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## Reports from the 61st General Conference Session

# SAMOA

Tongan PM opens  
new facilities at Beulah  
Adventist College <sup>4</sup>

# THANKFUL



## #weRtheCHURCH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

We have much to be thankful for in the South Pacific Division. Let's come together as a church family to worship, hear stories of impact, be uplifted by beautiful music, and give thanks to God for His many blessings.

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Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

South Pacific



EDITOR'S NOTE:

## God has already provided

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

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There is nothing wrong with exploring our response to grace and it is healthy to respond and look for ways to engage and live our faith, faithful to the call of our King.

The highest goal of music, Pythagoras apparently claimed, is to connect one's soul to their divine nature, not entertainment. It is hard to find out exactly what this philosopher did and didn't say, invent or theorise 2500 years ago but he is credited with a great many things. And while we may disagree with exactly what he meant by a soul (indeed he may be in part responsible for popularising the immortal soul motif) the triangle guy's claim about music being more than entertainment is worth repeating.

Music does have a transcendent quality. Few songs have complete universal appeal and yet many find broad audiences and popularity. Songs have a number of ways to hook you whether through the rhythm, the melody, even the lyrics. Being something of a word man myself, lyrics appeal to me especially. Every now and then a phrase or set of lyrics will really capture my attention and hit me deeply.

There is a worship song that I've been listening to recently. It's got a similar premise to an old chorus we used to sing but it has a line in it that just grabs me.

The song is "Jireh" performed by Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music and the song starts like this: "I'll never be more loved than I am right now. Wasn't holding you up, so there's nothing I can do to let you down".

The first time I heard these words, they captured my attention. Now, every time I hear the song, it grabs me and calls me to something different depending on the day or the mood: reflection, remorse, praise, awe.

In our denomination (and perhaps in some others), when the topic of works comes up there will always be a strong defence of grace alone. Jesus may be magnified. And then, invariably, the same speaker or perhaps someone else in the Sabbath school will say "but . . .". There will always be an "and"—an appeal to James' "faith without works" eulogy. The lion's share of time will be devoted to HOW we demonstrate grace rather than the beauty of it alone. There is nothing wrong with exploring our response to grace and it is healthy to respond and look for ways to engage and live our faith, faithful to the call of our King. However, it can also seem like it is an obligation or misplaces our focus after some time. So the song lyric has something to say about that for me.

But I'm going to speak on a personal level for a moment. My entire drive seems to be built around not letting people down. Some of the self-reflection I've been doing lately, has been around my long internally recognised feelings of inadequacy and not measuring up. My career and my family have always been two of my highest priorities. These priorities sometimes clash as I try to navigate a way to honour both and not let anyone down. So, when I do fail or fail to measure up (to my own standards or the imaginary standards of others) I can be hard on myself. Not to mention all of this subconsciously projecting what I think God's standards for me are. So imagine the liberation I feel (and I'm paraphrasing now) when the lyric says to me: "Jarrod. You aren't holding up God and the whole Universe. God's success, His Kingdom, His magnificence doesn't depend on you to hold Him up. You can't scuttle His plans for you or others." It is a weight, a burden lifted.

None of us would ever presume that we must hold God up. That's absurd. Yet the imagery of this lyric reframes what is actually happening in our lives as we strive so hard, for whatever reasons. It shows us where we are trying to hold everyone together and everything up all by ourselves.

Just the imagery of this lyric has brought me a new appreciation for myself and for God and how that all works. That's the transcendent power of music. Maybe, like me, you're trying to carry the world on your shoulders. Maybe you've got some hangover from a works-emphasising upbringing. Whatever your situation, the reality is that God has already provided.



Tonga Mission president Pastor Fanueli Mataele, Tonga Mission education consultant Dr Elisapesi Manson, Tongan Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni and Lui 'Aho, president of Beulah College Tonga Alumni. (Credit: PM Press, Facebook)

## Tongan PM opens new facilities at Beulah Adventist College

📍 Nuku'alofa, Tonga | Tracey Bridcutt

Tongan Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni officiated at the opening of new technology facilities at Beulah Adventist College on May 26.

The Prime Minister, who is also the nation's Education Minister, praised the school and its management for the achievement, which has seen new teaching and learning resources, and new network infrastructure added to the school.

"[The] government's vision for education in Tonga is to offer the best education and learning to our children," Prime Minister Sovaleni said.

"We invest in our children's future as the new way of education for us and I applaud Beulah College for taking the lead in this important field."

The new facilities, costing TOP\$200,000, were made possible through the financial support of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tonga, Beulah Ex-Students Associations—USA

and New Zealand, Allira Housing Committee (Australia), Tonga Mission Education Department, Old Scholars Association, Parents and Teachers Association, and other donors.

The school has also recently added a new industrial arts building, funded by the World Bank, with additional resources funded by former students of the school.

"Beulah College has shown total involvement of the home, school, church and the wider community for the success of these projects," said Trans Pacific Union Mission education director Mele Vaihola.

"I thank everyone who was involved in making these projects a reality and I praise God for their sacrifice and commitment. Such great opportunities for the teachers and students to have these resources and I believe these resources will contribute significantly to the learnings of the students."



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Sabbath School Summit in Melbourne (Vic).

## Leaders empowered to grow missional Sabbath schools in local churches

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Lorraine Atchia

More than 450 people attended the Sabbath School for Life Summit that was held at five venues across Australia and online on May 20 and 21.

The summit was open to Sabbath School (SS) leaders, facilitators and attendees in order to help inspire, equip and encourage them to grow missional Sabbath schools in local churches.

Guest speakers included evangelist and former host and director of *It Is Written* Pastor Mark Finley, Sabbath School Coaching founder Curtis Hall and South NSW Conference president Pastor Cristian Copaceanu. There was also a

live panel from the WA Conference that spoke about how they are nurturing SS in their local churches.

"I am so proud to work with such an amazing team who was able to put this event together," said Pastor Lyndelle Peterson, director of Sabbath School at the Australian Union Conference.

"We hope to create a network for all the attendees to help resource them and connect everyone together, from the Union, the conferences and the local church. This will allow us to encourage, advise and help each other as we build missional Sabbath schools."



Dr David Trim, director of Archives, Statistics and Research.

## 1 million people join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2021

📍 St Louis, United States | Tracey Bridcutt

More than 1 million people were added to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2021, according to data from the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research (ASTR) at the General Conference.

ASTR director Dr David Trim, speaking on day two of the General Conference session, said accessions (the total number of baptisms and professions of faith) had rebounded in 2021 after a marked decline during the pandemic.

"2004 was the first of 16 years in a row of 1 million-plus accessions globally, but then came the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr Trim explained.

"From 2019 to 2020 accessions declined by more than half-a-million, going down from 1.32 million to 800,000, which was the lowest global total of accessions since 1997. In 2021, however, despite the ongoing effects of the pandemic, accessions increased by more than 200,000, so that they once again topped 1 million."

Despite the significant number of people joining the Church, retaining them remains a challenge, with the Church experiencing heavy losses over recent years.

This was particularly true for 2019—"the first ever year in which there

were more than 1 million living losses", Dr Trim said.

