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Redefining Church ¹⁶

General Conference hosts
Tongan royals ⁷

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Power

Jesse Herford
Associate editor, *Signs of the Times*

“

What we do with power says a lot about our character.

I was recently reflecting on Jesus' strange conversation with the mother of James and John in Matthew 20:20–28. Almost out of the blue, she confronts Jesus and says, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom” (verse 21). Some scholars have suggested this woman was friends with (or perhaps related to) Jesus' mother. While it's undoubtedly audacious (and blatantly nepotistic), I can perhaps understand where she's coming from. What would you do if you had the chance to install a family member (or two) into what you believed will be the most powerful political movement of your generation? Make no mistake: Jesus' followers thought He was going to be the Messianic king of not only Israel—but the world.

They also believed the Scriptures they had been raised with were being fulfilled in real-time. “The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Joel 2:31); “Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty” (Isaiah 13:6); “For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations” (Ezekiel 30:3).

Jesus' disciples sincerely believed He would unleash “doom” upon the Roman Empire and from the ashes, a new Israelite regime would reign forevermore. If that was your conviction, wouldn't you do whatever it took to ensure you and your family were on the “right side of history”?

However, as we all know, Jesus had something else in mind.

In Matthew 20:17–19, Jesus makes another prediction about His death—the third we see recorded in Matthew. It's in the context of this prediction that He addresses James and John. “‘You don't know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’” (verse 22). Misunderstanding Jesus, they reply, “we can”. Jesus then reprimands them by reminding them that only God can decide who will sit by Jesus' right and left sides. Whatever power they hope to claim through association with Jesus, it's not what they think.

I recently heard American political advisor and former White House press secretary Jen Psaki speak about the nature of power—specifically, dictatorial power. When we think of dictators, we often envision strong men wielding absolute strength—and that's by design. Psaki offers a different interpretation. “Dictators aren't strong,” she says. “They are weak because they cannot be democratically elected. They need to control anyone who could oppose them. You only need to control everything if you're weak.” Jesus seems to agree with this sentiment, as His next words to the disciples illustrate. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave” (Matthew 20:24–27). Only the weakest, most insecure people feel the need to abuse power. Whether it's the leader of a nation, a family member or your manager at work, what we do with power says a lot about our character.

If we, like Jesus' disciples, wish to be great in the kingdom that is coming, we must pay attention. This world will ever tempt us to believe that power is best used to coerce or intimidate in order to get what we want—but according to Jesus, such strength is actually weakness. Too often in the church, we fall victim to worldly thinking by misunderstanding the place of power. Too often we justify sinful methods for the sake of sacred mission. For Jesus, power must be others-centred. True power is serving others, even if there's no tangible payout for you. True power is “turning the other cheek”, even if you risk being mocked. Ultimate power is laying your life down for others, just as Jesus did for all humanity. Let's follow the example of Jesus who, though He was strong, chose to be weak, for my sake—and for yours.



"If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously."—Romans 12:8 (NLT).

As leaders in God's work we take the role with all seriousness until a time comes when we are called to release that leadership position to another leader, and we prepare for our next ministry season.

Whether I am a Pathfinder leader, General Conference Executive Committee member, elder, women's ministry director, principal or whatever the leadership role in the church may be, it is a sacred privilege to serve as a leader for God's work. As leaders it is incredibly helpful to keep in mind that the leadership roles we are called to fulfil belong to the church. The church invites us to take on leadership roles for the purpose of providing ministry support to our communities for a particular period of time. We are called and gifted by God to be temporary stewards of a ministry position for the time that we are in the role.

Over my years in ministry I have observed and experienced the pull towards assuming continuation, or even permanency, in a church role. An expectation develops resulting in disappointment or even bitterness if re-appointment does not occur. So just recently, it was a striking example for me personally to witness a leader who was not re-appointed to a role accept the decision with grace, dignity and integrity. My esteem and respect for that leader skyrocketed. This leader has always been steadfast about being open to God's leading through His church. This leader was consistently true to their godly values, and was therefore humbly obedient to God's call for change.

The work of church appointment committees are spiritual processes carried out by fellow church members who are prayerfully Spirit-led to appoint ministry leaders.

What has given me confidence in the nominating process of the church is that though I may not agree or like an appointment decision made by a committee, God is always faithful in ensuring that His work goes forward, whilst caring for leaders who are releasing their current role and transitioning to their next ministry calling.

INSIGHT:

The release of leadership

Dr Eddie Tupa'i
President of New Zealand Pacific
Union Conference

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Bitu Wellness Bar at the 10,000 Toes Lifestyle Medicine Summit. Credit: 10,000 Toes in the Trans Pacific Facebook page.



Attendees at the 10,000 Toes Campaign Lifestyle Medicine Summit.



The full team of volunteers from Sepik Mission, Wewak, with PNGUM secretary Pastor Leonard Sumatau (right) and Pastor Raethel (back row, right).

Ambassadors gather for 10,000 Toes summit

📍 Pacific Harbour, Fiji | Charlotte Wong/Record staff

More than 150 ambassadors gathered for the 10,000 Toes Campaign Lifestyle Medicine Summit in Fiji from September 27 to 29.

The three-day summit focused on health, wellness and diabetes prevention, combining physical activities, expert-led training sessions and spiritual reflections to promote holistic wellbeing. The summit also aimed to involve Adventist pastors in their leadership roles as health champions.

Organised by the Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) and the Fiji Mission, the event featured guest speakers, including Dr Eduardo Ramirez, a medical doctor and research scientist from the USA, alongside 10,000 Toes Campaign coordinator Pamela Townend, South Pacific Division health strategy leader Dr Geraldine Pryzbylko and 10,000 Toes regional ambassador for Solomon Islands, Dr Chester Kuma.

Regional leaders and representatives of the island nations where the campaign is operating also attended. Attendees participated in practical workshops on natural treatments, including therapeutic juicing, hydrotherapy, poultices, plant-based cooking and massages, facilitated by Bitu Wellness, Mili Mataika and the

Hope Clinic Fiji team. The evening program featured a message from keynote speaker, Ministry of Health Fiji chief medical advisor Dr Luisa Cikamatana. TPUM president Pastor Mavani Kaufononga shared a devotion before presentations on the success of the 10,000 Toes Campaign and the future of health.

Health-focused lectures were facilitated by Dr Ramirez, who discussed the cause of most complications of diabetes, and Dr Kuma, who spoke about brain plasticity. The sessions emphasised the link between spirituality and health. The event also featured an awards and entertainment night, celebrating the efforts of the campaign ambassadors.

The summit concluded with the regular morning beach workout and devotion, followed by presentations on potential health threats, mind-body connections and managing depression in diabetics. An "Ambassadors Voice" session was also held, where attendees were involved in a group discussion on ways to improve the 10,000 Toes Campaign.

Supported by donations, the 10,000 Toes Campaign continues to expand with more than 6000 ambassadors across 13 Pacific island nations.

Historic data collection project in PNG

📍 Wewak, PNG | Record staff

As part of the rollout of the Adventist Church Management System (ACMS) online platform across the Pacific Island territories, the largest membership data collection project ever undertaken is currently underway in Papua New Guinea.

"This survey of members across each of the 10 entities within the Union (nine missions and one conference) will provide the most accurate statistics we have ever had," said South Pacific Division ACMS project manager Pastor Adrian Raethel.

