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YOU CAN'T HASHTAG LOVE

LOVE OFFLINE IN AN ONLINE WORLD 12

NEWS

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TO REMAIN OPEN 4

ADVENTIST RECORD | FEBRUARY 4 2017
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OPEN HOME

On June 5-9, 2017, thousands of Adventists across Australia will **open their homes** and reach out to the community.

Join the Open Home movement by opening your home for a meal, prayer and gift to friends, neighbours or colleagues—simple, easy and effective evangelism anyone can do here and now.

Register online at www.openhome.org.au for more **information, training** and **resources**.

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Australia*

POSITION VACANT | SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Sydney Adventist Hospital, the largest private hospital in NSW, is a world class facility of 524 beds for surgical, medical, cancer care and obstetric specialties. It provides 24 hour access to Cardiac Catheter Lab, Operating Theatres, Emergency facilities, and ICU services. Sydney Adventist Hospital is a division of Adventist HealthCare Limited.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Director of Engineering & Maintenance Services to proactively lead our diverse engineering service. This position provides both strategic and operational leadership across the engineering portfolio including engineering, biomedical engineering, infrastructure and project management and master planning.

The successful applicant will previously have held a similar role and be able to demonstrate the following:

Essential:

- Appropriate tertiary qualifications relevant to the engineering component of the role
- Demonstrated skill in managing a multi-faceted engineering team within a large acute hospital environment
- Demonstrated track record of achieving key performance indicators within budget and timeframe
- Effective leadership of a multidisciplinary engineering team
- Effective relationship management with multiple stakeholders in a hospital/healthcare environment and conflict resolution
- Well-developed business acumen including financial management, financial planning and contingency planning.

Desirable:

- Undergraduate or Post Graduate Management or Business degree

A full position description is available upon request. Confidential enquiries can be addressed to:

Brett Goods – General Manager
Sydney Adventist Hospital

Email: Brett.Goods@sah.org.au Phone: 02 9487 9421

Written applications addressing the selection criteria and including full curriculum vitae should be addressed to:

Melva Lee – Director Human Resources
Email: Melva.Lee@sah.org.au

Applications close 5pm
Monday 13 February 2017.



“ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS”

The man sounded angry, standing in the midst of a mob of people holding placards and signs. “Repent of your wickedness,” he shouted. “You’re going to hell!” I didn’t appreciate these words being directed at my wife and I.

We were on an escalator minding our own business. People around us looked unconcerned at the threats of eternal damnation. Some were looking at the small group bemusedly; most were pretending to ignore them.

We were in Las Vegas for the weekend. We weren’t there to gamble, drink, party—in fact the hotel we stayed in didn’t have a casino or smoking area attached, of which we were thankful.

“The end is near,” the man shouted. Well, that was something I did agree with.

As the escalator brought us closer to the man and his group a thousand things ran through my mind. I wanted to go up to him and say that he didn’t know anyone there or their reasons for being there so how could he be sure they were damned. I wanted to say, “Jesus loves you, mate . . . and everyone here.” But I didn’t. I chickened out. Instead, we got off the escalator and kept walking like everyone else, pretending to ignore him as he kept shouting.

What struck me was the thought that all of these people, no matter their reasons for being there, were loved by God and made in His image.

I was reminded of this incident the other day as I watched another situation unfold on my newsfeed.

Recently, Pasadena Seventh-day Adventist Church in California planned a screening of the documentary *Journey Interrupted*—featuring interviews with a group of people who identify as Adventist but also have same-sex attractions—presented by the independent ministry Know His Love. According to the film’s publicity material, many of those interviewed have made a commitment with God’s help not to act on their attractions.*

A petition calling for the church to cancel the screening did the rounds. The story was national news in America and international news online.

The day passed peacefully but Pasadena’s response was surprising.

The church went ahead with the program. The protesters picketed.

A similar petition and campaign saw representatives of Know His Love banned from a trip they were planning to

the United Kingdom.

Church members could have bowed to the media pressure and cancelled the event. They could have shied away from the press, staying inside the church, drawing the blinds and bunkering down to weather the storm.

Instead they were positive and proactive. They distributed pastries and drinks to the protestors. They offered them lunch and even held their banners while they used the church’s bathroom facilities. The pastor and the Know His Love leaders went out and spoke to the protestors.

Interestingly, I could not find any media coverage of the church’s loving response. As with most things in the media, once the promise of conflict had gone it was on to the next drama.

For me, there are some obvious lessons to be drawn from these two experiences.

Firstly, belligerence will turn away even those who are sympathetic or open to your message. The media wants drama but the Bible tells us “a soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15).

Unfortunately, in this day and age, dialogue is being shut down. There are no arguments left to make that will be listened to or accepted. We must open the dialogue and understand the arguments and agendas that abound. Too often we worry what people will think or how we’ll be perceived in the media. Pasadena showed us an excellent example.

We must hold firm to our convictions while demonstrating the love of Jesus in a practical way (not just talking about it).

Love cuts through the rhetoric. Actions speak louder than words.

The only way we can truly show love to those who disagree with us is through God’s love. Only by being filled with His love can we impact this world.

As Christians we are rendered ineffective when we don’t love people enough to stand fully by our convictions. Love that doesn’t care what others think, doesn’t seek its own agenda but puts everything at risk for God and others. There is no argument against that.

** Disclaimer: I have not seen the movie or any presentations by this group.*

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BAPTISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Nearly 50 per cent of people the Church baptises worldwide leave the Church. Our statistics reflect the same sorry pattern. Papua New Guinea lost 69 per cent of those baptised over a 10 year period, New Zealand Pacific Union lost 64 per cent, Trans-Pacific 30 per cent and Australia 22 per cent. We have a problem. We are not caring for those we baptise.

So when should a person be baptised? Pastors and local church boards have to consider this question as the church grows. Does baptism occur after completing studies on all of the 28 fundamental beliefs? Or after regular church attendance on Sabbath? Or after Jesus has given them victory in an aspect of life? Or . . . ?

The New Testament is very clear—the person being baptised should have at least one life-changing encounter with Jesus (for some it may be many small encounters) (Acts 16:13–15, 25–34) and/or have a background in knowing God and/or following the Bible (Acts 8:26–40, 10:1–8, 48). Baptism is into Jesus (Matthew 28:19, 20, Acts 2:38). Jesus is the Head of the church (Ephesians 1:21, 22) so in baptism the person now belongs to the community of faith.

Each example of baptism in the Bible is different, just as each person considering baptism today has a different background and reasons. But why are those we baptise not staying with us?

The key question for the Church is not “when should a person be baptised” but what plans the local church has to continue to develop the baptised person into being a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is a follower of Jesus. A follower learns to do what Jesus did. A disciple needs to know how to grow in prayer, how to meditate in Scripture, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to discover and use their spiritual gift, how to serve others in the community and church, how to witness, how to give, how to keep the Sabbath . . .

With a plan for on-going discipleship in Jesus each church can reverse the trend.



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT

 /GlennTownend

ADVENTCARE YARRA RANGES TO REMAIN OPEN

MARITZA BRUNT



AdventCare Victoria has announced that its aged care facility at Yarra Ranges will remain open, after an initial decision to close it in August 2016.

Victorian Conference president and chairman of AdventCare Victoria, Pastor Graeme Christian, delivered the news last month, unveiling a strategy to renovate the facility into a fully 9C compliant 42-bed aged care centre for the community.

“After careful, prayerful consideration, the AdventCare Board of Directors has decided to keep the Yarra Ranges facility open,” said Pastor Christian. “This is an exciting announcement that represents the culmination of efforts by so many, particularly over the past few months, and I wish to once again thank those who have contributed and those who have helped us find a path forwards.”

The initial August closure announcement was made due to the room sizes no longer complying with Australian standards and requiring significant renovation, the Federal Government’s funding cut to the sector, and an analysis of bed demand showing an oversupply of beds in the region.

But new plans include a complete renovation of the east wing, as well as an upgrade to the reception and administration areas. The 16 existing rooms in the west wing will be refurbished into 13 rooms that are compliant with government standards. A fixed price contract has been negotiated with ABE Construction Pty Ltd, and it is anticipated that works will commence soon.

Pastor Christian said there were a number of factors that led to the decision, but stressed that the AdventCare Board had not bowed to public pressure from the opposing community.

“Mission is the prime reason for AdventCare’s involvement in aged care,” he said. “The positive community buy-in has been significant, as has the helpful work of the local church committee. Rather than a sympathy vote, a careful evidence-based evaluation of future operations has led to the decision.

“Public pressure doesn’t change the viability of a facility, nor does it change the bottom line in an operating statement. Rather, it gets in the way and slows down negotiations. The positive contribution of the Warburton-based committee and the successful negotiation of a fixed price quote that addressed all specific concerns was pivotal in the decision to renovate and continue to operate the home.”

The Yarra Ranges Aged Care Facility will remain open during the refurbishment works, with new residents already moving in.

