



# PNG for Christ

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## Things I learned at PNG for Christ

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“

. . . instead the church went in faith and has had a huge impact on thousands of lives and the whole country.

It has been an incredible blessing to witness firsthand the amazing impact of PNG for Christ. I've learned a few things that have strengthened and affirmed my own faith journey.

**Ministry to the least of these:** The mega health clinic was a powerful way to begin the nationwide proclamation of the Adventist message. In talking to PNG church leaders, there is a recognition that retention and nurturing start with making sure the needy and disadvantaged are taken care of. Christ healed the body and then He preached and the Church in PNG is following His example. Where can I serve my community?

**God still works miracles:** Stories of God working in hearts and lives will come out of Papua New Guinea for months and possibly years to come. But on Facebook and in the chat groups I've been monitoring, I've seen some amazing reports. Sometimes it's tempting to think that the Holy Spirit finished working miracles at the close of the book of Acts. Some I'd like to save for future *Record* articles, but Pastor Neil Thompson from Avondale (see page 9 for more about Avondale's involvement) witnessed people experiencing healing after prayer at their site near Omaura. Others experienced healing just by attending the mega health clinic, before receiving treatment! At sites where there was no translation, people heard the gospel (preached in English) in their own language.

**Cynicism is not always helpful:** Especially in the Western church, we think cynicism or thinking about things logically is the only way to live out our faith with integrity. A large white bird descended low over the crowd of thousands gathered in Goroka. Everyone's attention, usually so focused and polite, was drawn to this majestic creature. I saw the bird of prey that had caused the unusual behaviour, yet the story quickly went around that it was a sign of God's presence. Reflecting on the experience, why can't it be both. A natural phenomenon directed by the Creator of both people and birds. A dove alighting anyone? It's easy to cite retention issues, logistics or other reasons why something like PNG for Christ wouldn't work but instead, the church went in faith and has had a huge impact on thousands of lives and the whole country.

**Mission takes commitment:** Pastor Mascell James from Vanuatu shared on Facebook about a volunteer missionary who has limited education but looks after four churches in a remote mountain area. Visiting homes, with a picture roll, he tells people about Jesus. He walked a day or two to get to the site at Pangia and brought 20 people he had prepared for baptism. Another story that particularly stood out to me was one that I saw shared by one of our preachers on Facebook. He reported that a teacher had left his employment to chair the organising committee in his area. For the past two years he has been working to bring the program together, trusting in God rather than a pay-cheque, while he works for PNG for Christ. Stories of commitment like these two could be told by the thousands, just from this program.

**Importance of volunteers:** Speaking of commitment, every Sabbath, churches across the South Pacific run thanks to countless volunteers. For PNG for Christ, these volunteers were part of the site programs at more than 2000 sites across the country, every day for two weeks! The AV and projectors, security, ushers, those who were driving and guiding the guest speakers. Some camped at the sites to look after equipment. Many had late nights and early mornings. This program could not have been run without all of the church members supporting, inviting and taking part. These faithful people were an integral part of the success of the program.

What a privilege to be part of the South Pacific Division. Mission is in our DNA and in recent years, perhaps we've had the missionary ties that bound us loosened by time and convenience. It is time to embrace our mission heritage once again. Hundreds who went to PNG return equipped and inspired for mission. We can learn from PNG for Christ and be inspired for mission in our own spheres of influence. If we accept the call.



INSIGHT:

## Mission in action at Avondale University

Professor Kerri-Lee Krause  
Vice Chancellor of Avondale University

“For a greater vision of world needs” is still the best summary of the mission of Avondale University, but our students best personify this motto. We transform lives by offering engaging and authentic Christ-centred learning and discovery. The impact: graduates who serve for good. If you’re reading this in church, look around. Your minister, a teacher in your local Adventist or Christian school, a nurse in your local hospital—all likely to be competent and capable leaders and alumni of Avondale.

Tomorrow’s leaders have many on-campus opportunities to develop and practise the love, grace and compassion of Jesus. Our students organise and host vibrant Friday evening worship services—one, called SALT, is also a centre for creativity and service that supports a school chapel program. Our spiritual emphasis weeks lead to decisions for baptism and Bible study—one, Festival of Faith, devotes a day to service. Our re-investment in full-time residential leadership roles means we can offer Bible studies to more students, particularly those in Andre, Ella Boyd and Watson Halls. Our staff coordinate service learning trips—to Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Tonga this year. And our chaplains are building even stronger partnerships with the Avondale University Church pastoral team, including leading a Connect Group for young adults on Sabbath mornings.

The message is clear: we value spirituality and service. These are key to a holistic focus that makes us so unique in the higher education sector. Mission and quality go hand-in-hand at Avondale, with students rating us number one in *The Good Universities Guide 2024* for quality of overall educational experience. It’s a focus that produces career-ready graduates with a passion for serving church and community.

Your gift to the Avondale offering next week (June 8) will ensure common spaces at Avondale can support our growing spirituality and service activities and programs. It will, among other things, equip and refurbish the chapel in College Hall, providing a much-needed dedicated space for student worship services. Making room so more students at Avondale can grow spiritually and serve for good is an investment with big returns. As chaplain Priscilla Mariassouce says, bringing our students closer to God will change their lives so they can change the lives of others.

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Due to the pandemic, the celebrations were delayed but they were finally able to celebrate this milestone together.

## Invercargill celebrates a century of ministry

📍 Invercargill, NZ | Kiera Bridcutt

Invercargill Adventist Church recently celebrated 100 years of ministry in Southland, New Zealand.

Due to the pandemic, celebrations were delayed but the church was finally able to celebrate this milestone together.

Pastor Victor Kulakov, NZ Pacific Union Conference missional development strategy director, gave the address. He referenced the southern lights, often visible in Invercargill, encouraging attendees to continue to be a light to the community.

There were special messages from pastors who have served in Invercargill.

"Celebrating the incredible century-long journey of your beloved church," Pastor Jonathas Newlands reflected. "My heart overflows with gratitude and nostalgia. Your commitment to service has touched lives beyond our church walls, through Meals on Wheels, random acts of kindness, walking groups, and wellness and prophecy seminars."

