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COMMUNICATE

"Communicate, communicate, communicate." These were the words I remember from Pastor Chester Stanley when he was orienting me to the work of president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Western Australia. He went on to explain that people want to know what is happening and as a leader it is your job to tell them—your staff and colleagues, the church members and community. Tell them what God is doing—share the mission and the special purpose of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Keep getting the message out in as many ways as you can.

Since then I have read leadership books that say you can never over-communicate.

I thank *Adventist Record* for the ability to share experiences, stories, perspectives and end-time truth with God's people. Because, without clear messages, people can lose their focus on our God-given purpose.

The first of the three angels' messages makes it clear that the message must be communicated in significant ways. "Then I saw another angel *flying directly overhead*, with an eternal gospel to *proclaim* to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said *with a loud voice . . .*" (Revelation 14:6,7 ESV emphasis mine). This message is to have prominence—it is in the sky above and proclaimed with a loud voice! We can join the angel in his work of communicating.

People in the Western, secular, post-modern world have so many messages bombarding them that it takes at least 5.7 meaningful encounters with Jesus—Christians, the gospel message on TV, radio, social media, a church meeting—before they decide to be a follower of Jesus.¹ So letterboxing your suburb once or giving out a GLOW tract or *Signs* magazine once, sharing a spiritual blog with your contacts once or posting a good biblical message once is a good thing to do and will have an impact on someone. However we need to be consistent in communicating. We cannot give up. We have to keep trying new and existing methods to reach people.

As a pastor I remember visiting certain people I had met in the towns and suburbs in which I ministered. I listened

to them and prayed for them. I gave Bible studies to those who wanted them. I helped them, invited them to church and called for decisions for them to follow Jesus—but it seemed for no purpose. The number of such visits was great but the results were not so good from my perspective. There were times of real discouragement.

However, now I have been in ministry for more than 30 years, I have a new perspective. I have had people phone me and say, "Do you remember me?" Often I recognise the voice but cannot put a face or a name to it until I hear more. "You visited me when I was depressed and gave me practical spiritual information and support—I am now a Seventh-day Adventist and am involved in a service ministry."

Or I go back to a church district where I pastored and see people I recognise but not from church. They tell me, "Since you left I couldn't stop thinking about the truth of the message of Jesus you shared. I wandered a bit—but Faith FM and an Adventist I came across in my work reminded me and I am now a committed follower of Jesus and am a deacon here at the church." These moments bring me incredible joy. I can almost imagine the joy of heaven when a person decides to follow Jesus!

As humans we never know when and how the Holy Spirit could and will use the messages of Jesus we communicate. However, God calls us to be faithful and persistent in the communication of our witness to Him. I just read in *Adventist Frontier* magazine that, after 31 years of ministry in a difficult area for mission, a Seventh-day Adventist church has been established.

Persistent communication will be used by God to create a disciple-making movement. After all, this could be what it means to have the "patience of the saints" (Revelation 14:12).

1. www.usacanadaregion.org/sites/usacanadaregion.org/files/PDF/Evangelism%20is%20a%20Process.pdf

**WE NEED TO BE
CONSISTENT IN
COMMUNICATING.
WE CANNOT GIVE
UP.**

GLENN TOWNEND
PRESIDENT
/SPDPresident



senior consulting editor

glenn townend

senior editor

jarrod stackelroth

assistant editors

maritza brunt

vania chew

kent kingston

copyeditor

tracey bridcutt

graphic designers

theodora amuimuia

linden chuang

noticeboard

julie laws

letters

editor@record.net.au

news & photos

news@record.net.au

noticeboard

ads@record.net.au

subscriptions

subscriptions@record.net.au

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website

record.adventistchurch.com

adventist media

locked bag 1115

wahroonga

nsw 2076 australia

+ 61 (02) 9847 2222

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PROCLAIM THE WARNING

Tropical Cyclone Gita cut a devastating path through American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, even touching some remote islands in Fiji. Many people lost their homes. Some of our school dormitories and classrooms were damaged. In Tonga, where many people rely heavily on their plantations, many of these were destroyed and there is a very real threat of a food shortage in the next couple of months.

Fortunately, there was no loss of life. This, in part, is due to the good work of the meteorology office. Basically, people were prepared for this cyclone. The available technology was able to forecast the details of the cyclone: people knew the exact time it was going to hit the island, they knew its strength and its route. They could even predict how it would affect the sea and the swell of waves. This information came a few days ahead of the cyclone, giving people time to strengthen their houses, move to safer places and store up extra food. This actually helped to save lives.

Imagine if people didn't know about the cyclone and were not prepared. The result would have been devastating.

We believe this world is heading towards its end. Jesus is soon to return and to establish His kingdom. This world must be prepared for Jesus' return. We are to proclaim the preparation message to the world. "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgement has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" (Revelation 14:7).

I'm sure the people of Tonga were thankful they'd received the warning message that there was a cyclone coming. They were able to prepare. The world needs you to warn them of the upcoming great event of Jesus' return. All your friends, your neighbours and your family need to hear the warning so they can be well prepared.

MAVENI KAUFONONGA
TPUM PRESIDENT



NEWS

FESTIVAL FOCUSES ON DISCIPLESHIP

MARITZA BRUNT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans Pacific (TPUM) recently held its Festival of Laity, designed to train local church members in the area of discipleship.

Held February 6-10 at Fiji's Fulton College, keynote speakers included Dr C Wesley Knight, assistant professor of preaching and ministry at Oakwood University, and storyteller and creative ministries pastor Dick Duerksen. The event was also livestreamed on the TPUM YouTube channel, making it accessible to those unable to attend.

"In our Union, this is the year of our laity, so this event was held to launch this program," said TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga. "We brought our best lay people from the field and designed special training with them on the different areas from the farming cycle discipleship model that we're using. This is equipping them in preparation for our harvesting program in July. We



THIS YEAR IS TPUM'S YEAR OF LAITY.

are expecting them to go back and help other elders, using what they have learned from this program."

The program included workshops on topics such as health and small groups, a health screening for all participants, and designated morning and evening worship sessions, featuring special items from across the Pacific. More than 120 people attended, representing every territory in the Trans Pacific.

"I was really happy with the response that we had from our participants," said Pastor Kaufononga. "They were very committed to our vision and I am confident of their support for God's work."

ADRA HELPS TONGANS AFTER CYCLONE GITA

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Hundreds of food parcels have been distributed as ADRA South Pacific and the Adventist Church in Tonga respond to the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Gita.

South Pacific emergency response coordinator Michael Peach worked with the Tongan Government, church leaders and district pastors to assess the situation and develop a response plan.

ADRA and the Adventist Church delivered food parcels to 700 households, including on the islands of Tongatapu and 'Eua where properties were identified by the Government's National Disability scheme as housing extremely vulnerable people and their carers.

The Adventist Church has also responded to the Tongan Government's calls to develop resilience by



STILL SMILING DESPITE THE DEVASTATION.

identifying the development of 22 church-based community gardens.

Each of the 22 Adventist churches will donate 3ha of land for use by community members (Adventist and non-Adventist) whose land has been affected or who have fallen on bad times because of the cyclone. It means that they will be able to quickly start planting root crops to be ready in the next three to six months when it is predicted there will be a food shortage as a result of the cyclone.

MISSION 2 SYDNEY SEES CHURCH LEADERS DREAM BIG

JARROD STACKELROTH

More than 400 leaders from Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) gathered at ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park, for the Mission 2 Sydney Think Tank, February 23–24.

The think tank was designed to bring representatives from all Sydney's churches together "to pray, to listen and discuss innovative ways in which we can reach the secular mind in Sydney", said GSC president Pastor Terry Johnson.

In his welcome to attendees, Pastor Johnson challenged those in the room. He referenced the 13 million people who have left the Church since 1960, 4 out of every 10, and even higher percentages of young people.

"I want you to risk and I want you to risk big during our think tank," Pastor Johnson encouraged the attendees.

"This weekend, I don't want you spending time trying to work out all the logistics, issues and challenges. Instead, allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to ideas no matter how nuts it may sound to our human way of thinking."

With that, the two-day conference began, followed by a presentation on the history of urban outreach in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It continued on Saturday with presentations covering unity in mission, church planting, how to change an established church into a missional church, and stories of successful ideas that are already being implemented, such as the centre of influence at Stanmore church and a "meetup" photo club.

