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## **SURVIVAL AT SEA**

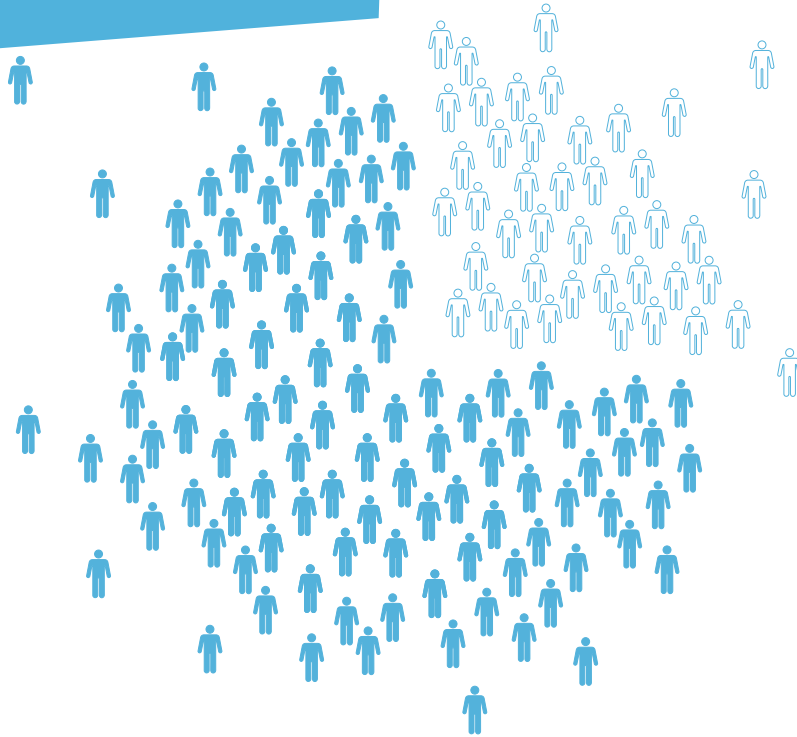
**ADVENTIST STUDENT'S  
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**FLASH FLOODS DESTROY  
ADVENTIST VILLAGE 6**

**ADVENTIST RECORD | MAY 5, 2018**  
ISSN 0819-5633

*Our Hands, His Touch*  
ADVENTIST HEALTH WEEK · 11-19 MAY 2018



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## OUR FAITH IS MADE FOR SHARING

It's a beautiful drive. After making a left turn somewhere near Newcastle (NSW), you head inland and north. The green hills roll by and, after passing through a number of small towns, you're soon looking down from some fairly serious heights before you enter New England.

With around 12,000 residents, Inverell is a not the biggest town in the region but it is still a decent-sized regional hub. My colleague Gilmore and I travelled there to film a video for this week's *Adventist Record* offering (see page 23). We had no idea what to expect. Neither of us had attended this church before or had met anyone from there. I'd exchanged some emails and texts with members but, like visiting any new church, there were some nerves.

We needn't have worried. What followed was a beautiful weekend of fellowship and fun.

The church was welcoming and warm. One long-attending member told me that he believed I was the first serving *Record* editor ever to visit.

The church hasn't had the easiest of times recently. Following a devastating fire in 2014, it had to be rebuilt.

Yet it seems tragedy has turned into triumph. The hall was refurbished and now has a great kitchen for catering.

The church was made more accessible, with a disabled toilet and access ramp installed.

And the God's Closet ministry (see page 13), which is operated from the hall, is breaking down barriers, and creating an active and service-driven church community.

Although they apologised for being a small group of "old people", what I saw was a group who are seeking God and looking for ways to engage the world like Jesus did.

There were five or six people who weren't members of the church attending that Sabbath. Richard had only been baptised a year earlier but loved being involved in God's Closet. Sam is a young man who was going to be baptised the week after we attended.

This was an unexpectedly vibrant country church whose members had clearly made a decision to make an impact in their community. This is something I'm seeing in my travels; that there is a desire in our churches to engage

with the community as members ask themselves, *if the church shut down, would anyone notice?* They are doing something different and seeing God work in amazing ways.

And the beautiful thing for me is that *Adventist Record* played a small part in Inverell's journey. Inspired by an article about a God's Closet ministry at Wyee church, the members thought, *we can do that too.*

The story behind the stories is the people who enact, tell and live them. There would be no stories to tell if people weren't out in their church communities doing amazing things.

These are the stories of what God is doing. There's a misconception that in sharing information you are being proud and vain—and that is the case if you're sharing for

your own glory. But if you're sharing for God's glory, you have the opportunity to inspire others.

I encourage you not to read *Adventist Record* passively but with a view to activity. Approach it while looking for ways to engage. You may read about a ministry or need that triggers a passion to support. You may read a story or testimony that touches you and that

you can share with someone else. You may decide that you want to run a similar ministry or event in your local congregation.

There are also many ways to engage online. Don't just read articles as you come across them. It has never been easier to pass them on, to share them on your own social media platforms or to email them to someone you think would benefit.

(Of course, this is how we should read and engage with the Bible as well: with a view to sharing the content and the personal lessons we find there. That alone will reinvigorate our faith journey.)

Our faith is made for sharing. We are to pass on the blessings that God is working in our lives. Inverell church is.

And I hope you can too.

**JARROD STACKELROTH**  
EDITOR  
@JStackelroth



## WE ARE TO PASS ON THE BLESSINGS THAT GOD IS WORKING IN OUR LIVES.

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**adventist record** is the  
official news magazine of the  
seventh-day adventist church's  
south pacific division

abn 59 093 117 689  
vol 123 no 9

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The remaining two senior ladies and a middle-aged couple would not sell their church building. The building seated 700 people and reflected the success of God's mission in the distant past in this very large city in a part of the globe dominated by another world religion. The church leaders in the area needed the funds to finance a new health ministry that was reaching people daily in another part of that same city. However they had to respect the local church's wishes. Why wouldn't the people sell their building? For them the building was sacred. The building represented the presence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the city—selling it would mean there was no sacred place. The church would not be in the city.

In a secular city, a young pastor was asked to pioneer the last day message. He had no church building. He doorknocked around his neighbourhood and used Facebook messages to find people who were interested in reading the Bible and learning about God in discussion groups. Within a year he had five groups of about 12 people meeting each week—learning straight from the Word of God and becoming disciples of Jesus. He has asked the mainly young adults he is reaching to come to a church building. But they don't see the need. The Sabbath meeting in a home with other spiritually growing people is their church.

So what is the church? In the OT the "church" was a sacred tent (the moving Sanctuary) or building (temple). It was the place where God dwelt (Exodus 25:8). When Jesus came to earth He claimed that He was the temple (John 2:19-22)—God's sacredness was a person not a place or building. Jesus and the apostles knew the temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24:1-3). The Christian faith would not be based on a place but a Person—the God-man, Jesus Christ, who dwells in the heavenly temple (Hebrews). Those who believe in Jesus take Him symbolically into their hearts and minds (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 1:13,14; 2 Corinthians 1:22). We as individuals have God living inside us, through the presence of Jesus—the Holy Spirit—and we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). When believers in Jesus gather (church in NT Greek) they become the temple of God—it is the group of people that makes any place sacred (1 Corinthians 3:16,17; Ephesians 2:19-22).

It is for this reason that the General Conference Global Mission team is able to say that house churches are legitimate forms of churches. House churches and the NT understanding of church will help the Church grow in the difficult areas of the world and where real estate is hugely expensive. House churches could be the basis of a disciple-making movement.



**GLENN TOWNEND**  
SPD PRESIDENT  
/SPDpresident

## ADVENTIST IDENTITY PROJECT READY TO ROLL

### RECORD STAFF

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has produced a global identity style, which is now available for use in the South Pacific Division (SPD). This brings to fruition the church signage project, begun by former SPD communication director James Standish and designer Shelley Poole.

The short *Adventist Identity Style Guide—South Pacific* will provide guidelines on colours, the font Advent Sans, the logo and other information vital to maintaining a consistent look and feel for our churches, products and other entities throughout the SPD. The General Conference (GC) Communications department, which has produced the branding, says the SPD guidelines are the best in the world.

This also means that the South Pacific church signage project, which was put on hold until the GC-endorsed branding was released, can continue.

