



Window of opportunity

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Adventist Review
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Danielle Davis
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Omar Eltakrori
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Pastor



Benjamin Lundquist
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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Turning the tide on porn

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

We need to get over our fear and tackle some of these issues head-on if we are to make an impact for eternity, especially for our young people.

As Pacific nations gain more access to internet data and smart phone use becomes more widespread, a great threat looms on the horizon. Fiji is a nation that's starting to see the effects of an overnight exposure to new technologies, however it is not the only nation in our region to be at risk.

According to an *ABC News* report, Fijians used 626.13 terabytes of data watching porn during the third quarter of 2023, placing them in the top 10 porn consuming nations in the world.¹

Advocacy groups like Free Fiji from Porn have started in response to these statistics, however the Christian church in Fiji can and should take a leading role in the education and liberation of Fijians trapped in addiction.

While the church has lost much of its influence in modern society when it comes to topics around sex and marriage, we have been gifted a God-given model of what healthy relationships should look like.

The leaders of our Church in the Pacific need to be educated on cycles of addiction, healthy boundaries, relationships and sex so they can equip and train members to combat porn's insidious influence. For those who think it's more a social issue than a spiritual one, I would strongly disagree. Those battling any addiction, but especially one they know is taboo or looked upon poorly by the Church, struggle to connect with God and find themselves filled with shame. It can cause people to adopt a wishy-washy faith or even abandon faith altogether.

Not to mention that the Church has a mandate to "free the captives" and lift up the oppressed.

As much as contemporary pundits try to argue otherwise, the modern porn industry is corrupt and evil. It's full of exploitation, sexual violence and even slavery. It encourages young people to have an unhealthy view of sex and especially young males to have unrealistic expectations and no respect toward females.

In the *ABC News* report, one respondent said viewing porn was better than cheating on their partner and it was seen as more of an outlet. However, biblically we have Jesus' words where He equates lust with adultery (Matthew 5) and many partners who discover their partner viewing porn do consider it as cheating.

"Long-lasting, satisfying relationships do not align with the effects we see pornography have," said licensed marital and family therapist Dr Jill Manning, who specialises in "betrayal trauma". "The majority of people that I meet who are struggling with compulsive sexual behaviour have also dealt with trauma. The compulsive sexual behaviour is often a symptom of unresolved trauma."²

Some representatives of the Adventist Church in Fiji have joined non-denominational information sessions to learn and begin to address the problem. Anti-porn campaigner Letitia Shelton has travelled to Fiji numerous times to train pastors and combat the inroads porn is making. But the Church could do more.

"We are to proclaim the good news to the poor . . . to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives to addictions and pornography, this is exactly what the Church needs to be doing" said Pastor Tiko Kabu, Fiji Mission's ministerial director, in a story *Record* ran in 2023. "We need to be actively addressing these issues from our pulpits, church board rooms and amongst our faith community. It is a difficult conversation to have, however it is a much needed one; this is our responsibility."

Indeed, the reason it can be a difficult conversation is that for many of our Pacific cultures sex and sexual issues are not discussed openly and there is a fear that to talk about problems in this sphere would only encourage young people to try it. We need to get over our fear and tackle some of these issues head-on if we are to make an impact for eternity, especially for our young people. If we take a back seat in these issues, we allow the world to set the tone and agenda of the conversation and risk getting left behind.

Let's link arms and together, turn back the tide on porn.

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-08/fiji-porn-problem-that-womens-activists-politicians-want-fixed/103184600>
2. Fight the New Drug Instagram post, June 8, 2023.



INSIGHT:

Ambassadors of positivity

Tracey Bridcutt
Communication Director
South Pacific Division

How often do we find ourselves eagerly sharing the proud moments of our children and grandchildren, celebrating their milestones? Birthdays, weddings, graduations—the list goes on. The same goes for our careers—we happily share updates, achievements and projects that we’re working on. However, let me pose a question: How readily do we share the proud moments of our Church?

Our faith community is engaged in remarkable endeavours, making a genuine impact in areas such as health, education and community service. Yet, when it comes to discussing these accomplishments, it can be overshadowed by negativity. I’ve found that chatter tends to focus on the bad rather than the good. Social media, in particular, often highlights criticisms rather than the positive contributions of our Church.

One of my key projects is raising awareness of the Adventist Church in the broader community. Particularly in Australia and New Zealand, awareness of the Church is very low—as revealed in a 2022 survey commissioned by the South Pacific Division. Most people are unfamiliar with our beliefs and who we are. That’s why in 2023 we launched the Sabbath Gift promotion. We think the Sabbath is a beautiful blessing that has widespread appeal for communities grappling with isolation, stress and burnout. See <sabbathgift.info>. Another important initiative is the church branding project, creating a distinct identity that sets us apart. In a sea of logos, we want our communities to easily recognise our churches and understand the positive impact we can have on their lives. See <identity.adventistchurch.com>.

Here’s where I need your help. Raising positive awareness about our Church is a collective effort. Let’s champion the remarkable work our Church is doing through the blessings of God. Instead of sharing negative sentiments, let’s transform our narrative into one of positivity and hope. And if you or your church have uplifting stories to share, we want to hear about them. We are establishing platforms to showcase these inspiring narratives, giving our communities a chance to see the goodness that emanates from our faith. Together, let’s become ambassadors of positivity, promoting the remarkable initiatives and positive impact of our Church. By doing so, we can reshape the conversation surrounding our faith and highlight the transformative power of God’s blessings in our lives.

CHIP | LIFESTYLE MEDICINE INSTITUTE

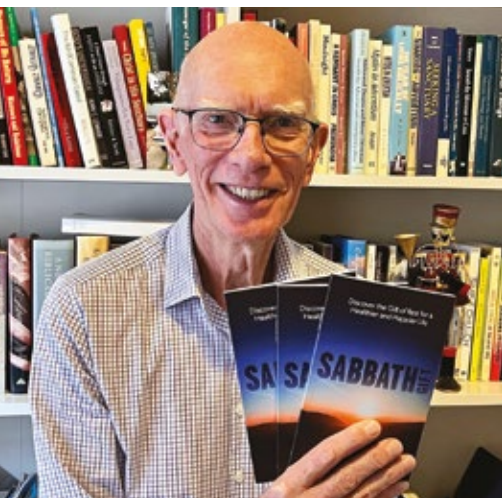
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To express your interest please contact: Brianna Catling at talent.acquisition@sanitarium.com.au



Author Dr Bruce Manners holds copies of the new sharing book.

New book to share the gift of Sabbath

📍 Warburton, Vic | Nathan Brown

A new book has been published as a resource for sharing the gift and goodness of Sabbath. *Sabbath Gift* by Dr Bruce Manners focuses on the wellbeing aspects of Sabbath and invites readers to take the Sabbath Challenge, a four-week experiment with Sabbath-keeping.

"Having a day for significant life-affirming things is important," said retired pastor and writer Dr Manners. "This is the basis of the Sabbath commands in the Bible."

Dr Manners references an article published in early 2023 in the *Harvard Business Review* that described the growth of "time poverty" in which so many of us are experiencing greater busyness and stress. "The Sabbath is an antidote to time poverty and a gift we give ourselves to focus on what's important," he concluded.

Sabbath Gift was written and published with support of the Literature Ministries Committee of the South Pacific Division and more than 19,000 copies were pre-ordered by conferences and churches around Australia and New Zealand. "*Sabbath Gift* is a great read and important topic for our busy lives," commented Brenton Lowe, coordinator of Literature Ministries. He said additional copies of the books are available through conference

Literature Ministries coordinators, as well as from Adventist bookshops.

