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A loved dog and a lost ring

Praying for the little
things ¹⁶

Tongan volcano survivors
share their experience ¹⁰

**Inside Front-
Gianina Badea
ADRA-will be here
by 10 am Monday.
She is sending it
straight to Jarrod.**



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hot cross buns in the shops already?

Jarrod Stackelroth
Editor

“

If we divide everything up as church and secular we risk alienating and othering those who disagree with us.

There are two types of people in the world. Those that get annoyed about hot cross buns appearing in shops on Boxing Day and those that absolutely love it. And the passions run high. If you mention seeing the buns in question, you'll quickly find out what type of person you're dealing with. You'll hear all about the evils of capitalism (or sultanas) and the commercialisation of sacred holidays. Or you'll hear about how delicious the buns are, how they should be available all year 'round. Either way you'll find out very quickly where the person being questioned stands.

As you're reading this, you might be nodding along in agreement. You've noticed the trend, heard the arguments. You may have already put yourself in one camp or the other. Perhaps you've bought the buns for some cheeky early indulgence. And so the world is increasingly polarised. We sense it more each day, passionate loud defences of the buns or calls for their removal (or at least a clearly defined selling time). People are divided into two camps. . . or are they?

Perhaps it's more of a spectrum.

Some people feel guilty buying the buns early . . . but do it anyway. Some people make all their food at home. Some are gluten free and can't partake of the traditional variety or perhaps have to seek out that particular product sans gluten. Among the positive, pro-bun folk, some traditionalists swear by the "proper" version, complete with raisins and spice. Others like to dabble in apple and cinnamon, choc chips or other exotic additions but can't abide raisins in bread. . . or anything. On the flipside, I'm sure sure you could find someone willing to explain to you the pagan origins of the buns, the super-market chain, currency and the Easter. A bun enthusiast will be able to tell you which brand are the best, when they're freshest and how to prepare them. They will wax lyrical on the best they've tasted. Perhaps you come from a culture or a country where they aren't even a thing. (Are they sold in Nuie or Tuvalu? I have no idea but I'm willing to be sent to find out.) Unfortunately, some can't afford luxuries like hot cross buns.

You get the picture. At this point we could get to the place where we said that it doesn't matter. Hot Cross Buns are quite inconsequential. True, but I'm trying to demonstrate that it's very easy to tell a story that dismisses the nuance, the reasoning, and the personhood at the centre of a broad opinion. The tale of two tastes is a simple narrative to tell. But it doesn't tell the whole story. Now before you accuse me of post-modern dismissal of absolute truth or you think my parable of the buns is embracing some new ideal equality, let me put your mind at ease. Not all opinions are equal, hot cross buns are the best.

But that's not my point either. Wherever you fall on the spectrum it doesn't matter. You know that. It's a trivial debate. What matters is that you the gluten-free mum or bun-loving grandparent, the chocolate chip child or the fruit-filled father, you're all human. Made in the image of God. That image in each and every one of us, is to be respected and cherished. Unfortunately, linear thinking is dangerous. If I reject you because of your hot cross preferences, then I'm painting you as a perspective not a person. If we divide everything up as church and secular we risk alienating and othering those who disagree with us. Those who Jesus came to restore just as much as He hoped to restore us. The good news is for everyone.

The world we live in is seemingly becoming more and more polarised. We're seeing it in the broader community as much as we're seeing it in the church.

So while we've still got more than a month to go until Easter, this is your permission to go out and enjoy some early hot cross buns. . . or not, up to you.



I learnt "The Promise" very early in life.

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Connie Toga is the first Indigenous female commissioned in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Historic commissioning held at MC graduation

📍 Karragullen, Western Australia | AUC/Mamarapha College

Mamarapha College celebrated their graduation late last year at Livingston Adventist Church, WA, and saw 15 students graduate with an array of certificates, diplomas, and advanced diplomas, and 12 students receive progression awards.

The weekend also saw a baptism and the commissioning of Connie Toga, a Mamarapha College pastoral ministry graduate and thought to be the first Indigenous female commissioned in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The college has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 interruptions and borders closures over the past two years. In 2020 they were only able to conduct one of the 11 scheduled classes and although in 2021 face-to-face classes could be conducted again, the college experienced a substantial decrease in student numbers.

"Despite these negative impacts it was nice that we were able to celebrate graduation and several achievements to finish the year," said Mamarapha College principal, Pastor David Garrard.

The theme for graduation keynote was God's calling delivered by Pastor Darren Garlett, Australian Union Conference (AUC) ATSIM Director.

One of the graduates, Susan Doolan, lives in Aputula community in the remote region of the Finke, NT. She is

the first person from that area and wider remote areas of NT and SA to receive a Diploma of Indigenous Ministries. Ms Doolan has a special ministry in the local school and teaches the children about Jesus through drama and music.

Soani Vosalevu, achieved the highest qualification offered at Mamarapha College, an advanced diploma of Indigenous pastoral ministry. Soani has been called by the Northern Australian Conference to commence an internship in Darwin.

Another highlight was the baptism of Florence Williams on graduation morning. "She is a Year 1 student who comes from Wujal Wujal community in far north Queensland just south of Cooktown and loves to share Jesus with her family and friends," said Pastor Garrard.

The historic commissioning of Ms Toga was attended by WA Conference president, Pastor Steve Goods and AUC leaders, who joined via Zoom including, president Terry Johnson, secretary Michael Worker, associate ministerial secretaries Lyndelle Peterson and Brendan Pratt. Several Victorian pastors who were instrumental in Connie's internship process also joined via Zoom.

The commissioning was a significant event for Mamarapha College as Ms Toga began her pastoral journal at Mamarapha and has since returned to the college as the ministry coordinator.



Pastor Linray Tutuo, Meri Vuloalola and Pastor Uili Tino at the book launch.

TPUM launches first devotional book

📍 Suva, Fiji | John Tausere

The Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) launched its first devotional book on February 1. There has been much anticipation and excitement from church members around the Pacific who have contributed devotional stories for the different days of the year.

After the contributing writers sent in their devotional stories and testimonies, the project was sent to various editors around the South Pacific Division and then on to Signs Publishing in Warburton (Victoria) for final compilation, printing and distribution.

TPUM family life director, Loeth Worwor, offered a dedicatory prayer over

the boxes of books before they were shared with staff for distribution.

TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga was excited to receive the books. "This is a project that will enrich our family worship as families start their day with spiritual thoughts from someone's experience in the Pacific," he said.

He invited each family around the Pacific to buy a copy for themselves and another copy for a family they are praying for and reaching out to.

Copies are available at local missions and Adventist Book Centre shops throughout TPUM. They can also be ordered on the ABC website.



Retired Adventist teacher Rahab Balangawi.

Retired teacher empowers adults to read in PNG

📍 Wewak, PNG | Serina Yaninen/Record staff

"Why sit in church and only listen when you can read the Bible yourself?" asked Rahab Balangawi, a retired Adventist teacher who has taken up the challenge to teach adult literacy to people who cannot read in Wewak, East Sepik Province (Papua New Guinea).

Mrs Balangawi started the adult literacy project in 2020 when she noticed that some of the people attending her local church didn't participate in Bible reading and study.

"As a teacher, I understand that people forget things when they only hear them. But if they read it and understand, it will become a part of them that later they can share with others," she said.

