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NO MORE BANKING ON THE
BOMB 16

NEWS

NEW SUPPORT NETWORK FOR
NON-SCHOOL CHAPLAINS 5

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CHURCH CLOTHES ANXIETY

"I'm sorry but you have to be wearing a tie."

I've heard this at a couple of churches when I've arrived to preach. Luckily it was an anticipated statement and I'd packed my secret weapon—my skinny black. It goes with almost any shirt and is just what I need in an emergency—a lot more stylish than those '70s ties in the elders' room.

A bigger issue for me are the stories I've heard about visitors being reprimanded for their attire—from gently and "subtly" to aggressively.

Church clothes anxiety is real. And I *want* to go to church. What about someone who is fearful of attending or at least isn't sure about it? How do they feel deciding what to wear and whether they'll fit in?

Church shouldn't be like this. We should remove all barriers to someone attending.

I've heard the argument that you should bring God your best when you attend church. Therefore, you should wear your nicest clothes. This is an artefact from a time when people only had two sets of clothes. To come before God clean and presentable was a special thrill, a memory event for children, a designated point of difference between the normal week and the Sabbath (and often the only bath of the week).

I've searched the New Testament for clothing mentions. They generally revolve around these four functions: symbolic/white garments (made acceptable by Christ); bad people (or people thought of as bad) are described as wearing them (Herod); worldly reward from worldly people (Christ's purple robe); and finally, an admonition to clothe the naked (needy).

Paul talks about modesty and vanity but these days, when you wear a three-piece suit, silk tie, cuff links (you name the fashion accessory), you set a culture, and it is not one of modesty. Even with no earrings or makeup. Some churches I've been to resemble a fashion show.

You may respond that it is appropriate to go into certain events dressed in a certain way. Like you'd dress up to meet the Queen or for a job interview.

Fair point. But let's look at why we dress up in those circumstances. Usually to impress someone or to look

good in photos that will be kept forever (think weddings).

Morally there is usually nothing inherently wrong or right about one form of clothing or another. But think of a visitor's experience and not causing our brothers/sisters to stumble—through envy or shame or being turned off completely because they don't feel like they fit in.

Would you swap clothes with a derelict person who rocked up to the Sabbath service to make them feel more comfortable? Would you be willing to give them your best clothes for good? I know I would struggle to give away certain wardrobe items for a whole host of good reasons. Maybe I need to read the rich young ruler's story again.

My dad would wear a suit and tie every day for work. When Sabbath came he desired rest. So his church attire was more like neat casual. But if he was up the front, he had to get dressed up (like for work).

This brings another common compromise. "Well the minister/up front people should uphold the standard but congregants can wear what they like." This reinforces the distance between "normal people" and "special" ones. Paul says we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Peter reminds us about the only thing that is important to wear to church: humility. "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

Have we devolved so far that an itinerant homeless person from a rough neighbourhood wouldn't be accepted or would be given major side-eye in our churches, because we are all dressed far above his level? This points to a larger issue—changing church culture. We must be intentional about the atmosphere we create in our churches. We need to get back to what church is really about because the traditions we surround it with are not always biblical. They can turn us and others away from the truth and essence of who we are called to be.

Disagree? Feel free to. This is not a salvation issue. However, remember that everything we do or say impacts on

someone else, including what we wear.

WOULD YOU SWAP CLOTHES WITH A DERELICT PERSON?

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READING

I used to like reading. I still do but the moments when a good book informs, develops and relaxes me are few and far between. Why the change?

In a usual week I chair or participate in at least five boards or committees. These can be for any of the SPD's institutions, departments or services, the GC and the unions. It is not uncommon to have more than 200 pages to read in preparation for each of these meetings. One meeting recently had 435 pages. These consist of proposals for new ventures or ministries, reports on activities, financial statements and minutes. Some require a quick read; others demand thought, analysis and opinion. The volume shows that Church entities take their purpose seriously. Thankfully for the trees, the vast majority of the pages are on a computer screen!

On top of this, I keep up-to-date with *Adventist Record*, *Adventist World*, *Review* and local conference or mission newsletters that come regularly to my desk. Not to mention 100 or more emails each day.

Reading for work makes the eyes weary. I concur with Solomon, "Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the flesh" (Ecclesiastes 12:12 ESV).

I like books on theology, leadership and innovation. I have carried one of these around on planes with me for eight years and still have not completed it. So, when someone gives me an article to read, or a book to comment on, I graciously accept it and have every intention to read it but . . .

No matter how much I have to read I always start the day in my favourite Book. The Bible strengthens, encourages and nurtures me. After all, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy to the arch enemy, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:8 ESV).

GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
/SPDpresident



NEWS

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON SPECIAL NEEDS

LEE DUNSTAN

During four days of presentations, up to 30 people explored how the Seventh-day Adventist Church can best address the requirements of those with special needs within the Church.

The "special needs" group includes those the Church serves through its Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) charity—the blind and Deaf—as well as those with physical and mental impairments and their carers.

The conference, held at Catalina Conference Centre, Lake Macquarie (NSW), itself a fully accessible facility, featured Pastor Larry Evans, director of the General Conference's Special Needs Ministries.

"The very premise of Special Needs Ministries is founded on the belief that all individuals are created in God's image and have a unique purpose," Pastor Evans said. "This very basic belief teaches us that we cannot, must not, neglect reaching



PASTOR LARRY EVANS.

Photo: Mark Davey

out to anyone."

Other presenters included disability sector professionals, chaplains and church specialists, among them Neil Cady, who manages the Western Australian Conference's residential facility for those with intellectual disabilities. "It seems like we are at the fork in the road to a special needs ministry," said Mr Cady. "We're building a new foundation under what I perceive as a shift in focus toward a fuller special needs ministry for our Adventist churches.

"It was an honour to attend what could well be the founding of this broader ministry."

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS ADVENTIST CONCERT

VANIA CHEW

Croatian ambassador to Australia and New Zealand, Dr Damir Kušen, recently came to Sydney for the sole purpose of attending a concert at Dundas Croatian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The sacred concert on April 14 was held as a memorial for Croatian pastor Frederik Miler, brother of Dundas pastor Edvard Miler. Frederik lost his battle with bone marrow cancer in July 2017.

Pastor Miler organised for groups from Croatian churches in Melbourne and Brisbane to sing Frederik's original Christian songs, while Marleta Fong from Waitara church sang two of Frederik's English songs.

Previously, Dr Kušen had Edvard perform Frederik's song *Ribar* (The Fisherman) for Croatian president



DR DAMIR KUSEN (FRONT RIGHT) AND OTHER CONCERT ATTENDEES.

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic during her August 2017 visit to Australia.

Other notable attendees included Luka Budak (head of the Department of Croatian Studies at Macquarie University) and the crew from Croatian National Radio and Television who recorded the program.

Concert DVDs are available from <edvardmiler@adventist.org.au>.

NEW SUPPORT NETWORK FOR NON-SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

TRACEY BRIDGUTT

A support network is being established for Seventh-day Adventist chaplains working in aged-care centres, hospitals and prisons.

It will provide opportunities for chaplains to keep up with current trends and findings in chaplaincy, experience fellowship and encouragement through regular contact, and share resources.