Attendees on the day were given a detailed timeline of the history of the

church, from the original church site to the subsequent rebuilds needed due to growth. They also heard how the Southland Adventist School has ministered alongside the church over the years.

The first Adventist to work in Southland was William Redhead, a colporteur who sold literature there in 1905, and again in 1906. After the North and South NZ Conferences were formed, an evangelist began preaching in the area.

The core of a church was formed in 1920. The first baptism of seven people was held on Christmas morning, 1921. The new converts, along with some others, were formed into a church and the first meeting was held on Sabbath, December 31, 1921.

The first meeting place was in the UFS Hall, which was rented. Then, in 1925, a church was built in Esk Street. In 1955, a school was built behind the church. With the congregation outgrowing the church, in 1964 a new church was opened across the road.



Manning Adventist Bush School enjoys the peace of mind of its security fence, co-funded by RMS.

## RMS program strengthens ministry resilience

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Linzi Aitken

The Risk and Safety Co-Funding program, launched by Risk Management Service (RMS) in 2016, has now contributed more than \$A2 million to safety and risk mitigation projects in Adventist communities across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

The program addresses the challenges faced by Adventist entities in managing risk and safety, providing essential financial support for projects that might otherwise be beyond budget constraints. These projects aim to enhance ministry resilience and strengthen mission efforts.

In North Queensland, an Adventist church utilised RMS co-funding to improve accessibility for vulnerable members and visitors. Upgrades included improved mobility access and a new disability-friendly bathroom.

Lina White, a member of the local church, noted the positive impact of these improvements. "The safety and accessibility of our church premises have been greatly improved and risks have

been eliminated," said Mrs White.

Adventist schools have also benefited from the program. A small school in North NSW saw an increase in student enrolment and a decrease in petty crime after the installation of a secure perimeter fence.

RMS also assisted an Adventist campground in south-east Queensland to become better prepared for bushfire season by co-funding onsite bushfire mitigation and firefighting equipment.

RMS manager Jonathan Hale said RMS champions initiatives that reduce the likelihood of loss or injury. "Insurance alone is not enough to protect property and people, so our goal for the Risk and Safety Co-Funding program is to future-proof the Adventist Church's good work."

Adventist leaders seeking to improve ministry resilience can apply for funding. Simply call or email RMS to be considered. For more information, download the program brochure at <[rms.org.au/protected-media/risk-funding/](http://rms.org.au/protected-media/risk-funding/)>.



PAU vice-chancellor Professor Lohi Matainaho with Health Minister John Still.

## Vanuatu and PAU partner in nursing education

Port Moresby, PNG | Kym Piez

The Vanuatu Ministry of Health and Pacific Adventist University (PAU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Friday, April 26, to accept 10 Vanuatu students each year.

The MOU established a formal commitment to enhance nursing education through collaboration between Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

Vanuatu Minister of Health John Still expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership: "This MOU not only strengthens the bond between our countries but also fosters a strong network of nursing and midwifery training.

"We can now move hand-in-hand to advance education in the health sector. I am deeply grateful to PAU for answering our *wan salwata wantok* (island family) by allowing Vanuatu students to pursue their education in your beautiful country," added Mr Still.

Vanuatu, a small island nation with a population of just over 310,000, is facing a critical shortage of healthcare workers. The MOU aims to address this gap by producing nurses equipped to serve in remote areas, fostering self-reliance and strengthening Vanuatu's healthcare system.

Two days prior to this agreement, another MOU was signed on April 24 between PAU and Vanuatu Mission.

The agreement establishes a new in-service postgraduate diploma program in secondary education for Vanuatu educators to upgrade their qualifications. Signatories included Vanuatu Mission president Pastor Charlie Jimmy and education director Jeffesen Trief together with PAU vice chancellor and deputy vice chancellor Professors Lohi Matainaho and Lalen Simeon.



With the main theme based on creation, the tent featured a number of sensory activities.

## First big camp tent for neurodivergent children

Stuarts Point, NSW | Juliana Muniz

Neurodivergent children had a special place just for them at this year's North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) big camp, held from April 19 to 27 at Yarra Holiday Park in Stuarts Point.

For the first time in an Australian big camp, the NNSW Children's Ministry team introduced a dedicated program tent for children with autism, ADHD, Tourette's, dyslexia and other neurodivergent conditions.

The Hyperactive Faith tent was designed to teach children aged 6-16 about Jesus, while meeting their needs. It provided a calming corner with a sensory swing, various breathing strategies and instrumental calming music to support emotional regulation, reduce anxiety, and improve focus and engagement in activities. With the main theme based on creation, the tent featured a number of sensory activities with rice, play dough, puzzles, Lego, drawing and colouring, fidget toys and more.

NNSW family and children's ministries director Colleen Savage explained the importance of initiatives catering to this group. "Parents tell me the children,

the families, are lonely. They don't feel they can go to a Sabbath school or Pathfinders or Adventurers or church camps because they feel judged because of the children's behaviour."

The tent was run by Pastor Peau Fua and his wife Julianne with the help of trained volunteers. The couple, who have a son on the autism spectrum, wanted to do something for parents and children facing similar challenges.

"Attending the NNSW Big Camp for the past four years, our son never fitted in any of the tents. So my wife and I wanted to do something about it. We shared our vision with Colleen and what we wanted. She took it to the committee at the Conference, and they also loved the idea," recalled Pastor Fua.

Running activities for most days throughout camp, the tent reached its capacity of 15 registered children.

According to Mrs Savage, the initiative made a difference. "I had one parent come to me in tears saying that this is the first time her child's been able to make friends at big camp because he found someone that's similar to him."



Founding church member and head elder Nori waited 30 years for this project to be finished

## Church dedicated at birthplace of Adventism in the PNG Highlands

📍 Togoba, PNG | Jarrod Stackelroth

After 30 years of planning and building, Togoba 1 Seventh-day Adventist Church was finally dedicated in a special service on May 2.

General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson travelled from the site where he was preaching in Minj, Jiwaka province, to Mount Hagen, Western Highlands province, to open the Togoba 1 church.

