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Fiji counts the cost of Cyclone Winston as hope remains

Suva, Fiji

Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe has called for church members around the world to continue praying for his nation after Cyclone Winston destroyed an estimated 70 Adventist churches and seven schools, with the damage bill predicted to top \$F2.1 million.

"The Mission desperately needs a project manager to bring all of this together," Pastor Narabe said.

Despite the devastation, general secretary Pastor Joe Talemaitoga said the people are "still smiling". "They are bearing up, life has to go on," he said.

Pastor Talemaitoga has travelled to many of the damaged sites, filming short videos that can be viewed on the "My Mission—Fiji Mission of Seventh-day Adventists" Facebook page.

One of the videos shows flattened churches and school buildings missing roofs. Navesau Adventist Secondary School, Lewa Adventist Primary School, Peni Tavodi Memorial, Naqia, Navolau and Namara churches were either destroyed or suffered extensive water damage.

John, a teacher from Navesau, sheltered with his wife



ADRA volunteers have been handing out food packs.

and two-year old daughter in the kitchen of the partially flooded school dining hall after his house was destroyed. "It was terrible," he said, describing the cyclone. "I could say I've never experienced something so devastating. Broken

glass [flying] and the sound of rushing wind, all this corrugated iron . . . It was like in a movie, a horror movie. Much more than that because I'm experiencing it first hand." (For John's full story, visit <www.record.net.au>.)

The school, which has about 300 students from Fiji, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea, needs \$F450k to be fully functional again. It is anticipated that this will take three or four months. In the meantime, students will live and study at the old Fulton campus at Tailevu. A working bee to clean up the site was assisted by two busloads of students and staff from the new Fulton College campus, as well as Trans-Pacific Union staff.

The Fiji Mission has provided 2100 food parcels for cyclone survivors, committing \$F60,000 aid.

Many Adventist students, church members and staff are helping out with the clean-up effort. "It's a great feeling to know that church members are ready and willing to take time off work and volunteering, men and women, to come and do whatever needs to be done," Pastor Talemaitoga

said. A church member from the island of Qamea was seriously injured by flying iron roofing while running for cover when the cyclone hit. He was airlifted to a Suva hospital.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is at the forefront of the emergency response and has distributed food and hygiene kits to more than 1000 families. Food packs containing rice, lentils, tuna, sugar and biscuits were distributed to 501 families in Ra Province, one of the worst hit areas, along the northern coast of Viti Levu, Fiji's main island.

Meanwhile, more than 600 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits have been delivered to families to help prevent an outbreak of disease, which is common after a disaster. In addition, 244 households received a water filtration system to ensure they have clean water to drink.

"This is not a disaster that people recover from quickly," said Iliapi Tuwai, country director for ADRA Fiji. "We've also begun plans for recovery projects that will help people re-establish their homes and livelihoods."

Mr Tuwai said the supplies were well received. "In many remote places where we have distributed food, people said we were the first aid organisation to reach them."

As well as ADRA's work, there are other glimpses of hope and good news amid the devastation. Fulton College, Suva Adventist College and the Adventist school at Lautoka escaped serious damage and classes have resumed.

The Adventist Church in Vanuatu is asking all of its churches to support a special offering for Fiji on March 26. Its members can relate to the plight of the Fijians as Vanuatu is still recovering from Cyclone Pam, which destroyed 53 churches around 12 months ago. —Jarrod Stackelroth/
Josh Dye



Students from Navesau prepare to move to the old Fulton campus (Tailevu).



John, still smiling as he stands in the remains of his house.



Forever

James Standish

You don't have to wait for New Year's Eve to experience spectacular fireworks. The greatest show of its kind happens, with Swiss-like punctuality, every single night of the year at Disneyland.

The current fireworks show, called "Disneyland Forever", is absolutely, eye-poppingly, ear-ticklingly, astonishingly well done. Animations are projected onto the Disneyland castle, the Matterhorn explodes, lasers shoot from all over the place, brightly coloured seaweed lights up above Main Street USA, Tinkerbell flies overhead, as does Nemo. "Let it Go", "The Circle of Life", "Under the Sea", along with songs from everything from *Mary Poppins* to *Winnie the Pooh*, blast in high-fidelity sound. All of this while astonishingly brilliant fireworks light up the night sky and a narrator tells the compelling story of Walt Disney's obsessive dedication to exceptional creativity.

I tend to be a little cynical. But I have to tip my hat to old Walt. For all his warts—and there were many including his penchant for exploiting his workforce—he had a vision that not only survived his death, but has thrived. When he died there was only one Disneyland in California and another in the pipeline in Florida. Today there are Disney parks in Tokyo, Hong Kong and another opening in Shanghai this year. And Paris Disneyland? It now attracts more than twice as many visitors as the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre. Which is as sad as it is impressive.

All of this, and much more, built on the back of *Snow White*.

In the 1930s, betting everything on making an animated feature film based on a grim German fairytale seemed daft. Many warned Disney that adults wouldn't sit through a cartoon about singing dwarfs. The growing strife in Europe made Germany far from the flavour of the day. And a cartoon feature that included emotions ranging from anger to jealousy, romance to tragedy? No-one had ever done it before.

Disney knew *Snow White* would be a hit, however, when—even before its first screening had ended—adults in the audience began crying along with the grieving dwarfs as Snow White's poisoned body was laid out on screen.

Yes, it's just a series of simple pen strokes, but the power was in a story that reached deep into the human soul.

Snow White remains, adjusted for inflation, one of the 10 highest grossing movies of all time. It also created a new economic model—a great movie, combined with a mega-hit packed soundtrack, and merchandising on everything from lunch boxes to innumerable toys. The success of *Snow White* gave Disney the influence and credibility to do everything that followed. Disney made *Snow White*, and *Snow White* made Disney.

What is it about the Snow White story that resonates so deeply with audiences? Snow White is pure, innocent and without blemish. But it's the beauty of her purity that attracts the enmity of evil. When she is poisoned, her body is preserved on a catafalque, her casket covered by a glass canopy as we, along with the dwarfs, weep for her and all she represents. If that was where the story ended it wouldn't be much of a film. But then the Prince comes, breathes life back into Snow White with a kiss of love and they live happily ever after.

Snow White is such a powerful story because it's really the retelling of the redemption story in metaphor. It resonates so deeply because it harbours the themes to address our deepest pain—our collective loss of purity, our mortality, and our longing to live in a world without corruption, heartache and loss.

"Disneyland Forever" is part of the 60th "diamond jubilee" of Disneyland. Sixty years is a lot to celebrate. But it's hardly "forever". And if there's one thing we know from history it's this: Disneyland will not last forever, as everything and everyone on this earth is temporary.

Our tragically temporary world forces us to crave a happily ever after. And, as Disney proved, we're happy to pay for it. But it's a rather shallow substitute for the real thing. This Easter, let's focus on that promise. Let's look forward to the day when the Prince of Peace comes to breathe life back into His bride. And take us to a place where every ounce of pain and disappointment, separation and every manner of evil, are history. It's no fairytale. It is forever. And, God willing, it's coming very soon.

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"Jeremy Dixon on the set of his new show *Cook:30*."

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Our vision is to be a church that...
knows
experiences
and shares
our hope in Jesus Christ

Leaders unite to win souls

Imagine a room full of 30 presidents who lead and shepherd the Church in their particular area. They all have their own scriptural convictions and ideas of how best to create with Jesus a movement of disciple-making church members. Presidents stand up for what they believe and they know how to persuade people to their point of view. But when they have to persuade their peers—well, that’s a real challenge.

For nearly three hours at Fulton College (Fiji) in the first week of February the presidents of the South Pacific Division met to discuss the main strategic focus—discipleship. It seemed to me the Holy Spirit guided the very open and robust discussion. How do we involve as many people as possible in making more and better disciples? What biblical principles will work across the cultures of the South Pacific? Can we be united on purpose and strategy?

In the end we agreed to focus on discipleship as the key issue and work together to define what a disciple of Jesus is, and to use common language and framework in becoming a discipleship movement. One of the strategic frameworks is outlined by the gardening parables in the Gospel of Mark (chapter 4). Just as there is a clear ongoing process to multiply a harvest, so too there is a consistent method in creating disciple-making disciples. First the soil of the heart has to be prepared and opened; then the seed of the Word of God planted; then that seed needs to be cultivated as it sprouts and grows—people need to be cared for and guided in their spiritual journey; then people are asked to join with Jesus and His church or harvested but they must also be challenged to go and make more and better disciples. Jesus sees us as we can become—each seed can produce 30, 60 or even 100 times more than what is planted.

We will hear more about disciple-making disciples from all our leaders in the weeks and years to come. Each president has their own challenges and is highly committed to Jesus and gifted by the Spirit. I’m blessed to work with such leaders.

Pastor Glenn Townend is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Evaluation

Vania Chew

We live in an age where our every move on social media is visible and ripe for scrutiny.

