



# R

## Jesus wept

The shortest verse has  
a profound message <sup>13</sup>

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## “For someone with a degree in communication, you’re really bad at it”

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

One thing you might not have considered is the spiritual importance of communication.

When my wife and I started dating, it was basically the end of my time at Avondale College (now University). We had known each other before that, playing netball on a mixed team together. And, after getting a job at *Adventist Record* and moving to Victoria, we were thrust straight into a long-distance relationship. She was working and studying in Newcastle at the time.

The thing that allowed our relationship to survive and grow during this time was (drum roll please) constant communication. We were in touch. We spoke every day on multiple platforms. We called each other, we texted each other, we emailed each other. Not one day went by when we didn't talk. So even though we were doing life apart and were separated by a thousand kilometres, we were learning more about each other, our experiences and what was happening in our lives every day. And I must pay tribute to my wife here. She was often the initiator of the contact and kept the constant communication going. She's great at keeping in touch with old friends, people she's connected with on social media, people across the world. While she tells me, when I haven't talked to my friends in a while or when we're having a family communication breakdown, "For someone with a degree in communication, you're really bad at it." I laugh whenever she says this but she has a point.

To have a relationship requires some level of communication. In fact, communication is one of the most important elements of any relationship.

But it is an area that is easy to take for granted. It is not missed until it is absent or breaks down in some way.

One thing you might not have considered is the spiritual importance of communication. We often talk about the importance of the spiritual disciplines of prayer and reading the Bible but we don't necessarily think of them as lines of communication. Prayer is a space where we can talk to God. Reading the Bible is a practice where we can hear from God. There are other ways to hear from God like spending time in nature, but His voice speaks clearly through inspired writings. There is another area of communication that can help us spiritually and that is communicating our beliefs with others. When we share our faith with others, it is encouraging and inspiring to our own faith. The faith and doctrines and ideas about theology that we do in community are important as they can protect us from error and help us to grow. Is it any wonder that community and communication share a root word?

When you read *Record*, you have a chance to hear from your church community. Every part of *Record*, everything we choose to share, every platform we choose to use, is an effort to communicate better, with more of you, our readers. Because communication is important. It helps to keep us informed and keep us together as a family. It helps to keep us, here in the South Pacific Division, connected and strengthens our identity as a family of Seventh-day Adventists around the world. And we're not just providing communication for our church members. In the Pacific, our readers share and use *Record* in all sorts of creative places and ways.

Just in the past few months I've received letters from people who don't yet— or don't anymore—consider themselves Adventist church members but are still deeply interested and engaged in what is happening in the church—and are following along in *Record*.

This Sabbath, May 4, is the *Record* offering.\* We've produced a fun video around the theme of staying informed and staying up-to-date—and we've done it because communication is important! Our Church pays for *Adventist Record* so we can all stay in contact. This offering, once a year, is your opportunity to say thank you, to show your appreciation or to pay it forward so others can continue to stay informed.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for contributing your letters and articles and news stories to keep everyone in contact. Your offering this week will help you:

Stay in the know, with *Adventist Record*.

\*(If you're reading this later, you can still show support using e-giving).



INSIGHT:

## Opposition

Glenn Townend  
South Pacific Division president

"For the first time, the gospel of Jesus has been received by this people group," reported a Division president. He was sharing pictures of people being trained in Discovery Bible Reading—to share their faith and operate house churches. We heard how people who have received Jesus and been baptised willingly share their faith with others. A real disciple-making movement is happening (in a tough environment—either communist, Islam or Hindu background). We all rejoiced in what God is doing. The next time this president spoke, he shared that in another part of the territory, pastors and members with a background in Adventism are encouraging a subtle heresy.

It seems wherever God's work is progressing, there is an enemy who is counter-attacking. The good seed is planted and then weeds appear. As Jesus said, "an enemy has done this" (Matthew 13:25). The great controversy is a real battle between Christ and Satan (Revelation 12:7-12). Conflict manifests itself everywhere—in the world with Ukraine and Gaza; in our societies with people with opposing rights; direct spiritual warfare in our church and homes—it has the same impact. We should not be surprised the enemy has strategies to bring each of us, our church and its entities down (2 Corinthians 2:11; 10:3-6). Sometimes the strategies are direct attacks from opponents; other times they come from within. Jesus commended Peter for confessing that He was the Christ but the very next words Jesus said to Peter were, "get behind me Satan" (Matthew 16:16-20) because Peter did not realise the Christ must die. It reminds me to be humble and to keep seeking the Holy Spirit's infilling every day and to listen to the Spirit, the Word and my colleagues to discern the will of God.

In the South Pacific, God is doing great things through PNG for Christ, broadcast, ADRA and other community justice, service and evangelistic projects. But other entities (and churches) are struggling to meet budget or church and community needs.

In a devotional for a recent entity board, a leader within that entity (of another Christian denomination) reflected on Jesus' words: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus has already triumphed over Satan and our only security is staying close to Him. This is the foundation of discipleship.

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Young people worship together with the help of resources from The Worship Box.

## AUC responds to decline of family worship

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Juliana Muniz

In response to a growing concern over the decline of family worship, the Adventist Church in Australia has launched The Worship Project (TWP), an initiative that provides resources and support for families and individuals to integrate worship into their daily routines.

The project started after children's and family ministry directors across Australia noticed fewer families were holding worship at home. The concerns were confirmed in a report written by General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics and Research director Dr David Trim. According to the report, less than 50 per cent of survey respondents experience family worship more than once a week.

According to Dr Trim, these statistics contribute to the issue of young members' retention. "Our systemic failure to worship together as families can't be helping with the problem of youth attrition," he wrote.

Pastor Sylvia Mendez, director of children's and family ministries for the Adventist Church in Australia, explained that developing the habit of daily worship "is very important to our own personal growth".

According to Pastor Mendez, TWP was created to empower families to develop a close relationship with God, "no matter where they are on their journey".

A key component of the project is its diverse resources tailored to support spiritual growth across all age groups. Resources currently available include daily devotional videos for children, the I AM six-month devotional journal, TWP app and website, and The Worship Box—a visually appealing beginners worship kit.

"The nuts and bolts of the project are centred around the curate, create and educate—with a huge focus on the educate," said Pastor Mendez, explaining that the concept of worship is not a "cookie cutter" and can look different in each household.

As an ongoing project, TWP will continue to develop and curate resources to empower family worship. Some of the future resources include courses, podcasts, a Bible study series for children and a family worship conference that will travel around Australia starting in Perth in February 2025.

To access the resources, visit <[theworshipproject.org.au](http://theworshipproject.org.au)>, download the app and follow TWP on social media.



Professor Kerri-Lee Krause.

## Departing Avondale vice-chancellor thanked for her leadership and commitment

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Brenton Stacey

After three years in senior executive leadership, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause will soon conclude her tenure as vice-chancellor and president of Avondale University.

An academic with long-standing experience who has shaped policy and practice in Australia, Professor Krause will seek opportunities to build on her passion for higher education leadership, quality, standards and sector-level reform. Reflecting on her time at Avondale, she expressed feeling honoured to have supported Avondale through its transition to university status. "I especially pay tribute to the wonderful students,

staff and community partners who make Avondale a unique and very special place," she said.