According to SPD communication director Dr Stephen Currow, the common identity branding will help those outside the Church to connect all the good things we do.

"People will then know and appreciate the variety of ministries the Seventh-day Adventist Church provides, connect each good encounter, build confidence in the organisation and be encouraged to join us as disciples of Jesus Christ," he said.

These changes have been communicated to the unions and conferences. Anyone wishing to inquire whether funding is available for their church signage or looking for branding and identity information should contact their local conference/mission office.

"May this be yet another tool in sharing the good news of Jesus—what He has already done, is doing and will do—to God's honour and glory," Dr Currow said.

For direct questions about changes in branding displays, contact <communications\_SPD@adventist.org.au>.

Information and access to the *Adventist Identity Style Guide—South Pacific* is available at <identity.adventistchurch.com>.



Seventh-day  
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*South Pacific*

VERTICAL LOGO.

## GOSPEL CONCERT RAISES \$A12,700 FOR EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS

JOSEPH TALIPUAN/NARKO TUTUO

Six churches came together in Sydney's north on March 24 for a gospel concert to raise funds for those affected by the recent devastating earthquake in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

More than \$A12,700 was raised during the 90-minute sacred concert, an initiative of the Wantok church (combined Papua New Guinean and Solomon Islands church in Asquith). The Tongan, Fijian and Southwest churches of Hoxton Park, Bankstown and Fairfield also supported the event.

"Many of us have family and friends in the PNG Highlands," said Pastor Joseph Talipuan, who leads the Wantok and Enmore Fijian churches in Sydney.

"We wanted to do something to help provide basic necessities. Many homes, roads and villages were wiped out in the landslides. In some cases, villages that survived the initial earthquake were later swept away when rivers upstream—temporarily dammed by landslides—burst their banks and flooded those below. We feel a bit

helpless being so far away. The fundraising concert was one way to show support."

There was a sobering start to the concert. A thunderous sound emerged from the darkened stage—imitating the terrifying rumble of an earthquake. Through the fog drifting across the stage, two women emerged, wailing and dressed in traditional mourning attire. A poignant poem, read by Lohert Talipuan, paid tribute to those suffering loss and hardship as a result of the earthquake. Singers and musicians soon filled the stage, sharing songs specifically chosen to bring comfort and hope.

"We are very grateful for the support of all the groups who participated with very short notice and to all those who helped out on the day," said Dr Narko Tutuo, one of the concert organisers.

Julie Aengari, of the Wantok Choir,



said the majority of Solomon Islanders in the Wantok church were born in PNG to parents who were missionaries or worked there at some stage.

"The freewill offering collected during the concert will be used to purchase food and clothing; the immediate needs," said Pastor Talipuan.

"Adventist Aviation PNG will distribute these to the affected areas—many of which have no access except by air."

*To make a donation go to [egiving.org.au](http://egiving.org.au) and select "Wantok Adventist Community Group".*

## JULIE BISHOP LAUNCHES ADRA PNG COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

DARREN YORIO/RECORD STAFF

An Adventist Development and Relief Agency (Papua New Guinea) community empowerment project was officially launched in Kavieng District, New Ireland Province, on March 21 by Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop.

The ADRA PNG Inclusive Community Empowerment Project (ICEMP) will provide a clean water supply, greater resilience to climate change and improved adult literacy for more than

12,000 people over 30 months.

The event was reportedly the first time a PNG Incentive Fund project has been launched in PNG by an Australian Federal Minister. The Incentive Fund, funded by the Australian Government, provides grants to high-performing organisations to improve service delivery and provide economic opportunities for Papua New Guineans.

The official launch included the signing of the project agreement by Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Bruce Davis, and ADRA PNG Board chairman and PNG Union Mission president Pastor Kepsie Elodo.

Mrs Bishop was welcomed with a traditional New Ireland "singsing" and met with recipients of the project. She acknowledged the work of ADRA in PNG and expressed her passion to see

more women and girls empowered in communities in Kavieng District with improved opportunities for learning and sustainable livelihoods.

ICEMP was developed closely with representatives of the local community, who identified key issues affecting the livelihoods of their villages, particularly for women and girls. Communities also proposed the integration of leadership and governance programs to promote more women into leadership roles with the goal of improving household income levels.

ADRA PNG acknowledged the support of the Australian Government, which provided a K3.7 million grant to the project. ADRA PNG is also grateful to ADRA Australia for providing match funding and program effectiveness support.



JULIE BISHOP WITH FLORENCE OF NALIUT.



# FLASH FLOODS DESTROY ADVENTIST VILLAGE

JARROD STACKELROTH

Flash floods have devastated a Seventh-day Adventist community at Waluebue village, North Ambae, Vanuatu.

Early Sabbath morning, March 31, the village was inundated with water, rocks and soil, destroying homes, the Adventist church, community hall and the school.

Vanuatu Mission secretary Pastor Charlie Jimmy said many people lost everything except the clothes they were wearing as they ran to escape to higher ground.

"It is heartbreaking to see the entire village covered in big rocks and soil from 5 to 10 metres high," he said.

The 115 people who lived in the village were temporarily accommodated at nearby Waluriki, another Adventist village. "[The people] are surviving through the aid and donations from nearby communities, church groups, NGOs and supplies from the Government," said Pastor Jimmy.



PASTOR CHARLIE JIMMY.

The flooding was due in part to the Ambae volcano erupting recently, leaving large ash deposits on the island.

ADRA Vanuatu

is working closely with the Government to ensure it is meeting priority needs in a coordinated manner, according to representative Anna Downing. Pre-prepared emergency packs have been delivered for the village and for those on Ambae affected by recent volcanic activity.

In partnership with ADRA NZ, ADRA Vanuatu has provided 458 jerry cans, 58 tarpaulins, 150 wash kits and 150 hygiene kits for those affected by both the volcanic activity and the flooding in Waluebue.

Pastor Jimmy also travelled with district pastor Max Senembe to Penama Adventist College. The college was evacuated in September 2017, due to the Ambae volcano eruption and has had ongoing issues since. As a result of the flooding, the 37 students and their teachers were relocated on April 3 to Ambaebulu School. There they are sharing classrooms, dorms, homes and other facilities with the Ambaebulu community.

The Vanuatu Government is negotiating with land owners of East Ambae to purchase land and relocate the Waluebue community to a new site.



THE VILLAGE SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE FLOODING.



THE LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN TREASURES

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## SMALL SCHOOL MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

With an increased enrolment and five new staff, Kauma Adventist High School has had a positive start to the year. The Kiribati school commenced 2018 with 250 students, up from 184 at the end of last year.

The employment of a full-time gardener and an agriculture teacher has meant the school garden is now thriving, with plenty of produce for the school kitchen and extra for the community. Mrs Mamarau, the new gardener, is offering classes to villagers on how to establish their own garden.

The school is also having a big impact on the spiritual lives of the students, with 66 baptised last year. A church plant—established at Kariatebike village—is led by the Kauma school chaplain, supported by the staff and students. There are plans to plant two more churches: at Taribo village and Abatiku Island.

During a recent visit to the school,



KAUMA ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HARD AT WORK.

Trans Pacific Union Mission associate education director Mele Vaihola thanked the principal and staff for their commitment despite the many challenges they face, including funding shortfalls and limited educational resources.

“They are able to make a difference in the students’ lives, not only for today but for eternity, and that is what Adventist education is all about,” she said.

## ATSIM PIONEER FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIES

JARROD STACKELROTH

Twenty-two ministers were among those gathered at Trinity Gardens Seventh-day Adventist Church in Adelaide on Sunday, April 8, to farewell an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) pioneer.

Pastor Eric Davey (7.1.1941–27.3.2018) was instrumental in setting up ATSIM in Australia as the first associate director and second national director of the ministry, and, in retirement, became the first ATSIM director for South Australia.



PASTOR ERIC DAVEY LOVED THE OUTDOORS.

He also conducted the first baptisms of Aboriginal people into the Adventist Church in South Australian towns such as Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Quorn, Marree and Oodnadatta.

The graveside service was held first at Hahndorf before the memorial service then moved to Trinity Gardens church. Along with the South Australian Conference administration, many of the ministers who attended were Pastor Davey’s colleagues in ATSIM as well as three Indigenous ministers he had played

a role in ordaining: Pastors Darren Garlett, John Beck and Eddie Hastie.