Once an advocate of Twitter, popular UK personality Stephen Fry recently deactivated his account. Fry was heavily criticised after tweeting that costume designer Jenny Beavan had dressed like “a bag lady” at the 2016 British Academy of Film and Television Awards ceremony.

“What a totally [stupid] thing for Stephen Fry to say about Jenny Beavan,” said fashion writer Poppy Dinsey, just one of Fry’s many critics.

Fry responded by tweeting that “joshing” was “legitimate” and that Beavan was a friend of his, before deactivating his account, calling Twitter “a stalking ground for the sanctimoniously self-righteous”.

“Sharing so much often backfires and invites negative feedback, which is difficult for most celebrities to take in,” clinical psychologist Seth Myers told *The New York Times*. The only solution these celebrities see is to cease their activity on social media, eliminating the sharing that makes them vulnerable. But shutting down conversation does not eliminate criticism—it merely suppresses it.

“There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing and be nothing.”

This quote is often attributed to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. More recently, it has been accredited to nineteenth-century writer Elbert Hubbard. But wherever it originates, its message rings true. It doesn’t matter how talented, wealthy or accomplished you are. It doesn’t matter what colour, race or gender you are. As long as you are doing, saying and being, you leave yourself open to criticism. But that doesn’t have to be a bad thing.

In 2013, I joined Toastmasters, a global organisation founded to help people improve their public speaking. The first thing I learned was that everybody was evaluated. From the leaders of the club to its newest members, nobody was exempt.

At first, the thought of being analysed was incredibly intimidating. After all, I was just a beginner. And I wasn’t the only one who felt that way. Several people who had started around the same time as me gradually began dropping out. They didn’t want to be criticised.

But each evaluation I received was constructive, delivered by mentors who had once been where I was or newbies who offered a fresh perspective. Each evaluation gradually helped me to grow as a speaker and was delivered with the best of intentions.

2015 finished on a high. I was voted president of my club, Toastmaster of the Year and took home nine contest trophies. But guess what happened after my first speech this year? That’s right—I was evaluated.

Inflammatory personal attacks are painful, vindictive and unnecessary. But we shouldn’t put constructive criticism in the same boat. I want our Church to be one that listens to opinions, is open to feedback and doesn’t shut down conversation. I want our Church to grow stronger and better through advice from mentors and fresh perspectives from newbies. And no aspect of our Church should be free from evaluation by those who love it.

Otherwise we will do nothing, say nothing and be nothing.

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.





Baptism marks 150 years

Fatima Servin was baptised in Switzerland's Lake Neuchatel on February 7, 150 years to the day from the first Adventist baptism in Switzerland (and, possibly, Europe). Controversial missionary Michael Czechowski baptised Jean Greymet and Louise Pigeront in a secret night-time service at the same lake in 1866. —*Adventist Review*



More Kiwis going vego

New Zealand polling shows that vegetarian diets are becoming increasingly popular. Younger people are more likely to eschew meat than their elders, and North Islanders are more keen for beans than South Islanders. The surprise is the growing number of men going vego—nearly 10 per cent of males across NZ. —*NewsHub*



Fighting back

After bandits and militant groups in the south of the Philippines declared loyalty to ISIS, Christian vigilantes have emerged in response. The Red God's Defenders have taken up arms in the mountains of Central Mindanao. Authorities are concerned about the rise of ISIS after attacks in both the Philippines and Indonesia. —*Daily Mail (UK)*



Christians threatened

North Korea remains the most dangerous country on earth to be a Christian, according to the Open Doors 2016 World Watch List. Thousands of believers are imprisoned and face torture or execution. Persecution is spreading and intensifying, particularly in countries struggling with Islamist extremism such as Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Eritrea. —*Open Doors USA*



Mind in motion

If you don't exercise regularly your brain may shrink, leading to memory loss and dementia. A US study of 1583 adults found that 40-year-olds with poor aerobic fitness were more likely to experience brain shrinkage by 60. Similarly, a Finnish study concluded that sustained aerobic exercise can stimulate neuron growth. —*Australian Network News*



Priceless

A Russian regional court has ruled that an Orthodox Church diocese can repay part of an outstanding debt in prayers. The church has paid half the cost of installing a new boiler but the court said \$US3244 of the remaining debt would be waived if the church prayed for the boiler company. —*New York Times*

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New independent office for protection of children

Wahroonga, New South Wales

A new independent office for the protection of children and vulnerable persons is being set up by the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It is one of several initiatives the Church is undertaking in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, now into its fourth year of hearings in Australia.

Dean Banks has been appointed project manager to drive the progress and completion of the new office, which is planned to be operational by the end of the year. Once the new office is established it will replace the current Safe Place Services.

Mr Banks is also the project manager for the Church's response to the Royal Commission. He said a combination of external reviews, Royal Commission guidelines and changing legislation highlighted the need for a more centralised model that holds authority and ensures consistent and standardised processes across the Church's entities. It will ensure professionally trained people are engaged in responding to and managing all complaints, guarding against any conflicts of interest.

"Initially we are developing a model for Australia and New Zealand that will provide the foundation for addressing issues of abuse across the South Pacific," he said.

Safe Place Services and the Australian Union Conference are currently working on a number of other initiatives, including the development of new training processes for ministers, a national offender register, a national redress scheme for survivors of abuse and an e-learning site for employees and volunteers to receive ongoing training in child protection.

"The Adventist Church welcomes the Royal Commission," Mr Banks said. "It has raised awareness around our community of an issue that wasn't previously talked about.

"Victims are being given a voice, which means that the number of people coming forward to our entity is much higher.

"It has made us take action to examine the way we have previously handled these issues and ensure that we have independent, transparent and robust processes to better support survivors in the future." – Tracey Bridcutt



Dean Banks is project manager.

Record numbers at leadership training

Cooranbong, New South Wales

More than 750 church members attended North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference's annual Leadership in the Local Church weekend—double the attendees at last year's event and proof, according to president Justin Lawman, that the members have "really appreciated being treated as leaders".

Dr Paul Ratsara, president of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, was the keynote speaker at the conference, held at Avondale College last month. He shared his personal testimony of the power of God's leading in his life, and talked about the importance and power of prayer, the need for greater faith and how it's important to plan big because God is a big God.

He told attendees that he wants to support the NNSW Conference because he can see God's power in action in NNSW, saying, "I am impressed by this conference and their boldness!"

Workshop speakers included Pastor Lawman; Pastor Tom Evans, associate director of the Northern American Division Evangelism Institute; Matt Parra, Evangelism director for the NNSW Conference; Pastor David Asscherick, senior pastor at Kingscliff church and key member of

the ARISE Australia team; Pastor Rick Hergenhan, director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference; and Pastor Daron Pratt, director of Children's and Family Ministries for the NNSW Conference.

Church representatives had the opportunity to break into discussion groups to explore what they would do with what they had learned during the weekend.

Pastor Lawman was impressed by "the power of a united team in a Church all working toward the same goal".

"Our pastors have really appreciated being able to have their leaders be a part of that process," he said. "We'd really like to see the Leadership in the Local Church weekend numbers keep growing!" – Adele Nash/Northpoint



Dr Paul Ratsara with his wife Joanne.



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NEWS

90-year-old walking around Australia

A 90-year-old Adventist man from Echuca (Vic) commenced the final leg of his record-breaking walk around Australia on January 26.

At the time of going to print, Peter Tripovich had covered the 850 kilometres between Pemberton (WA) and Norseman as well as reaching another important milestone, his 90th birthday.

"I'm feeling good—all clear from the doctors. I'm very confident and excited about this upcoming walk," said Mr Tripovich before setting off. Since then he has been averaging 30 kilometres per day with only an odd blister to show for his trouble.

This is something Mr Tripovich started when he was 79 years old, walking 13,000 kilometres from Melbourne to Brisbane and the Top End, then down to Perth. Often the temperature would hit 50°C but even then he managed to knock off 76 kilometres in a day.

Mr Tripovich unfortunately had to cut his walk short at Pemberton (WA) to return home to Victoria to spend time with his wife who was ill. Now,



Peter Tripovich is walking around Australia, raising funds to help trafficked children.

10 years on and itching to get walking, he's on the road again. Mr Tripovich is following the Western Australian coast to Esperance, then it's onto Port Lincoln, Adelaide, Portland and back to the Melbourne city centre where he started this epic fundraising adventure a decade ago. This last leg

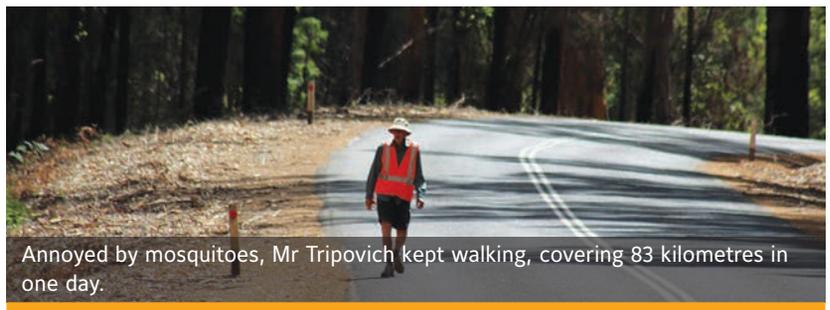


Just a warm-up. Mr Tripovich participated in the Manjimup Park run on January 23.

will cover more than 3500 kilometres. His supporters are currently in discussions with Guinness World Records' authorities about recognising him as the oldest man to walk around Australia. "It's going to be long, hard and hot but I'm up for it and excited about finishing this journey," he said.

