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EPIC NUMBERS HIGHLIGHT
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NEWS

SONOMA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
OF SERVICE 8

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READING REVELATION

Books. I love them. There's a stack on my bedside table and another on our sideboard. Open a cupboard and you may find a stash of them. There are piles my wife has artfully stacked on the floor. And our bookshelf (the place they're supposed to live) is full and overflowing, with books lying on top of the books standing proudly in the shelves.

I suppose you won't be surprised to hear I love reading. It's a joy, a favourite pastime and one that has no doubt helped me in my career.

Many of the books, probably most in fact, I have only read once. It's not that I never re-read books, it's just that there are so many new books to read!

Some books, however, have such depth and importance that they demand to be read again. And again!

One such book is Revelation.

Adventist scholar Sigve Tonstad talks about the importance of re-reading the Bible's final book.

"In order to participate meaningfully in Revelation's disclosure, the reader must come to terms with the most important prerequisite for understanding this book: It is not sufficient to be a one-time reader . . . Only a re-reader will have awareness of the whole that is necessary for understanding the parts" (*God of sense and traditions of non-sense*, p 368).

Revelation is a complex yet beautiful book that serves to complete our picture of God and complete the story arc of the whole Bible. The great conflict's resolution is revealed. This is why it's necessary to re-engage and rediscover the book whose name means revealing hidden things. Yet often in our obsession with Revelation we've been fixated on prophetic fulfilment. Every time there is a natural disaster we say, "See, we told you the end was nigh."

Rather than using Revelation to build up our appreciation and understanding of God and Christ's salvation, we've instead tried to predict and prove, and in doing so, we may have lost some of the author's original intention.

OUR PRESENT TRUTH SEEMS STUCK IN PAST INTERPRETATIONS.

Our present truth seems stuck in past interpretations.

We do not dynamically engage with Scripture, particularly Revelation, to see its relevance to today's world. Instead of using our wholistic understanding to speak into the world's problems and bring illumination into dark and difficult situations, we argue the minutiae of what fulfilment the ancient prophecies has seen and how we as a special people fulfil those predictions.

It seems our faith gets reduced to formulaic proof-text faith. Truth is established. All we have to do is regurgitate it to be saved. We stop searching, understanding and applying in favour of easy answers.

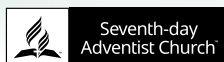
Yet there is hope in looking at Revelation again. As readers (and re-readers) we are invited to experience the threefold blessing for those who read, those who hear and those who keep (or take to heart) the words found in the book.

It helps us then to remember three important conditions of biblical interpretation: that the interpretation be logical and consistent with the text itself; submits itself to scriptural tradition; and then to the community of believers who hear and assess the interpretation (Jon Paulien, *Hermeneutics, intertextuality and the contemporary meaning of Scripture*, p 29). Presumably in this final stage, there needs to be dialogue and open-minded discussion.

In his book *Ancient Words, Present Hope*, Dr Kayle de Waal, head of Avondale Seminary, provides principles specific to reading Revelation. First and foremost, Jesus is the core of the book. Next, the Old Testament is the context and anchors the text. John uses the OT to reinterpret the covenant promises for the church, local things in the OT become universal and literal things become spiritual.

Christ's Revelation is dynamic and living. It's not only historic or futuristic but present, and should be actively read, heard and lived.

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murray hunter

"Young Pathfinder emerges

from a tunnel during

Wednesday's team activities

at camporee."

OUR FATHER

Pam and I are “empty nesters”—we haven’t had children living at home for six years. However, over Christmas/New Year we spend time with family—children, grandchildren and other relatives with children and babies. We enjoy the interaction. Babies and children are fun but exhausting (unfortunately that means we’re getting old!)

When pushing a swing, climbing a tree, riding a bike, jumping on a trampoline or playing blocks, I see the unique natures and characteristics of each child clearly on display. Sensitivity, stubbornness, wilfulness, gentleness, compassion, caution, fearlessness, naughtiness, love, quietness, reservedness . . . each child is unique.

The best times occur when reading a Bible story or communicating with them at their level in the activity of life. I see so much potential in each and desire that all are guided toward good values, God and His kingdom.

Each of us is a child of God, made in God’s image (Gen 1:26,27) with a unique nature—highly valued. Evil scarred this image of God in all of us. We need to have it restored. Jesus, God’s Son, bore the evil and scars for all humans (Isa 53:4,5). If we believe in Jesus and what He did for us, we become daughters and sons of God again (John 1:12,13). We take on our real identity—I am the son of the King of the Universe!

If we are God’s children, He is our Father (1 Cor 8:6). As a Father He is keenly interested in us (Psalm 68:5). He sees our falls and hurts and wants to comfort and support (2 Cor 1:3); He sees our stubbornness and antagonism and desires to correct and guide (1 Thess 3:13). He takes joy and pride in our kindness and compassion shown to others (James 1:27). He wants to talk to us and see each one of us fulfil our potential (1 John 3:1, Eph 1:3,17).

As God’s son, I’m giving my Father the opportunity to talk with and lead me this year. Will you?

GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
● /SPDpresident



PRACTICAL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE LAUNCHED

NATHAN BROWN

Family, friends and colleagues have celebrated the Australian book launch of *As Light Lingers* and dedicated it to deepening engagement with the Bible by church members, young people, children and families around the world.

The new book by Nina Atcheson was launched on December 16 at Better Books and Foods, the Adventist bookshop in Coorabong, NSW.

Currently based in Kingscliff, Mrs Atcheson is the Adventist Identity officer for Adventist Schools Australia and was a key author of the “Encounter” Bible curriculum used in Adventist schools around Australia. It was while she was working on this project that *As Light Lingers* grew.

“Through conversations with people of all ages in different countries, I was struck with how apathy and life’s busyness too often rob us of meaningful time in God’s Word,” she explained. “I’ve felt it myself, and I believe this breaks God’s heart because He wants to connect with us.”

Drawing on her background as an educator, Mrs Atcheson wrote a practical and simple guide to better Bible study as an everyday spiritual practice for individuals and families. At the book launch she demonstrated aspects of using the book with her husband and children. “As an educator, I know that we are more likely to be impacted by something when we reflect, write, discuss and share our

discoveries with others,” she said. “Writing slows down our thinking and allows us to better process what God’s Word is speaking into our lives.”

Speaking at the book launch, Bev Christian, Head of Education at Avondale College of Higher Education, cited recent research that identified the habit of regular personal Bible reading as the greatest predictor of whether young people will maintain their faith in later life. “I believe this book will help everyone who reads it to develop meaningful Bible-reading habits,” she commented. “And this is how a quiet revolution can begin.”

As Light Lingers was published by Editorial Safeliz, the Adventist Church’s publishing house in Spain, and launched at the worldwide Adventist Church’s Annual Council in the United States in October last year. The book includes pull-out Bible-study bookmarks and POP cards to assist in the practical discussion of Bible texts.

North New South Wales Conference president Pastor Tom Evans led a prayer of dedication and invited Mr and Mrs Atcheson’s ministry colleagues to join him in surrounding them and the book with their prayers.

“God is really blessing the message and distribution of this book beyond what I ever imagined,” said Mrs Atcheson. “More than 20,000 copies have already been shared around the world, and the second print run

is planned for the near future, which will include a Spanish translation. It is also currently being translated into French.”

As Light Lingers is available from Adventist Book Centres in Australia and New Zealand.



NINA ATCHESON SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCH OF AS LIGHT LINGERS.

PATHFINDERS GAIN COURAGE IN FIJI

PETERO NAVOSAILAGI

More than 4000 Pathfinders from 195 clubs throughout Fiji and Rotuma were part of the 11th Fiji Mission Pathfinder Camporee held at Vatula, Burelevu, in Ra.

Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) president Pastor Mavani Kaufononga officially opened the camporee. TPUM youth director Pastor Faafetai Matai and South Pacific Division (SPD) youth director Dr Nick Kross were the two main presenters.

The two presenters spoke with passion and power around the theme "Courage to conquer", which many attendees thought to be timely as the experiences of Pathfinders during the camporee helped put the theme into a clearer perspective. The weather was unpredictable with lots of rain. However, this did not stop the Pathfinders coming out every morning and evening for their daily spiritual nourishment.