"Accessions, deaths and losses together affect church growth—as a result of their interplay, the Church's reported membership at the end of last year was some 21.91 million."

Dr Trim also shared data on increases in the number of Church organisations and institutions over the 50-year period from 1970 to 2020, including a rise in the number of unions (by 54%), local conferences/missions (98%), primary schools (64%), high schools (570%) and medical institutions (500%). In the same period, the number of pastors increased by 142% and all other employees by 159%.

"There are trends we need to be aware of and there are areas in which we can and need to do better, but the data shows how God has led and prospered the efforts of His people in mission," Dr Trim concluded.

Dr Trim's presentation formed part of the GC Secretary's report, which also included presentations on the Secretariat's strategic plan, missionary program, Adventist Volunteer Service and Adventist Mission.



Opening remarks from the General Conference officers.



Pastor Ted Wilson and his wife Nancy. (Credit: Adventist Review)



Parade of nations at the end of the GC session.

## First-ever hybrid GC session finished

📍 St Louis, United States | Record staff/ANN

The first-ever hybrid General Conference (GC) session got underway on Monday morning, June 6, with delegates attending in person and online.

Delayed twice due to the pandemic, the session had undergone a number of significant changes, including relocating from its original venue in Indianapolis, Indiana, to America's Center Convention Complex in St Louis, Missouri.

"What a great privilege it is to welcome each of you to the 61st session of the General Conference," said GC president Pastor Ted Wilson in his opening address.

"It's been two years that this General Conference session has been delayed and by God's grace here we are and even though we have a shortened General Conference schedule, we believe that God is going to help us to make very efficient use of our time."

With delegates and attendees able to join the session virtually from around the globe, the schedule was reduced to six days rather than the usual 10 days experienced in previous sessions. This modification resulted in a full schedule for delegates.

With a theme of "Jesus is coming! Get involved", Monday to Thursday were primarily focused on the business sessions, while Friday was dedicated to sharing the mission reports from each of the world divisions. Due to the varying time zones of delegates attending the sessions worldwide, appropriate adjustments were made to ensure that every participant would experience a Sabbath of worship.

A special highlight of the Monday morning session was the baptism of a couple from the Philippines by Pastor Wilson and Duane McKey, president of Adventist World Radio (AWR). The couple was part of the Philippines military who used to fight rebel forces. After seeing dramatic changes in the rebels brought about by the influence of AWR, they too were impressed to give their lives to Jesus.

During the final minutes of the Monday business session, the General Conference Executive Committee voted to re-elect Pastor Wilson as president of

the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This will be Pastor Wilson's third term.

In accepting the role, he said, "It is indeed a very humbling experience to be requested to assist and guide God's last-day remnant Church. It's not something that a human being can do on his own; it's only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"I'm very grateful that we started our morning and our session today with a very special emphasis on prayer and on the Holy Spirit and it is within that context that Nancy and I agree to continue to work this area and position in cooperation with all of you, for it's only in total member involvement, uniting and working together as the Spirit of Prophecy has indicated, that God's work will be finished."

Many other incumbents across the General Conference administration and departments were returned to their roles, with Pastor Erton Kohler to serve again as secretary and Paul Douglas re-appointed treasurer.

On Sabbath, Pastor Wilson presented the worship service with his sermon containing 25 points that Adventists should "hold fast" to. The Sabbath afternoon program featured a host of reports from Adventist Mission about innovative ministries around the globe.

While the 2022 General Conference session was unlike any other it ended in the traditional way with the colourful parade of nations.

The auditorium was buzzing with excitement and happiness as flags were proudly carried by the participants, many of whom were wearing the traditional dress of their home countries.

The session ended with the final prayer of commitment followed by the hymn "We Have This Hope".

Across the six days, appointments, Church manual edits and other matters were voted by delegates. To read the full coverage of the 61th General Conference session, visit <adventist.news>, <adventistreview.org> and <record.adventistchurch.com>.



Pastor Townend and his wife Pam (centre) with some of the other newly-elected division presidents.

## Pastor Glenn Townend re-elected SPD president

📍 St Louis, United States | Tracey Bridcutt

Pastor Glenn Townend has been re-elected president of the South Pacific Division (SPD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The election of division leaders was held on the third day (June 8) of the 61st General Conference (GC) session in St Louis, Missouri.

GC president Pastor Ted Wilson addressed the newly-elected presidents: "What a blessing to have a team of individuals who are going to be leading spiritually God's people literally around this globe. And by God's grace they will help lead God's people home as they look to Jesus the real Leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and all who believe in the Lord."

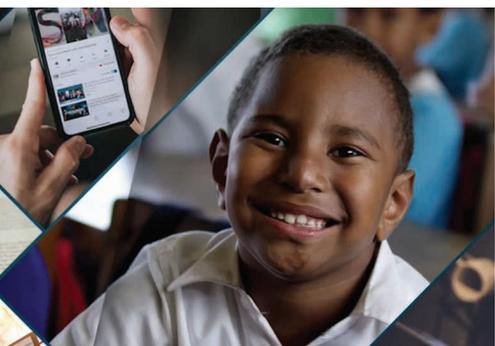
Pastor Wilson then prayed over the presidents—that they be granted good health, clear minds and that God

will guide them. The newly-elected presidents then proceeded immediately to caucus meetings to consider nominations for division secretaries and treasurers.

Pastor Townend was elected president of the SPD during the 2015 GC session in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to that he was president of the Trans Pacific Union Mission.

In other key SPD appointments, Pastor Mike Sikuri was re-elected secretary and Francois Keet was re-elected CFO.

There were five new presidents chosen and eight were returned to their positions across the world field of 13 divisions. See the full list on <[bit.ly/DivisionPresidents](https://bit.ly/DivisionPresidents)>.



South Pacific Division report, GC 2022.

## South Pacific Division GC report highlights growth and diversity

📍 Wahrenonga, NSW | Jarrod Stackelroth

The South Pacific Division (SPD) report to the 2022 General Conference session in St Louis, United States, has been well received with praise for the growth and discipleship highlighted and wonder at the diversity experienced within the SPD.

The reports were delivered unusually this session as, with many delegates tuning into proceedings online, the business of the 2022 General Conference session was wrapped up early to avoid encroaching on the Sabbath hours.

This meant many in the South Pacific Division would have entered the Sabbath hours while it was still Friday in the United States, so the GC schedule was structured so all the technical business was finished by Thursday evening and Friday was devoted to sharing all of the 13 world division reports.

Often these reports are spread throughout the meetings, so having them all together meant a high-adrenaline day focused on mission. You can

watch the SPD video report online at <<https://bit.ly/SPDReportGC2022>>.

Each region had only 15 minutes to cover the past six and-a-half years and the SPD video was produced by Adventist Media.

The final report came from the Ukrainian Union Conference, with the president Pastor Stanislav Nosov expressing his gratitude for everyone's support and prayers as they experience very challenging times as a nation.

You can watch all the reports that were included in the morning and afternoon sessions on the Church's YouTube channel:

Watch the morning session at <<https://bit.ly/3mQJvHA>>.

