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EDITOR'S NOTE:

“Please, help me!”

Juliana Muniz
News Editor

“

Sometimes, we think we only need to ask God for help in the big, overwhelming moments.

Are you the type of person who finds it hard to ask for help, believing you can—and should—be able to take care of everything yourself? Maybe it's because of perfectionism—you don't believe others would do it as thoughtfully and thoroughly as you would. Or maybe you've always been the one people count on—taking care of others, meeting high expectations or simply trying to keep everything under control.

There are many reasons why refrain from asking or even considering asking for help. The world we live in today often celebrates independence and self-reliance, making the act of asking for help seem like a sign of weakness. We tell ourselves we should be able to handle everything on our own, that relying on others somehow diminishes our abilities. But the truth is, no-one was designed to carry life's burdens alone, and it's okay—necessary even—to seek help when we reach our limits.

Even when we feel isolated, with no-one around to offer support, we are never truly alone. But as much as we know that—or should know that—we forget.

A few years ago, my husband and I went on a road trip to the countryside in south Brazil. On the way back, still a few hours from home, we found ourselves in a situation we did not have the skills to deal with. It was winter and the light was fading, caught in that in-between moment where it was neither dark nor bright, making it hard to see. We hit a pothole and the tyre went flat.

Now, maybe changing a tyre might be an easy fix for you. But for us, a couple of millennials raised in the city who are more familiar with digital gear and smart devices than car repairs, it was a different story.

To make it worse, the brake pads had recently been changed, and the wheels tightened with a power tool. So there we were—pulled over on a narrow shoulder, in the cold, with trucks flying past centimetres away and no roadside assist. After setting up the jack and getting everything ready—thanks to a YouTube tutorial—we realised the wheel nuts were simply too tight for us to unscrew. We tried everything, even jumping on the wheel brace.

It was dark, freezing and we were exhausted. Just as I looked back at my phone for more tutorials, I saw my husband kneeling with his head on the wheel brace. I thought he had given up, but he was doing what should've been our instinct from the start: he was asking for help.

After his prayer, he took a deep breath and tried one more time. And guess what? The wheel nuts loosened like butter.

So often, we rely on our own strength, trying to muscle through challenges, like loosening that stubborn wheel nut, forgetting that no matter how hard we try, sometimes we just can't do it alone. We need help, and more importantly, we need to ask for help.

That experience on the side of the road reminded me I don't need to have everything figured out—my limitations are an opportunity for God's power to be made perfect in my weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The Bible is full of stories and reminders that God is always ready to help us. He promises He will strengthen us and help us (Isaiah 41:10). Even in the scariest and darkest moments, we don't need to fear because He is with us (Psalm 23:4) and will be with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9).

Sometimes, we think we only need to ask God for help in the big, overwhelming moments. But the truth is, He wants to walk with us through every step of our journey—even in the small challenges. Whether it's a difficult workday, a family disagreement or simply finding your keys, God is there. We just need to remember to turn to Him in all circumstances, trusting that He's ready to guide us, even in the ordinary.

Whenever you find yourself in those moments—feeling vulnerable and with no strength left in you—remember, there is Someone who is not just ready but eager to help. And it doesn't take a long, eloquent prayer. Sometimes, the simplest prayer is all it takes: “God, I can't. Please help me!”



INSIGHT:

Future Ready

Brett Goods
CEO Adventist HealthCare (AHCL)

You may have noticed an increase in media coverage lately about the challenges facing Australia’s healthcare system—both public and private hospitals. Across the board the healthcare sector is facing some of the most difficult operating conditions in living memory. For the private healthcare sector, the core driver of these challenges is that the income hospitals receive from private health funds—for providing care to their members—has not kept pace with the rising costs hospitals are experiencing from high inflationary pressures. Added to that are the increasing costs in multiple areas, including supplies and consumables, wages, insurance, maintenance, energy and utilities (some have increased by 25 per cent).

Recently we launched our “Future Ready” campaign inside Adventist HealthCare (Sydney Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby). To be “Future Ready” we are implementing focused plans to ensure a strong future for the organisation.

This process carefully considered the changes we needed to make to ensure the hospital not only navigates these current challenges, but is well placed to be successful and grow in the future. Our “Future Ready” initiatives include cost savings and business growth opportunities.

Over the past 121 years, the San has survived two world wars, the 1918 influenza pandemic, the Great Depression, a number of recessions, tremendous change, intense competition and the recent global COVID pandemic. As Ellen White said in *Testimonies for the Church*, health work is the right arm of the gospel, and the Lord has shown His regard for it by His continual faithful blessing of this ongoing and important work.

AHCL is blessed to have skilled and loyal personnel, world-class services and facilities, and a supportive community. We invite your prayers and support as we ask God for wisdom and leading in the choices we make to address the challenges and pursue opportunities—enabling us to fulfil our mission of caring for the body, mind and spirit of the community we serve.

I invite you to become a “Prayer Partner” of Adventist HealthCare today. Prayer Partners is an initiative of our spiritual care department. Email <spiritualcare@sah.org.au> or phone +61 492 103 229.

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Alumnus of the Year Dr Bruce Manners received his award from vice-chancellor and president Professor Malcolm Coulson ahead of presenting the Homecoming 2024 worship service sermon. Credit: Marta Rutkowska.



The Class of 1984 honour year reunion with host Phil Murray (far right). Credit: Bevan Craig.



The new resource—*Breaking the Silence: Listen, Believe, Refer*—is an initiative of the Australian Union Conference women's and family ministries.

Alum return “home”

📍 Cooranbong, NSW | Brenton Stacey

Former students and staff members of Avondale University have returned for a weekend (August 23–24) of reconnection and reminiscing.

First presented in 1981, the annual Homecoming honours all alumni and celebrates classmates who reflect the values embedded in the university motto, “For a greater vision of world needs”.

Alumni had their first chance to reconnect at the opening reception, an informal and relaxed gathering hosted by 2023 Alumna of the Year Melanie Windus. Vice-chancellor Professor Malcolm Coulson presented the devotional. His message: we have taken different journeys, but we have returned to the same home.

Many more did so the following day. Host and 2023 Alumnus of the Year Dr Barry Oliver welcomed alum and their friends to Sabbath school, where they participated in an informative and interactive lesson led by Avondale Seminary head Dr Wendy Jackson.

Inspired by hymns and songs from the decades, as performed by Avondale Chamber Orchestra and Avondale Singers, a full house gathered in the Big House—Avondale University Church. The church’s former minister Dr Bruce

Manners (BA Theol, 1974) spoke about his own ageing—a prognosis from his gerontologist of mild cognitive impairment. “Stuff happens. This happens to be my battle. I don’t know what your battle is, but whatever happens, God is there,” he said.

Earlier in the worship service, Avondale Alumni honoured Dr Manners as Alumnus of the Year. Joining Dr Manners as an award recipient: Alumna of the Year Michelle Ward (Dip Prim Ed, 1974), and Young Alumnus of the Year Sheldon Omwamba (BN, 2018).