“Pastor Eric Davey, under the power of the Holy Spirit, accomplished much for God,” said Pastor Don Fehlberg, remote area pastor and Mamarapha College liaison for ATSIM, who presented at both services.

## NEWS GRABS



### YOUNG MISSIONARY KILLED

In what’s believed to be a tragic case of mistaken identity, 24-year-old Berni Kunu, a medical missionary serving in a remote area of the Star Mountain regency in Papua, Indonesia, was murdered on March 29. Berni “loved his job [and was] full of love for his Lord”, according to his family. His funeral was held on April 1. —*Adventist Review*



### HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

A recent community outreach and evangelistic initiative of the West-Central Africa Division has resulted in almost 4000 baptisms in Cameroon. The church members provided small group and public evangelism during the “Pentecost 2018” series, with baptisms crowning the “harvest” phase. —*WAD*



### PERFECT SCORES

For the seventh year in a row, all students from the Adventist University of the Philippines’ Medical Technology class earned 100 per cent in their national licensure examination. “What we learned in school was an integration of faith and learning,” said graduate Jay Diesto, who achieved a fifth-place ranking. “I got to apply what I learned to real life.” —*SAD*



## HOT TOPICS



### RESTORING PEACE

An operation is underway to clear the minefields surrounding the traditional baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The idea is to restore the churches and compounds of eight denominations built around the 1930s, allowing monks and pilgrims to return. The project is expected to take at least a year. —*New York Times*



### BIBLES BLOCKED

Bibles have reportedly been pulled from sale through online bookstores across China, sparking confusion and outrage from frustrated Chinese Christians on social media amid a tenuous split between the Vatican and Beijing. The same day, Chinese officials released a “white paper”, which coincidentally outlined how religious beliefs and freedoms are protected under the country’s socialist systems. —*ABC*



### EASTER LOVE

A Texas church has helped to relieve more than \$US10 million in medical debts through its donations and philanthropy. The church gave the money to 4000 local families instead of using it on the production of their Easter services. —*Relevant*

## CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT COLLABORATE TO SAVE LIVES IN THE SOLOMONS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Solomon Islands Government will see local churches become “wellness hubs”.

South Pacific Division health director Dr Chester Kuma and Solomon Islands Mission health director Dr George Manimu met with senior government health officials recently to look at ways to tackle the country’s lifestyle disease epidemic.

“We have never had this sort of opportunity to speak to the Government in the past,” Dr Kuma said.

“They shared with us some very depressing statistics, including that 15 per cent of the population is now diabetic, and every day there are 3 or 4 patients with heart attack symptoms presenting at hospital emergency departments.”

Dr Kuma shared details of the 10,000 Toes campaign—a joint initiative of the SPD Health Department and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency—which aims to help stamp out diabetes in the South Pacific.

As part of this campaign local churches will become wellness hubs, equipped with health assessment tools and the appropriate skills to do community health assessments for early detection of diabetes and other related

chronic diseases.

It will also involve the training and resourcing of lifestyle coaches with the skills to run programs like the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) to help tackle diabetes.

The Government embraced the concept and is providing funding for a pilot program at an Adventist church in Honiara and two churches of other denominations. “The Adventist Church will be the main facilitator; we will be the church doing the training for the other churches because of our health message,” Dr Kuma said.

“It’s going to start in Honiara and then it’s going to spread out; eventually all other churches will be involved.

“It’s a great entering wedge—as we address lifestyle disease at the same time there is a great opportunity for the gospel to go in and touch people’s lives.”

The Government also committed to a plan to get all doctors in the Solomon Islands to undergo CHIP training, similar to the Fiji Medical Association’s recent commitment to make CHIP available to every doctor in Fiji (*Adventist Record*, December 23, 2017).

*To support the 10,000 Toes initiative, visit <[www.10000toes.com](http://www.10000toes.com)>. The website has a video to share and other information.*



SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION HEALTH DIRECTOR DR GEORGE MANIMU (LEFT) WITH GEOFFREY ALACKY, DR TENNETH DALIPADA AND DR GEOFFREY KENILOREA FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.



# FLASHPOINT



## SACRED CALLING

Sabbath, February 24 was a cause for celebration as Pastor Trevor Mawer was ordained at the Southern Downs Regional (southwest Queensland). Throughout the day, members from Stanthorpe, Warwick, The Summit and Inglewood churches shared beautiful music in worship and warm words of affirmation for the leadership Pastor Mawer and his wife Sharlene have given to their region over the past four years. The ordination service's theme focused on the sacred calling God places on each individual to serve Him according to the faith He has given them. A shared vision was certainly evident in practice on the day, with so many actively engaging to bring the event together. —Russ Willcocks



## VOLUNTEERS HELP KIDS TRY

More than 10 church groups from across the Greater Sydney Conference volunteered at the recent Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at Olympic Park, where more than 2500 kids swam, cycled and ran while being cheered on by family and friends. The Hurstville Pathfinders (pictured) especially appreciated learning the essence of real teamwork as they assisted participants picking up and dropping off their bikes in the event's transition area. "At the end, we believe what we received was much more than we ever hoped for," said Linda Lee, one of the Hurstville leaders. "The [fundraising] became less important compared to the satisfaction we saw in our Pathfinders as they were able to help the younger participants." —IntraSyd



## RAJKO'S ORDINATION

On the first Sabbath of the South NSW Big Camp, Pastor Rajko Celic was ordained into full-time gospel ministry. Pastor Celic was introduced by SNSW general secretary Calvin Drinkall, while president Pastor Mike Faber presented a short sermon. Australian Union Conference president Pastor Jorge Munoz gave the charge for ministry, and Pastor Justin Lawman, who has been working with Pastor Celic as his senior pastor in the Canberra district, offered the ordination prayer. In late 2017, Pastor Celic accepted a call to serve in Tasmania, but expressed his desire to still be ordained in the SNSW Conference at Big Camp. "We wish Rajko and Elize God's blessings for their ministry in Tasmania," said SNSW president Pastor Mike Faber. —Imprint



## THE PASSION

In a combined effort, the Papatōetoe Community Church and the South Auckland Adventist School (NZ) came together over the Easter weekend to present a moving retelling of Christ's story in a dramatic production aptly named "The Passion". Enacted on Friday night and then again on Sabbath morning, the production followed the dramatic and inspirational story of Jesus and how the things He stood for—hope, forgiveness and love—are needed in the world now more than ever. The last hours of Jesus' life on earth were creatively portrayed through storytelling and drama, brought to life with a variety of popular music compilations sung by soloists and a community choir. —PAPSDA



## GOD'S DREAMING

"God's Dreaming Inc." is a Christian organisation that aims to provide resources to Christians to help them present the gospel story in a way that will connect with Aboriginal people. The artistic nature of the project combines the Indigenous people's natural connection to story and art with Jesus Christ's message of redemption. Recently, students at Mamarapha College (WA) were gifted a "God's Dreaming" banner from Devonport Adventist Church (Tas) member Pauline Tordoff. The banner tells the major stories of the Bible in Aboriginal art, and both staff and students were tremendously impressed with the quality of this artwork. —Don Fehlberg



## RED AND WHITE

In response to the damage left behind by Cyclone Gita in Tonga and Samoa, prefects from Longburn Adventist College (NZ) organised a "Red and White Day" in February. The majority of students and staff wore red and white clothing as a symbol of their support for the fundraiser. The school raised \$NZ500 for ADRA's work, supporting the families who were impacted by the cyclone. —Eifion Paul



## OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE

Adventist Church pastors in the Goroka District (PNG) recently received "offerings of gratitude" from their church members. Organised by the Adventist Women and Community Service Ministries, the gifts of food and fresh vegetables were a great blessing to the 24 district pastors. "This physical supply of food is not enough compared to the spiritual food you feed us with every day," said one of the church members. —Ronald Luke



## PEDAL POWER

A team of doctors, nurses and administrators from Sydney Adventist Hospital were joined by former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott in the annual Bobbin Head Cycle Classic in northern Sydney recently. The San team raised more than \$A4600 for the charity event, which supports children and families in the local community. San general manager Brett Goods and anaesthetist Dr Ken Lewis were among the cyclists. —Leisa O'Connor

# 'What does ADRA do?'

In my conversations with church members in New Zealand and abroad, I always hear them say that ADRA is an organisation that provides relief to those facing disasters. This seems to be the predominant view of what ADRA does—not just in the Pacific but also throughout the world.