The afternoon session (including the SPD report which starts at around 2 hours 19 minutes and special Ukraine report) can be found at <<https://bit.ly/3NUp3kV>>.



## Evangelistic drive

Clarkson church (WA) celebrated three baptisms on Sabbath, May 21. Jonathan and Annette Price, and Anna Di Florio—who recently turned 90 years old—were baptised by Pastor Clem Van Ballegooyen. The new members decided to be baptised after attending a seminar run at Clarkson in September and October 2021 by Pastor Gary Webster, titled “Countdown Back to the Future”. The church continued their evangelistic drive by conducting a “Secrets of Prophecy” seminar led by Pastor Ballegooyen and Kevin Cobb in February 2022. A “Salvation in Symbols and Signs” seminar is now in progress, with more attendees indicating their desire to be baptised. —**Arthur Pettifor**



## Acknowledged at the GC

Former South Pacific Division treasurer Rodney Brady was among a number of men and women acknowledged at last month’s General Conference session for their many years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mr Brady served the Church for full time in several conferences in Australia and New Zealand, at the Trans Pacific Union Mission in Fiji and at Signs Publishing Company before most recently spending almost half his 41 years of service in treasury at the Division office. The group have given a combined total of 1383 years of service to the Church. Each received a certificate, a plaque and a book from General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson, secretary Pastor Erton Kohler and treasurer Paul Douglas. —**Tracey Bridcutt**



## Fighting illiteracy

Partnering with ADRA and the local district government, the Adventist Church in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea conducted a two-week equipping program for literacy trainers in May River Village of Ambunti Drekiker District. Twenty-three people of different denominations were certified to become basic literacy trainers to teach and educate locals in basic reading, writing and numeracy. They also learned life skills training—basic cooking and sewing. —**Wellington Yaninen**



## Gospel and history

A new evangelistic tool has been launched within the Warrumbungle shire region, NSW. Pastor Christopher Petersen and his wife Cyravil have recently produced four documentary-style videos focused on the local history of the Warrumbungles. The program uses local stories and legends as well as interviews with Coonabarabran residents as opportunities to ask and provide answers to spiritual questions. To watch the series visit [bit.ly/Wurrumbunglesdoco](http://bit.ly/Wurrumbunglesdoco). —**Record staff**



## Indigenous record

A family in Western Australia is believed to hold an Indigenous Adventist record. The Brimm family has been serving the Adventist Church and involved with Mamarapha College for three generations.

The youngest, Haily Dorante, a student at Mamarapha, was baptised at Gosnells church in Kelmescott on May 7. Ms Dorante made her decision at a Mamarapha College baptism held at Champion Lakes in 2019. Her grandmother, Robyne Brimm, conducted her baptismal Bible studies over the phone.

A former Mamarapha student, Mrs Brimm has served the North NSW Conference at Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre and as the minister of the Brewarrina church plant. For the past two years, she has been working in Wiluna as a Bible worker, where she has cared for the church, ministered to the people and conducted many funerals.

Ms Dorante's mother, Chellaiah Coats Brimm, has served previously at Currawah Aboriginal Education Centre and is currently employed at Mamarapha College as the registrar and student services coordinator.

Studying at Mamarapha, Ms Dorante also works as a dorm parent at Carmel Adventist College, making three generations of church employees in the Brimm family. Recently she was appointed as a youth representative to the Australian Union Conference Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) Committee. —**Juliana Muniz**

## have news to share?

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



## Little Origin

Macarthur Adventist College (MAC) students took to the field at half-time during the Ampol State of Origin in Sydney on June 8. The students were selected to take part in the Ampol Little Origin initiative after MAC teacher Jacqueline Maua entered the college for the selection process. In the application process, Mrs Maua shared MAC's values of respect, responsibility, resilience and attitude. "She made quite the impact, and now a select number of our Primary students have had the opportunity of a lifetime to run out onto the field at half-time during State of Origin to take part in the Little Origin match," said MAC principal Sam Lett. As selected participants, the students also experienced a stadium tour and gained access to a bespoke NRL League Stars learning session. The school also received a \$A5000 monetary grant. —**Juliana Muniz**



## Braving the chilly waters

On the sunny afternoon of April 30 the Bishopdale church gathered on the banks of the Styx River, Christchurch (NZ), to witness the baptism of Brendon King and his two eldest daughters, Charlotte and Olivia. Both girls have been having Bible studies with South NZ Conference president Pastor Ben Martin and intern pastor Rebecca Poole over the past year, and it encouraged them to ask their dad to be baptised with them. All three, including Pastor Martin—who conducted the baptism—donned wetsuits as they braved the chilly waters to express their love and commitment to God. —**Rosie Burton**



# Exercise the muscle of delight

I have a friend who, every time he sees a whale, texts me saying, "I JUST SAW A WHALE!!!" That might not seem like much, but I live by the Humpback Highway where thousands of whales pass each year to warmer waters. Keep your eyes on the horizon for five minutes and you're bound to see one breach. These whale notifications therefore come in as frequently as fake postmen texts saying I have a delivery arriving and overseas numbers advising me to upgrade my electricity. At times I've even responded to said messages, "Oh . . . just another whale text."

But when I stop to think about it, it's quite admirable. While many others run by and cease to look out at the water, my friend is still able to find excitement over something that—at least where we live—is quite a common sighting.

We see this kind of joy in children all the time, and we admire it in them as we grow older. We watch them scream with wide eyes over bubbles or sand or a bird on the fence, and we can't help but laugh at their response. As we age, many things war against these moments, and we become dulled to all the small pleasures life

has to offer. We get busy, take on responsibilities, experience hurt and worry about the world around us. It's not that we forget about pleasure. We just tend to gravitate towards the large, momentary kind like holidays, fancy meals, thrills and gadgets.

There are many things that, if I stopped to pay attention to, could bring me joy at little cost and effort: a smile from a stranger, rain on a tin roof, patterns on leaves, rocks you can sink into, the crack of a watermelon, the reflection of the moon on the water. Like a child who screams, "Wow! Do it again!" is how I should respond. But often, I'm distracted by life, and I pass on.

It makes me wonder about God's response to the things of creation. Does He make each sunrise like we make our beds, or does He delight in each one like a child with a new pack of crayons? Does He point to stars that fly through the sky, or is His head in His hands with all there is to do? Does He swoon at the spray of an ocean wave, or did He make the mountains like we mow our lawns?

After suffering a massive stroke, Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor of a French fashion magazine, found

himself completely paralysed, mute and half deaf. Letter by letter, with his one functioning eyelid, he dictated to a nurse a memoir called *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. As he lay in hospital for the remaining few years of his life, he recalled moments he longed to experience again: a cup of milky tea in his hands; deep armchairs; fish straight from the water; manoeuvring the bath taps with his toes; a simple soft boiled egg; cradling his children in his arms; stairways down to the beach that are now dead ends; the ability to return an "I love you." Though his life was now deprived of most pleasures and was what he described as "a jellyfish existence", Jean continued to find small treasures. The final words he dictated in his memoir just two days before he died were, "We must keep looking." Even though confined to a hospital bed, Jean could still appreciate the sight of the sea out his window and a friendly hand stroking his numb fingers.