“For the first time in more than eight years, we now see a viable path forward for this important community facility, and it is an exciting future that will provide residents and staff with refurbished, modern and more importantly, fully compliant facilities and excellent care,” Pastor Christian said. “We recognise there’s a lot of hard work ahead but we’re delighted to have found a positive way forward.”

PNG INDEPENDENCE HONOUR FOR ADVENTIST EXPAT MISSIONARY

RECORD STAFF

Springwood church (Qld) member Roy Richardson was appointed a Member of the Order of Logohu during a presentation at Government House in Port Moresby.

The Order of Logohu is the principal order of the Order of Papua New Guinea (PNG). *Logohu* is a Motuan word for the bird-of-paradise, the official national symbol of PNG since its independence.

The citation states: "For services to the community and Adventist Church Development and Relief Agency and in teaching and administration roles at Kambubu High School and the Pacific Adventist University."

Mr Richardson grew up in PNG with his missionary parents, John and Dorothy, who served from 1962–1974. Accompanied by his wife Nerida and family, Mr Richardson returned to PNG and spent 12 years (1984–1995) in education, administration and community development.

"I am thankful for the support of

Nerida and my family and for the many friends and colleagues made during those years," he said. "I am very blessed."

During these years, Mr Richardson's focus was on developing and improving Industrial Arts teacher education in high schools and promoting the need for exposure to technology and to international technical curricula. He organised a number of tours to international conferences for his teacher trainee students and for high school teachers.

He was very involved in the community and supported many initiatives, including the Morata Half-way House, a centre assisting in juvenile rehabilitation from prison.

More recently, he coordinated the fundraising and building of an Adventist church in Hula Village, Central Province.

"I am honoured to receive this award, which recognises the great



SIR MICHAEL OGIO (CENTRE) WITH ROY RICHARDSON.

work that the Adventist Church is doing in PNG," Mr Richardson said. "I also think of the many other deserving people who have not received such an honour and I want to recognise them as well in accepting this award."

After PNG, Mr Richardson continued working for ADRA as Thailand country director from 1996–2000 and as the Trans European Division ADRA regional vice president, 2001–2005.

He received his award at the 2016 investiture from PNG Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio.



ADRA EMERGENCY COORDINATORS WILL HELP PREPARE FOR DISASTERS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

ADRA EMPLOYS EMERGENCY COORDINATORS

JOSH DYE

For the first time, full-time ADRA emergency coordinators will be employed in five South Pacific countries to help prepare for disasters.

The positions in Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands will strengthen the emergency management capability of the ADRA offices in each country.

ADRA offices in Australia, New Zealand and Germany contributed funds alongside the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific Division through ADRA SPD.

ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster said he is very grateful for the Church's support. "ADRA works very closely with the Church to respond to disasters. When people need us, we're already there and these positions will increase our reach even further."

Disaster preparedness is key to mitigating the effects of a crisis, Mr Webster said. "Our message is: don't wait until it's too late."

Mr Webster called on church members to dig deep for this month's disaster and famine relief offering.

"This offering is really important because it helps ensure we are ready to respond the minute a disaster hits. Your support means we can reach more people more effectively."

The disaster and famine relief offering is on February 18. Visit <www.adra.org.au/DFRO> to download resources to promote the offering in your church.

HOPE CHANNEL LAUNCHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

SAMOA NEWS STAFF/RECORD STAFF



PASTOR SIONE AUSAGE (SECOND FROM RIGHT) LED THE DEDICATION. PHOTOS: MESHACH SOLI.

Hope Channel has officially launched in American Samoa, with a special dedication service held on Monday, December 19.

Pastor Sione Ausage, general secretary for the Samoas-Tokelau Mission, led the dedication.

"While this is the first time the Church has operated a TV station in American Samoa, the Church's mission in Samoa over the years has been directed to broadcast development to

further expand the Church's mission of religious work through television," Pastor Ausage said. "In 2011, the Samoas-Tokelau Mission launched Hope Channel, and now it is American Samoa's turn."

Lieutenant Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga delivered special remarks on behalf of the territorial government, using the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and express sincere appreciation to members of the Church

who visited him and his wife, the late Pohakalani Mauga, while she was hospitalized in Honolulu in 2016.

"The first choir to visit my wife and sing at the hospital was from the Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Lieutenant Governor Mauga.

"This television station is an important development for the Adventist Church and will be used to further reach out to others to share the teachings of the Lord in every corner of the territory."

Local businessman Bill Hyman previously owned the station site and facility, located in Vaitogi. Although there were many locals and companies who wanted to purchase Channel 11, Mr Hyman withheld from making a final decision as he wanted the station to continue to broadcast religious programming.

"My dream has now become a reality," he said.

CHURCH LEADERS SUPPORT PROJECT TO PREVENT UNWANTED PREGNANCIES

ANNA DOWNING/TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Twenty-three church leaders in Vanuatu recently took part in a two-week training program as part of an Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) initiative known as the Blossom Project.

Topics covered included family responsibility, reproductive and sexual health, parent-child communication and basic counselling skills.

"It is a first ever training to be run by the Vanuatu Mission with the help of the Vanuatu Women's Centre and the South Pacific Division in addressing issues of family negligence, gender and domestic violence, which in most cases leads to unwanted pregnancies and abandoning of babies," Mission president Pastor Nos Mailalong said.

Blossom, an ADRA Australia funded program coordinated by ADRA Vanuatu, seeks to raise awareness of gender issues and women's rights with a

particular focus on preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Teenage pregnancies in Vanuatu remain an issue of concern with up to 80 pregnancies for every 1000 teenage girls in the community. Many educational institutions do not provide support for young mothers to continue their education after delivering their babies.

The Blossom Project is helping to address the root causes of this issue by providing reproductive health education and public awareness campaigns. It aims to build resilience, provide education and support for children, young women and other women in distress. The project also seeks to support young women who are pregnant and ensure that babies born to these mothers are provided with appropriate care.



DR CRAIG, DR FISCHER AND PASTOR MAILALONG WITH ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

The training program was facilitated by Dr Trafford Fisher, director of Discipleship Ministries—Family for the South Pacific Division (SPD), and Dr Bryan Craig, SPD Family Ministries consultant. The Vanuatu Women's Centre provided training in issues related to gender and domestic violence. Vanuatu Mission directors of youth, welfare ministry and family life, with the assistance of a specialist midwife from Port Vila Central Hospital, also presented.

67 COUPLES MARRIED IN ONE DAY

GAZA ASITORE/KENT KINGSTON

During its year-end program the Omaura School of Ministry in Kainantu, Papua New Guinea (PNG), held a mass wedding ceremony for student couples to certify their marriage.

The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Gaza Asitore, family life ministry director of the Western Highlands Mission. Sixty-seven couples wedded and received certificates to certify and legally bind their marriage. An initiative of school chaplain Wilfred Amos, it was the first program of its kind at Omaura.

The day was a time for celebration as well as reflection on the meaning and significance of marriage. A number of couples used the event to recommit to one another and consider how they might strengthen their marriages.

PNG has very high rates of domes-



THE HAPPY COUPLES.

tic violence and abandoned wives are particularly disadvantaged when their customary marriage is not recognised by the legal system. In recognition of these sad realities and in an expression of support for lifelong, monogamous marriage, Adventist leaders in PNG are keen for couples to be legally as well as customarily married.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

VANIA CHEW

More than 300 people recently came together for the launch of Sozo, an Adventist-owned café and wellness centre in Tweed Heads (NSW).

Attendees were treated to live music from Adventist musician Josh Cunningham and taster plates featuring ideas for the café's vegetarian/vegan menu.

"We haven't tried to substitute or mimic meat," co-owner Alex Mohanu told the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. "We're trying to showcase vegetarianism in all its glory."

Although the business is owned privately, the owners are working in conjunction with local Adventist churches to create a centre of influence for the Tweed Heads community. They are already running free fitness sessions and walking groups and have plans to run wellness programs such as depression recovery in the near future.

"We're thankful for this opportunity to reach out to the community," said events coordinator Alisha Christie. "Sozo is a Greek word meaning 'healing' and 'restoration'—and that fits in with what we want this place to be."



SOME DELICIOUS DISHES SERVED AT THE LAUNCH.



MEETING THE COMMUNITY.



SHOWCASING VEGETARIANISM IN ALL ITS GLORY.