The name of the organisation—Adventist Development and Relief Agency—does suggest that its role is to provide relief. The word “development” is often misunderstood and is sometimes confused with real estate, economic or personal development. The meaning of development in ADRA’s sense—community development—is empowering local communities to lead and develop their own strategies and manage their own resources.

At ADRA we are facilitators or brokers of this change process. As we work with communities, we always gain more in terms of learning than what we are able to contribute.

While ADRA responds to disasters and engages in development through best practices in community mobilisation, project management and fundraising, its aim is not only to alleviate suffering and poverty but to see families and communities thrive. For that to happen, innovation, contextualisation and much community engagement is needed. In this sense, ADRA is more than just development and disaster.

The relationships built with all layers of society are unique in our ministry. We regularly meet with national and local government officials. We engage with church, business and community leaders, as well as with technical experts in academia for research and new project development. More importantly though, we develop relationships with community members no matter what circumstances they are in or which faith they profess. This happens every day.

I dislike hearing that ADRA is an entry point for further Church work. First of all, ADRA is not just part of the Church; ADRA is the church as it demonstrates God’s love in action. ADRA is a “ministry of compassion”. If this is not being church, then what is?

Secondly, we follow Jesus’ example and work with everyone, whether a



Samaritan at the well in Yemen, a Gentile in South Auckland or a Roman in Suva. The dollars raised through appeals or other campaigns not only directly help with immediate relief and longer-term life-changing development initiatives but also support policy change and advocacy on behalf of the “least of these”.

We may not preach or evangelise publicly, as most of our government funding prohibits this, but we live it. And as we know, actions usually speak louder than words.

In New Zealand, ADRA has worked closely with the Adventist health and discipleship ministries and with local churches through the Community Transformation Partnerships initiatives. These partnerships, focused on holistic community wellbeing, show that different ministries can work very well together.

If we want those we serve to not only experience Jesus but surrender to Him, Jesus’ “method” is at our disposal (He mingled, showed sympathy, ministered to needs, won people’s confidence, then bade them to follow Him). Relationship building with communities is clearly a must in this journey.

At the same time, we should ask ourselves whether we would do something for someone else regardless of whether they are interested in knowing about Jesus or not. I truly believe we should. Do you?

**DENISON GRELLMANN** ADRA NZ CEO.







## SURVIVAL AT SEA

*Taauke Ruevita was one of just seven survivors of the Kiribati ferry tragedy, which claimed more than 80 lives in January. The 15-year-old Kauma Adventist High School student was also the youngest person to survive. She shared her incredible story with Trans Pacific Union Mission associate education director Mele Vaihola, who recently visited Kiribati.*

As soon as the exam results came out and I heard my name on the radio announce that I had passed to attend Kauma, my cousin and I boarded the ship from Kuria Island bound for Tarawa, where my mother and sister were waiting for me. My mother is an Adventist who is a single mother looking after me and my older sister.

The ship left for Tarawa on a Sunday at about 8pm. We arrived at Nonouti on Tuesday and spent more than a week there as people had to get their copra to take to Tarawa. We finally left Nonouti on the following Thursday at 6am.

It was 12pm when we noticed there was something wrong but thought it was just a minor problem. The next thing we knew the boat just broke in half. Everything happened too fast. People were swimming toward the

four life boats. I was able to get into one with my cousin—there were about 30 of us in the boat.

As we drifted and waited and waited for help, some got tired and tried to swim away. Others just gave up and drowned themselves, which eventually left only seven of us in the boat. We survived by eating coconut that was in our bags. When it finished we were able to catch some fish to eat and for water we just drank seawater. We lost count of days, but it was about 12 days floating at sea until a plane saw our boat and got us rescued.

I cried most of the time, yet I prayed seven times a day, every day, asking God to have mercy on me and spare my life so that I could see my mother, sister and family again. I owe my life to Him for He heard my cry. Today I am here at Kauma because God has a plan for my life.

*Please remember Taauke in your prayers as she recovers from injuries suffered after being hit by the ferry's generator as she was trying to reach the lifeboat. Miraculously, Taauke's cousin also survived the tragedy.*

**MELE VAIHOLA** TPUM ASSOCIATE EDUCATION DIRECTOR.

## DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

### BALL TAMPERING AND THE GOD OF YOU: REACHING THE UNCHURCHED

The recent ball tampering saga in Australian cricket clearly revealed that integrity and honesty are values still held in high regard by many around the world. These same values in biblical times resulted in “Daniel’s God” being known by the unchurched around the world in his day. Let’s discover from Daniel how you and I can reflect these values today.

**READ** Daniel 6:25-27.

Firstly, spend quality time every day with God. Three times a day Daniel got on his knees and talked to God. In fact he was known by the unchurched as one who served or worshipped God “continually”. They knew his God and his religion were central to his life. It’s what made him who he was and how he lived. **READ** Daniel 6:5,10,16,20.

Such a relationship with God results in an “excellent spirit” of integrity and faithfulness in all the responsibilities and workplaces of life. This “excellent spirit” comes from the Spirit of God who lives in us.

**READ** Daniel 6:3-5; 5:11,12,14.

Finally, don’t be afraid or ashamed that you worship God. Like Daniel, be proud of it. Though he knew it would cost him his life, he continued worshipping God in exactly the same way as he always did. And why shouldn’t he? His God is the living and eternal God, who delivers and rescues His people. He’s your God too. Decide now to let the unchurched around you know about Him through your life of integrity, honesty and faithfulness.

**READ** Daniel 6:10,11,26,27.



THE LION FROM DARIUS' PALACE NOW AT THE LOUVRE.

# THE TEN

## Most memorable mothers in the Bible

### 1. EVE

Literally the reason we are on this earth today, and also the reason birthing a small human is so painful. Eve also had a big responsibility as the first mum: teaching her kids about God and His plans for the world.

### 2. SARAH

Known for: laughing when an angel told her she was going to have a baby (which, FYI, she'd been praying about for years). Sarah, like many mums, may have doubted God at times but He proved His faithfulness.

### 3. NAOMI

Mothers-in-law, this one is for you. In Naomi's darkest hour, her grief must have been immeasurable, but she still had compassion for the wellbeing of Ruth and Orpah, urging them to return to their families where they would be cared for. Naomi's teachings and example ultimately convinced Ruth to stay and to decide she wanted Naomi's God to be her God, too.

### 4. MARY

The ultimate mum. Mary had such a godly character and trust in God that she was chosen to carry the Saviour of the world—raising Jesus (and His siblings) while knowing the immense privilege and responsibility she'd been given.

### 5. WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

Things were rough for Elijah, who was running for his life from Jezebel (FYI: not a great person). But things were even rougher for the single mum from Zarephath. Her hunger was overwhelming, but her faith was greater. She used up the last of her ingredients to feed Elijah, and God provided. If you're a single mum struggling through, hold on: God will provide.

### 6. HANNAH

So many women can resonate with Hannah's story. Best known for her deep heartbreak over not being able to have children, she's also known for her faithfulness. Not once

did Hannah give up hope that God would hear her prayer. And when He did, she responded with a sacrifice unthinkable to many mums—leaving her son Samuel at the temple.

### 7. HERODIAS

How to be a terrible mother in two simple steps: Influence your child to dance seductively in front of her own stepfather, then tell her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. We don't recommend this method of parenting.

### 8. PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

You don't have to birth a baby to be a mother. While her dad was ordering the deaths of Hebrew babies, Pharaoh's daughter went from ordinary woman to mum in one early morning bath. Like many women today, she provided a loving home for a child who needed one.

### 9. LOIS

Here's to all the grandmas! Not a lot is known about Lois, but her steadfast faith, example and teachings were a strong influence on her grandson Timothy—one of Paul's missionary companions—proving that grandmas matter, too.

### 10. REBEKAH

There's a reason parents shouldn't have favourites. Rebekah loved Jacob so much that she hatched a plan to get him the birthright she thought he deserved. While Rebekah's scheme worked, the damage she'd done with her maternal manipulation lasted many years.





# Clothing kids in a Country Community

What happens when members of a small country church start praying for a way to be more relevant in their community? For 20 years Inverell church (NSW) had only limited interaction with the local community. Few people passed through our church doors or returned despite many outreach efforts. Instead of being despondent, however, the church members renewed their commitment to go where God would lead.