A highlight was the presentation by social researcher Mark McCrindle. He broke down the demographics of Australia and the city of Sydney, outlining some of the challenges and the opportunities present both today and in the future. He encouraged the Church to reach out through innovative, collaborative and responsive approaches.

Keynote presentations were followed by prayer and then a time for discussion. iPads were provided for each table to answer the discussion questions and submit answers to be



L-R: GSC'S EVA ING, PASTOR TERRY JOHNSON AND PASTOR ADRIAN RAETHEL AT ANZ STADIUM.

Photo: Jungyook Ryan Park

collected and collated. "I'm quite excited about the outcomes that have been discussed. We're going to collate the information and bring together all the boards of churches in Sydney on May 5 to discuss this issue and from there bring it to our session in August," Pastor Johnson said.

These recommendations will inform the strategic direction of the Conference for the next four years.

"We've got to find different ways in which to share the fact that Jesus is coming soon. We want you to pray for us."

A BIBLE FOR EVERY PACIFIC STUDENT

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The vision of a Bible for every student at an Adventist school in the Pacific is the impetus for a new "missional" edition of the World Changers Bible.

South Pacific Division (SPD) youth leader Dr Nick Kross has received an order for 50,000 Bibles from the SPD education department to be handed out in Adventist schools in Pacific island nations, and possibly also Australia and New Zealand.

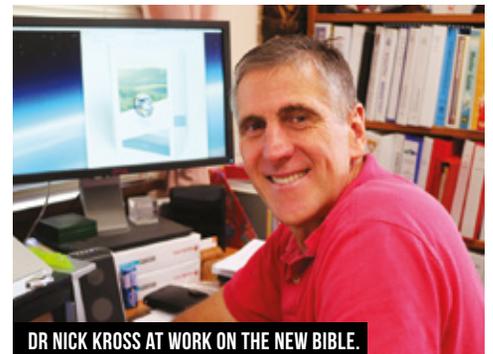
"This is such a great initiative—I believe every child should have their own Bible," Dr Kross said. "It's an essential tool for their Bible classes at school."

This will be the fifth print run of the World Changers Bible, a project launched at the SPD Youth Congress in 2013. The project continues to

flourish, with 225,700 Bibles printed to date, including 1200 French World Changers Bibles. The new edition, currently in production, will have an intentional focus on discipleship. The youth department is also placing a strategic focus on "missional communities" and the World Changers Bible complements this ministry focus area.

"It will still be very useful for one-on-one witnessing; it still has all the information on how to win a soul for Jesus," Dr Kross explained. "It will also include an insert for those starting small groups and church plants, and can be used in conjunction with the 'Pacific Reach' and 'Following Jesus' discipleship training."

Dr Kross is working towards an overall print run of 150,000 Bibles,



DR NICK KROSS AT WORK ON THE NEW BIBLE.

which means local churches have an opportunity to be included in the bulk order, helping to keep costs at a minimum.

The Bibles will cost around \$A7 each. They are hard cover and will come with a set of Bible studies. They will be available around the middle of the year.

For more details, or to order, email: <NickKross@adventist.org.au>.

SAN PERFORMS AUSTRALIAN-FIRST SURGERY

LEISA O'CONNOR

Australian-first prostate surgery was performed at Sydney Adventist Hospital in late February.

The groundbreaking operation is designed to help the more than 50 per cent of men, aged 50 and over, who have enlarged prostates. The condition causes a number of issues, including sleep disturbance and the frequent need to urinate. It can be painful and debilitating, affecting the lifestyles of otherwise active men.

San urologist Professor Henry Woo trained overseas for the Rezum procedure, which involves delivering steam vapour directly to the prostate, using thermal energy to kill the enlarged tissue.

"The water vapour literally cooks the prostate, which then shrinks—as it does, the urethra is opened and men can pass urine more freely," Professor Woo said.

The day-only

procedure, from which patients recover within 48 hours, has minimal side effects in comparison to treatments like medication and conventional surgery.

"To have a minimally invasive surgical treatment that preserves all aspects of sexual function is a game-changing type of treatment," Professor Woo said. "I think it is very exciting that we are seeing this technology finally make its way to Australia."

In the past men have chosen to forgo treatment and put up with their symptoms.

Property developer Andrew Denton, 52, is booked in for his procedure in April and says the new procedure is definitely a game-changer for him.

"What put me off getting treatment previously was the 70-80 per cent possibility that I would end up with some type of dysfunction. The fact that I should get relief within a few weeks, without side effects, and that I'll be back driving and at work the next day, is terrific."



DR WOO IN ACTION AT THE SAN.



DR WOO SAYS THE NEW TREATMENT IS GAME-CHANGING.

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350 YOUNG ADULTS ‘HANG OUT WITH JESUS’

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

More than 350 young adults from across Australia enjoyed a weekend of spiritual and social highlights at this year’s Converge camp.

Held at the Stuarts Point Convention Centre (NSW), February 16–19, the camp is promoted as a time to “come hang out with Jesus and your mates!”

An initiative of the youth department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC), this was the third year the camp has been held. Initially, the AUC youth team had locked in Converge for a three-year trial, which ended this year. They unanimously voted at last month’s youth advisory to continue Converge into the future.

“Converge has been a real success,” said AUC director of youth ministry, Pastor Jeff Parker. “We are so excited about the young adults who have attended. Our Church really needs the energy and passion that they offer. A church without them would not be a church at all.”

This year’s speakers were Terrance Taylor, a speaker and pastor from the US, and Alina van Rensberg, young adult director for the South Queensland Conference. They gave campers practical tips for their spiritual life, including how to read and apply the Bible, how to let the Holy Spirit guide your life and how to step up for Christ in today’s world.

“It was an excellent ministry event designed for Adventist young adults to bring their friends to,” South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross said.

“This is what actually happened for several groups I spoke with. The Mt Druitt Samoan youth group decided to fundraise so they could invite some former youth who had stopped attending



“WHAT BETTER PLACE TO MEET OTHER ADVENTISTS THAN AT A YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT.”

church regularly. They hosted a concert and raised \$A10,000 to cover the costs of Converge.

“A total of 40 youth and young adults registered and about half of that group came purely because they were invited by their Adventist friends.”

On the Saturday evening there was a speed-friending activity that had a large group fully engaged for more than two hours.

“Meeting other Adventists is always a sub-theme in youth ministry,” Dr Kross said. “I always say, ‘What better place to meet other Adventists than at a youth ministry event.’”

“Finding a spiritual life partner remains a core need for many of our young adults. Jesus is interested in every aspect of our life—the spiritual, social, physical and relational—so we need to lean into His will for our lives by taking every opportunity to partake in quality ministry events.”

Matt Corker travelled from Western Australia to attend Converge 2018, describing it as an “awesome experience”.

“It was great to unite with youth from all over the nation, creating friendships and memories, while praising God and being inspired by guest speakers Terrance and Alina,” Matt, 20, said.

“I attended for the first time this year, chasing a new-found experience, and left fulfilled and energised, but wanting more.

“This camp has motivated me to be the difference in my local church.”

Converge 2019 will run over the weekend of February 8–11.

NEWS GRABS



IVY LEAGUE

Dr Eddie Ramirez, director of Research at Nedley Clinic, and four students from the Weimar Institute, were recently chosen to present their research on the longevity of the Adventist lifestyle at a Harvard University Science Symposium. The annual event features promising health and biomedical research from around the world. —*Adventist Review*



INDIA INFLUENCED

A four-storey wellness centre has opened in India, the first Adventist Church-owned “urban centre of influence” in the country. The three-year project features medical consultation rooms, exercise facilities, a seminar hall, pharmacy and lobby area with GLOW sharing tracts. —*Adventist Mission*



ABOLISHING EXAMS

After a personal visit and appeal by Adventist Church president Pastor Ted Wilson to abolish Saturday exams, Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni announced he would take steps to accommodate the convictions of Adventist students. “I commend members of the Adventist community in Uganda for their discipline,” he said. —*Andrew McChesney*

Photo: Charmaine Patel



YOUNG ADULTS FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA GATHERED AT CONVERGE.

HOT TOPICS



ANOTHER MR FUDGE?