The heart of Homecoming: the honour year reunions. Around a dozen attended from the Class of 1954. Each host nominated a classmate—or classmates, with the Class of 1994 nominating two long-serving, single-school teachers—to receive a citation.

Homecoming closed with a concert presented by Rick Ferret and his friends, Covenant Quartet. With differing styles—southern gospel and country—the ensemble and the trio performed separately until the final song. The chorus of “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” provided a fitting farewell: “There’s a better home awaiting / In the sky, Lord, in the sky.”

New resource tackles family violence year-round

📍 Ringwood, Vic | Kimberley McMurray/Juliana Muniz

A new resource from the Adventist Church in Australia is providing guidance for dealing with domestic violence. An initiative of the women’s and family ministries department, *Breaking the Silence: Listen, Believe, Refer* was released after the recent enditnow summit on August 23 to continue the discussion around family violence.

Designed for teachers, parents, pastors and others who support individuals in challenging situations, the booklet covers topics such as child abuse, family violence, supporting victims of abuse and self-care for support people. It also contains a list of emergency contacts that can be utilised for further support.

Women and family ministries director Pastor Sylvia Mendez explained the

importance of continuing the discussion. “It is important that we move beyond an enditnow emphasis day where we highlight this issue once a year and instead work together to raise awareness, provide training and support the whole year round,” she said.

“Violence doesn’t only happen once a year and if we only discuss it once a year, we are failing at truly making a difference through the enditnow initiative.”

If you would like to provide feedback or join a focus group to help shape education and training around family violence, visit <bit.ly/3XP8gqW> to complete the survey.

For resources and information on enditnow emphasis day and to access the booklet online, visit <bit.ly/4dc00dy>.



Outgoing and newly appointed officers (L-R): Rosalie McFarlane, Pastor Adrian Webster, Pastor Andrew West, Chiedza Ndlovu and Pastor Bob Larsen.

New president and secretary elected for NNZC

📍 Auckland, NZ | Juliana Muniz

The North New Zealand Conference (NNZC) held its 93rd constituency meeting on September 14-15, when 200 delegates gathered at Papatoetoe church in Auckland to elect a new leadership team for the next four years.

Pastor Adrian Webster, who had been serving as NNZC ministerial secretary, was elected president, and Pastor Andrew West, who was serving as the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regional pastor, was appointed secretary. They will serve alongside Chiedza Ndlovu, the returning chief financial officer.

In addition to the leadership appointments, delegates voted on several key items, including the election of the Executive Committee, which will also serve as the Constitution Committee. Delegates also approved changes to align the NNZC constitution with the South Pacific Division's model constitution.

The two officers replace outgoing

president Pastor Bob Larsen and secretary Rosalie McFarlane, who served in these positions since 2020 and are now stepping into semi-retirement.

"They did a fantastic job of really setting the Conference up for success into the future," said New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) president Pastor Eddie Tupa'i. He praised the outgoing leaders for their experience. "They've built a great team and ensured that all the entities are strong and that the Conference's finances are in a good place."

Pastor Tupa'i expressed excitement about the new administrative team. "The new leadership team—as in the president, secretary and treasurer, and the Executive Committee—are quite a younger team. I see them coming in with ideas and plans that really connect with younger generations and also the rapidly changing, complex world that we're in."



One of the groups at the leadership retreat, showcasing the diversity of the event.

Leaders equipped to recognise God's calling

📍 Gold Coast, Qld | Jarrod Stackelroth

Church leaders from across the South Pacific Division (SPD) gathered for a leadership program retreat over the weekend of August 29–September 1.

Attendees came from the spheres of ministry, administration, finance, education, from institutions such as ADRA, Adventist Media and Sanitarium, and from missions and conferences.

The retreat is part of a 12-month formal leadership program involving up to 40 leaders that has been run each year since 2021.

"The focus [of this year's summit] was on leading self and how God has led in my life. Rarely do leaders get a chance to have uninterrupted time to reflect, journal, be vulnerable and share with each other in a trusted environment," said Dean Banks, SPD Leadership strategy leader.

Mr Banks said every organisation, including the Church, faces the challenge of keeping pace with a rapidly changing society. "To stay relevant and reach our community to share the gospel, we need leaders with courage, who can

adapt quickly, embrace change and try different things," he said.

Presenters for the weekend were Drs Erich Baumgartner and Randy Siebold, co-directors of the Global Leadership Institute, based at Andrews University.

Along with writing parts of their life stories to see where God had led them to become leaders, participants were also challenged to connect with each other, especially with the people in the room they thought they had the least in common with.

Pastor Wayne Boehm, director of Hope Channel in the South Pacific, reflected on his experience of the program as "a really rewarding experience—to learn, to listen, not just from the lecturers, but from the other participants. It just enriches and broadens your own leadership experience."

According to Pastor Boehm, leaders who are undertaking this training will now take back the knowledge and tools they have learned, such as active listening and growth mindsets, to their local contexts.



Leaders attended from across the South Pacific.

SPD leaders gather for strategic planning

📍 Korolevu, Fiji | Tracey Bridcutt

Connection, learning and collaboration were fostered at a Division-wide strategy summit attended by church leaders from across the South Pacific from September 2-5.

Held in Fiji, the three-day summit was a significant event for the South Pacific Division (SPD) as leaders gear up for the start of the new quinquennium in 2025. Attendees spent time critically reviewing the current strategy, reflecting on lessons learned and progress made, and considering future directions to further the mission of the Church.

Union leaders discussed the big issues affecting their territories, institutional heads reported on successes and challenges, and new research studies were presented which focused on areas such as nurture and retention, discipleship, media and development sustainability.

Throughout the summit, working groups from the key focus areas of the church—ministry, education, health, communications and media, people and culture, governance and support—developed strategic action plans which were presented on the final day.

Reflecting on the summit, SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend commended the spirit of unity and deep engagement in prayer and dialogue.

"People gave their best and listened to each other," he said. "The cultural diversity was evident and embraced. There was a real spirit of unity and lots of good research presented, and strategies developed."

Strategic planning has been a focus of the SPD for at least 20 years, he said.

"Each time we have learnt and become better at it," he said. "This is the first time that we have had representatives from all of the unions and SPD institutions, departments and services together to work on the strategy. As a diverse Division it is important to understand and listen to each other's needs as we prioritise God's call in fulfilling His purposes."

Pastor Townend also pointed to the success of the strategic planning leading up to this year's PNG for Christ program.

"The PNG for Christ experience shows that strategic planning works when done in consultation with God," he said.

