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SINGLENES: ON THE RECORD

ADVENTIST AND SINGLE:
DEBUNKING THE MYTHS 10

NEWS

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AND DOWNIZED 12

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A LIFE OR DEATH QUESTION

If you could find out the date of your own death, would you?

As morbid as this question is, I believe a person's answer can reveal a lot about them—their worldview, personality type and tendencies, and even the idols they worship. But in these uncertain times, when pandemic panic makes it easy to ruminate about death, destruction and the end of the world, this question isn't just an interesting conversation starter. It's confronting.

The news is plagued with graphic footage of women wrestling over household necessities, old and young people alike curled up and coughing uncontrollably on the streets, red lines trending sharply downwards as our economy enters uncharted territory. In a matter of days, life as we know it has changed dramatically.

Yet, at the same time, it's all a bit surreal. I sit in the safety of my own living room here in Australia—socially isolated, yes, but still warm, still fed, still comfortable—as the world unravels around me. While some families and businesses face eviction or bankruptcy, I'm working from home in my pyjamas. While other governments can't help their citizens, mine is offering a \$A189 billion stimulus package. While hospitals overseas are overflowing and under-resourced, ours are (so far) coping.

Like being suspended in a slow-motion shoot-em-up sequence, I'm watching the bullets inch closer and closer but without getting hit. Don't get me wrong, I'm certainly prepared to dodge the bullets: I read my Bible, watch the news, wash my hands and practise social distancing. But I'm also in some serious denial. It's easy to detach from the headlines, succumb to compassion fatigue and reduce people to statistics.

But this denial isn't a new experience or phenomenon brought about by end-of-the-world fear-mongering. I've been practising denial, 24/7, for as long as I've been alive. As a one-percenter, I take my education, employment, family, food, clothing and comfort for granted. I have everything I need and more. I live and breathe complacency.

Matthew 24:37–39 says, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and

drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; they didn't know what would happen until the flood came and took them away.”

I don't want to be one of the complacent mockers who rolls their eyes and laughs at that gargantuan boat. I don't want to be one of the five foolish virgins who don't have enough oil in their lamps (Matthew 25). I don't want to be lukewarm and spat out of God's mouth at the end of time (Revelation 3:16). I want to be an on-fire Christian, always prepared for today to be my last on this earth; always spreading God's message of hope wherever I go.

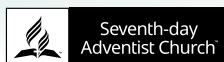
So, getting back to my opening question, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”—not because my death could still be sixty-plus years away, but because I'm really hopeful the answer will be “Error, date not found”. And even if the answer is a clear date, I want that date to be sooner rather than later. I believe we're living in the last days and all I want, desperately, is to be held in my Father's arms and never let Him go.

Whether this pandemic marks the end, or whether these are just the beginning of labour pains (Matthew 24:8), it's terrifying and exciting all at once. Perhaps God is testing each and every one of us in this time of panic; perhaps the uncertainty is an opportunity to strengthen our faith and connections with one another, just like it was for the disciples in early Acts. I see widespread fear drawing people together, opening up new conversations, spurring existential questions, and a new desire for the hope and peace Jesus offers.

So will you embrace our name and hasten the Advent? Are you willing to radically transform your priorities, perspective and attitude as we see the day approaching? Or will you continue as a sleeping virgin, as though you've got 60-plus years of life left to spare?

God, please wake me up before it's too late!

MARYELLEN FAIRFAX
ASSISTANT EDITOR
@maryellencreative



South Pacific

abn 59 093 117 689
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senior consulting editor

glenn townend
senior editor
jarrod stackelroth
assistant editor
maryellen fairfax
copyeditors
tracey bridcutt
kent kingston
linden chuang

graphic designers

maryellen fairfax
linden chuang
noticeboard
julie laws
letters
editor@record.net.au
news & photos
news@record.net.au

noticeboard

ads@record.net.au
subscriptions
subscriptions@record.net.au
+ 61 (03) 5965 6300
mailed within australia and
nz \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00 other
prices on application.
website
record.adventistchurch.com

adventist media

locked bag 1115
wahroonga nsw 2076 australia
+ 61 (02) 9847 2222
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BE THE CHURCH

I am proud of the leaders and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

With very little notice, churches were closed and creativity kicked in. I have seen livestreamed and pre-recorded worship services, ideas for small groups, resources for kids to worship at home, ideas on how to return tithes and give offerings besides eGiving; support groups developing via WhatsApp, Zoom prayer meetings, network support via email, crisis phone support and the sharing of health information. It has been wonderful. The Church is being church in a very different environment.

No-one was prepared for this crisis, but it did not surprise God. Could God be preparing His church for the challenges that are to come?

The church has an opportunity to reinvent itself. It can get back to its origin of being a network of families and friends who met in homes. This is an opportunity to grow all of us as disciple-making disciples of Jesus.

With family members losing jobs or taking a wage freeze, neighbours being isolated and lonely, panic about food and medical care, society as we know it has shut down. But the church can still practise social distancing *and* care.

Will we notice those who aren't connected through social media or have no internet? Do we have church friends' phone numbers? Are we supporting those who are still discovering faith and spirituality? Are we following Matthew 25? Are we sharing good social media clips?

Although many will discredit the church, all that I see and hear suggests that people need hope in Jesus. We can be anchors of stability and pillars of hope to all those around us. Let's be the church to the glory of Jesus, our Head!



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
@SPDPresident

CHURCHES GET CREATIVE ONLINE

RECORD STAFF

Seventh-day Adventist churches around the South Pacific are hosting their weekly congregational worship services in new and creative ways due to tightening COVID-19 government regulations.

Many churches have now switched to online worship services—some services are being livestreamed and others pre-recorded. In the Pacific, the mission presidents from Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji have been livestreaming Sabbath messages through Facebook, some of which were played on national television.

In Australia, Samoan churches have joined together online, with Brisbane's Cornubia Samoan church hosting Sabbath school and Sydney's Mt Druitt Samoan church leading the church service. About 30 pastors from around Australia are taking turns to provide a daily devotional on a combined Samoan Adventist Facebook page.

"Our engagement levels are through the roof," said Pastor Ray Moaga, who helped launch the page.



NZPUC PRESIDENT PASTOR EDDIE TUPA'I HOSTS A BIBLE STUDY ON THE SAMOAN ADVENTIST FACEBOOK PAGE.

Groups big and small are meeting online for Bible studies, prayer, and to provide important support and connections for members. In New Zealand, more than 1000 people recently joined a two-hour youth event on Zoom.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create fear and



THE CHILDREN'S STORY VIA LIVESTREAM FROM CANBERRA NATIONAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, MARCH 21.

uncertainty around the world, the Church is also noticing a rise in interest from people seeking reassurance and biblical answers to the crisis. Hope FM in Papua New Guinea is receiving thousands of requests from listeners to share messages of hope. In response, the Adventist radio station is recording messages every week in different formats and styles to reach as many people as possible.

Similarly, the Australian Union Conference is receiving an influx of requests for Bible studies, as well as questions from the public on its website and via phone searching for faith with questions such as, "Is this the end of the world?"