"ACMS facilitates efficient and precise reporting which leads to better decision making on the part of administrators. The platform also makes the life of the local church clerk, pastor and district

director easier in managing membership including transfers."

As a follow-on from the PNG for Christ evangelistic program conducted earlier this year and to assist with member retention, this comprehensive survey will also collect information about "Interests"; that is, those who attended the meetings but are not yet baptised. "We want to see ACMS used as a powerful evangelistic tool," added Pastor Raethel.

Volunteers appointed by the Union are partnering with those from the mission/conference level to physically visit each of the organised churches and companies to gather lists of members and interests. These lists will then be uploaded on to the ACMS platform.



The GC Annual Council meetings were held last month. Credit: Pastor Ted Wilson's Facebook page.

GC Executive sets world strategy for 2025–2030

📍 Wahroonga, NSW | Tracey Bridcutt/ANN

The Executive Committee of the General Conference (GC) of Seventh-day Adventists officially adopted the World Church Strategic Plan for 2025–2030 during its Annual Council meeting on October 10.

Developed by the Future Plans Working Group, the new plan reflects the Church's ongoing mission to spread the gospel and foster spiritual growth within its global membership.

First introduced at the 2023 Annual Council, the plan has undergone revisions based on feedback from church divisions around the world.

The new "I Will Go" strategic plan simplifies the Church's previous approaches by replacing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with measurable goals. The 2013 plan featured 81 KPIs, while the most recent version contained 59. The newly adopted plan focuses on just 22 measurable goals to reduce complexity and enhance ease of application.

The plan's goals are organised under four strategic priorities: Communion with God, Identity in Christ, Unity through the Holy Spirit, and Mission for All.

The streamlined nature of the plan is intended to help the Church remain focused on its core mission in the years ahead.

South Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Glenn Townend commended the plan's simplicity and precision.

"Over the years, the GC Strategic Plan has become more and more focused," he said. "Strategy is about choosing what to do—and what not to do."

He noted that the SPD would adopt and adapt the GC's four priorities into "I Will Go" messages to align with our region's needs. Progress will be measured jointly by the GC and SPD, with most objectives reviewed annually and others assessed over the full five-year period.

For a longer report, visit the website <adventist.news>.



Dr Daniel Reynaud with a copy of *Jesus, Not Beasts: Reading Revelation for Who Matters Most*.

Book refocuses reading Revelation

📍 Warburton, Vic | Nathan Brown

A new book by Signs Publishing aims to alleviate some of the fear around the Book of Revelation and provide assurance, according to authors Dr Daniel Reynaud and Pastor Ian Howie.

The result of their partnership has been published as *Jesus, Not Beasts: Reading Revelation for Who Matters Most*. They admit there was reluctance to take the subject matter on when it was suggested that their home church study group work through Revelation.

"Once we got going, the response from the group was that this was fantastic," said Dr Reynaud. "Revelation made sense, wasn't scary and wasn't negative. Ian and I were asked to write down what we were presenting so others could have the same experience."

Drawing on the introduction in Revelation 1:1 as the Revelation of Jesus Christ, "we wanted to see how Jesus set out to reveal Himself more effectively", Pastor Howie explained.

Both now retired, Dr Reynaud was

professor of history at Avondale University and Pastor Howie served the Church as a teacher, administrator and pastor. For many years, Dr Reynaud taught the subject "Bible as Literature" at Avondale University and drew on this literary and "common-sense" approach to Revelation in this new book. "While Ian and I owe a lot to the scholars who have written on Revelation, we haven't tried to be scholars—we've written as lay people for lay people. Where things didn't make sense, we didn't try to force meaning into it, happy with the notion we don't have to understand it all."

"Suddenly Revelation was less about the details of the future and more about the big-picture story of God's victory over evil and how He went about it," said Pastor Howie. "The real purpose of predictive prophecy is to reveal that God has foreknowledge."

Jesus, Not Beasts is available now from Adventist bookshops in Australia and New Zealand, or online.



The King and Queen of Tonga seated beside Pastor Wilson and his wife Nancy, with the Tongan delegation and some GC representatives. Credit: Pastor Ted Wilson's Facebook page.

General Conference hosts Tongan royals

📍 Silver Springs, Maryland, US | Kiera Bridcutt/Jarrold Stackelroth

The King and Queen of Tonga travelled to the United States to tour the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Loma Linda Hospital.

King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u of Tonga visited the General Conference offices before travelling on to Loma Linda University and Hospital, attending Loma Linda University church.

During the royal couple's visit, the King presented GC president Pastor Ted Wilson with a gift: a hand-carved fishhook made of whale bone and mother-of-pearl. According to Pastor Wilson's Facebook page, the King remarked that it was an appropriate gift for Christians since they are to be "fishers of men".

The royal couple visited the Adventist Archives, where director Dr David Trim gave a presentation on the history of the Adventist Church in Tonga; the Ellen G White Estate, where director Dr Merlin Burt explained the history of the Adventist Church and the role of Ellen White and her writings; and listened to a health presentation by GC health ministries director Dr Peter Landless, where they were gifted several books on health.

The meeting concluded with a lunch in honour of the royal party and their Tongan delegation during which Pastor Wilson shared words of encouragement from the Bible.

The royal couple also visited world renowned "Blue Zone" Loma Linda for a tour of the university/hospital campus, as well as sampling some healthy vegetarian cuisine. Loma Linda University church welcomed the royals, and a Tongan Youth Choir, with members from all over North America, sang "He's coming back" during the service.

"The engagement of the King and Queen with church leadership sends a powerful message to the entire Tongan community about the significance of the Church and its health initiatives," said Dr Ronald Stone, Fulton Adventist University College principal and Tongan pastor. "[Tongan Adventist church members] feel seen and appreciated, as His Majesty's presence highlights his genuine interest in our mission, particularly in the realm of health and wellness. This visit reinforces our sense of belonging and inspires us to continue our work with renewed vigour, knowing our efforts are supported and valued by our Monarch."

Earlier this year, Pastor Wilson had an audience with the King and Queen when he and his wife Nancy visited Tonga during the Tonga for Christ program.

making headlines

Equipping future nurses

Final-year nursing students at Adventist-operated Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica received laptops and stethoscopes thanks to donations from AdventHealth and Andrews Memorial Hospital. More than 100 students were equipped with these essential tools, helping them complete assignments and prepare for their future careers.—IAD



12K strong in Portugal

The Adventist Church in Portugal has reached a historic milestone: surpassing 12,000 members for the first time, reflecting the Church's growing presence amid increasing immigration. Celebrating 120 years, the Church now operates 100 churches across the country, with three new congregations inaugurated this year.—EUD

Media mission clarified

At the 2024 LEAD Conference, the General Conference unveiled a brand positioning strategy for world Church media entities. This strategy aims to clarify target audiences, enabling better resource allocation and minimising overlap among media ministries. Hope Channel and Adventist World Radio will focus on reaching non-Adventists, *Adventist Review* will nurture existing members, and Adventist Mission will inspire action among members.—EUD

Millennial dads shine

Millennial dads are redefining fatherhood by spending three times more time with their children than previous generations and embracing shared parenting roles. The percentage of fathers who have never changed a nappy plummeted from 43% in 1982 to just 3%, reflecting their increasing involvement in daily childcare.—@Wealth