A new Netflix film set to release on April 13 will tackle the theology of hell. *Come Sunday* tells the true story of mega-church pastor Carlton Pearson, who famously became an evangelical outcast after he stopped believing in hell. "This is a classic story of somebody standing up for what they believe in, and then suffering the consequences," said producer Ira Glass. —*Relevant*



DON'T GO BACON MY HEART

A new study from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition has found eating just one slice of bacon a day can result in a significant increase in deaths from cancer and heart disease. When the study referred to a "high consumption of processed meat", this meant only 20g per day. —*BMC*



WAR IN THE MIDDLE BELT

Religious and political leaders are warning that Nigeria risks spiralling into civil war, as the government deploys troops to the Middle Belt. The unrest stems from the government's unwillingness to prevent Muslim cattle herders from grazing their herds on crops cultivated by Christian farmers. More than 160 Christians have already been killed in four Middle Belt states this year. —*RLPB*

CHURCH AIMS TO BE WORLD LEADER IN LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

An innovative health strategy developed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific is aimed at positioning the Church as a world leader in lifestyle medicine.

"We want to make a big impact in the community and with health professionals so that when people think about health, they come to the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Division health strategy consultant Geraldine Przybylko said.

The Comprehensive Health Strategy (CHS) is designed to empower the Church to champion Christ's blended ministry so it can thrive and meet the needs of the wider community.

General Conference Health Ministries director Dr Peter Landless is so impressed with the strategy that he believes it could become a model for the worldwide Church.

"I've been amazed and thankful," Dr Landless said during his recent visit to Australia. "When I see themes like blended ministry being embedded in it, when I see the evidence base—that it's consonant with the Bible, with the Spirit of Prophecy—the peer-reviewed medicine and health studies, I just think to myself, *what a blessing*."

"I see this could be an amazing model to be followed in many parts [of the world]. That was the first thing that came to my mind when I saw it."

Mrs Przybylko said it is very encouraging to receive Dr Landless's affirmation.



DR PETER LANDLESS AT AVONDALE COLLEGE.

"This is a long-term strategy and we need the prayers and involvement of our health professionals, pastors and church members to bring healing and hope to our communities," she said.

"The Bible reveals Jesus' love for people, and this is demonstrated through His blended ministry of healing and hope. The Comprehensive Health Strategy is based on this model using the '7 Dimensions of Wellness' framework, which is a holistic approach to health.

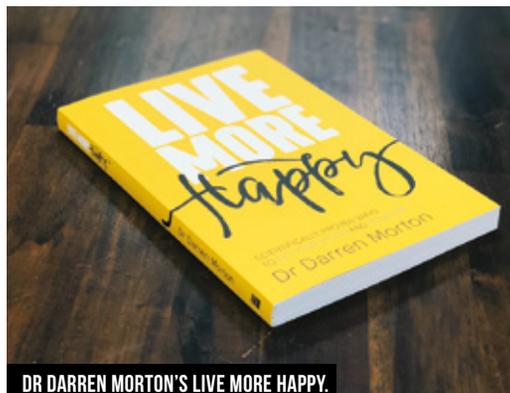
"I want to recognise the South Pacific Division administration and various boards and committees for their vision and support."

A 10-part innovative and interactive online video series, known as the *Live More Project*, is part of the strategy. It incorporates the latest findings from science, lifestyle medicine and positive psychology about how to stress less and increase emotional wellness.

Featuring Avondale Lifestyle Medicine senior lecturer Dr Darren Morton, it has been created in response to the growing number of people experiencing stress and anxiety in the community.

"Emotional wellness is a significant community need," Mrs Przybylko said. "The *Live More Project* is one tool that can be used to help us build relationships and learn how we can meet further needs in the community."

Church members will have an opportunity to participate in the project later in the year.



DR DARREN MORTON'S LIVE MORE HAPPY.

FLASHPOINT



GENEROUS GIVERS

Students at Rotorua Seventh-day Adventist School (NZ) recently had an opportunity to be generous givers by helping to raise funds for their teacher to shave her head for cancer awareness. Junior school teacher Wendy Schwartzfeger decided to raise funds for the Cancer Society after a diagnosis was made for a close family member. One five-year-old with tears in his eyes offered to empty his piggy bank when he heard about what his donation was going toward. More than \$NZ3000 was raised from Adventist churches, wider church communities, families and friends.—*Lanea Strickland*



PRAYERS FOR RENOVATIONS

Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (Papua New Guinea) pastor Bruce Oreyabu was recently invited by the Kapakamarigi Seventh-day Adventist church to pray for local church maintenance work to begin. In an emotional service, elders shared how, although the church was dedicated in 2005, most of the members no longer attended. The prayer for the major renovations included a special invitation for the community from Kapakamarigi church pastor Misesk Komiloko, who encouraged them to support and lend a hand to the cause.—*Misesk Komiloko*



CELEBRATING CECILE

Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village (Qld) celebrated a special milestone for one of its treasured staff members on February 14. Cecile Iverach has worked at the village for 20 years, celebrating 21 years in May. Beginning in house-keeping, Cecile has also worked in the kitchen as a catering assistant, and now works in payroll/HR. She is an active member of the Adventist church in Yeppoon and the mother of two young boys. "Twenty years of service is a massive achievement and shows her dedication and loyalty to the Adventist Retirement Plus organisation," said operations manager David Tyson. "We are blessed to have her in our lives." —*David Tyson*



KAITAIA ORDINATION

February 24 marked a special day for Kaitaia Adventist Church (NZ) as Pastor Patrick Coogan was ordained. Originally a teacher, Pastor Coogan first commenced service with the North NZ Conference at the beginning of 1993. He returned to teaching in 1996, but was called to the Kaitaia church after a few years. The ordination sermon and prayer were presented by NNZ president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i and general secretary Pastor Ben Timothy, while the charge and certificate were delivered by Pastor Jean-Noel Adeline. Friends, family and church members enjoyed a delicious meal after the service. —*Patricia Chatfield*



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Last year Ballarat Pathfinder Club (Vic) went all out to make a difference in their community. With a focus on the environment, they cleaned up parklands, planted trees, learnt about responsible recycling and spent time with their local community firefighters. They also served by helping clean up other people's backyards, made packs for the homeless and less fortunate, and took part in the Cancer Council's "Biggest Afternoon Tea". The time and commitment put in by the Pathfinders and their leaders led to the club receiving several awards of excellence at the end-of-year rally day.—*Sheralyn van Egmond*



HEART OF THE MATTER

General Conference Health Ministries director Dr Peter Landless (fourth from right) visited Australia last month, with his busy schedule including a Sabbath at Waitara church in Sydney. He took the main service and the afternoon program, entitled "The heart of the matter", in which he spoke about heart disease prevention and answered questions from the attendees.—*Tracey Bridcutt*



PROCLAIMERS FOR JESUS

Tabubil Adventist Church in the heart of the Ok Tedi mining town (Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea) recently held a "children's induction". With the theme "Proclaimers for Jesus", the children's ministries team at Tabubil church have aimed this year to teach the children to become disciples and build a kingdom ready for Jesus' second coming. —*Flora Walter*



INTERN TRAINING

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans Pacific recently facilitated and hosted intern supervisors' training. Held over a few days, more than 20 church officers and local church pastors from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu attended the training, held at the Melanesian Hotel in Port Vila (Vanuatu). —*TPUM*



THE END OF THE ONE PROJECT

The One project concluded last month with final gatherings in Sydney and San Diego. Beginning with a small group of pastors and chaplains in a hotel room in Denver in late 2010, the One project totalled 32 gatherings and included thousands of people in North America, Europe and the South Pacific.

During this time, the One project has been “one of the best and most important conversations happening in the Adventist Church”.¹ It also has attracted more than its fair share of criticism, suspicion and straight-up nastiness. Now those who warned so vociferously that the One project was the last great apostasy will need to go looking for—or invent—another.

So, given the controversy, the reality and the rumours, is the Church better off for the One project?

The first and most important answer is yes. Many people have found Jesus at and through the One project gatherings, some for the first time, others all over again. The final two gatherings gave participants the opportunity to testify publicly to the differences made in their lives. These testimonies gave glimpses of the transformation and fresh hope that can always be found when we refocus on Jesus.

One project participants have also generally renewed and deepened their commitment to the Church and its mission. While some gatherings have included expressions of frustration with our Church—more so in the earlier gatherings at which people found safe places to talk about these disappointments—this was most often done with love and a strong desire for the Church to be better and more.