Adventist Media's Discovery Bible School has also noticed a surge in interest, receiving 853 sign-ups for Bible studies in just one weekend after running video clips from the *Secrets of Prophecy* and *Beyond* series on Facebook, and an additional 700 sign-ups the following week. Hope Channel South Pacific director Pastor Wayne Boehm said they have now

repurposed the Daniel, Revelation and End-Time events Sabbath School lessons into Bible studies to create new avenues for people to connect with biblical messages.

A range of digital resources is now available on the Division website <adventistchurch.com>.

ADRA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

ASHLEY STANTON

As the world adapts to changes resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19), ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church are leading the way in helping people across many parts of Australia.

"We got a letter to say that the government recognises ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a major emergency service in this time," said John Smilek, community liaison and coordinator for ADRA Victoria.

As more Australians experience hardship from lost jobs and income and food shortages in supermarkets, emergency meals are one of the most in-demand services in the country.

Australia wide, Sabbath school rooms and church halls have been transformed into storehouses for volunteers to sort and pack supplies. Community meals are now being prepared as takeaway meals, and delivery drivers are lined up to do a no-contact non-perishable food drop.

In Western Australia, Seventh-day Adventist churches are working closely with ADRA to ensure that their service

projects can continue during this period. All existing church service projects are being asked to temporarily come under ADRA's guidance to reduce the risk to volunteers.

"There are opportunities to assist current ADRA projects through donations of non-perishable food and toiletries; assist as volunteers in ADRA community pantries or emergency relief programs putting together food parcels and care packages; doing food delivery to the elderly and disabled," said Suzanna Cuplovic, conference ADRA director for Western Australia.

ADRA is also a member of the State Welfare Emergency Committee in Western Australia. During this period, volunteers will assist in hotel accommodation placement and welfare checks over the phone, and food parcel delivery.

But while the need for physical goods is at the front of everyone's minds, ADRA projects are anticipating

the need for mental health services.

"We'll be helping with psycho-social support as well," said Mrs Cuplovic. "We've got a large range of counsellors and psychologists so if people are getting really anxious or depressed as they're isolated in their homes they can tap into that today."

In the Greater Sydney Conference, ADRA Blacktown, which is well-known for offering free counselling services, has moved services to online and over the phone to prevent infection.

Information accurate as of March 31. You can support vulnerable people in Australia and overseas by donating online at <adra.org.au/donate> or calling 1800 242 372.



SABBATH SCHOOL ROOMS IN FERNTREE GULLY TRANSFORMED INTO SUPPLIES STORAGE AND PACKING AREAS.

FAITH FM PROVIDING HOPE AND SUPPORT

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause pain and hardship, it's also giving the Seventh-day Adventist Church an opportunity to demonstrate Christianity in action.

Adventist-owned radio network Faith FM has implemented a number of initiatives to support communities around Australia.

"Amidst the isolation, people may find themselves in need of practical support, and we trust that our local church members will be looking for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus," said Faith FM radio manager Michael Engelbrecht.

"We can't promise instant solutions, but we do have 'supporters'—church members—in most communities, and we are looking to include messaging to remind our listeners that there

are many community services available to help them if they are stuck.

"This is a perfect opportunity to create connections with people who may never respond to the prizes and

giveaways that we typically offer to facilitate these connections."

Faith FM is also ramping up its spiritual emphasis, focusing on the peace and hope God provides in the midst of troubled times. They have asked pastors to provide short presentations on spiritual topics that can be shared on-air.

"In the past few months, prayer has become a central part of our programming, and we are looking to



FAITH FM RADIO MANAGER MICHAEL ENGELBRECHT RECORDING IN THE AUC STUDIO WITH PASTOR CRISTIAN COPACEANU.

include uplifting topical prayers that speak God's hope and peace into people's hearts," Mr Engelbrecht said.

Prayer ministry leaders and church members are being asked to participate by recording a 2-3 minute prayer using the "Pocket Studio" feature built into the Faith FM app. Faith FM is also asking for inspirational song suggestions for its network, comprising almost 200 radio stations around Australia.

AVONDALE APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

BRENTON STACEY

Avondale University College has appointed a new vice-chancellor/president after its council completed a “vigorous” four-month process of application, interview, discussion and vote, concluding on March 24.

Professor Kevin Petrie brings to the role an understanding not only of higher education, but also of the way it is being provided at Avondale. Prior to his appointment, he served as dean of the Faculty of Education, Business and Science, and previously as a lecturer and senior lecturer in and head of the School of Education. And he is an alumnus of Avondale, having graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) in 1995 and a Master of Education in 2002.

An interest in school bullying, school climate, peer popularity, classroom management, teacher education and mentoring has informed Professor Petrie’s research, as has his

professional experience predominantly within the New Zealand school system as a primary teacher and principal. A move to Melbourne saw Professor Petrie complete a Doctor of Education while working part-time at La Trobe University.

Avondale chancellor Pastor Glenn Townend describes the new president as a listener with a “calm . . . but determined” style, but notes that the impact of the coronavirus will challenge his leadership.

“I have prayed for Kevin in his new role and wished him God’s full blessing,” Pastor Townend wrote in an email to staff members and students. “I encourage you to do the same.”

Professor Petrie urges staff and students to show flexibility and tenacity as part of Avondale’s “alert



PROFESSOR KEVIN PETRIE.

and agile” response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “I’d also encourage the value of trust. Our staff genuinely have the students’ best interests at heart and will be doing everything possible to ensure they’re well supported and can complete a successful academic year. Above all, it’s important for us to place our trust in God who reads the future as easily as He does the past.”

Professor Petrie replaces Dr Ray Roennfeldt, who announced his retirement on November 4 after 11 years in the role.

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CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS PACIFIC

RECORD STAFF

Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) in Papua New Guinea has ceased operations until at least June 1.

AAS Quality and Safety manager Pastor Colin Dunn said the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak had significantly impacted the operation.

"With the South Pacific Division banning all expat travel, the Australian government calling all citizens home and shutting down most overseas travel, along with many airlines cancelling or severely restricting flights, and PNG banning all except specialised personnel who it needs to function from entering [the country], AAS can no longer operate," he said.

A skeleton staff continues to work in accounts, security and to provide basic care for the hangar and aircraft.

Pastor Dunn has asked for prayers for the staff impacted by the shutdown.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 outbreak continues to cause disruptions across the Division, with the Northern Australian and South Queensland conferences the latest to announce they have cancelled their 2020 camps. And in Fiji, Fulton College has commenced an extended mid-semester break, encouraging all students, who are able to, to return home. On campus, the staff continue to supervise around 170 students from across the Pacific, as well as those who cannot go home due to the Lautoka exclusion zone.



ADVENTIST AVIATION PLANE IN GOROKA, JANUARY 2020.

RECORD ENROLMENTS AT PORT VILA

JEAN PIERRE NIPTIK

Port Vila Seventh-day Adventist Primary in Nambatu, Vanuatu, has turned its library into a classroom to create space for another Grade 1 class, following a record enrolment this year of 370 students.

"We have limited space. But parents keep on coming, begging for space," said school principal Andrew John.

The high intake is putting pressure on school administration to finalise plans with Vanuatu Church leaders to expand

its classrooms. They are preparing to construct a new building, better toilets and a staff room this year.