The church was started in 1986 as a bush material building before the members had a dream to build a permanent and lasting structure in 1995.

Elder Nori, one of the foundation members of the church, and father of Roger Nori, Western Highlands Mission (WHM) CFO, said the church members had been waiting for this day for a long time and were very excited to see it.

Pathfinder leader Seth Mungabe said, "It is our blessing that Pastor Wilson came to dedicate and bless our church." Pathfinders, Adventurers and Youth Ambassadors lined up to welcome Pastor Wilson. According to Mr Mungabe, the church has 180 members, 60 Pathfinders, 36 Adventurers and 20 Youth Ambassadors.

In his welcome, Pastor Solomon Paul, WHM secretary, shared that there are now more than 123,000 members in the WHM. He welcomed Pastor Wilson on behalf of the Mission's seven provinces.

"We also acknowledge our fathers and mothers who were the pioneers of this church," he said. "To all the pioneers, this is the day we looked forward to and now it has come."

Togoba was the first place in the Highlands to have an Adventist presence when Australian missionary Pastor Len Barnard set up a leper colony there in 1947. It was fitting then that Togoba was also the site of the mega health Clinic that ran in the week before PNG for Christ and administered more than 18,000 treatments to those who came from all parts of the country.

Pastor Paul reminded the church that this mega health clinic was going back to where they had started in the region—helping and healing people.

Before praying and officially dedicating the church, Pastor Wilson addressed those gathered in celebration. "Thank you for your faithfulness," he said. "From that humble beginning helping lepers God has helped you realise the importance of health and service. God asks for us to be active in our work. Diligent people who are focused on a mission. Togoba church can be a place of activity and competence."

## making headlines

### Youth unite

More than 2000 Adventist youth rallied together in Jamaica for Operation Save a Youth. Fifty projects transformed the community, such as painting homes and public buildings, cleaning beaches, donating medical supplies and building homes for those in need. A health expo offered medical and dental checks, eye screening, massages and counselling, and a road march through the town distributing prayer cards and Adventist books ended the impact.—**IAD**



### Kids 4 Jesus

A baptism of 1153 children marked the culmination of a week-long evangelistic event held by 106 elementary schools in the Philippines, known as "Kids for Jesus Season 2". Throughout the week, students from nursery to grade 6 participated in on-campus evangelism and public outreach efforts, delivering inspiring sermons each night.—**SSD**

### Inmates embrace Jesus

Since 2023, members of the Partido Alto Adventist Church (Peru) have regularly visited a rehabilitation centre to share the message of restoration in Jesus, resulting in 32 inmates out of 52 deciding to be baptised. Church members will provide ongoing support to the new converts for rehabilitation and societal reintegration.—**ANN**

### Tiny flies, big clues

Researchers from Monash University and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre collaborated to investigate the Hippo signalling pathway, using fruit flies as a model organism. Their findings shed light on how this pathway regulates cell behaviour, with potential implications for cancer treatment in the future.

—**Monash University**



## Faith builders at home

The Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) has developed a new app to support families with children aged zero to 14 in daily worship. Launched by children's and Sabbath school director Pastor Daron Pratt at the GSC Big Camp on April 26, the Faith Builders App provides daily devotionals and ideas on how to help children grow spiritually. The app offers podcasts, resources, family worship ideas, parenting tips and more, helping parents pass on their faith to the next generation. Speaking at the launch event, GSC president Pastor Alban Matohiti challenged individuals: "Are we taking time to make disciples in our families? It [Faith Builders App] will help you make disciples in your own home." Faith Builders App is available for iOS and Android.—**Olivia Fairfax/Juliana Muniz**



## Breaking conventional norms

More than 200 local church leaders from across the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM) were equipped for mission at the SIM Leadership Empowerment Training, held from April 7 to 11. The event, a collaboration between 10,000 Toes and ADRA Austria, exceeded the initial expectation of 70 participants. Held at the Baru church in Noro, New Georgia, the comprehensive program covered topics such as leadership development, financial literacy, health management and data entry. A key feature of the four-day program were the food demonstrations by 10,000 Toes Kitchen representative Senimili Mataika and dietitian Latanya Wong, which particularly engaged many male participants, breaking conventional norms in the region. The training concluded with a health screening, showcasing the practical application of the newly acquired skills.—**Charlotte Wong**



## Never too old

The Bethesda Village choir, whose eldest member is 94, sketched the narrative of Jesus' life through song for the Manna Park church (NZ) congregation on May 11. Village chaplain Evan Fray shared a few key thoughts and CEO Hartley Holtzhausen took the children's story. "This multi-denominational choir was a blessing to the church and are a living and vibrant witness to the reality that we are never too old to testify to the goodness of God," said North NZ Conference secretary Rosalie McFarlane.—**Record staff**



## Healthy eating

The Adventist Church in Vanuatu, in partnership with Sanitarium, aims to encourage healthy eating in schools. Church representatives and staff from ADRA recently visited Maumau Adventist School at Efate Island to encourage students and communities living around the school to make healthy food choices. They demonstrated and promoted how to make a healthy breakfast using Weet-Bix and So Good milk, and the students enjoyed a nutritious breakfast. The partnership with Sanitarium began in 2023.—**Record Staff**





## Aitutaki women

More than 70 women from Aitutaki, Cook Islands, gathered in fellowship for a weekend of empowerment from April 26 to 28.

The event, held at Tekaaroa Adventist School, was organised by Aitutaki pastor Sarah Aratai and led by visiting pastor from Wellington, New Zealand, Kirsten Oster Lundqvist. Pastor Lundqvist shared Bible stories on women being empowered and called to reach out.

"Some women expressed how going deeper into the stories of biblical women brought forth surprising lessons, all pointing to how Jesus continually calls women to reach out and share His gospel," Pastor Lundqvist said.

Women were also encouraged by historical figures from within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including pioneers such as Rachel Oats, who introduced the seventh-day Sabbath to Advent believers.

Senior auditor at the Cook Island audit office, Anita Hammond, spoke with the teens and young women, looking at Psalm 139 and encouraging them that they are beautifully made.

