



God of the children

The Ten: stories of God's protection or provision in the lives of children ¹²

New platforms to boost public awareness ⁵

COOK ISLANDER KIDS ARE WEET-BIX KIDS



Atiu students enjoy Breakfast Club three days a week, boosting attendance, concentration and engagement.

A tiny island in the South Pacific with a population of just over 400 residents is home to the first Sanitarium School Breakfast Club in the Cook Islands. Over 100 students at Atiu's only school are now the recipients of a nourishing breakfast at school.

"In class, the children are awake! With full bellies they are more engaged in learning, more focused and more connected to their peers and teachers. Since Breakfast Club, we've seen an increase in key skills, particularly numeracy. The breakfast keeps them going right through to home time." said Teacher, Tereapii Upokokey.

The school breakfast is run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by local Adventist church members. The impact of a regular, simple breakfast has been felt throughout the island community.

"We work with the local Adventist Churches and our distributors on the islands to support programs that care for communities on the islands, the programs promote health, educating and building awareness of healthy lifestyles and eating habits. Sanitarium products are donated in coordination with each island's Church Mission, community needs and activities," said Paul Rosa, Business Manager, International.

Recent findings revealed Cook Island children were starting their school days hungry, tired and lagging in their expected physical development compared to peers elsewhere.

The Atiu Adventist church, bolstered by support of local elders and Mission President Eric Toleafoa, secured a grant from Sanitarium to launch the breakfast program including Weet-Bix™ and So Good™.

Scan the QR code to read the full story in IMPACT Magazine.





EDITOR'S NOTE:

Let's talk: conversations about God with my three- year-old

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

I want to play with God. Can we go to God's house?" The highest compliment a three-year-old can pay is if they want to play with you.

My daughter is old enough now to hold conversations, ask questions and wonder at the wide world around her. A few weeks before writing this we had an amazing conversation at bedtime that is absolutely a highlight for me as a parent. Now I'll attempt to represent it here to the best of my memory. Unfortunately, I'm much better at remembering the vibe of a conversation than the specific details (just ask my wife). But I'll do my best.

While bedtime can be frustrating (especially if it drags out for too long), it is a special treat to put my daughter to bed. I always say a prayer with her before she goes to sleep. Sometimes she is resistant as she knows that after prayer, I'll encourage her to sleep.

This particular night, as I lay down next to her, she said "Let's talk about God". If I wasn't already lying down, you could have knocked me over with a feather. While she had asked to pray before and had also tried to tell a story at *lotu* (family worship)—that was interesting—she had never really initiated a conversation like this before.

"What do you want to talk about? Do you have any questions about God?" I was trying to discover what had prompted this engagement.

"Where is God?"

Wow, big question. How do you explain the concepts of space, time and existence to a three-year-old?

I was still reeling a little but I strung together an answer that included something about heaven and us not being able to go there yet, but that God would soon bring heaven to come to us and take us with Him.

"Can He come to my house?"

"Well He's already with us, we can talk to Him through prayer anytime."

"You know how Nanna Joy and Grandad live so far away but we can call them and FaceTime them whenever we want. Prayer is like that. Anytime you want to talk to God, you can just pray . . . even if we can't see Him or it seems like He's far away."

"Oh," she said.

She thought for a moment. "I want to play with God. Can we go to God's house?" The highest compliment a three-year-old can pay is if they want to play with you.

"We can't right now but we hope to see Him very soon."

The next night she asked again. "Let's talk about God."

"OK, what do you want to talk about?" We've talked about Jesus and how much He loves us. I've told her how long we had prayed and waited to have her and how she was God's gift. I've talked about my work and what I do and how I get to talk and write about God.

Now, every night when we go to bed, my daughter says, "Let's talk". (It sounds more like *Wets tawk*, it's very cute). Sometimes she makes a list because she's used to my follow-up questions. "Let's talk about God or your work or stars or shooting stars."

We can learn a lot from children. From their search for knowledge to their innocent desires to be in God's presence and play. I know Jesus, when He returns will gather little children to Himself and there will be laughter and joy.

Some days I feel like I'm messing things up as a parent. I don't want to pass on my stress or my bad habits or any of my flaws. But I trust that God will watch over my children and I desperately hope that they will grow up with a love for God and others deeply embedded in their hearts.

I don't know what the future holds but for now, I truly value our little bedtime ritual. I know these conversations won't last forever. I hope we can always talk about all sorts of things, but I know as life changes and she grows, these opportunities might become less. So I'm "storing them up in my heart".

In this issue you'll find a lot of stories for young people and from young people. March 16 is Global Youth and Children's Day. Let's show our children how valuable they are to us and to God.



INSIGHT:

Perspectives from Timor

Terry Johnson
Australian Union Conference president


Recently I visited Timor-Leste as chair of the ADRA Australia board of directors. An 80-minute flight north of Darwin, Timor has 1.3 million inhabitants and is the 160th smallest country by landmass in the world. They speak 32 distinct dialects and two main languages, Tetun and Portuguese. 97 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic (mixed with animism)—the second highest ratio of Catholics to population behind only Vatican City! The monthly minimum wage is \$US130! It's a challenging environment with limited financial literacy along with poor soil management leading to the inability to escape subsistence living. Yet Timor's citizens are happy, generous and caring. I wonder if we'd be the same if Australia lost ground economically . . .

Timor has only 365 active Seventh-day Adventist members. The desire for independence, first from Portugal and then from Indonesia, was synonymous with the country's majority faith and to leave it means disconnecting from family and community. It's hard to do! Our Church punches above its size because of two key mission entities and the leverage they provide. First, we run five English schools in Timor! Australians like Peter Koolik have been instrumental in making those schools a reality and we thank Greater Sydney and Northern Australian Conference leadership and members for partnering with Timor Mission in supporting Adventist education. Timor needs more Adventist volunteer teachers and if you're wanting a mission experience, then this could be perfect. Second is ADRA. Country director Virginia Pycroft and her team of 49 have a direct impact on more than 12,000 people! Donations we give to ADRA Australia enable projects like education on farming, modern soil management, savings and loan co-ops, clean water regeneration and developing entrepreneurship—improving the financial literacy and lives of those who take part in the projects. National leaders visit ADRA projects and acknowledge Seventh-day Adventism and its equipping of their people—opening hearts to the sharing of our belief that Jesus came to free those who are oppressed (Luke 4:18,19) and is coming back soon.


I'm excited about our partnership with the Southern Asia Pacific Division that enables us to minister in Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. Mission at home, mission overseas to share the good news of Jesus' love and soon coming.

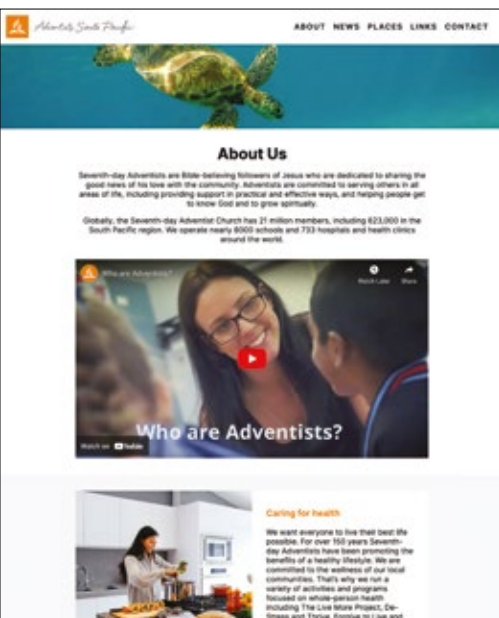
So why do students rate Avondale as the #1 university in Australia for overall educational experience?

Students are our #1 priority.

 discover.avondale.edu.au

*Good Universities Guide 2024.
CRICOS Provider No.: 02731D RTO: 91191 TEQSA: PRV12015

 **Avondale UNIVERSITY**



About Us section of the website.

New platforms to boost public awareness

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Record Staff

New platforms launched by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific are designed to boost public awareness of the Church and its positive impact in the community.

Leveraging popular social media channels TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube, the project also includes a revamped church website. Emphasising stories of community outreach and humanitarian efforts, the website aims to showcase the tangible difference Adventists are making in the lives of individuals and communities across the South Pacific. Visitors can also ask for prayer, find a local church and discover more about what Adventists believe.