Appointed vice-chancellor and president in July this past year, Professor Krause is the first woman to lead Avondale since its founding in 1897.

On behalf of Avondale Council, chancellor Pastor Glenn Townend thanked Professor Krause for her leadership and commitment.

Council will now begin a search process for the next vice-chancellor and president. Professor Krause's contract ends in July.



Winners and judges at The Lions Den pitch competition, part of Hyve Australia 2024. [Credit: Maddy Voinea]

## Modern-day Daniels receive \$A10,000 for mission in business

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Record staff

Entrepreneurial Seventh-day Adventists received more than \$A10,000 for missional business ideas at Hyve Australia 2024, a conference helping to build a community of church-based innovators.

Promoted as Adventism's premier pitch competition, The Lions Den invited modern-day Daniels to throw their ideas at a panel of judges who awarded cash prizes. The experienced "lions" offered mentoring and business guidance and will continue to do so.

Winners from The Lions Den this past year reported on the opportunities Hyve gave them, including pitching at the Hyve Creators event in the United States where investors were offering \$1.5 million.

More than 120 entrepreneurs and innovators from Australia, French Polynesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu met at Avondale University for Hyve Australia 2024.

They are passionate about expanding their businesses and ministries and finding ways to be more missional in their marketplaces, said facilitator Julian Archer. He brought Hyve to Australia in

his role as South Pacific Division stewardship director.

"Ever since the founding of the Church, God has worked through innovative and entrepreneurial people and ideas to expand His kingdom. Hyve events bring like-minded people together in a professional and prayerful, mission-focused space and they leave inspired to do even greater things for God," said Mr Archer.

Twenty-four business leaders gave testimonies and presentations at Hyve on topics including industry innovation, freelancing, marketing, mumpreneurship, family business dynamics, manufacturing, church planting inside a business premises, scaling a business for a successful exit, the importance of business culture, writing company policies with scriptural principles, ministry startups, and selling and influencing through social media.

Attendees were repeatedly challenged by their peers to simultaneously grow their businesses and multiply their missional impact. They felt excited the Church is supporting them in their faith-driven business and professional journey, reported Mr Archer.



PAU staff holding some of the donated books.

## Book boost for Pacific Adventist University

📍 Port Moresby, PNG | Kym Piez

In celebration of 40 years of education in the South Pacific, Pacific Adventist University (PAU) is thrilled to announce a generous book donation from Dr George Knight.

Dr Knight, a Seventh-day Adventist historian, author, and educator, has donated a significant portion of his personal library, consisting of approximately 10,000 books delivered in 216 boxes. The collection encompasses a wide range of topics, including Adventist history, the writings of Ellen White, world and church histories, dictionaries, commentaries, theology studies, ethics, education and reference materials.

The donation stems from discussions held two years ago between Dr Knight,

PAU administrators and the dean of the School of Humanities, Education and Theology. Dr Knight felt led to designate PAU as the recipient of this invaluable collection. While a selection of reference books will be integrated into the main library for student use, the majority of the collection will significantly enhance the holdings of the Pacific Adventist Research Centre. This will be a boon for students pursuing research in Adventist Studies or Pacific History.

The collection was secured in February and recently cleared by customs in Port Moresby. A special prayer service was held to mark the occasion and celebrate the positive impact this gift will have on the PAU community.



Pastor Michael Worker and other faith leaders with Senators Cash and Henderson.

## Faith leaders express concern over draft bill

📍 Canberra, ACT | Tracey Bridcutt

A representative from the Seventh-day Adventist Church is among faith leaders who have expressed “deep concerns” to the Australian Government regarding the potential ramifications on religious education institutions of proposed legislation.

Forty faith leaders, including Pastor Kojo Akomeah, associate director for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist Church in Australia, signed an open letter addressing the government’s purported negotiations with The Greens party to implement recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) and pass a religious discrimination bill.

“While the government has had access to the ALRC report since last year, it has only just been made available to those most affected by its recommendations, particularly religious schools,” the letter states.

“Only a select few have seen the two draft pieces of legislation, meaning there has been no opportunity for people of faith to offer detailed feedback to the Government or the Opposition.

“We consider the reluctance of the Opposition to offer support to a legislative proposal for religious freedom which is—at this point—unseen and untested by faith communities to be reasonable and prudent, rather than an indication that a bipartisan approach endorsed by the faith communities is unachievable.”

In the letter, the faith leaders express reservations about any potential collaboration with The Greens, citing concerns over the party’s policies.

Meanwhile, Australian Union Conference general secretary Pastor Michael Worker was among a group of faith leaders who met with Senator Sarah Henderson and Senator Michaelia Cash last month to discuss government changes to the Sex Discrimination Act and the proposed religious discrimination bill.

“The Coalition’s guiding principle is that any legislative package brought forward by the Government must be one that takes people of faith, including faith-based schools, forward and not backwards,” wrote Ms Cash in a Facebook post following the meeting.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has since stated that religious freedom protections for faith groups “will not go backwards while I’m Prime Minister of Australia”, a commitment welcomed by faith leaders.

For further coverage on matters concerning religious freedom, see p14.

Image credit: Facebook/Senator Cash

## making headlines

### Floating outreach

Students from River Plate Adventist University (Argentina) embarked on a 10-day mission trip along the Amazon (Brazil), aiding six remote communities. The team of 28, including those studying medicine, nursing, dentistry, physical education, early education and communication, provided health care, education and home improvements. They lived on a boat, shared meals and slept in hammocks on the deck.—SAD



### Class of her own

Alexandria Miller, principal of an Adventist school in Illinois (US), was honoured as Teacher of the Year at the city’s annual awards ceremony for her dedication to excellence and exceptional response to relocating students following a school flood caused by a burst pipe. Her efforts were praised as “extraordinary” as she multi-tasked as principal, teacher and bus driver.—ANN

### A blossoming faith

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Filipino pastor Ritus Keni and his wife Olifia found comfort and purpose by starting the “Flower Mix Manado” YouTube channel. Olifia’s love for gardening flourished on this platform, which has gained more than 428,000 subscribers, and enabled them to make genuine connections and share their beliefs with a wider audience.—SSD

### Eat well, feel great

New research shows that eating more fruits, veggies, fish and whole grains can lower depression risk by about 30 per cent, whereas consuming a poor-quality diet high in processed meat, carbohydrates and other inflammatory foods, including alcohol and trans fats, is linked to higher rates of depression.

