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DISASTER AND DEVASTATION

ADVENTISTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA
RESPOND TO BUSHFIRE CRISIS 10

NEWS

100,000 BIBLES NEEDED FOR PNG 5

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A NEW YEAR PRAYER

As we enter 2020, the world seems a frightening place. We've always had big disasters in the past, but they seem more frequent and larger in scale recently. At times like this, when the world is on fire, prayer feels like all you can do (maybe all you need to do). So please, join me in this moment as we kick off *Adventist Record* for another year and let us petition our Creator with all that's going on.

Our Father God,

First, we praise You for another year of life, for sustaining us and for Your patience with us and Your love for us.

Lord, bushfires are ravaging Australia, precious lives have been lost, as well as millions of hectares of bush, countless animals and thousands of homes—and they are predicting the fires could burn for weeks or months ahead.

Send rain, Lord. Please, we pray for rain and favourable weather conditions for our firefighters and farmers. We need rain to ease the drought and put out the fires.

Please protect our firefighters and other emergency service workers and volunteers as they risk their lives and sacrifice their comfort to protect us. Bless their families as they are away from home for long stretches. Give them strength and endurance.

Jesus, You said blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Please bring comfort to those who lost loved ones in these tragedies, help them to feel Your presence close by and bring Your people to support and love them, to mourn with them. Be with those who have lost homes and businesses and are rebuilding. Help them to find support. Be with the anxious and those who are fearful for the future.

Thank You for those who have sent support, donated and prayed for us. Help us also to be kind and generous this year, to our neighbours, those in our communities, our fellow men and women, on normal days and in the face of disasters. Not just a passive kindness but an intentional going out of our ways and our comfort

zones to serve those who need anything.

Help us to look after the planet You created for us, the creatures that inhabit it—many have been burnt by fires or had their homes destroyed as well—that we can steward our earthly home until You restore and remake it. The earth cries out, creation groans, our skies turn red, ash weeps down. Come quickly Lord Jesus.

In the South Pacific, so many precious children in Samoa have been lost to measles. We pray for their families and communities who have been left with such a gap in their lives.

There are acts of war and rumours of war, governments are posturing and nationalism is rising but we pray that You make us a people of peace, that You help us to love others, including those from other nations, as You love us.

Thank You for the hope that we have in the midst of hopelessness, the peace that passes understanding and the ultimate knowledge that You, Jesus, have already overcome death and the grave.

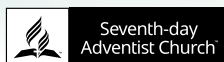
Give us humble hearts. Fill us with Your Spirit so we may be salt and light in the world. Thank You for the victories, the new life and the blessings that we will experience and the successes we will achieve this year. Help us through the grief and the challenges and the trials, with health, loss and occupation. Through the hard and the beautiful times may we remain following You.

Help us to share You with others who don't know You. Be close to our friends and family members who we are praying for and show us the opportunities You've opened to show them Your love.

May we look more like Jesus at the end of this year than we did at the start of it.

In Jesus' powerful and holy name,
Amen.

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"An Australian rural firefighter
observes the damage caused
by bushfires."

OPENED AND UNSTOPPED

When Christ came to our world, His main purpose was our salvation. But He also came with more immediate, temporal KPIs. As Isaiah put it: "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped" (35:5, NIV). It's been my privilege as manager of the Church's Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) to share in His ministry, providing a range of services to enhance the lives of those with sight or hearing challenges.

CSFBHI is funded by a biennial offering (January 25)—your opportunity to join me in carrying forward Christ's objectives, as CSFBHI works to improve accessibility to the gospel for the sight- and sound-challenged. "Accessibility" is important in today's world, where equity and inclusiveness are legislated. But more than that, they are a requirement of our mission to take the gospel to all tongues and peoples. The Deaf are a "people group" in their own right, speaking their own language, be it Auslan, NZSL or ASL, with their own culture. But Christianity in all its forms has largely failed to impact on this group, with less than one per cent of world's 300 million Deaf attending church. (And thinking about your church, why would they?)

To mitigate this, CSFBHI sponsors interpreting and hearing augmentation services at major meetings and in local churches, along with closed-captioned video media, such as *Beyond the Search* and *Tell the World*. And for sight-impaired members it provides an audio book library of some 1000 mostly denominational books, including the Sabbath School Quarterly lessons, and access to more audio and Braille content.

Today, in addition to giving (see ad page 6), also think about who might benefit from our service, helping us to complete the gospel commission.



LEE DUNSTAN
CSFBHI MANAGER

SPD STAFF BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO KIDS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The team at the South Pacific Division (SPD) office brought joy into the lives of children and their families at Christmas.

A "giving tree" at the Division office was inundated with gifts from SPD employees who wanted to make a difference to those in need.

The gifts, for both children and adults, were distributed on December 15 at the annual Christmas party of The Way Community Church in Redfern, Sydney.

Adsafe case officer Jamie Lehn, who attended the celebration, said the gifts were gratefully received by all.

"There were lots of happy faces," he said. "It has gone a long way to showing this disadvantaged community that they are loved."

The gifts were handed out by highly regarded local Aboriginal elder, Uncle Max Eulo, who has supported The Way for many years. The Enmore Fijian Adventist Church served food to the community and sang Christmas carols. Fox Valley Adventist Community Church also donated some of the gifts.

The Way is a ministry that has been supporting and sharing Jesus with the Aboriginal community in Redfern for many years. Activities include a community cafe and a community kitchen.



UNCLE MAX EULO DISTRIBUTING GIFTS.

FOUR ORDAINED AND NINE BAPTISED

ENOCK KITUM/RECORD STAFF

Hundreds of Adventists and other people travelled by truck, canoe or on foot to attend a district camp meeting in Mamaringan, Markham One district, Papua New Guinea.

Hosted by Morobe Mission, the meeting brought together church members and pastors to report on local church growth, share important messages and revive the spiritual life of the Church.

At the meetings, the deputy governor of Morobe, Koni Iguan, pledged K21,000 (Kina) toward three church buildings to support the 2020 "Papua New Guinea for Christ" evangelism campaign.

Four ministers—two from Markham One, one from Lae and one from Komako—were ordained by the ministerial secretary of PNGUM, Pastor Cameron Wari.

The newly-ordained pastors

then baptised nine candidates. Many young people also made decisions to follow Christ.

Sermons and sessions were held by Morobe Mission secretary Pastor Samuel Mollen and stewardship and family life director Pastor Kennedy Wai.



CANDIDATES BEING BAPTISED BY NEWLY ORDAINED MINISTERS AT THE MEETINGS.

ADRA ADVOCATES FOR PACIFIC AID

ASHLEY STANTON

Four representatives of ADRA Australia gathered in Canberra from November 30 to December 3 to meet with politicians to campaign for Australian Aid.

As part of the Voices for Justice Conference hosted by Micah Australia, the representatives were joined by 230 Australian Christians and 15 Pacific church leaders to discuss the Pacific Step Up campaign.

The first two days in Canberra were spent inspiring, training and equipping delegates to speak with federal politicians on issues like poverty and social justice, before meetings began.

On December 2, Prime Minister Scott Morrison launched a new parliamentary initiative called "Friends of our Pacific family". Attended by almost 40 MPs and senators, the event set the tone for two days of lobbying the government to increase Australian Aid.

The delegation for Voices for Justice was in Canberra on the back of an upcoming aid review, which has been welcomed by Micah.

"At a time when our region needs Australia more than ever, we have cut aid to the lowest level in history," said former chief advocate of World Vision Australia Tim Costello.

"As a blessed nation we have a moral obligation to ensure Australian aid is generous and supporting the world's poorest, vulnerable and oppressed, beyond just their 'strategic' value," he said.

ADRA representatives viewed their involvement in Voices for Justice as a key manifestation of their lived faith.

"It's not an extracurricular activity," said Shell-sea Ellem, a first-time participant at Voices for Justice, on the importance of speaking up for the poor. "It is part of our main calling as Christians."

John Smilek, a volunteer regional coordinator with ADRA in Victoria, said he was reminded of how important justice is as part of Christian faith and identity.

"I believe we need to rediscover the joy of serving others," he said.



L-R: JOHN SMILEK, SHELL-SEA ELLEM, ASHLEY STANTON AND NATHAN BROWN.

Nathan Brown, an ADRA supporter and book editor at Signs Publishing, has been attending Voices for Justice since 2012. He said gathering together as Christians is important not only to speak out on behalf of those less fortunate, but also to leave politicians with a positive impression of Christians.

Together, the Voices for Justice delegation attended a total of 88 meetings with MPs, senators and ministers.

100,000 BIBLES NEEDED FOR PNG

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The 2020 "Papua New Guinea for Christ" evangelistic campaign is in need of Bibles—lots of them.

In fact, as many as 100,000 Bibles are needed! That's because the aim of the campaign is to baptise 100,000 people and to give a Bible to every new believer.

"In Australia and New Zealand we mostly all get gifted a Bible when we're baptised—it's easy for us—but in Papua New Guinea, a Bible is more than a week's wage for the average person," said Pastor Leigh Rice, South Pacific Division discipleship ministries director.

"We want to help the new believers to build their faith because it's one thing for them to respond to an evangelistic meeting, it's another for them to build their faith long-term."

