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# LISTENING

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THE MOST OVERLOOKED  
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE 14

## NEWS

SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS  
OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION 6

ADVENTIST RECORD | AUGUST 19, 2017  
ISSN 0819-5633

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## ABUSE IN THE PEWS

A recent Australian media report focusing on domestic violence in a religious context has gained lots of attention. The ABC report "'Submit to your husbands': Women told to endure domestic violence in the name of God", had a misleading headline and buried in the report was the fact that regular church attendees had a lower rate of abuse. Christians were immediately up in arms about the report, saying that no-one does more for the marginalised than them.

While that is true, it misses the point. Abuse in the church and in society should horrify us. We should speak up and stand up against it. Too often we are ignorant that the disease is festering in our own body.

The article was criticised as culturally inappropriate for quoting a study of United States evangelicals, so I dug up some facts that are more relevant.

In two studies surveying more than 2000 US Adventists (reported in *Adventist Review*, October 11, 2007), 61 per cent of respondents had suffered from controlling and demeaning behaviour, 42 per cent reported physical intimidation and violence, 26 per cent reported sexual victimisation and 22 per cent reported resource deprivation and the leverage of children at least once in their lives in an intimate adult relationship. Nine per cent said potentially lethal actions had been used against them.

These studies showed that intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs in Adventism at the same rate as society.

But let's bring this closer to home.

In 2015, Dr Barry Oliver, then president of the South Pacific Division, shared some sobering statistics in *Adventist Record* from our island territories. At a Church-sponsored event for female leaders, anonymous surveys revealed that 63 of the 93 women had been seriously abused and, at another event for teenage girls and women, 142 out of 145 reported abuse.

I heard more about these events from a senior women's ministry leader, who, with tears in her eyes, shared her experiences hearing these stories everywhere she travelled and her frustration that it keeps happening.

We can no longer excuse it as a cultural thing. The Church, with huge influence in the region, must stand

up and be one of the strongest voices against abuse in the Pacific. This can be a challenge when it is sometimes our own pastors and elders who are the abusers.

While there is no current data on IPV among Adventists in Australia and New Zealand, *Valuegenesis II*, a survey of Adventist students in those countries, found that 26 per cent of those surveyed had experienced physical abuse. While that number is less than the Pacific island *Valuegenesis* figure (37 per cent), it is disturbing that those in Australia and New Zealand who had been abused 10 times or more was 5.6 per cent compared to 2.8 per cent for the Pacific. And those stats have gone up in the past 20 years.

Child abuse is often linked to IPV—co-occurrence rates of domestic violence and child physical abuse in research have ranged from 40 per cent to 80 per cent. So IPV is happening in Adventist families.

I have many friends of other ethnicities, from good Adventist families, who laugh and joke about the beatings they received as kids, normalising violent behaviour. I will not get into the disciplining children debate here but there is a difference between a smack with an open hand and using a piece of furniture or closed fists.

We say "the Bible teaches against abuse so true Christians never would"—as if our right doctrine or peculiar message means that there is no-one among us who could be less than perfect. Our ideal is far from the reality. This is a spiritual battle.

If you call yourself a Seventh-day Adventist, you cannot abuse another human being—physically, verbally, mentally or spiritually. Church leaders must stand up and speak out against abuse of all kinds.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide has a special emphasis Sabbath to combat this scourge (August 26). But this problem needs more than a once-a-year march and sermon. Otherwise we inhibit our own efforts to share the gospel with the world, our loud voice is silenced and the abused remain comfortless.

**JARROD STACKELROTH**  
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cover credit:  
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**adventist record** is the  
official news magazine of the  
seventh-day adventist church's  
south pacific division

abn 59 093 117 689  
vol 122 no 17

## WHAT GRACE GAVE

"We would be eaten and could not enjoy the South Pacific if it wasn't for the work of Christian missionaries," a New Zealand diplomat said to me during a group bike ride in Fiji. Although not a Christian, the diplomat was sharing his appreciation for the work of the churches in the South Pacific. It's hard to imagine that, only a few generations ago, many cultures in the Pacific were cannibalistic. Today, they are some of the world's most hospitable.

However, in Australia and New Zealand Christianity is almost a minority.<sup>1</sup> Groups in these countries are trying to silence Christians in the name of equality, illustrated by recent news reports that children may be banned from sharing about Jesus or giving out Christmas cards in Queensland public schools.<sup>2</sup> What is our defence? How should Seventh-day Adventist Christians respond?

A member of the SPD executive committee suggested I check out the book *Civilization: Is the West History?* by Niall Ferguson. From the summaries I have read, Western Europe from the 15th century flourished because of competition, science, property, medicine, consumerism and work. What Ferguson does not highlight is that the change came because of the Protestant Reformation, which began 500 years ago.

It was the gospel of grace that gave value to all (not just the ruling elite). Grace gave the freedom to explore and learn. Grace gave people rights.

Western values were based on the Bible and rooted in the gospel. Western countries are considered the safest, most prosperous and free in the world. These values came about because the West was transformed by the gospel of Jesus. Now the values are just traditions. But if we cut the roots from the tree we know what happens to the tree. It is time for Adventists to speak and live out our values for the benefit of others.

1. Latest census data from Australia suggests they are.

2. [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au). "Christmas cards, Jesus talk, to be discouraged in inclusive Qld schools." July 27, 2017.

**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT



## POSITIVE RESPONSE TO TEACHER TRAINING

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

More than 100 teachers from Seventh-day Adventist Schools in Solomon Islands participated in a training workshop designed to encourage a renewed focus on the ideals for Adventist education and foster an appreciation of God's calling to teaching.

The three-day workshop included group work presentations, worship activities, an Adventist education forum and visits to schools. Of the 122 primary and secondary school participants, 53 per cent were trained in non-Adventist institutions. The teachers were from schools in Honiara and parts of Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces.

Trans Pacific Union Mission associate education director Mele Vaihola said this was the first time the workshop had been held in the Solomons. It was inspired by similar training held for Tonga Mission teachers at the beginning of the year.

Participants expressed appreciation for the program, saying it would help them back in the classroom.

"Thank you for the worship pro-



VISITING A SCHOOL.

gram. I am blessed as I have been teaching 10 years in public schools, thus this helps me a lot for myself, my class and my kids," said Samantha Buka from Betikama Adventist College.

Paul Dioko from Talakali Adventist Primary School described it as a very successful workshop. "I wish the office responsible shared plans and worked on more workshops like this for teachers in the coming years for all teachers," he said.

Kerry Thao from Kopiu Adventist High School said: "I learned a lot in this workshop and see where I fail to include the biblical learning tools. Therefore, after this I hope I will re-adjust my teaching using this."

## GENEROUS DONORS BREAK ADRA RECORD

JOSH DYE

Generous donors have contributed to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia receiving its largest ever total during the agency's end-of-financial year appeal.

The total amount donated tallied \$A996,758, just short of the \$1 million target.

ADRA Australia chief executive Mark Webster described the final figure as "incredible".

"Such an amazing result means thousands more people will flourish in Australia and overseas," Mr Webster said.

ADRA's campaign highlighted projects improving food security and drought resilience in Africa.

"Your generosity will empower more farmers to learn new agriculture techniques

to adapt to a changing climate and grow enough healthy food for their families.

"To those who gave generously, thank you so much. The impacts of your gift will be felt for generations to come."

The total received this year exceeded last year's figure by more than \$40,000.



FARMERS LIKE FLORENCE WILL BENEFIT FROM THE DONATIONS.

## ADVENTIST CHURCHES IN PNG FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP

VANIA CHEW/KEKE OMOA/RUSSELL WORUBA

Seventh-day Adventist churches are making disciples in Papua New Guinea, thanks to training sessions at Hohola church, run by visiting speaker Pastor Peter Roennfeldt and pastors Dr Leigh Rice and Wayne Krause from the South Pacific Division (SPD).

Five months after Pastor Roennfeldt conducted the initial seminar on discipleship, Central Papuan Conference (CPC) president Pastor Kove Tau invited the SPD team to return and witness how the discipleship framework was being implemented in local churches. Pastor Tau also requested they train the local pastors and provide them with appropriate resources. The training and resources are based on Pastor Roenn-



feldt's book *Following Jesus*.

"We must have the second phase of the movement-building seminar as our churches are embracing the concept and running with it," said Pastor Tau.

The Silva & Ted Wilson Memorial Adventist Church, pastored by Pastor Frank Lymbabian, has organised Sabbath School classes into residential zones and conducted Bible studies using the *Following Jesus* "Discovery Bible Reading" guide. As a result, the congregation has now planted more than 30 churches. Pastor Roennfeldt said spending Sabbath morning with the groups was "one of the highlights of the visit".