So often, struggle clouds our eyes and hinders us from enjoying what's around us. During COVID-19, Yale University released a course called "The Science of Well-being", designed to give people tools to increase their happiness. One psychological



tool was called "savouring", which means to step outside of an experience and review and appreciate it. The challenge was for people to pick one experience to savour every day, whether it be as small as a nice shower or a walk outside. They were then to share the experience with another person or think about how lucky they were to enjoy the moment. Studies have shown that savouring moments enables us to notice and enjoy more of life's experiences, helps us cope with stress and even increases our creativity.

It's no coincidence the Bible tells us to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8), and when we're waiting on something or need strength to "see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13,14). We're not instructed just to read and believe but to experience and know God by paying attention to the gifts He gives daily. Doing this provides more than just a few seconds of enjoyment. From it, we cultivate an attitude of worship, admiration and thankfulness, and we grow in our ability to see good and to see God. As author Tish Harrison Warren says in *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, "We must

take up the practice—the privilege and responsibility—of noticing, savouring, revelling, so that, to use Annie Dillard's phrase, 'creation need not play to an empty house'."

My guess is that our God is not a boring God. That He not only delights in the little things, but He also delights in our delight in them. We cannot deny that life can be hard. But the small joys around us can be a resting place for hope and sustain us in what can sometimes seem like a sea of disappointment. We can appreciate a knowing look from our pet and be reminded that God sees us. We can look at the paint strokes on a seashell and know that He is full of detailed care. We can feel the grass between our toes and be reminded that He so wisely builds the foundations of our lives. We can trust that when our bodies respond in a way that shouts "do it again!", He will gladly do so over and over because He loves to see our faces light up.

In *Letters to Malcolm*, CS Lewis wrote he once thought he had to start "by summoning up what we believe about the goodness and greatness of God, by thinking about creation and redemption". Instead, he says to start

with the pleasures at hand. For him, a babbling brook and cushiony moss. As I write this, it's blue sky after weeks of rain and the sound of my neighbour singing at his piano.

As we grow older, we must relearn the skill of merriment and exercise the muscle to delight in life. So, in the words of CS Lewis, "begin where you are". Focus your gaze on the wonder, beauty and delight God has placed here for us, and when you find yourself even mildly excited, take a deep breath, and let out a loud resounding "WOWWWW!!!" Say thank you to God and share your whale moment with a loved one. With time the little things might start to feel like the biggest and best things.

**Zanita Fletcher**

Assistant editor, *Signs of the Times*.



# Reflections on the General Conference Session

**T**he 61st General Conference Session, and the first Hybrid meeting with 2000 delegates on site in St Louis and approximately 700 delegates online in every one of the 24 time zones, concluded a few days ago. As I've been traveling the long journey home, I've been reflecting on our world wide church and our 22 million baptised brothers and sisters in 214 countries.

Allow me to try and put those numbers into perspective; there are 15.2 million Sabbath-keeping people of the Jewish faith in the world, with 6.5 million of them living amongst the 9.27 million Israelis in Israel and the other 8.7 million around the world as the diaspora. Incredibly, we have 7 million more Seventh-day Adventists in 214 countries! Seventh-day Adventists are not connected by

the ancient genes of the Biblical patriarchs, but are of the New Testament church, connected through the birth, life, death and glorious resurrection of the soon returning Jesus Christ, Creator and King of the universe.

Being a Seventh-day Adventist is easy to quantify. Undeniably, it's our 28 fundamental doctrines and historical prophetic interpretation and understanding that unites us even though we may not practice our faith in the same manner from country to country or even church to church within the same conference! We are united by our proclamation of the 3 Angels messages of Revelation 14 and the Angel of Revelation 18 and the promise, by faith, of Jesus' soon return.

A General Conference Session is a massive version of our local conference sessions or your local church business meeting. Officers of the GC are elected along with 140 appointed positions that the nominating committee is responsible for bring to the delegates, who either ratify or send it back for more thought and prayer. Any change to the Church Manual can only be made at a GC Session and there are resolutions or proclamations that are discussed amongst other agenda items. There are moments of wonderful spiritual joy as believers engage in worship with sermons from some of the best preachers in our denomination or hear the amazing, faith inspiring mission stories from all 13 world divisions of how the sharing of our faith is going. Then there are some moments of drudgery and obsequiousness as we discuss, challenge and argue the wording in the church manual.

While it can be deflating when your point of view is not accepted by the majority, one must stop and reflect on why. It's in the book of James, chapter 1 that I conclude with 10 points of Biblical wisdom that have helped me immensely during this session:

1. Count it all joy
2. Be steadfast in your faith, especially in trial
3. Ask God for wisdom by faith
4. Do not be deceived
5. All good things come from God
6. Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger
7. Put away the world and implant the word to save souls
8. Be does and not only hearers and you will be blessed
9. Religion that does not transform your tongue and character is decidedly worthless
10. True religion is pure/undefiled in it's action with those most vulnerable

Maybe there won't be a need for a 62nd General Conference if these 10 points are inculcated in our hearts. We have this hope that burns within our hearts. . .

**Terry Johnson**

President, Australian Union Conference.

# The 10

## oldest people in the Bible

Recently I celebrated another birthday, which always seems to coincide with discussions around age and reflections on the brevity of life. In the Bible, there are a group of men known as Antediluvian Patriarchs (having lived between Adam and Noah before the flood), who definitely did not experience a short timeline on earth! Here are the 10 oldest people in the Bible, whom all happen to be ancestors of Adam and his son, Seth.—Danelle Stothers

### 1. Methuselah: 969 years

The oldest person in the Bible, Methuselah was Noah's grandfather and his father walked so closely with God that God took him. Methuselah died the same year as the flood, living to 969 years of age.

### 2. Jared: 962 years

A descendent of Seth, Jared fathered Enoch at 162 years and lived until he was 962 years old. Genesis 5:18–20

### 3. Noah: 950 years

The last of the long-living antediluvian patriarchs, Noah lived for 350 years after the flood. At Noah's birth his father said, "May he bring us relief from our work and the painful labour of farming this ground that the Lord has cursed."

### 4. Adam: 930 years

The first human being, who was designed to live forever, Adam ended up only living to 930 years—not very long when compared to eternity!

### 5. Seth: 912 years

A brother to Cain and Abel and the only other child of Adam and Eve to be mentioned in the Bible by name, Eve named him Seth for she said, "God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed." Genesis 4:25

### 6. Kenan: 910 years

A grandson to Seth, he fathered Mahalalel (#8) when he was 70 years old.

### 7. Enos: 905 years

Enos was the son of Seth (who fathered him when he was 105 years old), which makes him a grandson of Adam and Eve. Genesis 4:26; Luke 3:38

### 8. Mahalalel: 895 years

An ancestor of Noah and the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived until when Noah was 234 years old.

### 9. Lamech: 777 years

The son of Methuselah and father to Noah, Lamech died five years before the flood. According to genealogical accounts, Adam would have still been alive for the first 56 years of Lamech's life.