Initially formed by a small group of Adventists, the class grew as people from other faiths became interested and joined the class. With 26 adult students in her class—many of whom had never attended school—Mrs Balangawi found

it challenging to teach the basics of reading, such as phonics. But with much dedication and prayer, all of them can now read.

With the help of her assistant Maenda Morris, Mrs Balangawi has recently implemented basic life skills classes in her project, teaching reading on Tuesdays and basic life skills such as cooking and sewing on Thursdays.

"We teach them life skills as a way to help them earn money and provide for themselves and their families. And so far, it has been beneficial to them," said Mrs Balangawi, adding that she is grateful to the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) for their support in making this adult literacy possible.

"Reading is an essential tool in communication; thus, it is also a necessary tool in Christian witnessing as it is only through reading that we will fully understand the word of God."



Port Hedland Adventist Church (WA) elder Albert Gerry (right) leading a study group using the new resource.

ATSIM launches new illustrated Bible study presentations as free resource

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Darren Garlett/ Don Fehlberg

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) have recently launched a series of 30 PowerPoint Bible lessons in easy English, especially illustrated for indigenous Australian audiences.

Titled "The Bible says . . .", the PowerPoint series was created as an evangelism resource for indigenous communities.

"A picture tells a thousand words. These new illustrated PowerPoints will be very attractive for indigenous audiences for whom English is not their first language," said recently retired ATSIM remote area senior pastor Don Fehlberg.

The series is the end-product of several years of teamwork by ATSIM supporters. The project started with Finke (NT) Bible workers Mancel and Jubilee Dougherty, who developed the initial series. Pastor Fehlberg and his wife Eileen helped translate the original lessons into easy English, and the content was illustrated by Graham and

Dianne Weir, who have extensive experience creating illustrated PowerPoints for Pastor Mark Finley's "Search for Certainty" series.

To give the illustrations a real-life feel, Pastor Fehlberg's photos of first nation peoples were used along with artwork produced for ATSIM a few years ago by Australian Adventist artist Phil McKay.

"This is a great resource that will benefit ATSIM throughout Australia. The presentations are user-friendly, and they are effective in communicating the Bible truths," said Australian Union Conference (AUC) ATSIM director Pastor Darren Garlett.

Pastor Fehlberg highlights that even though the resource was purposefully designed with indigenous Australians in mind, it can be equally useful to give Bible studies to people who don't have English as their first language.

To request a free download link to the 30-lesson PowerPoint series, contact <gmw@westnet.com.au>.



Fulton graduation 2020. Lui Yaraeki shakes hands with Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, TPUM president.

Tributes flow for young minister killed in Vanuatu

📍 **Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu** | Jarrod Stackelroth

The life of a promising young minister has been cut short as he returned home from Sabbath activities on the island of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. Lui Yaraeki was an intern minister just starting his second year out of Fulton Adventist University College, Fiji, and was minister to the Biria, Fafarama, Surandah and Tutupa Seventh-day Adventist churches. The funeral was held February 14 at the Sarakata Adventist church, Santo.

According to reports, he was travelling on Saturday evening on his motorbike when he was struck by a drunk driver. Police detained the driver at the scene, while Mr Yaraeki was taken to the hospital but died on the way. Many ministers in the Pacific use a motorbike to travel between their churches as they often have multiple congregations to minister to.

Pastor Charlie Jimmy, president of Vanuatu Mission (VM) paid tribute to Mr Yaraeki. "He was an outstanding young potential leader whom we (Vanuatu Mission) were anticipating to become a great leader in the ministerial work force."

"Furthermore, he was very passionate, committed and highly commended by his ministerial team, local church leaders and church members as a 'Faithful Servant of God'."

His promise as a leader was a common theme among other online tributes.

"We are really sorry to lose a young, energetic, vibrant minister so early [with all his] future ahead of him. We will truly miss him," Pastor Max Senebe VM secretary shared on the VM Facebook page.

Many online tributes flowed from those who knew Mr Yaraeki from his time at Fulton where he did a practical at Newtown church, home to the expat Vanuatuan community in Fiji. "We knew him well, and he stood out as a very promising leader, and well-loved by the youth in his short time since graduating from Fulton," said former TPUM secretary Pastor Bob and his wife Anne Larsen.

Originally from Tanna, Mr Yaraeki had written two feature articles for *Adventist Record* in the past two years "The journey of the dead" and "The Kingdom banquet" part of the Living Kingdom series on Jesus' parables as well as a news update on the work going on at one of his churches.

making headlines

Flourishing

Albania's first Adventist kindergarten is thriving. Opening its doors in the capital city of Tirana in September 2018 with only seven children, the school enrollment has grown to 36 preschoolers in 2022. With only two students enrolled coming from Adventist families, staff members have a unique opportunity to share their faith.—**TED News**



Vaccine efforts awarded

Loma Linda University (LLU) faculty members recently received the Inland Empire Concerned African American Dorothy Ingram Trailblazer award for their efforts to ensure COVID-19 vaccine equity in the local community. LLU Health has led COVID-19 vaccine efforts and faculty members organised mobile vaccine clinics in vulnerable communities throughout southern California.—**ANN**

Major chronic disease

The cost of Alzheimer's disease to the Australian economy is set to nearly double in 20 years, a report by University of Canberra researchers has found. The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling found the number of Australians over 50 diagnosed with the disease is expected to increase 73 per cent by 2041.—**Canberra Times**

Finding their voice

New research from Murdoch University is helping non-verbal people with autism find their voice. The developmental disorder affects around 1 in 150 people in Australia and half of them have trouble communicating. The study is aimed at educating people in the use of augmented and alternative communication devices.—**ABC News**



Connecting

Epauto Adventist Senior Secondary School staff gathered at Gideon's Landing in Efate, Vanuatu, for a special retreat over the weekend of January 28 to 30. At the event, organised by school administration, teachers were empowered spiritually to meet the challenges of 2022. The weekend was also an opportunity for the team to get to know new teachers and their families.

—**Caroline W Tauyavu/Conch Shell**



100 and counting

Sydney Portuguese Adventist church member Corina de Castro turned 100 years old on January 25. To celebrate the remarkable milestone, the church organised a special Sabbath service on January 29, followed by lunch. Attending the Sydney Portuguese Church for the past 22 years, Mrs Castro was baptised six years ago. According to her, the secret to a long and happy life is "not to worry about small things, be happy and grateful."—**Juliana Dorneles**



Ready to be discipled

Thirty students have started their discipleship training at ARISE Australia in Kingscliff (NSW) on February 7. Run by the North NSW evangelism department since 2013 the three-month program had a two-year break due to COVID-19. Despite challenges with international borders, the six students coming from Canada, United States, Finland and Brazil made it in time for the start of the program. "God has really stepped in to make it possible for them to be here," said ARISE coordinator Lynden Parmenter.—**Kate Garriga**



Baton has big impact

Maestro! A conductor can greatly enhance teaching and learning for students in musicianship and ensemble programs, a lecturer's doctoral research shows. Aleta King studied the conductor's role as musicianship mentor through the rehearsals and performance of three recitals for choir and orchestra. Over the two years between the first and third recitals, students in the study not only reported having the skills to self-mentor but became early-career mentors to others. "And that's the whole point," said Dr King, who directs the Conservatorium of Music at Avondale University. "We mentor students until they can take the role on themselves." Aleta received her Doctor of Musical Arts (Conducting) from The University of Sydney— **Brenton Stacey**



New president's visit

New Zealand's COVID-19 red alert level did not hamper the first planned visit by Pastor Ben Martin to the two combined Samoan churches in Christchurch on Sabbath, January 29. Pastor Martin, the recently appointed president of South New Zealand Conference, challenged members about the importance of prayer (Luke 11:5-13) and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Martin's message was well received and the members pledged to uphold him and his family in prayer as he leads the Conference—**Faafetai Matai**



“Powered up”

The Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Discipleship Ministry team (DMT) enjoyed a weekend of learning and bonding during their DMT retreat from February 4 to 6. The event was held at the Bitu Wellness Retreat in Nadi, operated by 10,000 Toes ambassadors in Fiji.

