



# Long-serving pressman

Bai Sirilo recognised  
for 46 years of faithful  
service 8

\$20m milestone for church  
building grants 6

## OUR IMPACT



Over **5.1 Million** serves to Kickstart Breakfast Club



Over **2 Million** serves to New Zealand Food network



Over **1 Million** serves to support other charity partners in New Zealand

# SERVING UP FOOD AND LOVE



Students from Glenavon School enjoying a Connect Breakfast.

Serving up to 1080 healthy breakfasts annually to children within the community, The Glenavon Food Hub near Auckland is supported by Weet-Bix™ for its school Connect Breakfast program and community events. With breakfast offered three times a week, the Hub operates under the Kai Aroha/Kai village initiative, bringing to life their commitment to nourishing the community.

The number of participants is steadily increasing as more parents send their children for a nutritious breakfast before school.

*"The program helps the kids see themselves as valued and equal members of the community," explains Hub Coordinator RJ, who adds, "Kai (food) and aroha (Love) definitely go together."*

The Hub partners with Healthy Families Sport Waitakere to obtain food parcels from Fair Food, a charity that receives donated food from New Zealand Food Network (NZFN), of which Sanitarium New Zealand is a foundation partner, donating over 2 million serves to NZFN.





EDITOR'S NOTE:

## The best decision I ever made

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

I told God that wherever He wanted me to go, whatever He wanted me to do, I'd do it.

I want to tell you about the best decision I ever made.

My wife might tell you it was marrying her. We get along well, have two beautiful (I could even say miracle) children, and she certainly challenges me and stretches me. In many ways, I wouldn't be who I am today without her. Marriage is a huge decision and walking into it, you never know where life will take you. Well, that was a good decision.

You could say the best decision I ever made was supporting Queensland in the State of Origin. (Yes, I know. I'm risking alienating some readers here but bear with me). Being a proud South Australian, rugby league isn't really on our radar. With one parent born in either state, it could have gone either way. But Origin was the only league game on TV in Adelaide growing up and Dad was born in Queensland, so we watched the series each year and always barracked for the Maroons. The past few years have been great. I'll leave it at that. Sorry NSW fans. So yes, that was a good decision, but not the best.

I know what you're thinking. It was my decision to get baptised. Surely that's the best decision I've ever made. Well, baptism is certainly important. Yet it doesn't convey any special spiritual powers, doesn't make you holier, doesn't necessarily mean the devil attacks you more (I've heard that one a lot but we might address that in another article). I was glad to get baptised as a public declaration of a decision I'd made many years earlier, in front of family and friends in the church I'd grown up in. I was 19 and just about to head away to Avondale for study. I had a pastor in my life who I loved and respected, and I wanted him to baptise me. And so, I "took the plunge". Great decision, not the best decision.

The best decision was one I made while I was still at high school. Before I knew what course my life would take or what I wanted to do. I told God that wherever He wanted me to go, whatever He wanted me to do, I'd do it. "God, take my life and use it. I don't know what to do but I want to do it for You."

It was the best decision I could have made. He has taken me to some unexpected places. Yet I've always had the assurance He was "in my boat"!

Luke 5 sets the scene. On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Simon made a decision to go where Jesus asked and to follow Jesus' calling on his life. Jesus, avoiding the large crowd He'd been teaching, steps into the boat and calls the fishermen to push off again and cast their nets. They were tired and had fished all night with no reward. They were cleaning and untangling their nets on the shore. But they follow Jesus' instructions, with instant reward. The nets overflow and threaten to sink the boat.

When Simon Peter realised what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man" (NLT, v8).

Simon wasn't perfect. He had no idea where the decision to let Jesus into his boat would lead. In fact, it led to amazing highs and painful, difficult lows but, by the end of his life, Simon Peter was transformed from an impetuous, hot-headed denier into a faithful, selfless servant.

I've got a long way to go but I'm still happy with the decision I made all those years ago. There have been times I questioned God's leading or wondered if I was still on the right track. But He has never let me down.

As we get into the swing of 2024, it's not too late to recommit to that decision if you've already made one like it.

If you've never told God "Use me however you can. Everything I do is Yours", then perhaps now is the time. You might find yourself on an adventure. I can't promise it will be easy, but I can promise it will be interesting and fulfilling. And only God knows where you might end up.



INSIGHT:

## Excitement builds for PNG for Christ

Glenn Townend  
South Pacific Division president

All over Papua New Guinea, local church leaders and members are preparing for PNG for Christ. Already, members are being trained to nurture and support new disciples of Jesus through the Discovery Bible Reading method. Building and planting is happening—outdoor stages for preaching, accommodation and planting gardens to have food for the guests. Health clinics and some churches are training volunteer 10,000 Toes ambassadors to do basic health tests and share basic health principles. Country-wide Adventist station, Hope Radio, is continually building anticipation for the program. Prayer is happening all over the country. When Adventists meet they know that prayer is the key to the 2000 public evangelistic programs that will share the last day gospel message. PNG for Christ will happen between April 26 and May 11. The excitement about this event is giving a real energy in focusing churches on making disciples who will make disciples.

There is also great excitement in many parts of the South Pacific Division as more than 180 preachers from around our vast region are preparing to participate. There are seasoned public evangelists, retired missionaries and pastors, lay men and women, chaplains, nurses, church pastors, students and conference/mission presidents all preparing to be a part of PNG for Christ. They are preparing their presentations, getting gifts ready, applying for visas, developing their team and praying for God to ignite PNG. No-one involved with PNG for Christ will be the same afterwards. I expect to see an ongoing impact right around the Division.

On one of my recent trips to PNG I heard a story and saw pictures that showed evidence the enemy is not happy. The local village had just completed building their outdoor stage beside a major road, when an out-of-control vehicle ploughed right through it. The large 4WD came back and drove through another section of the stage, then left—the driver and vehicle hardly damaged. The people were very discouraged and reported the incident to the local president. He came to inspect the stage, encouraging the local people to rebuild as Jesus will have ultimate victory. Jesus is Lord of all, but the conflict still rages. Prayer is our major weapon in this spiritual battle. Will you join me in praying for all those involved?



WELLNESS  
SUMMIT  
24-26 MAY 2024  
GOLD COAST

## THE FUTURE OF HEALTH



Calling all health leaders,  
professionals and enthusiasts!  
Discover how Lifestyle Medicine  
can transform the body, mind  
and spirit and empower your  
local Health Ministry.

HOSTED BY  
Dr Geraldine Przybylko  
Prof Darren Morton



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
[eliasummit.com](http://eliasummit.com)



SCAN ME



The session had Auslan interpreters throughout the entire program.

## Inclusive Christmas: Auslan-interpreted Road to Bethlehem a first for Deaf community

📍 Doonside, NSW | Juliana Muniz

An Auslan-interpreted session of Road to Bethlehem made it possible for Deaf individuals to experience the walk-through dramatisation of the story of Jesus' birth.

Held at Mountain View Adventist College (MVAC) in Sydney on November 26, the inclusive initiative was a partnership between Christian Services for the Blind & Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) and MVAC.

The 7pm session, especially tailored for the Deaf community, included seven adults and five children, ranging from young families to retirees. Among them was a deaf-blind woman who engaged with the event through her senses of touch and smell, particularly enjoying the free petting zoo. "She expressed how the experience brought to life the stories she had read in her braille Bible," said CSFBHI coordinator Coralie Schofield.

The idea for the initiative came from Sydney intern pastor Jessica Stekla, who connected with the Deaf community through her pastoral work. "It was a perfect way to bridge the gap between the church and the Deaf community, especially during a universally celebrated event like Christmas," she said.

Run alongside a regular group, the Auslan-interpreted session was also an opportunity to bring awareness. "It was likely the first exposure for many people to meeting a Deaf person before," said Mrs Stekla.

"Hopefully, seeing this in action can inspire people from the Adventist community to learn more about the opportunities we have in reaching an otherwise unreached population and even looking into learning some Auslan for themselves!" she added.



Pacific Adventist University graduates.

## PAU receives K2.5 million donation at record graduation

📍 Port Moresby, PNG | Kym Piez

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) celebrated its largest graduation to date on November 19, welcoming a total of 300 new graduates to the PAU alumni family, with a further 139 graduates from Sonoma—a PAU affiliate.

