

A young girl with blonde hair in two pigtails, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a red bow tie with a white polka-dot pattern. She has chocolate smeared on her face and is holding a crumpled piece of aluminum foil, likely from a chocolate bar wrapper. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

R

CELEBRATING JUNK FOOD

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN OUR
HEALTH MESSAGE? 14

NEWS

ADVENTIST SCHOOL CLOSED
AFTER FIRE DESTROYS
CLASSROOMS 5

ADVENTIST RECORD | DECEMBER 2, 2017
ISSN 0819-5633



Every year thousands of children, women and men in the South Pacific die as a result of Type II Diabetes. Thousands more lose their toes and limbs.

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WHERE ARE THEY?

Going back to a church and a community where you once pastored or fellowshiped is always an emotional experience.

It's encouraging to see the stalwarts who laboured with you in the various community and evangelistic events that were run, still faithfully serving God to the best of their ability.

There's the joy of seeing former Adventists you had visited, who never showed an inkling of returning to church, but are now fully committed disciples of Jesus.

It's satisfying to see people you baptised and left as babes in the faith now on the church board and leading Sabbath School ministry to children.

There's the complete wonder of seeing those you ministered to in Bible studies and seminars, who never made a decision at the time, now rejoicing in the truth of Jesus and involved in helping others find new life through faith in Jesus.

I would like to stop writing right now, thank God and just dwell on the above stories but that's not the complete picture.

There are those you remember fondly who are not there anymore. With enquiry you discover a few have passed away and await their joy in Jesus. Others have transferred to new churches. However, there are other stories that just bring heartache.

The Sabbath School teacher who was excellent at building a group and engaging people in the Scriptures who no longer chooses to fellowship at the church because of hurtful untruths spread around.

There's the lady who led in an exercise class that had many community people participating who no longer attends because the church board did all they could to block and stop the ministry because of the clothes people chose to wear while exercising.

There are the kids I grew up with in Pathfinders and Sabbath School, now successful lawyers, architects and businessmen, who are just not there. Nobody seems to know why.

There are the contemporaries of my children who went to

the same Adventist school and enjoyed the same church activities who are living with their boyfriends and/or girlfriends.

There is a doctor, a mechanic and a florist but none of them find church attractive. Some are antagonistic; others just drifted.

Seeing the above hurts. They are the 50 per cent of all Adventists globally who statistically do not associate with us anymore.

Local churches are very fluid. The power of the Word of God and the Spirit change lives that are challenged with relational breakdowns, financial debt, lack of meaningful work, abuse from a partner, jealous retribution from a friend . . . But sometimes these human frailties impact others and give people a reason to leave the Church.

There is much latent pain within many churches as those who used to be there and are not anymore are our son or daughter, cousin, brother, sister, uncle, father, mother, best friend. Not having them in church hurts. We pray and know that God hears and acts, but God never

chooses to force the will of these people who are loved more by Him than us. We know this but it still hurts.

As we pray for others, we need to pray for ourselves so that we can endure to the end (Matthew 24:13). For life in the church can be an emotional rollercoaster.

How else can we deal with such pain? Besides prayer, we can make a choice to be different. Emotions are the E or energy that bring motion. E-motion. Energy-motion. Emotional pain can thus be turned into positive action. Let's use the pain of loss to move us to become more real: listening, praying, supporting and advising each other without any judgement (Matthew 7:1,2; Romans 13:8; Colossians 3:13). That's what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. That's the kind of church we all are looking for.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH CAN BE AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER.

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LIVING FAITH

It was one of those balmy afternoons during holiday time when one of our fellow passengers suddenly stood up in the middle of the bus we had just boarded. With a sure voice, he requested the attention of all the passengers. Not knowing what he wanted or where this was going, we gave him our attention. But what he said next was surprising.

He explained that he was a Christian, that he believed in the power of God and that he wanted to pray for protection before we started our three-hour bus trip. Immediately, most of the passengers hushed, the bus driver lowered the volume of the music and the repeat episode of *Hawai'i Five-O* about to play on the bus TV was paused.

That response from the passengers and the driver was incredible and really stood out for me. As soon as they heard that someone was going to pray for their protection, they all stopped. It was as if there was an intrinsic desire in people to pay attention to someone who was willing to pray for a positive outcome in their lives. In essence, hope is what captures the hearts of people when the road is unknown. So we all bowed our heads and were blessed by the prayer of that unknown man.

What is also interesting is how one voice wanting to live out his faith brought about change that day. All the people around me, including myself, said "Amen" when the man finished praying. This indicated that there was a degree of connectedness with God—and yet, there was only one person who stood up to invite us to pray.

The man on the bus challenged us that day. When it comes to God, we were reminded that we have to live our faith, live our beliefs and act out what is in our hearts and minds. And that's exactly how we must "do church" also. That is how we transform our local churches, how we challenge those around us, how we inspire our children and how we invite others to believe.



JORGE MUNOZ
AUC PRESIDENT

NEWS

NEW CENTRE OF INFLUENCE FOR FIJI

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Suva, Fiji, have welcomed the opening of a "centre of influence" large enough to hold 1500 people.

Fiji Mission general secretary Pastor Joe Talemaitoga said they were very thankful for the new centre, which was funded by the South Pacific Division.

Previously there was no church building large enough to accommodate big meetings in Suva. According to Pastor Talemaitoga, the centre will complement the work of the Church in Fiji.

"The Fiji Mission is grateful for this facility," he said. "It's going to really support the work of discipling our members here, young and old. This facility is really going to be a centre of influence, offering worship services, creative activities, recreation and many other functions that will help build up our Church and the membership here."

Cakau Seventh-day Adventist



PASTOR TALEMAITOGA AT THE NEW FACILITY.

Church will hold its Sabbath worship services at the new facility. The church's 140 members have been meeting in a simple corrugated iron structure behind the new centre.

The centre will be open throughout the week for various activities, including cooking demonstrations and indoor games. Meetings will be able to be livestreamed.

Future plans include the addition of pull-down shutters for weather protection and the construction of a permanent minister's home on the site.

"It is going to be a centre of influence right throughout the week," Pastor Talemaitoga said.

AT THE TABLE NOW AIRING ON CHANNEL TEN

MARITZA BRUNT

Adventist Media's *At The Table* women's panel show is now being broadcast on free-to-air television in Australia.

The show, which officially launched earlier this year, has the 4:30am Sunday morning slot on Channel Ten. This adds to the range of ways the show can be accessed, including via YouTube, Facebook and Hope Channel Australia and New Zealand. The ministry also includes a website and monthly magazine.

"*At The Table* is truly a multimedia ministry," said Adventist Media CEO Calvin Dever. "It's simple to share the magazine, website, social media channel or the broadcast time with your neighbour, workmate or mums in your playgroup as a way of opening up other conversations.



ON THE SET OF AT THE TABLE.

"We'd like to thank Sanitarium for their generous support, as they provide the TV time slots on Channel Ten free of charge, and also to Hope Channel New Zealand for including the program a number of times in their weekly schedule."

Covering issues of family, health, faith and social trends, the shows fits well with Adventist Media's commitment to reach young families with an interest in spirituality and wholistic living, but who have no current faith commitment.

ADVENTIST SCHOOL CLOSED AFTER FIRE DESTROYS CLASSROOMS

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

Boliu Adventist School on the island of Mussau, Papua New Guinea, has been closed for the remainder of the year following a devastating fire that destroyed its entire classroom block last month.

The building, built in the 1950s as a global 13th Sabbath mission offering project, comprised six classrooms, a staffroom, administration office and a storeroom. The blaze ripped through the building in 40 minutes unimpeded—the school does not have a water supply.

Fortunately, no students or teachers were hurt. The school chapel, library and dormitories are still standing.

South Pacific Division education director Dr Carol Tasker said it is a huge loss and the school community is grieving.

“While it was originally a primary school, it is now a high school with

grades 9 and 10, and is the only high school on the island, servicing six primary feeder schools on Mussau and one on Tench (Island),” she said.

“The school had plans and preparations in place to commence Year 11 next year. They had recently taken delivery of science equipment, technical equipment, including sewing machines, and school uniforms in readiness for the new school year. But this has all been destroyed in the fire.”

The school has 180 students and 11 teachers.

Former student Dr Jennifer Litau, now a lecturer at Pacific Adventist University, said Boliu was where many pioneer missionaries were introduced to God and learned basic English skills.

“Christian values and principles taught and caught through the school program contributed to shaping young hearts and minds,” said Dr Litau, who



was the third generation in her family to attend the school.

“Hopefully, from this devastation a new Boliu will emerge that will ignite the all-time passion and love for God, His gospel and education to prepare for service again.”