—Dietitians Australia



## Blooming gospel

Seventh-day Adventist Gantcho Taskov, a regular exhibitor at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show for the past 20 years, has been using his art to preach the gospel. A Macedonian expatriate and former medical doctor, Mr Taskov turned to floral artistry after his medical qualifications from Macedonia could not be accredited in Australia. This year his exhibit was inspired in the biblical verse about Jesus' return, described as lightning in the book of Matthew. Mr Taskov uses his exhibits to express his faith and engage visitors in discussions about spirituality and Scripture.—**Record staff**



## Counselling training

Thirty-four teachers from Adventist high schools in the Solomon Islands completed a comprehensive counselling training program in Honiara from April 1 to 3. Held in the dining hall of Betikama Adventist College (BAC), the training was funded by the Thrift family in Australia, organised by ADRA Australia and ADRA Solomon Islands, and facilitated by Pacific Adventist University Department of Education head Dr Leeroy Elisha. Project officer for ADRA's Betikama School Wellbeing Project, Gibson Apusae, said the aim of the training was to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their counselling capabilities within their educational roles in schools. Mr Apusae expressed appreciation to the Thrift family for funding the training and commended ADRA Solomon Islands and the Betikama administration team for facilitating the program.—**Denver Newter/Kiera Bridcutt**



## Charity completos

Newcastle Spanish church (NSW) members held a fundraising event on March 3 to support victims of the recent fires in Chile, which destroyed more than 3000 homes and killed more than 120 people. They sold traditional Chilean hot dogs, known as *completos*, in front of Avondale Memorial Church in Cooranbong, raising \$A4200. The Newcastle Spanish church thanked Memorial Church for the venue and all involved for their participation and donations.—**Roberto Velasquez**



## Healthy team

The Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) office team launched their very own Juice Bar during a Wellness Program on April 10. Organised by the Social Committee in collaboration with the Admin Secretariats, the initiative aims to support TPUM staff in prioritising their health and wellbeing. TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga and South Pacific Division director of Pacific capacity development Kingsley Wood officially opened the juice bar and were among the first to sample the freshly blended juices.—**TPUM staff**





## Hearts of ministry

More than 80 ministerial interns, ministerial secretaries and Australian Union Conference (AUC) admin team members came together from April 3 to 7 for a national intern development camp.

The camp, which runs annually and is organised by the AUC, was held at Camp Howqua in Victoria. For the first time, this year's camp was co-led by representatives from the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC).

NZPUC ministerial secretary Pastor Victor Kulakov expressed his appreciation for the event: "We are grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a well-organised and spiritually enriching program."

Interns camp is an intensive training program where future pastors are given the tools to apply their knowledge in various areas by facilitating real-life scenarios and giving them the opportunity to ask candid questions.

The event featured workshops on topics such as preaching, pastoral care and visitation. There were discussions, presentations and panels focused on the theme of "the heart of ministry". Topics included boundaries, self-leadership and ministry for the long haul.

Ministerial spouses were also invited with breakout sessions provided for networking and support.—**Kymerley McMurray**

## have news to share?

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



## Faithful breakthrough

After overcoming years of significant local resistance, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has successfully established its presence in Bairaman Ward, Pomio District, Papua New Guinea. Historically affiliated to another denomination, the community had previously restricted Adventist activities. Despite these challenges, the area was selected for the PNG for Christ nationwide evangelistic campaign, which is currently taking place. A key reconciliation event led by minister Andrew Ben, focused on forgiveness, culminated in the baptism of six people, including the local ward councillor Jacob Samoa and his wife.—**Paul Bopalo**



## Cash for health

The exclusive Adventist private health insurance fund, ACA Health, has partnered with Adventist Schools Australia to publish and distribute the *LIVE MORE HAPPY Kids' Journal* to all Adventist primary schools across Australia. The 95-page journal, created by final-year primary school teaching students at Avondale University, provides a comprehensive resource for educators to engage their students in learning about health and wellness. To encourage the use of the journal, ACA Health is hosting a Primary Schools Health Resource Competition. Primary teachers are invited to showcase their students' engagement with the resource by submitting a short video. The competition offers two \$A1000 cash prizes for the winning schools. To take part in the competition, primary school teachers can email <marketing@acahealth.com.au> for further details or to order their free copies of the *LIVE MORE HAPPY Kids' Journal*.—**Alex Rodriguez**



## New partnership to revive missionary spirit

**W**hile Adventism and Christianity has made significant inroads across much of the South Pacific, in many neighbouring countries there are still thousands of people groups who await the arrival of the gospel message.

In response to the General Conference's call to support mission in the least reached regions globally, the South Pacific Division (SPD) has initiated a partnership with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)—our closest neighbour—to support and encourage their mission endeavours. This region of Asia was part of the Australasian Union (an organisation unit before the SPD was formed in 1985) from 1901–1911.

"We have been called to reach all nations—that means looking beyond regional boundaries to spread the love and hope of Jesus to other places," said SPD secretary Pastor Mike Sikuri.

While the SPD has the highest ratio of Adventists per population compared to other Divisions, at 1:70, there are

significant challenges for mission in the SSD, where the ratio is more than 1:1000. The SSD encompasses sprawling cities and diverse people groups. Despite the efforts of their leaders to share the gospel, they need help. The SPD aims to provide resources—personnel, ideas and financial assistance—to support their mission.

The partnership between the SPD and SSD aligns with the broader Mission Refocus initiative announced by the General Conference in 2022 to reignite the Church's commitment to worldwide evangelism and outreach.

"Mission has always been the heartbeat of the Adventist Church," Pastor Sikuri said. "In fact, 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the first missionary sent out by the Adventist Church, John N Andrews. It's imperative for us to renew our dedication to global mission."

The Australian Union Conference already has a partnership with the new Southeastern Asia Union Mission within the SSD, which includes Laos, Vietnam,

Cambodia and Thailand. The Papua New Guinea Union Mission is working with the East Indonesian Union to support God's work in West Papua. The Trans Pacific Union Mission and New Zealand Pacific Union Conference are working on strategic partnerships with other Unions in the SSD.

"We want to revive and renew the missionary spirit throughout the SPD," said SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend.

"As a diverse Division, we need to keep working with different cultures to foster mutual understanding and growth."

The SSD comprises 11 countries: Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Brunei, Malaysia and Cambodia. Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are the dominant religions.

**Tracey Bridcutt**

Communication director, South Pacific Division.

## ALL HANDS ON DECK:



## Opening the Ben Isikel e-library

**B**ernadette Isikel, the Adventurers leader at Hoxton Park church, travelled from her home in Sydney to visit her siblings and attend the grand opening of the Ben Isikel e-library at Lemeris Primary School in October 2023.

In the heart of New Ireland, a province of Papua New Guinea, sits Lemeris Primary School. To reach this remote Primary School, one needs to take a 90-minute plane ride from Port Moresby to Kavieng before travelling a further four to five hours inland to the village of Lemeris. This village has no electricity and no water flowing through it, with the exception of a natural freshwater spring. The little primary school services children from 10 villages along the highway. Children as young as four years old wake at 4.30am to begin their long walk to school to arrive on time for assembly at 8.30am.

Several months previously, Bernadette's sister, Luanne, had a vision to install an e-library in the school but resources for this school were very limited. She shared her vision with her relatives and others within the village. There were many limitations, and anyone with a sceptical outlook would have thought her vision was an impossible dream. But Luanne pursued this vision in faith, saying, "We serve a powerful God. He will provide."

Bernadette thought about what she could do to help with this project. Working in a school in Sydney, she requested donations from her school and was given six boxes full of books to send over to Lemeris.