Meanwhile, Dr Rice witnessed church members at Tubusereia starting Bible studies underneath homes and beside betel nut markets under the leadership of their pastor, Steven Bana. He also had the opportunity to meet and train church members at Gordons church. When the appeal was made for members to start Bible study groups and begin disciple-making, a



row of Pathfinders responded to the appeal by raising their hands. An overwhelmed Dr Rice invited senior elder Abel Koivi to offer a special prayer of dedication for them.

Pastor Wayne Krause, SPD director of Mission to the Cities, was also thrilled with the excitement and commitment of the church members. He was able to accompany Conference secretary Pastor Rex Koi in visiting the Kinakon church plant at Pacific Adventist University.

"The major take-away from this was firstly the need to be intentional with discipleship and the nuances of dealing with change in the direction of ministry," said CPC communications director Russell Woruba. "Discipleship is not a change but what Jesus has called us to do from the very beginning."

## HIGH-TECH 'WAR ROOM' CENTREPIECE OF NEW SAN CANCER CENTRE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A high-tech "cancer war room" is the centrepiece of the new Integrated Cancer Centre (ICC) at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

The purpose-built multidisciplinary room, which cost about \$A1 million, is designed for specialist doctors to simultaneously review a cancer patient's case. Technology in the room allows the real time sharing of a range of information, such as pathology results and radiology images, from multiple sources to assist in diagnosis and treatment.

Associate Professor Gavin Marx, director of cancer services at the San, said it is now recognised worldwide that a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care helps increase survival outcomes and improves the patient experience.

"To achieve the best outcomes we need to be able to all work together in an efficient and collaborative manner. Our multidisciplinary meeting room is phenomenal," he said.

San information technology manager Barbara McKenzie said the room contained elements of audio visual technology that would be found in a video conferencing room, overlaid with crisis management technology.

Hospital CEO Phil Currie said the centre is a "world-class facility". "This is a special resource for our community," he said.

Planning for the ICC began 11 years ago and involved a significant fundraising effort. Dick Warburton, co-chairman of the San Foundation Capital Campaign, revealed that \$A23 million had been raised in donations



AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TREATMENT.

for the whole Centre.

Federal MP Paul Fletcher and state MPs Matt Kean and Alister Henskens were among the other guests at the event.

The multidisciplinary room is the last element of the hospital's \$A200 million-plus redevelopment that has taken place over the past few years.



# SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

ANJULI CRUZ

Sydney Adventist School (SAS) Auburn celebrated its 100th birthday on Sabbath, July 22.

The school campus buzzed with visitors throughout the day and evening events, with more than 400 people responding to the invitation to join in the festivities.

SAS Auburn principal Danyel Efstratiou said it was exciting to see so many people who were once part of the school reunited. "I was so happy to see

so many people come join us on the day, young and old, to honour those who worked with blood, sweat and tears to help create the school that is still standing after 100 years. I was very humbled and blessed."

The morning service included reflections from alumni who shared how their time at the school left an impact long after they had left. Adventist Schools Australia director Daryl Murdoch highlighted how the centenary was a wonderful achievement for Adventist education in Australia and for the small primary school.

Old photos flashed across the screen had the audience smiling and laughing throughout the service. Flowers were presented to some of the oldest alumni in attendance and those who had travelled the furthest.

The afternoon consisted of lunch, cake cutting and the unveiling of a plaque by Pastor Michael Worker, Australian Union Conference secretary and former Greater Sydney Conference president, and NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley. Mr Foley delivered a speech before the unveiling to commemorate the longstanding place the school has held in the Auburn community. In a letter to the school he wrote, "We are so fortunate here in Auburn that this community has been served by an Adventist school continuously for over a century."

Time was set aside in the afternoon for friends and families to catch up before a barbecue was held in the evening along with a program of performances to highlight the multicultural diversity of the students, families and communities that make up the school.



HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE CELEBRATION.



## Catalina Camp for the Deaf

OCTOBER 27-30, 2017

**Are you Deaf, hard of hearing, or an Auslan signer—and interested in Christian fellowship?**

If so, this camp\* is just for you. Enjoy worship, fellowship and fun at the Catalina Conference Centre, on the shore of Lake Macquarie, NSW, a facility with a fascinating wartime history.

Guest presenter is Jeff Jordan, pastor of Southern Deaf Fellowship in the USA, and associate coordinator of Deaf Ministry for the General Conference Special Needs Ministries, accompanied by his wife, Melissa, his interpreter.



**Presentations professionally interpreted into Auslan and spoken English.**

**Price** includes twin-share accommodation with catered meals

**Twin-share** \$330 (Early Bird \$280)

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Applications close October 2,  
**Early Bird,**  
August 30.

\*Operated by the SDA Deaf Church Down Under, in cooperation with Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired.



## ASIA-PACIFIC VISITORS DONATE \$US30,000

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Representatives of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (NSD) donated \$US20,000 to the Fiji Mission during a visit to the South Pacific Division (SPD) in July.

The donation will be used to purchase a portable PA system for the Mission, with the balance going towards equipment for the media centre. The group made a separate donation of \$US10,000 to Fulton College to purchase a digital panel for its multipurpose building.

The visitors, comprising 26 NSD officers, union presidents and their wives, began their tour in Sydney where they had a busy schedule, including meetings with SPD leaders, and tours of Adventist Media and Sydney Adventist Hospital.

SPD president Glenn Townend said it was great exchanging ideas with colleagues from Korea, China, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mongolia.

The following day they headed to the Central Coast and Cooranbong for tours of the Sanitarium factory, Ellen White's former home "Sunnyside" and Avondale College.

The group spent the weekend in



Fiji, visiting Fulton College and the Fiji Mission. Many of them preached at local churches on the Sabbath—a wonderful experience, according to NSD treasurer German Lust.

"I was assigned to a small and vibrant church and I was happy to see some adults and children responding to the call to accept Jesus and have baptism in the near future," he said.

SPD CFO Rod Brady said these types of collaborative exchanges are being encouraged by the General Conference (GC). "The GC are encouraging divisions to become more aware and interact with other areas of the world Church so that there is greater understanding and support between areas," Mr Brady said.

## GOOD NEWS FOR MARRIAGE AT FAMILY CONFERENCE

TRAFFORD FISCHER/VANIA CHEW

More than 80 Christian counsellors, therapists, social workers and pastors attended the 2017 National Christian Family Conference.

The conference ran July 10–11 at the Clinical Education Centre on the Sydney Adventist Hospital campus at Wahroonga.

International speaker Shaunti Feldhahn shared research-based data that highlighted the benefits of a healthy marriage, and explained how any couple can take their marriage from ordinary to awesome. Her books, including *For Women Only*, *For Men Only*, *Highly Happy Marriages* and *The Kindness Challenge*, have sold in their millions.

Conference coordinators Dr Bryan

Craig and Dr Trafford Fischer said Ms Feldhahn was a dynamic speaker and very much appreciated by all the conference attendees.

"She was enthusiastic, vibrant and committed to helping couples grow and flourish in their marriages," Dr Fischer said. "There was plenty of 'good news' about marriage."

The next conference will be held in July 2018.



SHAUNTI FELDHAHN.

## NEWS GRABS



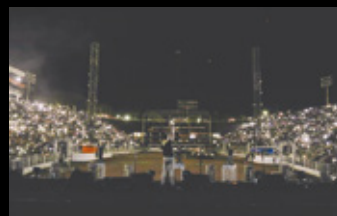
### NEVER TOO LATE

An Adventist couple from Alabama hit the headlines after their engagement photos went viral. Called "Never Too Late to Find Love", Adventist photographer Gianna Snell's photos of Cleveland Wilson, 70, and Lucinda Myers, 67, appeared on *Good Morning America*, CNN and international news organisations. —ANN.



