

# R

## My quiet revival

I'm sorry you weren't  
ready <sup>14</sup>

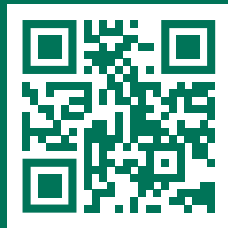
Historic baptisms at Pacific  
Adventist University <sup>5</sup>



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EDITOR'S NOTE:

## “Your God protected you”

Jarrod Stackelroth  
Editor

“  
As our shock subsided, we tried to figure out what had happened, and the reality of how serious things could have been, sunk in.

It had been a frustrating Sunday. My colleague Gilmore and I had not been able to get out to any of the PNG for Christ sites where things were happening, so we'd been processing the footage and stories we'd captured thus far—trying to make the most of our time.

And then, a lifeline. Dr Kyle Allen, vice president of Adventist World Radio, was heading out to visit some of the sites around Mt Hagen. He offered us a lift. We were happy to get out and visit a new site. But, as so often is the case in Papua New Guinea, plans changed.

Dr Jacob Probhakar Chindrupu, who was also staying at the Mt Ararat Hotel, needed to get to the site at Minj, Jiwaka province, where world Church president Pastor Ted Wilson was preaching. Dr Jacob had been at the Togoba Mega Clinic and had performed 1500 cataract surgeries. An energetic man, Dr Jacob is such a master of his art, he can do hundreds of cataract surgeries in a day, taking less than a couple of minutes for each eye.

Since the plan had changed, we weighed up going to the Minj site. We'd been there all Sabbath and recording anything in the dark was a lot harder. In the end we decided to join the crew going out to Minj, so I could interview Dr Jacob on the bus ride out.

Our bus was owned and driven by Aaron Molunga, a member of Uknathan church. We were accompanied by another local youth member from Kimininga church, Peter Rime.

The six of us sat in the bus, awaiting a police escort. Dr Jacob had been escorted in his travels as a VIP and on the previous night had a run-in on the road home with a drunk driver almost taking out his transport. The Police Area Commissioner, who had accompanied him, had apprehended the driver and miraculously, no one was hurt. So they were keen to wait. But as time ticked by, we needed to set off or we would miss the meeting at Minj.

The decision was made to set off without waiting. The escort could meet us on the way or catch up.

As we set out, the sun was still up. As is the way in PNG, people were walking close to the road on either side. We were travelling quite quickly to make up time and yet were still passed by another bus, similar to ours but fully loaded. The rain set in; before long it was quite heavy. It quickly got dark.

Suddenly, like an unseen hand had given it a shove, the back of the bus slid out. I grabbed the seat in front as the bus started to fishtail up the road, each slide from side to side seemingly longer than the last. Time slowed down as the driver fought to regain control over the skittish beast. Finally, the bus spun to a stop, finishing at an angle 270 degrees from the direction it had started, perpendicular to the road, in a clearing off to the side.

As our shock subsided, we tried to figure out what had happened, and the reality of how serious things could have been, sunk in. We said a prayer of thanks. A crowd of locals materialised at the side of the bus. Apparently another vehicle had come unstuck in the same location earlier. There may have been fuel on the road, as a local shop was selling fuel right on the roadside. “Your God protected you,” one of the locals called out.

He was right. I hate to think what would have happened had we hit one of the numerous substantial potholes on the route, if there had been pedestrians walking nearby, an oncoming vehicle, or if the driver had over-corrected and flipped the bus.

Other speakers who had headed up a different road, came across a bus the same as ours, on the same evening, that was travelling from a wedding and had flipped. The driver and others went to hospital and the bus was a mess. It brought home the reality of what could have been.

God protected us that night and the six of us on that little bus will not soon forget the experience. In the land of the unexpected, and in all of our lives, God is still at work.



INSIGHT:

## Probing question

Glenn Townend  
President, South Pacific Division

I was driving my daughter and her sons to Carmel Adventist Primary School. Amy is the chaplain and her three sons are students there. I was driving because I was borrowing their car to go to other ministerial appointments that morning. As part of their morning family routine they pray as they drive. Two of the boys and Amy had prayed and then I started praying to Jesus—giving Him honour and asking that all of us be true to Him that day. From the back seat during the prayer came a very direct question. The youngest grandson was not used to another person joining their family prayer. He asked, “Do you even know Jesus?” I immediately responded “Yes—that is why I am talking to Him. He’s my Friend.” Then I asked, “Do you know Jesus?” To which he confidently answered, “Yes I do.”

This interchange warmed my heart. First, because my family pray as they go about their everyday life. Second, because my grandson asked me the question and third because of his answer. Later that day, we shared the conversation with our extended family. My wife’s response was, “It’s a shame he had to ask the question and didn’t know the answer—just shows you don’t spend enough time with them.” She was expressing the challenge we face of living on opposite sides of the country. I pondered whether in the way I live and treat my grandsons they see the joy, kindness, justice and mercy of Jesus. My pastor son suggested the bigger question is, “Does Jesus know me?”

Jesus understood that people claimed to know Him but didn’t really. People could prophesy, cast out demons, and minister with power in Jesus’ name but His response is stark: “I never knew you” (Matthew 7:21-23). In His Revelation Jesus said that whole churches had Jesus on the outside, knocking to get in (Revelation 3:20). It is sobering to think that there are Jesus-less people and Jesus-less churches! And that the people and churches don’t even know their state.

We know that Jesus is real to us because of the inner witness of the Holy Spirit—He tells us we are a child of God (Romans 8:13-15; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13,14). Jesus gives this assurance to each Christian. However, others will only know that we know Jesus if we reflect His character that the Spirit gives (Galatians 5:22,23; 2 Peter 1:3-8).

My grandson’s question is worth thinking about!



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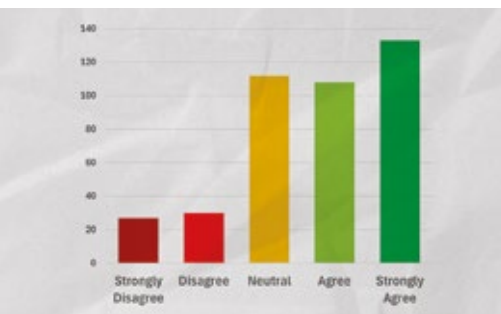
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Responses to the statement: I value my local Adventist book shop greatly and would be very inconvenienced if it became online only.

## ABC survey bookmarks customer preferences

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Record Staff/Scott Wegener

Results from a 2023 Australia-wide survey of more than 500 Adventists about their interactions with the Adventist Book Centres (ABC) have revealed key insights into customer satisfaction, highlighting preferences between online and in-store shopping.

Staff friendliness and knowledge were among the highest scores across all stores when it came to customers' in-store experiences, however product availability was a significant reported frustration.

Australian ABC webstore coordinator Scott Wegener explained that disruptions in the past few years have posed challenges in product availability and delivery. "We thank everyone for their patience and can report supplies are slowly starting to arrive in a more timely and reliable manner again," he said.