"Papua New Guinea for Christ" will be

held from May 1–16 as part of the General Conference's Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative. World Church president Pastor Ted Wilson will be among the preachers, along with around 30 others from the GC, and many pastors and evangelists from every mission and conference in the SPD, including hundreds of PNG pastors and lay people.

Other discipleship resources needed for the campaign include 100,000 Discovery Bible Reading guides and 1500 picture rolls. On top of that, 2000 new churches need to be built to accommodate the new members.

"From a discipleship perspective it's best if there's a new church for every 50 new people because that way



THE EVENT WILL BE HELD FROM MAY 1-16, AS PART OF THE GC'S TMI INITIATIVE.

participation and inclusion and a sense of community happen better," Dr Rice said. "So with a goal of 100,000 new believers, that's 2000 new churches that are needed."

Those attending Big Camps around Australia and New Zealand in 2020 will have an opportunity to support the campaign—all camp offerings for the year will be going to "Papua New Guinea for Christ". Those not attending camp are encouraged to donate via <egiving.org.au>.

Photo: Wes Tolhurst

APOSTLES' VISION CAST FOR SPD LEADERS

NATHAN BROWN

The third in a series of books exploring the Bible's models for disciple-making, movement-building and church-planting focuses on the New Testament's epistles.

Following the Apostles' Vision was launched at the annual meetings of the South Pacific Division (SPD) in Wairoa (November 13), with author Dr Peter Roennfeldt speaking during the morning worship.

According to Dr Roennfeldt, the apostles' vision was summarised in Romans 15:23, "That there be no place left where Christ is not known."

But Dr Roennfeldt said he was surprised by the depth he discovered in researching and writing his new book. "I had no idea the letters were such a rich resource to understand, not only what the apostles taught, but how they had worked under such difficult circumstances," he explained. "I had not realised the value of the New

Testament epistles for redefining what church could be. Church has suffered serious reputational damage—embroiled in abuse and bullying scandals—and many are weary or exhausted by it. But when we read Paul's letters in a different way, they suggest opportunities and hope."

While continuing the ministry and processes from his earlier books, Dr Roennfeldt said his new book is presented in a different style. "It is a how-to book, with many insights into how the principles of the epistles are being applied, but it is not prescriptive."

The three books of the *Following* . . . series have been an important component of the SPD's strategic focus on discipleship, and Dr Roennfeldt has travelled extensively across the region over the past four years teaching key



principles of disciple-making and movement-building. "The main reaction has been, 'We can do this! We can share faith using Jesus' model and plant faith communities as reflected in the New Testament,'" he reported. "In some places, churches are restructuring, members are forming teams according to where they live, Discovery Bible Reading groups are multiplying and new churches are springing up in homes."

Following the Apostles' Vision and other books by Dr Roennfeldt are available from Adventist bookstores in Australia and NZ, or online.



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Email CSFBHI@adventistmedia.org.au

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* CSFBHI is a registered charity in Australia. Tax-deductible donations can also be made to CSFBHI via the website. Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Limited ABN 59 093 117 689

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped . . ." (Isaiah 35:5)

GC REPRESENTATIVES VISIT SOLOMON ISLANDS

SILENT TOVOSIA

General vice president of the General Conference Dr Guillermo Biaggi and associate treasurer Pastor Brent Burdick were welcomed to Solomon Islands (SI) following the South Pacific Division year-end meetings.

Upon their arrival on November 15, the pair were welcomed at the airport by a guard of honour of Pathfinders, accompanied by the music of a bamboo band and choir.

Following a rest and refreshments, they were introduced to the Honiara church family at Maranatha Hall (Burns Creek) for vespers. During the service, Pastor Burdick preached on Acts 11 and the story of Paul and Barnabas, encouraging listeners to build one another up.

The next day, a Sabbath service

featured testimonies, songs by the choir and world mission highlights by Dr Biaggi. Pastor Burdick then preached at the Betikama College graduation on Matthew 24. SI prime minister Manasseh Sogavare and several government MPs attended the service, alongside 5000 others.

On Sabbath afternoon, Adventist Youth (AY) meetings were conducted by HONDIS youth under the leadership of youth director Pastor Steve Aquila. Youth, ambassadors, Pathfinders and Adventurers from 12 churches sang, followed by two half-hour messages by Dr Biaggi and Pastor Burdick.

Approximately 1000 Pathfinders and Adventurers came to the front to pledge their lives to Christ.

On Sunday morning, the GC representatives were given a tour of the Hope FM radio studio and Hope Channel temporary television studio, as well as the camp grounds under preparation and the American war memorial.

Church leaders have expressed their gratitude to the GC for their visit, saying that it has blessed and encouraged the Church.



BRENT BURDICK (FRONT LEFT) AND GUILLERMO BIAGGI (FRONT RIGHT) VISITING THE HOPE CHANNEL STUDIOS.

DOZENS OF STUDENTS COMMIT THEIR LIVES TO JESUS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Dozens of students from Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) have been baptised in recent months.

On November 9, 29 students from Betikama Adventist College (Solomon Islands) were baptised, bringing the total to 109 baptisms in 2019. On the same day, seven students from Tenagona Adventist High School (Solomons) were baptised. There have also been 10 baptisms at Kopiu Adventist High School (Solomons), 11 at Epauto Adventist Senior Secondary School (Vanuatu) and three at Kukudu Adventist College (Solomons).

"We thank the Lord for Adventist

education where every year students accept Jesus as their personal Saviour through baptism," TPUM associate education director Mele Vaihola said.

In 2018, 1805 students were baptised—the highest number in five years. This may be exceeded once the final numbers are tallied for 2019.



BAPTISM OF TENAGONA ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

NEWS GRABS



BREAKFAST GELATO

Australian store Gelatissimo has partnered with Weet-Bix to create a new flavour called "Weet-Bix with Honey and Banana". Its flavour is described as "banana gelato with a drizzle of wildflower honey". The #AussieFamilyFavourites range will be available until the end of January, while stocks last. —Gelatissimo



VOLUNTEERS BUILD 202 SHEDS

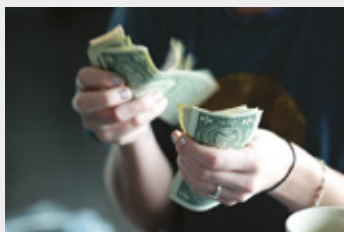
Maranatha Volunteers International and Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church (Las Vegas) have built 202 storage sheds for the survivors of wildfires that destroyed the town of Paradise in 2018. Completed in just three weeks, the sheds were built for people living in trailers to store personal belongings, instead of using cardboard boxes. —Adventist Review



ADVENTIST CHOIR ON BBC

Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church Gospel Choir (London) will feature in upcoming *Songs of Praise* programs on BBC1 television. Celebrating 40 years of unbroken service, the choir is no stranger to television, and has performed on several occasions for the British monarchy, including two Royal Gala performances. —BUC News

HOT TOPICS



AMERICANS LESS CHARITABLE

Indiana University has released new research findings revealing that the number of Americans giving to charity has dropped from 66 per cent in 2000 to 53 per cent in 2016. This decrease is equivalent to around 20 million fewer households giving to charitable causes. Experts say that a decline in faith—not market trends—is the cause.—*Relevant*



FISH SAVIOUR PRAYS FOR RAIN

Stuart Moodie, a teenager from drought-ravaged Tenterfield (NSW), has rescued more than 100 native fish on the Mole River, catching them by hand and moving them to larger waterholes after school. "I've been keeping them alive as much as I can. I'm praying a lot so I can let them go, and the river flows again," he said.—*ABC News*



JOBS THREATENED BY TECH

Research commissioned by Cisco and Oxford Economics predicts that 630,000 Australian jobs could be replaced by technology in the next decade particularly in transport, agriculture, utilities and mining industries. Meanwhile, demand for healthcare and education is predicted to increase.—*news.com.au*

CHURCH RESPONDS TO REVISED RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION BILL

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia has welcomed the release of the second exposure draft of the Australian Government's religious discrimination bill.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Attorney-General Christian Porter released the revised bill on December 10.

Australian Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, Pastor Michael Worker, is pleased to see that many of the concerns raised by leaders of the Adventist Church and other faiths have been addressed in the second draft of the bill, while recognising there is still some way to go in addressing some significant flaws that remain.

"As a Church we appreciate the willingness of the government to take the time to listen to our concerns and that these concerns are reflected in the second exposure draft," Pastor Worker said. "We look forward to the continued dialogue and for the opportunity to provide feedback.

"We believe it is important that people of faith and those of no faith at all have the opportunity to appropriately and reasonably live out and express their beliefs in our pluralistic modern society without fear," he said.

"We also believe it is important that all of the ministries that we undertake as an expression of our faith, such as local churches, schools, health and aged care and charitable activities, are appropriately protected—so that we can continue to make a positive impact on society through living out the mission of Jesus."

The government received almost 6000 written submissions to the first draft of the bill and Mr Porter met personally with close to 100 stakeholder groups to hear their views first-hand.