NEWS GRABS



GLOBAL IMPACT

World Church leaders estimate that around 113,000 evangelistic meetings will be conducted by Adventist churches during 2017. This unprecedented push is an expression of the General Conference's emphasis on Total Member Involvement, which encourages Adventist members to put their unique gifts and passions to work for the sake of the gospel. —ANN



SWINGS, ROUNDABOUTS

One of Obama's final acts as US president was to approve a law that prioritises religious freedom in foreign policy. Adventist leaders have welcomed the development. Meanwhile, International Christian Concern's annual "Hall of Shame" report has named the US over legal verdicts that push faith out of the public square. —ANN/ICC



'TIS THE SEASON

Local volunteers joined Adventists from around the UK to provide shelter, food and friendship to 70 homeless and lonely people during the Christmas/New Year period in central London. The South England Conference's Advent Shelter was at capacity over the mid-winter break, with clients enjoying festivities and a special church service. —Adventist Review

HOT TOPICS



EVERY SIX MINUTES

Last year nearly 90,000 Christians died for their faith, mostly due to tribal conflicts in Africa but also as a result of terrorism and government persecution. That's an average of one martyrdom every six minutes. The Italian research group that produced these statistics says Christians are the world's most persecuted religious group. —*Relevant*



NOT SORRY

White supremacist Dylann Roof has been sentenced to death for the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners during a 2015 prayer meeting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. After downplaying his mental health and saying he had no regrets for his crimes, Roof represented himself during sentencing. —*Washington Post*



DAMAGE CONTROL

A United Nations report has found that the health and productivity costs of tobacco impact the world economy to the tune of \$1 trillion every year. Eight million people die annually of tobacco-related causes. The UN recommends nations impose higher taxes and price controls on tobacco in order to grow economies. —*UN News*

ADVENTIST SCHOOL OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN 2017

TRACEY BRIDCUTT



HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN HOBART.

A Seventh-day Adventist School in Tasmania, which in December had its registration knocked back, has now been approved to operate in 2017.

Hilliard Christian School in Hobart will be open for business this year after the Tasmanian Schools Registration Board (SRB) approved its registration application on January 13.

Adventist Schools Australia national director Dr Daryl Murdoch said it is wonderful news for the students and staff who can look forward to a great year ahead.

"Hilliard Christian School can now get on with the job of what it does best—providing quality Christian education," Dr Murdoch said. "The school has been successfully operating in Tasmania for over 100 years."

On December 5, 2016, the SRB informed the director of Seventh-day Adventist Schools Tasmania that it was declining to renew the registration of Hilliard Christian School beyond December 31. School personnel, supported by experts from within Adventist Schools Australia, worked feverishly to correct shortcomings in the school's documentation. As Christmas approached, the SRB offered to receive an application for a new school, promised to waive its normal waiting period and to expedite processes.

On January 13, the SRB, after reviewing all documentation submitted over the holiday period, determined that Hilliard Christian School could now be registered to operate.

Hilliard Christian School will open its doors to students from February 7. The newly appointed principal, Ross Reid, who has a long history of school administration, has stepped out of retirement to return to school leadership at Hilliard. Mr Reid is a former principal of Penguin Adventist School (now North West Christian School) in Tasmania, Lilydale Adventist Academy (now Edinburgh College) in Victoria and Noosa Christian College (Queensland). He has also worked as education director in Victoria and Tasmania and for the Trans Australian Union Conference.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS DAYS AND EVENTS

One way Adventists around the world can promote community across time zones is by celebrating special emphasis days and events together. The Adventist Church's calendar of Special Emphasis Days and Events not only encourages unity, it also helps raise awareness of key issues, such as abuse prevention, family and religious freedom.

Adventist Church leadership invites you and your church to join your global family in celebrating these emphasis days and events. For details and to download resources visit www.adventist.org and search "special days".

FEB 4: REACH THE WORLD - PERSONAL OUTREACH

FEB 11–18: CHRISTIAN HOME AND MARRIAGE WEEK

FLASHPOINT



AVONDALE SEAFARERS

Outdoor recreation students from Avondale College (NSW) led a group of teenagers on a four-day sea kayaking expedition in the Whitsundays (Qld). The challenge of guiding the group safely across one of the largest open-water crossings attempted by the students built camaraderie and confidence. The students also helped the teenagers earn their Pathfinder snorkelling and sea kayaking honours, aided by their course convenor David Low. "We were willing to put our best foot forward to achieve the best outcome for Avondale and for the kids," said Zelman Wilkinson, a Diploma of Outdoor Recreation student from Newcastle. —*Bren-ton Stacey*



WOMEN UNITED IN WORSHIP

Women from around the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference enjoyed a day of worship, uplifting presentations, inspiring workshops and fellowship at the first United Women's Ministries Conference. There were three two-hour programs, with guest speaker Kimberly Mann, the chaplain of Oakwood University (US), leading out in two of them. Women also prayed together, shared ideas, gave their testimonies and enjoyed socialising. —*Adele Nash*



GIFT TO NEPAL

Since 1997, Glenys Chapman, a nursing unit manager at Sydney Adventist Hospital, has coordinated sponsorships for up to 160 school children in Nepal annually. Each child receives a uniform and is educated in a local school, and each year Glenys spends two days travelling around Nepal to visit these schools. In November 2016, she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by ADRA Nepal in recognition of 20 years of valuable contribution in providing financial and in kind support to students from disadvantaged communities. —*Nerolie Seberry*



FIRST SCHOOL BAPTISM

More than 200 Darling Downs Christian School (Qld) students and staff gathered on the school soccer field to witness the first baptism on their own school campus. Year 12 student Bailey Scurr was baptised, giving a testimony recognising the influence of DDCCS staff, his peers and his grandmother as his spiritual mentors. At the conclusion of the baptism, an invitation was issued to all students to give their lives to Jesus, with a total of 30 students making a decision for baptism. —*Adrian Fitzpatrick/ Arlagene Groves*

BRINGING HOPE TO PATIENTS

The word "Hope" is now the first thing trauma patients at Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital (Fiji) will see, with the presentation of new bibs to the emergency department. The six different coloured bibs feature the Hope Channel logo, as well as the role of the emergency expert, and will help to identify responsibilities and prevent confusion when treating patients. "What we do as a church group, what we talk about and what we share fulfils Christ's commission to give hope to someone regardless of their ethnicity or religious background when they seek health," said Pastor Joe Talemaitoga, Fiji Mission general secretary. —*Tomasi Qiodaukata*



A TASTY CHRISTMAS MORNING

Kaikohe church (North NZ) members spent Christmas Day a little differently this year, serving a free breakfast to the public. The menu included Weet-Bix, porridge, fresh fruit and pancakes, and was paid for by church members' donations, with many members helping out on the day or lending equipment. —*Peter de Graaf*



NEW YEAR KINDNESS

While many people were celebrating the arrival of the new year, members from the Adventist Ground Zero Ministry (Vanuatu) provided cooked meals and refreshments at midnight and throughout the next day to Vanuatu Police and Vanuatu Mobile Force officers at the Port Vila Central Police Station. "They deserved free meals," said Ground Zero Ministry founder Blake Napuat. "They have worked hard to keep peace and harmony throughout Port Vila and Efate." —*Godwin Ligo*



40 YEARS LATER

More than 40 years ago, Laufauti Soli accepted an altar call at Satala church (American Samoa), where he was baptised. Recently, Laufati went back to American Samoa, where he had the privilege of watching his son Meshach preach and make an appeal at the very same church where he was introduced to Jesus. —*Meshach Soli*



health tip

The recommended daily serving of fruit for children aged 4–8 is 1.5 and for children aged 9 and over it's 2 serves. A serve is one medium apple, pear, orange or banana or two smaller fruits like apricots, plums or kiwi fruits. A piece of fruit in a lunch box and another as an afternoon snack is a simple way to meet these targets.



BACK TO SCHOOL

With the start of the school year upon us, it's a great time to think about some healthy, tasty ideas to fill up lunch boxes. But while a healthy lunch is vital, it's also important to make sure it's safe and appealing—there's no point in eating a healthy lunch that makes us sick and it's pretty hard to get kids enthused about a squashed sandwich even if it's full of delicious, nutritious ingredients. So here are our top tips for packing a safe lunch box:

1. GO FOR A COOLER BAG OR INSULATED LUNCHBOX.

One of the keys to keeping food safe is storing it at a safe temperature, which can be difficult in the hot summer months at the start of the school year. A cooler bag is a great way to keep lunches cool and fresh.

2. PUT A FROZEN DRINK BOTTLE IN THE LUNCH BAG.

This is a great way of helping to keep the lunch cool while also providing the most refreshing drink.

3. PROTECT WITH PACKAGING.

Place items like yoghurts in a plastic bag to help prevent possible spills and pack soft foods like sandwiches away from items that could squash or pull them apart.

4. REMEMBER IT'S NOT JUST TRADITIONAL HIGH-RISK FOODS THAT CAN MAKE US SICK.

High-risk foods like meats and soft cheeses aren't the only products that have use-by dates—did you know that you should eat rice within 3–4 days of cooking? Pre-preparing lunches can be a great time saver but remember to put them in the fridge quickly after cooking and use them within that 3–4 day window.

By following tips like these we can help keep little ones safe and increase the chance that they'll happily wolf down that nutritious lunch you've packed for them, helping to set them up for a life of healthy habits.

OUR FAVOURITE QUICK LUNCHBOX SNACK IDEAS



VEGGIE STICKS

Nothing beats crisp, fresh veggie sticks to boost daily vegetable intake. Try carrot, celery and capsicum.



HUMMUS

This delicious plant-based dip is packed with nutritious legumes. Great to pair with those veggie sticks or some favourite crackers.



FROZEN FRUIT POPS

Freeze your favourite fruit for a tasty summer treat. Pop them in a zip-lock bag to double as an ice brick.