Mr Tripovich is walking to raise awareness and money for disadvantaged children; to rescue them from being trafficked and enslaved. He identifies with the needs of children assisted by International Children Care's (ICC) Angel Rescue Fund, since he grew up with a few setbacks himself after his parents both died when he was 10 years old. His fundraising aim is \$A200,000. "Every dollar is going towards the kids," he said, "that's why I'm doing this walk." —*Luke Shepherd with Kent Kingston*

International Children's Care is a recognised supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information visit <icca.gsld.com.au>.



Annoyed by mosquitoes, Mr Tripovich kept walking, covering 83 kilometres in one day.



Delicious, nutritious and auspicious!

by Record staff

We all want to eat not just healthily but tastily too! After all, what's worse than a super healthy meal that tastes like sawdust mixed with bitter herbs? But who has the time to cook tasty, healthy meals? Life is fast paced. Demanding. And by the time we get home from work, the last thing we want to do is slave over a stove for hours. We're hungry NOW!

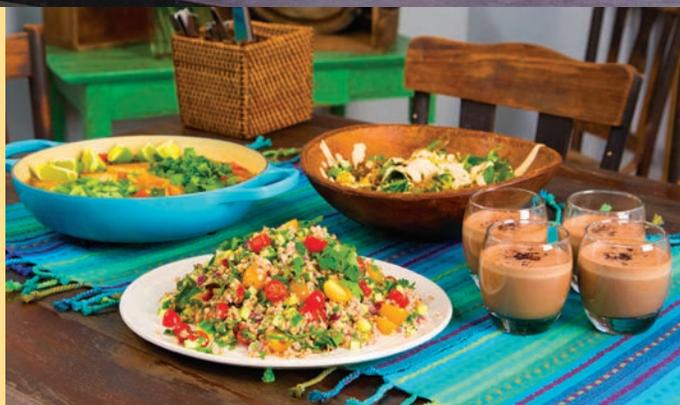
Enter *Cook:30*, a new show on HopeChannel to be broadcast across New Zealand. It reveals the secrets behind the recipes and techniques used in the legendary Revive Cafes in beautiful Auckland. The show is hosted by Revive Cafes founder Jeremy Dixon and features only the best, all plant-based, wholefood ingredients.

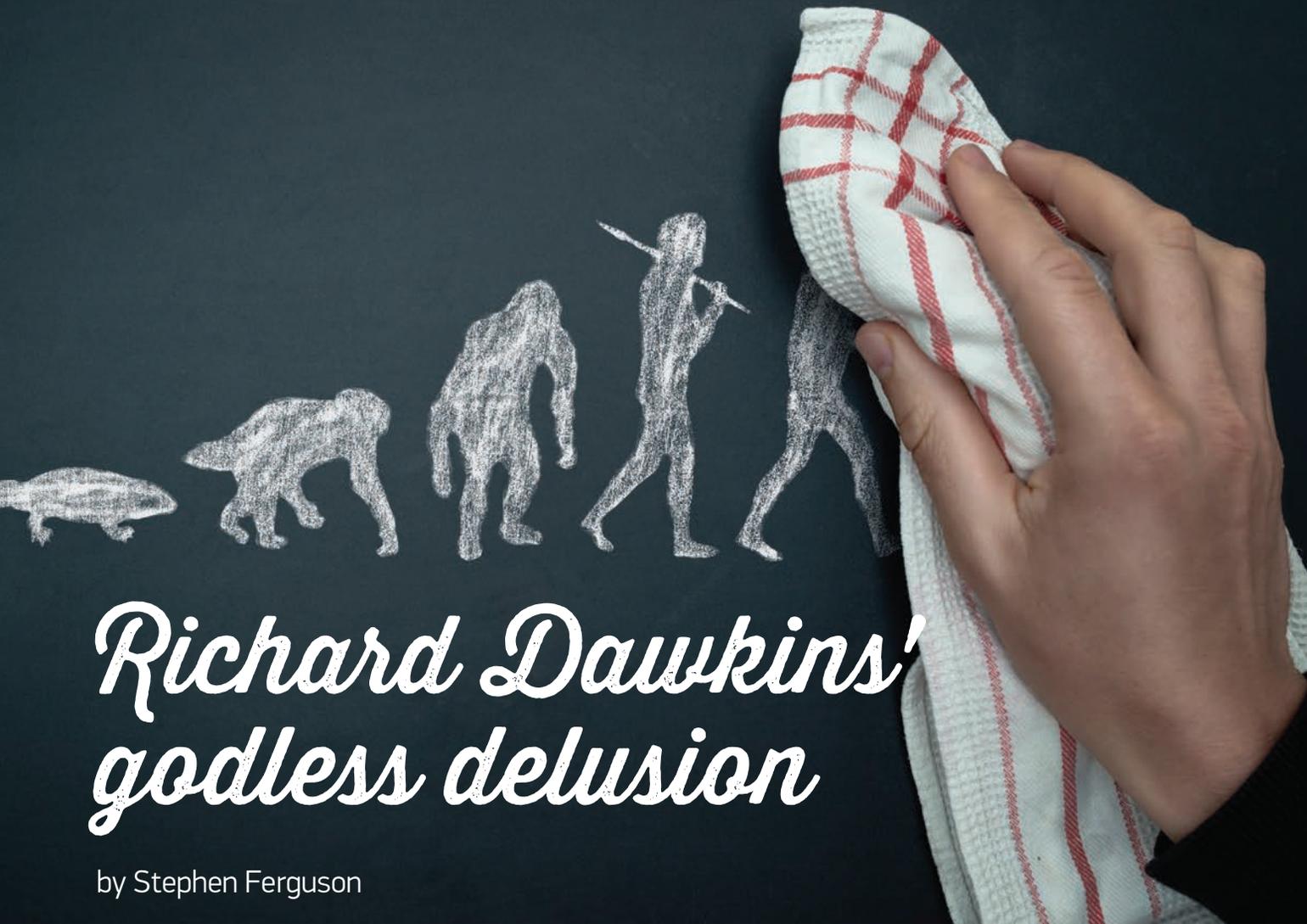
"This is all about getting more energy in your life," says Mr Dixon, who founded the cafes with his wife Verity. And judging from his achievements, he is someone who knows a lot about energy. Since starting the first eatery in 2003, Mr Dixon has published six cookbooks and started a second Revive Cafe. He sends out a weekly newsletter full of great food ideas and now he has produced a 50 episode, quick recipe masterclass on eating well.

"*Cook:30* revolves around creating a meal for your family or friends

in just 30 minutes," Mr Dixon says. "It's all about multi-tasking. For example, you might start the brown rice cooking, sauté the onions for the curry, make a salad, back to the curry, whip up a dessert, steam some vegetables, finish the curry, plate up the rice and on the table in just 30 minutes."

And there's just one more thing you should know: the food is to die for. Or, maybe better said in this case, to live for! It is absolutely delicious, completely nutritious and will turn any dinner into an occasion most auspicious. So check out *Cook:30* on HopeChannel NZ, launching tomorrow (March 20) at 9.30 am, or at www.hopechannel.com.





Richard Dawkins' godless delusion

by Stephen Ferguson

SOME TIME AGO I SET ABOUT THE BRAVE, IF NOT foolish, task of reading the virulent atheist book *The God Delusion*,¹ written by Richard Dawkins. For those who don't know him, Dawkins is an emeritus professor of evolutionary biology from Oxford University, holding the chair for "public understanding of science".

It would be fair to say Dawkins is the world's most acclaimed living atheist. He has used this fame (or infamy) to promote a string of best-selling books, culminating in *The God Delusion*, which sold more than two million copies and has been translated into 31 languages.²

Despite Dawkins' best attempts to the contrary, I found *The God Delusion* actually affirmed my belief in God. In fact, Dawkins introduced me to several proofs for God I had never heard of, and the fact that he continues to disbelieve seemed itself the epitome of mental delusion. Four notable proofs are worth mentioning.

