17:27 where we are told to reach out to find God because He is never far from any of us.

I then told him that earlier that morning I had gotten on my knees in my cabin and begged God to lead me to someone who I could bless. I put my finger to his chest and said, "You are that man!" Tears started streaming down his face as I asked, "Would you like me to pray for you?"

"Yes!"

I put my hand on that tough shoulder and poured out my heart to God to continuing to bless him and his family.

We then introduced ourselves and we looked at each other in silence realising God had intervened in both our lives.

Malcolm Rea

Former Greater Sydney Conference departmental director, current babysitter and gardener.

Welcome to Hamburger Hill

Even in the sun, wind, rain or heat, or storm, Midland Meals, or “Hamburger Hill” as the locals refer to it, is out in the streets serving food to those who need it most across three sites: Midland, Ellenbrook and Bassendean.

Midland Meals is a community initiative which has been up and running since July 2020 in the Midland region of Western Australia. This ministry was developed in response to the widespread difficulties and hardships faced by many in the community due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and job-cuts. With the help of volunteers, Midland Meals began serving food to financially (or otherwise) challenged individuals in two locations, Midland and Ellenbrook. This has since been expanded to three locations, adding Bassendean to their outreach.

Just as everyone is welcome at the King’s table, everyone is welcome at the Midland Meals table: homeless individuals living on the streets, families with small children who are struggling to make ends meet, teens who don’t have a permanent place to sleep, or the average businessman who is hungry after a long day’s work.

Midland Meals prides themselves in being approachable and non-judgemental, seeking only to be a blessing to the community in everything they do. Everyone is welcome to receive food and support from the volunteers at Midland Meals.

God always has a way of providing when we are in need. Recently, chief dreamer and architect of Midland Meals—Pastor Loren Pratt—and his team had a delivery of meat that needed to go in the freezers to be used to feed people throughout the week. They stood in the carpark, not knowing where the food was going to go because all the freezers were already full to the brim.

Meanwhile, the head cook for their Monday team was driving past and felt impressed to pop into Swan Valley church a day early to collect the fruit, vegies, and meat she needed to cook for the week. This was an answer to prayer that Loren and the team didn’t know they needed and when they repacked the freezers with all the food, the last packet of meat slid into the top of the freezers perfectly, like a glove. As they shut the freezer doors for the afternoon, they thanked God for providing such a small thing when they least expected it.