As a next step, the reports from the summit's various working groups will be reviewed by SPD leadership. These insights will then be synthesised into a draft document for presentation at the year-end meeting of the SPD Executive Committee in November.

making headlines

Andrews' top honours

Andrews University, an Adventist institution located in Michigan, USA, ranked the No 4 Christian College in America for 2024. The university also earned top spots for Most Diverse College (#3 of 1495), Best Small College (#1 of 25) and Top Private University (#1 of 24) in Michigan, with its academic programs identified as among the best in the nation, including biology, business, computer science, history, music, physical therapy, psychology and religion.—*Adventist Review*



Gospel in every hand

Since 2023, ADRA Brazil has offered a free course in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras), helping more than 60 people learn how to communicate with the Deaf community. The program is driven by a simple goal: to make churches more accessible and ensure everyone can fully participate, especially when it comes to sharing the gospel.—*ASN*

Four-time global leader

Waldfriede Hospital, an Adventist hospital founded in 1920 in Germany, has been named one of the best hospitals in the world for the fourth time in a row, by renowned magazine *Newsweek*.—*EUD*

Vaping's slippery slope

New research has found Australian teens who vape are five times more likely to try smoking, with 12-year-olds who vape being 29 times more likely to smoke than their non-vaping peers, highlighting a growing concern that vaping leads adolescents toward smoking, reversing decades of progress in reducing teen smoking rates.—*Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*



Rethinking life

Presentations by Avondale ministry and theology students in a major Australian regional city and across the New Zealand capital have helped change lives. Sixty-six people—37 in Griffith (NSW) and 29 in Lower Hutt and Wellington (NZ)—attending two reTHINK Life evangelistic series in July, made public decisions to dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ. In a message to the students, Griffith Seventh-day Adventist Church minister Abel Afele said this is a “testament to the power of the Holy Spirit working in our community and to the dedication of you and our members in spreading the gospel. It has been a privilege to watch you speak God’s Word and shine His light. Thank you for your commitment to this mission.”—**Brenton Stacey**



Toilets for all

Three communities on Rannogah Island, Solomon Islands, celebrated the achievement of No Open Defecation (NOD) status in August. The term refers to the practice of ensuring that all people use proper sanitation facilities, such as toilets, rather than defecating in open spaces like fields, forests or bodies of water. This practice is crucial for maintaining public health, dignity and environmental cleanliness. Implemented by ADRA, the NOD program encourages people in the communities to build proper toilets in their houses. The NOD celebration saw the attendance of Western Provincial government members, ADRA staff and Western Tourism Office staff along with local chiefs, community and church leaders, project beneficiaries and a popular local musician who provided the entertainment.—**Denver Newter/Kiera Bridcutt**



Storage solutions

Day students at Betikama Adventist College (BAC) in Solomon Islands now have a place to secure their belongings, thanks to a donation of lockers from Abbotsleigh School in Wahroonga, NSW. Unlike boarding students who live on campus, day students didn’t have a place to store their bags and books. The new lockers now provide them with a dedicated storage space at school. “We appreciate this practical gift, which is already benefitting our students,” said a BAC spokesperson. The lockers were transported from Australia to Solomon Islands.—**Juliana Muniz**



Shine out for Jesus

Adventurers clubs in the West Honiara District (WHD) of Solomon Islands recently enjoyed a weekend rally with a mix of spiritual and social activities. Seven WHD churches participated in the rally, which was themed “Shine Out for Jesus”. The weekend aimed to equip Adventurers with the knowledge and tools to share Jesus with friends, communities and schools.—**Denver Newter**



Double honour

ADRA was honoured with two awards at the 2024 Conference of the Council for International Development, held in Wellington, NZ, on September 4-5.

ADRA won both the Collaboration 2024 Award and the "Locally-led" Photo Award. In the Collaboration Award category, there were five other nominees: Anglican Missions, Save the Children, TearFund, Fred Hollows and World Vision. ADRA won the award for its SHAPE project, which stands for Sustainable Health, Agriculture, Protection and Empowerment. The project has united ADRA teams from countries including Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Myanmar and New Zealand.

The judges praised SHAPE for facilitating a rich exchange of knowledge and culture and collaborative action across multiple countries.

"The SHAPE project is a remarkable demonstration of ADRA's dedication to integrating indigenous approaches and practices into development work, empowering communities to shape their own futures," the judges said.

ADRA also received the "Locally-led" Photo Award with an image entitled *Elia Nakamal*—taken by Kusal Perera on the west coast of Vanuatu. The photo depicts local farmers gathered in a community setting, learning new agricultural methods.—**Tracey Bridcutt**

have news to share?

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High note for prisoners

Members of the Kaiapoi church have used their musical talents to minister to inmates at Rolleston Prison, NZ. Over three consecutive Sundays in August, the church choir dedicated their time and talents to fill the prison with uplifting music and messages of hope. Instead of the facility's usual church services, the choir led out, ministering to more than 100 inmates within the nine units of the prison. Several inmates were moved to tears by the church's ministry and requested Bibles and prayer. They also engaged in spiritual conversations with choir members after the services. Kaiapoi church plans to hold a special carol service at the prison in December and requests continued prayers and support as they explore this mission field.—**Record staff**



Health opportunity

Sydney residents living with type 2 diabetes are being encouraged to participate in ELIA Lifestyle Medicine Centre's (LMC) 12-week research program. The Diabetes Clinical Program, worth \$A1600, is being offered free for eligible participants. "The ELIA 12-week Diabetes Clinical Program uses a holistic approach to wellness using four key pillars: nutrition, movement, mindset and connectedness to help you live your best life," said South Pacific Division health strategy leader Dr Geraldine Przybylko. ELIA LMC was established last year at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Their purpose is to provide evidence-based lifestyle medicine consultations, programs and interventions that aim to determine and treat the root cause of chronic disease. To join the research project or for more information visit <elialmc.com> or call (02) 9480 6140. Limited spots available.—**Kiera Bridcutt**

How Evie found her heavenly Father



On August 24, Evie was baptised at Crossroads2421 Seventh-day Adventist Church (Officer, Vic), surrounded by her church and ADRA family.

But two years ago, Evie's life looked very different. At 22-years-old, Evie had been recently diagnosed with autism and was struggling with her mental health.

"I'm a Centrelink pension receiver," Evie says. "I'm also with the National Disability Insurance Scheme, due to having a disability. So I'm autistic. I'm recently diagnosed."

This is when Evie decided to reach out for help. She began attending ADRA's Thursday night outreach program in Pakenham. The program operates out of a bus that has been retrofitted to offer a multitude of services, including food relief and mental health support. It was during this time that one of the ADRA volunteers noticed that Evie was struggling to make ends meet and suggested she access ADRA's food services.

"I started receiving help with my groceries, because it got too expensive," Evie says. "There were times where I'd have to go two, three days without food to be able to pay for my medication. If I didn't have access to those medications because I had to feed myself, I would have been in a very dangerous state of mind and a very dangerous situation, and I could have been out on the street."



Evie had such a positive experience with ADRA that she decided to become a volunteer.

"Evie had \$30 in her bank account and an urgent medical bill," says Rebecca Auriant, director for ADRA Victoria. "Through ADRA and the church we were able to support her with her bills, referrals and social supports. She has been volunteering for ADRA since September 2022 and started going back to a church from a different faith last year."