One Sabbath afternoon, in late 2016, as I was reading *Adventist Record*, an article about a new ministry, God's Closet, grabbed my attention. Members of the Wyee church were interacting with locals in a practical way, serving young families by providing children's clothing and being relevant in their community. This ministry concept was very appealing and it wasn't long before the article was shared around our group and the decision was made to investigate further.

We checked out the Wyee God's Closet Facebook page, which led to contact through Skype with Merryl Moore, the founder of God's Closet in the US, and Deslie Ellis, the director at Wyee. They were so willing to share resources and support that, with a lot of prayer, plans for a new ministry for Inverell got underway. The concept was shared with the whole church and support has been ongoing for this growing ministry.

There is something for everyone to do: from telling family and friends about the concept, to advertising and media promotion, setting up equipment and preparing for the shop, following up prayer requests, and engaging and getting to know the shoppers.

Church pastor Jack Ryder has not only become an expert in folding and sorting children's clothing, but also follows up requests from shoppers to understand the Bible. Last year he

produced a series of meetings, entitled "Understanding the Bible", to specifically help community members begin this journey. He is planning another series for this year.

Advertising through the God's Closet Facebook page has raised the profile of the ministry and word has spread about the need for donations of gently-used and new children's clothing. Pastor Ted White sourced and arranged the painting of a large donation bin and Pastor John Lang organised the graphics as a constant advertisement for God's Closet on the grounds of the church. We also have been blessed with ongoing donations of clothing from Tweed Valley ADRA Op Shop and a growing group of enthusiastic supporters in Toowoomba who have become GC ambassadors.

We spend three months collecting the clothing and then, at the change of seasons, hold a "Free Shop" event. Time is spent the week prior to the event in sorting, washing and folding the clothing. On the Saturday night before the big day, we set up shop in the church hall with the clothing sorted by size and beautifully presented. On the Sunday, our church doors open and locals are welcomed by team members in red shirts, ready to minister to the needs of all who God has sent to Inverell church.

Over the past year more than 170 families have attended the free shop days and left with bags of clothes for their growing children. We have given away 17 "Welcome Baby" baskets to new mums and 165 pairs of new children's pyjamas have been distributed.

We are breaking down barriers and misconceptions as we warmly welcome people to our church. We interact in friendly conversation and serve them in practical ways. We have given away children's Bibles, food hampers, Mother's Day gifts, back-to-school packs and even had a special fun day for the kids last November, featuring a jumping castle, balloons



and face painting.

The God's Closet ministry is generating a buzz of enthusiasm. We acknowledge that God is leading our church with a local community mission focus. The stories shared, the people who keep coming, the thanks and smiles as they leave with what they need, the barriers broken down, the friendships made and invitations to other programs make it all worthwhile!

Inverell Seventh-day Adventist Church is on the move—God's Closet is open to serve!

**EVELYN HOEY** TEAM LEADER, GOD'S CLOSET,  
INVERELL CHURCH, NSW.



## BABY STEPS

### *Marriage and the family*

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith. Mutual love, honour, respect and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender and caring Guide who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God, which embraces both single and married persons. (Gen. 2:18-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9, 12; Mark 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:7, 10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.)

**M**y one-year-old son eyes the chickpea-filled bowl suspiciously. He tentatively pokes a stubby finger into the bowl and starts stirring the legumes around. I'm pretty sure it isn't my imagination when, seconds later, his hazel eyes light up and his little pink lips curve ever-so-slightly upwards.

His thumb joins his pointer finger in the bowl, pincer grasp at the ready. Triumphant, he pulls out a small stick of carrot and, for the rest of his lunch, somehow successfully manages to avoid the chickpeas, even though they are hiding—and burying—the pasta and vegetables.

I pick up one of the many neglected chickpeas and wave it in front of his face. He opens his mouth and

closes it after I place the chickpea in. The mental me does a victory dance, pausing with one leg in the air when, within seconds, the very same chickpea shoots out of his mouth like a BB gun pellet. Undeterred, I try again, but this time, I'm met with pursed lips that appear to be cemented shut.

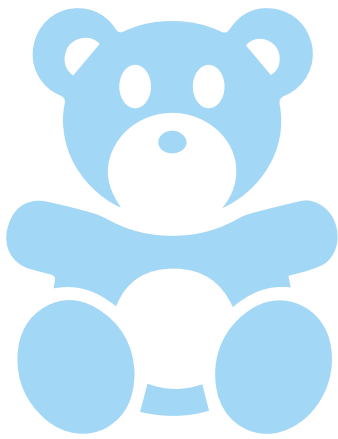
Chickpeas are an important source of protein for my child, who I am raising vegetarian, so I'm not giving up that easily. I hover near his mouth with a chickpea at the ready. Resembling a contestant at a fun-fair "laughing clown" game, I wait for him to open his mouth to feed himself with a piece of fusilli and throw a chickpea in. He chews—and spits out the slightly squashed offending legume. This mama is going to have to figure out a

different protein source.

Like many other parents before us, our journey into feeding our child solids has been an interesting one, discovering what he likes and doesn't. As diligent first-time parents, my husband and I attended workshops to learn more about what to feed him outside of his monotonous diet of milk. The seminars and flyers were helpful, except for one flaw: everybody assumed Elliott would grow up to be a carnivore.

Let's make one thing clear. Married to a meat-eater myself, and being the only vegetarian in my extended family, I have nothing against carnivores. And should Elliott some time in the future decide he is going to follow in his father's footsteps and kill poor Henny





Penny or Daisy Cow for food (I jest. Someone else will probably do the butchering for him), I wouldn't object—too much.

However, my husband and I agree on the health benefits of a vegetarian diet and have decided that, as a foundation, we are going to raise him on one. Perhaps we've got a healthy dose of optimism, but we believe the Bible's promise and advice to "start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Allow me to extend that train of thought from what we choose to eat to Who we choose to worship. What if we were (and we are) starting off our children on the way towards Christianity? Elliott probably doesn't understand why just yet, but he will always seek my husband's and my hands when we place his food in front of him during meal times, so that we can say a family prayer of thanks to God for His provision, because it's what we've done since he started solids. Occasionally, he will even join in, piping up at the end with a cute little "Ma-men!"

Together with popular children's stories such as Mem Fox's *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, we also read *Baby's First Bible Stories* before bedtime. And my husband and I are doing our best to ensure Elliott will be brought up, to paraphrase the Seventh-day Adventist Church's fundamental belief on marriage and the family: loving and obeying the Lord, and seeing Jesus as a loving, tender and caring Guide who wants

him to a part of His family.

The question, however, is, are we, to quote outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins, "indoctrinating [our] opinions into the vulnerable minds of [our] children"? After all, as he argues, "There really is an important difference between including your children in harmless traditions, and forcing on them un-evidenced opinions about the nature of life or the cosmos."

The reality is, parents are always indoctrinating their opinions into the minds of their children, be that a belief in God, Santa Claus or that eating with your elbows on the dinner table is bad manners. These opinions or beliefs may change as the children grow older, but consciously or unconsciously, as parents, we are undeniably impressing specific ways of thinking into impressionable young minds.

So perhaps I am indoctrinating my opinions about vegetarianism and religion into Elliott's vulnerable mind, and perhaps one day he may grow up and question (or even choose to abandon) the kind of upbringing I'm giving him. But parents only want the best for their children and, as an imperfect and limited human being, I can only give him what I believe is the best way to a healthy and somewhat worry-free life, because he knows he can always turn to God for help, wisdom, strength and peace.

Practically speaking, how does this apply to my everyday life? The Bible says to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4), but how do you do that when your life has been turned upside-down by parenthood and you don't even have time for adequate sleep, much less time getting to know God better in order to teach Him to your child?

I believe the answer lies in baby steps (pun intended).

Just as Elliott is learning about everything, I am learning how to be a mum and we're both learning about

God in the context of who we are and the titles we bring. I may have the benefit of having a relationship with God for 17 more years than Elliott, but I've never had a relationship with God as a mum.

So together, we pray at meal-times, before bed and any other time I remember, starting with me saying the words and him helping to end it with an "Amen" and, eventually, I hope our roles will be reversed. Together we'll read Bible stories, first in the form of board books and gradually moving on to books with flimsier pages, longer paragraphs and fewer illustrations. We'll go to church together, even if at the moment, the main thing I do when the pastor speaks is to entertain him with a little plastic Noah's Ark set.

