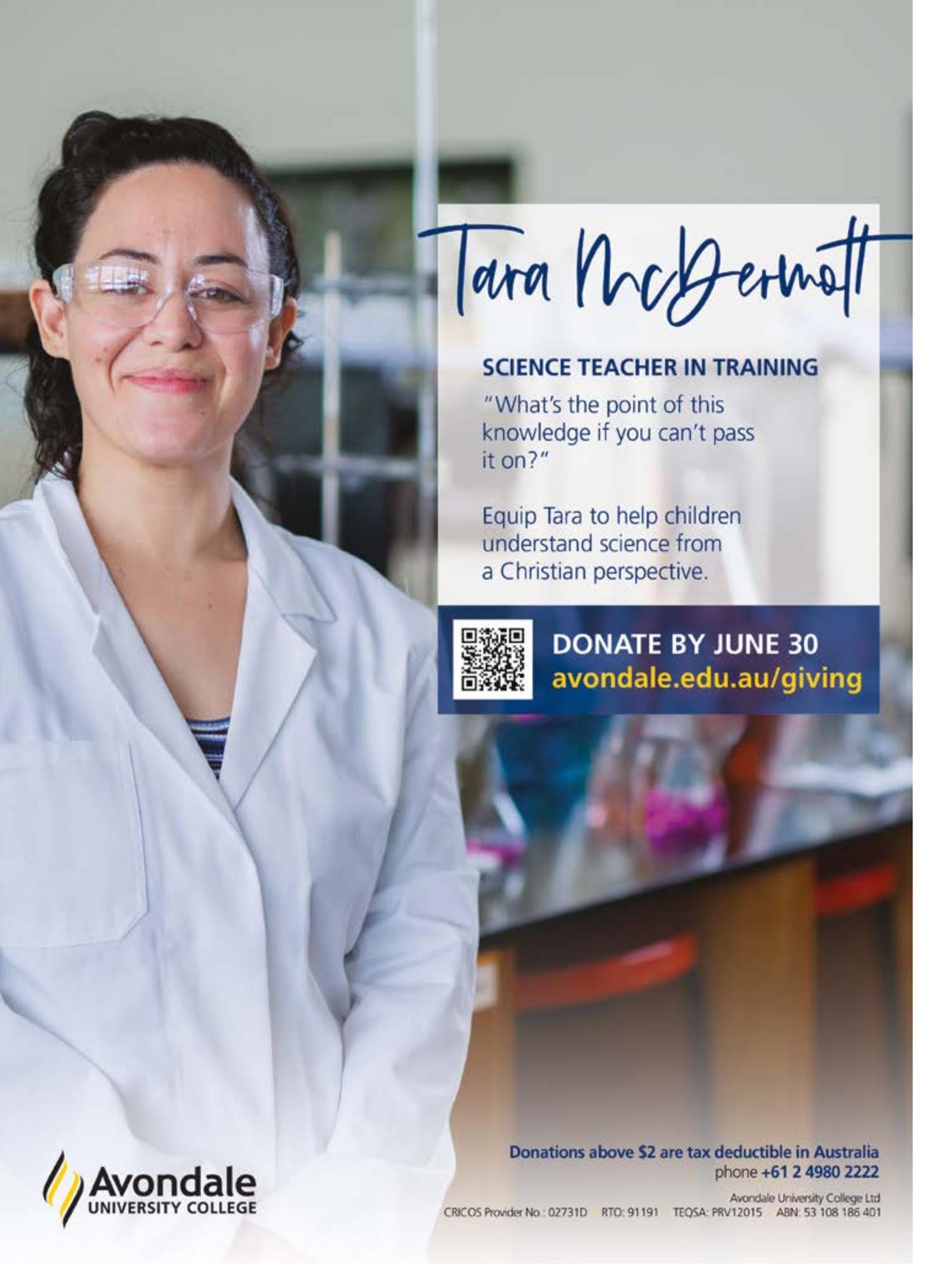


# R

## Music in the Bible

Ten instruments  
found in Scripture <sup>12</sup>

AUC affirms women in  
ministry <sup>5</sup>



Tara McJermott

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## The real good news

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

A healthy and dynamic faith will experience growth and change, and during these times, faith is challenged, stretched and pushed. This is healthy but it is also hard.

Every now and then, it's a valuable exercise to remind myself what I've gained by being an Adventist Christian. It's easy to become complacent and forget what we've been saved *from* and *for* when our lives are comfortable, when our faith is sure and when we have been walking the Way for a while.

A healthy and dynamic faith will experience growth and change, and during these times, faith is challenged, stretched and pushed. This is healthy but it is also hard.

That's why it's important to reflect and remember. As Moses urges the people: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them" (Deuteronomy 4:9). Don't get me wrong, being a Christian is not about personal gain (at least it shouldn't be). And I don't mean focusing on the Sweet by-and-by: abstract ideas of eternal life and the new earth. Those things are great. But they're not enough to keep faith robust and growing.

Beyond the spiritual benefits, there are some very practical considerations to be thankful for. Our Church gives us family members around the world. We have people who love and care for us when our families are sometimes far away or toxic.

Personally I have tendencies toward impatience (read a bit of a temper), prejudice, self-doubt and over-indulgence (just to name a few) that the love of Christ in me and for me fights against.

I am thankful for the Adventist health message. I am proud to say I've never had an alcoholic beverage. I fear if I'd been more exposed to alcohol in my life, I'd be susceptible to alcoholism.

I'm glad for my Christian parents who trained me to the best of their knowledge to love God and follow His will for my life. I'm thankful that they modelled loyalty to their church, provided me with an Adventist education, and built a home of love and security to grow up in. I was protected from many unhealthy influences.

When I've struggled to love my wife, I've been reminded to lay down my life as Christ laid down His life for me; not just theoretically, I've felt Jesus close, sharing my pain and encouraging me through the valleys. My wife falling pregnant and our experience of parenthood, after years of longing and uncertainty, answered many prayers and tears. Not everyone's prayers are answered in the same way, but for us, in our little household, it was another opportunity to test our faith and then to give praise to God for an undeserved blessing.

Beyond the practical, lifestyle things, God has pulled me out of drowning in a sea of doubt and uncertainty about the future with assurance that He cares about me. I've felt Him close by when I've suffered from internal and external chaos and loss.

Not everyone has suffered the setbacks and doubts that I have. Not everyone has experienced the blessings and advantages I've been given. That's OK. You'll have your own struggles and experiences. I'm not more holy than you. Neither am I less. All have fallen short. We are not to compare or strive to match others but to glorify God in the field in which we've been planted.

The love of God is life changing and it is definitely worth remembering and then sharing that good news with others. The fact is, the things God is doing for us, in our lives and characters, these are things we should be grateful for every day. These are things we can share. Maybe we would be more effective witnesses as Christians if we spent more time sharing the good news of God and His amazing work in our lives, rather than focusing on the negativity in the world and trying to use fear and uncertainty to give people the truth.

I don't know about you but I'm glad for what God has done and continues to do in my life. I'm inspired when I hear other's stories of what He has done for them. And I'm keen to keep sharing them.

"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31).



INSIGHT:

## Priorities

Glenn Townend  
South Pacific Division president

I learnt “The Promise” very early in life. It is part of Jesus’ sermon on the mount, which was His blueprint for those who wanted to be His disciples. It is one of the texts that has guided my life. Recently, I did a deeper study into its meaning.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

Like all promises in the Bible, it is conditional. The benefits come if we believe and follow. Jesus invites us to “seek”. In the sermon, Jesus shows that seeking is done through prayer. Those who “seek will find” (7:7,8).

Disciples will find God’s kingdom. God’s kingdom is in heaven—it is a promise of an after and better life (5:5,10,19), but it is also the grace, kindness and service right here on earth now. This kingdom comes from following God’s will and plan as outlined in the sermon (6:10, 7:21).