Evie is able to relate to the clients who attend ADRA's program in Pakenham in a special way because she knows what challenges they are facing. Now, she wants to share her story so that others know that there is support and hope for a brighter future.

"To be on the other side of it, to be less fortunate, is not easy," Evie says. "I think what everybody needs to know is that it's okay to ask for help. The support is necessary, not only for those who

are homeless, but for people struggling to feed their children and even themselves."

The ADRA program has helped meet Evie's social and physical needs. But Evie was also seeking spiritual fulfilment. And so, Ms Auriant introduced her to a local Seventh-day Adventist church. It wasn't long until Evie was attending regularly.

"The other team members and I have seen Evie grow through attending the ADRA program each week," says Ms Auriant. "Everyone needs someone in their corner, someone who actually cares about your day, someone who makes you feel like you belong and wants to make you smile again. We are better off because Evie stepped onto the bus that cold evening two years ago and now we all smile because she has found her heavenly Father."

Ashley Stanton

media and communications senior officer, ADRA Australia.

Thousands of resources to nurture and equip new members in PNG



Thousands of Bibles, picture rolls, bookmarks and training resources are being delivered to Papua New Guinea (PNG) to equip the local church to nurture the newly baptised and those who made commitments during the PNG for Christ program.

South Pacific Division (SPD) leaders are working closely with the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) to provide support as it negotiates the rapid growth of the Church. A shipment of 100,000 World Changer Bibles has recently arrived in PNG, with an additional 200,000 on the way. The Bibles are accompanied by World Changer reading guides which outline the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church.

SPD ministry and strategy director Dr Sven Östring revealed the scale of the investment: "We have mobilised \$A2 million worth of resources because it's critically important to assist the local teams as they manage the vast number of people who have joined the Church as a result of PNG for Christ.

"However, this level of investment still doesn't meet the need and we would encourage local churches and church members to donate to the follow-up efforts."

SPD discipleship strategy leader Pastor Danny Philip spoke about the urgency to care for those who have made decisions to follow Jesus. "We feel a deep sense of responsibility to nurture these people, keeping their interest in following Christ alive as new disciples," he said.

SPD leaders are shipping a huge number of resources, including 1 million Gift bookmarks, 50,000 harvest model booklets and 50,000 new disciple

retention guidebooks. Resources are being developed in both English and Pidgin. Additionally, 250,000 baptismal certificates are heading to PNG, after the Church ran out during PNG for Christ.

Recognising the importance of catering to a predominantly visual culture, the SPD is developing a set of picture rolls. These rolls feature hand-painted biblical scenes accompanied by Scripture and are expected to play a crucial role in evangelism, particularly in rural areas where literacy levels may be lower and access to technology is limited.

Children's ministries have also been a key focus, with "Alive in Jesus" training being provided to equip children's ministry directors from across PNG. "One of the most effective ways to grow and empower new disciples is through families," said Dr Östring. "Parents play a crucial role in nurturing their children's spiritual development which in turn strengthens their own."

One of the primary goals is to ensure that the resources reach the country's rural and remote areas. "We're working hard to ensure that the resources get to the villages, not just the big cities," Pastor Philip said. "We want our materials to reach the remotest part of the country, where people have been overlooked in the past."

PNGUM personal ministries and Sabbath school director Pastor Miller Kuso expressed gratitude for the support from the SPD. "There's real excitement with all the resources coming in, and we believe our retention programs are going well," he said. "We would like to say thank you to the South Pacific Division for giving us this big support."

Before and after PNG for Christ, training sessions were held in local churches focused on nurturing and retention. Church leaders remain motivated, and baptisms continue at a remarkable rate. "We're still seeing baptisms, and these are not small numbers—many are still joining the Church," Pastor Kuso added.

More than 170,000 people were baptised during PNG for Christ—the largest number of baptisms in the history of PNG. Initial reports submitted from local churches to the Union office indicated 300,000-plus baptisms. However, after a more detailed data collection, the official count currently stands at 170,854. With many churches yet to submit their numbers and hundreds of thousands of commitments made, the final number is expected to reach close to that 300,000 mark by the end of the year.

Dr Östring highlighted the unique, ongoing cycle of evangelism in PNG's culture: "It doesn't just stop after one program, it's an ongoing cycle. It's incredible to witness and it's built on the foundation of being a disciple-making movement."

Inspired by PNG's success, the Australian Union Conference, Trans Pacific Union Mission and New Zealand Pacific Union Mission are formulating their own missional strategies. "We've committed to supporting all unions in their evangelistic endeavours," Dr Östring said.

Donations to the PNG for Christ follow-up campaign can be made through the eGiving sites in Australia and New Zealand (Camp Mission Offering—PNG for Christ fund).

Tracey Bridcutt

Communications director, South Pacific Division.



Food and fellowship revitalises local church

The Woy Woy Community Food Pantry has become a beacon of hope for the community while also revitalising the local church.

The pantry, which was established by the Woy Woy Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Central Coast of New South Wales, provides affordable food packages for people who are struggling. Supported by SecondBite, the pantry offers fresh fruit, vegetables, frozen meat and toiletries. For those unable to attend in person, the packages are assembled and delivered to them.

Previously operating fortnightly on a Friday, the pantry is now open weekly, feeding around 100 clients per week. Due to overwhelming demand, the church recently extended the service to Thursday evenings to cater for those unable to attend during the daytime.

"We have 12 volunteers at present—all are from the local community," Woy Woy church pastor Michael Parker shared. "It was the volunteers who said we need to have something happening on a Thursday night as well. They're loving it and are looking to expand all the time."

Pastor Parker explained that many in the community have been facing hardship since the pandemic. "We found that there are quite a lot of people who were

struggling during and after COVID and had found themselves between jobs and the government payments just weren't keeping up," he said. "A lot of people found themselves completely destitute and with no money."

The church's outreach has not only supported the community but also revitalised the church. When Pastor Parker was appointed four years ago, the church had dwindled to around 20 members and faced the prospect of closure.

"I had a choice—am I going to close this church down or are we going to do something radical? We chose the latter, and the church is known by everyone in the area now because of the food pantry."

As a result, they've seen former Adventists return to the church and the volunteers have been embraced as part of the church community.

"The exciting thing for us is that the church is starting to grow because people are seeing what we are doing and they're coming into church and saying, 'I want to belong to a group of people who are doing that'," Pastor Parker said.

The church is also focusing on a range of other activities, including a weekly soup kitchen.

"We started a Friday night soup

kitchen in the church so that people have a place to socialise and have a decent meal. That has grown, and it's no longer soup, it's a full-blown meal and we have 20 to 30 people coming every Friday night now," Pastor Parker said.

The leftover food from the pantry goes towards fellowship lunches held every Sabbath after church, further strengthening community ties.

The church's men's group, once struggling with low attendance, has transformed into a vibrant Bible study group that welcomes the broader community. Each Tuesday night, they not only study the Bible but also share a meal. Similarly, the women's Bible study group has also grown, attracting local women who are curious about the church and what Adventists believe.