There have been mistakes and missteps along the way. Listen to anyone involved in the One project since its beginnings and they will remind you that this was something that grew quickly beyond any expectations they might have had. To an extent, they were making it up as it developed, and it drew responses and reactions that caught them by surprise. There are things that would have been done differently if they had known how they would be perceived, misunderstood and misrepresented.

But, for all of this, the One project has had a positive influence in the Church, including far beyond those who have directly participated in the gatherings. As the One project began to attract more attention, we have seen a broader re-orientation toward the centrality of Jesus in the faith and life of Adventism, expressed

in conference and camp-meeting themes, church publications and more. This is an incomplete project—for example, the current General Conference survey of members’ beliefs and attitudes fails to mention “Jesus” among topics of distinctive Adventist preaching—but Jesus has been preached with renewed attention and that is cause for rejoicing (see Philippians 1:18).

The One project gatherings have consistently modelled excellence in preaching, production and punctuality—yes, they always started and finished on time. Their many speakers demonstrated that we can say something significant and deep in a 20-minute sermon, particularly when it is well prepared and doesn’t seek to answer every question but intends to prompt discussion.

The ensuing conversations took place in small groups around tables at most gatherings. Church leaders sat with college students, talking about their dreams for the Church; tired pastors dialogued with long-time Church members about how church might be different with Jesus at its centre; and people from so many different backgrounds, demographics and places talked, listened and worshipped together, celebrating the

supremacy of Jesus (see Colossians 1:15–20).

The One project has come to an end not because the conversation is finished but because the work of rediscovering Jesus is never finished and the conversation must grow beyond a label or a series of events (see John 3:30). The One project has been ended with an invitation for ever more of us to join in seeking more of Jesus and discovering that, in Him, we have all that we need (see 1 Corinthians 2:2).

In many ways, the Church is better for the One project, many churches have benefited from the influence of the One project and church is better for so many who have participated in the One project. A fresh encounter



with Jesus changes us, challenges us together and brings renewed hope.

But the Church is also worse off, damaged by too many of the responses to the One project and the attitudes of fear and suspicion they have revealed. The One project has exposed an ugly and destructive streak within our Church.

Of course, these voices need to be kept in perspective. This criticism has been driven by a noisy minority. Among those who will lose out at the end of the One project are those independent “parasitical” ministries who have benefitted from having such a ready target for their conspiracy-mongering. Remnant Publishing and some of their authors, as well as some of the semi-Adventist television “ministries”, have developed a profitable cottage industry by attacking the

One project and its leaders, demonstrating again that it is much easier to sell a lie that feeds our fear than a truth that feeds our faith. None of these critics have taken any initiative to listen to the leaders of the One project, but this doesn’t preclude their fear-driven assumptions and passionate condemnations. It’s a sadly effective way to sell books and raise donations.

And there are too many among us who are too ready to buy it and believe it. That we are more ready to believe online scandal, rather than pastors and people we actually know, does not bode well. That we are so ready to invent and share conspiracies rather than seeking facts does not help our credibility. That truth doesn’t seem to matter is deeply disturbing (compare Exodus 20:16). That we struggle to accept that Jesus is enough or that Jesus could be “all” demonstrates deep flaws in our theology.

We are better than this—and we must be better than this.

In this context, we have also seen a failure by too many Church leaders. The falsehood of most of



these criticisms is known by most Church leaders—including a number of “investigations” conducted at different levels of the Church that have found no substantial heresy, errors or wrongdoing—but most Church leaders have remained silent, out of the understandable fear of the political risks of speaking up.² Not that it is their responsibility to defend the One project; but it is their responsibility to defend the Church from nonsense, to

dispel a climate of fear and suspicion, and to champion the uplifting of Jesus wherever and however this happens (see John 12:32).

In His day, Jesus was a polarising figure, which He has continued to be throughout history. Perhaps the reaction and resistance demonstrates the reality of Jesus among us. But so much more in the positive responses. As Dr Bill Johnsson, a retired Church editor and leader who has spoken at a number of One project gatherings over the past three years, explained it at the final gathering in San Diego, “The One project—to me—is one of the best evidences that God is alive and well, and is working in the Adventist Church.”

At the end of the One project, talking about Jesus is still “the best and most important conversation” for our Church—and is perhaps all the more necessary, if that were possible. It is precisely this same Jesus who is the Church’s only hope, who offers the power for its healing and who prayed for its unity (see John 17:11). The One project has offered the Church a renewed vision of Jesus. Many of us have been blessed, inspired and refocused. But too many of us have chosen differently—and too many of our leaders have failed to lead. May Jesus forgive us and knock yet again, so we can sit together around His table, enjoying better conversations, ultimately in His coming kingdom (see Revelation 3:20, 21).

1. To quote myself, “Introducing this book” in Nathan Brown, Alex Bryan and Japhet de Oliveira (editors), *For the One: Voices from the One project*, Signs Publishing, 2014. After having been misquoted and misrepresented in at least one of the anti-One project books, this seems an opportunity to correct any misunderstanding.

2. This has been less of an issue in the South Pacific. Adventist Record published a piece examining the validity of the One project, from the South Pacific Division’s field officer. See *Adventist Record* October 1, 2016. The 2017 One Project was supported by the SPD’s Discipleship Ministries Team.

NATHAN BROWN BOOK EDITOR AT SIGNS PUBLISHING COMPANY, VICTORIA.

GROWING UP: A PARABLE

Growing up I wasn't always sure who I was because I didn't always fit into the space I had. If your space fits, then you fit. My space was sometimes tight and stifling, and didn't smell or sound right. For me, the right space smells like Africa's veld when you are stretched out in it with the sun on your back, and sounds like the world purring, low and deep down, the sound of contentedness. A space like that fits you like a shadow and you know it belongs to you. I often found that space as a child, but then someone might call out and the sun would go in and my space did not fit so well anymore; too much was crowding into it.

Whenever I left that space I was more certain about who I wasn't. I wasn't the boy in the next street whose father was a game-lover and made safari films to show how wild and wonderful Africa's animals are. I wasn't the boy two classes above me who was the quickest bowler in the First Cricket Team and once took 4-for-10. And I wasn't Jim the boy-hero in Treasure Island who had marvellous adventures with gold and jewels and nearly died but didn't because Long John Silver said he was a rum fellow. I wasn't such a rum fellow.

To be a rum fellow a boy needed connections, someone who saw the

good in him and helped to draw it out so that it emerged even better than it was on the inside. Jim had more connections than most boys and each made him a little taller and straighter and by the time they were done he was a proper gentleman with coat and hat and a grand house to hang them in. He had all the space he needed and the shadow he cast was as swell as can be.

I had connections, but along with the good in me they also saw the contrary coils of a garden hose with a mind of its own. I had a mind of my own, they said, which to my mind was only proper because it had always belonged to me. They set about to change my mind, to bring it into line. It is not an easy thing to bring a mind into line because you cannot see what you are working with. There are no handles marked Pull Gently, to take hold of, to pull and tease the knots out. It is a work in the dark.