"By harnessing the power of social media and enhancing our online presence, we aim to not only raise awareness but also foster meaningful connections with individuals who may benefit from our community-focused initiatives," said South Pacific Division communication director Tracey Bridcutt.

"It's an exciting step forward because for the first time we have a collection of positive church impact stories from around the South Pacific in one place. People can see how Adventists are making a difference in their communities."

The move comes in response to research findings indicating a significant lack of awareness about the Adventist Church in Australia and New Zealand. Just 4 per cent of respondents felt the Church is relevant to their lives. And only 12 per cent believed the Adventist Church serves those in need.

"These are challenging statistics so there's plenty of work to do," Mrs Bridcutt said. "If you're involved in community outreach activities please let us know. Our new platforms need to be updated regularly with print and video content."

Visit the new website at <adventistchurch.com> and the social media pages at "Adventists South Pacific".



Forty-six people attended the conference, which was held at Pacific Adventist University.

HR on the agenda at inaugural conference

📍 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea | Tracey Bridcutt

Leaders from the South Pacific Division (SPD) office conducted the first-ever Human Resources (HR) conference for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission from February 5-9.

The event, held at Pacific Adventist University, brought together 46 participants representing all the church entities in Papua New Guinea, including mission secretaries, school principals and HR administrative staff.

Themed "HR on Purpose: God's Purpose, Our Passion", the conference emphasised the importance of intentional HR practices aligned with God's mission and fuelled by individual passion.

New Britain New Ireland Mission secretary Pastor Richard Koro'i said the conference has helped to focus his attention on employee wellbeing.

"All in all, I would summarise to say that we put our employees first and the employees will give their best to the organisation," he said.

For Janet Wambillie, administrative

assistant at the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, the training has helped her to see people as reflections of God's image.

The conference was organised by SPD HR manager Lyndel Smith and People Services manager David Potter working with PNGUM leaders Pastor Leonard Sumatau (secretary), Pauline Yorio (under-secretary) and Elvis Wagi (HR manager). It covered a range of topics including "The Strategic HR agenda"; "Playing to your strengths"; "Procedural fairness and discipline"; "Managing grievances"; and "Performance appraisals".

SPD secretary Pastor Mike Sikuri, leadership strategy leader Dean Banks and legal counsel Igor Radonjic were among the speakers. The SPD team also conducted the Sabbath school and church service at Korobosea church on Sabbath, February 10.

Plans are now being made to hold a similar conference in the Trans Pacific Union Mission.



Attendees spent time praying together during the sessions.

TPUM ministers “set apart” to serve

📍 Nadi, Fiji | John Tausere

More than 350 pastors and staff from across the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) gathered at Fulton Adventist University College in Fiji for the Set Apart Missional Convention 2024 from February 12 to 17.

Organised by the TPUM ministerial association and stewardship department, the convention drew people from various regions in the Pacific, including Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu, with the biggest delegation of 110 coming from Solomon Islands.

The event was the first TPUM ministerial convention after the ministerial association which organises a Bible Conference every five years teamed up with the stewardship department to include the “I Will Go” initiative in the program.

According to the organisers, the theme “Set Apart” highlighted the attendees’ responsibility as spiritual guides and acknowledged that every aspect of their lives is a gift from God. “The goal is to dedicate ourselves to various areas of our lives, aligning with the ‘I Will Go’ mission to prioritise God in everything,”

they said. The convention featured speakers from the General Conference (GC), such as stewardship director Dr Marcus Bomfim, who led the morning devotions. GC vice president Dr Artur Stele took the evening and Sabbath divine service and associate health ministries director Dr Katia Reinert conducted daily plenary sessions.

Each presenter shared insights focusing on themes of consecration, leadership and health within the context of their ministry and professional experiences. The event also featured workshops that were primarily run by ministry and strategy team leaders from the South Pacific Division.

Attending the convention, Pastor Luteru Luteru (Jr) from Samoa said it was a week of learning. “I have learned so much this past week from powerful speakers, and I’m blessed that I can take this back to my mission and my local church back in Samoa. God continues to open the window of opportunities for us, and we only need to put our total trust in Him.”



The event featured workshops, worship and social activities [Credit: Kalan Howse].

Converge inspires hundreds of young adults

📍 Stuarts Point, NSW | Kimberley McMurray

More than 800 young adults from across Australia gathered for four days of worship from February 9 to 12 at Yarra Holiday Park (former Stuarts Point Convention Centre), NSW.

Converge is an annual 18+ youth camp organised by the Australian Union Conference (AUC), featuring workshops, worship and social activities.

Guest speakers Southern Californian Conference associate youth director Pastor Meshach Soli and AUC women’s, family and children’s ministry director Pastor Sylvia Mendez provided two themes emphasised throughout the weekend. Pastor Soli encouraged listeners to have a real relationship with Jesus, and on Saturday night, hundreds of young adults came to the front, requesting prayer for specific issues in their lives.

Pastor Mendez spoke about worship and challenged the young adults to think

about what worship is, how to worship and why they worship. During the second workshop on Sunday morning, Pastor Mendez launched the Worship Box, an initiative of the Worship Project (TWP) by the AUC, which encourages individuals and families at all stages of life to make worship a priority.

“It is fantastic to see so many young adults from every conference of Australia at Converge,” said AUC youth director Pastor Jeffrey Parker. “It was great to see our young adults worshipping God together and allowing the Holy Spirit to impact their lives. There were many amazing stories of commitment and re-commitment.” The event has been run by AUC youth ministries for eight years and according to Pastor Parker, “this year’s has been by far the largest”.

Next year’s event is scheduled for February 7–10, 2025.



More than 100 people have been involved in the production of the series.

New series introduces children to the great controversy

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Juliana Muniz

A new series depicting the great controversy theme for children was launched during an afternoon program held at Avondale University church on February 3. Created by Abide Family Ministries for Hope Channel, *The Rescue* utilises animation and puppetry to simplify Christian teachings and the story of redemption for children with little or no biblical literacy.

"Children today are living in a media-saturated world. A lot of what they see and hear doesn't necessarily help them grow in positive ways, especially from a biblical perspective," said Pastor Wayne Boehm, director of Hope Channel South Pacific. "There's plenty of Bible stories being told on Christian television, but we're aiming to dig deeper, to help kids really grasp the biblical story in a way that sticks with them."

The series is specially designed to bridge a gap highlighted by Mark Baxter in *The Coming Revolution*, which noted that "91 per cent of all Christian outreach/evangelism does not target non-Christians but targets other Christians". Based on this statistic, *The Rescue* was intentionally crafted to engage children from non-churched or nominal Christian families, as well as those from Adventist homes.

The launch event was met with enthusiasm at Avondale University church, drawing 150 attendees, including families and children, eager to see the new series. Special guests at the event included Greater Sydney Conference children's ministry director Pastor Daron Pratt and Australian Union Conference representatives, associate ministerial secretary Dr Brendan Pratt, family and children's ministry director Pastor Sylvia Mendez and resource development coordinator Amanda Bews.

Pastor Norman Hurlow, Avondale University Church senior pastor, highlighted the importance of children's content for the local church to help disciple and teach the next generation about the great controversy. "Stories inspire and teach. This series teaches our kids about the great controversy between good and evil, and inspires them to choose the way of love," said Pastor Hurlow.