During the day the Pathfinders were engaged in activities such as water sports, challenge valley, track and trail, and community outreach.

Sabbath was the highlight of the camporee. In the morning, 34 Pathfinder leaders were invested as Master Guides while 10 "courageous and faithful" men and women were presented with SPD Long Service Awards.

Dr Nick Kross challenged and encouraged the Pathfinders during his final message and the service ended with an altar call to baptism. One hundred and seventy-three young people responded, with 138 Pathfinders making a "courageous" decision for God to be baptised. I

It was "a wonderful sight to see Pathfinders in their uniform following Jesus in the water of baptism," said Pathfinder leader Kesaia Vasutoga, who was invested as a Master Guide. "Truly, self was conquered and Christ reigned."

Heavy rain led to the camp closing a few hours earlier than expected. However, the rain did not stop the Pathfinders singing their hearts out as

the event came to a close.

"We pray that each local club and church will continue to nurture these young disciples to become matured Christians as we pass on to them our Adventist identity, mission and leadership," said Pastor Matai.

Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe closed the camp and challenged the Pathfinders with the "Courage to Go". He also thanked the organiser, Pastor Fifita Vatulesi.

"I congratulate Pastor Fifita Vatulesi and his team for organising such an event of this magnitude and we all give glory and honour to the Lord."



ADVENTISTS RETURN TO REMOTE ATOLL

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church once again has a presence on Nikunau—one of the 16 atolls and coral islands forming the Gilbert Islands group in Kiribati.

Kiribati Mission president Pastor Luther Taniveke said the Adventist Church owned land where a church and a minister's house were once located. But due to financial constraints no minister or lay person had been sent to the island for several years "so the church was deserted", he said. "Many of [the members] became backsliders."

When Pastor Taniveke became president last year he was keen to see the gospel work resume on Nikunau so he sent a lay person, Tekarimwi Bitaa, to the island to build a temporary

church. "We bought him a chainsaw, which he used to cut coconut trees for timber," Pastor Taniveke said. "With the timber he built a small church for his congregation. He will also put up a small house for a lay person to look after the church and a few members."

Mr Bitaa located the former church members and started conducting Bible studies and worshiping with them.

"I visited the island in the third week of November and we had a good time together studying the Bible and planning what we want to establish in Nikunau,"

Pastor Taniveke said.

With financial support from the South Australian Conference—Kiribati Mission's sister conference—Mr Bitaa is planning to begin theology studies at Fulton College (Fiji) this year so that when he returns to Nikunau he can help in the ministry there.



ADVENTIST HEALTH LEADERS MEET GOVERNMENT HEALTH REPS

PAUL WOOD/RECORD STAFF

Representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church recently met with government non-communicable diseases advisors to discuss the ongoing epidemic of lifestyle diseases in the Pacific.

Trans Pacific Union Mission health director, Dr Paul Wood, and Fiji Mission health director, Dr Alipate Vakamocea, met with Dr Isimeli Tukana, who serves as non-communicable diseases advisor to the government of Fiji, to see how the Church and government can continue to tackle the huge problem of lifestyle diseases, which have reached epidemic levels in the Pacific.

During the meeting, attendees discussed the 10,000 Toes campaign along with one of the campaign's key initiatives, the Live More Abundantly program. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is partnering with Adventist Health in launching this program.

Dr Tukana offered his unreserved support for the program and for the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ADRA and the Ministry of Health in Fiji. An MOU is currently being developed.

Dr Wood and Dr Vakamocea also met with Elisiva Na'ati, non-communicable disease (NCD) advisor for the South Pacific Community (SPC), to discuss the 10,000 Toes campaign and the formation of the South Pacific Society



CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT HEALTH OFFICIALS.

of Lifestyle Medicine (SPSLM). SPC is the major umbrella non-government organisation in the South Pacific.

During the meeting the key components of the 10,000 Toes campaign strategy were discussed along with the envisaged role the SPSLM will play in training health professionals in lifestyle medicine.

Future partnership possibilities were explored with a collective desire to continue working towards "stamping out diabetes in the South Pacific". The SPSLM is a beneficiary of funds raised by the 10,000 Toes campaign.

In August, the SPSLM will host a sitting of the International Board of Lifestyle Medicine board certification exams for health professionals in Suva, Fiji.

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NEW PRESIDENT FOR COOK ISLANDS MISSION

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Pastor Eric Toleafoa has been appointed the new president of the Cook Islands Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

His appointment—announced during the 2018 year-end meetings of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC)—followed the retirement of Pastor Eliu Eliu, who spent more than 11 years in the role.

Pastor Toleafoa was previously discipleship ministries director for the Mission. He has also served as youth ministry director, family and children's ministries director, as a school chaplain and local church pastor. He is married to Apii and

they have five adult sons.

NZPUC president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i paid tribute to Pastor Eliu for his

"outstanding ministry contribution to the work of God for 41 years".

"Though he now moves into retirement, I am sure he and his wife Tetua will keep serving God using his many talents to bless the Church and community," Pastor Tupa'i said.

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend also thanked Pastor Eliu for

his leadership: "He is a respected leader in the Cook Islands, a loved preacher and singer, a forward thinker."



PASTOR ERIC TOLEAFOA.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT SOUTH NEW SOUTH WALES

MARITZA BRUNT

Pastor Cristian Copaceanu has been named the new president for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South New South Wales (SNSW).

The appointment comes after current president Pastor Michael Faber announced he would follow God's call back into local ministry.

"It has been a privilege to serve the SNSW Conference in my role for the last seven years," said Pastor Faber. "I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members and the pastoral team of the Conference for the support that was given to me. May God continue to bless

His work in this part of Australia."

Pastor Copaceanu, who grew up in Sydney, ministered in local churches in Victoria and North New South Wales before accepting a call to further develop the Faith FM radio network for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC). Over the past three years, he has served as the director for Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Stewardship at the AUC, but said he was excited about the new opportunity.

"We are humbled by the invitation to serve in the SNSW Conference and look forward to supporting pastors and churches in fulfilling the mission God has placed on their hearts to reach souls for His kingdom," he said.

"We wish Pastor Faber and his wife Doris God's blessings as they embrace this new ministry opportunity in the northern part of the South Queensland Conference," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz. "We would [also] like to welcome Pastor Copaceanu, his wife Erika and their daughters Kaytlin and Sienna to the SNSW Conference."



PASTOR COPACEANU AND HIS FAMILY.

NEWS GRABS



BACKPACK BAPTISMS

More than 12,000 children and teenagers were baptized in 2018 across the Inter-American Division, thanks to a special emphasis on young people. The 12-month "Year of the Child and Adolescent" initiative took kids and teens through a journey into the 66 books of the Bible, encouraging them to earn patches and pins to collect on a special backpack throughout the year.—IAD



ZAOKSKY TURNS 30

Russia's only Adventist tertiary institution, Zaoksky Adventist University, recently celebrated 30 years. Staff and students were joined by guests from the Adventist Church headquarters and the Russian Federation government, who each received a copy of a modern Russian Bible translation as a gift.—EUD



A VISIONARY VAN

Seventh-day Adventist TV network Nuevo Tiempo Chile dedicated a new mobile TV van on December 3. "This will allow us to broadcast live HD through the internet, reaching any place across the country with the message of the gospel," said Nuevo Tiempo Chile president Tomás Parra Contreras.—Noticias Adventistas

HOT TOPICS



LOST IN TRANSLATION?

The Vatican might soon approve a change to the Lord's Prayer posed by Pope Francis, who is advocating that the line "lead us not into temptation" instead read "abandon us not when in temptation". According to the Pope, "A father doesn't lead into temptation, a father helps you to get up immediately. It's Satan who leads us into temptation." —*Relevant*



GREETINGS, DEATH

Kiwis buying from Coca-Cola vending machines have been greeted quite ominously. "Kia Ora", the traditional Maori greeting, has been paired with "mate", intended to be read in English. Unfortunately, "mate" in Maori means "death". Considering the high sugar content in Coke, it may be a timely warning. —*SBS*



COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

The most committed Christians in the world live in Ethiopia, according to a new study from Pew Research. Researchers looked at frequency of church attendance, how often people pray and how important Christians say faith is to their day-to-day lives. —*Christianity Today*

SONOMA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

MALINDA KOTOVEKE PHILIP

Sonoma Adventist College in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG), has celebrated its 50th golden jubilee anniversary and school reunion.

