

A knight in full plate armor is kneeling in a ruined cathedral. The knight is holding a sword upright in their right hand. The background shows the ruins of the cathedral with a large archway and a bright light shining through it. A bird is flying in the sky above the knight.

# R

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THE DAY I ATTENDED AN EXORCISM  
- MY OWN! 16

### NEWS

'ISSUE OF COMPLIANCE WILL NOT GO  
AWAY' 7

ADVENTIST RECORD | NOVEMBER 3, 2018  
ISSN 0819-5633



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## THE GREAT WAR

Award-winning New Zealand film director Peter Jackson has produced a new documentary, *They Shall Not Grow Old*, coinciding with the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I. Using groundbreaking techniques, he and his team have brought the old war footage back to life. It's history with skin on it. Colour and sounds added, the movement normalised and the soldiers brought to us in 3D.

Critics agree the film succeeds in making the content relatable. It's harder for modern audiences to dismiss than the jumpy black and white footage that seems so removed from our time and place. This is important. Here we are. One hundred years on from "the war to end all wars". Except it didn't. And it fades from our collective memory. Lest we forget.

People often lament that if we don't learn from history we are doomed to repeat it.

What can we learn from World War I?

Well, there was no real victory—instead, an armistice that extended indefinitely. The sanctions imposed on those who "lost" the war in fact planted the seeds for its continuation, in World War II. The conditions that led to the "Great War" were never addressed or stamped out—only fermented and returned.

Nationalism was rampant. Wilfred Owen, a young poet who died in the conflict, describes the horrors he witnessed and then penned these words:

"My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est  
Pro patria mori.*"\*

Sweet and fitting to die for your country?

In today's zeitgeist we see the same triumphalism and nationalism that once drove parents to send their sons to battle or shame them if they didn't. Only now the battle lines are drawn between generations and philosophies within, not just cultures and nations without. It's complicated.

And what of us, the Church? Unfortunately, we have the same tendencies creeping in. We will fight to the death for our ideology. We paint the other camp with broad brush strokes and believe them to be papal or

Babylon. We are sure that if they get their way, they will destroy the Church.

The world is splitting down the middle as left and right fight to the death and the Church is following it.

We knew it would happen. We even have prophetic understanding. This polarising push echoes the prophecy that there will only be two choices in the end: those who worship the beast and its image and those who worship Jesus, the servant King.

It's easy then to superimpose our prophetic understanding onto our current polarisation. Those I agree with are worshipping in spirit and truth. Those I don't agree with are wrong.

Yet these designations, these groups, do not accurately represent the polarisation found in the Bible. There it is much more personal.

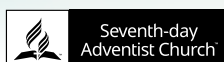
In the parable of the virgins, personal preparedness and the presence of the Holy Spirit are of key value. The sheep and the goats designation questions how we personally treat people. Even the story of the lost son asks the two brothers, *Will you be open to the work of salvation?, Will you join the party? or Will you refuse through jealousy, self-value, your sense of justice?*

Paul says of the church, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Paul takes polar opposites and brings them together in Christ. Yet we ignore Paul's plan, trumpeting the "rightness" of our cause. We become so busy looking for the enemy we have lost sight of our King; the One who calls us to take up our crosses and lay down our lives and follow Him.

Instead of hunting for differences, we must be diligent students of the Bible to contextualise the Adventist message for our time and place, understanding what it looks like to share Christ in the cultures we find around us.

\*Latin phrase from the Roman poet Horace: "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country."

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abn 59 093 117 689  
vol 123 no 22

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mailed within australia and

nz \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00 other

prices on application.

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### cover credit

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"Knight kneeling with sword."

## OTHERS USED BY GOD

Because Annual Council in Battle Creek finished early, I and the other two officers from the SPD were able to visit the Billy Graham museum at Wheaton College (Chicago, IL) before beginning our plane journey home.

For more than half a century Billy Graham was a household name because of his large public evangelistic meetings around the world. The essence of his message was a simple and clear call to follow Jesus, to which thousands responded. The museum highlighted the evangelist's life and work but really honoured and uplifted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

I cannot ever recall hearing Billy Graham until visiting the museum and viewing the historical films. However, I recognise his impact—even in the South Pacific, where he held meetings in several Australian and New Zealand cities. In fact, the biggest crowd to ever fill the Melbourne Cricket Ground was on March 15, 1959, when more than 130,000 people came to hear Graham proclaim the gospel. I pastored in and around Melbourne for eight years and met many people who were part of that crowd. Some of them became Seventh-day Adventists. It's worth noting that Graham also had his critics, with some claiming "he only made believers and not disciples".

God has a powerful ministry amongst other Christians. Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you" (Luke 9:50 ESV), to James and John when they wanted to shut down another's valid ministry. The apostle Paul wrote, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV).

Jesus needs more harvesters for His kingdom (Luke 10:1,2). Recognising the value of other Christian ministries does not negate our biblical distinctives like the seventh-day Sabbath, soul sleep in death, the Sanctuary and judgement. Having a fuller message enables us to really make disciples with Jesus and not just believers.



**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT  
● /SPDpresident

## BALLARAT CHURCH ELDER NAMED SENIOR OF THE YEAR

BALLARAT TIMES NEWS GROUP

An Adventist church elder has won a City of Ballarat (Vic) Senior of the Year Award for 2018.

For more than 18 years, Robyn Cunningham has volunteered with the Office of the Public Advocate as a regional convenor and community visitor for the Grampians Region Mental Health Stream.

As part of her community visitor role, Mrs Cunningham visits mental health facilities, providing



ROBYN CUNNINGHAM.

a voice to patients and residents and ensuring their rights are being upheld, that they are safe from harm and exploitation, and that they are being treated with dignity and respect. As a tireless advocate, she and her team undertook 98 visits to mental health facilities in the last financial year.

As an elder, board member and volunteer with the Ballarat Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mrs Cunningham has been involved in many of its programs, including the weekly food pantry, and a music and movement program for local mums with young children. Besides all this, she finds time to visit members in nursing homes.

Mrs Cunningham and her late husband also raised more than 40 foster children—all of these children, now adults, remain in touch with her today.

## WRITERS TRAINED IN WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

RECORD STAFF

*Adventist Record* editor Jarrod Stackelroth ran two days of writing workshops for the Western Australian Conference last month.

"It is really important to develop good communicators in our Church who can write and express their faith in a compelling and interesting way," he said.

The group, made up mostly of church members from around Perth, had the opportunity to learn good writing techniques, and then try to implement them and get feedback from the rest of the group.

"I was thrilled with the quality of discussion and the presentations," said Conference communication director Pastor Nathaniel Tan, who organised the weekend.

Run at Swan Valley

Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mr Stackelroth also took the Sabbath morning service there.

On the Friday morning, Pastor Tan and Mr Stackelroth spent time in the WA Conference studio filming short social media videos that provide simple tips for being a better writer. The videos will be made available through *Adventist Record* and WA Conference social media channels.



MR STACKELROTH LEADING A WORKSHOP.

## CHIP CREATES COMMUNITY BUZZ IN FIJI

AKANISI NAMAKADRE/RECORD STAFF

The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) is creating quite a buzz in Fiji, with a record number of graduates from across the country.

In late September, 46 non-Adventist participants in Suva completed the month-long course and were awarded certificates of completion and recognition for their hard work. More than 20 of these participants were members from the Butt Street Methodist Church—one of the leading denominations in the country. The remaining participants were employees of the Bank South Pacific (BSP) Life Bank, who took a keen interest in CHIP after realising most of their high insurance claims were made by people under 50 years of age.

"This group of young workers joined CHIP because they were feeling afraid themselves for their health and wanted to improve it," said Fiji Mission assistant health director Akanisi Namakadre. "BSP also saw the potential in the future of implementing this program for their customers to reduce the nature of claims and improve health issues."

The graduation program was held at the Fiji Mission's conference centre.

Each participant arrived with a vegan dish, showcasing what they'd learnt and implemented during their training. A final blood test, compared with one taken at the start of the program, revealed huge improvements in the vital signs of all participants, with a drop in blood pressure, pulse and weight. For those who had been diagnosed with or were on the precipice of diabetes, all glucose levels were now within a healthy range.

"There were happy reactions all around as each member viewed their personal health testing report," said Ms Namakadre. "CHIP was a true witness to the power of lifestyle medicine and what it can do if the members continue down the path of healthy living."

Across the country, in the city of Lautoka, a group of 12 people also graduated. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Health headquarters and facilitated by George Kwong—a church member whose life-changing experience with CHIP has empowered him to volunteer his time and money



THE SUVA CHIP GRADUATION CEREMONY.

to help others with lifestyle-related diseases. Mr Kwong currently runs all the CHIP sessions in western Viti Levu, in addition to other health initiatives at his local church.

Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) president Pastor Mavani Kaufononga congratulated the participants for choosing CHIP, saying the TPUM office staff had started their own CHIP journey together on October 1.