Bernadette's other sister, Kulyenne, worked at the airport in Port Moresby and was able to donate chairs for the library and put them on a flight as cargo.

Luanne was able to secure funding of

about \$A10,000 (or K22,000) to set up an e-library. She ordered solar-panels, laptops, servers and everything else needed for the e-library to operate.

But this was not enough.

There were still renovations to be carried out on the rundown, unused classroom. Luanne gathered all the boys in the village (some with only their highest levels of education being between Grades 6 and 8), who worked as gardeners and fishermen. They were able to offer their artistic talent and draw pictures on the walls, purchasing paint and brushes to paint the scenery.

The men in the village contributed to the renovation as carpenters. When they ran out of materials to renovate the classroom, they went from house to house in the village and found timber and nails in various places which everyone was more than happy to donate to the school. "Please take whatever you need," they said. They didn't have much to give, but they gave everything they had.

The women and children in the village also harvested their best produce from their gardens to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for the carpenters working on repairing the classroom. The young boys from the village also offered to help by bringing water in containers from the spring for the carpenters to drink from.

Once the renovations were complete, Luanne trained the teachers how to use the e-library, and by October 2023, the Ben Isikel e-library was completed. The library was named after their father who had been a student when the Lemeris Primary School had first opened.

With 20 laptops, 20 headphones, tables and chairs, the e-library was open for business!

The whole community came together to help wherever they could. What a marvellous God we serve, He saw the need and provided. Praise His Name.

**Sandra Lehn**

Communications clerk, Hoxton Park Church, NSW.



# The first Adventist in Papua

**W**attafeni (Watti) Boiori was one of the first Seventh-day Adventist converts in Papua (now Papua New Guinea), being one of 11 who were baptised in 1924 (*Australasian Record*, December 15, 1924). No-one is quite sure when Watti was born, as birth dates were not an important aspect of his people's culture, and no records were kept. He may have been born as early as 1897 or as late as 1910, based on assumptions of missionaries to the area who met him as a child (ESDA, January 29, 2020).

Watti was the son of Boiori, an elder of the Koiari mountain tribe of south-central Papua New Guinea (PNG), and was born in Eikiri village. The Koiari tribe are the people whose land the Kokoda Track passes through. At the time Watti was born, the Koiari were a warring tribe who built their houses high in trees for defensive purposes.

When missionaries Septimus Carr (English) and Peni Tavodi (Fijian) first entered this region of Papua in 1909, Watti's father and two other elders of their tribe negotiated with the missionaries to lease them some land, however they stipulated that the land could not be used as a missionary station. So, Carr and Tavodi instead planted a rubber plantation, which provided them the opportunity to offer night classes to their workers to teach them Scripture as well as reading, writing and arithmetic. After two years of running the plantation, the tribe gave them permission to become a mission—the Bisiatabu Mission—and in 1911, a school was started.

It was at this school that Watti spent much of his time as a child. Watti became a close friend of Peni Tavodi and looked up to him as a spiritual mentor. Tavodi taught Watti all about Jesus and salvation. Not only this, but Tavodi also taught Watti how to speak Fijian, in which they both enjoyed conversing with one another. Watti could still speak Fijian fluently in 1998 before his death.

At Bisiatabu Mission, Watti and a friend from his home village decided they wanted to get baptised, and joined a baptismal class run by one of the teachers at the mission. They became part of the group of 11 candidates who were among the first to be baptised as Seventh-day Adventists in Papua (*Australasian Record*, December 15, 1924). About his baptism, Watti said (translated), "I also want to follow Jesus that I might be His workman. The longing of my heart is that I might be able to have everlasting life. I request at this time that I might follow in the way Jesus has marked out by following Him in baptism" (ESDA, January 29, 2020).

After marrying his first wife Togoro Aino, Watti attended the Mirigedu Seventh-day Adventist Workers Training School where he received missionary training before being sent to



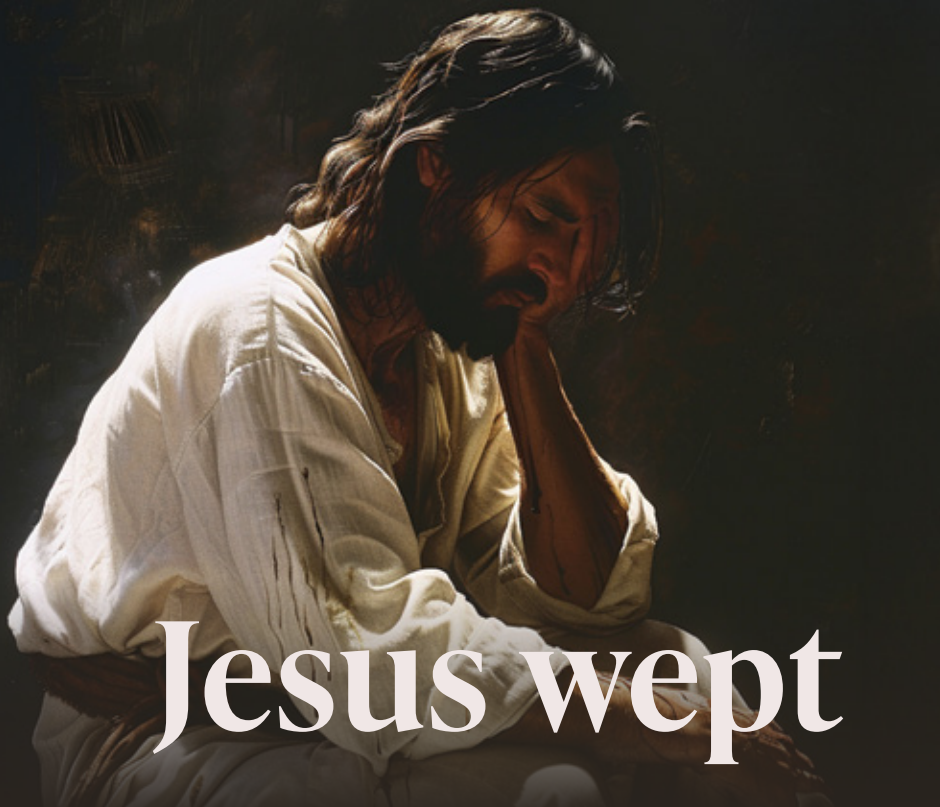
the Papuan Gulf as a pioneer Adventist missionary. This was a challenging assignment for two main reasons. Firstly, he did not speak the language of the Papuans in the area. To overcome this barrier, Watti taught himself the trade language, Motu, which was understood across much of the southern part of the country—in order to converse with those in the area. The second obstacle Watti faced was the danger of entering unfamiliar territory. In those days, Papua New Guinea islanders did not travel outside their home area, and strangers could be killed on sight. Watti, however, believed strongly in spreading the gospel message and trusted in God to protect him.

Watti spent his entire life serving as a missionary in the Papuan Gulf and ministering to numerous villages near his home village. Throughout his lifetime, Watti ran church meetings and encouraged others in their Christian journeys. He even composed worship songs in his native Koiari language for his people to sing. Watti was well known for his wide smile, openness to helping other believers, and encouragement. Upon his death in 1999, a very large crowd assembled to show their respect for the humble man who stepped out of his comfort zone to serve God wholeheartedly.