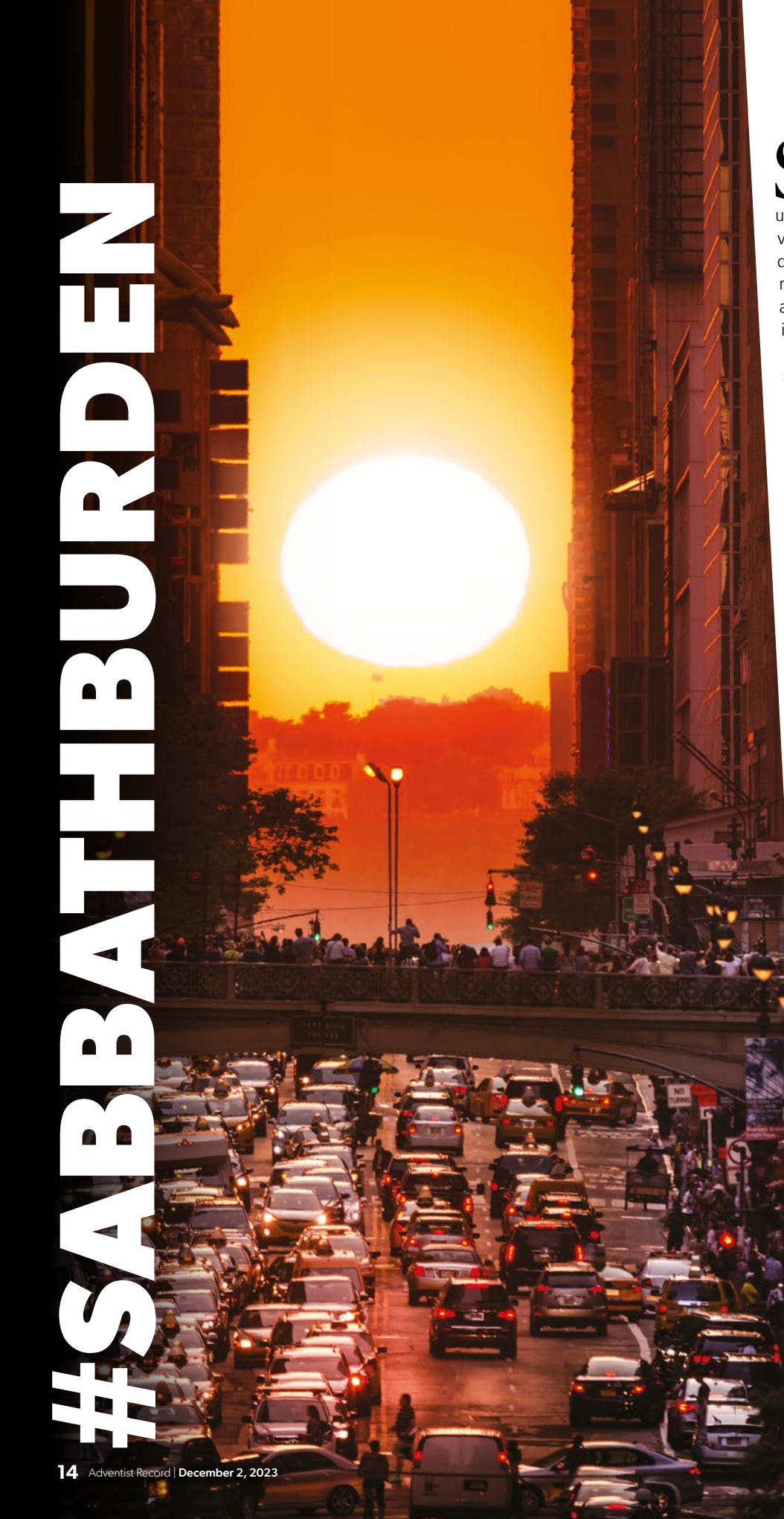
Midland Meals has been a great source of blessing to many in the community, offering food, support, comfort and friendship. And it is inspiring to know that God is blessing those involved at Midland Meals through answered prayers as they serve to bless others.

If you want to get involved or learn more about this ministry, find “Midland Meals” on Facebook.

Olivia Fairfax
editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.



#SABBATHBURDEN



Sabbath is one of the best things we have to offer to the busy, stressed and weary world around us. In our own lives, we know the value of a day each week that is different, that offers an invitation to rest, and time to catch our breath and focus on the things that are most important. Not only is it an attractive idea, Sabbath is also experiential, so we can invite friends, neighbours and others in our community to experiment with this practice in their own lives. Sabbath is a gift, but it must also be more than that.

Sabbath gift

In our part of the world, the Adventist Church has been promoting sharing Sabbath. As well as online events, a book, tracts and other resources, church members have been invited to create social media posts and content that share their experiences of the #SabbathGift. And the Sabbath Gift website has invited visitors to sign up for the Sabbath Challenge, to experiment with practising Sabbath over four weeks and discover the advantages of Sabbath for themselves.¹ There is more work to be done, but Sabbath is a gift and a wellbeing practice that we can continue to share with our communities.

Wherever they are at in their circumstances or faith, Sabbath is a gift that can bless the lives of those around us. It is a different kind of time that gives permission to disconnect from the always-on world around us, with all its pressures, demands and noise. Sabbath feels quieter. It can be an experiential introduction to God's care and provision for all of us; a pause in our busyness that also nudges towards eternity.

Sabbath command

As much as it is a gift, Sabbath is also a commandment. This is something we have perhaps over-emphasised at times in our

Adventist history, but neither should we forget it. Not only is it a command, the fourth is the most detailed for the Ten Commandments and is particular about what it is, how it should be remembered or observed, who it is for and why. It is clear that Sabbath ought to be regarded as a moral principle. It is not only a matter of wellbeing but a matter of right-doing. In a sense, the commandment protects the gift—for ourselves and for others.