The survey revealed that in addition to the 20 per cent of ABC customers now buying via <AdventistBookCentre.com.au>, twice as many customers were researching products on the ABC webstore before going into a store to make the purchase, meaning the online store is now involved in up to 60 per cent of purchases. Despite the website's growing usage, about 60 per cent of customers agreed they would be greatly inconvenienced if the ABCs ever became an online-only store.

The most expressed reason for customers not buying online was because they wanted to hold and look through

the product, while many others said they had no option but to buy online due to distance—the survey showed half of ABC customers live more than 50km from their nearest store.

The most common request for improvement to the webstore was a call for a bigger range. According to Mr Wegener, the online store currently offers more than 5000 products but aims to expand to 10,000 in the next year.

Only 35 per cent of responders knew of the free shipping offer for online orders over \$A150, and 50 per cent liked the concept of having a national loyalty program, something the ABCs are working to implement.

According to the survey, new Adventist products were most commonly discovered via the Bookshelf catalogue by Signs Publishing, distributed in Adventist Record each month, while second was the ABCs fortnightly email newsletter. "Interestingly, the biggest influence on purchases was not any of our marketing but word of mouth," said Mr Wegener.

Asking which book formats most interested customers, 80 per cent still liked the traditional paperback with 25 per cent and 30 per cent showing interest in audiobooks and eBooks, particularly the younger generation.

"We're grateful for the overwhelming support and honest feedback shared and are now working on addressing any highlighted opportunities to improve," Mr Wegener said.



Pastors Piez and Matai baptising students at Pacific Adventist University. (Credit: Beberth Kanaku)

## Historic baptism at Pacific Adventist University

📍 Port Moresby, PNG | Kym Piez/Record Staff

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) witnessed an historic event as 116 students were baptised following the PNG for Christ and Week of Prayer programs, held May 5-11.

This marks the largest baptismal ceremony ever held at PAU, which is located in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The program served as a powerful testament to the university's vibrant spiritual atmosphere and the message shared throughout the week.

"This unprecedented number of

baptisms is a powerful symbol of the PNG for Christ program's impact and the deep spiritual foundation nurtured by PAU," said PAU communications manager Kym Piez. "The university extends its heartfelt congratulations to the newly baptised students and celebrates their dedication to their faith."

Pastor Faafetai Matai, a keynote speaker from Christchurch, New Zealand, alongside PAU's dean of Humanities, Education and Theology, Pastor Steve Piez, baptised the students.





Alongside his wife, Mr Radrodro attended the Sabbath worship service.

## Education minister visits Fulton church

📍 Nadi, Fiji | Manoa Nailiva/Kiera Bridcutt

Fijian education minister Aseri Radrodro's recent visit to Fulton Adventist University College is being described as a "display of unity and faith".

Alongside his wife, Mr Radrodro attended the Sabbath worship service.

The event, organised by Fulton's vice-chancellor Dr Ronald Stone, emphasised the important relationship between education, community and faith.

"In his address, Mr Radrodro praised Fulton church members for their relentless efforts and positive impact on communities throughout Fiji," third year Fulton student Manoa Nailiva said.

"He highlighted the essential collaboration between government and faith-based institutions in achieving educational and social goals, emphasising how such partnerships enhance community welfare and development."

Also in attendance were Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) board of

education members. TPUM president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga led the service, highlighting the important collaboration between government and faith-based institutions.

Pastor Kaufononga discussed the three-week mission with Papua New Guinea For Christ, where he witnessed the transformative power of God's work. Within his sermon, Pastor Kaufononga explained the significance of serving others, urging believers to embrace their responsibilities and extend their hands in service rather than seeking to be served.

The service concluded with a communal lunch, providing an opportunity for fellowship and reflection before Mr Radrodro and his team returned to Suva.

"The gathering was a reminder of the enduring power of faith and service in bringing people together and driving positive change," Ms Nailiva said.



Principal John Venegas, NNSW president Pastor Cristian Copaceanu, Member for Maitland Jenny Aitchison, NNSW education director Paul Fua and students at the ribbon cutting ceremony. [Credit: Henrique Felix]

## Adventist education revived in Hunter Valley

📍 Galveston Heights, NSW | Henrique Felix/Juliana Muniz

After years of planning and overcoming numerous challenges, The Heights Learning Community in Galveston Heights (NSW) officially opened its doors on May 2, reviving Adventist education in the Hunter Valley.

Originally opened in 1984 with 20 students as Maitland Adventist District School and later known as Valley View School, the institution was closed after a decade of operation. The local church continued to use the site as a community centre, hosting several community programs and services. The dream of reopening the school was nurtured over the years, leading to the successful reopening in 2024.

The opening ceremony included speeches from students and special guests. Among the attendees were Member for Maitland Jenny Aitchison, NNSW Conference and Education representatives and Adventist Education national director Dr Jean Carter.

The newly reopened school hosts nine learners and is supported by a

dedicated team comprising an educator, a teacher aide and the principal. Reflecting on the challenges overcome to reach this point, including navigating a global pandemic and local regulations, principal John Venegas expressed relief and joy at the school's reopening.

"The community's response has been incredibly positive," said Mr Venegas, emphasising the active and enthusiastic involvement from residents.

Future plans include expanding the school's facilities and student body to offer a complete Kindergarten through Year 12 educational program. They aim to initiate the construction of a primary campus within the next three years and gradually introduce additional grades.

"With introduction of new grades and new educators to our program who have a passion for sharing Jesus with children, we can also see a strong culture will emerge that will help cast that further vision to what can be if we collectively put our hearts and minds into it," said Mr Venegas.



Pastor Jeffrey Masengi.

## AUC appoints new general secretary

Ringwood, Vic | Kimberley McMurray

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) Executive Committee have made several appointments following their mid-year meetings on May 29-30.

Pastor Jeffrey Masengi has been appointed as the new general secretary. The appointment comes following the acceptance of a call by outgoing general secretary Pastor Michael Worker to serve at Adsafe, commencing in late July.

Pastor Masengi has a diverse background, with degrees in accounting and business administration. He worked for ConocoPhillips for 23 years in various managerial roles across Southeast Asia and Australia. After completing a Master of Divinity, he served as an intern minister in South Queensland and as general secretary and CFO in the Northern Australian Conference, where he also led the NAC during the president's long service leave.

AUC president Pastor Terry Johnson thanked Pastor Worker for his seven years of service at the Union. "His pastoral care and understanding was significant. His recall of policy, constitutions, process and procedure is second to none and he will be sorely missed by our entire team."

Pastor Johnson described Pastor Masengi as a skilled administrator with evident high capacity. "He's competent, calm and a quietly spoken man who will bring a wealth of corporate knowledge along with his spiritual shepherding, leadership and administration gifts to the role here at the Union," he said. "We believe he will continue the legacy of godly secretaries that the AUC has had since its inception in 2001."

Commenting on his new appointment, Pastor Masengi said, "I am honoured and humbled to accept the call to serve as the secretary for the AUC. I wrestled with God about this call, but God revealed His will for me to serve in the Union office."