Watti's life was a life lived in devotion to God, never backing away from any opportunity to serve, no matter the risks or difficulties involved.

This year, Papua New Guinea is hosting a major missionary campaign called "PNG for Christ", continuing the efforts which began 100 years ago with the first Adventists in PNG. May their mission continue to spread the gospel of Jesus to the whole nation of PNG . . . and beyond!

**Olivia Fairfax**  
editorial assistant, Adventist Media.



# Jesus wept

**J**ohn 11:33–35

Therefore when Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her weeping He groaned in His spirit, and was troubled.

And He said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to Him “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus wept.

The shortest, but arguably the most poignantly beautiful text in the entire Scripture.

His tears that day were not for Lazarus.

He knew what others did not yet know.

He was about to wake him up.

So why did Jesus weep as He approached the tomb of His friend on that cold grey morning in Bethany?

He wept when He saw the pain on the ashen faces of his sisters, Mary and Martha.

Their fledgling faith was growing. They understood the doctrine of the resurrection, but they did not yet comprehend that their dearest Friend was the one whose command would open their brother’s grave.

He wept for the neighbours who had come to console them. The curious bystanders. The hired mourners who made a business out of grief.

For those about to witness one of the greatest events in human history who would soon be part of the rabble crowd in Pilate’s judgement hall.

For His disciples.

His close companions of three and-a-half years who still did not fully understand His mission. For one of them who would deny he knew Him. For the one who would betray Him.

He wept for His beloved nation: chosen to take the gospel to the world, whose leaders had become so twisted with hate they plotted to kill Lazarus again to conceal the impact of his resurrection.

For the spies who stole away to their pious masters to report what they had seen.

For Caiaphas, whose prophetic words would seal his fate, enshrine his name in infamy and signal the events that would lead to the crucifixion. In an act beyond our imagining the Son would beg His Father to forgive His murderers.

He wept for His mother. She believed He was who He said He was. But her hopes would be shattered like shards of crystal when she gazed up at her Son on that terrifying cross.

His tears would mingle with Mary’s a few days later as she broke the alabaster box, and anointed Him for His burial. No matter that the expensive gift might have

come from the earnings of her prostitution. The fragrance lingering on His body through His darkest hours would remind Him of her devotion and gratitude. Maybe just then she alone truly understood the gospel.

Perhaps He wept for the beautiful angel He had created, remembering how He had pleaded with him to turn from his rebellion and return to the Father’s embrace.

Was He overwhelmed with the sum total of the world’s misery that day as He contemplated what Lucifer had done, and what he had become?

He did not wail like the mourners, but with the same deep gut-wrenching grief He felt as He wept over the beautiful lost city of Jerusalem.

“How can I give you up Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, Israel?”

He must have wept for faithful Stephen, whose martyr’s death would mark the end of probation for His people, and rob them of their birthright.

Finally He looked ahead and He wept for us, as we gaze in shocked disbelief at the caskets of our loved ones. Our fathers, our mothers, our husbands, our wives. Our children.

He knew that 6000 years would not erase creation’s blueprint and we’ll always fail to understand the mystery of death.

Thank you dear Jesus for the tears You shed at the tomb that day.

The tears that show You are one of us.

“A Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.”

You did what we do when confronted by life’s tragedies. You cried.

But thank you that You did infinitely more than weep for us.

You rose from Your tomb on that glorious morning and became our Saviour. The One who one day soon will dry our tears forever.

Revelation 21:4: “And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes: there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, for the former things have passed away.”

**Judy Fua**

Kingscliff church, NSW. Looking forward to reunion day, along with those who have lost loved ones . . . that’s all of us!

# MARCH ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

March was an eventful month for religious liberty matters in Australia. The Australian Law Reform Commission released its report, the Commonwealth government announced a draft Religious Discrimination Bill, the New South Wales government passed the Conversion Practices Ban 2024 Bill, and Queensland introduced a proposed new Anti-Discrimination Bill. These new changes to the law will impact on religious freedom for religious schools and religious organisations.

## Commonwealth

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) report was released by the government on March 21. The report, *Maximising the Realisation of Human Rights: Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws*, was a response to the Commonwealth government's request for insights on safeguarding against unfair discrimination within educational settings while allowing religious schools to foster communities of faith by prioritising individuals of the same religious affiliation.

However, rather than enhancing religious freedoms, the recommendations within the ALRC report appear to diminish them, particularly in relation to the autonomy of faith-based schools in selecting staff who align with their beliefs. Notably, one of the recommendations was the removal of section 38 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth), which currently allows religious schools to engage staff and students on the basis of the religious character and ethos of the school.

The Albanese government is yet to decide whether to officially accept the ALRC report and its recommendations. In the interim, the government has drafted two pieces of legislation: a religious discrimination bill and a bill aimed at removing section 38 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth). The Prime Minister has indicated readiness to pass these bills provided they receive support from the Federal Opposition. The Opposition responded by saying they could not pass a bill they had not yet seen.

Subsequently, the government circulated a copy of the bill to the Shadow Attorney-General, Senator Michaelia Cash, who, subsequent to consultations with religious leaders—including the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department of the Australian Union Conference—expressed reservations about endorsing the bill in its current form. Concerns have been raised regarding the potential ambiguity of certain provisions within the proposed bill, which could potentially defer the determination of religious freedom issues to the judicial system in the future.

However, information reaching religious leaders now suggests that, in the absence of Opposition support, the government may seek backing from the Greens party to pass the Religious Discrimination Bill. In response, the Australian Union Conference has co-signed a letter, with other religious organisations, to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns about the prospect of a religious discrimination bill being passed without Opposition support.

## New South Wales

Following consultations with religious leaders including Adventist Schools Australia and the Australian Union Conference, New South Wales has followed Victoria in passing legislation to ban conversion practices. The Conversion Practices Ban Bill 2024, although not as extreme as Victoria's Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021, is similar in that it bans any religious expression that is part of "a practice, treatment or sustained effort that is:

- a. directed to an individual on the basis of the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, and
- b. directed to changing or suppressing the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity."

There are civil penalties for redress under the Anti-Discrimination Act and criminal penalties apply where a person has suffered "substantial" mental or physical harm due to conversion practice.

While "suppression" remains undefined within the law, and appears to draw upon its dictionary meaning, being "to keep or repress something" or "put an end to activities", it raises concerns that advice such as encouraging young people against engaging in sex until marriage or counselling married individuals against engaging in extramarital affairs could be potentially included in the scope of "suppression".

The full ramifications of this law have yet to be seen, but stating what a relevant religious teaching is or what a religion says about a specific topic, or parents discussing matters relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual activity or religion with their children, should not be misconstrued as a conversion practice.

The bill will receive royal assent and come into effect some time in 2025.

## Queensland

In Queensland, the government asked the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) to review its Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (the Act). The QHRC has made 122 recommendations to the Act in its September 2022 report, *Building Belonging*, which has been accepted by the government. The Queensland government has proposed Anti-Discrimination Bill 2024, which will apply a significant number of the recommendations of the QHRC and replace the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld). This bill has caused apprehension for religious freedom in Queensland.