"It's great to see more and more people are taking their health seriously," he said. "Our health is our wealth and we must be good stewards of it."

The health department of the Fiji Mission will now continue to support Club CHIP—a monthly program where past participants come together and share their journeys.

## A GROUNDBREAKING, A BAPTISM AND A DEDICATION CELEBRATED IN PNG

MIN MISEK KOMILOKO

A groundbreaking ceremony, a church dedication and a baptism were celebrated in the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (Papua New Guinea) last month.

District pastors and invited guests



SABBATH BAPTISM.

gathered on October 14 for a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Bata Adventist church building in Goroka. The original church was built in 2014 out of bush materials; now a permanent structure is set to be built.

District director Pastor Paul Katope prayed over the project and local church pastor Min Misek Komiloko cut the ribbon and broke the ground, signalling the start of the work.

Pastor Katope also took part in the dedication of Samanu Three Adventist church in Bena District (October 11). He prayed over the church and officially cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the building. The celebrations continued on the Sabbath



DEDICATION OF SAMANU THREE ADVENTIST CHURCH.

(October 13) when 23 people were baptised. Following the baptism an appeal was made and a further 20 people stood up, committing to follow Jesus.



# TOE-RIFIC RESULT FOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The 10,000 Toes campaign has reached a significant milestone.

Funds raised through a concert at Avondale Memorial Church (NSW) and at the South Queensland Big Camp helped the campaign to hit a substantial figure: \$A200,000.

Campaign manager Pam Townend said it's exciting to see the number of people generously supporting 10,000 Toes, which aims to stamp out diabetes across the South Pacific. "It's exactly one year since the idea [for 10,000 Toes] blossomed," she said. "As the year has gone on and God has kept putting people in contact with us, offering their support, I realised that this was going to be bigger

than what I had ever imagined."

Fundraising for 2019 is already looking positive: Australian camp offerings will again be allocated to the campaign as well as a percentage of the 13th Sabbath General Conference overflow offering. It is hoped that donations will exceed \$600,000 by the end of 2019.

"Some of the funds have already gone into implementing initiatives like CHEP (Community Health Education Programs) for the first time, a vocational community health education program through Avondale, continued training for CHIP facilitators and completing over 12,000 health checks through expo events in Papua New Guinea, Solomons and Fiji. And next year we will build on that," Mrs Townend said.

"It gives us the opportunity to go to the governments of the Pacific and say, 'This is what we've done in two years.' The potential is huge."

A social media awareness campaign has also taken off. In just six weeks, the number of followers of the 10,000 Toes Facebook page jumped from 2000 to more than 7500.

"In all aspects the campaign is going extremely well—with publicity, collecting the funds and reaching our strategies," Mrs Townend said.

10,000 Toes is a joint initiative of Adventist Health and the Adventist Development & Relief Agency Australia.



CAMPAIGN MANAGER PAM TOWNEND.

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# 'ISSUE OF COMPLIANCE WILL NOT GO AWAY'

TRACEY BRIDCUTT/ANN/ADVENTIST REVIEW

While the majority of Annual Council delegates voted on October 14 in favour of adopting a new compliance process for the world Church, "the issue of compliance will not go away", according to South Pacific Division (SPD) president Glenn Townend.

"The issue behind the consequences for non-compliance is still very current," he said. "Women's ordination is a conscience issue and no-one can shut down a person's conscience."

Following more than five hours of presentations and discussion, delegates to the Church's annual meeting of its full Executive Committee voted 185 to 124, with two abstaining, in favour of the steps recommended by the Unity Oversight Committee for addressing matters of non-compliance within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The steps are outlined in a document entitled *Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions*. There are a range of measures for dealing with non-compliant leaders, beginning with prayer and dialogue, through to official warnings, public reprimand and removal.

World Church president Dr Ted Wilson, who chaired the session, asked for all to participate with a "sweet spirit and a Christ-like demeanour".

"We want to move ahead with an open and gracious spirit," he said.

Pastor Townend said the meeting was conducted in a "very fair manner". "Most people wanted compliance and consequences to [deal with] non-compliance," he said. "My concern was the way non-compliance was to be dealt with.

"We as a Church have moved away from the voted representative body, the Executive Committee, dealing with non-compliant issues to delegate this to ADCOM (General Conference Administrative Committee), which do not have executive power and are not a voted representative body. From my perspective this is a significant shift in how we do Church business."

During the discussion 71 delegates and invitees voiced their opinion about the proposed document, although none of the SPD delegates chose to do so. Pastor Townend decided not to speak up "because the points I was going to make had already been made by many others".

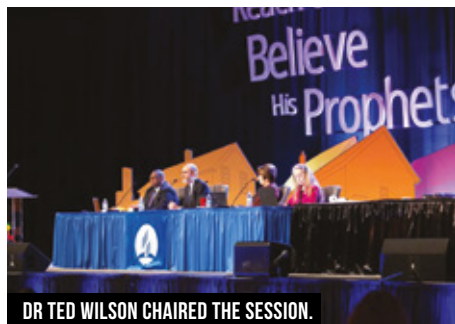
"I have learned that you don't win votes by the number of words," he said. "I can also assure you that the SPD members of the GC Executive Committee were united in their concerns on the document—we met together at the request of the GC president and shared openly the night before the discussion."

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i, in a post to the NZPUC Facebook page, said: "If you or I do something wrong—which is highly probable—I would like us to prayerfully work it out together and seek counsel from the wider Church to help us move forward. This is why I voted against the proposal.

"However, because the proposal was accepted . . . I will work with our NZPUC, SPD and the GC team to see how we can all keep serving well together. It is important we keep our focus on making disciples, placing the gospel in every home and making every church a centre of influence for God and for good."

Pastor Townend echoed his sentiments: "In the SPD we have people with different opinions and can and will continue to share openly. We will also continue to support women in ministry, work with entities who are non-compliant and take God's last day message of good news to the world."

For more Annual Council 2018 articles go to <[record.adventistchurch.com/tag/gc2018](http://record.adventistchurch.com/tag/gc2018)>.



DR TED WILSON CHAIRED THE SESSION.

## NEWS GRABS



### TRAGEDY IN TANZANIA

A ferry capsized on Tanzania's Lake Victoria has resulted in 224 deaths, including 11 Adventists. Adventists were among the first to help with rescue and recovery efforts, with a group of Pathfinders using their own fishing boat to bring victims ashore. More than 400 people were on board the 100-person capacity ferry. —EAD



### TIME FOR SCHOOL

The first Adventist boarding school in Mongolia is due to open mid-next year. The school, with a 500-student capacity, is being funded through a worldwide Church offering and will be the second Adventist institution in the country. —Lisandro Staut



### BRAZILIAN BLESSINGS

More than 30,000 Adventist Church members recently gathered in the city of Salvador, Brazil, to celebrate the construction of 1000 new church buildings in a period of five years. The thanksgiving event included world Church and South American Division leaders, and a baptism of 800 people. —Heron Santana



## HOT TOPICS



### THINK OF THE CHILDREN

Despite national guidelines that say the safest option for pregnant and breastfeeding women is not to drink, almost half of pregnant women in Australia consume some alcohol during their pregnancy, according to a paper by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association. Researchers are now urging pregnant women to pay attention to this “serious public health issue”. —*AHHA*



### CENSORSHIP FAIL

Facebook is under fire for removing a picture of a 17th-century painting of Jesus called “The Descent from the Cross”. Apparently, Jesus wasn’t wearing enough clothes, thus violating the company’s no-nudity policy. —*Relevant*



### FREEDOM, FINALLY

Saudi Arabia has made unprecedented strides toward religious tolerance just a year after its new young ruler pledged to bring more moderate Islam to the kingdom. US officials reported the country has reformed its religious police—once tasked with enforcing shari’ah law on the streets and in homes—and has instituted new government programs to quash extremism. —*Christianity Today*

## STUDENTS IN CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY IMMERSION

ADELE NASH/TARENNE GREENWOOD/EDEN ASHCROFT

A mass baptism followed an eventful evangelistic series in Fiji presented with local churches as a cross-cultural ministry practicum by seminarians from Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW).

Twelve students travelled with Avondale Seminary head Dr Kayle de Waal, wife Charmaine and daughter Charé, and ministry practicum director Dr Erika Puni to the country’s second-largest city, Lautoka, for the 19-day immersive during semester break (July 12–30).

They partnered in pairs with seven local Seventh-day Adventist churches to present a 10-part series prepared by Dr Puni. The series ended with a baptism on July 28. The day began with more than 2000 people worshipping and fellowshiping in Sabbath School and church and continued into the afternoon with 107 people, 86 from the churches with which the students partnered, publicly declaring new life in Christ.

Some of those baptised had been studying with local church elders. One man had no previous association. He stopped at a food stall across the road from Lautoka Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. While eating dinner, he noticed a screen and projector outside the church showing Tarenne Greenwood preaching inside. Her message, amplified by speakers, interested the man, so he returned the following evening. He decided to get baptised on the final evening of the series.