During the graduation ceremony, PNG's vice minister of national planning, Kinoka Feo, presented a cheque for K2.5 million to PAU. The donation from the government will fund the building of a lifestyle medicine centre and wellness retreat, which will serve as a hub for promoting preventative medicine, healthy living and wellbeing in Papua New Guinea. The donation will also support the university's 40th anniversary celebrations in July.

Mr Feo expressed his admiration for PAU's dedication to academic excellence and its commitment to fostering a wholistic learning environment that nurtures students' physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. He emphasised the importance of lifestyle medicine in

promoting preventive healthcare and addressing chronic diseases, highlighting the significance of the newly established lifestyle medicine centre and wellness retreat. The new facility will include a swimming pool, grandstand, lifestyle amenities, carpark, lifestyle track, gym, clinic and consulting rooms.

PAU vice-chancellor Professor Lohi Matainaho expressed his gratitude for the generous donation, acknowledging the "profound impact it will have on the university's ongoing development and ability to serve the community". He emphasised the importance of partnering with government and community stakeholders to address critical healthcare needs and promote healthier lifestyles.

The graduation ceremony concluded with a message of inspiration and encouragement for the new graduates, urging them to embrace their new-found knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on the South Pacific and beyond.



The new Casey Adventist Church in Victoria.

## \$20m milestone for church building grants

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

A dilapidated sports centre in the outer suburbs of Melbourne has been transformed into a vibrant place of worship with the assistance of a \$A1 million grant from the South Pacific Division (SPD).

Members of the Casey church expressed gratitude and joy as they gathered on October 28 for the first service in the new building. Casey is one of 26 projects that have been supported through the “Church Building Grants” scheme, which is funded by the Church Cash Management Facility (CCMF), a department of the SPD.

Launched in 2006, the scheme has recently achieved a significant milestone, with CCMF having contributed more than \$A20 million of funding for the purchase, acquisition and major refurbishment of local church buildings in the higher-cost regions of Australia and New Zealand.

CCMF manager Paul Rubessa highlighted the funding challenges faced by local churches in acquiring property in major cities like Sydney and Melbourne. The grants, he explained, aim to turn the seemingly impossible into a reality.

“This is one way in which CCMF has a tangible impact on local church ministry, by helping local churches get a footprint in the community where they want to make an impact,” Mr Rubessa said.

For Casey church, the grant facilitated the purchase of an old sports centre strategically located near the Narre Warren railway station. It had ceased operating as a sports facility in the early 2000s and was in a dilapidated state. The local council viewed the site as a public eyesore and was keen to have it cleaned up and utilised to reduce juvenile crime in the area. With the new church now open, members are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to serve and be a blessing in their local community.

Churches wanting to be considered for the scheme are advised that application forms are sent to the Australian Union Conference and the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference annually in March. The applications will be considered by the Division Church Building Grants committee at their next meeting on May 28.



Dr Trim with the Adventist Heritage Centre team.

## Adventist Heritage team praised by GC leader

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt

The team at the Adventist Heritage Centre (AHC) received high praise for their passion for preserving precious South Pacific archives and artefacts during the centre’s first accreditation review.

Dr David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research at the General Conference (GC), undertook an accreditation inspection of the Cooranbong centre during a recent visit to the South Pacific Division (SPD). The centre, which has undergone a significant revitalisation process, achieved “Archives–Approved”, the second highest accreditation awarded by the GC.

“I was tremendously impressed with the transformations of the old SPD Archives and Avondale Heritage room and of *Sunnyside*, and with the extraordinary passion of Heritage and Archives team members for preserving and sharing with a wide audience the wonderful heritage of God’s Church in the SPD,” said Dr Trim.

He commended the team for their work in several areas, including the creation of an attractive visitors’ centre and the outreach conducted through social media platforms, seminars, podcasts, historical videos and heritage displays. He also commended the team “for having a comprehensive set of policy documents that was exemplary”.

AHC director David Jones said the team have been working hard to improve standards, policies and general organisation. He added that they are eager to implement Dr Trim’s recommendations and for the facility to become a Centre of Excellence—the highest level of accreditation possible. Currently, Andrews University (Michigan, US) is the only institution globally which has achieved that status.

To discover what’s happening at the Adventist Heritage Centre visit the AHC’s website <[heritage.adventistchurch.com](http://heritage.adventistchurch.com)>.



Doctor of Philosophy graduate Dr Don Roy is, at 84 years of age, the oldest person to receive the degree at Avondale. [Credit: Brenton Stacey]

## Avondale awards PhD to its oldest graduate

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Brenton Stacey

An adjunct senior lecturer became the oldest person to complete doctoral study at Avondale when he graduated from the university in 2023.

Dr Don Roy received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) for a second time. "I've always been a curious person, and I'm not content unless I've got answers," he said. "I don't always expect to find answers because, as the adage goes, the more you know, the more you know you don't know. But writing the thesis has created conversation, which has clarified my thinking and the thinking of others."

Dr Roy adopted a critical realist approach to explore the changing mission of Seventh-day Adventist education in Australia over the past 55 years, "a period where I've been involved as a teacher, an academic [Dr Roy is a former head of school at Avondale] and an administrator". His thesis supports a definition of mission not as what Adventist education does but why it does what it does—its motivation, its commitment. "My research also asks questions about how we can better engage with a population in our schools that is predominantly non-Adventist, even unchurched."

The awarding of Dr Roy's degree came a day before his 84th birthday.

Joining him as PhD graduates were Linda Cloete and Vladka Henley. Dr Cloete, a lecturer in the School of Nursing and Health, used a multi-method approach to evaluate the possibility of reversing type 2 diabetes mellitus and to assess their experience of doing so. Dr Henley, a high school teacher, explored the factors influencing parents when choosing an Australian faith-based school for their children.

Dr Roy, Dr Cloete and Dr Henley were three of the 243 students eligible to march during the ceremonies in Avondale University Church on December 10. Almost half the graduation class members were undergraduate nurses, who, according to a government-endorsed national survey, rank their course number one in Australia across all categories.

In a new graduation tradition, undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students who earn the highest grade point average from their school received the University Medal during the ceremonies.

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea worshipped with the graduands during the valedictory service on Sabbath, December 9. In a brief devotional and motivational message, James Marape, a Seventh-day Adventist, told the class members, "you're painting your life story on a canvas". "Paint it well," he added, "because every part of the story is a foundation for another."

## making headlines

### Fruitful milestone

The fourth anniversary celebration of Peru's John Andrews Adventist School showcased the institution's commitment to a healthy lifestyle, breaking a record with "The Largest Fruit Salad in Peru", incorporating fresh fruits from local farmers and conducting a comprehensive healthy lifestyle campaign with more than 1000 participants.—**AW**



### Gift extravaganza

Newday church (US) served record numbers at its annual Christmas Store with 200 families (more than 1000 people) blessed by the initiative. The Christmas Store partners with local public schools to invite children from families in need to select free gifts for their parents, grandparents and siblings. The program aims to provide not just material gifts but also lasting positive memories for the children and their families.—**Adventist Review**

### Braille boost

Christie Record Services (CRS) has expanded its USA offices with the opening of a new braille production suite, a move emphasised as a significant commitment to serving the visually impaired worldwide. The expansion aims to increase braille literature production capacity and address the global book famine affecting those who are visually impaired.—**Adventist News Network**

### Every seed counts

The Kenyan Government has announced a public holiday dedicated to planting 100 million seedlings, as part of a goal to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. It's hoping to increase the amount of rainforest coverage in the country and fight climate change, with every person in Kenya encouraged to plant at least two seedlings.—**AP**



## “Respected scholar” ordained

Koiari Park English church at Pacific Adventist University, PNG, was full on December 2 for the ordination service of Dr David Vanlalnghaka Sailo. Originally from India, Dr Sailo holds a Bachelor of Theology from Spicer Memorial College, a Master of Arts in Theology from Andrews University and a PhD in Religion from Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. Having served as a media evangelism coordinator at the Mizo Conference (India), Dr Sailo has been a lecturer in the School of Humanity Education Theology at PAU and the postgraduate theology course coordinator since 2020. He is married to Olyne Malsawmzuali and they have one daughter. “Dr Sailo is a respected scholar and educator, and his ordination is a testament to his commitment to serving God and his community,” said a PAU spokesperson.—**Kym Piez**