Replacing Pastor Worker as director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) is associate director of PARL, Pastor Kojo Akomeah. AUC ministerial associate secretary-aged care chaplaincy, Pastor Kenn Duke, was appointed as the director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries-Australian Defence Force, replacing Pastor Worker.

Amanda Bews was appointed as the children's and family ministries director. She replaces Pastor Sylvia Mendez, who will be focusing more of her attention on The Worship Project while continuing as the director for women's ministries and resource development.

## making headlines

### Quake-proof homes

ADRA is preparing to build dozens of new, quake-proof homes in Afghanistan. Following multiple large-scale earthquakes that occurred in 2023, many Afghan families were left homeless. The structures will be built with quake-resistant technology, including flexible foundations, vibration deflection and movement-resistant frames, ensuring strength and security.—AR



### Walking for peace

Almost 20,000 young people took to the streets of Brasilia, Brazil, for the Walk for Peace on June 1. The activity took place on the final day of the Maranatha South American Division Youth Convention. The two-kilometre walk was filled with songs of praise, expressions of faith and advocating the soon return of Jesus. The walk promoted belief and trust in God as the bringer of peace in the face of adversity.—ASN

### Adventist GPT

The Korean Union Conference Digital Evangelism Department has developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot called "Adventist GPT". This program aims to resolve misconceptions and answer questions about the Adventist Church. Digital evangelism director Lee SangYong explained the new tool will enable users to comprehend better and connect with Adventist beliefs and teachings.—NAPD News

### Beetroot benefits

Dr Luke Stanaway's doctorate research shows that beetroot juice can help reduce blood pressure. Dr Stanaway explains, in his thesis on the effects of dietary nitrate on cardiovascular health and cognitive function, that nitrate-rich beetroot juice has the potential to improve cardiovascular health.

—Massey University



## Featured on national news

An ADRA volunteer was featured on Channel 10's midday news during this year's National Volunteer Week, held May 20–26. Pastor Eddy Johnson, a long-time volunteer counsellor at the ADRA Community Care Centre Blacktown (NSW), is one of the 2010 volunteers who generously give their time to support ADRA's national programs. Channel 10's feature on Pastor Johnson, part of their National Volunteer Week series, highlighted his impact and the essential role volunteers play in supporting the community. "For more than 15 years, Eddy has been providing free counselling sessions to clients within his local community of Blacktown," reported Daniel Doody from 10 News First. —Ashley Stanton/Juliana Muniz



## Heroic Adventist grandmother

More than 7000 people were affected by a devastating landslide in Mulitaka, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, on Friday, May 24. The disaster, which occurred around 3am, displaced thousands of people and has an estimated death toll of 670, with 2000 believed to have been buried alive. A 70-year-old church member who was caught in the landslide was rescued after saving 17 lives—seven adults and 10 children, according to the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*. Kion Kopal Dai, who was asleep at a lodge owned by her son, woke up to a rumbling sound. After alerting guests, who escaped, Mrs Dai went back to her room when the lodge was swept away by the landslide. "The lodge was completely buried with mama Kion inside," reported the *Post-Courier*. Mrs Dai was rescued by authorities in what the article describes as a "miraculous escape". Her grandson Desmond Kopen shared the story with the newspaper, saying his grandmother is a "prayer warrior in the local Adventist church". —Juliana Muniz



## Encouraged to thrive

Sydney Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby celebrated Thrive Week from May 6 to 12. Thrive Week highlights the importance of personal and professional growth, health and resilience of the staff who work at the San. The week-long event honoured the 1200-plus nurses and more than 1200 other staff who work at the hospital. One of the main events is the staff awards. This year 84 staff members received an award for years of service. Staff were also entertained by live music around the hospital and given meal vouchers to the San Cafe. —Alexandra Ristway



## Spiritual refreshment

Spiritual refreshment, collegial connection and sharing information were the focus of North New Zealand Conference's pastoral meetings, held recently at Tui Ridge Park. Pastor Allan Walshe and his wife Wendy were the key presenters for the program themed "HIS". "We want to see our ministers ministering from the overflow of their relationship with God," said NNZC president Pastor Bob Larsen. —Rosalie McFarlane/Kiera Bridcutt





## Lab upgrade

Two science laboratories at Beulah Adventist College, Tonga, have been renovated and upgraded through generous donations.

The labs were recently opened by Trans Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Mavani Kaufononga, an alumnus of the college.

For more than two decades, Beulah has used the science labs of other institutions.

Dr Elisapesi Manson, education consultant for Adventist Schools in Tonga, said the absence of science labs has led to increased challenges in delivering quality science education, which has influenced learning outcomes in areas such as numeracy.

Valued at \$A90,000, several donors contributed to the labs' refurbishments, updating them to a 21st century standard. The major donor, Beulah Ex-Students in Australia, funded 80 per cent of the project. Support was also given by Tonga Mission, the Tongan government, church members and friends in Tonga and abroad.

"I am so relieved I do not need to worry about asking other schools for equipment to do the necessary science experiments for my students," one of the science teachers said.

"By studying the sciences in laboratories, young people gain an insight into the complexity and purpose evident in nature, which reflect God's intelligence and original design," Dr Manson said.—**Kiera Bridcutt**

## have news to share?

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



## Golden anniversary

Hillview Adventist Church in Morisset (North New South Wales) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special program attended by more than 300 past and present members, including founding members and former pastors. The event, held on April 13, was themed "The Celebration of 50 Years of God's Grace: honouring our past, shaping our future". The celebration highlighted Hillview's diverse and multi-generational congregation and its history as an active, mission-minded church, detailing its involvement in community health expos, markets and health programs. "The focus of Hillview within the community is part of the church's DNA," said the church pastor Leslie Ncube.—**Merle Cozens**



## Pest control

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Solomon Islands has saved a four-hectare cocoa plantation from being destroyed by rats. Plantation owner Allen Auga, 60, who has been working in the cocoa industry for two decades, was facing disaster due to a rat infestation which began in 2020. "Rats consumed all our unripe cocoa, leaving only the trees," he said. ADRA intervened with a plan to rescue his plantation. Through the implementation of deterrent methods and integrated pest and disease management techniques, Mr Auga's cocoa trees began to yield fruit once more. "ADRA's intervention brought hope back to me and my family," said Mr Auga. "Today, I am overjoyed to harvest three bags of cocoa after three years of despair. Thanks to ADRA, my cocoa farm is thriving again, free from rat attacks."—**Denver Newter/Record Staff**



## A stolen Bible raises a church

Three years ago, tribal fighting broke out between Kemefa, Kainava, Okipa, and Tapo and Oregé villages. The war resulted in many houses being burned and destroyed and property looted in Kemefa. At least 16 people lost their lives on each side of the fighting.

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders dressed in various church uniforms and went into the middle of the battle to call for peace. Seventh-day Adventists also gathered up the bodies of those who died from both sides and took them to the morgue, cleaned and dressed the bodies, placed them in caskets and returned them to their families. This behaviour by Adventists is a typical response to tribal conflict in Papua New Guinea.