### RASTAFARIANS RENEWED

More than 100 Jamaican Rastafarians received free health screenings, thanks to the efforts of a local Adventist member. Rohan McNellie manages the Three Angels Pharmacy Mobile Health Clinic and was pleasantly surprised to discover this order of Rastafarians worshipped on Sabbath and adhered to a vegetarian diet. —IAD



### PATHFINDER POWER

The largest Pathfinder Camporee ever to be held in Brazil saw a "city" created in the northern part of the state of São Paulo to accommodate campers. Approximately 23,000 people gathered for the event, though this was just a fraction of the approximately 100,000 people who viewed the camporee via livestream. —Adventist Review

## HOT TOPICS



### BIBLICALLY ACCURATE

Excavations at the Walls of Jerusalem National Park have confirmed the biblical account of the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. The Israel Antiquities Authority explained in late July that they found pottery, charred wood, bones and unique artefacts that date to the 6th century BC. —*The Christian Post*



### BAN ON MINI DISCIPLES?

Following a public outcry, Queensland's Education Minister Kate Jones has backed away from claims her department was planning to ban students from handing out Christmas cards and telling their friends about Jesus. The recommendations had come from a report on religious instruction in schools. —*Macquarie Media*



### PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

Christians in India are concerned that the newly elected President, Ram Nath Kovind will support Hindu Nationalism in the country. Although he is from the Dalit cast, traditionally friendly to minority groups, church leaders say his political ties would win out. —*Christianity Today*

## NEW WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS

JARROD STACKELROTH

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's South Pacific Division (SPD) has launched a new user-friendly website that makes it easy to find churches, resources and schools.

The website <adventistchurch.com> is a complete overhaul of the old website, with an emphasis on functionality and ease of access. Individual SPD departments have updated and revamped their pages as part of the overhaul.

The homepage features lots of images and focuses on the main things the Church is concerned with, so that those who stumble across the site can gain a quick understanding of what the Adventist Church is about.

"We have deliberately chosen to include lots of pictures of people [on the homepage]," said Adventist Media CEO Calvin Dever. "After all it's people who make up the Church."

The homepage combines video elements and images to tell the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"We wanted to make sure the homepage provided an opportunity for the public to see Adventists and understand some of the things that are important to

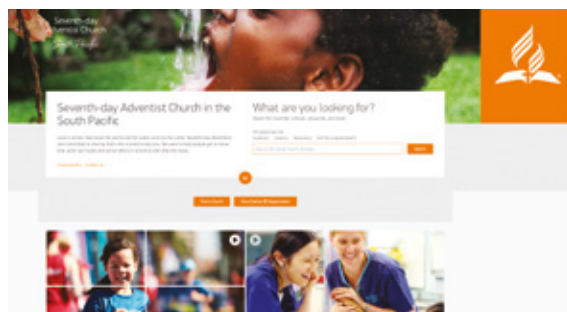
us—Jesus, the Bible, Sabbath, education, service and health," Mr Dever said.

"We also wanted to make sure people could easily find churches, schools, our departments/entities and most importantly the resources. As a result, search functionality is deeply embedded into the site and is prominent on the homepage."

The available resources include some of the most popular from the old site, such as information on Pathfinder and Adventurer honours.

The corporate information has not gone. It has simply moved to a dedicated site at <corporate.adventistchurch.com>.

A new system has also been developed to replace the old netAdventist websites for local churches. The system gives all churches in the SPD a web presence with connections to the Church's social media feeds.



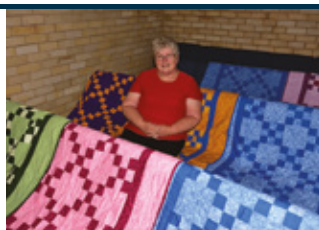


# FLASHPOINT



## RALLYING DISCIPLES

More than 500 young people gathered at Navesau Adventist High School (Fiji) on July 22 for the Secondary Adventist Students Association's (SASA) rally. Not only was the rally a chance for the young people to join together for fellowship and learning, but it was also a day of celebration as 75 students gave their life to Christ and were baptised in the Wainibuka River. "The outcome of the baptisms was through the continuous support of teachers, chaplains, parents, guardians and friends," said Pastor Fifita Vatulessi, youth director for the Fiji Mission. "These supporters empower the young people in their spiritual life and equip them to become vibrant disciples for Jesus." —TPUM



## PATCHWORK BLESSINGS

Students at Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College (NSW) recently received blessings from members of a Sydney church. At the 2016 North New South Wales Grey Nomads camp, Ryde church member Sandra Campbell started talking to Robyn Cullen from Chillingham, whose enthusiasm for the work being done at Currawah was contagious. Sandra wanted to help Robyn with her desire to provide all the students with their own patchwork quilt. Ryde Sabbath School financially adopted this project and Sandra made 12 beautiful quilts. Each has an embroidered panel on the back with the donor's favourite Bible text and a space for the student's name. The quilts were handed to Robyn at this year's Grey Nomads camp. —Marilyn Herrod



## FIRM FOUNDATION

Another milestone was recently reached for the Operation Food for Life (OFFL) ministry with the foundations being laid for their new Early Learning Centre. Located in the village of Kivori Poi (Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea), one of the most remote parts of the country, the two classrooms will be completed by the end of this month. OFFL currently operates a temporary bush literacy school in the village, which has 180 students and four teachers. "Since our inception our foundation has been and always will be built upon our faith-based partnership with God," said OFFL director Dennis Perry. "Now we place our hands in God's and seek His will in adding more permanent classrooms to accommodate the growing number of children." —Record staff



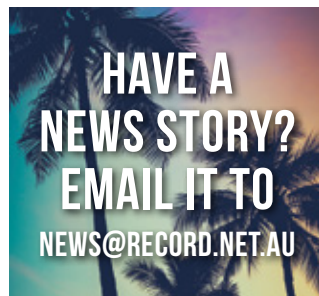
## PAGLUM POTHOLES

As part of a Total Membership Involvement program, teachers and students from Paglum Adventist Secondary School (near Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea) cleaned a 9km stretch of road. The road maintenance included drainage and patching potholes, with students also going into the nearby *ples singsing* (ceremonial gathering place) and conducting a thorough clean-up there. Elders from the surrounding tribes thanked the school for their concern and their work, and commended the Adventist education system for taking such an initiative. The Paglum school is now planning to conduct health education awareness programs and evangelistic meetings in their community. —Solomon Paul



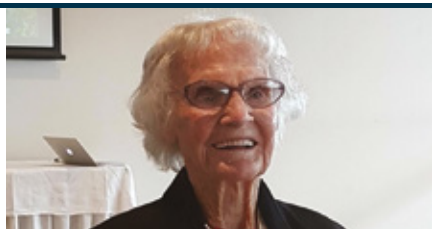
## SHARING JOY

The women's ministry team from Palmerston Seventh-day Adventist Church (Darwin, NT) recently found a way to connect with their local aged care facility. On Mother's Day, the team, along with the senior pastor, head elder and newly formed Adventurers Club, visited the Terrace Gardens aged care facility. Gifts, including flower pots, scarves, hair clips, lavender fragrance sachets and coat hangers, were handed out and many new friendships were established that day. This initiative touched many hearts but also opened the doors for the church to make regular visits where they continue to connect, sing and share with the residents. —Sean Tavai



## RUNNING FOR CHARITY

Runners from across the Northern Territory, North Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands participated in this year's Northern Australian Conference ADRA Fun Run. Just under 150 participants ran the 5km track around the scenic Ross River, raising funds for local ADRA projects. Plans are already underway for next year's event, with a fundraising element and prizes in the works. —Charlene Luluk



## 100 CANDLES

North New South Wales Conference member Miriam Chapman recently celebrated her 100th birthday, surrounded by family and friends. Over her lifetime, Miriam attended the Wallsend, Boolaroo and Hamilton churches, and now resides in Newcastle. Her birthday celebrations included a special lunch, musical items from her grandchildren and speeches. —Joan Cuskelly



## AORE ACADEMY BAPTISMS

Following a recent two-week evangelistic series held at Aore Adventist Academy (Vanuatu), 54 students and two staff members gave their lives to Christ. Reflecting on the seminar, a few long-serving staff members remarked that this was the first time such a meeting had ever taken place, and that it was a time of refreshing and revival for the school. —TPUM



# UNITY 2017: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**S**EVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST leaders from Australia and New Zealand were represented at the Unity 2017 conference, held June 15–18 at the Crown Plaza Heathrow, London, UK.

The conference was a combined union meeting to discuss three main issues: Church unity, Church authority and freedom of conscience—issues that grew out of decisions taken by the General Conference (GC) at the most recent annual council meetings. (See <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2016/10/12/unity-document-voted-through-at-annual-council/>)

“We felt the documents that were presented there about the issue of unity in the Church needed further discussion and more in-depth study,” said Dr Brad Kemp, president of New Zealand Pacific Union and a delegate at Unity 2017.

According to Dr Kemp, GC officers, as well as all world unions, were invited to the meetings, at which 15 unions and a number of conference representatives attended. Pastor Brett Townend, president of South Queensland Conference, attended from the Australian Union Conference.

Presenters from this region included

Dr Barry Oliver, former South Pacific Division president, Professor Ray Roennfeldt, president of Avondale College, and Dr Wendy Jackson, an Avondale lecturer whose dissertation was on Ellen White and unity.