QUESADILLAS

Take a tortilla, fill it with your favourite veggies and beans and a little grated cheese and toast for a fun alternative to regular sandwiches.



BIBLE APP HAS MIGHTY IMPACT ON THE WORLD

POPULAR BIBLE APP YOUVERSION HAS REACHED 250 million unique installs worldwide.

The app offers Bible translations in more than 1000 languages, multiple English versions and functions that make verses and devotions easy to share. People using the app have read more than 11 billion chapters and listened to 2.1 billion audio chapters.

According to its creators, the most popular verse worldwide is Romans 8:28: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

In light of YouVersion’s popularity, *Adventist Record* asked Dr David Tasker, Avondale Seminary lecturer in Old Testament, a few questions about the Bible and its continuing relevance around the world today.

RECORD: *Society would have us believe that the Bible is no longer relevant but these statistics show that people are engaging more with the Bible online.*

DAVID TASKER: Maybe this is just another case of a few noisy people who think they are speaking for everyone, when in fact they are not. There seems to be a conservative swing among younger people, and it seems they wish to connect to things spiritual, to God and to the wisdom of Scripture—without “church” getting in the way. But that is only a part of the story. When you see where this app has been opened it is simply impressive. Nepal, China, the Middle East, closed countries—everywhere. It seems like a flood of light is about to be poured out on the earth.

Is there a difference in using an app like this and reading a physical Bible?

We all have different ways of appreciating or understanding the Bible, so “one-size” does not fit all. Some prefer opening a book and others prefer reading from an electronic device. You cannot force people to read in a way they are not accustomed to. And if that is the only way some people can obtain a copy of the Scriptures, then differences between paper and electrons cease to become an issue.

What are the benefits of an app like this? Are there any drawbacks/dangers?

It puts the words of Scripture into the hands of many more people, worldwide, than if we just relied on “physical” Bibles. One possible danger exists for all forms of the Bible—that it is taken for granted or skimmed over as if it were just another item to flick through. The Bible is best read slowly and deliberately—to absorb its meaning and to hear the voice of God speaking to the heart.

Do you see this as a positive trend?

Why not? Before Jesus comes again the world must be warned and warned: warned towards God and warned about God’s plan to step in to take back control. And while there are many encouraging advances in the work of spreading the gospel, we as a community of faith are not really making much of an impact on the world. Hollywood is doing a better job of warning the world of an impending end to life as we know it, while at the same time making God out to be a monster. But the Word of God is living and powerful, and if 250 million extra people are reading (and sharing) the Bible in a form that they understand better, that has to make an eternal impact on many levels.

In your study of the Bible what stands out to you as to why it is so relevant?

The more I read and understand it, the more I am convinced that God loves me and has a purpose for me being here. It also speaks loudly that evil will not have free rein forever, but will be stopped in its tracks and evicted from our midst, and that God is especially looking out for the “little” people—those whom life has treated poorly. The Champion, and upon whom the spotlight falls in all of this, is Jesus. He craves our friendship and can’t wait to see us again soon—face to face.

Anything else you’d like to add?

Maybe our biggest challenge in all of this is to learn how to speak (and to listen) to our generation. We have become skilled at speaking to ourselves, and we persist in using words and expressions that only an (older) Adventist audience would understand. It is high time for us to break out of that tradition and to read the Bible with fresh eyes.



YOU CAN'T HASHTAG LOVE

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR

Of all the viral trends and challenges to sweep social media last year, there was only one that I was interested in. It wasn't the ice bucket challenge (too cold), the Kylie Jenner lip challenge (too stupid) or the push-up challenge (shameful lack of arm strength). It was the "love your spouse" challenge. The premise was simple: post a photo that encapsulates your love for your husband or wife every day for a week and tag a friend at the end to continue the challenge. Being a newly married millennial, I liked the idea from the first time the hashtag #loveyourspouse appeared in my newsfeed and I immediately went through my iPhone photos, choosing seven fun photos of Dan and I.

For weeks, I watched my friends sharing photos and waited patiently for one of them to tag me so I could participate. Then, finally, my mother-in-law challenged me on Facebook.

At dinner that night, I brought up the photo I'd shared on social media. "I'm doing the 'love your spouse' challenge," I told Dan proudly.

"What's that?" he asked. "I post a photo of us every day to show that I love you," I said, and we both stared at each other as we realized what I'd just said.

Was I really going to prove my love by posting a photo every day? The fact of the matter was that I couldn't just hashtag love—I had to show it in a way that would mean something to my husband. I knew that social media meant nothing to him but my actions at home did. Posting photos of a perfect moment frozen in time wasn't going to show my love. It was behind the scenes, in the moments where

choosing to love your spouse is truly a challenge, that was going to mean the most to him.

Of course, the #loveyourspouse challenge is harmless compared to some of the more dangerous trends sweeping social media. It has been "hashtagged" more than 100,000 times on Facebook and more than 30,000 times on Instagram, so it's clearly a popular concept. The challenge can be very uplifting and affirming, and there's nothing wrong with sharing a moment of pure joy.

But here's the catch: social media these days tends to know a lot about how much we love each other. But if the ones you're posting about don't know, then there's a problem. So my challenge to you is to find out, if you don't know already, the ways in which your husband, wife, child, mum, dad, grandparent or friend feels loved—and then make a conscious effort to let them know. Maybe it's telling them through kind words how much you appreciate them. Maybe it's that chore that you despise but you know by doing it they'd be really grateful. Or maybe Facebook really is the key to their hearts, and a sharing a sweet photo would make their day. Whatever it is, make it your own personal challenge.

The first photo I posted in the "love your spouse" challenge was also my last, though I do occasionally post a sparkly selfie of us accompanied by a flowing tribute to this wonderful man I married. But my everyday #loveyourspouse challenge will continue, offline, for as long as we both shall live.

THE TEN

go to verses when
you're feeling scared...

ONE

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

TWO

Genesis 28:15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

THREE

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

FOUR

Psalms 33:18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.

FIVE

John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.



SIX

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

SEVEN

Romans 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

EIGHT

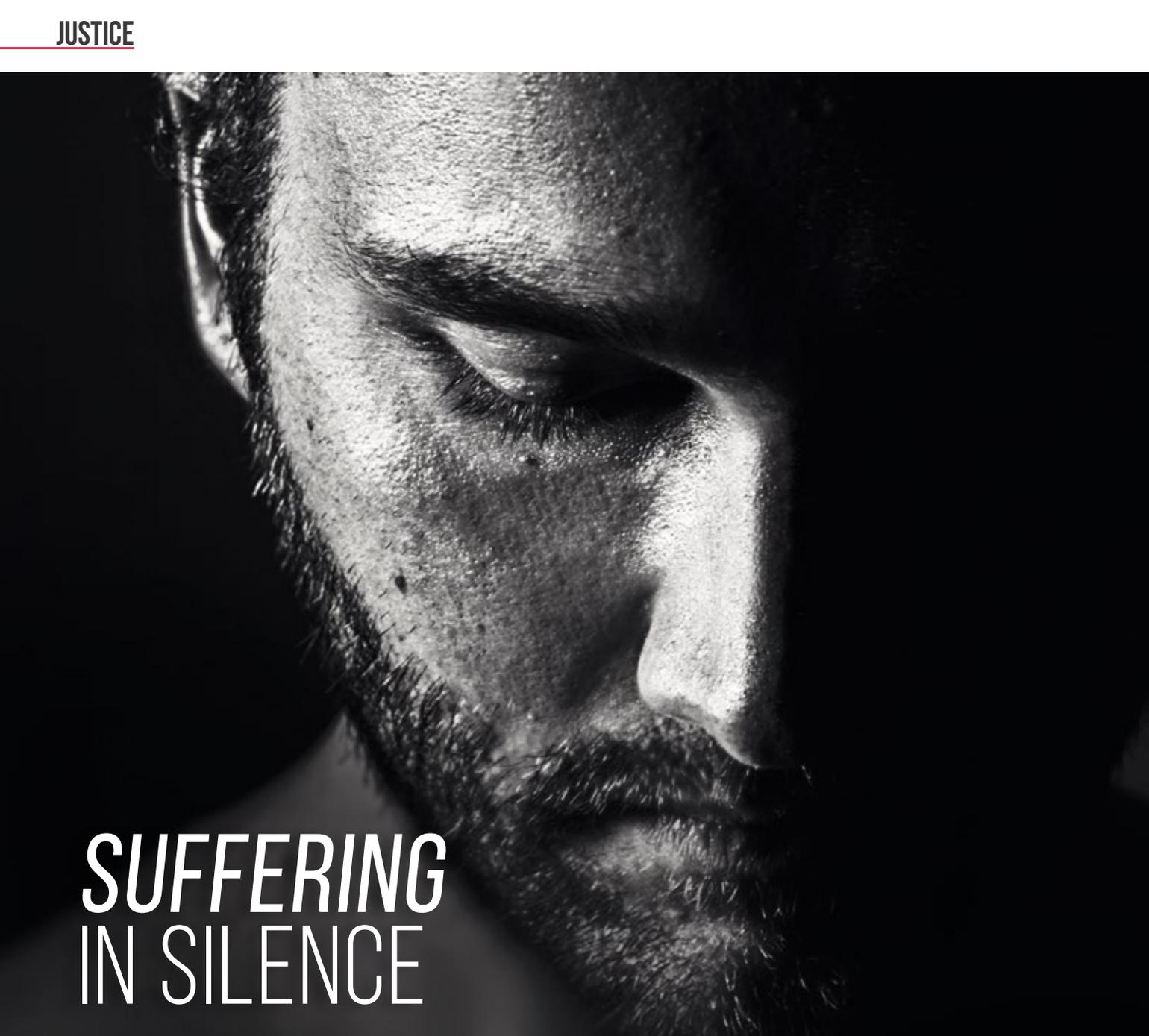
Psalms 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

NINE

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

TEN

Ezra 10:4 Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.