During the fighting, a fighter from Oregé entered the Kemefa Seventh-day Adventist Church. This fighter, Abuni Ane, a drug boy, stole a Bible from the church and took it to his home. When the fighting eventually stopped, Abuni began to read the stolen Bible and was convicted by the Holy Spirit.

Several months after the fighting, Pastor Dicks Neheza visited Oregé village and met Abuni. Abuni brought out the stolen Bible and explained what had happened and how he wanted to repent and commit his life to serve God.

Pastor Neheza had recently received training in small group ministry from Pastor Peter Roennfeldt and was nurturing home groups during the COVID restrictions. Pastor Neheza and Abuni established a small home group, and after some time, Abuni asked to be baptised.

Abuni was baptised by Pastor Joanis Fezamo, president of the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission. At his baptism, Abuni shared his testimony with the church members of Kemefa,

where he had stolen the Bible. He told them he was sorry and returned the Bible to the elder of Kemefa church. The elder, speaking on behalf of Kemefa church, immediately forgave Abuni; he then returned the stolen Bible to Abuni along with a church hymnal. The elder instructed him to continue reading the Bible, sing praises to God and start a church in Oregé.

The following day, Pastor Neheza went to Abuni's village with his carpentry tools. Abuni and his two friends went out into the bush nearby and collected timber for a semi-permanent church structure. A church company started that day in Oregé village with three church members. Since then, the church group has grown to 18 members. Amazingly, during the recent PNG for Christ meetings, eight were baptised from Oregé church company—a church that emerged from tribal fighting and a stolen Bible.

Pastor Neheza says the semi-permanent church building is now too small so a new permanent church will be built because of the growth from PNG for Christ. "We need your help and prayers to support us," he added.

*This story was told by Pastor Dicks Neheza, church pastor in the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission. Pastor Neheza is responsible for Tuempinka church and Yasi, Arana, Karufinave and Oregé company churches in the Kainantu district. He has served five years in the Kainantu district, raising three new church companies during this time. He is a carpenter by trade and uses his trade skills to enter new territory with the gospel.*

**David Fletcher**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries director, South Australian Conference.



# The 10

## Pools in the Bible

Pools are mentioned in the Bible for various symbolic and practical reasons. They refer to a pond, reservoir, artificial cistern or tank. In the Bible, pools often represent places of purification or healing.

### 1. Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1–15):

Jesus heals a man who has been paralysed for 38 years. He had been lying near the pool of Bethesda, a place believed to have healing properties. Jesus felt compassion for the man, and instructed him to pick up his mat and walk. At once the man was healed.

### 2. King's Pool (Nehemiah 2:14):

The King's Pool is mentioned by Nehemiah when he inspects the broken walls of Jerusalem at night, while making plans for rebuilding the city's defences.

### 3. Pool of Siloam (John 9:1–7):

Jesus heals a blind man by spitting on the ground, making mud with the saliva and putting it on the man's eyes. He then instructs the man to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. Upon following Jesus' instructions, the man's sight is restored.

### 4. Pool of Gibeon (2 Samuel 2:13):

War breaks out between the house of David and the house of Saul. David's men, led by Joab, face off against the followers of Ish-Bosheth at the pool of Gibeon.

### 5. Pools of Heshbon (Song of Songs 7:4):

King Solomon compares the eyes of his lover to the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath-Rabbim.

### 6. Pool of Samaria (1 Kings 22:38):

Following the death of Ahab, his blood-stained chariot is washed at the Pool of Samaria.

### 7. Pool of Hebron (2 Samuel 4:12):

David orders the execution of Rekab and Baanah after the assassination of Ish-Bosheth. Their bodies are hung by the pool of Hebron as a demonstration of justice.

### 8. Upper Pool (Isaiah 7:3):

Isaiah is instructed by the Lord to take his son and meet King Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, an important water reservoir. Isaiah has a reassuring message for the king: God will protect Judah.

### 9. Lower Pool (Isaiah 22:9–11):

Isaiah delivers a message of judgement against the people of Jerusalem, who have done everything to try to save themselves from their enemy, including securing their water supply. But they had forgotten the only One who could truly save them.

### 10. Pool of restoration (Isaiah 35:7):

Isaiah portrays a time of restoration and renewal, with the parched ground becoming a pool, and the thirsty ground like bubbling springs. It highlights God's transformative power of redemption.

**Kiera Bridcutt**

intern, *Adventist Record*





## Caring for the most vulnerable

After decades of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dr Branimir and Dr Danijela Schubert are now making an impact through a charity that supports the most vulnerable in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Branimir has been appointed the president and Dr Danijela the secretary of Operation Food For Life (OFFL), an independent ministry of the Adventist Church. OFFL provides physical, emotional and spiritual support for those living in poverty, including abandoned and orphaned children.

The Schuberts were introduced to OFFL while serving at Pacific Adventist University, where Dr Branimir was vice-chancellor from 2007 to 2010. As OFFL was expanding its activities, the charity's co-founder, Dennis Perry, sought Dr Branimir's support from PAU. Students and staff were keen to help and volunteered in OFFL's hospital and prison outreach activities, offering food and spiritual encouragement to patients and inmates. The Schuberts and their children were among the volunteers.

"In the hospital we would provide fresh fruit to the patients in the AIDS ward," Dr Danijela recalled. "These individuals had been abandoned by their families, nobody wanted to touch them. Some of them were very unwell, but they were grateful for our visits."

After leaving PAU, the Schuberts went on to serve in other areas of the Church. Twenty years passed before a new chapter with OFFL began.

"When we took early retirement, we wanted to volunteer in some way, though we had no idea what that would look like," Dr Branimir explained. "We

explored various options, including in our local community. Then we unexpectedly crossed paths with Dennis Perry again. He spoke with us about OFFL, expressing the need for leaders to continue the work he started and asked us to take on senior roles with the charity.

"I believe in what I call the overlapping of things, recognising there must be a finger of God in there," Dr Branimir continued. "Because it was amazing the way things overlapped: we were seeking ways to contribute to the community; Dennis and the team needed new leaders. We were familiar with what Operation Food For Life was all about, so there was a compatibility of ideas and objectives. So, we said 'yes', not knowing exactly what we were committing to, but we said 'yes'."

The Schuberts quickly immersed themselves into learning their new roles and responsibilities. Now, they are looking ahead to the future, with some major projects in store, including constructing a commercial kitchen at OFFL's Born Free Sanctuary, which provides care and education for neglected and abused children, teens and youth.

"Currently, the sanctuary provides food for around 50 people each day; the kitchen is basically a camping stove on an outdoor verandah," Dr Branimir explained. "A commercial kitchen will allow us to feed around 1000 people per week."

"We are also building a new dormitory for the boys in the sanctuary because they are currently sleeping in the backyard under a tarpaulin. We plan to build a wing for them to sleep comfortably indoors."