The Aitutaki women's weekend ended with a dinner at Tamanu on the Beach resort where they were encouraged to dress vibrantly and wear floral 'ei's.—**Kiera Bridcutt/Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist**

## have news to share?

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



## Poetry success

An Adventist student from American Samoa has won the state finals of the Poetry Out Loud competition for the second consecutive year. Hazel Ipuniuese Leo, a junior at Iakina Adventist Academy, competed alongside 10 other high school students in the state championships. She placed first overall after reciting the poems "Propositions" by Stephen Dunn, "Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood and "Friendship After Love" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Outside of the classroom, Hazel serves as secretary for Sabbath school at the Alofau Adventist church, and is an active and dedicated Pathfinder and youth. She dedicates her poetry success to her family and friends, and especially to God.—**Record staff**



## Life-changing experience

Avondale University students and staff were among the international speakers who took part in PNG for Christ. Nine Avondale seminarians conducted baptisms and preached at seven sites in and around Omaura and Kimi districts of the Eastern Highlands Province. According to seminary lecturer Pastor Neil Thompson, the experience was very positive for the students. "One of the students described it in a Greek word that we've been using in class, *metanoia*, which just simply means a turnaround. He sees evangelism, cross-cultural ministry, what he's capable of and what reliance on God looks like in a very different way now," said Pastor Thompson. Other students in the group had a similar takeaway: "They are coming back with a way of seeing secularism and being able to think through: what are the ways we can impact and reach secularism in ways which we couldn't have imagined before?"—**Juliana Muniz/Brenton Stacey**



## Three hours before my flight, I still didn't have my passport . . .

“It’s a miracle that I’m in Papua New Guinea,” says Julie, a Bible worker at Port Macquarie church (NSW) and speaker for Site #2 at Hayafaga. “I saw an ad in the *Record* asking for people who were willing to come and preach for PNG for Christ. Even though I was immediately interested in going, I didn’t think it would be possible. But nothing is impossible with God.”

The first issue was financial. “If you want me to go, God, please provide the money,” Julie prayed. Within two days, two generous donors provided the money she needed for airfares.

The second issue was getting a passport and visa on time.

“There were a lot of delays in getting the documents I needed for the passport,” says Julie. “The day before my flight, the travel agent said that it was too late. He wasn’t expecting me to get my passport and visa on time, and he said that even if they came through the next day, he wouldn’t be in the office. My heart sank.”

But Julie believed that God wanted her to be in PNG. She told her travel agent that she was trusting God for another miracle.

The morning of the flight, Julie was packing and ready to head to the airport, even though her passport still hadn’t arrived.

Just three hours before her flight was scheduled to depart, the postman finally arrived with her passport. But then there was another hurdle. He refused to hand over the passport because it was in Julie’s maiden name and she didn’t have any identification in that name with her.

The postman offered to drop her passport off at the depot and said she could collect it at 2pm. Her flight was meant to leave at 12pm, two hours earlier.

As Julie “debated” with the postie, a woman appeared and said, “I’ll sign for her passport.”

“I couldn’t believe it!” exclaimed Julie. “The postman wouldn’t give me my own passport but was perfectly

willing to hand it over to a complete stranger. I have no doubt that stranger was an angel.

“Praise God, He got me my passport on time. I applied for my visa and got it straight away. Then I called my travel agent and I told him I had received my miracle. ‘You sure did’ was his response.”

Julie left for the airport and she made her flight.

Hundreds of people attended the meetings in Hayafaga every night, with many of them choosing to give their lives to Jesus.

“This has been a life-changing experience,” says Julie. “The people here were praying for me for more than a month before I arrived. I am convinced that their faith accompanied by the faith of my family and church members is the reason that I got here. God answered our prayers.”

**Vania Chew**

donor relations, Adventist Media.  
Vania preached at Heganofi for the PNG for Christ program.

# Emergency on the runway



Mission pilots Pastor Bruce Roberts (left) and Pastor Ray Newman with the Cessna 185 on Laiagam airstrip.

Sandra stood on the runway at Laiagam, Papua New Guinea, wondering why no-one was moving. Their missionary plane, a Cessna 185, was due to leave very soon, and the sun was about to set; people should have been hurrying to prepare the plane for take-off!

Then the words “medical emergency” caught her ear. . . There had been a medical emergency at Laiagam Government Hospital that day, and they desperately needed a plane for patient transport to the Sopas Adventist Hospital. The Laiagam Government Hospital was familiar with the mission plane’s flight schedule and knew that the plane would be leaving soon. The hospital had urgently requested to use their plane to transport the patient.

There was a tense energy in the air as Sandra watched the hospital truck bounce down the road towards the airfield, stopping near the plane. “A worried doctor jumped out and some doctor-boys carefully lifted a stretcher out of the back of the truck. On it was a dying man. The doctor said he was literally bleeding to death,” said Sandra Roberts, the missionary wife at the scene (*Australasian Record*, September 30, 1974).

Everyone was curious to know what the urgent medical case commandeering their plane was, but once the man emerged from the truck, no-one dared ask. The man on the stretcher was almost unconscious, and moaning. Blood was streaming out of his nose and had been running down into his lungs, causing a gurgling noise as he tried to breathe. He was almost drowning despite the tube down his nose working to pump the blood out of his lungs.

The missionaries rushed to take the seat out of the back of the plane in order to lay the man down on the floor. Pastor Bruce Roberts, Sandra’s husband, did his routine checks for take-off and sent up an earnest prayer for the man inside before flying the man to Wabag to be taken to Sopas. The doctor had told them that the man was bleeding to death, and

they were losing the battle to save the man’s life—perhaps at Sopas Adventist Hospital he would be in more capable hands with better equipment.

During the flight, the patient continued to gurgle as blood streamed from his nasal cavities. When the gurgling would stop, Pastor Roberts would turn around from the cockpit to check if the man was still alive. On several occasions, he thought the patient had died. But God had other plans.

When the plane arrived at Wabag, it was clear the patient was in no condition to be taken to Sopas. Pastor Roberts providentially saw a friend sitting on his motorbike and shouted at him to quickly get a doctor. The patient was quickly taken to the Wabag Hospital for emergency treatment.

