# THE Refugees in Our family

FAMILY FINDS FREEDOM IN ADVENTIST FAITH COMMUNITY 10

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## **'RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IS HUMAN RIGHTS'**

"These people had been falsely labelled religious bigots and mystics."

Sound familiar. There has been lots of talk about religious freedom in Australia and the Church lately. Many Christians may feel they've been falsely labelled.

The independent commentator continues.

"I could not admire [enough] their steadfastness in remaining true to their faith after eight years of daily persecution, even when they couldn't meet together as a congregation, after their preachers had been driven away from them. If they were discovered, they were penalised with heavy fines."

Those people were my ancestors, who came to Australia to escape religious persecution in Europe.

Now, as an Adventist, it is easy to resonate with the story of these humble people who only wanted to worship as they felt convicted. This is why we advocate for freedom of religion throughout the world. As a Church, we believe our unique doctrines and practices will bring life-threatening persecution down upon us.

This is why at the end of May, at the 17th Annual Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, DC, religious liberty advocates told attendees that the "fight for freedom of conscience and religious liberty for all people is not an option".

Dr Ganoune Diop, who heads the Adventist Church's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, said this: "[Religious freedom] is a divine attribute reflected in humans. Freedom of conscience is connected in fact to what it means to be human because love cannot be forced; love needs freedom."

Love needs freedom. Religious freedom is painted as a conservative concern alone, while the Church is accused of bigotry and discrimination. Religious freedom is seen as competing with other "human rights". Some, even Christians, have accused the Church of sacrificing compassion on the altar of protecting the organisation. But to do this falsely paints religious freedom as the opposite of compassion.

Freedom concerns should in fact be the driver of our compassion. For people to have the choice to worship freely, they must be educated, fed, clothed, autono-

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mous and protected from hatred and prejudice.

As another speaker at the dinner declared: "Religious liberty is human rights."

Back to the story of my forebears. Captain Hahn, captain of the Zebra, continues to describe the conditions they had left behind.

"The people then had to use up most of [their] money . . . because they had no work. These events plunged many of them into great poverty. There were parents among them who had left their children behind; but there were also children, admittedly adults, whose parents had been left behind."

Sounds like the story of many who have attempted to come to Australia recently, desperate for freedom, running out of money to get here and at the mercy of people smugglers. People around the world are becoming more and more polarised. Inside and outside of religious groups, we are fracturing into those who are driven by and dictated to by fear.

As a result, many are suspicious of the "social gospel". Those who fear challenges to religious freedom often dismiss ideas-like appropriate treatment of refugees, environmental care or [insert social cause of your choice]-championed by groups they see as threatening that freedom.

We must continue to keep society and governments accountable on freedom of religion and conscience. And we must challenge policies that lack compassion and don't allow others the freedoms privilege affords.

We are not called to be partisan but to call all to follow a higher path, a Kingdom path, the Way of Jesus. God gave free will and models freedom in the way He treats us

Today is World Refugee Sabbath. In this issue we have the amazing story of a family who, given a chance at freedom, have chosen to join our faith community (p10). We must continue to champion compassion and freedom as found in God's JARROD STACKELROTH Kingdom.

EDITOR O/JStackelroth



## Seventh-day Adventist Church South Pacific

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cover credit charmaine patel

"Read Eric and Kate's story of how they found their Adventist family (p10)."

## ACTIVE IN COMMUNITIES

I sit in multiple committees and do get bored sometimes. The NZPUC and TPUM mid-year executive committees were exceptions. Both of these Unions are wanting to impact not just churches but also the community. Most of the reports, data and stories reflected this desire.

In the Nadi district in Fiji, George Kwong and team are having community impact with health ministry. Adi Tema, 33-year-old paramount village chief of Saunaka Village, recently invited George to conduct a health screening in her village. Saunaka is a prominent village on the periphery of Nadi. An international fast-food franchise sits on Saunaka land. As a gesture of goodwill, franchise owners offered ongoing free meals to the chief's family-who then dined there almost every day. After her father passed away and her older sister died of a heart attack, Adi blamed their deaths on the daily fast food. As a result. Adi was adamant that she and her village needed to change. All of the 120 households (600 people) in Adi's village were screened and individuals in the high risk category of lifestyle disease participated in the Church's lifestyle change programs.

In New Zealand, Hope Channel is producing a program, *Finding Home*, that features local church members their work, families and service and how it affects the community. It shows mechanics, optometrists, counsellors, financial managers; men, women, youth, families and seniors—anyone who is living as a genuine disciple of Jesus. They show their support of health, women's refuges, sport, arts, kids' after-school programs and soup kitchens, and why they do it. Church members are seen as the hands and feet of Jesus.

It is no wonder I didn't get bored in these meetings. None of us will be bored in church if we

have a heart to serve like Jesus.

GLENN TOWNEND SENIOR CONSULTING EDITOR ©/SPDpresident

## NEWS

# MEDIA MINISTRY DEVASTATED BY ARSON

MARYELLEN FAIRFAX

Police investigations are continuing after thieves stole thousands of dollars of film and media equipment from a New Hope Seventh-day Adventist church shipping container and trailer, before setting the trailer on fire early on the morning of May 25.

Local police and the arson squad found an accelerant was used to ignite the fire but as of the time of printing had not apprehended any suspects.

Initially, the thieves attempted to break into the Vineyard Christian Church building itself—which the New Hope congregation is currently using—before targeting the western Sydney church's mobile van that plugs straight into the high-tech church.

New Hope's pastor, Lloyd Grolimund, and chief of production, Andrew Hunt, are devastated. Although some of the equipment was insured, the team have lost thousands of dollars, as well as



countless holidays, evenings and weekends spent building the mobile van and investing in New Hope's media ministry.

"It's a severe blow to us," said Mr Hunt. "We're not sure how long the rebuild will take, but we've received countless mysterious donations and answers to prayers in the past, so we know God wants this ministry to continue, and He is still good."

With more than 100,000 hits on their weekly video and media assets, the duo and dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to transform New Hope church into a dynamic television ministry.

# **ADVENTIST NAMED PNG PRIME MINISTER**

#### JARROD STACKELROTH

Seventh-day Adventist James Marape has been elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

The appointment comes after the resignation of former PM Peter O'Neill.

Mr Marape, the country's former finance minister, is the



Member for the Tari Pori electorate in the Southern Highlands. He is an elder of Korobosea Seventh-day Adventist Church and attended Kabiufa Adventist Secondary School in the Eastern Highlands Province.

"The South Pacific Division congratulates the Honorable James Marape on becoming the eighth Papua New Guinean Prime Minister," said Pastor Glenn Townend, South Pacific Division president. "We pray he will continue to receive guidance from God as he leads this significant country. His Adventist values and heritage will hold him in good standing."