[Credit: Kalan Howse]

## Long-serving pressman

Long-serving pressman Bai Sirilo celebrated his retirement at Signs Publishing Company on November 23, after 42 years working at Signs and a total of 46 years of service to the Adventist Church’s publishing work. Current and former colleagues shared memories and paid tribute to Mr Sirilo’s commitment, character, and many contributions to Signs and the Warburton church and community. Mr Sirilo’s wife, Losena, also worked at Signs for many years. Signs Publishing general manager Andrew Irvine paid tribute to Mr Sirilo’s willingness to serve and help out where needed. “Bai is a demonstration of how we can serve in whatever we do,” he commented. “We are grateful for Bai and his many years of faithfulness. He will be missed at Signs, even as he and Losena continue to be part of our community.”—**Nathan Brown**



## Jeans 4 Jesus

Teens from Gold Coast Central church (Qld) have raised more than \$A4400 for the annual ADRA Appeal with a Jeans 4 Jesus initiative. The high-schoolers created and displayed promotional posters, encouraging members to wear jeans to church as a fundraising effort on October 14. The response, described by children’s ministry leader Darelle Hunt as “fantastic”, exceeded expectations with contributions collected in person and via a dedicated QR code. “This display of generosity is truly heartwarming,” said Ms Hunt.—**Record staff/Darelle Hunt**



## Day of celebration

Ōtāhuhu church (Auckland, NZ) celebrated the baptism of five people on Sabbath, December 16. The baptisms were a direct response to Bible studies conducted by church members. According to Pastor Maika Peehikuru, “The baptisms were due to weeks of careful preparation, prayer, Bible studies and nurturing relationships culminating in a wonderful day of celebration.”—**Plugin**





## “God First” in prison

The Rumba and Arawa Town churches on the island of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, conducted a God First stewardship program, focusing on engagement and service within the local prison from November 13 to 18.

The program, run in the evenings, included a Sabbath school and church service conducted inside the prison, offering prisoners an opportunity to experience spiritual teachings and fellowship with church members.

“The prisoners really enjoyed the teachings and the fellowship with the Seventh-day Adventist members,” said Bougainville Mission stewardship director Pastor David Tovirika. In response to the program, 24 prisoners signed iPromise cards and asked for Bible studies to prepare for baptism.

On Sunday morning (November 19), the two congregations joined forces in a community service project. They volunteered at the town’s police station, undertaking tasks such as grass cutting, drain cleaning and maintaining the prisoner holding cells.

On Sunday afternoon church members provided a feast for the prisoners, police officers and correctional officers.

As part of their stewardship and community service efforts, the church members are conducting ongoing Bible studies and providing additional support to the prisoners.

—**David Tovirika/Juliana Muniz**



## Public commitment

Hillview church (Morisset, NSW) recently held a special baptism ceremony for two young members of its Pathfinder Bible study group, Ally-Mae Agafonov and Kyrah Page. Officiated by Pastors Neil Thompson and Matt Atcheson, the baptism was attended by more than 100 people and coincided with a significant moment for both girls. “They especially chose this evening for the baptism as the following week they would both celebrate their 13th birthday,” said Bev Christian, Miss Page’s grandmother. Commenting on their decision, Miss Page said, “As teenagers, we want to make a public commitment to follow Jesus.”—**Mary Fedorow**



## A little Christmas cheer

Wahroonga Adventist School (Sydney, NSW) helped to make Christmas a little brighter for those who are struggling to make ends meet. In the lead-up to Christmas, the school organised a food drive and assembled 148 hampers. The hampers were donated to Fusion Sydney North, an organisation that supports youth and disadvantaged members of the community. The project was a collaborative effort involving the Home and School Committee, the Student Representative Council and Year 10 Invictus students fulfilling their service requirement. Additionally, the Sydney Adventist Hospital and the South Pacific Division office collected food items for the hampers. Coles supermarkets pitched in by providing the shopping bags for packaging. “This was a practical example of service for our students,” a school spokeswoman said.—**Record staff**

## have news to share?

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

# Into the unknown (2020 onwards)

Bushfires, flooding, cyclones, hailstorms, pandemics, COVID-19, lockdowns, isolation, online church, Zoom, working from home, burnout . . . you've guessed it—we're finally up to date for our Record Rewind column! And let's face it, a lot has happened in the past four years. But in this time, what lessons have we learned? What changes have we seen? And what can we expect for the future?

The whirlwind of strife all began in that dreadful year: 2020.

## 2020

All throughout January, devastating bushfires tore through a large proportion of Australia, as I'm sure many of you remember; followed by extensive storms which caused flooding in many parts of New South Wales and Queensland. It was a summer of heartbreak as families and entire communities lost their homes, loved ones and livelihoods. These nightmare-ish natural disasters impacted 31 Seventh-day Adventist sites, including schools, churches and aged-care facilities (*Adventist Record*, March 7, 2020). Not long after this, a category five cyclone cut a path of destruction through the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, leaving thousands of people homeless, cutting power and water supplies, and flooding entire villages (*Adventist Record*, May 2, 2020). What a way to start the year! And quite abysmally appropriate too, considering how the rest of the year turned out.

Then came that fateful phrase: "COVID-19". At first, we didn't know what it was. Now every single person around the globe recognises that phrase—and inwardly winces from the trauma of the past four years. No-one was left unaffected. Lockdowns, restrictions, job losses, illnesses, vaccine debates and a constant barrage of news spreading anxiety more than offering helpful information . . . everyone has been hurt in one way or another.

But there were silver linings which came out of this experience! We saw ADRA providing emergency meals, essential goods and services, and psycho-social/emotional support for individuals all around the South Pacific who were suffering from hard times (*Adventist Record*, April 18, 2020).

Though churches were empty across Australia, Fiji and New Zealand for months on end following their closures on March 19, church life took on a new format with online worship services getting creative (*Adventist Record*, April 18, 2020). We saw the creation of the #weRtheCHURCH program which united thousands of Adventists from around the South Pacific Division to worship together online, sharing inspiring stories and footage from the South Pacific to showcase messages of hope and faith (*Adventist Record*, May 15, 2020).



**ADRA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

**ASHLEY STANTON**  
As the world adapts to changes resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19), ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church are leading the way in helping people across many parts of Australia. "We got a letter to say that the government recognises ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a major emergency service in this time," said John Smiley, community liaison and coordinator for ADRA Victoria.

As more Australians experience hardship from lost jobs and income and food shortages in supermarkets, emergency meals are one of the most in-demand services in the country. Australia-wide, Sabbath school rooms and church halls have been transformed into storehouses for volunteers to sort and pack supplies. Community meals are now being prepared as takeaway meals, and delivery drivers are lined up to do a no-contact non-perishable food drop.

In Western Australia, Seventh-day Adventist churches are working closely with ADRA to ensure that their service projects can continue during this period. All existing church service projects are being asked to temporarily come under ADRA's guidance to reduce the risk to volunteers.

"There are opportunities to assist current ADRA projects through donations of non-perishable food and toiletries; assist as volunteers in ADRA community parcels or emergency relief programs (putting together food parcels and care packages); doing food delivery to the elderly and disabled," said Suzanne Copicovic, conference ADRA director for Western Australia. ADRA is also a member of the State Welfare Emergency Committee in Western Australia. During this period, volunteers will assist in hotel accommodation placement and welfare checks over the phone, and food parcel delivery.

But while the need for physical goods is at the front of everyone's minds, ADRA projects are anticipating the need for mental health services. "We'll be helping with psycho-social support as well," said Mrs Copicovic. "We've got a large range of counsellors and psychologists so if people are getting really anxious or depressed as they're isolated in their homes they can tap into that today."

In the Greater Sydney Conference, ADRA Blacktown, which is well-known for offering free counselling services, has moved services to online and over the phone to prevent infection.

Information accurate as of March 22. You can support vulnerable people in Australia and overseas by donating online at [adra.org.au/donate](http://adra.org.au/donate) or calling 1800 242 372.