With more than 100 people involved in the production of the series, *The Rescue* will be covered in three seasons, totalling 44 episodes, which will be available globally through the website <therescue.au>, social media and Hope Channel.

making headlines

ADRA's mega bed

ADRA Chile constructed the world's largest bed, measuring 19.52 by 32.72 metres and claiming the Guinness World Record. With 6000 volunteers, the aim was to spotlight the world-wide shortage of beds for children and teenagers. Donated materials will be repurposed to assist vulnerable populations as part of the "One child, One bed" campaign dedicated to furnishing beds for those in need.—ADRA



Legacy of love

Fijian Adventist Mereani Tepola Bula-nauca's funeral in England became her final mission outreach as her supportive Adventist community provided 150 gift bags for funeral attendees. The bags contained *Steps to Christ* books, *Focus* magazines, Adventist Discovery Centre course pamphlets and bookmarks featuring Pola's favourite verse and prayers, inspiring new commitments among mourners.—*The Messenger*

Hope in sight

Led by La Carlota Hospital at Montemorelos University in Mexico, a free ophthalmological surgery campaign restored vision for 70 individuals with cataracts and retinopathy. An additional 120 no-cost cataract surgeries are scheduled (at the time of writing), addressing eye conditions affecting more than three million Mexicans.—ANN

Virtual vs in-person

Researchers examining whether attending an event virtually or in-person makes a difference to loneliness and social connectedness have found a significant link between attending face-to-face events and feeling socially connected. Results found that virtual events had no real impact on social connection or loneliness.—Unisa



Healthier community

Narewa Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fiji opened its new 10,000 Toes Wellness Hub on February 18. The hub will serve the residents of Narewa, Sikituru and Yavusania by providing free health screenings for the early detection of diabetes and other chronic diseases, as well as promoting whole-person health through its lifestyle intervention programs. With around 80 per cent of deaths in Fiji caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the 10,000 Toes Campaign has the vision to expand its current 40-plus hubs to more than 100 wellness hubs in Fiji by mid-2025. "That terrible trend can be changed with lifestyle changes," said 10,000 Toes Campaign coordinator Pamela Townend.—**Record staff**



100 days of prayer

The Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) has launched a 100 days' prayer campaign ahead of the PNG for Christ evangelistic initiative. The call for prayer follows recent civil unrest and violence in the country. "[The 100 days of prayer] is a strategy to mobilise the whole country in seeking the Lord's protection and guidance in the delivery of the PNG for Christ and mega health clinic initiatives," said PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani. Pastor Yani said protocols have been put in place to manage the safety of all international speakers. Leaders note that the tribal violence occurred in an area of PNG that no international speakers will be going to. More than 200 preachers from around the South Pacific Division are participating in PNG for Christ, which runs from April 26 to May 11. In the lead-up to the campaign, a health clinic will be held.—**Tracey Bridcutt**



Aid for Ukraine

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, two years after the conflict erupted. ADRA Australia has contributed more than \$A2 million to the global agency's response in Ukraine, as well as funding for at least 23 projects to assist Ukrainians, including conflict zone evacuation efforts, food, water and cash assistance. "We keep everyone whose lives have been irreversibly changed as a result of the ongoing Ukraine conflict in our prayers," said ADRA International humanitarian affairs vice president Imad Madanat.—**Record staff**



Authentic education

Around 70 leaders, teachers, chaplains, pastors and district leaders from across all islands of Vanuatu gathered for the Authentic Adventist Education conference from January 22 to 28. Held at Epauto Adventist High School in Port Vila, the conference was described by participants as a spiritual revival, emphasising the need for Adventist schools to maintain their identity and values.—**TPUM News**



Following the Lamb

Almost 500 people convened at Yarra Holiday Park in Stuarts Point for the ninth annual North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) Prayer Conference, held February 2–4.

Delegates came from around the NNSW Conference, interstate and overseas. According to the registration data collected, more than 70 churches were represented by those in attendance this year.

NNSW prayer coordinator Charissa Torossian said she was excited to see the number of young people in attendance this year. “Of the registered delegates, 30 per cent were between the ages of 13 and 30. This is a really wonderful statistic! It’s so encouraging to see our youth hungry for a closer walk with Jesus and a desire to strengthen their prayer lives,” she said.

This year’s main guest speaker was Pastor Dwayne Lemon, who currently lives and serves in the Northern California Conference. He shared five messages that thoughtfully explored the conference’s theme—Follow the Lamb—where he emphasised the importance of following Jesus.

For the first time, this year’s conference featured outreach to the local community around the campground on Sabbath afternoon. More than 70 delegates teamed up to go door-to-door, offering to pray with people and for their needs.—**Charissa Torossian/Juliana Muniz**

have news to share?

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



Bible virtual assistant

Hope VA was launched across the 10 nations of the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) during the “Set Apart” pastors’ meetings, held February 12–17 at Fulton Adventist University College, Nadi, Fiji. Hope VA is a virtual assistant who delivers free Bible studies and health lessons in a conversational format to contacts who message her on the WhatsApp messaging platform. Her lessons have been carefully scripted by Adventist pastors at the South Pacific Division (SPD) to deliver simple, grace-filled studies that are always friendly in tone. The studies feature multiple-choice questions throughout each lesson, without relying on artificial intelligence.

—**Russ Willcocks**



Lasting legacy

After almost 25 years, a paved walk honouring alumni of Avondale has been completed. About 400 alumni—whose names and final year of study or first and final year of service are etched in black granite—have pavers in the walk. These mostly former students and staff members maintain a strong connection to Avondale, said former alumni relations officer Rachel Humphries, who spoke to a range of people “from the young to those ordering for parents and grandparents who are no longer with us”. She remembers one order coming as a gift for an alumna of 1909. Honouring legacy is one goal of the walk, raising money is another, with at least \$A100 from the sale of each paver funding capital projects with a heritage focus. The last project, completed in part with funding from the walk, was the makeover of a student hub in College Hall.—**Brenton Stacey**



My Christian Story

I have always been a Christian, but I have never figured out which part of Christianity I belong to. My parents and their parents have been Indian Orthodox, all the way up to when St Thomas came to India—my mum's family was one of the four founding families that he preached to in India—but I have never felt a liking for Orthodox. They always spoke in an Indian language, and I was never able to understand it, alongside the symbolism for everything. The church was also an hour away! Sometimes Mum, Dad, my twin sister and I went to a Baptist church that was only 30 minutes away, and I loved everything! Alongside giving sermons, they also gave a Sunday school at the same time for us to understand the Bible and its stories more. When I was six, I was thinking, why all this symbolism and standing and speaking in a different language as everyone there knew English, and only adults and some children knew Malayalam (the language spoken in the church I came from).

From that moment on, I wanted to go to the Baptist church rather than our normal church. This church was fun to go to. But my mum had an afternoon shift every Sunday, so I was always supposed to go to the Indian Orthodox. But when I was eight, I started to feel disbelief and thought that as I was younger, I was more gullible. I was also scared, as I thought if there was another god, they would punish me. I still tried to force myself to believe, because there was something in me that was telling me, *what if you were right about God and Jesus from the start?* I did not know it was the Holy Spirit telling me that, bringing me to God as much as I could. I was thinking of stuff logically. It is okay to be smart, but it is better to have faith.

Faith is what I was missing. But in Year 5, my teacher told the class that archaeologists had shown that there was proof that Jesus was real. I did not know that, but my teacher knew more than me. I had trust that my teacher knew more than me. I had trust in someone who understood everything more than I did. In year 6, I figured out that God also knows everything. Everything. So, I decided that I would place my faith in Him. Not a lot of people have much faith in anything. Faith is just like a roller coaster. Some people have believed their entire lives, some have come from pagan families and turned into Christians, some are people who turned into non-Christians, and some are not Christian at all. Some people are there for the thrill. For others, they are forced into it and are scared. But their reaction shows how much trust they have in it.

Some people's journeys of faith are more difficult than others. You may feel like you are going backwards on the roller coaster, screaming the noise out of your lungs. But we must try not to give in to fear and distrust. As I am one of those who would scream on a rollercoaster, I decided to use strategies for my faith rollercoaster. Instead of screaming, I would close my eyes and go through with what I was doing with undoubting faith and trust in Someone who knows more.

Christopher

Wahroonga Adventist School student.

Finding My Spiritual Home

As a child, attending church was a regular part of my life. However, I often struggled to find a place where I truly belonged. I faced bullying and felt like an outsider in different church communities, causing me to question why God would allow such hardship in my life. In my early years of school, I experienced bullying in a church where I didn't fit in. The feeling of not belonging led me to resent the idea of going to church, and I questioned why God would allow such misery. My parents made the decision to move me to a larger church, hoping for a better fit. While things seemed to improve initially, I faced bullying once again, this time due to my epilepsy. I couldn't help but wonder, *Why me?* It felt like God was orchestrating a life filled with hardship and pain. Seeking a fresh start, we moved to a smaller church closer to home. However, tragedy struck when my beloved grandfather passed away. This loss deeply affected my father, who had a strong connection to this church since his own childhood. During grief, doubt crept in, and I began to question God's existence. The loss of my grandfather shook my faith to its core. By the time year 7 rolled around, I felt like an outsider once again.