"Our intake this year has experienced a big increase. The majority of new nurses from Solomon Islands working in our hospital are Adventists and they want their kids to study in a faith-based school," said Mr John.

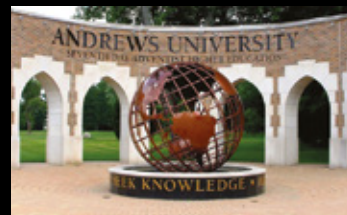
Sixty per cent of the students studying at Port Vila are Adventists.

Currently, there are 15 staff, including kindergarten teachers, assistant teachers and administration staff. Six are paid by the Vanuatu government and nine are paid by the school. Port Vila Primary has lodged applications with the government for financial support to help pay teachers' salaries. They are awaiting a reply.



A CLASSROOM AT PORT VILA SCHOOL.

NEWS GRABS



CORONAVIRUS AT ANDREWS

At least two cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed at Andrews University (Michigan, USA). Both are women over 60 years old and in good health. In response to the outbreak, employees are being encouraged to work from home, most buildings on campus have been closed and food services have been modified. — *Andrea Luxton*



SHAKEN BUT NOT HARMED

The Trans European Division has reported that no Adventists were harmed during the 5.3-magnitude earthquake that struck Zagreb, Croatia's capital city, on March 22, although some church members' houses were destroyed. It was the strongest earthquake to hit the country in 140 years. — *Adventist Review*



COUPLE MINUTES

Gabor Mihalec, an Adventist pastor in Hungary and couples therapist, has started "Couple Minutes", an online ministry to support couples during social isolation. Every evening at 9pm (CEST), Pastor Mihalec opens his personal Facebook page to a live event, which attracts 400 live viewers and up to 1200 views the following day. — *TED News*

HOT TOPICS



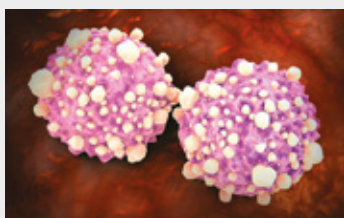
ANTARCTIC HEATWAVE

This summer, Casey Research Station in the Windmill Islands oasis experienced its first recorded heatwave. For three days, minimum temperatures exceeded zero and daily maximums were all above 7.5C. On January 24, Casey's highest maximum was 9.2C, almost 7C above the station's 30-year mean for the month. —*The Guardian*



COVID-19 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

New York City mayor Bill de Blasio sparked controversy in late March by threatening to close churches "permanently" if they meet during the COVID-19 pandemic. During a press conference, he said that while the vast majority are compliant, specific churches are "unfortunately not paying attention to guidance". —*Christian Headlines*



NEW CANCER TEST

A new blood test developed by Harvard Medical School can detect more than 50 types of cancer, offering hope for early detection. The test works by detecting "methylation patterns"—chemical changes to DNA that is shed by tumours and found circulating in the blood. The test is now being explored in clinical trials. —*The Guardian*

GOVT MINISTERS VISIT ADVENTIST HQ

PENI DAKUA

Never in living memory have so many government ministerial vehicles entered the Seventh-day Adventist Fiji Mission headquarters compound as occurred on March 2.

Five ministers from the current Fiji First government visited the Fiji Mission conference room to find out more about the vegetarian diet that they had heard so much about from an Adventist Church member in parliament, Alipate Tuicolo Nagata, assistant minister for youth and sports. Mr Nagata is a vege-

tarian and does not attend government functions during the Sabbath hours.

The group included Ifereimi Waqanabete, minister for health; Inia Seruiratu, minister for foreign affairs; Semi Koroilavesau, minister for fisheries; Jone Usamate, minister for infrastructure; and the sole woman in the group, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, minister for women.

Normal logistical protocol for a ministerial visit was ignored, with the group inviting themselves to enjoy

vegetarian cooking and the chance to be by themselves for a couple of hours in the Adventist environment.

After the meal provided by Atelini Dakua, the group bought up all the Sanitarium cereals and other products displayed.



FIJI MISSION REPRESENTATIVES WITH HOPE BOOKS AND SANITARIUM PRODUCTS.

39 BETIKAMA STUDENTS BAPTISED

RECORD STAFF

Betikama Adventist College (Solomon Islands) held its first baptism for 2020 on March 20, with 39 young people taking a stand for Jesus.

The students were due to be baptised at the end of the college's Week of Prayer. However, the baptism was brought forward due to the school being closed as a result of the COVID-19 threat.

Five pastors from the Honiara District and the Solomon Islands Mission assisted Pastor Gary Manele in conducting the baptism. A number of parents were present, including Pastor Robinson Diosi, who had the privilege

of baptising his own daughter. Three students from non-Adventist backgrounds were among those baptised.

At the conclusion of the program, Pastor George Auna congratulated the candidates and welcomed them into the family of believers.



THE BAPTISM ON MARCH 20.





MUSICAL GENEROSITY

A bushfire concert at Morphet Vale church (South Australia) raised nearly \$A11,000 for ADRA's bushfire relief effort. Held on February 22, it featured artists from the church's music ministry, together with other South Australian-based musicians and singers. "The church was full and we have been amazed by the generosity of those attending," said event organiser David Peterson. ADRA director for South Australia Charlene Luzuk said that "while the bushfires are now out, for those people who have lost their properties, business and even family members, recovery will take years". —David Peterson/Record staff



GROWING EDUCATION

Operation Food For Life's (OFFL) Early Learning Centre, located in the remote village of Kivori Poe, Papua New Guinea, has this year reached 300 enrolments and six teachers. Beginning with only 50 enrolments and a single teacher in a classroom made from local bush materials, the school has grown in just two years. Now, there are two purpose-built classrooms on site and four more are needed to cater for the new enrolments. Construction has begun, and school desks and chairs are needed. OFFL founder Dennis Perry says the new facilities will provide a better learning environment for teachers and children who are in temporary classrooms at present. —Dennis Perry



A MEAL IN THE SKY

Year 11 business studies and food technology students from Hills Adventist College (Sydney) recently ascended 390 metres in 40 seconds to learn what it takes to run a successful fine-dining restaurant in the sky. Visiting the iconic Sydney Tower for their excursion, the students had the opportunity to learn about the day-to-day operations that take place in the food services and catering industry. They also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Sydney Tower Dining before having lunch in the famous rotating restaurant. —HAC Facebook



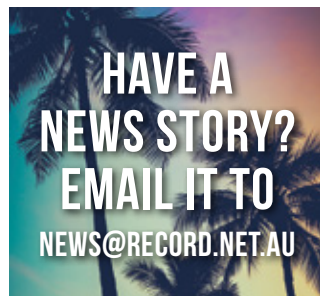
CELEBRATING LEARNING

Darling Downs Christian School (Toowoomba, Qld) recently celebrated five years participating in the "Arrowsmith Program", a cognitive program for students with learning disabilities. International best-selling author and program founder Barbara Arrowsmith-Young visited the school to meet with current students and alumni of the program. In addition, she gave a presentation entitled "The Woman Who Changed Her Brain" on the evening of March 5 at Glenvale Adventist Church, which explored addressing learning disabilities through principles of neuroplasticity. A book-signing followed the presentation. —DDCS Facebook