Former students from PNG and Solomon Islands came together from September 13–18, 2018, to commemorate the special occasion. Pioneer principal Dr Alexander Currie, his wife Beverley and two sons, Gavin and Philip, were special guests.

For Sonoma, which grew from humble beginnings to a school affiliated with Pacific Adventist University, celebrating 50 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in PNG and the Pacific is a significant achievement.

Dr Currie described some of the challenges and improvements the college had seen since his time there.

"Fifty years ago, in February of 1968, we commenced the college with 21 students in two courses— theology and building construction. There were no ladies among the initial students. I congratulate the administration in developing the college so that it [now] has 661 tertiary students, a third of whom are young ladies.

"The college then had no electrical supply—now you have 24-hour power. We taught students typing skills on second-hand typewriters. Today every student is computer literate. We commenced with only expatriate teachers but had the vision that the college would be staffed with only indigenous teachers. That dream has largely been realised.

"Sonoma graduates have established a record of service to the Church that is remarkable. Its first small graduating class of 1968 gave the Church a combined total of over 350 years of service. May God continue to use Sonoma as a powerhouse for service."

There were a variety of activities during the celebrations. Spiritual

devotions and services on the theme "Reflecting and celebrating God's leading for eternity" were shared by former students and staff of Sonoma, reminding everyone of God's leading in their lives.

Despite the rain, the walk down memory lane to Vunaling—the site where Sonoma was originally established—was a learning experience. There among the remains of the old buildings, Dr Currie explained the historical significance of buildings erected in 1968.

The anniversary coincided with PNG's independence celebrations so students displayed their traditional heritage, food and songs to be judged by representatives from each province.

Program organising committee chairman Joros Sawi attributed the program's success to the assistance and commitment of all the staff members who were part of each designated committee, but above all to God who was with them in the planning.

The major project contribution for the reunion program was for a new church building.

Local media team the Kingsmen—including former Sonoma students—captured all the events on video. Copies were sold after the program.

A monument unveiled by Dr Currie now stands as a memorial of the occasion.

"Together we thank the good Lord for keeping His promises in leading, guiding and blessing Sonoma College during the past 50 years," said Sonoma principal Dr Isako Esekia in his concluding message.



PIONEER STUDENTS PASTOR JIM MANELE AND PASTOR JOHN HAMURA WITH DR ALEX CURRIE.



SHARING A MEAL

Thames Adventist Church (North NZ) usually provides a weekly community lunch for around 30 to 50 people. But on December 10, more than 65 people poured into the church hall for the special end-of-year Christmas lunch. The atmosphere of love and acceptance that people from the community find from the Thames group has encouraged many to return on a weekly basis—2018 saw two baptisms as a direct result of the relationships built at the lunches. "Although we have a very small congregation, every member contributes to making disciples of those who come through our doors," said Pastor Marilyn Pasione. —NNZC



PRISON PRAISE

During Operation Food for Life's (OFFL) most recent visit to the Bomana women's prison (Port Moresby, PNG), the inmates were treated to a full Sabbath School and worship service, with a special lunch afterward. "Born Free Praise", a group made up of youth from the OFFL Born Free Sanctuary, offered special items while OFFL volunteer Alister Yeo and PNG OFFL director Philip Vaki led the Bible study. "OFFL has been giving the ladies hope and dignity for a long time," said one of the inmates. "Many of us do not have any visitors, and are condemned by society. But you treat us as part of your family and God's family. We love Jesus, and we love you!" —Dennis Perry



REACHING OUT

The Adventist church in Dargaville, a country town in the Far North (NZ), recently held a six day outreach event. With the theme "Who is God?", each evening Dr Tim Reisenberger, an emergency medicine physician from the US, presented the justice, mercy and love of God through biblical passages. Dr Reisenberger also visited and spoke to several community groups, including a Maori health centre, a local Disability Trust and a home school group. On the Sabbath, people came from various Northland churches and the community for a day of fellowship. The outreach concluded the following day when 70 people had "dinner with the doctor". —Sheryl Jensen



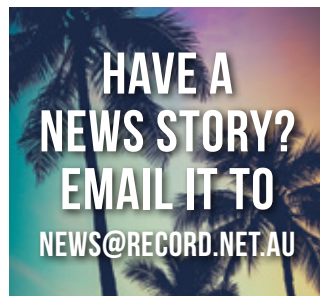
PATHFINDERS IN PRISON

Six young people from the Central Tablelands Pathfinders (NSW) and three parent leaders recently accompanied Pastor Raymon Paletua to Bathurst Correctional Centre for a visit. It was an idea birthed from seeing how eager the young people were to witness in the community in real life ministry situations. The group visited an inmate in the minimum security section who had not had a visit from anyone in the eight months he'd been there. The visit from the Pathfinders was an "uplifting" experience for the inmate, who said he couldn't believe complete strangers would be willing to visit him and pray over his life. —Imprint



MILESTONE FOR MUMS AT THE TABLE

Mums At The Table magazines had a record print run for the December 2018 issue. Ten thousand copies were printed, making it the largest print run since it was launched a year ago. "We had a number of large one-off orders for December from churches who were running special Christmas events," said Melody Tan, editor of Mums At The Table, an Adventist Media ministry. "But it is encouraging to have churches catch our vision and use Mums At The Table as part of their outreach. I'm also confident we'll have a regular print run of 10,000 very soon!" Mums At The Table magazines are available for free thanks to generous support and donations. —Record staff



FIVE ORDAINED

Five ministers were ordained in Solomon Islands Mission on Sabbath, December 8 at the Maranatha Hall in Honiara. About 500 church members and workers attended the ordination service for Edward Joel, James Hitu, Garry Manele, Kele Hana and Patteson Kovo. —Maveni Kaufononga



PLANTING SEEDS

Members of Margate Adventist Church (Tas) recently held their annual community garden spring planting and seed swap. Informal tips and lessons were shared along with delicious plant-based food. Margate continues to hold these events as opportunities to connect with the local community—this year, eight community members attended and two others joined the garden-tending team. —Tasda



HIGH NOTES

Christmas 2018 came a little early for Darling Downs Christian School in Toowoomba (Qld) when their primary choir won the Triple M Mayoral Carols by Candlelight Star Search competition. The 10 girls performed a rendition of "Deck the Halls" in Triple M's studio on November 29, and also sang at the annual Mayor's Christmas Carols on December 9. —Adrian Fitzpatrick/Record staff



PATHFINDERS **UNSTOPPABLE** AT AUC CAMPOREE

More than 2800 Pathfinders from across Australia started the new year with fun, friends and faith at the Australian Union Conference's (AUC) fourth camporee.

Kicking off on January 1, the 119 clubs were warmly welcomed at the opening ceremony by AUC director of youth ministries Pastor Jeff Parker, who officially opened the event. Other special guests included South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross, AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz and Victorian Conference president Pastor Graeme Christian.

The five-day event, held on a property on the Goulburn River in Molesworth (rural Victoria), was split into six subcamps of just under 500 people each, with a chaplain and subcamp leader allocated to each section.

The 50-hectare property allowed for a wide range of outdoor activities based on the camporee theme "Unstoppable"—the life of Paul, and how he was "unstoppable" for Jesus in spreading the Christian message.

During the evenings, clubs gathered at the 30-metre wide "Grand Theatre" to hear California-based keynote speaker Pastor Sam Leonor. The nightly worships included a highlight video from each day, catchy songs for the Pathfinders to learn and drama presentations. The drama, written by AUC Resource Centre manager Tony Knight, was based on the AUC's Hunter Chronicles book series.

The Pathfinders braved a week of extreme weather. On the Friday, temperatures soared to 44 degrees and a total fire ban—which meant no

cooking—was enforced across the campground. Later that afternoon, a "southerly buster" swept through, delaying the evening program by 90 minutes while people fixed their tents, which had been blown over.