As a book for sharing, *Sabbath Gift* was written for people who might have little understanding of Sabbath, even as the concept of "technology Sabbaths" is becoming more common. Dr Manners shared some of his experience as a life-long Sabbath keeper, but he says he also learned more about Sabbath himself in researching and writing the book, including the opportunity to interview the rabbi emeritus of Melbourne's Temple Beth Israel.

The book is part of a South Pacific-wide promotion focused on sharing the benefits of the Sabbath with the general community. The promotion, launched in June 2023, draws attention to the benefits of the Sabbath as a time of rest and restoration, community and connection in today's stressful, fast-paced and isolated world. And, most importantly, to share that the Sabbath is a gift from a loving God. Since its launch, the promotion has drawn more than 20,000 people to the Sabbath Gift website: <sabbathgift.info>.

Sabbath Gift is available from Adventist bookshops in Australia and New Zealand, or online.



On day eight, getting ready to cross the border into Indonesia.

Bicycle team shares Jesus across the border

📍 Daru, PNG | Tracey Bridcutt

A group of Adventist cyclists recently completed a two-week ride through southern Papua New Guinea (PNG) and into Indonesia.

The Border Bicycle Ministry team comprised seven staff from Pacific Adventist University, one from the Central Papua Conference and two of their sons. Their ride began in Daru and took them through various villages where they were warmly welcomed by the locals who expressed their hospitality through traditional singing and dancing. At each village, the team took the opportunity to pause and share the message of Jesus with the villagers.

A 19-minute video documenting the journey captures significant moments, including the crossing of the Morehead River, an escort by the PNG military, meeting the border immigration chief and

a visit to the Adventist church in Sota, Indonesia.

The video also features a brief interview with the PNG Defence Force commander, who shared, "As servicemen, we have sworn an oath. That oath is to serve God and serve the people of this nation. I feel obligated to help [the] church because I see that [in] this area . . . [the people] need spiritual guidance and spiritual wellbeing. I want to change their mindset and their perspective on thinking about life."

South West Papua Mission president Pastor Martin Sungu is also featured in the video, "This is an exciting moment to see the pre-evangelism started in preparation for the PNG for Christ," he said.

To watch the video, visit <bit.ly/3tVORdh>.



Brisbane Adventist College winning class Year 2 students.

Competition inspires healthy habits

📍 Brisbane, Qld | Alex Rodriguez/Record Staff

ACA Health Benefits Fund, the exclusive Adventist private health insurance fund, recently concluded its 2023 Adventist Primary Schools Health Resource Competition, which saw Brisbane Adventist College win the grand prize of \$A1000 cash for their video showcasing students engaging with the education resource books.

The competition is an initiative aimed at fostering health education among Adventist primary school students across Australia. The content for the health resource books was diligently crafted by final-year primary school teaching students at Avondale University. The books are centred around the theme of reducing screen time for children and have become invaluable tools for educating the younger generation on the importance of health and wellbeing.

To make these resources accessible, ACA Health provided books to all Adventist primary schools across Australia along with copies of previous health resource books for their library.

As part of an ongoing commitment to

health promotion, ACA Health introduced the competition to encourage schools to incorporate the resource books into their classrooms. Participating schools had the chance to showcase their student engagement through video, vying for the coveted \$A1000 cash prize.

Nine entries were submitted, and Brisbane Adventist College emerged as the competition winner with an impressive 158 votes via the Facebook voting system.

ACA Health marketing manager Alex Rodriguez said, "We appreciate the active participation and support from all the schools involved, considering it a privilege to contribute to the promotion of healthy lifestyle principles among our children.

"We encourage all Adventist primary schools to get involved in the competition in 2024 and invite everyone to view the short videos on ACA Health Benefits Fund's Facebook page."



The two new Pathfinder honours are expected to raise disability awareness in Australia.

New disability awareness Pathfinder honours

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Kimberley McMurray

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) Youth Department has released two new Pathfinder honours that raise awareness of people with disabilities and equip Pathfinders to better recognise and communicate with them.

The Disability Awareness Australia honour, with a new patch designed in collaboration with AUC youth director Pastor Jeffrey Parker and AUC financial controller Luke Bapty, aims to bring awareness around disabilities. Pathfinders undertaking the honour will learn about disabilities and how they affect the people around them. There is also a new Auslan honour.

"Society in general has become very aware of people with disabilities and the disability awareness honour is designed to help our Pathfinders understand and work closely with children, teens and adults with disabilities," Pastor Parker said.

"Australian Youth Ministries has also

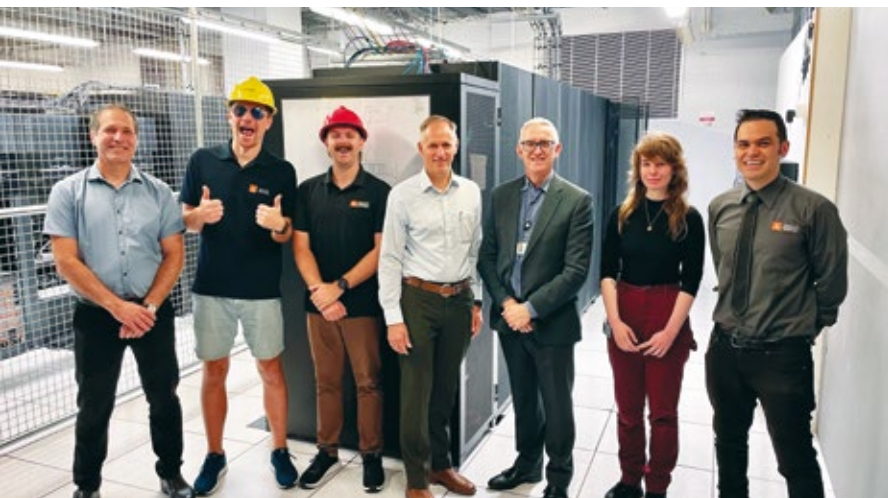
introduced Auslan (Australian Sign Language), which will help our Pathfinders communicate better with hearing-impaired people.

"Thank you Luke Bapty from AUC and Jessica Stekla from Greater Sydney Conference for your time and effort to make these honours available for Pathfinders in Australia."

The AUC youth department is in the process of writing a "Hidden Disability Honour", which will bring more recognition and awareness for those who have seen and unseen disabilities.

The Disability Awareness Australia and Auslan patches are available for Pathfinder clubs to purchase from the AUC Resource Centre.

To find out more information about these honours, visit <pathfinder.org.au/new-honours>.



Adventist Technology, SPD and Sydney Adventist Hospital representatives at the new data centre.

Adventist Technology completes major server migration to enhance mission work

📍 Wahrenonga, NSW | Juliana Muniz

Adventist Technology has concluded a two-year migration project of the South Pacific Division (SPD) servers to a new data centre. Previously based near Sydney Airport at a massive data centre facility 40km from the SPD office, the servers are now housed at the Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) data centre, just across the road.

IT operations and infrastructure manager Dean Tichborne explained the data centre is a critical tool for fulfilling the mission of the Church. "It is the place where many of our missional and administrative systems run, such as the eGiving platform," said Mr Tichborne.