While school-based chaplains have received special focus over the past few years, the same cannot be said for chaplains working in these other fields, who have largely worked independently, according to Dr Trafford Fischer, who cares for Family and Chaplains Ministries in the South Pacific Division's Discipleship Ministries Team.

These non-school chaplains will now be referred to as "spiritual carers"—in part to help to avoid confusion with school chaplains as well as reflecting the more common terminology in both private and public institutions.

"The school chaplains held an Australia-wide conference last year that was an outstanding event that helped to build morale, share resources and ideas, and provide encouragement and affirmation for their ministry," he

said. "Our wish is that we can do the same for spiritual carers. They need to know their ministry is highly valued and appreciated in the hospitals, aged-care centres and prisons in which they minister.

"Often pastors are asked to care for this ministry with little specific training and little support. This is what we are hoping to change."

The first "Spiritual Carers Conference" is being planned for later this year where spiritual carers from around Australia and New Zealand will receive information on current best practice in spiritual care for hospitals and aged-care centres. It will be an opportunity for networking, and for the spiritual carers to receive encouragement and inspiration for ongoing ministry.

There are also plans to build a database of spiritual carers to find out where they are ministering, what they do, and what training and resources they might need.

A clinical pastoral education (CPE) course—widely recognised as a core training component for spiritual carers—has restarted this year at



Sydney Adventist Hospital.

Dr Fischer said spiritual carers do an extraordinary job in difficult circumstances, often when people are at their most vulnerable and experiencing high levels of anxiety and stress.

"These can be incredibly challenging and confronting times and require sensitive, caring and tender-hearted people who can be there to say the right words, to offer prayer and words of encouragement, and let their patients and inmates know that someone cares."

For more details about the Spiritual Carers Conference, which will be held August 30–September 1 at Sydney Adventist Hospital, email <steve.stephenson@sah.org.au>.

FIJIAN YOUTH BRAVE CYCLONIC WINDS FOR 'MISSION ON THE MOVE'

JARROD STACKELROTH

More than 2000 young people from around Fiji attended three regional youth camps from March 30 to April 2.

The largest camp, with 1000 young people in attendance, was held in Levuka, on Ovalau island. There were 700 attendees at a camp at Taveuni,

Fiji's third largest island.

And more than 500 young people from the western region of Fiji attended the Western Regional Youth Camp held in Lautoka with the theme "Mission on the Move".

Despite the weather, with Cyclone Josie bearing down, the youth braved the rain in order to be part of the programs. The main worship services for the Lautoka event were held at Churchill Park, and featured Pastor Elike Kenivale, chaplain for the Pacific Tertiary Evangelistic Centre in Suva.

Pastors from Trans Pacific Union Mission and the Fiji Mission were also involved in break-out sessions.

"This experience was significant to us [coordinators] as we experienced first-hand God's faithfulness in protecting campers," said one of the organisers, Kesaia Vasutoga. "Although issues were encountered, boats delayed, school and work cancelled for camp attendees, overall [we] saw God move."

During Pastor Kenivale's appeal, young people recommitted their lives, while 23 attendees signed up to dedicate one year to missionary work.

The camps also collected more than \$FJ10,000 for a missionary boat to help with mission work in the Yasawa islands.



TOUGH CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTS IN TENTS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Tents have become makeshift classrooms for students at Adventist schools in Tonga while the schools await rebuilding work after Tropical Cyclone Gita struck in February.

Beulah College, Beulah Primary and Hilliard Memorial Adventist schools were all extensively damaged by the category 4 cyclone.

Trans Pacific Union Mission associate education director Mele Vaihola, who visited the schools last month, found that the teachers and students were going about their work in extremely tough conditions.

"During very hot days the tents are very hot and students and teachers find it very uncomfortable and learning is very disturbed," she said.

"And during rainy days the tents are flooded and definitely no learning can be conducted. They end up not having school for that day."

At Hilliard Memorial School seven classrooms were badly damaged. The school was using four tents, the old Mission offices and the church hall for classes when Ms Vaihola visited.

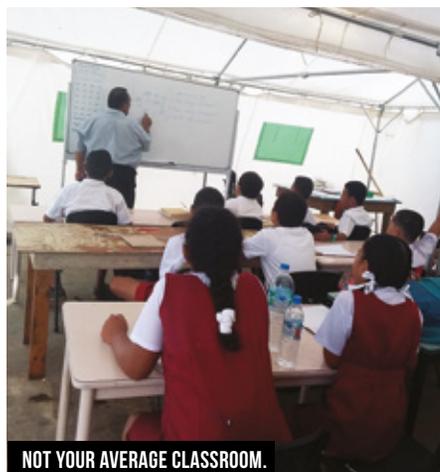
Beulah College, which usually operates as a boarding school, was only able to offer a day program due to the damage caused by the cyclone.

"The Mission is awaiting insurance and government assistance toward rebuilding the schools and there is some positive feedback and hopefully in a few months' time the schools will return back to their normal programs," Ms Vaihola said.

She said the impact on the schools was not only in terms of infrastructure "but emotionally for both staff and students".

She thanked the education director Piula Fukofuka, principals and staff "for all the good work that you are doing in order to ensure our schools are distinctive Adventist schools, despite the challenges you face".

"Let's continue to remember Tonga Mission schools in our prayers," she said.



NOT YOUR AVERAGE CLASSROOM.



COMING SOON
NEW.SIGNSMAG.ORG

DOCTORS RECEIVE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Health professionals in Solomon Islands are being trained not only to provide for a person's physical needs but also their spiritual ones.

Three hundred Adventist doctors, nurses, nutritionists and other health professionals have received discipleship training as part of a "multiplying the impact" strategy in the Pacific.

South Pacific Division health director Dr Chester Kuma said about 50 per cent of nurses working in the government health service are Adventist.

"One of our biggest strengths in the Solomons is the number of health professionals who are Adventist," he said. "We have a group of people who

are very good in clinical areas, but are they using that as an opening wedge to reach out to touch people's lives, like the example of Jesus?"

Following the training, the health professionals were placed in teams and allocated to one of nine regions throughout the country.

"These health teams will focus on their particular region from now on until 2030," Dr Kuma explained. "They will go into the community and do health assessments, give health talks and do night programs. Basically they are getting connected to the community and helping to meet their needs."

Already inspiring stories are emerging.

"In the Isabel region, which is predominantly Anglican, a team has visited several villages," Dr Kuma said. "The paramount chief of that island saw what the team was doing and he wrote a letter to every single village, saying 'Open up your doors, the Adventists are coming. They have some good things to share with you.'

"It's really, really exciting. People are very interested in this."



DR CHESTER KUMA.

YOUTH FUNDRAISE FOR BETIKAMA

VANIA CHEW

More than \$A5000 was raised at a gospel concert at Waitara church, NSW, for an upcoming mission trip to Betikama College, Solomon Islands.

The 1.5-hour concert included performances by Men of Hope, Zillah Dragovski and the Waitara Church Ukulele Ensemble. More than 200 people from various churches attended.

Members of Waitara, Men of Hope and several other Adventist church members are planning to attend the 10-day mission trip this July—to assist in repairing Betikama's administration building and six boys' dormitories. Project coordinator Shirley Fatnowna said the project's total cost is estimated at \$A30,000.