The school board acted swiftly, agreeing to begin work immediately to rebuild the classrooms. There has been an outpouring of support for the project from the Mussau Island community, including donations of time, money and skills.

POSITIVE RESPONSE TO FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND EVENT

JARROD STACKELROTH/MICHAELA TRUSCOTT

More than 800 people attended a TED-style weekend of presentations held in Toowoomba, Queensland, November 4-5, and more than double that number watched online.

PROPHETICA 2017 featured a diverse list of presenters, including award-winning cookbook author Sue Radd, leading lifestyle disease researcher Ross Grant, radio host and history buff Pastor Lyle Southwell, and former punk rocker turned pastor, David Asscherick.

The 20-minute presentations included numerous ways for audience members to participate in Q and A sessions, including a mobile text line, meet and greet sessions and meet the host dinners.

The event was held in the Empire Theatre and event organisers say they were happy with the turnout as a first-of-its-kind event.

Event organiser Julian Archer was thrilled by the community response.

“It was so encouraging for our amazing team to see hundreds of people from all walks of life purchasing tickets to an event that offered them the latest scientifically-proven techniques for increasing their health, hope and happiness.”

While many attendees were from the local area, quite a number travelled up to 100 kilometres to attend the event. There was also a group from Vanuatu.

In attendance was a group of 14 theology and ministry students and three faculty members from Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW).

The students found the opportunity to hear such polished presenters beneficial and will take back skills and techniques learned from the short but information-heavy presentations.

“The calibre of the speakers and their knowledge of the subject matter



was fantastic,” said Aniele, a third-year student.

The group was sponsored by the Avondale Ministerial Training Scholarship Fund, set up in 2001 to help support ministry and theology students with potential for full-time ministry to pursue extra learning experiences.

The PROPHETICA 2017 team has been asked to consider holding similar events in other cities.

Visit PROPHETICA.com for details.

GIFT OF HOPE FOR FIJI'S HINDI SPEAKERS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Seventh-day Adventist media operators in Fiji are looking at ways to reach the almost 50 per cent of the country's population who are of Indian descent.

"We want to reach out to the Indian community, most of whom are not Christian," said Hope Radio manager Wyse Bete.

With this in mind, they have plans to soon launch a Hindi language station using Hope's second radio frequency. It will feature all Hindi programming and complement the work of Hope FM 107,

which has been operating since 2000 and reaches more than 85 per cent of homes in Fiji.

Similarly, Hope Channel TV has recognised the need to include Hindi programming in its broadcast schedule. Its weekly Sabbath School panel discussion is now in both the Hindi and Fijian languages.

Ashley Naicker and Sanjeshni Mandri are the hosts of the Hindi language program, known as *Asha Sabbath School*. The program is screened several times throughout the week. Ms Naicker is a lecturer and Ms Mandri a tutor at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences in Fiji. Both attend the Nasinu Hindi-speaking Adventist church in Suva.

"Our main aim (for the program) was

to just let people know that there is a God who loves them," Ms Naicker said.

"When we are up there and discussing something from the Bible we want people to hear about Jesus. We try to relate it to something from our lives."

The enormous opportunity Hope presents is that it is a free-to-air TV station.

"It goes straight into people's homes," Hope Channel TV director John Tausere said. "If we can be speaking through these mediums (TV and radio) we can definitely reach hearts."



HOPE RADIO'S WYSE BETE, KARA TUKUTUKUWAQA AND PAUL SIKOTE.



ASHLEY NAICKER (LEFT) AND SANJESHNI MANDRI.

AT THE
Table

REAL WOMEN

REAL CONVERSATIONS

REAL ISSUES

NOW AVAILABLE ON

ten

Check local guides for times.

AT THE
Table

TOPICS INCLUDE:

family, health, spirituality, recipes...and more

ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Adventist education in Vanuatu has such a good reputation that communities are eager to establish an Adventist school in their village despite differences in religion.

The largely Anglican village of Kerbeta in Torba Province (Vanua Lava) is one such community pressing forward with a desire to have an Adventist school.

"The tribe has offered a 100m by 120m piece of land that can be extended if more land is needed," said Trans-Pacific Union Mission associate education director Mele Vaihola, who recently visited the village.

"The community is working with the [Vanuatu] Mission and Ministry of Education to have documents prepared for submission for registering the school."

Vanuatu Mission director of education, Gilrick Joshua, said students currently have to walk 3-4 kilometres daily to reach the nearest school, which discourages them from attending. Another major hurdle occurs during the rainy season when students can't get to school due to



COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOW THE LAND SET ASIDE FOR THE SCHOOL.

the river flooding.

"The elders of the community wanted a school set up in the village to access education easily," Mr Joshua said.

"Past attempts by other education providers have not been successful and have not met the community's expectations."

"The community at Kerbeta sees Adventist education has very unique qualities, which not only impact a child holistically, but even make significant changes to the family and community the child is part of."

"Their vision is for their children attending an Adventist school to make a difference anywhere they live."

LAE ADVENTISTS DONATE TO FLOOD-AFFECTED VILLAGES

JOE PHILIP

Seventh-day Adventist churches in Lae distributed food and clothing worth thousands of Papua New Guinean kina to support flood-affected communities in the Morobe Province.

Primarily focusing on the villages of Mare and Gabensis, two of the worst-affected villages in the region, items donated included bales of rice, secondhand clothing, utensils, medicine, tools and food crops.

Morobe Mission president Pastor Blasius Managos also helped to distribute the donations to the villages, saying it was the mission of the Adventist Church to look after the physical wellbeing of people, not just their spiritual needs.



VILLAGE LEADERS ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATIONS.

Village leaders were grateful for the support, with one village elder from Mare thanking the Adventist Church for "having such a good heart to support the affected communities", saying government support was not enough for the villages. The village magistrate also asked for support from the Adventist Church to assist his communities again in the future.

NEWS GRABS



ACADEMIC HISTORY

A blind Adventist Senator in Jamaica recently received his PhD from the University of the West Indies. Floyd Morris is only the second blind person to achieve this level of academia at the university in its 69-year history, and was the first blind person to be appointed president of the Jamaican Senate in May 2013. —*Adventist Review*



SUNDAY SERVICE

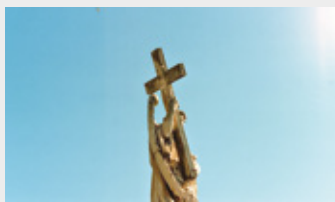
Adventist Church members in Rwanda have been described as "the partners of the Government of Rwanda" by a top government official for impacting their community through service activities. While most faith groups hold their community service on Saturdays, Adventists serve on the last Sunday of every month. —*RUM*



EARTHQUAKE HELP

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency has sent workers and supplies to some of the worst-hit areas across the Iraq-Iran border, after a 7.3 earthquake collapsed buildings and killed more than 450 people last month. The earthquake has been labelled the deadliest in the world this year, with around 500 villages affected. —*Adventist Review*

HOT TOPICS



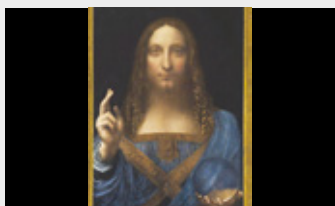
BANNED FAITH

Nepal has officially passed a law criminalising religious conversion in a bid to curb evangelism. Nepal now joins neighbouring countries like India and Pakistan, where the region's small-but-growing Christian minority face government threats to their faith. Despite the legal threats, Nepal has seen its Christian population triple over the past decade or so due to conversions. —*Christianity Today*



NO SMOKING

Pope Francis has ordered a ban on the sale of cigarettes inside the Vatican from next year due to health concerns, citing WHO statistics that say smoking causes more than seven million deaths worldwide every year. However, the sale of large cigars will continue, because the smoke is not inhaled. —*AAP*



SALVATOR SELLS

A 500-year-old painting by Leonardo da Vinci has sold for a record \$549.2 million. The oil painting depicting Christ holding a crystal orb, called *Salvator Mundi*, Italian for "Saviour of the World", is one of fewer than 20 paintings by da Vinci known to exist. The masterpiece was only rediscovered less than a decade ago, and was declared a legitimate da Vinci artwork in 2011. —*The Guardian*

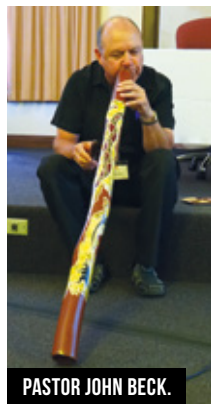
YEAR-END MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT GROWTH AND CHALLENGES

JARROD STACKELROTH

Crucial discussions were held and decisions made as almost 100 delegates of the South Pacific Division Executive gathered in Wairoa for end-of-year meetings, November 15–16.