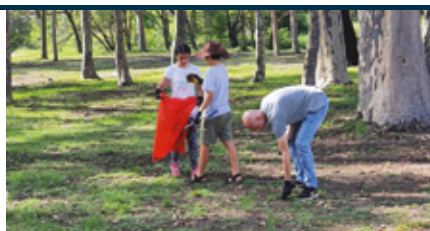
ADVANCED GAMING

During the 2019/20 summer holidays, Longburn Adventist College (NZ) invested in improving its student facilities. This included the addition of an outdoor chess set with a surface made out of recycled tyres, complete with giant playing pieces. In between the tennis courts and football field, a runway and long jump pit were also built. Students enjoyed practising their athletic skills on the new runway for their athletics carnival in February. —Longburn College Facebook



HAPPY GRADUATES

Samoa Adventist College started off the new school year with its 2019 graduation ceremony. The ceremony had been postponed last year due to the measles outbreak in Samoa. According to new principal Tepora Fuimaono, the ceremony was well attended by parents, relatives and friends. "The smiles on the faces of the students in the graduation class said it all." —The Conch Shell



STEWARDSHIP DONE RIGHT

Children, Pathfinders and adults from Maitland Adventist Church (NSW) joined together on March 1 for Clean Up Australia Day. Together, in just a few hours, they collected five heavy-duty garbage bags full of rubbish from the land behind their church, and all enjoyed a chip-sandwich lunch to finish off the day. —Maitland Adventist Church Facebook



RENEWED VOWS

More than 50 people attended a weekend marriage seminar hosted by the Fiji Mission in early March. Couples learned principles of conflict resolution, increased their understanding of the different needs of males and females and enjoyed meals together. In addition, many couples recommitted their marriage vows at the end of the seminar. —TPUM Facebook



Singleness: on the record

I have never wanted to be the girl known for “singleness”. In fact, I didn’t talk about my experience much until recently, because I wasn’t sure how. I didn’t want to defend being single, because I didn’t think it was something that needed defending. That said, I wasn’t about to wave a banner and promote it either. I wondered if there was some elusive place in between, where it might be OK to be single, but also equally OK to not want to be—at the same time.

Belonging to a church community often heightened my sense of feeling misunderstood, invisible or in the “other” category, which leaves other people unsure of what to do.

Within church culture, especially, being coupled is greatly celebrated. Please don’t misunderstand me: it is worth celebrating and I am always happy to join that party—it’s the flip side that can be tough to take. The implication seems to be that anyone who isn’t coupled is in some kind of waiting room, hoping to someday join the rest of the tribe. It’s this sense of liminality that led me to do a little more investigating.

In my early thirties I went back to university to get a degree in counseling. As a side note, this was around

the time when I was becoming blissfully freer of others’ perceptions of me and much more interested in how I understood myself. One assignment we were given was an invitation to explore a cultural issue in counseling. A culture I thought I might have some credibility in exploring was Adventist culture. And the issue? Singleness. Diving headfirst into the research, I found a few helpful things that now frame the way I talk about the lived experience of singleness, and how I interpret and respond when others inquire about it or confide in me.

Christian church culture has an undeniable dominant heteronormative narrative. Inherent in our biblical understanding is the belief that we are designed to be coupled and to procreate. Accompanying this belief is the idea that singleness is a linear stage of life that we should all move through (especially if we are doing the stages “right”). While research gives us several interpretive repertoires—ways we can understand and talk about singleness—let’s narrow it down to two. Singleness can be seen as an asset identity—a positive thing—or a deficit identity—a negative thing. In church culture it is largely spoken about and understood to be a

deficit identity: “Single people lack something.” I acknowledge that this is often a case of unconscious bias. It’s like we have never had reason, or permission, to think about it differently. We could talk about the research and we could talk lots more about theology. However, I wonder if it might be more helpful to talk about ways we can ensure that, as church communities, we can have meaningful discourse going forward. We can begin by untangling some of the myths.

Myth #1: Single people are bad at relationships.

Being single does not equal being bad at relationships. As a single person, I have cultivated and maintained many rich, long-term relationships in my life, as have many of my closest single friends. As it turns out, when couples are formed, those skills are transferrable.

Myth #2: There is one right person for everyone.

There is no one right person for everyone. (Though if you have found someone you want to be with forever, you have total permission to feel as though that is the case!) We need to be careful not to rule out the variables of how and when people find and

choose each other. Nor should we underplay the power of commitment in a relationship. Many of my coupled friends (even while happily married) reflect on how they would choose differently now. Some recount how they have met other people since committing to a relationship who they would have been well suited to. At the end of the day, we choose each other—and we do have choices.



Myth #3: You are single because you have something to work on.

The reason people are single is not because they have a fundamental problem to fix before they are allowed to be coupled. There is no destination point at which we are not continuing to be transformed by the Spirit. Some are doing that from within a committed relationship—but they didn't get there because they received extra credit for all of the work they did earlier fixing themselves. We run into deep theological trouble when we begin to imply that we are measuring people's faithfulness and deservedness of love by how well they have "worked on themselves". This is not a scarcity

issue. There is always enough love to go around and every person is already enough in order to receive it.

Myth #4: Singleness is inferior to coupledness.

The discourse is that single people are a "third wheel" or "left on the shelf". But let's not forget that couples are still made up of individuals. Hang around for long enough and you meet many coupled people who wish they were single. I have been in relationships before and had to make the sometimes-difficult choice that the relationship was not meant for a lifetime—as in, "please put me back on the shelf". In these situations, being single again was an act of wisdom.

These are a few of the implied deficits that are part of our rhetoric and thinking. And they are unhelpful. They draw invisible lines and create categories that even the strongest single people don't have the capacity to break down. So how do we begin to think differently about singleness? In my research, I found a quote that began this process, and strongly resonated with my experience:

"The question I'd long posed to myself—whether to be married or to be single—is a false binary. The space in which I've always wanted to live—indeed, where I have spent my adulthood—isn't between those two poles, but beyond it."—Kate Bolick.

I have hope that as a Church, we would be increasingly considerate about making space for everyone to exist in the room. Throughout my research, and having lived this reality for most of my adult years, I have come to the conclusion that the way we can do that is by embracing the ambiguity. Let's allow ourselves to think and act outside of the binaries.

Singleness is not a stage of life or waiting room—unless of course the single person wants it to be. It depends on their individual story.

Singleness is not a cry for help—unless someone is actually asking for help. And some single people will, and that's OK.

Singleness is not an open topic

of conversation; it is sacred (like any relationship is)—unless the person indicates they are open to the conversation. As Brene Brown articulates in her book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, we tell our stories to those who have earned the right to hear them.

Every statement above contains a contradiction. This is deliberate to illustrate how damaging projections and generalisations can be and how much more helpful it is when we treat people as individuals rather than categories. Even now I am acutely aware that I cannot speak for all single people as a group. Single in your twenties is a very different experience to single in your thirties, forties and beyond. Single and never married is entirely different to post-divorce or being widowed.

Speaking of groups—and lean in because this might be my most practical advice for Adventist culture on singleness—one thing I have learned as a single person is to not conform to the "group mentality"—the idea that we only hang out with those who are like us. Single people who only hang out with singles, coupled people who only hang out with couples and families who only socialise with other families are missing the richness and diversity that can exist if we choose to spend our time with people who represent a variety of stories. Relationships grow because we care to listen to one another's stories. How much stronger our communities would be if we made space for "the other".