"Betikama is dear to the hearts of our Church members, Division-wide," said



THE WAITARA CHURCH UKULELE ENSEMBLE.

Carol Boehm, coordinator of Adventist Volunteer Services. "Because of our rich entwined history, I know this trip is going to be life-changing, not only for the Betikama students and staff, but for our Australian team as well!"

If you would like to help, email <shirlz17@hotmail.com>.

NEWS GRABS



CAMEROON SHINES

Around 1500 Adventist women from 10 different Cameroon regions recently met for fellowship and praise at a national event. The second Adventist Women's Ministries Congress focused on prayer, witnessing and active involvement, with the women carrying out humanitarian work and sharing testimonies of healing. —WAD



MULTILINGUAL WITNESSING

In anticipation of Creation Sabbath, which falls on October 27 this year, the General Conference's Geoscience Research Institute has released Spanish, French and Portuguese versions of its popular *Living Waters* film, in the hope it will be a witnessing tool for Christians worldwide. —GRI



PRAYERS FOR PAKISTAN

On April 15, terrorists opened fire in front of the Quetta Adventist Church in Pakistan, killing two and injuring eight. Political leaders condemned the attack, for which the Islamic State (ISIS) claimed responsibility, while the Southern Asia Pacific Division also released a statement urging members worldwide to pray for those affected. —ANN

HOT TOPICS



CIRCUS CHURCH

A pastor in Atlanta has come under fire after announcing his church would start incorporating aerialists in worship services. Critics have argued the worship service will become a performance that takes away from the praise, but church pastor Bryan Meadows said creatives of all kinds should be able to find a home for their art in the church, and their culture is driven by the creativity and character of Christ. —*Relevant*



FULANI ATTACKS

Police suspect Fulani herdsmen were responsible for an attack on a morning mass at a central Nigerian church on April 25 that left two priests and 16 congregants dead. Hundreds of Christians have been killed by the semi-nomadic Muslim tribe in central Nigeria this year. Their death count now outnumbers the terrorist group Boko Haram. —*Christianity Today*



AGREE TO DISAGREE

A Uniting Church committee has recommended that the Church adopt same-sex marriage. If accepted, the Church will become the first major Christian denomination in Australia to change its marriage doctrine. The Church's National Assembly will meet in July, when a final decision will be made. —*Eternity News*

CHURCH PLANTED TO FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND HEALTH

JOHNNY WONG/RECORD STAFF

On April 14, Gateway Adventist Centre (Melbourne, Vic) planted its fourth church in 15 years¹.

"We want our children to be involved in mission," said Chai Tian, a mother of two children. In 2008, she was a young adult Bible worker and church planter for Gateway's second church². Together with 10 other young families from two Gateway congregations, they have launched a new church in Forest Hill called Gateway Adventist Centre—Lighthouse.

"Our new church continues to be based on care groups where our seekers come regularly and find a sense of belonging," said church elder Peter Bertus. His family has been faithfully running care groups in their home for many years. "Our children are not only listening about mission in Sabbath School but are also involved in real mission in the care groups," Lucia, Peter's wife, added.

The church is focused on reaching young families in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne using both children's character education and the right arm of the gospel—the health message. After eight months of prayer and incubation of the core group, health talks with interactive children's cooking classes were booked out in February and March.

"That is a winning combination," said Dr Aaron Koh, one of the three doctors who are core members of the church plant. The use of social media³ and referrals for these programs resulted in a fully booked-out health retreat outreach in April. After the health retreat some



RAYMOND CHUANG SHARES A MESSAGE WITH NEW "LIGHTHOUSE" COMMUNITY.

of the seekers started attending care groups or church worship.

Raymond Chuang was the author of a proposal to secure "Centre of Influence" funding for this church plant. "Planting a church is just a start; we want to grow the church because church planting should not merely be transferring the saints. We are thankful God brought five seekers and their children to our first worship," he said.

Gateway's vision is to be a soul-winning and training centre that multiplies churches. "This has been the vision and ethos of Gateway since its inception in 2003 and we are about church multiplication," said Johnny Wong, who coached the core group.

Gateway's care group-based church planting strategy has been shared freely online, at training seminars worldwide and in a new book.⁴

Go to <gateway.sda.org> for more information.

1. Adventist Record, April 26, 2003.
2. Adventist Record, May 10, 2008.
3. Meetup.com *weExplore Family Healthy Lifestyle*
4. Business Unusual—Seven Competencies of Effective Ministry, 2017, Johnny Wong.



STILL GROWING: GATEWAY'S FOURTH CHURCH PLANT.

FLASHPOINT



TINY PREACHER

North NSW Conference president Pastor Tom Evans first met 12-year-old Hayden Bailey when he raised his hand to ask a question during Pastor Evans' sermon in Nambucca Heads. On March 31, after a little help from NNSW school evangelist Pastor John Boston, Hayden preached his first sermon in Port Macquarie. The title was "What does your angel see?" based on Ezekiel 10. It's no surprise that Hayden wants to become a minister one day. "If you [ever meet] Hayden, be sure and encourage his journey to serve the Lord," said Pastor Boston. — *Tracking Points*



EAST COAST COMBINES

It was a bright and sunny day in Hawke's Bay as the Napier, Hastings and Waipukurau Adventist churches and the Hawke's Bay Samoan group combined for the East Coast Regional. Highlights of the day included a special indoor picnic, different groups sharing worship items, inspiring stories of mission from local churches, schools, Hope Channel NZ and the wider church, studying the Word with Pastor Eddie Tupa'i, and being challenged by a particularly powerful message from new North NZ youth director Matt Moore. The Sabbath also began and ended with local youth celebrating and leading out in the culmination of the Youth Week of Prayer. — *Hugh Heenan*



READY FOR ANYTHING

Around 40 residents from the Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village (Qld) were recently part of a presentation conducted by local disaster coordinator for Livingstone Shire Council, David Mazzaferri. Mr Mazzaferri—a former Adventist school student—has plenty of experience in disaster management and gave a wonderful presentation on being ready for anything. With Tropical Cyclone Iris hanging around Queensland at that time, residents were informed on how to keep up to date utilising the local council dashboard. The residents have asked Mr Mazzaferri to conduct further presentations in the future. — *David Tyson*



FIRST BAPTISM

The Adventist church plant in Scone (NSW) celebrated its first baptism on March 31. Geoffrey was baptised by Stanley Nelson, who ministers to the church plant, with church friends and family gathered to witness the event. "Over the past five months, I have gotten to know Geoffrey quite well—he's always there to help and support the ministry in Scone," says Pastor Nelson. He notes since Geoffrey joined the church group, he has quit smoking and drinking, and is also on the way to better health through the Depression and Anxiety Recovery program. "Geoffrey has been such an inspiration to me with his devotion to share the gospel with others," he said. — *Adele Nash*



RECORD RESULTS FOR KIWI TRYATHLON

The 2017/18 Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon series in New Zealand recently came to an end after the 18th and final event in the Bay of Islands. The season saw a record 31,887 Kiwi kids participate, making it the biggest series ever with 10 sold-out events, 10 events with record entries, the first time an event has been held in West Auckland and a double-header event in Christchurch. The overwhelming feedback from kids, parents, teachers and community leaders should make everyone associated with Sanitarium proud of the positive impact the program has on Kiwi kids throughout the country. — *Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon Team*