The meetings began with worship, the first led by General Conference (GC) president Pastor Ted Wilson, who spoke about the latter rain described by the prophet Joel. He discussed the importance of personal revival and preparation for Jesus' return. "Everything we proclaim and preach is centred in Christ and the centre of the doctrines is Jesus Himself," he said. "He has given us so much truth."

A highlight for many was the "opening ceremony" where delegates representing each nation of the South Pacific Division (SPD) raised their flags outside the Wairoa office. Children from Wairoa Adventist School sang the Australian national anthem and a trumpet played as the flags were raised. South Australia ATSIM director, Pastor John Beck,



PASTOR JOHN BECK.

presented Pastor Wilson officially started the meetings with a "welcome to country".

One of the significant matters discussed during the year-end meetings was a statement on transgenderism released by the GC in April. Delegates voted to receive

the statement but not to approve it until further consultation with health professionals has been made in order to refine some of the language.

Also, after two years of dialogue and various options, a new SPD vision statement was voted: "A thriving Adventist movement, living our hope in Jesus and transforming the Pacific".

"Vision is given by God, it is His preferred future," said Pastor Glenn Townend, SPD president. "We see our-



DELEGATES GATHERED IN FRONT OF SPD FLAGS.

selves corporately becoming 'A thriving Adventist movement', individually 'living our hope in Jesus' and we desire to see our communities 'transformed'. We've registered a tag line 'Designed to Thrive'. It can be used on all resources and events and reflects that Jesus created us to live an abundant life."

All the SPD institutions presented their annual reports as did the top-tier ministries—mission to the cities, comprehensive health, media and discipleship.

Three SPD church territories changed status: Nauru, Pitcairn and Niue all have one Adventist congregation each and are directly administered by their respective unions. They will now be known as "field stations" in keeping with new terminology being used by the Church worldwide.

Significant appointments include returning Adventist Media CEO Calvin Dever to his position and appointing Jonathan Hale as the new Risk Management Services manager. Mr Hale was assistant manager and will be taking over from Paul Rubessa, who is moving to lead ADRA Australia.

Other highlights included the CFO's and secretary's reports, with some very good news, but also some challenges presented. Membership has grown in all four unions; however, in some areas 60 per cent of those baptised have left the Church. Three of the unions reached membership milestones, with the Australian Union hitting 60,000 members, New Zealand Pacific Union 20,000 and Papua New Guinea Union 300,000.

"There were lots of questions and good discussion from the delegates," said Pastor Townend. "All in all it was a really good spirit."

FLASHPOINT



NEW PROFESSOR

Warwick Bagg recently presented his inaugural lecture as a professor at the University of Auckland (NZ). Colleagues, friends and family attended the lecture in celebration of his accomplishment. Professor Bagg is a member of Papatoetoe Adventist Community Church and was appointed head of the medical program at the University of Auckland in 2009. Between 2010 and 2015, he worked with academic and professional staff and students to design and implement the reinvigorated medical program. In 2015 he was the recipient of the university's Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award for his broad leadership of undergraduate medical education. —NNZC



FIJI'S NEWEST CHURCH

Established 20 years ago, the Wairua Adventist congregation in Suva (Fiji) was last month organised as a church. Comprising 11 families, the group is planning extensions to its church building in order to welcome more people into the congregation. In October, Discipleship Ministries Team youth director Nick Kross and Adventist Media head of editorial Tracey Bridcutt attended the group's mid-week evening service and received a warm welcome. —Record staff



GARDEN GOODNESS

The Margate Community gardens were developed by Margate Adventist Church (Tasmania) in an endeavour to assist the long-term unemployed gain re-employment. A total of 19 unemployed individuals were involved in the design and construction of the gardens, which were officially opened on October 15. Church and community members alike attended the opening to swap plants, seeds and knowledge. There were casual information sessions on soil and plant nutrition, the best way to grow tomatoes and potatoes, and other organic gardening experiences. The project will be linked into other programs run by the church. —Theodore Dimitriou



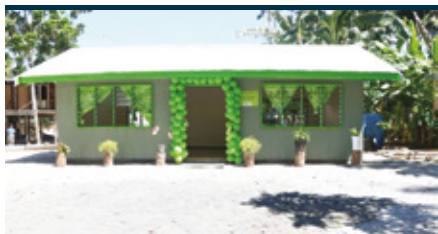
CANOE BIRTH

The medical team on *Medi-sonship 3* was woken at 2am recently to the sound of a knock at the door and a baby crying. A mum had just given birth in a canoe on her way to a clinic at Ringi, Solomons Islands, and she needed assistance. The vessel's medical staff cut the umbilical cord and made sure the mum and bub were okay. The baby was wrapped in a new blanket and the mum given fresh clothes. The mother and baby were later transported to the Ringi clinic for further medical care. —Sonship



EFATE GIVES

Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Efate (Vanuatu) attending a recent church meeting collected a special offering to help victims and those affected by the recent volcanic activity on the island of Ambae. More than 100,000 Vatu was collected that evening. The Church's head office in Port Vila added extra money to the collection to help the National Disaster Management Office and the government in the evacuation efforts. Pastor Nos Terry Mailalong, president of the Adventist Church in Vanuatu, presented a cheque for VT314,135 (\$A3900) to Jesse Benjamin, director-general of Climate Change. —Vanuatu Mission



A PLACE TO WORSHIP

Bank South Pacific, the largest bank in Papua New Guinea, recently helped a little Adventist church on Lihir Island (New Ireland Province). The bank decided to completely refurbish the lamb shelter of the Lembat Seventh-day Adventist Church, providing a beautiful place of worship for the children. The refurbishment was part of Bank South Pacific's community project for 2017. —NBNIM



IT'S FIESTA TIME!

Young people from Papatoetoe Adventist Church (NZ) served the Northland community over a recent weekend. They ran a Fiesta VBS (kids' holiday program) for some of Kaitia's children, served in the community, visited local sites, and invited people to church and a Saturday evening concert featuring local artists Day7 and Resonate. —NNZC



FROM HURT TO HALOS

October was a special month for the Born Free Sanctuary in Port Moresby (PNG) as seven girls were baptised at Kivori Poe in the Gulf region of the country. There are currently 18 girls at the sanctuary, which is run as a project of Operation Food For Life. "Our cup runs over with joy to have witnessed these children grow into their new-found faith," said OFFL founder Dennis Perry. —Record staff

EXPANSION OF PUBLISHING MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Literature evangelism in the South Pacific Division (SPD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will undergo significant revitalisation in a bid to breathe new life into this long-established core Church ministry.

A report on the Church's literature evangelism ministry, entitled "SPD Publishing Department: Literature Distribution Project", was accepted at an SPD Board meeting on November 13. Key stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the report, including literature evangelists (LEs), team leaders, and conference and union presidents.

It is one of four reviews undertaken in the past 10 years to address the challenges of the publishing ministry in Australia and New Zealand, where sales have dropped considerably. Australian purchases fell by 63 per cent and New Zealand by 44 per cent between 2007 and 2017. The rest of the Pacific dropped by 12 per cent. More than one-quarter of all LEs in Australia and NZ placed no orders in the 2016-17 financial year. Seventy-eight per cent purchased less than \$A2000.

There has also been a decline in the number of prayers offered in homes, enrolments in Bible correspondence courses and baptisms.

"It is difficult to earn a liveable wage as a full-time LE under the current model," the report states.

Consequently, there has been a very high turnover rate among LEs, with less than 25 per cent of active LEs

working for more than the past five years and most of the currently registered LEs only working part-time.

A key recommendation of the report is the introduction of new digital technologies that can be integrated with traditional literature distribution. This would include the establishment of an online database of contacts for future follow-up.

"The basic approach to distributing literature has changed very little since the late 19th century," the report states.

"Literature evangelists (LEs) still go door to door to sell books. Since then, communication has changed significantly, especially since the introduction of social media, electronic books and phones permanently connected to the internet. In the same way in which Ellen White utilised the advances of printing in her day, it is imperative that the Church leverages the technological advances of the 21st century for the furthering of the gospel."

The report also recommends that future literature development be focused on relevant, contemporary content. Young people will be invited to write, produce and distribute this new content.

The proposed expansion focuses on greater integration between LEs and local churches, with a more explicit connection between the books and the Church.

The recommendations focus on Australia and New Zealand as these

countries are experiencing the most significant challenges. Consequently, the LE program will continue unchanged across the Pacific Islands.

General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson, who attended the meeting, said, "The publishing work will continue to the end of time but adaptation needs to take place as everyone participates in total member involvement."

Chair of the Publishing Advisory Committee, Lionel Smith, said the commission to make disciples was given to all members; so too the work of literature distribution.