Other presenters included Church historian and author George Knight, former GC officer Lyle Cooper, author and former *Adventist Review* employee Roy Adams, former secretary for the Trans-European Division, Reinder Bruinsma, Dr John Brunt and Dr Rolf Pohler.

“We wanted to be open, to encourage dialogue across the levels of the Church. We also let the GC and divisions know what we were doing and talking about,” said Dr Kemp.

According to Dr Kemp, the conference did not deal with the issue of women’s ordination itself but with other issues related to it, specifically Church unity, authority and freedom of conscience. These issues underpin the nature of the conversation within the Church given that the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) reported that the Church did not have a single position on the matter of women’s ordination but rather two positions (Read papers at <[\[ventistarchives.org/january-2014-papers-presented\]\(http://www.adventistarchives.org/january-2014-papers-presented\)>\).](http://www.ad-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

“The ability for the Church to continue to engage in open dialogue around these issues is a sign of its maturity,” Dr Kemp said.

“What is interesting is that when you look at our history as a Church, we began through sitting and talking together about issues—the Sabbath conferences. We’ve never been afraid to talk and discuss issues of importance. In the same way today we shouldn’t be afraid of coming together, studying the Scriptures and talking—this is our heritage.”

Each day the meetings began with an hour set aside for prayer and a devotional reflection, shared by Dr Gary Patterson, a retired GC field secretary. There was also time set aside throughout the day to pray and participants say all was conducted in a positive atmosphere.

When asked if this was a distraction to the mission of the Church, Dr Kemp responded: “I would say that these things have a big impact on the mission of the Church. The next generation is being disenfranchised, particularly our younger women, because they see that their Church is on the wrong side of the moral issue of gender equality. All three issues we discussed [Church unity, authority and freedom of conscience] are significant in how the Church does its work.”

With another GC annual council approaching, the question for those attending Unity 2017 is, where to from here?

“The next step is to see what meaningful dialogue we can have with the GC and see what happens at annual council,” said Dr Kemp.

“We have a small group who will continue working on a suitable response that will provide the basis for ongoing conversation. In the meantime we remain focused on mission and pursuing the mission of the Church.”

**JARROD STACKELROTH** EDITOR, ADVENTIST RECORD



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A... **BIG CAMP CHEF**

**NAME:** JOSH RADFORD

**JOB:** SOUS CHEF AT  
AVONDALE COLLEGE +  
OWNER OF BIG J'S CATERING.

**WHERE:** AVONDALE COLLEGE,  
COORANBONG, NSW



Josh and wife Melissa ready for Mexican Madness night at Brisbane big camp.

## WHAT'S YOUR JOB?

Boss of the big camp kitchen, slave driver, task master, belly filler, chef extraordinaire (my wife told me to say that!) and gluten steak king!

I've done catering at Northern Australia, North NSW and South Queensland big camps and also for the Grey Nomads camp at Stuarts Point, NSW.

## WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU?

Wake up at 6am.

Organise staff and prepare breakfast for the delegates.

Pack up breakfast and clean up.

Organise staff and start lunch prep.

Serve lunch to camp public and delegates in the dining room, all the while thinking about what to make for the next meal.

Clean up after lunch and prepare dinner for an unknown number.

Clean up after dinner—last night I was up until 12:30am making gluten steaks!!

Three or four nights during big camp, I organise and cater for functions for the different tents. Tonight

is pizza night at the Primary tent; we're making 35

pizzas. So it's Italian for dinner in the camp kitchen! Yum!

## BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNT?

It's hard to please everybody all the time.

## BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

This week I get to work with my wife; and trying to make the people of the Northern Australia Conference big camp happy.

## ANY CHALLENGES BEING A BIG CAMP CHEF?

Trying to cater for people with (food) intolerances and trying to get enough sleep!!

## FAVOURITE FOODS?

Mum's chips, chops and eggs, and dagwood dogs—veggie of course! Haha.

## WHAT IS YOUR SIGNATURE DISHES?

Gluten steaks and mock fish.

## WHAT'S THE SECRET TO THE PERFECT GLUTEN STEAKS?

French onion soup mix—and I can't tell you any more, otherwise I'll have to charge you! Haha.

## IF YOU HAD THREE INGREDIENTS ONLY, WHAT WOULD YOU MAKE?

Scones!! Flour, cream and lemonade. 3 cups of flour, 1 cup of cream and 1 cup of lemonade.

## HOW DID YOU GET INTO COOKING?

My mum is a fantastic cook and I always wanted to cook like her. And my gran! She knew how to cook a mean fritter!

## WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A CHEF?

Don't be a chef . . . hahaha!

Work hard, be dedicated, listen to your boss and turn up to your shift on time.

Have a good attitude and always laugh in the kitchen! Know that sometimes you can't control the situation. Be patient. Be passionate about what you do.



# SAVING SABBATH SCHOOL:

## How to bring back life and vitality

**S**ITTING WITH MY HUSBAND IN Sabbath School recently, we were struck by how few people were there. It's a large church, making the many empty pews especially apparent. It was the same story the following week. And the next. Actually, it has been like that for some time. But it's a different story for the worship service—by the time the 11am service begins many of the empty pews have been filled.

After speaking to a few of my friends I soon realised that ours was not an isolated case; it's happening in many of our churches. Skipping Sabbath School has become the norm for many Adventists it seems. (The exception are children's Sabbath Schools, which continue to attract healthy numbers.)

So why are people not bothering to go? Is it simply that they are struggling to get out of bed on Sabbath mornings?

The answer is yes for some people but that's not the only reason, according to Dr Leigh Rice, who holds the Sabbath School portfolio within the South Pacific Division's Discipleship Ministries team.

"I think that often what happens in Sabbath School is dull and predictable," he said.

According to Dr Rice, many church-

es have forgotten that the original Sabbath School model was set up for four purposes: Bible study, world mission, fellowship and community service. Most are excelling in the area of Bible study, which is a good thing, but are overlooking the other three, especially community service.

"Sabbath School needs to have a local community engagement focus and I think that's an area that many Adventist churches have backed right away from," he said.

"Whereas I think that's what gives life and vitality and heart to Sabbath School, people coming back from those engagements in the community.

"Where there is good attendance Sabbath School is alive and people are engaged in it. It's wholistic in its approach; it's not just a narrow focus on the Bible study and neglecting the other aspects."

Being more community-focused might even involve closing the doors of the church every now and then.

"For example, a church in American Samoa has made the decision to close its doors once a month and the members go out into their own villages and do their Sabbath School, sing their songs and connect with the community," Dr Rice said.

"And it looks like they will be planting some new churches there as

a result of those initiatives of actually just getting out of the church and into the community."

Dr Rice believes Sabbath School should be a place where people share their stories of community involvement, which would help to inspire and reinvigorate the church. It should also be a training ground where members learn basic skills of community engagement and sharing their faith.

"I think it needs to be intentional. I think anything that gives a church more outward focus is going to be good for them. People are never going to have vibrant spiritual lives simply by spending more time reading the Bible and praying. There needs to be activity as well and, in the Christian life, that activity is community engagement.

"In Australia there are a few places where Sabbath School has gone through some revitalisation and positive things are happening but it takes a really intense focus on the part of the church."

So is your church up for the challenge?

\* Share your thoughts on Sabbath School by emailing <editor@record.net.au>.

**TRACEY BRIDCUTT** HEAD OF NEWS AND EDITORIAL

📧 @tracey\_findlay





## THE SCHOOL WITH TRENCHES

IT HAS BEEN 75 YEARS SINCE Darling Downs Christian School (DDCS) opened its doors in Toowoomba (Qld) to welcome its first 17 students—16 boys and one girl.

Established in March 1942, just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the school was given a blueprint for holistic education by its founders, the South Queensland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Plans were made in faith and parents welcomed the opportunity to send their children to a small school with Christian values.

Following the fall of Singapore (February 15) and the twin raids on Darwin (February 19), two slit trenches were dug at the back of the school to be used in the event of an air raid and regular drills were carried out.

The school's first teacher and principal, Wanda Niebuhr, was born in Tahiti in 1898. Miss Niebuhr was teaching in Papua New Guinea when war broke out and she was recalled to Australia. She arrived in Toowoomba with one small case containing just two changes of clothing while she awaited the arrival of the rest of her belongings some six weeks later.

There was a cane in the classroom but Miss Niebuhr was renowned for never using it. Instead, she had a more effective form of discipline. Most of the boys earned a lot of pocket money after school by selling newspapers to the hundreds of American soldiers who were stationed in Toowoomba at the time. For

them, the threat of detention after school was a much bigger deterrent than any cane.