But it took more than erratic weather patterns to deter the Pathfinders from attending the worship program, and as a call was made that evening, 577 Pathfinders requested Bible studies, 370 requested baptism, 553 chose to recommit their lives to Jesus and 709 said they wanted to serve in some capacity.

On the Sabbath, a combined activity was followed by a baptism, where six Pathfinders chose to dedicate their lives to Christ. A closing ceremony, including an impressive fireworks display, ensured the final day of



camporee was a highlight for all in attendance.

"After more than two years of planning—with all of the Australian youth directors involved in key segments of the camporee—it was an absolute honour and privilege to lead them in the running of the 'Unstoppable' camporee," said Pastor Parker. "Our team prayed often, and many people shared that they were praying for us on a regular basis. We saw God at work over and over again during the lead up and running of the camporee. There is no doubt that memory events like this camporee change lives."

"Children's lives are transformed by the power of God in close proximity to nature, friends and Scripture," said Pastor Munoz. "I would like to thank all the leaders, volunteers and parents who see the enormous possibilities for the kingdom of God in the ministry of Pathfinders."

MARITZA BRUNT ASSISTANT EDITOR FOR ADVENTIST RECORD.

CAMPOREE BY THE NUMBERS

10500 boxes of Up&Go donated by Sanitarium
2856 Pathfinders
709 Pathfinders want to serve in some way
577 Pathfinders requested Bible studies
553 Pathfinders want to recommit their lives to Jesus
370 Pathfinders requested baptism
223 volunteer staff
119 clubs from across Australia
50 hectares of land for the Pathfinders to enjoy
6 sub camps

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

GOD CARRYING MEN

The "gods of this world" (of man's making) held quite an attraction for Israel, so Isaiah presented an amazing contrast between them and God.

The ancient Babylonians took gold and silver to make their gods, Bel and Nebo. After carrying the gods on their shoulders to their temples and setting them up, they fell down and worshipped them. However, idols were impotent to help their makers when called on. In fact, invaders carried them off into captivity on animal drawn carts.

READ Isaiah 46:1,2,6,7.

In telling contrast, the Lord, the only true God, not only made humans, but carries them from the womb to the tomb. His ability to know and predict the future (as in naming and predicting what Cyrus would do long before he was born) is His evidence that He alone is God. All people are invited to look to Him for help in times of need.

READ Isaiah 46:3,4,9-11; 45:1-6,18,20-22.

All around us, God's rapidly fulfilling end-time prophecies declare that He alone is God, and that He has created us and will carry us in every situation of life. Are you tired? He can sustain! Are you lonely? He will never leave or forsake you! Are you anxious? Throw all your cares on Him and He will give you rest! "Look to Me" is still His invitation!



RELIEF IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM OF ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS CARRYING GODS CAPTURED FROM AN ENEMY.

A FORMIDABLE TEACHER

Mary Maud Smart was born into an Adventist home in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1892. Her Personal Service Record provides no further information about her childhood, family, siblings etc, other than that she accepted the Adventist message "from childhood". In an age when it was not common for people to have the privilege of a full secondary education, Mary Maud must have been an exceptional student as she matriculated into the University of New Zealand, thus qualifying to enter higher education. Instead, she became a student teacher at the Church-owned Pukekura Training School near Cambridge in north New Zealand during the years 1911-12.

Once qualified, Maud Smart entered the teaching ministry of the Church in 1913 and from there on the official record of her service is both contradictory and incomplete. While there are four listings of her service placements, each different, not one fully provides the dates she served in each place, though one incomplete account does list how many years she held some postings. However, that version differs from the one provided in her Personal Service Record.

It would seem though that after qualifying as a teacher, she taught seven years at the New Zealand Missionary College (now Longburn College) before taking a one year leave of absence. Then, on her return to denominational service, she assisted C H Showe in a new high school being established in Sydney, Australia. This was followed by two years as a teacher and dean of women at Avondale College, following which she took another one year leave of absence.

Back in New Zealand when she resumed her denominational career, she taught in Christchurch for nine years, at the Hamilton School in north New Zealand for at least two years, and more likely five, before moving to Australia a second time for two years (around 1939-1940) to assist Pastor Ben McMahon, who was then the Australasian Union director of education. This

was followed by a final stint of 15-18 years back at Papanui in Christchurch, New Zealand.

For a time during her later career she was also the "school supervisor", travelling for some weeks annually all around the country, giving assistance and support to the teachers. Her reputation was that she had an exceptionally keen mind and could quickly discern the strengths and weakness of young teachers, and was very able in supplying practical help and wisdom as she guided their careers. They in turn respected her thoroughness and support, and were grateful for her

kind assistance and encouragement.

However, in those days teachers would warn their students that the dreaded "inspector" would be coming to visit their classroom for a day and examine all their bookwork and how necessary it was that they be on their best behaviour. So the students formed the impression that the purpose of the inspection visit was just to sit in judgement upon them!

Miss Smart was not only a good teacher but also had a reputation for being a very good disciplinarian. Thus, for the students of the time, Miss Smart was the formidable "inspector"



who would very carefully examine every aspect of the written work of each child in their somewhat nervous presence, and to them, someone who proceeded with great dignity across the campus like a galleon under full sail.

It's unusual for teachers to continue in their classroom role right through to retirement so Miss Smart's 46 years of denominational service in the classroom teaching ministry of the Church is in itself quite an achievement. However, soon after her retirement in 1958, her health began to fail and she went to her rest in Christchurch on March 6, 1963.

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



youth group on fire for jesus

The Cabramatta Fijian Adventist youth group (Sydney) more than doubled their attendance in 2018 as a result of Bible study, prayer—and lots of volleyball!

The youth are on fire for Jesus—they have reconnected with friends no longer attending church and are reaching out to youth in their local community.

Youth elder Semi Ramatai said the group's ideas may be considered a little unorthodox but they have resulted in more young people attending church.

"We discussed it as a leadership group and realised that we need to give the young people the space to do ministry their way," he said.

"It's amazing the sort of ideas that these young people can come up with to do things differently—and it works."

Bible study and prayer have been central to their activities. In March, Litiana Turner from the South Pacific Division's Discipleship Ministries Team provided training in the Discovery Bible Reading (DBR) method. They are using DBR for their small groups and have found that it has encouraged more and more young people to engage with the Bible.

At the same time, they have been focusing on outreach—organising volleyball games at a local park. It has been hugely popular and has enabled the youth to make connections with young people in the community who stop by after work to join in. Games are held every

afternoon except Fridays and Saturdays, and on Wednesdays they sit around afterwards for conversation, worship and a meal.

A buddy program has also been established where a member of the group is paired with a non-Adventist youth. They may meet up through the week for a chat or communicate via text: it's all about building relationships, which can then lead to discussions on spiritual matters.

"It's actually the young people who come up with the ideas on how best they can reach their friends," Mr Ramatai said. "As elders we say, 'you know what is best for you, you know to reach out to your friends.' Our elders team is just there to give advice and to work with them and to encourage them."

The youth have worked collaboratively with an attitude of acceptance and inclusion. They recently ran a revival program that packed out the church. They hold prayer breakfasts before Sabbath School and are excited to see the ways in which God is answering their prayers. They have been overjoyed to see friends who had left the Church now coming back and joining in the activities.

"It has been a great year for us at Cabramatta Fijian church," Mr Ramatai said. "We have seen the growth and the commitment [of the youth] and how they have come together and it has been great."

TRACEY BRIDCUTT HEAD OF NEWS AND EDITORIAL, ADVENTIST MEDIA.





the man who fell into the hands of robbers

What was the identity of the man whom the robbers stripped of his clothes, “beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead” (Luke 10:30)?

Was he rich or poor? We don’t know. Was he black, white, tan or brindle? Jesus doesn’t say. Was he a Jew, a Gentile or of mixed race? We’re not told. Was he a person with status and learning or of no significance? Again we have no idea. Indeed, we know nothing of him other than the detail that he was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was assaulted and robbed. Yet despite our ignorance of him, in many ways, he’s the central figure in Jesus’ well-known story, traditionally called “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:25–37).