Jesus’ disciples are also to seek God’s righteousness. This righteousness is the character of God as described in the Ten Commandments. This righteousness needs to be better than that of the scribes and Pharisees (5:19,20). God’s righteousness is the ultimate ideal of loving even our enemies not just doing good things (5:43–6:1). Disciples are also promised that if they hunger and thirst after this righteousness they will be filled (5:5)—we will become more and more like Jesus.

If seeking after God’s plan and character is our priority, He promises that “all these things” will be ours. In context, the “all” is food, drink and clothes. God is saying that the basics of life will be supplied. We may not be eating at the world’s fanciest restaurants or wearing designer clothes, but we will be cared for. Twice Jesus says that God already knows what we need (6:8,32). God wants to give good gifts to those who ask and seek Him (7:11). This gift includes a kingdom now and forever, and a life that is transforming into the image of God.

This promise is happening in my life and many others I know. God is good! So why not make it your priority too?

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Source: Unsplash.

## AUC affirms women in ministry

📍 Ringwood, Victoria | Australian Union Conference

*At the recent 2021 Australian Union Conference (AUC) Executive Committee meeting the committee discussed the 2015 AUC Constituency Meeting resolution on women in pastoral ministry and decided to expand on this resolution. This is the official statement:*

As a Church we continue to be blessed by the spiritual leadership of both men and women in pastoral ministry. In recognition of the work taking place right across our nation, the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Executive Committee dedicated time to prayerful consideration of how best to support and affirm our pastors and to more effectively support women in pastoral ministry. This resulted in an action to affirm women in pastoral ministry and leadership at the AUC Executive Committee in May.

After a lengthy discussion the committee voted to expand on the 2015 AUC Constituency Meeting resolution on women in pastoral ministry. The original resolution resolved to “endorse the full and active participation of women in ministry in the Australian Union Conference” and to strongly affirm women already serving, while applying “this endorsement in appropriate ways that maintain worldwide unity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church”.

The latest resolution confirmed the

desire of the Union to see all pastors, both male and female, receive equal recognition for their work while maintaining unity with the worldwide Church. The Union recognises that the work of female pastors is equally important to that of male pastors and they should not be viewed as different or one lesser than the other.

Further, the resolution will see the Union encouraging all conferences to include both male and female pastors in their ministry team.

The Australian Union Conference will also establish a scholarship program for female theology students at Avondale University College and Mamarapha College, and it will appoint a female associate Ministerial Association secretary to provide leadership, support and an increased voice for women currently in pastoral ministry and for those to come.

Finally, the Union will recommend to the General Conference, through the South Pacific Division, for practical pastoral purposes, that policy be amended to permit commissioned ministers to ordain elders and deacons.

The Australian Union Conference is excited about the opportunities for mission that will be created by these actions and is looking forward to seeing God’s blessings as He continues to gift women in pastoral ministry.



Dr Raul Lozano.

## PAU vice chancellor announces he is leaving

📍 Port Moresby, PNG | Tracey Bridcutt

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) vice-chancellor Dr Raul Lozano has announced he will be leaving PAU in coming months to return home to Mexico for family reasons.

Dr Lozano has served at the PAU campus, on the outskirts of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, since February 2017. He and his wife Anita have appreciated the warmth and friendliness shown to them during this time.

“I hope I have left behind something for the benefit of my colleagues and students because, certainly, I am taking with me a lot that I learned from them,” Dr Lozano said. “I was always in awe at

the spiritual responsiveness of our community, especially in valuing prayer and conflict solving through reconciliation.”

South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend said the Lozanos will be missed.

“Raul has provided firm, spiritual and strategic leadership at PAU,” Pastor Townend said. “He has led through the disruptions of COVID and maintained a strong sense of purpose.”

The PAU Council has appointed a selection panel to find a replacement for Dr Lozano. For more details visit: [employment.adventistchurch.com/job/vice-chancellor/](http://employment.adventistchurch.com/job/vice-chancellor/).



Police clearing the area after the blast.

## Grey Nomads raise \$21K for bomb victims

📍 **Stuarts Point, NSW** | Maryellen Fairfax

After a year's hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Australian Grey Nomads camp was back this year (May 7-15), with attendees raising more than \$A21,000 for the victims of the recent bomb blast in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

More than 470 people gathered at Stuarts Point Convention Centre (NSW) for the event, including former pastors and missionaries who had personally worked at or visited the place where the explosion occurred. Pastor Ray Eaton, who was in attendance, said, "The whole camp got behind the project. It was very enthusiastically supported."

The young men who died belonged to the Topaz Youth Society, an arm of the Kukum Young Adult Youth Ministry. They were cooking food to raise funds for the church's Pathfinder club when the incident occurred.

The money raised at the Grey

Nomads camp has been divided up equally to be given to the families of the deceased victims, as well as the Pathfinder club. "Some are putting it aside for school fees for their kids, another is using it to complete her house," said Pastor Eaton.

The money was sent to the Solomon Islands less than a week after the incident occurred. "We jumped in behind it right away!" said Pastor Eaton.

"It shows that Adventists care," added Pastor Alex Currie. "I think that's a tremendous response from the Adventist family."

This year, the theme of Grey Nomads was "Be Ready", with speakers Dr Darius Jankiewicz and Pastor Geoff Youlden. People attended from every state of Australia, except WA.

If you would like to support the fundraising effort, please contact <RayEaton@adventist.org.au> for bank details.



Minister of Finance Johnny Koanapo Rasou and ADRA Vanuatu country director Richard Greenwell at the opening ceremony.

## Family care centre first of its kind for Vanuatu

📍 **Etas, Vanuatu** | Kiery Manassah

The Vanuatu government has given its full backing to the Vanuatu Mission (VM) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) to establish a family counselling centre in Etas, an area south-east of the capital Port Vila.

The Elang Family Care Centre will cater to the social, physical, mental and spiritual needs of victims of violence, especially crimes, within a family setting.

The facility was opened on Sunday, May 16, by Vanuatu Minister of Finance Johnny Koanapo Rasou, Vanuatu Women's Affairs director Rothina Noka, ADRA Vanuatu country director Richard Greenwell, VM general secretary Pastor Kaio Timothy and Efate district Adventist leader, Pastor John Leeman.

ADRA project manager Danielle Masoe said the decision to locate the family centre at Etas was strategic.

"Etas is home to well over 3000 people from all walks of life," Ms Masoe said. "Through our work with the Vanuatu Correctional Services, statistics have

shown that Etas would be well suited to hosting such a counselling centre."

Speaking at the opening ceremony on behalf of the government and the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Mrs Noka praised VM and ADRA for putting Christ's teaching into action by setting up such a facility.

Mrs Noka said Elang Family Care Centre was long overdue and urged ADRA country director Mr Greenwell to consider expanding into other locations in the country. To her delight, Mr Greenwell confirmed ADRA's plans to establish more centres: in Luganville, then Tanna and other provincial centres.

For now, Elang Family Care Centre is the first of its kind, apart from the Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC), which provides an avenue whereby victims of violence can seek counselling and advice with legal assistance.

Fully funded by ADRA, the centre will be manned daily by an ADRA-certified counselling coordinator—also a resident at Etas.



The Mums At The Table Invercargill (NZ) group at a recent meet-up.

## Mums At The Table fine-tunes its focus

📍 Wahrenonga, NSW | Melody Tan/Record staff

The weekly *Mums At The Table* TV show, produced by the Mums At The Table ministry, an initiative of Adventist Media, will stop broadcasting on commercial free-to-air television in Australia from July 2021.

The change is in line with Mums At The Table's strategic goal of connecting with an increasingly digitally-focused audience through partnering with local Adventist churches.

"We are constantly reviewing and assessing Mums At The Table to broaden its reach and make it as effective as possible," said Dr Brad Kemp, CEO of Adventist Media and executive producer of Mums At The Table.