Scientific acceptance of "supernatural" events

First, if "supernatural" literally means "not able to be explained by the laws of nature",³ then scientific orthodoxy

accepts supernatural events. For example, the Big Bang theory says (for argument's sake)⁴ there was originally nothing in existence, not even empty space or time, and that out of this nothing everything was created. As prominent atheist-scientist Stephen Hawking admits, "Since events before the Big Bang have no observational consequences, one may as well cut them out of the theory and say that time began at the Big Bang."⁵

So if time and space were created at the Big Bang, what existed before then? Dawkins suggests there might be an endless cycle of Big Bangs in an infinite number of parallel universes.⁶ However, that still doesn't explain what got the cycle started and what caused the original Big Bang. Even Dawkins struggles without a first cause, which we Christians might call "God". Therefore, by definition the creation of the universe was itself a supernatural event that cannot be explained by laws of nature, because laws of nature didn't yet exist! Whilst I don't necessarily accept these scientific theories personally, the important point is they demonstrate that even the most ardent of atheist scientists do accept supernatural events.

The anthropic principle

The second amazing proof for God is the "anthropic principle". This is the observation that the laws of physics seem just right to allow life to exist. *The God Delusion* itself goes on to describe several such scientific coincidences in detail.⁷

For example, there is a perfect balance between: material in the universe; forces that bind atoms together; forces within an atom; and gravity with anti-gravity. If any of these features were even a tiny fraction out of balance the entire universe would have either crushed itself or expanded off into oblivion.

Similarly, scientists have observed planet earth is in a "Goldilocks zone". A little bit closer to the sun and we'd be a lifeless fireball; a little bit farther away and we'd be a lifeless frozen world.

A recent discovery about the Higgs boson particle even suggests the universe shouldn't exist!⁸ Dawkins says this is all just a coincidence, which doesn't necessarily suggest a Creator. So who is the deluded one here?

Pascal's wager

The third proof for God is Pascal's wager. This is based on the idea of Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century French mathematician and philosopher. In his work *Pensées*,⁹ Pascal suggests it is more logical to believe in God than not believe.

If God is real and believers are right, then they have everything to gain in the rewards of heaven. If God is not real and believers are wrong, then they have lost nothing, because they won't know they were wrong—they will be dead.

However, if God is real and atheists are wrong, then they will lose eternity in hellfire. If God is not real and atheists are right, then they will never know it—they will be dead.

Dawkins' rebuttal is that we can't assume God would reward believers and punish atheists.¹⁰ However, he misses another primary point, which is that life here on earth is arguably better and more purposefully lived with the knowledge that God does exist.

God-shaped hole

The final proof is again from Pascal: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ."¹¹

Humanity has made several attempts to destroy religion and it has failed every time. Whether it was the Cult of Reason during the French Revolution, the Stalinist purges of the Soviet Union or today's "secular orthodoxy", human

beings cannot be "educated" into lasting atheism.

Dawkins suggests this might be because belief is somehow hardwired into our brains.¹² Even assuming that is true, it seems utter folly for this evolutionary biologist to think he can convince us to disbelieve—it's hardwired into us! Dawkins might as well ask us to stop breathing.

Eat and drink for tomorrow we shall die

Dawkins' solution to a life without God is to enjoy every day as it comes. Although partly true, this seems a very hedonistic attitude and is condemned by the Bible in Isaiah 22:13 and 1 Corinthians 15:32.

It is all well and good for a wealthy British intellectual; however, it ultimately seems a hollow theory of life, especially in the face of so much injustice and suffering in the world. As celebrity theologian Karen Armstrong said: "Science can give you a diagnosis of cancer. It can even cure your disease, but it cannot touch your grief and disappointment, nor can it help you to die well."¹³

I'm reminded of the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." I'd rather be a fool for Christ than an atheist professor with no hope and nothing to live for. ↩

It is all well and good for a wealthy British intellectual; however, it ultimately seems a hollow theory of life, especially in the face of so much injustice and suffering in the world.

1. Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (London; Bantam Press, 2006).
2. Richard Dawkins at <<http://RichardDawkins.net.>>, 27 January 2010.
3. Oxford Dictionary (Oxford Uni Press: 2008), 665.
4. Although the Big Bang theory is not contrary to the Christian idea of creation *ex nihilo* (creation out of nothing), and the official Adventist position does allow for an old universe, as opposed to and distinct from a recent creation of biological life on earth: Clifford Goldstein, "The Big Bang Theory", *Adventist Review* (Vol. 188, No. 8, 2011); "Age of the Earth" and "Creation Week", Frequently Asked Questions (Loma Linda CA: Geoscience Research Institute), <<http://grsda.or.>>, retrieved 30 June 2014.
5. Stephen Hawking, "The Beginning of Time", Stephen Hawking: The Official Website, 31 July 2013. <<http://www.hawking.org.uk/the-beginning-of-time.html>>
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8. "It's okay. Nothing really matters. We don't actually exist, anyway. Or so the Higgs boson particle suggests", news.com, <<http://www.news.com.au/technology/science/its-okay-nothing-really-matters-we-dont-actually-exist-anyway-or-so-the-higgs-boson-particle-suggests/story-fnjwlcze-1226968686254>>, retrieved 27 June 2014.
9. Blaise Pascal, *Pensees* (1662).
10. Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 103-5.
11. Blaise Pascal, *Pensees* (1662).
12. Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 179-190.
13. Karen Armstrong, cited in "Karen Armstrong", Wikiquote, <http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Karen_Armstrong>, retrieved 25 August 2015.

Stephen Ferguson is a lawyer from Perth, Western Australia, and a member of Livingston church.



What to do with Jesus?

by Linden Chuang

SIT IN MY CHAIR, UTTERLY BEWILDERED BY WHAT'S going on around me. A mob of ruffians has gathered, shouting out their accusations and curses. Never before have I heard such a ruckus.

And to think these are their religious leaders.

The soldiers at my side remain at attention but their eyes betray their emotions. Some are unsure of what to make of the situation. Others are hell-bent on blood. The blood of this Man. *This Man* before me.

So much has been said about Him, yet here He is now with nothing to say. He just stands. Beaten and bruised, but silent. Stoic. Still.

I have the power to pronounce life or death but something about this Man makes me feel utterly powerless. I am the governor; this could very well be the Son of God.

What, oh what, will I do with Jesus?

* * * * *

Poor Pilate. Imagine being thrust into a situation where it was your job to pronounce a sentence on Jesus Christ. In the words of Chandler Bing: "could that be any more horrible?"

Some of you may disagree and believe the decision would have been straightforward. "The innocent should walk free." Maybe . . . Or maybe you just don't realise the mighty tug-of-war in which Pilate found himself.

On one hand there were the religious leaders. They brought Jesus to the governor simply because they were too "righteous" to get their hands dirty. Then they used their social standing to pressure the crowd into calling for His execution (Matthew 27:20).

Politics also came into play. "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar" (John 19:12). The governor was already "under suspicion by the Roman government, and he knew that [an accusation of defiance against Caesar] would be ruin to him" (*Desire of Ages*, p 737).

Let's not forget Satan's involvement in all of this. His "rage was great" against Christ, and he was the one who ultimately "led the cruel mob in its abuse of the Saviour" (*ibid*, p 734, 735).

Instead of following his heart, Pilate chose to wash his hands.

Pulling at Pilate from the other direction was none other than his own wife, who in that critical hour became a messenger of God. "Pilate's wife was not a Jew but as she looked upon Jesus in her dream, she had no doubt of His character or mission. She knew Him to be the Prince of God" (*ibid*, p 732).

The governor's own conscience was also hard at work. Pilate knew in his heart Jesus was innocent (John 18:38; 19:4, 6), and was "convicted, and had been during the entire trial, that the Prisoner was more than a common man" (*The Signs of the Times*, January 31, 1900). He wanted nothing more than to set Him free (John 19:12).

What, oh what, will I do with Jesus?

Instead of following his heart, Pilate chose to wash his hands (Matthew 27:24). And for that we call him a coward.

In a way that's a fair assessment. But then again, the same Jesus who Pilate failed to save once said only the sinless should throw stones (John 8:7).

There's another reason why we should refrain from pronouncing judgement on Pilate: his predicament is our own. Go back and read the scenario at the start of this article. That story is my story, as it is yours.

The fact is you and I sit where Pilate sat all those years ago. Before us stands Jesus. He says not a word but we know who He is. The voices around and within us are calling for us to either curse or claim Him. At times the noise can be deafening. But despite the pressure, the decision is ultimately ours. The fundamental question we each need to ask ourselves is not "What would Jesus do?"—it's "What will I do with Jesus?"

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20).

Right at this very moment, Jesus is standing right there before you. What you do with Him is up to you. **R**

Linden Chuang is digital editor of Adventist Record.