### 10. Enoch: 365 years

The father of Methuselah (see #1), Enoch is described in Genesis 5:24 as someone who was "walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him." Because of this, the inclusion of Enoch on the list is contestable, but I think he deserves a mention!





# Helpless but invincible

**T**he Queen of England, Elizabeth II, called 1992 her *Annus Horribilis* (horrible year). I felt similarly about the year 2006. Early in the year the language school where I was teaching closed its doors. While I lost my job, I gained a granddaughter. She was shipped down to me due to a crisis at home. I was given the sensitive task of settling a precious but traumatised adolescent into high school with everything totally new and strange to her. And this on meagre funds.

Five months into the year a very sick me was diagnosed with TB and put onto a treatment that was as severe as the sickness itself. All this while having to play "mum's taxi" and all the other things that mums must do for a teenager settling into high school and needing to make new friends. I leave you to imagine the challenges I faced.

There was to be a family wedding at the end of

the year. By then I was cured of TB but too physically and financially drained to join the family (including my, by now, smiling granddaughter) who trekked up north for the wedding. Although I was sad to miss the wedding, it was an immense relief to concentrate on my own need to catch my somewhat ragged breath.

But after a very quiet Christmas on my own while the family celebrated the wedding and the world celebrated the arrival of the year 2007, I knelt at my lonely bedside with my Bible open in front of me and had an "Elijah-under-the-broom-tree" moment. This intrepid prophet had stood "alone" on Mount Carmel and claimed a mighty victory for God, but physical exhaustion had confused the issues and raised unreasonable fears so he fled far into the wilderness, sat down under a broom tree and cried out, "Lord, I have had enough! Take my life, I am no better than my forebears!"

In times of weakness the enemy is very ready to remind us of past hurts and rejection, of our own faults and failings and inner fears. My own cry was something like: *Lord, I've had enough! I'm not good at life. I don't feel I'm really good at anything. I'm weak and useless . . . I am just a worm—a worthless worm.*

I felt that I was spiralling down and I needed God to stop me from going further down. Blindly I paged through my Bible looking for words that would rescue me from my sense of despair. It was when I reached the book of Isaiah that my eye fell on the following unmarked passage:

Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob,  
O little Israel,  
for I myself will help you  
declares the Lord, your Redeemer,  
the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 41:14).

My surprise was tinged with amusement. The Great I Am did not seem to object so much to calling Jacob (and now me) a worm; it seemed more important to Him to assure us that we did not need to be afraid of our diminished and helpless condition because He, our Redeemer, the Holy One who stands by His promises, is personally at our side to give us all the help we need.

I was deeply touched and totally reassured—ready to face the year ahead. And, as I explored my experience, I discovered in Scripture scores of people who, like me, had reached "wormy" moments: Yes, Elijah and Jacob but also King David, Job and even Saul on the Damascus Road who grovelled in the dust, a blind worm, asking meekly, "Who are you, Lord?"

I realised that it is not inappropriate for human beings to have moments of self-doubt, to squirm when we're convicted of our sinfulness, to face how helpless we are against the onslaught of evil, to lose our sense of worth when we're weak and sick. In that state of embryonic helplessness God can birth us to new possibilities. About 2600 years after Isaiah, an inspired woman expressed it like this: "Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour" (Ellen

White, *MH182*).

It was at Easter that year that I reached the climax of this experience. As my thoughts focused on the cross, I turned to Psalm 22, that great Messianic Psalm. It begins with Jesus' agonised cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?"

It is a Psalm that lays bare the innermost thoughts of Jesus—He expresses all that He feels as He hangs naked on a cruel cross. In verses 9-11 He talks with tender longing about His close bond with His Father: "It was you that took me out of the womb: you made me trust while I was still on my mother's breasts . . . you are my God from my mother's belly. Please don't be far from me for trouble is near and there is no one to help" (Psalm 22:9-11).

His Father who has always been there for Him now seems to have abandoned Him. And Jesus knows why: steeped in the sins of all of us He is an object of horror, totally worthless, beneath anybody's notice, let alone a Holy God. In despair He cries out:

"But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by men and despised by the people.  
All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads in disgust" (Psalm 22:6,7).

Wonder O heavens and be astonished O earth! Our magnificent God knows what it is to feel like a worm!

Jesus permitted sin to diminish Him, to trample Him to death, but He died with a cry of victory, "It is finished!" (Psalm 22 ends with the words "He has done it!"); Jesus knew that He had completed God's work of redemption. Sin was a conquered foe.

"He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe" (Ephesians 4:10).

Jesus, the perfect Saviour, is champion of His "frail, feeble children of dust!" In our moments of "nothingness" He enables us to stand invincible so that the gates of hell cannot prevail against us.

"How can I keep from singing His praise,  
How can I ever say enough how amazing is His love!"<sup>1</sup>

1. Chris Tomlin, 2006, "How can I keep from singing", *See the morning*.

**Aleta Bainbridge**  
chaplain, South Pacific Division.

# Miniature sweaters



I am very fortunate that my husband likes to help in the house. He often puts washing in the washing machine, vacuums floors, washes dishes. I always thank him, although he doesn't always hear it.

Today was different and I was not thankful at all that he washed our dirty laundry. So much so that I sought God's help: "Please deal with my husband. If I say something it will not be good, I am too hurt and annoyed."

See, I specifically told him not to wash two new woollen tops. They were so soft and delicate. Only cold hand wash would do.

While I was away, he put all the light colours together on a low temperature. He had learned something from past experiences, when I had to say goodbye to several of my whites that were washed with dark clothes.

But for those woollens, that was still too rough, and too hot. Of course, what came out of the washing machine were two miniature sweaters that might fit a 5-year-old.

Rubbing salt into the wound, he asked if I would check online how to fix the problem. "No," I replied.

"How can you not look for a solution for this?!" He was bewildered.

Short of rolling my eyes, I calmly but firmly said, "I can. I didn't cause this trouble in the first place. What is done is done, and I can get myself a new top. Don't worry about it." Oops, sorry God, I already said too much!

To make matters worse for him, he knew that I only recently bought those tops. For him, seeing me buy clothes for

myself is a rare delight. Mostly it's a battle. "This would look great on you," is how he might start a conversation.

"Yeah, it might. But I don't need it," would be one of my usual answers.

Shopping is one of the worst things for me to do. Send me shopping clothes for myself and I'll come back depressed and empty handed.

But I did go shopping and I did buy two lovely tops that were now miniature ones.

So, he went looking for answers. The solution he found on the internet required soaking, rinsing, rolling and stretching. I came to help at the stretching phase, as he requested, knowing full well from experience that it would not work.

I had to bite my tongue. I was so tempted to go on with "told you so" or "you should have listened to me" . . . but I stopped short of saying it.

We were able to stretch one of the tops so maybe an 8-year-old could wear it. The other was not as lucky. From the serious stretching, it broke. It went straight in the rubbish bin.

My prayer was being answered, though, while I went on peacefully doing other things. As evening approached, I was stirring our dinner on the stove. With a humble face my husband came up next to me and said, "I'm sorry I ruined your woollens." Positively surprised, I thanked God in my heart!

"Apology accepted" was my answer to my husband and a beautiful end to quite a day.