I stopped attending the youth group, feeling like I didn't fit in. Despite the challenges, my family and I continued attending church services. During this time, my best friend from primary school invited me to his youth group in another church. Stepping into that youth group, I finally found a community where I belonged. My family and I started attending regularly, and it felt like we had discovered our spiritual home. Here, I experienced love and support in my relationship with Christ, and it helped me realise that my late grandfather would have wanted me to lead a godly life. During my struggles, I battled with numbness and turned to unhealthy habits. Seeking help, I visited doctors and psychologists, but it was with the support of a psychiatrist that I began finding some relief.

Throughout this period, I questioned God's intentions and wondered why I had to suffer. But in year 7, a remarkable teacher entered my life. He understood my pain and drew me closer to God. Our heartfelt conversations brought joy and meaning, guiding me through the challenges of the pandemic and personal chaos.

I discovered that my teacher had passed away last year. The grief was overwhelming, but his lessons on unconditional love for God stayed with me. In the face of difficulty, I discovered that faith and belonging can be found in challenging circumstances. I learned to trust that God has a purpose for my life. In late year 7, I started serving in the church, and now I am a coffee cart leader. I find joy in serving and worshipping God, knowing that I am loved and supported by a community that truly embraces me.

My journey has been a testament to the resilience of faith and the power of finding belonging during challenges. Despite the doubts and struggles, I have discovered that God's love and purpose shine through when we open ourselves to Him.

Today, I continue to seek strength and solace in my relationship with Christ, finding joy in serving and worshipping Him.

Phoebe
Wahroonga
Adventist School
student.

Phoebe



The 10

Stories of God's Protection and Provision in the Lives of Children



There are so many stories in the Bible where God protects and cares for children. Jesus even said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). Can you think of any that are not included in this list?

Moses (Exodus 2:1-10): To keep him safe, Moses' mum placed her baby into a waterproof basket and floated him down the Nile river. By God's will, the Egyptian Princess found him and took pity, deciding to spare his life and raise him as her own son.

Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15): When King Herod wanted to destroy all the baby boys, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him to escape with Mary and Baby Jesus so He would not be harmed.

Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12): During a long sermon by Paul, a young man by the name of Eutychus fell asleep while sitting in an open window, falling three levels to the ground. Unfazed, Paul goes and brings him back to life, telling the crowd “Don't be alarmed, he's alive!”.

Ishmael (Genesis 21:8-21): When Hagar and her young son Ishmael were sent out into the wilderness, at first things didn't go too well for them. Dying of thirst, Hagar places motionless Ishmael in the shade of a tree, not able to bear watching him suffer. This is when God shows up, saying to Hagar, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

Joash (2 Kings 11:1-3): When evil Athaliah decides to crown herself queen, she gets rid of all her grandchildren so they cannot challenge her rulership. But one grandchild was kept safe by being hidden in the temple by his uncle the priest—a young boy by the name of Joash, who later became king at seven years of age.

Elijah and the widow's son at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-24): In a double act of provision and protection, God worked through the prophet Elijah to multiply a widow's flour and oil so that there was always enough for her and her young son. And when the boy became very sick, Elijah prayed to God and the boy was restored to life.

Elisha and the widow's sons (2 Kings 4:1-7) and the Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:8): In similar miracles to Elijah, God worked through Elisha to multiply a widow's oil so that her two sons wouldn't be taken as slaves by a creditor to pay the family debt, and in a separate event, brought the young son of the Shunammite woman back from death.

Demon-possessed boy (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43): There was a boy who was possessed by a demon who continually tried to throw him in water and fires. His father had asked Jesus' disciples for help, but they could not get the demon to come out. Jesus said, “everything is possible for one who believes”, and cast the spirit out.

Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56): When his only daughter became very ill, Jairus (a synagogue leader) asked Jesus to come and heal her. While on the way to the house, a messenger informed Jairus that his daughter had died, but Jairus had faith. Entering the 12-year-old girl's bedroom Jesus said, “My child, get up!”, and she stood up at once.

The Syrophenician woman's daughter (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30): When Jesus was travelling, a foreign woman persistently asked Him to heal her little daughter who had been taken over by an evil spirit. Jesus challenged her but she did not give in easily. This woman had faith in Jesus as the Messiah, even though she was not an Israelite. Her faith was rewarded in the healing of her daughter.

The church started by young people

Did you know that teenagers started the Adventist Church?

That's right! It was a group of young people, passionate and on fire for God, who wanted to change the world! These teenagers looked for opportunities to help others and talk about Jesus and became powerful leaders.

1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."



Ellen White

Ellen was a gentle, shy and softly spoken girl who loved God. When she was quite young she suffered an injury which damaged her face, leaving her insecure about her appearance and struggling with ongoing pain and health issues. She struggled to concentrate in school and could not read or write without great difficulty. Not only this, but she also had to endure endless teasing from children her own age because of her appearance.¹ When she was just 17 years old, she had her first vision from God.

When she saw this vision, she was afraid to tell anyone, worried that they would not listen to her or think she had gone mad. She prayed all day long that God wouldn't make her tell others the vision she had seen, but the more she tried to keep it a secret, the harder it was! As the day went on, she knew she needed to share this vision with others. When she told the vision to her prayer group, they were filled with gladness and knew God had spoken to her.² Just a teenager, Ellen became a great spiritual leader for the early Adventist Church, humbly and boldly declaring God's Word to the world.



John Loughborough

As a child, John was curious about the world around him, having a fascination for science and philosophy. He had deep questions about life and his place in it, but whenever his mother tried to persuade him to go to church, he found excuse after excuse not to attend. He came from a deeply spiritual family, but much preferred spending time with his friends. Inwardly, he felt unworthy to attend church and believed that he did not belong there.³

But when he was 16, John attended an Advent Christian meeting and was greatly convicted by what he heard. After the meeting, he began studying the Bible and made a commitment to serve God, getting baptised. John began to preach at the age of 16, soon becoming known as "the boy preacher" as he travelled about in ill-fitting borrowed clothes to preach the gospel in new places. He would walk from house to house to offer Bible studies and hand out information about Jesus. Just a teenager, John became a great evangelist and helped win many people to Jesus.⁴



Uriah Smith

Uriah was a creative and innovative young person who loved reading and demonstrated great artistic talent and a gift for writing. At the age of 13, however, Uriah lost one of his legs to an infection, needing to have it amputated above the knee. This caused immense grief and pain for Uriah, but he did not let it affect his prospects in life and instead set out to study the Bible for himself. It has been said that few Adventists have ever known their Bibles better than Uriah!⁵

By 21 years of age, Uriah was working for the Adventist Church, writing for *Adventist Review* magazine. Within just two years, Uriah became the editor-in-chief! In this role, Uriah offered spiritual encouragement and wisdom to isolated Adventists through his writing. A noble man, Uriah inspired generations through his writing and shaped the Adventist movement.

Fun Fact: Uriah Smith invented the first artificial leg with fully flexible knee and ankle joints!

1. <lineagejourney.com/read/ellen-white-early-years/>.

2. <adventistreview.org/archives/2004-1522/story2.html#:~:text=Many%20of%20the%20Adventist%20pioneers,the%20Seventh%2Dday%20Adventist%20Church>.

3. <lineagejourney.com/read/j-n-loughborough-what-does-thou-here-eljah-2/>.

4. <encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=99PK>.

5. <circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/download/AH/AH310UriahSmith.pdf>.

ASK PASTOR JESSE

KIDS' EDITION



PRIMARY

IS SWEARING A SIN?

We all make mistakes but when you swear, do you build people up or tear them down? In my experience, swear words are only used when people are being unkind or angry. When we behave that way, we aren't becoming the people that Jesus wants us to be, which means if we can help it, we shouldn't use them.

PRIMARY

WHY DID GOD MAKE HELL?

God didn't make hell—we did! What I mean is, we humans made up the idea of hell. The Bible tells us that if we choose not to follow Jesus, in the end we'll be separated from Him forever. That's still pretty scary but not as scary as what some people believe about hell. The good news is, according to the Bible, hell isn't a real physical place, so there's nothing to fear!

PRIMARY

WHY DID THE DINOSAURS DIE?

Sadly, it seems that most of them died in Noah's flood. As much as I'd love to go to a zoo and see a T-Rex, *Jurassic Park* has taught me that's probably not a good idea. However, dinosaurs still roam the earth! Crocodiles, tuatara, cassowaries, sharks, crabs and chickens are all technically dinosaurs. So, in a way, not all the dinosaurs died. Next time you see a chicken, make sure to let the people around you know it's really a dinosaur.