The team—composed of departmental directors from youth, ministerial, family, women and children, health, education and Adsafe departments—participated in a variety of personal development sessions run by guest presenters from the TPUM and South Pacific Division (SPD).

Facilitators included TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, secretary Matthew Brown, CFO Fraser Alekevu, associate CFO Emma Dakua and SPD Ministry and Strategy director Dr Sven Östring.

On Sabbath, the group visited two local churches around Nadi, where they shared plans and available resources aligned with this year’s theme, “I will go to my Family”.

According to Mr Alekevu, the retreat was a success. “I enjoyed interacting with the team, listening, sharing ideas, and learning from each other on how to do our work as a team better. The morning walk, team building activities and the Sabbath worship outreach were the highlights for me,” he said.—**John Tausere**



Cause for celebration

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, Brisbane Adventist College (BAC) in Queensland finished 2021 on a high note with 12 students baptised in one single event on November 12, totalling 21 baptisms throughout the year. With a room filled with parents and an affirming community from four different local churches, the evening was described as a “truly wonderful celebration” by attendees who watched the students rise from the waters smiling and pumping their fists in the air. “I have been to many wonderful baptisms that have been filled with praise, love and joy, but I have never experienced a baptism with more excitement and celebration than this one. No wonder Jesus admonished us to become as little children,” said former BAC principal Leanne Entermann.—**Juliana Muniz**



Dedication service

There was much joy at the dedication service held by Navesau Adventist High School in Fiji for its year 12 and 13 students on January 29. Parents, community members and alumni came to celebrate the dedication of the students before their external exams. Among the attendees was Fiji Mission education director Anasa Vateitei who presented a message themed “Our eyes are upon you, Lord”. The celebrations culminated in the baptism of a year 12 student. After participating in Bible study classes for a long time, Sanaila Kai approached the school chaplain Pastor Leone Tubuna a week before the event expressing his wish to be baptised. Navesau school principal Josua Qalobula requested prayers for years 12 and 13 students and for Mr Kai.—**Conch Shell**

We locked arms and waded in the waters":

Tonga volcano survivors share their experience



Seventh-day Adventist teachers Kalesi Ravouvou and Gwenda Vovo were at the Tonga Mission compound when the volcano erupted and tsunami wave hit. As the rising waters flooded the compound, they made their escape. Here they share their experience:

It was around Thursday midday on January 13 that we received a tsunami warning. We were also packing at that time for we were told that we would be moving to the Beulah Adventist College compound. Hence, our stuff was everywhere.

However, the next day, around 10pm, we received the cancellation news of the tsunami. So we went to bed that night thinking all was well. The next morning we had plans to visit a church member. We were both looking forward to that visitation in the afternoon.

On January 15, the day of the Hunga Tonga Hunga-Ha'apai volcano eruption, the president of Tonga Mission, Pastor Fanueli Mataele, invited us to accompany his family to their home at Lomalinda, which is located inland. However, due to our plans, we wanted to stay and get ready for the visitation.

Around 5pm we decided to have an early dinner before the visit. During our dinner preparation, we heard the first explosion. Since the volcano had already erupted once before, we thought it was just another eruption. However, this time it was louder and was continuously erupting. Due to our location, a few steps away from the waterfront, we could clearly see the eruption taking place. The smoke that rose from the eruption travelled within seconds across the sky, reaching our home.

We ran out of the house for we felt the vibration everywhere around us. When we were outside, the volcano erupted again. It exploded three times; the ground was shaking. We could see lightning flashing as the smoke continued to be released from the volcano. We quickly walked back home due to our fear. Upon reaching our verandah, the third eruption occurred. This time it was so loud that it hurt our ears and blocked them. We were shouting but we couldn't hear each other.

We ran inside the house as quickly as we could, grabbed our backpack and ran

out to the second floor of the Mission office building. From the balcony of the president's office, we witnessed the rising sea level. It rose high above the sea wall coming inland, entering the Mission compound.

The huge waves started coming in. The waves were so strong that the gates and fence could not withstand them. The walls broke and fell. At the back of us was a creek and we were surrounded by a fence; the only way out was through the gate that was already broken from the waves where the sea was coming in.

Knowing what would happen after a volcanic eruption—that lava would be flowing, (which did not happen), and the falling of volcanic rocks and heavy ash—we decided to try to escape from where we were but thought to wait for 15 minutes. Within those 15 minutes, Pastor Fanueli was calling non-stop. He left immediately from his home, taking all possible shortcuts to reach us as there were many traffic jams in the country. Scared, panicked, we prayed and waited patiently.

But after 15 minutes of witnessing the destruction, we decided to go. We locked arms and we waded sideways in the waters against the strong current until we reached the fence. The water level was up to our chest. When a strong wave came in, it nearly carried us, but we stood firm on the grounds with arms locked, waited for it to pass, and then continued. When we reached the fence, we climbed and ran out of the compound. We continued to quickly wade in the water until we reached a place where the water stopped.

This was happening until the last ray of light. As soon as we stepped out of the water, total darkness covered Tonga. We were running in darkness till we reached the junction at the local telecommunication centre. There the cars were running, people escaping, volcanic rocks falling, hitting us, but we continued to run inland. We ran and met the water again that came up from another side of the road, but we continued running not knowing where we were running to.

We ran until we reached one of the main roads. We saw a new double-storey building that was owned by the A3Z broadcasting corporation. As soon as we reached the building the heavy ash

started to fall.

We just thank God for His protection. I think it was the owner of the building who called us in and let everyone take shelter in the building. There were other people there too taking shelter in the building and then the internet connection went off.

Pastor Fanueli arrived and took us to his home. There we were fed and spent the night. Sabbath morning came, we had our devotion and Pastor Fanueli asked if we wanted to go and see the Mission office compound. We agreed and we headed back to the compound.

When we left the compound the previous night our house was still standing and the Mission office was still intact. Along the way, we saw the destruction. Houses and everything was covered with thick ash. Everything that day was only one colour, the colour of the volcanic ash. The waterfront was badly destroyed. The footpath that we once took our walk on to and from work was broken and thrown everywhere. The big coral rocks that were used as a seawall were tossed everywhere inland. Everything was completely destroyed.

Upon our arrival at the Mission compound, we were dumbfounded and shocked by what we saw. No words exchanged, only silence was felt. Our house was destroyed. Our belongings were all destroyed. The Mission office and equipment, books and all other things were destroyed. We have never felt so homesick and discouraged. God had called us to come and serve Him in Tonga, and this is what we got?

After the eruption we have been having sleepless nights—all we can think of is going back home. But we thank God for the love, prayers and support from our families abroad and in Tonga, and that we are safe.