SUFFERING IN SILENCE

Brought up never to raise a hand against a woman, what does a man do when his partner turns violent?

AFTER MANY YEARS OF faithful service, Woodridge (Qld) ADRA centre manager Pam Wood has retired, but not before delivering a final vigorous serve to the local paper on an issue she's passionate about.

"It is something that's looked down upon within the community—that if you're a man you shouldn't be bullied by a woman. A lot of men suffer in silence on this issue because they don't

feel like people will listen and take them seriously," she said to the *Albert & Logan News*, citing an increase of men needing help from ADRA after being abused by their partners—about five new cases per week. "Ms Wood said outdated societal norms were masking the true figures behind male domestic violence," reported the paper.

"The hardest thing about being a male victim of domestic violence is the

feeling that no-one believes you," says one of Pam's clients, an Adventist man who has requested anonymity—we'll call him Simon. "The constant verbal abuse, including name-calling and constant put downs, wears you down slowly. Objects randomly thrown at you for no apparent reason are like daggers to the heart. The punches to the body and face may seem small but when they happen constantly, day after day, it's like your energy is being slowly drained away."

Simon's account of the combined effects of verbal and physical abuse echoes what helping professionals are

“STOP SAYING THINGS THAT ANNOY HER; MAN UP, SHOW HER WHO’S BOSS; JUST LEAVE.”

accustomed to hearing from women abused by their partners. The physical scars may fade but the emotional damage lingers on, paralysing abuse survivors with indecision and self-doubt.

“I am now on a disability pension for major depression due largely to the 12 years of frustration and pent up anguish,” says Simon who is now separated from his wife. “High doses of anti-depressants just dull the senses; all the frustration is still there, it’s just pushed back and down. The feelings easily resurface when any conflict between a male and a female

is witnessed or spoken about.”

The way we understand violence between the genders can be inconsistent. The thought of a woman being assaulted by her male partner is horrifying to most of us—we would reject the suggestion that she had somehow provoked or deserved the attack. But when the roles are reversed, many of us struggle to suppress a chuckle—the mental picture of a man cowering before a woman’s threats is so incongruous as to be comical. And we’re quick to suggest how the man might fix the situation: “Stop saying things that annoy her; man up, show her who’s boss; just leave.” The underlying message is *you are the problem*, even though she’s the one dishing out the abuse.

And yes, it can get physically violent—very violent. Another anonymous man, “John”, who spoke to the *Albert & Logan News*, said he was a victim of abuse for seven years at the hands of his partner. In one of the worst attacks she scalded him with boiling water and even attempted to run him over with the family car.

Simon says he’s physically a lot bigger and stronger than his ex; that made it hard for people to believe that he was on the receiving end of the abuse. “Being in hospital for stitches after being assaulted with a kiddie pram by a female partner is not an escape from suspicion either,” he recalls. “The looks you get from nurses and doctors are humiliating. Just another day of disbelief from outsiders. As I was brought up in a Christian family I have certain values that put me at a disadvantage when living with an abusive partner. Raised to respect women it was hard to live with the fact that she did not show me the same respect that I believed should be reciprocated.”

Pam Wood points out that while a variety of domestic violence support services exist, they nearly always cater primarily, if not solely, for women. They’re usually staffed by women too. “There’s a lack of men working in these support networks but males would feel more comfortable talking to another male,” she told the paper.

Yvonne Stalling, ADRA Woodridge’s financial officer, has seen how men can so easily fall between the cracks. Last year she met a single dad with two daughters, aged 6 and 8. It seems there’d been relationship problems and he’d left the family home with his children. They’d been homeless, sleeping under a bridge.

“I then realised that there is nowhere in this area that caters for men with daughters,” recalls Yvonne. “They could not go to a women’s shelter, because they did not allow men there, and they could not go to a men’s shelter, because this was not safe for his daughters.” In the end, it was decided to pay for the family to take the train to Sydney, where a relative had offered temporary accommodation. “Although we were able to help them, their sad story has left a huge impact on me, and made me realise that there is a desperate need for men in this situation,” Ms Stalling says.

“There is a phenomenal amount of support for women and rightfully so,” said John to the *Albert & Logan News*, “but for males reporting the issues to police and community services those issues are being ignored. Generally men are quite introverted when dealing with emotions and problems and it takes a lot for them to seek help. I would like to see the establishment of refuges for men in situations (where they) need to get away from a violent partner so they can have somewhere to go.”

John may be overstating the availability of domestic violence services for women—in reality funding is tight and emergency accommodation can be difficult to access—but his points are worth considering. Abused men are largely invisible because they don’t fit the profile we expect. Nevertheless their pain is real and so are their needs. It’s heartening to see organisations like ADRA’s Woodridge centre are doing what they can, not just to raise awareness of this forgotten issue, but to get stuck in and make a practical difference.

KENT KINGSTON ASSISTANT EDITOR

A JUST MAN

THE NEW TESTAMENT'S UNSUNG HERO

JOSEPH, THE HUSBAND OF MARY (Matthew 1:19), is one of the great unsung heroes of the New Testament. He is one of only a handful of men identified in the Bible as a “just man”.

The phrase “just man” occurs only 10 times in the Bible. Noah is the first person in the Bible described as a just man (Genesis 6:9).

In the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes the phrase “just man” is used on five occasions to describe a person who is faithful to God, with a strong devotional life and who is a good parent.

Turning to the New Testament, in Mark 6, John the Baptist is described as a just man. Cornelius, the first Gentile convert (that we are aware of), is described in the same manner (Acts 10:22). Above every other person to whom the descriptor is ascribed, we read this in Matthew 27:19: “While

[Pilate] was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent to him, saying, ‘Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.’”

Pilate’s wife is referring to Jesus Christ. Of the 10 texts in the entire Bible referring to a just man, only five are linked to a particular individual. Joseph, the husband of Mary, stands in good company.

From this we can surmise that Joseph is a God-fearing man, a man of prayer and faith, whose commitment to the Hebrew Scriptures may have been seen as outdated and anachronistic, considering the corrupting influences the Alexandrian Schools of philosophy were having upon Jewish religion, as witnessed by the teachings espoused by the Sadducees and Pharisees. Nevertheless, in this period of religious turmoil and syncretism, Joseph is one of five inspiration ascribes

as “just”.

So when this just man found out his intended was pregnant, there was only one course of action he could take: to divorce her quietly—separate himself from the sin and the sinner.

Remember, Joseph’s dreams have been shattered, his plans ruined, yet he was unwilling to bring public disgrace upon Mary, which would have resulted in public punishment. The only other means at his disposal legally was to hand her a letter of divorce in the presence of two witnesses. In this method he was not required to give reasons for the divorce.

In Matthew 1:20 we read:

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Here lies the puzzling fragment of this episode. Why wasn't Joseph warned earlier or told immediately? We don't know how long it was before the angel came to Joseph. Was it a day? Was it a week or even a month?

The angel could have appeared to Joseph when Mary was telling him her story for the first time, vindicating everything said, but no, that did not happen. If it did, it would have saved both Mary and Joseph a lot of anger, sorrow and heartache.

Instead, God allowed Joseph to "think on it". He permitted him to be immersed with emotions of isolation and crushing disappointment. Does this mean that God had forsaken Joseph? No. Does it mean that God enjoyed putting Joseph to the test? No. However, God wanted to fit Joseph for the work He had planned for him because it would take a unique man to be the earthly father of the world's Saviour.

is unique among men, yet his prayer during this testing time may have been, "Why me God, why have You allowed this to happen to me?"

Joseph was judged a just man, which directly describes his spiritual standing before God. As is the case today, true spirituality encompasses the whole person in whatever activity and setting one finds oneself. For Joseph, being a just man from an earthly perspective meant he had a good reputation, he was a competent tradesman, people respected him, and why not? He was from the tribe of Judah and a descendant from the house of David. Young people looked up to him, his peers saw him as successful and the older people viewed Joseph as a man with great potential.

Nevertheless, when Joseph made the decision to marry Mary it cost him everything. His reputation was ruined, his good name soiled. If the Child was his it meant he had acted immorally.

come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" So they were offended at Him.