REACHING ALL PEOPLE

Hope Channel Fiji recently engaged sign language specialists to interpret various productions for their hearing impaired television audience. "We want to bring messages of hope to a wider audience through sign language," said a spokesperson. "Most of our sign language personnel are volunteers, and we praise God for their lives and their commitment to share the gospel through this medium." — *HopeToday*



HYGIENE TIPS

Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama and Health and Medical Services Minister Rosy Akbar visited Navesau Adventist High School in Ra on April 5. While speaking to the students, the head of government emphasised the need to ensure that students practice cleanliness and good hygiene. He also witnessed the administration of meningococcal-C vaccinations to most of the students. — *Fiji Mission*



A NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Laidley Adventist Church (Qld) presented a community concert on April 21. "A Night of Worship" featured multi-Golden Guitar winner Brendon Walmsley, the Laidley church choir, the Solomon Island choir and soloist Valerie Chard. The purpose of the event was to bring the local community together while sharing the love of Jesus Christ to all, and the events team has said more community events are to come. — *David Reid*

CONFERENCES AND UNION BEGIN HISTORIC 'TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY'

In an historic agreement, all nine of the Australian conferences and the Australian Union Conference (AUC) have united together with the aim of transforming the Church, advancing the Church's mission and exploring potential changes in its entity and governance structures.

Never before have the AUC and all of the conferences formally agreed to work so closely together, uniting the Australian Church's membership and employees in a process of change.

Between February and April 2018, AUC officers and members of the AUC's Structure Review Team visited each of the Conference Executive Committees, the representative bodies of the Church's membership in each of the regions around the country.

Each Executive Committee was presented with the report that the AUC's Structure Review Committee had developed as a result of an extensive consultation process across Australia in the last half of 2017.

The conferences were invited to join with the AUC on a "journey of transformation" that will develop ways the Church can improve its impact and adopt new methods to help it grow in Australia. All of the Conference Executive Committees, on behalf of their members, accepted the challenge.

In a joint statement, the presidents of the nine conferences said: "... it is a privilege to be a part of this exciting process. What we are committed to and now want to see is real action and change that the Holy Spirit leads us into, in order that the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be a thriving disciple-making movement across this great nation."

David Swain, a lay member of the Greater Sydney Conference Executive Committee, said, "The review is clearly not just about structural reform. It is dealing with the broader issues

that confront the Adventist Church in Australia and, especially where it really counts, the local church. It certainly has the potential to transform the Church and its mission."

And "transforming the Church" is exactly what many members and ministers across Australia are looking for. In a survey conducted by the Structure Review Team, 98 per cent of ministers and 96 per cent of lay members (primarily head elders) across the country are seeking either moderate or transformational change (see graphic).

"Some of the ideas that have been presented are very exciting. This provides an excellent opportunity for us to explore new and innovative ways of engaging every church member and reaching out into our communities," said Leanne Newick, a lay member from the South New South Wales Conference Executive Committee.

Action planning is already underway with ideas being formalised to impact local churches, schools, aged care facilities, conferences and the AUC.

At local church level, the process will address key questions such as, *How can we better integrate our churches and schools for mission? How can our local churches be more effec-*

tive at both outreach and in-reach?

The process will also trial the idea of a so-called "district/network model", where multiple churches, an Adventist school, an aged care facility and ADRA all work in a more cohesive and integrated way for mission.

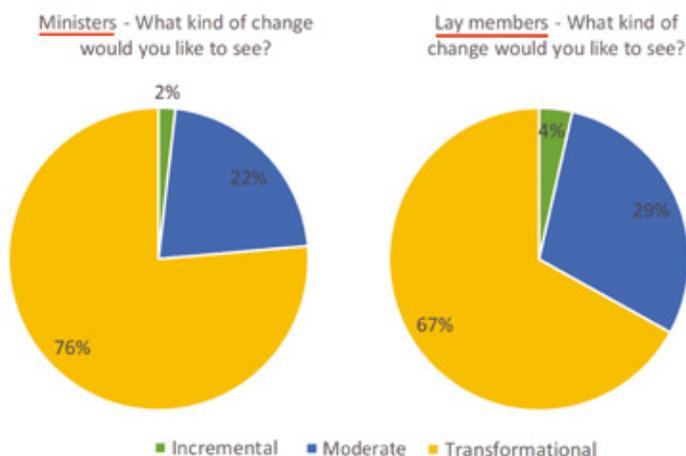
The administrative branches of the Church will consider how they can streamline their operations and provide additional value and resources to local churches.

Some significant governance issues will also be addressed. The process will explore a single Adventist education system and a single aged care system in Australia. There are currently nine education entities operating across the country.

Working groups will identify "potential models" of what each of the single systems might look like in practice and an extensive process of consultation across all of the conferences is planned for the last half of 2018.

A summary of the first phase of the AUC's Church Structure Report is available for all church members to read at <<https://corporate.adventist.org.au/australian-church-structure-review/>>.

ANTHONY MITCHELL/KEN VOGEL



Seventh-day Adventist Church *Australia*

For us, as leaders elected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in each local conference across Australia, it is a privilege to be a part of this exciting process. We are united in doing something about those things revealed by the first phase of the national review of Church structure. These include the importance of the local church and the need for healthy local churches; that resources have to get to the front line; the need for greater collaboration across all entities; that leadership be skilled up to help congregations and members make disciples for Jesus.

Each of our local conference executive committees has also committed to being part of this Australia-wide effort. It is a unique opportunity where we, the leaders of every conference, join with national Church leadership to bring about change that will make a difference. Nothing is off limits—local church, local conference and the union conference, education, aged care.

We thank those who have contributed thus far in sharing perspectives of what the Church might do. Now we invite Church members and Church employees to pray as we have never prayed before and to positively participate, as and when you are able, in this next phase of the review. Models are now to be developed for the various governance structures as well as for the local church. In fact, the local church and how it operates is going to be a central focus of this ongoing work.

What we are committed to and now want to see is real action and change that the Holy Spirit leads us into, in order that the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be a thriving disciple-making movement across this great nation.

DAVID BUTCHER
SA CONFERENCE

TERRY JOHNSON
GREATER SYDNEY

GRAEME CHRISTIAN
VIC CONFERENCE

DARREN SLADE
NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

TOM EVANS
NNSW CONFERENCE

BRETT TOWNEND
SQLD CONFERENCE

MICHAEL FABER
SNSW CONFERENCE

GARY WEBSTER
TAS CONFERENCE

STEVE GOODS
WA CONFERENCE

JORGE MUNOZ
AUC PRESIDENT



A job like no other

At 2am Pastor Steve Stephenson entered the patient's room. He had been called into the hospital a few hours earlier to support the family of another patient who had passed away. He could have been on his way home now, but he felt impressed to check on a patient who had previously spoken about his sleeping difficulties. Entering the room, Pastor Stephenson saw that the 49-year-old father was deeply distressed. With tears streaming down his face, he poured out his heart. "This is no coincidence that you are here at this time. I am so troubled, am so uncomfortable, am not able to sleep, I need your help," the patient said. They talked about life and death, cancer and choices. The subject of God came up: about how God is a God of love and not a God of punishment. Pastor Stephenson held his hand and they prayed. At 4:40am the man accepted Jesus as the Lord of his life. He died later that morning.