Another encouraging outcome from the lockdown periods was the rise in interest for Bible studies. "As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create fear and uncertainty around the world, the Church is also noticing a rise in interest from people seeking reassurance and biblical answers to the crisis" (*Adventist Record*, April 18, 2020). Thousands of requests for messages of hope, Bible studies and theological answers were received across the Pacific, with Adventist Media's Discovery Bible School receiving 853 sign-ups for Bible studies in just one weekend! (*Adventist Record*, April 18, 2020).

*Adventist Record* also launched its first book, *Living 28: Fresh perspectives on practising our faith*, a project which had taken years of planning and hard work to accomplish (*Adventist Record*, March 7, 2020). However, the distribution side of the *Adventist Record* did face some difficulties in the latter half of the year. "With churches closed due to

COVID-19, the team at *Adventist Record* has received multiple inquiries regarding the continuing distribution of the magazine. Churches and conferences have expressed a desire to continue receiving the print magazine" (*Adventist Record*, May 2, 2020). While the number of magazines requested for Australia and New Zealand dropped at this time, extra numbers were able to be provided for the Pacific (conversation with Jarrod Stackelroth, December 2023).

## 2021

As the lockdowns continued into another year, there were several staffing changes at *Adventist Record* as individuals changed careers, moved and the department underwent a restructuring. Jarrod Stackelroth was appointed *Signs of the Times* magazine editor, while still retaining his role as editor at *Adventist Record* (*Adventist Record*, February 6, 2021). But these career changes were not isolated to Adventist Media alone—seeking a career change became a global phenomenon. Up to 40 per cent of people around the world in 2021 were considering leaving their current employment, with this number being estimated to be as high as 3 in 5 Australians. In America, 4.3 million individuals quit their jobs in the month of August alone (*Adventist Record*, November 6, 2021). The ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19 was taking its toll mentally on the whole world.

We saw this descension into discord, discontent and disunity very clearly as persecution and discrimination towards Christians intensified in countries across Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Christians in these regions reportedly were being refused COVID-19 aid and being made targets for human trafficking cartels (*Adventist Record*, February 6, 2021). In Haiti, four Seventh-day Adventist Church members were kidnapped during a live Facebook worship program and held captive for more than 72 hours before being released (*Adventist Record*, May 1, 2021).

But there were reasons to be grateful in 2021, and practising gratitude became an important beacon of hope amidst these tough times. One momentous occasion which was celebrated that year was the granting of university status to Avondale College, now Avondale University, on July 1, 2021 (*Adventist Record*, July 31).

After 124 years of history as a higher education institution in Australia, being one of the oldest, Avondale finally became recognised as a university. "It has all been worth it," said South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend. "Avondale as a university will continue to provide graduates and research that blesses the Church and the world around us" (*Adventist Record*, July 31).

**Avondale now Australia's newest university**  
A significant milestone for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia was reached on July 1, 2021, as Avondale College was granted university status. The news is celebrated by the church community and the wider Australian public.

**making headlines**  
Digital content... making headlines... digital content... making headlines...

**Evangelicalism**  
Pastor Glenn Townend... returned to the church... after a period of absence...

**Prayer Wall**  
A prayer request from a reader... asking for help with a health issue...

## 2022–2023

As we entered 2022, the world began to open up once again, with lockdowns becoming a thing of the past for many regions around the South Pacific. However, churches were still experiencing pandemic-fatigue following the arduous challenges of the previous two years. "Even after a year-end break, many pastors and local leaders are exhausted from juggling the many conflicting interests and tensions" (*Adventist Record*, February 19, 2022). This fatigue continued to shadow churches for much of 2022.

But despite these challenges, having the freedom to attend church unimpeded and return to life as "normal" helped to calm our unsettled states and restore our peace after two long years of chronic anxiety. As an indicator of this normality returning, the General Conference session, which was originally planned for 2020, was able to go ahead after two years of postponement. Church life was finally starting to look "normal" again.

This year past, 2023, marked the 125th anniversary of *Adventist Record's* first publication—hence the theme of our Record Rewind columns over the past 12 months. "When I started at *Adventist Record*, the magazine was a black-and-white, weekly periodical. Since then, we've seen *Record* introduce colour, go online, change to a fortnightly publication, relocate to Adventist Media and become a multiple platform ministry. Reading habits have changed, technology has changed, but people's need for connection, communication and community has not," said Mr Stackelroth (*Adventist Record*, January 28, 2023).

As we have looked back upon eras of our Church's history, we have been able to learn many important lessons—lessons from our mistakes, our hardships and our triumphs. And perhaps the one most relevant for us today is that of gratitude. Looking back on these past four years, we can choose to either focus on the horrors and trauma we have experienced or look for the silver linings, the reasons for joy and celebration, and take this spirit of gratitude with us into the new year.

So, what will the future hold for *Adventist Record*?

Who knows where the future will take us as a publication.

But may we all remember one thing moving forward: to practise gratitude for what God has done. As we look back on all the stories of faith from the past 125 years, may we take encouragement that He will never leave us or forsake us, and that He will surely guide us in hope towards the future.

May we enter this new year with joyful hearts as we recount the many stories of what God has done in the past 125 years, captured in the pages of *Adventist Record*. And let us look forward to many more testimonies of faith in years to come.

Thank you for reading and taking this journey back through the years with *Adventist Record*.

**Olivia Fairfax**

editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.

# Clinging to these promises in 2023

Have you ever received a love letter? Or perhaps a little note of encouragement and affirmation from a friend or relative which has lifted your spirits and filled you with joy? That feeling when you read those words intended for you is unlike any other—your heart becomes warm and light, your worries dissipate, and your perspective is brightened because of the promises and encouragements found in those words.

Bible verses are like God's love letters to us. They contain beautiful promises and words of encouragement and affection which fill our lives with joy and peace. Some verses hold greater meaning and significance to one person than to another because of how that verse relates to their personal experiences.

All of us have favourite Bible verses; special promises of God that we cling to which lift us up and give us hope. So, throughout 2023, what promises did we cling to throughout the year?

YouVersion Bible App recorded the most popular Bible verses for 2023 per country (for most countries), releasing the following insights about countries in the South Pacific:

## Australia

### Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

## New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa

### Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## French Polynesia, Tonga and Vanuatu

### Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

## Cook Islands

### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

What Bible verse did you hold dear throughout 2023?

**Olivia Fairfax**

editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.

# From Palmy to Pakistan: a ministry of prayer and preaching



Let me share what God is doing in the country of Pakistan. Pakistan is in the 10/40 window—home to the majority of the world’s least evangelised and unreached people groups, with limited or no access to Christian resources, churches or missionaries. There are often cultural, political or religious barriers that hinder the spread of the gospel.

Pakistan’s population is overwhelmingly Muslim, with less than 2 per cent being Christian. Christians suffer enormous persecution and discrimination in Pakistan, while working conditions for many Christians in Pakistan are deplorable. As a result of long embedded discriminatory practices that limit their prospects, about 80 per cent of Pakistan’s sanitation workers are Christian and they’re routinely exposed to a variety of unsafe and deadly work practices. They are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty, oppression and servitude.

For example, Pakistan has many brick kilns where labourers work long hours in the hot sun making bricks for a pittance. In these kilns, many Christians are trapped in a cycle of servitude that essentially equates to modern slavery. Already stricken by poverty, people take out loans or a cash advance to pay for basic needs like hospital fees or food items. In return, they are told they can work in the kilns until they are able to repay the amount borrowed. But they never make as much as they need, and the debts can never be paid back, so the Christians are trapped in perpetual poverty. This results in entire families being in debt and working endlessly in the kilns, which are often owned by influential politicians and their relatives.

God has opened an incredible door of opportunity in this challenging country.

It was in the middle of 2022 that God sent someone upon my path who is a Christian living in Pakistan.

He invited me to watch a local Sunday church service. I was able to watch live online and it was an incredible experience, watching these Christians worshipping God under the most terrible and awful circumstances. They sat on the floor in sweltering heat, in the most dilapidated rooms, but they had a joy that is so heartwarming to see. I was asked to say the closing prayer and I was deeply affected by this experience. I began to pray that God would help these poor Christians, not knowing He wanted to use me in a way I could have scarcely imagined. I was soon invited to take the service at a local

church gathering, which I gladly accepted.