"As part of our review process, we have found that the TV program, while an excellent production, is not as effective as our digital platforms in reaching our audience. Consequently, we've made the difficult decision to discontinue production of the TV show in its current format."

Dr Kemp said the program's presenters and experts, including Rachel Humphries, Shona Solomon, Fiona Lelilio-Tiatia and Collett Smart, were instrumental in building *Mums At The Table* into a credible and professional television show that has been broadcasting since 2017 on mainstream media. Many of the experts, including medical professionals from Sydney Adventist Hospital, have volunteered their time on the show.

"We have received consistent positive feedback from the TV station and viewers about the quality of the content, and that's all because of their expertise and sacrifice," said Dr Kemp.

Mums At The Table will continue to create and share parenting tips and advice online, and since September 2020, it has created 15 groups in Australia and New Zealand as a means to connect with mums in the local community. These groups are managed and moderated by volunteer Adventist church members, with full support of their local church.

Video content will be in different styles and in shorter segments than the 30-minute TV show. These will be shared on the Mums At The Table website and social media channels.

"We are always looking at ways to ensure Mums At The Table remains a sustainable ministry to support mums in the community," said Melody Tan, project manager of Mums At The Table.

Churches or individuals interested in being part of the ministry can contact Mums At The Table at <hello@MumsAtTheTable.com>.

## making headlines

### Sudanese visitor

Naserldeen Mofarhi, Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments for the Republic of Sudan, visited the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 24 during his visit to the United States. He met with the president of the world Church, Pastor Ted Wilson, and several selected delegates from the GC.—ANN



### Mission of mercy

Seventh-day Adventists across 10 islands in the northern Caribbean region recently joined forces to provide urgent assistance to the hundreds of people displaced by the eruptions of La Soufrière in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Leaders say they are grateful for "members coming together for this mission of mercy".

—Adventist Review

### Liver transplants milestone

Loma Linda University Health has reached the milestone of performing 1000 liver transplants since March. "The achievement is more than just a number—it represents the lives of patients touched by the generosity of organ donors," said Loma Linda University Transplant Institute director Dr Michael de Vera.—ANN

### Tassie devil project

A group of Tasmanian devil joeys has been born in a "wild sanctuary" in Barrington Tops, just north of Sydney. The project, run by conservation group Aussie Ark, aims to build a population of Tasmanian devils on mainland Australia, where they once roamed, to help conserve the endangered species.—ABC News



## Media ministry

Around 30 theology students from Avondale University College visited Adventist Media (AM) on June 1. Hearing from each department, the soon-to-be pastors learned about initiatives and resources created by AM to support local churches in sharing Jesus. During the visitation, the students also had the opportunity to visit the production studio and have a go at recording our weekly Record Wrap news bulletin.

—Record Staff



## Help to PAU

Sanitarium Health Food Company and Sydney Adventist Hospital have partnered to help Pacific Adventist University (PAU) with personal protective equipment in response to the COVID-19 outbreak on the campus in April. Among the supplies received were face masks, face shields, gloves, anti-bacterial disinfectant, hand sanitisers and disposable footwear covers. "They were really generous with us," said PAU vice-chancellor Dr Raul Lozano.

—Record Staff



## Sisterhood

With the vision of running a program focusing on young professional women, the Victorian Women's Ministry hosted its first "Impact" event on May 15. Around 30 women aged 18-35 attended the event, held in Melbourne. Australian Union Conference Sabbath school and Stewardship director Pastor Lyndelle Peterson was the guest speaker, exploring the story of Abigail in 1 Samuel. After an afternoon tea, Pastor Peterson hosted a workshop on finding God's purpose for our life.

—Sherrie Courtney



## Land secured

After 12 years, Sawdust Adventist Church in Lae, Morobe Province (PNG), received its land title on May 8 from Minister for Lands and Physical Planning John Rosso. During his speech, Mr Rosso presented PNGUM president Pastor Malachi Yani with K20,000 to support the construction project and an outboard motor to facilitate outreach boat trips within the coastal areas of Huon Gulf. "Churches are God's representation on earth therefore, we must support each other in doing His work," said Mr Rosso. Morobe Mission president Pastor Blasius Managos thanked Mr Rosso for his generous, kind heart in supporting the church.

—Morobe Mission Media



## Enjoying sunshine

Pathfinders and Adventurers from Warragul Seventh-day Adventist Church (Vic) have enjoyed a rigorous program of fun and learning provided by dedicated parent leaders. Despite the cold and constant rain in May, the clubs enjoyed the sunshine and camping at Bumpy Farm, a privately owned bushland area where the teams explored a local wetland looking for native birds for their bird badges with birder Kat Swift.

—Kat Swift



## We of the Never Never

Local Seventh-day Adventist representatives attended the unveiling of statues dedicated to a classic Australian novel with Adventist connections.

The *We of the Never Never* statues were unveiled by Roper Gulf Mayor Judy MacFarlane and Adventist Florence Peters, daughter of Dolly Bonson, on whom the book was based, in Stan Martin Park at the Never Never Festival in Mataranka, Northern Territory, held May 14–23.

The ceremony was well attended and included Darwin Mayor Konstantine Vatskalis, Darwin Adventist Church pastor Esava Koro and lifelong literature evangelists and global mission volunteers Andrew and Jeanette Johnson.

To celebrate the special occasion, organisers distributed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) book *The Girl Who Talked to the Stars* and 200 copies of Pastor Gary Kent's Incredible Journey DVD of the same name.

*We of the Never Never* and *The Little Black Princess* are famous novels written by Jeanie Gunn in the 1900s. The books talk about a little Indigenous Australian girl called "Bett Bett" and refer to her as the little black princess. Over half a century later, it was revealed that the little black princess was Dolly Bonson, who was introduced to God by Jeanie Gunn and, over the years, held on to what she had been taught. —**Lorraine Atchia**

## have news to share?

Send info and photos to <news@record.net.au>



## Adventist scientist awarded

Dr Dianne Sika-Paotonu, the associate dean (Pacific) at the University of Otago, Wellington, has won the New Zealand Association of Scientists (NZAS) Cranwell Medal for science communication for 2020. Dr Sika-Paotonu, a Seventh-day Adventist of Tongan heritage, is the first Pacific biomedical scientist to receive the award. "I'm encouraged by the increased awareness and recognition of the need for scientists and researchers to share and communicate science effectively and appropriately for various audiences that also includes Maori and Pacific communities, the various classroom settings and the general public audience groups," she said.

—**Otago Bulletin Board**



## Equipping young people

More than 600 young people from the western sub-region of Solomon Islands Mission gathered on Sambulo island in Marovo lagoon—the second largest saltwater lagoon in the world—for a week-long camp meeting from May 25 to 30. Themed "Lord, send me", the event featured sessions run by several speakers, including Solomon Islands Mission Youth Department director Pastor Steve Aquilla. He led sessions throughout the week on how to study the Bible, using the World Changers set of Bible-reading guides that combine some of the core truths of Scripture, as well as practical discipleship topics. —**Limahl Totogi**



# Sharing the gospel in a secular world

The point of difference between Christianity and many other major religions is the aspect of grace. Grace is the ultimate gift from God. It is not the result of anything we have done to “earn” it, rather, it has been given freely (Ephesians 2:8,9). We know that nothing we do can save us, but that we have salvation and identity in Christ (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3-14).

What a beautiful gift! Jesus died for our sins and when we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we are made right with God and seen as holy and blameless in His sight (Colossians 1:22). This is the Good News!

As Christians, we have been given the task of sharing the good news with the world so that everyone may experience the gift of God’s grace (Matthew 28:19,20). It is one of our greatest callings as followers of Christ. But it is not the only task God has entrusted us with.