The church is now looking to the future, with plans to expand its facilities to better serve the community. They aim to demolish the current building and create a new centre with a focus on community service. It will include a food pantry, mental health counselling services and a not-for-profit café where people can gather, relax and connect. However, the project is expected to cost more than \$A2 million and they will be looking for support to make it a reality.

"We want to become a hub for health and not just handing out food but mental health, letting people know how to live healthily and how to manage on a budget and eat healthily," Pastor Parker said.

Kiera Bridcutt

intern, *Adventist Record*.

When Church Leaders Fail

Davenport. Who has heard this name before? It is high up there for well-known names in Adventism, along with those of Desmond Ford, Ted Wilson, Lindy Chamberlain and Ellen White. But for those who may not have been around when this controversy erupted, his name may be unfamiliar. The tale of Donald Davenport is a warning to all church leadership of the dangers which naturally result when church leaders neglect their responsibilities to oversee the true intentions and behaviours of their members.

Dr Donald John Davenport (1913–1996) was a physician and entrepreneur at the heart of the biggest financial scandal in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was in 1946 when Davenport was standing in line at the Long Beach (USA) post office when his idea first developed to build post offices, realising the great need for them. Within 25 years, Davenport had built more than 70 post offices across 31 states, leasing them to the US Federal Government. Davenport developed a large network of investors from church entities and church employees to build capital for his sizable investment portfolio.

When Davenport divorced his wife Elizabeth in September 1971, it was revealed that his real estate empire was beginning to crumble. To maintain Davenport's empire, church leaders reportedly pressured church members to invest in return for high interest rates on their loans. What many church leaders were unaware of, however, was that Davenport's investment scheme was effectively an elaborate Ponzi scheme.

It was not until July 16, 1981, that church leaders established a committee to examine the Church's investments with Davenport. Just days later, on July 22, Davenport filed for bankruptcy, being \$70 million in debt. When church leaders tallied the balance sheets, they discovered that \$17.8 million in loans and \$3.3 million in accrued interest was outstanding from Seventh-day Adventist Church entities. These substantial losses were largely the result of church policies being violated, with findings being made of conflicts of interest, dishonesty and incompetence (*Australasian Record*, March 5, 1983).

This said, some church entities acted in good faith, investing without any knowledge of fraudulent behaviour (*Australasian Record*, October 9, 1982).

While the investigation was never publicly disclosed, Davenport's outstanding assets of \$55 million were dispersed to creditors in bankruptcy court and the FBI were involved to investigate. Around 50 top church officials were publicly disciplined, with many of these being fired and their ministerial credentials withdrawn ("Davenport Scandal", ESDA, March 8, 2023). New rules for accountability were established,

with certain church employees being barred from further church employment. In 1983, Davenport himself was removed from church membership in the Loma Linda University Church.

Unfortunately, the losses to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members were more than financial. Many members lost trust and confidence in the Church as an institution. The General Conference president at the time, Pastor Neal C Wilson, said the Church's loss of "credibility and integrity" was worse than any financial loss the church had suffered ("Davenport Scandal", ESDA, March 8, 2023).

It should be noted that the South Pacific Division was not in any way involved in the financial dealings with Davenport, though the scandal was reported on in detail in the *Record (Australasian Record)*, March 5, 1983). One question which emerged from this scandal was whether this sort of thing could happen in the South Pacific Division. At the time, it was understood that the operating policies of the South Pacific Division would make it impossible (*Australasian Record*, March 5, 1983), but that does not exclude the occurrence of other financial crimes having occurred in our region since. It is also important to recognise that the lessons learned from this scandal remain relevant for all church leaders in every division around the world.

Our Church is a vulnerable institution that is built on trust, faith and goodwill. Our Church can be, and has been, readily taken advantage of by individuals driven by greed and selfishness. This necessitates the importance of church leaders in all echelons of church structure to be conscious of and attentive to the true intentions of those within its midst, ensuring that they are shepherding sheep rather than harbouring wolves.



Olivia Fairfax
Assistant editor, *Adventist Record*.



Confession of an unfaithful pastor

I am a pastor who is blessed to be married to the most wonderful woman I have ever known. But I have a secret. There have been times when there was also another “woman” in my life. I have been guilty of a type of “adultery”. I am guilty of abandoning my wife and children in times that I should have been with them, and instead lavishing my family time on the Bride of Christ . . . His Church.

I received a call from Christ to pastoral ministry through circumstances I believe were supernatural. I love to serve the church. However He never called me to replace Him. For some reason however, I am continually tempted to do just that by neglecting my own family for the good of my church. I have often tried to be my church’s Saviour.

There was a time when my little girl's birthday was coming up and we had planned a special dinner, but the youth really needed a speaker at their next event and the timing clashed. I couldn't possibly have entrusted the souls of these young people to another (in my mind) less qualified preacher. So, I skipped the dinner, much to my daughter's disappointment. Sometimes we would be in the middle of family worship, but I would decide to take that phone call because it was an "emergency". There were several reasons why I was constantly tempted to do these kinds of things, and all of them had to do with undealt-with issues around value, boundaries and expectations in my own heart.

For one thing, my low self-esteem fed off the praise and appreciation of people. I needed that positive affirmation from church members to feel OK in myself, so I moulded my ministry around all the things people had said to me they thought pastors ought to be doing in the hope they would compliment me. For some reason, the approval of a person whose name I now barely remember meant more to me at the time than the praise of the people I loved the most. It also meant I felt guilty putting up barriers and boundaries. In other words, I felt I could not say "no" to protect my family. I was too busy proving to myself, my church and my conference that I was "worthy" of the call. That is a bottomless pit that can just never be filled.

Secondly, due to some innate insecurities, I really needed to feel needed. When people said, "Oh, we can't do this without you pastor!" it sucked me in every time. However, this insecurity also meant I struggled to release responsibility, to delegate and empower others. When I saw other people performing tasks I was trained to do, I felt they were not doing it as well as I could, or else I felt worried that they were making me obsolete and unneeded. It was hard for me not to step in and take over.

Thirdly, I am inclined to workaholicism by nature. Yes, my work is serving God, but that doesn't change the fact that rest and time apart from work are important for stewardship of my body and family. The difference between me and the workaholic lawyer or teacher in the past however, was that I always had the perfect justification that could silence my wife's objections every time: "But, I'm doing this for God!"

Last, but definitely not least, I was behaving this way because I was being unfaithful to Christ by making it about me rather than Him. I may have used theology to justify my neglect of my family and my overwork, but the truth is that both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are clear that a minister's family are their most important ministry. I was not doing His will at times when I abandoned them in favour of my church. After discussing ministerial qualifications with Timothy, Paul puts the pin in his argument in 1 Timothy 3:5 by saying "for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?" In other words, if we aren't good at leading our own families in love, we aren't suitable to lead in the church of Christ. Likewise, Ellen White wrote:

"It is not so much the religion of the pulpit as the religion of the family that reveals our real character. The minister's wife,

his children and those who are employed as helpers in his family are best qualified to judge of his piety. A good man will be a blessing to his household. Wife, children and helpers will all be the better for his religion" (*The Adventist Home*, 354).