PRIMARY

WHY DID SATAN TURN INTO A SNAKE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

Nowhere in the Bible is the snake in Eden identified as Satan himself. Instead, it's probably one of God's animals that decided to make mischief and trick Adam and Eve by making them doubt God's fairness. What's pretty clear is that the snake is definitely on Satan's team, not God's. I don't know about you, but I'd much rather be on God's team.

5 YEAR-OLDS

WHEN JESUS COMES BACK, WILL THERE BE A CRACK IN THE SKY?

It's possible, but I don't know. What I do know is that when Jesus comes back, everyone will be able to see Him. I reckon the whole thing will be pretty bright, so if you see Jesus come back, I'd recommend you grab a pair of sunglasses.

5 YEAR-OLDS

I WENT TO CHURCH AND I DIDN'T SEE JESUS. WHERE IS HE?

Good news! Jesus goes everywhere you go. If you've accepted Him into your heart, He goes with you to church, to school—even to the pool!

5 YEAR-OLDS

IS JESUS A GENIE?

Unfortunately, Jesus isn't a genie. He won't give you the latest PlayStation or LEGO set. However, Jesus is way better than a genie! Even though He doesn't always give you what you want, He will always give you what you need. And also, unlike a genie, He's not limited by three wishes. His generosity is unlimited!

5 YEAR-OLDS

WHY IS HIS NAME JESUS?

Jesus was probably called "Yeshua" by His friends, which is a Hebrew name that means "God saves". The problem is, when people later translated Yeshua into other languages, they ran into all kinds of issues. I don't know if you've ever noticed, but people from different cultures sometimes have trouble saying certain sounds! Long story short, some Bible nerds (who were very smart) about 400 years ago decided that we should say His name "Jesus" instead of "Yeshua", and that's why we call Him that today.

PRIMARY

WHY DID GOD MAKE PEOPLE OUT OF DUST? (I'M ALLERGIC TO DUST)

I'm sorry to hear that! Being allergic to dust must be difficult. The reason for the dust is actually (partly) a pun. The word "Adam" sounds a lot like the Hebrew word for "dirt", so in a funny way, the writer of Genesis is telling us that God "made the dirt man from the dirt". But Adam isn't just a dirt man—because God "breathes" His breath of life into him. Even if you're allergic to dust, just like Adam, you too have God's breath of life in you!

PRIMARY

HOW DID JESUS COME BACK TO LIFE?

That's a really complicated, but also simple, question. One of the saddest things in life is death. Everything dies—flowers, animals, people. I wish it wasn't like that, but it is. Jesus was sad about that too, but He knew something nobody else did. To defeat death, He would need to die Himself. It doesn't make sense but that's what happened. Jesus died, but then He came back to life! It wasn't just a clever magic trick. Death's power was defeated and even though things still die today, we don't have to be scared of death anymore. That's because Jesus has beaten it and one day, will come back to put an end to it forever!

Pastor Jesse answers questions every month in *Signs of the Times* magazine and on TikTok. To ask a question of your own and get it published in the magazine, head to <signsofthetimes.org.au/askjesse>.

Jesse Herford

associate editor, *Signs of the Times*.

ASSASSINS

in the court

It was a thrilling spectacle unfolding before him as Julius squeezed between two pot-bellied bearded men shouting at each other to get to a better vantage point. The entire courtroom was packed and smelled as though everyone had come straight from the gymnasium after eating rich, spicy foods. He scrunched up his face and held his breath as he clambered up the stairs to the gallery above where he could see everything without getting trampled by the angry men below.

"We find absolutely nothing wrong with this man! We consider him undeserving of punishment!" Shouts immediately erupted from segments of the crowd, some throwing their hands in the air in disbelief, while others shook their fists at the man who had spoken. A particularly lively debate ensued, with half of the men stubbornly arguing that it was not possible for people to rise from the dead, while the other half angrily rebutted all their statements.

Up the front sat the Roman Commander for the region. He looked totally bewildered by the outrage of the men before him. He had convened the court with the Jewish priests and religious leaders to discover the charges against the accused man. But despite hours of discussion, he was still at a loss. Beside him sat the Jewish High Priest, dressed in crisp white linen, and adorned with gold jewellery and fine gemstones. He looked particularly disgruntled and irritated. It was clear that he had



assumed the legal proceedings would have been quick and straightforward that day.

The Roman Commander's head sank into his hands as another man from the crowd shouted, "What if an angel has spoken to this man? Have you ever thought of that?"

Julius's uncle, Paul, stood between two Roman guards, looking strangely calm and somewhat bemused by the scene before him. His uncle scanned the room, looking around at the chaos he had created, giving Julius a cheeky wink when he spotted him in the crowd.

"Just give him to us! These Sadducees are unschooled and unreligious troublemakers. This man must face proper punishment for his crimes under the Jewish court!" yelled one man.

"We are not unschooled! We are just as educated as you, though not half as arrogant!" shouted another.

"You're going to regret you said that!" One of the burlier Pharisees shoved his sleeves up and threw a punch at the man who had just insulted him. In an instant, violence was unleashed among the men, with Sadducees and Pharisees both charging over the balustrades to take hold of Paul.

"ENOUGHHHH!!!" The Roman Commander stood abruptly, glaring at the crowds. The shouting hushed to a murmur. "YOU WILL RELEASE THIS MAN IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!" he declared. All the men relinquished their grip on Paul and stepped back a few paces.

"My goodness, men! Have you no decorum whatsoever? Where is your dignity?" The Roman Commander reprimanded. "It is clear to me that this case cannot be properly heard with everyone present, so I will hear the matter for myself. PRIVATELY!" The Commander announced: "Guards, please take Paul to the barracks so we may address this matter with proper decorum. Everyone else, get out!"

The guards ushered Paul through the back of the tribunal chambers as the men slowly dispersed. Julius made his way to the exit and ran home to tell his mother about his exciting afternoon!

.....

The following morning, Julius stood waiting for his mother in a shaded alley at the corner of the marketplace as she picked out fruit and vegetables. As he waited, he overheard hushed voices drifting down the alley from around the corner. They were talking about the trial from yesterday! Julius crept slightly closer to listen to their conversation—careful not to be seen.

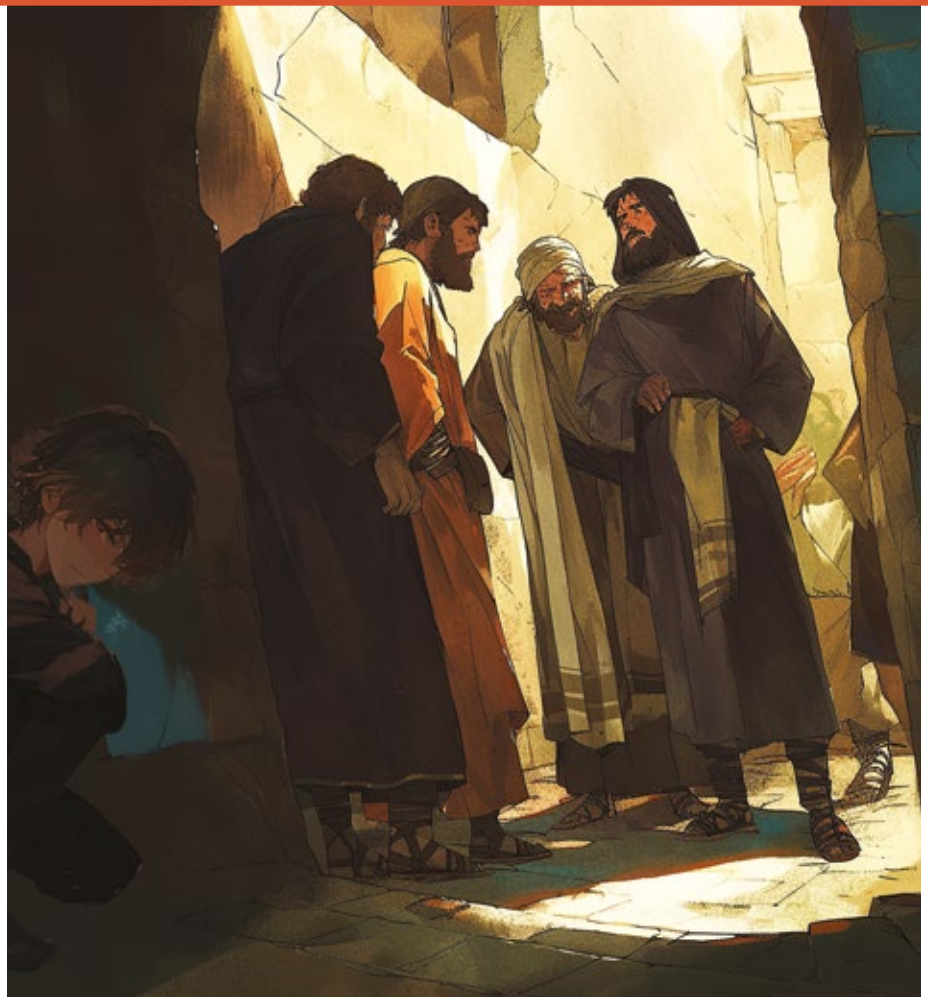
"We cannot allow Paul to continue preaching. He must be silenced!"