The proposed changes to the Act seek to narrow religious exceptions even further, which is concerning for many religious organisations. It undercuts provisions that allow religious institutions to employ people based on their functioning faith (belief and practice, not profession only). These changes are the most restrictive regime for regulating religious bodies in Australia and will significantly undermine the ability of religious organisations to employ persons in accordance with their faith.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department of the Australian Union Conference has co-signed a submission—with other faith leaders concerned about the implications of this draft bill for religious freedom—to the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

## Reflection

In light of these developments, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department remains actively engaged in advocating for religious freedom to enable the mission of the Church to go forward in a conducive environment. As Anglo-Irish statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke (1729 -1797) is quoted as saying, "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". Therefore, the department invites all concerned individuals to participate in safeguarding religious freedoms.

To find out how to get involved please email <[Kojoakomeah@adventist.org.au](mailto:Kojoakomeah@adventist.org.au)>.

### Kojo Akomeah

associate director for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Australian Union Conference.



## HOW A LITTLE MAGAZINE LEFT A LEGACY

The sound of the shop bell jolted Ada from a rare moment of reverie. She felt the cool breeze blowing off the bay and down the hallway as she walked towards the shopfront. Standing just inside the doorway was a man she hadn't seen before.

Neatly dressed in working-class attire, he didn't portray the image of the typical door-to-door salesman. *Definitely not a local*, she thought to herself, *and it doesn't look like he's here for fruit and vegetables either*. With a beaming smile the man handed her a small magazine, titled *Australasian Signs of the Times*. A quick glance at the cover gave her the impression the

content was religious in nature.

Being a woman of faith, she accepted the gift from the stranger. Life was not easy for Ada and she thought she would enjoy some time reading about spiritual things, although finding that time might not prove easy for her. She placed the magazine on the kitchen table for her later attention.

A woman of diminutive stature, Ada had left her native England at a young age, bound for Melbourne and the opportunities it promised. Like thousands of other immigrants in the late 1880s, she wanted to experience the second-largest city in the British Empire and make a new life for herself. There,





she had met and married Peder Halten, a Norwegian seaman who had decided to make Melbourne his home port. He was a complicated man who had decided to anglicise himself, becoming Peter Holton after he arrived in Melbourne. Peter and Ada went on to have seven children over the next 12 years.

Due to Peter's work as a seaman, he would regularly travel away from the family for months and sometimes years at a time. Wiring funds to support the family from the various ports he visited proved unreliable, so he set up a business at the family home in Middle Park, Melbourne. They sold fruit, vegetables, wood and coal to the local neighbourhood. Because Peter spent so much time at sea, Ada became a part-time single mother, juggling the responsibility of raising a family mostly alone and running the family business to make ends meet. During the times Peter was home from the sea, his heavy drinking habit ensured that her workload remained demanding. The economic downturn of the mid-1890s only added to her challenges.

Ada's visit from the man with the magazine was no chance encounter. This man was a member of the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist church, located about four kilometres from her home. Over the preceding 12 months, members of the Windsor church had put forth a concerted effort to share as much literature as possible, utilising *Signs* and other tracts in their work. As a result, many people across the south of Melbourne had the opportunity to discover more about God and His love for them.

In the early 1900s, *Australasian Signs of the Times* was a registered newspaper published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It contained articles



on a variety of topics, ranging from current events at local and worldwide levels, scriptural and prophetic interpretation, church news, health and family life, children's interests, and even a short classifieds section.

Ada thoroughly enjoyed what she read in *Signs of the Times*. Before long, the man returned with another issue, and this time it was accompanied with an invitation to a tent meeting which was soon to be held in a neighbouring suburb. Although Ada didn't attend the tent meeting straight away, she continued to read *Signs* and the things she learned convinced her of the importance, and the blessing, of the seventh-day Sabbath; a day set aside by God for rest from work and for spending time with Him each week.

Ada decided to attend the tent meeting and learned more about what the Bible teaches on a wide variety of topics. This experience challenged her understanding of what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. Ada had been baptised as an infant into the Anglican faith and was a regular attender of her local church, but her conviction about Sabbath and her desire to follow Jesus' example of being baptised by immersion changed her life.

Ada decided to publicly declare her wish to follow God's will for her life and was baptised on April 12, 1905, by Pastor JH Woods at the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist church.

Ada was actively involved in her church community and became a foundation member of the newly formed East Prahran Seventh-day Adventist church, following the merger of the Windsor and Malvern churches in 1936. Her daughter and grandchildren also became foundation members of the East Prahran church at this time.

Tiny Nan, as Ada is known to those of us descended from her, instilled a love for Jesus and a determination to persevere through challenges in her children and grandchildren. She is remembered as a kind-hearted, patient woman who went the extra mile to support her children and grandchildren. Ada lived a long life, passing to her rest in February 1953, aged 87. She had also passed on a habit of reading *Signs* magazine, with her daughter, Halma, known to be a lifelong reader of *Signs*.

My earliest recollection of *Signs* was at my grandparents' home, flicking through the pages and finding articles of interest. My grandparents were most likely the source of the *Signs* magazines that often made their way to my family's home, being read by myself and a number of my siblings. Like everyone who follows Jesus, my journey with Him has included many different experiences and interactions, some of which were intergenerational in nature. I'm very thankful for the unknown person who shared that first *Signs* magazine with my great-grandmother.

Today, around 120 years later, some of Ada's descendants still enjoy reading *Signs* magazine.

#### **Toby Clare**

Seventh-day Adventist pastor, outdoors enthusiast and tinkerer with old cars. He writes from Wodonga, Victoria.



# Love you, Mumma



No matter  
how things are.  
Your mum  
will have your back.  
Be your cheer squad.  
In your corner.

Mum who stayed  
up at night  
when you were sick.  
Rocked you to sleep.  
The hours she spent  
giving birth to you.

Maybe she chose you.  
Couldn't give  
birth to you.  
You're hers.  
You're special.

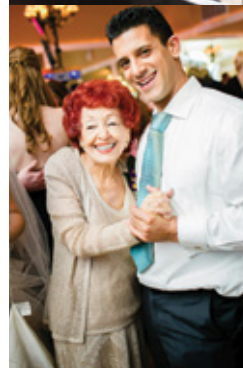
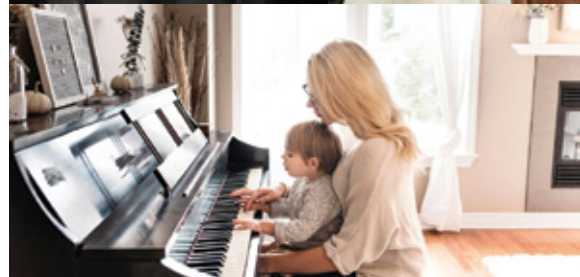
No matter how  
angry we get  
with Mum.  
How upset.  
You'll miss her  
when she's gone.  
You'll miss this.

Treasure this.  
Treasure every waking  
moment with your mum.