Key changes include:

- Making it clear religious bodies continue to be able

to make staffing and other decisions based upon faith, as they can currently do under existing federal law;

- Ensuring religious public benevolent institutions are included in the definition of "religious bodies";
- Narrowing the provisions aimed at supporting existing conscientious objection processes so that they apply only to specific medical professionals;
- Making it clear that the conscientious objection provisions do not give a right to discriminate against particular individuals based upon gender or other characteristics;
- New provisions to make sure the current status quo under federal law is maintained, allowing religious hospitals, aged care facilities and accommodation providers to employ staff to preserve a religious ethos, with additional specific protections for religious camps and conference centres.

Amendments have also been made to clarify the application of certain provisions.

"This is not a process that should be rushed. What is important is that we get this legislation right and deliver lasting reforms that provide real protections for all Australians," said Mr Morrison and Mr Porter.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia will make a submission to address concerns in the draft. Submissions close on January 31. The draft bill is available at <http://ag.gov.au/Consultations/Pages/religious-free-dom-bills-second-exposure-drafts.aspx>.



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, ACT.



FIRST BAPTISM IN 27 YEARS

New Norfolk Seventh-day Adventist Church (Tasmania) recently experienced its first baptism in 27 years. Cheryll Purton made the decision to give her life to Christ on September 14, 2019 after the culmination of community seminars, book distribution and camp meetings over the past two years. She was baptised by Pastor Daniel Matteo surrounded by beautiful flowers arranged by Julee Rabe. As Cheryll came up out of the water, she was met by her husband Tony at the top of the stairs and the church voted her into membership of the worldwide Church. Dana Hunt then presented her with a bouquet of flowers and the church gathered for a bountiful New Norfolk fellowship lunch. —Daniel Matteo



FOOD AND GAMES FOR ADRA

Primary and high school students from Prescott College Southern (SA) combined to host their "ADRA Fair Day 2019" in term 4. Primary classes ran various stalls including DIY sherbet, finger food, basketball shootouts and second-hand items. Year 9 mathematics students presented a range of attractive food and activities stalls, while Year 11 business innovation students implemented marketing strategies including business tag-names, online promotion and t-shirts. A total of \$A4144.65 was raised on the day, with 40 per cent going to the Cancer Foundation and the rest going towards project costs for the Year 11 and 12 ADRA Connections service trip to Vanuatu in 2020.

—PCS Newsletter



REKINDLED LOVE

With every couple indicating they have more passion for their marriage after spending a weekend away (November 22–24), the fully-booked and popular marriage retreat hosted by North New Zealand Conference's Family Ministries department was a success. Twelve couples enjoyed staying in top-quality accommodation in the coastal town of Coromandel (NZ), enjoying delicious food and not having to cook, plus beach trips, hiking, paddle-boarding and kayaking. Pastor Dale Hokin, alongside his wife Anneli Hokin, shared marriage enrichment talks, empowering couples to grow together and be more intentional in their relationships. —Kirsten Oster Lundqvist



ROYAL WELCOME

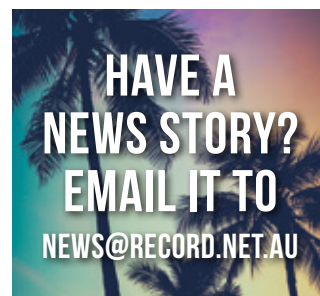
Students from Betikama Adventist College (BAC) had the opportunity to meet Prince Charles during his three-day visit to Solomon Islands in November 2019. BAC was the only school involved in welcoming and farewelling the Prince of Wales at the airport. It was his first visit to the Solomons. Betikama students Arina Manele and Kimi Waikum accompanied principal Partinson Bekala to a state lunch. "The Prince easily recognised the logo [on my staff t-shirt] when I shook his hand and he asked if I am from an Adventist institution," Mr Bekala said. "He thanked me for taking the time with our students to attend the lunch with him and other distinguished guests."

—Tracey Bridcutt



700 BAPTISED DUE TO WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Two hundred and sixty-three women in Vanuatu participated in the first ever Women in Evangelism campaign held from July to August. Every local church in the country trained women and girls in preaching and conducting Bible studies. Women gathered at more than 300 meeting places across the country—including public schools, homes and sports fields—to share the gospel. The campaign ended with a total of 700 baptisms, with baptisms happening at every meeting place. —Talemaot



MEDICAL MISSION SUCCESS

The Solomon Islands government has announced that it will no longer supply Sonship—an independent medical ministry serving the Pacific Islands by boat—with medication or funding. With medication costing 20,000SBD per tour, the cut to funding is taking its toll. Nevertheless, *Medisonship 4* was able to treat 1233 patients and supply exactly enough paracetamol to every village on its November tour. —Sonship



PATHFINDER INVESTITURE PRIDE

Bishopdale Church in South New Zealand held its Adventurer and Pathfinder investiture on December 7. Around 25 Adventurers and 20 Pathfinders were invested, receiving honours and badges. Pathfinder director Adrian Bell is proud of the young people's achievements, especially the three leaders invested at a Master Guide level, and the two recipients of the Award of Excellence, Andrew Robinson and Shardae Cassidy. —Adrian and Vicky Bell



WOMEN'S RETREAT AMONGST THE FIRES

A "Joy of Change" women's retreat organised by the North NSW Conference went ahead at Stuarts Point Convention Centre on November 8–10, despite the extreme fire situation. Several women were prevented from attending, including conference women's ministries leader, Bethany Chapman. Fortunately the speaker, Kylie Cullinan, arrived late Friday and inspired all women in attendance. —Alison Buckley



FIRE RIPS THROUGH AUSTRALIA

Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church have expressed their heartfelt sympathies for those impacted by the bushfires raging across Australia.

Pastor Jorge Munoz, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, said he is shocked and saddened by the unfolding tragedy.

"I extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones in these devastating fires. There is so much suffering, it is absolutely heartbreaking.

"I want to recognise the extraordinary efforts of the brave firefighters, many of whom are volunteers, and also the invaluable work of our ADRA volunteers who have responded swiftly by providing essential supplies to families who have lost everything," he said.

"You are doing a tremendous job in difficult conditions, and we are very thankful for your role in helping those in desperate need."

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend also expressed his sympathy to the families and friends who have lost loved ones.

"We pray for God to comfort those affected by this tragedy," he said. "I would encourage our members around the South Pacific to please keep those affected by these devastating fires and the emergency services personnel in your prayers."

Adventist world Church president Pastor Ted Wilson also encouraged members from around the world to pray for Australia, its people and wildlife, as a special emphasis during the 10 days of prayer in January.

Due to the fires crisis, the South New South Wales Big Camp was cancelled, as were the Victorian Conference youth summer camps. A number of churches also cancelled Sabbath services during the tragedy.

DEVASTATION IN COBARGO

The township of Cobargo, in south-east New South Wales, was engulfed by fire over the new year. Seven Adventist families lost their homes, properties and businesses. The house that Cobargo church company—15 members including children—used to meet in was also destroyed.

"The house we used to worship in is completely gone," said Dragan Kanazir, pastor of the Moruya, Cobargo and Bega district. "Homes have been lost from Wandella to as far north as Batemans Bay."

To help support the local community, Bega Seventh-day Adventist Church opened their doors as an evacuation centre, accommodating more than 35 people and 15 dogs. The church hall was also used for food storage.

"When we noticed the evacuation centre over the road was becoming overloaded we made the quick decision to open the church and allow people to use the facilities," Pastor Kanazir said, "At one stage our church looked like Noah's ark!"

"Other evacuation centres didn't take pets," South NSW ADRA director Sarina Taituave added.

"Some [families] have lost homes, some properties or part of their properties, some are evacuated and unable to return to work, while others are volunteering for the RFS instead of working and have run out of funds," Mrs Taituave said.

In northern NSW, churches like Dorrigo and Forster Tuncurry were also accommodating people who needed to evacuate.

In light of the continuing crisis, ADRA is providing \$A500 payments to families in need and \$A2000 for churches helping their communities.

The SNSW Conference and Australian Union Conference (AUC) are also providing cash funding to members, churches and the community based on needs, with up to \$A5000 available for families who have lost their homes.

In Victoria, Bairnsdale Church has been acting as the main hub to coordinate ADRA activities in south-east Victoria, including the packing and distribution of 80 hygiene kits, the provision of multiple generators and food for livestock.

SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS, ENCOURAGED BY PRAYER

Many members from Tumut, Tumburumba (NSW) and Corryong (Vic) churches have lost their homes or have been evacuated due to the fires or smoke, according to Pastor Jeremy Taituave.

"A lot of our members who live in Batlow have lost houses; one lost a house in Tumut, but two fought to save their property and successfully did," he said. "In Corryong, [church member and Rural Fire Service volunteer] Shirley Sprenger lost 50 acres, but apparently that's small compared to everyone else."

Having spoken to Mrs Sprenger on the phone, Pastor Taituave said there is a sense of hopelessness among the rural communities and a need for fostering hope, gathering together and encouraging each other.

"We're going to meet up with our churches and talk about how to respond. We need to pick up the pieces emotionally and spiritually, we're going to open our doors for prayers, and talking to Shirley, we've decided to run the Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program (DARP)," he said.

To support drought relief in 2019, ADRA SNSW funded DARP facilitator training for representatives from 18 churches across the Conference. The programs will be run over the months ahead to help struggling families or RFS volunteers who have suffered trauma.

HOMES MIRACULOUSLY SAVED

Tumbarumba Adventist Church members Wayne and Sharon Ford, who own two properties in Batlow and Tumbarumba, were in the direct line of fire, twice, but managed to escape with both houses untouched.