"He will never be silenced . . . He won't listen to anyone or heed any warnings or threats."

After a pause, one man in a hooded cloak, a zealot, spoke up: "What good is a threat if not followed up with consequence? If he must be silenced, he should be silenced for good."

"You can't mean . . ." His question was matched with a knowing silence. "But how?"

"Unlike some, I am willing to do



whatever it takes to put an end to this conspiracy and stop this troublemaker from endangering our position! Don't you also care about the protection of our traditions? Where is your zeal men?" he challenged. "He opposes the authority of the Sanhedrin! You heard him yourself yesterday: he claimed to be a Roman! Anyone who is a friend of Rome is an enemy of the Jews. And by preaching to the Gentiles regularly, this man is a heretic and a corrupter of tradition! You have my word; myself and 36 others have vowed that we shall not eat or drink until he is dead. With you three, we will be 40. Join me in this vow."

Julius tried his best not to let a startled gasp escape him as he heard this.

The men looked from one to another and nodded, giving their pledges to the cloaked figure, who spoke again as they finished. "We will make a request to the Sanhedrin this afternoon to bring Paul before them on the pretext of gleaning more information. We can ambush him before he arrives."

The men melted into the market in different directions. Julius was frozen in disbelief and his heart was beating out of his chest. Were they seriously planning to kill his uncle simply for talking about Jesus?

Julius immediately ran to his mother to tell her what he had just heard.

.....

Paul listened intently as Julius relayed everything he had overheard in the alleyway earlier that morning. After Julius had finished, he gulped for air—out of breath from speaking fast—and watched for Uncle Paul's reaction. Paul's brow was furrowed with concern, and he looked to Julius's mother and back to Julius.

"You cannot tell anyone what you have just told me."

"What?!" Julius exclaimed.

"You must promise me. You cannot tell anyone what you have heard, or else you and your mother will be in danger," Paul reasoned.

"Paul, seriously. We will be fine! You

must tell someone about this plot. Can't you tell the Commander? Don't you know him and his family? Surely, he will listen to you and prevent this from happening." Julius's mother protested.

"Commander Rufus?" Paul paused and looked at Julius, whose face betrayed his worry and fear. Softening, Paul agreed, "Well, I suppose we could tell him. He is a good man, a man of justice and a trustworthy sort. But no-one else! I don't want either of you to be put in danger."

"Thank you, Paul." Julius's mother sighed with relief.

"Now Julius," Paul held Julius's shoulders and faced him. "I need you to tell Commander Rufus everything you have just told me. Do not leave out a single detail, but do not tell anyone else what you have heard. Do you understand? Not a soul."

"But why?" Julius questioned.

"If there are people out there seeking my life, they will be very upset with whoever sabotages their plan and might seek to hurt them if they find out who it was. I do not want anyone to know it was you who told of their plan. Okay?" Paul's voice wavered as he finished.

"Okay," Julius replied.

"Hey Stefanus!" Paul motioned to one of the centurions nearby who looked vaguely familiar to Julius.

"Could you do me a favour?"

The centurion Stefanus looked sideways at Paul before saying cautiously, "Well, Paul, that depends. Will this favour get me in trouble?"

"I assure you it won't," said Paul, "not this time at least."

"Hrmmm alright, well what is it?"

"Could you take this young man—this is my nephew—to the Commander; he has something vitally important to tell him. It is a matter of urgency and relates to the case against me," said Paul.

Stefanus considered the request. "Alright, I can do that. Since it relates to the case, Commander Rufus should allow it. Come this way young man."

In a whirlwind of commotion, Julius found himself being marched between towering marble pillars into



the justice chambers. Commander Rufus sat amidst piles of unravelled scrolls with a stressed expression on his face. He looked up as Julius entered the room.

"Commander Rufus," Stefanus bowed and motioned for Julius to do the same. "This boy is Paul's nephew and has important information to tell you pertaining to the case."

Intrigued, Commander Rufus shifted in his chair and examined Julius. "Thank you, Stefanus. Please leave us alone." Stefanus nodded and exited the room, leaving Julius and Commander Rufus alone.

"Well, what is it you have to tell me?" asked Commander Rufus.

Taking a deep breath, Julius relayed everything he had heard in the marketplace to Commander Rufus, who gave Julius his undivided attention. After Julius had finished speaking, Commander Rufus rested his chin on his fist and frowned into the distance for a few moments, deep in thought. "Is everything you say true?" the Commander asked seriously, turning towards Julius.

"It is all true," replied Julius.

Commander Rufus met Julius's gaze and rose to his feet. "Then we've not a moment to lose!" Commander Rufus marched Julius back to the barracks where Paul and Julius's mother waited nervously. Speaking to the two centurions guarding Paul, Commander Rufus said with great urgency, "Men! I need you to put together a detachment of 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine o'clock tonight. The Sanhedrin have requested to try him there so let's accommodate their request. Provide a mount for Paul so that he may ride safely to Governor Felix. This man needs the greatest protection you can provide; his life is in danger."

Turning to Julius, Governor Rufus knelt and shook his hand, saying, "Thank you, young man, for bringing this to my attention. You just saved your uncle's life; the life of a good and upright man." Looking at Paul boldly, he continued, "May God be with you." And with that, Commander Rufus turned and marched off to ready the soldiers for their mission.

Olivia Fairfax
editorial assistant, *Adventist Record*.



Conversations

Positive start

Thank you so much for the editorial of January 27, 2024: "The best decision I ever made".

I enjoyed its positivity, which left me inspired and encouraged.

Pam Driver, NZ

Love at first sight

Having read the story of Ruth more than once, I don't think I can agree with your assertion in "The Ten: Lovers of the Bible" (February 17) paragraph 2 that Boaz and Ruth's love blossomed SLOWLY. I see it more as a "love-at-first-sight" story, as it all took place in a very short time frame. Almost in the blinking of an eye, it was all "signed, sealed, delivered" (and consummated), facilitated in no small measure by Naomi's coaxing and the fact that in those days no trip to City Hall was required. Government requirements/registration came many centuries later.

That's why Naomi felt free to say: "Uncover his feet and lie next to him". She also says in 3:16: "he will not rest until he has concluded the matter TODAY". And in 4:10 Boaz says, "I have acquired Ruth as my wife."

There's nothing slow about that. It was a whirlwind love story, maybe even a case of *veni vidi vici?* Or am I missing something?

Cornel Jongejan, via email

To be or not to be . . .

On reading, "Why I'm not woke" (Feature, February 3), the author "doth protest too much, methinks" (Shakespeare, *Hamlet*).

Nevertheless, I concur with his conclusion, ". . . our faith does call on 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."

Wilf Rieger, via email

Magnificent

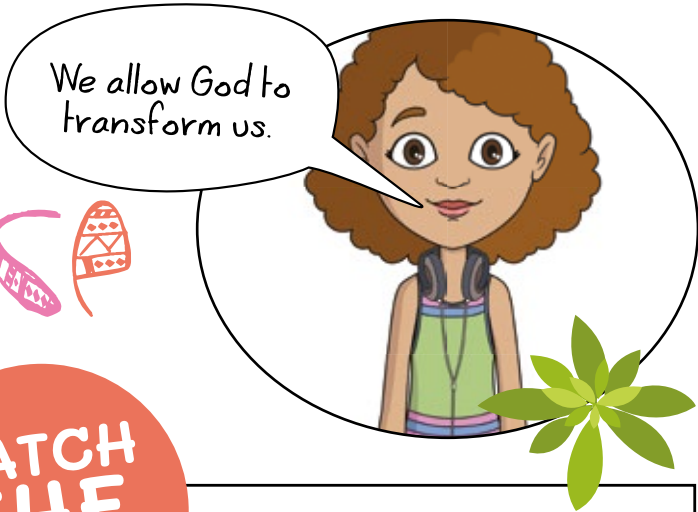
You are to be congratulated for including Dr Limoni Manu O'Uiha's piece "The mystical stone" in *Adventist Record* (January 27).