One day,  
all you'll have are memories.  
Listen to the advice.  
She's been around longer.  
A different era.

Take lots of photos.  
Store up lots of memories.  
You'll need it  
for the future.  
Treasure it with your kids.  
If you have any.  
Happy Mother's Day Mumma.  
I love you!

**De-anne Tasker**  
writes from Rockhampton,  
Queensland.



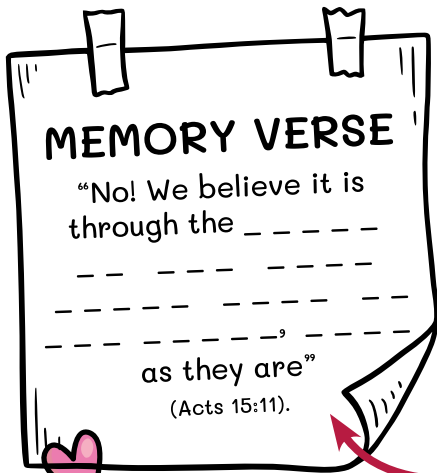


# Hello Kids!



## Strangers Among Us

As Paul works with new believers every day, he realises that God's love is the most important thing he can share with them. To reach others, we must accept and love them as they are, where they are and lead them from there to Jesus. Accepting and loving others is a part of honouring God.



## MAZE

Follow this colour combination

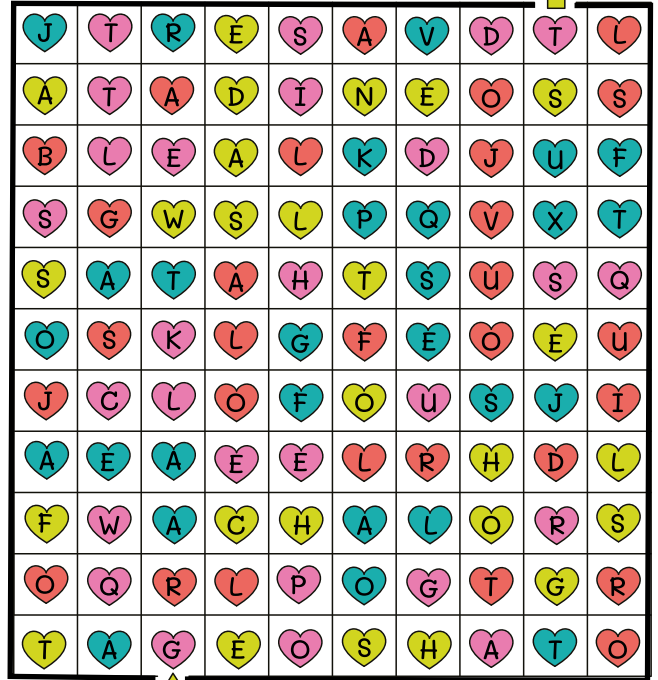


to find the way through the maze

\*Move only in a straight line - no diagonal moves.

Collect the letters to solve the memory verse.

FINISH ↑



↑ START

Colour me in!



# Budget-friendly foods for *a healthier gut*

Looking after your gut is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental health, and it may be easier and cheaper than you think.

These days you can't walk down a health food or vitamins aisle without over-priced products shouting gut health claims at you. Your gut is a lively hub for trillions of microorganisms known as gut flora or microbiota, essential for breaking down the foods you eat. For a healthy gut, you need a diverse range of gut microbiota and they need to be fed with the right kinds of foods.

But before you go reaching for expensive vitamins and probiotic products, Sanitarium's dietitians say there are better and more affordable ways to nurture your gut—and these foods could already be in your fridge or pantry.

## 1. Frozen veggies

Research shows that eating 30 plant foods a week can support gut health by encouraging the growth of different species of "good" bacteria needed to keep our gut and overall health on track. Eating frozen vegetables is a cost-effective and convenient way to achieve this goal. They can be added to a variety of dishes including stews, stir-fry or steamed as a side. Nutrient-wise, they offer similar or even better nutrient quality than fresh veg.

## 2. Yoghurt

Some yoghurts contain probiotics, like certain strains of lactobacillus or bifidobacteria. Probiotics are live microorganisms that, when consumed in adequate amounts, provide a health benefit. Probiotics can support health in different ways, from helping your immune system function properly, aiding digestion by breaking down some of the food we can't digest, and even keeping harmful microorganisms in check. When choosing yoghurts, opt for a plain or Greek



yoghurt, and add your favourite fruit to it for more flavour. And if you are wanting that gut-loving hit, look for ones that contain probiotics.

## 3. Wholegrain bread and breakfast cereals

Fibre is super important for gut health; in fact it's linked to several benefits, including supporting regular bowel movements, microbiota diversity and an overall healthy digestive system. It is recommended that women aim for at least 25g of fibre per day, and men aim for at least 30g per day. When choosing breads and breakfast cereals look for the words "wholegrain" or "wholemeal" at the top of the ingredient list.

## 4. Canned beans and legumes

There's a huge variety to choose from including chickpeas, cannellini beans, lentils and kidney beans. They are great flavourful additions to dishes like tacos, curries or pasta sauce and a great meat substitute thanks to their protein content. Beyond their flavour, they are loaded with dietary fibre that helps to keep you full for longer and feeds your gut bacteria.

## 5. Extra virgin olive oil (evoo)

Research has shown that the polyphenols in evoo can act as a prebiotic by encouraging the growth of good gut bacteria. It also helps reduce the growth of bad gut bacteria, leading to reduced inflammation and improved overall gut health. In addition to frying and roasting, it's also great used as a salad dressing.

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



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## From pop-up bookstore to baptism

In April 2021 Yoka was simply out for the day visiting Parabanks Shopping Centre, South Australia, when she came across experienced LE Rita Pinzone and the Faith Adventist team at their pop-up bookstore. She stood back and observed what the pop-up was all about and was soon approached by one of the friendly crew, Shane.

Yoka loved Jesus and had been searching for a church that read the Scriptures. She'd recently attended the Uniting and Lutheran churches, but was looking for a local church to fellowship where she felt comfortable—and that taught the Bible.

Yoka received a couple of free books to read at the pop-up and enjoyed her interaction with Shane who invited her to his church. She found the team so genuinely friendly that it wasn't long before she found herself visiting Faith Adventist Centre (Mawson Lakes) for the very first time.

There, Yoka met more people who immediately made her feel at home in a relaxed community environment without the noise she had encountered elsewhere. She was particularly drawn to the open and interactive Foundations Bible class that stuck solely to the Bible and paced itself according to the needs of the participants rather than those of the teacher.

Soon, Yoka was staying for lunch, making new friends and feeling a part of the group. She particularly enjoyed learning about the central issues in the great controversy between Christ and Satan along with other Bible teaching that helped make sense of current and last-day events. Lolita, one of the teachers and a local Bible worker, was one of those to

befriend Yoka—faithfully visiting and helping her personally while also gradually unpacking and reaffirming the new Bible truths she was learning.