Notice the words "is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary?" You see it was customary for people when speaking of a son in the second person to also name the father as a sign of respect. In other words, when speaking of Jesus the grammar should have been, "Isn't this Joseph's son and isn't this His mother called Mary?" But no, 30 and some years later, in Nazareth itself, they simply refer to Joseph as "the carpenter". Joseph's good name was lost. In those times, as it is today, a good name, a good reputation, means everything. When Joseph decided to marry Mary and be obedient to the will of God, he knew his name would be slandered for the rest of his life and cost him his standing in the community, but he did it anyway!

During the three and-a-half years of Jesus' ministry, He was continually confronted by those who paraded their righteous acts before men. Displaying them as a badge of honour, boasting of their good works (Matthew 6:1,2) with long elaborate prayers (Matthew 6:7), paying tithe of mint and cumin (Matthew 23:23), and feigning holy offence (Matthew 26:65). Yet, as Jesus reflected on the good works to be seen of men (Matthew 23:5), He could say He had seen a better type of righteousness, firsthand in the person of His earthly father, His guardian, His protector Joseph, the great unsung hero of the New Testament, the man inspiration describes as just (Matthew 1:19).

**ROD ANDERSON PASTOR, ORCHARD
MELBOURNE CENTRAL CITY CHURCH AND
GREENVALE CHURCH, VIC.**

“JOSEPH WAS PREPARED TO SACRIFICE HIS GOOD NAME TO OBEY GOD.”

The darkest part of the night is just before dawn. Joseph was tested. He had to wait for the answer that didn't come immediately but when it came he was told to trust in God, because the One who holds the universe in the palm of His hand knows His children well. Joseph would play a pivotal role in the salvation of the human race. Has any man ever had a greater responsibility?

Joseph's role is unique, for it was he who saw the Saviour born into the world. It was Joseph who cradled Jesus in his arms. It was Joseph who saw the first steps of the toddler Jesus. Joseph felt Jesus' arms wrap around his own waist when they were playing together and felt that little hand nestle itself in his as they walked together. It was Joseph who first taught Jesus how to bridle a donkey and to hold the wooden handle of a saw in the carpenter's shop. Joseph's experience

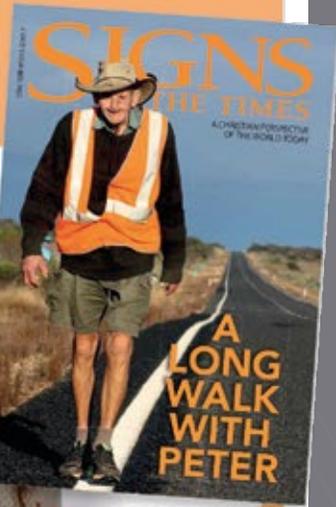
It meant he was a fornicator. If the Child was another man's and Joseph was simply being chivalrous, in effect he was a fool who was marrying a shameless Jewish minx, and he was not the man people thought him to be.

Whatever conclusion was cast upon Joseph's situation by his peers, the end result was the same—Joseph was at fault. His name would become an epithet for foolishness or impropriety. His trade and financial situation would suffer. He would be ostracised by his family and likely have been cast out of the synagogue.

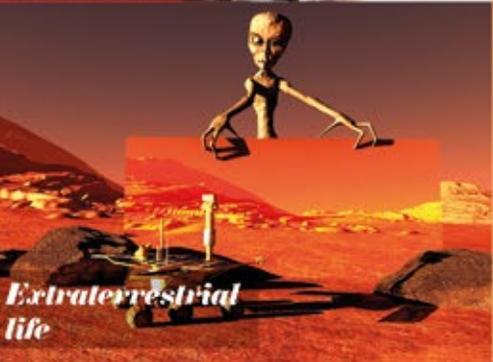
Yet Joseph was prepared to sacrifice his good name to obey God. We know that to be the case as we turn to Matthew 13:53-56 and read of Jesus' second rejection in His hometown, Nazareth:

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. When He had

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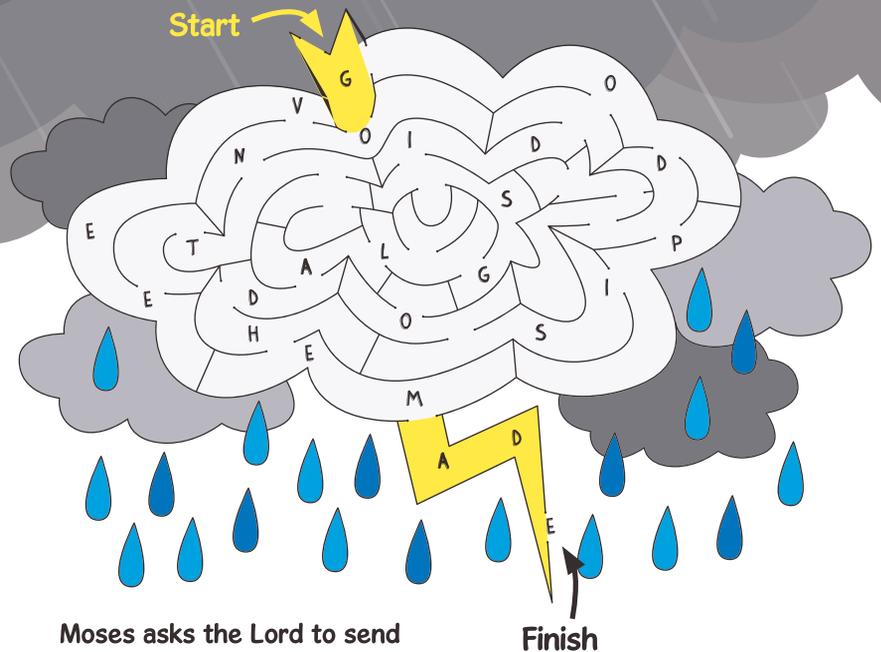
Samuel is getting old and the Israelites want a king. Samuel makes a speech, reminding them of the good things God has done in the past.

MAZE

Work your way through the maze. Pick up all the letters you pass along the way to fill in the blanks below.

GRACE MESSAGE

me His child.



Moses asks the Lord to send thunder and rain to show the people that they did wrong in asking for a king. During the storm the Israelites become frightened and admit their mistake. God says that He is still glad that they are His children.



MEMORY VERSE

Unjumble the words highlighted in yellow to finish the verse.

"For the sake of His **rgeta** **mnae** the Lord...
 was **adsleep** to make you His **wno** .

* hello in Hausa (Ghana)

1 Samuel 12:22, NIV

Have you ever stopped to really think about what Creation says about who God is?

God now deliberates upon His next creative act—the creation of humanity. At this time, God does not speak but forms mankind from common dust. The word *yasar* (“to form”) implies an act of moulding and fashioning into a form corresponding in design and appearance to the divine plan. The word is used to describe the activity of the potter. It is interesting that the Triune God lovingly forms humanity in His image but from the dust of the earth—these appear to be two extremes. The distinction is important for us to recognise and not lose our perspective on. Yes, we are created in God’s image, but we were taken from dust. To complete His creation, God breathes into his nostrils the breath of life. Mankind’s first breath was God’s. Our life is dependent upon God. What does this tell us about God? **CONSIDER GENESIS 1:26-28, 2:7; ISAIAH 29:16, 49:5**

God and mankind have a likeness that is not shared by any other created creature. This likeness created a relationship that is unique and informs us not only of our place in creation but provides an inferred responsibility to live a life fashioned after God’s ideals and values. **CONSIDER GENESIS 2:15, 16, 19, 20**

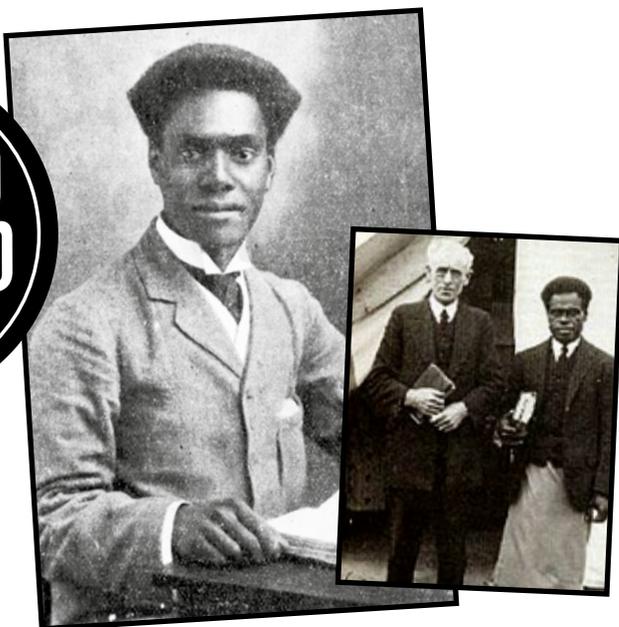
What is the image of God? Traditionally, the image of God has been interpreted to refer to our bodily form but is it something more? Mankind was to bear God’s image on earth not just in bodily form but to reflect and live out the character and values of God throughout all eternity. **CONSIDER EXODUS 34:5-8; PSALMS 8:4, 144; 1 JOHN 4:8-11**

A recent quote on my Facebook page caught my attention: “It is said that God has created man in his own image, but it may be that humankind has created God in the image of humankind.” We need a new revelation of God, not of how the world sees Him, but God’s own revelation of Himself—One of power, sovereignty and love. Choose this week to live your life in recognition of who He is—your Creator, Saviour and soon to return King.