I enjoy a good checklist. And it would seem I am not alone. As stated by the Church, “Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.” And while we hold the entire Bible as our source of truth, even Seventh-day Adventist theologians saw the need for a summarised understanding of the Bible. We have

the 28 fundamental beliefs, statements that “constitute the Church’s understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture.” Similarly, throughout Scripture, we have received lists, commands and teachings on the best way to live our lives in step with Christ. But to simplify it further, when asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus replies twofold: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30,31).

Tangibly, what does it mean to love the Lord with everything we have? And what does it mean to love our neighbour?

As Christians, this comes back to the great commission—to go out into the world and to spread the good news about Jesus Christ. What greater love can there be for God and others but by sharing the good news and introducing others to Christ?

And yet, more and more, we are discovering that the secular world is not interested in this message. But sharing the good news is not the only way to love our neighbour. The Bible describes the many tangible ways we are to love our neighbour.

And in His divine wisdom God saw that by loving our neighbour, we are often able to share the good news.

1 John 3:18 states, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Similarly, Matthew 25 paints a beautiful picture of what it means to serve others. We learn that by meeting people’s physical needs and loving them with our actions, not just our words, we are serving not only our neighbour, we are also serving God. Likewise, the apostle James highlights the same concept when he says, “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:15,16).

We are being called by God not just to believe in Him, not just to spread the good news, but to love people along the way. After all, is that not how Jesus Himself did it? He met people where they were: in their homes, at the well, laying by the side of the road. And He ministered to these people by teaching, healing and serving.

Seventh-day Adventist churches have been partnering with ADRA Australia across the country to minister to people in this exact way. Members have been running ADRA community outreach programs such as food pantries and op shops as a way to serve their community. And, by getting involved with their community, they are able to share their faith through their actions.

“I was once told at college to preach and if necessary use words,” said Josh Stadnik, the intern pastor at Dandenong Polish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Victoria. “With the ADRA kitchen I’ve been able to live out this motto and see kingdom work in action. Hope is offered and lives are changed for the better. Both with the community and our own church members.”

This message of loving others could not be more needed than right now. “In terms of declaring God in a secular society, genuine Christian living is our best tool, maybe even our only hope,” says Simon Gigliotti, Greater Sydney Conference youth director. “I am by no means saying there is no room for proclamation. What I am saying, however, is that no-one wants to listen to proclamation from people who do not live what they proclaim (1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Micah 6:8).” Dr Gary Krause, director of Adventist Mission for the world Church, paraphrased this concept so well when he said, “The Church only has two purposes—to enlarge God’s kingdom and to benefit the world.”

In this way, our actions of love will show the love of God. John 13:34,35 states, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

So, what does it look like to be saved by grace? It means exactly what it sounds like. We are saved by the grace of God and if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, nothing we do can take away that gift. But God wants us to be motivated by love. One way we can praise Him and thank Him for this priceless gift is by pouring out His love to others.

**Ashley Stanton**

ADRA Australia/NZ Media and Communications coordinator.



# The 10 Musical instruments in the Bible

*From strings to percussion, the Bible is filled with references to musical instruments. While many of them were used to praise God and celebrate, others were used as signalling devices in battles.*

**1. Voice:** Singing plays an essential role in worship. Many Bible verses command us to sing: sing joyfully, sing to the Lord, sing praises. While the voice is not considered an official musical instrument, our vocal cords can create a wide range of pitches, tones and sounds (Psalm 95:1,2; Acts 16:25,26).

## Percussion instruments

**2. Bells:** Mentioned briefly in the book of Exodus, bells were made of gold and sewn on the hem of the priestly robe of Aaron. They were used as a warning signal to prevent the accidental death of Aaron or his sons when they entered the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle—where the Ark of the Covenant was kept (Exodus 28:33-35, 39:25,26).

**3. Cymbals:** The type of cymbal mentioned in the Bible is believed to be the smaller variety of cymbals on clappers—modern-day castanets—and the finger cymbals seen in Middle

Eastern dance. They were made of copper and used when celebrating and praising God (Ezra 3:10-13; Psalm 150:5). In the New Testament (1 Corinthians 13), cymbals are mentioned as being noisy in a negative way.

**4. Timbrel:** Similar to a frame-drum or a modern tambourine, timbrels were the primary percussion instrument of the ancient Israelites and were used for spontaneous celebrations. Miriam played one to celebrate the Israelites' exodus from Egypt in Exodus 15:20 (Genesis 31:27; Judges 11:34; 1 Samuel 10:5, 18:6; Isaiah 5:12, 24:8, 30:32).

## Stringed instruments

**5. Lyre:** The lyre was commonly used for secular music but also welcome in sacred use. This stringed instrument resembles a harp but is smaller with fewer strings and provides support for singers and harps. David played the lyre to soothe King Saul (Genesis 4:21, 31:27; 1 Samuel 16:16,23; 2 Samuel 6:5; Psalms 33:2, 43:4, 149:3, 150:3; Job 21:12, 30:31; 1 Chronicles 13:8, 15:16,20,28).

**6. Harp:** Used in the temple orchestra and appointed to raise "sounds of joy", the harp was a favourite instrument of the aristocratic class. With 10 strings that could be played by plucking with the fingers, it was primarily a melodic instrument and most likely doubled or outlined the melodies sung by the singer (1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Kings 10:12; Isaiah 5:12; Amos 5:23; Psalms 57:8, 71:22, 81:2, 144:9, 150:3; 1 Chronicles 16:5; 2 Chronicles 5:12, 9:11).

## Wind instruments

**7. Shofar:** Used especially in the context of battle and war, the shofar is a non-musical signalling device made out of an animal's horn. With only a few playable tones, the calls that were used consisting of varying sequences of long and short tones (Joshua 6:4-20; 1 Kings 1:34,39,41; 2 Kings 9:13; Hosea 5:8).

**8. Trumpets:** Like the shofar, trumpets were not used to make music but as signals with varying sequences of long and short tones. The Old Testament describes the Levite priests using silver trumpets to signal the breaking of camp, assemble the Israelites and in conjunction with various ritual functions (Leviticus 25:9; Numbers 10:2-10, 31:6; 2 Kings 11:14; 1 Chronicles 13:8; 2 Chronicles 5:12-14, 20:28, 23:13).

**9. Reed-pipe:** With a nasal, piercing tone like modern oboes and English horns, the reed-pipe was a popular instrument commonly used in celebrations (1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Kings 1:39,40; Psalm 150:4; Isaiah 5:12).

**10. Flute:** Similar to the reed-pipe, flutes are another woodwind instrument. Because of their emotive and penetrating sound, they were often used at funerals and processions (Job 21:12, 30:31; Matthew 9:23-26).

# “I surrender”

Esther Espinoza’s journey to discovering God’s creative purpose.



“Another story,” I mumbled with heavy eyelids as Mum rocked me back and forth on her wicker chair.

Growing up, books and stories were very important. Due to the civil war that I experienced during my childhood, I grew up suffering from severe anxiety and panic disorder.

Books transported me to a calm world where I didn’t have to deal with the scars of trauma.

As I got older, I discovered the school library. I had never seen a room filled with so many options! By Grade 4, I was reading books like *Anne of Green Gables*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Narnia Chronicles* and more.

During my high school years, I delved into books that weren’t very “Christian”. Stories of ghosts, haunted houses, spirits and murder mystery kept me enthralled.

Of course, I read my Bible and still prayed, but at night, under my covers, I was absorbed in a scary book.

Reading was no longer the only thing I was doing—I started writing stories in the same genre. I daydreamed of becoming a published author.

One afternoon, when I complained to Mum about another rejected manuscript, she told me the truth (in a loving way), that deeply impacted my mind. That night, the battle began.

I felt God gently whisper to me, telling me to write stories for His glory. On the other hand, the enemy yelled that I had no business writing for God.

For a whole week, I wrestled and fought. Finally, one Sabbath morning I fell on my knees uttering “I surrender”. Instantly, I felt an indescribable peace wash over me.