Drs de Waal and Puni presented discipleship training sessions for all local church leaders over the two

preceding Sundays. The sessions “were an opportunity to partner with the local churches”, said Dr de Waal.

Mornings at Lautoka included worship and a debrief with local church elders. Dr Puni would then summarise the evening’s presentation, noting the points the students needed to emphasise.

The students could not prepare for unexpected challenges, though. Venues varied from churches to a small shelter in the front yard of a house—and even the side of a main road.

Sound reinforcement at Saru church initially proved problematic for Benjamin Lowe and Marius Jigau. However, the positioning of speakers outside the church enabled members of the community to listen in their houses and on the streets. Some eventually listened in person and made a decision for baptism.

And when Ross Craig and Asovale Isitolo first arrived at their site on Friday, it was nothing but an empty block of land. However, by the time they were to preach on Sunday, the members of the Kilikali church had assembled a temporary shed complete with a screen.

Josh Carnie, placed at Lagi Lagi church with Siaoisi Rimori, grew through the experience, too. “We weren’t just sitting in a classroom. We were out in the field and doing work where the results will be seen in eternity.”

The Avondale Ministerial Training Scholarship Fund financially supports the practicum. The students thank the fund’s board and donors along with Drs de Waal and Puni, and Lautoka district head minister Pastor Tula Tula Tiko for

“providing such a great opportunity to minister”.

The practicum empowers the students to “apply their pastoral and preaching skills in public evangelism”, said Dr Puni. “I was encouraged as I observed growth, confidence and passion for sharing the gospel among our students.”



THE AVONDALE MINISTRY TEAM.





## RADIO READY

Two new programs have launched on Faith FM—part of the Australian Adventist radio station's goal to develop a consistent branding strategy. "Faith FM Network News" is a new weekly program designed to share what God is doing around the Faith FM network and to encourage listeners to become involved in supporting Faith FM. Musical segments have also been improved to support the branding of Faith FM's main programs. "The team has been putting a lot of work into this initiative and it is exciting to see the first tangible results being launched on-air," said Australian Union Conference Faith FM coordinator Michael Engelbrecht. —Faith FM



## CHURCH PARTNERS

The newly-built Wailoaloa Adventist Church building in Nakavika Village in Namosi (Fiji) was opened and dedicated by Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe and general secretary Pastor Joe Talemaitoga on September 15. The building was fully funded by the Mackay Seventh-day Adventist Church (Qld). The 17-member team, including their pastor and former Fiji Mission president Pastor Tom Osborne, have supported the Church in Fiji through 11 building projects, including the Fiji Mission conference centre in Suva. More than 200 people came from across the Namosi district to witness the church opening. —Na Kaci



## THE \$5 CHALLENGE

Around 10 Adventurers and Pathfinders from the small Macedon Ranges Adventist Church (Vic) recently took up a \$5 challenge and raised \$1183 to pay the medication costs for 200 people suffering from whole body tinea in Solomon Islands. Each child was given \$5 and challenged to invest the money in any number of activities. These included making and selling cupcakes and scented soap, and charging a parent for a massage. Lawrence Staub, from the South Pacific Allied Health company, was presented with the money on Sabbath, September 22. —Sharon Tolhurst



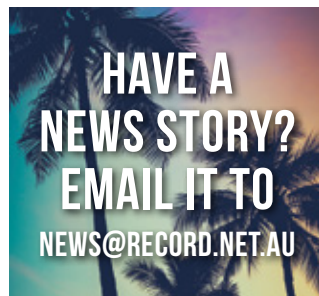
## TIRELESS TRANSLATION

A recent consecration service was held at the Fiji Mission's conference centre to commission and dedicate eight books and the Seventh-day Adventist hymnal in the iTaukei language. Meli Tuqota, an Adventist music teacher at a local university, worked tirelessly for more than 15 years to produce the hymnal, while Joela Moto-tabua, a retired pastor, helped translate the books. "Translating resources into the main local dialects used in Fiji is a need the Church cannot overlook," said Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe. "The Church in Fiji values and appreciates your commitment, sacrifice and effort for these translation works." —Na Kaci



## DOT DOESN'T STOP

For 89 years, Dorothy Cottier has been attending the same Sabbath School class with an almost perfect record of attendance. Dorothy has been worshipping at Avondale Memorial Church (Cooranbong, NSW) since the 1920s and recently received a commemorative plaque in recognition of her continuous attendance. Apart from her Sabbath School record, Dorothy has actually set a few other records: at the time of her retirement as the academic registrar of Avondale College, she had presided in her role at the graduation ceremony for thousands of students and was the longest employed female worker within the South Pacific Division. —John Hammond



## CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

On Sabbath October 6, there was excitement and celebrations as the Otahuhu Tongan Company joined the sisterhood of Adventist churches in North New Zealand. The names of 50 active members were confirmed on the church roll, with more names transferred in over subsequent weeks. The church, which was approved by the executive committee in 2018, will now change its name from Otahuhu to Bethany Tongan church. —NNZC



## DROUGHT RELIEF DINNER

Churches from across rural Victoria recently came together for a regional day and used the opportunity to raise money for ADRA. The Sabbath morning service saw members from Nhill, Horsham, Ararat, Stawell, Ballarat and Maryborough churches sharing in worship together, while later on an evening of festivities, including a quiz and dinner, raised more than \$1000 for ADRA's drought relief fund. —The Weekly Advertiser



## PRAYER WARRIORS

The South Auckland Seventh-day Adventist School (NZ) recently decided to bless a cluster group of Adventist pastors from South Auckland by praying over them. Deeply touched by the prayers from students as young as five through to 13, the pastors were impressed to return the blessing, and gathered around the children to pray over them, too. —NNZC

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A... **DISCOVERY CENTRE COORDINATOR**

**NAME:** RUSSELL GEORGE  
**JOB:** REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
ADVENTIST DISCOVERY CENTRE  
**WHERE:** WAHROONGA, NSW

## **WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?**

There's a lot of mail! When church members letterbox our flyers and people respond to the offer for free courses, we mail out lessons to them. Once those lessons are completed and sent back to us, I mark them and answer any questions they may have before sending them their next lesson. Usually if a student is nearing the end of their course, I will also try to get them in contact with a local Adventist church in their area, so that involves calling a pastor or two. Being a regional coordinator, I'm responsible for New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Another thing we do in the Discovery Centre is promote local church outreach efforts to contacts in a particular area. So, for example, if a

church is running a vegetarian cooking demonstration or an evangelistic campaign, that church will send us a flyer advertising their program. Then I will see if we have any students currently enrolled in our courses who live in that area and will send them a flyer with their next lesson as a personal invitation to that program.

## **WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?**

The people I work with are wonderful. We have a great team dynamic. I also love answering the questions our students have about the Bible and God.

## **WHAT LED YOU TO THIS MINISTRY?**

Raised Catholic, I was going through a rough time and was reading my Bible when I received a Prophetic Code flyer in my letterbox in February 2007. The questions on the card

interested me and I liked the offer for free Bible studies. So I went online and registered to have some more information sent to me. I was expecting Bible studies to come in the mail but, to my surprise, a Bible worker actually came to my door to personally deliver them to me! After a few months of Bible studies, I was baptised.

A few years ago, I was a Bible worker in Sydney when I heard that the Discovery Centre was looking for people to help out, so I came to volunteer, helping to mark lessons. Then a vacancy for a full-time role became available. I applied, and now I send the very letterbox flyer that helped me become an Adventist to others.

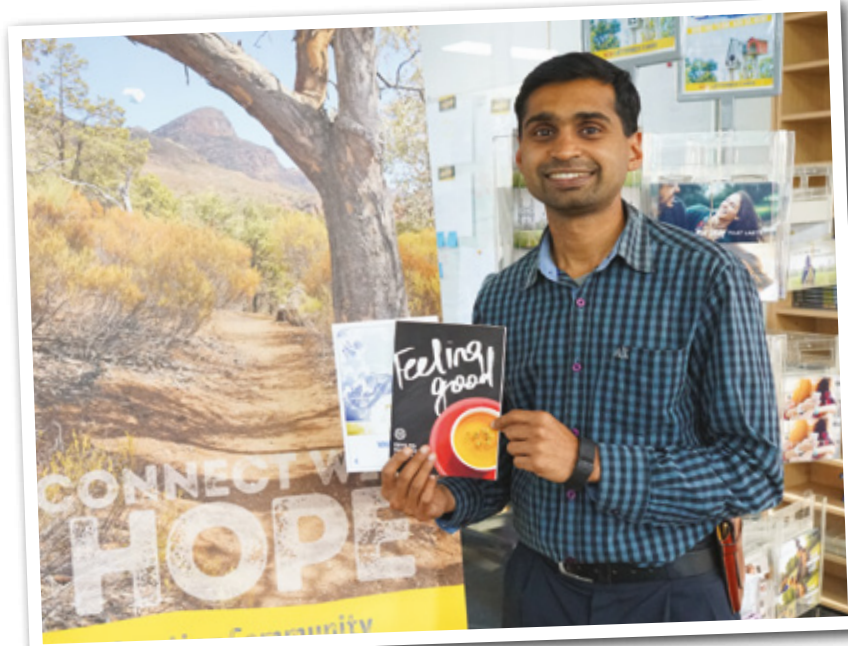
## **WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR JOB THAT WOULD SURPRISE PEOPLE?**

We have a lot of prisoners who are currently enrolled in our courses—between 400 and 500 across Australia. They are actually our best PR—they tell others in the prisons about our courses or fill out a catalogue for a fellow inmate, and that's how we're growing our prison ministry. We've had a lot of requests for baptisms, which can be tricky sometimes [inmates are not allowed to be baptised by immersion in prison], but we are currently working toward this with the help of our Adventist prison chaplains. *Taking Charge of Your Life* [dealing with addiction] is probably the most popular course in our prisons, and we often have a lot of prisoners who write to us and tell us how grateful they are for our lessons.