"If all members were to seriously engage in communicating with their neighbours through print and electronic media, imagine the impact that would have, compared to a few faithful literature evangelists," Pastor Smith said. "It's not about one or the other but both. What is really exciting is that this is a ministry young people who are both technologically aware and passionate can be creative and fully engaged in."

A team of stakeholders, including the Publishing Department, has been appointed to prepare a plan, including a timeline, for the transition to the new and expanded publishing ministry. This team will report to the next SPD Board meeting in February 2018.

TRACEY BRIDCUTT HEAD OF EDITORIAL
@tracey_findlay

THE TEN

ENCOURAGING VERSES for women

- 1 You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you.
—SONG OF SOLOMON 4:7
- 2 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
—PROVERBS 31:1
- 3 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
—PROVERBS 31:30
- 4 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
—PROVERBS 31:26
- 5 Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
—PHILIPPIANS 4:6-8
- 6 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewellery,
- or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
—1 PETER 3:3,4
- 7 ...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.
—COLOSSIANS 2:10
- 8 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
—PSALM 46:5
- 9 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
—ROMANS 5:8
- 10 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
—ROMANS 5:6





a step further

Another week is over. Praise God for Sabbath!" the bubbly worship leader announced. "Can I get an amen?"

"Amen!" the group agreed exuberantly. But for the first time, the woman next to me remained deathly quiet.

Until that moment, she'd been an enthusiastic participant—nodding vigorously at various points of the presentation, singing heartily and bowing her head in fervent prayer. This sudden silence drew my attention. That, and the tears starting to well up in her eyes. I tried not to stare but my curiosity had been aroused.

As the final prayer was said, the participants began to disperse and the woman started to gather her belongings. I felt a strong compulsion to talk to her.

"Excuse me," I blurted out as she started to walk away. Fortunately she turned and looked at me curiously.

As soon as the words came out of my mouth, I mentally kicked myself. *What would I say to her? If only I'd given myself a couple of extra minutes to formulate a speech or say a little prayer. Then again, in those extra minutes, she could have easily disappeared into the crowd.*

"Is everything OK?" I asked

tentatively.

Her face crumpled. "No, not really." "Would you like to talk about it?"

Although I'd made the offer, I was stunned when she nodded.

"But not here," she said warily, glancing around in a furtive manner.

I followed her outside. We found a relatively quiet spot amidst the hustle and bustle that generally erupts close to mealtime. We proceeded to exchange first names and various pleasantries before she finally opened up.

"My husband's a pastor," she said frankly. "Sabbath has never been a rest day for our family. Actually, it's the busiest day of the week. There are times when I really resent that."

A little more than a year ago, my colleague Maritza and I planned a video for Pastors' Appreciation Month. We invited pastors to our studio to be filmed, speaking about their greatest struggles in ministry. Then we surprised them by showing them footage of their church members thanking them for their hard work. Later we posted this video on the *Adventist Record* Facebook page so that other people could be reminded to appreciate their pastors too.

We were blown away by the response. Many noted that the video had

made them cry; others tagged their pastors on the post and left their own encouraging messages. And it may or not be a coincidence, but this year, the General Conference designated the second Sabbath of October to be Pastors' Appreciation Day.

I'd like to suggest we take it a step further and also recognise the partners and families of those in full-time pastoral ministry.

To many congregations, the pastor's spouse is no more than an unpaid volunteer.

They are the ones who minister behind the scenes yet seldom receive a reward or accolade. They are the ones who share their partners with the church at any time of the day or night. They are the ones who are most vulnerable to congregation gossip and criticism. Yet they continue to serve faithfully regardless.

One day, God will reward many of these ministerial spouses with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

But until that day, we should also give them the appreciation they deserve.

Thank you.

I VANIA CHEW ASSISTANT EDITOR.

my ministry

SHEETS FOR CLINICS

TOO GOOD TO WASTE

How do you save tonnes of bed sheets from being sent to landfill each week? Send them to medical missions throughout the South Pacific and orphanages in Africa, of course!

When Port Macquarie (NSW) woman Susan Shelton heard about sheets deemed “unusable” by hotels, motels, hospitals, etc, being sent to waste and ending up as landfill, she started looking into it. She soon realised that most of the sheets had very little wrong with them or needed minor fixes to add years more use to them.

Port Macquarie church, where Susan and husband Russell are members, currently sponsors a number of medical missions in the South Pacific region. Using that as a lead, Susan asked if the sheets would be a welcome help to these medical missions. The response was incredible! Fifty-eight medical missions in the Solomons, Vanuatu, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and other places said they would be very happy and grateful to receive the sheets. To add to that number, the Sheltons discovered that their daughter's church in the Wollongong area (south of Sydney) supported a charity called Books for Zim, which supports an orphanage in Zimbabwe. The charity indicated it would also be grateful to receive sheets for the kids there.

To get her plan into motion, Susan spoke to Grant Faatoia, owner of

South Pacific Laundry in Port Macquarie, to see if he would be willing to give her all the sheets destined for landfill. He was delighted to help and told her she could have all she wanted. Grant said it cost him about \$A1100 a tonne to send the sheets to landfill so it was a win-win situation. They had a little laugh knowing the sheets were coming from South Pacific Laundry and were going to missions in the South Pacific!

On the first Sunday of each month, Susan has a band of about 15 regular helpers who bring along their sewing machines, irons and ironing boards and spend the morning doing repairs, pressing and folding approximately 350–500 sheets. The sheets are then transported to the South Pacific Division office in Sydney where they are loaded into containers and sent to the “Adopt a Clinic” program and to Wollongong for transport to the orphanage in Zimbabwe.

How did Susan find out about the dumped sheets? The answer was quite simple: “My son-in-law has a relative who works at the laundry, who was talking about all the waste-age.”

So from that comment came this fantastic idea that helps so many, thanks to a lady thinking outside the box and gathering a group of helpers to do good for one another.

| HEATHER KNOBBS

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

WINGED SPIRITS AND THE UNCHURCHED

Winged spirit gods were important to the Mesopotamians of Bible times. Do we today sense our great need for God's Spirit, especially in reaching the unchurched? The Spirit was the primary reason for Daniel's success in reaching the unchurched. Daniel was known as one in whom the Spirit of God lived because of the gift of prophecy given him by the Spirit. He was also known as one in whom the Spirit lived because of the fruit of the Spirit that was evident in his life.

READ DANIEL 4:1-3,8-10,18,19,37; 5:10-12,14; DANIEL 5:12; 6:3-5.

It is thus obvious why Daniel, like Paul, did not want to defile his body temple. According to the New Testament, the Spirit lives in those who believe in and obey God, and earnestly pray for His indwelling. Little wonder then that Daniel, who believed in and strictly obeyed God, and spent so much time on his knees in prayer, was a Spirit-filled man and thus drew both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius to God.

READ DANIEL 1:8; 2:46,47; 6:10,16,20,23,25-27; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16,17; 6:19,20; 2 CORINTHIANS 6:16; LUKE 11:13; JOHN 7:37-39; ACTS 5:32.

What about us today? Could it be that the primary reason we are not reaching the unchurched is due to a lack of the Spirit's power because we believe so little, obey God when it suits us and are seldom on our knees? Determine today to reach souls like Daniel by following his Spirit-filled example.



WALL RELIEF DEPICTING AN EAGLE-HEADED WINGED SPIRIT GOD. SUCH SPIRIT GODS WERE MEANT TO PROTECT PEOPLE IN MESOPOTAMIA.



Celebrating JUNK FOOD?

Dear youth leaders, Pathfinder leaders, young adult leaders, Sabbath School leaders, big camp leaders—leaders of anything children-related in our churches.

I am genuinely confused by us. Yes, I name myself in this group as I have been involved in ministry with young people on and off since I left high school.

On one hand we have an excellent health message. Our research is on the cutting edge of emerging concepts in health and wellbeing. We are blessed to be able to bring a message of hope to so many people suffering chronic disease and the burden of illness and pain. I have been lucky enough to see some of our people present on many topics of health, and I can assure you our message is very well received within the preventative health sector. It is well received by esteemed researchers who are coming to the same conclusions.

Preventative health is the way of the future and our Church is right in amongst it. Go us!