And again:

"Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first. In the day of final reckoning, God will inquire what he did to win to Christ those whom he took the responsibility of bringing into the world. Great good done for others cannot cancel the debt that he owes to God to care for his own children" (*Gospel Workers*, 204).

And again:

"You must show in your family that kindly consideration, that tenderness, love, gentleness, noble forbearance and true courtesy, that is becoming to the head of a family, before you can make a success of winning souls to Christ" (*Testimonies for the Church*, 3:556).

I have paid a heavy price for my choices. This is now my 12th year in full-time ministry. In that time, I have experienced a debilitating work-related mental health event no less than four times. I joke with people that I average getting sick about once every three years. Thankfully I now have grown quite considerably in the area of boundaries and (for the most part) have a much healthier work-life balance and, most crucially, intimacy with Jesus. However I wish in hindsight that I had always stayed in my lane as a servant in His house, instead of trying to play His role as the Saviour of His church for so long.

Pastors are human beings like everyone, which means we have internal motivations and issues at play within us that can drive us in all kinds of unhealthy directions. For example, our business working for God often tempts us to disconnect from Him personally and justify this because we read Scripture and pray all the time in our work. We often are driven by a desire to people-please or prove ourselves because of our own sense of inadequacy or unworthiness. Many of us are blind to our own vulnerabilities, which the enemy makes a special target of attack. We want to be ultra-professional, super-people connecting with everyone we can, but we often struggle to know how to operate healthily within our friendships, our marriages and with our own children.

I'm so thankful to Jesus that He reminds me who I am. I am His son, called in His Name, clothed in His covenant, empowered by His presence, filled with His Spirit and commissioned by His Word. I am so glad that He is the Husbandman and I am but a doorkeeper. It is a privilege to be so.

Please pray for you pastor and encourage them always to keep their eyes on Jesus, make time for their families and to steward their time. They need that encouragement sometimes, just as you do. When your pastor makes good choices in these areas, it will be better for them and better for your church.

Daniel Matteo

church pastor at Wantirna and Healesville churches, Vic. He is married to a wonderful woman and has two beautiful children. His passion is leading people closer to God.



Supporting ministry spouses

Being married to a pastor is a rather unusual experience and one that I certainly didn't seek out. There are very few careers where your marriage and family come under such public scrutiny. And there are even fewer circumstances where a spouse is referred to most commonly in relation to their partner's job ("the pastor's wife" being a prime example).

My husband has been in full-time pastoral ministry for the entire 28 years we have been married and we've had more than our fair share of blessings and bumps and bruises. We've lived in four different Australian states, moved house 13 times and ministered at 17 different churches, all the while managing to grow four children into teenagers.

We often talk about how local churches can show appreciation to pastors for what they do, but what about ministry spouses? How can local churches support them and love them well?

It's not actually two for the price of one

The vast majority of spouses I have encountered are passionate about Jesus, ministry and living out the calling their spouse has accepted. Ministry is often a shared experience, but it shouldn't be expected that it's a shared vocation or career.

Once upon a time—and in some cases, in this time right now—there was an expectation that when the pastor was employed, the pastor's spouse was essentially employed too, albeit without being paid a penny. It was a case of two-for-the-price-of-one. If you really care for your pastor and their spouse, please don't have this mindset.

Don't get me wrong, just like any other member of the Body of Christ, pastoral spouses contribute to the work of the church, but to have an expectation that the spouse will run the children's ministry, lead the outreach team,

play the piano each week, host small groups at their house or a million other tasks is simply not fair.

The pastor is the paid employee of the church, not the spouse.

The pastor has the responsibility that goes along with the job description and the role, not the spouse.

The pastor is the one who is accountable to the church board and congregation, not the spouse.

Anything the pastor's spouse contributes is a blessing to the church, but it should not be an expectation.

A time and season for everything

Throughout our life in ministry, my involvement as a pastor's spouse has varied. Before we had kids, I was heavily involved in running youth events and Pathfinders. Once our own children were born, I stepped into the children's ministry space. When they got older, I was involved in leading worship and

occasionally, in roles that placed me on the church board.

There are times when I have had a large capacity to be involved. There are times—like right now—where my capacity is diminished. We are currently in an intense stage of parenting. We have four teenagers (three of whom live at home, one who is a newly fledged, independent young adult in another state), we have just moved interstate to support ageing parents and we have both started new jobs. My ability to be involved in church is significantly reduced due to the demands of our life. Just because I was previously able to be involved last week or last month or last year doesn't mean that I have the same capacity now. Please don't make us feel guilty if you don't see us quite as often or we say no to requests to serve. There is a time and season for everything.

Keeping the home fires burning

There is so much unseen work that goes into running any family, let alone a family in full-time ministry. The hours are odd, family time is often a rarity, solo parenting is common and someone has to make sure the dog gets fed. The financial stress in the current economic climate also means that it's highly likely that both parents now work. In the middle of busy ministry, someone has to keep the home fires burning. Usually, it's the pastor's spouse.

You might lament that you haven't seen the pastor's spouse at the mid-week Bible study group or they didn't contribute to the potluck lunch or make it to Sabbath school, but please know pastoral families are juggling many, many priorities. Instead of putting pressure on the pastor's spouse to do more or be more, acknowledge all that they are doing to keep the home fires burning.

Healthy boundaries

Pastoral ministry is a never-ending vocation. There is not a point in time where a pastor can categorically state that everything is done. That means that it can be really hard to find a life/work balance when your work IS your life.

In my experience, families in ministry often struggle with the 24/7 nature of

the job. There have been many times in our life when my husband has been called away at the last minute for a true emergency, where his spiritual care and compassion and comfort have been absolutely required. There have also been many times when people have called at the most inconvenient and random times for things that could have waited.

The onus for having healthy ministry boundaries is undeniably on the pastor, however the congregation can help by honouring those boundaries. Encourage your pastor to take time off each week, go out on date nights with their spouse and slip away for family holidays. I think the nature of the job attracts those personalities who tend to be workaholics, but very often the church congregation doesn't help the situation either.

And please, unless it's an absolute emergency, don't contact the pastor's spouse in an effort to get a message through to the pastor. Chances are we won't know what meeting you're talking about or who raised an issue last week or the answer to that curly theological question you've been seeking.

Ministry can be lonely

Ministry seems synonymous with moving. At the end of each year, "The Great Advent Movement" happens as pastors are transferred around the country. Although I've had some amazing experiences in our time in ministry in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and now, New South Wales, it has also been quite a lonely journey.

Making friendships in ministry can be complicated. The longest we've spent anywhere is eight years, but there's always the sense that the next move will come. In our early marriage, we moved every two years which was barely enough time to feel like we'd put down roots. Sometimes I've found people keep me at arm's length because I'm married to the pastor and they somehow fear judgement. Sometimes people want to get close in the hope I will influence the pastor in whatever direction they see a need. It can be very, very hard for people to get to know me as me.