# **'EMERGING TALENT' STARTS NEW ROLE AT RECORD**

#### JARROD STACKELROTH

Adventist Media has appointed Maryellen Fairfax as an assistant editor for *Adventist Record* and a maternity cover for Maritza Brunt, who has been in the role for three years.

Ms Fairfax is familiar to the team at Adventist Media, most recently working with them as a panellist for *Mums at the Table* TV show and a co-host for *I AM*, a young adult centred, apologetics video series. She completed a week of high school work experience with the *Adventist Record* team in 2012 and is



excited about working with the team once more. "Working at a magazine has been a dream of mine for some time, but to be able to do that in an Adventist environment is the best! I know the team and I think they're fantastic."

Ms Fairfax is in her final year of studying a double degree Bachelor of Arts and Law with a major in Media. She recently received an award at the 2019 Christian Media & Arts Australia conference in the "Emerging Talent" category.

"It's great to have this opportunity and I'm looking forward to working somewhere I can help spread our Church messages effectively and improve my skill sets while still doing ministry," Ms Fairfax said.

Although she lives in Sydney, Ms Fairfax has also helped the WA Conference communication department, as well as doing graphic design projects at her local church.

## SAN CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CARDIO SURGERY

#### MARYELLEN FAIRFAX

Hundreds of students from Wahroonga Adventist School formed the shape of a heart on the front lawn of Sydney Adventist Hospital on May 30 to celebrate a special anniversary.

The event was to commemorate 40 years since the San became the first private hospital in Australia to offer a full cardiac program, and to educate children about the importance of heart health.

To begin the celebrations, the children, who were wearing red clothing, participated in some exercises and dance moves . Adventist Health-Care CEO Brett Goods then spoke about the history and significance of the San's cardiovascular and thoracic services.

"It's people who make the difference to this organisation," Mr Goods said. "We have a highly skilled team that have made the San what it is today."

Many surgeons, doctors and nursing staff who performed the first heart surgeries over 40 years ago were in attendance. They celebrated the milestone by cutting a cake, reminiscing and having morning tea.

From humble beginnings, the San today is home to one of Australia's most sophisticated cardiac programs, including robotic surgery.



STUDENTS FROM WAHROONGA ADVENTIST SCHOOL FORM A HEART on the front lawn of sydney adventist hospital.

# **NEWS GRABS**



#### **NEW FRONTIERS**

For the first time ever, *It Is Written* (IIW) has conducted evangelism meetings in Beirut, Lebanon. IIW speaker and director John Bradshaw preached on the first angel's message and the key fundamental teachings of the Bible. At the end of the week, five people were baptised and 24 accepted a call to give their lives to Christ.–*ANN* 



#### **ADVENTISTS RELEASED**

Seventh-day Adventists worldwide are celebrating following the release of detained Adventists in the African nation of Burundi. The 22 church leaders and members were arrested on May 10, following six months of interference on the part of the Burundi government. A new statement from Adventist Church world president Pastor Ted Wilson on May 17 thanked church members for their prayers, and encouraged them to continue praying for the situation in Burundi. –*NAD* 



### HONOURING MOTHERS

More than 50 mothers were recently honoured in a special Mother's Day celebration. Volunteers from ADRA Brazil put together a special event including breakfast, haircuts and massages for the ladies, all of whom are Venezuelan refugees living in the Amazon. – ANN

# HOT TOPICS



#### HOW TO ADULT

A South Australian local council is hosting "How to adult" classes, aimed at young millennials. The sessions will cover budgeting and taxes, as well as dealing with government agencies such as Centrelink and Medicare. Sociology experts say that a lack of adult skills amongst young Australians is not due to laziness, but rather a "lack of opportunities" to learn "oldfashioned skills." - ABC



#### WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

A recent study in Taranaki, New Zealand, has found Maori children and adolescents with obesity have a low health-related quality of life and a rate of emotional and/ or behavioural difficulties six times higher than non-obese children in a comparable population. The community-based program also looked at psychological wellbeing. –BMJ Open



#### ENDING SLAVERY

Christian leaders from different Pacific Island denominations recently met in Sydney to discuss the topic of modern slavery affecting islander workers. The meeting, hosted by the National Council of Churches in Australia, encouraged Pacific and Australian churches to work together with regional governments to ensure the safety and security of islanders working offshore.-NCCA

# WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

#### IARROD STACKEI ROTH

Mountain View Adventist College (Doonside, NSW) celebrated its 50th anniversary with past and present staff, students and principals gathering at the western Sydney school on May 25 to mark the significant milestone.

Blacktown Mayor Steven Bali and Adventist Education national director Dr Darvl Murdoch unveiled a commemorative plague and honoured the commitment and achievements of staff and students of Mountain View.

"Mountain View Adventist College is doing an amazing job serving their community," said Dr Murdoch. "The school is highly respected as a caring and nurturing school that is dedicated to helping all children succeed."

In his opening remarks Pastor Pablo Lillo, who studied at the college in the mid-1970s, quoted Nelson Mandela: "Every generation has an opportunity to achieve greatness, you can be that generation. What counts is the difference we make to the lives of others, that determines the significance of the life we lived."

John Venegas, who represented students from the 1980s said, "God was the heartbeat and living water that flowed through the corridors and mouths of the teachers." Other speakers echoed the sense of community with students from a diverse array of backgrounds and cultures attending the school.

"The sacrifice of pioneer families and their commitment to ensuring their children had access to Adventist education

was humbling," said Dr Murdoch.

Dr Jean Carter, Education director for the Greater Sydney Conference, agreed. "The celebration was a reminder of where God has led in the past and will continue to lead us into the future."

Stories were shared by students who have

been challenged by the Duke of Edinburgh program since the 1990s, testing their resilience and finding their voice for justice and service in places like Vanuatu, Fiji and around Australia.

Interlaced with the history and stories, a series of musical items from students, teachers and principals past and present, were highlights of the event that concluded with cutting an anniversary cake.

"The commitment of Jenny Gibbons as the college's longest serving principal needs to be highlighted," added Dr Murdoch. "Her drive, dedication and love for school families has seen the school flourish in terms of enrolment growth and new facilities. However, more importantly the college has developed a culture of excellence and fidelity to mission."

John Eastwood, who has seen the school grow from its humble two classroom beginning to the modern pre-kindy to Year 12 college it is today, and whom the school hall is named after, was also in attendance.

Mountain View Adventist College has a number of multi-generational families who were students, as well as some past students who have been inspired to pursue a career in teaching among the current staff.

Current college principal Julia Heise said her team were blessed to be able to continue God's work at the school and are excited to see what the future holds for Mountain View Adventist College over the next 50 years.



MAYOR OF BLACKTOWN STEVEN BALI UNVEIL THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.



# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO BUILD CLASSROOMS**

#### TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) needs volunteers for a project that will provide classrooms for children living in one of the world's poorest countries.

Students at Timor Adventist International School, in Dili, Timor-Leste, have been meeting in three small tents next to the mission office. In August 2018, retired Australian property developer Peter Koolik secured a one-hectare parcel of land for the school-he now needs fly'n'build teams to erect classrooms on the site.