The complex migration process involved transferring more than 200 virtual machines (VMs), which are essential for various server functions. Key personnel in the project included engineers Tomas Boguzis and Chris Chakovan, who played crucial roles in selecting, installing and configuring the new equipment.

"This move required installing all the new equipment in a new data centre 40km away, all while keeping every system online. The planning and timing of all the changes needed to be precise," explained Mr Tichborne.

He said the move brings many benefits: "It allows us to leverage the San's high-quality facility, and by partnering together, we are able to keep investing in our mission. The bonus is that the facility is easily accessible now by our engineers."

The successful completion of the project was celebrated with a dedication ceremony on November 28 attended by SPD and hospital representatives. The dedication was streamed via Zoom during the SPD staff morning worship.

Speaking at the ceremony, SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend commended the work of Adventist Technology. "This is the best of technology, a crucial part of our operation, especially considering the threats we face in the digital age."

"We're in the great controversy, so I want to dedicate this to God," added Pastor Townend before offering a dedicatory prayer.

The migration is part of a collaborative effort between the San, SPD and Adventist Technology. This partnership aligns with the SPD's goal of unifying technology systems across its network to facilitate mission work more effectively.

making headlines

Adventist roots

The discovery of a 179-year-old document, the first issue of *The Hope of Israel*, reveals crucial insights into the early days of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, tracing back to the Millerite movement's anticipation of Jesus' return in 1844. The document sheds light on life before the Great Disappointment and offers historical context, including perspectives on abolitionism.—ANN



Faith in action

A Korean team of 14 members, including professionals like doctors, nurses and pastors, conducted a three-day initiative at Dapcha Adventist Church in Nepal, providing health services, children's ministry activities, home visitation, free haircuts, family photos and organising a Vacation Bible School.—AR

Japan's urban hub

The Yanagi Adventist Community Center in Tokyo, the city's first Urban Center of Influence (UCI), has opened. It aims to provide a worship space for young church planters and be a blessing to the local community. Strategically placed with a welcoming ambience, the UCI offers activities like English conversation clubs, mental health workshops, leadership sessions, game nights, movie nights and cooking classes.—NSD

Health benefits of holidays

Research has found that during holidays people exhibited 13% more physical activity, were 5% less sedentary and slept 4% more each day, with longer holidays showing greater health benefits. Short breaks, like a three-day weekend, lead to healthier lifestyle patterns, emphasising the positive impact on both mental and physical health, including sustained increased sleep for up to two weeks after the break.—SA Uni



200 episodes

Signs of the Times' podcast *Signs Radio* recently celebrated a 200th episode milestone. Started in 2018 by then-editor Kent Kingston, the podcast has also been hosted by former assistant editor Daniel Kuberek and, more recently, by associate editor Pastor Jesse Herford and assistant editor Zanita Fletcher. In the 200th episode, the *Signs* team speaks with Daniel Kuberek about his time with the podcast and takes a trip down memory lane of favourite episodes of the past. Since 2018, more than 200,000 people worldwide have listened to *Signs Radio* through podcasting apps, YouTube and Faith FM—which plays episodes on its radio program. Search for *Signs Radio* on your preferred podcast app to listen to new episodes every month.—**Record staff**



Young people commit

Mount Druitt Samoan church (NSW) recently hosted a significant baptismal ceremony, where 15 young people from their congregation and local community made a public commitment to their faith. The baptisms were a direct result of a series of dedicated Bible study sessions, requested by the young baptismal candidates after attending the Pathfinder Camporee in January 2023. Led by Pathfinder leaders and pastors, the Bible study sessions were conducted every Monday for five months. "In preparation for this important step, the whole church dedicated a day of fasting in September for the Bible study group," said church member Jochabed Leuluai. The baptismal ceremony was marked by a full church, with family, friends and members of the local community in attendance.—**Jochabed Leuluai/Record staff**



Mission focused

Around 160 people gathered at St Andrews church in Waipukurau (NZ) for the Hawke's Bay Regional meeting on December 2. The Dannevirke church led the Sabbath school session, during which representatives from each church shared their community mission work achievements in 2023. The main speaker for the day, Longburn Adventist College chaplain Kofi Amoah, emphasised the importance of balancing life's busyness with nurturing a relationship with God. In the afternoon, a concert described as an "amazing time of praise and glory to God" was held with participation from all churches.—**Plugin**



Ministry van

Fiji Mission welcomed its new discipleship van on November 29. President Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa said the van is a "discipleship tool to be used in the Lord's work so that souls may be led to Christ". The new vehicle replaces the old van, sold after serving the Mission for the past five years. Church members will easily spot the new van, which is branded with Church logos.—**Record staff**



Preparing the soil

A pre-evangelism week for PNG for Christ held recently in Gogo, zone three of Elimbari district (Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission), attracted more than 100 attendees each night, including members from multiple denominations, and culminated in baptisms and a series of commitments.

Themed *Bible i Tok* (Bible Says), the event featured Pastor Sam Kepa Waine, district director of Elimbari, as the evening guest speaker. Pastor Waine focused on clarifying biblical truths and addressing common misunderstandings. He urged attendees to believe in what is written in the Bible.

Morning sessions were led by Minister Kiagi Abel, who conducted a 10 Days of Prayer program, drawing participation from both church members and the wider community.

On Sabbath, the ministerial secretary of the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, Pastor Paul Lipu, led the divine service, culminating in the baptism of a Baptist pastor and his wife who had attended the Adventist church for the previous seven Sabbaths.

As a result of the appeals made during the week-long program, many expressed their wish to be baptised. Four members from Sunday-keeping churches publicly committed during the week and another 70 individuals answered the appeal after the baptism on Sabbath. The baptisms are expected to take place at the upcoming PNG for Christ evangelistic event in April.—**Armil Waine**

have news to share?

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



Empowering students

Around 130 students gathered at Markham Road Primary School in Lae (PNG) for the fourth Morobe Adventist Students' Association Biannual Convention from January 7 to 14. Themed "Preparing for the Final Crisis", the convention aimed to equip and empower students with the knowledge and tools necessary to face the challenges of the world while staying firm in their faith. The highlight of the event was the baptism of seven students and one older man from a Pentecostal church. "Witnessing these individuals accept Christ and embark on their spiritual journey was truly a moment of celebration and gratitude," said media coordinator Doulos Ken.—**Record staff/Doulos Ken**



Courageous young fighter

Tributes flowed for little Imogen Rea, who passed away on January 11 at four years and one month of age after a life-long battle against brain cancer. Imogen was the youngest daughter of Macquarie College (Wallsend, NSW) chaplain Pastor Brad Rea and his wife Christie. The couple also has four daughters. "Imogen fought valiantly until her very last breath, holding on as long as she possibly could," said Mrs Rea in a statement on social media on January 12. "She was surrounded by her sisters, who beautifully loved and kissed and cared for her into the early hours of the morning. Brad sang songs to her and I was able to hold her and cuddle her to sleep for the last time until Jesus comes," she added. In the statement, Mrs Rea thanked everybody for all the support "over these four beautiful, challenging years" and asked for prayers.—**Juliana Muniz**

VOLUNTEERING

a window of opportunity



As the new year rolls around, we are all given fresh opportunities to consider our priorities and integrate new habits into our routines. We start making plans for the year ahead. Perhaps we might be thinking about travelling the world, or spending more time with friends or being more intentional about developing our relationship with God. But how often do we think about being a missionary?