A mother's prayers

The Chinese Adventist community, along with pastors from the North New Zealand Conference, gathered at the Auckland Chinese church to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Qiang (Allen) Chen on September 28. Pastor Chen was born in China where he attended an Adventist church with his mother. After drifting away from God, Pastor Chen credits his praying mother as being instrumental in his return and call into ministry. Pastor Chen completed his bachelor's degree in theology in 2014 and worked in the Liaoning Province before answering a call to serve the Chinese Adventist community in New Zealand. Pastor Chen and his wife Anna are passionate about serving God and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus' soon return.—**Andrew West**



Work begins on new student housing

Building work has begun on new student and staff accommodation for Sydney Adventist Hospital. The \$A85 million project, under construction behind the old primary school site, will replace the current outdated student housing with a bright modern facility. The development will feature 126 studio rooms, each equipped with a kitchenette and bathroom, along with a student common area. Additionally, it will include 60 staff apartments, available in one and two-bedroom configurations. Of these, 10-15 apartments will be reserved for short-stay accommodation for visitors to the South Pacific Division (SPD) headquarters and the hospital. "The project is long overdue," said SPD Property Trust manager Lorin Bradford. "The current apartment building is no longer fit for purpose and has outlived its functionality." The development is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2026.—**Tracey Bridcutt**



Blooming success

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Op Shop Toowoomba, Qld, has received first place for their floral shop display. The CBD Business Premises Award was presented to the ADRA Op Shop on behalf of *The Chronicle* and the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce. "The judges had very positive comments about our shop," said South Queensland Conference ADRA regional manager Lisa Booth. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the competition, stores had the opportunity to decorate their shopfronts in floral arrangements.—**Kiera Bridcutt**



NZ film awards

Two Adventist school students were recognised for their talents at the Aloha Awards in Auckland, NZ. Azariah Brown from Balmoral Seventh-day Adventist School won the Martin Hautus Foundation Trust Best Director Junior award for his film *Pacific ID in NZ* and Josua Kasawaqa from Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School won the Independent Traffic Control Best Actor award for his involvement in *TOA*.—**Kiera Bridcutt**



Epauto turns 20

Epauto Adventist Senior Secondary School in Port Vila, Vanuatu, celebrated its 20th anniversary in September with a week of celebrations, themed "Together with God we can". An open day allowed students to arrange displays showcasing what they had learned in their first semester. Students also participated in activities such as a debate and speech competition.

Current students and staff along with former students, staff, principals, parents and other government dignitaries participated in a parade. Students marched through the streets, dressed in outfits representing their provincial groups. A free dinner was provided in the evening and Vanuatu Mission (VM) president Pastor Charlie Jimmy led the opening Sabbath service. The entire Efate District, comprising 18 churches, fellowshipped together on Sabbath, with school pioneers sharing the school's history during the service. VM secretary Pastor Max Senembe challenged Adventist teachers working in Adventist, government and other private schools to look at teaching as a ministry, encouraging them to follow the example of Jesus who sacrificed Himself to teach, preach and heal.

VM associate education director Elleny Toa and Shefa provincial education officer David Naviti unveiled a plaque on campus that marked the anniversary. The school started with an enrolment of 73 students and four teachers, however, this has grown to 768 students and 54 staff.—**Kiera Bridcutt**

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20 new ambassadors for Tuvalu

10,000 Toes Campaign regional ambassador for the Trans Pacific and Fiji region, George Kwong, had a successful first meeting with the Tuvalu Health Minister Tuafala Latasi. During their discussion, Mr Kwong announced 20 new Tuvalu ambassadors had completed their 10,000 Toes Campaign training. He explained that these individuals are now equipped to help their communities to lead healthier lives and drive positive health changes. Tuvalu faces significant health challenges, including a high prevalence of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. Limited healthcare infrastructure and resources further impact efforts to manage and prevent these conditions.

—**Maika Tuima**



Diamond days for Fiji school

Navesau Adventist High School, Fiji, recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. The celebrations, held September 13–15, were officially launched by Fiji Education Minister Aseri Radrodoro. Fiji Mission president Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa along with mission staff, church representatives, school staff and former and current students were all in attendance at the event. The Church expressed its gratitude to the government and the Education Minister for their ongoing support and grants, particularly benefiting Navesau and Vatuvonu Adventist schools. Mr Radrodoro extended his thanks to the Church, landowners and the people of Wainibuka for providing the land where the school was established. He also acknowledged the school's management and teachers who have persevered through financial difficulties. "Teaching is a noble profession," Mr Radrodoro said.—**Maika Tuima**



The Lord is my Bankcard

For a little over two weeks in April/May I was tremendously blessed to be a presenter in the PNG for Christ program at the Madang Teachers College. Much has already been said about the way that the Holy Spirit manifested Himself throughout that time, but I spent a little time in trying to understand why the results of the preaching of the gospel is so different in Australia. In my questioning, I reached into my back pocket twice during evening presentations and took out my bankcard as an illustration of a major difference between our cultures.

As a people who are predominately subsistence farmers, I was struck by the fact that they have a different approach to the issue of money than we in our Western culture do. Upon returning home, I was impressed to read afresh Psalm 23. I was moved to paraphrase it into our Western vernacular as a summary of our materialistic way of living our life and possible exhibiting our faith, and to me is one explanation of the differences between the two cultures.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Bankcard, I shall not want,
He allows me to lie down in the lap of luxury,
He leads me beside the ASX and galloping share market,
He revitalises my overdraft,
He leads me in the direction of my Financial Advisor
For my interests sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of an economic downturn,
I will fear no evil, For my trusty Bankcard is with me,
Its ease of use and portability, they comfort me.
You prepare a Boardroom presentation for me in the presence of
my competitors,
You anoint my tongue with glib anecdotes,
My cup runneth over,
Surely prosperity and its fine dining shall follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will be up to my neck in debt in my house fitting for a Lord
Forever.

We are admonished to put God first in everything that we do and my prayer for us all is that as we "lift up our heads because our redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28), we can trust God to "supply our every need according to His riches in glory" (Philippians 4:19).

Stuart Barons

attends the Rosny church, Tasmania. A retired teacher/principal in Adventist schools in Vic and Kabiufa, PNG, for many years.



Songs of Faith

In March 2020 Cybèle received a request from her father who lives in London. He asked her if she could record a song in the outdoors of Australia and send it to him to share with his friends. London had just gone into lockdown and he wanted to spread a bit of sunshine and blue sky to a dark, gloomy, locked-down London. With the help of her husband Bevan who works in digital media in audio, video and production, Cybèle recorded a song and had it filmed in the outdoors. The rest is now history. Recently Cybèle recorded her 250th song with 33 of those original compositions. For four years now, Cybèle has released a new recording every week—sometimes two, sharing it with people all over the world.

Cybèle says she thought it would be just one song for her dad as a favour and that would be it, but a vision developed and has continued into a ministry she now calls "Songs of Faith" and shares with her husband. Her recordings are mostly filmed in the Australian outdoors and have been played and sung in churches all over the world.

Cybèle grew up in a vibrant UK church where music played a major part in her spiritual life. Cybèle loves to sing, conduct and is an accomplished pianist, obtaining a degree in music from the London College of Music and later an education degree.