Next year they hope to acquire land for a purpose-built sanctuary, enabling them to help more children and become self-sustainable by growing their own fruit and vegetables on-site.

"At the moment the sanctuary can care for up to 40 children, but the need is such that we could care for hundreds," Dr Branimir said. "Every child has either been abandoned, raped or heavily beaten. One girl came to us with her bones sticking out because a family member used a metal rod and kept beating her. She ran away and found refuge in the sanctuary. We encounter severe cases of abuse, sadly."

The Schuberts say it breaks their hearts to see the trauma these children have endured, but they feel joy and gratitude for the opportunity to rescue these youngsters and show them the love of Jesus.

"There are many challenges ahead, but God has been very good to us. Let's see where it goes from here," Dr Branimir said. "We want to honour the legacy of the pioneers who started Operation Food For Life, who were inspired by Matthew 25—when I was in prison, you visited, when I was hungry, you fed us, when I was a stranger, you accepted us. And so, this is our mission."

*Operation Food For Life relies on donor funds to operate. For more information and details on how you can provide support, go to <[offl.org.au](http://offl.org.au)>.*

**Tracey Bridcutt**

Communication director, South Pacific Division





## Reaching the unreached

**P**aul's missionary journeys hold profound significance in the expansion of Christianity. Through a strategic approach encompassing vision, theological defence, bridge-building efforts, accommodation and self-sustainability, Paul forged a path that transcends time.

### Embracing Diversity

Paul's passion for mission to the Gentiles and belief in the universality of the gospel message can be traced back to his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19). This transformative experience ignited Paul's fervent desire to spread the good news beyond the confines of Jewish communities. This conviction is authenticated in Paul's declaration that he is not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16). Furthermore, Paul's ministry among the Gentiles was characterised by his inspiring testimony (Romans 15:20) and tireless efforts in bringing them into the fold of Christ. In Romans, Paul constructs a robust theological defence, highlighting the inclusion of Gentiles as children of Abraham (Romans 4:16,17). He argues that faith, not ethnicity, is a defining factor in one's relationship with God (Romans 3:29,30) as it underscores the universal scope of God's grace and redemption (Galatians 3:28). For

contemporary mission endeavours, Paul's example offers invaluable lessons in embracing diversity and fostering unity through theological dialogue (1 Corinthians 9:20-22). By engaging in respectful discourses and recognising the inherent worth of every individual (Colossians 3:11), Christians can build bridges across cultural and religious divides (Ephesians 2:14). Paul's approach challenges modern believers to transcend cultural barriers and extend the love of Christ to all nations (Matthew 28:19).

### Building Bridges

Paul's commitment to promoting unity among Jewish and Gentile Christians stemmed from his comprehension of the good news. In many Epistles, Paul underlined the necessity of unity, emphasising the vital ingredient of peace amongst believers (Ephesians 4:3). Paul's techniques for establishing understanding and cooperation among varied communities were obvious in his letters to the church at Corinth, where he urged them to be united in intellect and judgement while avoiding schisms (1 Corinthians 1:10). He encouraged the church at Colossae to pursue love, which unites everything in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:14). Paul's teaching on unity has profound contemporary implications. Today, as in Paul's time, the church faces challenges of division and discord. However, by following Paul's

example of humility, patience and love, Christians can bridge cultural differences and theological discrepancy to collaborate effectively in spreading the good news. Through embracing Paul's principles of unity, the church can present a compelling witness to the world, demonstrating the transformative power of Christ's love to reconcile and unite all believers (John 17:20-23).

### Adaptability and Sustainability

Paul's remarkable ability to adapt and relate to diverse audiences stands as a testament to his profound pastoral concern and commitment to spreading the gospel. In 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul elucidates his principle of becoming "all things to all men", emphasising the importance of finding common ground, avoiding a know-it-all attitude, making others feel accepted by being sensitive to their needs, seeking opportunities to share Christ and humbly breaking down barriers of ethnocentrism. Paul demonstrated a deep comprehension of the intricacies of human relationships and cultural contexts. Furthermore, Paul's self-supporting ministry model, as exemplified in Acts 18:1-4 and 1 Thessalonians 2:9, eliminated the possibility of criticism regarding financial motives and provided a sustainable pattern for others to follow. By working to support himself, Paul showed the importance of financial integrity in mission endeavours, ensuring the message of Christ would not be hindered by accusations of greed. Paul's adaptable approach continues to offer valuable insights for contemporary missionaries seeking to engage with diverse cultures and establish sustainable ministry practices.

In a world where God's mission remains unchanged, Paul's divinely inspired strategy remains a timeless blueprint for modern missions. It's evident that his principles are as relevant today as they were in his time. Let us embrace Paul's mission strategies to reach the unreached in today's world and continue the work entrusted to us by God.

**Manoa Nailiva**

Theology student, Fulton Adventist University College, Fiji.



# my quiet revival

**D**ear sister,  
I'm sorry you weren't ready for my revival. To be perfectly honest, it came as a surprise to me as well.

I'm sorry that you feel as though you've lost me all over again. I'm sorry you feel as though you can't talk to me anymore. I'm sorry that I moved away, and that you felt as though I was abandoning you.

Somebody told me once, that God moved them away from their family because He knew that for them to develop a strong and loving connection with Him, they needed to be separated from people who were not supporting their relationship with God.

I look back, and I see so many occasions when I moved away. I moved away from our childhood home, I moved away from the town where we both had our first babies, I moved away from the city where I raised my children, and I moved away from the state that locked us down.

I can see how you would feel as though I was abandoning you, when in fact it was the Holy Spirit teaching me that I need to be prepared to move; and

perhaps keep moving, so that I could re-establish my relationship with God.

Do you remember when I was 20 and I first made my decision to become a Christian? The phone conversations I had with Mum; trying to explain why I was choosing to leave behind my Catholic upbringing to pursue an Adventist faith were the most difficult conversations I have ever had. It was as though I was speaking with a demoniac; having my words twisted and forced back at me, being screamed at down the phone line, having memories of our late grandfather manipulated, and accusing me of being involved in a cult. The follow-up phone calls from Dad telling me to leave all this nonsense behind and apologise to Mum for being so disrespectful; they're still happening. I still get those phone calls.

I'm sorry you heard our parents like that. You were so young, and I wish I had been able to shield and protect you from it all. I'm sorry I didn't realise how much those conversations had affected you. I'm sorry I never thought to ask.

I'm sorry you weren't ready for my revival. I wish I had seen it coming, so that I could have prepared you for it.

I wish I had seen it coming, so I could have prepared myself for it.

It began like a distant thunderstorm, something I felt in the air before I heard the rumblings of thunder on the horizon. At first, I wasn't quite sure what it was, but then the hairs on my arms began to tremor, I could feel it now; the air pressure around me was changing, the Holy Spirit was talking.

I knew that I had a choice—I had made one before, but I had let it slip away.

My first revival was loud. It came in the form of my future husband and his family passionately and desperately sharing the Word of God with truths I had never been exposed to. It was a truth-telling revival, an awakening to knowledge and wisdom.