Let's save the theological and philosophical conversation for another time. Let's begin to look around the room and with genuine care and concern, begin to wonder: What's their story? And then—and this is important—build the relationship that earns you the right to ask.

KEIRA BULLOCK

KEIRA ATTENDS PAPATOETOE ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH AND WORKS AS A CORPORATE CHAPLAIN FOR SANITARIUM HEALTH FOOD COMPANY IN NEW ZEALAND.



GC Session postponed and downsized

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted on March 19 to postpone the 2020 General Conference Session until May 2021. The vote came after a March 17 recommendation from the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) to delay the 2020 General Conference Session by up to two years due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The 2021 General Conference (GC) Session is currently scheduled for May 20–25 in Indianapolis, Indiana (pictured above). It will be a downsized event—held over fewer days, with no ancillary meetings and exhibits, and with a reduced number of attendees.

“I did not want to, and still don’t want to, change the date of the GC Session, though circumstances are forcing us to do so,” explained General Conference president Dr Ted Wilson, who chaired the Executive Committee meeting. Dr Wilson added that several key factors contributed to the postponement, including the safety and precautions required as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. He said the closure of consulates around the world made acquiring visas difficult, if not impossible. National borders were also being closed and restrictions imposed on international travel.

Dr Wilson also explained that the proposal to downsize the GC Session was heavily driven by financial concerns. GC Treasury personnel have indicated that the financial effects of the pandemic could result in a significant decrease in tithe as congregations are no longer meeting regularly due to federal, state and local regulations limiting the number of individuals who are able to congregate in any public gathering due to COVID-19.

The Executive Committee also voted in favour of a second ADCOM proposal relating to future GC Sessions. As with the voted measures for the 2021 GC Session, the proposal for future GC Sessions recommended that the number of delegates be proportionately reduced, no special guests be invited and the number of days of the

event be shortened, but still include one Sabbath. The proposal also recommended that future GC Sessions not include exhibits, booths or ancillary meetings. The proposal addressed the goal to modify current GC Sessions due to the need to “reduce the financial and logistical footprint of General Conference Sessions and to be more efficient and effective in the handling of Church funds”.

Dr Wilson affirmed that a broadly based group of division representatives and GC officers would bring recommendations to a future GC Executive Committee about the length, scope and structure of future GC sessions.

South Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Glenn Townend said SPD officers, union presidents and SPD institutional leaders have discussed the implications of the postponement of the 2020 GC Session, which had been scheduled for June 25 to July 4. They have agreed to the following:

- Key leadership positions within the SPD—officers, departmental leaders and heads of institutions—will be voted at or after the GC Session in May 2021. The corresponding SPD meeting where most of these appointments are made is being rescheduled for July 2021.
- The Australian Union Conference and New Zealand Pacific Union Conference constituency meetings will continue as planned, most likely in late 2020, depending on the COVID-19 situation.
- The GC will allow Divisions to make an exception to policy and hold the Union Mission Constituency Meetings before the GC Session.

These recommendations will be taken to the SPD and Pacific Boards in June.

“It’s sad that the GC Session has had to be postponed as I know that a lot of people were looking forward to it,” Pastor Townend said. “However, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the Church structure to be flexible and agile in these uncertain times.”

| ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK/RECORD STAFF



THE TEN

BIBLE VERSES TO GET YOU THROUGH COVID-19

1. DEUTERONOMY 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

2. PSALM 56:3,4

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

3. ISAIAH 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

4. ISAIAH 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

5. PSALM 19:8

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

6. JOSHUA 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God goes with you wherever you go.

7. JOHN 14:26,27

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

8. PHILIPPIANS 4:6,7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

9. ROMANS 5:1-4

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character, hope.

10. PSALM 29:11

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

MOMENTS WITH GOD II

A SHOWCASE OF CREATIVE TALENT
FROM ACROSS THE SOUTH PACIFIC

CREDIT: EMMA LEMKE

POETRY: A CHEAP FIX FOR INSOMNIA AND AN UNSETTLED SOUL

Poetry is like a chamomile tea before bedtime. I turned to poetry a few years ago because it helped me fall asleep at night. After only a few lines I would be dozing contentedly. Still, every night, I turn to poetry before I turn the lights out. It is the cheap fix for insomnia that pharmacists don't hand over the counter.

Although a ninth grader in a Shakespeare class would declare (without putting their hand up) that poetry is boring, I would have to respectfully disagree. It is not the dry abstractions that high school poetry is famous for that put me to sleep, but rather the gentle way that it probes at the world and all its cosmic possibilities. Poetry pokes and prods at everything like a curious little boy with a stick asking, "What's this and why is it here and what does it mean?". Late at night I find it consoling that I am not the only one with questions.

The most animating forms of faith I have witnessed are the ones unafraid to ask questions. Daring to ask the risky questions is what has moved my faith into the deeper places. But asking questions is messy. It is a confrontation with mystery, opening up a new world of possibilities and requiring a lot of unlearning and doubt. This can be frightening, and for a long time this is what kept me up at night. However, a fully-embodied Christianity should be messy, right? A lived-out spirituality has mystery in its marrow, and mystery is always messy. It refuses reason and is always ready for the absurdities of the divine. It was the poets who taught me that mystery moves us into a listening distance to God.

Now, when I can't sleep at night, I write poetry myself. Writing poetry has become a form of prayer to me, a late-night place where the unknowns are celebrated. I write myself out of the urge to understand it all, and into the mysterious resting place of God. Before long, the unfathomable starry night sky becomes a far easier place to fall asleep under.

SHELL-SEA ELLEM | NEWCASTLE, NSW

TEMPLE OF TIME
Ahead of us lies a great Temple
With what we fill it is
us and the Divine
So with hearts combining
Let us fill it with love
And Love. — Shell-sea



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EMMA LEMKE

NEWCASTLE UNI ADVENTIST CHURCH

Being a florist has changed the way I see the world and the way I see God. I now notice every hedge, every tree and every flower I walk or drive past. I notice how God has placed, grouped and scattered flowers in the natural environment, and I try and mimic that in my work. Nature is so restful to the eye—every field, every forest, every flower. There is vibrance, diversity and colour. It's beautiful! What will heaven be like in its perfectly created form? I can't even imagine! God is creative. God is in the details. He takes care of even the small things He has created, like flowers. As I work with them, I am constantly reminded of a God who cares even more for me. I know that if God hasn't neglected the flowers, He definitely hasn't neglected me.



KEMYOGENDI.BANDCAMP.COM | SPOTIFY: KEMY OGENDI

KEMY OGENDI

ALICE SPRINGS, NT

The apostle Paul talks about how God comforts us in our suffering so that we can comfort others with the same comfort we've received from Him (2 Corinthians 1:3-5). That's songwriting for me! I write to weather life's craziness while comforting others with the very same words. I like copying hymns, psalms and spiritual songs into my diary. My own writing is chock-a-block with questions, confessions, praise and thanksgiving . . . it's all tangled together in a weird, wonderful tapestry that only makes sense in His hands. Singing is an anchor that keeps me joyful. Songwriting helps me share that joy.