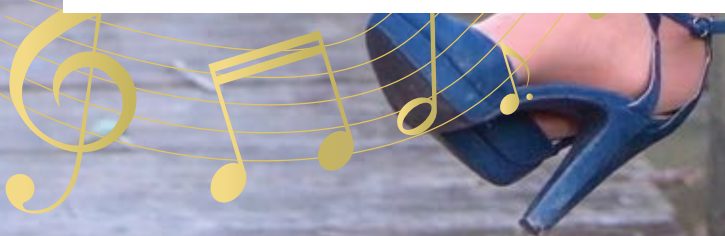
Cybèle has taught music from kindy right through to tertiary level for more than 30 years. "Music is inbuilt in me," she says. "I have a song for every occasion and I just want to plant the words of Jesus through song in people's hearts."

"Whether I have one talent or two, God has entrusted me to use them for his glory. Yes it takes up a large part of my week in Bible study, composing, arranging, practising, recording and filming, but I believe time is short and we have so much of Jesus to share to a world spiralling out of control. Music often reaches the heart when nothing else can. That's what God has called me to do."

To hear Cybèle's music visit her YouTube channel "Cybèle Coutet Craig" or her website <cybele.au>.

Bevan Craig

helps film and edit his wife Cybèle's content.





Hoxton Park serves the community

In March 2022, after coming out of lockdown due to COVID-19 which had totally devastated Australia—when many people had lost their livelihood and were suffering from depression and anxiety—Pastor Arthur Hudson, associate pastor of Hoxton Park church at that time, initiated the idea and subsequently implemented a food pantry to help the local community.

Joyce Bissell and Juan Valenzuela have been working at the food pantry since its inception. Juan recognises that this is God’s work and not theirs, and he gathers the volunteers together for prayer before the people arrive to ask God to bless them and make this ministry successful.

Joyce welcomes people as they come through the door with a cheery greeting which helps to put them at ease. Joyce has a great compassion for people and loves helping anyone who is in need. She says, “I love this ministry and I know this is the work that the Lord has given me to do.”

From the first day when 14 people arrived for a food parcel, until today when the need has doubled, people are greatly appreciative of this community service. They often share their problems with the workers. Many prayers have been said on their behalf both with them and for them, and prayers have been answered. Juan loves to share Jesus with the people and they have responded in a positive way.

Hoxton Park Food Pantry now has a number of people who volunteer, including one lady who initially came for a food parcel. Since then, she has helped each week. Another gentleman goes to Sabbath School each week, and he lends a hand as well.

God has blessed this ministry and two people have subsequently been baptised. What a wonderful God we serve.



Sandra Lehn

communications, Hoxton Park church, NSW.



No-bake choc-raspberry slice

Serves 12

Prep 15 mins + refrigeration

A quick and easy choc-berry dessert with the goodness of Weet-Bix wheat biscuits. This delicious slice contains the digestive benefit of fibre to keep you regular, as part of a healthy and varied diet.

Ingredients

- 1 cup dates, pitted (180g / 12 medjool dates)
- ¼ cup boiling water
- ¼ cup So Good™ Almond or Soy Milk
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- pinch of sea salt
- 1 cup frozen raspberries, thawed
- 4 Weet-Bix™ wheat biscuits
- 50g 70% dark chocolate

Tips:

- Melt chocolate over a pan of simmering water or microwave in 20-second increments, stirring between each burst.
- For a vegan slice, make sure your dark chocolate is dairy-free.

Method

1. Line base and two long sides of a loaf tin (approx 23 x 13 cm) with baking paper. Place dates into a food processor, pour over boiling water and leave to soak for 5 minutes.
2. Add coconut to processor with dates, and pulse to a rough paste. Add milk and salt, pulse again until smooth. Divide mixture into two small bowls.
3. Add berries to one bowl of date mixture, stir well, then mix through 3 finely crushed Weet-Bix. Add remaining Weet-Bix to second bowl of date mixture and stir to combine.
4. Spread non-berry (caramel) layer into prepared pan. Top with raspberry layer and smooth surface. Refrigerate one hour.
5. Remove slice from pan and place on a tray or board. Melt chocolate and drizzle over slice; return to fridge until set. Cut into 12 pieces, and store in fridge or freezer.

Nutritional Information (per serving)

ENERGY	CALORIES	PROTEIN	FAT	SATURATES	CARBOHYDRATE
580kJ	138	2g	7g	5g	18g
SUGARS	FIBRE	CALCIUM	SODIUM	IRON	POTASSIUM
14g	3.2g	17mg	63mg	1.3mg	235mg



Recipe of the Week

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FOCUS ON PROMISES, NOT PROBLEMS

We're not as good as them."
"They are better than us."
"We cannot beat them." If you enjoy playing team sport, it is inevitable that you will hear or think these types of comments. I love playing sport, especially basketball. What I do not love is negative talk. I hate it with a passion.

When the game is close, I do not want to get into a half-time huddle and start talking about how much better the other team is. That type of talk is just setting yourself up to lose.

The main objective of a huddle is to readjust your focus. I have been a part

of a few good comebacks in my sporting career. They all began in the huddle.

Earlier this year my team was down by 18 points at half-time. The score on the board can impact your confidence on the court. Our team had been taking good shots, they just were not going in the basket. A moment that changed the trajectory of the game was during a time-out. We rallied together and recognised we were not playing to our strengths. The opposition was fitter and faster than us and we tried to play according to their strengths. In this huddle we affirmed each other, and

reminded each other we could win. Our focus going into the next half was to concentrate on our strengths and when we missed a shot, we told each other "It's okay, next one."

We ended up winning that game by a three-pointer. If you saw us playing that second half you could not tell we were the same team from the first half. There was a major shift in our attitude. In the first half, we felt frustrated when the referee missed a foul call against us. Our body language spoke volumes—

when we missed a shot, we would shake our heads. It's easy to keep composure when you're winning yet when you're losing it's a lot more challenging.

In the huddle our focus was not the scoreboard. Our focus was not on how good the opposition was. We did not focus on each other's mistakes from the first half. We focused on how well we knew our team could play. We focused on the right thing.

Caleb is an interesting figure who is only mentioned a few times within Scripture. The impact Caleb makes though speaks volumes of his character; a character founded in trusting God.

In Numbers 13 we find the story of an expedition to Canaan. God tells Moses, "Send men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe, send one of its leaders." So, from that command Moses does as God says and he picks out 12 men—one from each tribe—men who are also leaders. Caleb is one of the leaders selected. He is representing the tribe of Judah. As the story continues Moses gives them instructions to assess the land while they are there. From Numbers 13:18-20, Moses tells them of things to look out for. One in particular is found in verse 18: "See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many." Hold on to that verse—we will come back to it.

These men came back from exploring the land after 40 days. They come back to the Israelite camp giving their report of what they saw and experienced.

Imagine you are one of the people in camp finally getting a chance to hear what the land is like. Canaan was the land God promised to Abraham long ago and the Israelites growing up would have heard stories about how they would one day inherit this land. Picture the eagerness. The excitement. I imagine every one, from child to elderly, filled with so much joy to hear a great report.