However, I get really confused when I attend camps and other events, particularly children's events. Many of you are probably already thinking, *Here we go, disgruntled mum soapbox moment*. I get that, but hear me out . . . There seems to be a culture of junk food at children's events. Have you noticed? At a Pathfinder meeting to commence the year, we celebrate with a dessert table full of chocolate, ice-cream and slices. At an Easter weekend church service, we hide chocolate eggs for the kids to find. At big camp, there are lollies as prizes. Youth social? Pizza and soft drink. Summer camps? Let's do dessert nearly every night. Teen Sabbath School? Chips and nibbles to keep them coming. Are you seeing the pattern? We love to throw junk at our kids, teens and young people. I, too, am guilty of doing it. This isn't a whole lot different to what happens in the rest of society. There is always food associated with birthday parties, picnics and special occasions like Christmas and Easter. Lots of it is junk. Should it be that way? If you switch on the TV during a kids' cartoon, ads will be there displaying junk food too. So our kids get it from all angles. Once we get older and start making our own decisions, is it really silly to think that we might keep doing what we have always been taught—eating junk as a way of celebration? Why would we do anything differently? Maybe not until we get sick. Our clothes stop fitting. We start to feel tired, lack energy and wonder what's wrong. We go to the doctor for a check-up in our mid-40s or early-50s and then get a bit of a wake-up call. Our cholesterol is high, our BP is raised and we need to lose a few kilos.

No worries, we have the CHIP program right! Yes, you're right. It is helping people every day to see that life can be so much more

abundant and full of energy. We re-discover that there is joy in movement and that we need to eat to live, not live to eat.

My hubby recently made a comment as I lamented the fact that my kids came home from a church event feeling sick from all the junk they ate. He said, "Honey, it's just this event. Tonight you can feed them good food and all will be fine." The thing is, it's not just that one event is it? That one event turns into a weekly, and sometimes more than once weekly, occurrence. Think about your "normal" week. Here is an example I have created: it's not a real week but it certainly could be. On Monday, at school, there is cake shared around to celebrate a child's birthday. On Thursday night at your small group, someone brings a bag of lollies to share and offers them to your children. On Friday night it's the usual dessert. On Sabbath, there are chips and juice in their Sabbath School. There is also a lolly handed out to the children who can recite their memory verse. Potluck lunch (need I say more), then on Saturday night there is a church social, along with dinner. Oh, and chips, fizzy drinks, juice and cake. Sunday sees the kids at a friend's birthday party, and bringing home a party bag (full of lollies).

Before you make the comment that I should simply teach my kids to make better food choices, I agree completely. I, along with many other parents, am doing my best to teach my kids to make wise decisions regarding food. Collectively, we must be able to see that the environments our kids are growing up in are not helpful. When junk is a part of their learned experience, when "everyone else" is doing it, when their mentors throw lollies at them . . . well it's a bit hard to say no all the time.

This article is not intended to make anyone feel bad. I'm not writing this imagining we will all immediately start eating a whole food, plant-

based diet (though that would be great!). I do believe, however, that it's time to step back and look at what we are doing. Mostly because I think we are doing it unintentionally.

Our kids go to a lot of events with church, school and friends as they grow up, and these events are great. Our health message is cutting edge and making an impact in people's lives every day, giving back vitality and hope to people who had none. Yet we keep on feeding our kids and young people junk. We set them up for failure. As they grow up and get sick and tired of being sick and tired, we throw it back in their faces by telling them to make better food choices, have moderation and exercise more. We enrol them into CHIP, healthy cooking classes and gyms. Surely this leaves them confused!

Come on Church, it's time to rethink health—especially for our kids. Let's help them create memories that will last a lifetime and don't always involve food. Our programs, camps and socials are already wonderful memory makers. Let's strive to make more of our activities junk free. Let's teach our kids what it means to be healthy. Let's not wait until it's too late. I believe with all my heart that our health message is for our kids, teens and youth too. Especially them! A healthy life starts right now, today, as you are reading this article.

Can we change? Yes. Should we? Absolutely. Will we? Of that I am not sure, but I hope this article will at least spark some conscious thought and deliberate conversation about the junk food/health food cycle we are establishing for our children as they grow up.

Yours sincerely,
Garden loving, health advocate
mum (who doesn't get it right all the time either)!

CARLY MOORE IS A HEALTH EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL AND MOTHER WHO BLOGS AT ABESPECTACLEDLIFE.COM.



Ellen White

A Model in Tenacity and Perseverance

Most Adventists are unaware of the incredibly demanding and difficult personal life Ellen White lived. In addition to the limitations of her life-long poor health, she lost her husband in 1881 to malaria, and spent two years in Europe (1884–86) living out of her luggage and with her personal finances greatly reduced because she had answered the call of the Church. The events of Minneapolis (1888) and their aftermath were challenging as some members and leaders alike strongly resisted her

authority and ministry. But by 1891 things were improving and she felt she could withdraw somewhat from public life, move to the new house she was building at Petoskey on the shore of Lake Michigan with her office staff and look forward to focusing on her writing, particularly the new book she was planning on the life of Christ. But it was not to be: Stephen Haskell wanted her in Australia where the young Church was struggling and though the General Conference was willing to pass that call on to her she saw little light in

it. At 63, she was feeling her age and was tired. She had broken both of her ankles in a recent accident while on vacation in Colorado and, improperly set, they were not healing well, challenging her mobility.

But on December 8, 1891 she arrived in Sydney after a brief stop in Auckland, New Zealand. Her first year in Australia was particularly difficult: bedridden in Melbourne and in considerable pain most of the time, attempting to preach on the weekends when she could, often sitting down to do so

after being carried into the meeting, or on occasion using a wheelchair. Too ill to do much writing, she found it hard to understand why she had come so far to be able to do so little. Her circumstances were discouraging but she determined to turn her difficulties into a spiritual blessing—but in application that was not easy.

After some improvement in her health she travelled to New Zealand, arriving in Auckland on February 8, 1893, remaining there until her return to Australia in December. This is a well documented period in her life and there are some lessons to be learned from the challenges she and the infant Church faced in Aotearoa, how she dealt with them and the applicability of these lessons to us today more than 100 years on.

Travelling from Auckland she first visited the Hare family in Kaero, 257 kilometres to the north, where schoolmaster Father Hare and his wife had a family of 24 children. Ellen White preached in the community and worked personally with the young people in the Hare family. Minnie and Susan Hare were baptised before she left.

This pattern of public preaching and personal witness were characteristic of her approach to soul-winning throughout North New Zealand as she visited Gisborne, Napier, Ormondville, Palmerston North and also Wellington, where she spent most of her time.

Mrs White found the lengthy journeys travelling between these settlements by train or coastal steamer very tiresome. While in Wellington she realised that her abscessed eight remaining teeth had to come out. She had Dr Margaret Caro travel by train from Napier to provide the needed dental care. It was provided without anaesthetic as Mrs White was allergic to the medication used at the time. Ever practical, Mrs White used the next two months to focus on her writing before Dr Caro could fit dentures and enable her return to preaching.

The first Antipodean camp meeting was held in Napier. Few people were expected to attend, but with Mrs

White's presence, attendance doubled. The community was fascinated by this convention and only about half the audience were Adventists. As evangelism had proved incredibly difficult in New Zealand, with the other denominations actively opposed and the unchurched disinterested, it was soon learned that the typical American style camp meeting, previously unknown in New Zealand, was a powerful evangelistic tool. It was later used to particularly good effect in Wellington, just before Mrs White returned to Australia.

Another innovation was to precede evangelistic meetings with presentations on topics of popular interest in the community. Often Ellen White spoke on temperance, a subject that exercised the minds of other Christians as well as Adventists. While other speakers on the subject typically took a health approach, Mrs White always took a spiritual approach. This was unique and, coupled with her very real public speaking ability, drew in the crowds who loved to hear her speak. Thus minds were prepared for follow-up evangelistic meetings.

Wherever she went, she personally witnessed to those she was with and particularly to young people. One outstanding instance was the family of Martha Brown, the first Adventist in her community 90 minutes north of Wellington. There, as she later wrote, "I laboured with the family every morning and night" (Letter 138, 1893). Consequently, four children in that family took their stand for Christ as a result of Mrs White's presence in their home.

Mrs White's son, William, was interested in the Maori people and one young lad, Maui Pomare, a student at Te Aute College in Hawke's Bay, became an Adventist because of the influence of the cook at the school. Pomare later studied in Battle Creek, financially assisted by New Zealand Church members including Mrs White and Dr Caro, and Dr John Harvey Kellogg, and became the first Maori to qualify as a physician. However, on his return to New Zealand, the Church leadership had no plans for him other

than to encourage him to take up literature evangelism. This lack of vision disappointed Mrs White.

In time, while Pomare drifted away from the Church of his youth, he became a powerful advocate for his people, serving as minister for health in a succession of governments and did much to preserve and protect his Maori heritage—something that would have not been possible without the original interest in this young man by Mrs White and Dr Caro particularly. While still a relatively young man and fatally stricken with TB, Sir Maui Pomare returned to the faith of his youth before his death in 1930.

On December 13, 1893, Mrs White sailed on the *Wairarapa*, stopping at Auckland on the way back to Australia. On this voyage she befriended the stewardess, Mrs McDonald, giving her a copy of her new and best-selling book, *Steps To Christ*, and spoke to her about her soul's salvation. Mrs McDonald, however, while desiring to become a Christian, concluded she could not afford to give up her well-paid position on the ship and several weeks later perished with all but two of those on board when the vessel foundered.