"We need fly'n'build teams to fundraise \$A28,000 for each classroom building," said Mr Koolik, who is now working for the General Conference, helping to establish centres of influence around the world.

"These teams will then go to Dili to erect five prefabricated school classrooms. These buildings were recently loaded into two containers at Watson Park (Qld) and [have] arrived in Dili. They are the same buildings that I used when we transported and erected 65 cyclone-proof buildings in Vanuatu and Fiji after the cyclones there in 2015 and 2016.

"I will be going to Dili with a team of volunteers in mid-July to erect the first building. This first one will then be used as a prototype for the following buildings. If possible, we need all the buildings up by the end of this year." In July 2017, the AUC announced a new focus for its Global Partnership program. Following a 14-year partnership with Mongolia, the AUC has



now turned its attention to the countries of Timor-Leste and Laos.

AUC Timor-Leste projects coordinator Pastor Brendan Pratt said the school build was among a number of exciting projects in Timor-Leste that churches in Australia can become involved in. Other projects include building centres of influence in Same, Atauro Island, Liquica and Ossu.

"The dedicated and generous support our Church here in Australia has shown the mission work in Mongolia over the years has resulted in the growth and influence of Adventism throughout the country," Pastor Pratt said.

"Pray that the same will be seen in Timor-Leste as we now dedicate our efforts to the work there."

For more information and to get involved in the fly'n'build projects, email <br/>
strendanpratt@adventist.org.au>.

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

NOVEMBER for the CC

If so, this year's Catalina Camp for the Deaf is for you. Enjoy worship, fellowship and fun and relaxation at the Catalina Conference Centre, on the shore of charming Lake Macquarie, NSW.

The camp is organised by the SDA Deaf Church Down Under and supported by Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI). It is for adults only, with a range of accommodation options available. Presentations and discussions will be Auslan-interpreted, along with hearing augmentation.

Guest devotional speaker is **Pastor Terry Johnson**, president of the Greater Sydney Conference.

## Register today, early bird rate until 30 August 2019!

MORE NFORMATION Www.sdadeafdu.org/camp2019 Email: sdadeafdu@gmail.com SMS : 0421 713 319 (Mark)

ADVENTIST SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES SDADeafChurch



s daylight dawned over the harbour in Auckland, New Zealand, 86 excited riders (and support crew) prepared for a special 10-year anniversary 25000spins charity ride.

25000spins organises cycle adventures for riders around the world and on March 7, the group was about to embark on the "Coromandel Classic".

This is a four-day adventure that takes cyclists around the breathtakingly beautiful Coromandel Peninsula on New Zealand's North Island. From the heights of the Hauraki Gulf and the Coromandel ranges through to sub-tropical forests and rural farmlands, the view varies each day.

After a few days of cycling, the participants particularly enjoyed a restful dip in the thermal hot springs at Hot Water Beach.

Each rider raises a minimum of \$A1250 to participate in the ride but the combined amount that the group raised on this 10-year anniversary "Coromandel Classic" was more than \$A171,000.

Some of the most popular rides offered by 25000spins include the Great Ocean Road Ride in Victoria, as well as the London to Paris ride which finishes at the Eiffel tower and gives riders a perfect view of the finish of the iconic Tour de France cycle race. In the past 10 years 25000spins has raised a staggering \$A1.9 million for children's charities including ADRA, Compassion, UNICEF, Bikes4Life, BOP and the Fred Hollows Foundation. Of the amount raised, more than \$A1 million has been for ADRA.

Ten years ago, 25000spins founder Craig Shipton was living a comfortable life in London working in international banking when he became aware that 25,000 children die every day due to a lack of clean water, basic medical care and proper sanitation. But he wondered what God would want him to do about it. "I've always been a lover of travel and adventure," says Craig, "and I wanted to combine this with a desire to be the change I hoped to see in our world."

So in 2009 the 25000spins name was born as Craig started an epic cycle from London to Athens to raise money for the 25,000 children that die every day unnecessarily. It would take him over eight weeks of cycling, during which his legs would spin approximately 25,000 spins a day and he would aim to raise £25,000. Since that time there have been more than 30 cycle events across Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Craig believes we were created to follow in the footsteps of a risk-taking God, "who has given us many talents which He promises to grow and expand for His glory" (see Matthew 25:14-30).

"Love and free will are the largest risks our God could take and we should follow in God's footsteps (or in this case, cycle in His footsteps) to live a life of service."

Having an adventure while making a difference in the lives of others is fantastic. The following words of Mark Twain are apt: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour, and catch the trade winds in your sails."

Are you in a rut! Do you want to do something out of the ordinary, and at the same time help others in need? Perhaps one of the 25000spins rides is for you. People from all walks of life and fitness levels have taken part. The rides accommodate different fitness levels by having fast, medium and social groups with an accompanying support van for each group. The next cycle adventure is from the Murray to Mountains in Victoria, Australia (February 2020) and a rail trail adventure in the wilds of New Zealand in March 2020.

To learn more go to <www.25000spins.com>.

## JAN SHIPTON/KEITH JONES.



## FLASHPOINT



QUINTEN'S ORDINATION Pastor Ouinten Liebrandt was

recently ordained at Warburton Adventist Church (Vic). Born into a third generation Adventist family in South Africa, Pastor Liebrandt was initially torn between becoming an architect or a pastor. Despite choosing architecture and starting his own practice in Geelong, the call to ministry was still evident. Pastor Liebrandt has served Colac, Wangaratta, Benalla and Geelong churches, and now works with Warburton church. He has found his architectural background useful in ministry for creativity and to encourage lateral thinking, and believes it is a privilege to serve God in ministry. –IntraVic



### **GOLFING SUCCESS**

Brisbane Adventist College (Qld) Year 7 student Natascha Tennent recently competed at the Macau Golf Masters. Representing the Asia Pacific team, she performed well against competitors from East Asia, Europe, Africa and North America in the largest golf tournament for people with disabilities. On the final day, each player was scored individually on their skills on a difficult course. Natascha achieved the highest score out of approximately 30 other competitors, winning the gold medal and champion trophy. The Macau Golf Masters has opened up new avenues for Natascha, who has now received several invitations to other prestigious Special Olympics events around Australia. -BAC News



SERVING IN VANUATU During the recent school holidays, 10 senior students and two teachers from Christchurch Adventist School (NZ) took an ADRA Connections trip to the village of Butmas in Vanuatu. The mission was to get as close as possible to constructing 20 toilets-one for each household in the village. Over the course of a few days, the students made concrete slabs and risers, and spent Sabbath worshipping at the Side River Adventist Church in Luganville. "The students were able to experience being the hands and feet of Jesus, putting their faith into hard-working action and really feeling a sense of gratitude for the blessings of their daily existence," said teacher Dr Nicolette Paul. -SNZC