While what prompted his writing this piece is a sad situation pertaining to some of our people in some of the Pacific Island countries, his article is a most magnificent piece of writing. I have never read better.

With men like Dr Limoni at the helm throughout the far-flung parts of our Division in the Pacific, the Church is in safe hands. All that is needed is for certain people to read his article and repent in dust and ashes.

William Ackland, NSW

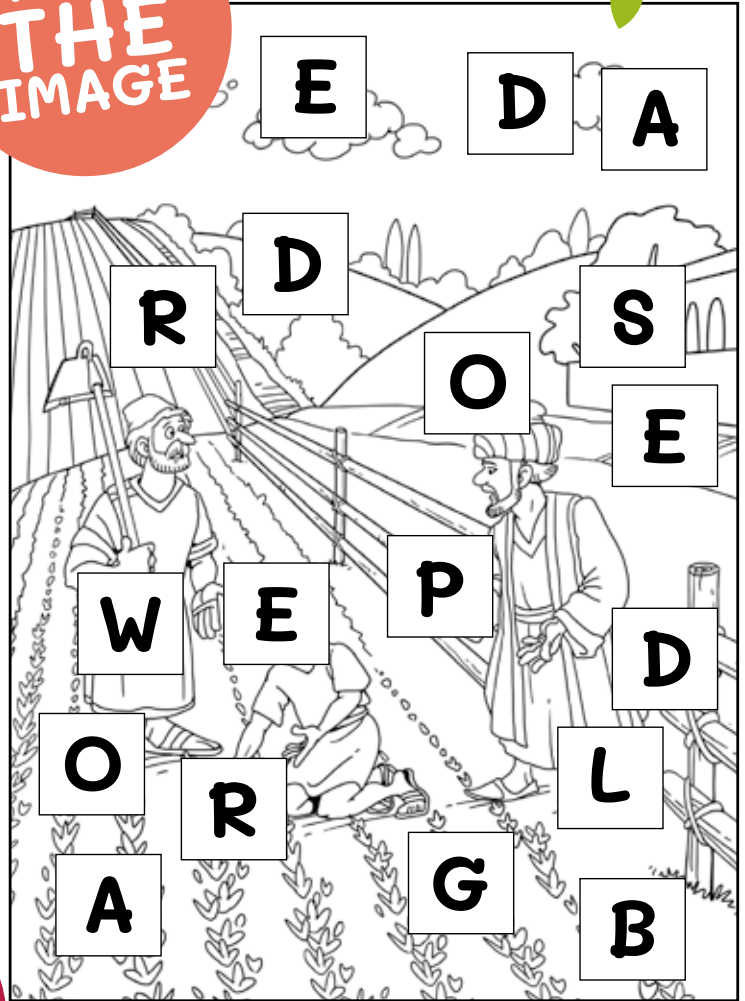
Hello Kids!



Growing Season

MATCH THE IMAGE

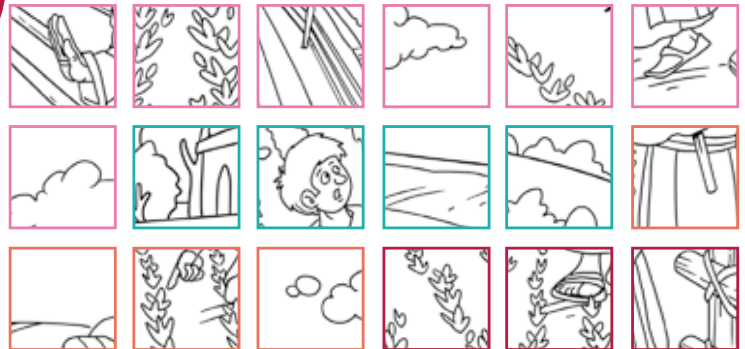
A farmer and his son planting their field discuss the _____ of the farmer as told by Jesus in Galilee. The parable tells about a farmer who plants seeds in his field, which has different types of soil. The farmer scatters the seed everywhere, even on soil that is unpromising. The _____ represents the _____ of _____, which is scattered everywhere, whether or not there is promise of its taking root. This is a lesson about grace. God is extravagant. He scatters His word in abundance everywhere. Like the seed that has within itself the principles of physical growth, the Word of God has within it the principles of spiritual growth.



MEMORY VERSE

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life" (John 6:63).

Cut out the squares and place them on the letters. Then put the letters in the blanks.



Handy tips to save time *and money*

Healthy eating can be easy and affordable. In many cases, the foods that make up a nutritious diet, such as vegetables, pantry-staple legumes and wholegrains are some of the most affordable foods available.

With a little clever planning, it is possible to eat well on a tight budget. Here are seven tips to help get you started.

Root to stem

Save money, reduce your food waste and make food go further by choosing veggies that can be eaten in their entirety. This means saving those carrot tops from the bin, making them into things like pesto, then adding them into a salad or pasta. Other veggie parts to experiment with include broccoli stems and leaves, beetroot leaves and potato peels. For great recipe ideas, check out the Sanitarium website.

Plan and save

Shop your pantry and fridge first so you know what you have and what needs to be used up. Then you can plan your meals around these ingredients for the rest of the week. Making a list will help you to budget and only buy food you need.

Batch it up

Put some time in to cook a range of different meals in bulk, or components of meals and freeze for those busy nights. This will help you get ahead, and your future self will thank you! Cooking in this way will also allow you to buy ingredients in bulk, bringing your grocery costs down.

Make friends with frozen and canned

Frozen fruit and veggies and canned veggies, beans and legumes can be used widely as cheap, delicious staples that



can help you meet your daily nutrition goals and veggie intake. If a veggie needed for one of these recipes isn't available or in season, it can usually be substituted for a cheaper frozen or canned version.

Storage hacks

Learn how to store your food properly so it doesn't spoil and end up in the bin. This can be as easy as throwing a paper towel in the storage container with your leafy greens. But even if after all your correct storing and planning you still find yourself with fruit and veggies lurking in the bottom of the fridge, you can turn them into smoothies, soups, juices or pasta sauces.

Eat seasonally

Eat what is in season locally and in abundance right now. This will usually be obvious in a supermarket as it will be the produce that looks fresh and smells great, often at the front of the store and it is cheaper too.

Freezer friendly

Freeze and thaw those precious batch cooked meals and prepped foods properly so your hard work isn't wasted. Smaller components, like herbs, veggies and muffins should be frozen individually on parchment paper for a few hours before they're transferred into a freezer-safe container. This step will stop them sticking together and makes for easier thawing.

Making healthy vegetarian eating
easier and tastier than ever!



Weddings



FENGER—WATSON. Shannon Carl Timothy Nathan Fenger, son of Benno Fenger and Debra Deegan, and Zoe Joy Watson, daughter of Michael and Karena Watson, were married 4.1.24 at the Chateau Wyuna, Mount Evelyn, Vic. Shannon and Zoe are both students at Avondale University (Cooranbong, NSW) and will complete their studies before following where God leads next. Zoe is studying teaching and Shannon chaplaincy.

Brandon Pratt



JOHNSTON—BELMONTE. Jeremy Hugh Johnston, son of Hugh Johnston (Brisbane, Qld) and Bernice Johnston (Grafton, NSW), and Gebraly Joy Belmonte, daughter of Gismilsa and Servillano Belmonte (Philippines), were married 24.1.24 at the Headland, Brooms Head, NSW. The couple will set up their home in Maclean where they both work in the hospitality sector.

Bob Manners



TORRENS—HEYWOOD. Melachi Torrens, son of Nigel and Narelle Torrens (Gympie, Qld), and Rachel Heywood, daughter of Greg and Leanne Heywood (Fitzroy Falls, NSW), were married 30.1.24 at the Nambour church, Qld. Melachi and Rachel met at the Cedarvale health and lifestyle retreat in 2013 and the friendship grew from there. They have started a home in Gympie on a farm which is a family-owned business. Rachel is a remedial massage therapist and Melachi a full-time farmer.