It wasn’t long before God gave my sisters and I 5 Sisters Ministry, which we co-founded in 2011. We published *GIGI* magazine, *Forever Woman* and *Little Miss GIGI*.

However, in 2015 we printed our last magazine and thought the ministry was over.

Still, I felt a real conviction that my writing was unfinished. I knew God was calling me to spread His Word.

In 2018, He impressed me to do a story podcast for kids. I was terrified! I didn’t know where to begin. The only thing I was certain about was that I wanted the stories to be Christian and have sound effects. I wanted children to be inspired and learn to love Jesus.

As I gathered everything I needed, I asked Steph, my younger sister, and my little niece to be my co-hosts.

On May 7, 2018, I launched the podcast “Car Ride Stories for GIGI Kids”.

It has been three years since we aired our first episode and God is blessing immensely.

We’ve had 70,000 downloads and we are reaching kids worldwide. We get emails from our little listeners from Canada, Austria, USA, Dominican Republic, Australia and more.

God has placed a mind-blowing dream in my heart that is almost impossible for me to accomplish. However, I believe if it’s in His plans, then it will become a reality.

You can listen to the kids’ podcast “Car Ride Stories for GIGI Kids” and teen girls’ podcast “GIGI teen radio” by searching them on any podcast platform.



Steph and Esther about to record the podcast.

## Listeners’ testimonies:

“My son Liam loves your podcast. It is his favourite podcast. He is four years old.”

“My name is Emily, I am four years old and I live with my family in Austria, Europe. I love the stories and I listen to them while baking with mummy, while colouring and in the evenings.”

“Thanks so much for this great engaging podcast. My three-year-old is obsessed with it! So much so that today she is listening to it while eating her lunch and wanted to stay in the car to listen to more stories. Professionally put together with engaging sound effects. Just what we needed!”

Esther Espinoza/Record staff

# LIVING KINGDOM

## Stretched for His kingdom

Matthew 9:17

### New wine in old wineskins

*“Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved” (Matthew 9:17).*

Every now and again in life there is a pivotal moment when a physical, mental or spiritual shift occurs—perhaps even, an awakening. For me, my mid-20s have been that moment. It started like a light-bulb moment when I turned 25, and each year since has brought about more growth and some significant life learnings. When I turned 25, I felt like I had entered womanhood. Seriously! Young enough to be counted as youthful, old enough to be considered an adult. Young enough to enjoy the freedom of my mid-20s, old enough to have accumulated some wisdom. I looked at myself and my life differently. I looked at faith differently. Now, this “coming into adulthood” has not always been comfortable—it requires an intentional change of mindset and habits, and the breaking of old thought patterns. But these changes have been necessary to accommodate my new, grown (and continually growing) mindset. I play by different rules now.

Put simply, the old me would not be able to handle what has come and what will come.

Throughout His ministry on earth, Jesus often challenged the status quo and in return was challenged for His approach to love, law, faith, grace and spirituality. In one instance, Jesus was enjoying a banquet thrown by Levi (aka Matthew) after his acceptance of the call to follow Jesus when He was questioned about fasting. The Pharisees and disciples of John noticed that the disciples of Jesus would go on eating and drinking while

the disciples of the Pharisees and John would fast and pray. After making commentary about not fasting while in the presence of the bridegroom, Jesus responds with a parable:

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skin, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins” (Luke 5: 37,38).

In those days, wineskins were an important part of the wine fermentation process. New wine would be poured into a new wineskin (usually made from the hide of a goat), and as the wine fermented and produced gases the wineskin would expand with the pressure and stretch to accommodate the new wine. Once the wineskin had been stretched, it would lose its elasticity, becoming brittle, and it could not be used again. So, pouring new wine into an old wineskin would effectively cause the wineskin to burst, destroying the wineskin and wasting the new wine.

For me, the new wine represents Jesus, the new covenant and the new kingdom that He was creating. The wineskins represent humanity, and more specifically the limitations of religion and the old ways in which the Pharisees and teachers of the law operated. The life, ministry and death of Jesus was a pivotal shift in human history. Jesus changed the rules, He changed the game. Grace, mercy and faith would no longer operate under the same constraints as the old world—Jesus changed everything. And Jesus—with greater depth than the initial challenge had—was alluding to this new reality. It was no longer a kingdom of religion but the kingdom of heaven, with Jesus at the centre.

A pivotal shift; the old has passed away and the new has come. As I reflected on this parable, it begged the question. In

my life and faith journey am I a new wineskin, ready to receive the new wine and be stretched? Or am I an old wineskin, stretched out and brittle?

Growing up in the Church, I've noticed that we as a community have the tendency to be brittle and set in our ways. We also have the tendency to criticise the "Church" as a body for a lack of flexibility, innovation or willingness to do more than the usual. We even may emphasise that the Church, the pastors and the conferences bear the responsibility to change. And while on a corporate level that may be true, we should not forget that in fact we are the church. I am a part of the church. Change and renewal starts with me. It starts with us.

The parable of the new wineskins is more than just about wine and wineskins. It's about Jesus, the kingdom of heaven and me. Here are two characteristics I've learnt about the kingdom of heaven from this story.

Firstly, the kingdom of heaven is more concerned with my heart than my head. I may know what the Bible says and know about Jesus but how is the condition of my heart? Jesus knew the teachings of the Scriptures and He was more excited to share with His disciples in the celebration of a child of God accepting the call to follow Him (in this case Matthew).

And yet, in the same space, the Pharisees were so pre-occupied with the deviation of Jesus' disciples from religious traditions, they were missing out on a blessing they were witnessing.

I, too, am prone to focus on church rituals, traditions and habits; the comfort of routine and head knowledge. But being

too comfortable breeds complacency. Before I know it, I am moving through the motions, unphased by the love of God and the calling of Jesus over my life. And truthfully, in these times, my heart and spirit is like an old wineskin, not ready to receive what God has in store and certainly not ready to shift from the kingdom of religion to the kingdom of

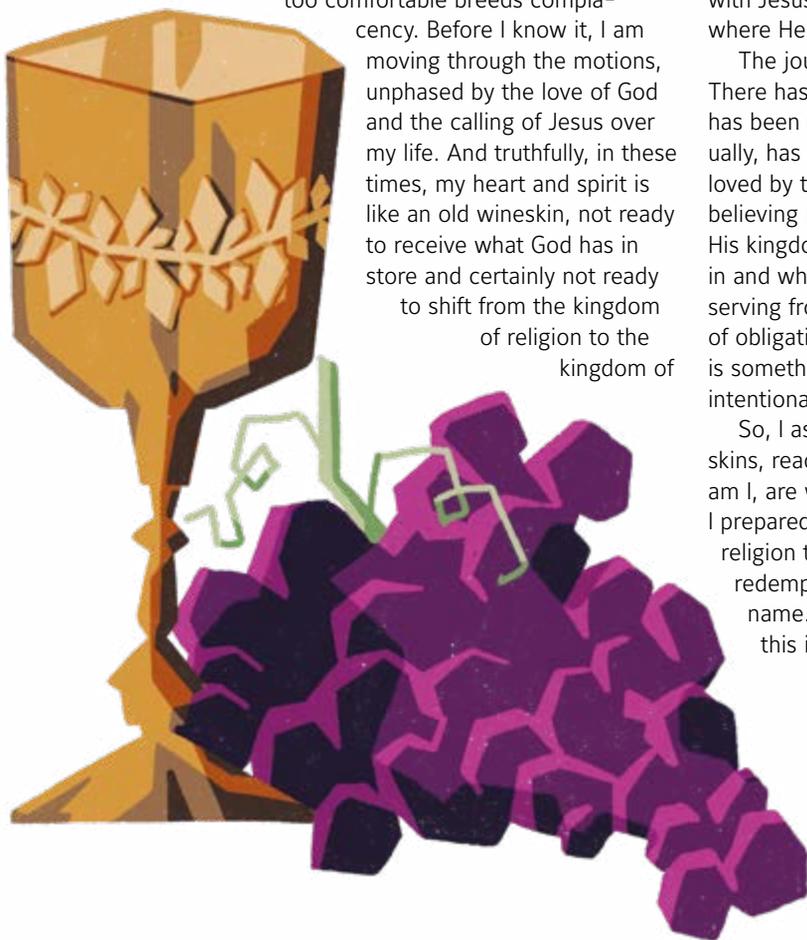
heaven. As a church (the collective body of believers), we too can be like the Pharisees, prioritising head knowledge and placing our emphasis on religious traditions. As a result, we may miss out on what God has in store for us because we haven't fully surrendered ourselves and are oblivious to His calling. The shift from head knowledge to heart surrender tells us that we understand the magnitude of what Jesus has done for us. It reframes our perspective on life, faith and church and repositions us to be more aligned with Christ, His kingdom and the great commission. That shift, being sold out fully to Christ and allowing ourselves to be led wholeheartedly by the Spirit, changes everything.