Volunteering as a missionary offers the opportunity to experience all these things—travelling the world, spending time with friends and drawing closer to God. In 2023, a group of volunteers travelled to the Philippines to serve as digital evangelists, stepping away from their homes and ordinary routines to help pray for people, give Bible studies, create online content and witness God's love to a challenging area of the world. Among these volunteers were Nathan Lausberg, Elijah Manda, Terry Toisenegila and Lia Raikusa, from the South Pacific Division, who shared with us their experiences.

What inspired you to become a volunteer?

Terry reflected, "It was back in my final year of studies. I remember the lecture hall filled with eager students, and my lecturer, Pastor Timothy Kaio, stood at the front, passion evident in his voice as he delved into the intricacies of global missions. The focus of that particular day was on the 10/40 Window, an area known as 'The Resistant Belt' due to its dense concentration of people from major non-Christian religions."

This 10/40 Window is the rectangular area encapsulating North Africa, the Middle East and Asia—between approximately 10 and 40 degrees north in latitude around the globe. About two-thirds of the world's population live in this area, including the poorest demographics. This area is called the "Resistant Belt" because the gospel is incredibly difficult to share due to the dense concentration of Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, with around 3.28 billion individuals having never heard the gospel message. The Philippines falls within this 'window'.

Terry continued, "As my lecturer passionately explained the challenges faced by missionaries in this region, especially among the majority Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist populations, a sense of conviction settled over me. I couldn't help but contrast my own environment with the reality of those living in the 10/40 Window. I hail from a country where the story of Jesus is familiar to many, where churches stand on street corners, and where the gospel is accessible to anyone and everyone. However, within the 10/40 Window, the story of Jesus is often perceived as a myth or a distant tale.

"That evening, as I walked back to my dormitory, the weight of my lecturer's words lingered. I couldn't shake the feeling that I needed to do something. The contrast between the spiritual landscapes of my home and the 10/40 Window gnawed at my

conscience and I was so challenged. In the days that followed, I found myself immersed in research about the challenges faced by missionaries in the 10/40 Window. Stories of perseverance, resilience and unwavering faith began to unfold before me. It became clear that these missionaries were not just preaching a message; they were living testaments to the transformative power of the gospel in the face of adversity. That was what inspired me to become a volunteer missionary.

"Fast forward a year later, I find myself in a foreign land, surrounded by unfamiliar faces and immersed in a culture vastly different from my own. The challenges are real, but so is the sense of fulfillment that comes with sharing the message of hope . . . I praise God because, through the Center for Digital Evangelism and the Adventist World Radio, we are able to reach these areas within the 10/40 Window with the love, redemption and salvation story of Jesus with no walls, no borders and no limits."

What has been the biggest highlight from your experiences volunteering?

The highlight for **Elijah** was reaching out to online seekers: "Some I have prayed for have received the answers to their prayers, and some, whom I have responded to their Bible questions, found delight in the answers."

For **Terry**, the biggest highlight has been "connecting with an individual from one of these 10/40 Window countries and seeing how this ministry has touched him, and eventually connecting him to a local church in his area for baptism. You know, the world may be vast and diverse, but the universal need for love, grace and the message of Jesus transcends borders and cultural barriers."

Nathan said, "Getting to know the amazing people serving here has been awesome! The community aspect with fellow Adventist youth has been an incredible blessing to me, and I thank God that He has used them to grow my understanding of Him through them. Knowing that I have made friends for life is a highlight for me."

How have you seen Jesus working and inspiring others during your time volunteering?

Nathan: "Many people are seeking after God, and to see the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of many is an encouragement to keep fulfilling the mission Christ gave us."

In **Elijah's** words, "Digital evangelism penetrates every wall and border, breaking the impossibility of reaching people for the kingdom of God . . ."

Terry shared that, "through volunteering, I've seen Jesus at work, inspiring and transforming lives. His teachings come to life through the practical expressions of love, compassion and humility carried out by dedicated volunteers. The impact extends far beyond the immediate beneficiaries, creating a ripple effect that contributes to positive change and a deeper understanding of God's purpose in our lives."

How has your own spiritual journey and faith grown or changed from your experiences volunteering?

Terry reflected, "For me personally, stepping out to serve has been a journey of personal growth in my faith. It has challenged me to go beyond my comfort zone, deepening my trust in God's provision and strengthening my reliance on Him. Witnessing God's work in action has been for me a firsthand experience of God's transformative power, solidifying my conviction in the reality of His love and compassion. Not only that, serving God here has been a profound teacher of humility. This humility has been a cornerstone in cultivating a servant's heart and a more Christ-like approach to life."

Elijah said, "I witnessed the hand of the Lord guiding me and leading me here from day one. . . . This missionary experience is a lifelong, changing experience I have come to see. My college years and my first seven months in the field as an intern pastor did not give me the dynamics of faith that volunteering is doing to me. By the end of my term, I believe I will be a different person in character and faith."

In **Lia's** experience, "Being a missionary/volunteer is a blessing. Not only physically but spiritually as well. Answering God's call and allowing Him

to take control of my life is not something I regret; it's the best decision I've made. . . . Every day with the Lord is sweeter, and knowing His promises made it even sweeter like honey, knowing that the Lord has bigger and brighter plans for me, and no matter what I do or go through, He is always there to love, forgive, bless, protect and guide me."

What would you say to others who are thinking about volunteering?

"My encouragement to those thinking about volunteering is just to take the step of faith . . . the world needs to hear the gospel of truth about the great Volunteer Missionary who laid down His life so they can have life. The Greatest Missionary, Jesus Christ, is calling every one of us to follow in His footsteps in seeking the lost, and this work cannot be completed if we stop volunteering," reflected **Elijah**.