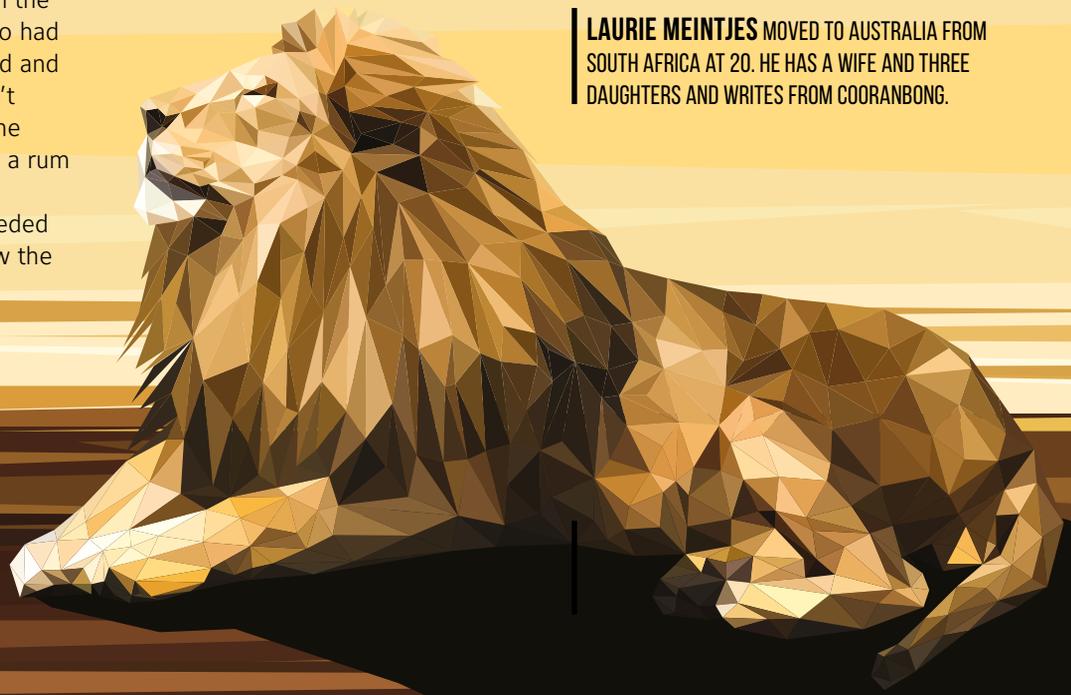
My mind is no longer my own. I

gave it away to a Connection who likes working in the dark. He knows where the light-switch is; it is within Himself (John 8:12) and it is always on. In that light He saw the good in me and drew it out, and I am a little taller and straighter now. But the strangest thing is that the good He found in me wasn't there before. He put it there Himself (1 Corinthians 1:30). Yes, my new Connection sees the good in me and the space He has made for me fits very well and we spend a lot of time together there.

That space I found as a child, with the warm grass and the African sun and the world purring beneath me, is still my space. Sometimes I am elsewhere as life has many spaces, but that first space is always in my mind, the mind of my own I gave to Jesus. That space is also in His mind, a space where the calf and the lion and the fatling shall lie down together and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6).

Oh, yes, my space fits me very well. How about yours?

Laurie Meintjes moved to Australia from South Africa at 20. He has a wife and three daughters and writes from Cooranbong.





OUTBACK CHURCH



It was probably the most sustained heat I'd ever experienced—five days out of six reached 42 degrees. But in this small outback town of 20,000 people this is normal.

Mount Isa is a mining town. There is a strange beauty in the Martian terrain: the rocky hills, red dirt in all directions. The giant mine, smoke stacks visible from almost every part of town, is an ever present reminder of the reason the town exists.

Mount Isa Seventh-day Adventist Church has some history in its almost 50 years of ministry, as it has battled the heat, the tyranny of distance and a transient fly-in fly-out population. Most notably, Mount Isa was the church where the Chamberlain family was pastoring at the time they took their ill-fated holiday at Uluru.

The pastor's house is next door to the church, on the corner of Abel Smith Parade in a suburb optimistically called Sunset. When the sun sets in Mount Isa, things get cooler. Marginally. We welcomed the Sabbath with a vespers program.

The following morning we gathered in the church hall for breakfast before Sabbath School. A wonderful spread, with an array of fresh fruit, cereal, pancakes, Filipino delicacies—all laid out for everyone to enjoy together.

The cement block church is a decent size with a community hall and lush red carpet. Adult Sabbath School was combined in the church, while the sound of children singing filtered through from the hall next door.

The thing that struck me about Mount Isa church is the children. There were lots of kids and they were attentive during the Sabbath morning service. They responded to questions and were engaged with the message.

There are people from around the world attending this remote church, from Fiji, Africa, the Philippines, Australia and Samoa. Lunch is delicious and represents the various cultures well.

Pastor Musu Amuimuia has been there for four years. He tells me that, this year, they are focusing on learning how to actively reach their community.

We spend almost all of the Sabbath hours at church. But that's not the only day the church is active. On Sunday morning the men's ministry has organized a hike up a nearby hill and breakfast together. It will be the third meal at the church within 24 hours. They say the family that eats together stays together. If that's true then Mount Isa is doing it right.

I enjoyed my Sabbath with the beautiful people of Mount Isa. If you're on an outback adventure or doing a Grey Nomad tour of the Top End, I'd encourage you to spend Sabbath at the church in Mount Isa. I'm sure you won't regret it.

The church is planning 50th anniversary celebrations in November. They would love former members and pastors to attend.

JARROD STACKELROTH ADVENTIST RECORD EDITOR.

@JStackelroth

LIVING HIS WORD WITH WAYNE BOEHM

ABRAHAM: LESSONS FOR A NEW GENERATION

I passed a church sign in Castle Hill, NSW, that made a bold claim. My heart was warmed by the message. I had to return at the advertised time, eager to learn about a Man who could transform our lives. It seemed very few had the same idea—what a disappointment. As I sat in the empty car park, I wondered if we had become blasé about the message and claims of Jesus that many now no longer believed?

CONSIDER: What has made contemporary society view Jesus' claims with scepticism and lethargy? Have you contributed to this view in any way? Abraham was surrounded by such people. After the tower of Babel, Abraham's contemporaries had grown in their ambivalence towards God. God called Abraham to leave country and family to preserve for himself a chosen generation that would be a keeper of the law and character of God.

CONSIDER: GENESIS 12:1-5, MATTHEW 19:27-30. What can we learn from God's instructions and Abraham's willingness? Did Abraham err in taking Lot with him on the journey, given God had said leave your family? On the journey from Ur, God would continue to grow Abraham's outward acts of faith that grew from a deepening inward dependence upon God.

CONSIDER: GENESIS 12:3, 7, 8 22:18, 28:14. How were these promises and acts of worship foundational to Abraham's faith journey. What can you learn from these acts that will help you in your faith journey? Years later, the nation of Israel would be asked to embark upon the same journey, leaving their place of residence to travel to an unknown land and worship God.

CONSIDER: IS GOD ASKING YOU TO TAKE A FAITH JOURNEY?

28 FUNDAMENTALS

GROWING LIKE CHRIST

Christian behaviour

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognising cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy and goodness. (Gen 7:2; Exod 20:15; Lev 11:1-47; Ps 106:3; Rom 12:1, 2; 1 Cor 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 10:5; Eph 5:1-21; Phil 2:4; 4:8; 1 Tim 2:9, 10; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.)

At 28 I gave my heart to Christ; 14 years on I can honestly say I don't recognise myself. I know without a shadow of a doubt that no-one could ever pay me enough to go back to the person I once was. Am I perfect now? Far from it. But I am confident that my God will continue to work in and through me to refine and smooth out the rough edges until the day of His return.

In my early years, my church attendance was sporadic. My mother was raised Adventist but for a while stopped attending. However, we started attending more regularly when I was about 5 or 6. I grew up in a strict Samoan Adventist home in South Auckland, NZ, in the '70s-'90s. The strictness of the Adventist home was

fairly typical but in my experience the Sadventists in this time period took it a step too far.

I resented what I viewed as the restrictive nature of not only our ethnic culture but also our Church culture. I wanted to be FREE from everything that weighed me down. I started to rebel and my poor mother and grandmother watched, cried and prayed for my life. I, on the other-hand, marvelled at the way I could do as I pleased while my siblings still toed the line. Don't get me wrong: I was disciplined. But it got to the stage where I would do what I wanted and took the discipline because I was happy that I had indulged in the activities I wanted to. I thought this was true freedom and happiness.

Going to school was a holiday for me. English was my favourite subject. However, I loathed the predictable "write what you did during the holidays" exercise. Truth be told we didn't go anywhere. My siblings and I had the same holiday routine. We engaged in what my mother referred to as "character building" activities. These included weeding, washing the outside of the house, scrubbing the concrete steps, cleaning the house, washing windows, mopping floors, wiping down the insides of cupboards—the list of chores was endless. Therefore, my stories excluded reality but rather painted a picture of childhood bliss, which included frequenting theme parks, numerous international destinations, junk food galore and the



latest movies . . . none of it was ever challenged by the teacher. (We lived in a low socio-economic area and we couldn't afford the school bus fare let alone the cost of a plane ticket.) I found that I liked to embellish my monotonous life. It became a part of who I was. I didn't have to lie. I had convinced myself that my fictitious life trumped my real one. I had convinced myself that my lies didn't really bother me and they would not hurt anyone else. I never thought anything of it until the day I met Christ.