R HEALTH FEATURE

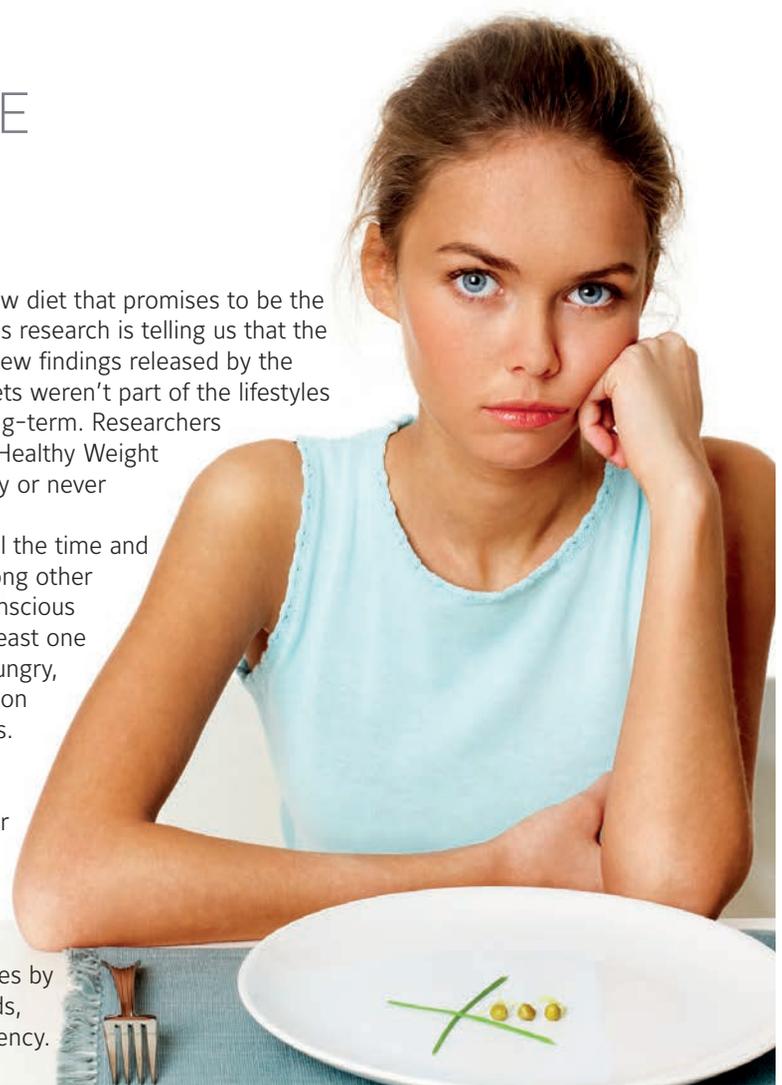
with Cathy McDonald

Ditch the diet

It seems like every week we're introduced to a new diet that promises to be the one to save us from the obesity crisis. But the truth is research is telling us that the solution is unlikely to be found in a restrictive diet. New findings released by the Cornell Food and Brand Lab found that restrictive diets weren't part of the lifestyles of most people who maintained a healthy weight long-term. Researchers looking at 142 participants in the university's Global Healthy Weight Registry found that 74 per cent of these people rarely or never dieted.

So does this mean they just ate what they liked all the time and let unusual genetics keep them slim? Not quite. Among other things, 92 per cent of participants reported being conscious of what they ate and 44 per cent reported using at least one non-restrictive strategy, such as eating only when hungry, making an effort to cook meals at home or focusing on eating nutritious whole foods over processed options.

Research like this points to the idea that, rather than looking to a restrictive diet to help us maintain health, a lot can be gained from listening to our inner cues and simply being a lot more mindful about the choices we make. A great place to start doing this is at your local chapter of the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). At CHIP, participants receive guidelines about how to build healthy lifestyles by using simple strategies to easily identify healthy foods, get active, manage their stress levels and build resiliency.



To find your local CHIP chapter today, visit www.chiphealth.com/Location-Search



Pineapple and almond breakfast couscous

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 5 minutes Serves: 4

- 1 cup pineapple juice**
- 1 cup couscous**
- ½ cup chopped fresh pineapple**
- ½ cup diced dried apricots**
- ¼ cup chopped almond kernels**
- 1 cup low fat yoghurt**

1. Bring pineapple juice to the boil in a jug in the microwave.
2. Place couscous in a heatproof bowl and pour over boiling pineapple juice. Stir to combine.
3. Stand for 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.
4. Fold pineapple, apricots and almonds through couscous.
5. Serve with yoghurt and garnish with fresh mint.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: Kilojoules 1400kJ (330 cal). Protein 13g.

Total fat 6g. Carbohydrate 56g. Sodium 60mg. Potassium 705mg. Calcium 190mg. Iron 1.6mg. Fibre 3g.

Call and arrange to speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

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LIFESTYLE
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SERVICES



The incidental evangelist

by James Standish

G OING HOME?" I ASK AS I SIT DOWN NEXT TO AN old man on a flight to Sydney.

"Yeah," he answers, not looking at me.

"Been overseas long?" I continue in as chirpy a tone as I can muster on the back of a monosyllabic answer.

"No," he replies, again not making eye contact.

"Where's home?" I ask, thinking everyone likes to talk about their hometown.

"Nowra," he replies, managing to slur two syllables into one.

"Oh, the South Coast—it's a beautiful place," I continue, though at this point I start feeling ridiculous for holding a one-way conversation. In a last-ditch effort I add: "One of my favourite towns is Eden."

"Eden? That's [expletive] half-way to Melbourne!" he shoots back as if I'd just asked him to run the distance.

"OK then," I think to myself. Clearly this guy isn't interested in chatting. I look at him one more time as he stares

out of the window. Short-cropped white hair. Sun-stained skin. Stocky physique. On his left forearm in big tattooed letters: "Susan". On his right forearm at an equal height: "Rachel". I smile—obviously a man caught between two opinions. Maybe with two women on his mind he can't concentrate on small talk!

I turn my gaze to the little screen in front of me as the plane takes off. I scroll through all the offerings and settle on *Paris Holiday*. I have to say it's a very enjoyable film. Indeed, it may yet prove to be the very best Cantonese romance/comedy set in Paris premised on hilarious Chinese romantic misunderstandings. Certainly it's the best I've ever seen.

When *Paris Holiday*, or 巴黎假期, is over and the hapless lovers have finally found each other, I go back to surfing through the film options. There are lots of films but very few look interesting. I pull out my *Economist* magazine and try to find something I haven't already read. And then

I turn back to the screen. I settle on an American comedy, which turns out to lack two essential ingredients: humour and any hint of intelligence.

As I half watch, I think of a conversation I once had with Avondale College president Ray Roennfeldt as we sat on the deck of a boat. Ray told me a series of stories. Each involving an incidental conversation with a stranger. And each ending with Ray sensitively introducing the love of Christ to his incidental contact.

I glance over at my stoic seatmate. Not reading anything. Not watching anything. Just sitting with an Easter Island expression on his face.

Nope, I conclude, I've tried cracking this hard nut. There's no Roennfeldt heartwarming ending here. So I watch some more foolishness.

And that's when I hear a voice: "Take off the headphones and talk." "Give me a break," I think to myself, "I've tried that!" I return to my movie. "Take off your headphones . . . Take them off now . . ."

The voice is too loud to ignore. Is this the Holy Spirit? I don't have to wonder. I've heard this voice before. I know Who it is. I say a silent prayer. And begrudgingly take off my earphones and wait.

My seatmate looks over and, as if on cue, begins: "My wife died two years ago. She was only 48. That's too young to die."

This is a man who could barely muster more than a grunt when I tried talking to him at the beginning of the flight. Now he's bringing up his most personal loss! "I'm so sorry to hear that," I reply. What else do you say when a stranger throws something so painful and so intimate at you with no forewarning?

"It was cancer," he continues. "It was so cruel. She really suffered; I could barely stand to be there for her. Just to see her in so much pain. I begged the nurse to give her something to stop the agony. The nurse said the only painkiller stronger than the morphine was heroin. And I would have got her some if I knew where to get it, her suffering was so bad."

I make a muffled comment about the importance of palliative care.

He doesn't acknowledge my remark but continues: "My wife was a Christian. She used to make me go to church with her. But what kind of God lets a beautiful woman like her suffer like that? I tell you, it was worse than awful. I can't even describe it . . ."

Before I can respond he stretches out his arms and says, "Look at my arms. After she died, I had her first name tattooed on my left and her second name on my right. And see this?" He points to another tattoo that at first looks like a big green smudge, "that's a portrait of her. It's not good.

But it's close enough to keep her memory alive.

"A friend told me Susan died because God needed her more than I did. What [expletive]! What kind of God is that? What does He need with her? I need her!"

He stops talking and the silence is heavy between us.

"People say stupid things when they don't know what to say," I reply, reflecting on all the stupid things church people said to my wife Leisa and I when our firstborn was gravely ill in hospital. I still remember being told we were lucky because we were getting "free childcare". Our baby was struggling for her life in the neonatal intensive care unit and someone thinks we're lucky? We had to move churches after that. I just couldn't face going back. "We want simple answers in a complex world," I reflect further on his question. "The God I know doesn't 'take people' like that. But He also doesn't always give us the clear answers we want."

"Then what's the point of it all? She suffered, really suffered! My beautiful girl . . ."