CARLY FLETCHER

RAYMOND TERRACE, NSW

For many years I struggled with low self-confidence, and I tried to find meaning in the things of the world. But when I met Jesus, for real, I found the One who gives true satisfaction and fulfilment. My songs are a way to express my own personal struggles and my walk with God. I also love to write songs based on biblical themes that God is teaching me about. It is funny how He uses these songs to convict me and remind me of His ways! I pray that the music I write will draw people closer to Jesus.



FACEBOOK @CARLYFLETCHERMUSIC | CARLYFLETCHERMUSIC.WEBLY.COM



INSTAGRAM @GEORGIE_DAPHNE | GEORGIEDAPHNE.COM.AU

GEORGIE YOUNG

BURWOOD CHURCH, MELBOURNE

I have recently had a huge realisation that art really does bring joy and contributes to a happy, warm home, especially after seeing people lose their homes in the fires. And now that people are stuck at home—quarantining themselves—having a welcoming home is also equally important. I love that through God I can bring beauty and warmth into people's homes.

The natural world that God created for us is incredibly beautiful and immersing myself into its wonder by painting it brings me so much joy. I would love other home-lovers to appreciate the beauty of nature and bring it into their homes through art.



INSTAGRAM @LINDOLINA

LINDA EDORSSON

BRUNKERVILLE, NSW

Creation to me is a combination of the tangible and imagination manifesting. There is something very satisfying about crafting and shaping something physical or in your mind. I feel like there is connection with the Creator in being creative yourself.

I live with a potter and his family and the first time he walked into his studio this song shuffled on: "Have Thine own way Lord, Have Thine own way, Thou art the potter I am the clay, Mould me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting yielded and still."

That stuff gives me goosebumps. As if God was saying, "Hey, let's create together."

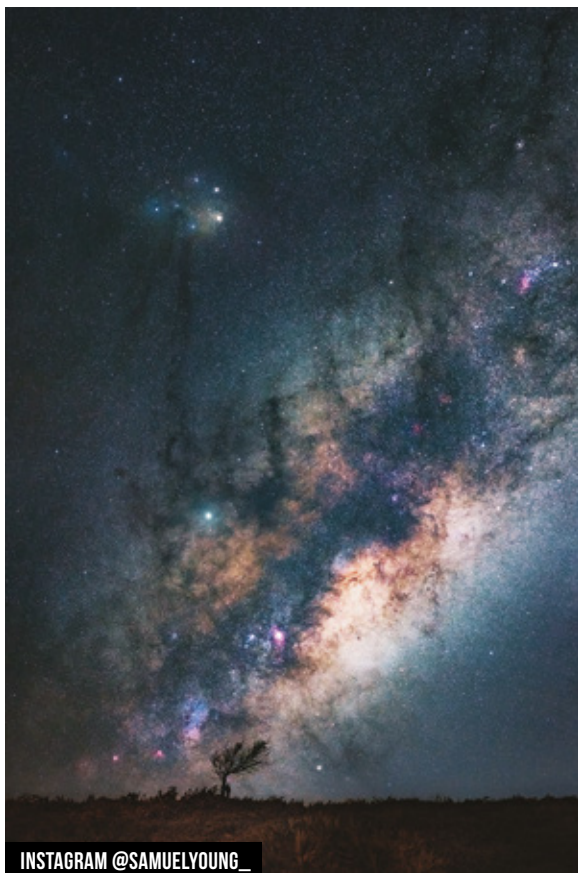
DARRYL COLLETT

WATTLE GROVE, WA

When I photograph nature, I see the "Hand Of God". Let me enlarge that thought. The images I capture show His handiwork in many facets. He is a designer and creator. He is a protector, a sustainer, a provider and a carer of His creatures. His love of beauty is seen in the way He mixes a palette of colours. If God does this for His birds and animals, how much more will He care for me! Am I not more valuable than a sparrow?

"Under His wings I am safely abiding, though the night deepens and tempests are wild. . . . Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me; Resting in Jesus I'm safe evermore."





INSTAGRAM @SAMUELYOUNG_

SAMUEL YOUNG

MELBOURNE, VIC

Devoting your time under the twinkling of starlight will force you to wonder. You don't know what to make of what you see. You forget so easily that we are here. Peering up into the cosmos, it makes me consider my own size. I thought I was tall. I thought I was great. The man I am, so minuscule, who am I that You are mindful of me? You feel the fragility of life. The ants I stand on day to day, well I truly felt like one right then . . . but I know that God cares even about the ants.



INSTAGRAM @HAYNZA | SPOTIFY: HAYNZA
SMARTURL.IT/HAYNZADEBUTALBUM



HAYNES POSALA: “HAYNZA”

SPRINGWOOD CHURCH,
BRISBANE

Using my gift to glorify the Giver of all gifts ushers me into the throne room of God like nothing else. There's something about music that screams the existence of a Creator to me, especially as a creative person. To think that every note and tone from any instrument can come together to create an array of beautiful melodies and harmonies blows my mind! Music, when made in a God-fearing way, can break the chains of this world and direct the spirit towards heaven. From the early stages of writing songs that come from seeking Jesus in that quiet place to hearing about how those songs have helped bring others to that very same place, this gift reminds me that I am just a blank canvas who longs to be made into a beautiful artwork by the beautiful Creator Himself.



INSTAGRAM @TRACEYCHATMAN

TRACEY CHATMAN

BUNBURY, WA

Many people see God in nature. I certainly do, and particularly love travel photography. But I am mostly drawn to portraiture. I see the image of God in the connections we share, the expressions of love and the emotions of humanity. Naturally, I take a lot of photos of my children; including my son who has Down syndrome. His life has deeply impacted my connection with God. Sadly, most people who have prenatal testing, choose to abort their child if they discover they have Downs. Using the #downsyndromelife, I hope people will see that a life with Down syndrome is definitely a life worth living.

'Disability' is about possibility, not a lack of ability

A few years ago, I observed something that taught me an unforgettable lesson.

My son and I had turned the largest bedroom in our house into a recording studio. We recorded singing groups and short videos. And due to our quality productions, our clientele grew.

One day, we were to shoot a children's group from one of the schools in town. They were going to mime their song on camera, with the original sound track superimposed. On arrival, they stood in our "Blue Room" before proceeding to the studio. There were 15 of them, ranging in age from eight to about 12 years old, excitement written all over their faces.

My son greeted the teacher and began to explain the logistics, before leading the children into the studio. I watched them almost tripping over each other as they followed him.

Then it happened. One boy momentarily appeared to hesitate, not knowing where to go. I wondered what was wrong, as he looked very normal. Then I noticed another boy reach for the hand of the hesitant boy and together they followed the others into the studio.

The boy was blind.

When all were inside the studio, my son got down to details. He pointed at two walls in the room, one painted green, the other blue, and explained that they would film their song in front of the green wall. The kids gave puzzled looks. Smiling, my son began to explain the concept of the "green screen" to the group. I noticed the boy who had led his friend into the studio continuously whispering into his friend's ear, probably trying to paint a picture in his friend's mind as to what was being explained. Then the boy who was leading his blind friend interrupted, "Can my friend touch the green wall?"