Kalesi Ravouvou from Fiji and Gwenda Vovo from Solomon Islands are both serving in Adventist schools in Tonga. Keep them in your prayers along with the rest of the Tongan population as they continue to recover from the disaster. This article first appeared in the Conch Shell, a newsletter produced by the Trans Pacific Union Mission Education Department.



The King's Kids celebrates 100 episodes

An Australian-produced children's show that has brought the story of Jesus into the homes of thousands of families around the world is celebrating its 100th episode.

The King's Kids celebrated the milestone with a special premiere of the 100th episode on Friday evening, February 18. Prior to the premiere, a behind-the-scenes program will give viewers an insight into what happens on set to create The King's Kids. It will feature interviews with the team and behind-the-scenes moments including "bloopers".

Notching up 100 episodes is a significant achievement for The King's Kids, which is a collaboration between Adventist Media, Abide Family Ministries and the South Pacific Division. The program was launched in 2020 to assist and minister to families during the first extended COVID-19 lockdown. Since then it has become an international hit, broadcast in more than 70 countries worldwide, filling a gap in quality Christian TV content for children.

"Reaching our 100th episode is a real 'God moment',"

said Kimberly Houliston, a director at Abide Family Ministries, which produces The King's Kids.

"This is His program created to support children and families, particularly during the stresses and challenges of navigating life during the turbulent times we live in. Despite the huge task and long hours that are required to continue producing The King's Kids, it is so worth it to be able to share Jesus with His precious children. We feel blessed to be able to do this."

According to Mrs Houliston, there have been many high-lights in producing the show over the past two years.

"Firstly, the fact that against all odds we have been able to actually create and produce the program each week," she said. "Constantly relying on God for the energy, the ideas, the technical knowledge, the team, the equipment and the funds needed."

She also expressed joy in being able to work with a team of like-minded people who are passionate about using their gifts and talents to share Jesus.

"We have a 'Give It To God' jar at the studio where we put needs, concerns and situations we don't have answers for. Time and time again, when we go back to that jar, we see how God has answered and provided exactly what was needed."

Created to go hand-in-hand with the Gracelink primary children's Sabbath school lessons, The King's Kids features puppets, balloon animals, singing, craft, storytelling, health and nature segments.

Mrs Houliston said she has been inspired by stories of how children, families, churches and schools from all around the world have been able to access and use the program to teach and support the faith journey of young children.

"Families are searching for positive Christian programs that can support them in teaching their children about Jesus and important life lessons along their journey," she said.

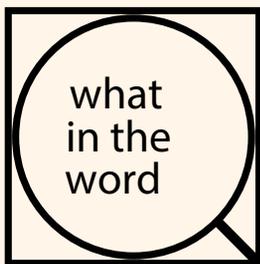
Eight series have been produced since the first episode, "Calm in the Storm", launched on March 28, 2020. Series 1 has been translated into Romanian. A Vietnamese pilot program has also been created.

"We are very much on a trust journey with God on this," Mrs Houliston reflected. "We are following His lead and seeing which doors open. There is a need for creating positive Christian programs for children and families that is greater now than ever before."

"We are considering what we can do for the next age groups up. We know our juniors and teens also need resources and support in their faith journey."

"Currently, we are also working on a special three-series program which will have more of an evangelism focus, addressing those children and families who do not yet know anything about Jesus. This will aim at teaching the plan of salvation, God's great rescue plan, in a simple way which will make sense to those who are not from a Christian background. This is being created in conjunction with Hope Channel, the General Conference and Abide Family Ministries."

Tracey Bridcutt



presented by
Avondale Seminary

fear

verb: φοβεομαι [*phobeomai*] | [fob-eh-o-mai]

What are you afraid of? Some fears are minor irritants; others reduce lives to chaos. The modern word for such fear, “phobia”, is a direct descendant of the ancient Greek verb *phobeomai* and the related noun *phobos*.

The ancient world was dominated by fear. Disease, accidents, crime, wars and disasters made life uncertain—and usually short. The “fear of death” subjected people “to lifelong slavery” (Hebrews 2:14).

Augustus’ *pax Romana*—the Roman peace—brought respite from some dangers. But it was neither absolute, nor permanent. The ancient world was really dominated by fear of the supernatural—gods, spirits, fate—all of which could be capricious and cruel. People tried to appease the gods with sacrifice, hoping for the best.

The New Testament here exhibits striking realism: it uses *phobeomai* 94 times, and *phobos* an additional 45 times. Many of the uses are straightforward—noting what people feared: kings on their thrones (Matthew 1:20); the mob in the street (Matthew 14:5; Mark 11:18, 32; Acts 5:26); harsh slave masters (Matthew 25:25; Luke 19:21); persecutors (Luke 20:19; John 9:22); storms and shipwreck (Matthew 14:30; Acts 27:17).

The supernatural was the main cause of fear in the New Testament. Healings (Matthew 9:8; Luke 5:26), and exorcisms (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35, 37) evoked fear.

(Even those healed were sometimes afraid, Mark 5:33). Likewise, Jesus’ walking on the water (John 6:19), His stilling of the storm (Luke 8:25), the transfiguration (Matthew 17:6), and the appearance of angels (Luke 1:12; 2:9) aroused fear. But Christ’s resurrection, especially evoked fear—in the guards (Matthew 28:4) and in the women who came to tend to His body (Matthew 28:8; Mark 16:8).

It is not surprising that one of Jesus’ most common refrains was “Do not be afraid”, sometimes as part of a general exhortation (Matthew 10:26, 31; Mark 5:10; 12:7; Luke 12:4). At other times, it was a response to specific fears aroused His miraculous acts (Matthew 17:7; 28:10; John 6:20). Those in need of his help were encouraged not to be afraid (Mark 5:36). But the opposite of fear was not “bravery” but “faith” (Luke 8:40).

There is an irony in the text: the same Jesus, who calms his disciples fears by reassuring them, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32) also urges them to “fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Salvation is sure—beyond all fear!—as long as we let Jesus lead, but to reject Him means that judgment is certain and fear is warranted.

Although there is no fear in love (1 John 4:18), Christian wives are to “fear” their husbands (Ephesians 5:33) and this fear may win their pagan husbands to

Christ (1 Peter 3:2)! Here “fear” has the sense of “respect” (Romans 13:7).

Christians know the “fear of God” (2 Corinthians 5:11); bring their holiness to completion in this fear (2 Cor 7.1); submit to one another “in the fear of Christ” (Ephesians 5:21) and to show mercy “with fear” (Jude 23). They are exhorted to “fear God” (Revelation 14:7). To fear God is a good thing (Acts 10:35; Colossians 3:22) and to not fear God is a bad thing (Luke 18:2, 4; Romans 3:18). The meaning here is not “to be afraid” because such fear is directly linked with “the comfort of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 9:31). This “fear” comes from realising the greatness of God, the incomprehensible distance between Him and His creation, bridged only because He has drawn near to us. God is not to be casually used and then neglected. Rather He desires a relationship with us. To “fear God” means to continue to remember who He is: The Almighty—even though He loves us with unimaginably costly love.

So, what are you afraid of? Whatever it might be, God is beyond it and above it! Know him—“fear him”—and all other fears are given their true perspective.

Dr David Thiele

conjoint senior lecturer of
the Avondale University
theological seminary.