"We live in a world that has gone wrong. Terrible things

happen. No-one can explain exactly why. What I do know is that God's own Son came and He wasn't spared. He was hunted down and tortured to death. Did God want that? For His own Son? Of course not! Did He want your wife to suffer and die? No way. Sin has broken our world so badly that the most beautiful things are the first to be destroyed. Our only hope is a world where all this evil is ended. Your wife believed. She'll be in that new world without evil and without pain."

"Yeah, she'll be up there but not me. I'm going straight down," the man pointed violently towards the aircraft floor.

"You don't have to," I respond. "We all have tragedy in our lives. A few years ago my dad was killed in a car accident. Just like that. But he believed. And I have faith he'll be in heaven. And I believe. And I have faith I will be there too. You can be there with your wife, healed and never to suffer again. That's the promise."

He looks straight at me as if the wheels are turning in his head.

The plane lands. We disembark. Wish each other well. And our incidental contact ends. Maybe forever. He never asks my name. Where I live. Or who I am. But Someone knows who I am and who this grieving man from Nowra is. And the Spirit hasn't stopped working on his heart. And mine.

I'll think of this man from Nowra and his beautiful tats next time I drive south.

To Eden.



James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.



Scrubbing for God

by Jarrod Stackelroth

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A HOLIDAY—A LONG-weekend getaway home to celebrate my sister's birthday. So how did I find myself, sleeves rolled up, scrubbing away at a '60s tan brick wall in the Adelaide heat. It wasn't supposed to be like this. It was supposed to be simple. Drop in, let in the piano tuner, leave. Do other things, enjoy the day, eat Adelaide delicacies, spend time with the family—and here I was, sweat beading at my temples, a dull ache starting up in my arm and working its way down to my fingers, clutching steel wool, then a cloth when my soft office hands couldn't take it anymore. Back and forth across each brick, scrub, scrub, scrub.

The graffiti was rough and haphazard. Certain bricks were tagged, others just scribbled on. Words were misspelt. Was it creative licence or lack of education? Hard to tell. One thing I knew: this was vandalism and I had a very low level of appreciation for it. So I kept scrubbing.

I wanted to do it. Wanted to remove all traces of the black text that had blemished the walls of the church. Maybe I'm overly romantic but in my head I was God's champion, defending His honour, cleaning His building. I was scrubbing for God. As His son and His servant there really was no better thing for me to be doing.

I was upset with the perpetrators. But I knew I had to forgive them, so as I scrubbed I prayed for them. Not only that God would forgive them but that I could as well. And that they would be healed from whatever hurt or inattention they were acting out from; that God would draw them close and change their life directions.

I was angry with them but I also knew that Jesus hung on the cross for them. Even as they vandalised His church, I knew that He knew and was willing to forgive them. But would they have the opportunity to know His forgiveness? I prayed that they would.

I looked at my hands. They were turning red and raw from scrubbing.

Eventually I had to stop. Mum was ready to leave the church. We'd run out of time. The graffiti had faded now; it was hard to read but still present. For all of my efforts I hadn't managed to make much of a difference. I'd wanted to give up, to sit and rest. I was glad to stop.

At the same time I was grateful. I had a sense not only that I was given an opportunity to learn a lesson about how hard it is to clean up a mess but what Jesus had to endure for me.

My sore arms and tired back were nothing compared to Jesus' nail-pierced hands. His back, graffitied by the flogging He had received, crisscrossed with crimson stripes that couldn't be erased or rubbed off.

I had been compelled by a strange sense of duty and conviction to stay and clean the church building that had been defiled. He came down and stayed from a sense of love, unconditional, and willing to bear anything to get the job done. He gave up His body to save His body (the church). Not a building. We are the church. You are the church, I am the church.

If I am made in God's image then my actions, my attitudes and my sins can defile or deface that image—it's like



I am vandalising that image. I get scuffed, dirty, marked—marks I can't remove no matter how hard I try. I can make them fade, I can scrub away and cover them up but the residue remains.

When I arrived at church on Sabbath, the graffiti was gone. What a relief. It was hard to even find some of the spots where it had been. Someone had used some graffiti remover, which had done the job easily. Turns out if you have exactly the right stuff, it is easy to remove the hardest of stains.

There is only one substance in the universe that can remove the stain of sin—the blood of Jesus. It's already available. It doesn't take hard work. You can't get it by cleaning a church building or building a clean church. It's only available to those who believe and receive it.

Is it a "once and for all" clean? No. It's true that once we accept His righteousness we are forgiven and made as white as snow. But living in such a dirty world we are bound to be visited by the vandals of sin again. As Ellen White puts it: "by idle talk, evilspeaking or neglect of prayer, we may in one day lose the Saviour's presence, and it may take many days of sorrowful search to find Him, and regain the peace that we have lost. In our association with one another, we should take heed lest we forget Jesus, and pass along unmindful that He is not with us" (*Desire of Ages*, p 83).

Turns out if you have exactly the right stuff, it is easy to remove the hardest of stains.

So we must daily dwell in His presence. When was the last time you really understood what Jesus did for you? When was the last time you sat down and thought about what your life would look like without Him or what He saved you from or even what His sacrifice really means? "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ . . . As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence

and humiliation at the foot of the cross" (*ibid*). I know I don't meditate on Jesus' life or His death and resurrection enough. The selflessness of the cross has inspired great sacrifice and surrender through the ages. So as the world celebrates Easter this year, let's focus on what Jesus' life means to our lives—what it means to be made clean—and give the task of cleaning

Christ's body, the church, to the Master Cleaner, who has all the right tools to get the job done. Rather than scrubbing ourselves over and over, He should be our focus. "By beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be 'changed into the same image from glory to glory.' 2 Corinthians 3:18" (*ibid*).



Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Adventist Record.



Inaugural summit for youth leaders

The Northern Australian Conference's first Youth Leadership Summit was held at the Riverside campgrounds, Townsville (Qld), from February 5-7. It included youth leaders, Sabbath School teachers, sound and AV leaders and those simply interested in leadership. The facilitators were Dr Mark Falconer, Pastor Jeff Parker and Duane Vickery. The weekend focused on transformational leadership, relational discipleship and how to lead effectively within church culture. "Our youth have a passion for Jesus and a love for others," said youth director Pastor Christos Spero. — *Top News*

Vanuatu churches fundraising for Fiji

Seventh-day Adventist churches across Vanuatu will be collecting a special offering on March 26 to help Fiji Mission recover from the devastation of Cyclone Winston. The Vanuatu Mission head office has asked its church members to support the project, called "Give Fiji a Helping Hand". Money can either be donated via the special offering in Vanuatu churches or by calling the Vanuatu Mission head office. Vanuatu itself is still recovering from the devastation of Cyclone Pam a year ago. — *Adventist Media: Vanuatu*



Clothing evangelism

Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) sent more than 900 bags of clothing to its partner mission Solomon Islands in 2015. "Clothing has helped open villages that were closed until we distributed clothing. Now we are invited to conduct meetings and Bible studies," said Pastor Herrick Pentani, district director of Gatokai Island and lower Vangunu Island. The clothing is packed in a warehouse at the South Pacific Division headquarters in Wahroonga. GSC hopes to ship three or four containers this year and is raising funds through its Solomon Islands Appeal. — *Alex Currie*



Ordained at Big Camp

Pastors Brendan Hayes and Ben Kosmeier were ordained during a special service held on the first Sabbath of the 2016 South New South Wales (SNSW) Big Camp. Pastor Brendan Pratt, the Ministerial Association secretary from the Australian Union Conference, presented the charge while SNSW president Pastor Mike Faber gave a short message and offered the ordination prayer. "We pray that our Heavenly Father will richly bless Pastors Hayes and Kosmeier in their ministry," Pastor Faber said. — *SNSW Conference*



Roof's on

Tremendous progress has been made on the Born Free Sanctuary building project in Papua New Guinea. The roof is now on and electrical wiring and roof plumbing are nearly complete. Volunteer Operation Food For Life (OFFL) directors Phillip and Maureen Vaki and the 30-plus people now living on the property are thankful for all the donors who have given to the project and to builder Jim Hawkins for raising more than \$A14,000 by completing a triathlon. — *Dennis Perry*



Six graduate

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries leaders were excited to see six Indigenous students among the Year 12 graduation class from Carmel Adventist College in 2015. Three came from Derby in the Kimberley, WA: Shinane, Anthony and Kathleen: one from Jigalong/Karalundi: Tia; one from Tennant Creek, NT: Jean; and one from Perth: Gerald. Tia was baptised during her years at Karalundi while both Jean and Shinane made their commitments to Jesus while studying at Carmel College. — *Newsweek*



Make mine orange!

A powerful advocate of temperance for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Ernest Steed served the Australasian Division and the General Conference in that role for many years prior to his retirement.

An irrepressible character, "Ernie" as he was universally known, was always a "glass-half-full" kind of guy. As well as his interest in temperance issues, he pioneered the Public Relations Department of the Church in Australia. In that capacity he attended many cocktail parties in the community and was legendary for his loud "Make mine orange" requests, and his subsequent and frequent reporting to Church audiences on his careful watching to see how many followed his splendid example on each and every cocktail occasion.