## **ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING PARTS OF MY ROLE IS...**

Probably the prayers.

We have a prayer website





## DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

### UPWARD LOOK FOR OUTWARD REACH

Why, alongside Christ's death and resurrection, did His ascension to the right hand of the Father cause the disciples to reach their world for God?

It was because of Christ's ascension to the right hand of the Father that, through His intercession, the other "Comforter", the Spirit of God, was poured out on them.

**Read** John 16:7; 14:16; 7:37-39; Acts 2:33,38.

Because He ascended to the Father, abiding in Him, they could stretch their hand upward, asking not only for the Spirit but for anything in His name and the Father would give it to them. Wow! Little wonder His ascension meant so much to them.

**Read** John 14:12-14; 15:7; 16:16,23,24.

Ascended to heaven, He became our High Priest and Intercessor, thereby obtaining for us mercy, grace, overcoming power and eternal salvation.

**Read** Hebrews 4:14-16; 6:19,20; 7:25.

Little wonder that as the apostles pointed believers to the heavenly sanctuary, where the ascended Christ ministered on their behalf, they reached their world for Christ. Let's also look upward in order to reach outward more effectively.



CHAPEL OF THE ASCENSION ON TOP OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES IN JERUSALEM—THE TRADITIONAL SITE OF CHRIST'S ASCENSION. (PHOTO: DAVID CASTOR)



([prayeronline.org.au](http://prayeronline.org.au)) and the requests come through to our computer dashboard, so I will respond to those, praying for those people, and send them an encouragement or some verses.

I love responding to prayers but some of the experiences people have gone through are just horrendous. And they tell you quite a bit. It's a challenge because we can't counsel them or offer psychological advice—we refer them onto professionals. But we still want to be there for them, affirm them, let them know we're praying for them and answer their questions as best as possible.

### WHAT'S THE MOST POPULAR COURSE?

*Teach Me To Pray*, *Living Well* and *Secrets of Prophecy* are our top three courses, but our new *Forgive to Live* course is starting to pick up!

### HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED WITH THIS MINISTRY?

At the Discovery Centre, we are trying to resource each church member to be able to share their faith. In addition to the physical letterbox flyers and paper lessons, most of our courses and letterbox cards are also online, and we are in the process of developing apps for sharing on social media as well. We always try to encourage members to do our lessons themselves so that they are well-versed in the material if their friends and family members have any questions. We've also created the "Do Your Block" initiative—letterbox flyers providing members with a way to share their faith (and also get some exercise in!). Church members may not realise how easy it is to access the courses and use them. They may not have time to give a full Bible study, but just by giving a friend a lesson, they could bring them to Christ.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE "DO YOUR BLOCK" INITIATIVE, EMAIL <[DISCOVER@HOPECHANNEL.COM](mailto:DISCOVER@HOPECHANNEL.COM)>. TO ORDER THE PAPER CARDS, VISIT <[HOPECHANNEL.COM/SHARE](http://HOPECHANNEL.COM/SHARE)> OR <[HOPECHANNEL.COM/DOWNLOADS](http://HOPECHANNEL.COM/DOWNLOADS)> TO SHARE THE ELECTRONIC CARDS AND/OR LESSONS.

# Dear pastor . . .

**Y**ou may have seen the news. On August 27, Andrew Stoecklein took his own life. Diagnosed with anxiety and depression in April, four months later, it was all too much. He was a loving husband, father of three boys—and senior pastor of a church in California. When his church, Inland Hills, broke the news on their Instagram page, they were flooded with thousands of comments from people around the world, offering their condolences, prayers and love to Pastor Andrew’s family.

When I heard about Andrew Stoecklein, I felt like I’d been punched in the gut. As the daughter of a pastor, and the wife of another, it hit far too close to home. One comment in particular hurt the most: “I’m so sorry, Pastor Drew, that I never [gave you this praise] in person . . . I’m sorry we didn’t hear your pain and struggles as you were hard at work covering our burdens and brokenness with light.”

Since the moment I was born, I’ve seen firsthand the work you do. I know Sabbaths are not so much a “day of rest” but rather the busiest day of the week. I know the work that goes on behind the scenes—ministry doesn’t clock on at nine and off at five, and the responsibility of a congregation at times can be unbearable. Pastors have been told they don’t work hard enough, disciple enough, preach well enough, visit members enough. Everyone has his or her own job description of what a pastor should do. Almost no-one realises the impossibility of meeting these expectations.<sup>1</sup> Almost no-one realises pastors are people first, before they are pastors.

As pastors, you go through the same life challenges many of your members go through: marriage, children, ageing or sick parents, financial struggles and health issues—all while trying to lead a congregation. Those

burdens, piled on your shoulders, often cannot be shared with anyone else for confidential reasons.

But I’m going to go out on a limb here today and say that I’m representing a group of people—bigger than you think—that love you wholeheartedly. Your spouses who hold you when you come home from a day that has been particularly taxing. Your family who pray for you. Your church members who look forward to hearing you share the Word and visiting them. To paraphrase one of my favourite book characters, “If we can’t carry [your burden], then we’ll carry you.”<sup>2</sup>

October was Pastor Appreciation Month. But today, tomorrow and for the years that follow, we pledge to be an army of prayer warriors, lifting you up to heaven with our words.<sup>3</sup> We see your passion for the church and know you want to make it a better place. We see the love and the care for God’s people, and how you want nothing but the best for each and every one of them. And though it’s often a thankless and tiring work, you press on, because you know God has called you to this ministry.

We see that, and we acknowledge you.

In the case of Pastor Andrew Stoecklein, it took a tragedy for one church to wake up to the fact that pastors are humans, and need prayers and affirmation more than ever. So to all pastors, male and female, whether you are studying theology, currently in the field, have retired or have left ministry because of the burnout, we thank you for the work you will do, are doing and have done. People are

challenging. We’re all flawed human beings, and a lot of the time, we don’t forgive gracefully, extend mercy, speak kindly, or, to be frank, act at all like Jesus would. For that, we are sorry. But if no-one else has affirmed you, we are stepping forward to do just that. If no-one has let you know today, this week or this month that you are appreciated, loved and valued, then let us be the first. We may never meet until heaven, but we know that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion, until the day of Christ Jesus.<sup>4</sup>

*If you or someone you know needs help, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or other local support service.*

1. Shari Thomas, *Who Is The Woman Married To Your Pastor?*

2. Original quote from Samwise Gamgee in JRR Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*.

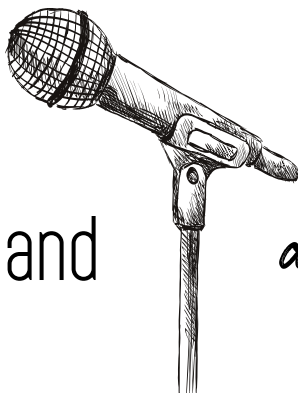
3. Hebrews 13:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

4. Philippians 1:6.

**MARITZA BRUNT** ASSISTANT EDITOR,  
ADVENTIST RECORD.







# the choir and the band

## *a modern-day parable*

Sarah grew up on a farm. As a child she would go down to the paddock and watch the sheep feeding. She loved to sing to God. She would look up at the sky and imagine that God was looking down at her. As she sang to Him, He was smiling. Later she would recall these times and the close feelings she had for God. Unfortunately, while she was growing up, some people made fun of her singing so she stopped. Many years later she met up with a sympathetic voice teacher and began the journey of learning to sing again.

Not long after starting voice lessons, Sarah relocated and needed to find another church. She looked on the web and found a church not too far from her new home. On her first visit to the church she was in luck: there was a lunch and she was invited to stay. While eating lunch a middle-aged man with a bright smile came over to her and introduced himself. He said, "Hi, my name is George and I'm the choir director. Do you sing?"