“A few minutes later, on the theatre table, it happened! . . . There was no pulse. The patient’s heart had stopped beating and he was no longer breathing” (*Australasian Record*, September 30, 1974). The doctor began pounding on his chest to start his heart again, and it worked. The doctor had brought the man back from the brink of death. But the ordeal was not over yet—he still had to travel across 10 kilometres of rough mountainous road to Sopas Adventist Hospital for the desperately needed medical care.

When the patient was well enough to travel, he was finally taken to Sopas Adventist Hospital, diagnosed with a haemorrhage from the nose, and treated for the issue which had nearly killed him.

Speaking of the dramatic experience, Sandra wrote, “How glad we were that the mission plane just happened to be at Laiagam when this man needed help. It was only a coincidence that it was there just at that moment—or was it?” (*Australasian Record*, September 30, 1974).

**Olivia Fairfax**

Editorial assistant, Adventist Record.

# Could you be low in vitamin B12?

Vitamin B12 is an important nutrient that we all need to help our bodies make red blood cells, DNA and to supports our nerves, brain and immunity.

It's the vitamin that our Sanitarium dietitians usually get the most questions about because it can be tough to get enough B12, especially if you are vegetarian or vegan. This is because vitamin B12 is found almost exclusively in fish, meat, poultry, eggs, milk and other dairy products. Here's their answers to the commonly asked questions:

## Can you get enough if you are vegan?

There aren't any plant foods that are naturally high in vitamin B12. It can be found in dairy and eggs for those following a lacto-ovo vegetarian diet. However, if you don't have enough of these foods regularly, or if you are following a vegan diet, it is important to get vitamin B12 from fortified food products.

Vitamin B12 is often found in fortified plant-based milks, formulated meal replacement shakes, some yeast spreads and fortified meat alternatives. Look at the nutrition information panel and ingredients list to check it is added.

## What are signs of vitamin B12 deficiency?

Signs you may be low in vitamin B12 can be slow to develop and appear gradually, as our bodies' stores are drained. Not getting enough vitamin B12 can lead to megaloblastic anaemia and nerve damage.

Signs of vitamin B12 deficiency can include fatigue, mood changes including depression and irritability, confusion and memory issues, shortness of breath, tummy troubles such as



diarrhoea or loss of bladder control, sore tongue or mouth ulcers, pale skin, heart palpitations, issues with vision and muscle weakness. These symptoms are easy to pass off as other health problems and are not exclusive to vitamin B12 deficiency, so you should always check with a health professional if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.

## Does it affect pregnancy or breastfeeding?

If you are low in vitamin B12 while you are pregnant or breastfeeding, your baby is also likely to be low in B12. It's important for babies and children to get enough B12 to support healthy growth and cognitive function.

Signs and symptoms of B12 deficiency in infants and children can include irritability, failure to thrive, developmental delays, abnormal reflexes, paleness, jaundice and/or bruising. If you are at all concerned about how much vitamin B12 your child is getting, speak with your GP, paediatrician or health practitioner.

## How much do you need each day?

Adults should typically aim for 2.4µg per day, with pregnant women needing more at 2.6µg per day, and breastfeeding women needing as much as 2.8µg per day. Recommended intakes for all life stages can be found on the National Health and Medical Research Council's site.

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



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## A mission trip to remember

Coconut palms, plantains, papaya and breadfruit trees conceal the Vugalei settlement from the bustle of busy Suva. A single mongoose scuttles across the driveway and the village dog slinks nearby, ensuring everyone is safe and there are no unauthorised entries into the settlement.

Stepping onto the track, you get a sense that the village is nearby. You begin to hear the thwack of cement being thrown on walls, saws cutting through wood and sand being sifted through wire nets.

When the village comes into view, the first thing you see is the church. The Vugalei church has a position in the village that encourages visitors, welcomes gatherers and tells everyone this is a village that knows Christ is at the centre of their lives.



Our mission group arrived in Nadi, Fiji, on January 7, greeted by an excited Vugalei community who had travelled three hours for our arrival. We were a group of 33 church members and friends from Alstonville Seventh-day Adventist church: 17 teens, two children and

14 adults. The Fijian people welcomed us with song, gifts and warmth that was beyond any of our expectations. The brightly painted bus transporting us to Vugalei paled in comparison to the colour and energy of the occupants inside. The three-hour bus ride was spent getting to know our new friends and singing hymns and praise. The longer we travelled, the more enthusiastic and energised we became for the work ahead.

The mission focus was to complete the rendering of the interior walls of the church, fund the resources needed to push the project forward, gain a closer connection with Jesus through His mission work, and coordinate a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children as an extension of their Christian education and as an outreach to the broader communities.

The VBS team advertised the program through doorknocking and inviting families from other settlements to join. The week-long program taught and encouraged children to love and learn about Jesus, educating them about the fruit of the Spirit.



Inside the church, other members of the mission group cleared the space and prepared it for the work. We were not alone—the entire settlement came to help. For the Vugalei people, it is not an ordinary church, it is part of their family and the centre of their lives with God most certainly present there.

The work inside the church was undertaken by manual labour; there was no use of machinery. We sifted the river sand in large drums of water to remove any lumps and rocks, transported the sand to the second storey of the church and mixed the cement, accomplished through teamwork and a shared load. There was a lot of help and not a single resource was wasted. Leftover cement was made into large tiles to be used for footpaths, scrap timber was removed of its nails which were then separated into buckets and set aside for future projects, and tools were shared among everyone who helped.

It had been 20 years since the groundbreaking ceremony, when prayers were to be answered and the Vugalei church would be built. Through the dedication and faith of the pioneering families, the church would become the instrument of a multi-generational, multi-national project, bringing people together just as God designed.

At the conclusion of the two weeks, not only was interior rendering completed but the outside of the church walls was rendered, door and window frames were set and fitted, and timber purchased and delivered for the ceiling batons. What the mission group had hoped to achieve, God had supplied and increased. It was clear that God blessed the work of everyone involved, leaving behind a sense of accomplishment.

**Elly Conduit**

Church treasurer, Alstonville church, NSW.