So what can we learn from Ellen White's experience in New Zealand? One thing for certain is that she came to learn that while age and poor health may limit us, there is no retirement from our calling as witnessing Christians. Secondly, she pushed through the barriers of pain and fatigue to continue her soul-winning witness. She did not allow the resistance to public evangelism deter her, but developed new approaches to the community as a half-way step toward developing a subsequent interest in spiritual things.

Above all else she never missed a chance to share her faith, often with complete strangers. When one considers her constant pain and discomfort during those months in New Zealand, that in itself is both remarkable and instructive.

LESTER DEVINE DIRECTOR EMERITUS AT THE ELLEN G WHITE/ADVENTIST RESEARCH CENTRE.



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GET ACTIVE, GET SOCIAL, GET HEALTHY.

We know that being physically active is great for our health and the good news is that science tells us we don't need to be slaving away at the gym every day to reap the benefits. Even modest increases in physical activity can lead to significant benefits to our health.

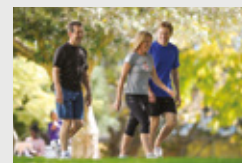
But if you really want to optimise your physical activity, recent research has found that when it comes to exercise it can be worth joining a group.

Researchers from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine got a group of medical students to conduct a 12-week exercise program. The students were allowed to choose between completing the program individually or in a group setting. Another group was recruited as a control, taking part in no exercise program. The group fitness classes were 30 minutes, once a week, while those in the "individual" setting were required to exercise alone or with up to two people at least twice per week.

On average, at the end of the 12 weeks, those exercising as part of a group saw a 12 per cent boost in mental wellbeing, a 24 per cent increase in self-reported physical fitness and a 26 per cent rise in emotional stability compared to the control group. They also saw a 26 per cent reduction in perceived stress levels. On the other hand, those who worked out individually saw an 11 per cent boost in mental wellbeing, but no significant changes in other areas.

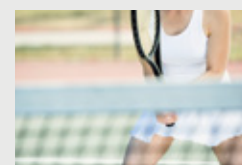
The study authors were quick to point out that their research wasn't a condemnation of individual exercise and that there were great benefits from participating in physical activity of any kind. But group fitness represents a unique opportunity to tap into the significant health benefits of both physical activity and social connection at the same time.

TOP TIPS FOR GETTING ACTIVE AS A GROUP



GET WALKING

Start a local weekly walking group with family and friends. Pick a place to meet, strap on your shoes and get walking. It's as simple as that. For those who are a bit more competitive, check out www.parkrun.com.au for locations of free weekly timed 5km runs.



START A CLUB

Get a group of workmates together for a game of social sport. It might be an informal game at lunch time or an organised league after work. Either way it's a chance to get active and build friendships.



GET DOWN TO YOUR LOCAL PARK

Grab a ball and head down to the local park with the family. It seems simple, but chasing the kids around is a great way to get active while building quality connections with those you love.

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing



BEING CHURCH

I have rarely read a more succinct summation of our Church's current situation than that of "Time, Talent and Treasure" (Editorial, November 4). If you haven't read it, please go back and do so. As a Church, we are over-organised, under-resourced, too reliant on pastors and too focused on the Production rather than the People. As the editor laments, we are "doing church" to the detriment of "being church". We can't make up for time wasting for six days by frenetic activity on the Sabbath. Let's remember that quiet reflection, humility before our Maker, gratitude in giving and prayerful thanksgiving are as much a part of worship as slick multimedia presentations, compulsory song sessions and seemingly artificial "greet thy neighbour" calls in church.

David Pennington, NSW

THE MAIN THING?

I felt very uncomfortable upon my first reading of the article "Sabbath protesting" by South Pacific Division president Glenn Townend (October 21). Subsequent readings did not dispel my sense of disquiet.

I assume the key point of the article is found in the sentence: "Are Adventists today still reformers?" The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines reform as "to put an end to (an evil) by enforcing or introducing a better method or course of action".

As Seventh-day Adventists, our reformation message is found in Revelation 14:6-12. Joseph Bates "got it" when he published *The Seventh Day Sabbath, A Perpetual Sign*. The Sabbath will be the special point of controversy throughout Christendom in the last conflict.

So why my sense of disquiet? Because I'm not hearing the rallying call from our Church leaders to preach the three angels' messages. Instead, I'm being asked if I am part of a public debate on issues of sexuality, marriage, religious

freedom, the environment and other social justice issues. As important as these issues are, they are not what we should be focusing all of our energies on. Yet, I get the impression from *Adventist Record* magazine that this is all that matters.

If we clearly believed the Bible alone, grace alone, faith alone and Christ alone, then we would be investing our time, strength, talents, money and energy to fulfil God's commission to His remnant people; spreading the three angels' messages. "There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention" (T9 p19).

I challenge the SPD president, the leaders of our churches, the staff of *Record* and all who profess to be Seventh-day Adventists, to turn your attention to this great commission. Until we do so, we will have little influence upon the world.

A E Hobbs, via email

GUARD AGAINST NUMBERS

It is indeed very encouraging to read of the multiple baptisms reported in your column's "Pacific baptisms"

(Flashpoint, November 4).

I am sure this is in fulfilment of Joel's promise of the Holy Spirit's abundance in the latter days. But I hope we are remembering that baptism by immersion is symbolic of a burial of a former lifestyle. Is it possible that some of the younger candidates have scarcely, despite their best intentions, faced the issues in which only the Holy Spirit can safely direct?

Let us guard against numbers. Thank you for your excellent ministry.

Wal Taylor, NSW

WHO'S WHO?

The CFO of the South Pacific Division has advised (October 21) that the Church operates as a representative democracy. How do we find out the identities of those appointed/elected to the Division Executive Committee? I have not been able to locate this information on the internet or in *Adventist Record*.

Graham Wright, NSW

RECORD WRAP

Amen to this bulletin (*Record Wrap*, November 3).

It is God's time to use

youth right now in the South Pacific.

Manasa Muaivatu, Fiji

Editor's note: Record Wrap is a weekly video news update. It can be viewed on Record's website and Facebook page and downloaded to play in churches.

LATTER RAIN

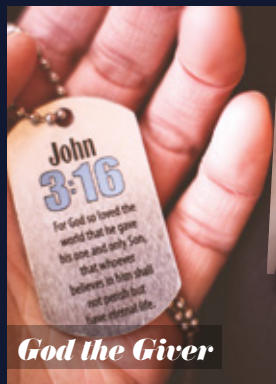
Re: "Latter rain" (Have your say, September 23).

The writer mentions the latter rain but does not refer to the following scriptures: Joel 2:28,29 and Acts 2:17,18. Surely these verses must refer to the latter rain, although the words latter rain are not mentioned. I would be interested to hear what the writer of the letter has to say. I am reading from the NKJV.

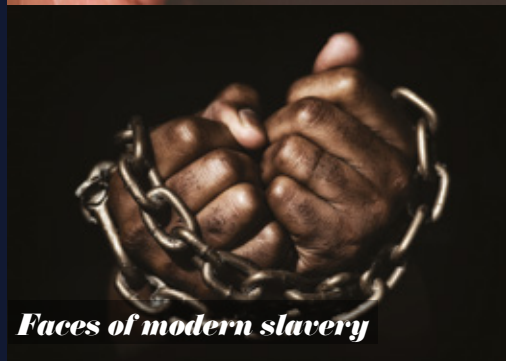
Elsie Bennet, NZ

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.