**CELEBRATION AT BAIRNSDALE** 

Pastor Andrew Wilson was recently ordained at Bairnsdale Adventist Church (Vic). Growing up in a non-Christian home, Pastor Wilson was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in his early twenties while working as a horse trainer. After his baptism, Pastor Wilson felt God calling him to ministry. Despite feeling underqualified, he and his wife Leisa praved about it. and shortly after. Pastor Wilson was invited to become a lay minister working with the Horsham and Nhill churches. Pastor Wilson is currently based in Bairnsdale, serving the Bairnsdale, Sale and Cann River churches.-IntraVic



### SANCTUARY CONTINUES TO SHINE BRIGHTLY

Sonshine Sanctuary, an ADRA project based in South Queensland, provides short term crisis accommodation and support for women and children made homeless by domestic or family violence. A recent Conference-wide offering collected by church members in South Queensland raised more than \$A14,000 for the shelter, which will now be able to continue providing a place of refuge, including emergency food and toiletries, counselling services, and guidance on health, housing, income, childcare and support groups. –*SQC* 





### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Throughout Term 1, students at Gilson College Mernda (Vic) collected food for local families in the Whittlesea community. A total of two buckets were collected, which were then delivered to the Plenty Valley Adventist Church for their local emergency food relief program.—*IntraVic* 



**SPIRITUAL HIGH IN TAUPO** 

The first weekend in May was special for young people around the North New Zealand Conference, as they spent their time beside Lake Taupo for the 2019 Youth Camp. More than 70 young people attended the camp, connecting with other people from around the Conference, worshipping together, and learning how to "clear the stage" for Jesus. *–Matt Moore* 



#### **FIRST SERVICE IN FUTEKAI**

Adventists in Paama (Vanuatu) are celebrating after the first ever Sabbath service and baptism was held in the village of Futekai on April 13. Permission to hold the service was granted by the village committee, and Paama churches are now hoping to establish a regular Sabbath service. – *Ernest Qwero* 



the refugees in our family

hen we arrived at Christmas Island, we were so happy," Kate recalls. "I just wanted to kiss the ground."

For a few moments, it felt like freedom, safety, a new beginning, a whole new set of opportunities. But the photo taken in those moments portrays a different reality, an ordeal only just beginning and a nation largely uninterested in their story.

It was April 2, 2013. The photo showed Kate and her husband Eric being frisked by Customs officers, while their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Hossain looks on. Taken by *Sydney Morning Herald* photographer Wolter Peeters, it featured in newspapers and news websites around the country with the generic and incorrect caption identifying them only as "Afghani asylum seekers" (photo right).

Then known as Ali and Kosar-they adopted Christian names after their arrival in Australia-Eric and Kate had left a seemingly comfortable life in Iran in a hurry just before Christmas 2012, selling their house and as many of their possessions as they could in the 10-day window they had to escape. Kate had grown up in a large family but lost her parents and a sister in a car accident in 2007. She studied architecture at university and worked for a large oil company for six years before her marriage to Eric, a mechanical engineer, small business owner and, by ethnicity, a member of the Kurdish minority in Iran.

"After I got married, my husband and his family discovered that they had problems with the government," Kate explains. "The government had already confiscated most of his family's money and he received a letter telling him that he had to come to court because of a business deal that had gone badly for his family and a wealthy person who was seeking to get revenge. There was a high risk that Eric would be sent to jail, where he would have had to live as a strict Muslim. He was not a religious person and he knew that it would be very dangerous for him."

The situation was more precarious because of Eric's ethnicity. He considered escaping by himself, leaving Kate with her family, but Kate insisted that they stay together as a family, purchasing plane tickets to Indonesia. "Going was more important than the destination," Kate recalls.

"We just wanted to get to a safe country. We knew it was a dangerous way to go but I told Eric that I was going with him and bringing our child with us."

Kate admits that they didn't know anything about Australia, except that Iran had beaten the Australian soccer team in the 1998 World Cup. "Our family warned us that Australia was a dangerous place," she says. "Even when we were in Indonesia, our family kept asking us to come back to Iran, but we knew we just had to take the risk."

After four months of frustration, dangers and delays in Indonesia, they had paid the last of their money about \$11,000-for space on an overcrowded and smelly "people-smuggling" boat and spent three days without food or drinkable water, and battling sickness. "It was terrible," says Kate. "We were on the boat for three days and we just prayed and prayed, 'God, help us to survive!'"

Arriving at Christmas Island seemed an answer to their prayers. "But when we arrived, we were told that we were detainees, that because we would not be given a visa, we would be kept in a detention centre that would be like jail," says Kate. If they had arrived four months later, they would have been sent straight to Nauru. Instead, they were kept in detention on Christmas Island for six weeks, before being transferred—without any explanation or warning—to the Curtin Detention Centre, near Derby, Western Australia, where they stayed for about two-and-a-half months.

Eric and Kate next spent seven months at the Leonora Detention Centre, near Kalgoorlie, where they had positive and negative experiences. A group of nuns regularly visited the centre and Kate remembers learning the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm, and that these women were kind to them. But with the change in government following the election in September, they were now facing indefinite detention. Kate suffered a miscarriage during this time and, when they were told they would be moved to the detention centre in Darwin, Kate began to feel that their situation was hopeless. her she had suffered another miscarriage and she spent time in intensive care.

During their time in Woodridge, Eric expressed his desire to find a church. Kate was less enthusiastic. She says she was afraid of what the people might be like. Eventually, Eric was one of a group of Iranian men who visited the Eight Mile Plains Adventist Church and found a church that fitted with their Muslim culture. Eric met a few church members, including Dr Paul Truscott, who invited Eric and the other men to his home that night, and Patrick Shaw, who would offer Eric work in his building company.

Eric had visited the Eight Mile Plains church a few times by the time Kate was so unwell. He mentioned that his wife was in hospital to some of his new church friends.

Kate picks up the story. "When I was in hospital, some of the ladies from the church came to visit me, including the pastor's wife, Margaret van Rensburg, and they were very nice to me," she recalls. "I wondered why they were crying for me-why did my situation make someone else sad? After I got out of hospital, they came to visit me again. And I said to myself that I needed to go to see what their church was like. The first time I just went to Sabbath School and it felt very open and welcoming to me and my husband. It was everything about God and everything about the Bible. It was OK to ask questions. It was very nice."

Paul and his wife Linda spent time with Kate and Eric, hearing more of their story, more of their circumstances and their uncertainty relating to a possible visa. They invited the family to stay in their home over Christmas in 2014. In the meantime, Paul wrote a strong letter of advocacy to the Immigration Department about their specific case. Within two weeks, Eric and Kate had received bridging visas and were free to find a place of their own to live. This brought other challenges, such as finding a rental accommodation with no rental history and then no furniture or other household items.