# PNG FOR CHRIST

## What happened and what's next?

After two weeks of programs run across Papua New Guinea, the PNG for Christ program has officially finished. While not all sites have reported at the time of printing, the number of baptisms has passed 260,000.

At Minj, where General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson presented the Revelation of Hope series, 3708 people were baptised during the 16-night program. A further 3000+ baptisms took place at Ela Beach, Port Moresby, in the Central Papua Conference, and these numbers represent just a small portion of the overall impact that was felt across the country.

Stories of drug lords burning their marijuana crops and being baptised, prisoners responding to calls, whole villages declaring themselves Adventist, healings and people understanding the gospel presentations in their own languages are just some of things that have been reported.

For the more than 200 international speakers involved from around the South Pacific Division, it was an inspiring and eye-opening experience.

While in Papua New Guinea, Pastor Wilson travelled to places such as Mt Hagen, Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka and Madang to dedicate churches and centres of influence.

"The big reason why we were looking into having international guest speakers coming into the country was for their learning—that is primary," said Pastor Malachi Yani, president of the Papua

New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM).

"We want them to come and see why the Church is growing in PNG. We want to see Australia growing as well, New Zealand growing, Trans Pacific Union Mission growing as well. We hope to see them running another campaign like what we did in PNG, so we also will have to go to their country and learn from them. We mingle together and learn together and preach together—that was for our learning."

"I firmly believe it's really important for local congregations to look beyond themselves," said South Australian Conference president Pastor David Butcher.

South Australia is the partner conference with Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, where all the 10 preachers they sent to PNG for Christ were based.

"It's easy just to get comfortable where we're at and selfish," Pastor Butcher said. "I believe the same thing with conferences, with unions and obviously the Division, which is a part of the whole world field. So for me and for our team—coming here and partnering with this province—this is wonderful because we see something bigger.

"We see something different and there is so much that we can learn from the people here. I believe when we give to others, when we support others, we'll be blessed locally as well."

Pastor Miller Kuso is the Sabbath school and personal ministry director for PNGUM, and had the big job of coordinating PNG for Christ.

"I am coordinating more than 2000



sites in Papua New Guinea. And it is a great privilege and honour for me to visit different sites right across our country," he said.

"I would like to thank [the almost 300 international speakers] for standing together as a movement, with PNGUM, to deliver the message of hope, the message of salvation to the people of this great nation of Papua New Guinea.

"We have also all our national preachers, our local preachers, preaching in all different sites—Pacific Adventist University students and Sonoma Adventist College students and local church pastors go into all the remotest parts of Papua New Guinea," said Pastor Kuso.

Part of the success of this program has been the involvement of church members. South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend, who preached at Arawa in Bougainville, paid tribute to the volunteers who made it all possible.



"There are people who are staying overnight looking after the sound and the stage," Pastor Townend said. "There's the sound people, the visual people. We've been having health checks. It is teamwork. It is total member involvement, and this is really a disciple-making movement in the making and we thank God for that."

With such a large influx of new membership, the Church in Papua New Guinea is turning its attention to nurture and integration of the new members into existing groups.

Pastor Yani acknowledges the challenges the success of this program will bring. "Growth comes with a lot of challenges," he said. "We're running short of leadership. We're running short of accommodating people in terms of space. We will have a lot of challenges with converts from other denominations."

Part of the answer, he believes, is found in helping to serve people.

"If we are a charitable organisation, how do we utilise our resources to actually touch the lives of people? Showing what we believe in terms of caring and sharing. We preach about love, but that has not been seen in the way we touch lives. And so, one thing that the Lord opened our eyes [to] was actual ministries touching the needy people."

The Church is doing this through Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM). "[APM] is one of the key things that we were embarking on," said Pastor Yani. "The reason is because poverty is one of the greatest enemies in this country. And if you have people who are in this category, how can you be able to look after them?"

APM can help feed the hungry, provide necessities and serve individuals with disabilities.

PNGUM has started and hopes to continue to provide finance training and Small Medium Entrepreneurs (SME) workshops as these can help with the retention of those who rely on betel nut or pigs for an income. "We run training all over PNG to help them manage money well and with the little assets they have, they can generate income out of it."

COVID-19 proved a "blessing in disguise" to PNGUM, who were plan-

ning PNG for Christ in 2020. "We were thinking that at the time, 2019, 2020, we were ready to deliver. In actual fact, we were not," said Pastor Yani.

"We were discouraged, really discouraged that we were not going to deliver this campaign," he said. "But as we went on, the church quickly went into cells, church plants, under the trees and we began to have small numbers, five to 10 in every home. And this number quickly multiplied.

"We began to see the needs of people in a very personal way because you have small groups and you [get to] know individual needs, their challenges. And so we began to explore new ideas in doing evangelism, doing ministry."

Due to a PNG-wide fuel shortage, there were some flight delays as international speakers attempted to return home, but those who took part arrived home safely, forever changed by the experience.

Young minister Michael Qiokata, from Fiji Mission, preached in Upper Bena and was excited to take part in his first foreign evangelism program. "[PNG for Christ] will have a very big impact in my life as a young minister," he said.

"I've had less than two years' experience in the field and this campaign has been teaching me a lot of lessons. When I go back to my country and to my school where I'm serving, I'll take up the challenge of evangelising more, especially to the students that I serve.

"We are just fulfilling the word of God that His gospel must reach the whole world. And He's coming very soon."

**Jarrod Stackelroth**  
editor, *Adventist Record*.





# BEASTLY *mini-marks*

**T**he mark of the beast can be polarising. Adventists get caught up in discussions of whether something is or isn't a feature of the mark. Or whether talking about it puts people off.

According to Revelation 14:6-12 the three angels' messages about the beast and its coercive mark are meant for the whole world. But for fear of misfiring we're in danger of not firing at all.

While we're distracted internally on questions of messaging about the mark of the beast, the world is running headlong into coercive forms of government on several fronts. JK Rowling recently flouted a new hate speech law in Scotland, daring the police to arrest her. She tweeted supporting women's rights and freedom of speech while going directly against the law's supposed protection

of trans people from the newly implied hate crime of misgendering.