These are Sunday-keeping Christians, and their church services are very simple and minimal. They begin with lots of singing and playing unique instruments native to Pakistan, followed by a gospel message.

I preach and my Pakistani friend translates, and we have done many services all over Pakistan in the past year and-a-half. We normally have prayer services after the message and people come forward with so many prayer requests: from demon possession, to sickness, to marriage problems, and we pray and intercede over these precious souls. God has answered many prayers in Pakistan.

The time difference between Pakistan and New Zealand means that often I’ve had to preach at 1am–3am. This is not always easy to do, but the blessing of God rests upon this work. My translator friend will go back to a specific place weeks after we have run a service there and record their testimonies—of how God has answered their prayers. I’ve been amazed at what I’ve heard and it really strengthens my faith in Jesus and shows me His power in very real and tangible ways.

We have held services at the brick kilns, where we have given out food packages and Bibles. The people are so extremely grateful for the kindness and love shown to them.

One Bible in a household in Pakistan makes such a big difference in bringing the light of God’s love to the people. The light of God’s Word is enough to dispel the deep spiritual darkness that encompasses that land.

We’ve handed out hundreds and hundreds of Bibles. We have also given children’s Bibles to various schools and raised funds for orphans to be able to go to school. The Palmerston North Central Adventist church has given very generously to the mission in Pakistan. If it weren’t for the generous donations of local members, then none of this would have been possible. We praise the Lord for moving upon the hearts of Adventists in Palmerston North to give towards the gospel mission in Pakistan.

May you keep Pakistan in your prayers—that the gospel will go from strength to strength in that part of the 10/40 window.

**Justin Strauss**  
pastor, Palmerston North, NZ.



the  
**mystical  
stone**  
of Daniel 2:34

**A divine enigma—is it the first  
advent of Christ or the assembly  
of 144,000?**

In the shimmering waters of the Pacific, among the idyllic islands of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, a peculiar storm is brewing within the community of Seventh-day Adventists. Shadowy factions, declaring themselves true Adventists, are weaving intricate webs of deception. Like mariners lured by the siren's call, these groups tirelessly beckon church members toward what they dub the "Stone Kingdom" heresy—now appearing in not one but two beguiling variations.

I first stumbled upon these theological mirages back in the early '80s. Even then, their elusive allure was a topic of whispered conversations and cautionary tales among the faithful. These heresies, age-old yet newly polished, have now returned to haunt the spiritual landscape of the Pacific region. The question lingers: Will the community discern the storm on the horizon and navigate safely, or will they be drawn into the eye of confusion?

### **The Stone Kingdom and the first coming of Jesus Christ**

In an age-old tapestry woven since the days of the apostles, a curious pattern emerges—a revisionist tale that seeks to redefine the very core of Christian belief. It's as if Peter himself is leaning over our shoulders, whispering a warning about those who would scoff at the idea of Christ's return (2 Peter 3:3,4). This modern myth takes a preterist stance, contending that the Stone Kingdom of Daniel 2 was fully realised during Jesus' first arrival on Earth. It posits that Christ's second coming is a mere illusion—He abides with us now solely through His Holy Spirit.

It's a storyline that seeks to interpret the earth-shattering stone of Daniel's vision—once merely striking an image but growing to fill the entire Earth—as nothing more than a metaphor for God's kingdom of grace, His church in these last days (Daniel 2:35,44). Yet, this theological twist stands at odds with the resounding

## “You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces” (Daniel 2:34, NKJV).

promise of Jesus Himself: “I will come again” (John 14:3). It disregards Christ’s cautionary note to distrust any who point and say, “Look, here is the Christ!” (Matthew 24:23 NKJV).

It’s not as if Jesus’ return is a quiet affair to be easily overlooked or mistaken. Scripture paints a vivid tableau of a brilliant, sonic and awe-inspiring spectacle (Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16). The New Testament alone teems with more than 300 references to His return—a chorus too harmonious and too loud to be easily dismissed.

When we zoom out to view the broader landscape of Daniel 2, this heresy’s distortions become even more transparent. Daniel’s dream envisions not just one earthly realm but a succession of them, culminating in the toes of the great image (Daniel 2:36-43). Were the “Stone Kingdom” solely about Jesus’ first coming, wouldn’t it have been integrated into that very image? Daniel, however, saw the “Stone Kingdom” as distinct from the earthly kingdoms (the image) and materialising at the end of time—a vision that this skewed interpretation fails to honour.

### The Stone Kingdom and the 144,000

The second tale comes from the annals of Adventist spiritual reinterpretations since 1929, which lingers like a haunting refrain. Victor Houteff, the enigmatic architect behind the Shepherd’s Rod movement, set forth ideas that have rippled across time and the Pacific waters, thanks to an unceasing stream of free literature distributed by various rival Adventist groups. Though Houteff has long since departed this realm, his ideas persist, casting shadows over interpretations of sacred texts.

According to Houteff, the “Stone Kingdom” from Daniel 2:34 was no mere symbol of divine reign but a prelude to an elite corps of 144,000 saints to be gathered from within the

Adventist Church. This spiritual elite, he argued, would be those who “sigh and cry over all the abominations” (Ezekiel 9:4) plaguing the Adventist Church in its Laodicean state. In his eyes, these chosen ones would bear the divine seal of God mentioned in Revelation 7:2,4; 14:1-5 and become part of the apocalyptic 144,000.

Houteff conjured support for his views from the writings of Ellen G White, focusing on themes of the sealing, shaking and shifting within the Adventist community. For him, the stone’s magnificent expansion into a mountain (Daniel 2:35) represented none other than the “great multitude” of Revelation 7:9, amassed during the period known as the Loud Cry.

Yet, this idiosyncratic interpretation buckles under scrutiny. It flouts the golden rule of allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter. Not once does Daniel 2 mention the 144,000—a glaring omission if they were to be central to its message. Elevating these supposed elites to the status of world-changers, Houteff’s view narrows the biblical focus onto human deeds and endeavours, painting an exclusive, self-centred portrait that clashes with the more inclusive and divine narrative of Scripture.

### One gleaming truth

In the grand cosmic opera that is Daniel 2, the narrative arches not just from the Babylonian hanging gardens and ziggurats to the Greek Parthenon and Roman Colosseum. No, it stretches its golden threads further—way further—beyond our telescopic view, towards the ultimate future of humanity itself. Imagine for a moment a time-lapse of empires, ideologies and civilisations, all culminating in an event so monumental it dwarfs even the seismic occurrence of Jesus’ first coming. That earthly landing, while earth-shattering in its own right, was but a single note in an ever-evolving symphony, a Roman stanza in the

epic poem that Daniel envisages.

If Daniel’s prophecy were a theatrical masterpiece—which, in many ways, it is—the ending is not a cliffhanger but an awe-inspiring grand finale. It’s as if the “God of Heaven” is both the auteur and the maestro of this cosmic performance, waving a conductor’s baton that signals the collapse of Earth’s human-constructed empires. Enter the “Stone Kingdom”, a character unto itself, described with an almost cinematic vividness as being “cut out without hands” (Daniel 2:44,45). This isn’t just a plot twist; it’s the climax, the show-stopper. No ensemble of 144,000 mortals could ever steal this scene; they are merely extras in a divine blockbuster where God alone garners the standing ovation.

The “Stone Kingdom” is not a dusty, crumbling artefact stored away in the annals of eschatological theories; it’s the trailer for an upcoming epic, a divine sequel heralding a kingdom both ageless and indestructible (Daniel 2:44,45). Interpreting this awe-inspiring phenomenon as an emblem of Christ’s second coming is not just fitting; it creates a seamless narrative flow from Genesis to Revelation, a story arc that coherently and poetically emphasises God’s immutable dominion.

And thus, within the complex maze of symbols, allegories and prophecies that comprise the biblical narrative, one gleaming truth emerges like a north star in a midnight sky: the Word of God is beyond reproach, its integrity as unbreakable as divine law. So, as we navigate the murky waters of earthly uncertainty, our compass remains unerringly accurate. We can sail confidently, knowing that cosmic navigation is under the inerrant governance of a Divine Captain whose mastery of the universe is beyond human comprehension.

**Limoni Manu O’Uiha**

PhD, Head of Theology, Fulton Adventist University College, Nadi, Fiji.