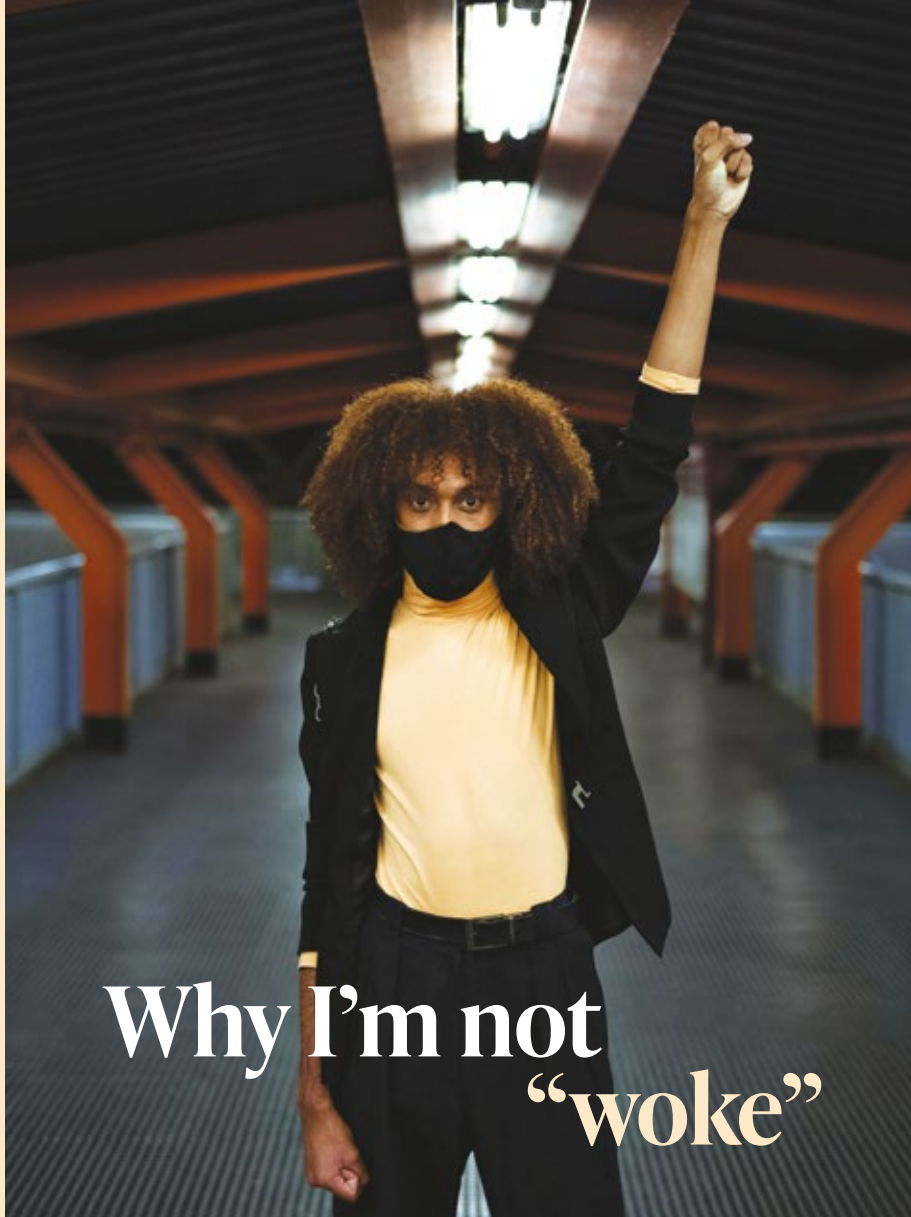
Terry identified that, "It's a practical way to live out your faith, express beliefs through actions and find unparalleled joy in giving . . . if you're thinking of being a volunteer missionary, it's like our Adventist Volunteer Service motto says, 'Do it, Be a Volunteer.'"

Nathan concluded that the decision to serve may be tough and confusing, "but it could be an experience of a lifetime, that can change who you are in this life, and the life to come".

The Adventist Church has a worldwide Adventist Volunteer Service whereby individuals can be supported in mission and volunteer work, either long-term or short-term; local or international. There are so many opportunities to serve around the globe, and infinite blessings to be gained from volunteering.

If you are looking for an opportunity to do something new this year, consider volunteering as an amazing way to experience the power and love of Jesus in your own life. For more information go to <volunteers.adventistchurch.com>.

Olivia Fairfax
editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.



Why I'm not "woke"

In the summer of 1963, the US edition of *Newsweek* ran a story reporting on the progress of the civil rights movement. The story quoted Carrie Allen, a grocery store worker from Union Springs, Alabama: "We the Negro people are now not afraid. We have woke up."¹ Reading a new biography of Martin Luther King, Jr, that quoted this story, it occurred to me that at the end of a couple of years of the cultural and political abuse of the word "woke", this might have been the only legitimate use of this word I have come across recently.

Since late 2020, *woke* has become a catch-all term to misdescribe, label and dismiss the supposed excesses of those who call for greater justice in our world and greater sensitivity to the ways in which our words and systems cause harm to others. It has become a

lazy shorthand for right-wing politicians to rally people for their own self-interest and there have been various media voices who have been happy to launch their own "anti-woke" bandwagons.

The irony is that the rapidity, readiness and pervasiveness with which the word has been co-opted and weaponised has demonstrated the ongoing cultural and political power of those who have chosen to misuse it in this way. It seems they are not under siege—as they argue so vehemently—and certainly not to the extent they would claim. And to take such a good and powerful word from a minority culture and so quickly twist it into a pejorative term is a prime example of their political muscle and mendacity.

While such linguistic violence is probably less surprising in our fractious political, cultural and media environ-

ments, it is more troubling when such language seeps into church contexts. While from a culture that is not my own, the simple and cultural meaning of *woke* is something we should applaud. Speaking up for the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised is a biblical mandate (see Proverbs 31:8,9). To sneer at those who would seek to take this seriously and to mock the language of the oppressed themselves is a callousness that is far below the calling of our faith.

So I have a simple request: please don't use "woke" as a negative term. Yes, there are extreme examples and proposals that arise in the name of inclusivity and equality. These should be questioned and challenged as needed, but our call is always to err on the side of generosity, compassion, love and welcome. This includes choosing not to use language that is mean and exploitative, even in the words themselves.

I'm not "woke" because that is not a term that fits in my culture, even as I admire those who have used that kind of language in the work of justice in past decades. Neither am I "anti-woke" because "woke" is a term that belongs to others and my faith demands I am not anti-others. However, our faith does call us to be awake. We are to be alert to the voices and forces in the culture around us that would tempt us to deny our common humanity and the different perspectives of others. And we are to be awakened to the different way of being in the world that our faith always calls us to: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:17, NLT).

Perhaps Ms Allen from Union Springs, Alabama, summed it up well: we simply do not need to be as afraid as some voices would urge us to be and we do not need to be so anxious to defend our own tradition and culture. And then we do not need to be so mean in the language we use.

1. Quoted by Jonathan Eig, *King: The Life of Martin Luther King*, Simon & Schuster, 2023, page 313.

Nathan Brown
book editor, Signs Publishing Company.



The 10

Spiritual Disciplines

Fasting

If you've never tried fasting before, this ancient ritual might just help focus you and your spiritual life. It's common to fast from all sorts of things these days but skipping meals is a great thing to try if you can spend time with God. Just remember to do it joyfully (Matthew 6:17).

Journalling

Journalling helps you express yourself. Whether it is expressing what has happened in your life to God, recording your gratitude or noting down quotes and Bible verses that speak to your life, journalling can bring healing, catharsis and a reminder of important lessons learned or blessings received. It is easy to forget what God has done but reading old prayer journals can remind us.

Prayer

"Read your Bible, pray every day" as the old song goes. In this busy, fast-paced life, do we still prioritise prayer? If you're struggling to pray, you can pray the psalms, try expanding on the Lord's prayer as you pray it, and even use resources that help you pray.

Gratitude

Gratitude has been shown to make people happier and healthier. But we don't always practise gratitude as a spiritual discipline. There are many ways you can give thanks. You might consider these options: Think of three things you're grateful for just before you fall asleep each night. Collect a jar of things you're grateful for each day or week to read at the end of the year. Keep a gratitude journal. Be specific. Write someone else a letter that expresses what you're grateful to them for.

Worship music

There are some amazing worship songs, many have been recorded and can be listened to on streaming platforms and YouTube, both contemporary and traditional. Sometimes when we have no words to utter, the lyric of a song will lift us up before the Creator in worship. We shouldn't underestimate the power of music.

Spend time in God's Word

With studies showing that less than half of Adventists are reading God's Word regularly, it might be time to be more intentional about it. Reading once or twice a week has no real impact on us. But four times a week can measurably improve our quality of life in a number of areas.

Service

Do you have any intentional, regular opportunities to serve? Your neighbours, your community and your extended family can all be impacted by your service. Find ways to impact your world and you might just find your own heart moved.

Nature

As Dr Darren Morton, author of *Live More Happy*, says, "Blue and green should often be seen." Getting into the bush, near the ocean, even a local park, can break up the artificial, man-made landscapes we're surrounded with. There is a reason why in the Bible, God is found, first in a garden, then on mountains. Nature is a great place to go to find the fresh air, natural beauty and closeness to creation needed to hear from the Creator.