Today we often hear talk of human rights, with an individual able to claim and defend their rights against the encroachments of others. However, in the laws and traditions of the Hebrew scriptures and the Jewish people, the relationships between people, particularly between the powerful and the weaker members of society, were more often governed by the concept of obligations on the more powerful parties as to how they treated and cared for those who were disadvantaged. This is something we can see in the fourth commandment. While Sabbath is a gift to all, the commandment focused on those we might be responsible for: “your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you” (Exodus 20:10).²

In this formulation, the Jewish master was to rest so that the servants, the animals and the foreigners would also be allowed to rest. It was a day for their benefit and Sigve Tonstad argues that this focus was unique among ancient cultures of the world—“no parallels have been found in other cultures”. The Sabbath commandment, he explains, “prioritises from the bottom up and not from the top looking down, giving first consideration to the weakest and most vulnerable members of society. Those who need rest the most—the slave, the resident alien and the beast of burden—are singled out for special mention. In the rest of the seventh day the underprivileged, even mute animals, find an ally.”³ Sabbath is a gift, but perhaps best understood and practised as a gift for others, which is why it is commanded.

Sabbath burden

But Sabbath is also a burden. While Isaiah 58 rightly described the gift of

Sabbath as a day to “speak of . . . with delight as the Lord’s holy day” (Isaiah 58:13), it did so in the context of our call to identify with, stand in solidarity with, and work for the imprisoned, the oppressed, the hungry and the homeless. Extending from the commandment’s duty on those we employ or care for, this understanding and practice of Sabbath included a burden for those who are forgotten, oppressed and exploited in our society and our world.

This is one reason why our practice of Sabbath on the seventh day continues to be so significant, so counter-cultural, with a particular link to being Adventist. Theologians have often talked about the reality of the kingdom of God as being both already and not yet. Inaugurated and proclaimed by Jesus in His life, death and resurrection, we insist that the kingdom of God is a present reality. But it is also incomplete and remains to be fulfilled. While our Adventist-ness speaks to both realities, we have tended to emphasise the incompleteness—the not-yet-ness—and to look forward to the second coming when God’s kingdom will be only and always already. To be Adventist is to urge that the world remains broken. Feeling the ongoing weight of not yet is the burden of Advent hope.

In contrast, many Christians explain their worship on Sundays as a celebration of Jesus’ resurrection and God’s victory over evil and death. They emphasize the already. At times, we might learn from their focus on the reality, power and presence of the resurrection, but we ought not be too quick to surrender the burden of not yet, because that is a burden that continues to be felt so heavily by so many people in our world. As much as it is a gift, the Sabbath of the seventh day is a pause in the not yet.

Leading Australian journalist, academic and Indigenous voice, Stan Grant expressed this reality in relation to the ongoing disadvantage of his people: “We come to God in our own way. We read the same scriptures but they speak to us differently. I have been in White churches and I have always felt slightly out of place. Not unwelcome, not at all, but as if I am a day out. These are the

people of Easter Sunday, the triumphant resurrection and my people are of the dark Saturday, the day after the crucifixion. On that day God is dead to the world. This is the darkness of our suffering and in that darkness God is with us as he was with Jesus in the moment of abandonment.”⁴

This might be the seventh day at its most relevant. Both as seventh-day and Adventist, we are “a day out”. We are not yet at resurrection and re-creation. We are a day away. We have hope, but we insist that we are not fully already. And in that we cannot help but identify with those who are burdened, those who suffer, those who feel the not yet so keenly, those who cannot yet join in the celebration of resurrection.

Gift and burden

Sabbath is time for what matters most in what it means to be human, especially human in relationship with God. Sabbath is a gift, a practice of wellbeing and spirituality that we are privileged to know and to share with those around us. Sabbath is a command, a principle of how we relate to others and particularly to those we might care for or employ. Sabbath is a burden, a practice of solidarity with all who suffer and liberation for all who are oppressed as we insist on not yet, at the same time as we look for and work for already. And Sabbath is an affirmation that God is with us even in the not yet.

#SabbathBurden might be more difficult to get trending, but it is no less important than #SabbathGift. The gift of Sabbath is our invitation, but for those who suffer in our world, we are stubbornly “a day out” and the burden of Sabbath is our calling.

1. <<https://sabbathgift.info>>.
2. Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.
3. Sigve Tonstad, *The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day* (Andrews University Press, 2009), pages 126–7.
4. Stan Grant, *The Queen is Dead* (Fourth Estate, 2023), page 277.