Left behind:

the suicide survivors perspective

My first confrontation with suicide was when I was the head assistant dean in the dorms at Avondale College. The Dean of Men sat down beside me in morning worship and quietly asked, “Remember Johnny*?” I nodded. He had left part-way through that year to go home.

“Well”, continued the Dean, “last night he drove his car up into the hills and ended his life.”

I immediately reflected on what difference we might have made if we had been aware of his depression. Could we have changed the course of his decision? Then came the soul-wrenching thought . . . What happens to him and his eternal destiny?

Almost 20 years later came another question. “David, what will I say to my brother? What can I say at the funeral? There is no hope beyond the grave for his son. He took his own life.” The agonised question came from a grieving pastor. Then the same question from a grieving school staff member following the tragic action of a student in Year 8. The same question from a distraught spouse.

What do we believe about suicide? What does the Bible

teach? Where did the common Christian acceptance that suicide is a mortal sin come from? Is it really Biblical?

Suicide is seen as a self-inflicted, intentional death¹. One of the best Christian books on suicide was written by Dr Lloyd and Gwendolyn Carr in response to their daughter-in-law’s suicide just after she turned 30. The prevailing attitude they encountered in the Christian community was that real Christians do not commit suicide. *The Fierce Goodbye: Hope in the Wake of Suicide*, gives a biblical and historical perspective to the apparent truism that is prevalent in the Christian community, and also within Adventism.

In the early Christian Church, after AD 100, there developed a theology of martyrdom that upheld that true discipleship was a martyr’s death. It was so strong that a Roman governor told the Christians “if they wanted to die, they should go and cast themselves over the cliff, rather than ‘keep troubling the magistrates to execute them’.”²

This is the background to Augustine’s appeal (AD 415) to the command “Thou shalt not kill” as expressly forbidding suicide. This was an attempt by the Church to remove the martyr

theology. Aquinas, in the thirteenth century, reinforced this with three key arguments from non-Biblical sources:

1. It was a denial of the self-love for life inherent in every being (Josephus).

2. It was the right of the state to deny suicide privileges (Aristotle).

3. Since life is God-given, only God can take it back (Josephus).³

Thus the Church ruled that suicide was a mortal sin and a person committing suicide could not be buried within the normal church cemetery and would not be in heaven. This has permeated Christendom ever since.

Suicide is a growing concern. A 30 per cent increase in suicide rates in this millennium in the United States from 2000 to 2016, now the tenth leading cause of death there.⁴ For the college age student: 15–24 year bracket—it is the second leading cause of death in the United States, with that of girls doubling in the last decade.⁵ In Australia the statistics are similar with one sobering statistic standing out—suicide is the leading cause of death for 15–44 year olds.⁶

Perhaps surprisingly, it appears that a growing awareness of the need for support during lock downs has held suicide at normal rates, at least in Australia.⁷ The data released by the three most populated states, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales provide no evidence of any increase relative to previous years, up to September, 2021.⁸

However, anecdotal and emerging statistics in America show a troubling increase, with at least 25 per cent of young people indicating they have contemplated suicide since the COVID pandemic, impacted by lockdowns and restrictions.⁹ A fascinating insight on the effect of isolation and lock-down is highlighted with the following: "According to a meta-analysis co-authored by Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, lack of social connection heightens health risks as much as smoking three-quarters of a pack of cigarettes a day . . . every day."¹⁰

Carol Graham generalised from her analysis that poorer, more vulnerable countries and communities were more susceptible to emotional trauma and the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She noted a comment by Karen Deep Singh: "Lockdowns resulted in millions of more Indians entering poverty and exacerbated one of the highest suicide rates in the world"¹¹. This article was in October, 2020. In the current acute pandemic stress in India—it will be horrendous to finally review the statistics as they are collated.

The Bible records six examples of suicides, all of which suggest that "death with honour" is preferable to either torture or public humiliation.¹² It is treated in the various accounts as simply another death with no moral judgement. They give no sense that it is a sin. The six examples are Abimelek (Judges 9), Samson (Judges 16), King Saul (1 Samuel 31), Ahithophel (2 Samuel 17), Zimri (1 Kings 16) and Judas (Matthew 27). Where possible in these examples they were buried in the family tomb.

Come back to the example of Samson in Judges 16. He

chose to take his life and take out many of his enemies with him. But Hebrews 11:32 records the name of Samson in the honour roll of the faith heroes. That is incredible comfort to those who are suicide survivors—having lost a loved one to suicide.

In many cases, people contemplating suicide are depressed, have a chemical imbalance and are not in their right minds. Rather than the Church having the power to determine one's eternal destiny, the question that Abraham asked God in Genesis 18:25 in relation to the pending judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah is so pertinent, "Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Leave it to God.

As Carr concluded, while there is not valid Biblical grounds for the churches condemnation of suicide, we do not encourage the act. "Christians can and do take their own lives, but even in this situation, God's grace is sufficient."¹³

*Name has been changed to protect identity

1. Davidson in James T Clemons, ed. *Perspectives on Suicide* (Westminster, Kentucky: John Knox Press, 1990), 11.

2. G Lloyd and Gwendolyn C Carr, *The Fierce Goodbye: Hope in the Wake of Suicide* (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1990), 96

3. Ibid, 77

4. <apa.org/monitor/2019/01/numbers>.

5. <verywellmind.com/college-and-teen-suicide-statistics-3570768>.

6. <aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/suicide-and-intentional-self-harm>.

7. <aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/covid-19>.

8. <aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/suspected-deaths-by-suicide/data-from-suicide-registers>.

9. <washingtonpost.com/health/2020/11/23/covid-pandemic-rise-suicides/>.

10. Rebecca Doigin, The Impact of COVID-19 on Suicide Rates: <www.psychom.net/covid-19-suicide-rates>.

11. Carol Graham, "The human costs of the pandemic is time to prioritize well being": (November 17, 2020) <brookings.edu/research/the-human-costs-of-the-pandemic-is-it-time-to-prioritize-well-being/>.

12. Carr, 55

13. Ibid, 97

To learn more about depression and suicide, visit Beyond Blue at <beyondblue.org.au>. Lifeline on 13 11 14 (AU), 0800 543 354 (NZ), 1543 (Fiji), 3260011 (PNG) or Lifeline's e

David McClintock
Education director, South Pacific
Division.

A loved dog and a lost ring

I sat quietly, listening to what for me, was one of the saddest comments I had heard for a long time.

"I don't believe in intercessory prayer," she said.

Her face was marked with deep lines and she looked years older than she was. Although she was not my superior, she did hold a position higher than me within the church. We had been discussing a problem that needed a positive solution—and sooner rather than later. I had suggested that we pray for God to intervene and take charge of the situation.

"I really don't believe in intercessory prayer," she repeated, somewhat emphatically this time. Perhaps it was the shocked look on my face or my silence that had led her to repeat the statement. "I've tried it and it doesn't work," she added.

"Did you ask for something specific?" I ventured.

"Yes, and I told you, it doesn't work." Her face was now hard and I moved the conversation back to the original discussion.

This conversation has stayed with me a long time; not just because it was an emotionally charged moment but because it presented a sadly inaccurate picture of our omniscient and omnipotent God.

Jesus promises, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (Luke 11:9) So often we forget to ask. "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

I have taken these promises to mean what they say and there have been some faith-inspiring results.