This deservedly famous story is set within a debate between Jesus and a lay expert in the interpretation of the Law of Moses, concerning the meaning of Leviticus 19:18. The exchange progresses through two sets—each made up of a pair of questions with a pair of answers.

SET ONE

Expert’s first question: “What must I do (*poiein*) to inherit eternal life” (v 25)? This was a somewhat common question. Luke makes it clear that the expert asks his question to test the learning of the provincial Galilean Sage, but Jesus deflects the trap by asking a return question.

Jesus’ first question: “What is written in the Law? What do you read there” (v 26)? The expert is obliged to answer, since he is the acknowledged authority in interpreting the Law of Moses. He would lose face with the

onlookers if he made an attempt to turn his question back onto Jesus.

Expert's first answer: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself" (v 27). His answer quotes two central passages in Judaism—Deuteronomy 6:5 (compare 10:12; 13:3; 30:6) and Leviticus 19:18—so the expert is staying close to his Jewish interpretative tradition.

Jesus' first answer: "You have given the right answer; do (*poiein*) this, and you will live" (v 28). Jesus has given an unequivocal answer: what must the expert do to attain eternal life? He must do the essence of the Mosaic Law, that is, to love God totally and his neighbour as though loving himself.

SET TWO

Expert's second question: "And who is neighbour of me (*mou*)?" (v 29 author's literal translation; "of me" can mean "to me")? By responding with a question, Jesus forces the expert to ask it himself as a genuine inquiry. The expert needs to do this to defend his reputation before the bystanders for having asked such a simple query about the Law that he himself was able quickly to resolve. But why ask it at all?

The answer becomes apparent when the text is read in full as it occurs in the Law: "You shall not hate in your heart anyone *of your kin*; you shall reprove *your neighbour*, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against *any of your people*, but you shall love *your neighbour as yourself*" (Leviticus 19:17,18, italics added). In context the command to "love your neighbour as yourself" is restricted to fellow Israelites. KKK leader Chris Barker appealed to this context to refute Ilia Calderón, an Afro-Latina TV journalist: "No! Wrong! Leviticus 19:18 says 'Love the neighbour of thy people.' My people are white. Your people are black" (interview, August 2017).

Jesus again responds to the expert's question with His own question, but before asking it He primes the

pump with the story of the amazingly generous Samaritan. The Samaritans were rival claimants to being the people of God. Their priesthood, their temple, their mountain, their city and their version of the Law were true worship. As a result of such unrestrained rivalry, the Jews and the Samaritans hated each other intensely.

Why did the priest and the Levite pass by the wounded traveller at the roadside? Was it because they assumed the assaulted victim was not a Jew, and therefore not their neighbour? The Samaritan's kindness to the battered stranger is staggering in its generosity (vv 34,35). He personally tends his wounds, transports him on his own animal to a hostel and pays all costs—and this to an unknown stranger. Jesus' parable dictates the answer to His next question.

Jesus' second question: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell [literally, "of the man who fell"] into the hands of the robbers" (v 36)? This of course is not the same as the expert's second question (v 29). The expert asked: "Who among my kinsmen qualifies as my neighbour?" His concern focuses on who's in and who's out; who qualifies to receive his largess and who doesn't. Jewish prostitutes, who service the hated Roman occupation auxiliary troops, are out. Equally excluded are the Jews who collect the Roman taxes. Those of mixed-race, such as the Samaritans, are hardly kinsmen, so they are not "neighbour" for any orthodox Jew.

The expert's question: "who is neighbour of me?" meant for him, "To whom should I show love?" But it could also mean "who showed love to me?" The last is how Jesus understood it, which compels the expert to identify with a half-dead stranger by the roadside. The parable of the Samaritan permits only one answer to Jesus' second question, and the expert knows he cannot avoid giving it.

Expert's second answer: "The one who acted (*poiein*) mercifully to him" (v 37a author's translation); and that one was a detested Samaritan. The

expert must have choked on that reply, especially as Jesus had forced him to identify with the wounded stranger by the roadside.

Jesus' second answer: "Go and do (*poiein*) likewise." The expert's initial question ("what must I do?") has now been definitively answered: "practise (*poiein*) mercy as the Samaritan did, and you will receive eternal life."

In the first set, "neighbour" refers to the extent of the object who receives one's love, but in the second set the parable forces the expert, as Jesus intended, to apply it to the subject who provides the love. In this way Jesus universalises the law of Leviticus 19:18, that is, He transforms a nationally specific law into a universal and unrestricted spirit of love, one that denounces the KKK's interpretation of Leviticus 19:18 as anti-Christ.

The crucial nature of Jesus not stating the identity of the victim is now apparent: He defines "neighbour" not by the identity of the recipient (as in the Law), but by the benefactor's merciful action. Hence the twofold use of the verb "to do" at the beginning of the story (vv 25,28) and again at its end (v 37). So it's not externals like colour, race, creed, culture or gender that define "neighbour" but the doing of indiscriminate acts of mercy and love.¹

Since it's what we do and not the identity of the recipient that defines "neighbour", why identify the benefactor as a Samaritan? Because his surrounding culture automatically classified him derogatively as a despised foreign opponent. Yet, surprisingly—and this is the genius of the story—against all expectations, his generous and merciful behaviour demonstrated that he acted as the neighbour to the man who fell among the thieves and not the priest or the Levite. "Go thou and do likewise."

1. Neighbour "has no reference to race, colour or class distinction" (Ellen White, COL, 376).

DR NORMAN YOUNG FORMER SENIOR
LECTURER AT AVONDALE COLLEGE OF HIGHER
EDUCATION.

28 FUNDAMENTALS

CREATOR, COMPLETER

The New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isaiah 35; 65:17-25; Matthew 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.)

I ran into the water and quickly waded out, stopping only when the surface of the blue reached my chin. My breath shortened as I felt the sea tighten around my chest and neck.

This will either be really awesome or really stupid.

I was 15 but could hardly swim. I also had to contend with the memory of my cousin who, just a few days earlier, had been stung on the foot by a stingray in these very waters.

In spite of all this, I was determined; I scanned the surface of the water intently.

Nothing.

A little while passed before I finally heard it—a distinctive “whoosh” to my left. I panned around and saw two fins, about 20 metres off, disappear into the

blue. The next time I saw them they were closer but no longer heading towards me.

Oh well. That’s still pretty cool.

I’ll never forget my first up-close encounter with wild dolphins . . . especially since the next time they surfaced they were two feet in front of me.

It was a mother and her calf. As they took a breath, I held mine. I looked into mum’s eye as her three-metre (ish) body slowly glided past, flanked by her baby. I could have reached out and touched them.

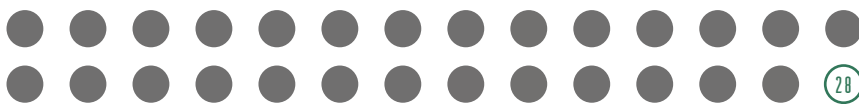
As the pair dived and disappeared from view, I exhaled. I would have been satisfied with “pretty cool”, but am so thankful God gave me “really awesome”.

MORE THAN OUR MAKER

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them . . .” (Nehemiah 9:6, NIV¹).

It’s easy for us to remember God’s role as Creator (although I’ll admit I often forget). A sunrise, a song, the sound of a beating heart—reminders of the One “in [whom] all things were created” (Colossians 1:16) are all around us; we need only stop and look (or listen).

I learned about this special part of God’s character at a very young age, with Genesis 1:1 among the first Bible verses I committed to memory. I have since realised, though, that “in the beginning” God did more than just



create.

"Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were *finished*" (Genesis 2:1, NKJV, italics added).

Here's something worth remembering about our God: inasmuch as He is Creator, He is also *Completer*. When it comes to His work, and His will, the Lord isn't prone to stopping short or being content with "that'll do". What He starts, He finishes.

Imagine if He didn't . . .

"And God said, 'Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.' And it was so" (Genesis 1:24).