This revival has been different. It is possibly why it took us all by surprise. It's been quiet. It has had its noisy moments, but they've mostly been during conversations with you or our parents and I'm sorry I haven't been more articulate or forgiving. I've asked for help to work on that. Thank you for sharing with me how I've upset you. I'm sorry.



I wish I knew how to share with you how much God loves you. I wish I knew how to explain to our dad that money and material things just don't matter anymore, and that God will provide everything I need. I wish I knew how to reason with Mum, when she tells me to choose between Jesus and my family. I wish I could connect with our brother so that I could reassure him that there are promises so incredible for him if only he would accept Jesus as his Saviour. I wish our sister would let go of the religious hatred she holds on to, and see that there is a loving God who is not an organisation, but just wants to be loved by her.

I'm sorry that my failings and my flaws are what you see. Are my failings

preventing you from accepting Jesus? My restored love for God doesn't mean that I am perfect. I'm sorry that I have so many shortcomings that are so much more obvious than the way God is shaping me; I'm asking Him for help. I desperately want His light to shine brighter in me. I wish I knew how to show you.

I am a work in progress. I am the clay in the Potter's hands. I break; I heal. I fall; I stand up. I stumble; I look to God. I plead with Him every day to change me, and mould me into what He needs me to be.

Dear sister, it is my constant prayer that you will open your heart and let Him in. I know you've seen and heard many evils in the world disguised as God, but I want you to know that's not

God. I know you're afraid, and you don't believe me yet. You know it will change your life, but I want you to know that He will take care of you. He will love you and the path He has chosen for you is better than any path you could choose for yourself. Ultimately, it is your choice; He loves you so much He was willing to die for you so that you have the freedom to choose.

My revival has been one of the heart; it has been quiet, and personal, and intimate. It is the revival that God gave me; a gift from Him.

I'm sorry you weren't ready for my revival; but this is God's timing, and I am willing to follow.

**Elly Conduit**

writes from Alstonville, NSW.





# BEYOND perfection



**M**any years have passed, and my happy little oyster clings to its rock in a tiny corner of a great ocean with its community of oyster siblings nearby. There is nothing particularly remarkable about my oyster—just an ordinary oyster. Well, actually, there *are* exciting things about my little creature that could command many lifetimes of study to unlock its mysteries.

Did you know, for example, that

oysters are vegetarian? They eat algae by filtering it out of the water. They draw water into their bodies and remove tiny phytoplankton. Did you know that a single adult oyster can filter 150 litres daily?<sup>1</sup> That's about as much water as you would use in a 10-minute shower. Collectively, many oysters can help improve water clarity, which benefits the aquatic vegetation, which depends on light to photosynthesise. Did you know

that all oysters start life as male, but most will change permanently to female after about a year? Their reproductive organs produce both sperm and eggs, giving them the capability to change gender. It is, therefore, possible for an oyster to fertilise its own eggs.<sup>2</sup>

So, what do I mean by there being "nothing particularly remarkable" about my oyster? Well, my little oyster has been living in a perfect world, so there

has never been a hint of a pearl growing inside my oyster's shell or in any other oyster's shell. Why? Because pearls only grow in response to an irritation. So, in this perfect oyster world, no-one has ever seen a pearl. No-one even has a word for pearl because no such thing exists or ever has existed.

Then there is that moment. That indescribable event, which, to an outside observer, does not seem cataclysmic because it is such a tiny thing. For our oyster, it is an irritant that enters its shell—something little, but oh, how annoying. This little irritant begins to spoil life inside the shell. Can this annoyance be expelled or destroyed? The oyster makes an attempt, but sometimes, it can do nothing to rid itself of the problem.

Now consider that pivotal moment.

In the context of the kingdom of heaven, there was such a moment—a moment Paul calls *the mystery of iniquity*<sup>3</sup>—a moment when somebody challenged God's kingdom of love. At first, it must have seemed such a little thing—much like a seed. If the seed falls on a path, that is the end of it. It does not take root. It does not grow. If it does take root, however, who can know the outcome?

What was the result of this challenge to the kingdom of heaven event? "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him" (Revelation 12:9). Satan shockingly gained a foothold on earth through Adam and Eve's choice—a foothold that resulted in hurt, pain and loss.

Did God know about the possibility of this moment? Its eventuality? If so, why did God allow that moment to happen? Or, at the very least, why did God not eliminate the problem then and there and restore things to tranquil perfection?

In the *Avengers: Endgame* superhero film, a piece of dialogue plays with this question of stamping out the evil as we see it.

**Thanos:** I know what I must do. I will shred this universe down to its last atom. And then, with the stones you've collected for me, create a new one—teaming with life—that knows not what

it has lost but only what it has been given—a grateful universe.

**Captain America:** Born out of blood.

**Thanos:** They'll never know it because you won't be alive to tell them.

Could a loving being live with such an action? Could God have implemented a restart? No-one knows—the answer lies deep within God's heart.

The 2002 movie *Minority Report* also toys with the idea of dealing with evil before it can hurt others. The film is set in Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia in the year 2054, where Pre-crime, a specialised police department, apprehends criminals by use of fore-knowledge provided by three psychics called "precogs".<sup>4</sup>

Could God have stomped on that moment—that seed—that mystery of iniquity to ensure it ended before it took root? The possible answers lie outside the human sphere. Yet, I want to tentatively explore two answers based on our understanding of the nature of God. On the one hand, I want to say "yes" because God is all-knowing and all-powerful. If God is love, however, God's very nature would demand that any action taken be consistent with the principle of love. Are you tempted to answer or at least reflect on this crucial question? Hmmm?

We do know, however, what the decision was! God did not stomp on that moment. God allowed the seed to grow. The biblical record speaks of this evil power being banished to earth with his angels because they did not want to live with love as their guide. God's heart must have ached at the thought of the consequences that would unravel the weave and beauty of a perfect world.

As an earthly family, we sense the ravages of this flourishing evil seed. Will this problem ever be resolved? The biblical story shouts an unequivocal: "Yes!" along with the cry of "How long, Lord?" (Psalm 13:1). EG White writes:

"It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man, but in Christ, we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken."<sup>5</sup>

That seems paradoxical—not only

that good can come from hurt, pain and loss—but great good. Also, that our hopelessly fractured relationship with God can grow stronger through brokenness. Is this God's strategy—to orchestrate evil to bring about greater good? To introduce the irritant to grow the pearl? To grow the thorn to amplify the beauty of the rose? Hmmm.

Let's imagine two people in a loving relationship. It has been rosy—pleasant, enriching and wonderful. One of them thinks about this paradox of pain and loss leading to an even deeper relationship. Imagine that one suggests to the other: "I will . . . cheat on you, destroy one of your favourite keepsakes, smash your car or empty your bank account and spend it . . . for the sole purpose of deepening our relationship".

Would this make sense? Or would that be an indecent proposal? Does the end justify the means when it comes to matters of love? What does seem to be an inevitable result is broken trust—a right mess, to be sure.