Secondly, the kingdom of heaven wants to make us new. Since the fall of mankind, God has been continually calling us back to Him. His incredible love for us is shown so vividly through every Bible story and His promises are abundant. The thing is, He doesn't just want to restore us but make us new. God tells us to forget the former things and not dwell on the past, for He is doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:18,19), and goes on to say that if we are in Christ, a new creation has come: the old has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). He is working in our lives; He is making us a new creation.

I want to be made new, like a new wineskin. I want to be stretched for His kingdom, to have my faith deepened and grown, and to experience a pivotal shift where my faith moves from head to heart. I want to be filled with the love of God, the heart of Jesus and the zeal of the Spirit. I no longer want to be filled with the former things of my life. I want to be so aligned with Jesus that I am able to be led by the Spirit and to move where He sends.

The journey post-25 has been challenging and exhilarating. There has been a lot of learning and unlearning, and at times it has been uncomfortable. But the growth, personally and spiritually, has been worth it. Knowing and believing I am deeply loved by the Most-High makes all the difference. Knowing and believing He has made me worthy and given me a purpose for His kingdom, makes all the difference. Knowing who I believe in and what I believe in makes all the difference. And honestly, serving from a place of love and gratitude rather than a place of obligation and routine has been genuinely refreshing. There is something about post-25 life that has a different kind of intentionality, and that shift has made all the difference.

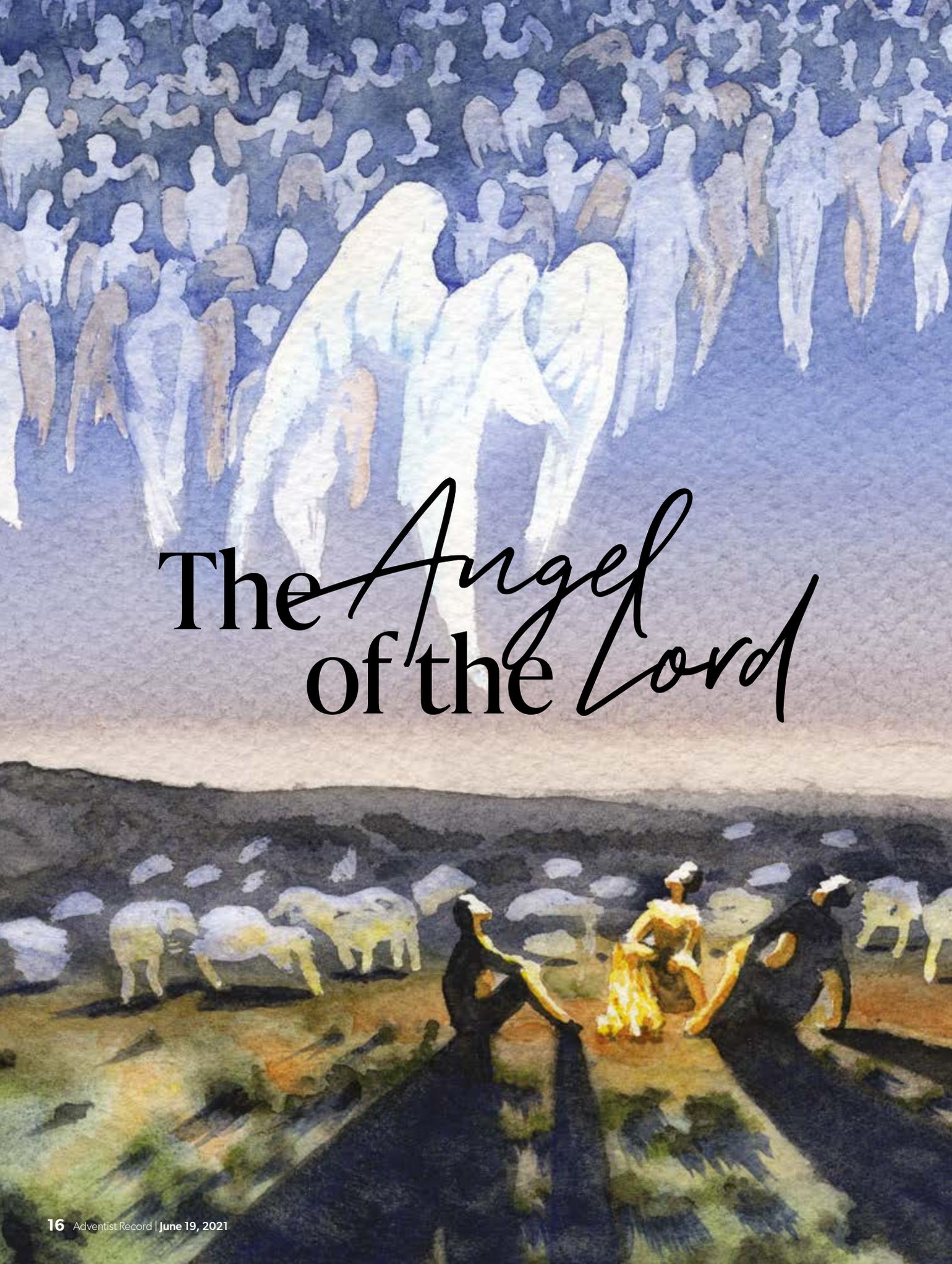
So, I ask the question again. Am I, are we, like new wineskins, ready to receive the new wine and be stretched? Or am I, are we, like old wineskins, stretched out and brittle? Am I prepared to be a part of the shift from head to heart, from religion to Jesus? The kingdom of heaven is a kingdom of redemption, restoration and old being made new in Jesus' name. This is the kingdom of heaven that I believe in. And this is the kingdom of heaven that I want to be a part of.



**Valerie Donat**

Valerie is an environmental scientist and attends Parramatta Church (NSW).





# The Angel of the Lord

**W**henever the name “angel” is mentioned, does this refer only to one of the created heavenly beings we picture in our minds; one of God’s messengers sent to this world to carry out His will? Or could it refer to someone else?

This article does not purport to be exhaustive on this subject but will offer some explanations that should satisfy a reasonable person who is searching for the truth on this.

While the word angel appears in the Bible approximately 200 times, for the purpose of this article we shall focus on the phrase, “the angel of the Lord”, “Angel of the Lord” or even “an angel of the Lord”.

The first time the phrase “the Angel of the Lord” appears in Scripture is when the angel of the Lord encounters Hagar in the wilderness in Genesis 16. The text recalls that she “gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me’” (Genesis 16:13).

The next significant encounter is at the time when Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, at God’s command. At this critical moment, verse 11 of Genesis 22 records, “But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ to which Abraham replied, ‘Here I am’. The Angel of the Lord went on to say, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son (i.e. of promise) *from Me*” (italics added). Here we see that a divine being identifies Himself with “the Angel of the Lord”.