THIS
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God the Giver



Faces of modern slavery



Grief at Christmas



Food Matters recipe - prune log

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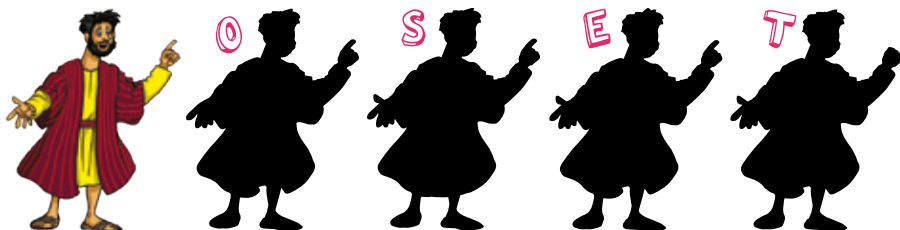
HELLO KIDS*

KIDS SPACE

FIND THE SHADOW

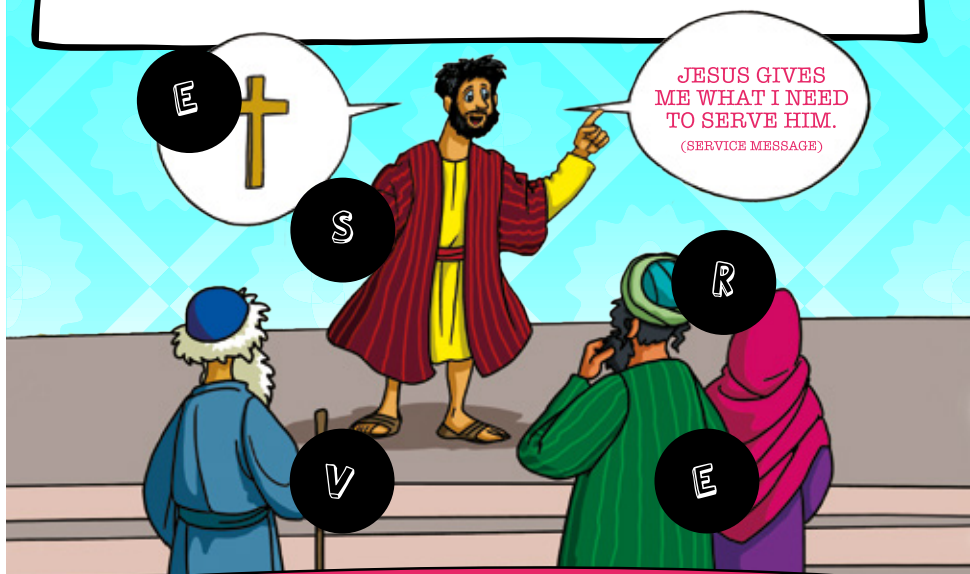
FIND THE MATCHING SHADOW THEN PLACE THAT LETTER IN THE BLANKS

Fr__ly you have r_c_iv_d; fr__ly giv__ (Matthew 10:8)



JESUS SENDS HIS DISCIPLES OUT TWO BY TWO

Jesus sends out His 12 disciples to announce that the kingdom of heaven is near. Jesus says He has given them the power to heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. He says they don't need to take a lot of money or a suitcase full of clothes, or to have any worries about food or lodging. He says to greet the people in their houses, looking for those who want to hear about Him. He reminds them that not everyone will accept them or treat them kindly.



JESUS DOES THIS FOR US AND WANTS US TO DO THIS FOR OTHERS...

MATCH THE IMAGES WITH THE ONE ABOVE AND PLACE THE LETTER IN THE BLANKS





my story

It's hard to know sometimes how to connect your local community with the message of Jesus. I'm glad that I've discovered a way. For at least five years now I've been delivering *Signs of the Times* magazines on a monthly basis to around 40 people in my local area. It's my Sabbath afternoon walk! (And my Sunday afternoon walk too—I go out for the first two weekends of every month.)

There are a huge number of lonely people in the community—they just want to have a chat. A lot of them are older or dealing with chronic health issues. They're stuck at home, living on a pension and without many opportunities to mix regularly with other people. There are four men I can think of on my round who have all said to me at some stage that I'm the only other

man they talk to regularly. Australian men are much more interested in spirituality than you might think. They don't necessarily have much background in church life so some of their ideas can be a bit weird. But when I turn up on a Sunday afternoon after they've had a few beers, I'm really surprised at some of the questions they come up with—really profound ideas. So I know that, when I knock on the door, I'm going to be there for half an hour. Usually it's not a religious conversation; it's more personal. Health is a big issue—I hear a lot about the ups and downs of medical appointments, diagnoses and health expenses. One couple said they were having difficulties and asked me if there was a marriage counsellor at my church. We did

have someone and a marriage was saved.

I take the long-term view: God's in charge; I'm just doing my little bit to spread His message. I let the magazine do the preaching. There have been no baptisms so far but there was one fellow who, after reading *Signs* for a while, joined the Salvation Army, which was a good fit for him. One day I turned up at an earlier time than usual and he was so excited—he vaulted his fence and gave me a big hug in the middle of the street. He said he was struggling with some legal issues and had just been praying that God would show him a sign that He really cared. “And here you are!” he said, pointing to the magazine in my hand. “Look! A *Sign*!”

There are two ways I get to meet these people. The first is via a literature evangelist. While he's door-knocking he asks people if they'd like to receive a free monthly Christian magazine. If they say yes, he passes the details along to me for follow-up. My other method is to letterbox a particular street with *Signs* once a month for three months. After that I go to the doors with the next month's issue in my hand, introduce myself and ask if they'd like to continue to receive the magazine. Not everyone says yes, but some do. One man told me he didn't want it, but his daughter called out from behind him, “No, get it Dad! It's good. It's free!” To be honest, I'm sure some of them don't read it, but it gives me contact with the person in the house. I have a strong sense that God has shown me my unique ministry. Not a month goes by when it doesn't seem that I've arrived at exactly the right moment. I go home pumped every time.

To find out more about starting a *Signs* delivery round, download free information at hop.ec/SignsRound.

AS TOLD BY **BRUCE THOMPSON** TO
KENT KINGSTON ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wedding



EATON-JOHNSON.

Blake Charles Eaton, son of Paul and Rebecca Eaton (Bickley, WA), and Talitha Jayne Johnson, daughter of Christopher Johnson and Lynette Feddersen (Geeveston, Tas), were married on 24.9.17 at "Lingalonga", a beautiful outdoor Edenic setting at Balingup, WA. Friends, family and guests came together for a full weekend of celebration. Blake and Talitha will set up their home in Sydney, NSW.

Ray Eaton

Obituaries



ANDREWS, Kingsley William, born 18.9.1934 in Millicent, SA; died 12.8.17 in AdventCare

Nunawading, Vic. Kingsley is survived by his wife Jeanette (Lilydale); his children and their spouses: Bronwyn and Trevor Rowe (Melbourne), John and Jenny Andrews (Melbourne), Janet and Richard Shirley (Sydney, NSW), and Leonie and David Savage (Sydney); 12 grandchildren; and his brother Pastor Bryce Andrews. Kingsley was a much-loved church pastor and hospital chaplain who served the Church in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria. In retirement, Kingsley and Jeanette enjoyed worshipping at Lilydale church. With just eight weeks from diagnosis to death, Kingsley proved his strength of character and reliance on God through his calm and courageous spirit.

Robert Steed



BROWN, Pastor Martin Robert, born 11.7.1941 in Launceston, Tas; died 19.10.17 in Toowoomba, Qld. He is survived by his wife Lorraine; children Nathan and Angela (Warburton, Vic) and Daniel and Dominique; and grandchildren



BROWN, Robert (Ewan), born 24.3.1940 in Tumut, NSW; died 12.8.17 in Sydney

Adventist Hospital. He is survived by his wife Delle (Terrigal); children Gavin and Karina, Lynette and Johan, and Timothy and Alix; and eight grandchildren. Ewan's achievements in building, teaching, counselling and chaplaincy were only means to give himself in service to others and God. He constantly sought for reasons and meaning rather than blindly adhering to tradition. His warmth and questioning spirit are the gifts he leaves behind.

Adrian J Flemming



CLARKE, Nita Doreen (nee Fiegert), born 29.3.1930 in Mount Pleasant, SA; died

21.10.17 in Adelaide. On 8.11.1964 she married Ron Clarke. She is survived by her husband (Murray Bridge); children Bernadette (Adelaide), Kerry (Perth, WA), Gary (Ballarat, Vic), David (Murray Bridge, SA), Paul (Moonta), Suzanne (Cooranbong, NSW) and their partners; brothers Fred (NSW) and Don (SA);

grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nita attended Carmel College followed by nursing training at Sydney Adventist Hospital. She was a faithful member of Murray Bridge church where she held many positions over the years. She was a dedicated volunteer for ADRA and enjoyed door-to-door collecting at appeal time. She collected many thousands of dollars for ADRA. She and her husband undertook 29 years of overseas mission work. Nita loved her roses and fruit garden.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

DEVER, Shelia George (nee Conley), born 11.3.1928 in Kanpur, India; died 28.9.17 in Warburton, Vic. She is survived by her husband

Don; children Jeff and Shirley, and Barry and Debbie; grandchildren Carly, Dustin, Kimberly, Joshua and Nathan; and three great-grandchildren. Shelia enjoyed a happy childhood in India, returning to Australia with her parents in 1939 and settling in Cooranbong, NSW. At Avondale Primary School, Shelia met Don Dever. Their friendship blossomed when they both attended Avondale College, leading to their marriage. Shelia supported the boys and Don, always watching their backs as they lived an active life of daring adventure, including skiing, motorbike and side-car racing, and 4WD trips. She and Don also became surrogate grandparents to many of the children in Verina Way in Lilydale where they lived

Kevin Geelan, Darren Croft



DODD, Josephine (Josie) Kaye, born 22.8.1971 in Leigh Creek, SA; died 17.9.17 in Port Augusta.