When I gave my life to Christ one of the many things I was convicted of purging from my life was lying. I recall lying to the assistant principal. I happily told the big fib and bounced out of his office. The realisation that I had told a lie came crashing down when I got home. I remember how awful I felt—which at that stage was a foreign feeling for me. I felt in my heart that I had to go back and confess my lie. I couldn't eat or sleep, wrestling with the idea of the confession. I wanted to tell the truth but I was worried about being humiliated and disgraced. The next morning, I marched into his office and confessed—it is all a blur but what I remember distinctly is a feeling of overwhelming peace and calm, which I absolutely welcomed.

A few weeks later I found myself in a similar predicament, except this time I had lied to the school chaplain. Again, I felt the promptings to confess and again I wrestled with them for a few days. Peace was restored when I obeyed. A month or so later I was prompted to ask my Year 11 Bible class for forgiveness because I had told them a story—a truthful story mind you, but I neglected to tell them that I was not the true heroine. When I owned up to my class many of them

questioned why I had confessed because they would never have known, which was true. But God knew and so did I.

Good news is, as time progressed, telling the truth became easier and almost automatic. I was grocery shopping and I noticed the cashier swipe a bowl I had purchased, unaware that there were two bowls stuck together. When I alerted her to the second bowl she was surprised and thankful that someone could be so honest—if she only knew!

Honestly, all this confessing left me quite exhausted and I began to question God because I felt like He was expecting too much, too soon from me. I also wondered whether He was working on anyone else with the same intensity that I thought He was with me.

A year later I received an unexpected phone call from a family member. This person sounded uncharacteristically guarded and I wondered why they had called me. This person had called me to ask for forgiveness for lying to me. I am sorry, but I couldn't contain myself. I responded in joyous laughter. I realised that I was not the only one God was refining. Another call from a Church member confirmed it. He called to confess a lie he had told me the previous day. I praise God that I was able to respond with the same grace that God and the people I had confessed to had shown me.

Believe me, lying was not the only part of my life God was working on at the time. God wanted and still wants me to be a better version of myself.

I truly do not recognise myself and look forward to the person He will have me be in the future. God was not joking when He said that in Him we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). There were elements of my old life God stripped away at the beginning of my journey once and for all, like

alcohol. I have not touched a drop in 14 years. Then there's the lying that took a bit longer. Then there's the conviction to exercise, eat well and have a consistent devotional life, which are things I will always need God's help with because they are not ideals I gravitate towards naturally. They have been habits I have had to develop over the course of many years until these actions became a daily necessity and joy.

At the beginning of last year, I decided to purchase a wireless speaker. I went to our local Big W store and saw the price of the speaker brand I wanted, which exceeded \$300 and this frugal girl wanted none of that! I purchased one for \$85. However, I had to return it as it did not work as well as the original brand I wanted. I returned the product and took the original speaker to the help desk. To my surprise, after scanning the more expensive speaker, the attendant informed me that she now owed me \$34. Maths has never been a strong point of mine but even I knew this was a gross miscalculation. I was supposed to be paying at least \$200-plus to cover the second product. I stood there for a while debating whether to tell the truth. A trip to the store: \$20. A wireless speaker: \$300. Walking out of the store in obedience and peace: PRICELESS.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no-one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).



ANGIE GIBSON

Angie Gibson worships at South Kempsey Aboriginal Church and works at Kempsey Adventist School, NSW.



my story



But what has this whole experience meant to me? What have I learnt in spending much of nearly three years, pondering every word of every text and reproducing it in my words? As I have said to my wife, this is an experience no-one can take from me. This really is God's gift to me in obeying His prompting to do something I had never envisaged doing. As I

decided initially to allocate different colours to the words of the Members of the Godhead, it was somewhat of an eye-opener to see just how much of the Bible, particularly the Earlier Testament, was the actual words of God written out by the various authors.

There were passages I approached with apprehension. What would I do with the book of Romans, as Peter's challenge that some of Paul's writings are hard to understand rang in my ears? I do not know the particular texts Peter was referring to, but as always, I prayed at the beginning of a writing session for the Holy Spirit's guidance and help. He did help me through difficult passages as well as the more straightforward books.

After *The Gift* was launched and after two printings, I decided I would extract the gospels, put these into chronological order and group together what any of the gospel writers had said on the same subject or event. I called this *Acts of the Gospels*. Both books have been well received around Australia and in the US.

Do not ignore the Spirit's prompting. If He speaks to you, respond by doing what He knows you can do with His help. After all, Christ told His disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to help us. Don't be hesitant in what God wants you to do for He will give you the strength to do it.

WILLIAM ACKLAND IS RETIRED AND WRITES FROM NSW.

As Christians, we want to do God's will for we know it is the best way to live. We believe that in a general sense but what about doing something very specific, something we have not done before? It is then we often hesitate, wondering what people will say, or, if it is really sensible.

We often miss out on a great blessing by rationalising ourselves into thinking that *maybe this isn't something God really wants me to do*.

If I had adopted that attitude on March 10, 2012, I would have missed a wonderful blessing, something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Others would also have missed a blessing as a consequence.

On that Sabbath, I was reading *Adventist World* magazine when I came across an article about a specialist farmer in Korea, who, in his later years, decided he would write out the Bible by hand. In nine years Nam Yong Han had written out the Bible in the Korean script, not just once, twice or three times, but six times and once in Chinese!

When I came to that part of the article I stopped. I was amazed at what this brother of mine had done—his determination, his persistence, his dedication to such a wonderful venture. I decided I wanted to do something like that. But write out the Bible by hand? I didn't think my ageing hand would cope with even one

journey through the Bible. What else could I do?

Write a paraphrase of the Bible was the strong impression that came to my mind. This thought had never entered my head in nearly 74 years. However, inspiration had struck and was not to be denied. So on Monday morning, March 19, 2012, I sat at my computer and commenced typing.

Writing a paraphrase of the Bible is not to be entered into lightly. It is a daunting task—more than a thousand pages and nearly one million words. I had made a decision to see it right through to the end. I had to see progress every day, even though not much more than a page at a sitting. As the weeks and months elapsed I reached my first goal—100 pages. Other goals were set and met and, finally, I reached the end of the Earlier (Old) Testament.

Interestingly, the Later (New) Testament is not quite one-quarter of the entire Bible, which tells me something about how much emphasis we should give to the only Scriptures the early church knew.

Two years, one month and six days later, I had come to the end of Revelation. There was much to be done, of course, in refining the manuscript—from proofreading, editing, spacing issues, and many other aspects to check. Finally *The Gift* was about to be launched and what an exciting journey this had been!

THE TEN

Bible verses

TO BRING HOPE WHEN YOU'RE SAD OR GRIEVING

ISAIAH 41:10 (NLT)

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

PSALM 18:28 (NIV)

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

ISAIAH 43:2 (NLT)

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

PSALM 119:50 (NIV)

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

REVELATION 21:4 (NLT)

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

PSALM 34:18 (NIV)

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

MATTHEW 11:28 (NLT)

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

PSALM 46:1,2 (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

PSALM 23:4 (NLT)

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

PSALM 30:5 (NLT)

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.





MAINTAIN YOUR LUNCHBOX MOJO

Whether you're a first-time school parent or a seasoned school veteran, the lunchbox battle can get the best of anyone.

Nailing that winning formula of tasty treats you know they'll devour, the good stuff they need and enough to fill them up is tough, especially when you need to magically pull it all together while making brekkies, plaiting hair and reading teachers' notes that have been smooched in the bottom of school bags.

So if you're looking for a way to solve that lunchbox riddle, maybe it's time to take a tip straight out of Japan that's filled with goodness and big on YUM!

EMBRACE THE BENTO

The bento box has a lot more going for it than looking great. It can actually be your secret weapon to increasing the variety of foods your kids are eating, by popping something different in each section.

Five compartments are perfect for ticking the five food groups and the kids won't even realise it. For them it's all about the fun and choosing what section to eat first. It's particularly good for little fusspots who don't like their foods touching.

For a balanced bento why not try:

- Wholegrain sandwich – grains
- Grapes, berries or mandarin segments – fruit
- Cheese cubes or yoghurt – dairy
- Hummus dip, mini lentil patties and veggie sticks – veggies and protein
- Bliss ball or mini fruit and grain muffin – wholesome treat

The small compartments in bento boxes are great for using up leftovers and the odd bits of fruit and veg in the fridge, like those last few strawberries.