Student fees that year were roughly \$A1.56 per term, being heavily subsidised by the local Seventh-day Adventist church, the governing church body and Sanitarium Health Food Company. When the school's first tuckshop eventually opened some years later, its menu consisted of six different sandwiches, all 20 cents each, and two cordials (orange and blackcurrant) at 10 cents a cup.

DDCS will hold a commemorative 75th Anniversary Day on Friday, October 27. Coinciding with World Teachers' Day, it will include a historical re-enactment, plaque unveiling and speeches from past and present students and staff.

"We would love as many of our alumni—staff and students—to join us," DDCS principal Adrian Fitzpartick said.

The day will be followed by an evening service at Glenvale Seventh-day Adventist Church and Community Centre, with a special anniversary service to be held on Sabbath, October 28. This will be followed by an alumni picnic lunch and a community bush dance on the school grounds.

For more information, please contact the school on 07 4659 1111 or email [admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@ddcs.qld.edu.au).

**ELISSA DOWLING** WORKS AT DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

## DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

### DANIEL 7: ANTI-CHRIST

Facing the horns of a charging bull is definitely not a good place to be. Daniel 7's four beasts, placed alongside the four metals of Daniel 2, a ram, a goat and a horn of Daniel 8, represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. From among the 10 horns on the fourth beast came a nasty little horn "against" the Most High, His people, and His laws.

**Read Daniel 2:31-45; 7:3-8, 25; 8:3-12, 20-25.**

Last study we discovered that Daniel's Son of Man and the Most High were one and the same, for what was said of the Son of Man was also said of the Most High. Jesus applied Daniel's Son of Man title to Himself. Since the little horn is "against" the Most High or the Son of Man, he is "against" Christ and is therefore the "anti-christ".

**Read Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14, 27; Matthew 26:64.**

Anyone opposed to God's people or church is "against" Christ, for they are His body. Anyone opposed to God's law is "against" Christ for it is His law of freedom. Anyone bringing in "another gospel" or way of salvation is "against Christ" for He alone is the Saviour of the world. All of which led the Protestant reformers to identify the Church of Rome as the anti-christ.

**Read Ephesians 1:22, 23; Acts 9:1, 4; John 14:15; Galatians 1:6-9.**

Determine never to accept another gospel or be opposed to Christ's church or His law and prophets, for if we do we will one day be part of the anti-christ system.



DECORATED HOUSE PLATFORM AT CATALHÖYÜK WITH BULL HORN INSTALLATIONS. AS IN DANIEL 7, HORNS WERE SYMBOLS OF POWER IN ANCIENT TIMES. IMAGE BY VERITY CRIDLAND 2.0 GENERIC (CC BY 2.0).

A photograph of two men sitting at a wooden table in a cafe. The man on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The man on the right, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, is listening intently. On the table are two black coffee cups, a laptop, and a tablet. In the background, another person is visible working at a counter.

# LISTENING:

## The most overlooked spiritual discipline

**D**O YOU WONDER IF GOD EVER feels like standing at the top of His celestial staircase and calling down to the world, “Would everybody please listen”?

Our lives are continually surrounded by noise. It interferes with our purpose and gets in the way of fulfilling God’s purpose on earth. There is only one way to turn down the noise of our own incessant chatter—the spiritual disciplines referred to in Scripture.

But one spiritual discipline virtually never mentioned in popular lists even though it is featured often in Scripture is the discipline of listening and hearing, two words treated synonymously in the Bible. These two words are mentioned about 700 times—about 500 are in the imperative or instructive form, as a practice to be followed. Listening is implied in such disciplines as prayer, contemplation and meditation, but listening as a discipline in its own right often becomes obscured. Some of the better-known texts include the great *Shema*, the prayer that forms the

centrepiece of Jewish prayer services: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one,” (Deuteronomy 6:4),\* and the New Testament repetitions of “Whoever has ears, let them hear” (Matthew 11:15; Mark 4:9; Revelation 2:7; 3:6).

### THE FRUIT OF LISTENING

As self-centred beings, we have a desperate need to hear from the Source of truth. Even as Christians, we find it easy to confuse our own will and desires with those of God.

Indeed, the greatest damage to the name of God is good people doing bad things in His name. Hence the Bible’s emphasis on listening, hearing and “giving ear” to God in order to avoid, or at least minimise, our tendency to confuse our will with that of God. Psalm 19 explores at length how listening to the law, instruction and statutes of God refresh, make wise, give joy to, and enlighten the soul and heart, helping us to discern error and overcome even our hidden faults.

### HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD

Listening to God is a discipline requiring practice. The primary way to do so is *through the Word*, written and spoken. The Word provides the standard by which to measure all other sources of hearing God, hence its absolute centrality.

*The Spirit* is the second way of hearing God: through solitude, prayer and confession, the Spirit of Truth speaks directly into our heart’s ears.

*Spiritual mentors* are another way for us to hear the word of God, as we practise submission and mutual accountability. Mentors are a key feature in the development of spiritual discernment of biblical leaders, from Joshua to Samuel to Elisha, and from the 12 apostles to Timothy.

The final way is through *experience*—trial and error. Road-testing the will of God is vital but must always be subject to the other ways of listening in order to prevent us from making God into our own image and, thus, hearing from God what we would like



Him to say. Too often we road-test first instead of using the Word, the Spirit and our mentors to help discriminate between the promptings of our own limited understanding and those that are genuinely from God.

### A THREE-WAY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Listening is a way of *connecting with God*. But learning to hear God can be difficult: He is not present in the flesh, and for many, He rarely speaks audibly. Yet, there are other dimensions to spiritual listening—and all contribute to our capacity to hear God. They also expand our capacity to grow personally and minister effectively.

Listening to God can be practised by learning to *hear each other*. Biblical listening is associated with relationship and empathy between humans (Job 31:35; Genesis 23:13–15; 42:22) and with romantic love (Song of Solomon 2:14; 8:13). The Bible encourages listening in order to have listening reciprocated (Judges 9:7) and notes that silence comes as a pathway to wisdom and understanding (Job 33:31, 33; 34:2, 10, 16). Having the mindset of God in place of our own is something we should bring to our relationships with each other. The whole concept of biblical mentoring is premised on listening to each other.

Frequently, in conversation we are simply waiting for a gap where we can jump in and say our piece, which we are composing while the other speaks. We are still in our own mindset. We are not really listening. We need to practise hearing each other, for others are the concrete realisation of the presence of God. Doing someone the favour of actually listening to them is as Christian an act as giving food to the hungry and visiting the prisoner in jail.

There are many biblical concepts that are counterintuitive to sinful humanity—one being, the leader is servant of all. It is a paradox: I *feel* powerful when I talk; I *am* powerful when I listen. In another counterintuitive truth, the higher the position of leadership, the more the leader needs to listen. Usually we associate leadership with

talking and following with listening. But while powerful preaching can change a church, sensitive listening will more likely bring about better and more committed transformation.

The last form of hearing encouraged by the Bible flows from this: *to listen to oneself*. Soul awareness (1 Samuel 1:15; Job 7:11; Psalms 31:9; 35:3; 42; 62:1–5; 130:5; 131:2; Proverbs 19:8) is associated with satisfaction and renewed life (Isaiah 55:2,3). Listening to myself allows me to identify my needs and have them addressed instead of redirected and ignored. In so doing, I am in a better state to welcome and receive God's healing love and grace.

Traditionally, Protestant Christians have been nervous about any inward focus out of fear of pride and self-sufficiency. But the largest book of the Bible also contains the greatest density of introspective language. Imagine the Psalms without their powerful expressions of the poets' own soul. Try removing all of the "I, me, my" statements from the Psalms and see how poorly and ineffectively they read. It was in recognising their own pain, distress, anger and joy that the psalmists burst into song, sought the Lord with passion and praised His name with abandon.

### JESUS, THE MASTER LISTENER

The Gospels are filled with Jesus' experiences as a listener. First, He listened to His Father. Jesus insisted that His entire ministry on earth was simply carrying out the will of the Father, and all He taught was merely what He had heard from His Father (John 6:38; 7:16). Doing that must have involved a lot of listening on His part. He noted that even the Spirit worked in the same way, only reflecting what He had heard (John 16:13). There are also many references to Jesus praying, sometimes for many hours, even all night (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; Matthew 14:23). While we do not know the specific content of those hours, He cannot have been talking the whole time; a good part of His prayer time was listening. In Gethsemane, He prayed to be relieved of the agony of

the cross. But He accepted it, demonstrating that He was listening to the will of the Father.