Years ago my ten-year old dog, Fluffy, fell ill and was in considerable pain. A visit to the vet, a diagnosis of severe pancreatitis and the word 'euthanise' had me in tears. Gently the vet moved her across to his side of the stainless-steel table.

"It would be better to do it now. She's in pain," he

prompted.

"I know, I know," I choked out, "but I have to get used to the idea and my mum has to say goodbye to her as well." I slid her back towards me.

My mum was not well and I thought that if the dog were to be put down then my mum's recovery would be hampered. I took Fluffy home and mum and I prayed over her that she not be in pain and that she would be healed.

I then did everything humanly possible to "help". Fluffy was allowed to sleep inside—in mum's bedroom: two patients, one location. Her history of dietary indiscretion (a medical term meaning your dog will eat anything) became "history" and I fed her a low-fat diet and Vitamin B12. Anyone who has ever had to feed tablets to a dog that does not want them, will understand how I struggled. We prayed. And we prayed.

Fluffy, an inconsequential bitzer of a dog, was given seven extra years by the Creator of the Universe. She died quietly in her sleep at a time when both mum and I were better able to cope. Thank you God.

So, now to the lost ring . . .

It is about 10pm and "cool" enough at 30 degrees to walk the two blocks to the corner store to buy some groceries. When I leave the apartment, I wear several rings. The emerald and diamond ring usually goes on my right ring finger but the desert heat has made my fingers swell up so that ring goes on my pinky. I take my time shopping as it is air-conditioned and I take my time walking back as the footpath is quite pitted, the bags heavy and the heat enervating. By the time I reach home I am glowing with perspiration. It is only after I have unpacked all the groceries and put the single-use carry bags in the bin that I notice the emerald ring is gone.

I search the kitchen, including the fridge, cupboards and bin, out to the front door, the hallway, the lift, the foyer. I speak to the concierge—nothing. I am now frantic.

I retrace my steps to the store, hopelessly looking on the dark uneven streets for the tiniest gleam of gold. I stop. I pray.

Seeing people pray out in the street in a Muslim country is not unusual. I don't feel out of place, I feel a sense of calm. God has this under control. I tell Him I understand the ring is not a matter of life and death; it is not an heirloom but it was expensive. If it is gone, it is gone. I will not replace it. I am at peace with whatever God decides.

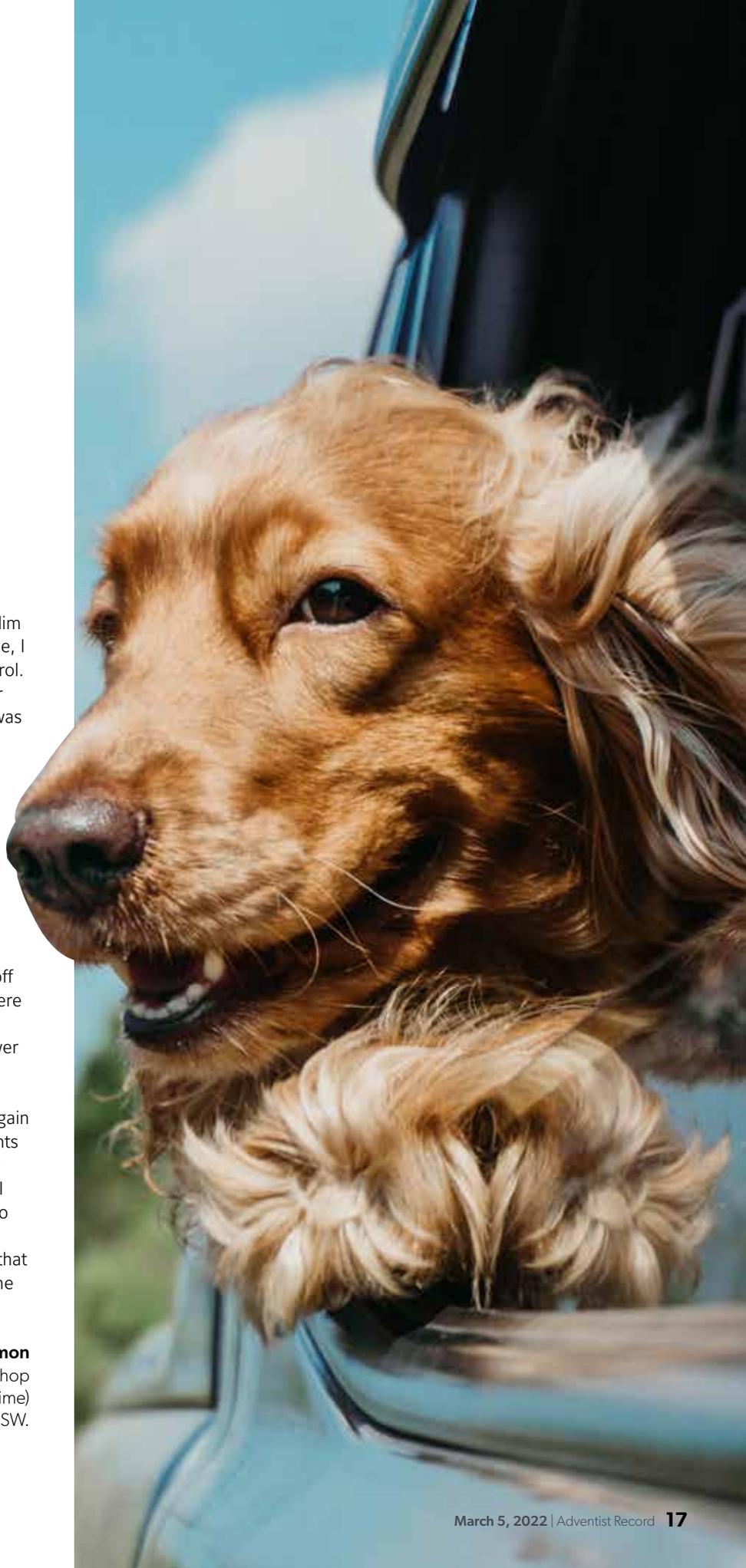
I walk home content but now I will do everything humanly possible to help. I search the kitchen, including the fridge, cupboards and bin. I am looking in the last of the carry bags when I see a gold glint. The ring is caught in the fold at the bottom of the bag. I do not know when it fell there but I do know that it could have fallen off my finger in the street, in the store or anywhere in our building but it fell where I could find it again. I pick it up and thank God for this answer to prayer.

Some have suggested that my "helping" shows a lack of faith but if I had not looked again I would never have found the ring. The servants at the wedding feast filled the jars with water so that Jesus could perform His first miracle. I want to do my part so that He can continue to perform miracles to bring glory to His name.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13).

Maria Simon

retired three times but now managing an Op Shop in Queensland and live in sunny (most of the time) NSW.



Boost your mood with *gut-loving foods*



We all know that eating well is important for your health, but did you know it can impact your mood as well?

Your brain works 24/7 and just like a car, it will perform better with premium fuel.

What you eat can make a big difference to your mood, anxiety and even depression. Research shows that if you change your diet you can feel the benefit in relatively short space of time.

Nutritious foods that contain lots of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants nourish and protect the brain. They can reduce inflammation and also restore healthy balance of gut bacteria.