Such encounters are the daily reality for Pastor Stephenson as the head spiritual carer (chaplain) at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Working in the oncology, palliative and intensive care wards, his role most often involves preparing people for death, accompanying them on their journey, and helping them to find peace and hope at a time when they feel that all is lost.

"My job is unlike any other job; every encounter is a new person," he says. "You walk into a room, all of a sudden they might ask you, 'Hey, what is Easter? I have always heard about it, but what is it?' In the next room I might be asked, 'Why is God doing this to me? Why am I getting this bad news?'" So literally I cannot prepare a script. As I walk into every room my prayer is 'Lord give me the wisdom' because only He knows what's going to happen there and it's only God's wisdom that can lead in this work."

For Pastor Stephenson (pictured below), his priority is to provide

emotional support to the patient and their families, who come from all backgrounds and faiths. "I don't go in with the mindset of evangelism. I am there to support and care for them. I talk about God if the patient wants me to go there and I feel it's the right thing to do," he says. "It's challenging but I enjoy the challenges because the fruits that I get from those encounters are really beyond comprehension."

Along with patient support, he is also at the frontline of staff wellbeing, providing counselling and debriefing sessions to help the doctors and nurses cope with the many confronting and distressing situations they experience.

But who is providing support to the spiritual carers? Pastor Stephenson says he will often pick up a book or watch something on YouTube to take his mind off a particularly confronting situation, "but it's not like we can forget it". The establishment of a support network for spiritual carers (see story, page 5) is a positive step towards addressing this need.

And perhaps there also needs to be a change of attitude within the Church. In many respects chaplains have not been seen in the same league as church pastors, possibly because their work is behind the scenes and many people don't really understand what they do. As they quietly and faithfully go about their job of caring for others in often distressing circumstances, they deserve our recognition for being some of the most special people on the planet.

To be part of an initiative that prays for the spiritual carers and their ministry, contact San Prayer Partners: Prayer@sah.org.au



TRACEY BRIDCUTT HEAD OF NEWS AND EDITORIAL.

LIVING HIS WORD

WITH WAYNE BOEHM

LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

Perhaps the most contested piece of land in the world is the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The mountain is sacred according to Jewish tradition as the very place where Abraham was to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Recently I visited the Temple Mount, contemplating the story of Abraham and Isaac, found in Genesis 22.

CONSIDER the opening words of Genesis 22:1. What does this tell you about Abraham's story? This is his seventh crisis. After all he had experienced, God now tests him. This is a key climax in his faith journey.

COMPARE the command of Genesis 22:2 to Abraham's action in verse 3. Picture the heartache that takes place in the silence between these two verses. Ellen White suggests Satan was at hand to create doubt and mistrust: "darkness surrounded him, but the command of God sounded in his ears". There is a lesson for us in these words. (Compare the response of the disciples to Jesus' call to follow Him in Matthew 4:18-20.)

CONSIDER Genesis 22:5. Notice Abraham's command to his servants who were with him. The Hebrew text uses three intensive verbs to describe Abraham's actions:

"we are determined to go"

"we are determined to worship"

"we are determined to return"

Three statements of faith that demonstrate Abraham's willingness to follow God at any cost.

LIST the things Abraham was willing to forsake and God's response. The story begins with a test and concludes with the result as God declares him faithful (Genesis 22:12). This story raises many questions but let's ask one: How is God seeking to produce a faith in you that is tested, tried and found worthy to praise Jesus? (1 Peter 1:6,7)

BREAD OF LIFE

"If there's one thing Polish people know, it's good bread," Richard Glowacki tells me confidently. Although he and fellow church member Joel Breski have full-time jobs, they are passionate about baking and will choose homemade sourdough over store-bought loaves any day.

In 2016, Richard heard a Sabbath School mission story about troubled kids nobody wanted to work with. It touched his heart and he began wondering what he could do to bring new people into his church family at Pendle Hill Polish Seventh-day Adventist Church (NSW).

The answer: to meet his community's physical needs for bread before he met their spiritual needs. He and Joel decided to run baking workshops for the community. They charge a small fee to cover the cost of ingredients but otherwise it's a labour of love.

"A lot of people are actually gluten-intolerant and don't realise it," explains Joel. "There are so many chemicals and preservatives in store-bought bread and people may suffer the after-effects such as bloating, cramping and skin rashes. They may just get used to those symptoms and think that's how their bodies are. But we have a better option for them."

With full support of the Pendle Hill church, Richard and Joel adver-

tised their free baking workshops on Facebook and through the Polish community in Sydney. Between 30 and 40 people attended the first workshop and the word has spread since. They offer lessons in baking regular bread with Joel's special yeast-free sourdough starter, gluten-free bread plus plant-based jams and other spreads. They plan to expand to sugar-free waffles and other healthy desserts in future.

"One woman asked for Bible studies after attending our workshop," recalls Joel. "She began attending our Sabbath School and mentioned that she had four friends who would be prepared to pay money to have a Bible study. We were amazed and told her there was no need to pay—studying the Bible was free!"

Workshop attendees are also invited to join the church for Sabbath lunches (outdoors if the weather permits). This gives them the opportunity to learn more about healthy eating and make friends with the church members. The process has proven so successful that other churches have asked Richard and Joel to run the workshops for them. They have now partnered with several churches around Australia, including Dandenong (Vic) and Newcastle (NSW).

"People have asked us where they can buy our bread," says Richard. "You won't find it in any shops. Our goal is to teach—we want to equip people with the knowledge of how to make healthy bread for themselves. Then we introduce them to the Bread of Life."

For more information, visit: <www.facebook.com/quiliaria7>.



THE BREAD-MAKING TEAM.

I VANIA CHEW ASSISTANT EDITOR.

LAW OF LOVE

The Law of God

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships, and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgement. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of wellbeing. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalms 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matthew 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Romans 8:3, 4; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; Revelation 12:17; 14:12.)

Potatoes, pigeons and disrupting a wedding. Struggling to find a connection? Each of these objects or actions is the basis for somewhat strange pieces of Australian legislation, still in effect today!

Thinking of selling or purchasing more than 50kg of potatoes in Western Australia? Well at that quantity these tasty little morsels could land you with a \$A2000 fine under Section 22 of the *Marketing of Potatoes Act* 1946. And injuring a homing pigeon in Victoria or South Australia is a definite offence under the respective *Summary Offences Act* of those states. Finally, in South Australia, obstructing

or disturbing a wedding, funeral or any religious service is an offence attracting a maximum penalty of \$10,000 or two years' imprisonment (*Summary Offences Act* 1953 (SA) s 7A).

Curiosity satisfied, and knowledge gained, but what do these laws have to do with the Law of God? Answer: Not a lot. They are merely examples of dated legislation, laws that made greater sense in past social contexts than they do today.

So is this true of God's Law? Do laws hand-written on tablets of stone and delivered to the Israelites all those millennia ago truly still hold relevance

for our lives today? Laws passed from God to man, generation to generation—inscribed on stone and parchment, printed on paper and projected onto screens.

Ultimately, this is a decision that you have to make in your heart, but for me, my answer is YES! I wholeheartedly believe that these laws continue to be relevant today.