Sarah hesitantly replied, "Not really, I haven't sung in years and I've just started taking lessons."

George responded, "That's not a problem. We take new singers into our choir and put them alongside more experienced singers and they can learn from them. I'd really like you to join our choir. It doesn't matter that you think you can't sing because virtually everyone has a singing voice inside them, they just need help in discovering that voice."

"I don't know," replied Sarah.

"Let me introduce you to June," said George. "She has been with our choir for two years now." And so it was that Sarah and June started chatting.

June invited Sarah to visit her home on Sunday afternoon. While sharing a cuppa together, Sarah asked June about her singing experiences and the songs she was familiar with. June gave Sarah a CD with some of the popular songs that the choir sang. Noticing that Sarah was a little hesitant about singing, June suggested that she come along to the next choir practice just to see what they were doing. June offered to pick Sarah up from her home and take her to the practice. Sarah explained that she was worried about joining the choir as she did not read music. June explained that many people start singing by becoming familiar with a piece of music even when they can't read music.

Over the next six months June and Sarah caught up on a weekly basis and June helped Sarah learn some of the songs the choir sang. During the choir practices June had Sarah stand next to her so that she could learn the songs. A firm friendship developed and Sarah's singing improved. Recently the choir director asked Sarah to sing a solo.

Frank sees himself as a rhythm man. He has been playing drums in his garage for about three years. If you ask Frank what he likes about playing drums, he'll say, "Rhythm reminds me of God. Music is something that God created and rhythm is an essential part of music. God's rhythm can be seen

in the seasons, in the tides, during storms and in animals—dogs barking and birds singing."

Like Sarah, Frank has been looking for a church. Frank discovered one of his colleagues, Sam, is a Christian and Frank asked him where he went to church. Sam shared with him about his church and invited Frank to attend.

On Frank's first visit he paid a lot of attention to the music. He enjoyed watching the enthusiasm of the band. After the service, Sam spotted him and went over for a chat. Frank commented how he'd enjoyed the music and that he played the drums himself. Sam took him to meet Don the drummer. Frank asked Don about the band. "We've been together eight years and the last two years we have played at Easter Fest. I need to tell you, this year we got an honourable mention," said Don.

"How often do you play at church?" asked Frank.

"We have three established bands and so, unfortunately I only get to play every third week here," replied Don. "Me and my mates get together at Joe's house—he's the lead guitarist—every Wednesday night. You're welcome to come along, but I have to tell you we don't have any openings for a drummer right now."

"Thanks," mumbled Frank as he left the church. He didn't return.

**LYN DAFF** CHALLENGES READERS TO THINK ABOUT CREATING A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH.

# ANZAC



# SPIRITUALITY

November 11, 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the "Great War", World War I. Avondale academic Dr Daniel Reynaud has written a book challenging the myth that the Anzacs were largely godless. Dr Reynaud's *Anzac Spirituality* explores the spiritual beliefs and experiences of the Anzacs largely through their own words. In light of Anzac becoming the spiritual core of what it means to be Australian, the book asks, "What of the spiritual core of the Anzacs themselves?"





Tom “Rusty” Richards ought to be a household name in Australia. As a backrower in the pre-World War I Wallabies rugby union team, his fast and fluid style of play, so advanced for its time, would perfectly suit the modern game. He won a gold medal at the 1908 London Olympics as a member of the Wallabies and later played for the British Lions against South Africa—the cup contested between the Lions and the Wallabies is named after him, the only man to have represented both sides. In 1914, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a stretcher-bearer, working at Gallipoli before being commissioned lieutenant and winning the Military Cross for “conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty” at the Battle of Arras. Prominent rugby journalist Greg Growden has published a biography and the Great War diaries of this hero of both playing and battle fields.<sup>1</sup>

John Linton Treloar also holds a prominent place in Australian history. Having served with the AIF in various staff positions, he became “the driving force behind the establishment of the Australian War Memorial”,<sup>2</sup> working with single-minded devotion for more than 30 years to ensure the creation, survival, prosperity and sound organisation of Australia’s central monument to the Anzac legacy. Without him, perhaps the single most resonant national institution would not exist.

Benjamin Bennett Leane was adjutant of the famous 48th Battalion, commanded by his brother, Raymond, and with other relatives scattered through its ranks. Punsters nicknamed it the “Joan of Arc Battalion” (made of all-Leanes), and Ben carved out a distinguished career in its ranks before being killed at the First Battle of Bullecourt in April 1917.

John Gotch Ridley signed up as a private in the AIF and rose to be a respected platoon sergeant before being commissioned lieutenant. In World War II, he gave distinguished service as a chaplain to the forces. In the meantime, he had become a prominent evangelist and was responsible for inspiring former alcoholic Arthur Stace to chalk the word “Eternity” in beautiful copperplate handwriting across the streets of Sydney, thus founding the legend of “Mr Eternity”, an inspiration for generations to come.

Albert Ernest Coates served as a medical orderly in the AIF until his extraordinary gift for languages brought him to the attention of General John Monash to work in the intelligence branch. Between the wars, he became a respected surgeon and served as such in the Second AIF, being captured by the Japanese when Singapore fell in February 1942. His resourceful leadership and enthusiasm in the makeshift hospitals on the notorious

Burma–Thai railway made him a legend and inspiration for the Australian prisoners of war. Post-war, he was knighted for his services to veterans. The better-known “Weary” Dunlop, who worked under his command in the camps, said of Sir Albert at his funeral, “It is hard to imagine a man more fitted to be the image of a true Australian or a man more suitable as an ambassador for our nation.”<sup>3</sup>

What these five men have in common, apart from their prominent and distinguished service in and out of the AIF, was that they recorded aspects of their spiritual journeys in their war diaries and letters. The Australians, by reputation, were not a religious bunch, yet five of their prominent members engaged voluntarily with matters of belief. What may surprise many is that they were not rare: of the roughly 1000 soldiers whose diaries and letters I read while researching my new book *Anzac Spirituality*, more than 300 recorded spiritual activities and commentary—a remarkably high number, given the virtually unquestioned belief in the secularity of the AIF.

While I use a variety of sources, I draw the bulk of my evidence from the diaries and letters of these 1000 soldiers—the same sample size as academic historian Bill Gammage used in his pioneering study *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*. Yes, I’ve had to be careful about using personal correspondence as a historical source. But it is good material.

The soldiers use their diaries and letters to comment frequently on matters of morale and spirit, capturing that unique bond common to comrades-in-arms of all armies in all ages, which emerges in the AIF under the specifically Australian label of mateship. Emotions of exhilaration and despair, hope and passion, are marked across these yellowing and often brittle pages in scrawling ink and fading indelible pencil.

Anzac has become the spiritual core of what it means to be Australian. *Anzac Spirituality* reveals something of the spiritual core of the Anzacs themselves.

1. *Gold, mud, and guts: The incredible Tom Richards: footballer, war hero, Olympian*, Sydney: ABC, 2001; *Australian Lion: The War Diaries of Tom Richards*, Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2013.

2. “Lieutenant Colonel John Linton Treloar”, Australian War Memorial website, [www.awm.gov.au/people/P10676832/](http://www.awm.gov.au/people/P10676832/), accessed February 24, 2016.

3. “Lt Col Albert Coates,” <http://www.pows-of-japan.net/articles/37.htm>, accessed February 24, 2016.

**DANIEL REYNAUD** ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, DISCIPLINE OF HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE ARTS, AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

## THE DAY I ATTENDED AN EXORCISM - MY OWN!

### *Growing in Christ*

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matthew 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Romans 8:38, 39; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Philippians 3:7-14; Colossians 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23; Hebrews 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

Can you imagine being invited by an Adventist friend to a weekend workshop on prayer and discovering it was actually an exorcism? And then becoming aware demons were being exorcised from everyone—and you were next! This was my experience in Perth a few years ago.

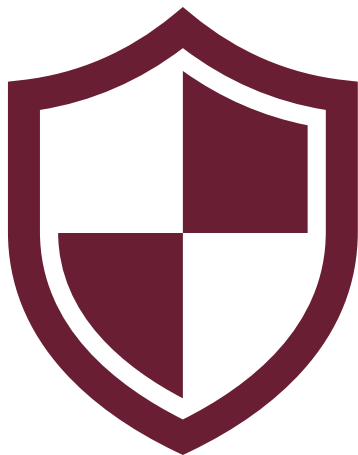
During the theory component of the

presentation, it was asserted that most of our physical, relational, financial and health problems were caused by lingering demonic influences. It was an unusual introduction to the topic of prayer, but I stuck with it. Satan is indeed god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) and he does indeed have his evil angels out to trip up God's servants (1 Peter 5:8).

However, the presenter also made some further outlandish claims. This included a suggestion that by utilising highly ritualised blessings we too can obtain material prosperity. He said this was why Jews were so rich compared with most Christians; God blessed Jews for their rituals, even though they didn't believe in Jesus as Messiah.