For more delicious inspiration browse our lunchbox recipe collection at: <sanitarium.com.au/recipes> or <sanitarium.co.nz/recipes>.

LUNCHBOX HACKS



FOCUS ON FRESH

Try to find in-season fruit and veg. Not only will it save you money, you'll be getting the produce at its best. Think sweet summer stone fruits or crisp winter apples. The kids will love the taste and the environment wins too—fresh fruit means minimal transport and packaging.



CUT THE CHOPPING

A recent Australian study showed kids are likely to eat more veggies when they are given to them whole. For the lunchbox think mini cucumbers, cherry tomatoes or whole carrots. Less work and they'll eat more veggies—we love this!



BE WATER WISE

Every lunchbox needs some liquid and you don't need to look any further than fresh water. Juices, sports drinks and cordials can often be havens for hidden sugar. Why not try freezing the water with fresh fruit pieces for a cool flavour burst on a hot day?

Recipe of the Week Sanitarium
health & wellbeing



Red Raspberry Sorbet

This easy tangy sorbet has all the goodness of whole fruit without the additives that usually hide in ice-cream. Perfect as an afternoon snack to cool off or as an elegant ending to a dinner party.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/subscribe
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Sanitarium
health & wellbeing



NEWLY-DISCOVERED DIARY REVEALS IMPORTANT ROLE OF WOMEN IN CHURCH PLANTING

A recently discovered diary opens a bright new window of understanding into the important role women took in planting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia.

The diary was kept by 42-year-old American Julia Ann Corliss, a professionally qualified teacher who actively worked alongside her evangelist husband John in planting the church in Melbourne in late 1885. Mother to a then eight-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son, Julie had to quickly cope with hearing new accents, learning a new culture, keeping up with cooking, heaps of family washing that wouldn't dry, ironing and constantly moving house around the inner suburbs of Melbourne.

But Julia also took time to visit homes in her neighbourhood, handing out copies of *Signs of the Times*, inviting people to meetings and engaging her neighbours in conversation about the end-times and the hope of Jesus' return. She distributed *Signs* on street corners and canvassed homes for subscriptions, and met with interested non-Adventist groups. She was highly visible at the evangelistic meetings in the Temperance Hall on Church Street in North Richmond and in the evangelistic tent her husband pitched in several suburbs of Melbourne. She would attend Bible readings with groups of women and then host newly-interested people in her home, including providing them

with meals in her home. Because she was a professional woman and her husband had previously had business experience, the couple attracted people from a professional background to their meetings and into this new church plant. And those interested people involved their relatives and their friends and the church grew quickly.

Julia's diary indicates it was not an easy life. She talks of the lengthy preparation for the journey from San Francisco and the journey itself. The family arrived in July and it was cold and wet and the houses were not heated. She had been seasick much of the trip and had lost considerable weight. She cooked potatoes over the grate in the sitting room in her first house while waiting for a proper cookstove to be installed. She then shifted house five times in the space of the first six months, following her husband's meetings around the inner suburbs of Melbourne. Each time there was extensive house-hunting in the new location then pulling up carpets, putting up curtains, spending a day or two cleaning the new house after the exit of previous messy tenants and arranging her furniture to create an attractive home to which she could comfortably invite visitors.

Julia also tells us what her husband preached about. His first evangelistic sermon was on Daniel 11, Armageddon and the fall of Turkey—then a very hot-button news item. She reports



the excitement of the first baptisms a few months later on January 2, 1886 and then a string of baptisms quickly followed. She reports the formal organising of the new members into the first church.

Charter members of this new church plant walk through her diary as new friends. She also talks of disappointments, with folk who find the journey to new faith too daunting and become discouraged. Her diary provides insight into the burnout her husband suffered, his decision to return to America, and the anguish the family and the new members experienced over this.

Julia's diary begins in 1863 in the midst of the Civil War, tells of her becoming a Sabbath keeper in 1865, her marriage in 1868 and stretches across many years with some breaks to the end of 1908 when she is back in Mountain View, California, working alongside her husband. The diaries are currently being processed at the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University but at least two of the volumes have particular interest for the South Pacific.

Julia gives a distinctly feminine perspective on the planting of Australia's new church. Later, during a second visit to Australia in the mid-1890s, she would take an even more active role in church planting and would lead out in drawing many new disciples into the fellowship of the church. She became a preacher, gave Bible studies and became involved in an active ministry to the poor and suffering at a time of great economic distress in Australia. Ellen White would say in 1895 that women such as Julia Ann should be set apart to such gospel ministry. Her 90-page diary for 1885-1887, telling of her first years in church planting in Australia, helps us to understand why.

GIL VALENTINE ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY.



LUNCHBOX LEGEND

I stumbled upon your website when I googled “encouraging Bible verses for men”. I wanted to put a note in my husband’s lunchbox! Anyway, I clicked on your drop-down menu and selected “health” and I’m very impressed with what you have posted! I’m a registered dietitian and have enjoyed reading through the Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing articles. Keep up the awesome job!

Jenny Petitti

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

“Why I don’t go to church” (February 17) resonated with me. Sometimes it takes so much time and effort just to keep the church lights on—to run the production that is the church service—that there is no energy left to do anything else. Church becomes little more than a music and drama club.

That said, taking a break from church can also be equally [draining] for one’s soul if it becomes permanent. With respect, one person alone can’t start being the church—at least if you mean “I” instead of “we”. The word church in Greek NT literally means “assembly”. Church is a group effort. And you can’t do much of a group effort while remaining at home away from your brethren. So there is no doubt a balance here.

Stephen Ferguson, WA

OTHER FAITHS

I noticed “The Unfinished Reformation” (February 3) letter stated that God set us apart as the only church that is aware there is a sanctuary and a second apartment.

The Greek Orthodox Church has an altar. Behind the altar is a room with an opening that reveals a table where there is the bread

and commandments. When I pointed to it and said the holy of holies, the priests were excited and said, “yes, in the sanctuary”.

It would be good if people actually had attended or studied other faiths before stating what they did or did not have or believe.

Lynette Rowland, Vic

ELEPHANT OR STRAW MAN?

I enjoyed reading “Adventists: heirs to the Reformation” (December 23). The inevitable implication that the call to obedience is Catholic perfectionism arrived at the close. “An elephant in the Church” (February 3) laments we have legalism in the Church. It’s not an elephant. It’s a straw man. The real elephant is the issues from the ‘80s and ‘90s continuing to be pushed by a cohort.

I don’t accept legalism is a problem in our faith community any more than cheap grace is. Our Church is comprised of a diverse membership and you will find the whole gamut of attitudes on the gospel and salvation. But where in our Church publications do you find any basis for the accusation that Adventists are legalistic?

From my perspective, Adventism has the most profound understanding

of the gospel. Read *Steps to Christ* and *Desire of Ages*. There you will find our denominational understanding of the gospel. It is unmatched. If some individuals deviate from what we are taught in those writings, please don’t bleat about the Church having a problem.

My father was a public evangelist. I grew up, in the purportedly legalistic ‘50s and ‘60s, hearing the Scriptures validated, the gospel presented and many hundreds won to Christ before being introduced to the other wonderful truths of the Adventist message. That helps explain why most of those who came to Adventism through his programs have remained faithful. Just as Paul’s epistles typically expound the gospel then call us to obey, so does Ellen White. Revelation refers to the remnant as “overcomers” but this in no way erodes the integrity of the gospel as the only means of our salvation and restoration to our magnificent Creator God.

Rod Cooke, NSW

NEW LIGHT

Regarding “The Why Thousand Years” (February 3). As a lifelong Adventist I cringe each time someone tries to explain Fundamental Belief 27—The Millennium.

To me FB 27 demonstrates abysmal ignorance, both of the Bible and of Protestant theology.

The idea we will be asking God questions, and judging God and His character, is preposterous, blasphemous and just plain silly.

I suggest [we] read the book of Job again and consider what Job said to God: “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye has seen You. Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5,6).

The theory earth will be lifeless, desolate waste during the 1000 years stems from ignorance concerning the Greek word *abussos*, used in Revelation 20:3. This word is not the same word in meaning as the Hebrew word *teh-home* in Genesis 1:2. “Urgent change is needed” but not only in structure. We need “New light” in our theology.

Henry Firus, Vic

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.