Second, *Jesus listened to others*. Having listened to His Father, His heart was hypersensitive to those around Him, to the point where He could hear their unspoken, even unrealised, cries. Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Zaccheus, and the paralytic who was let down through the roof, among many others, had their appeals to Him answered; not just in full but beyond what they had articulated. In hearing their very souls' cry, Jesus best demonstrated the loving heart of His Father.

Third, *Jesus was sensitive to the speaking of His own soul*. He could tell the difference in His spirit between a purposeful touch and the random shoving of the crowd (Luke 8:45,46). His many hours in prayer testify to His awareness of His own need of the Father. He grieved over an unrepentant Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37). In the Garden of Gethsemane, He begged for relief from the impending cross. At Calvary, He articulated His thirst.

### GOD, THE ULTIMATE LISTENER

Ever wondered why God is powerful? It has much to do with Him being a listening God. He is "El Shama" or "Ishmael", "the God who hears me" (Genesis 16:11); the Word made flesh (John 1:1–3); and the Comforter, sent to convict and guide (John 16:12–15). God listens more than the rest of the universe put together. He hears every human prayer; He hears a sparrow fall; He keeps track of the ever-decreasing number of hairs on my head (Luke 12:6,7). We find the uniqueness of the Christian faith right here in God's eagerness not just to tell us things but to demonstrate to us that our cry for salvation has been heard. God made Himself manifest and dwelt among us. God was so serious about listening to His children that He became one of us.

### DANIEL REYNAUD AND PAUL BOGACS

LECTURE AT AVONDALE COLLEGE. THIS IS AN EDITED VERSION OF A PAPER PUBLISHED IN *MINISTRY*.

# MONEY MATTERS



## Handling money society's way or God's way?

**W**HEN IT COMES TO MANAGING money, we know it can be very difficult in this modern world. However, if you feel tempted to manage your money like everyone else, it's important to know what God has to say about it.

The Bible teaches us to live our lives somewhat differently to how the world does. That's especially true when it comes to money.

The Bible says in Hebrews 13:5 and Exodus 20:17 that we are to practise contentment and not to covet other people's possessions. Advertisers, however, make us want the life we see in their commercials. We feel unfulfilled and discontented, so we hand over the cash, hoping to buy happiness.

The Bible tells us in Exodus 20:3,4 and Matthew 6:24 to worship God above all else and not to worship idols. People often make their material possessions, especially money, into gods

without even realising it.

When it comes to managing money, be it saving, giving or debt, it's no different. The world says one thing but the Bible points to a better way, a way that glorifies God and helps us live a more fulfilled and joyful life (Galatians 6:8).

It's tough trying to resist the world's ways when it comes to managing money. We've all experienced temptation in this area and have fallen at some point. That's why it's so important to keep the principle of honouring God with our finances at the front of our minds.

The next time you feel the world trying to take your money out of God's hands, remember these three points.

**SOCIETY SAYS: YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE! INDULGE FIRST AND SAVE LATER.**

**BIBLE SAYS: PAY YOURSELF BY SAVING. THEN ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOUR.**

According to the Australian Bureau

of Statistics (ABS) Household Expenditure Survey 2009–10, around a quarter (24 per cent) of households currently experience financial stress, often associated with paying bills, raising emergency money or having to ask friends, family or community organisations for financial assistance. For low-income households, servicing debt accounts for 43 per cent of their disposable income, almost doubling since 2004. More than half of households couldn't live without their income for just one month without borrowing. Wow! Lots of people definitely prioritise the present over the future.

Proverbs 21:20 says, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." And, according to Proverbs 13:11, "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it."

It's okay to have some enjoyment with your money, if you have budgeted



for it, and as long as you pay yourself first by tucking some of your money into savings. 1 Corinthians 16:2 says, "On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come."

**SOCIETY SAYS: SPEND ALL YOUR MONEY ON YOU. THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL HAVE ANYTHING LEFT OVER!**

**BIBLE SAYS: GIVE 10 PER CENT OFF THE TOP AND WORK TOWARD BEING ABLE TO GIVE EVEN BEYOND THAT.**

Here's the truth about giving: No-one gives accidentally. They're intentional about it. That means that when they budget their money each month, they set aside 10 per cent of their income to give first, even before they save it. That's the instruction in Proverbs 3:9,10 (NKJV): "Honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine." And in Malachi 3:10, God tells us that those first fruits should be a tenth of what we produce.

Lots of people say they don't have enough money to give. But the problem might be that they don't make it a priority. If giving doesn't happen first, the money will never be there. That's part of why just 5 per cent of all adults have tithed. Among born-again Christians, that number is still only 12 per cent. If you're struggling with giving, I highly recommend a terrific book on this subject by Pastor Robert Morris entitled *The blessed life*.

Giving isn't a priority in the world, but it's a priority to God.

**SOCIETY SAYS: DEBT IS A TOOL TO ACCUMULATE THINGS YOU COULDN'T OTHERWISE HAVE.**

**BIBLE SAYS: DEBT IS BAD. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOOD DEBT.**

Over the past several decades, debt has been marketed so heavily that many people feel like they can't survive without it! In fact, the ratio of household debt to disposable income has almost tripled since 1988, from 64 per cent to 185 per cent. Eight in 10 people have debt, and seven in 10

believe it's necessary. But debt has also forced people to delay or avoid expensive life events like marriage or kids, and has caused bankruptcy, divorce and all kinds of other messes.

With regards to biblical scripture on debt, Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender." Other texts on the subject include: Deuteronomy 15:6: "For the Lord your God will bless you as He has promised you, and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you"; Proverbs 17:18: "A man lacking in sense pledges and becomes guarantor in the presence of his neighbour"; and Proverbs 22:26,27: "Do not be among those who give pledges, among those who become guarantors for debt. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take your bed from under you?"

Here is my eight-step plan in managing money that I teach and personally live by. It can be applied in any country or economy.

**STEP 1. Create a plan and get onto a written budget!**

Proverbs 27:23 says, "be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds." In other words, have a clue of what you are doing, have a plan!

**STEP 2. Create an emergency fund of \$2000**

An emergency fund is for those unexpected events in life that you can't plan for, such as a faulty car transmission or the loss of a job. This is only our small, initial emergency fund to make sure we don't put these costs back onto the credit card and start the debt cycle all over again.

**STEP 3. Pay off all debt besides the mortgage**

At this step, we are going to list all your debts excluding the mortgage from the smallest balance to the largest balance. Don't worry about the interest rate unless the two debts have a similar balance. If that's the case, then list the debt with the highest rate first.

**STEP 4. Create a fully funded**

**emergency fund of 3-6 months of expenses**

Once you complete the first three baby steps, you'll have built serious momentum. Don't start throwing all your "extra" money into investments yet. It's time to build your full emergency fund. Step 4b: Save for a house deposit.

**STEP 5. Invest 15 per cent of pre-tax household income into retirement savings**

When you reach this step, you'll have no payments except the house and a fully funded emergency fund. Now it's time to get serious about building wealth.

**STEP 6. Start saving for the kids' tertiary education**

If you have children or plan to have children, it's wise to begin saving even a small amount on a regular basis when they're young. This would be one of the best gifts you could give a child; it will give them a head start in life.

**STEP 7. Pay the home off early**

Now it's time to begin allocating all your extra money towards the mortgage. At this stage, you are getting closer to realising the dream of a life with no house payments.

**STEP 8. Build wealth and give**

It's time to build wealth and give like never before, be a good steward of the blessings you've received and leave an inheritance for future generations. Bless others now with your excess—it's really the only way to live! As the Bible says in Proverbs 13:22, "A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous."

The Bible is full of wisdom about handling money, so next time you're wondering what to do with your finances, don't worry about what society says; instead turn to His Word. It's really all the guidance you need.

Facts sourced from the Bank for International Settlements, the Barna Research Group and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**STEVE ANDREWS** IS A FINANCIAL TRADER AND INVESTOR WHO ATTENDS MT GRAVATT CHURCH, BRISBANE, QLD.



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## PLANT POWERED PROTEIN

One of the common myths about a vegetarian diet is that it's hard to get enough protein. But nothing could be further from the truth! The fact is, it's quite easy to get enough protein in a plant-based diet, with the added bonus that it comes with a healthy dose of dietary fibre.

When we mention protein most people think of meat but protein is also found in a wide range of plant foods, which are a much healthier package than their animal counterparts. In the past it was also believed that specific plant foods needed to be combined at meals for their protein to be useful. We now know that if a wide range of plant foods is consumed across the day, the body is quite capable of efficiently combining and using the protein they contain.

More than a century ago, it was believed that we all needed at least 120g of protein daily. The truth is we need much less than this and if enough calories are eaten as part of a varied plant-based diet, enough protein will also be consumed.