So what can you do?

Ministry has been a blessing to our family. There are so many awesome experiences that we have had thanks to my husband's job. But there have also been significant sacrifices and pressure points that we've had to navigate along the way. So, what can you do to encourage your pastor's spouse? Here's five things to consider:

1. **Call them by their name.** They are not defined by their spouse's job so please don't use "pastor's wife/husband" when referring to them.
2. **Encourage the pastor to make their family a priority.** A life of ministry is not for the fainthearted and families often pay the price. Be that congregation that supports the pastor in spending time with their spouse and family.
3. **Be thankful for what the pastor's spouse contributes.** Each person will bring their unique gifts and talents and be in a different season in their lives. Thank the pastor's spouse for whatever role they play, whether it's in the background or up front. I can guarantee they are doing so much more behind the scenes than you would ever know.
4. **Provide opportunities for connection outside of church.** Church can feel a lot like work for ministry families. Invite the pastor's spouse to things outside of church too, like a coffee shop catch-up or a sporting event. Be gracious if they say no—maybe they are just juggling too much right now or maybe they are so used to moving they've forgotten how to put down roots.
5. **See your pastor's spouse as an individual.** Get to know them, their passions, their interests, their work or family history. They are a whole person who has likely sacrificed a lot to be a married to a minister.

Karen Collum

is a teacher, internationally published author and recent graduate of Avondale University's Master of Ministry. She lives in the Manning Valley on the mid-north coast of NSW with her husband and teenagers.



Vegetarian Pad See Ew

 Serves 6

 Prep 10

 Cook 10

Try this healthier version of your favourite Thai takeaway—plus when you cook at home, you'll save money too!

Ingredients

- 1kg fresh rice noodles
- 2 tbs oil
- 200g flavoured tofu, sliced
- 4 shallots, sliced
- 2 bunches broccolini, trimmed
- 1 bunch bok choy
- 1 tbs light soy sauce
- 1 tbs dark soy sauce
- 1 tbs honey
- 1 lime, juiced

Tip:

- Dried rice noodles can be soaked and used in this recipe instead of fresh noodles.
- Dark soy sauce adds a rich colour to the dish and is lower in sodium than light soy sauce.

Method

1. Cut fresh noodles into slices 2.5cm wide. Set aside.
2. Heat 1 tbs of oil in wok. Saute tofu pieces until golden and set aside.
3. Heat remaining oil in wok, add vegetables and saute for 1 min.
4. Add sauces, honey and lime juice. Fold through noodles.
5. Serve topped with fresh coriander and lime wedges.

Nutritional Information (per serving)


| ENERGY | CALORIES | PROTEIN | FAT | SATURATES | CARBOHYDRATE |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| 1509kJ | 360 | 15g | 9g | 2g | 50g |
| SUGARS | FIBRE | CALCIUM | SODIUM | IRON | POTASSIUM |
| 5g | 6g | 75mg | 538mg | 2.2mg | 338mg |



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Small Church, BIG IMPACT

Ocean Shores Seventh-day Adventist church is having a significant impact on its community through various outreach efforts.

Inspired by Inverell Seventh-day Adventist church and Pastor John Lang, God's Wardrobe started by providing free clothing to those who need it most. The wardrobe is one of the outreach initiatives established by the church in 2018, which has become a lifeline for local families in need. Baby bundles and food hampers are also available at the shop. This initiative has become an important community event, with locals getting involved by regularly donating clothes.

"We have over the years fostered a great community to the point that the generous clothes donations flow in as equally as they are given back to those in need," church member Lyn Scarr said.

Between official shop days, church members and volunteers also receive requests for assistance, delivering packs to those in need and helping during emergencies.

The church also runs a yearly Happy Holiday Hour, a children's program that has become a highlight for the community. Founded 30 years ago by Andrew and Carlene Gosling, the program remains an example of the church's dedication to children's ministry. The week-long program features dramas, cooking, crafts, games and songs.

"The games are always a big favourite especially with old rivals Holden vs Ford. No clear winners depending on what team you are on—one can be forgiven for thinking they are at Bathurst's Mount Panorama, such is the roar from long-term game enthusiasts Dennis and Leon," Ms Scarr said.

Another initiative, the church's homework club, launched last year to provide support for school-aged children. The club, which meets weekly, assists children with their studies, giving busy families a break from "homework fatigue".

Ocean Shores church hopes to inspire other small congregations to follow in their footsteps. They have expressed that they are ready and willing to share advice with other churches looking to start similar initiatives.

Record Staff



Conversations

Can't believe it's not butter

I was literally shocked and deeply saddened when I read the politically correct article about saturated fats in your health feature (*Adventist Record*, August 17). Was the writer a member of a board designed to promote vegetable seed oils for profit regardless of their dangerous effect on the health of humans? Vegetable seed oils contain Omega 6 oils in amounts far in excess of our requirements and are stored in body fat as a toxin and literally take years to be eliminated.

The safest oil is coconut oil, which is solid in cool climates and is extremely stable even when heated for cooking. Filipinos have used coconut oil for generations for its beneficial effects even as a skin conditioner.

Coconut oil is readily available in all supermarkets as a cold pressed and usually organic product.

Unbelievably, margarine is also recommended. Yes it is cheaper than butter but has NO nutritional value—quite the opposite. It is entirely artificial and grey when first produced, until coloured yellow. Please recommend butter and beware of butter softened with canola oil and other vegetable oils.

I strongly suggest you replace your "nutrition" writer and find a genuine independent Christian nutritionist who is NOT influenced by multinational vegetable oil manufacturer.

Dennis Stanbridge, NSW

Understanding the law

Re "Started in Eden", *Conversations* July 20. After stating his case, the author makes the following statement: "The Patriarchs knew as much as we do today about this Gospel that saves us from sin and death."

Thus the question, "Do we know as much about the Gospel, as the Patriarchs, today?" A recent church survey (*Record*, December 2, 2023) appears to reveal this is not the case: "Legalism also surfaced as a significant challenge, with three in four participants agreeing with the statement, 'I will not get to heaven unless I obey God's law perfectly.'" Not so long ago, an editorial in *Ministry* magazine put it this way, "a haze of confusion still rests on the landscape of the church regarding the new covenant" (February 2004).

A Christ-centred understanding of the law depends on how the law is presented. When the law is

presented as a covenant agreement, old covenant, man's salvation is conditional on our obedience. But perfect obedience without the assisting grace of God is impossible (cf PP 370–372; 6BC 1095). However, when the law is presented as the wonderful promise of Jesus, new covenant, the sinner believes by faith that Christ's faithful obedience has fulfilled the law on his/her behalf. They accept and apply God's promise of grace, provided by the faith and blood of Jesus, and obedience flows from the heart.

"The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. . . . True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, 97).