Together with my husband, we'll journey and learn together what it means to believe in God as a family. We'll thank God for the ups, we'll seek God's strength and understanding for the downs, and we'll never sweep the difficult questions under the carpet. Together with my husband, I'll do everything I can to reflect God's loving, tender and caring character, wanting everybody to a part of His family, so that when time comes and Elliott asks us what God is like, we can use our lives as a reference.

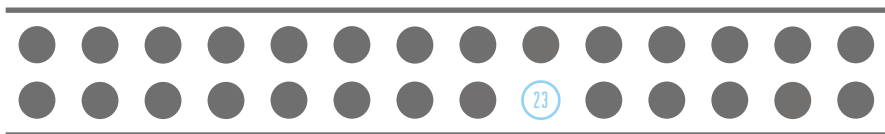
My actions aren't about raising a child who blindly follows and accepts, but one who questions, learns and chooses to believe.

And if you happen to be wondering, Elliott happily eats chickpeas most days now, even though I haven't done anything differently. Don't ask me why, I can't explain him. I only gave birth to him!



MELODY TAN

Editor of *At the Table* magazine.





*the divine bargain*

**PART 2: A PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION**



The triune nature of God is difficult to understand for Christians but almost impossible for those raised in the Muslim faith . . . almost but not totally impossible. Let me explain.

My three o'clock appointment was in the waiting room. He was dressed impeccably in his long white *kandura*, lightly-starched *ghutra*—held in place with a black *agal*—and heavy leather sandals.

I invited this father into my office, wondering which of his children he had come to discuss with me. He settled himself into the chair, flicked the *ghutra* behind his shoulders and waited for me to complete the usual greeting. He laid a well-manicured hand on the desk that separated us and came straight to the point. "You are a Christian, are you not?"

"Yes."

"Then explain this three gods that you worship."

I had not been expecting this, however I did know that I had to be careful. A false move could have me deported but I wanted to provide an answer in keeping with Peter's advice to "be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). Besides, he had come for a discussion, a favourite activity for many Arabs, and would not leave without one. I immediately appealed to God for help. I had no theological training and could not rely on my own knowledge to answer something that well-studied theologians still debate.

"I worship one God, just as you worship one God. He is a God with three parts," I began.

"That is three gods then!" he interjected.

"May I ask some questions about your God . . . but I mean no disrespect for your religion," I continued.

"Permission to speak freely," he granted. And so began the questions and his short responses.

"Is your God powerful? More powerful than you or the most powerful man you know?"

"Yes."

[Keep in mind here that the most powerful man he knew had the power of life and death over any citizen or resident in the country.]

"Your God knows everything there is to know?"

"Yes."

"On this earth and the rest of the universe?"

"Yes."

"Your God can do anything He wants to do?"

"Yes."

"So your God is more powerful than you?"

"Yes, of course!"

"This is the same as my God." We continued in this vein for some minutes, discussing the power, might, majesty and knowledge of God. I then turned the conversation to the father himself.

"I know you are a father and a husband." No children here unless you are married! He nodded assent.

"You are a son, a grandson?"

"Yes."

"You are a brother, a cousin?"

"Yes."

"An uncle and perhaps a nephew?"

"Yes."

"If you as a man can be all of these eight things at different times or even the same time, why cannot your God, who is far more powerful than you or any human we know, why cannot your God be one yet, at the same time, three? Only three, not eight as you are."

The father sat silently for a moment, then said, "Your three gods are different."

"Yes, you are right," I agreed. "They are different but the same. When you speak to your mother, is it the same way you speak with your brothers?"

"No," he exclaimed with eyes quite wide. The thought shocked him.

"When you talk to your wife about love, is it the same way you love your children?"

"No."

"When you talk to your grandfather, is it similar to talking to your friends?"

"No."

"Your cousins?"

"No."

"Your work colleagues?"

"No."

"So as a man, you are able to communicate in different ways even though you are only one man. You already told me that your God is far more powerful than you, so if He is, and He is, then why can He not communicate in three different ways to us?"

"God who lives in heaven communicated to us through the prophets, yes? And some of their names are . . ."

He counted them on his fingers, "Musa, Noe, Ibrahim, David and others."

"Yes," I smiled, "but the people were not good listeners. God then sent a part of Himself to earth as a man to communicate to us. He can do this because He is all powerful. He came as a man so that we could understand Him more. When His message was given, He went back to heaven. He could not stay because a human body is limited to one time and one place.

"Instead God sent another part of Himself, the Holy Spirit, to help us. He is better at helping us because He can be everywhere at the same time. He is not limited by time and place."

The father sat quietly for another moment, then said, "This is too difficult to understand God like this."

"Yes, you are right," I agreed again. "It is difficult, but if we understood everything about God—what He is like, what He can do and how He acts—then we would have the same ability as God. We would have the same power as God. We do not and we cannot because if we did we would be equal to God. No-one is equal to God, your God, my God, our God. He is above all."

A thoughtful man left my office that afternoon and I prayed that he and those to whom he talked would gain a glimpse of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*This story was submitted in response to "28 Fundamentals: The divine bargain" (February 17).*

**MARIA SIMON WAS PRINCIPAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHEN THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE. SHE LIVES IN NSW.**



## FOODS TO BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER

When it comes to feeling great, a wholefood plant-based diet comes out on top. Fruits, vegetables and grains are ideal foods to nourish your body and your brain. So, to help fend off the fuzzies and keep your memory sharp, give these 10 brain foods a try.

### BERRIES

These little guys pack a serious nutritional punch. Berries are bursting with antioxidants and phytonutrients, which help boost cognition, coordination and memory. So, whether you're after a healthy snack or something to boost your morning smoothie, a handful of berries is a no-brainer.

### LEAFY GREENS

It's no secret that green leafy veggies, such as spinach and kale, are great for your health. Not only do they help support the immune system and keep an ageing brain sharp, they are also a source of iron and a rich source of folate.

### WHOLE GRAINS

Whole grains are rich in phytonutrients and B group vitamins that are important for cognition and an ideal energy source for maintaining concentration throughout the day.

### POMEGRANATE

There's a reason why you're seeing this delicious fruit in healthy salads and it's not just because of its good looks. Pomegranates are packed with powerful antioxidants that help protect your brain and memory.

### EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

This pantry staple is the perfect choice for everyday cooking and salad dressings. Not only is olive oil full of good fats, it's also rich in phytochemicals that help to enhance blood flow in the brain.

### CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES

Don't let the name scare you off! The cruciferous vegetable family refers to everyday veggies such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and brussels sprouts. This versatile bunch is rich in vitamins and minerals that may help improve memory.

### DELICIOUS BRAIN FOODS



#### GARLIC

Eating garlic does more than ward off coughs and sniffles. Research shows the phytonutrients found in garlic may help prevent the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.



#### NUTS

Don't let brain fog get the better of you—enjoy a handful of nuts a day to improve mood and help with clear thinking.



#### SEEDS

Seeds such as flax and chia contain vitamin E—an anti-oxidant and omega-3 fat that may help your brainpower. You can sprinkle them on salads or add them to your favourite cereal, ready for a busy day.



#### TOMATOES

Tomatoes are a rich source of lycopene. It's the nutrient that makes them red and it also has potent antioxidant properties that may help combat the development of dementia.



### Buckwheat Gado-gado bowl

A colourful bowl of delightful vegetables arranged over wholesome cooked buckwheat and drizzled with a peanut dressing. A perfect meal to enjoy after a busy day.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

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**WHAT A GIFT**

What a gift *Adventist Record* editor Jarrod Stackelroth has given us with the candid, personal reflection “Infertility. It’s hard when you’re a Christian . . .” (April 6). Generally we like to write and talk of the assurances of God’s power. But there is always the other side—the seemingly inconsistent manifestation of that power—when we cry out to God for something good, something important, and He doesn’t answer the way we hope or expect. Never more true than the agony of infertility, especially since it appears so often in the OT as an example of God’s discipline. Thank you for calling out yet another white elephant in the room, somehow engendering hope and a sense of community while doing it.

Casey Wolverton, Qld

**WHERE I FIT**

I really loved L Meintjes’ article “Growing up: a parable” (March 17). I, too, grew up in Africa. I often sat on top of the water tower at Kendu Mission Hospital with 360-degree views of the wide open land all the way down to Kendu Bay on the shore of Lake Victoria.