Growing up as the youngest and only girl, with two brothers who towered over me in both age and height, led to an easy education of observation, watching both the actions and resulting consequences of my brothers' behaviour. Much like



a miniature scientist, minus the lab coat, I would watch my brothers test the limits and learnt exactly where each and every line was placed, so that years later when my turn came, I already knew where the line was and I didn't have to risk searching for it.

For the Israelites, their experience was not the same. Their role in history paralleled the role of my brothers. Pioneers in the desert. After being captives for such an expanse of time, surely their decision-making abilities were impeded, along with their competence for self-care. Much like the care that my parents took in raising their children and teaching us how to care for ourselves, God, as the Israelites' Heavenly Father, gave them the Ten Commandments as an act of LOVE. As a hands-on parent, God inscribed these guidelines with His own finger, passing them to His children for their benefit and protection (Exodus 31:18).

That love is the same love that God, our Heavenly Father, has for us today; and those same Commandments are for our benefit and protection, just as they were for the Israelites all those years ago. While our environment has changed—our technology and education—our need for a Saviour remains. Unlike the laws written by men who cannot know the future—laws that fade in importance—our God knew the future when He gave us the Ten Commandments. He knew how the world would transform and He knew that today we would still need His guidance to protect us from

the sin that threatens to infringe on our values. Our physical environment has changed, but our spiritual needs remain. God knew this when He gave us His law, all those years ago.

The purpose of God's law is to guide us through life, to protect us and show us the way. Knowing and understanding God's law is almost akin to your teacher allowing you to take a "cheat sheet" into your exam, containing all the formulas that you will need for the scenarios that you will face. But is God's law a ticket or a barrier? Does following God's law grant you a place in heaven? Or does the inability to always follow God's law to the letter present an obstacle to eternal life? Personally, I do not subscribe to either of these theories. God's law is neither a ticket, nor a barrier. As the fundamental states, "Salvation is all of grace and not of works . . .", "for by grace you have been saved through faith . . . it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9 NKJV).

We cannot earn our way to heaven, because if this was the requirement, none of us would be there. None of us. Nothing that we can do, on our own, is capable of earning us eternal life. Eternal life is not a question of works, but a question of faith. Accepting God as our Creator, Jesus as our personal Saviour and the Holy Spirit into our hearts is really all that it takes. No fine print and no expiry date. This process is not possible because of anything that we have done, or anything that we will do. The gift of eternal life is only possible because of the great sacrifice that our Saviour made, to pay our wages, to die on a cross for our sins. Jesus' victory over sin is our greatest gift, an undeserved gift that we are incapable of returning back to Him.

Once again, if following God's law does not earn us eternal life, then why should we follow it? Well, what if

we turned the question on its head? Instead of always asking why should I follow God's law?, what if we asked, *well why wouldn't I?* God's law has been crafted by the Creator of the universe, the Creator of you and of me. You don't question the washing instructions that come with a new clothing purchase because you know that the manufacturer knows best what their product is made of and how to care for it. So why do we question our Creator, who knows what we are made of and how to care for us?

I think of Jesus, who embodied the law of God during His time here on earth. He is perfect, and during His time here on earth, He not only rescued us from sin, He also served as an example to us of how to live a godly life—a life lived in constant communication with God, following His laws and being a light to those around us. You see, following God's law is not only personally beneficial for the follower, who gains a sense of purpose and security, it is also God's will for our life—to live a life in the safety of His love and protection.

Finally, following God's law is also a pillar of evangelism, ensuring that our actions speak louder than our words and that those around us notice the powerful difference of God's love and grace in our lives, opening a door for us to share our hope with them.

What a difference it would make to our lives if we decided to truly and wholeheartedly make the decision to trust our Creator. To humbly accept His will for our lives, and to follow His law—the Law of God.



**BRIANNA
STACKELROTH**

Law/Business student
at Adelaide University.
Trinity Gardens church
member.

GOOD INVESTMENT DECISION FOR A NUCLEAR AGE

Weapons of war are now off the list of investment possibilities for the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (GC) after a recent GC Corporation Board meeting. The board met to review and refine current GC investment practices.¹

Already off the list for investment were industries involved in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, meat products and caffeinated beverages.

From this meeting, the GC Investment Committee has been instructed to check all present and potential investments to divest from and exclude companies who gain any revenue from the manufacture and sale of weapons, combat vehicles, munitions, warfare systems, cluster munitions, land mines or nuclear weapons.

PUZZLED APPLAUSE?

Let's applaud this decision. It will help make a difference. However, it seems puzzling the Church had made investment decisions against caffeine

products, but not nuclear armament.

Having made that point, I'm certain no-one at the GC said, "Why don't we invest in Boeing because it's doing good business with its maintenance program for 500 or so Minutemen III nuclear ballistic missiles."²

This highlights an issue. Boeing isn't well known for this part of its business. There are a myriad of businesses with little known links to the weapons industry. This decision by the GC signals that these links will be more thoroughly checked in the future.

Let's applaud the decision.

LIVING IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

In 1974, President Richard Nixon said, "I can go back into my office and pick up the telephone and in 25 minutes 70 million people will be dead." That's a reality we may not want to know with the current chest beating by North Korean, Russian and US leaders.³

It's estimated that if the US early warning system showed the country

under attack by nuclear missiles, the president would have time for only a 30-second briefing and between three and 12 minutes to make up his or her mind whether to push the launch button in response.

That time frame becomes scary when there have already been five false alarms of nuclear missile attacks by the US or Russia.

Estimates are that, if only 100 nuclear weapons (of the 14,000 stockpiled⁴) are used in a war, about 2 billion people will die, the vast majority of them from starvation.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ICAN has made a difference. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was established by a group of Australians in 2007. Now an international group, it won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2017.

ICAN uses a unique approach to the problem. Tim Wright, the Asia-Pacific director, explains, "Possessing the



bomb is not the norm. Almost every nation in the world has made a legal undertaking never to acquire nuclear weapons.”

ICAN is building on the frustration these nations have with nuclear countries that have failed to fulfil decades-old disarmament commitments. Besides, “Why would one expect the nuclear-armed states to lead us to a nuclear-free world?”

The United States did turn up in Vienna to a conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in 2014 after boycotting two previous conferences. The US ambassador stated they will oppose moves to ban nuclear weapons.

Speaking after a series of testimonies of survivors from Japan and the Marshall Islands (where the US tested nuclear weapons), Wright says, “[The ambassador] came across as callous, almost comically out of touch, a pariah in the room—not the mythical ‘responsible’ nuclear power.”

It is having an impact.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

It’s important that the Church has made this investment decision. First, we have a moral responsibility not to harm people. Second, cutting off investment funds to companies that build weaponry does have an impact.

For instance, Lockheed Martin, one of the world’s largest global weapons-producing companies, stopped making cluster munitions under investor pressure. They sent out a letter saying they hoped their action would remove them from the prohibited list some investment firms had set up.

In France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States the majority of the funding for nuclear weapons comes from the government. However, companies that create these weapons can’t make a profit without investment from the private sector.

The Don’t Bank on the Bomb website (associated with ICAN) is openly “faming” and “shaming” companies according to their support

or not of nuclear arms. This is proving embarrassing to those shamed, with several asking how they can get on the fame list.