She describes the next seven months in Darwin as "hot, humid and terrible". With public pressure mounting to remove children from Australia's immigration detention centres, they were moved to "community detention" in Woodridge, a southern suburb of Brisbane. Though living in the community, they had no opportunities to work and spoke limited English, with hopes of a visa in limbo. They were regularly threatened and abused in their neighbourhood and did not feel safe.

For Kate, this was the most difficult time. "I said, 'This is not Australia. This is not the country we were looking for,'" she explains. "I had had a good life. I had education, a job and family—and I came here and was told I had nothing. We were treated like we were bad people and we were not allowed to be safe."

In late 2014, Kate was admitted to hospital. Unaware that she had been pregnant, the doctor told



Photo: Wolter Peeters, Sydney Morning Herald







Various church members stepped up to help in these many ways and Hossain was sponsored to start school at Brisbane Adventist College.

Kate now recognises this as the biggest turning point in her life. "I was sad, I was in a dark place," she explains. "But after what the church members did for us, I realised I had been looking for a God—and that if God was here, He would help us in our bad circumstances. We asked Pastor Andre [van Rensburg] to teach us about his religion and we were baptised on July 25, 2015. We are happy now as a part of the church family."

Kate and Eric's story is one of many stories that have now led to a growing Adventist community of refugees from Iran, Syria and neighbouring nations in the southern suburbs of Brisbane, led by Andre and Margaret van Rensburg. A number of Life Groups meet weekly, as well as regular larger meetings for worship, fellowship and support.<sup>1</sup>

Despite being classified as legitimate refugees who have legally sought safety in Australia, under continuing government policy, Kate and Eric still have only temporary protection visas and have been told that they will never be able to settle permanently in Australia-but they are part of this vibrant community, now considered part of their family by many of the church members who have shared their lives with them.

Amid the ongoing political debates around refugees and asylum seekers coming to Australia, Kate draws on her own story. "I want people to know that we are not coming to take anything from other people," she urges. "We can't talk English perfectly, but we had a good education. We had a good life, a good job. We didn't come to do anything bad. We came here to live a good life, to help others, to pay tax, not to use the government.

"I want people to know that it doesn't matter which colour your skin, which colour your eyes [are], we are all human and we're all children of God. I want them to know that we should trust people and trust God."

For Kate, this has become a vital part of her new-found faith that she now shares with others in the refugee community—and anyone else who will listen to her story.<sup>2</sup>

"Whether it's someone of the same religion or different religion, it's so important to be open and welcoming to other people," Kate urges. "Jesus shows us the example of how to serve others, even in His suffering. He showed God by how He treated people. It doesn't matter the colour or language or religion, we have to be kind to other people."

1. Get a glimpse of this special ministry led by Pastor Andre and Margaret van Rensburg: <www.facebook.com/sqconference/videos/2167038930275879/>.

2. Their story was recently revisited by the original photographer and journalist for a follow-up article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "Putting to rest the ghosts of a Christmas Island past" by Bianca Hall, May 12, 2019, <www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/putting-to-rest-the-ghosts-of-a-christmas-island-past-20190417-p51eyw.html>.

NATHAN BROWN BOOK EDITOR, SIGNS PUBLISHING.





# BIBLE VERSES FOR World Refugee Sabbath

### 1. ROMANS 15:7\*

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

## 2. ZECHARIAH 7:9,10

This is what the Lord Almighty said: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other."

## 3. JOB 31:32

But no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveller.

## 4. LUKE 10:36,37

[Jesus asked,] "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

## **5. GALATIANS 5:14**

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

## 6. JAMES 2:12,13 (NLT)

So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

## 7. LEVITICUS 19:33,34

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were once foreigners in Egypt.

## 8. HEBREWS 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

## **9. EPHESIANS 2:19**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

### 10. MICAH 6:8

... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Today is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's World Refugee Sabbath, a day set aside to raise awareness of the needs of the more than 20 million people who have been displaced from their homes due to civil unrest and persecution. For more information or resources, visit <adra. org/refugees>. \*All references from the New International Version unless otherwise specified. FAITH

# misunderstood and maligned

ob's wife. She has been misunderstood and maligned for millennia. I scratch my head wondering how we have continued to misrepresent a woman so reprehensibly despite what the Bible says of her?

From my reading, I learn of a faithful and devoted wife—a woman who has faith in God, has shared both the good and the bad with her husband—yet furrowed brows accompany the mere mention of her name. Why is this so?

Naturally, because Job dominates this Old Testament episode, our minds are drawn to and consumed by him. Nevertheless, if we could just lean our heads a little to one side and peer past Job, we would see the woman behind him.

Remember, Job did not suffer alone. His wife was there with him. She suffered the loss of all their earthly possessions and the accompanying wealth. Her reputation was tarnished and she became the subject of spiteful gossip and undeserved scorn. However, the painful loss of those worldly trinkets was nothing compared to the heartbreak of losing her children (Job 1:13-19). In God's original plan there was to be no death, so we are unprepared when it happens within our own home, and even more when it happens to our own children. The lament of Job's wife echoed throughout the land, barely reflecting the heart-ache within her breast, which had been torn asunder.

We should not forget the speed and viciousness with which these calamities occurred, as is the opportunistic character of Satan when the restraining hand of God is partly withdrawn. These tragedies struck in one day, but Job was not alone, there was one person who shared his pain—probably more, if I know anything of a mother's love.

Time passes in the story of Job, but the heartbreak of pain and loss does not. Two ruined lives stand in the shadows of what were once full, happy and prosperous times, as her husband is incapacitated with a sickening, body-deforming illness. In Job 2:7 the illness is identified as boils covering his entire body. No part of his person was spared, making even the simplest tasks impossible to perform.

Now comes possibly the most infamous verse of the Old Testament in Job 2:9. At the commencement of chapter two, Satan is given freedom to hurt the body of Job, but not to kill him. We have no idea of time in relation to the events of chapter one. It could be one week, one month, six months—we just don't know. Nor do we know how long Job suffered his terrible affliction before his wife advised her husband: "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

At this juncture, it matters little to me whether we retreat to the Hebrew root word for curse *brk*, which some have suggested can also be translated "bless". That is immaterial. Job's wife is a desperate and emotionally overwhelmed woman. Her husband lives with debilitating pain; there is no relief afforded him, despite the services of the very best physicians. Hope has been drained from the cup of reason and logic, as she witnesses the terrible suffering of her husband. She wants his pain to stop, but there is no cure, no end of suffering in sight.

Therefore, she adjures him with the heartbreaking appeal, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die." Instead of imagining a vile vindictive woman tempting her husband to blaspheme, think of a broken wife weeping as she gently touches her husband's cheek then nestling her hand in his, quietly beseeching him. For this is the man she loves. She is Job's only wife (unusual for the time) and it is likely they have shared the marriage bed for longer than 30 years.