I would say that if you have read this far, you may have found this true story relatable. Perhaps you have had a similar

experience in your relationships with others.

I thought that after being married for 37 years, we would be experts in communication—in showing love that the other understands, and we would not have any cause for arguments or disagreements. But it is not so.

Regardless of how little or long you have been married, Satan will try any and every means to destroy your relationship. Once you get married, you don't live happily ever after unless you decide to do whatever it takes to live happily ever after.

It is not easy, but it's worth it.

Looking back, I can clearly see that we both came into our marriage with heavy baggage. I came from a dysfunctional, alcoholic family, and he came from a very different family—also dysfunctional in some ways. From those backgrounds we started our life together and used whatever survival modes we knew from our childhood. But those don't work well in adulthood. On the contrary, they make life more difficult.

Once we were aware of our differences—several years into our marriage and many arguments and tears later—we needed to work on ourselves individually and as a couple. I remember how eye opening one counselling session was where we discovered our different personalities. We're diagonally opposite. Yes, opposites attract but they also have lots of friction points.

One of the points the counsellor told me then, I struggle to put in practice even today—that of reflecting back. A simple practice of checking that you understood what the other person said. We are just so quick to reply rather than acknowledge what was said.

Even now, after we've had some couples counselling—and I've had individual counselling, coaching and mentoring—there are still days when old ways of relating to each other, old ways of thinking emerge, and we need to deal with them.

The Bible offers many examples of couples working together. Some are good examples to learn from; some are there so we can learn not to make the same mistakes. There is Abigail and Nabal, a beautiful and intelligent woman and a husband who was surly and mean (1 Samuel 25:1). She did not argue with her husband. She knew that his actions would not lead to any good solution. But unlike me, she had no time to wait. Something had to be done immediately and she did her best to avoid the disaster that was coming due to his foolishness.

Then there are wives who were a very negative influence. For Solomon "his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God" (1 Kings 11:5).

I wonder how many times our relationship would have been better if I put in practice Proverbs 15:1, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

For husbands, the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5 says several times "to love their wives as their own bodies". Loving is not easy but it's beautiful and so rewarding. Paul explains what love is in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily

angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Just read through those slowly. Love is patient. Am I patient towards those I claim to love? Hmm, I could be more patient.

What about the one, it keeps no record of wrongs? Hmm, how many times, especially in our early marriage, would I bring up stuff from the past, over and over again? That didn't work! We didn't solve the matter at hand; we only added it to our list of failed communication.

What about the part, love is not self-seeking? What does that mean? NLT translates it as "does not demand its own way". I realise I may demand my own way when I'm insecure and lack self-esteem. But fortunately, I've also realised that not all my needs can be met by my husband. The deepest needs we have only God can satisfy, and yet we fail to go to God to satisfy those needs. Other needs can be easily satisfied with friendships that we need to cultivate.

I am grateful that there is much help and knowledge available for couples these days. I would encourage anyone who is in a relationship to search for ways to make it work and how to make it better. This may require reading, researching, self-awareness, counselling, coaching, mentoring and definitely prayer. But it is well worth the effort. Even scientific research is showing that "having a happier spouse is associated not only with a longer marriage but also with a longer life".<sup>1</sup>

I wonder if we could slightly change Proverbs 31:10,11: "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value" to include men: A husband of noble character who can find? He is worth far more than rubies. His wife has full confidence in him and lacks nothing of value.

I am very fortunate to have a husband who is worth far more than rubies. He still loves me with all my failures and still shows that love by different means, such as putting the washing in the washing machine. I always thank him, and he's learning to hear and appreciate it. And so, we are both growing in love. No miniature sweaters will change that.

1. Olga Stavrova. "Having a happy spouse is associated with lowered risk of mortality", *Psychological Science*, 2019; <journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0956797619835147>, accessed May 23, 2022.

### Danijela Schubert

DMin (Fuller Theological Seminary). Born in Croatia (former Yugoslavia). With her husband Branimir, she lived in France, the Philippines and Australia. She has served as head of the religion department in Pakistan, lecturer and senior lecturer at Pacific Adventist University (PNG), assistant to the president, associate division secretary, and Discipleship Team member for women in the South Pacific Division in Australia. They have two adult sons.



# The importance of one letter

**B**efore expounding on this interesting title, I need to explain a little about Ephraim and Gilead. Ephraim, as you would know, was the younger son of Joseph, the older boy being Manasseh. At the time of his approaching death, Jacob pronounced a blessing on Joseph's sons, but placed his right hand on Ephraim, the younger, instead of on Manasseh the older son. This displeased Joseph who tried to correct his father (Genesis 48:9-20) But Jacob would have none of that saying, "his younger brother shall be greater than he".

Now to Gilead. He came along a little later, for he was Manasseh's grandson (Genesis 26:28). This is significant, for Ephraim became Gilead's great-uncle when Gilead was born. More of that relationship shortly.

In Scripture, Gilead was a name not only for an area and a city but also for a man, the very man who was Manasseh's grandson, who later became the head of his clan as it multiplied over the years. In fact, it was about 550 years later, after years of turmoil, not only between the Israelites and the Canaanite kingdoms but, sadly, also between dissident groups within Israel, that further trouble arose. One such incident involved the Ephraimites and the Gileadites, who became involved in a battle because of some hot-headed remarks by the Ephraimites against Jephthah, who led the men of Gilead.

The accusation was that Jephthah had not asked the men of Ephraim to assist him when he went to fight the Ammonites. Jephthah replied that that was not true, for when he was in a great struggle with Ammon, he called for Ephraim's help but they did not come (Judges 12:1-3). So, to teach the Ephraimites a lesson, Jephthah rallied his forces and defeated them. Jephthah was indignant that the men of Ephraim had mocked him by saying, "You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites."

The men of Gilead had planned ahead, for they seized the fords of the Jordan before any of the men of Ephraim

arrived at the river.

Before proceeding with this story, let me divert a little and refer to differing accents and dialects between people speaking the same basic language. No-one could mistake a Scot for an Englishman. Likewise, New Zealanders have their own inimitable way of pronouncing "i"s and South African's can easily be identified by their unique accent when speaking English.

Back to our story. Because the men of Gilead were guarding the fords over Jordan after the battle, someone in their ranks recalled that the Ephraimites could not pronounce "Shibboleth" correctly, leaving out the "h". So, when a man of Ephraim came and wanted to cross the river, he was asked to say, "Shibboleth"! Of course, the best he could do was to say, "Sibboleth". With that he was immediately dispatched with a thrust of a sword. Sadly 42,000 Ephraimites died that day, on the battlefield and beside the Jordan.

What, then, can we learn of this somewhat obscure experience? The great loss of life could have been averted if the Ephraimites had responded to Jephthah's appeal for help when engaging the Ammonites. The next point at which disaster could have been prevented, was for insults to be unspoken and hot-headed responses left unsaid. Apparently, family connections are forgotten in the heat of an impending battle. Once swords are flashing and javelins are thrusting, it's every man for himself, without a thought of the impending disaster to their tribe.

And what a great matter can be decided upon by a simple inability to pronounce a word correctly! Never was the letter "h" so important!