Nathan Brown
book editor, Signs Publishing Company.

Memories, sorrows and new beginnings (2010–2015)

The five years between 2010 and 2015 held many milestones for the *Record*, including the change of its name from *Record* to *Adventist Record* in 2014. The first milestone that marked this period was the transition from Warburton to Wahroonga. The editorial team had been working from Warburton in Victoria for years, but it was decided in 2009 that the Communication Department, the Adventist Media Centre and the *Record* editorial team would all be brought under one roof in Wahroonga. Designed to streamline communication, Warburton was nevertheless faced with the pain that accompanies such a move, including redundancies and job relocation issues.

Adventist Record also underwent stylistic changes during this period. In 2010, *Record* changed from black and white to full colour print, the size of each issue increased from 16 pages to 24 pages, and publications reduced from once a week to once a fortnight. *Record* also moved into the digital space, with the creation of a website, Facebook page and Twitter account. This all occurred under the editorial leadership of Pablo Lillo, who resigned in 2012 to pursue his calling in church ministry.

In 2012, James Standish took on the role of editor for the *Record*. Under the editorial leadership of James Standish, the *Record* focused on “honesty, spiritual integrity and relevance for its readers”.¹

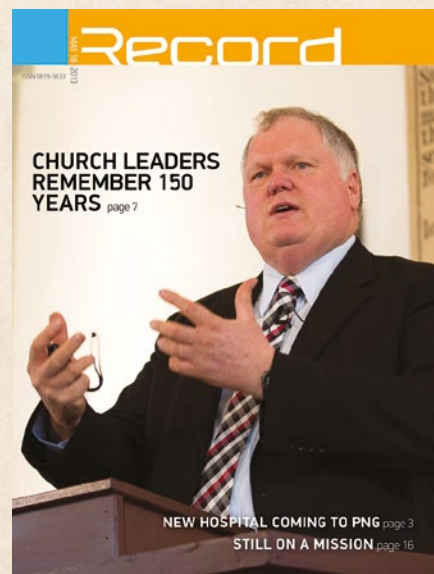
It is in this context which the following events unfolded and were covered by the *Record*.

Adventist Church turns 150!

On May 21, 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church became an official church organisation. 150 years later, this remarkable event was celebrated by the worldwide Adventist Church. World Church leaders met on April 12, 2013, to commemorate the Church’s 150th birthday at Battle Creek, the birthplace of the Adventist Church (*Record*, May 18, 2013). At its conception, the Adventist Church had 3500 members, but 150 years on there were more than 18 million Adventists worldwide. Today that number has exceeded 22 million.

Sydney Adventist College closure

At the end of 2012, Sydney Adventist College (Strathfield, NSW) closed its doors for the last time. Teachers and students alike said farewell to their much beloved school in a closing



down ceremony on Sabbath, December 1 (*Record*, September 15, 2012).

It was with great reluctance that the Greater Sydney Conference decided to close Sydney Adventist College (SAC) after a significant and continuous decline in enrolments. At its peak in the 1980s, SAC had roughly 550 students enrolled each year, but by 2012 there were only 146 secondary students enrolled. This decision also came as a result of the significant costs involved in keeping the school operational, costing the Conference \$A4.2 million in the last 10 years of its operation (*Record*, November 17, 2012).

During its 93 years of operation, SAC provided a rich environment for nurturing and educating young minds to prepare them for the future.

What's the date today?

At midnight on Thursday, December 29, 2011, Samoa skipped forward a day to Saturday, December 31, deleting an entire day from their calendar. This was done to align Samoa with the calendar of Australia, New Zealand and Asia, as Samoa sits very close to the International Date Line.

The executive committee and administration of the then Samoas-Tokelau Mission spent a considerable amount of time planning for and deliberating on this matter, concluding that the Sabbath should be kept on the "seventh day" rather than the day named "Saturday" (*Record*, February 4, 2012). This reasoning was grounded in the biblical principle that the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, and strengthened by the belief that man should not have the authority to change times and days (*Record*, February 4, 2012).