While we face a seeming paradox that God could make something better as a result of pain and misery, let us not ascribe to God an intention of bringing evil to this world or of being evil for the greater good. That does not wash with me. How about you? Isn't God a covenant-keeping God? Hasn't God promised to protect from the evil one? Isn't God the great "I am" who never changes: "Ever steadfast" and "Ever faithful"?<sup>6</sup>

This paradox will likely remain a mystery to us for all time. Yet I am glad that there is what Paul calls "God's secret wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:7-9 New Century Version). As it is written in the Scriptures, "No-one has ever seen this, and no-one has ever heard about it. No-one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:7-9, New Century Version). If this paradox never existed, there would always be a smouldering dissatisfaction about things never being as good as they once were or could have been. It would be like an old-timer like me reflecting on "the good old days". The promise is not for a partial restoration but an abundant, better-than-ever newness. Things will be better than best. Relationships deeper—love more intimate.





This paradox is an age-old one, grounded in love. Alfred Tennyson penned the contradiction in love tones when he wrote: "Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." God's love is so grand, deep and wise that it risked all to share joy, even knowing the possibility of that earth-shattering moment. God's love is also so insightful, so creative, so abundant, that no matter the brokenness to be worked with, the result is like a *kintsugi* bowl<sup>7</sup> that is worth ever so much more in both beauty and value after the loving and skilful artisan has repurposed the damaging event.

The kintsugi process is a beautiful picture of the restoration of broken things. We have a saying: "No use crying over spilt milk." If I trip and break a bowl, my emotion is probably more one of frustration at having to clean up the mess, sweep up all the shards and get them all safely into a bin. By contrast, the kintsugi process lovingly searches for the pieces, collects them, and then brings them together using a lacquer dusted or mixed with precious metals to create a piece that lives on with a value that surpasses the original.

I own a kintsugi bowl. I am pleased to have it, yet its provenance is terrible. Someone made a bowl, then broke it intentionally. Somebody assembled the pieces with a look-a-like gold lacquer and sold it as a kintsugi piece. Something about the intentional breakage leaves me feeling hollow—perhaps manipulated—rather than celebratory

about my bowl.

I believe that God is in the business of genuine kintsugi. The brokenness is not God's action; the restoration is wholly God's action and beautiful beyond measure. This is much like the merchant in the parable who looks for a fine pearl and "went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45,46).

Yo-Yo Ma, described by the *Washington Post* as the greatest cellist in the world, reminds us that even in our human sphere, some qualities seem to surpass what we call perfection. In a trailer promoting his masterclass, Yo-Yo Ma remarks, "I've been playing the cello for over 60 years, so I should be getting it right by now. Is that what I'm trying to do? Am I trying to get it right, or am I trying to find something?"

Yo-Yo Ma continues: "At one point, I had the audacity to think I could play a perfect concert. I was in the middle of a concert and I realised everything was going perfectly well and I was bored out of my mind. That was the moment that I made a fateful decision—that I was actually going to devote my life to human expression versus human perfection."<sup>8</sup> For God, a relationship with us is paramount—journeying with us, despite, or perhaps because we are far from perfect.

Do you long for perfection, which can never be achieved? Or something deeper and more significant—like a powerful living relationship with God? When I am broken, I long for perfection—to be like a pre-kintsugi bowl that

does not have to suffer the indignity of brokenness. I long, too, for reversals that would wind back the long, long chain of free choice consequences that brought me to my current predicament. But to do so would contradict and unravel the essence of love—"giving freedom to the other".<sup>9</sup>

Where should I turn? Where can you turn? Perhaps Leonard Cohen's lyrics in the song "Anthem" suggest a way forward. "Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." Mysteries are what they are. God did not stomp on or reverse the seed of challenge to His kingdom as Thanos would enthusiastically have done. Instead, God made a fateful decision, like Yo-Yo Ma, and chose expression in Jesus over kingdom perfection. I hang on to this belief that the Creator God is ready and able to use every crack, every hurt and every loss to wash light through my brokenness and into my life. God's presence and creative craftsmanship will "work together for good" (Romans 8:28, ESV) to bring about a community of love that grows beyond what once was perfection.

Are you willing to allow God to create a kintsugi you?

1. <natureaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/our-priorities/oceans/ocean-stories/oysters-filter-wa-ter/>, cited September 2, 2023.
2. <oneearth.org/five-astonishing-facts-you-didnt-know-about-oysters/>, cited September 2, 2023.
3. 2 Thessalonians 2:7, King James Version (KJV)
4. <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority\_Report\_(film)>, cited September 26, 2023.
5. *Desire of Ages*, p25.
6. 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Exodus 3:14, Micah 3:6, and Lamentations 3:22-23.
7. "Kintsugi" means 'golden repair'. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with urushi lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. (reference: Wikipedia).
8. <masterclass.com/classes/yo-yo-ma-teaches-music-and-connection>, cited December 12, 2023.
9. Quote by Indian philosopher, Osho.

**Craig Mattner**

Mathematics and photography teacher, Prescott College Southern, Adelaide, SA.



# Wholegrains and *immunity*

When we think of foods to help keep the winter sniffles at bay we normally think of fruit and vegetables, but another helpful pantry staple to consider is wholegrains.



Examples of wholegrains include wheat, oats, buckwheat, rye, barley, sorghum and quinoa, and the foods made from them. Enjoying a balanced diet including foods rich in prebiotics, such as wholegrains and high fibre foods, helps to support our immune system to fight and avoid common infections like cold and flu.

Here are three ways wholegrains help support immunity and keep you feeling great:

## 1. Packed with nutrients

Wholegrains are made up of fibre-rich bran, nutrient-packed germ, starchy endosperm. It's the combination of all these elements that provides more than 26 nutrients and powerful plant compounds including dietary fibres, vitamins, minerals and a range of protective phytonutrients.

## 2. Improved gut health

Wholegrains are one of the best ways to get nutrients that play an essential role in immune function including folate, thiamin, niacin, magnesium, iron, zinc and protein.

Did you know? Our immune system and our gut microbiota (the bacteria in our gut) work together to defend our bodies against invaders—preventing harmful bacteria, or pathogens, from living in our gut.

## 3. Good mood food

Our gut health can also influence our mood. Most wholegrains contain resistant starch, a type of dietary fibre that acts as food for the good bacteria in our gut. The good bacteria

then produce beneficial substances known as short-chain fatty acids, which may play a role in regulating our mood among many other beneficial effects, including supporting our immune system and maintaining overall health.

Research suggests that following a Mediterranean diet high in plant foods such as wholegrains, legumes, polyphenol-rich fruits and vegetables, nuts and olive oil is associated with better overall mental wellbeing, increased concentration and lower likelihood of depressive and anxiety disorders, most likely due to the anti-inflammatory nature of the diet.

While there is no one food on its own that will lead to great immune health, it is clear that wholegrains play an important part in supporting our immune system.