"There were two fires. The one on Tuesday (December 31) came right up to the back door of our home, it went all around," Mrs Ford said. "We lost a shearing shed and some solar pumping gear. We have a tenant in the other house, and it was saved as well. We are so grateful and thankful."

Others have not been so lucky. Many of the Fords'

neighbours whose homes escaped the first fire, were destroyed by the second blaze that came through only three days later.

"Our niece lost everything. And a girlfriend down the road survived the first fire and thought they'd be okay because the trees were burnt—but although it burnt the base, it didn't get the canopy. So it went up in flames too," said Mrs Ford.

It was a very emotional time for those returning to find their homes totally destroyed.

"They can't stop thinking about what they've lost and what they didn't take," Mrs Ford said. "When you're told to go it's a very emotional time deciding what to take. You do the obvious: photos, passport and business stuff, and then you walk into the lounge room and realise you can't take much. You've got emotional ties to random little items and it's hard to say goodbye."

Despite the stress and devastation all around, Mrs Ford said her faith has been strengthened as a result of the fires. "It's been an opportunity to share [Jesus] with others. As a close-knit little town, people are saying 'God be with you' and they're not even God-fearing people. A lot of people are asking for prayers.

"What's been overwhelming for us are the calls from people we barely know who have offered us beds and accommodation. And even businesses have said not to worry about paying the bill. And I'm so grateful for everyone's prayers."

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATIONS NEEDED

According to RFS volunteer Mrs Sprenger, although the overwhelming generosity of Australians is much appreciated, evacuation centres are burdened by the volume of physical items. Valuable time that could be spent fighting fires or visiting families is taken up sorting through donated supplies.

"The best way to help is to donate," said SNSW ADRA director Sarina Taituave. "You can donate to ADRA's disaster relief fund and the money will go straight to the fires."

SNSW Conference president Pastor Cristian Copaceanu has extended his appreciation for those who have helped so far.

"We are grateful for the prayers and support of church members around the country and want to especially thank the many local churches who have and continue to support their communities through accommodation, supplies and so much more."

If you would like to help, ADRA Australia, the Australian Red Cross and Foodbank Australia have called for financial donations. To donate visit <bit.ly/ADRAbushfires>.

MARYELLEN FAIRFAX/RECORD STAFF
ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST RECORD.

FIFTH GENERATION GRADUATE FOLLOWS IN FAMILY'S SIGNIFICANT FOOTSTEPS

A student whose connection with Avondale now spans five generations joined 242 of her classmates as a graduate of the university college on December 8.

Orrani Fatnowna followed in her family's footsteps when she walked across the stage in the Chan Shun Auditorium to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree.

Her great-great-grandfather James Hill, then aged eight, never attended school after the death of his mother in 1883. He became one of the first Seventh-day Adventist converts in northern New South Wales in 1901 through the work of a horse-back-riding colporteur and subsequently attended the then Avondale School for Christian Workers. He left his dairy farm in the care of tenants and enrolled as an off-campus student in 1902, but severe drought caused the tenants to walk and Hill returned home three months later. He learnt to read and write at Avondale, though, becoming a lay preacher and church elder who baptised and buried church members in Lismore, Casino and Kyogle.

Ms Fatnowna's great-grandfather Melvin Hill, James' son, also attended Avondale but graduated, as did his daughter Carolyn. Ms Fatnowna's mother Sara (nee Thew) graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) in 1995. This heritage "shows there's a support of and commitment to the education Avondale provides," says associate academic registrar Dr Gwen Wilkinson, James Hill's great-granddaughter.

Ms Fatnowna describes her Avondale experience as "encouraging"—"I love meeting new people, so the diversity on campus has been a big thing"—and enlightening—"my lecturers have opened my mind to different perspectives."

A return to her former school—Carlisle Adventist Christian College in Mackay, Queensland—awaits in the new year. Ms Fatnowna will serve as associate chaplain.

The presentation of awards during the ceremony began with the robing of Drs Joe Azzopardi, Bevan Craig and Marion Shields. They, along with Graham White (in abstentia), bring the number of Doctor of Philosophy graduands to 17 since 2011.

Lyndall Smedley followed the three across the Chan Shun Auditorium stage as only the third Master of Philosophy graduand.

These five equal last year's record of higher degree by research graduands honoured in the one ceremony.

Professor Ray Roennfeldt also officiated as vice-chancellor and President at his final ceremony—he is retiring after more than 30 years on campus and 11 as leader. Having drafted a speech on what it means to be a university college, Dr Roennfeldt had second thoughts. "I want to speak on a more personal level," he said. Using Avondale's values as his frame, Dr Roennfeldt challenged the graduands to: "value excellence over slap-dash performance"; realise "you are not enough"; remember "study and work do not constitute the whole of life"; "look in the mirror when you get up in the morning and say, 'I am true to myself'" and; take the "greater vision of world needs" and "do something about it".

With a faltering voice, he added: "I can't possibly predict where you might be in 10, 20 or 30 years . . . but I would encourage you to have a heart for service and to be open to where



God will lead you." A standing ovation followed.

The main address by Professor Kwong Lee Dow, a former vice-chancellor of The University of Melbourne, congratulated Avondale on its new status—"appropriate national recognition of [your] dedication".

He singled out the "tireless and remarkably effective contribution" of vice-president (Quality and Strategy) Professor Jane Fernandez. Her work as founding convenor of the Higher Education Private Provider Quality Network "is substantially assisting others who seek to follow Avondale on this path".

Graduation weekend began with the opening and renaming of the former administration building on the Lake Macquarie campus.

The Dorothy Cottier Building is now home to Student Administration Services (a merging of Avondale Admissions and the Academic Office) with Student Finance Services, reception and Financial and Business Services sharing the space, too. The contemporary student hub is named after Dorothy Cottier, who served as clerk/cashier (1956–1963) then assistant registrar (1964–1996) at Avondale over four decades.

BRENTON STACEY
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, AVONDALE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.



L O N G E S T (& H A R D E S T)
N A M E S I N T H E B I B L E !

1) MAHERSHALHASHBAZ (ISAIAH 8:1, 3)

God told Isaiah to name his son this whopping 18-letter, six syllable name—the longest name in the Bible. Why? Heaven only knows! Meanwhile, his mother is a mysterious woman simply called “the prophetess”.

2) ZAPHNATHPAANEAH (GENESIS 41:45)

This name was given to Joseph when he became the prime minister of Egypt. Why we don’t give our modern-day prime ministers grand names like this is a mystery, really.

3) TILGATHPILNESER (1 CHRONICLES 5:6, 20)

We’ll call him Tilga for short. As one of the ancient kings of Assyria, Tilga had keen intentions to expand the Assyrian Empire. He became very wealthy by ravaging and conquering neighbouring lands and forcing local leaders to pay him 10,000 talents of silver as a thank-you gift. How kind.

4) CHUSHANRISHATHAIM (JUDGES 3:8-10)

This guy was the king of Aram-Naharaim, or northwest Mesopotamia, and the first oppressor of the Israelites after their settlement in Caanan. God allowed the Israelites to be taken by this king for eight years as punishment for worshipping other gods, but when the Israelites “cried out to the Lord”, He saved them (Judges 3:8, 9).

5) NEBUCHADNEZZAR (DANIEL 4:28)

He’s considered the greatest king to ever lead the Babylonian Empire and credited with constructing the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. His whirlwind story involves him conquering Judah and destroying Jerusalem, having some crazy dreams, creating a gold statue of himself, throwing some “troublesome” Jews into a furnace, being turned into an animal-like guy who “ate grass like an oxen . . . [and] grew hair as long as eagles feathers and nails like birds’ claws” (Daniel 4:33), and then finally surrendering to God.

6) BERODACHBALADAN (ISAIAH 39:1)

Originally named Berodach, this guy was the king of Babylon, and quite a sentimental dude. When his father died, he wanted to do something to remember him, so chucked his father’s name onto the end of his own. Hence, Berodachbaladan.

7) MEPHIBOSHETH (2 SAMUEL 4:4)

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and the grandson of Saul, king of Israel. He was only five years old when his father and grandfather died in battle with the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. Having lost his heritage, he lived as a cripple in a desolate place called “Lo Debar” meaning “land of nothing”. David made an oath to Jonathan to find and care for Mephibosheth (1 Samuel 20:15-16, 42; 2 Samuel 9).

8) HAZARMAVETH (GENESIS 10, 1 CHRONICLES 1)

He was the third of 13 sons of Joktan, the son of Eber, son of Shem—thus, he made it into the genealogy of the sons of Noah in the Old Testament. His name means “dwelling of death”. What a lovely name to call your baby . . .

9) AMMISHADDAI (NUMBERS 1:12, 2:25)

Our mate here is listed in the book of Numbers as the father of Ahiezer, who was chief of the Tribe of Dan when Moses led the people during the Exodus. It is one of the few names compounded with the name of God, or “Shaddai”.

10) CHEDORLAOMER (GENESIS 14)

Also spelled “Kedorlaomer”, this guy was one of the kings of Elam. Genesis explains that he was allied with three other kings from the region and fought against five other Caananite nations. Chedorlaomer won of course, seized all the Caananites’ goods and food, and carried off Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions with them. Cue Abram’s valiant rescue mission!