Once in Papua New Guinea, by accident or design, no chairs were put out at the public venue he had hired for a rally. Not fazed in the slightest, he wrote home that the meeting had been "such a success there were 800 standing!"

A man of boundless energy, Ernie retired to Florida and raised up a new church there, living long enough to see it dedicated debt-free.

Seriously ill in 2006, his faith remained strong and Ernie finally agreed to risky surgery from which he never awoke, and typically, on his way into theatre he was heard loudly singing, "There is a happy place, far, far away; where saints in glory stand."

The day is not far away when Ernie will stand and sing that song again with those saints—and heaven will be a better place for that!

The above is a synopsis of the entry in the SDA Encyclopedia.



Ernest H J Steed 1925-2006.

Post-resurrection appearances of Jesus: part 1

A comparison of the resurrection accounts in the Gospels is a fascinating study. Some common themes emerge in these narratives, among them the empty tomb and the appearances of the risen Jesus. The latter is a particularly powerful piece of evidence in support of the resurrection.

According to Scripture, how many times did Jesus appear to people after His resurrection?

1. To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18).
2. To the other women who came to the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10).
3. To two of His followers on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12,13; Luke 24:13-35).
4. To Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5).
5. To 10 disciples, excluding Thomas, and others on the evening of His resurrection (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-44; John 20:19-23).
6. To James, the brother of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7).
7. To 11 disciples including Thomas (John 20:24-29).
8. To 500 believers at once (1 Corinthians 15:6).
9. To seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14).
10. To 11 disciples on a mount in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20).
11. To 11 disciples on the Mount of Olives immediately prior to His ascension (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11).
12. To Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:8-11).

Possibly Jesus appeared on other occasions during the 40-day period between the resurrection and the ascension, but these are the appearances specifically mentioned in Scripture and alluded to by Luke in Acts 1:3.

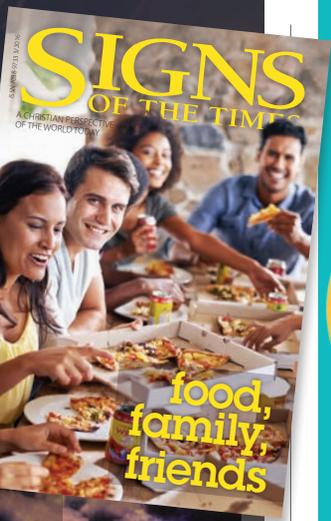
Notice that the post-resurrection appearances do not fit into any consistent pattern but rather display a great variety in terms of setting, location and atmosphere. Jesus appeared both to individuals and large groups and at different times of the day.

These appearances constitute a powerful testimony to this foundation belief of the Christian faith, and together we can proclaim with the angels and these other witnesses, "He has risen!" (Luke 24:6).

David McKibben is pastor of Chatswood and Galston churches.



THIS MONTH IN



food, family, friends



Blood moons: a sign of end times?



The truth about Easter



The crystal meth debate



John Lennon and Jesus Christ

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Kids' Space



Children like me are welcome in God's family.



Parents bring their children to Jesus and want Him to bless them. When the disciples see this, they tell the people to take the children away, that Jesus does not have time for them. Seeing this, Jesus welcomes the children and says that the kingdom of God belongs to children like these.

MATCH THE CHILDREN & YOU WILL MATCH THE LETTERS

c	h	k	b
in	e	i	h
i	n	l	g
d	ld	d	on
o	g	re	e
m	r	s	n

& THEN FILL THE BLANKS BELOW
 HINT: LET THE CHILDREN WITH JESUS HELP YOU

“Let the little _____ come to me, and do not _____ them, for the _____ of God _____ to such as these.” **Luke 18:16, NIV**

LETTERS

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

GOOD ADVICE

Bill Johnson, NSW

What a nice collection of wise comments on the challenges of maintaining a healthy marriage ("Mastering the art of love", Feature, February 20).

What about advice for premarital relationships? Mine is this: before marriage look at the things you don't like; after marriage look for the things you do like. Before the romanticists protest let me say that the lack of romance before and after marriage is very sad but when romance rules the head it is a tragedy.

In a new relationship, regarding things you don't like in a person, romance says: "It's not really a big deal and it will sort itself out later." It will not. If it is a behavioural issue try gently to see if the person is willing or able to change. If it is a personality or attitudinal issue, decide whether you are willing and able to live with it. If you don't like it for an hour or two now and again how will you like it 24 hours a day forever?

The second piece of advice for after marriage—"look for the things you do like"—needs no further comment.

A QUESTION OF WHY

Chris Ratcliffe, Vic

Why? Why? Why is the Pope in *Record* ("No mean feet", News in brief, February 20)?

How far has this Church fallen? Can you imagine what any one of our Church pioneers would think about that man somehow making it into one of our publications, let alone portrayed in a posi-

itive light? It would make no difference if he was somehow washing the feet of Jesus Himself; he is an evil man and in no way worthy of news in a publication from God's remnant Church.

Our faith is based on prophecy and the prophecies spell out plainly what is to come [in the future for] this Church and who is responsible. Have we completely forgotten the three angels' messages?

I keep trying to see if I have misinterpreted the little segment but I cannot in any way imagine what justification there is for it. I am sighing and crying for the lack of understanding that is apparent.

Kent Kingston, News in brief editor

I regret that this has caused you distress. But there was no language used in this piece that could be seen as applauding the Pope for his change in foot-washing policy—it was a standard news item reporting the facts. If you're implying that we should never mention the Pope or Catholics in *Adventist Record*, I simply have to disagree. *Record* is a news magazine and part of our role is to inform readers on developments throughout the religious world: positive, negative and, like this time, merely informative.

REAL AND RAW

Sharon Cooper, via website

As a backslider this ("Naked and unashamed" Editorial, February 20) is what makes me want to read *Adventist Record* or even attend church. It's real and raw.

Our Church has too many closed doors. So not even the head elders or pastors want to talk about these problems because they have a reputation to uphold. Maybe if our Church was open and real we would find more members within our Church.

PLAIN TRUTH

Gee Solo, via Facebook

It seems your article "Naked and unashamed" clearly hit a nerve, even a pulse, that most self-confessed sinners would in their right mind agree on.

I suspect the audience you were hoping to reach were not only ministers but Bible believers—those who accept Christ and His commandments (all 10 of them).

Personally, I have realised through Scripture that the devil always feels uncomfortable with God's truth and has tried to weaken the message—and tragically those who have difficulty with accepting the plain Bible truths today don't realise that they are being spellbound by the same confusion the devil spun in Eden. A timely article!

RISE ABOVE COMFORT

Kasia Thomson, WA

Well done for a confronting article: "Future media" (Editorial, February 6).

The truth can be painful! One day when I'm middle-aged I hope I can rise above the comfort of the familiar and continue to fund generously for projects that are for reaching the next generation, regardless of my personal preferences.

ANNIVERSARY



Piez. Eddie and Nancy were married 5.12.1955 by Pastor Claude Judd at North Fitzroy church, Vic. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Ballara Receptions in Eltham on 6.12.15

with family and friends—many of whom were at their wedding. They have three children: Wayne, Stephen and Glenda (Lindsay); and nine grandchildren. Eddie and Nancy lived and worked as missionaries for 23 years in Papua New Guinea and Pakistan, as well as serving in the Victorian and Sydney conferences. They

retired to Melbourne, Vic, in 1994. They thank God for His blessings over the past 60 years.

WEDDING



Patterson–Hobson. Ross Patterson, son of Irene and Brian Patterson (Hamilton, NZ), and Jan Hobson (nee Hammond), daughter of George and Mary Hammond, were married 23.12.15 in Te Aroha church, NNZ. Both are appreciated as leaders in their churches and their new partnership promises to be a great blessing in the Lord's work. They have set up their home in Te Aroha.

David Tasker, Pat Downey

they managed the historic Kynuna Hotel. Pat was a carpenter by trade. His life was restored by Jesus and he was baptised in 2002, joining his wife who was baptised by Pastor Michael Chamberlain in 1980. He is survived by his wife and three surviving children: Marilyn and Ross Sorbello, Sharon and David Ward, and Gerard and Lyn Dowling and their families. During the past decade Pat and Dot were members of Springwood church.

Andre van Rensburg

Hopkins, Kerry Zane, born in 1991; died in 2016. He was a keen bodybuilder who inspired many. Kerry is survived by his parents John and Terena; brothers Clinton and Jarred, sisters-in-law Donna and Chen; and his girlfriend Tamara.

Daniel Matteo

OBITUARIES

Blom, Jacqueline Hazel, born 24.3.1931; died 24.12.15. She is survived by her sister Yvonne and family. Jackie was baptised in 1960 following a mission run by Pastor Jim Cherry. Her career as a triple-certificate nurse spanned more than 60 years, including an opportunity to serve the Church in Mussoorie, India. Her benevolence was the driving force of her life and she sponsored more than 120 orphans as well as supporting many other charities. "Aunty" Jackie was part of the Dayhew/Nicholas/Long families as well as the Truong family and she will be dearly missed. We look forward to seeing her surrounded by her "children" in heaven.