Nonetheless, it was the second,





practical part of the workshop—group prayer sessions—that shocked me most. There were a number of aspects I had never witnessed in any Adventist prayer meeting.

First, the praying was long to the point of exhaustive.

Second, our group's facilitator seemed to have powers of a seer or medium. The participant would mention some traumatic incident and the facilitator would reply with, "The Spirit is telling me yes . . . or no."

The "problem" always related back to demons, with sensational claims being made: a bad back was caused by a demon associated with a grandfather's involvement with Freemasons; a child was acting out at school because his conception occurred from an extra-marital affair and he had become possessed as a foetus in the womb; a smoker was trapped by a generational curse; a son was estranged because the participant was raped by her own father, causing the grandfather's personal demon to somehow transmit to the grandson.

Third, the facilitator would name, bind and cast out the demon associated with that "problem". The facilitator would utilise highly ritualised words, which curiously the participant had to repeat exactly, although the words seemed essentially made-up to me. Meanwhile, others in the group prayed in "glossolalia" ("in tongues"). I might be especially dull-witted because it was only at this point that it suddenly dawned on me—I was in an

exorcism!

Fourth and finally, with the demon cast out, the "demonised" person was declared "clean". The participant was then told they should now be pain-free; their child would be better behaved in school; they wouldn't feel like another cigarette; or they could expect their son to call the next day.

By the last session of the workshop, only one other participant and myself in the group had not undergone this "cleansing" ritual. Both of us made it politely clear we would not be participating.<sup>1</sup>

It wasn't that I didn't believe in demon possession. As a Seventh-day Adventist I do strongly believe in the great controversy, with its emphasis on fighting forces not merely of flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). I wasn't so concerned with them taking a demon out, as much as them putting a new one in (Luke 11:25)!<sup>2</sup>

Fundamental Belief #11 was introduced in 2005 in response to concerns from Adventists in developing nations within the "10/40 window" who requested a statement on spiritual warfare.<sup>3</sup> Yet, given my experience outlined above, I wonder if it is we in the West who are most in need of this guidance?

It seems Western Christians are caught between two extremes, which CS Lewis long warned about: those scientific-sceptics who deny the existence of Satan and his fallen angels; and conversely, those who imagine a demon behind every tree.<sup>4</sup> Of that latter group, it seems we Westerners now lack the practical discernment of our non-Western friends<sup>5</sup> when it comes to different models of so-called "deliverance ministries".<sup>6</sup>

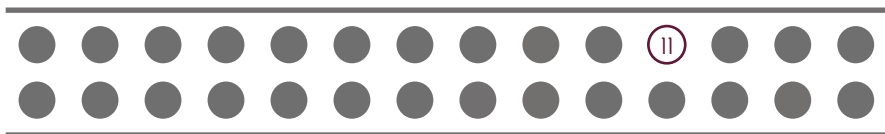
The key lesson for me from the workshop was potential Christian naivety (Matthew 10:16). There were a surprising number of long-standing Adventists in attendance, as well as a

number of newish converts. It wasn't that those involved were completely wrong. It was more a sense of deep foreboding, as in watching well-meaning amateurs getting in over their heads. It reminded me of the sons of Sceva, who used Christ's name as a magical talisman against demons—but failed (Acts 19:13-16). "Our only surety is in giving no place to the devil . . . It is unsafe to enter into controversy or to parley with him."<sup>7</sup>

Far from shying away from all forms of deliverance ministries, this workshop highlighted to me the need for our Church to become more involved, lest our people seek out Pentecostal-run programs, like the one I experienced. Other Adventist theologians agree.<sup>8</sup> Our own well-trained leaders are best placed to embrace a more biblical model of spiritual warfare that addresses the sorts of concerns I witnessed, other scholars have highlighted<sup>9</sup> and our own General Conference has long recognised.<sup>10</sup>

For example, an emphasis on generational sins highlights God's curse to the third and fourth generation (Numbers 14:18). Yet, what I witnessed in the program was the opposite of freedom as Adventists would biblically understand it. As reflected in new Fundamental Belief 11, we hold that in Christ we have "freedom from karma" and supposed multi-generational impacts (Ezekiel 18:3, 4, 20).<sup>11</sup>

Similarly, we certainly can be moved by the Holy Spirit in our dealings with others (Acts 11:12). Yet what I witnessed in the actions of these medium-facilitators seemed the opposite of Adventist understandings as reflected in our newest fundamental belief: "The indwelling of the Holy Spirit excludes the need for the role of the internal voice of spiritual guides in human experience, as taught for instance in the New Age Movement"



(Leviticus 19:31).<sup>12</sup>

We know baptised Christians can continue to be harassed by demonic forces: Christ addressed Peter as Satan (Matthew 16:23); and even Jesus Himself was harassed by the devil (Matthew 4:1–11). Yet harassment need not equate to possession and the solution for a practising Christian need not be some elaborate exorcism. Our new fundamental affirms the principle that “Jesus simply kicked them [demons] out by the power of His word, without the performance of rituals or the use of traditional formulas” (Matthew 8:16).<sup>13</sup>

Similarly, persistent, petitioning prayers are encouraged (Luke 18:1–8). Yet, made-up rituals that are arduously long, highly repetitive and use wholly manufactured liturgies, are quite contrary to Adventist understandings as affirmed in our newest fundamental, as a claim to freedom from “superstitious beliefs” (Matthew 6:7).<sup>14</sup>

The Bible does ascribe various ailments to demons (Matthew 17:14–18). Yet, coming from a denomination that emphasises medical evangelism, I wondered how many of the workshop participants also needed a more mundane solution to their problems (James 2:15–17), quite possibly from a trained medical professional?

Finally, the workshop illustrated to me the very real danger of almost flippant overconfidence in seeking template-ascribed quick-fixes to complex human problems. Justification, in being saved in our sins, can be attained in an instant and is meant to be easy: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

By contrast, it is in sanctification, in being saved from our sins, that you must “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). This is not legalism, as it is God who works in us—not simply our own efforts (Philippians 2:13).

But we do ourselves and others a

diservice when we make the Christian journey sound easy. Sometimes it isn’t. Satan often makes life harder, not easier, once we accept Jesus (2 Timothy 3:12).<sup>15</sup>

Christ in fact promised His closest followers death (Mark 10:39; John 21:20–22)! That sounds very depressing until one realises struggling in your faith doesn’t mean you’re a failure—it means you’re normal.

I cannot say I’ve ever been tested to that level and, to be honest, I hope I never am. However, I do struggle, I do have doubts, I do get depressed and I do have fears of not reaching some imagined standard of Christian excellence. I can have assurance of my salvation through justification today, but that’s not to say my Christian experience through sanctification tomorrow will be all happy smiles. Certainly not while living in a world Satan still controls.

In my own life, I find it important to be realistic, noting that growing in Christ is like a race. The race, of course, can be won in Jesus, but it isn’t a sprint—it’s a marathon (1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:7). “Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.”<sup>16</sup> And it’s definitely not a weekend workshop.

1. The reader might rightly ask why I simply didn’t leave the workshop there and then. Well, that was certainly my inclination after the first session, but my friend had pleaded that I remain, keep an open mind and not pass judgement until I had experienced the whole workshop. So I stayed. You can judge me either brave or foolish or both.

2. Or to reflect a similar sentiment, I wasn’t about to let my mind be taken control of by someone I hardly even knew. “The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief

worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be . . . It opens a door through which Satan will enter to take possession both of the mind that is given up to be controlled by another, and the mind that controls”: Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p 243.

3. See “The Fundamental Beliefs and ‘Growing in Christ’: Proposal for New Fundamental Belief”, *Adventist Review*, 2004, p 2.

4. CS Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, preface.

5. I include in the group of “non-Westerners” for this purpose Aboriginal-Christians, which in this context I make as a compliment. In my own day job, I am the State’s principal lawyer assisting Western Australia’s Registrar of Aboriginal Sites and Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee. It is my own observation that Indigenous people, and Indigenous Christians in particular, seem much more attuned to the impacts of the unseen spiritual world around us.

6. As I would later discover, through my own personal research, this is what this type of ministry is called.

7. Ellen White, 3T, p 482,483.

8. See Michee Bade, “The Seventh-day Adventist Church and ‘Growing in Christ: From Ecclesiological Awareness to Missiological Engagement”, *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies*, Andrews University, 2017, Vol. 13, No. 2.

9. A particularly balanced discussion paper on both positive and negative aspects of different models of deliverance ministries can be found in “Deliver Us From Evil—Consultation Statement”, Lausanne Movement Conference, 22 August 2000.

10. See “‘Spiritual Warfare’ and ‘Deliverance Ministry’ and Seventh-day Adventists”, *A Report of the Biblical Research Institute General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*, Washington, D.C., 2012.

11. See n3, p 10.

12. Ibid.

13. “#15, Growing in Christ”, *Adventist 101*, p 6.