When the men gave their report, it started off positive: "We went into the land which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit." The remainder of the report ends in negativity. The men start to list how powerful the inhabitants of Canaan are, how heavily fortified the cities are and

how large it is.

Caleb, unsettled by the negative reports, takes this opportunity to speak up. "Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it'" (v30). The men who went with Caleb responded and said they could not attack those people for they were stronger. And the Bible confirms in verse 32 ". . . they spread a bad report" about the land and all their findings.

It is important to note that Caleb silenced the people. Meaning he stopped Israel's negativity. It does not say he politely asked, "Please quieten down, I want to say something." The Bible says "Caleb silenced the people . . ." it goes to show who Caleb was. Caleb was a leader. We find that this quality is common among leaders. The ability to change the focus. The ability to take charge. My thought at the time when reading this story was that in this first speech Caleb never mentions God. But he must have been thinking we *have God* as he encourages the people that they should certainly go up to the Promised Land for they can take it.

He was fully confident in God and confident God would do what He said He would.

I wish I could say it stopped there, after Caleb's intervention, but Numbers 14 continues to describe the negative fallout from their bad reports.

It seems they began to argue with Caleb and later that night, all of Israel came together and they wept, and grumbled against Aaron and Moses, saying things such as, "If we only had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!"

Again Caleb, this time with the support of Joshua, enters the scene. They tear their clothes and plead with the people. The land is "exceedingly good" they tell them. "If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land," (v8) they cry.

"Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Their faith is absolute. Caleb tells his people God has given the land to them. All they need to do is claim it.

His focus was not on the challenges facing him; his focus was on God's promises. Caleb's focus was on the promised land.

We only have a few more mentions of Caleb in the biblical narrative but each time he is mentioned, his focus remains on mission: taking the promised land.

As I write this article, I am currently sitting on a couch with my leg propped up in a brace. It's easy to focus on the things I cannot do. It's easy to feel sorry for myself too. What I am choosing to do during this time of healing is to focus on who God is. The promises He gives. God will restore me. God is with me. God has made a way.

It's important to know that in this life we will experience hardship. It's inevitable. You may be experiencing adversity and challenges right now that seem overwhelming. The belief there is no way out seems easier to hold onto than to remain hopeful.

What I know is the enemy is the greatest liar. He deceives us and leads us to believe our circumstances will be forever. Yet Paul tells us we are more than overcomers through Jesus (see Romans 8:37). When we focus on the promises of God, the way we see life changes. The way we see challenges changes. The way we see ourselves changes. Let's focus on God's promises not our problems. For God never breaks His promises and He won't start now.

SJ Foaga

Theology student, Avondale University.





redefining CHURCH

One of the things I love to do the most in my own personal study of Scripture is to really dig down deep into the meaning of words. I don't just mean to look at the original language, search up the meaning in a concordance or lexicon, or even to consider the grammatical context of its use in a particular passage. We can get so much more depth of insight and understanding when we understand the historical use and context of a word as it was used and understood when it was written.

Too often words we use change meaning over time and use. Good examples of this are English words like the word "awful". If I used this word today, I would be describing something as being horrible, terrible or unpleasant. However if you got in a time machine and went back 400 years, you would find it was used in a completely different way. It would have been used to describe something that literally was

"full of awe" or wonder. If you stood and saw an amazingly spectacular sunset, it would be accurate to say it was awful (full of awe).

If one English word can change in use and meaning so much in just over 400 years, then clearly there is work to be done. Like a good archaeologist, we take the words used in the Bible and dig down; removing layer after layer of meaning until we discover the meaning which was relevant at the time the Bible was written so as to properly discern what the Bible writers meant when using certain words.

One such word that has been covered over with layers of various meaning in the past 2000 years is the word "church". Many of us are already aware that most people think of this word as referring to a building or an organisation and that this is a long way from what the original Greek word used actually meant.

The Greek word translated as church is *ekklesia* and, as many have rightly pointed out, in its simplest meaning the word refers to "an assembly of people for a purpose". Hence you may have heard it said that the church is not the building but the people.

Many will be unaware however that there is another layer of meaning connected to the cultural context of Jesus' day that adds significance to Jesus' choice to use this word.

The first point to make is that although we know Jesus likely spoke Aramaic daily, he probably would have had a good understanding of Koine Greek, the common language of the Roman empire. The reason for this is

twofold. Firstly, because we know it was widely spoken through the Roman empire, so much so, this was the language of choice used by the writers of the New Testament. Secondly, Jesus spent some of his time growing up in Egypt, likely Alexandria where there was a large diaspora of Jewish people, who were predominately Greek in language and culture.

What makes Jesus' use of this word so important to spend time considering? Because in all of the Gospel accounts, Jesus only uses this word twice (Matthew 16:18 and 18:17). Both times He uses it in a specific context.

When Jesus speaks of the community He has come to establish in the Gospels, He overwhelmingly uses the term "the kingdom" (more than 100 times) but only the word church twice. So why? I remember researching the earliest use of the word *ekklesia* in Greek culture, which culminated in an amazing discovery when I visited Athens on a Bible lands tour in 2019.

For most Bible scholars, bucket list sites to visit in Athens are the Acropolis and Mars Hill, but I was most interested in visiting another site on the same famous ridge line. During my free time, I went in search of the Pnyx, just a few hundred metres past Mars Hill. This is the site of the home of democracy. When the city state of Athens became a democracy, it operated differently to how most modern democracies work. Whenever an important decision needed to be made for Athens, including things such as whether to go to war, appointing officials, approving legislation or trying political crimes, they didn't call on representatives as we do today. Rather, every male over the age of 20 who was a citizen had the right to attend an assembly at the Pnyx, where they directly voted on such matters. Attendance was not compulsory, however there was a quorum required for decisions to be made, usually around 6000.

The Pnyx is a large flat area cut out of the hill face where the citizens of



Athens would gather. When I visited the site I discovered a couple of interesting facts. Firstly, as seen in the sign pictured, the official name of the gathering of the citizens for these official assemblies was (you guessed it) *ekklesia*. This would likely be a common association people would have with this word when it was used in Jesus' day; the idea of a gathering of citizens for the purpose of making important decisions about the kingdom. Secondly, the chairperson of the assemblies did not have any authority other than to maintain correct order of these assemblies and he would always stand on an elevated platform called a *bema* which indicated his authority. This *bema* could be built out of any material. However at the Pnyx, the *bema* is cut and hewn out of the bedrock of the hillside. Notice now the specific contexts in which Jesus then used this word in speaking to His disciples.

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18,19, NASB95, *emphasis added*).

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; . . . If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Again I say to you,

that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst" (Matthew 18:15-20, NASB95)

Notice in both passages, Jesus is speaking about the disciples acting in authority regarding God's kingdom purposes here on earth. Also notice in the Matthew 18 passage, Jesus tells us the quorum of the assemblies for Jesus followers, "where two or three are gathered in My name".

When we understand this context, it adds important meaning to Jesus' deliberate use of the word *ekklesia*. He was communicating to us that something more significant is happening when we gather together other than just enjoying fellowship and worship. Rather, He is saying that as we gather, He has given authority to His people to lock or unlock the purposes of God's kingdom here on earth. Also, Peter is not being pictured here as the one who makes the decisions. Rather, the language paints him as the chairperson who maintains order of the assembly. However, it is in the agreement of the body of all believers where the authority lies.