This experience made a deep impression on the person I became. While I gave my heart to God at 15 on the shores of Lake Victoria, my sense of belonging and of who I am has since been enlarged with the realisation that, with the daily companionship of the Holy Spirit, I really know who I am and where I fit in.

Darlene Douglass, NSW

**TALKING ABOUT JESUS**

I would like to comment on views expressed in “God’s gladiator” (Have your say, April 7), regarding the Glacier View “investigation”.

Dr Ford was not proved wrong by this gathering, as anyone researching the manner in which the conference was conducted will quickly discover. They will also conclude the Church

was not ready to accept the fact it was in error on certain points of doctrine and was not about to change direction.

The gathering was not always conducted in a Christian manner. This can be shown by the fact that towards the end of the conference when the consensus statements were circulated and Ford said he could live within those statements, the documents were withdrawn without being put to a vote.

A new document (known as the 10-point statement) was hurriedly drawn up instead. By this time, many delegates had departed and again the document was not voted on. It was this paper that was used as the basis for dismissing Ford.

Like Martin Luther, Dr Ford was not judged by Scripture but by tradition and a need to preserve the status quo.

Peter Williams, Qld

*Editor’s note: Adventist Record has received extensive correspondence regarding the 1980 Glacier View proceedings and the controversy over Dr*

Des Ford’s dismissal from ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Both perspectives have been presented in “Have your say” and we will not be publishing any more letters on this topic.

**EXPECTATIONS**

I will try to explain my frustrations about certain “expectations” within the Adventist Church.

I was baptised in 1986. I still remember the expectation preceding my baptism. I was anticipating being “baptised with the Spirit”—a topic widely talked about then. To my disappointment, this did not happen to me.

The next disappointment was to do with “spiritual gifts”. The church ran spiritual gift seminars. I was never able to determine what, if any, spiritual gift I had. I gradually accepted I was not baptised with the Spirit and I did not have a spiritual gift. I learned to live with the disappointment.

About 15 years ago, the phrase “personal relationship with God” crept into the Church. I’ve heard it from the pulpit, in conversations and in printed articles.

It implies that one needs (or must have) a personal relationship with God/Jesus in order to be saved. To me this smacks of legalism because it places an unfair burden on those of us who do not have this “personal relationship”.

This has been, and continues to be, a great frustration and disappointment because I do not have this relationship.

When I now hear this phrase used in church, I mentally switch off.

I do not share my feelings about this with others at church because of the fear of rejection. We are saved by God’s grace alone. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s favour. So why do people in our Church place this unfair burden on us by saying you “must have” this personal relationship?

I guess I feel a bit jealous and disappointed when people at church talk about their personal relationship with God.

But please spare a thought for those of us who “suffer in silence” in church. Those of us who don’t have a vibrant faith life.

Name supplied



THIS MONTH IN



*The challenge of euthanasia*



*Obsessions about possessions*



*You can't baptise yourself*



*Mothers and daughters*

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A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD TODAY

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HI KIDS!

# KIDS SPACE

## THE SABBATH

The Sabbath has been a special day since Creation. It is a time to rest, to enjoy the things God made for us, and to worship and praise Him for all He has done and continues to do for us.



Cut out these markers or use your own.



## BOARD GAME

I worship God when I enjoy His weekly gift, the Sabbath.

THE GAME CONTAINS SOME GREAT IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO ON SABBATH TO MAKE SABBATH RESTFUL, SPIRITUAL AND FUN.

Use a fidget spinner or pencil as a spinner to play the game. Place the spinner in the centre and spin. Where it points, move that many steps in a clockwise direction. Collect token points - first to 50 wins!

**7<sup>th</sup> DAY IS SABBATH**  
ADD 7 POINTS

**START HERE**  
3 X 🧐

You decorate someone's front door with notes of appreciation.  
2 X 🧐

Take a walk in nature and find God's treasures.  
MOVE AHEAD 2 SPACES

You decide to be selfish  
OO  
COLLECT NO POINTS

Invite someone home for lunch.  
2 X 🧐

Watch a Christian video and talk about how great God is.  
MOVE AHEAD 2 SPACES

Have a sleep and refresh yourself for the upcoming week.  
1 X 🧐

You make a book of Bible verses and share them.  
2X 🧐

You visit someone who is sick and cheer them up.  
MOVE AHEAD 2 SPACES

Have a sleep and refresh yourself for the upcoming week.  
1 X 🧐

Spend some quiet time looking through photo albums.  
3 X 🧐

You decide to be selfish  
OO  
MISS A TURN

Write a letter to someone who is in prison or to a missionary.  
3 X 🧐

Enjoy a visit to the beach. Collect some shells.  
2 X 🧐

Make some cookies and share them with a neighbour.  
MOVE AHEAD 4 SPACES

You say something mean  
OO  
LOSE 5 POINTS

PLACE SPINNER HERE

**MEMORY VERSE**

"And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy"  
 Genesis 2:3, (NIV)

Cut out your point tokens!

1 POINT	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐
2 POINTS	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐
5 POINTS	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐
10 POINTS	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐	🧐

TALLY UP YOUR POINTS HERE

🧐 \_\_\_\_\_

🧐 \_\_\_\_\_

🧐 \_\_\_\_\_

🧐 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## Appreciation

The family of David Down would like to give thanks for all the flowers, cards and messages they received. They also appreciate the support of the hundreds who attended his funeral or watched it online. They look forward to the day when they will see him again.

## Obituaries



**ANDERSON**, Lola Dawn (nee Daley), born 17.10.1934 in Parramatta, NSW; died 16.1.18 in Cooranbong. On 23.8.1958 she married Ray Anderson. Lola is survived by her husband (Cooranbong); daughters (and their husbands) Sandra and Lance Weslake (Sydney), Julie and Brendon Carter (Cooranbong) and Carol and Wayne Boehm (Sydney). Lola lived a full life generously serving people through her businesses and church. Well-known for her work ethic, Lola loved the various jobs she held, working tirelessly to make every business a success. In the final months of her life, Lola found strength in her God and the love of her family. Although greatly missed, Lola treasured her faith and now awaits the call of her Saviour on the resurrection morning.

*Lloyd Grolimund, Wayne Boehm*

**DOWN**, Pastor David Kyrle, born 9.4.1918 in Melbourne, Vic; died 16.3.18 in Cooranbong, NSW, just three weeks short of his century. He married Goldie Scarr, who predeceased him in 2003. He married his former sweetheart Lorna Harrison (nee Stephens) in 2004. He is survived by Lorna; children Kendall (Wales), Glenda Quin (Sydney), Michelle Ward (Cooranbong), Selina Laben (Melbourne), Ted (Brisbane) and Richley (Brisbane); 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. David and Goldie spent 20 years as missionaries in India before returning to Australia. David's publishing and video ministry included Archaeological Diggings magazine, Digging Up the Past Bible study guides and the Digging up the Past video series. He also led many tours to the Middle East, which reinforced his belief in the authenticity of the Bible.

*Kendall Down*



**GORDON**, Robert Lindsay, born 23.12.1950 in Sydney,

NSW; died 8.5.17 in Wyong after a brief illness. He was predeceased by his father Ernest and his mother Melba. He is survived by his partner Barbara; daughters and partners Samantha and Craig, Billie-Jo and Paul, Lisa and Adrian; grandchildren; sisters Janet, Marien, Helen and their families. Apart from short periods overseas, he spent most of his life on the Central Coast. Robert (Bob) was a quiet, humble man who turned his hand to many different skills, often self-taught, and used them to serve others, especially his local church, Kanwal, where he set up the sound system and the IT equipment. He was a calm and patient teacher who always thought of others.

*David Bertelsen*



**KORAVE**, Pastor Ohura (OK), born 10.6.1937 in Haelogo, PNG; died 27.2.18 in Port Moresby. In 1961 he married Bavu, who predeceased him in 2004. He was also predeceased by his children Sussan (1978) and Ishmael (1979). Ohura was an ordained minister who humbly served his Lord, mostly in the Central Papua Mission. He served the Church in various capacities as a volunteer missionary, full-time church pastor and a district director. He was a man of faith and vision who loved his Lord and served Him wholeheartedly until his retirement in 1997. He is now buried beside his wife in Efogi.