Yoka has become one of the most evangelistic people at Faith Adventist family, bringing several of her neighbours, family, friends and new acquaintances over the past two years, some of whom have become regular attendees themselves. This has included special events, such as Pastor Gary Webster's Countdown series in August 2023 and volunteering at some of the pop-up bookstores.

Yoka became a valued LE customer and after reading *Love Under Fire (The Great Controversy condensed)* by Ellen White, she fell in love with the book and ordered several more from Rita to share with her family and friends. She also loved the book *Hope for Troubled Times* by Pastor Mark Finley and actively shares that book with whoever she can.

After continued Bible studies with her Foundations class, as well as at home with Lolita and Pastor Hugh Heenan, Yoka was baptised on December 16 at Faith Adventist's sister church venue, Trinity Gardens, with family coming from interstate along with her two local musician brothers, Jack and Jim, who provided special musical accompaniment for the occasion.

Her brother Jack, in particular, was thrilled to see her baptised at Trinity Gardens, where as a Bible-believing Christian, he had sent his children to school and had been the school cleaner! Yoka's daughter Kelly, whose husband is Jewish, gave sympathetic understanding of her mother's decision to worship on Sabbath and attended the baptism from Melbourne.

Yoka is so very happy to be part of the Faith Adventist Centre and South Australian Adventist church family and wants everyone to know the Bible is true and Jesus is coming soon!

**Hugh Heenan/Grapevine/Stories of Faith**

# WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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## Wedding



### BARTON—STOCKWELL.

Bradley John Barton, son of Peter and Deborah Barton (Blacktown, NSW), and Pamela Patricia Stockwell, daughter of Keith and Pam Stockwell (Narrabri), were married on 17.3.24 at the Grafton church. The local church and family members hosted a beautiful reception on behalf of the couple. They will set up their home in Grafton where they both are engaged in voluntary work.

Bob Manners

Wesley and Katie (Coogee, NSW), Tom Dose and Jess Heaton (Christchurch, NZ) and Riordan and Briony (Canberra, ACT); four grandchildren; and sister, Sonya Gates. Stephen was a health professional who loved to be out in God's creation. Tramping, camping, kayaking and running were his "happy place", both with family and in church life. Over the years, he made a major contribution to Pathfinder leadership in the South Australian Conference. Although Stephen's life was cut short by unexpected health challenges, his faith remained strong and vibrant to the end.

Wolfgang Stefani

**HUGHES**, Noel Stanley, born 19.3.1941 in Maleny, Qld; died 15.10.23 in Forest Lake. On 14.4.1963 he married Jacqueline McDougall. He is survived by his wife (Forest Lake); Juanita (Brisbane), Raelene and Michael (Brisbane), Wayne and Osmani (Brisbane), Leon and Arja (Russell Island), Sandra and Glen (Penrith, NSW) and Janeen and Robert (Qld); nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and brother, Alan (Mt Crosby). Noel worked for the Queensland government in both the Lands and Forestry

## Obituaries

**DOSE**, Stephen Mark, born 5.10.1962 in Seven Hills, NSW; died 5.2.24 in Kersbrook, SA. On 21.8.1983 he married Robyn. Stephen is survived by his wife (Kersbrook); children, Katherine Ruth (Mt Barker);

## This month in signs



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Homecoming 2024

August 23-24

Draw lines to match names on left with role on right



**Rick Ferret**  
(1984)

A. Worship service choir and orchestra conductor



**Aleta King**

B. Worship service speaker



**Melanie Windus**

C. Online host



**Bruce Manners**  
(1974)

D. Concert headliner



**You!**

E. Homecoming 2024 attender

Answers: Rick Ferret (D); Aleta King (A); Melanie Windus (B); Bruce Manners (C); You! (E)

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departments. He loved the Lord and his family. He faithfully and freely shared his faith. He loved handing out tracts and fundraised for Chiang Mai Academy, Thailand. He went to sleep waiting for the coming of his Lord.

William Strickland



**NEWMAN,**  
Raymond David, born 24.9.1929 in Gisborne, NZ; died 13.3.23 in

Christchurch. He was married to Rozanne Stokes, who predeceased him in 1999. Ray is survived by his daughter, De'Arne and Haami Cassidy (Christchurch); son, Brenden and Emma (Christchurch); and grandchildren, Rianna, Sharda, Summer and Hunter. Ray served the Sanitarium Health Food Company for 49 years in various locations throughout New Zealand and then, upon retirement, continued working in merchandising. He served his Church faithfully in various locations, with a special concern for young people. His gentle, inclusive nature was a blessing to all. He looked forward to the return of Jesus.

Paul Gredig

**PETERSEN,** Eliselotte (Leelo), born 20.2.1924 in Horstein, Germany; died 20.1.24 in Oaklands Park, SA. On 29.1.1946 she married Otto, who predeceased her in 1997. She was also predeceased by her son, Axel in 2023. Leelo is survived by her daughters, Ute May (Coonalpyn) and Silke Savage (Longford, Tas). Leelo was an inspiration. She was gregarious, witty and level-headed to the end, reaching the grand old age of exactly one month short of 100 years. Leelo knew and loved the Good Shepherd just like her own family. She was very grateful for His constant care and leading, found ways to share her faith and looked forward to dwelling with Him "in the house of the Lord forever".

Wolfgang Stefani

## Advertisements

### TASMANIAN CONFERENCE QUADRENNIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING.

Tasmanian constituency meeting notice. Notice is given that the Tasmanian Conference will hold its regular constituency meeting on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Launceston, commencing at 10am with registration of delegates. The business of the meeting will be those items as outlined in the constitution and to consider amendments to the constitution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tasmanian Conference.  
Dr Mark Falconer, General Secretary.

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## Position Vacant

### ASSISTANT MANAGER—CAMP HOWQUA HOWQUA, VIC

Camp Howqua is seeking a full-time assistant manager to join our management team at Camp Howqua. Camp Howqua is an educational, recreational and camping facility owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The position is "hands-on" in a predominantly outdoor work environment. The successful applicant will have solid general all-round building/machinery maintenance experience and will be able to demonstrate outstanding customer relations skills across a diversity of ages and cultures. Recognised outdoor qualifications such as high ropes, etc would be a distinct advantage. Attractive remuneration package including onsite house. Applicants must be practising, baptised members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have a clear commitment to its mission, vision and values. Only persons with an existing right to work in Australia will be considered. For more information, visit the South Pacific Division's employment website <adventistemployment.org.au>.



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Julie Laws

**Letters**  
editor@record.net.au

**News & photos**  
news@record.net.au

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**Website**  
record.adventistchurch.com

**Mailing address**  
Adventist Media  
Locked Bag 1115  
Wahroonga NSW 2076  
Australia  
+ 61 (02) 9847 2222

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2024  
**PNG FOR  
 CHRIST**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PNG FOR CHRIST**

**Happening Right Now Across PNG!  
 26 April to 11 May**

Right now, 2,000 public evangelistic programs are sharing the last days gospel message in Papua New Guinea. Many recent events have shown that the enemy of souls is not happy with this major, nation-wide event. Jesus is Lord of all, but the conflict still rages. Prayer is our major weapon in this spiritual battle. Please join us in praying for all those involved.