# HANDEL'S Messiah

It is with a great deal of trepidation that I attempt to write about what is regarded as one of the greatest musical accomplishments ever achieved.

What lifts this oratorio to the realms of the heavenly is that the sublime music has been matched with the choicest passages of Scripture, that prophesied of the coming of the Messiah, of His life, death and resurrection and of His exaltation as King of kings and Lord of lords. It would be a person without feeling, who is able to sit through a performance of *Messiah* without being deeply moved.

Handel's amazing accomplishment in writing the musical score in three to four weeks is difficult to grasp. But was he alone in this magnificent venture? His friend, Charles Jennens, lyricist, is to be thanked for choosing the appropriate Scripture passages, to which Handel perfectly matched the music. Charles Jennens wrote to a friend: "I hope he will lay out his whole genius and skill upon it, that the composition may excel all his former compositions, as the subject excels every other subject."

The first performance of *Messiah* occurred in Dublin, on April 13, 1742. When King George II attended a performance the following year, he stood when the Hallelujah chorus was sung, a practice that has been continued by audiences to this day. How many people have been privileged to have attended a live performance over the past 280 years is incalculable.

I have a copy of Novello's *Messiah*, published in England in 1951, and priced then at six English shillings.

*Messiah* is divided into seven parts: "The Promise of the Messiah"; "The Coming of the Messiah"; "The Life of the Messiah"; "The Death of the Messiah"; "The Resurrection of the Messiah"; "The Triumph of the Messiah" and "The Heaven

of the Messiah".

The oratorio commences with an overture, then launches into the consoling recitation, "Comfort ye My People". This is followed by an air, choruses and recitations with the first part concluding with an air and chorus.

"Every valley shall be exalted . . . and every mountain and hill made low. The crooked straight and the rough places plain."

The second part, "The Coming of the Messiah", includes recitations, an air and two choruses. We have now been brought to "The Life of the Messiah", with an air, "Rejoice greatly"; a recitation, "Then shall the eyes of the blind", followed by, "He shall feed His flock", and, finally, the chorus, "His yoke is easy". This part, though short, is probably the happiest, depicting as it does Christ's earthly life.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
And the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
And His name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God  
The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Perhaps the best-known piece in this part is the lovely air, "He shall feed His flock":

"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd  
And He shall gather the lambs with His arm  
And carry them in His bosom and gently lead those that are with young."

A marked change is seen in the sentiments of the oratorio in the middle part, "The Death of the Messiah". Right throughout this glorious oratorio, familiar Scriptures remind





us that the whole Bible is the story of Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer. It is such a blessing to be able to store away God's Word in our hearts and minds, ready to be retrieved at a moment.

"Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows  
He was wounded for our transgressions . . . He was bruised  
for our iniquities

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.  
And with His stripes we are healed."

But then the mood changes again and the joyful news is that Jesus, the Messiah, is resurrected! This is the shortest part in the whole piece, with only an air and a chorus. A new era has begun, the Messiah is now the conquering Saviour, King of kings and Lord of lords!

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors

And the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord strong and mighty . . . the Lord mighty in battle."

The second last part of this wonderful oratorio speaks of "The Triumph of the Messiah". It is comprised of three airs, a recitation and a chorus—the mighty "Hallelujah Chorus"! In one sense the "Hallelujah Chorus" could well be the climax of the whole oratorio, but there is yet another part to follow.

"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever."

The last part is introduced by the air, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth", one of the most favourite airs in the whole composition. This air introduces the last part of the *Messiah*, "The Heaven of the Messiah". This part is comprised of two airs, two choruses and a recitation.

"I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth

And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

The final chorus, "Worthy is the Lamb That Was Slain", summarises the life and ministry of the Messiah. He was able to do all that He did because He was worthy. Only He was worthy, only He could achieve our salvation.

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood

To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory and blessing

Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r, be unto Him, be unto Him

That sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb."

What is known as the Amen chorus is not separate to "Worthy is the Lamb", but brings to a conclusion this oratorio in honour of the Messiah, our Saviour and King. May *Messiah* continue to be sung until the day when Christ Himself appears in the clouds to welcome His redeemed into heaven.

**William Ackland**

retired in Cooranbong, NSW.

# Hello Kids!



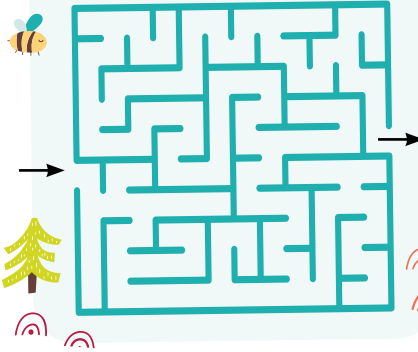
## Way to Worship

On Sabbath in Capernaum, as is His custom, Jesus teaches in church. The people are amazed at His teaching. He is believable. He knows what He is talking about. He makes good sense. Jesus shows that it is important to attend church and contribute to church worship. The story also tells us that evil cannot exist where Jesus is. When we focus on Jesus, Satan is driven away.

HAVE A BIT OF FUN MAKING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE

MAKE SURE ALL ROWS HAVE NO REPEATING IMAGES

### Maze 4 Kids



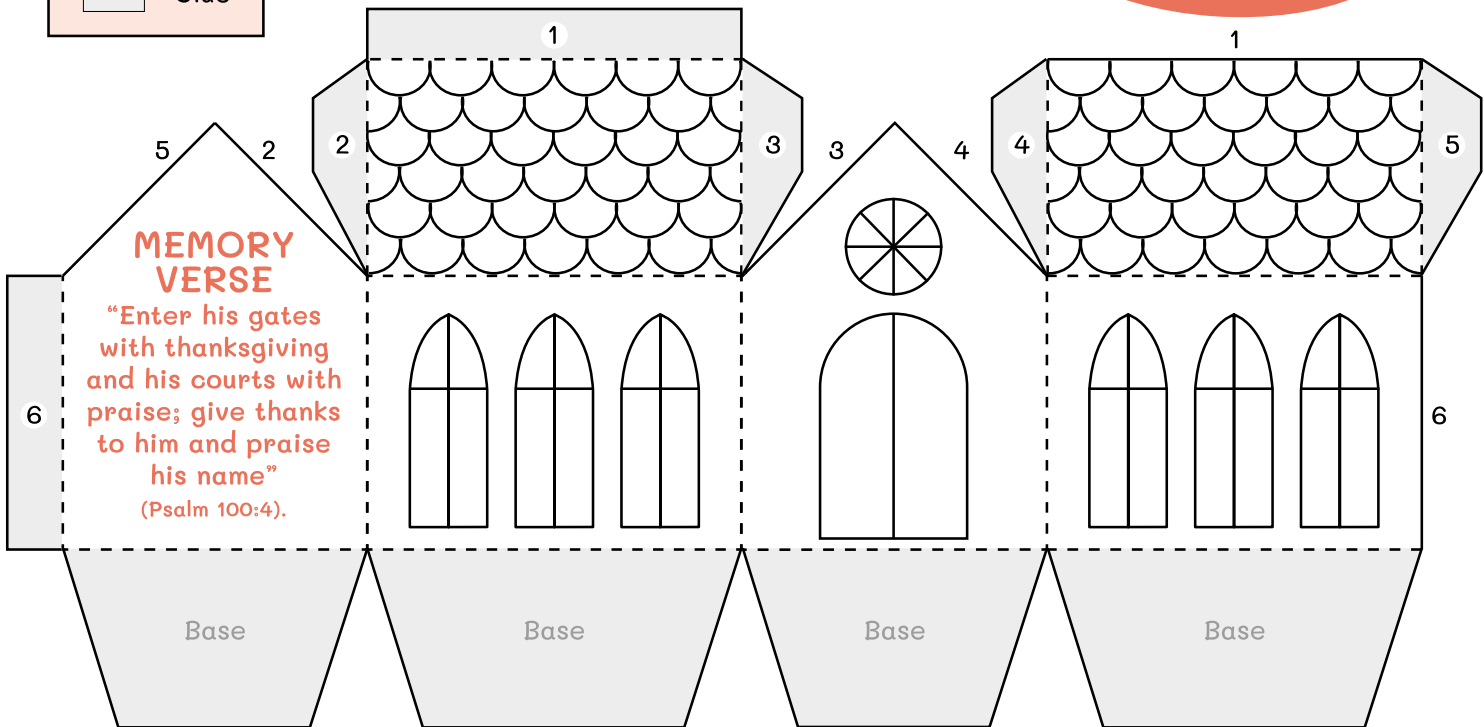
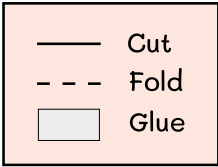
### Sudoku 4 Kids



## Make Your Own Church

Colour in your church. Have an adult help you cut out the shape. Fold the dotted lines. Connect the grey tabs behind the corresponding numbers.