Surprised, my son agreed. As the boy's hand moved on the wall, a smile curved his lips and he nodded his head in approval. The teacher whispered into my ear and told me that the boy had caught smallpox when he was about a year old, which had left him blind.

"Your song has someone singing a solo?" my son asked the teacher. Pointing to where he wanted them to stand, he said, "I want the soloist to stand on that black dot on the floor and the rest of the group will stand over there."

The boy led his blind friend to the spot. I looked at the teacher. She nodded her head and whispered, "He has a very beautiful voice."

My son explained that the lights would come on and he would then count down, "Five, four, three, two, one . . ." then would say, "Take one," and filming would begin.



"When you hear the soundtrack, start singing as directed by your teacher," he said. The children nodded their heads.

My son and his colleague stood behind their cameras and the lights came on. My son raised his hand and just as he was about to begin counting, the blind boy raised his hand and asked, "Can I say something?"

My son nodded his head, but remembering that the boy could not see him, quickly said, "Yes, go ahead."

All eyes turned to the blind boy.

"All this talk about colours just reminded me of the colour red—the colour of Jesus' blood," he said. Then, shrugging, he added, "My parents told me that when Jesus was on earth, He healed the crippled, raised the dead and even restored sight to the blind. One of the blind people He healed was Bartimaeus." He paused for a moment. "Jesus dying on the cross gives me hope that one day my eyesight will also be restored. I will be able to see my parents, my siblings, my teacher and my friends who help me at school. I really want Jesus to come soon. I'm sorry, I've taken your time."

My son swallowed, took a deep breath, smiled and said, "Yes, we definitely want Jesus to come quickly."

He clapped his hands, raised his hand and with his fingers made the countdown, finishing with a lively "Take one!"

Music filled the studio and the blind boy began to sing. It was so beautiful. And as tears welled in my eyes, I whispered, "Disability isn't a lack of ability. Lord, come quickly."

April 25 is Possibility Ministries Sabbath for the Seventh-day Adventist world Church. For more information and resources, visit <possibilityministries.org>.

SAUSTIN SAMPSON MFUNE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS.



Mixed berry acai smoothie bowl

Boost your immunity with this nutritional powerhouse. Full of antioxidant-rich ingredients, it takes just 5 minutes to make and can easily be customised to personal taste.

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NUTRITION TO BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY

When you pick up a virus, your immune system kicks into gear to protect your body, so keeping your immunity strong is a great way to help look after your health. Here are six dietitian-approved drinks to help strengthen your immunity:

DRINK YOUR GREENS

Eating (or drinking) more fruit and vegies will support and strengthen your immune system. Adding vegies to a morning smoothie will provide vitamin C and iron—both essential for a healthy immune system.

HONEY AND LEMON

It's not just an old wives' tale—a warm honey and lemon drink will help support immunity. Lemons are rich in vitamin C, which helps boost immunity. Honey has antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

ALMOND MILK (WITH B12)

Vitamin B12 helps to reduce fatigue and assists the immune system. The main sources of vitamin B12 are animal products, so if you are vegetarian it can be difficult to get enough vitamin B12. Vitamin B12 fortified almond milks can be added to your smoothie, cuppa or cooking.

INFUSED WATER

Drinking more water is good for your health in general and your immune system. Try infusing your water with berries or citrus fruits for a delicious drink with extra vitamin C.

BOOSTED SMOOTHIES

Adding a handful of nuts to a smoothie is a delicious way to incorporate extra vitamins and minerals. Nuts contain a combination of at least 28 essential nutrients, including vitamin E, iron and zinc—another nutrient vital to support your body's natural defences.

GINGER TEA

Whether as a tea or infused in water, ginger is an ideal go-to when the weather cools. Ginger has been used as a traditional medicine for centuries and modern science supports its anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative benefits.

IMMUNITY BOOSTING SHOPPING STAPLES



HEALTHY GUT FOODS

A healthy immune system starts with good gut bacteria. For this you need probiotics—live bacteria beneficial to your gut microbiome—and prebiotics—which feed probiotics. Find probiotics in fermented foods, yoghurt and sourdough bread. You'll find prebiotics in legumes and vegies like asparagus and onions.



HEALTHY FATS

Healthy fats can help regulate your immune system's response to infection, so load up on nuts, avocado and olive oil.




POWERFUL PLANT PROTECTION

Phytonutrients are chemicals released from plants that help them stay healthy. You can reap the same benefits by eating plenty of plant foods. Phytonutrient-rich foods include colourful fruits and vegies, legumes, nuts, whole grains, and many herbs and spices.

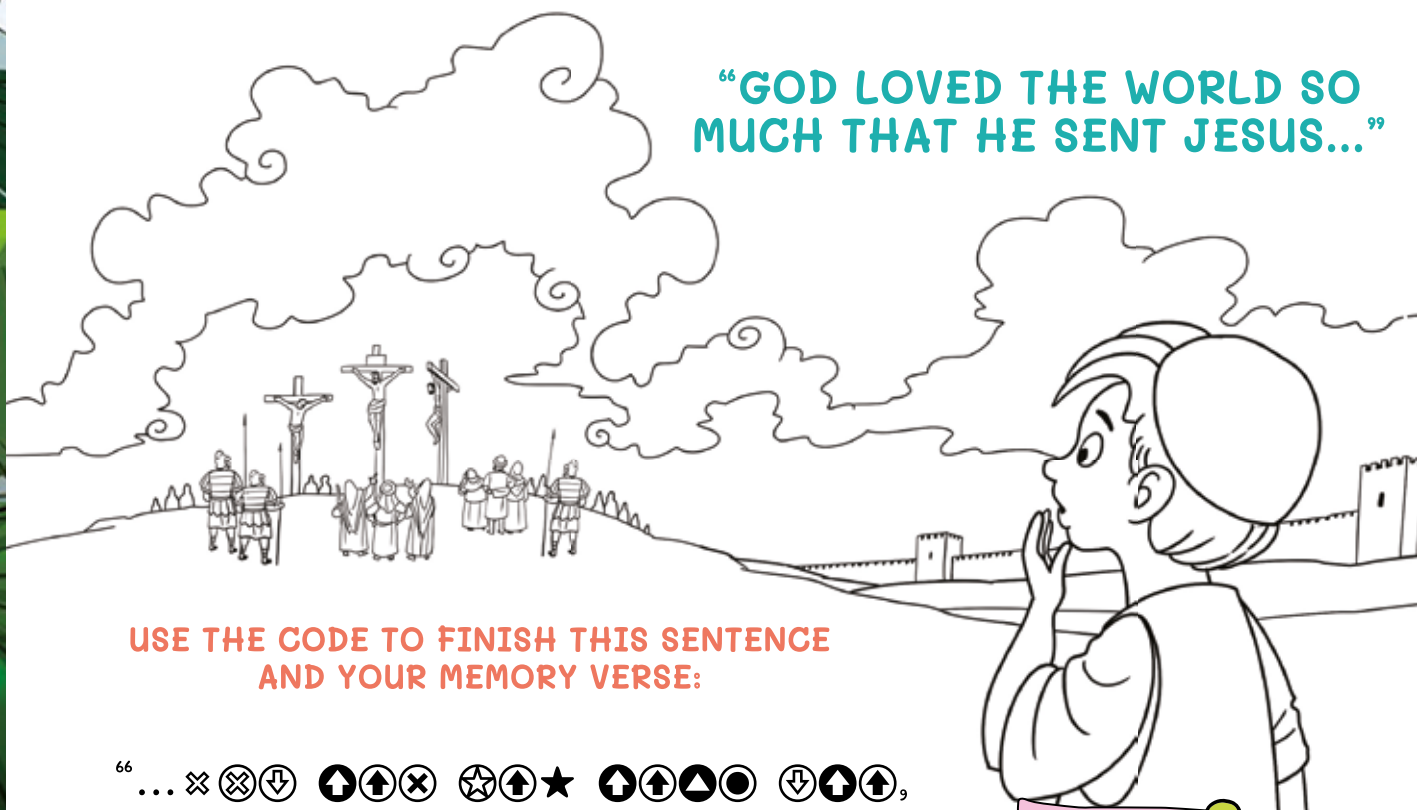


(Tuvaluan for Hello)