For all the mountains we climb

Life can often be defined by the challenges we seem to encounter on a daily basis.

With a love for adventure, I had already conquered three mountains in Queensland, but, despite rain, wind and pesky mosquitoes, this hadn't prepared me for the sheer cliff face I now found myself staring directly up at.

The challenge came in the shape, or shall I say height, of Mt Tibrogargan, one of the Glass House Mountains, (Qld).

For a split second the thought *Is this even possible?* went through my mind. One of my friends had successfully climbed the mountain many times before so I decided to put my self-doubt to the back of my mind and to face this challenge head on. Three of us, rock by rock, inch by inch, slowly scaled our way up the mountain, stopping occasionally to catch our breath and to admire the ever-increasing view.

The feeling when we reached the top was exhilarating! The view that greeted us was absolutely spectacular and the accompanying cool breeze was delightfully refreshing. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and we had to start making our way back down the mountain.

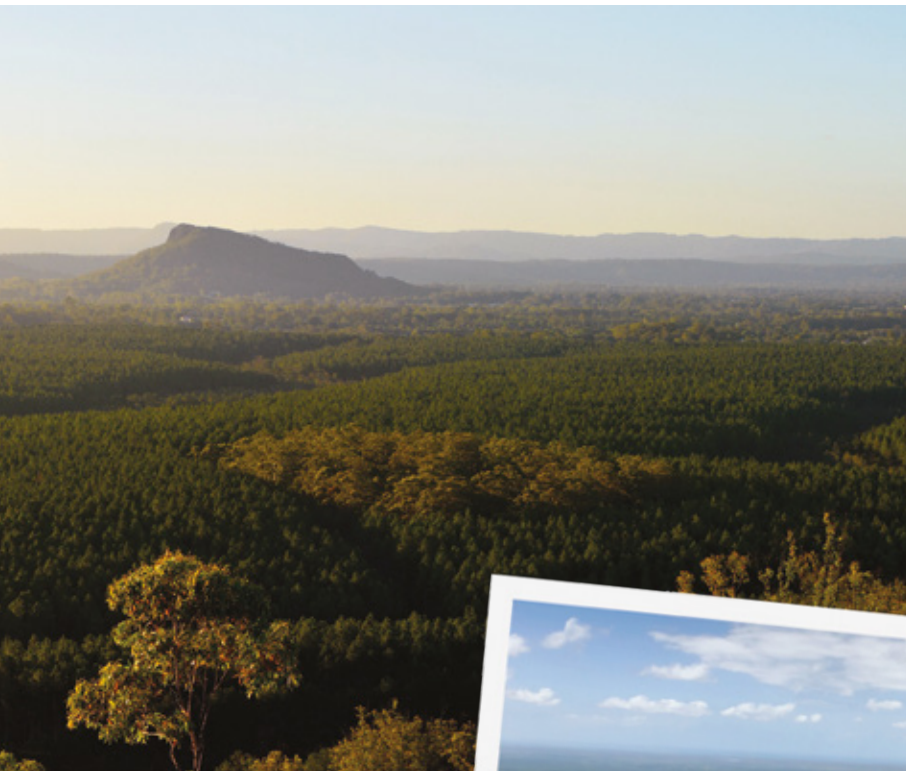
About halfway down at a point called "chicken rock" (so named because this is where most people chicken out and head back down) we met two tourists who had become overwhelmed by what seemed like an impossible challenge. As they had already climbed the hardest section, we encouraged them that the next part was much easier and the view would make the effort completely worthwhile. Whether they ended up continuing to climb I will never know but, as with so many things in life, you can never

anticipate the impact that you have on those around you. All the challenges, fear and uncertainty that we experience in life as we struggle to the top are important life lessons that God uses for our own personal growth, but they also allow us to share these experiences with those around us. Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking our story is insignificant, that the challenges we have encountered are of little importance to others. This, however, is a trick of the devil.

Imagine if the Bible didn't contain the stories of Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in the lion's den, Peter walking on water or doubting Thomas. God is glorified through these stories as much as He is through our life experiences today if we place Him at the centre.

When we had returned to the car park, I looked back up at the mountain we had just conquered. As I stood there staring at this incredible mountain I realised that life is like climbing a mountain.

Sometimes we want to know how our whole life is going to work out: what career path we will take, whether we will get married, where we will live etc. However, if I had seen how intense and challenging the climb was going to be before I started, the chance that I would have even attempted it is slim. God says He will supply our every need, but how often do we doubt this promise because all we can see are the challenges in the future (Philippians 4:19). So often we are fixated on trying to plan our future, but Jesus encourages us to just focus on the present (Matthew 6:34). What joys of today are we sacrificing by focusing on the future?



Just like my friend—who had climbed the mountain so many times before—supported, encouraged and guided me to the easiest path even when I couldn't see where to place my feet, Jesus is with us on our daily walk, guiding us through every difficult situation. In Jeremiah 29:11, God declares He has a plan for our life that is for our good. The text goes further to instruct us, in verses 12 and 13 (which are so often forgotten) to call on the Lord, to pray to Him, to seek Him and that through this we will find Him.

When we are faced with challenging situations that test us either physically, mentally or spiritually, God has promised He is able to do more than we could ever ask for (Ephesians 3:20).

As we enter a new year, I challenge you not to look to the end and be overwhelmed with all the challenges, stress, fear, disappointment and uncertainty but to conquer life like all the mountains that you have already climbed. Share your victories, encourage those around you, take a step of faith and see what amazing things God will do in your life if you let Him lead. Once you have reached the summit, don't forget to enjoy the view and marvel at God's amazing love for you.



KATHRYN FLETCHER

REGISTERED NURSE FROM SYDNEY. LOVES COOKING, AN AVID READER AND ENJOYS EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

LIVING HIS WORD

WITH WAYNE BOEHM

GROWING DISCIPLES IN 2020

In 2019, Hope Channel invested in key digital initiatives that I'm keen to implement in the coming months, with trials in Albury, Cairns, Melbourne and Sydney. In May, I'll join 2000 other speakers to conduct evangelistic campaigns across Papua New Guinea to disciple a nation. It's going to be a great year! So what excites you about 2020?

Are you excited about mission? Not only did Jesus command us to go and make disciples, He left us key instructions as to how we were to do it. Often, we reach for the latest book written by a church growth specialist, but in doing so miss the key words of Jesus as to how we are to make disciples. Let's **CONSIDER** two passages that appear as bookends to the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 4:23 and 9:35. These two texts have 20 words in common and focus on the harvest. **WHAT** key words do these texts share and **WHAT** do they tell us about mission?

A key word embedded in Matthew 9:36 provides a framework for disciple-making. In fact, Ellen White identifies this in her often-quoted statement regarding Christ's method of mission: *Compassion*. Compassion compelled Jesus to preach, teach and heal people because they were scattered, weary and had no shepherd.

People are still scattered, weary and in need of the true Shepherd, but Jesus identifies a problem: a lack of workers. **IDENTIFY** the two solutions in Matthew 9:37,38.

Why not join me and many others this year and follow Jesus' example, have a genuine compassion for people and be a worker in His vineyard.



PERFECTLY OFF KEY

We all have our guilty pleasures. For some, it's the secret chocolate stash hidden in a jar above the fridge or the occasional blow-your-budget shopping spree. For others, it's watching 10 back-to-back episodes of a good TV show while devouring cheese pizza. But for me? Well . . . my guilty pleasure is binge-watching *X Factor* fail videos.

I'm sure you know the ones—booming music plays and the garish logo flashes across the screen, showering everything in flames and electric sparks. An impossibly deep voice thunders empty promises about the segment's entertainment quality, before cutting to a quick succession of close-ups of the contestant. Each shot zooms in quickly from a different angle, making them look as peculiar as possible. It's absolutely moreish.

A brief back-story then typically ensues, garnished with interviews from equally peculiar family members who are utterly convinced that their beloved prince or princess has the "X-Factor". Their unconditional support is as heart-warming as it is concerning.

After this cookie-cutter intro, the scene mellows. The contestant enters the audition room. Their microphone rustles and they stand there awkwardly, feigning confidence in front of a wall of celebrity talent. Sometimes, the contestant makes polite small talk; other times, they overcompensate with an obnoxious personality; and on a really good day, they declare that "the judges will be sorry" for underestimating their obvious X-Factor qualities. That's my personal favourite.

Once feathers have been sufficiently ruffled, it's show time. As the backing-track begins to play, a mixture of exhilaration and dread floods through me. Laughter is trapped in my chest. I hold my breath in anxious anticipation.

A note escapes. It's perfectly off key.

My hairs stand on end.

Horrendous melodies fill every void, detonating my cackling laughter. I wipe a little tear from my eye. One of the judges is pulling a face, trying not to laugh, while the other one buries his face in a handkerchief. Suddenly, another snorts, sending the rest into a fit of laughter; the kind of laughter that begs to be felt.

As I'm laughing, part of me feels guilty for making fun of this hopeless contestant. I quickly put the thought aside, persuading myself that I'm not a bad person—after all, it's their own fault; they signed up to be laughed at.