Pockets outside of Adventism have their own conversations about the mark of the beast, often going down questionable rabbit holes. Meanwhile Adventists are debating internally just exactly how and why issues such as freedom of speech or bodily autonomy aren't what the mark of the beast is all about.

We risk missing the point. Even worse, missing a massive opportunity. Our message of freedom against totalitarianism risks being neglected right when its clarion call is needed most.

Let me back up.

Humanity faces dreadful emerging threats. Artificial intelligence is a frightening new frontier; as is the social media quagmire of disinformation and

misinformation. Not to mention mental illness and social isolation—paradoxically perverse outcomes of digital social networking! Pandemics have new potential thanks to the pressures of human technology, development, population densities and movement. Armed conflict and hostilities are possible in a plethora of new dimensions. Environmental disasters such as climate change loom as an existential threat in the minds of many. And social justice movements champion diversity, equity and inclusion on multiple issues.

It is reasonable for governments to respond to all these dangers. Whether specific responses are actually coercive or totalitarian is a debate I won't try to resolve. Suffice to say, many and prominent voices around the world believe governments have strayed into



coercion and totalitarianism, the opening example being just one of many. Citizens are rediscovering the value of personal freedoms and rights over collective rules and action in large and growing freedom movements around the globe.

I say "rediscovering" as it was back in the Reformation, Enlightenment and establishment of the New World, where these values became the bedrock of Western civilisation. Freedoms and rights are codified particularly well in America's Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights—known collectively as the Charters of Freedom.

The freedoms of Western liberal democracy have largely been taken for granted over our lifetimes. Few of us in the West have experienced anything else.

The emergent threats outlined above, and today's innovative technological options for mass surveillance, lend themselves to totalitarian and coercive solutions. It's understandable to optimistically anticipate the future as a "brave new world" (intentionally borrowing from Aldous Huxley) rather than veering off to Orwellian totalitarianism. But that's precisely the point of this article.

Consider this question: Will the mark of the beast come as a novel imposition on a functioning liberal society, or will it be introduced as the next "logical" step of authoritarian responses to genuine global threats? If it was to "come from nowhere", the chances of its control being effective would be minimal. It seems much more likely that the mark of the beast enters as merely the next ratcheting of an increasingly coercive government control apparatus.

To be effective at forcing and controlling worship, the mark of the beast needs a context in which that type of response to societal threats is considered appropriate. Unless a hostile dictator can seize power while avoiding nuclear Armageddon, the consent of the governed remains important for the foreseeable future. Ellen White wrote in *The Great Controversy* that the people will push governments to enforce the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13 and 14 foretell restricted freedom of commerce based on worship choices, culminating in no

freedom to exist. God's way, on the other hand, is based on freedom (Galatians 5:1, John 8:32,36).

The transitional steps from the freedom we currently know to the coercion of the mark of the beast are not prophesied in detail. It seems reasonable to anticipate an incremental transition. Significant steps may already be behind us.

Adventists sometimes point to obscure Sunday laws to warn about the mark of the beast. But there are more compelling preparatory steps in the transition from freedom to coercion in areas other than in worship. Forced versus free worship is the end game.

The world has already seen seismic shifts away from freedom of speech. In France a new law prohibits misinformation about a particular medical intervention—or even questioning it. No, loss of freedom of speech isn't the mark of the beast, but it is a beastly mini-mark.

Use of cash is rapidly diminishing. Central bank digital currencies are innocuous in themselves, but they make totalitarianism much easier to implement. Removing cash paves the way for the trade restrictions foretold in Revelation 13:17.

Environmental and climate protection are increasingly issues of public consciousness and action. Governments may conceivably consider reducing freedoms in personal travel, consumption and emissions, given that 76 per cent of respondents to a 2021 international Kantar Public survey would accept stricter environmental regulations.

The social justice landscape is increasingly complex, often putting individual freedoms at risk. Transgender rights claims seem to clash with women's rights, creating a minefield for those caught in the middle. Those highlighting the inconsistencies risk cancel culture in the court of public opinion on top of substantial legal consequences.

The tools and mindset are already moving into place for the mark of the beast to be welcomed and effective.

We may not have authoritative insight into the truth or virtue of these threats and causes outside of the domain of worship. In some cases "freedom" from government response may not be the answer. In many cases, however, there

is potential value in taking a stand for freedom against control and coercion, highlighting the relevance of the three angels' messages.

The COVID pandemic has normalised societal lockdowns, prohibition of worship gatherings and mandated medical interventions. None of this is the mark of the beast. But repeating this disclaimer misses the point. COVID policy responses helped to normalise government control over domains where civilisation has, over the past 200 years at least, been predominately free.

Consider three reasons for speaking publicly against beastly mini-marks before the real mark of the beast appears.

Firstly, it habituates standing against coercion as a matter of principle. Character and courage are developed by speaking counter-cultural truth in love amid increasingly troublesome and authoritarian times.

Secondly, society benefits by preserving freedoms where possible. While the Bible foretells loss of freedoms we shouldn't simply roll over and accept coercion.

Thirdly and most importantly: when we find our voice in sounding the freedom call of the three angels' messages, we give God the chance to use us to reach those looking for answers. Many who do not yet know the truth of God's love are looking for an alternative to coercive societal controls. We shouldn't hide the three angels' messages until Sabbath worship freedom is threatened. Their gospel message of love and freedom is relevant now! Multitudes will resonate with the truth and love of God's government based on freedom, in contrast to increasingly totalitarian earthly government.

God's principles of love and freedom are applicable for every area of life, not just the specifics of the mark of the beast on how we worship. Let's broadcast God's end-time message of love. The clarity of its freedom call is needed now!

#### **Daniel Livingston, PhD**

leads a science and research team at a large utility in the Hunter region of NSW. He attends Newcastle University Adventist Church with his family.

Hello Kids!

We follow Jesus' example by serving others.



# KIDS' SPIRIT

## Burning Your Skis

Just before Jesus is to return to heaven He leaves instructions for all His followers. They are to tell others all around the world about Jesus and the good news of salvation, and to teach them to follow Him. This is a lesson about service. We are also commissioned to share the good news of Jesus with others around us. Jesus promises to always be with us as we do what He asks.