*Wendy Long
Gareth Bainbridge*



Dowling, Vincent Patrick (Pat), born 9.2.1929 with his twin brother Mick in Mareeba, Qld; died 17.1.16 in Brisbane. In September 1951 he married Dot in Cairns. For a while

Jaulimsing, Marie Elizabeth Jacqueline (nee Peritamby), born in Port Louis, Mauritius; died in The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. She married Roland Jaulimsing. She is survived by her husband; daughters Rhonda and Ulricka; sons-in-law Henri and Ross; and grandchildren Heidi, Cody, Brayden and Saxon. Jacqueline was a woman of great faith who brought special love to our hearts and special influence in our lives.

*Michael Mohanu
Stenio Gungadoo*



Kemp, Daphne Isabel (nee Mitchell), born 23.7.1918 in Kempsey, NSW; died 21.12.15 in Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village, Qld. In 1942 she married Alfred Kemp, who predeceased her in 2010. She is survived by her two children Sandra and John, their spouses Allan and Chris; and loved granddaughter Anita. Before marriage she worked in the "Press" at the Cooranbong

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Chief medical officer—Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Malaita, Solomon Islands).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is seeking to appoint a qualified and experienced medical practitioner to administer the planning, development and delivery of health care for Atoifi Adventist Hospital in Solomon Islands. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW. 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **March 29, 2016.**

■ **Payroll officer/clerk—Australian Union Conference (Ringwood, Vic).** Ideally the successful applicant would have knowledge of payroll processing and be able to provide clerical support as required. An understanding of Chris21, Sun 5 ledger and a good knowledge of Microsoft Office would be preferred. Applications should be sent to: The Chief Financial Officer—Australian Union Conference, Francois Keet, 289 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, Vic 3134. For further information phone (03) 9871 7555; fax: (03) 9870 7718 or email <francoiskeet@adventist.org.au>. The AUC reserves the right to fill the position at an earlier date at its discretion. Applications close **March 29, 2016.**

■ **Assistant manager—Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre (Sydney, NSW).** A vacancy exists for a full-time assistant manager at the Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre, Greater Sydney Conference. Crosslands is a Christian campsite located in the Berowra Valley and Hawkesbury River region of Sydney. The successful applicant will have trade and/or handyman skills, communication skills, an understanding of and compliance with Work, Health and Safety requirements and be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information and a position profile please contact Adrian Raethel on (02) 9868 6522 or <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **April 11, 2016.**

■ **Assistant director of care—Adventist Aged Care—Greater Sydney (Wahroonga, NSW).** The successful applicant will have: current nurse registration with AHPRA; previous supervisory/leadership experience, preferably in the aged care industry; sound knowledge and understanding of the Aged Care Act, accreditation standards and ACFI funding; excellent written and computer skills; ability to work independently and be a team player; demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement principles, using initiative and creative problem-solving; passion for aged care; excellent communication skills; current national police clearance and Australian citizenship. Forward all enquiries and applications to: Dale Eastwood—operations manager <daleeastwood@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 9487 0600. Applications close **April 1, 2016.**

Sign up for job updates and find more vacant positions at <adventistemployment.org.au>



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factory, NSW. In 1950 they moved to Mullumbimby where Daph was a homemaker and always involved in church life. Later she worked part-time as a health food shop assistant in Mullumbimby. In 2001 Daph and Alf moved into the retirement village and later into the hostel. Daph really cared about people and was loved by many friends and her carers. She always maintained her cheerfulness and sense of humour.

Allan Hedges

McCaig, Enid (nee Jones), born in Charlestown, NSW; died in Toronto. She married David. She is survived by David, Christine, Annette and their families.

Brock Goodall



O'Brien, Beth Marie (nee Leslie), born 12.2.1955 in Kellerberrin, WA; died 19.1.16 at home in Perth. She is survived by her parents Allan and Elva Leslie (Perth); children: Karina Schofield (Perth), Esther Summers (Edinburgh, Scotland) and Stephen O'Brien (Perth, WA); siblings Robyn Novelly, Royden Leslie and Barry Leslie (all of Perth); and grandchildren Katie, Isla, Harry and Kayleb. Beth's passion was her family. She was a fun-loving and generous lady, regularly taking family out for meals and on holidays. She enjoyed her job as a registered nurse providing compassionate care to her patients. During her illness she drew strength from her family and her faith in God.

Steven Goods



Olteanu, Ilona (Helen), born 16.9.1935 in Opovo, Yugoslavia; died 7.1.16 in Nambour Hospital, Qld. At the age of 25 she escaped from her communist homeland with her four-year-old daughter and made her way to Australia. She is survived by her husband Vasil; daughter Violet and her husband Terry; grandchildren Katie, Andrew and Edwin; and siblings Gizella and Attila (all of Brisbane). Helen had an infectious smile and a generous spirit as she shared abundantly whatever she had. Fun-loving and hospitable, she had a strong faith and in her own quiet and unassuming way endeared herself to all who had the privilege of knowing her. She

was truly a "mother in Israel" who will never be forgotten.

Laurie Evans

Pampling, Ronald Gordon, born 13.3.1933 in Kyogle, NSW; died 23.11.15 in Stanthorpe, Qld. He married Fay, who predeceased him. He then married Nancy. He is survived by his wife; and his children Tony and Julie and stepchildren Wendy and Susan; extended family and friends. Ron was a faithful, dedicated servant of the Lord. He leaned on God and trusted Him as he went through enormous stresses in life. He now rests awaiting the glorious day of Jesus' return.

Trevor Mawer

Roussos/Batterham, Marjorie Ethel (nee Squire), born 21.8.1922 in Quirindi, NSW; died 18.11.15. Marj was the eldest of 13 children and had nine children of her own. She first married Charlie Roussos, who predeceased her in 1968, and later married Jack Batterham, who predeceased her in 2008. Marj loved her Lord very much and took every opportunity to speak of His love to others. She was indeed a great witness to her family and friends. In the end she was ready to sleep and await her Saviour's return. Although sadly missed by many, we look forward to that glorious resurrection day.

David Stojcik

Van Dyck, Ruth Joy (nee Mills), born 5.9.1924 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW; died 15.1.16 in Caloundra, Qld. She was predeceased by her husbands Edwin Minchin and Leslie Wortman. She was also predeceased by Lesley Edwin, Maureen Helena and Valerie Joy. In 2003 she married Max Van Dyck. She is survived by her husband. A ceremony with family and friends was held at the Gregson and Weight funeral home in Caloundra to commemorate the life of a dear wife, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Joy loved her Lord and will be missed by all who knew her.

Steve Ward



Wilson, Norma, born 1.10.1928 in Toowong, Qld; died 19.12.15 in Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village. In 1951 she married George Clarke, who predeceased her in 1959. On

27.11.1970 she married Dave Wilson, who died in 2007. She is survived by her two sons: Peter and Cheryl Clarke (Narangba) and David and Merril Clarke (Woodford); stepchildren Paul and Narelle, and Carolyn and Bill; brother Bob Souter; three grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and eight step-great-grandchildren. Norma had a ready smile and a beauty of character that was evident and uniquely her. Her cheerful, positive disposition and Christian spirit had a way of making the world a brighter and more pleasant place for all.

Laurie Evans

Youlden, Francis Earle, born in Brighton, Vic; died in Vermont South. On 1.8.1942 he married Mavis Williams, who died in a car accident in 1958. He was also predeceased by his grandson Paul. On 11.4.1960 he married Jean Miller. He is survived by his wife; children Geoff, Margaret Howie and Bruce; grandchildren Nigel, Jason, Royden, Brayden, Mike and Dan; and great-grandchildren Charlie, Grace, Ky, Erin, Anneliese, Joella, Caleb, Aden, Jaran and Ashton. Frank served in World War II and is fondly remembered by countless people he supported and helped throughout his life. He served in his local church at Glen Huntly, Vic, as a member of the Victorian executive committee and as chapter chairman of the Avondale College Foundation.

*Ian Howie, Geoff Youlden
Bruce Youlden*

ADVERTISEMENTS

Calling all former students and teachers of Hawthorn Adventist High School. A school reunion will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016, commencing at 7.30pm at the Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium. All are welcome to attend but please note that bookings are essential. For further information please contact the organising committee via the Hawthorn SDA Reunion Facebook page or email any queries to <reunion2016information@gmail.com>.

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Grey Nomads camp—Adventist Alpine Village, October 3-8, 2016. Plan now to attend the South New South Wales Conference Grey Nomads camp for a spiritual feast and social fellowship at Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. Set in the beauty of the Australian Southern Alps, numbers are limited to 150 attendees. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options please contact Robyn Howie. Phone: (02) 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

Finally . . .

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

—Proverbs 19:21

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