Imagine yourself in a similar situation. Or perhaps you don't have to-you have been there immersed in one or more dark chapters of life. Someone dear to you is suffering or has suffered chronic pain, each minute of each hour, every day, month after month after month. The prognosis is death. There is no chance of recovery. Do you ask the doctor to increase the morphine to control the pain, which will shorten the life, or do you allow your loved one to suffer? Only you can answer that question.

Nevertheless, for Job's wife, her husband's terrible suffering must come to an end, and God needs to interpose. God must intervene by removing the breath of life from her husband. This is the meaning of the words, "curse God and die." We should not judge too harshly here, remembering that, in desperation and crisis, even the most reasonable people will do and say the most extraordinary and seemingly unreasonable things.

*Euthanasia* or "assisted death" was not an option available to Job's wife, so she asks her husband to seek for God to bring an end to his suffering. How does Job respond in verse 10?

"But he said unto her, 'Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?' In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (Job 2:10, KJV). Job says to his wife, "You speak *like* one of the foolish women." In other words this is out of character for her; it is unlike her. He is saying [I paraphrase], "You sound like one of those cackling unreasonable gossips who haunt the marketplace." Job is not comparing her with foolish women, he is contrasting her with foolish women, because her desperate statement (2:9) was not typical of her.

Further to this, we know that Job's wife had not abandoned him. She became his carer. While others abandoned him, even his servants refused to listen to his requests and pleas (19:16), she did not. This close intimate care is revealed in the words found in Job 19:17: "My breath is strange to my wife." The question must be asked, how does Job's wife know his breath was "strange" or as the New King James says, "repulsive"? For one simple reason: she was the only one coming close enough to him to smell it. She is caring for him, feeding him, quenching his thirst, bathing him, kindling the fire at night and keeping the insects off him by day.

This point is strengthened in 31:10, when Job declares that if he has been unfaithful to his wife, "let her grind for another". We at times pass over verses, not realising their importance, but here we learn, because of his faithfulness to her, his wife continues to be faithful to him. She grinds corn and meal to supply his food, to sustain his strength. She remains at his side.

I am surprised that while many seek to condemn Job's wife, God does not. God strongly rebukes his three friends, but there is not a word to be found against Job's wife from God. If she was the terrible person many depict her to be, then why isn't she condemned by God; why isn't she rebuked by God?

Of Job's three friends, we read this in 42:7, "And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.'" Oh yes, God strongly condemns the three friends, but not Job's wife. On the contrary God approves of her faithfulness, which is demonstrated by the blessings she partakes of, with the restoration of her husband's fortunes.

In chapter 42 we read of these blessings: Job's material wealth is doubled and verse 12 succinctly states, "So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning." However, are we so spiritually shortsighted as to believe that Job's wife did not also share in the reversal of his fortunes? Of course she did, but more importantly God blesses Job's wife with the gift that in biblical times demonstrated God's approval and blessing upon a woman-children.

She had seven sons and three daughters (Job 42:13). Interestingly, the first three children born were not males. After Job's suffering we would think a male heir would be God's priority for his faithful servant, but God remembered that there were two faithful servants, and in this Job's wife is especially blessed by first bearing three daughters.

Furthermore, only the girl's names are recorded, Jemima, Keziah and Keren-Happuch, and most unusually, Job gave his three daughters an inheritance among their younger brothers (verses 13-15). As we all know, the bond between a mother and child is one thing, but between a mother and daughter is something altogether unique, and in this we see God testifying to the faithfulness of Job's wife, by bringing daughters back into her life to heal her broken heart.

What do we learn from our study of Job's wife? To be careful how we judge others. Not to be hasty to accuse and condemn people before we know all the facts. To be distrustful of gossips and those who tell parttruths, and are eager to find fault. In doing so, we will be able to stand beside and protect those who are innocent, such as Job's wife, who has been misrepresented and maligned for far too long. Let us have an end to it.

**ROD ANDERSON** PASTOR, THE ORCHARD AND GREENVALE CHURCHES, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA.

## **CHRISTIAN LIVING**



Statistics say that a quarter of Australians are suffering from above-normal levels of stress, which can include severe symptoms of depression. It's crazy to think that one in every four people you talk to is struggling to cope with things. What's worse is that some of these people are using alcohol, gambling, drug and tobacco abuse to cope.

Last year, I shockingly witnessed what can happen when a person can't handle life anymore. A man took his life in front of my mate and me without warning. It was an incredibly traumatic situation.

Personally, I haven't handled pressure very well in the past. It came to a point late last year when God confronted me with a harsh reality–fear was governing my life.

I never realised how afraid I was until I had this epiphany. Last year, I attended more funerals ever before, which fuelled my fear of people close to me passing away. And then I had all of my personal problems bringing me down.

I didn't have any control or influence over these things, which made me stress about them even more.

But God pulled me back up and reminded me that He wants me to live a life that is abundant, not limited. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Looking back, everything that was stressing me out was stopping me from living life positively. Fear is the opposite of the abundant life God wants us to experience. God has told us: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Since reframing life to live more abundantly, I'm no longer controlled by fear of rejection or unknown things in the future that I cannot control.

What I can control is my attitude and remembering that God's got the rest.

The best example is some of the work we do for *Signs* magazine. In November last year, I was out on the streets, parks and beaches approaching and interviewing random members of the public. It's a task where you are rejected—a lot. I also faced a lot of rude comments and reactions. It can be discouraging, and sometimes you want to go back to work and curl up in a ball.

Instead of walking away, I stuck around and met a person who had left church completely, but was interested in coming back. That conversation led to further catch-ups, eventually leading them to visit a Seventh-day Adventist church for the first time. In this case, because God gave me the strength to fight through the fear of rejection, there was someone waiting on the other side who later expressed that it was part of God's plan to meet me.

Never let the fear of striking out keep you from what God has in store for you.

If you are dealing with stress, anxiety or depression, <br/><br/>beyondblue.org.au> has resources available to help you.

DANIEL KUBEREK ASSISTANT EDITOR, SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The best colour ever

When one of my daughters was around three years old, she made a special birthday card for her dad. She carefully selected a piece of coloured cardpink, of course, because she knew that was the best colour ever! She then took her scissors to some old magazines and cut out pictures to glue on the card. Only choosing the best and most interesting pictures, her card soon sported a pretty lamp, some teddy bears, flowers and a pink hair straightener!

It may come as no surprise that these were not in fact my husband's favourite items. At three, my daughter had no grasp of the concept that other's tastes might be different to hers. In her small mind, pretty pink things were what everyone loved, so what better things to decorate a card for her dad?

As we grow and learn we soon discover that not everyone thinks just like us. God made us all different and unique. Some of us think pink is just gorgeous, others may find it icky. Some love flowers and teddy bears, others prefer dirt bikes and tarantulas.

The Bible is clear that we should "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31).

Beyond childhood, we are unlikely to make the mistake of giving everyone birthday gifts in our favourite colour– but it's easy to fall into the trap of assuming that what someone else would want is the same as what we would want.