But that's the thing: they signed up for it! Across the world every year, thousands of overly-confident contestants have their musical dreams dashed by reality show judges. And what's more, their well-intending friends and family members—perhaps also tone-deaf or simply blinded by love—egg them on. So they sign up, only to be humiliated. It's a phenomenon I've always struggled to understand, until I recently read about something psychologists call the "Dunning-Kruger effect".

The term originated in 1995, when 45-year-old McArthur Wheeler decided to rob a bank in Pennsylvania. With no attempt to conceal his identity, he casually walked inside, threatened bank-tellers at gunpoint, and then calmly walked home with his cash. When the police arrived at his door, he was flabbergasted. He couldn't believe they'd found him.

"But I wore the juice," he exclaimed, "I wore the lemon juice!" Wheeler believed that because lemon juice could be used to create invisible ink, painting lemon juice all over his face would turn it invisible, too. To the average reader the plan seems moronic, but to Wheeler, it was foolproof.

Entranced by this preposterous scenario, social psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger felt compelled to investigate. Upon interviewing Wheeler, they discovered that he lacked the self-awareness and metacognition to objectively evaluate his incompetence. Wheeler thought he was brilliant; that his cleverness was substantially greater than it actually was—just like the hundreds of hopeless-but-hopeful *X Factor* candidates that audition every single year.

Just like me, too.

Sometimes, I think I'm very clever. I stand before the Judge, wearing my Sabbath best, chin high, feigning confidence, and He asks me, "Do you have the *X-Factor*?" I nod emphatically, listing off a plethora of good deeds and righteous thoughts.

"I've been a Christian my entire life, I'm basically the poster-girl for Adventism," I exclaim. "I have prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and done many mighty works in your name!" (Matthew 7:22).

Feeling rather smug, I look up at the Judge. A frown settles across my brow. Rather than laughing or clapping or pressing that golden buzzer, He shakes his head solemnly. A tear runs down His cheek. Once again, I have totally overestimated my competence.

The Bible warns us: "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight," (1 Corinthians 3:18,19).

As a comfortable Christian, I'm prone to thinking that my skills, wisdom and righteousness are much greater than they actually are. Because I can only "see in a mirror dimly now" (1 Corinthians 13:12), I'm often totally unable to see my flaws; my sin. I forget that my "righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). I fail to objectively evaluate my own incompetence and my desperate need for Christ.

What really hit me about the Dunning-Kruger effect is that the more training and experience an individual has in a task, the more accurately and objectively they are able to evaluate their own skill level. If I were among the world's best musicians, I would understand the difficulty involved—the thousands of hours invested, the technical skill, the calibre of my peers—much more than if I was a humble *X-Factor* hopeful, with no-one but the shower screen to give me musical feedback.

In the same way, the more time I spend with Christ, the more I begin to understand the gravity of my sin. The closer I am to Him, the easier it is to see that treating my Christian walk as a competition is completely futile. There's no chance of making it past the audition rounds. I desperately need Christ to take my place.

They say that, "True wisdom is knowing that you know nothing."

God, grant me wisdom.

MARYELLEN FAIRFAX
ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST RECORD.

THE FARMHOUSE MIRACLE

It was a glorious Friday morning on November 15, 2019. My wife Ivanka and I went for our morning walk around our farm on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. We love this place because we have found peace and tranquillity here away from the noises of city life. The bees were buzzing around the trees in our front yard that were filled with blossoming flowers—a nectar heaven. I was telling my wife how peaceful and lovely our farm looked that morning—just one of the joys of country living.

My eldest son Bernard phoned me that morning from Canberra, to see if we were doing OK. He was concerned for the fires that were burning in our region. I told him not to worry as there was no sight of any fires nearby. Little did I know that in the next several hours our lives would change forever.

Continuing with our morning stroll, I went to check our beehives to see if there was any honey for robbing. Unbeknown to me, a few kilometres away, two fire fronts were building rapidly. One coming from the north side—Toorooka and the other from south Willawarrin.



In a matter of hours, lots of smoke surrounded us. The wind had drastically changed and it fuelled the fires to move quickly. All of a sudden, we were surrounded. The electricity was

cut off as was our mobile phone reception, our only means of communication. Our water pumps were not working since the electricity was now non-existent. I couldn't call my other son Ariel, who lived locally to come and help us as we were *incommunicado* from the world.

Thousands of embers were flying toward our house, blown by strong winds, and spot fires started on my front porch. I called my wife to come and bring me buckets to battle the fires. We were running back and forth to the water tank with an attached tap. I would fill the buckets and my wife and I would run to water the fires coming from every direction.

Around 5pm that day, I saw we were surrounded by fireballs rolling from all directions. I was exhausted from running with buckets full of water. My wife had collapsed to the ground in pain due to a stitch in her abdomen and told me she could not continue, neither could she move. I was left with no choice but to fight the

monstrous fires alone. The wind was extremely strong, which made it useless for me to battle the fires. The smoke was awfully thick, I could not breathe properly.

At that moment of despair, I cried out "God, You didn't bring us to this farm to die this way, help us, save our home!" I was drained, as I had never anticipated that these fires would come at an impossible speed. I was not prepared. I did what I could but my cry out for help to God was all



I could do. I could see the front cattle yard and the bus stop shelter in front burning beyond recognition. From the back of our house the fire was coming towards us at an impossible rate and destroying everything in its path. Ultimately, the two massive fires from Toorooka and Willawarrin joined at our farm.

Little did I know that on that same day, the same fires had already devoured many properties, houses, even lives in a matter of hours.

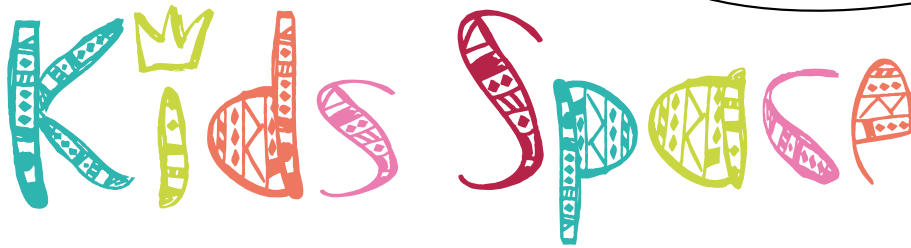
Just like in the movies, the RFS came to see if our property was okay, just after the fires had passed through. I told them "God had saved our home" and they moved on to the next property.

It was only divine intervention that saved us and our home that day, nothing else. I cried out to God for help and protection, and He answered.

At 71 years old, I have never felt as traumatised and helpless as that day. Around us, most neighbours lost their homes, sheds, machinery and animals. Both fire fronts went around our property like a divine hand had guided them and our home was spared. These traumatic moments will stay in our minds forever, but also the miracle that came with it. I was reminded that day of the promise found in Psalm 34:17: "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles."

MICHAEL SPOLJAR
KEMPSEY ADVENTIST CHURCH, NSW. AS TOLD TO
EDGARD AND SHANIA LOPEZ.

Hi Kids!



God still loves us
and will forgive us if we
are truly sorry when we do
something wrong.