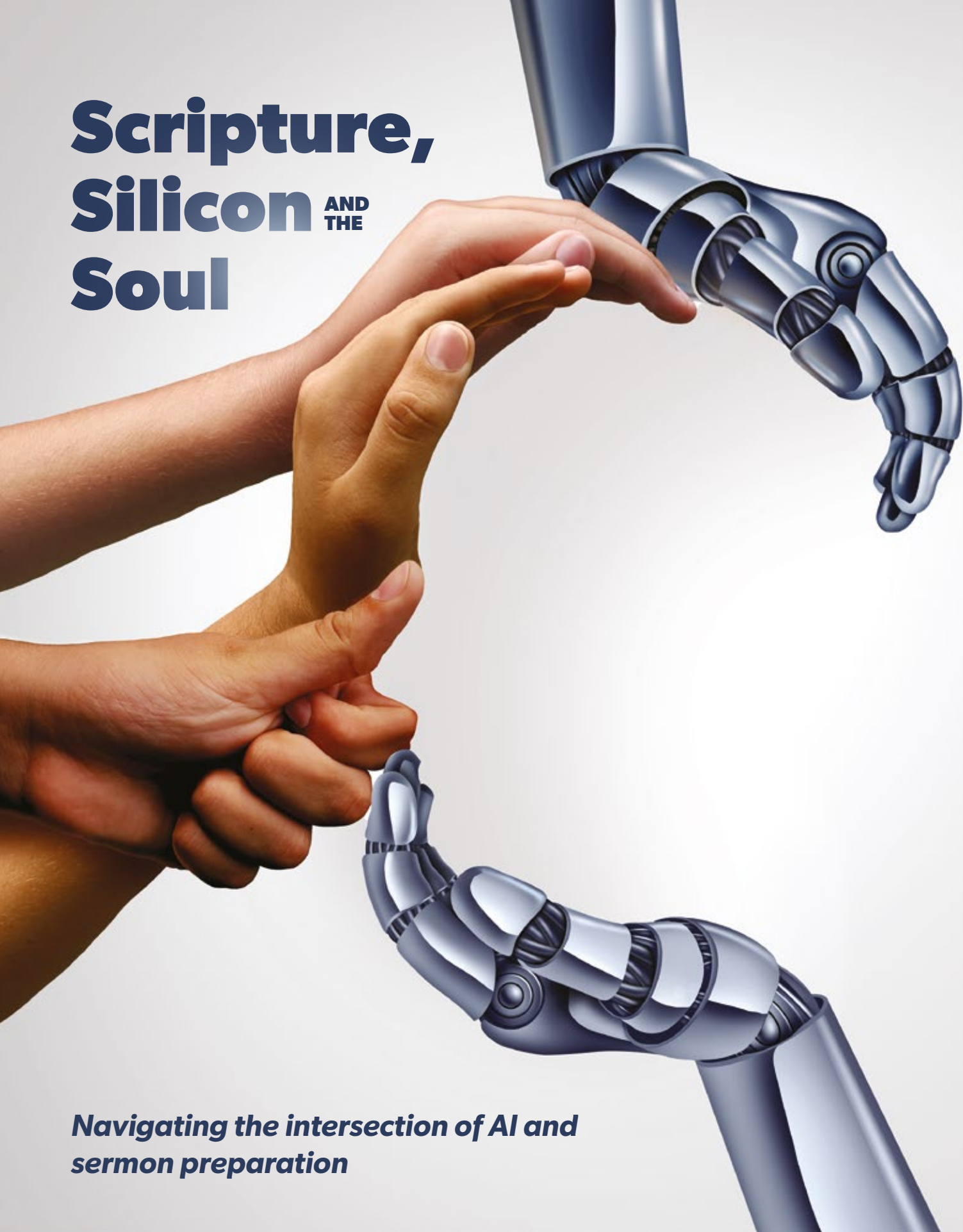
Silence

Dr John Francis didn't speak for 17 years after extending a decision to stop talking for one day. While a vow of silence might be a bit extreme, there is definite benefit from getting away from noise pollution, which has been shown to negatively impact human health. In the quiet of the early morning, in nature or in a prayer closet, find time and space that is quiet and away from distractions to "be still and know that He is God" (Psalm 46:10).

Sabbath

Sabbath should be one of our favourites. Yet it can become routine, and we can lose some of the value if we aren't intentional about it. Do you seek delight and joy on Sabbath or do you get caught in rushing around for the church service? Look for new ways to connect with God and people and Sabbath well. Perhaps consider a digital Sabbath away from screens and social media.

Scripture, Silicon AND THE Soul



*Navigating the intersection of AI and
sermon preparation*

As the world becomes increasingly digital, the integration of technology into various aspects of life is inevitable. This includes the realms of religion and spirituality, where artificial intelligence (AI) is making its presence known. In the age of information overload, pastors and preachers are faced with the challenge of delivering sermons that resonate with their congregations and address the pressing issues of the modern world.¹

In the digital age, where algorithms whisper in our ears and screens flicker with the promise of instant knowledge, the pulpit too has felt the touch of technological transformation. AI, once confined to science fiction, now peeks into sermon preparation, offering its vast databases and linguistic prowess as tools for crafting the Word. But can silicon truly serve the soul? Can AI-enhanced sermons resonate with the divine spark within us, or do they risk reducing the pulpit to a platform of cold, calculated pronouncements?

Scripture, the Bedrock of Faith

The bedrock of any sermon, AI-assisted or not, remains the immutable Word of God. As Ellen White reminds us, "The Bible is the voice of God, talking to men in human language" (*The Great Controversy*, p 591).² It is the wellspring of truth, the compass guiding us through life's storms, and the mirror reflecting our souls (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16).

AI, with its vast capacity for research and analysis, can become a valuable assistant in navigating this sacred text. It can unearth hidden connections, illuminate historical contexts and offer fresh perspectives on familiar passages. Yet, AI is but a tool, and the power of Scripture lies not in algorithms but in its timeless wisdom and the Holy Spirit's illumination within the human heart (2 Peter 1:21).

The Human Element: Authenticity and Connection

The essence of a sermon, however, transcends the mere presentation of information. It is a living tapestry woven from personal experience, theological reflection and the preacher's unique voice. As Ellen White cautions, "The preaching of the gospel is not a mere recitation of Scripture. It is the presentation of truth that brings conviction to the mind and touches the heart" (*Evangelism*, p 206).³ Michael J Gorman, a Lutheran theologian, aptly states, "The preacher's own wrestling with Scripture and the Holy Spirit's guidance is the heart of authentic preaching. AI can't replicate that."⁴

Brian D McLaren, a progressive Christian author, echoes this sentiment, cautioning against losing sight of the human element. He encourages using technology to engage younger generations with faith, but emphasises that "effective preaching requires authenticity, vulnerability and a genuine connection with the congregation".⁵

A sermon devoid of the preacher's lived experience, their vulnerabilities and triumphs, and their personal journey with the Divine, risks becoming a hollow echo in the vast digital void.