Colour in your own church. You can get creative and draw people in the windows!





# Conversations

## Date change?

Thanks for the smile (“Road to Bethlehem(s) gear up for large crowds”, eNews, December 1). “Road to Bethlehem teams around Australia and New Zealand are preparing for larger crowds as they again prepare to tell the story of Jesus’ birth after the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Sentence construction is always a hazard! Might have been better to say “After the disruptions . . . Road to Bethlehem teams are preparing . . . to tell the story of Jesus’ birth.”

Truly appreciate your thought-filled articles.

**Heather Hagen**, *via email*

## Obeying the law

Re: the article “Church member survey uncovers uncertainties around key theological beliefs” (December 2) and [survey] item “I will not get to heaven unless I obey God’s law perfectly”.

Certainly the law is essential and my salvation relies upon my obeying it. The real issue is not keeping the law but *why* I keep the law. And the

question is loaded. “Perfectly” is something I am not able to assess. If I add to that imperative words like *should* and *must* I destroy any chance of obeying the law in any acceptable way.

It is my disobedience of the law that crucified Jesus and damages my relationship with my family and neighbours.

Obeying the law becomes my overwhelming desire. Short of glorification, my carnal nature will assert itself but my desire still reigns. Then in sorrow and remorse I confess my sin and am forgiven (1 John 1:9). As Paul says, “The law brings me to Jesus and his Spirit, my only hope”.

**Bill Johnson**, *NSW*

## Satan’s counterfeits

Re: “Clear evidence” (Conversations, December 2). The two points mentioned: 1) Satan will pretend to be Jesus and 2) Satan will fake His coming *are* in the Bible. 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 states that Satan himself will be transformed into an angel of light. We will be able to see him as a counterfeit Christ (Matthew 24:24).

2 Thessalonians 2:7–12 says that the man of wickedness will be revealed . . . even him whose coming is after the working of Satan a counterfeit coming of Jesus.

Satan, together with his crew (Revelation 13:4), are coming to “save” everyone by force and delusions (Revelation 13:13,14) prior to the true coming of Jesus to see who is ready or not. Jesus is not coming to save anyone; He did this at the cross. He is coming to give us our reward (good or evil) (Revelation 22:12). This is biblical (KJV). No-one knows when this will happen but today is always the day of salvation and preparedness for it. To many people, Christ’s coming will be the great disappointment in reverse and they could be calling for rocks and mountains to hide them from Christ’s face. I love to speculate and think on Christ’s coming. Since losing my wife, I now have a vested interest in the great day of God—for it to come quickly.

**Eric Hort**, *WA*

# How to build the perfect *summer smoothie*

They're so simple to make, offer grab-and-go convenience and can be customised to your taste. Plus, you can pack them full of veggies to help you reach your five serves a day.

You may love them, but do you find yourself wondering why you feel hungry straight after drinking them? This guide provides you with an easy formula to build a perfectly balanced smoothie that will help keep you feeling full and firing on all cylinders this summer.

## Firstly, are smoothies good for me?

The short answer is: sometimes. They're a great option when you're time poor, need an easy portable breakfast that can pack in the nutrients or to get some extra fruit, veggies, nuts and seeds into the kids. If you're overloading it with sweeteners and forgetting the healthy fats, protein and complex carbs, then you are likely consuming something that's high in calories but not satisfying—so you'll be hungry five minutes after drinking it.

The best smoothies don't just taste great, they're also nutritionally balanced—with a nice mix of healthy wholefoods, good fats and protein. A well-made smoothie can be a healthy choice at any time of the day and is a great alternative to skipping meals completely. It's just a matter of getting the balance right.

## So what's the perfect formula?

**Have fun with fruit:** Include at least one fruit and if you like a creamy smoothie, frozen bananas are a great addition for taste and texture. Using frozen fruits are also a good way to help with food waste and use up fruit that may be past its best. Chop them up and store in a container in the freezer ready to be blended.



**Pack it with protein:** Include a protein to help keep you feeling fuller for longer. You can add soy or dairy milk, yoghurt and nut butters for a tasty smoothie-friendly protein hit.

**Don't forget the veg:** Add at least one veggie such as baby spinach, carrot or cucumber for maximum nutrition and fibre. Adding vegetables to your smoothie is a simple way to help you reach your goal of five serves a day. Most blend easily without altering the taste.

**Go for good fats:** Include healthy fats like nut butters, seeds or avocado for longer satisfaction. Avocado can also help give your smoothie a nice creamy texture without impacting on flavour.

**Grab a grain:** Adding wholegrains to your smoothies is a great way to help meet your recommended 48g of wholegrains per day. Plus they can help you feel fuller for longer and help make the smoothie nice and thick. Add wholegrains such as 1 Weet-Bix, ¼ cup rolled oats or dates.

## Slow down and enjoy

If you can, take the time to sip it and savour the taste. Studies have shown that eating slowly and mindfully helps with a feeling of fullness and satisfaction. When you're eating (or drinking!) too quickly, your body doesn't get a chance to signal to the brain that you're getting full and should probably stop eating.

Head to our website for some delicious smoothie ideas!



*Eat well. Live well.*

Subscribe for the latest nutrition advice,  
plus health and wellness tips delivered  
straight to your inbox monthly.



*Find out more*



## Obituaries



**BIDLO,** Joan Inez (nee Paterson, adopted Butler), born 11.12.1931 in Collingwood, Vic;

died 17.12.23 in Casey Hospital, Berwick. Joan married Jack (John), who predeceased her in 2007. She was also predeceased by her son, John. She is survived by her children, Gayle (Qld), Kerry (Vic) and Carolyn (Vic); children's partners, Malcolm, Rhonda, Sean and John; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Joan loved to read and in 1967 her next door neighbour introduced her to the church. Joan was very involved in her local church with many leadership roles in Geelong and later Dandenong/Casey and would often say, "My Father in heaven looks after me very well." Joan maintained her love for Jesus till the end.



**EAGER,** Ronald Edmund, born 4.3.1929 in Semaphore, Adelaide, SA; died

20.12.23 in Avondale House, Cooranbong, NSW. Ron was

predeceased by his wife, Beryl in 2017. He is survived by his children, Sherrie Jarvie (Newcastle, NSW), Nerida Ottley (Sydney, NSW) and Robert (Brisbane, Qld); and brother, Hedley (Cooranbong, NSW). After studying at Avondale College, Ron served the Church in various capacities throughout his working life, including Book and Bible House manager, CCO manager, secretary-treasurer of the South New Zealand, North Queensland and South Queensland conferences, and in risk management. Ron was a practical man who loved working with his hands. He loved spending time with his family. He had a strong faith, an unwavering commitment to the Church and was a man of great integrity.

Harold Harker



**HALE,** Allan, born 25.2.1931 in Bridgetown, WA; died 13.10.23 in Northern Hospital,

Epping, Vic. He was married to May for 68 years. Allan is survived by his wife; children, David and Sarah, Lyndon and Mandy, Michael and Carolyn, and Sandra and Howard Ferry; grandchildren, Courtney, Evie, Tristan, Kelsie, Annabelle, Josie,

Angus, Jordan, Cassie, Kellie, Benjamin, Luke, Joel and Jessica; and five great-grandchildren. Growing up in tough times, Allan came to God as a young man and married the love of his life at the age of 23. Among other things, he ran a successful trucking business and farm, and raised a large and loving family, all while showing he had great faith in God.