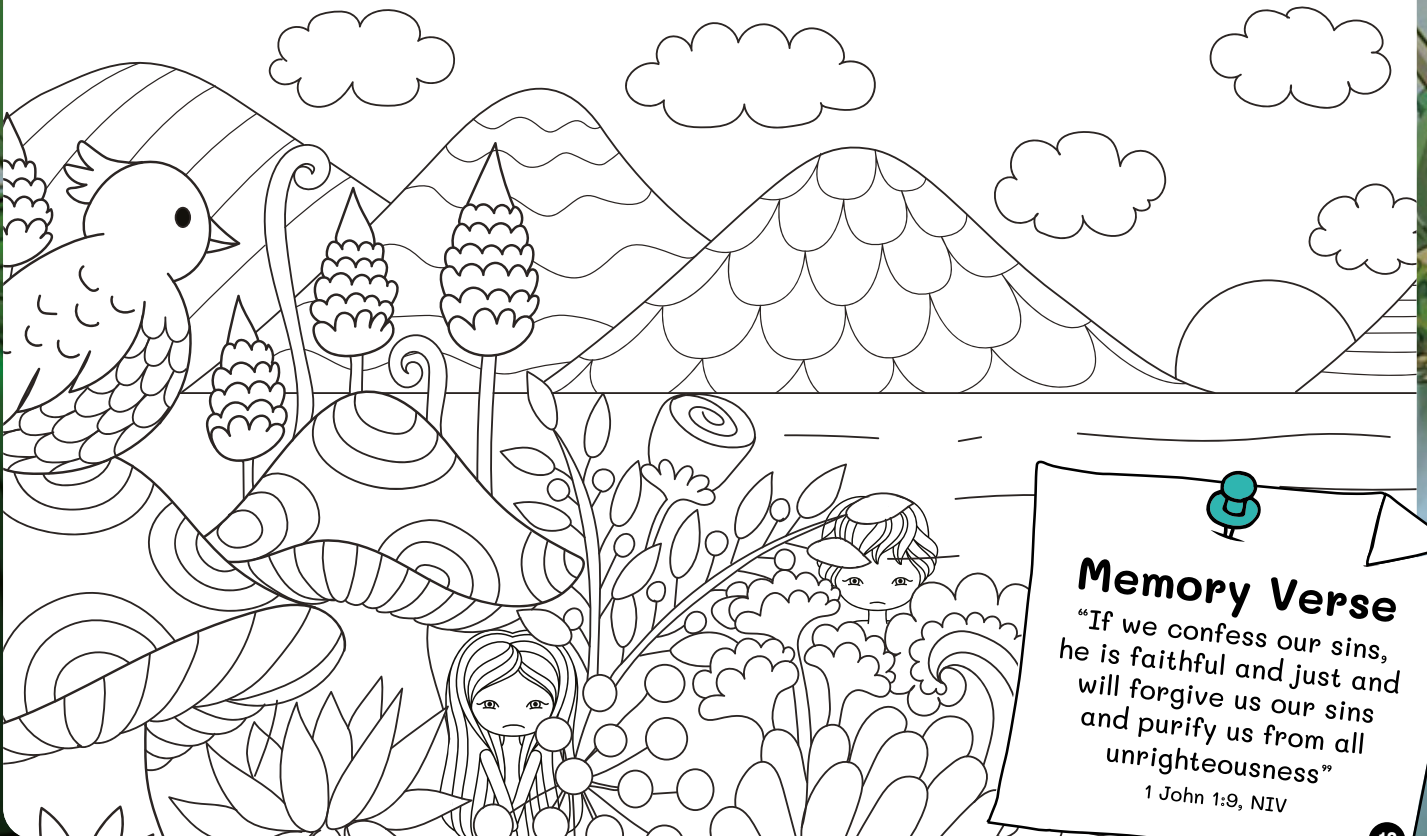
HIDING FROM GOD

God creates Adam and Eve and surrounds them with gifts of love.

One gift is expressed in negative terms: They are not to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve gives in to Satan's temptation and eats the fruit of the tree. Then she gives the fruit to Adam. God comes to talk to them and Adam and Eve hide away. They are sad they did the wrong thing. God forgives them and tells them of His plan to deal with sin.

FIND ADAM & EVE

COLOUR THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN OF EDEN



Memory Verse

"If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just and
will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all
unrighteousness"

1 John 1:9, NIV



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

JANUARY 26, 2020 / ADVENTIST RECORD

19



HOW TO: CREATE THE PERFECT GRAZING PLATTER

The beauty of a well-styled grazing platter goes beyond good looks. An abundant board can sustain your guests without the need for a main meal and provides an inviting way for people to come together and celebrate. While the thought of where to start may be overwhelming, there are a few things to keep in mind that will help your platter planning.

Food photographer and stylist Jennifer Jenner, also known as blogger 84th&3rd, shares her tips for creating a gloriously good grazing platter that will please your eyes and your tastebuds.

MAKE IT FILLING

A vegetarian grazing platter will be filled to the brim with colourful fruit and veg, but that doesn't need to be all! Pick two or three main dishes that work well as individual or mini-servings. Veggie sausage rolls or frittata bites are a great way to feed a crowd. When you're ready to start styling, place these larger items first. Make them the focal point of your platter and then fill in the remaining spaces.

REMOVE ANY PLASTICS

Anything prepacked like crackers can be removed from their containers into dishes. When it comes to dishes, anything goes—from ceramic ramekins to clean jars!

CHOOSE SEASONAL FRUIT AND VEG WITH STAYING POWER

Aim for a good mix of seasonal fruit and veg for dipping and eating.

- For **veggies**, it's best to use firm and crisp varieties that are easy to grab and will also retain their freshness. Think carrots, capsicum, baby corn and green beans.
- For **fruit**, choose varieties that won't brown easily such as grapes, strawberries, cherries, blueberries and blackberries. Dried fruit is also a good option that will last and pairs well with other ingredients like cheeses.

MIND THE GAPS

Fill in open spaces around main plates, cracker stacks and dip bowls with berries, nuts and smaller-cut veggies. Don't forget to add a few flourishes at the end—such as fresh herbs and edible flowers—to make your platter feel generous and bountiful.

PREPPING YOUR PLATTER



HAVE A PLAN

Start by choosing a board size (or mix of boards) to suit your ingredients. You want it to look abundant, but not too crowded. Grazing platters can be arranged on a single board or you can group together multiple boards and plates to form a central arrangement.



GET THEMING

While this isn't mandatory, focusing on a theme, whether it's colour-based, culture-focused, or meal-type, can help to pull otherwise disparate items together into a lush platter. Any props or colours should tie-in with your theme too.



THE POWER OF THREE

Where possible work with odd numbers of similar items, like three small bowls of dips. Odd numbered groups are more visually appealing than even numbers. Using smaller groups of plates and dishes on top of your board also creates multiple elements and can keep unwieldy ingredients like olives together.



Recipe of the Week

Summer BBQ grazing platter

Combining hearty bites with colourful veggies and classic dips means there's something for everyone in this summer BBQ grazing platter. See more grazing platters on our website.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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





HIS PROVISION

I didn't have time yesterday to read *Adventist Record* but this morning, after my devotional, I took it and read "Good news and glad tidings" (December 7) first. Glory to God for answering your prayers. It was such good and encouraging news that I had to respond straight away. I am so happy for you and your wife—for God's mercy, and response to your's and others' prayers.

I remember reading two of your articles before on the same subject, where you shared your struggles with the issue [of falling pregnant]. I admired your bravery, doing it in such a public way. I believe I did pray for you back then but not any more after that. However I am very thankful to God for His provision, that I was able to read what I read this morning. I am sure He is going to bless you with a good gift, a healthy baby who will be a blessing in your lives and a glory to His Name.

Stevan Dimitrijevic, *Qld*

SNACKING OUT

The question "Is snacking good for you?" (Health feature, December 7) was not answered but rather was assumed to be so. That is, as long as the food types and amounts consumed are deemed appropriate.

The article is in keeping with established "wisdom" about this ubiquitous habit. To say anything to the contrary would seem daring and out of pace with normative teachings and practices.

How then are we to interpret and understand the writings of Ellen White, whose views on this subject fly in the face of convention? For example:

"Nothing should be eaten between meals, no confectionary, nuts, fruits or food of any kind" (MH, p 384).

"After the regular meal is eaten, the stomach should be allowed to rest for five hours. Not a particle of food should be introduced into the stomach till the next meal" (CD, p 179).

The findings from phys-

iologic and epidemiologic research are sufficient to convince me of the veracity and accuracy of Mrs White's insights on this issue. Even in the absence of such evidence, the cohesive and comprehensive whole-person arguments she puts forward on this matter make sense intuitively. It would seem that the notion of "healthy snacking" is an oxymoron at best.

The power of appetite, poor lifestyle choices, social habits, marketing and a formidable global food industry are just a few of many forces that influence our snacking habits.

Alternatively, there are powerful benefits that quickly ensue when whole-of-life habits are formed such that snacking is no longer considered necessary.

Dr Robert Granger, *WA*

KEEP POLITICS OUT

I object to using our church newspaper to promote any political ideology. The author of

"In the image of God" (December 7) leaves one in no doubt as to which party we ought not to vote for when he says, "It must change . . . how we vote . . ."

During my 51 years of church membership I have noticed a drift to the political left at the same time as a drift towards theological liberalism. Our church paper should be politically neutral regardless of where we are theologically.

John Cunningham, *NSW*

EQUAL VALUE

I wish to commend [the] challenging article, "In the image of God" (December 7). This powerfully addresses concerns I have that some church members do not seem to understand our ethical responsibility to treat fellow human beings, made in the image of God, as equally valuable.

There is no question that over the past two decades, Australian politics has undermined the international response to displaced

peoples with damaging and harsh treatment that denies basic human dignity. This lack of compassion is the opposite of true Christianity.

Sadly, some Seventh-day Adventists who profess to champion religious liberty for themselves have failed to champion the liberties of helpless people who are being exploited for political ends. The author rightly urges all of us to reflect on the Bible's foundational teaching of equal value for all human beings, and to cease applauding or voting for political entities whose policies oppress men, women and children.

Vaughan King, *Tas*

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.

Wedding



MCKAY—KINGSTON. Dayn John McKay, son of John and Debbie McKay (Toowoomba, Qld), and Johanna Arielle Kingston, daughter of Tim and Heather Kingston (Goonellabah, NSW), were married on 29.9.19 at Karen North's property (Limpinwood). Dayn and Johanna married on a clear spring afternoon with the Lamington Plateau as a backdrop. They vowed their love for each other before God, delighted family and friends. Dayn is a Google marketing specialist and Johanna is a secondary teacher at Tweed Valley Adventist College in Murwillumbah. Dayn and Jo plan to settle in Murwillumbah.

Tim Kingston

Obituaries

BLYDE, Merv Owen, born 28.4.1925; died 1.12.19 in Warburton, Vic. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Olive; children, Karine and Adrian (SA), John and Sue, (Cooranbong, NSW), David and Sylvia (Yarra Valley, Vic), seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Merv's working life was spent in church work in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Mona Mona Mission, Qld, South Australia and finally Warburton Hospital before retiring at Warburton. He was well known for his organisation and his ability to fix anything (Mr fix-it). Merv loved the Lord and the Church but he also volunteered in the community through the SES. He will be missed by his family and his church family.