An extrovert may look at someone going through a bereavement and assume they want plenty of company– but what if that person is an introvert and just needs some space? Someone whose love language is physical touch may deduce that a person having a bad day just needs a good hug-but what if that person's love language is words of affirmation and they just wanted someone to chat with and let them know it's all OK? A person who is taskorientated may decide the best way to help their friend is to offer to clean their house, when in reality the friend would rather they just spent time with them.

I know I have fallen into this trap myself at times. It's easy enough to do. And for all our good intentions, we aren't going to get it right every time either. But it's something I'm learning to think about. If I'm really not sure how best to help a person out, a good starting point is to ask. Open-ended questions aren't always the best in this case-a friendly "how can I help you?" may often be answered with "oh nothing, I'm fine". But what if we were more specific: "I know you're having a tough time, would you like me to come around tomorrow and we can chat, or would you prefer to leave it for now?" or "I'm going for a walk this afternoon-how do you feel about coming along?" or "would you find it helpful if I came and mowed your lawn?"

Each of us has a unique way of sharing God's love with others. I'm sure that's the way He wants it. I'm happy to cook for others or take care of their children, but if you ask me to make phone calls I'll probably hide!

I'm not saying we should ignore our God-given gifts, just that it helps to give some thought to how we apply them. I believe God wants us to truly think of others and give them the help that they need, not just the help we wish to give. This is a challenge for me and I hope it challenges you too.

**CLARE RINGROSE** MEMBER OF WHANGAREI CHURCH, NEW ZEALAND, AND Full-time mum to four children.





## Apple and rhubarb crumble

A little bit of something sweet and warm may be just what you need. This high-fibre and delicious dessert is sure to hit that sweet spot.

# Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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# **CREATING A HEALTHY SLEEP SCHEDULE FOR YOUR FAMILY**

Many of us can remember having a strict bedtime checklist when we were little. Brush your teeth, read a bedtime story and lights off at 8pm.

As we compete more and more with distracting screens and busy schedules, the idea of having such a tight routine can feel like an impossible feat most nights!

Research has proven the positive impact that a simple, consistent routine before sleep has on children's health and wellbeing—both short and long-term. Looking at phones or eating sugary snacks before going to bed can make it harder to fall and stay asleep throughout the night.

A bad night's sleep can show itself during the day as behavioural problems like restlessness and moodiness. It can also falsely increase your kids' appetite and affect their ability to concentrate and pay attention at school.

Many people may not know that the optimal amount of sleep is about 10 to 13 hours for 3-5 year olds, nine to 11 hours for 6-13 year olds, and eight to 10 hours for teens.

Research from YouGovGalaxy found that more than two-thirds of parents (68%) say their child's school performance is affected when they don't have enough sleep.

In fact, the team from the University of Notre Dame, Australia, found that almost half (43%) of all children regularly use screenbased devices at bedtime, with one in four (26%) reporting sleep problems as a result.

The good news is that working out a healthy sleep schedule doesn't have to interfere with your complex lives. Getting that routine nailed down will help your little ones (and you!) live their big lives with as much energy as possible.

Learn more about children's health and wellbeing by viewing the *Little People Big Lives Report* at <sanitarium.com.au/biglives>.

## HEALTHY BEDTIME Routines



#### **MAKE BEDTIME FUN**

Try adding fun yet relaxing activities before bedtime, like reading a bedtime story or writing together in a journal. For older kids, writing in a diary before bed can help shake any anxiety that's keeping them up.



#### CREATE RESTFUL BEDROOMS

Help your child connect their room with "restfulness" by making them electronic-free zones. Remove devices like phones, TVs and tablets and as much clutter as possible on and around the bed. It also helps to keep the room dark and at a comfortable temperature-18°C to 22°C is best for kids at night.



#### SWITCH OFF STIMULANTS

Power down as a family 30 minutes before bedtime and do something mellow like a jigsaw puzzle or crossword. For older kids, exercise or sports in the afternoon can help shake off any excess energy.



/sanitariumaustralia /sanitariumnz



### **OUT OF SYNC**

Just a comment on the letter called "Downward Slide" (Adventist Record. May 18). The author guotes Leviticus 23:5 giving the timing of the first day of the eight day Passover feast, but ignores the fact that the Hebrews followed a lunar calendar in which the first day of the month was always the new moon; thus day one of the Passover being the fourteenth day would always approximate the full moon. Remember also a full lunar calendar will soon get out of "sync" with the solar year, so the Hebrews added an extra month in their calendar every few years. This being so, the Passover will seldom fall on the same date each year for a solar calendar although it is the same date for each lunar year.

A little study of Church history and/or the calendar history shows clearly that the rule for setting the date for Easter was to overcome the problem of each church setting its own date for "Resurrection Day" or "Easter Day".

It is a pity that it also seems, too many people still prefer to get their theology from the Rev Alexander Hislop, the author of *The Two Babylons* rather that the Scriptures.

> Graham Mitchell, via email

#### **MUDDLING RULES?**

Replying to the author of "Lesser Light?" (Have your say, May 18) whom I believe is muddling rules (canon=rule).

The two olive trees of Zechariah 4 and the two witnesses of Revelation 11

are considered to refer to the Old and New Testaments. Note: verses 3 and 4 link the two olive trees to the two witnesses-considered to be the two Testaments. There are not three olive trees or witnesses but two. There are only two testaments that make up the Bible canon. Not three. Ellen White's writings are not part of the Bible canon which closed in the early centuries, most likely the second.

John the Revelator refers to the Spirit of Prophecy in 19:10. It is very unlikely he was referring to Ellen White's writings but more likely one of the spirits of God mentioned in chapter 5, which also suggests it (should I say He?) is the spirit of Christ. Also supported by the testimony of Jesus being the Spirit of Prophecy.

I have no problem with Ellen White's writings being referred to as the Spirit of Prophecy writings but not *the* Spirit of Prophecy as this may be the spirit of God and may even have a personality.

The Ellen White quote is unfortunate but she obviously means the writings. The word author is used and that is the intent, not a personality.

Stephen Buckley, NSW

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.

# DIGGING IN HIS WORD WITH GARY WEBSTER

# MULTIPLIED MERCY, MANASSEH & THE 144,000

God's name is His character—who He is—and He is compassionate, full of grace, incredibly slow to anger, super-abundant in love, faithful and trustworthy to the core, so forgiving that He extends it to rebels, the worst of sinners and those who habitually sin. Finally, He is full of justice. What a God!

**READ** Exodus 34:5-7.

Perhaps the best illustration of the above was seen in God's treatment of King Manasseh. Though he led Israel to worship Baal, set up pagan images in God's temple, practised witchcraft and astrology, consulted spirit mediums, offered up his own children as human sacrifices, and made Jerusalem's streets flow with the blood of innocent people, yet when he repented and sought God's mercy and forgiveness, God's arms of grace and mercy were open to him. What a God!