"Therefore go and make **D I S** \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,"

\_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and \_\_\_\_\_ them to \_\_\_\_\_ everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"  
(Matthew 28:19, 20).

**FIND ALL THE WORDS,**  
then...finish the Memory Verse!

- baptising
- disciples
- good news
- instructions
- obey
- salvation
- tell
- command
- Father
- Jesus
- others
- share
- world
- commission
- follower
- heaven
- nations
- teach

When you finish the Find-a-Word, circle the leftover letters. Place the letters on the blanks in the word bubbles above. Use the letters from left to right only.

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



# Conversations

## Dear Record

Thank you for your quality weekly publication! Before I began reading *Adventist Record* I was somewhat uninformed on the many things our Church was achieving. Now that I regularly pick up and read *Record* I am pleased to be in the know. I particularly enjoyed all the updates about PNG for Christ that came though on Facebook. Keep informing!

**Norm**, no longer uninformed

## Mission memories

Two articles in the May 4 *Adventist Record* really touched my heart. The first, "How a Little Magazine Left a Legacy" and the other, "From Pop-up Bookstore to Baptism".

Attending "missions" was a common practice in the first half of the 20th century. My wife, when only six years of age, went along with her grandmother with whom she lived during WWII, to a tent mission conducted by Pastors Hector Kingston, Frank Breaden and Arthur Duffy in St Georges Road, Thornbury, Melbourne in 1943.

Much later, I came across some treasures in a secondhand shop in Tasmania. These were *The Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, number 5, dated May, 1886 and *The Signs of the Times*, published at Oakland, California, February 4, 1886.

How wonderful our *Signs* is still

witnessing for God all these years later!

As well, I was able to locate on the internet several copies of the Millerite paper, *The Signs of the Times and Expositor of Prophecy*, published in the year 1842, yes, just two years before the Great Disappointment of 1844.

Treasures all.

**William Ackland**, NSW

## What's next to go?

What a shame to see the axing of five more cereal varieties from the range of New Zealand's Sanitarium products ("Sanitarium set to streamline product range in response to changing Kiwi breakfast trends", *News*, April 20). Australia has followed the same path and done so even more ruthlessly.

It all has to do with profitability. The five cereal lines in New Zealand will be replaced by the popular Up and Go range of liquid breakfasts. These drinks are a veritable cash cow for the company when compared to the production of cereal breakfast foods. However, should Sanitarium allow profitability to take precedence over providing healthy and nutritious breakfast options, such as toasted muesli and granola?

So many great innovations have been axed by Sanitarium over the years including the flourishing

restaurants, sandwich bars and retail shops in major cities. Then there are hundreds of healthy and delicious products Sanitarium used to make, that now no longer exist—Malted Wheat Extract, Bix, Rediburger, Savoury Pie and many others which I'm sure readers would be able to add to. I think Kwik Bru was one of the first products to be given the axe.

In the past, Sanitarium was able to weather the hard times and showed great grit and determination to succeed. The same resilience does not seem to be on show today.

One of the things Sanitarium doesn't do is to advertise the less well-known products. People are looking for healthy products but may never have heard of Nutolene or Nutmeat. I'm sure it doesn't help people's awareness of these products to hide them in the Spam and baked bean section of the supermarket.

Not only will five products be lost, but a substantial number of workers will lose their livelihoods. Added to this will be the loss of unique and valuable machinery that will have to be scuttled or sold to competitors.

I trust Sanitarium will reverse the trend leading to product extinction, and will revisit its mission to providing nourishing and healthy foods for the people of Australia and NZ.

**Jeff Crombie**, Qld

## Weddings



### MOO—SEIN MYAING.

Thunder Moo, son of Sah ku and Sonia Moo (Perth, WA), and Wonderful Sein Myaing, daughter of Pu Pu and Melody Sein Myaing, were married on 28.4.24 at the Midland Town Hall, Perth.

Steven Goods, Saung Soe

## Obituaries



**BATES**, Thomas Fredrick, born 1.4.1941 in Willowburn, Qld; died 26.3.24 in

Redcliffe Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Bates; children, Tony and Fanny Bates (Morayfield), Leisha Bates (Caboolture), Raquel and Gavin Warnes (Morayfield), Charlene Bates (Narangba); grandchildren, Abigale, Raphael, Ryan, Claire, Brayden, Declan; and sister, Muriel Donaghy (Brisbane). Tommy was a much-loved groundsman at Northpine Christian College for many years. After battling a few medical issues in his later years, Tommy now sleeps awaiting the call of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Steve Plahn

### BONEHAM, Gwendolyn (Gwen)

Patricia (nee Winston), born 23.7.1931 in Geraldton, WA; died 11.3.24 in Perth. She was married to Frank, who predeceased her in 2020. She is survived by her daughter, Shirley and Peter Rowney, and son-in-law, Phil; and grandchildren, Ben, Tara, Chad, Krystal and Courtney. Gwen was a foundational member of the Geraldton Adventist Church and a bright light in the local community. She is missed by family and friends.

Tony Moala



**DERRICK**, Judith Verona Ellen (nee Engelbrecht), born 18.6.1940 in Wahroonga, NSW; died 19.4.24 in Wamberal.

Daughter of Les and Lola, Judy married Peter on 4.1.1972 in Melbourne, Vic. She was predeceased by sister, Maretta. Judy is survived by her husband (Wamberal, NSW); children, Lynden and Wanna (Gold Coast, Qld), Jaki and Anthony (Mt Tambourine), and Daniel and Delphine (Berowra, NSW); grandchildren, Julia, Ryan, Jed, Ethan, Zac, Summer and Osiane; sister, Lorraine (Swansea); and brother, Bernard (Sydney). Judy was a deeply spiritual lady whose devotion to Jesus was evident in her care for others. An outstanding musician, she freely shared her gift in praise of God. She confidently awaits the resurrection call of her Saviour.

Ian Howie

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abn 59 093 117 689  
vol 128 no 11

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**Cover credit**  
Gershom Wana

**Next issue**  
Adventist World  
June 8

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