Terence Goltz



DELOWER, Linda Margret (nee Lowe), born 16.10.1946; died 21.9.19 at Kalarra House, South Hedland, WA. She married Clarrie Cameron (dec) at the Wiluna Mission, then had partners, Victor Worrell, later Jim Fredrick (dec), and then in the '90s she married Michael Delower in Derby. Linda is survived by her sister, Dorrie Wally (Roebourne); "children" she brought up, James Wally and Vivian Richards; and her grandsons, David and Bevan Wally. Linda came back to the Lord and gave up alcohol. She remained a loyal and faithful member of the Derby church. She attended Mamarapha College in 2007 and 2009. As a result of her witness,

at least four family members were baptised, the most recent being her granddaughter Nina-Rae Wally of Lismore, NSW.
Don Fehlberg, Malcolm Eastwick

EDDY, Sylvia Joyce (nee Galwey), born 21.11.1938 in Millicent, SA; died 8.12.19 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. On 21.3.1957 she married Frank Eddy. She was predeceased by her son, Grant, in 1986. She is survived by her husband; son, Derek and Coralyn (Cooranbong); grandchild, Melinda; and great-grandchild, Felix. Sylvia was recognised as a gifted person in hospitality and catering. In church life, she gave generously of her time in ministering to children in their Sabbath schools and also at conference camp meetings. She was also employed by the Warburton Hospital and the Signs Publishing Company. Sylvia was known for putting others first. She was a caring, generous, happy person and strong of faith. Her ready smile will be missed until Jesus comes.

Roger Nixon, Adrian Craig



FINLAY, Alicia (nee Stewart), born 15.11.1965 in Perth, WA; died 23.10.19 in a tragic car accident at Port Hedland. In 1998 she married Kennedy Finlay. She is survived by her husband; children, Sharelle, Gareth, Jasmine, Correne, Cresna, and Grant; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild, Nate Watson. Alicia and Kennedy were baptised and remained faithful members of the church in Jigalong. They worked at Karalundi for more than five years. Alicia loved her Lord and encouraged her family to live for Jesus. In later years she became involved in native title meetings in the Wiluna and Leinster areas. However she was more interested in the heavenly "land" that will be given to the faithful at the second coming.

Keith Godfrey, Don Fehlberg



HILL, Donald Helen (nee Butler), born 4.9.1938; died 1.9.19 in Boronia House, St Marys, NSW. On 15.10.1995, she married John Raymond Hill, who predeceased her in 2017. Donald is survived by her children, Kathy Gorsuch, John Waters, Bruce Waters and Barbie Chanesman (all of NSW). Donald was a nurse and midwife by profession. She was passionate about her involvement and helping others at Penrith

church, Toastmasters and various other clubs and organisations. She was a great blessing to all who knew her and remained faithful and loyal to God until she fell asleep in Jesus.

Janusz Jagiello



JAGIELLO, Krystyna Julianna (nee Tokarska), born in Prudnick, Poland; died 15.4.17 in Bullaburra, Blue Mountains, NSW. On 24.6.1989, she married Pastor Janusz Jagiello. Krystyna is survived by her husband; sons, Daniel, Adrian and Jonathan (all of Bullaburra); and aunt, Krystyna Rutkowski (Cardiff). Krystyna was generous and compassionate, caring for the disabled in the community, while fulfilling many responsibilities in the church. After two long, arduous years, she lost her battle with cancer. She had a living, ardent faith and hope for eternity.

Nataniel Pereira, Jan Jankiewicz



KOP, Mary Lois (nee Corcoran), born 9.5.1938 in Melbourne, Vic; died 13.10.19 in Coopers Plains, Qld. In 1960 she married Cornelis Kop. Lois is survived by her husband (Browns Plains); daughter, Jane Walker and son, James (both of Chambers Flat); four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Lois was baptised in 1969 after contact with "Appeal for Missions" collectors and an evangelistic series by Pastor Ray Kent in Brisbane. She was very creative and artistic, writing many poems and illustrating a good number of them. She also enjoyed painting and sharing her talents with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Neil Tyler

MITCHELL, Norman Douglas, born 5.5.1936 in Marrickville, NSW; died 10.12.19 at home in Wangi Wangi. On 31.10.1957 he married Anne Ludwig in Concord. He is survived by his wife; children, Kim and Shane Ward (Terrigal), Debra and Peter Vaughan (Wangi Wangi), Peter and Jane Mitchell (Wamberal); five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Norman was a mechanic by occupation, but over the years ran a number of small businesses. He enjoyed playing cricket and golf and restoring motor cars. He loved his family and, by nature, was a kind, gentle and loving Christian who will be greatly missed.

Roger Nixon

PRICE, Thelma Edith (nee Chapman), born 9.7.1923 in Cooranbong, NSW; died 4.12.19 in Avondale House, Cooranbong. In 1943 she married Grahame Price at Concord, who predeceased her in 2013. Thelma is survived by her children, Pastor Warren and Lyn (Nunderi, NSW), Noelene and John Smith (Gunbower Is, Vic), Ian and Cheryle (Caloundra, Qld), Denese and Graeme Smith (Leitchville, Vic); 15 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. Over many years Thelma faithfully and competently ministered in a range of church roles. She was a highly skilled seamstress and an accomplished hospitality cook. Thelma was strong of faith, gracious, patient and kind. Her children describe her as being a fantastic mother and give thanks to God for such a wonderful woman who selflessly loved and helped so many people.

Roger Nixon, Warren Price



RAPHAEL, Allan Charles, born 8.8.1942 in Tauranga, NZ; died 25.9.19 in Banora Point, NSW. On 18.10.1965 he married his first wife, Mareta Parr, who predeceased him. He later married Renee Sinkuniene. He was also predeceased by his sister, Margaret Judd. Allan is survived by his second wife; children, Nikki, Kylie, Melissa and Ashley; stepdaughter, Monika; and four grandchildren. Allan was adept at starting new businesses and loved extreme sports, which included piloting a small plane in a race from London to Australia.

Vern Parmenter



ROBINSON, Diana Daphne (nee Armstrong), born 20.9.1923; died 3.8.19 in Nepean Hospital, NSW. On 30.12.1944 she married Tom Robinson, who predeceased her in 1995. She was also predeceased by her son, Ray, in 2009; granddaughter, Fiona, in 1992; great-great-grandson, Mitchell, in 2014; and grandson, Scott, in 2018. Diana is survived by her children, Daphne, Thomas, Jeanette, Heather, Diana and Richard; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and a large extended family. She was a wonderful, caring, generous lady with her family, friends and the wider community. Her charitable works were widely known and appreciated. A faithful and dedicated Christian.

Janusz Jagiello



SERVICE. Ben, born 2.1.1986; died 27.11.19 at Yinnar South, Vic. On 1.8.10 he married Jessica. Ben is survived by his wife; daughter, Darwyn; son, Henry (all of Yinnar South); parents, Greg and Judy Jones (Coffs Harbour, NSW); sister, Jess Jones (Bundarra); brother, Kyal (Sydney); and sister, Carly McLean (Macksville). Ben has battled melanoma for eight years, and this battle became very serious more than three years ago. By God's grace Ben has lived more than two years past the three weeks the doctors said he had left. We had hoped and prayed for total healing but God, in His wisdom, has chosen to allow Ben to rest. Jess devoted herself to his care and together they demonstrated the power of real faith in God while hurting so deeply.

Gavin Rowe, Ben Townson

SHAW, Rhonda Joy (nee Scheermeijer), born 10.5.1970 in Melbourne, Vic; died 18.10.19 in Deception Bay, Qld. Rhonda was predeceased by her husband, Ted. Rhonda is survived by her children, Tahlia Scheermeijer, Jye, Brooke, Jasmin, Kiara, Levi Scheermeijer and Izaak Scheermeijer (all Brisbane, Qld); and five grandchildren. Rhonda attended Dandenong church and was a member of the Pathfinder club there. She worked with disabled children and was a very kind and caring person.

Tammy Bowdren

THORESEN, Nolene Rosemary, born 26.5.1931 in Auckland, NZ; died 26.11.19 in Caloundra, Qld. Nolene was predeceased by her husband, Dale; parents; and two elder brothers. She is survived by her children Cary (Canberra, ACT), Christopher (Cambridge, NZ), Mark (Nowra, NSW), Tania Calais (Brisbane, Qld) and Sharon Campbell (Sunshine Coast); 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Nolene was widowed at 41 and worked hard to raise her five children on her own. She handled many challenges in life with dignity and strength, and was the epitome of resilience. Nolene valiantly fought cancer for the last 10 years with her characteristic stoicism and steady determination.

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST RECORD, FEBRUARY 1

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but no flowers grow on
it." - Vincent van Gogh*

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Dr. Peter Landless, Global Conference Chair, will be challenging conference participants in his presentation, "Addressing the Pandemic of Non-Communicable Diseases: Whose Job? Can Faith-Based Groups Make the Difference?" He has served as an Associate Director in the Health Ministries Department at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 2001 and is currently the Director. He has specialties in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Cardiology. His years of medical practice in rural areas and a university hospital, as well as experience in working with health initiatives around the world, uniquely equip him to contribute to this conference.



For more information email greynomads@adventist.org.au or you can contact Robyn at robynborgas@adventist.org.au or call (02) 4951 8088.

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IT SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR WAHROONGA, NSW

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