Deane Jackson

Obituaries



ARTHUR, Margaret Alice (nee Love), born 23.2.1930 in Rose Park, SA; died 16.1.24 in Lilydale, Vic. She was married to Errol. Margaret is survived by her husband (Lilydale); and children Dale (Perth, WA), Loree McGowan (Lilydale, Vic) and Elden (Seville). In their wonderful 73 years of marriage, Margaret was a companion to Errol in his church school teaching in Adelaide and Millicent (SA), Bathurst (NSW), Fulton College (Fiji), Beulah College (Tonga) and Warburton and Lilydale (Vic). She taught for 18 years at Upper Yarra High School.

Brian Lawty, Jorge Munoz



DEPPERL, Devon Lynden, born 18.7.1944 in Creswick, Vic; died 11.9.23 at home in Bonnells Bay, NSW. In 1968, he married Cheryl Page, his teenage sweetheart from Nunawading Camp. Devon leaves his much-loved wife; children, Melanie and Mark Windus, Fleur and Andrew Winslade, and Devon and Carlie; grandchildren, Mason, Mia, Caitlin, Emily, Jade, and Makenzie. He was known as Papa to his grandchildren and their friends. A dedicated educator for 55 years, Devon served with the Victorian and NSW education departments. Passionate about youth, he and Cheryl actively engaged in Youth Club and Pathfinders for 40 years. He never stopped helping others. Devon's unwavering trust in God sustained him through a brave five-year battle with cancer. His legacy is one of faith, courage and a longing for his family to be reunited at the resurrection.

Paul Bogacs

GALE, Graham William, born 10.4.1934 in Bendigo, Vic; died 12.2.24 in Berwick. He was predeceased by his wife, Lois in 2021. Graham is survived by his children, Stephen (Torquay), David (Ringwood), Roderick (Yarram), Katrina Milson (Gold Coast, Qld), Laurelle Mamantov (Officer, Vic) and Trevor (Geelong). Graham was a stalwart for his Saviour and the church and was one of the foundation members in the planting and establishment of

both the Rowville and Berwick churches. He was most effective in conversational evangelism with a gentle and sincere spirit. He looked forward to reunion and restoration on the resurrection morning.

Barry Whelan



HAWKINS, Margaret (nee Heckendorf), born 22.7.1936 in Wodonga, Vic; died 14.6.22 in Dubbo, NSW. Margaret is survived by her husband, Kerry; children, David and Kathy, Melissa and Ranald Urquhart, and Jim and Christina; grandchildren, Bonnie, Ben, Jess, Tom, Dylan, Ethan, Aby, Lara and Jack; and siblings, Marie Hudson, Gordon Heckendorf and Ian Heckendorf. Her brother, Roger Heckendorf passed away recently. She was a much-loved Pathfinder director and served as a leader in children's Sabbath school right up until she passed away. She trained as a nurse at the San and worked at several remote rural hospitals. Margaret was also a farmer in her own right with many great skills. She was a prayerful warrior and never failed to bring joy and smiles into people's lives.

Jameson Pulelisi



JONES, Roslyn May (nee Sargent), born 4.4.1948 in Sydney, NSW; died 31.1.24 in Darwin, NT. Ros was predeceased by her husband, Bruce in 2018. Ros is survived by her daughters, Tracey and Karen; siblings, Kathleen, Margaret, Richard, and Linda; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She spent many years volunteering in her local community of Batchelor, including the establishment of the volunteer St John Ambulance service there. Ros was instrumental in persuading the Northern Australia Conference to purchase the old "Rum Jungle" Mine Social Hall in Batchelor in 1986 to be used as the local Adventist church. She used this building for a branch Sabbath school to reach the Indigenous children of Batchelor. Her faith and her legacy is one that lives on.

Ray Hobbs, Sigi Paleso'o



LYNE, Carolyn Margaret (nee Stone), born 19.4.1945 in Newcastle, NSW; died 2.10.23 in Brisbane, Qld, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Brian (Brisbane); children, Hayley



BIBLE BUDDIES

PART OF THE WORSHIP PROJECT

To learn more, scan the QR code for more resources



and Lance Hayes, Tracey and Darren Leeson, Damon and Jeremy; and grandchildren, Kelsey (husband Bena), Zak, Abbey, Oscar, Cooper, Hunter, Charlie and Harry. Carol is remembered as a creative, compassionate and strong woman of faith. She was a nurse and midwife, fashion business owner and decorator. Her home and heart were always open to others. Carol's quiet strength and love for Jesus were an inspiration. She is now at peace, awaiting the resurrection morning.

Ron Reed, Paul Goltz



WILLS, Margaret Belle (nee Reid), born 29.9.1931 in Longreach, Qld; died 2.2.24 in

Cooranbong, NSW. She was married to Thomas, who predeceased her in 2008. She is survived by her children, Iva and Lyn (Tanilba Bay), Loretta and Mark Spruce (West Wallsend) and Janine and James Dawson (Cooranbong). She was a literature evangelist for some time. It made her a lady of care, empathy and understanding. Her husband worked in the

Sanitarium Health Food factory in Cooranbong and when they were transferred to NZ, specialised in HR policy and procedures. On her return to Australia, she received a qualification in counselling and helped many people, specialising in work in women's refuges. She loved her Lord and that shone through in all of her dealings with people.

John Kosmeier, Roger Nixon

Advertisements

HILLVIEW CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Past attendees of Hillview church, Morisset are invited to a 50th Anniversary Sabbath on April 13. Contact Bev Christian at <bevchristian129@gmail.com> for more information. The programs will be live-streamed on YouTube-Hillview Streaming.

EUGOWRA CHURCH HOME-COMING WEEKEND—JUNE 1, 2024.

Join descendants of founding families for a reunion, commemorating 120 years. For details, contact Rob Hansford 0492 965 108 or <rob.hansford01@gmail.com> or join the Facebook

group—Eugowra Homecoming Weekend. Be part of this wonderful celebration, cherishing God's past leading and embracing His future guidance.

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 Neirinck, 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.

RECORD QUANTITIES

Is your church receiving the correct number of Record magazines? Adjust your numbers by notifying Kelli Geelan at <subscriptions@record.net.au> or on +61 (03) 5965 6300.

Position Vacant

AUDIO VISUAL PRODUCTION MANAGER—ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, AUSTRALIA

Are you looking to create captivating audio visual experiences that leave a lasting impact? Are you a master of organisation, a technical wizard, a creative genius, a manager who excels at fostering a positive and productive working environment? Look no further! Adventist Media is looking for an AV production manager to lead the AV production team in creating audio visual assets to make sharing Jesus simple. Please email <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 Friday, March 29, 2024.**

Supporting Ministry Position Vacant

MARKETING, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER—ASIAN AID WAUCHOPE, NSW

Asian Aid is seeking a highly motivated and experienced person to join our team located in Wauchope on the mid-north coast. Working within our team, the marketing, fundraising and communications manager position will create our marketing vision, develop and shape the messaging to benefit children, families and communities within our programs. The person we are seeking will have excellent networking and broader stakeholder engagement experience, interpersonal and relationship building skills, with a demonstrated capacity to work consultatively and collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders. If this sounds like you, please contact Sharon for more details at <business.services@asianaid.org.au>. **Applications accepted until March 28, 2024 or until position is filled.**

Asian Aid is an independent ministry supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



abn 59 093 117 689
vol 129 no 5

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
Midjourney

Next issue
Adventist Record
April 6

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.

2024 CAMP MISSION OFFERING



Watch the Video



PNG'S CHURCH GROWTH CRISIS!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea is facing a crisis—a very exciting crisis! God's Holy Spirit working through discipleship programs, house churches created during COVID lockdowns and small group Bible studies has created an explosion of new church attenders—and **more than 6,000 new branch churches!** And on top of all that, this year the Church is running *Papua New Guinea for Christ 2024*—a series of evangelistic reaping campaigns **running simultaneously, nation-wide in up to 2,000 venues!**

The amazing scale of this beautiful kingdom growth has created a severe shortage of trained pastors, leaders and resources for retaining new members and your kind support will be a great blessing to all areas.

Please give generously to the 2024 Camp Mission Offering on eGiving, in a marked envelope at church, or at your Conference Big Camp. **Thank you!**



South Pacific



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