Now you're speaking my language

At the end of 2010, Pacific Adventist University (PAU) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, completed the world's first audio Bible in Tok Pisin. These audio recordings of the Bible were placed on special MP3 players nicknamed "Godpods" to be distributed across Papua New Guinea in 2011. These Godpods were aimed specifically at illiterate people groups, which was around 50 per cent of the population of Papua New Guinea.

"When [the Bible] is spoken in a language you understand, it becomes a life-transforming power none can compare to" (*Record*, January 22, 2011).

A user-friendly translation of the Bible was also developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in 2011, being designed to inspire more Indigenous Australians to engage with God's Word (*Record*, August 20, 2011). The Easy Reading Family Edition was developed by the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) team in partnership with the Bible Society of Australia.

Shake, rattle and roll

The year of 2011 was disastrous . . . literally! With earthquakes to shake New Zealand, civil war and drought to rattle countries in Africa, and floods to roll through vast regions of Queensland, the lives of millions around the world were devastated.

To start the year off, there was significant flooding in North New South Wales and Queensland. The flood waters completely covered houses and roads with mud and debris,

with more than 500 people requiring emergency accommodation. Toowoomba was one of the worst flood-affected regions, with volunteers being overwhelmed by "caravans in trees, a skip bin on top of a two-storey home, the stench of rotting vegetation and mud." (*Record*, February 5, 2011). ADRA was quick to respond to the disaster, providing food, clothing and emergency accommodation for those impacted by the torrent.

On February 22 at 12:51pm, Christchurch experienced a 6.3-magnitude earthquake, killing 185 and injuring thousands. The cost of the damage was \$NZ16 billion!² Church communities across Christchurch dedicated their Sabbath following the earthquake to help those in need (*Record*, July 2, 2011).

In July, the "worst humanitarian disaster in the world"³ struck Somalia—a devastating famine. ADRA organised a special appeal to provide support for Somalian refugees surviving in Kenya (*Record*, November 5, 2011). Not only was Africa hit by drought, but Cote d'Ivoire erupted in a civil war following controversial elections in 2010, leading to 1 million people fleeing their homes, families and country, with ADRA working tirelessly to support many of these people.

Also of note:

–Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College officially opened on June 6, 2011.

–Adventist teen Chantel Amiss was awarded Young Citizen of the Year in 2010, for raising \$A18,000 for the Cambodia Kids Foundation.

–*InFocus* Adventist News television program aired on the Australian Christian Channel in 2010 for the first time.

–Sanitarium Health Food Company closed its factory in South Australia on October 29, 2010.

–The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vanuatu turned 100 on June 12, 2012.

1. Bruce Manners, "Adventist Record", *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, January 29, 2020.

2. Eileen McSaveney, "Historic earthquakes—The 2011 Christchurch earthquake", Te Ara, the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <TeAra.govt.nz/en/historic-earthquakes/page-13> (accessed 30 October 2023).

3. "In Somalia, UN official urges massive response for world's 'worst humanitarian disaster'", The United Nations, UN News, <news.un.org/en/story/2011/07/381262> (accessed 30 October 2023).

Tips to help watch your *salt intake*

With eating out a more common occurrence through the festive season, it can be a lot tougher to stick to healthy habits, especially if you are watching your salt intake.

The Heart Foundation recommends eating no more than 5 grams of salt a day (2000mg sodium)—about one teaspoon. A number that's easy to soar past if you're picking at a grazing platter full of crackers, salted nuts and tasty dips.

So, how can you have a heart healthy Christmas without missing out on the festive fun? We asked Sanitarium dietitian Trish Guy to share her top four tips:

1. Spice it up

If you tend to reach for the salt shaker to flavour your meals, consider herbs and spices instead. Typical Christmas flavours like nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger are great to give your dishes a nostalgic, tasty spin, while herbs such as rosemary, sage or thyme pair perfectly with most festive meals.

2. Add more veggies

Enjoying fresh fruit and vegetables is an easy way to help skip the salt. Vegetables are big fans of bold flavours so you can get creative with your serving ideas.

Mushrooms in particular are great as they contain glutamates—a natural food chemical that enhances the umami, brothy taste. The humble mushie is also naturally low in salt and high in a number of B-vitamins.



3. DIY dips

Store-bought dips can often be loaded with sodium, so making your own guarantees taste, freshness and allows other flavours to shine, minus the salt overload. Most dips can also be made in advance and use cost-effective ingredients like canned chickpeas, saving you valuable time and money.