The Peril of the Algorithm: Discernment and Dependence

While AI can be a useful tool, we must approach it with discernment and a critical eye. As the pen of inspiration warns, "The human mind, unguided by the Divine Spirit, is liable to err" (*The Great Controversy*, p 591). Walter Brueggemann, a prominent Old Testament scholar, suggests, "We must resist the commodification and instrumentalisation of faith in the digital age."⁶

Over reliance on AI can lead to a shallow understanding of Scripture, a dependence on algorithmic interpretations rather than a deep, personal connection with the Word. The preacher who surrenders to the siren song of convenience, and substitutes AI-generated content for the wrestling of their own soul with Scripture and the Holy Spirit, risks losing the very essence of the pulpit: the human conduit of Divine truth.

Finding Harmony: A Symphony of Faith and Technology

The potential of AI in sermon preparation lies not in replacing the human element but in enriching it. AI can be the orchestra conductor, harmonising research, insights and historical context, allowing the preacher's voice to rise above the noise to resonate with authenticity and grace. As Mrs White encourages, "Let the preacher present the truth in its simplicity, appealing to the reason and the conscience" (*Evangelism*, p 206). Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, encourages, "True spiritual growth requires personal silence and contemplation. AI can't replace that."⁷

In this symphony of faith and technology, AI can become a powerful instrument, amplifying the message, not drowning it out.

Ultimately, the question of AI in the pulpit is not a binary choice between technology and faith. It is a call for discernment, for harnessing the tools of the digital age while safeguarding the sacred space of the human soul. By approaching AI with intentionality, humility and a deep reverence for Scripture, we can ensure that sermons in the age of silicon continue to resonate with the timeless good news harmony needed for the dying soul.

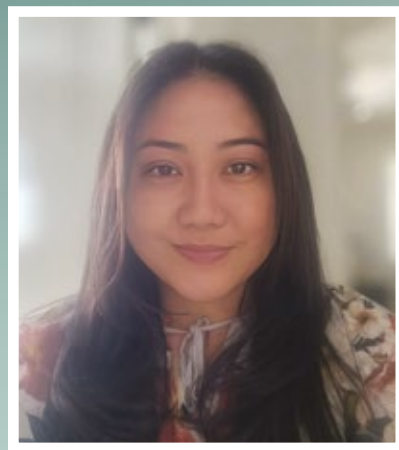
1. Toomas Meema, "Religion and Artificial Intelligence", (2018).
2. Ellen White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), p 591.
3. Ellen White, *Evangelism* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1901), pp 206,207.
4. Michael Gorman, *Preaching: Communicating the Word in a World of Words*. Baker Academic, 2004.
5. Brian McLaren, *Faith in the Digital Age: How Technology is Shaping Christianity*. HarperOne, 2014.
6. Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*. Fortress Press, 2001.
7. Richard Rohr, *Silence: The Language of God*. Fortress Press, 2011.

Toma Naivalu

Chaplain, Fulton Adventist University College, Sabeto, Fiji.

Not forsaken

Minh's journey



The day of my baptism was the happiest day of my life. I had attended an evangelistic crusade in 2004 held by an independent Adventist ministry. During the next four years, I met so many loving Christians and made many friends who I considered family. My church life and Christian growth was, what I thought, phenomenal. Going to church and fellowshiping was everything to me.

But then problems started occurring and cracks in the ministry began to appear. I was very lost and confused. I was in denial about some of the things that were happening within the leadership. I thought to myself, *God has led me here . . . my spiritual life is the best it has ever been . . . why is this happening?*

When the ministry fell apart and everyone disbanded, I was very upset. I didn't know what that would mean for me. I had gone from feeling a sense of belonging and safety, and now I felt lost all over again.

I attended other Adventist churches, but gradually I just stopped. God had been leading me on a wonderful journey from the time

I was a child until now. What had happened, and what was going to become of me and my family? Where was God?

Growing up I was raised by a Catholic mother and a Buddhist father and baptised as an infant into the Catholic Church. My dear mum did a fine job of instilling into my siblings and I a strong faith and belief in God. I was taught to pray, and from a very young age I remember Christian books in the home, particularly Bible picture storybooks, which I loved to read.

Although my dad was very much into his Buddhist beliefs, I was never forced to go to the temple or be involved in Buddhist rites, so I have never embraced Buddhism.

My faith was strong as a child. As I entered high school, my beliefs were challenged. I was associating with friends who were non-Christian, and I became rebellious. It didn't help that Mum and Dad had separated. I began to investigate astrology and started questioning my belief system and Christianity. I wanted to know why I was brought into this world; what my purpose was; why there was so much suffering in the world. I did not find my Catholic faith to be reassuring of salvation. I remember learning in Scripture classes that we had to be like Mother Teresa to go straight to heaven. I doubted I would ever be a woman of great faith and works such as she had been.

My teenage years were very difficult. My family had stopped going to church and I was doing a lot of things that many young people think are cool, but I was spiralling out of control. I was hurting myself, my family and most of all I was hurting God. I felt He had rejected me because of my lifestyle and that He was condemning me. I had so many questions, but I didn't know where to look for answers.

It's no wonder the Bible says, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). If I had followed that counsel, it would have saved me so much heartache.

My younger brother became interested in Seventh-day Adventism and began to make changes in his life. He was around 15 and I was 17. Some school friends had invited him to a seminar on prophecy and out of curiosity, he went along.

As you will know, little brothers can sometimes be obnoxious and very unpleasant, but I noticed that his attitude was changing, and he became nicer and kinder to be around. I was very surprised. My mum told me he had become a Seventh-day Adventist. He began going to church on a Saturday and he changed his diet to a plant-based diet and tried to tell me not to eat unclean foods, which I thought was ridiculous. I thought he had joined a cult.

I was 18 and spent a lot of time partying and doing things that were supposed to make me happy but were leaving me empty. I would lie in bed at night and think about why I was put on this earth and what would happen after I died. The thought of death really disturbed me, and I began to develop anxiety about dying; even to the point of being scared to cross the road in case I was hit by a car.

The turning point came for me when one night, my brother came into my room and asked me if I would like to talk about the Bible. In the past when he tried to talk religion I rejected him, because I was not ready, knowing that my faith in God

was almost non-existent and my lifestyle was anti-Christian. Now, for some reason, I was ready. I was curious. We stayed up talking until the early hours of morning, talking about heaven, salvation, Jesus. What happens when we die? The second coming of Christ. Questions I had always wanted answered. He showed me answers from the Bible.

The next morning I woke feeling a joy and peace in my heart that I had never felt before. I felt loved. The feeling of knowing that God loves you, has forgiven you, chosen you and cares about you is an inexplicable feeling. I remember getting down on my knees and for the very first time I poured my heart out to God, asking for forgiveness. I thanked Him for His goodness and mercy, and that He led me to the truth. It was a wonderful feeling, and I remember it to this day.

It was a few months later that I attended a seminar on Armageddon and joined the independent church. By that time, I had married and had a baby on the way. After the church disbanded, my husband and I felt like castaways. We needed a firm anchor, but although we attended various Adventist churches, we could not settle into any of them. The next several years were very unsettling. In my heart I believed in the Adventist message, but after a while we began to slip into our old ways. We stopped keeping the Sabbath. Old habits resurfaced. Things which were previously seen as sinful and wrong eventually seemed okay and not as bad.

Fourteen years passed and God never gave up on us. In 2021 we experienced a second lockdown due to COVID-19. That time was traumatic and a very dark period for me. I cried a lot and prayed more than ever before. I wish it didn't take trials and difficulties for me to turn to God, but that's what tends to happen. You realise, without God, you are nothing and you cannot do anything.