Another instance where “the Angel of the Lord” is clearly seen to be a member of the Godhead is found in Genesis 31:11-13. Here, Jacob introduces “the Angel of God” in his statement to Rachel and Leah, quoting the One who spoke to him, who goes on to say just two verses later, “I am the God of Bethel where you anointed the pillar.”

It is Jacob again in Genesis 48:16 in his final blessing to Joseph who says, “The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil.” While there is a secular sense in which the word redeemed is used, the “redemption” that Jacob refers to is obviously more than what a human could provide.

The next occasion when the phrase “the Angel of the Lord” is used is reported in Exodus 3, when Moses was shepherding Jethro’s flock near the mountain known as Horeb, i.e. Sinai. Verse two states, “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire.” There is an ambiguity here as to who is referred to until we read verse four: “So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him . . .” (Exodus 3:2-22). This clearly indicates the “Angel of the Lord” as one of the divine beings.

Fast forward now to the exodus of Israel from Egypt where, in providing divine guidance for God’s people, we read in Exodus 14:19, “And the Angel of God who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.” This “Angel” is clarified in a previous

passage, chapter 13, verse 21: “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.”

A little later in the Exodus record we find that God the Father, in speaking to Moses, states in chapter 23, and from verse 20: “Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way . . . Beware of Him and obey his voice . . . for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.” As it is only God’s prerogative to forgive sins, the Father appears to be referring to the angel as a member of the Godhead. A little later, just prior to moving the encampment from Sinai, God assured Moses, “Behold My Angel shall go before you” and at the same time He promised punishment for those who had sinned in bowing to the golden calf.

In the experience of Balaam with the princes of Moab who bribed him to curse Israel, God clearly told His wayward prophet that, “Only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do” (Numbers 22:20). So when Balaam, contrary to God’s instruction, had mounted his donkey and was on his way to curse Israel (as the princes of Moab had hoped), the Angel of the Lord confronted him along the way (verses 22,24,27,31,32,34) and in reiterating the instruction Balaam had already received, said, “only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak” (verse 35). This verse is thus linked with verse 20, clearly showing that the Angel of the Lord is a member of the Godhead.

Centuries later we find another reference to “the Angel of the Lord”, this time in Zechariah 3:1-5: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.” This statement is followed in the very next verse that states: “And the Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan!’” So we see here that “the Lord” is equated with “the Angel of the Lord”. Three more references are made to “the Angel of the Lord” in this chapter.

Finally, Stephen, in his magnificent statement to the religious leaders before he was stoned to death, refers to Moses meeting God when he says, “And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.”

So while we find that God’s “regular army of angels” are one of the major ways God communicates with us and achieves His will in the great plan of salvation for the human race, there are very special times when “the Angel of the Lord”—i.e. Christ the Saviour—is the One who is involved. How honoured we should be that all heaven, in fact, is expending their energies to achieve our salvation, and that Christ, the “captain of their salvation” (Hebrews 2:10, KJV), has been among us. Yes, the Word of God to us, through an angel or through the Angel, should be very precious to us.

**William Ackland**

Retired in Cooranbong (NSW)  
and has written six books.



## Mushroom san choy bau

**A traditional dish with a plant-based twist. High in iron and fibre and a source of calcium, this unique combination of Asian flavours is the perfect recipe for entertaining.**

### Ingredients

- 1 iceberg lettuce, leaves separated
- 2 tbs tamari or soy sauce, salt reduced
- 1 tbs mushroom oyster sauce (vegetarian)
- 2 tbs tomato sauce
- 1 tbs peanut oil
- 350g button mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, grated
- 3 green onions, sliced diagonally
- ½ yellow capsicum, deseeded and diced
- 125g canned water chestnuts, sliced
- 200g firm tofu, drained and diced into ½ cm squares

### Method

1. Place lettuce in a large bowl of iced cold water for 5 minutes. Drain lettuce leaves. Pat dry with paper towel. Place in a loose plastic bag and refrigerate until required. Combine tamari, mushroom oyster sauce and tomato sauce in a jug. Set aside.
2. Heat oil in a wok over high heat. Add mushrooms. Stir-fry for 2–3 minutes until just tender. Add carrot, green onions, capsicum and water chestnuts. Stir-fry for 2 minutes or until hot. Add sauce mixture and tofu. Toss until well combined and tofu is hot.
3. Place lettuce cups on a serving platter. Spoon mushroom mixture into lettuce cups and serve immediately. Serves 4.

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## Vitamin D: Are you *getting enough?*

Vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, is famous for its role in helping our bodies absorb calcium to keep our bones strong and reduce the risk of osteoporosis. But vitamin D plays a bigger role in keeping us healthy.



Vitamin D helps support a strong immune system, maintain muscle strength, and keeps our teeth and skin healthy. It may even have a role in reducing the risk of dementia and depression. Australians get about 90 per cent of their vitamin D requirements from the sunlight on their skin, and 10 per cent from the food they eat.

### Can we get enough vitamin D in winter?

Spending a lot of time indoors or being housebound is a risk factor for low vitamin D. Australian data on vitamin D levels shows that in summer 14 per cent of Australians are low in vitamin D, while in winter this increases to 36 per cent, and even higher among Australian women (more than 50 per cent). Spending time outside really is important. As well as being good for our mental wellbeing, it helps restore levels of vitamin D and whether it's a cuppa on the balcony, some gardening or exercising outside—any time in the sunshine counts.

### Can we get vitamin D from food?

You can get vitamin D in small amounts from foods including eggs and mushrooms exposed to sunlight. Like our skin, mushrooms convert the sunlight they absorb into vitamin D, so placing mushrooms in the sun can increase the amount of vitamin D they contain.

Eating a 100g serve of mushrooms that has been exposed to an hour of sunshine, will provide your daily dietary vitamin D needs. There are also several foods that have been fortified with vitamin D including soy milks, almond milks and some margarines and milk.



# Conversations

## Women in ministry

*Re "AUC addresses women in ministry question at executive committee" (May 31, online):*

Allowing us to do our work (without unnecessarily taking up time of the conference administration and a male colleague each time we want to ordain someone) will be much appreciated.

**Abigail Figueroa, Facebook**

All these statements sound great on paper but most of these "initiatives" are virtue signalling they are just populist political lip service. The AUC could ordain women tomorrow if they just man'd up. The GC is not going to amend policy "to permit commissioned ministers to ordain elders and deacons"; who are the AUC kidding? The Germans showed us the way, we should follow . . . I prefer the German resolution: "Decided: that the Seventh-day Adventist Church, North German Union, will ordain men and women to the worldwide office of pastor with immediate effect."

**Jason Smith, Facebook**

Let's pray that the ordination of deacons and elders is allowed. It makes no sense to give them the task of pastoral ministry and withhold this, preventing them from doing their work.

**Benjamin Rea, Facebook**

## Navigating worship styles

*Re "Worship through song: could we do better?" (Adventist Record, May 15):*

Very interesting article. As a worship coordinator I always try to have a mix of different songs/styles to cater for a variety of tastes but no matter what I do there seems to always be grumbles from someone . . . I came across a church music group (CityAlight) a while ago who compose and produce worship songs. I found their music such a good balance between new/modern and familiar/easy to sing. A great middle ground for when you have a congregation of members who want new and modern music but also members who want only hymns. Highly recommend!

**Claire Taylor, Facebook**

One of my pet peeves is that some of the songs used are too high pitched for the average person to sing comfortably . . . Another thing I struggle with is when the team haven't been in contact with whoever is preaching that week and found out what they are speaking about, so they pick songs that they like. I believe that the music needs to fit in with the message. If you have songs that fit with the message then it helps the message to stick.

**Marcelle Kleinmeulman, Facebook**

## Record Live comments

### Should Adventists play video games? (May 26 livestream):

The danger here lurks in the fact that what is being said for video games can also be said about other entertainment mediums. Discussions can thus centre on the level of productivity video games can add to the individual and if the reasoning for certain games can also include personal development instead of pure entertainment.