This begs the question: if we properly understood why Jesus uses the word *ekklesia* in the fullness of its historical context, how does this change our understanding about an important and possibly forgotten role of the assembling of God's people together? What matters of God's kingdom should we be locking and unlocking when we gather? How can we claim the great privilege of being God's kingdom citizens on Earth?

May we truly rediscover the full significance of being God's *ekklesia* on Earth so we may see His "kingdom come. [His] will be done, On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, NASB95).

Matthew Hunter

pastor, College Park and Birdwood churches, South Australia.



A healing touch

Volunteer in Action (VIA) Nancy Manigu, who works with other VIAs Fabian Herman and Micah David, shared this report about student Magdalene Waine.

Magdalene was in grade nine at Kusambuk Technical High School in 2019 when she began to have various sicknesses in her body. As a young student, she did not understand the cause of those sicknesses, but they severely affected her life and studies in school.

Magdalene's family did their best to bring traditional herbal medics, but all were unsuccessful in relieving her diseases. More ailments arose in her life and as she grew worse the family had to leave her on a bed to die.

Thinking that God would heal her diseases, a few mothers from a Sunday church visited her several times and prayed and invited her to attend their church, but she refused to accept their invitation. After this a community health worker attended to her problem, wrote a disease referral report and said she should be taken to hospital in Wewak town for proper checks and treatment.

The hospital doctor discovered that Magdalene had a number of ailments to be treated so she was admitted for 12 months for closer examination and to hopefully cure her. The doctor had identified multiple, painful body sores which meant that she could not wear some clothes, sleep well or sit down comfortably. She had irregular monthly cycles and other swelling and pain in parts of her body.

The doctor put Magdalene on several six-hourly treatments but after a full year in hospital she felt that no medicine was going to heal her.

On one occasion, while in her hospital bed, a Bible text came to Magdalene's mind. It was Jeremiah 29:11 and she recalled it as Jesus saying, "I know I have a better plan for you, not to harm you but to give you good success in the future." Magdalene had attended Seventh-day Adventist church worships as a teenager when her father got baptised but he later left the Church. Maybe she had heard a pastor share this text in a sermon at church.

Magdalene prayed in hospital, "Dear Lord Jesus, if this promise in Jeremiah is true, I want to claim it as my own, heal my diseases. I want to follow you. No medication in hospital can cure all my sicknesses."

After this simple, short prayer to Jesus she felt a healing touch and was able to leave the hospital soon after. During PNG for Christ at the Sifonduo site in East Yangoru, Magdalene was baptised and today she regularly attends church. A copy of a World Changer Bible was given to her by the VIA coordinator of Sepik Mission at the church where she goes to worship the all-powerful, undefeated God. She likes to share with others what God has done and is doing in her personal life.

Wilfred Manigu

VIA coordinator, Sepik Mission, PNG.

Hello Kids!

We reveal God's love by serving others.

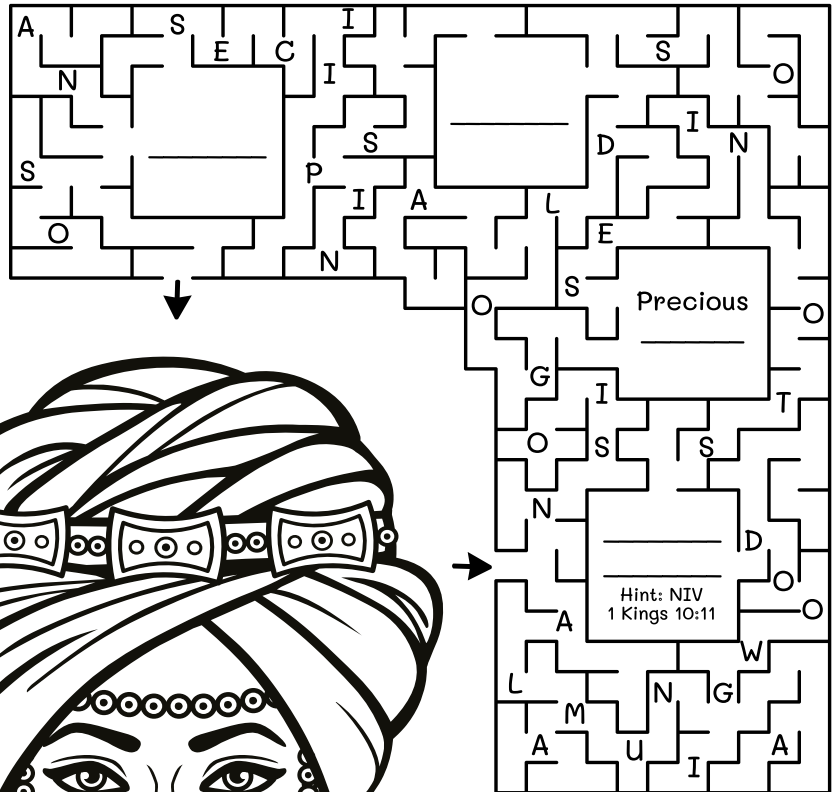


IT'S A MATCH

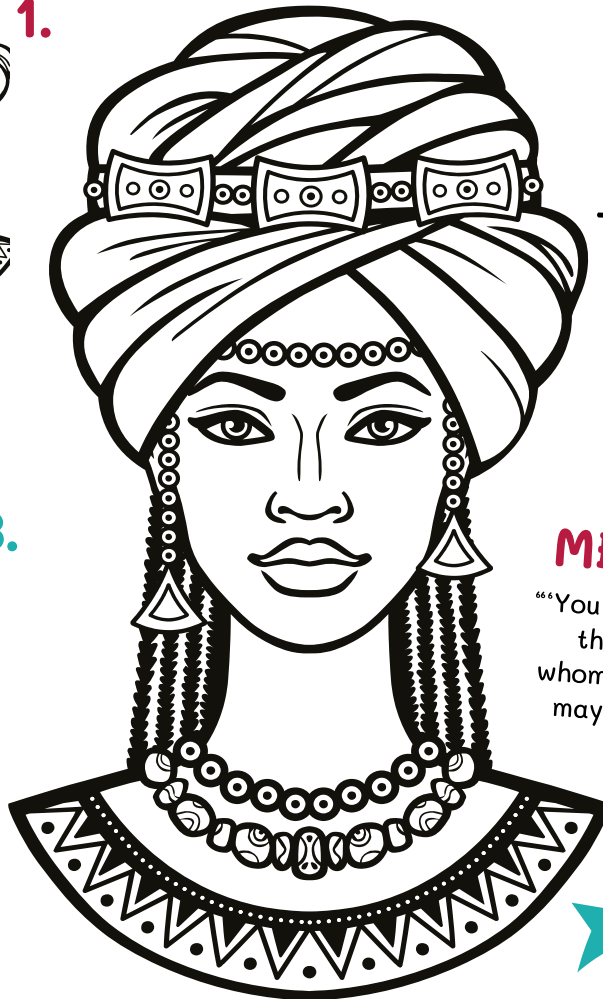
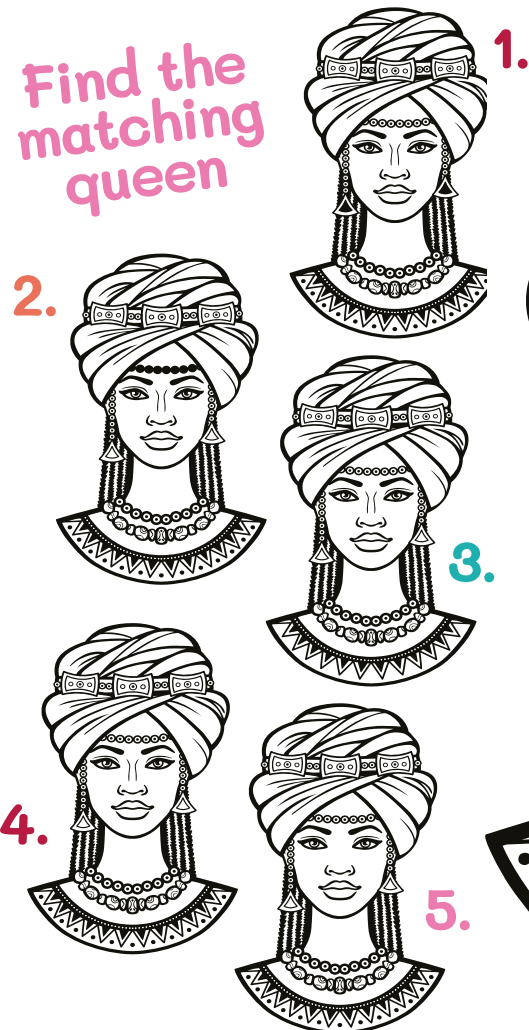
The queen of Sheba hears of Solomon's wisdom. She visits Solomon to witness his wisdom. Solomon's words and actions, as well as the words and actions of his people, make an impression on the queen. Because of what she sees and hears, she acknowledges the true God in heaven. She sees justice in the way Solomon deals with the people and she also sees the righteousness of God in the words and actions of Solomon.