So let’s applaud the GC’s recent investment decision because it will help send a message to war manufacturers. And let’s urge all church members and entities around the world who have investments to do the same.

For God’s sake—and humanity’s.

1. <https://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story6017-general-conference-corporation-board-reviews-and-refines-investment-practices>
2. <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Producers.pdf>
3. Information about weaponry, nuclear weapons and comments about them are from Helen Caldicott (ed), *Sleepwalking to Armageddon*, The New Press, New York, 2017.
4. <https://www.ploughshares.org/world-nuclear-stockpile-report>

BRUCE MANNERS AUTHOR AND RETIRED PASTOR, BASED IN LILYDALE, VIC.



THE LOWDOWN ON DAIRY-FREE MILKS

Skinny soy frappes, almond milk breakfast bowls—whatever your flavour, there’s no doubt the number of people searching for dairy-free milk alternatives is on the rise.

So why are people opting to kiss cow’s milk goodbye? Lactose intolerance and milk allergies are the obvious reasons; for others, the decision may stem from a personal concern for the environment or animal rights, or come simply down to taste preference.

There are also several health benefits associated with eating a predominantly plant-based diet that may include dairy-free milks, with studies showing improved digestion, increased energy, lower body mass index and an improvement in their physical function.

Here’s the lowdown on the most common types, and whichever you choose, opt for one that’s fortified with calcium, vitamin B12 and vitamin D.



Recipe of the Week

Sanitarium
Health & Wellbeing

Potato and pea curry in roti cones

A “go to” dish using pantry staples. This moderately spiced curry bowl served in roti cones is a lighter meal than if served with rice. Great meal idea for on the run.

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/subscribe
New Zealand: sanitarium.co.nz/subscribe

ALMOND MILK

Fans of almond milk continue to grow worldwide, with many attracted to its nutty taste, making it a great option for fruit smoothies, cereals and both sweet and savoury cooking.

Almond milk tends to be lower in kilojoules than dairy milk and is lower in saturated fat, making it an effective choice for weight control or management.

SOY MILK

Soy milk is the nutritional king of the alternative aisle, according to a new study by Canada’s McGill University.

Researchers analysed the nutritional value of four commonly consumed plant-based milks (soy, rice, almond and coconut) and compared them to cow’s milk. Researchers identified soy milk as the closest to cow’s milk in terms of overall nutrient balance and it also contained the most protein of all the milk alternatives.

Soy milk typically has a thicker consistency than other milks with a less sweet flavour, so is a good bet for cooking or savoury dishes.

WHAT ABOUT THESE OPTIONS?



COCONUT MILK

Coconut milk has higher amounts of saturated fat compared to many other dairy-free milks and is lower in calcium and protein, so use sparingly. Due to its tropical coconut flavour, it’s a nice option for savoury dishes. Keep an eye on varieties with no added sugar.



RICE MILK

Rice milk can be a great alternative for those with dairy, soy or nut allergies. It is low in saturated fat and often fortified with calcium, but it is generally lower in protein compared to soy milk. Rice milk also tends to have higher levels of natural sugars, in some cases double the amount found in soy milk.



OAT MILK

If you’re into DIY, oat milk is relatively simple to make and may be an option if you have a soy or nut allergy. Oat milk is low in saturated fat, but it’s also low in protein and not all oat milks on the market are fortified with calcium or vitamin B12.

Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing is now on Facebook!

Sanitarium
health & wellbeing

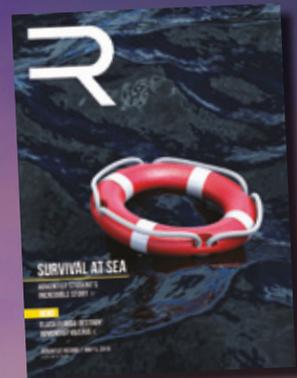
GIFTS OR NO GIFTS?

"Expectations" (May 5) is a poignant letter. I remember one of my colleagues, after conducting a few seminars on spiritual gifts, concluding they [the seminars] were dangerous. He observed they led some to believe they had the gift of prophecy but their predictions never came true. Others were led to think they had the gift of preaching but were dreary. Some thought they had the gift of healing but only offered nostrums. The real danger lay in the fact the seminars lured people into navel-gazing and self-affirmation. Sometimes the claims were a tilt at the limelight.

Experience teaches that others should identify and affirm the gift in an individual. Does the writer of this letter have a spiritual gift? Certainly.

He/she writes: "We are saved by God's grace alone. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favour." That understanding did not come by secular, worldly or carnal means. It was a gift of the Spirit, arguably one of the greater spiritual gifts. It is the Eureka Gift.

Milton Hook, NSW



MISSING MEMBERS

May I heartedly endorse "Keeping track" (March 31). Having held the position of church clerk and battled with spreadsheets and prayed over member lists long before Brother Google and Elder White Pages joined the fray, word-of-mouth, the handwritten letter and the telephone call were all that held the growing number of "missing" within memory.

Rarely visited, virtually ignored, our town and country members are so often valued only for their appearance on Sabbath and willingness to take on another load of responsibility. Once past their use-by date, and haven't-seen-them-for-a-while status, the church clerk is often the only one who remembers them. Names may be mentioned at board meetings, but if a tiff has been the cause of a rift, they soon join the lists of the "lost".

Please don't take this note to heart if you are one of the rare and caring deacons or deaconesses, clerks or

pastoral couples, who regularly check on the members of God's flock in your fold. But the very thought of software available to all who have accepted this responsibility (log-in status of course), to create and manage church membership and whereabouts, would surely be considered a gift from heaven!

Yes, we care!

Heather Hagne, Qld

NO SPECIAL MAGIC

I couldn't help but try to reply to "Expectations" (May 5) and an obviously hurting heart.

Dear friend, unrealistic expectations arise when we adopt them from somewhere other than Scripture. Regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Peter declared, "Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). That is a promise.

Contrary to what some churches teach, what is not promised is some kind of mystical or emotional experience

as the evidence that this has occurred. It does happen to some people sometimes, but not every time. We believe the Holy Spirit has come by faith in His Word, not because we have had a subjective experience.

As for spiritual gifts, you may not have been able to identify your specific gift in a seminar, but I find it hard to believe you have been a church member since 1986 and have not served God in some ministry, church office or other way in all that time. God gave you the spiritual gifts to serve in those capacities through His indwelling (James 1:17).

Regarding a personal relationship with God, this is not something that has "crept in" to our Church; rather it sadly "crept out" after the death of Ellen White and is now coming back. She continually pled with the Lord's people to have a "living experience" that involved a daily time of "communion" with Him through prayer and Bible study. There is no sense that this will be equivalent

to some kind of amazing mystical or emotional experience, however. Essentially, a relationship with God should, I believe, be like a relationship with anyone else in your family.

Sometimes it's beautiful, but most of the time it's just normal: doing life together. And it's not a salvation thing. We are saved by grace through faith, as you said. But when you love someone, you spend time with them. That's it. There's no special "magic" in it.

It's walking with Him and talking with Him, and having Him tell you that you are His own. And the joy you'll share when you tarry there, none other has ever known.

Daniel Matteo, Tas

NOTE: Views in "Have your say" do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Comments should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All comments are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all comments received are published.