4. Make friends with food labels

If you are looking for foods that are lower in salt, check the sodium line on the nutrition information panel. Aim for foods that have less than 400mg sodium per 100g. Better still, go for low sodium which are less than 120mg per 100g.

Many brands provide low or no added salt varieties. Party food like crackers, corn chips, pita, nuts and cheese can usually be found with low sodium options.

If you're after some tasty meal ideas that are big on flavour and low in salt, check out our full collection of dietitian-approved recipes online.

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



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Conversations

Featured speakers

Big camps provide an excellent opportunity for the Church to showcase the very best that Adventism has to offer. We have many gifted pastors and presenters and we should use them, especially for our Sabbath programs.

The use of non-Adventist presenters however, may be detrimental, as they have no real understanding or appreciation for the true Sabbath. As a result, we may end up singing "Jingle Bells", instead of "Joy to the World", and thus bring dishonour to the Sabbath.

As God's remnant people who understand the unique message of the three angels of Revelation 14, let us not allow the world to compromise our mission or beliefs.

Jeff, via email

Clear evidence

I'm a dinky-di Protestant who insists on clear evidence from Scripture alone. Tradition doesn't impress me. Speculation is not worth a brass

razoo. Fear-mongering generates ho-hum and loud yawns.

So when I noticed the author of "Israel, Palestine and Armageddon"'s impressive pursuit of scholarship I said to myself, *this article should be worth reading* (November 4).

Two of the main points were: In the end-time scenario Satan will (1) pretend to be Jesus, and (2) fake the Second Coming. But the article gave no sound biblical evidence for them. The texts offered were paraphrased in order to force Paul to say something he didn't mean.

There is a certain fearful judgement for those who add to Scripture.

I am disappointed the *Record* editorial staff are a party to end-time speculation.

Milton Hook, NSW

Accessed by everyone

It was great to read about the commitment of the Church in Fiji to creating accessible spaces for its members ("Adventist Church in Fiji commits to creating accessible

spaces", November 4). Jesus invites all to come to Him, without exception, yet many of our worship spaces and associated amenities are not accessible for people like the elderly and those with physical disabilities. Our buildings may comply with local regulations, which often provide exemptions for pre-existing structures. But imagine the message we could share about the character and love of God if it was known that every Adventist church could be accessed by everyone!

Julie Finnegan, Qld

Congratulations

Re: "Record's 125th anniversary celebrations" (Reel, October 25). Always love reading stories that are published in the *Record* magazine. Praise God for their relentless and amazing work. Congratulations.

Tony Tupuloa Taulalo Te'o, via Facebook

Hi! Hey! Hello!

Kids Spots



God in the Centre

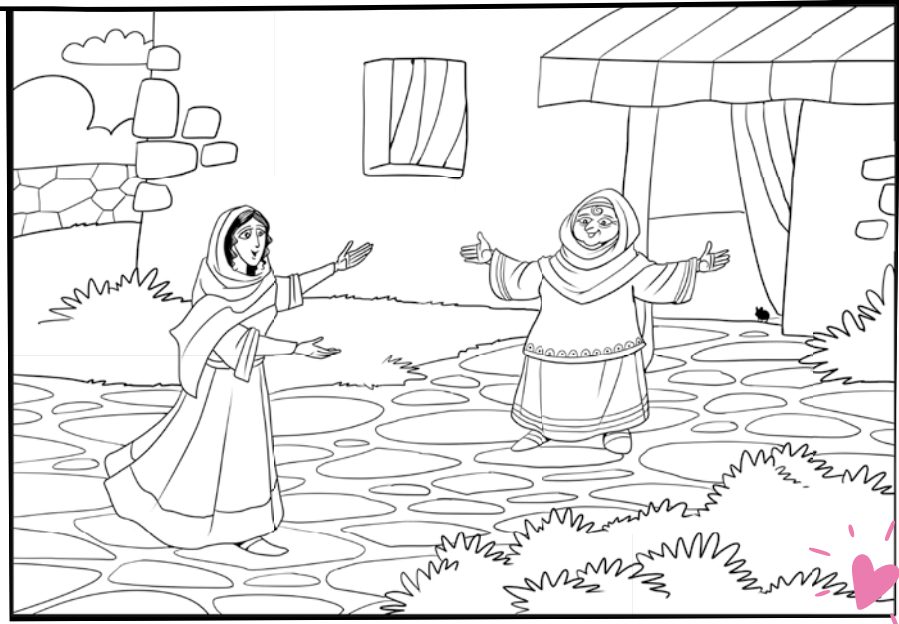
God called Mary to do a very special job. Mary was humble. She understood that all we accomplish on earth is through God's power and for His glory. Mary spoke about all the great things God had done, His mighty deeds and His mercy to His people. She allowed herself to be a special vessel. When we put God first, God gives us the power to do great things for Him.