Find the way through the maze

COLLECT THE LETTERS TO SEE WHAT GIFTS THE QUEEN GAVE KING SOLOMON



Find the matching queen



MEMORY VERSE

"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me" (Isaiah 43:10).



Conversations

Omega oils

Re: "Can't believe it's not butter", (Conversations, October 5).

Your writer classes all oils as being higher in Omega 6 than we need. Perhaps he is not aware that flaxseed oil is much higher in Omega 3 than Omega 6 and is a valuable contribution to any diet.

While coconut oil has been praised for some years as a healthy oil, it is now being acknowledged that it is too high in saturated fats to be used freely in the diet.

Gail Donnelly, Qld

Popular misconceptions

When the Sanitarium dietitians answered the question, "What foods are high in saturated fat?" (*Record*, August 17), I think they were less concerned about being politically correct (claimed in *Conversations*, October 5) and more concerned with being scientifically correct.

The advice is aligned with the World Health Organisation's updated guideline on saturated fat intake released only last year by their Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group following a review of the latest evidence.

Coconut oil being solid at cool

temperatures does not make it safe. It's solid because it is 100 per cent fat, over 90 per cent of that being saturated! Touted benefits of coconut oil consumption attributed to groups like Filipinos often neglect to report they do not eat processed coconut oil, like that on our supermarket shelves, but the whole coconut meat, along with a diet rich in fibre and low in processed and sugary foods. That's where the benefit lies!

With so many competing information sources to cloud our mind, I'm grateful *Sanitarium* and *Record* are leaning on science rather than popular misconceptions.

Roger Meany, Qld

Gospel on two legs

To the writer of "Take Another Look" (*Conversations*, August 3), may I suggest you are a bit jaded as a lot of us are, but take hope, dear sister. The gospel has two legs, both necessary: to preach the three angels' messages, and to love and care for the needy.

If we get tired of hearing warnings then we are in danger of being ensnared. Yes, there are wolves in sheep's clothing among us, just as Jesus warned us. Should we ignore His warning? Of course not.

Also let us never stop watching for the waymarks lest we lose our focus on His coming. The poor and needy we have with us always; we should always be ready to help as the Lord brings their needs to our attention. There is no need to throw out any of the above in favour of another. Nor should we criticise those who are called to focus on any particular aspect of the gospel.

We need to encourage one another to be alert, and to share the good news of Jesus' soon coming, and also always love and care for those who are needing a caring and helping friend.

Val Salter, Vic

Critical lens?

It seems trite to say that this article ("Tragedy at Waco: Hungry for Truth", *Record Rewind*, September 21), posits Adventism as the solution to cults and not the cause of this dangerous behaviour. This article lacks any critical lens and as a result offers no insight into how Adventism is the solution. Considering how long ago this happened, I would have expected more than a selected series of quotes from previous articles and no analysis.

I think we deserve better from our Church publications than this.

Charlie Perth, via Facebook

Wedding



GREEN—SCHEMAN. Pastor Jaiden Christopher Green, son of Roger and Lucretia Green (Cooranbong, NSW), and Rachel Michelle Scheman, daughter of Graeme and Lois-Joy Scheman (Seaham), were married on 16.9.24 at Forresters Beach church, Tumbi Umbi. Jaiden and Rachel became a couple while Rachel worked as a registered nurse and Jaiden was studying theology at Avondale. Before their engagement, Jaiden began pastoring in Ballarat, Vic, and that is where they will live and serve as a team in ministry.

Justin Torossian

Obituaries



BEHRENS, Mary Caroline (nee Power), born 5.6.1937 in Casino, NSW; died 6.9.24 in Murwillumbah Hospital. On 29.9.1960 Mary married Vernon. She was predeceased by her son, David. She is survived by her husband; daughters, Yolanda (Russell Island, Qld) and Jenny (Helensvale); and son, Warwick (Mudgee, NSW). Mary's assurance in Christ was a wonderful example to all who knew her. Her strong faith throughout her long illness was an inspiration to all. She is at rest and awaits the Lord's call on the resurrection day.

Warren Price

EATON, Warren, born 12.9.1951 in Manjimup, WA; died 9.9.24 in Manjimup after battling a brain tumour for eight months. He was married to Coleen Morrett. Warren was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Doreen. He is survived by three daughters; five granddaughters; one grandson; two great-granddaughters; and two great-grandsons. After leaving school, Warren worked for the Ainsworths of Kulikup and they have remained very close friends ever since. He did a mechanical engineering trade, ran an engineering business,

worked in CALM forestry preservation and became a rural contractor in the timber industry. He was very respected in the Manjimup community area as evident by the over 600 people who came to celebrate his life and bid farewell. We look forward to meeting on the great resurrection morning.

Ray Eaton

LEMKE, Kelvin, born 30.4.1941 in Busselton, WA; died 27.9.24 in Perth. On 27.3.1963 he married Valma (Val) Harders. He was predeceased by his son, Glendon in 1967. He is survived by his wife (Perth); children, Wayne and Robyn (Karratha), Warren and Nadene (Lismore, NSW), Adrian (Sydney), Dean (Karratha, WA) and Janine and Denis Cowey (Perth); grandchildren, Caitlin, Damon, Braedon, Kody, Cahn, Sarah and Nathaniel; and sister, Noelene Barron (Perth). Kelvin lived most of his life in Karratha, where he served as the church leader and was a lifetime member and volunteer with St John Ambulance. He was a mechanical genius who could repair almost anything mechanical. He passed to his rest secure in his faith in Jesus and in His soon return.