Good gut bacteria not only influence what your gut digests and absorbs, but it also impacts your mood, behaviour and energy levels. In fact studies have shown that when people take probiotics to restore their gut health, their anxiety levels, perception of stress, and mental outlook also improve.

The gut is also responsible for producing a neurotransmitter called serotonin—about 95 per cent of it is produced in your digestive system and it is influenced by good bacteria. Serotonin helps regulate sleep and appetite, mediate moods, and inhibit pain.

On the flip side, diets high in refined sugars have been linked to impaired brain function and poor diets have been shown to impact an area of the brain important for learning, memory and mood regulation.

So, what are some good mood foods?

- **Go nuts:** Nuts include a wide range of nutrients that are important for brain health including vitamin E, magnesium, calcium, zinc, iron, manganese, copper, B group vitamins, and healthy fats. Regularly eating nuts can improve cognition and memory, and boost learning skills,
- **Clever citrus:** Citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons and mandarins are particularly high in flavonoids—nutritional compounds important for maintaining cognition and memory as we age. If you are not a citrus fan, try apples and berries for a flavonoid boost.
- **Grab the leafy greens:** Dark leafy greens like kale and spinach are packed with magnesium, which boosts mood, combats tiredness and helps you produce energy.
- **Get friendly with fermented foods:** Healthy gut, healthy mind. Fermented foods contain probiotics and research shows that probiotic-rich diets help to reduce stress and help memory. Fermented foods include yoghurt with active cultures, kefir, tempeh and sauerkraut.
- **Stock up on wholegrain breakfast options:** Eating breakfast every day should be a “no brainer”. It can lift your mood and has been associated with improved cognitive function and concentration in school children. For long-lasting energy choose healthy breakfast options such as wholegrain cereals or oats, low-fat yoghurt and fruit or wholegrain toast and spreads. Wholegrain cereals and breads are also a good source of fibre, which is important for good gut health.



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Conversations

Faithful service

Having recently read my first *Adventist Record* for some years (thanks Annette), I detect a subtle but distinct softening of traditional Adventist “legalism” on various topics, in some of the letters to you which you publish—and even in some articles in *Record*.

I find this refreshing and hope I am not kidding myself!

Over recent years I have spent time redefining for myself the traditional concept of Adventism on which I was raised in favour of deeper, wider and more meaningful concepts where I have learned to look for spirit in the depths as well as the heights—and I find unexpected riches there!

A side effect of this odyssey however is that I am conscious that I now don’t fit well in official Adventist settings (amongst other things, it is not always the friendliest place on earth—with exceptions of course!)

It has also resulted in me feeling a new and empathetic brotherhood

with all sorts of spiritual seekers and explorers whose concepts and friendship I would previously have rejected. Again, I find riches abounding.

Most disappointingly, from also reading *Adventist World*, I also detect that the “official” Adventist church (to be fair, like almost all other denominations worldwide) largely remains in a state of retrenchment, as defensive and authoritarian as ever, staunchly defending the boundaries of its precious doctrines, parading its insistence that it is “right”, with no room whatever for mystery and trust—the very things that define religion. And thereby losing the opportunity to feed both themselves and the people of the world with the spiritual intelligence both crave.

At a time of the earth’s history when so many are desperately hungry for spirit, I find this very frustrating.

Geoffrey Baldock, WA

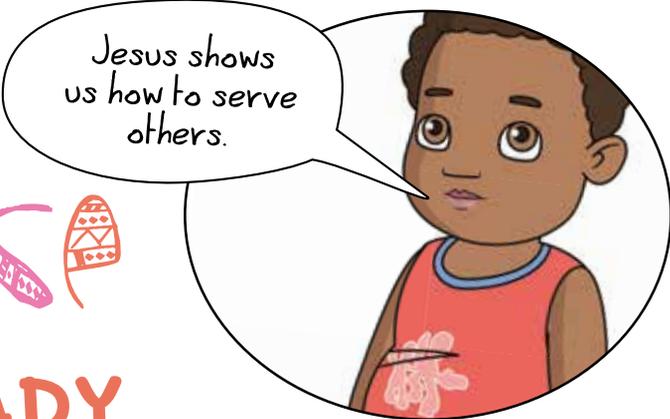
Author appreciation

I have just finished includes domination or rulership.

Norman Young, NSW

MALO E LELEI* KIDS!

Kids Space



GETTING READY

Jesus is preparing to celebrate the last Passover meal with His precious disciples. Unlike the disciples, He knows what the next few days will bring. He has a plan and wants everything to be just right. In order for Peter and John to serve Jesus best, they have to follow His directions and timing. Just like Jesus sent several of His disciples ahead to prepare for the Last Supper, so He will prepare and send us out to serve. Because we do not know what the future holds we trust God's plan as we discover our spiritual gifts and develop the talents He has given us. We can serve well only as we allow Jesus to prepare us.

Can you find the following in the picture below?

- 3x 2x 2x 2x 3x 7x
- 6x 1x 3x 2x Beards?



MEMORY VERSE
"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

Anniversary



CURRIE, Dr Alex and Beverley (nee Salmond) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 21.12.21 with 40 family members. Their combined years of service to the church—ministering and teaching—amounts to 78 years. As a couple, they served the church in North Queensland, Papua New Guinea—where they helped pioneer Sonoma College—Fiji, Andrews University (US), Avondale College (NSW), Greater Sydney, the South Pacific Division and Sydney Adventist Hospital. Alex and Beverley are proud parents of four sons and their wives, Andrew and Susanna, Phillip and Jenny, Gavin and Lisa, and Stephen and Nicole; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. God has blessed Alex and Beverley who remain active in retirement.

Netherlands; died 16.7.21 at Ryde Hospital, NSW. On 28.9.1955 he married Ria and three weeks later they moved to Australia. He is survived by his wife (Eastwood); son, Robert and Melinda; daughter, Carolyn and Martin (all of Castle Hill); four grandchildren; and brother, Theo (Hamlyn Terrace). Gary was a keen Bible student who loved to discuss politics and current affairs. He was a faithful and supportive member who served his local church in several different offices over many years. His final illness was brief, but Gary rests now and awaits the call to life from the Saviour whom he loved and served faithfully.

David McKibben



GRIFFIN, Benjamin Arthur Adlam, born 15.4.1927 in Mania, NZ; died 31.1.22 at the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. On 12.4.1951 he married Dorothy Longley. He later married Ivy Sparks, who predeceased him. He was also predeceased by his siblings, Edith, Eva and Joy. Benjamin is survived by his daughters, Cheryl and Ashleigh Lowrie, Raewyn and Russell Lambe and Vicky Alexander (all of Brisbane); grandchildren;

great-grandchildren; and siblings, Harold, Gordon, Maisie and Glenis (all of NZ). Ben was a hard worker, who loved his church and looked forward to the Lord's return.

Gary Roberts



HAYCOCK, Irene Martha (nee McClintock), born 14.12.1921 Timaru, NZ; died 8.6.21 in Tauranga. Irene was predeceased by her husbands, Frederick Boot, Hendrick Oorthuis and Lindsay Haycock. She was also predeceased by her grandson, Jonathan. Irene is survived by her daughter, Heather and Colin McMillan (Tauranga); son, Colin Boot and Elizabeth Jucknat (Melbourne, Vic); four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Irene served the Lord in a wide range of areas including Literature Evangelism, Quit Smoking programs, nursing, Bible in Schools and Sabbath school.