14. See n3, p 11.

15. And may be a reason why, anecdotally at least, young ministers often have less chance of staying in the Church than your average parishioner. I would welcome any statistics on the matter.

16. Ellen White, COL, 65.2.



STEPHEN FERGUSON

is a lawyer who attends Livingstone church in Perth, WA.





## HOW TO BUILD A BETTER BOWL

Gorgeous nourish bowls are so much more than a salad. Also known as “abundance bowls”, these popular meals give you a bounty of plant foods in one dish. They make a great healthy choice when eating out, and are quick and easy to make at home too. There’s no need for a recipe and they’re perfect for leftovers or any extra veggies you might have—just build a good balance of protein, carbohydrates, greens, other vegetables and healthy fats.

Build the perfect nourish bowl in six easy steps:

- **Step 1** – Start with a base of good quality carbohydrates. Look for wholegrain options like brown or wild rice, quinoa or soba noodles, as these tend to be low GI and give you longer-lasting energy.
- **Step 2** – Top your base with 2–3 cups of salad greens for loads of nutrient-rich goodness. Think spinach, rocket, lettuce and mixed leaves and don’t forget those zingy fresh herbs like mint and coriander.
- **Step 3** – Continue the build with half a cup of protein. For a delicious meat-free bowl, try tofu, tempeh, beans, lentils and eggs.
- **Step 4** – More veggies! This time it’s not the leafy greens but veggies like pumpkin, capsicum, carrots, edamame, tomatoes and cucumber. Add in half a cup of your favourites. They can go in raw for added crunch or roasted and caramelised for big, bold flavours or a blend of both. Aim to mix up the colours for more nutrients.
- **Step 5** – Don’t forget healthy fats to bring the dish together and boost the flavours. It’s hard to go past some creamy avocado or the crunch of nuts and seeds.

• **Step 6** – Top it all off with a few spoons of dressing. This can be as simple as extra virgin olive oil and a squeeze of lemon or choose one of the many options of tasty Asian dressings.

Once you’ve got the basics, power up your bowl game with smart nutrition pairings. Some foods work better together, helping your body unlock and more easily access vitamins and minerals. Why not give some of our favourite combinations a try?



### Nourish bowl

Nourish bowls are a fabulous on-the-go healthy meal option for any meal of the day. Great for using leftovers in the fridge, they are nutrient-rich, flavour-packed and super easy to put together. A complete nourishing comfort food to fill your belly and soul.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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## TASTY FOOD COMBOS TO TRY



### SWEET SPINACH

When you pair sweet potato (a source of vitamin C) with spinach (a source of iron) it can help improve your iron absorption.



### HEALTHY FATS

Pairing a healthy fat with some vegetables helps with your vitamin absorption. Carrots contain vitamin A, while asparagus is rich in vitamins E and K. These vitamins are fat-soluble so when consumed with good fats, like those in avocado, nuts and seeds, it’s easier for your body to absorb them.



### MUSHROOM MIX

Mushrooms, kale and haloumi make excellent bowl ingredients and bring out the best nutritional qualities in each other. Mushrooms are rich in vitamin D while kale and haloumi are rich in calcium, both of which help to build strong bones and healthy teeth.

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Introducing

# The Tui Family

Josefa  
Marica  
Salome  
Jonathan  
Tuks



This brand new animation series explores the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

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The Tui family, a Pacific Island family living in northern Australia, assists parents to have a spiritual conversation with their children one belief at a time.

Children's Ministries, along with the Discipleship Ministries Team in the South Pacific Division, is committed to working with parents as they mentor and disciple their children.

Coming to you in November 2018.

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HI KIDS!

## KIDS SPACE

### ISAIAH HAS A VISION OF GOD'S TEMPLE

Isaiah has a vision of God's temple where the Lord is sitting on a throne surrounded by angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty." The temple is filled with God's glory and the doorposts shake. Then one of the seraphim flies to Isaiah and touches his lips with a live coal from the altar, an act that symbolises purifying and cleansing from sin. Isaiah responds to this gift of grace by answering "Here am I! Send me!" to God's call for a messenger.



### FIND-A-WORD CHALLENGE

|           |               |            |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| THRONE    | SIN           | LIPS       |
| TEMPLE    | PERFECT       | SERAPHIM   |
| COAL      | PURE          | ANGEL      |
| ALTAR     | GIFT OF GRACE | EARTHQUAKE |
| CLEANSING | FORGIVENESS   | MESSANGER  |

B J E X S Y O U R Z B G J X Z B  
 J X K P Z S B J X E N O R H T Z  
 G L A B E J E X Z I G U I L T B  
 I E U I S R J N S E R A P H I M  
 F G Q X S Z F N E B T A K E N J  
 T N H B P J A E B V P U R E X Z  
 O A T J I E X J C Z I A W A Y B  
 F X R Z L T A N D T J G S I N B  
 G B A C E L J Z A T L A R X Z J  
 R Z E M A X A T O N E D J O B X  
 A J P O M E S S E N G E R Z F B  
 C L C B J I X Z  
 E F O R B J Z B  
 Z J B B X Z B J  
 X J I S A I A H  
 B 6 J X Z B 7 J

SERVICE MESSAGE

When you have found all the Find-a-Words, cross out all the B, J, X, Z's to find out today's Service Message.





## PASTORAL CARE

Several times I have prepared to write in response to “Burnout” (October 6). Each time I paused and prayed for guidance. I was born in 1917 and served in many fields of labour and finally after several years of colporteur evangelism and leadership in that field, I was invited to pastoral care and ordination (1951). But who am I to bring comfort to our good brother? Well after pastorhood in several churches I was transferred to another conference where the president had to intervene in a public meeting because ONE brother had ideas about my ministry.

I now strongly recommend a prayerful reading of EG White’s excellent guidance in *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*. You may choose to share this with our good brother who may suffer [adverse] levels of health and wellness.

Wal Taylor, NSW

## ONE-WAY FLOOD

“Life’s lottery” (Have your say, October 6) raises some serious questions we are all confronted with. [The author] obviously favours an open national borders policy and refers to areas “prone to religious, military and social violence and upheaval” being the result of “life’s lottery”.

I disagree, and think they are the result of the cultural and political climate of the citizens of their country of birth and reflect the historical background of a nation. Niall Ferguson’s top-selling *Civilization* can be epitomised by the phrase “how the West came to dominate the rest” and the outstanding factor is that Christianity was its underlying spiritual characteristic.

The flood of recent refugees is generally one way—East to West, not the reverse. When people imbued with a religio-cultural ethos supporting a political regime that is fundamentally different from that of the host nation, and when this prevents them from integrating, both immi-

grants and the host population suffer the disconnect.

There are wealthy, oil-rich countries dominated by their particular religious heritage—why are they not supporting their own?

Historically speaking, people who are desperately unhappy with their leadership resort to revolution if this is the only way for change. Too often the news media imply the burden of guilt lies at the feet of the West—and particularly Christianity.

Malcolm Ford, NZ

## DIRTY HANDS

I liked “The Theology of Dirt” (Editor’s Note, September 22). I agree entirely, which leads me to make the following comment.

It seems that it is only if one can write “Doctor” in front of one’s name that a person is deemed worthy of writing an article or letter etc for publication in any Adventist publication, such as for example *Adventist World*. While the trend may well follow the “way of the world”, I think it is extremely

disturbing within the Church because it creates the appearance (if not the actuality) of a class of “elites”.

This surely is *not* what Jesus would have wanted from a unity point of view. His overwhelming message was, and remains, that His kingdom on earth is fundamentally *different* to the world’s kingdoms of elites, status, power seekers and other ego-satisfying goals.

I notice Jesus had no so-called doctorate in “Divinity” or “Sabbath School Organisation” or whatever other mickey mouse topic that might have been fashionable in His day. It was the fishermen, the lepers, the poor, the disadvantaged and the uneducated who responded to Jesus so enthusiastically. The educated elite of His day actually murdered Him!

Far too many Adventist “leaders” (including nearly all of those sent out to Australia by the GC for camp meetings, etc) are from academia or GC administration or from “safe” pastoral positions where they have spent their entire careers.

And reading their CVs, you notice that almost NONE of them has ever actually got his hands “dirty” in the mission fields. I mean “dirty” in the sense referred to in your article, in the sense that Mother Teresa got her hands dirty.

This trend towards the promotion of academia is to be deplored. I intensely dislike it! In the interests of unity, advanced degrees etc should not be promoted as badges of achievement. By all means pursue them but don’t promote them.

Keep up the good work.

PS: I am disclosing my own doctorate only to show that I am not anti-academia! Quite the opposite in fact.