Roger Millist



LITSTER, Shirley (nee House), born 20.11.1927 in Oakleigh, Vic; died 5.7.24 in Springwood, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband, Graham in 2014. Shirley is survived by her children, Greg and Sharon, Delwyn and Steve Taylor, and Rod and Belinda (all of Brisbane); grandchildren, Andrew, Elyse, Emma, Hamish and Pru; and a niece and nephews. She was much loved by her family and has been laid to rest with Graham at Avondale. She was a gifted linguist, pianist and much-loved secondary teacher, serving alongside Graham in Adventist education in Australia.

Murray House

LOCKHART, Norman Keith, born 29.11.1926 in Sydney, NSW; died 26.8.24 on the Gold Coast, Qld. He was predeceased by his wife, Elaine. Norman is survived by his sons, Gary, Bradley, Darren, Kelvin and their families. He excelled at cricket and was well known as a master batsman. After accepting the Word of God, he refused to play on Sabbath

again. He looked forward to seeing his wife Elaine again on the resurrection morning. He was a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren. Norman allowed his light to shine and served in his local church in whatever way he could. A quiet, humble man, he allowed his actions to show his deep faith in Jesus.

John O'Malley



MURPHY, John William, born 2.4.1939 in Narrogin, WA; died 1.9.24 in Hocart Lodge Aged Care, Harvey. On 27.10.1964 he married Janice Molyneaux. John is survived by sons, Adrian and Jeffrey; grandchildren, Brandon, Sharon, Jarred, Jessica and Shinade. He is loved by all who knew him. John served as a deacon and senior elder and was a regular lay preacher. His greatest love was for his God, his wife Janice and their families. He worshipped at Victoria Park and Harvey churches. May John rest in peace until Jesus returns.

Robert Stankovic, Darren Peakall

POWELL, Irene Rose (nee Howe), born 18.4.1933 in Ouyen, Vic; died 18.9.24 in Estia Nursing Home, Aldgate, SA. On 29.8.1967 she married Laurie, who predeceased her in 2014. Irene is survived by her children, Christopher, and Cathie; son-in-law, Stephen Morris; and grandchildren, Alicia, Ronan and Sienna. Irene commenced teacher training in 1950. Her career saw her teach in Victoria, England and South Australia. She travelled widely in England and Europe. Irene was a devoted Christian who could teach, preach a sermon, and serve in many capacities in the Brighton and Morphett Vale churches. She loved the Lord and her family and we will see her again on the great resurrection day.

Brenton Wilkinson



TOOBY, Valarie June (nee Palmer), born 9.7.1943 in Kogarah, NSW; died 21.5.24 in Lismore. She is survived by her husband, Leslie (Alstonville); children, Lisa-Maree Hockenhill (Bathurst), Yvette and Glen Hughes (Alstonville), Vanessa and Paul Geelan (Wollongbar), and Craig and Kylie (Canberra, ACT); grandchildren, Kirsten, Jared, Sophia, Ellie, Lucy, Jasmine, Johanna and Anna;

great-grandchildren, Riley, Micah and Poppy. Val and Les lived most of their life in Bathurst, NSW and relocated to Alstonville in 2015. Val worked as a nurse and literature evangelist and served faithfully in her church. She was an avid quilter and a selfless, cheerful and hospitable Christian, who loved her Lord and her family.

Paul Geelan

WATERS, Colleen Iris (nee Christianson), born 16.9.1930 in Patea, NZ; died 23.9.24 in Hawera. Colleen was predeceased by her husband, William in 1992, and son, Leonard (Ricky) in 2015. She is survived by her children, Terrence and Lynaire, Wilfred (Bill) and Lynette, Michelle and Kim Higgins, Gaye and John Menzies, and Debi Waters; and daughter-in-law, Maureen. For decades, Colleen was a much-loved deaconess of Hawera church. She worked tirelessly, reflecting Jesus through her kindness and unconditional love. Colleen succumbed after a long illness and will be missed by her loving children, their spouses and her church family.

Marilyn Pasiono

WOLOSIUK, Lydia (nee Styk), born 23.10.1947 in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia; died 23.8.24 in Traralgon, Vic. Lydia is survived by her daughters, Monica Redpath and Kyle (Richmond) and Tina (Warragul); grandsons, Nolan and Liam; and brothers, Karol Styk and Stan Styk. Lydia will be warmly remembered for her very kind, gentle nature and her deep spirituality. She loved her garden, her family and her Saviour, and was a dearly-loved member of Springvale and Warragul churches. She rests now in Jesus and awaits His call to eternal life and reunion with her family.

Barry Whelan

WOODS, Janettie Thelma, born 13.6.1941 in Whanganui, NZ; died 14.11.23 in Ringwood East, Vic. She is survived by her siblings, including Yvonne Taylor; nieces, Lee Taylor, Robyn and Rod Morton and family, and Melissa Taylor. Janettie was a trained primary school teacher and librarian and worked in several Victorian government schools. Her biggest passion was her desire to serve. She was a long-time and active member of Ringwood church, serving in several ministries over

the years, as well as a member and secretary of the Melbourne Bushwalking Association (MABWA). Janettie's greatest hope was in her Saviour, who is the resurrection and the life, and she now sleeps peacefully waiting for the day she meets Him face to face.

Jorge Munoz

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NSW-based Adventist solicitor: estates and estate disputes; powers of attorney and appointments of enduring guardian; and conveyancing. Contact Ellen Turner at 0488 637 179 or <office@turnerlegal.com.au>.

MISSIONARIES LUNCH

December 7, 1pm at Kressville Activities Centre, Avondale Lifestyle Community, cnr Freemans Drive and Central Road, Cooranbong. Missionaries, descendants and friends welcome. The theme for your talk this year is "How your life was influenced by your time in mission work and by the national people you worked with." Queries: Warren Martin. Phone 0428 727 384.

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Signs Publishing Company, part of Adventist Media, is a print, publishing and distribution organisation seeking to fill a number of full-time positions based at its manufacturing site in Warburton, Victoria.

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Signs Publishing is seeking to employ an experienced offset printer or an individual looking to undertake an apprenticeship in offset printing. This is an opportunity for a print tradesperson to extend their skills using large-format Heidelberg printing equipment in a modern production plant, or for a suitable person to undertake training as an offset printer. As a printer, you will have experience running and maintaining multi-colour sheet-fed presses and have exceptional colour-management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines. You will have mechanical aptitude, be willing to learn new skills and be flexible, as some shift work may be required. This role involves working with a variety of machinery and includes manual handling of both light and heavy items. You will need to have a reasonable level of fitness and be willing to submit to a pre-employment assessment. A forklift licence is an advantage.

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Signs Publishing is looking to employ persons to operate a variety of print-finishing equipment in our bindery department. This role involves the set-up and operation of cutting, folding, stitching and gluing machinery. Mechanical aptitude and a willingness to learn are essential for this role. The successful applicants will have either a trade certificate in print finishing or be willing to learn how to operate various print finishing equipment. If required, training is available to the right candidate. This role involves working with a variety of machinery and includes manual handling of both light and heavy items. You will need to have a reasonable level of fitness and be willing to submit to a pre-employment assessment. A forklift licence is an advantage.

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