Obituaries

AKERMAN, Philomena Margaret, born 12.7.1935 in Rampurhat, West Bengal, India; died 19.12.17 in Leabrook, SA. On 18.10.1959 she married Alfred in Croydon Adventist church, UK. She was predeceased by her daughter Joy in 1985. She is survived by her husband (Leabrook) and daughters Drusilla Nowicki (Coromandel East), Annabel Freeman (Mount Barker) and Patricia Robson (Wynn Vale). Philomena was a loving, kind, generous and faithful Christian woman of God who relied completely on Him and was faithful to the end. Her family, close and extended, gave her the most earthly joy. Caring for others during her years of service as a nurse gave her the satisfaction she craved.

George Hirst



CONLEY, Valerie Dawn, born 18.8.1929 in Grafton, NSW; died 7.2.18 in Bellingen. On 11.10.1953 she married Pastor George Conley, who predeceased her. Val is survived by her children Michelle and Brian Laughlan, Beverley and John Jende, Roslyn Raven, and Duanne and Sandra Conley; and grandchildren Rhani, Amelia, Alex, Nathaniel, Gideon and Christopher. Val and George spent 16 years of service in India,

where for six years Val managed the English Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School. Her charming and endearing personality won her many friends and her constant, positive disposition was evidence of her complete trust in Jesus and love for her family.

Bob Manners

DOWLING, Heather Ivy (nee Knott), born 19.5.1953 in Taillem Bend, SA; died 5.2.18 in Grantham, Qld. On 24.4.1977 she married Al Dowling. Heather is survived by her husband (Grantham); siblings Vanessa (Perth, WA), Glen (Hervey Bay, Qld), Bruce (Withcott), Bryce, Rosalee, Glenda (Evans) and Kim (all of Grantham); children Rachel and Glen Weigel (Hatton Vale), Troy and Aimee (Helidon), and Tony and Kate (Grantham); and grandchildren Santana, Myles, Flynn, Shoshana, Tristan and Wyatt. Heather was a loving wife and mother who enjoyed crocheting, knitting, sewing, flower arranging, organising church camps and socials, drawing, colouring, gardening and singing in the church choir.

Julian Archer, Phil Downing



FIEGERT, Beverley, Margaret (nee Young), born 20.5.1936 in Irishtown, Tas; died 4.1.18 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, NSW.

Beverley is survived by her husband Fred; daughters Nanette and Marcelle; and five grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and nana who always put her family first. Beverley made a lifelong commitment to her Church and lived her life devoted to nursing in missionary service and for many years in the community. She lived courageously with cancer over the past two years without complaint. Her beloved Castle Hill church community celebrated her life on 11.1.18.

Pablo Lillo

GORDON, Melba Violette (nee Burt), born 6.7.1917 in Broken Hill, NSW; died 26.12.17 in Wyong. She was predeceased by her husband Ernie in 2003 and her son Robert in 2017. She is survived by her daughters Janet Miller, Marien Dorrington and Helen Andrews; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Melba was a lady of great strengths and many talents. Along with her husband Ernie, Melba was a founding member of Kanwal church where, for many years, she shared her musical talents as pianist and her creative flair in floral arrangements.

David Hay, Danny Melenkov, Daniel Brunt

JOHNSON, Valmai, born 9.8.1932; died 15.7.17. She is survived by

her children Wayne, Roy, David, Chris and Ann. After almost 85 years of a productive and blessed life, this disciple of Jesus laid down the burden of her life to rest safely in the arms of Jesus. She was a very supportive member of Innisfail church (Qld) as well as a good role model. She will be sadly missed by her surviving children as well as her church family and friends.

Wolfgang Jenke

LLOYD, Evelyn (nee Borresen), born 21.5.1921; died 22.11.17. She is survived by her siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Evelyn was blessed with 96 years, which were mainly happy and productive. She was well known and loved by the people she came in contact with. For much of her life she had been actively supporting both the conference administration as well as Malanda church, Qld. Her fight is ended but her reward will be everlasting because she made Jesus her Lord and Saviour.

Wolfgang Jenke



MULLER, Reimund, born 17.1.1941; died 5.2.18 in Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his wife Veronica and four children from a previous marriage. Reimund and Veronica spent the more recent of their 34 years of

POSITIONS VACANT

MAINTENANCE OFFICER AND CLEANER (2 POSITIONS) CROSSLANDS, NSW

Vacancies exist for a full-time maintenance officer and part-time cleaner at the Crosslands Youth & Convention Centre, Greater Sydney Conference. Crosslands is a Christian campsite located in the Berowra Valley and Hawkesbury River region of Sydney. The maintenance role is full-time while the cleaner role is part-time (19 hours per week). These two positions could be suited to a married couple. The successful applicant for the maintenance officer role will have trade and/or handyman skills and experience, communication skills, an understanding of and compliance with Work, Health and Safety requirements, be able to work independently and be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The successful applicant for the cleaner role must be physically fit as the role requires appropriate lifting, bending, carrying equipment and walking. For more information and a position profile please contact: Adrian Raethel on 02 9868 6522 or <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 19, 2018.**

GENERAL MANAGER—ADSAFE WAHROONGA, NSW

AdSAFE Ltd is a service owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited. It commenced operations in early 2017, providing protective services for children and vulnerable adults across the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, New Zealand and in time the wider South Pacific region. To lead this service, the

Division is calling on suitable applicants for the position of general manager. The general manager is responsible for the successful strategic leadership and management of AdSAFE according to the direction set by the board of directors. Specifically the role will strategically lead and manage AdSAFE's function, including safeguarding (prevention), response (survivor support) and response (offender/investigations management). For more information and to apply please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at an earlier date at its discretion. **Applications close March 21, 2018.**

ASSISTANT EDITOR—ADVENTIST MEDIA WAHROONGA, NSW

Adventist Media is seeking an assistant editor to be part of a team producing a variety of print and online content. The role involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the South Pacific Division. Applicants must have excellent oral and written communication skills, high attention to detail, a positive work ethic, and an ability to meet deadlines and work in a collaborative team environment. Ideally, they will be digitally focused, with experience in social media and online platforms. Interested applicants should send a resume and a letter of application, including CV and references, to the Office Manager at Adventist Media: <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. **Applications close April 30, 2018.**

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married life actively involved in church life in the Philippines. It was only during a brief trip back to Australia that he was diagnosed with serious illness. At the funeral service held at Victoria Point church on February 16, friends joined with Veronica to honour his influence and kindness.

Chris Foote

SELL, Russell Frank William, born 12.6.1931 in Auckland, NZ; died 12.6.17 in Auckland. In 1954 he married Vivienne Gamble. He is survived by his wife (Auckland); children Martin and Rosalie and their spouses Robert and Joanne; and brother Winston. After attending an evangelistic mission series in Auckland run by Pastor George Burnside in 1948, Russell joined the Church. He spent almost all of his working life in the Newmarket office of the Auckland Education Board and was a stalwart of Royal Oak church where he was very much involved with all church matters, especially in the musical circles. He remained an elder long after his retirement. Russell was remembered by many as a tireless worker for God and his church. As a mark of his musical talents, Russell's casket was adorned by his beloved violin.

Evan Gray

WATSON, Meryl Lilly (nee Posselt), born 18.2.1930 in Prospect, SA; died 21.1.18 in Penrith, NSW. On 22.12.1952 she married John Knox Watson, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her grandson Dale. She is survived by her daughter Merilyn Sedgwick (Sydney) and son Kevin and Janis Watson (Vic);

grandchildren Rodney and Darren Sedgwick and Aidan Watson; and seven great-grandchildren. Meryl worked at Sydney Adventist Hospital, the Repatriation Hospital at Concord and was called to the youth department of the Greater Sydney Conference in 1948. She also held many church offices in the Parramatta church and with her husband led out in forming Toongabbie church. After the death of her husband she moved to Plumpton retirement village.

B Wright, G Bainbridge, A Penman

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SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular constituency meeting of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be convened at Watson Park Convention Centre, Old Gympie Road, Dakabin, August 18–19, 2018. The business of the session will be as provided for in the constitution of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including

proposed constitutional changes and reports covering all phases of the work carried out within the South Queensland Conference. The officers and the executive committee of the Conference for the next quadrennium will also be elected.

Colin Renfrew—General Secretary

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Finally . . .

Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future. —Homer

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST RECORD, MARCH 31

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