Justin Bone



**HALL,** Sarah Jessie (nee Chapman), born 24.7.1923 in Atiu, Cook Islands; died 3.12.23 in Adventist

Care, Rossmoyne, WA. On 30.4.1946 she married Robert, who predeceased her in 2012. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Glenise Hardy in 2011. Jessie is survived by her children, Daryll and Dorothy (Brisbane, Qld) and Merlene (Perth, WA); grandchildren, Spencer, Kerrin, Sally, Lyndell and Karli; and 12 great-grandchildren. Jessie's entire life was centred on God and spent in service to others. Jessie and Bob spent seven years as missionaries at Sonoma and Kambubu, PNG and Batuna, Solomon Islands, where she was a nurse and midwife, teacher of

home economics and business, store and postal agency manager, and helped establish a number of cottage industries to help students and villagers. The crown of eternal life awaits her.

Roger Millist, Gervais Cangy



**HEKENDORF,** Roger Graham, born 23.11.1938 in Albury, NSW; died 20.10.23 on the Central Coast.

Roger was married to Winsome Reye. He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret Hawkins. He is survived by his wife (Narromine); sons, Richard and Nikki, Brett and Leanne, and Nathan and Emma (all of Narromine); daughter, Carolyn (Central Coast); brothers, Gordon (Palm Beach) and Ian (Narromine); and sister, Marie Hudson (Sydney). Roger was a calm, fearless, generous, compassionate and humble Christian gentleman and family man. He was highly involved in building both the Narromine church and school. Over many years he served his local church in varied capacities such as elder, deacon, Pathfinder counsellor as well as children's ministries assistant. Roger was a humble yet very successful entrepreneurial farmer and businessman.

Eric Kingdon



## Apply Now for the Australian Union Conference Women in Pastoral Ministry SCHOLARSHIP 2024

Are you a woman who is currently studying or interested in studying ministry at Avondale University or Mamarapha College?

Apply now for the Australian Union Conference Women in Pastoral Ministry (WiPM) Scholarship!

For more information on the scholarship criteria, conditions and application form please visit:

[WWW.AUCMINISTERIAL.ORG/aboutus/wipmscholarship](http://WWW.AUCMINISTERIAL.ORG/aboutus/wipmscholarship)

Applications Close  
Monday 19 February 2024



**JAMMAL**, Josephine Lillian (nee Cooper), born 22.11.1931 in Armadale, Vic; died 18.12.23 in Adventist Care, Rossmoyne, WA. On 28.4.1955 she married Jim, who predeceased her in 2005. She was also predeceased by her son, Mark in 1983; grandson, Jay in 2009; and sister, Nancy Vince in 2022. Jo is survived by her children, Susan and Lee; and granddaughter, Keara Hiscox (all of Perth). She was a caring, compassionate lady, who welcomed family and friends into her life and home. She was a strong, resilient person who worked full-time as a nurse while raising a family. She faced much hardship and tragedy in her life but her resolute faith and trust in Jesus and His promises enabled her to "run and not grow weary".

Roger Millist



**KOERSTZ**, Dulcie "Joan" (nee Hunt), born 13.11.1940 in Wahroonga, NSW; died 25.11.23 in Castle Hill. On 19.7.1959 she

married Dave, who predeceased her in 2001. She was predeceased by her sister, Mavis Hunt. Joan is survived by her son, Peter; daughter, Muriel Chapman; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Ron Hunt; and sister, Norma Rosenhain. Joan lived and served her Lord, musically and financially in her local church of Windsor and on the Greater Sydney Conference executive committee and board of education. Joan is remembered for her caring, wise leadership at Creata Promotion and love for her family through humility, loyalty and generosity. Joan died confident in her God, believing that she will be resurrected with those she loved to live with Jesus for eternity.

Neale Schofield

## 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.

### STUDY THE ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON YOUR WAY

Accessible formats: Vision loss (large print, audio CD, app, YouTube, podcast and braille). Hearing loss (Hope SS captioned) CSFBHI Ph: +61 (0)2 9847 2296 Email <csfbhi@adventistmedia.org.au>.

### 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.



abn 59 093 117 689  
vol 129 no 1

**Consulting editor**  
Glenn Townend

**Editor**  
Jarrod Stackelroth

**News editor**  
Juliana Muniz

**Assistant editor**  
Danelle Stothers

**Editorial assistant**  
Olivia Fairfax

**Copyeditor**  
Tracey Bridcutt

**Graphic designer**  
Theodora Pau'u

**Noticeboard**  
Julie Laws

**Letters**  
editor@record.net.au

**News & photos**  
news@record.net.au

**Noticeboard**  
ads@record.net.au

**Subscriptions**  
subscriptions@record.net.au  
+ 61 (03) 5965 6300  
Mailed within Australia and New Zealand  
\$A60.00; \$NZ90.00  
Other prices on application

**Website**  
record.adventistchurch.com

**Mailing address**  
Adventist Media  
Locked Bag 1115  
Wahroonga NSW 2076  
Australia  
+ 61 (02) 9847 2222

**Cover credit**  
Kalan Howse

**Next issue**  
Adventist Record  
Feb 3

## Positions Vacant

### WEB DEVELOPER—ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, NSW

Love to express yourself creatively and innovatively on the internet? This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and enthusiastic web developer to join the Adventist Media team. The primary focus of the role is to create visually appealing and user-friendly websites using the WordPress platform. The successful candidate will collaborate with our clients and internal teams to deliver creative and functional web solutions that meet the specific needs of our projects. If this is you, why not contact us by emailing <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au> for a copy of the full job description. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and to close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close Monday, January 29, 2024.**

### CHEF x1 AND PIZZA CHEF x1 —UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA, 7 AT AVONDALE COORANBONG, NSW

We are seeking a full-time hard-working chef and pizza chef eager to grow with the organisation and work within a busy kitchen environment in a hands-on role, serving modern vegetarian buffet and cafe-style food. 7 at Avondale is located within Avondale University in Cooranbong, serving hundreds of students and community members daily with both buffet and a-la-carte style pizzas/food and cafe offerings. Various casual and corporate events are hosted at the venue for both internal and external clients. 7 at Avondale operates within an Adventist community. If you have a common-sense approach, a great work ethic, a good sense of humour and are looking for a challenge, we'd love to hear from you! To apply, please submit a cover letter and a CV. Please note only successful applicants will be contacted. Must have full visa working rights. Contact Rodney Roberts <rodney@7atavondale.au>. Ph 0412 220 740. **Applications close February 15, 2024.**

**NOTE:** Neither the editor, Adventist Media, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Classified advertisements in *Adventist Record* are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. All advertisements, appreciation, anniversary, wedding and obituary notices may be submitted via <ads@record.net.au> or online at <record.adventistchurch.com>. Notices will not be reprinted unless there is an error of fact caused by *Record* staff.

# THE WORSHIP PROJECT

Anywhere, Anytime, Anyone



## Why

Responding to  
God's invitation  
to **come**.



## What

Developing  
a daily **rhythm**  
of worship.



## How

**Curate.**  
**Create.**  
**Educate.**

To learn more,  
scan the QR code  
for more resources



9 March 2024

# Digital Discipleship Conference

Streams live on  
YouTube and Facebook.



Register for **FREE** now!

Helping you and your  
church become more  
effective online in 2024

- Social Media Mastery for churches
- Transforming Discipleship Through Artificial Intelligence
- Don't Get Left Behind – Unravelling Social Media Trends
- How to Craft Impactful Videos and Reels
- Is My Social Media working?
- Designing Compelling Church Ads
- Navigating the Challenges of Social Media
- Strategies for Building Vibrant Online Communities
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality for Discipleship

## Speakers



Daryl Gungadoo  
Adventist Review  
Media Lab Director



Danielle Davis  
Churchfluence



Omar Eltakrori  
Think Media /  
Pastor



Benjamin Lundquist  
Executive coach /  
Rise & Lead podcast



Fernando Marro  
Content creator



Kiran Skariah  
SKAR Ministries /  
Youth pastor



Jessica Partridge  
JES Solution Marketing



Derek Ortiz  
Graphic Designer



Claire Marsh  
Psychologist / Adventist  
Counselling Services



Justin Khoe  
Digital Missionary  
Academy



Laurel Papworth  
Artificial Intelligence  
Expert



**REGISTER NOW  
FOR FREE**



[www.digitaldiscipleship.au](http://www.digitaldiscipleship.au)