**William Ackland**

retired in Cooranbong (NSW) and has written eight books.

# Best diet for a better *nights sleep*

Inability to sleep affects many of us, but if tossing and turning in the early hours is your nightly ritual, it might be time to look at what's going in your shopping trolley.

A new research review has found that our diet could have a big impact on how well we sleep at night. It revealed a restful slumber may come down to eating the right types of carbohydrates and fats.

## What did the science show?

People who ate more quality carbohydrates and good fats slept well. Quality carbs are fruit, veggies, legumes, nuts, seeds and grains, or minimally processed, lower sugar foods made from these ingredients. They are also known as complex carbohydrates, and they are higher in fibre, vitamins and minerals.

Higher fibre foods and anti-inflammatory foods were linked to a better slumber as well. This includes plenty of plant foods such as fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legumes, nuts and seeds. The researchers found people who had higher fibre diets had a longer and deeper night's sleep.

On the flip side, people who consumed a lot of highly processed carbohydrates or sugary foods and drinks were more likely to have overall poorer quality sleep.

When it came to protein it was all about getting the amount right. Science supported the fact that diets higher in protein (without being "high protein") were associated with a better night's sleep. These diets included about the same amount of protein as our guidelines recommended—46g a day for women and 56g for men.



## So, why does diet affect the quality of sleep?

While more research is needed, the authors of this review commented that plant-based diets helped the body produce more serotonin and melatonin—two hormones essential for sleep.

They also pointed to the gut-brain-axis: the link between the gut and the brain. Plenty of fibre and good fats are important for a healthy gut microbiome, as they help to nurture a wide variety of gut bacteria. Emerging research has linked a healthy gut microbiome with a longer, less disrupted sleep.

Aiming for a diet with plenty of plant foods and good fats, as well as less saturated fat and sugar, is a good starting point to help you feel better and sleep well too. A Mediterranean-style diet is an ideal starting point.

## Here's some simple shopping swaps

- Switch white bread for delicious grainy loaves.
- Grab a can of beans like four bean mix or kidney beans. They're always a handy pantry staple to help bump up the fibre and protein of a meal.
- Make sure you have brekkie. Shop for a wholegrain or high-fibre cereal to start the day right with quality carbs.
- Stick to canola oil or olive oil for cooking and avoid butter or coconut oil.

For more information and research references check out our full article on the Sanitarium website.



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# Conversations

## Acknowledgement

Being a long time reader and appreciator of our *Record*, containing many varied articles of interest, there is one repeat omission that I feel I must comment on.

Referring to *Record* (Flashpoint April 2, p8) a beautiful picture of the ordination of Pastor Brunt, with full details of who participated, however his beautiful wife and children are with him "unnamed". Same page, picture above, headed "Charged to Ministry", it is obvious Pastor Tikulin's beautiful wife is standing beside him with the flowers; she too is "unnamed".

Again in *Record* (Flashpoint, June 4, p8), under the heading "Answering God's Call", the ordination of Pastor Kross, I am assuming that is his beautiful wife and young son there, again "unnamed".

These are just the last couple of examples of what has been appearing a normal practice.

These women will be, next to the Lord, the most important person to support these new pastors, sharing the many joys and burdens they will both experience, through the ministry they have been called to.

Can we at least acknowledge them at this time, by name, not just with flowers. Keep up the good work.

**Ethel Sayers, WA**

*Editor's note:* Thank you for noticing this. Pastoral spouses play a huge role in ministry and should never be overlooked. We apologise for the oversight and will endeavour to get it right in future. Pray for all pastors and their families as they have difficult roles to fulfil.

## GC session updates

Congratulations to those who have retained their position and farewell to outgoing leaders.

**Kuas Kenneth, via email**

[The parade of nations is] one of my favourite parts; this and the reports from all of the divisions. Can't wait for the one in heaven, [including people] from every nation, kindred and tongue. There are still a few nations who need to hear the gospel.

**Maddy Gi, via Facebook**

I am sure [Pastor Ted Wilson] is a great leader and will continue to do a great job, however there should be an intentional leadership program to raise and groom leaders around the world for such positions so we aren't limited to one single name.

**Camila Ito Skaf, NSW**

The world Church is praying through all these deliberations and decisions. I believe that God had answered even though it's not to some of our liking?

**Sone Mariner, Australia**

No matter what our thoughts and views are, at the end of the day it is God's Church and HE is and always will be in control! God bless you Pastor Ted [Wilson].

**Temukisa Hanna-Marie Suisala, via Facebook**

If "it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit" that the work can get done, why does the church need to have the same person each five years. Why not limit that posting to a maximum of one term?

**Colin Spain via Facebook**

Congratulations and God bless Pastor Glenn and Pam Townend.

**Jake Ormsby**

Now as a Division, we just need to do more for the ordination of women. It's about time our fantastic female pastors were eligible for the position of president at each level of church governance.

**Lisa Nicole Pratt, NSW**

## Positions Vacant

### **TEAM LEADER, SURVIVOR SERVICES AND REDRESS ADSAFE LTD, WAHROONGA, NSW**

This position provides leadership, direction and support to the SSR team which is responsible for the delivery of case management support to survivors of abuse and also progressing redress applications through the Seventh-day Adventist Redress Scheme and the National Redress Scheme. This involves working collaboratively within the multi-disciplinary team environment of Adsafe to ensure the needs of survivors/victims is balanced with regulatory compliance, investigation processes and risk management strategies. It also involves identifying and implementing strategic opportunities to raise awareness of the impacts of abuse and how to handle disclosures. The successful applicant will have tertiary qualifications in social work, social services or psychology. An ability to manage varying and/or conflicting stakeholder demands and experience in establishing and maintaining partnerships is highly desirable. Proven leadership, communications, people management and case management skills, as well as a track record of successful management within a service industry would be a distinct advantage.

### **SENIOR CASE OFFICER, SURVIVOR SERVICES AND REDRESS ADSAFE LTD, NEW ZEALAND (LOCATION DEPENDENT ON SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT)**

This position is a 12–24 month fixed term contract and provides case management services for survivors of abuse, professional mentoring and practice supervision to colleagues and delivery of training. The provision of case management services involves facilitating referrals to external counselling for survivors and their family members, providing information about legal or restorative justice pathways to survivors and their families, being the point of contact for a survivor throughout investigations or other legal processes and being Adsafe's point of contact for survivors of abuse. The successful applicant will have tertiary qualifications in social work, social sciences, counselling, psychology, human services or equivalent, and knowledge and experience working with victims of sexual and physical abuse. A strong understanding of case management principles, trauma and its impact on survivors, and demonstrated experience in trauma-informed case management would be a distinct advantage.