Currently, the World Health Organisation recommends a healthy adult aims for 0.83g of protein per 1 kg of body weight. For an 80kg man that's about 66g of protein and for a 65kg woman that's about 54g a day.

For athletes and those recovering from injury or illness, protein requirements can be increased and if this is you, it's important to discuss this with your health professional. But what doesn't change is the ability of plant foods to provide all the protein needed as a part of a healthy, balanced diet.



*Legumes are a great plant-based source of protein. They're also linked to longevity. One study found that every 20g increase of legumes daily was associated with an 8 per cent reduction in risk of death!*

### WHAT DOES 65G OF PROTEIN LOOK LIKE?



#### BREAKFAST

Porridge (½ cup rolled oats, 1 cup fat-free soy milk) = 16g  
 2 teaspoons flaxseed = 1g  
 Fruit = 1g  
**Total = 18g**



#### LUNCH

Vegetable stir-fry with tofu = 14g  
 Brown rice (1 cup) = 6g  
 Orange = 1g  
**Total = 21g**

#### SNACK

Fruit = 1g



#### DINNER

Potato and leek soup = 6g  
 Fat-free soy milk (1 cup) = 8g  
 Whole wheat bread (2 slices) = 5g  
 Cashew nuts (small handful) = 6g  
**Total = 25g**

**DAILY TOTAL: 65G**

**Sanitarium**  
 health & wellbeing



## ONE THING

*Nice article: "I don't believe in climate change . . ." (Feature, July 29) ! There is one thing that I wish was different about this "debate" among Christians. (Actually it's a false debate as there's only one coherent narrative consistent with the evidence but that's another matter.)*

*And my "one thing" is this. When Christians argue against the evidence/narrative for anthropogenic global warming, they are doing nothing that benefits the case for God or makes Christianity appear more compelling. All they are doing is shooting their cause*

*in the foot.*

*In contrast, as Christians we can afford to go out on a limb for our belief in Creation. While there are some severe obstacles for belief around a Creation narrative, at least it presents a more compelling picture of a loving God who doesn't create through Darwinian means—ie, survival of the fittest.*

*But there is no logical, pragmatic or biblical reason for the Christian to question the compelling scientific evidence that humans are causing dangerous climate change.*

*Daniel Livingstone, NSW*

## HEALTH ISSUES

I note with some concern what seems to be the regular early passing of Church employees in Papua New Guinea from health issues.

I wonder if the Church at the appropriate administrative level has a policy in place that recommends employer-paid medical check-ups at regular intervals. I know the South Pacific Division has this in place for Australian and NZ pastors.

Surely, valuable workers for the Lord's work should be accorded this privilege.

*Errol Singer, NSW*

## ENGAGING IN THE WORK

It was lovely to read about my husband's ordination, "Camp Ordination", in the Flashpoint section of *Adventist Record* (July 15).

Just to clarify one point, I went to Karalundi not as an exchange student from Papua New Guinea but as part of a delegation from Morobe Mission in partnership with the Western Australian Conference. I was already serving as a chaplain with Morobe Mission.

As part of the delegation/WAC-Morobe Mission partnership we would like to highlight the conference/mission partnerships within

the AUC and PNGUM. These partnerships are immensely beneficial to both conferences in many areas, including in ongoing professional experience and practice for the gospel work as a world-wide church family on a wider scale than might be normally available locally.

*Diana Stahl, SA*

## MISSION NEEDS

As a former industrial arts teacher, I appreciate the effort that went into restoring the model of the *Melanesia* and ensuring it to be so realistic to the original—"A Model for Mission: Remembering the Melanesia" (July 1).

John Hammond said the model is a reminder of the "mission that is so vital to us". "Today we fly aeroplanes and drive cars, back then we sailed on the *Melanesia*."

Mission boats were used nearly exclusively to spread the gospel in the islands of the South Pacific from 1917 until the 1980s, by when they were all sold.

I grew up in PNG where my mission president father spent years operating three different mission boats in serving mission needs. In 2014 the PNGUM commissioned me to prepare a

report on the feasibility and need for a mission boat for the South West Papuan Mission. It was strikingly clear that the work of the gospel is being hindered by lack of transport in a region with hardly any roads, rough seas, flooded rivers and heavy rainfall. This resulted in: lack of pastoral visitation, inability to provide SS supplies, and non-collection of tithes and offerings.

So where planes can't go and when there are no roads for cars, it is evident that the proven method of the mission boat is again needed today.

*Roy Richardson, Qld*

## MISSED OPPORTUNITY

This could have been a great article—"I don't believe in climate change . . ." (Feature, July 29).

Before I comment further, let me just clarify that I do believe in climate change. I also fully support the sentiment that we are stewards of creation to the extent that I: live off the grid; grow my own food; drink from and bathe in water from my own creek; recycle as much as possible; and, am heavily involved in wildlife rescue and care.

This article would have

had real punch if the author would have acknowledged that climate change is the result of sin. The author missed the opportunity to "rally the troops" to spread the three angels' messages, which contain the ultimate antidote to death, decay and a groaning creation.

Implement environmentally friendly policies or write to your local politician if you must, but don't place these actions above our commission to spread the three angels' messages.

At the end of the day, which of the following will disadvantaged nations and people thank you for: putting solar panels on church roofs or bringing them the message of eternal life? I know which one God will hold us accountable for . . .

*A E Hobbs, via website*

**NOTE:** Views in "Have your say" do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Comments should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All comments are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all comments received are published.

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**VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE IS NOT OK!**

# KIDS SPACE



## END IT NOW!

Our Church says NO to hurting others - hurting with your voice, with your actions or by not showing love and care for one another makes Jesus sad. You should always feel safe in your home, your Sabbath School and your Church. If you don't feel safe, make sure you talk to an adult you trust. Jesus loves you so much and is not happy with those who hurt children. Your Church says NO to violence and child abuse.

### WHAT IS ABUSE?

Kicking or hitting, bullying or ignoring or when someone enters your personal space without your permission.

### WHICH FACE IS YOURS?

DRAW THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE HEADS. THEN CIRCLE WHICH FACE BEST REFLECTS HOW YOU FEEL.



ANGRY



WORRIED



SAD



HAPPY

### MEMORY VERSE

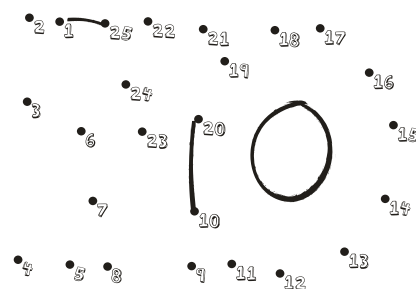
"Anyone who welcomes one child like this for my sake is welcoming me. But if anyone leads astray one of these little children...he would be better off thrown into the depths of the sea with a millstone tied around his neck!"

Matthew 18:5-6

Give this to someone you trust.

### DOT-TO-DOT

SAY \_\_\_\_\_ TO VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE.



### THIS IS HOW I FEEL

You are someone I can trust to help me.  
I would like to tell you how I feel.

Please circle.

HAPPY

LONELY

CONTENT

ANGRY

SAD

WORRIED

GRATEFUL

ABUSE

EXCITED

SCARED

Our Church says NO to violence and child abuse. If you have received this from someone today, you need to act on it. Be a voice to someone who feels they can't speak.





my  
story

## I PRAYED FOR A BIBLE . . .

**M**Y NAME IS SHATRINA JONES. I am 29 and I grew up in Timber Creek, a remote Northern Territory community.

I never attended church; the only thing that brought me close was a funeral. My family was very cultural. My grandfather was an Aboriginal elder but he was also a pastor back in the '70s so I guess that's why I knew a little about Jesus.

When I was 12 my parents split up. Mum took me and my siblings to live with her family. That's when I went to my first church but I didn't understand much about Christianity. At 17 I started smoking because the other girls were doing it. At 18 my family arranged for me to marry a young bloke through our cultural ways. I had never been with anyone before him. I had my baby boy at the age of 19 but I broke it off with his father because I realised he didn't love me. I chose to raise my son Joel on my own. When he was about five-years-old I started drinking and eventually using drugs, mostly marijuana.

I loved to party and I thought I was so cool. I started getting into public fights and twice ended up locked up in a cell. One night my sister and I got into a big argument with my family and they kicked us out of the community.

So we went to stay with our sister in the city. I began to question my life but I was still partying. We moved on to Daly River, then on to Katherine, still drinking and smoking marijuana.