**Marika Yalimawai Jnr**

Jesus would go where the people are. The global video game market outstripped the global film industry years ago. Adventists are just taking a long time to wake up to the potential in this space.

**Shelley Poole**

TV can be good or bad. Games can be good or bad. Playing sport can be good or bad. Vegetarian food can be good or bad. Church can be good or a bad influence.

**Robin Hill**

As a former satanist I know how much Satan uses games, even "harmless games" . . . SimCity building game was good, I like those type, but they are addictive and before you know it you have been on there for many hours.

**Daniel Jones**



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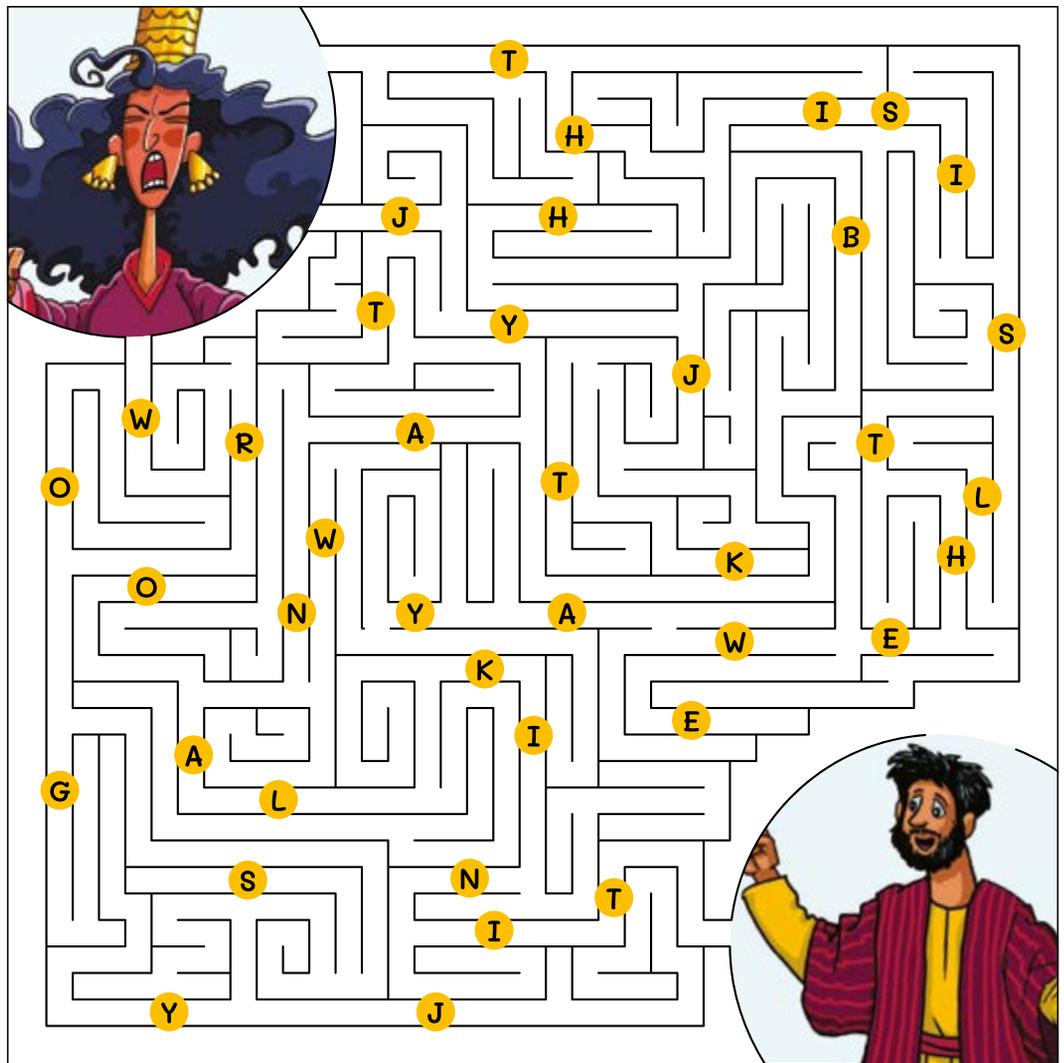


## GOD'S GENTLE WHISPER

# RUN AWAY MAZE

Jezebel is trying to kill Elijah. Elijah is afraid and runs for his life for 40 days. Tired and discouraged, he arrives at Mount Horeb, and goes into a cave to rest and hide. God says to him, **“What are you doing here, Elijah?”** God tells Elijah to go stand on the mountain, and He will pass by. There is a powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire, but Elijah isn't moved by any of these.

Finally God speaks in a gentle whisper and tells Elijah to go back where he came from and continue to work for Him. **Even though Elijah wasn't feeling good about himself, he listened and did what God asked him.**



COLLECT THE LETTERS ALONG THE WAY AND PLACE THEM IN THE BLANKS.

“Your ears will hear a voice . . . saying, ‘ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ ’” (Isaiah 30:21).

## Obituaries

**BAXTER**, Iris Elaine Mary (nee Walker), born 4.3.1936 in Euroa, Vic; died 4.3.21 in Plantagenet Hospital, Mt Barker, WA. On 27.7.1957 she married Doug. She was predeceased by her son, Paul in 2000. She is survived by her husband (Mt Barker); son, Anthony (Gosnells); and daughter, Sandra (Perth). Iris had many adopted grandchildren whom she loved as her own. She was a devoted member of the Mt Barker church, serving alongside her husband for more than 45 years as church clerk, assistant treasurer and many other roles. Iris will be remembered as a gentle, loving soul who cared for her family and friends; a generous listener, sharing wisdom when asked.

Geoffrey Plewright



**GIVNEY**, Raymond Leslie, born 30.4.1933 in Brisbane, Qld; died 9.5.21 in Townsville. On 26.5.1956 he married

Shirley Baker, who predeceased him on 20.9.17. He is survived by his son, Paul and Jenny; daughter, Shirray Knight; grandchildren, Joshua and Sarah and Joe; and great-grandchildren, Callum, Jeremiah and Noah. Ray touched the hearts and lives of many over the years, sharing his love for his greatest Friend Jesus Christ. He had the passion to share the gospel by giving Bible studies and through the literature evangelism ministry.

Alfredo Campos



**HICKS**, Heather (nee Archibald), born 10.3.1928 in Christchurch, NZ; died 17.3.21 in Drouin, Vic.

Heather was a loved and passionate part of our church and community. She was baptised in 2019 at the Warragul church at the age of 91. She loved the Advent message and was very good friends with Beryl Morris, who also tragically passed away the following day in a vehicle accident in Drouin.

Benjamin Townson



**THOMSON**, William Owen, born 16.9.1988; died 24.4.21 at Townsville Base

Hospital Palliative Care, Qld after being diagnosed with brain cancer in March 2020. William is survived by his parents, Owen, and Anne; brother, Kelly; and sister, Julie. William moved to Townsville in 2012 and was part of the Aitkenvale church family. Testimonies at Will's memorial service showed that Will was quick to befriend new people who came to church. Many said Will was the first to speak to them and he maintained a friendship with them afterwards. William died a young man but will live for eternity when Jesus comes again.

Dana Howard

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### NOTICE OF AUC SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular constituency meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Australian Union Conference, will be convened from August 29 to September 1, 2021 in Adelaide, South Australia, at the Intercontinental Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide. The business of this constituency meeting will be in accordance with the constitution. Such business will include reports, election of leadership and proposed changes to the constitution. The constituency meeting will commence at 7pm on Sunday, August 29, 2021. Registration will be required prior to the commencement time.



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**Brighter**  
FUTURE

Your gift before June 30 could be multiplied 5X to help even more vulnerable people like Wilson overcome hardship and look forward to a brighter future.

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