I felt the need to go back to church. I felt God was leading me very strongly in that direction, and that now was the time. Do not delay.

I had met Andrew and Kim Russell, who had attended the same seminar as I had back in 2004, and since that time Andrew had become a minister. I reached out to Andrew, not knowing that he had been appointed as the pastor at the Hoxton Park church, just 10 minutes' drive from my home. We attended the church in November 2021. The church family were warm and inviting and have received us with open arms. I feel as though I have come home. Hoxton Park church is my safe haven and my second home.

I want to end by saying that God is faithful. He is long-suffering and forgiving. Despite my shortcomings and my struggles in my Christian walk, He has never ever forsaken me or my family. He continues to provide for us. He answers my prayers. He guides me and shows me what direction to take when I'm feeling lost. I can rest assured that He is with me always and will never leave me or forsake me.

What a wonderful God we serve.

Minh Templonuevo

Hoxton Park church, NSW in collaboration with Sandra Lehn, church communication officer.

Hi there, kids!



When Jesus Got Thirsty

When Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well and talks to her about worship, He shows her that worship can take place anywhere and under any circumstances. God is bigger than any specific worship place. Jesus' answers to the Samaritan woman's questions show her that she needs a Saviour and that the act of worshipping is more important than the place of worship. This is a lesson about worship. Wherever we are, we can respond to God's love. He cherishes the spirit of our worship. Where we worship and the ceremonies we observe are not meaningful without the right spirit. Christ is "thirsty" for our recognition of what He has done for us.



FIND THESE WORDS

Samaritan	praise
questions	water
ceremony	good news
Spirit	Gospel
thirsty	drink
worship	Jew
love	redemption
Jesus	acceptance
truth	husband
Saviour	five
woman	living water
well	Jacob
answer	livestock
church	parable
Pharisee	Christ



MEMORY VERSE
 "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).



FIND THE WORDS!

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

Serving up vital community support to those in need



In the picturesque town of Katoomba, nestled amidst the breathtaking beauty of a World Heritage site, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been quietly making an impact in the local community.

For the past five years, the church's volunteer-operated food pantry has been a beacon of hope, providing essential sustenance and fostering a spirit of togetherness.

The church's food pantry has been a lifeline for residents, offering much-needed support to those facing food insecurity. What sets this pantry apart is its commitment to providing fresh, vegetarian options to all who come seeking assistance. The pantry is run 100 per cent on donations and the work of volunteers. We have received no funding.

Every Tuesday morning, without the need for registration, locals are welcomed with open arms at the pantry. They not only receive vital food items but also a warm embrace from the dedicated volunteers who run the pantry. It's not just about nourishing bodies; it's about nurturing spirits and fostering a sense of belonging. A warm welcome and a warm drink are always provided to any who attend.

The Katoomba church also has an op-shop which started about 12 months after the food pantry. The church has been able to provide help to several homeless

people who now have accommodation and were in need of household items. In 2022, the op-shop donated clothing and bedding to the flood victims in the Penrith-Hawkesbury area.

"I am very grateful to our church members who all got on board and supported the idea when Joycelyn Pickering first presented the idea back in 2017," says Bronwyn Hurdle, one of the church board members. "Our mission has always been about more than just distributing food; it's about building relationships. We're deeply grateful for the support of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors."

As the pantry marks its five-year milestone, its impact is testament to the power of community, faith and the willingness to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Particular recognition goes to Deslie Jackson, Jan Carbury and Lyn Hedley (pictured above with Bronwyn) for keeping the food pantry open every week. The pantry would not operate without their dedication and faithfulness. We also acknowledge Beth Healy and Warrimoo church in the lower Blue Mountains for their support in this community project.

Bronwyn Hurdle writes from Katoomba, New South Wales.



Zucchini (courgette) and corn slice

Serves 12

Prep 10

Cook 35

A simple twist on an old favourite, this quick and easy slice is great for midweek meals. You can even use the leftovers in school lunchboxes.

Ingredients

- 2 Sanitarium Weet-Bix™, crushed
- 2 zucchini (courgette), grated
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 420g can corn kernels, drained
- 1 cup tasty cheese, grated
- ½ cup self-raising flour
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 5 eggs

Tips:

- Suitable to freeze and reheat.
- Can be enjoyed hot or at room temperature so is perfect for lunchboxes.

Method

1. Preheat oven to 170°C. Grease and line a non-stick 20x30cm lamington tray.
2. Combine zucchini (courgette), onion, carrot, corn, flour, Weet Bix™ and cheese in a large bowl.
3. Add oil and lightly beaten eggs, and mix. Season with salt. Pour into the lamington tray.
4. Bake for 35-40 mins until golden and set. Allow to cool slightly before cutting.

Nutritional Information (per serving)

ENERGY	CALORIES	PROTEIN	FAT	SATURATES	CARBOHYDRATE
826kJ	197	6.9g	14.7g	4.1g	8.6g
SUGARS	FIBRE	CALCIUM	SODIUM	IRON	POTASSIUM
2g	1.9g	109mg	235mg	1mg	191mg



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Wedding



CUFF-THORPE. Jayden Sean Cuff, son of Ronald Cuff (Tuggerah, NSW) and Robyn Sutcliffe (Morayfield Qld), and Eloise Merle Thorpe, daughter of Robin and Keryl Thorpe (Cobar, NSW), were married on 25.7.23 at the Adams Peak Country Estate in Broke. Theirs is a match made in heaven, meeting for the first time at the Gosford church. Jayden and Eloise will make their home on the Central Coast of NSW, where they will continue their respective occupations of demand planner and radiographer.

Lozenzo Berry

Obituaries



LAWSON, Olive Ella (nee Hellestrand), born 3.9.1922 in Arncliffe, NSW; died 9.1.24 in Cooranbong, aged 101 years. On 27.9.1943, Olive married Deryk. She was predeceased by her daughter, Barbara in 2022. She is survived by her children, Marian

(St Georges Basin), Warwick (Melbourne, Vic), Grant (Brunkerville, NSW), David (Engadine) and their spouses; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Olive was active in the Hamilton church and then with her sister, Dr Jean Hellestrand, attended the Toronto church where they were very active in supporting the church and school through sewing and cooking projects. Olive was greatly loved by the staff of Avondale House where she spent the last eight years.

Raymond Coombe



LAWTIE, Joyce Margaret (nee Johanson), born 3.10.1934 in Palmyra, WA; died 24.10.23 in the Donnybrook Hospital. In 1955 she married Eddie, who predeceased her in 2015. Margaret is survived by her sons, Brett and Dean and their families. Joyce attended Carmel College in the Bickley Valley. Eddie was a police officer, which meant they worked in some very remote Western Australian locations, where she witnessed and ministered to those who had significant challenges. Margaret, as a very loving and lovable Christian, attracted many visitors and they always left with a prayer. On November 6, Margaret was laid to rest in the Donnybrook

Cemetery with her beloved Eddie.

Kevin R Price

LEWTHWAITE, Evan, born 26.4.1960 in South Turramurra, NSW; died August 2023 in Gosford. He is survived by his sister, Helena. Evan was a great Bible student and a valued member of the Wahroonga congregation. Although he was a shy person, the attendance at his memorial service bore testimony to his impact on many lives. At rest and awaiting the Lord's call on the resurrection morning.

David McKibben

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Position Vacant

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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 café 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.**

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editor@record.net.au

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Website
record.adventistchurch.com

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

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