In Katherine, I thought, *I'm just going in circles. Is there more to life than this?* I was searching on YouTube for gospel music when I came across a song called "I surrender" by Hillsong United. The song touched my heart and tears started to flow down my cheeks. I thought about all the bad things I had done. I went online to find a prayer to give my heart to the Lord. I read it and then and there I surrendered my all to the Lord Jesus. Then I started doing Bible studies. I didn't have a Bible so I downloaded a Bible app on my phone.

I prayed for someone to come with a Bible. A couple of days later Marian Jones and Sue Wilson (literature evangelists) came to our door selling Bibles. After ordering my Bible they gave us a little book I really liked. It was the story of a little Aboriginal girl named Bett Bett who talked to the stars. I read it that night. At the end of the book Bett Bett talked about the Sabbath. I was confused so I prayed to God to explain it to me. The next morning Marian and Sue came back and happily explained it to me.

That night, I went to a Sunday church. I asked the pastor's wife about the Sabbath but she quickly shut me down. I was even more confused. I went home and prayed that God would help me find the right church. The next day Pastor Don Fehlberg, his wife Eileen and Desley Green (local Katherine church member) arrived at our door. Talking to Pastor Don made me realise I had found the true church. I looked at my sister and said, "This is the church I choose." She agreed.

My life started changing and I began to live by biblical principles. I gave up drinking, smoking and marijuana in one day. When I realised my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit I also gave up unclean foods. My sister and I decided to go home to Timber Creek. We apologised to everyone whom we had wronged. Since returning home, my sister and I have shared with our family. We try to encourage them to follow what we have learned.

One year later I was baptised—July 15, 2017—by Pastor Don and assisted by Andrew Johnson.

All my life people told me I would amount to nothing. I searched for their love and approval but I found nothing until I found Jesus. He made a nothing into something beautiful. I found love, not from family or from a man, but from Jesus alone.

Now, I live by these three texts:

Mark 4:39,40: "Then [Jesus] arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'"

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

John 16:33: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."

I work two-part time jobs and I've got a place of my own. I owe my life to Jesus.

## Wedding



### KANIMAKO-TEW.

Kokoria, son of Kanimako and Aritaake Ieremia (Auckland, NZ), and Nicole, daughter of Timothy and Tereena Tew (Cooranbong, NSW), were married on 5.2.17 in Christchurch, NZ. Kokoria and Nicole met at Tauranga Adventist Church and are currently living in Tauranga. Kokoria is working as a medical scientist and Nicole is studying for a master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages.

*Michael Falzarano*

started organising the sponsorship of more than 150 children to be educated each year. Open Heart International announced the "Glenys Chapman Scholarship" to one San nursing graduate each year to travel to Nepal to instil the "giving back ethos" in her honour.

*Alwin Hilton*



**FLISAK**, Bronislaw (Bruno), born 22.10.1947 in Poland; died 3.7.17 in Melbourne Vic.

He is survived by his wife Maria; daughters Henrietta and Bernadette; and grandchildren Elizabeth, Gwyneth and Edith. Bruno will be greatly missed by his family and members of Hughesdale church, Melbourne. He was a dedicated and faithful follower of Jesus.

*David Pearce*

**FRENCH**, Verlie Irene (nee Davis), born 28.8.1926; died 24.4.17 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 17.12.1947 she married Ernie French, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children and their partners: Dianne (Qld), Brian (NSW), Alan and Sherelle (Qld), and Wayne and Marie (NSW); 14 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Verlie was born into an Adventist family and remained true to her faith throughout her long life.

*Barry Gane*

**GORRY**, Pastor Frank James, born 1.6.1936 in Charters Towers, Qld; died 19.6.17 in Innisfail. On 4.12.1960 he married Meryl (nee Griffiths). He is survived by his

wife (Innisfail); sons and their wives: Brent and Robyn (Townsville), Darin and Maki (Armidale, NSW), Shane (Innisfail, Qld) and Nigel and Georgina (Cairns); 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; brothers and their wives, George, Bill and Bev, and John and Margaret, and sisters and their husbands, June and Alan Gibbons, and Margaret and Wally Booker. Frank worked in ministry for 40 years. He spent 10 years working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries, which he recalled as some of the most rewarding years in his service to Christ. A great storyteller has gone to rest but he still has more to tell.

*James London*

**KOTANY**, Timea Erzsebet, born 13.8.1975 in Sopron, Hungary; died 4.7.17 in Brisbane, Qld. In 1999 she married Bertalan and they emigrated to Australia in 2004. She is survived by her husband; her mother and her brother Tibor (Hungary). Timea's diagnosis of cancer in 2013 set her on the path of spiritual discovery. Finding friends and fellowship in Capalaba church (Qld), Timea was baptised in May 2014. She enjoyed her Bible studies and was enthralled by the spiritual feast at her two Big Camp experiences (Brisbane), leaving hospital to attend the second. Regardless of her declining condition, she inspired many with her joyfulness and faith.

*Alvin Coltheart, Bob Possingham, Greg Campling*



**REIDY**, Coral Jean, born 23.2.1927 in Goulburn, NSW; died 2.7.17 in Ballina. She

was predeceased by her first husband Keith John Reidy, her second husband Bill Stanapoillis and three of her eight children. She is survived by her children Gary, Jacquelyn, twins Robyna and Debbie, and Christopher; nine grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren. Jean was raised by her beloved granny on a farm at Albury-Wodonga. She worked three jobs to support her children and also helped those in need. She was baptised in 2011 and became a much-loved member of Alstonville church.

*Laurie and Beth McMurtry*

**SHARP**, Ramon Robert, born 15.4.1934 in Perth, WA; died 21.8.16 in Perth. He was predeceased by his wife Elaine in 2006. He is survived by his children and their spouses: Noelene, Katherine and John, Sharon, Brett and Ruth (all of Perth); 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Coraline McGrath and Glenys Walker.

*Daniel Hanbury, Roger Millist*

**PITCHES**, Elsie May, born 13.1.1925 in Ringwood, Vic; died 5.7.17 in Nunawading. She was married to Montague Arthur Ralph in 1945 and later to Colin Rupert Pitches. She was predeceased by Colin in January 2017. She is survived by her children Charles (Melbourne, Vic), Kevin (Bonny Hills, NSW), Peter (Hobart, Tas), Lindsay (Melbourne, Vic) and Gaylene Thompson (Toowoomba, Qld).

*Tony Campbell, Dave Erickson*



**TOTENHOFFER**, Pastor Edwin Irvine, born 6.12.1926 in Sydney, NSW; died 10.7.17 in

Melbourne, Vic. On 21.2.1950 he married Joyce Mary Stanton, who predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Sharman Irvine (Ipswich, Qld) and son Wesley (Mildura, Vic); grandchildren Matthew, Adelle, Alisa and Craig; great-grandchildren Jonathan and Grace; and sister Ivy Williams. Ed and Joy helped to transform the lives of all with whom they came in contact, especially through many years of evangelism and church pastoral and building work. Ed started ministry in Sydney but later worked in six conferences, including as president in North Queensland and as departmental director at both the Trans-Tasman and Trans-Australian unions. In retirement Ed continued ministry, compiling the *Morning Watch* for 10 years, volunteering for the Bible Society, assisting with ADRA in Wandin and serving as the pastor of Yarra Valley church. Ed was laid to rest with his wife of 65 years at Cornelian Bay, Hobart, Tasmania. A memorial service was also conducted at Lilydale, Victoria, on July 21.

*Harley Stanton, Sharman Irvine, Tony Campbell*

## Obituaries

**CHAPMAN**, Glenys Elizabeth, born 29.10.1956 in Three Springs, WA; died 17.5.17 in Geraldton. Glenys was predeceased by her father John Ernest in 1962. She is survived by mother Thea (Geraldton), brother David (Geraldton) and sisters Carolyn Stanley (Perth) and Helen Caldwell (Sydney, NSW) and their families. Glenys quietly devoted her selfless nature to mentoring and educating Sydney Adventist Hospital staff and colleagues to create an amazing surgical centre. Hospital executives honoured Glenys through the naming of the Chapman Surgical Centre. Her legacy also extended to her passion for volunteering in Nepal. Travelling to Nepal since 1996 on a medical team, she wanted to do more and thus

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### MACKSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

is holding its 50th anniversary celebration on Sabbath, October 21, 2017. The service is from 10.30am at the school, followed by a luncheon, afternoon program and social. All past and present staff, students and loved ones are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Colin

on <colreynold58@gmail.com> or Kerry on <Kerry.howard@macksville.adventist.edu.au>.

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# IF MY PEOPLE

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for the latter rain

GUEST  
SPEAKERS

*Ivor & Alonte Myers*

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