WAYNE BOEHM
DIRECTOR, HOPE CHANNEL SOUTH PACIFIC

RECORD REWIND

- PENI (BENI) TAVODI
- 1888–1918
- PIONEER ADVENTIST NATIONAL EXPATRIATE MISSIONARY



Fijian-born Peni Tavodi was a member of the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary group in Papua New Guinea (PNG). He was first educated in Methodist schools (1894–1904), then Adventist schools (1905–1907). Peni had come into contact with Adventism by reading Ellen White’s books *The Great Controversy* and *Bible Readings*, both in the Fijian language. Baptised in 1905, Peni and his wife were later appointed to PNG as missionaries, first spending a year in training at Avondale College. From 1908 until 1918 Peni was a teacher for the Seventh-day Adventist Mission at Bisiatabu, not far from the Kokoda Track.

One morning late in 1918 Peni was working in his garden when he was bitten by a snake. He went inside, treated the wound as best he could and, without telling his wife, returned to his garden. Later, when not feeling well, he shared with her and others what had happened but by then it was too late to do anything. In all he lived nine hours after being bitten and chose to remain at home rather than end his life in a Port Moresby hospital. Boys from the school were with him until the very last. Peni pled with them individually to dedicate their lives to the Lord while both confident and willing to do what the Lord knew to be the best for him and for the work in PNG. He told his students where he wanted to be buried, a place over-

looking the spot where he had lived and worked for almost 10 years.

The following Sabbath the heart-broken missionaries and students were addressed by mission superintendent, Pastor A N Lawson, who reviewed for them what Peni had stood for—one who was faithful unto death. He asked if there was one boy who would like to do what God wanted him to do and two young men responded. Grief stricken, Lawson felt the loss of Peni was “irreparable to the work”.

Decades later, Peni’s remains were moved to a new gravesite, with the surrounding area named the Peni Tavodi Memorial Park. Among the notable attendees at the memorial service that day were the local Koiari people, the Fijian Ambassador to Papua New Guinea and senior church leaders in PNG.

Adventism in PNG was growing very slowly during the years of Peni Tavodi’s service. Almost a century later the first fruits of his and other pioneers’ work have grown to a Church membership of almost 450,000 of the 7,000,000 people in PNG, worshipping in 962 churches. Today angels stand guard over Peni’s grave, which will soon be opened on that triumphant resurrection day. What a wonderful day of rejoicing that will be!

LESTER DEVINE DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE ELLEN G WHITE/ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE AT AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.



MAN OF COURAGE

Thank you for writing the piece on Michael's death (News, January 28). A man of such courage, left to face the ferocity and negativity of an unfriendly public media, shattering his family for good. Our heart goes out to his family, especially his children. While the tide of time has changed, his passing closes an era where even the Church we love was

tortured mercilessly in the public arena. Someday, someday we'll understand. Our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and his church family at Cooranbong and around the Morisset area. Michael, may you rest peacefully until that glad morning when you will hear your Saviour's voice calling you home!

James Bouro, Honiara, Solomon Islands

MASTER OF COUNTERFEIT

Re: "Glory in the lowest" (Feature, December 24, 2016).

It is a brave man who claims the layout of the Jewish temple was somehow appropriated from surrounding pagan nations (and uses this as an excuse to sanctify pagan elements in today's Christmas traditions).

Firstly, Satan is a master of counterfeit. He has a counterfeit Sabbath, he has a counterfeit Christ (antichrist). Does one not think Satan knows what the temple in heaven, which the earthly sanctuary was a shadow of, looks like?

God gave Moses the instructions on how to build the sanctuary, and the temple grew out of that structure, continuing under God's guidance of Solomon who built it. God, in fact punished, sometimes severely, pagan practices in Israel, and in Deuteronomy 12 specifically told them not to follow in the practices of the surrounding nations.

Any suggestion certain psalms were adapted from pagan hymns to Baal also deserve critical examination. Psalm 29, one of those suggested, is claimed to be derived from such a hymn based on discoveries of tablets in the Ugaritic language at Ras Shamra.

One must remember that

Ugaritic is a Semitic language and shares many similarities with Hebrew, just as Arabic does today. Similarities in vocabulary and literary forms occur because of commonality, just as they do in related languages today. Similarity does not require dependence. Secondly, one must take into account local knowledge and culture. A mention of the cedars of Lebanon being the building material of Baal's palace doesn't imply borrowing. It implies a local knowledge of the best timber in the region. And further, there is no single Ugaritic text that parallels Psalm 29.

It is a shame to see Adventist scholars jumping so quickly on the assertions of liberal scholars who do not take a high view of Scripture. It is interesting to see that as time goes by, one by one, the assertions of critical scholars are disproven, and in fact, the discoveries at Ras Shamra disprove some of the linguistic assertions of the Documentary (JEDP) Hypothesis (that the books of Moses were composed after the return from exile, compiled from several documents, put together to create a national "narrative", based on the use of certain words in different parts of the text), advocated by so many so-called biblical scholars today.

Leopold Hamulczyk, Vic

STANDING UP FOR TRUTH

Thank you for printing this timely article, "Is the Adventist Church an apostate cult?" (Feature, December 10, 2016). I couldn't agree more with the sentiments of the writer.

In my experience with other denominations, they make assumptions about what Adventists believe without having the facts and are usually uninterested in genuine inquiry. I've heard it said many times that Adventists are legalists because we insist on "keeping the law" (because we worship on Sabbath), which they believe was done away with at the cross. Having tried to explain the biblical position on this, I've met with deep resistance, with the claim that to listen to any explanation would somehow corrupt them and they would be lost to legalism.

I believe that Adventists have been abundantly and supremely blessed with the Spirit of Prophecy. We have nothing to be ashamed of except perhaps a reluctance to stand up for what we know is absolute truth.

Kristine Stahl, SA

NOT FUNNY

I wonder how many people will, like me, be perplexed and/or bemused and/or dismayed and/or offended by the "knitting class" cartoon about women pastors in

the December 24 *Adventist Record*. What was its purpose . . . irony, humour, offence to either side of the women's ordination debate?

Although I am opposed to women's ordination on biblical grounds, I side with those women who would find the cartoon offensive. Women play many extremely valuable roles in our Church. Indeed, many churches would grind to a halt without them.

To suggest, as I imagine the cartoon's intent was, that the current role of women doesn't rise above knitting classes, is, even if meant ironically, both inaccurate and unhelpful.

Sarcasm, even in cartoon form, is hardly Christian. Whatever happened to ". . . let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37 NKJV)?

I am afraid that the message (whatever it was) will be lost on most. Not funny, Berto!

David Pennington, NSW

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.

Weddings



BELL - ESAU.

Vernonjon Bell, son of Vernon and Lorraine Bell; and Natalie Esau, daughter of Joseph and Beverley Esau, were married at Cherbon Waters, Burbank, Qld, on 18.12.16. VJ and Natalie are teachers and will set up their home on the Sunshine Coast.

André van Rensburg

ELLIS - VELIZ VALLEJOS. Pastor Owen Ellis, son of Dellwyn and Mostyn Ellis (Auckland, NZ), and Dr Debora Fabiola Veliz Vallejos, daughter of Laura Vallejos Ibanez and Silveztre Veliz (both of Chile), were married on 21.8.16 at Bowral church. They are currently ministering in Bowral.

David Haupt, Frank Cantrill



STANTON - CAMERON.

Brad Stanton and Talyse Cameron were married on 18.12.16 in Casuarina (NSW) with great joy and affirmation from family and friends. They will live in Sydney where Talyse will start her teaching career and Brad will continue his medical studies.

Harley Stanton

Obituaries

BATALLA, Marvin Allen, born 15.4.1992 in Box Hill, Vic; died 24.11.16 in Monash Medical Centre after a six month battle with illness. He is survived by his parents Alvin and Lyne Batalla; and brother Alister. Marvin was much-loved by his family and they look forward to seeing him again when Jesus returns.

Paul Kotanko



DUNCAN, Bradley Dean, born 2.10.1976 in Perth, WA; died 17.11.16 in Perth.

Brad is survived by his dad Kim and his wife Rita, his mum Lynnette and her partner Roger; his sister Melanie and brothers Dylan and Kale; and his four daughters Ashleigh, Evie, Tayana and Gemma. Brad lived a colourful life and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. He had just begun to attend the church of his childhood before his death. The hope of the resurrection was fittingly brought to those at his funeral when Sam Burton played *Amazing Grace* at the graveside.