Ranald McLeish, via email



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Obituaries



DRAPER, Joy (nee McGrath), born 9.1.1933 in Corowa, NSW; died 27.4.24, in Avondale House,

Cooranbong. She is survived by her husband, Laurie; children, Julie and Ken; grandchildren, Lachlan, Cameron and Susie; and great-grandchildren, Leighton, Oliver, Tanner, Elizabeth and Matthew. Joy helped establish the "Swap Shop" at Avondale in the 1960s to assist married students, which later became Cooranbong Community Services. In the 1980s she organised student wives at Pacific Adventist University to run literacy and numeracy classes for children in 9-Mile settlement, where there was no school. She attracted a wide circle of friends who loved her dearly. Looking forward to a joyful reunion.

Neil Watts



HODGE, Alan Alfred, born 3.11.1927 in Uralba, NSW; died 4.7.24 in Bupa Aged Care, Ballina. In 1950

he married his first wife, Helen Lavrischeff, who predeceased him in 1994. In 1995 he married Lois Enberg. Alan is survived by his wife (Alstonville); children, Carolyn Tsanov (Lindendale), Gary (Nunderi) and Elizabeth Fordham (Goobarra-gandra); stepdaughter, Lynda Wallace (Lisarow); stepson, Tony Enberg (Lisarow); grandchildren, Athena, Deon, Levi, Krystle, Joshua, Chanelle, Dustin, Eli, Amaya, Taj, Siarra, Hayley, Sophie, Luca and Marco; and nine great-grandchildren. Alan served with the Royal Australian Air Force for three years and later drove tankers for the Shell refinery in Sydney. He was actively involved in the SES, Neighbourhood Watch and St John Ambulance. We are looking forward to the resurrection morning.

Tim Kingston

FELSCH, Valerie Dawn (nee Lowe), born 11.4.1933 in Hornsby, NSW; died 20.7.24 in Erina. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill in December 2023. Valerie is survived by her sister, Margret Doyle; sons, Robert, David, Will and Richard; nine grandchildren; and nine

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- Streamed at 9:30am, 11am & 3pm AEDT
- 6** **Ellen White Symposium**
- Streamed with Q&A, 10am-3pm AEDT
- 8** **The Hopeful**
- Adventist Community Screening
- 12** **Heritage Day Picnic**
- A fun day at your local church
- 17** **The Hopeful**
- General Public Release
- 19** **The Great Appointment 3rd Edition**
- Streamed at 3-5pm AEDT
- 25** **Sabbath Singalong**
- with Sandra Entermann at 7pm AEDT
- 26** **Literature Evangelism in the SPD**
- Streamed at 3-5pm AEDT



HOSKINS, June, born 19.6.1943 in England, UK; died 22.7.24 in Coorabong, NSW. As a 10-year-old child, along with many other children, she emigrated to Australia. Life proved very challenging until, some 15 years ago, she found Jesus, who gave her a new focus for living and became a very important part of her life. June was incredibly generous, a friend to many and strong of faith. She rests in peace, awaiting the return of her Lord and Saviour.

Roger Nixon, Chris Winch, Kenn Duke



MACKIE, Pastor James Edward (Eddie), born 18.6.1940 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 6.8.24 in Townsville University Hospital. On 16.12.1974 he married Ruth Trail at Longburn College, NZ. He is survived by his wife; children, Paul (Gold Coast, Qld), Elizabeth (Melbourne, Vic), Timothy (Moe) and Esther (Sydney, NSW); and seven grandchildren. For several years Eddie taught maths and science in secondary schools. He graduated from Avondale College and became registrar and lecturer at Fulton College, Fiji. He then pastored many churches in South Australia, South New Zealand and North New South Wales conferences. Eddie was incredibly dedicated to God and focused on sharing his faith. He lived for his grandchildren and Jesus. He now rests in peace, awaiting the return of his Saviour.

Roger Nixon, Lionel Smith



MCINNES, Roderick, born 7.2.1941 in Moree, NSW; died 4.5.24 in Wollongbar, NSW. Rod is survived by his wife, Ann (Wollongbar); children, Grant and Leslie (Goondiwindi, Qld), Corinna Pinnock (Alstonville, NSW) and Kamahl McInnes (Rappville); eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Rod was a doer, a battler. He needed to be that to farm near Goondiwindi. However, he always saw his God at work; his God had his back. Rod,

when he and Ann moved to the Alstonville plateau to retire, continued his involvement with church life, this time at Alstonville church, until his health suddenly crumbled years later. Jesus will have the last say, for which his family gives thanks.

Tim Kingston



PASCOE, Valerie Jean (nee Williams), born 6.8.1930 in Gisborne, NZ; died 23.7.24 in Carinity Wishart Gardens Nursing Home, Brisbane, Qld. In 1947 she married Adrian Lowrie. In 1993 she married Jim Murray, who passed in December 2001. In September 2007 she married Reg, who passed in 2014. She was also predeceased by her son, Robin and daughter-in-law, Lisa. Val is survived by her sister, Zelda Parmenter; children, Brian and Maud, Angeline and Robert Hossack, Gayle Lowrie, Ashleigh and Cheryl; 19 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and 25 great-great-grandchildren. She loved them all. Val served in various church offices and was known for her sense of humour and love for God. She looked forward to the soon coming of her Saviour.

Vern Parmenter, Neil Tyler, Stephen Bews, Ashleigh Lowrie

SANYA, Auxilia, born 24.5.1962 in Zimbabwe; died 11.6.24 in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, SA. Auxilia is survived by her husband, Rosten (Adelaide); children, Robinson, Raechel and Taffy (all of Adelaide); daughter-in-law, Esther (Adelaide); and grandchildren, Aariah and Kaylah (both of Adelaide). Auxilia emigrated to Australia in 2005, followed by her husband and family in 2006. She was a key figure in settling Zimbabweans in Adelaide and held masters degrees in mental health, and raising children (African) in Australia. A long-time member of Melrose Park church, she was a quiet, caring, compassionate but determined person and was the long-time women's ministries leader at the church. She is a great loss to her family and church family. We will see her soon at that glorious resurrection day.

Brenton Wilkinson, Kaden Pepper



YOUNG, Cameron Neale, born 7.1.1953 in Brisbane, Qld; died 18.7.24 in Burncluth. He was predeceased

by his daughter, Lavinia in 2023. Cameron is survived by his wife, Maree (Burncluth); children, Camille Foster (Warrnambool, Vic), Donnetta (Chinchilla, Qld), Rebecca Schmunk (Brisbane), David Schmid (Brisbane), Clarissa (Bunbury, WA) and Christopher Schmid (Perth); 23 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and sisters, Adele Johnson (Ellalong, NSW) and Lorena Bowers (Minnesota, USA). Cameron was the love of Maree's life, a devoted husband and father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. He loved the Lord and is held firmly and resting in the arms of Jesus, his Friend and Redeemer.

Darryl Vickery

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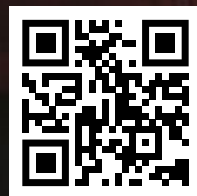


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