Jesus is led out of the city to the place of execution, where He is crucified with two thieves. The insults and the mocking continue right to the end. During the last few hours on the cross, Jesus feels abandoned by His heavenly Father, and cries out to Him in despair. Finally, Jesus dies and the earth shakes in reaction to the death of the Creator. God the Father and all heaven suffer with Jesus.

“GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE SENT JESUS...”



USE THE CODE TO FINISH THIS SENTENCE
AND YOUR MEMORY VERSE:

66 ... \otimes \otimes \downarrow \uparrow \uparrow \otimes \star \uparrow \star \uparrow \uparrow \triangle \odot \downarrow \uparrow \uparrow ,












































99 (John 3:16b, NIV)

CODE

A -  G -  N -  T - 
B -  H -  O -  U - 
D -  I -  P -  V - 
E -  L -  R -  W - 
F -  M -  S -  Y - 



UNITY OR UNIFORMITY?

The GC Executive Committee needs to be extremely careful in taking strong action over the compliance issue involving unions in Europe and North America (*Adventist World*, Feb 2020) [as] the issue involves practices not directly addressed in our fundamental beliefs. Also, the issue of the ordination of women is not directly addressed in Scripture, even though tenuous arguments have been presented by both sides—for and against—and held because of strong conscientious beliefs. The history of the Christian church is replete with examples of denominational splits over the compliance issue—the desire for unity at all cost. But the issue is really often one of unity or uniformity. Scripture does speak to this issue in which "uniformity" needs to involve the basic theological beliefs of the body of Christ (for us, the Church fundamentals), but outside of this the differences we hold are to be seen as strengths and not weaknesses to unity. To allow cultural, ethnic, traditional or personal standards or beliefs to be forced upon the whole Church in order for there to be "unity" is unacceptable.

Kerry Hortop, NSW

NON-CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

A non-Christian friend of mine has put the most beautiful offer on social media. He shared a photo of a big batch of meals on the stovetop, offering to cook for people and spend time with them. He said if you feel too isolated that he would come hang out and bring food. If you are self-quarantined, he would deliver not just one meal, but half a dozen meals!

His post said, "Anyone who needs food, I've got you. Lost your job? Dinner made here for you. Quarantined? I will deliver. Feeling too isolated? I will come for a chat."

My friend is an anaesthetist and professional musician. He's got things to occupy his time. But he's making it a priority to reach out and support others. "There is nothing good in the heart of man"—therefore, this is God shining through my "non-Christian" friend. Thank you God for inspiring us!

Jackie Dennis, NSW

DO WE CARE?

Re "Why are so many leaving the Church?" (Feb 15): This article places emphasis on the need for people to embrace the gospel and know the Scriptures. Church attendance is not absolutely necessary to achieve this degree of faith and trust.

A key issue not addressed by this article is that human beings have social needs. These must be met by a caring church that makes them feel valued. Friendships within the church that go beyond a five-minute chat once a week provide the basic need of a sense of belonging.

The main reason people are leaving the Church is that no-one cares if they attend or if they don't.
David & Caroline Crawford,
via email

NEW INSIGHT

I want to thank Dr Norm Young for his profoundly helpful article, "Cheap Grace" (November 2, 2019). One important realisation I

gained is that forgiveness is not just about assuring God that I value the salvation I am offered through the amazingly painful sacrifice of Jesus. Just as important—or even more important—is the fact that asking for forgiveness is letting God know I am sad and sorry that I have hurt Him by hurting someone else, or even myself in something unwise that I did. And it is restoring that relationship with God (Jesus, Holy Spirit, Father) that God so much wants with me that Jesus was endorsed to come to this "cockroach" world to suffer in inconceivable ways.

Joy Hallam, Qld

SESSION WORTHWHILE

Re "World Church Executive committee votes to postpone GC Session" (online): It's a sad day when the mission and ministry displays and exhibits are cut out from future sessions.

GC Session will lose a huge opportunity for missional impact on the wider world Church and

its delegates and visitors, and its focus would then primarily be on doing business.

I've been to five GC sessions, always as a self-funded observer. It was like a worldwide camp meeting and I loved being there, especially [visiting] the exhibits and booths, and the networking.

The best Adventist resources and ministries were on display all in one place. That does not happen anywhere else on the planet—ever—except at GC Session. That's my humble opinion for what it's worth!

Graeme Humble, Facebook

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.

Obituary



PLATT, Nancy Joyce (nee Romero), born 26.8.1926 in Warburton, Vic; died 7.2.20 in Tweed Heads Hospital, NSW. On 5.4.1950 she married Tony who predeceased her in 2015. Nancy is survived by her sons, Leon and Carole (Mullumbimby), Dean and Jan (Lyndhurst), Perry and Lorraine (Carcoar) and Warren (Byron Bay); daughter, Coralee Roberts (Ocean Shores); 14 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. In 1944, aged 18, Nancy graduated in teaching from Avondale College. She was very active, belonging to a number of local organisations. She is now at rest in God's hands.
Errol Webster

nerals.com.au> even if you have already paid for your funeral.

ALLROUND TRAVEL

International and group travel specialists. Gary Kent tour-Israel, Jordan and Egypt, October/Nov 2020. Bible lands tour-April/May 2021. For further details please contact Anita or Peter on 0405 260 155. Email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

Finally . . .

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no-one is watching." - C S Lewis

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NEXT ISSUE:
ADVENTIST RECORD,
MAY 2

POSITION VACANT

ADVENTIST RETIREMENT PLUS, OPERATIONS MANAGER YEPPON, QLD

Adventist Retirement Plus South Queensland Conference is seeking a full-time operations manager based at Yeppoon. The successful applicant will manage the support services and independent living units of this site, ensure that we meet our Retirement Village Act legislative requirements, manage multiple service delivery teams and must also work collaboratively with the site care manager. This position requires relevant tertiary qualifications, excellent communication skills and previous management experience. The applicant will be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to mission demonstrated within the aged care ministry of the Church. Sales experience in real estate will be an advantage. For more information and a position profile, please contact chief operations officer, 400 Boundary Street, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004, email <danielv@arplus.org.au> or phone 07 3218 7777. Visit <arplus.org.au> to learn more. **Applications close April 24, 2020.**

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