Steven Goods

FISHER, Kingsley Colin, born 2.9.1939 in Hamilton, NZ; died

12.10.16 in Lower Hutt. He married Muriel Fell on 5.6.1967. Kingsley was predeceased by his brother Hayden. He is survived by his wife; children Michelle and Tracy, Colin and Karen; grandchildren Liam, Ryan and Adam (all of Lower Hutt); and sisters Val Goble (Cambridge) and Yvonne Evans (Hamilton). Kingsley attended Longburn and Avondale colleges. He was a family man who enjoyed many outdoor activities.

GEELAN, Edna Ruth (nee Martin), born 30.5.1943 in Cooranbong NSW; died 13.12.16 in Arcadia, Sydney. She is survived by her husband Knox; children Richelle (Sydney) and Dwight (Singleton); grandchildren Jessie, Sam and Zoe; sister Dulcie Parker (Sunshine Coast, Qld) and brothers Len and Llewellyn (Sydney, NSW). Edna's early life was spent at Mullumbimby before moving to Papua New Guinea with her missionary parents Pastor Elwyn and Alma Martin. Edna graduated as a registered nurse from Sydney Adventist Hospital. Because of her nursing skills and charitable work she became a well-known identity in her local community.

Barry Wright, David McKibben, Darren Parker



GRILLMEIER, Rose Thelma "Lilian", born 30.7.1921 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 8.11.16 in

Yeppoon. Lilian was predeceased by her husband Paul in 2003. She is survived by her children John, Virginia, Austin, Fern and Jeffery and their spouses; 20 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. Lilian and Paul joined the Adventist Church in 1942 and were faithful, lifelong members. They owned a farm at Milman and for 69 years this was Lilian's home. Eight years ago she moved to Yeppoon. "Mamie", as she was affectionately known, is remembered for her no-nonsense approach to life, dry sense of humour, candid remarks and love for her Saviour and her garden.

Mark Turner, Ray Hobbs

GUY, Pearl Lorraine (nee Fisher), born 11.2.1925 in Bendigo, Vic; died 19.10.16 in Meadowvale Retirement Village, Pakenham. She was predeceased by her son Peter. Pearl is survived by Wes, her husband of nearly 72 years; her children and their spouses Juliet and Ken, and Paul and Ann; grandchildren Toni, Mathew, Joshua and Nathan; and great-grandchildren Amy and Ryan. Pearl was a vibrant and

active person who loved writing poetry, playing sport, singing and playing the organ in church. She was thankful that her family placed their faith in the Lord.

Robyn Stanley

KNIGHT, Glenda Joy, born 23.6.1959 in Port Augusta, SA; died 26.10.16 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW. She married David Knight on 19.9.1982. Glenda is survived by her husband David; children Michael (Sydney), Christopher (Heidelberg, Germany) and Erin Ford (Sydney). She was delighted to survive her fight with cancer long enough to see her two granddaughters come into the world.

Nigel Ackland

NEWMAN, Clifford George, born 29.7.1937 in Dulwich Hill, Sydney, NSW; died 18.11.16 in Bonnells Bay Nursing Home, Morriston. In 1968 he married Francis Pratt. He is survived by his wife; children David (Cooranbong) and Lorinda McKay (Connecticut, USA); and three grandchildren. Cliff was a very practical person in the fields of engineering and electrical trades. Much of his life work was spent serving the Church in Sydney and Auckland Adventist Hospitals, Cooranbong Sanitarium Health Food factory and Atoifi Hospital (Solomon Islands).

Roger Nixon



OLTEANU, Vasile, born 29.8.1926 in Cristorel, Romania; died 22.11.16 having reached 90

years of age. He was a faithful and loving husband to Ilonka, who predeceased him earlier in 2016. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him especially his family. Vasile was a man of strong faith who is now resting in the blessed hope of his Lord's soon return.

Mike Brownhill

POTTER, Walter John, born 2.3.1925 in Coonabarabran, NSW; died 7.12.16 in Avondale House Nursing Home, Cooranbong. In 1947 he married Meryl Armstrong, who predeceased him in 1968. Two marriages followed—to Beryl Warfield (died in 1986) and Helen Phillips (died in 2016). He is survived by his children David and Elaine (Cooranbong), and Bruce and Pauline, (Fulton College, Fiji); three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. In the final two years of World War II, Wal served as an RAAF flying instructor. In 1950 polio left him with a permanently disabled arm but he

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rose above this and achieved the near impossible. He spent most of his working life with the Church's health food companies in Coorabong, South Africa and Auckland, NZ. Wal lived to serve his Church and contributed much with his practical artistic flair, meticulous

approach to assignments and gifted singing.
Roger Nixon, Ross Goldstone

RANDALL, Valma Ruby (nee Willis), born 28.9.1919 in Leederville, WA; died 23.9.16 in Rossmoyn. She was predeceased by her

husband Eric and son Don. She is survived by her children Delys and Kevin Rogers (Perth), Lyndsay and Joanne Randall (Merredin), Julie Randall (Perth), Nola and Brandon Price (Perth); nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Valma, a wonderful wife and mother, was a happy, hospitable and genuine lady who lived her life to serve others.

Malcolm Eastwick

soul has been, there lies a trail of beautiful memories."

Quinten Liebrandt

SUPPORTING MINISTRY POSITION

Cedarvale Health & Lifestyle Retreat is seeking the services of either a doctor or dietician, with an interest in lifestyle medicine, to consult with guests and develop treatment programs in a team-based environment. Registration with APHRA is essential. Work at an established centre, which has more than 25 years of experience in lifestyle medicine and a dedicated health team including an RN. Accommodation onsite affords spectacular views in a rainforest setting. For a full job description visit <www.cedarvale.org> or call (02) 4465 1362.

POSITIONS VACANT

Chief financial officer Australian Union Conference (Ringwood, Vic). This is normally a position elected at the time of the union constituency meeting. The position is currently vacant and will be appointed by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) executive committee for the term ending in the last half of 2020, at which time the normal election process will take place. The role involves responsibility for the proper conduct of financial and business matters within the territory of the AUC. It also requires mentoring and working with local conference CFOs. Applicants must have proven financial management skills, a high level of experience in good governance and a comprehensive understanding of church structure, operating policies and procedures. Request a copy of the job description from and send applications to Pastor Tony Knight (Director for Resource Development and Personnel), 289 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134; (03) 9871 7591 or email <tonyknight@adventist.org.au>. The AUC reserves the right to make an appointment. **Applications close March 31, 2017.**

Childcare assistant (Kindergarten Room) Carlisle Christian College (Mackay, Qld). Applications are invited for persons interested in the role of assistant at the Carlisle Early Learning Centre located in Mackay. This position is available from mid-February 2017, and we are looking for a person with a strong passion for God and for working with children. Applicants must hold, at least, a Certificate III qualification in childcare and be committed to studying toward a diploma qualification. The position is a permanent one, subject to satisfactory performance appraisals. Please email resume to <principal@carlisle.adventist.edu.au>. For more information call Andrew North on 0490158070. **Applications close February 10, 2017.**

Country director ADRA Vanuatu (Port Vila, Vanuatu). The role of ADRA Vanuatu country director is to provide visionary and strategic leadership to ADRA Vanuatu so that it fulfils its mission as the humanitarian development and relief agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vanuatu. The country director also ensures that ADRA's administrative operation is professional, efficient, is financially accountable and sustainable; provides a positive and challenging work environment for personnel; and is an exemplary model of Seventh-day Adventist values. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email: <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close February 12, 2017.**

Finance manager Sanitarium New Zealand (Auckland, NZ). We are looking for a finance manager with proven financial and business partnering experience. You will deliver high quality accounting, financial management, analysis and reporting that meets the business requirements. In conjunction with senior management, you will develop financial plans that provide direction to support business growth. Applications to HR business partner via email <human.resources@sanitarium.co.nz>. **Applications close March 3, 2017.**



REYE, Arnold (Arnim) Colin, born 25.6.1936 in Apia, Samoa; died 5.12.16 in Buccan, Qld.

He married Mary Martin on 14.5.1958 at Mt Lawley church, WA. He is survived by his wife; daughter Rowena and husband Kerry Richardson; and grandchildren Georgia, Hamish and Brierley. His parents Pastor Raimond and Reubena Reye were pioneering missionaries in Samoa. Arnold had a distinguished career in the education field, serving as teacher, principal and education director at conference and union level. He also served as curriculum director for the Division. He had great pleasure being part of Springwood church (Qld) and played a key role in the construction of the Springwood Life Development Centre.

Andre van Rensburg, Greig Lipman, Kendell Cobbin

WAITE, Valma Marjory, born 23.2.1925 in Upper Lurg, Vic; died 12.11.16 in Wangaratta Hospital. She is survived by her daughter Pam, son Kerry; and her extensive family of grand and great-grand children. Valma spent most of her life taking care of her daughter Pam. She is remembered by these words: "Wherever a beautiful

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Anxiety

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of its sorrows,

BUT ONLY EMPTIES TODAY

of its strength.

—CHARLES SPURGEON

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