Dr Geoffrey Baldock, WA

**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



**BENNETT**, John Edward (Jack), born 6.7.1919 in Newcastle, NSW; died 26.7.18 in Broken Hill. On 9.1.1943 he married Evelyn Thaddeus, who predeceased him in 1999. Jack is survived by his daughter Marilyn and John Harris (Broken Hill); grandsons Mitchell and Kerrilyn Harris, and Glendon and Andrew Harris; and great-grandson Jethro. Jack and Evelyn were baptised in 1950 and served in Wallsend church for 40 years before moving to Broken Hill. Jack was a pioneer of Pathfinding in Australia. He also led about 40 people to baptism in Newcastle and Broken Hill. He preached until he was 90 and attended church every Sabbath until his death.

*Jim Tonkin*

**KING**, Graham William (Bud), born 10.2.1953 in Gisborne, NZ; died 15.5.18 in Tweed Heads, NSW. He is survived by his wife Faye (Main Arm); and children Shaston, Reilly and Amanda (all of Mullumbimby). Bud faithfully served his church as deacon, head elder and maintenance man. He was a respected builder and loved by all

who knew him. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. He had an amazing faith in God.  
*Geoffrey Plewright*



**STANLEY**, Pastor (Charles) Raymond, born 24.10.1920 in Perth, WA; died 27.7.18 in Cooranbong, NSW. In 1945 he married Edna May North, who predeceased him in 2005. He is survived by his children Chester, Raelene, Wayne and Michelle; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Pastor Ray was respected and loved by so many throughout his ministry, including in the retirement village and nursing home where he lived in recent years. In his 40 years of full-time ministry he worked in many conferences and became a well-known and successful public evangelist. He also taught at Avondale College. Even though retired from paid employment, he continued to serve as a church pastor and public evangelist at home and overseas. His last public series was when he was almost 92 years old. During his long and Christ-centred ministry, the Lord used him to bring several thousand people to follow Jesus.

*Peter Colquhoun, Neil Watts*



**TAIVAIRANGA**, Pastor Teinakore (Teina), born 31.8.1935 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands; died 3.11.17 in Auckland, NZ. He was predeceased by his sons John in 1983 and Rueben in 1961. He is survived by his wife Tuakana (nee Turia); children David, Edward, Adeline, Peter and Marcella; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Teina passed away peacefully surrounded by his family. Educated at Fulton College and Pacific Adventist University, he passionately and humbly served God his whole life in the Pacific islands as a teacher, education director, youth/Pathfinder leader, church pastor, translator, choir and band conductor. Teina impacted many lives and leaves a legacy as a strong advocate for God, education and service. He lived faithfully.

*Taiti Tomora, Eliu Eliu, Hosea Hosea, Peter Taivairanga*

**USHER**, Gabrielle Wavlene (nee Emplich), born 4.8.1938 in Crows Nest, Qld; died 22.8.18 in Brisbane. On 9.11.1961 she married James (Jim) Usher. Gaye is survived by her husband; children Kerry Usher (Kingaroy) and Kym Schick (Wellington

Point); 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Gaye passed away after a four-year battle with multiple myeloma. She loved the Lord very much and appreciated the support and love from church members through the years of her struggle. She now awaits in peace for Jesus' soon return.

*Bob Possingham, Tony Urreo*


## ADVERTISING

### WAHROONGA 60TH ANNIVERSARY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018

Wahroonga church (Sydney) invites all past members to join us for this celebration. Thanksgiving is the theme and Pastor Gary Kent is the guest speaker. A special lunch will be followed by an afternoon of music featuring young talented organists and other musicians. If you have any memorabilia we would love you to bring it along. For more information contact Doedie Fatt: <communications@wahroonga.com.au>.

### MISSIONARY AND VOLUNTEERS LUNCHEON


Education Building, Avondale graduation, December 8. This year's themes: God's divine intervention/children's education.



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Early-bird registrations close on Nov 1st. Please register your interest at [www.amenaustralia.org](http://www.amenaustralia.org). Email [amensda.au@gmail.com](mailto:amensda.au@gmail.com) or call 0438 059 018 for further details.



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Queries: Ken Boehm 0408 072 313 or Warren Martin 0428 727 384.

### GIANT BOOK SALE

6000 books @\$2.50 each to clear. Cash only. Lay preachers, SS teachers, librarians, readers, religion, commentaries, devotional, EG White, Bibles (adult, children), music, CDs etc. Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Melbourne Cup day. Make a note now. Nunawading church, Central Rd, Nunawading. For church building fund.

### ALLROUND TRAVEL

Specialists in group and individual travel to all parts of the world. Great tours in 2019, fully escorted. Iran–April 9. Israel/Jordan–April 28 to May 12. Greece/Turkey–May 12 to June 2. India–late April. Please contact Anita or Peter for full details. Email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au> or phone (07) 5530 3555.

### NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST WORLD, NOVEMBER 10

### SUPPORTING MINISTRY

#### CEDARVALE

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Vacancies exist for a one-year training program alongside our team of dedicated health professionals. This is a great opportunity to be mentored and actively involved in health ministry. The course has pathways to achieve Cert IV in Massage as well as Cert IV PCHEP—our Adventist health education course. Most students can receive Centrelink for support (if they qualify). Positions commence January 2019. For more information visit <cedarvale.org> or call (02) 4465 1362. **Applications close November 16, 2018.**

*Cedarvale is an independent ministry supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

### POSITIONS VACANT

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Great strategic and operational opportunity to lead a team of dedicated personnel making a difference in the lives of children and communities. Be the face of a small, not-for-profit in a challenging and rewarding role, working with a supportive board and offshore partners to ensure achievement of established organisational objectives and create further growth opportunities. With competence proven by previous experience, you will be able to operationalise the “big picture”, be a prudent business manager and have advanced interpersonal understanding and leadership capabilities. If this sounds like you, please contact us at <business.services@asianaid.org.au> or via the Asian Aid website at <asianaid.org.au/get-involved/work-with-us> for further details and a job description. **Applications accepted until November 15, 2018, or until position is filled.**

#### VOLUNTEER, ADRA BOARD SYDNEY, NSW

ADRA Australia is seeking expressions of interest from people with legal, community development or humanitarian expertise to volunteer as members of the ADRA Australia board through to December 2020 and possibly for a further five-year term. Please see <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> for more details. Inquiries and expressions of interest can be directed to Michael Worker, secretary, Australian Union Conference at <MichaelWorker@adventist.org.au> phone 03 9871 7555 and should include a CV, the names and contact details of three referees, one of which is your local church pastor, a cover email/letter stating the reason for your interest in serving on the board and a description of the contribution you believe you could make to ADRA Australia's governance. **Applications close November 11, 2018.**

#### MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR SYDNEY, NSW

ADRA Australia is seeking an exceptional writer who is experienced at producing content for traditional, print and digital channels to join our marketing team as media and communications coordinator. This is a hands-on role based in Wahroonga. In this role you will produce inspiring stories about ADRA's work, manage our social media chan-

nels and help create fundraising materials. The successful applicant will have a personal commitment to the mission and vision of ADRA Australia, tertiary qualifications in communications, marketing, journalism or related fields, and at least three years of work experience in these areas. If you want to use your skills and make a difference, this role is for you. For more information, visit <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> or contact Alison Young at <alisonyoung@adra.org.au> or on (+61) 02 9473 9503.

#### IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

The Australian Union Conference is looking for an enthusiastic and driven person to work as a full-time IT support technician with Adventist Schools Australia, starting in the New Year. The successful applicant will be responsible for providing software support to key systemic applications through our help desk team. You will also be part of developing and improving the knowledge base, self-help and tutorial articles within our help centre, ensuring that we assist in creating efficient schools and personnel. If you are interested in joining this great team please email Lorraine Atchia, HR coordinator at the AUC, at <LorraineAtchia@adventist.org.au> for a copy of the job description or if you have any questions regarding the role. All applications, including your cover letter, CV and referees, must be sent to Lorraine Atchia. **Applications close November 19, 2018.**

#### IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

The Australian Union Conference is looking for an enthusiastic and driven person to work as a full-time IT systems administrator with Adventist Schools Australia, starting in the New Year. The successful applicant will be responsible for providing technical administration to key systemic infrastructure, networking, internal systems and cloud technologies; maintaining various Information and Communications Technologies (ICT); and participate in design and implementation planning for upcoming projects. If you are interested in joining this great team please email Lorraine Atchia, HR coordinator at the AUC, at <LorraineAtchia@adventist.org.au> for a copy of the job description or if you have any questions regarding the role. All applications, including your cover letter, CV and referees, must be sent to Lorraine Atchia. **Applications close November 19, 2018.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:  
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# Get the most out of the Fourth Quarter's Sabbath School Lessons on *Oneness in Christ*

## Special Announcement

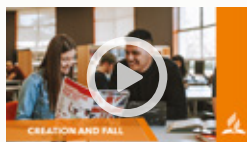
for Local Church Leadership, Pastors, Sabbath School Teachers, Elders, and Church Social Media Coordinators.

13 short videos aligned to each topic of the lesson series will be available at:

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- **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to enable the church to experience unity in diversity. That each person will understand what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.
- **Share** them on your Church Facebook page to engage your Church with the lesson.
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