A chorus of cheer and joyful song broke out among the heavenly host.² It was a shout of celebration—at the birth of new life—but also anticipation; they knew what was about to happen.

A hush slowly fell over the expectant crowd.

Then God said, "You know what? I'm done. That's enough. Simon, those blueprints I gave you of the man and the woman—you can dispose of them."

The only sound to be heard was the chirping of the newly-created crickets.

After a few moments, which felt, ironically, like an eternity, Simon the archangel spoke up. "Umm, Lord? Are you sure about that? The earth feels, you know, kind of incomplete. What about your plans for humanity?"

The Lord shrugged His shoulders. "Yeah, nah . . . I've changed My mind. That'll do."

"And there was evening, and there

was morning—the sixth day" (Genesis 1:31).

Perhaps the world would have been a better place if humans had never existed (see Genesis 6:6). The fact is, though, God had always intended for the earth to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18), and not just by animals. "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight" (Ephesians 1:4).

This was the case "in the beginning". Not only that, it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

PLAN B

Until it wasn't.

In Eden, sin was a possibility but never a predetermined outcome. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, the Creator could have dusted off His hands and left humanity to suffer their deserved fate. Yet He told the serpent, "He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel" (Genesis 3:15). "This sentence, spoken in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the toil and sorrow that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ."³

God created. God completed. Humans faltered. Sin entered, but God countered (with a promise). Jesus suffered, and "by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Thank you, Lord, for Plan B.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

I used to see the 28th Fundamental Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a sort of footnote. *Sure, it's great, I would think, but it doesn't impact my life on a daily basis.*

The concept of a new earth, though, reveals the true extent of

God's plan of restoration. He isn't content to rescue humanity and leave the earth as a rotting, rusty relic. God is thorough; this world will be healed and made whole once more. So think about this: if God cares that much about the redemption of the soil and the sparrows⁴, how much more is He actively engaged and invested in the healing and restoration of His children!

As you read this, I know life, in some small or big way, is taking a toll. God, however, has given us a promise and a reason to hope. Plan B is still in motion. "He who [is] seated on the throne [has] said, 'I am making everything new! . . . Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:5).

So, hang in there. Hang on. Hang tight . . . to the One who is both "author" and "finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2, NKJV). When life takes a blow, the pain grows and all you have is "I don't know", remember that our Creator—and Completer—is still at work. "In the beginning God created", and in the end He *will* finish what He started.

I don't know about you, but to me that's pretty cool.

Actually, scratch that.

It's really, *truly* awesome!

1. All Bible verses used in this article are from the NIV unless specified otherwise.

2. Ellen White describes a similar scene taking place at the creation of the world: "The angelic host viewed the scene with delight, and rejoiced at the wonderful works of God" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 44).

3. Ellen White, *Education*, p. 27.

4. See Matthew 10:29–31.



LINDEN CHUANG

Assistant editor (digital) and graphic designer, *Adventist Record*.



TASTY ROAD TRIP SNACK HACKS FOR SUMMER

The summer road trip is a rite of passage for those seeking valuable family time, but restless little ones in the back seat can test the most patient drivers.

Constant grumbles like “are we there yet?” and “I’m hungry!” from the kids, drive most road-tripping parents crazy. But with careful planning, the annual family road trip might be more memorable and a fun start to the holiday.

Planning should cover a number of areas—entertainment, comfort, communication and, most importantly, food. Make sure you have a range of toys or books that will keep your passengers entertained but won’t make a mess. Bring pillows for the back-seat crew so sleeping and snuggling is easy.

Explain to the kids how long the trip will take, when stops are planned and what’s expected of them, so they can keep their own track of “how long ‘til we get there?”

And, of course, ensure tummies are taken care of by bringing a nutritious stash of healthy food options, like these:

- **Frozen fun:** Freeze some healthy popper drinks like natural fruit juice or UP&GO and let them slowly defrost throughout the trip. Not only do the slushy drinks fill bellies in a fun way, but they are mess-free and can also act as ice bricks for food that needs to be chilled, like cheese sticks or yoghurt tubs.

- **Mix and match:** Prepare a range of sandwiches with a variety of fillings that won’t spill. Cut them up into small pieces to make them last longer, pop them in a big container and give the kids a “lucky dip lunch”.

- **Crunch time:** Make your own crunchy crisps by oven-baking some pita bread and sprinkling herbs and spices on top. Give the kids their own “pack of chips” in a mini container that they can close when they’ve had enough. Ready-made options like muesli bars or Weet-Bix GO also work well without the need for baking or prep.

Try some of our other road trip snack hacks on your next adventure.

EASY ROAD TRIP SNACK HACKS



FRESH IS BEST

Chop fruit or veggies into bite-size pieces that can be handled and consumed easily. Think non-stick, non-drip and non-staining like apples, bananas and sliced grapes. Older kids who aren’t as likely to spill can dip veggies in hummus or another tasty dip.



TASTY TREATS

Reward good behaviour with some treats that are both delicious and nutritious. Try making a family favourite slice like chocolate beetroot squares.



DRINK UP

Don’t forget the liquids! Keeping hydrated is an important part of any journey. A reusable water bottle makes younger kids feel more adult as they can refill with fresh water at each stop. A water stop is also a great reason to break up a long drive.



Tasty Apple Peanut Muffins

Fresh apple with peanut butter—what a combination! These tasty muffins will keep you feeling full and satisfied when you’re on the go.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/recipes
New Zealand: sanitarium.co.nz/recipes

 / [sanitariumaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumaustralia)
/ [sanitariumnz](https://www.facebook.com/sanitariumnz)

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing



LIVING WITH ANSWERS

I was saddened when I read the letter “Living with Questions” in *Adventist Record* (December 1, 2018).

The apostle Paul certainly believed in the historical Adam for his writings include five specific references to Adam by name—Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22,45; 1 Timothy 2:13,14. From the Romans 5 reference it is clear that sin and death came through one man, Adam. Then the contrast is given that through another Man, Christ, came God’s grace, the gift of righteousness, justification, life—man made righteous and given eternal life.

I know from personal experience that I am a sinner just like Adam. So I have a desperate need that Jesus give me His righteousness and an opportunity for eternal life at His appearing. So I am “Living with Answers” that the Scriptures teach.

Bernard Engelbrecht, NSW

SHOULD WE?

In publishing “The investigative judgement and our assurance” (December 1, 2018), *Adventist Record* has done its readers, both Seventh-day Adventist and not, a service. It has demonstrated the lengths to which one must go to calm the hearts of believers in the doctrine, while providing a novel justification for its existence.

Meanwhile, believers in the Reformation doctrine of justification by grace through faith go on their way singing with Elisha Hoffman, “Christ has for sin atonement made, What a wonderful Saviour!”, with Horatius Bonar, “I lay my sins on Jesus . . . He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load”, and with Anita Kerr, “When I think how Jesus loves me, I take heart to live for Him”.

Angus McPhee, NSW

PROPER ORDER

I fully support the author’s (“The IJ and our assurance”) conjecture that the tradi-

tional (word added) investigative judgement doctrine may well rob Seventh-day Adventist members of a measure of salvation assurance. However, some aspects have me wondering.

If this “IJ” has anything to do with my salvation, it must be “done and dusted” before Christ returns. Otherwise the determination as to who will rise in the “first resurrection” (as one example) is unresolved. And if pre-advent, it has no link to the “judgement” during the millennium, in which Adventists have typically understood the decisions of God are open for perusal by the saved who may have some questions as to why “. . . is not there”.

Accepting that the “IJ” is a completed pre-advent event, and if post-advent I am privileged to find myself in the kingdom, how arrogant of me to question the fairness of God!

In fact, if I have such doubts and questions about the fairness of God, surely I have not understood His

amazing gift in Christ to this fallen world!

Scripture assures us that if we are willing, and choose, to make God first in our life, to daily take up our cross and follow Jesus, to lay down our life for the One who loves us, then we already have eternal life in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:11–13) and have no anxiety issue about God’s openness and fairness in any of His dealings with humanity. Thank you God. Hallelujah!

Frank Dyson, Qld

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

I would like to comment on “The IJ and our assurance”.

Q: In the Old Testament model of the sanctuary, was only the high priest judged in the investigative judgement and not the people?