### **CASE OFFICER, SURVIVOR SERVICES AND REDRESS ADSAFE LTD, WAHROONGA, NSW**

This position provides case management services for survivors of abuse. This involves facilitating referrals to external counselling for survivors and their family members, providing information about legal or restorative justice pathways to survivors and their families, being the point of contact for a survivor throughout investigations or other legal processes, and being Adsafe's point of contact for survivors of abuse. The successful applicant will have tertiary qualifications in social work, social sciences, counselling, psychology, human services or equivalent. A strong understanding of case management principles and demonstrated ability to provide ethical, trauma informed, flexible and client-centred case management would be a distinct advantage. For full job descriptions for the above positions, selection criteria and more information please visit <adventistemployment.org.au>. Email your application to <info@adsafe.org.au> including a resume and statement addressing the essential and preferred criteria.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR ADRA AUSTRALIA, WAHROONGA, NSW**

ADRA Australia is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic Emergency Management Program coordinator who will be responsible for the maintenance/upgrading of the EM Information Management System, coordinating the implementation of the Disaster Ready Church program, as well as supporting the Emergency Management Program officers (international and national programs) in programmatic and finance management of all projects to ensure standards are met and reports are accurate. The role involves liaising and inspiring churches, members and volunteers to be agents of change, increasing the awareness of involvement in supporting programs that will demonstrate significant and lasting impacts on the lives and relationships of the people involved.

Further details including the candidate information pack are available on our website <adra.org.au/work-for-us/> or by contacting the HR coordinator at <HR@adra.org.au>. ADRA Australia is a child safe, PSEAH committed and EEO employer.

### **HEALTH COURSE COORDINATOR (FULL-TIME) MAMARAPHA COLLEGE, KARRAGULLEN, WA**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia has a unique opportunity for a passionate health educator to join the small, yet dynamic Mamarapha team. Mamarapha is a mission-focused Adventist First Nations Bible college that trains faith leaders of tomorrow in health and ministry, whilst serving the student community of diverse Indigenous cultures. We invite expressions of interest from persons with health-related qualifications, preferencing experience in VET teaching and assessment, and excellent communication skills appropriately sensitive to Aboriginal cultures. The successful candidate will positively impact Indigenous health in Australia through building strategic partnerships and deliver high quality teaching and learning opportunities. For further details contact AUCHR@adventist.org.au. NB: The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early. Only those who have a legal right to work in Australia will be considered. **Applications close August 31, 2022.**

### **BUSH REGENERATOR SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, WAHROONGA, NSW**

The South Pacific Division (SPD) is looking for someone keen to work outdoors and passionate about the environment to join its bush regeneration team caring for and protecting the Wahroonga Estate's bushland. Potential for full-time or part-time options available. Immediate start. For full details please visit <adventistemployment.org.au> or email <hr@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please email a cover letter and your resume to <hr@adventist.org.au>. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia will be considered for this position.

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## Obituaries



**GREER**, Cheryl Maree, born 20.4.1968 in Inverell, NSW; died 19.3.22. On 6.4.1997 she married Ken Hardman. Cheryl was a faithful member of the Moree church. She was a very affectionate person and cared deeply about others. In 2016 she moved to the Northern Rivers to be closer to her loving family and three years later to a group home. Cheryl, in spite of a disability she had from birth, lived life to the fullest. She loved knitting for charitable work and was a cheerful person who won a place in many hearts.

Raymond Dabson, Matt Aitcheson, Errol Wright



**HESS**, Julian George, born 16.5.1942; died 21.4.22. On 18.1.1970 he married Catherine Stirling. He was predeceased by his son, Oren. Julian is survived by his wife; children, Adam, Nerada and Mick Sutton, and Kieran and Emma; grandchildren, Ethan, Alysha, Brianna, Brayden, Jude, Mica and Ezra; and brother Cedric. Julian

passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.

Chris Kirkwood, Matthew Pearce



**PORTER**, Ivy May (nee Corker), born 25.3.1932 in Kojonup, WA; died 29.4.22 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW. On 1.1.1959 she married George. She was predeceased by her daughter, Michelle in 2003 and son, Calvin in 2016. May is survived by her husband; children, Bronwyn and Merrilyn (both of Sydney); and grandchildren, Monique, Zackary, Jake, Trent, Hamish and Liam. Pastor George and May's lifetime of service across the South Pacific Division commenced in Tasmania, then Cook Islands, Fiji, Western Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Greater Sydney. She was known as a wonderful friend and mother figure to all, a faithful servant of God, with a determination to harvest children for God's kingdom. May will be remembered for her infectious smile and laugh, which spontaneously generated love, friendship and hope in all who were blessed by her ministry.

Sid Grifith, Richie Reid, Carlos Hernandez

**SIBARANI**, Bowman, born 23.12.1931; died 20.12.21. He is survived by his wife, Davina; sons, Jason and Felix; and grandchildren, Ana, Blair and Josiah. The family are looking forward to meeting their husband, father and grandfather at Christ's second coming.

Jimmie Cha

## Advertising

### GREATER SYDNEY CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the thirtieth constituency meeting of the Greater Sydney Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held in the auditorium of Mountain View Adventist College, 41 Doonside Road, Doonside, August 27-28, 2022. The program will commence on Sabbath, August 27 at 3:30pm with a praise and inspirational program including the closing of Sabbath. The seating of delegates and the constituency meeting, to include the presentation of administration and departmental reports and financial statements for the years 2018 to 2021, will commence at 7pm and will continue on Sunday, August 28. The officers, executive committee, appointments committee, nominating committee and constitution committee of the Conference for the next quadrennium will be elected at this constituency meeting.

C Strickland, General Secretary.

### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON ON AUDIO CD

Christian Services for the Blind produces an audio CD of the Sabbath School lesson quarterly for those with vision impairment. If you or someone you know could benefit from this free service please contact us. Ph: +61 (0)2 9847 2296. Email <csfbhi@adventistmedia.org.au>. Post to Christian Services for the Blind, Locked Bag 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

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Broadcast Schedules

<b>9GEM</b>	Sun 3 July, 8:30am	Fatal Shore
<b>3ABN</b>	Fri 8 July, 8pm* AEDT	Five Shipwrecks and a Mothers Love
<b>TVNZ 1</b>	Sat 9 July, 5:30am	
<b>9GEM</b>	Sun 10 July, 8:30am	Australia's 10 Deadliest
<b>3ABN</b>	Fri 15 July, 8pm* AEDT	The Chocolate Factory
<b>TVNZ 1</b>	Sat 16 July, 5:30am	
<b>9GEM</b>	Sun 17 July, 8:30am	Overcoming Addictions
<b>3ABN</b>	Fri 22 July, 8pm* AEDT	Blessed are the Persecuted: Dietrich Bonhoeffer
<b>TVNZ 1</b>	Sat 23 July, 5:30am	
<b>9GEM</b>	Sun 24 July, 8:30am	Bear - The Hero Dog
<b>3ABN</b>	Fri 29 July, 8pm* AEDT	The King's Dream - Daniel 2
<b>TVNZ 1</b>	Sat 30 July, 5:30am	
<b>9GEM</b>	Sun 31 July, 8:30am	The Mystery of the Silver Scrolls
<b>3ABN</b>	Fri 5 Aug, 8pm* AEDT	Opals - Fire in the Desert
<b>TVNZ 1</b>	Sat 6 Aug, 5:30am	Superman: The Key to Amazing Relationships

\*3ABN also airs on Sun, 2:30pm and Wed, 4:30pm AEST



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