NEW SHOW



PANELLISTS Fiona, Rachel, Shona, Melody, Rachel and Maryellen discuss a range of topics including current events, issues and family life. **PLUS** healthy recipes, exercise tips, DIY projects and awesome hacks for around the home.

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SALAM AL'ATFAL*

KIDS SPACE



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

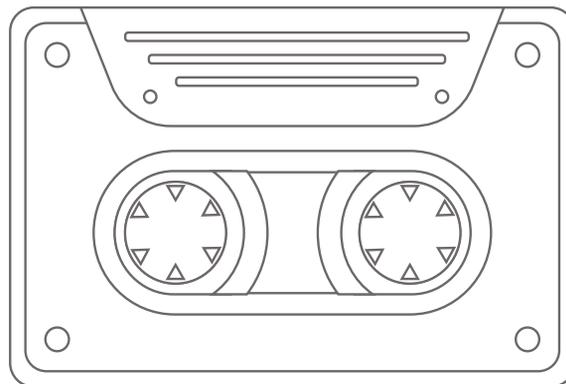
World Day of Prayer is for children at risk. This special day occurs on the last Sabbath in May. Its aim is to unite thousands of adults and children globally and bring awareness of the thousands of children around the world who are at risk of abuse, neglect, trafficking to other countries and much more. Children at risk need to be protected and helped so that they can use their God-given talents to their fullest. They need our prayers. You can have special prayer groups or run a special program to involve your church—young and old—in creating awareness of the need to pray and protect these children.

DOT-TO-DOT



*Arabic 'Peace of the Children'

SIMPLE. AFFORDABLE. BRILLIANT.



I do not think I ever had the privilege of meeting Val Mayhew; nor do I know very much about her personal life beyond that she was a long-time teacher at our Napier church school (NZ) and retired there. But when I heard she had died, I knew this was my last belated opportunity to tell the world of the tremendous gift she gave to the South Pacific Division.

Val Mayhew is a name largely unknown, unsung and unhonoured yet her gift was in daily use by hundreds of thousands of potential church members for more than 40 years.

Back in the latter half of the 1960s, while our family was stationed in Cook Islands, I received a letter from Mrs Mayhew. She had been asked by someone (probably the then Division Sabbath School director) to write a simple English edition of the Primary Sabbath School lessons suitable for use in the island missions. In order to accomplish this task she needed answers to a series of questions: Did the island children have access to Bibles? Paper? Pencils? What songs did they sing in Sabbath School? Did they speak English?

I answered as best I could while applauding the whole idea as it was something sorely needed. At that time there was only one lesson in common use for the whole range of children's ages. Sadly, it left much to be desired

in user friendliness, especially for children and their parents for whom English was a second language.

Mrs Mayhew came up with a format that was brilliantly simple. Each lesson story had a stated aim or theme. There was a section for each day of the week from Sunday to Wednesday with time for memory verse review, questions and Thinking Time, which honed in on life application ideas to be gained from the story. Thursday focused on memorising the verse for the week, a simple activity and suitable suggested songs. Friday was the day for the child to take family worship using the Bible story, memory verse and songs.

This lesson book was made available right across the Pacific and was instrumental in giving countless thousands of children the means to develop a saving relationship with their Saviour and Forever Friend. This lesson book was the only teaching resource in the hands of the children's Sabbath School leaders in 90 per cent of the churches in the islands.

The children were not the only ones to benefit from the use of these lessons. Many of the ministers in the village churches made use of the Bible stories and Thinking Time questions when preparing their Sabbath sermons.

In time, full quarterly sets of resources were made available at

minimal cost to complement Mrs Mayhew's lessons. There were song pictures (and cassettes with the tunes), theme pictures and other teaching aids. Quarterly workshops were conducted to help the leaders know how to use these aids.

The wonderful thing is that for at least four generations of children, particularly of primary age, those simple lessons provided a daily "dose" of Bible knowledge for all those potential church members.

Mrs Mayhew's byline was never attached to her three-year cycle of lessons, so no-one really knows the name of the one responsible for this wonderful means of evangelising the children of the Pacific. However, having personally spent 26 years working with the children in these islands, I have thanked the Lord and Val Mayhew innumerable times for the blessing of those simple lessons.

Those lessons may have been superseded by the Gracelink Sabbath School curriculum, but, for simplicity yet comprehensive coverage of the Bible stories, I would still vote for Mrs Mayhew's contribution.

What's more, the lessons sold for a mere 50 cents, so it was within the price range of almost every family.

Valerie Mayhew, I salute you.

I MAYE PORTER WRITES FROM NSW, AUSTRALIA.

Appreciation

RIGG. The family of Guy Rigg would like to thank all for the wonderful love and support shown following his passing. Prayers, cards, flowers, texts, calls, visits, friendship and food have been so greatly appreciated. Thank you dear friends.

Weddings



SAWYER-COWLEY.

Darren Sawyer, son of Victor and Julie Sawyer (Kalamunda, WA), and Ingrid Cowley, daughter of Alvin (Doncaster, Vic) and Tamiko Cowley (dec), were married on 17.4.18 at Alwyn Gardens, Yarra Glen. Darren and Ingrid plan to set up their home in Pascoe Vale. Ingrid works in the healthcare industry and Darren is a country manager for a charitable foundation.

Tony Knight

THOMSEN-QUICK. Clayton Thomsen and Marlene Quick were married in front of family and friends on 15.4.18 in Caloundra, Qld. We wish them much of God's abundant blessings as they make their home in Maleny.

John Rabbas

Obituary

EVANS, Leslie Jane (nee Ramsey), born 25.6.1967 in Wentworthville, NSW; died 2.4.18 in Narangba, Qld. On 22.5.1994 she married Phil Evans. Leslie is survived by her husband

(Narangba); children Nathan, Liam and Mikaela; parents Noel and Katherine Ramsey (Ningi) and brother Stephen Ramsey (Bonnells Bay, NSW). Leslie was a much-loved wife, mother, daughter, sister and aunt.

Geoff Youlden, Kelly Richard

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60TH CELEBRATION

Landsborough Seventh-day Adventist Church, Queensland, is celebrating its 60th year of continuous worship in Landsborough. Commencing at 10am on Sabbath, June 23. Come and celebrate with us. Further info: <gwoosley33@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.

GREY NOMADS CAMP — ADVENTIST ALPINE VILLAGE, NOVEMBER 5–10, 2018

Plan now to attend the South NSW Conference Grey Nomads camp for a spiritual feast and social fellowship at the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. Set in the beauty of the Australian Southern Alps, numbers are limited to 150 attendees. To receive an application form and details of accommodation options, please contact Robyn Howie: phone: 02 6249 6822 or email <robynhowie@adventist.org.au>.

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST RECORD, JUNE 2

SUPPORTING MINISTRY

CEDARVALE

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

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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 <www.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, Wairoonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax: (02) 9489 0943.

Applications close June 15, 2018.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER KOKOPO, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Sonoma Adventist College seeks a qualified and motivated staff development and quality assurance officer to advance the college's academic programs within a strong biblical context. This person will oversee the continuing development of policies and processes that will empower and support the teaching faculty to deliver innovative programs of the highest quality. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.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, Wairoonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax: (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close May 28, 2018.**

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