The apostle says judgement must begin at the house or household of God.

Probationary time is granted us, opportunities and privileges are given us, to make our calling and election sure. Time to

improve every talent God has given us, that we may be faithful stewards.

As a law-abiding citizen, having been born again, and accepted Christ’s righteousness both imputed and imparted, Jesus—both our Advocate and Judge—has little trouble to declare us innocent like virgins [2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 14:1].

If we are still in love with sin and have not learned to hate it, than we are in trouble.

I am 100 per cent glad I joined this Church, which has so much to offer and which I could not find elsewhere.

Rolf Vaessen, Qld

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.

KIDS

Privet Kids!

(Russian for Hello)

I will tell others what Jesus has done for me



Seeing is Believing

"Sometimes I see more than I let on..."

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

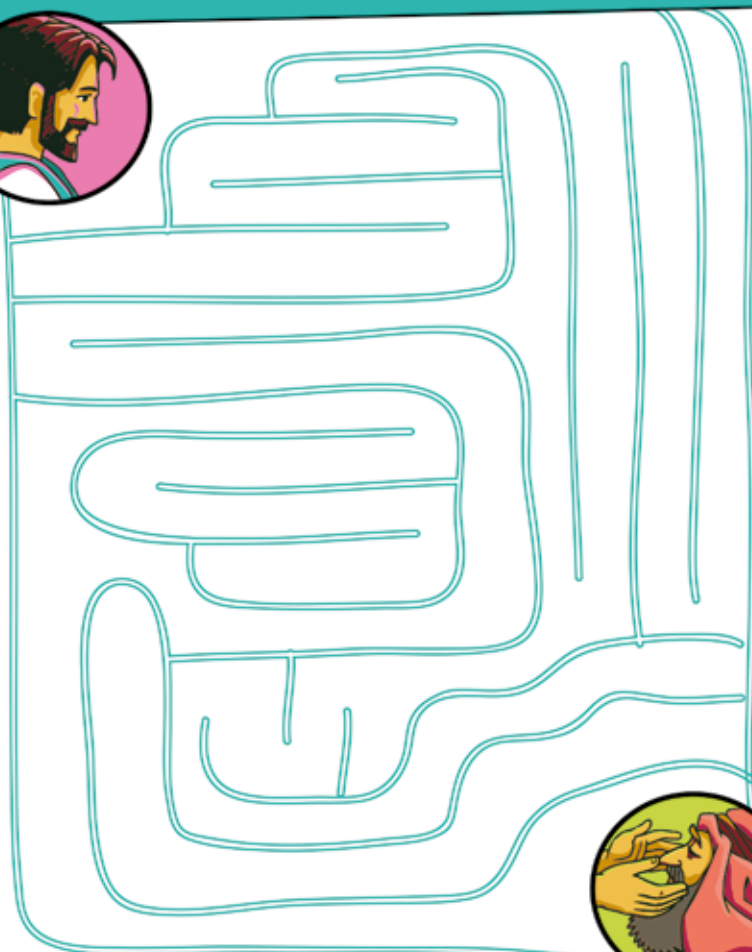
Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame...Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work...working while the sun shines...For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

(John 9:1-5 MSG)

HELP THE BLIND MAN FIND JESUS

To do this puzzle you must shut your eyes and let someone else tell you where to draw the line as you go through the maze!

Jesus restores the sight of a man who was blind from birth.
(Desire of Ages, pp 470-475)



Memory Verse

"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25



Go to <http://thetuis.tv/> and find out the latest adventures from the Tui family.

Appreciation

EATON. Enid Eaton and family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the flowers, cards, love and support following the loss of their husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Edwin John (Johnno) Eaton. Till we meet again.

Anniversary



GOLTZ. Terry and Barbara were married on 10.11.1968 in Toowoomba Central church (Qld). They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family, including their five children Janice (and Mark), Philip (and Michelle), Andrew (and Mylen), Marilyn (and Daniel), and Rodger (and Kelly), along with their 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Terry and Barbara spent 40 in literature ministry. They served in both Queensland conferences, both NZ conferences, Greater Sydney Conference, and for 17 years they led the Publishing Ministries Department at the South Pacific Division. They are now members of Warburton church (Vic).

Weddings



BARNDABBA-LARRY. Morris Barndabba and Elizabeth Larry from Kunawarrtiji Community (Well 33) on the Canning Stock Route, were married on 24.11.18 in Swan Valley church, Perth (WA). Their wedding immediately followed the Mamarapha College graduation ceremony in which they both graduated. The week prior they were both baptised.

David Garrard, Don Fehlberg

GILLARD-BRADLEY. Jonathon Gillard, son of Andrew and Christine Gillard (Christchurch, NZ), and Catherine Bradley, daughter of Euan and Angela Bradley (Kilsyth, Vic), were married on 17.12.18 at Poet's Lane wedding venue, Sherbrooke. Jonathon and Catherine met while studying at Avondale College. For the past two years Jonathon has been pastoring in Invercargill (NZ) and Catherine has been teaching at Gilson College (Vic). In 2019 the couple will both be working at Gilson College, where Jonathon will serve as chaplain.

Mike Parker

GLOSSOP-INSCH. Corey Glossop, son of Eric and Arlene Glossop (Eton, Qld), and Kerry-Anne, Insch, daughter of Norman and Delrene Insch (Kempsey, NSW), were married on 23.12.18 at Chelman's Farm, Dalrymple Heights, Qld. Corey and Kerry-Anne attended the same church. They will live in Mirani. Cory is a fitter and turner and Kerry-Anne a panel beater/spray painter.

Mark Pearce



HOCKEY-VILLENA. Noel Hockey (Sandgate, Qld) and Baby Jane

Villena (Batangas, Philippines) were married on 16.12.18 at Sandgate church (Qld).

Mike Brownhill

HILL-SIMPSON. James Hill, son of Patricia Hill (Berrima, NSW) and James Hill (dec), and Rachel Simpson, daughter of James and Coral Simpson (Cooranbong), were married at the Pines picnic area, Olney State Forest. James and Rachel will make their home in Collector and will work in Canberra, ACT.

Clive Nash

Obituaries



BOARD. Pamela June (nee White), born 20.9.1941 in West Perth, WA; died

23.10.18 in Mount Barker. On 24.12.1963 she married Gordon Board, who predeceased her on 23.4.18. She is survived by her daughter Cherelle and Graeme Fitzclarence (Karratha) and her son Greg and Michelle Board (Albany); seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Pam's priorities were her family and her Church. She spent her career working for the Church in Western Australia, was an active member of her local church until illness prevented it, and was much loved by all who knew her.

Steve Goods, Cameron Hooper



CARLSEN. Elaine Joy (nee Carter), born 22.1.1951 in North Adelaide,

SA; died 25.10.18 in Flinders Private Hospital. On 4.12.1969 she married Ray Carlsen in the Adelaide City church. Elaine is survived by her husband; children Stirling and Janine and children-in-law Deidrie and Paul; and grandchildren Emily, Ben, Lachlan, Cameron, Ethan, Kaitlyn and Ashton. Elaine loved Jesus with all her heart and with her lovely

smile won the hearts of many. She will always be remembered for her humble, caring and loving manner. She now rests awaiting the return of her Saviour and Friend, Jesus.

Will Grobler

CLARK. Alan John, born 6.5.1949 in London, UK; died 6.11.18 in Mexico. On 31.7.1994 he married Miriam Lumongsod. He is survived by his wife (Little Mountain, Qld); daughter Kelly Clark-Warton (Dayboro), son Ricky (Redcliffe); and brother Andrew Clark (Kent, England). Alan loved to travel, which took him far and wide all over the world. He sadly died during one of his overseas trips. He was well loved by family and friends and was still in contact with childhood friends. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Scott Wareham

COURTNEY. Bruce Hedley, born 16.4.1936 in Geelong, Vic; died 24.11.18 in Maleny, Qld. On 11.3.1958 he married Kay Hammond. Bruce is survived by his wife; children John (Clifton Springs, Vic), Donald (Tugun, Qld), Peter (Maroochydore), Narelle Sloman (Mooloolaba) and Mark (Victoria Point); six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was heavily involved in the church as a head elder and Pathfinder leader, and also served with the SES as an organiser of emergency accommodation. While still residing in the Geelong area, he built an extension on the Geelong church and constructed the local Pathfinder hall. Bruce was an honourable, decent, caring man, who loved his extensive family dearly. He had complete faith and trust in his God, who he served faithfully.