She was predeceased by her father Desmond and her daughter Letaya. Josie is survived by her mother Colleen Hannes-Roberts; children Bradley, Clinton, Leticia, Shane and Trentley; 10 siblings; and nine grandchildren. Josie had a happy-go-lucky personality but never got over losing her baby girl Letaya, who at the age of 18 months, died in a car accident. Josie enrolled at Mamarapha Bible College (WA) to study the Bible. This is where all her addictions to drugs, alcohol and gambling were taken away because Josie loved and trusted Jesus. Josie also learned about and held onto the hope and promises of seeing Letaya again. Josie loved helping people and wasn't shy to assist wherever she saw a need.

Andy Krause, John Beck, Don Fehlberg, Eric Davey



DUNSTAN, Olive Mary (nee Murdock), born 31.5.1919 in Queens Park, WA; died 17.7.17

in Midland. She was predeceased by her husband Sydney in 1999. She is survived by her six children: Beverly Brennan (Fremantle, WA), John (Albury, NSW), Lincoln (Lesmurdie, WA), Lee (Wahroonga, NSW), Brydon (Inglewood, WA) and Murray (Mandurah); 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Ollie was a founding member of the Queens Park (WA) church where she was a member at her death. Her life was characterised by her love for her church and the practical way she lived out her faith. No-one ever spoke a bad word of Ollie.

GILBETT, Heather Marjorie, born 15.4.1948; died 12.9.17 in Wyong, NSW, after a long period of illness. Heather was predeceased by her parents Pastor Arthur and Merle Gilbett. She is survived by her siblings Glenda Neuschulz, Lynette Carlsen and David Gilbett, and their families. Heather worked as a medical officer in a number of places in Australia, including Wollongong, Canberra, Fremantle, Alice Springs, Darwin and Newcastle.

Norman Young



GRACE, Lawrence, born 16.2.1931 in Mungindi, Qld; died 25.10.17 in Brisbane. On

19.12.1953 he married Ivy Frances Baxter, who predeceased him in 1979. He was also predeceased by his grandchild Eszti in 2005 and his son Geoffrey in 2016. He is survived by his sons Wesley and Anthony; daughters-in-law Erika, Lindsay and Donna; grandchildren Amanda, Liam and Edward; and great-grandchildren Nazeka, Laikum and Eliana (all of Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast). Lawrie was a gentle, unassuming giant of a man who didn't have a negative word to say against anyone. He always had a smile on his face along with a cheeky sense of humour. He was the epitome of a true Christian.

Mike Brownhill



GREDIG, Frank Wieland, born 23.7.1922; died 9.10.17 after a long battle with Alzheimers.

In 1945 he married Peg, who predeceased him in 2016. Frank is survived by his sisters Margaret and Lyn (New Plymouth, NZ); children: Barry and Wendy (Nelson), Paul and Betty (Blenheim), Kevin and Val (Longburn), Wayne and Marilyn (Brisbane, Qld), Phil and Petra (Lake Macquarie, NSW), Brett and Julie (Toowoomba, Qld), and Bronwyn

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/SDAJOB



and John (Hawera, NZ); 16 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Frank spent his life in Taranaki before he and Peg moved to the Adventist Retirement Village at Victoria Point, Brisbane, in 2009. Frank will be remembered for the values he lived and taught, his kindness and benevolence (including to strangers) and his commitment to his word.

Paul Gredig

KROGDAHL, Patricia Margaret (nee Carbery), born 10.11.1947 in Stirling, SA; died 16.10.17 in Coopers Plains, Qld. On 5.3.02 she married Patrick Krogdahl. Trish is survived by her husband (Cooran); and sons Cameron Mitchell (Switzerland) and Andrew Mitchell (New Zealand). Trish had been a midwife and went to sleep after a short battle with abdominal cancer. She was a beautiful, helpful soul.

Nader Mansour

MCCLELLAND, Glenn Edwin Lindsay, born 4.4.1963 in Dunolly, Vic; died 13.7.17 in Bilambil, NSW. Glenn is survived by his parents Phyllis and Lindsay McClelland (Cudgera Creek); sisters Robyn and Robert Johnson (Nunderi), Christine McClelland (Pottsville), Kerryn and Cameron McMaster (Bilambil) and brother Paul and Anne McClelland (Binna Burra); four nieces, six nephews and one great-nephew. Glenn was loved and well liked by all who knew him.

Errol Wright, Warren Price, Chris Foote

NELSON, Cedric, born 4.4.1948; died 8.11.17 in Christchurch, NZ. Cedric commenced his life-long service to Sanitarium in Christchurch. During his more than 50 years of service, he worked in many areas of responsibility, including a senior role in the Auckland factory. He retired to Nelson in the South Island of New Zealand and became a very active member of Nelson church. He will be fondly remembered by the Sabbath School as a knowledgeable homespun theologian. He passed to his rest in Christchurch Hospital after a short illness, with his family at his bedside.

Jerry Matthews

ORMSBY, Arapera Raupa (nee Wepa), born 30.7.1932 in Taupo, NZ; died 1.4.17 in Tauranga. On 22.10.1954 Ara married Reginald

(Rex) Ormsby, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children Jake and Evelyn (Porirua NZ), Wanda (Tauranga), Joseph and Clivena (Tauranga), and Earle and Tasha (Tauranga); grandchildren Angela, Andrew, Jayda and Tyler; and great-grandchildren Isaiah and Gabriel. Ara was a friend to all she met and she was loved by all. Her cheeky smile and beautiful character will be missed. Ara was an active person and even though she grew frail in the latter stage of her life, enjoyed nothing more than a good joke, a laugh and *kai* (meal) at Kwang Chow. She also enjoyed exploring God's creation, a favourite spot being Mount Maunganui.

Andrew West



SHAW, Marcia Alison (nee Long), born 18.1.1953 in Beaudesert, Qld; died 11.10.17 in Quorn Hospital, SA. She was predeceased by her husband Clyde, sister Frankie and son-in-law Jay. Marcia is survived by her siblings Ruth, John, Dolly, Teenie, Peter and Rachel; children Rachel, Michelle, Clyde, Matthew, Hannah, Andrew and Sarah; children-in-law Jono, Damien, Stacey and Jade; 20 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was a special mum to Timothy. Marcia was fiercely proud of her Aboriginal culture and of God, having given her heart to the Lord when she was 14 years old.

Andy Krause, John Beck



STRAKER, Patricia, born 29.4.1924 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; died 20.8.17 in Perth, Western Australia. She was married to Rodney Straker, who predeceased her in 1992. Patricia is survived by her children Peere, Wanda and Leon; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After marrying Rodney in 1943 the couple emigrated from the UK to New Zealand to establish a stud jersey dairy. In 1950 they became Seventh-day Adventists and devoted their lives to ministry. Patti used her musical and artistic skills to create stimulating messages and activities for local communities. She sold hundreds of paintings, sculptures, ceramics and hand-painted cards to support church building projects. She is remembered for her

welcoming hospitality and musical and artistic gifts.

Graham Thompson

TROODE, Lawrence Arthur Pomeroy, born 7.7.1936; died 12.10.17 in Busselton, WA. He was predeceased by his son Graham Troode in 2010. Lawrence is survived by his wife Jean (nee Dowson); children Lyn and David Price (Cooranbong, NSW), Karen and Chris Waite (Erina); and Jenni and Mark Keegan (Cooranbong); grandchildren Callan, Ryan and Rohan Keegan, Jared Price, and Brenton and Katelyn Waite. Laurie's main ministry was 20 years serving as a civilian chaplain, meeting US Navy ships at the Port of Fremantle. He loved his family dearly and was loyal to God. Laurie was unwavering in his love for the Word of God and his church.

David Price



WALLACE, Rosemary Morene (nee Smith), born 14.2.1946 in Otorohanga, NZ; died 11.3.17 in Kellyville, NSW. In 1973 she married Sidney Wallace in Cape Town, South Africa. He predeceased her in 1998. Rosemary is survived by her son Kerry and daughter Cassie (Sydney, NSW); and sisters Alison Crawford (Sydney) and Lorraine Smith (Putaruru, NZ). Rosie was a church musician for more than 60 years, playing piano and organ. As a member of Kellyville church for 35 years, she was actively involved in catering and fundraising. She had the gift of hospitality and her home was always open to all. She was noted for her zest for life and love of travel, which took her to more than 60 countries.

Andre Afamasanga

New Zealand: five-night tour combined with eight-night NZ cruise back to Sydney–October. We welcome your enquiry. E: <alltrav@bigpond.net.au> P: 07 5530 3555

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