M_r_y f_u_n_d
f_v_u_r
with
G_d

Replace the missing letters with either an **a** or an **o**

SPOT 15 DIFFERENCES



MEMORY VERSE

“Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long” (Psalm 25:4, 5).

Obituaries



DE BERG, Marian (née Hartley), born 20.10.1944 in Methven, NZ; died 30.5.23 in Sydney

Adventist Hospital, NSW. Marian is survived by her husband, Kevin (Cooanbong); daughters, Deanne and Tristan (Sydney) and Sharlene and Ryan (California, USA); grandsons, Benson, Hudson and Jett Hayton; and sister, Lorna Butzbach (Toowoomba, Qld). Marian passed away after a five-and-a-half-year battle with ovarian cancer. She worked at Avondale's EG White centre for nearly 30 years, becoming author of *Stories from Sunnyside*, published by the Signs Publishing Company. Marian is remembered as a much-loved wife, mother and away-from-home mum for many theology students over the years.

Norman Hurlow



DONALDSON, Gordon Hugh, born 1.11.1934 in Brisbane, Qld; died 22.7.23 in Woodford.

In 1955 he married Audrey. He is survived by his wife; daughters,

Christina (Beachmere), Yvonne (Sarabah); and son, Steven (Brunswick Heads, NSW); seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. He was committed to his church and in the 1960s Gordon organised a very successful Pathfinder club at Sherwood church, Qld. He exhibited a strength of character that was consistent, trustworthy and dependable. He had a strong faith in God and a confident trust in Jesus as his personal Saviour and Friend. This was a guiding light for him in his marriage to Audrey, in raising his children, in his business enterprises and in all his dealings with people.

David Kelsey

DRUMMOND, Carmel Josephine (nee Bonser), born 3.9.1931 in Meckering, WA; died 2.10.23 in Perth. She was married to Allen, who predeceased her in November 2005. Carmel is survived by her sons, John and Sallie (Bindoon) and Andrew and Carmel (Coogee); daughter, Robbie and Darren Peakall (Perth); brothers, Leo and Brian Bonser (Perth); 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Carmel loved her family and her Saviour. She was baptised with her husband in Albury, NSW in 1962

by Pastor Wal Taylor. In her earlier years she enjoyed gardening and in later years appreciating them. During her last two years Carmel took pleasure in travelling with her daughter and son-in-law on work-related trips around WA, meeting old and new friends.

Darren Peakall



ROBERTSON, Jean Violet, born 21.2.1937 in Brisbane, Qld; died 15.10.23 in the Hopewell Hospice,

Arundel. She was predeceased by her sister, Merlene Cook and brother Doug. Jean is survived by her sister, Rhonda Carey and her family; and the families of Merle and Doug. She was living at the Melody Park Retirement Village, Nerang. We look forward to Jesus' return.

Stephen Bews



SMITH, Neville, born 27.9.1931 in Dunedin, NZ; died 27.9.23 in Bowral, NSW. He was predeceased by his

wife, Margaret. He is survived by his children, Hilton, Andrea, Monique and Murette. Neville and his wife ministered to churches in North Queensland and the greater

Melbourne area. He will be remembered by those who knew him as a scholar, wise and with a strong social conscience. He was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. After a long debilitating illness, Neville passed to his rest, 10 days after his 92nd birthday. His family held a celebration of life service for Neville in Bowral on October 21.

David Sym

Advertisements

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.



LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
INSTITUTE

WE ARE HIRING – PART-TIME PROGRAM MANAGER

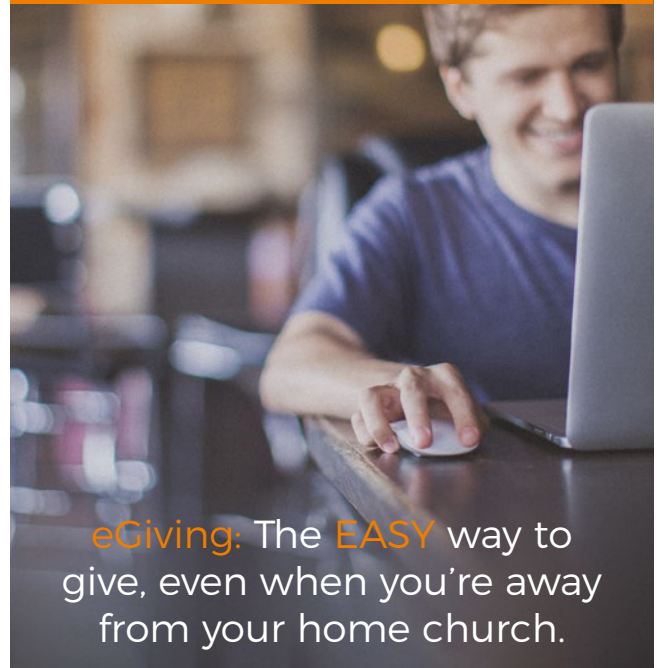
The Lifestyle Medicine Institute (LMI), as part of the Australian Wholistic Health and Wellbeing Company, is seeking a part-time (2.5-3 days per week) Program Manager for its Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). CHIP is an evidence-based, lifestyle intervention designed to prevent, arrest and reverse common lifestyle diseases. The program has generated over 40 published scientific papers showing a measurable impact on clinical results and changes people's lives through the power of lifestyle medicine.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the development and implementation of the business strategy for growing CHIP across the Seventh-day Adventist Community, through Medical Practitioners and Digital (on-line) networks in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

If you have a passion for how people's lives can change through the power of lifestyle medicine, are a confident business leader and have an allied health background, this is the opportunity you've been looking for.

To express your interest please contact
Brianna Catling at talent.acquisition@sanitarium.com.au

"Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth." Deuteronomy 8:18



Australia: www.egiving.org.au
New Zealand: www.egiving.org.nz



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



Chief Executive Officer Avondale University Partnership Alliance (AUPA)

AUPA is a NFP entity established by, and operating in partnership with, Avondale University, to generate financial support for the university's development. AUPA employment is not "SDA church employment" and is not governed by SDA Church Working Policy.

AUPA is seeking a highly qualified and experienced fundraiser to drive relationship engagement to support the sustainability of Avondale University.

Engaging a range of stakeholders including alumni and industry partners, you will have revenue targets and accountability for onboarding partners who can drive student acquisition and net promoter value.

Reporting to a deeply invested board, you will be self-motivated, responsible for a wide range of goal directed activities and incentives for revenue and milestone targets agreed with the board.

For role criteria please refer to the Adventist Employment website:

<https://adventistemployment.org.au/>

Send expressions of interest by **Thursday 7 December 2023**, addressing the above criteria to towser7@hotmail.com
For more info contact **Brad Townend** on **0407 757 111**

Positions Vacant

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.**

SALES REPRESENTATIVE—ACA HEALTH BENEFITS WAHROONGA, NSW

ACA Health is a not-for-profit organisation that provides value for money health insurance to the Adventist community. We seek an adept sales professional to join our team as a sales representative for a 24-month contract with possibility of extension. The position will focus on membership sales and networking within the church community and its affiliated organisations. The successful candidate must feel comfortable and confident presenting in a variety of settings including in a church worship setting, as well as in various business settings and would need to understand the beliefs of the Church and be committed to the values and mission of ACA Health and the broader Adventist Church. For further information email <hr@acahealth.com.au> or visit <acahealth.com.au>.



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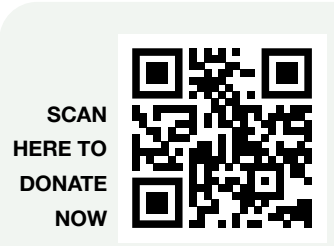
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