**READ** 2 Kings 21:1–16; 2 Chronicles 33:1–13.

The 144,000 or end-time remnant of God not only keep God's commandments and follow His prophets, but they also have His name in their foreheads, which means they have His same loving character. They belong to, and are like their Father. Like Him, they treat their family members, neighbours, work and school mates with incredible love, kindness, graciousness patience and compassion. How come? They have been redeemed and cleansed by the Lamb and are in love with Him. How about you and me? **READ** Revelation 14:1; 12:17; 14:12, 19:10; 22:9; 7:14; 14:3,4.



Jesus wants us to live with Him forever in a happy, **G'DAY KIDS!**\* safe place. **A Great Family Reunion** The Bible describes heaven as a perfect place with no more suffering or death. We will spend eternity with God, and with friends and family. We will talk with Jesus face to face. We will play with all the animals without fear and walk on streets of gold so pure it will look like glass. To spend eternity with Jesus, to be reunited with loved ones, to live forever-these are not dreams, they are promises from God. CODE BREAKER 66  $\overline{\oplus}$ **Revelation 21:4 KEY**  $a = \bigcirc f = \bigcirc l = \bigcirc q = \bigcirc$  $\mathbf{v} = \bigotimes$ b = (°)  $g = \bigoplus$  $m = (n) \quad r = (n)$  $W = \bigotimes$ c = () h = () n = () s = () $\mathbf{x} = \bigotimes$  $d = \bigoplus i = \bigoplus o = \bigoplus t = \bigoplus$  $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{b})$  $e = \bigoplus j = \bigoplus p = \bigoplus$ u = (°)  $z = \bigcirc$ \*G'day kids is an Australian greeting (Good day)

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

#### POSITIONS VACANT

#### GRAPHIC DESIGNER, AUC (PARENTAL LEAVE POSITION) Ringwood, Vic

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) limited is looking for a talented graphic designer with a keen eye to join our office team for a maximum term part-time parental leave position. This 18-hour per week position commences 19.8.19 and ends 20.3.20 (seven months). The graphic designer portfolio includes working with all ministry departments to create project specific designs for various media: social, online and print. This role requires excellent communication skills and the ability to work with competing deadlines, as well as an artistic flare with a fresh approach to graphic design. Qualifications and/or relevant experience in relation to information technology hardware and software, including the Adobe suite, is essential. If you would like to take part in this opportunity, please contact <Melissa-Hill@adventist.org.au>, people and culture manager, AUC, for a full job description. **Applications close July 14, 2019.** 

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO UNION YOUTH DIRECTOR, AUC RINGWOOD, VIC

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) limited is looking for a dynamic, dependable and proactive individual who is passionate about serving the Youth department of the Church. This position is part-time (18 hours per week). The personal assistant to the Youth director is the first point of contact for the national office and is responsible for communications with stakeholders, coordination of events and managing confidential information. This broad and varied role requires excellence in written and verbal communication, high computer and social media fluency and strong organisational skills. This self-motivated individual is passionate about serving the Youth department and has qualifications and/or relevant experience in relation to administration. To request a full job description, please contact

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#### **HOPE CHANNEL**

Hope Channel Australia is seeking to increase the variety of Christian programming available on TV to meet and minister to the diverse needs of Australia's population. If you are able to volunteer your time, have access to the internet and can critically review TV programs according to Adventist beliefs and values, we would love to hear from you. Expressions of interest can be made via email <info@ hopechannel.com> or phone 02 9847 2277.

#### FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH 60TH ANNIVERSARY

October 19, 2019. All friends and former members are invited to attend this special celebration. For catering purposes, please let us know if you plan to attend via <anniversary@ferntreegullyadventist.org.au>.

#### **TAX PROBLEMS?**

We can assist. Did you know that all donations to Avondale College over \$A2 are tax deductible? For more information or to make a donation just contact Kelvin Peuser, vice president (finance) <kelvin.peuser@avondale.edu. au> at Avondale College or call 02 4920 2102.

## ORGANISING A SPECIAL EVENT IN COORANBONG?

Specialising in fresh, home-style, affordable, vegetarian catering for all occasions-anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, family reunions and wakes. Choose an option to suit your occasion and budget, including grazing tables, gourmet desserts and morning or afternoon teas. I can help find a venue or choose your own. Call Annette 0404 015 980 or email <themunchery@gmail.com>.

#### LAKESIDE CHURCH (FORMERLY BRIGHTWATERS) 50TH ANNIVER-SARY CELEBRATIONS

Sabbath, July 13. Sabbath school: 9:30am. Divine service: 11am, Speaker: Pastor Peter Watts. Fellowship lunch provided, followed by a trip down memory lane. Contact Pam Hill (02) 4977 1840, <pamhill38@icloud.com>.

#### **ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS**

The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our Adventist philosophy. Contact us on 1300 982 803 or 0408 458 452 or <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au> even if you have already prepaid your funeral.

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST Record, June.29



Reconnect with former classmates at honour year reunions. Honour years: 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969, 1959 and 1949. **REGISTER:** avoidale.edu.au/homecoming

# Image: Woodale ALUMNI Homecoming 2009 1999 1989 1979 1969 1959 1949 Woodale ALUMNI Homecoming 2019 1969 1959 1949

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# **OPEN H ME** JULY 15-20, 2019

This July, thousands of Adventists across Australia will open their homes and share a meal with a friend or neighbour.

# REGISTER NOW-

At openhome.org.au and receive a free copy of If You Can Eat You Can Make Disciples by Peter Roennfeldt.



# - GET -INVOLVED

Throw a Sunday BBQ, invite a neighbour for morning tea, get your uni friends together and order menulog, take the opportunity to intentionally get to know someone in your community.

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Australia



# **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

From July 1, download 13 videos sharing stories of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) impact from across the South Pacific Division at: https://vimeo.com/spddiscipleship

#### Watch the videos here:

AU: https://disciple.org.au/resources/ fortheleastofthese/

NZ: https://disciple.org.nz/the-least-of-these/

**SPD:** https://discipleship.adventistchurch.com/portfolio/ sabbath-school-personal-ministries/

#### Watch and share these videos as we study together the biblical call to be a people who act in mercy, compassion and love *For The Least of These*.

Videos produced by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency to support and enrich the study of the Sabbath School lesson quarterly in the South Pacific. SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY SERIES QUARTER 3







NATHAN BROWN

# FOR THE LEAST OF THESE

Buy the companion book **For the Least of These** from your local Adventist Book Centre or online at https:// adventistbookcentre. com.au









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Maria, a disabled mother from Timor Leste, can now support her family. Help provide other mothers with the tools and know-how to earn a living too.

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Please Direct Debit r	ny account to the Adventist Developme	nt and Relief Agency (ADRA	A) Australia Ltd. ID 315700	
Account Name:		Financial Institution:		
BSB.	Account Number:	Signature:		

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