Andrew West

IRVINE, Marian Ruth (nee Gane), born 3.5.1929 in Box Hill, Vic; died 31.1.22 in Osboine Contemporary Care, Bayswater, WA. On 16.2.1949 she married Wallace. She is survived by her husband (Bayswater); sons, Warren (Qld),

Graham (WA) and Lindsay (NSW); seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She was much loved for her style, intelligence and generosity. A wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Graham Irvine



RENDELL, Gillian Shirley (nee Stewart-Jacks), born 23.9.1931 in Mussoorie, India; died 22.12.21 in Fern Tree Gully, Vic. On 20.2.1964 she married Ken. Jill is survived by her husband; daughters, Tonya Field and Mirini Lang; grandchildren, Bernard and Stewart Field, and Jesse and Keziah Lang. Jill was baptised at Bombay church 1947. She worshipped at East Prahran church from her arrival into Melbourne in 1948 until she moved into Adventcare in 2019. She was an elder and Sabbath school teacher for many decades and took great joy in welcoming her first grandchild as an elder at the age of 21. At Adventcare she loved worship times and helped with these. She loved music, playing piano, recorder and singing for her dear Lord.

Peter McGowan

Obituaries

BOELHOUWER, Gerrit (Gary), born 1.6.1931 in Hilversum,

2012 | 2002 | 1992 | 1982 | 1972 | 1962 | 1952

HOMECOMING2022

Use clues to complete crossword

Across

3. 50-year honour year: 197_

4. Former students

5. Class honour: C _ _ _ _ _

Down

1. Homecoming lunch staple: Gluten _ _ _ _ _

2. Gathering of classmates: R _ _ _ _ _

Register your interest

www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming

August 26-27

Broadcast Schedules

9GEM	Sun 6 Mar, 8:30am	The Miracle of Dunkirk
3ABN	Fri 11 Mar, 8pm* AEDT	Ahead of Anger
TVNZ 1	Sat 12 Mar, 5:30am	– Arlene Taylor interview

9GEM	Sun 13 Mar, 8:30am	The Attack at Broken Hill
3ABN	Fri 18 Mar, 8pm* AEDT	Defiance
TVNZ 1	Sat 19 Mar, 5:30am	– The Bielski Partisans

9GEM	Sun 20 Mar, 8:30am	Poisoned
3ABN	Fri 25 Mar, 8pm* AEDT	The Lighthouse
TVNZ 1	Sat 26 Mar, 5:30am	Blessed Are the Peacemakers

9GEM	Sun 27 Mar, 8:30am	John Wycliffe – The Morning Star of the Reformation
3ABN	Fri 1 April, 8pm* AEDT	Walking with Reindeer
TVNZ 1	Sat 2 April, 5:30am	

*3ABN also airs on Sun, 3:30pm and Wed, 5:30pm AEDT

Our programs can also be viewed on our YouTube Channel [youtube.com/TheIncredibleJourney](https://www.youtube.com/TheIncredibleJourney) and our website tij.tv



SMITH, Ross Leonard, born 13.7.1921 in Mackay, Qld; died 11.1.22 in Christchurch, NZ. On 14.10.1942 he married Olga White at Papanui Church, who predeceased him in 2004. Ross is survived by his children, Patricia Hatfield (Townsville, Qld), Paulette Graham and Karen Hewitt (Christchurch, NZ). After losing his beloved wife, he remained a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Ross had a deep faith and a great respect for his family. In his final years he attended Ilam church until he was 99 years old. He passed peacefully at Ngaio Marsh Retirement Village

Doug Hurley

TEARLE, John Henry, born 6.3.1939 in Lithgow, NSW; died 23.11.21 in Norwest Private Hospital, Bella Vista. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne (Northmead); daughter, Rebecca; grandchildren, Michael, Caitlin and Emma (WA); sisters, Nancy (Dundas, NSW) and Norma (Old Toongabbie); brother, Darryl and Jeanette (Clarence); and their families. John was a man of great integrity whose life was characterised by a spirit of service. He used his many practical skills in the service of Parramatta church and people in need. He also had a deep love for his Saviour and displayed a strong faith and a quiet courage in the battle against his final illness.

Roger Govender, Panapa Leuluai,
David McKibben

Advertising

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a special constituency meeting of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at Seventh-day Adventist Church South Queensland Conference Administration and Resourcing Centre, April 10, 2022. The special constituency meeting will commence Sunday morning at 9:30 am and conclude no later than 10:30 am. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the Constitution. The sole business of

the special constituency meeting will be to make additions to the South Queensland Conference Constitution to allow for virtual meetings.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND RECORD ON CD

The SPD's Christian Services for the Blind (CSFBHI) produces a monthly audio compendium of articles from recent *Record*, *Adventist World* and *Signs of the Times* issues, along with Sabbath school lessons, for the vision impaired. If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, mail or email CSFBHI including postal address. Email <CSFBHI@adventistmedia.org.au> or write to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076. For the legally blind in Australia and New Zealand, CSFBHI also has a large audio library of Christian and denominational books available.

ABSOLUTE CARE FUNERALS

The Adventist family owned and operated business, caring for you from Sydney to Newcastle and Wollongong. Contact Arne Neirinckx, who understands our

Adventist philosophy. Contact us on 1300 982 803 or 0408 458 452 or <arne@absolutecarefunerals.com.au>, even if you have already paid for your funeral.

LOCAL MISSIONS VOLUNTEER

Could you be Maclean Adventist church's volunteer? We are followers of Jesus who have a strategic focus on children's ministry, Pathfinders and Adventurers. We will help you with accommodation and a stipend. You will participate in evangelistic outreach in the lower Clarence Valley, covering Maclean, Iluka and Yamba areas (NSW Conference). You hope to see many people led to Jesus. You are a friendly and passionate Seventh-day Adventist who follows Christ's method to help people generously, lead them gently to the Bible and share the good news with them. You have completed ARISE Express or have similar experience. You are comfortable with door-knocking and finding people to study the Bible on your own. You are willing to help with visitation, evangelism, community events and Sabbath services. Contact Pastor Adam Cinzio at <adamcinzio@adventist.org.au>.

Positions Vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BUSINESS SERVICES WAHROONGA, NSW

Are you logical and analytical in nature? The South Pacific Division (SPD) are seeking a highly skilled assistant who is committed to furthering God's mission and eager to support the work of our Administration Business Services team. Working in a collaborative team, this full-time role will support the work of the CFO, finance manager and division property trust manager. In addition to providing exceptional office administrative support, the role will also compile statistics, manage multiple outlook calendars, reconcile lists and policies, proactively obtain property quotes and comparisons, as well as manage data analysis in excel. For full details please visit <adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, email a cover letter, your CV, three work-related referees and contact details of your church pastor, to <hr@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 21, 2022.**

ACCOUNTANT, GREATER SYDNEY CONFERENCE WAHROONGA, NSW

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney) Limited is seeking the services of a qualified accountant. This position is based at the Wahroonga offices in Sydney. The successful applicant would ideally have experience in local church audits, property portfolio management and treasury. Budgeting and management reporting would also be a distinct advantage. More details about the position can be viewed on the Adventist Employment website. Applicants must be able to legally work in Australia. Please send your CV together with a cover letter to <maxinesu@adventist.org.au>. **Applications close March 14, 2022.**



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