## Need some help to get more wholegrains into your diet?

- Top your smoothie bowl with a generous sprinkle of wholegrain breakfast cereal.
- Choose wholegrain bread or wraps for lunchbox favourites.
- Try wholegrain crackers with peanut butter or avocado as an afternoon snack.
- Simple dinner swaps start with switching white pasta and rice for wholemeal pasta and brown rice. If fussy eaters are hard to please, slowly introduce the wholegrain versions with a 50/50 mix.
- Add grains like quinoa or buckwheat to a winter salad and make soups extra hearty with a handful of pearl barley.



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# Conversations

## Great talent!

Thank you [to the author of the] remarkable article "Jesus Wept" (Feature, May 4). Please keep writing. You have a great talent that we need to see more of.

**Pam Driver, NZ**

## History repeats

I was very disappointed with the apparent lack of research into the history of restrictions during a health emergency outlined in the June 1 article entitled "Beastly Mini-marks".

These restrictions were seen as "normalisation of governmental control . . . where civilisation has, over the past 200 years at least, been predominantly free".

A study of the restrictions which were implemented by governments, with punishment for non-compliance, during the Spanish Flu epidemic, were strikingly similar to many recommendations for the 2020 COVID epidemic, TB outbreaks and other health emergencies.

Indeed, theatres were closed during the "plague" outbreaks in the time

of Shakespeare by order of the king though this occurred longer ago than the 200 years of "freedoms" stated in the article.

Just because we remember and were impacted by these restrictions does not mean they were a new "coercive" development. It is not helpful to interpret these events in this way.

**Marg Clark, Vic**

## Family history

I read the recent news item regarding the centenary celebrations at Invercargill Adventist Church ("Invercargill celebrates century of ministry", June 1) and was intrigued to see the formation year of the church mentioned but not the foundation minister.

My understanding is that the minister who was appointed to start the church was GF Bohringer<sup>1</sup>, who happens to be my great-grandfather. GF Bohringer served as the minister in Invercargill for four years with the church being officially formed at the 1922 camp meeting in Dunedin<sup>2</sup>.

While I was not bothered by the omission of his name, as he died many years before I was born, it did remind me of a fascinating two days I spent many years ago.

As part of the Adventist heritage subject I took while at Avondale, I was permitted to write my major essay about my great-grandfather. I was able to reconstruct much of his life story from the *Record* and from the Adventist Yearbook. It took me two days as an index of the *Record* did not exist, nor any digital search facilities, so I needed to visit the Heritage Centre at Avondale and manually skim read every *Record* from about 1918-1958. This same search can now be conducted in a matter of minutes on the Adventist Archives website.

[1] "Fisher, Olive May (1914-2008)" article, <<https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/>>.

2. Goldstone, SR (1980). *Yesterday-today in South New Zealand*. Napier: Max Printing Service.

**Clinton Jackson, Qld**

## Obituaries

**JAEGER**, Alice Ann (nee Brooks), born 13.12.1940 in Surrey, England; died 25.1.24 in Adventist Care Rossmoyne, WA. On 21.1.1959 she married Melville. She was predeceased by her son, Paul. Ann is survived by her husband (Rossmoyne); and children, David (Gosnells), Peter and Vicki (Lilydale, Vic), Andrew and Kaileen (Thornlie, WA), and Darlene and Brendan Newitt (Lesmurdie). Ann was a warm, compassionate, loving and generous lady, who loved her family. She loved her God and Saviour Jesus in whose service she was very faithful over the years.

Gervais Cangy

**JESNOEWSKI**, Ruby May (nee House), born 9.4.1936 in Bunbury, WA; died 30.3.24 in Busselton. Ruby is survived by her husband, Mervyn (Busselton); children, Graham, Sheryl, Carol, David and Phillip; foster children, Annette and Valerie; 16 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Derek McCutcheon



**LEIPOLD**, David Ernest, born 10.11.1934 in Subiaco, WA; died 19.4.24 in Inglewood.

In 1979 he married Ethel Whyte (nee Sparrowhawk). David is survived by his wife; stepchildren, Sharyn Cameron, Jasmine Henley, Greg Whyte, Tamra Hendriks, Lara Whyte, and their partners; 17 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren. David, a skilled fitter and turner from Kellerberrin, moved to a Canning Vale retirement village in 2021 and dementia care in 2022. Known for his craftsmanship, welding skills and kind and gentle nature, David and Ethel attended the Merredin and Broome churches, and helped foster a Kellerberrin fellowship. David will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Paul Cameron



**PRAM**, James (Jim) Alfred, born 21.7.1942 in Whangaroa, NZ; died 22.2.24 in Whangarei

Hospital. Jim is survived by his wife, Marion (Whangarei); children, Dennis and Annette (deceased), Grant and Gaylene, Janine and Cyril Woodward, and Phil and Julie; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A large group of relatives and friends farewelled him at his home church in Whangarei where he loved to be each Sabbath morning. He now sleeps awaiting Jesus' soon return.

Wesley Robb

church service at 11am. Lunch will be served after the service. Address: 34 Wrentmore St, NSW. Website <fairfieldsda.org.au>.

### SAVE THE DATE— OCTOBER 26, 2024

Join us at Avondale University Church to celebrate ADRA's 40th anniversary. All past and current employees and board members who served with ADRA in Australia or overseas are welcome. RSVP at <adra.org.au/40thevent>.

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**100**  
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DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

# AVONDALE HOMECOMING 2024 MISSION CRUISE

Missing your old Alumni? Fear not! We've teamed up with your fellow Adventists here and in the Pacific and Royal Caribbean to bring you a tour like no other... Departing Sydney November 4th we'll sail for 9 nights and stop at 3 mission centres in the Pacific for Alumni only experiences. On board, we've organised private meeting rooms, a praise and worship program and other activities... or if you need some quiet time, we'll just see you by the pool! Reserve your ticket now on the QR link below.



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AUPA is the Avondale University Partnership Alliance, ABN 26 663 799 488.  
582 Freemans Drive Cooranbong 2265.

AUPA is the tour organiser. The cruise is operated by Royal Caribbean. You are responsible for your own travel and medical insurance and cruise booking using the reference we generate for you. Your \$349 tour reservation is non-refundable and mostly tax deductible. If the cruise ship fills, we will offer you a refund or we will transfer your booking with us to the next available event. AUPA will take all care with organising off ship events but these will be subject to the usual tour operator availabilities, weather, local, traffic and civil conditions for which AUPA cannot insure against.





# World Mission Budget Offering

## 6<sup>th</sup> July - *Digital Strategy for Mission*

People look to Google and social media to find answers to their spiritual questions. We must create engaging digital avenues so that people can find the truth, whenever they seek it, wherever they seek it.

Your church offering today will be used for the Digital Strategy for Mission which will invest in innovative digital strategies to accelerate the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to reach the world for Christ.

These digital mission projects will facilitate the seeker's journey from contact to conversion and from decision to disciple, integrating a strong element of personal contact.

**Thank you** for your generous support of world mission.



*South Pacific*

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