*Thomas Davai*

**KOSMEIER**, Evert, born 25.2.1945 in Groningen, Netherlands; died 16.2.18 in Wyong, NSW. In 1976 he married Ruth Adderton. He was predeceased by an infant daughter Michelle. He is survived by Ruth; sons Michael and Tim and daughter-in-law Rochelle; brother John and Beth and sister Doedie; and four grandsons of whom he was very proud. Evert was laid to rest at Palmdale, Gosford, on 23.2.18. In death he awaits his Lord whom he sang about many times in life. It will not be long before he sings again.

*John Kosmeier, Dada Fialho*



**ROY**, Florence Joan (nee Gall), born 23.3.1922 in Subiaco, WA; died 14.2.18 in Cooranbong, NSW. On 14.12.1944 she married Glenn Donald Roy, who predeceased her in 2007. Joan is survived by her sons Tony (Gulmarrad) and Trevor (Hong Kong); seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Joan gave more than 50 years of

valued service to the Sanitarium Health Food Company.

*Gavan Grosser, Lyell Heise*

**TOMPSON**, Thomas Walter, born 29.9.1927; died 9.2.18 in Shell Harbour, NSW. On 23.11.1952 he married Peggy Turner, who predeceased him. Tom is survived by sons John (Wollongong) and David (Pakenham, Vic); three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Tom struggled with the recent loss of Peggy as they were inseparable. Although small in stature Tom is remembered as a spiritual "giant" with a great sense of humour. Tom and Peg were active in sharing their faith and were integral in establishing Blue Haven community church.

*John Tompson, David Tompson*

## ADVERTISING

### VISIT CANADA, ALASKA AND BATTLE CREEK

Join an Adventist tour group to North America in August/September 2018, including a West Canada Rocky Mountains Tour, Alaska Cruise with an option to travel onto East Canada with a stopover via Battle Creek and Andrews University. Singles welcomed—no single supplement if you are willing to share. For more information visit <lawson-discovery.com>; email <tours@lawsondiscovery.com> or phone (07) 3272 2167.

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Specialists in group and individual travel. 2018 tours: Bible lands, Jordan and Israel—October. Follow

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY

### CEDARVALE

#### TRAINEESHIPS IN HEALTH MINISTRY

Applications exist for a one-year program. Includes several nationally accredited courses as well as on-the-job training in a health retreat setting. Be mentored alongside a team of dedicated professionals. This is a great opportunity to be trained and be actively involved in health ministry. Positions commence July 2018. For more information visit <www.cedarvale.org> or call (02) 4465 1362. **Applications close June 8, 2018.**

*Cedarvale is an independent ministry supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

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Jesus' disciple-making journey. Mini-Reformation tour of Italy, Waldensian Valley, Switzerland and Germany (with Luther sights)—July. We welcome your enquiry. Email: <alltrav@bigpond.net.au> or phone: (07) 5530 3555.

### BACK TO DARWIN

Celebrating 50 years on Sabbath, July 21, 2018 at 80 Cavenagh St, Darwin. All former ministers, past members, friends and family are welcome. Join us for a whole weekend of fellowship and celebration from Friday evening to Sunday evening. Please bring any memorabilia and your memories to share. RSVP to Gordon Fietz on (08) 89273311, 0417 276 115 or email <gyfietz@bigpond.com>.

### MT DRUITT ANNIVERSARY

Mount Druitt is celebrating 30 years on July 14, starting at 9:30am at 55 Hythe Street, Mount Druitt. Inviting all past members and pastors to come and celebrate. To assist in catering, book by emailing us: <mtdruittsda@gmail.com>. RSVP by June 30.

## Finally . . .

*Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not. -C S Lewis*

## NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST WORLD, MAY 12



**POSITIONS VACANT**

**FLIGHT OPERATION MANAGER, ADVENTIST AVIATION SERVICES GOROKA, PNG**

Adventist Aviation Services is seeking applications from qualified pilots for the position of flight operations manager. The ideal candidate would be an experienced pilot with aviation management experience. Interested candidates who are active Seventh-day Adventist members, mission-oriented, professional, hard-working and adventurous, with commercial aptitude for business management, are encouraged to apply. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close June 15, 2018.**

**DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR ADVENTIST RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CARSP) AND LECTURER IN THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, PNG**

Pacific Adventist University is seeking qualified applicants for the position of CARSP director and theology lecturer. The ideal candidate will have a research-based postgraduate masters or doctoral degree in Adventist history, Ellen White studies, church history or related field with a demonstrated capacity to strengthen teaching, research, scholarly and professional activities. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and a reference from your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076

Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close May 14, 2018.**

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR AND RECEPTIONIST MELBOURNE, VIC**

The Australian Union Conference is seeking to fill the role of social media coordinator and receptionist. The position is full-time, commencing in May 2018. Enquiries, position description and applications, together with CVs, resumes and references, may be submitted by email to HR coordinator Lorraine Atchia via email: <lorraine-atchia@adventist.org.au> or by post: PO Box 4368, Ringwood VIC 3134. Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Australia. The Australian Union Conference reserves the right to fill the role prior to the close of applications date. **Applications close May 8, 2018.**

**BUSINESS MANAGER—ADVENTIST AGED CARE WAHROONGA, NSW**

Adventist Aged Care is seeking a talented, highly skilled and experienced individual who can lead the team. To be successful in your application, you will be required to hold CPA/CA or other postgraduate finance qualifications with in-depth knowledge and extensive experience in aged care, have the ability to build rapport and credibility with a wide range of stakeholders, and a strong focus to achieve the best possible outcomes for our residents, family and staff. You are also required to manage the tension between fulfilling "mission" objectives and ensuring financial sustainability of the organisation. This full-time role involves responsibility for the administration, maintenance, IT and shared HR for both Wahroonga and Kings Langley facilities. For more details, to get a copy of responsibilities or to submit your interest with your cover letter, please email <asmitramusk@adventist.org.au> or call 02 9487 0658. **Applications close May 11, 2018.**

FOR MORE AVAILABLE POSITIONS VISIT:

ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU



/SDAJOB




**Avondale School REUNION 4 August 2018**

You are invited to join us at Avondale School Reunion, 4 August, as we celebrate being "Together Again".

Featured honour years are:  
1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 & 2008.

For more information or to register, visit [avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/reunion](http://avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/reunion)



**AVONDALE HOMECOMING AUGUST 24-25, 2018**

**WHAT SONG WILL YOU REMEMBER?**

Celebrate an afternoon of memories with an evening performance of inspirational and fine music by violinist Jaime Jorge.

REGISTER: [www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming](http://www.avondale.edu.au/homecoming)

2008 | 1998 | 1988 | 1978 | 1968 | 1958 | 1948

Avondale ALUMNI **HOMECOMING 2018**



# INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY



**“We were reading *Record* and I saw a fantastic article on God’s Closet in Wye. And it really sparked something within me to say, we could probably do this in our community.”**

—Evelyn Hoey, God’s Closet team leader  
Inverell NSW

**ADVENTIST RECORD OFFERING  
MAY 5**

**R**

**EXPLORE YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**

**AVONDALE FUTURES DAY**

**REGISTER NOW**

*Broaden your*  
**HORIZONS**

**REGISTER FOR FUTURES DAY • TUESDAY JUNE 5, 2018 • [futuresday.com.au](http://futuresday.com.au)**

**BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS AT  
AVONDALE FUTURES DAY**

*Ephesians 3:20*

**Free open day event for you to explore  
Avondale and your potential career options!  
Come yourself or bring your friends and  
family.**

**When:** Tuesday June 5, 2018 from  
10am - 2pm (Plan to arrive at 9:45am to allow  
for parking and arrival at the venue)

**Where:** Avondale College of Higher Education  
(Lake Macquarie Campus), 582 Freemans Drive,  
Cooranbong NSW 2265

**Cost:** FREE

**TALK TO AND HEAR FROM:**

- | Current students
- | Lecturers and staff

**ENJOY AND TAKE PART IN:**

- | Tours of Avondale's Lake Macquarie campus
- | Interactive course sessions
- | Information about courses, scholarships,  
applying, alternate entry options and student life
- | Sessions on HSC lectures and study tips
- | Career profiling to assist you in your  
pathway choice
- | An information expo
- | Free lunch