John Rabbas



DOOLAN. Violet, born 1.7.1945 at Rumbalara railway siding just north of Finke, NT;

died 26.9.18 in Alice Springs Hospital. She was predeceased by her first husband Wandy Williams Bush and her second husband Yundu Spider. She was also predeceased by her only son Joseph. She is survived by her step-children Janet Amos (Port Augusta), Peter Amos (Oodnadatta), Marie and Julie Amos (Port Augusta); her brothers Richard Doolan (Finke, NT) and Peter Doolan (Titjikala); and grandchildren Simon, Nathan, Violet and Barry. One night in Oodnadatta while she was living away from Jesus she heard the voice of God

call her and tell her to turn back. She committed her life to Jesus and lived faithfully the rest of her life.

David Gilmore, Mancel Dougherty, Don Fehlberg



FORBES. Helen Mildred, born 23.1.1947 in Goulburn, NSW; died 11.8.18

in Goulburn. Helen is survived by her husband Cliff; children Lauryce, Nathan and Cheyne, daughter-in-law Emma; grandchildren Tayla, Brayden, Georgia and Jordan; and brother Stephen. Helen was an active member of Goulburn church and was known as "Aunty Helen" to many who experienced her hospitality and care. She was known for her love of cooking and always cooked up a storm for the weekly fellowship lunches. With assistance she actively began the "Bags of Love" church ministry, providing essential items in gift packs for women's and men's refuges within the Goulburn and Queanbeyan areas.

Orlando Berry, Owen Ellis

HOF. Adele Gertrude (nee Morris), born 11.1.1922 in Ingham, Qld; died 6.11.18 in Brisbane. She is survived by her only daughter Linda and Dr Paul Truscott; her granddaughters and their husbands Sally and Jeff Webster, Rebecca and Nathan Dunn, Sarah and Darren Morton, Joanna and John Webster, Anika and Steve Strahan, and Kate Kalantari and Eric Mohammadi (adopted); and 20 great-grandchildren. The funeral service was held at the Adventist retirement village church, Qld. Adele lived a godly life. She worked through the war years in an ammunition factory. We hold on to her favourite song, "We'll meet again".

Andre van Rensburg

LAWS. Pastor Lindsay John, born 3.6.1929 in Perth, WA; died 24.11.18 in Wyong Hospital, NSW. He was predeceased by his son Richard in 2010. He is survived by his wife June (nee Bowman); children Marilyn, Philip, Adrian and Kathleen; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Lindsay and June served in many churches in various states of Australia and later in Russia, Tonga and Hungary, being involved in evangelism, bringing glory to God and blessing the many people he influenced. An indefatigable worker for the Lord, Pastor Laws had the ability to be accepted as a friend to all as he shared the gospel which he

loved. These attributes endeared him to friends and family and also those contacted in his many evangelistic campaigns.

Eric Winter, Roger Nixon, Abel Iorgulescu, Steven Magaitis, Doug Robertson

MACKAWAY, Neville Ray, born 6.9.1921; died 5.6.18 in Newcastle, NSW. He is survived by his son Dennis; daughters Anne Fisher and Pam Markey; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Neville was a man of integrity and honour, renowned for his physical strength as a pioneer in the timber and logging industry around Bulahdelah. He battled bravely against debilitating illness to the end through his strong faith in Christ. He was a faithful member of Swansea church and deeply regretted being unable to attend services during his final illness. He loved singing gospel hymns, especially country and western style.

Eddie Mackie

MORRIS, John, born 8.5.1941; died 12.8.18 in Wahrenoona, NSW. On 17.2.1963 he married Marcia. John is survived by his wife; children Cathy Louwen and Marilyn Gordon; and grandchildren R'chelle, Craig, Zali and Kendra. John loved steam trains and was involved in many volunteer mission trips to Fiji. He was a faithful member of the Wahrenoona Adventist school board and Thornleigh church.

Bob Saunders, George Porter, Ray Southon

RUTHENBURG, Trevor Clive, born 4.6.1947 in Ipswich, Qld; died 2.4.18 in Ipswich. On 19.5.1970 he married Nettie. He is survived by his wife; and children Darlene, Rebecca and Andrew. Trevor loved his family and the Church. He was a practical man who loved creating things. He enjoyed the outdoors and gardening. He became involved in Pathfinders in his local church and eventually served as a district director. From 1977, Trevor suffered from back pain and he was later diagnosed with a brain tumour, which left him in constant pain. Despite all of these things, his love for his family and his faith in Jesus remained strong. He now rests in peace awaiting the great

resurrection day when all will be made new.

John Wells, Mel Lemke



SAMSON, Brian, born 30.8.1961 at Jigalong Crossing, WA; died 6.9.18 in Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA. He was predeceased by his daughter Tressina. He is survived by his three remaining children to his first wife Eunice Cashen: Cyril, Clandra and Dwayne. On 24.10.1998 he married Peggy Peterson. He is survived by his children to Peggy: Shirley-Anne, Andrea, Darilyn, Megan, Brian Jr and Marshall; 12 grandchildren; and seven of his original 17 siblings. Brian was involved in a number of Martu organisations and also served as chairperson of Jigalong Community more than once. Brian was well known for his dream about the second coming and the message that we need to be ready.

Nick Brightman, Dieter Stahl, Don Fehlberg

SELL, Vivienne Lucille, born 29.6.1930; died 21.10.18 in Auckland, NZ. She was married to Russell, who predeceased her. Vivienne is survived by her children Rosalie and Martin and their spouses; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Vivienne always demonstrated an outgoing attitude with her trademark smile and quick sense of humour. She was a long-standing member of Royal Oak church and most recently a member of the Bethesda chapel. She was a Pathfinder leader, ADRA representative, storyteller and writer. Church lunches will never be the same without her plates of ginger cubes, nuts and chocolates. Vivienne's funeral packed out Bethesda chapel and the stories that were shared reflected a life full of adventure, dedication to her family and a willingness to serve others.

Evan Fray

SPITHILL, Beryl Diane Shirley, born 20.11.1927; died 7.7.18 in Gosford, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband Kevin in 2012. She is survived by her daughters Liane and Diane, son-in-law Wayne Neich; grandchildren Joel and Lara; and one great-grandson. Beryl was a trail-

blazer for her generation in many ways. She was one of the first women in Australia to engage in property investment and enjoyed a successful career in that field to the very end. She also showed an indomitable will to live as she battled failing health for the last few years of her life, but never complained. She will be sadly missed by those at Woy Woy church where she was a faithful member for many years.

Eddie Mackie

TYLER, Colin Roy, born 15.5.1944 in Newcastle, NSW; died 16.11.18 in Selangor Private Hospital, Nambour, Qld. He is survived by his wife Lyn (Ridge-wood); son David and Karen Tyler (Cooroy), daughter Trish and Rodney Flint (Pomona); and granddaughters Courtney and Katelyn. Colin was a devoted husband, father and pop and a caring friend to all. He worked at Sanitarium for two years and then in finances for Church conferences for 28 years. Colin was an active member of many churches and was the senior elder at Yandina church until his passing. He loved his Lord, family and church and always endeavoured to encourage people to have a close relationship with the Lord.

Ted White, Steve Hubbard



WALSH, Errol Phillip, born 13.5.1941; died 7.12.18. He is survived by his wife Jenny; and children Tanya, Phillip, Stefan and Melanie. Errol was a long-standing member of New Norfolk

church in Tasmania. A man of God and of prayer, his hope was in the resurrection. Jesus showed him a vision of the new earth in his final moments. His words were, "That's amazing!" Errol's funeral at Glenorchy church was packed, with nearly 300 in attendance, because he touched so many lives.

Daniel Matteo, Eugene Estil

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Waldo Emerson

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