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BEE BOY'S BRILLIANT BEE-QUEST

10-YEAR-OLD'S SWEET AND SAVVY PLAN TO
CHANGE THE WORLD 6

NEWS

28 FUNDAMENTALS: THE
GOSPEL OF DEATH 14

ADVENTIST RECORD | JUNE 2, 2018
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This is Bhagwati with her children Kailash and Rebina, from Nepal.
They know what it's like to have no food or money.
They also know that your generosity in working with ADRA can be life-changing.
Read their full story at adra.org.au/amazing



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BIBLE READING

Impie rented a room from a retired Adventist couple. Working as a kitchen hand in a local restaurant, Impie was attracted by the fact the advert said the renter had to be vegetarian. Originally from India, with a Sikh background, she would pray and meditate before work. Impie noticed the Adventist couple would also pray and read their holy book each morning. One day she asked to join and the Bible reading intrigued her. Impie rarely missed the Bible readings—she found the Christian’s holy book more interesting than her own. She asked lots of questions and before she stopped renting the room had been to church twice. On parting she asked if she could have a Bible of her own. The retired couple willingly gave her one.

The Bible reveals it is more than an interesting book. Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth” (John 17:17*). The Bible reveals the truth:

1. About God and the intention to bring changes in a person’s life. “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers,” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

2. About human nature. “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit . . . and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart,” (Hebrews 4:12). It shows the reader their innermost attitudes and thoughts—not a pretty picture but we need to know it.

3. That Jesus brings hope and meaning to life—eternally. “... you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus,” (2 Timothy 3:15).

4. Of what we can believe and how we should live. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work,” (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Clearly the Bible reveals truth that matters in life.

In history, reading and study of Scripture by the masses has been pivotal whenever God has brought about revival and reformation. Usually Bible studies are taught by those who know more about the Bible than those they teach.

This is a valid way to do Bible studies. However, Jesus the greatest teacher who knew Scripture intimately often just asked people questions about what they were reading (Luke 6:3, 8:45, 10:26, 18:41, Matthew 16:3-19), allowing those exposed to Scripture to learn at their own pace.

The South Pacific Division Discipleship Ministry team is teaching and demonstrating the power of Bible reading groups led by average people. If we are to become a thriving Adventist movement we cannot leave all Bible studies to trained pastors and elders. We need those trained in proper interpretation (2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-5) however the Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:19-21) and will guide people into all truth (John 16:13).

In Queensland, young adults are forming groups and reading Bible stories and chapters at a time. The group leader asks simple questions to get people discussing Scripture. The questions are: What is new? What surprises you? What don’t you understand? What can you tell another person? The number of groups is growing.

Central Coast Adventist School (NSW) chaplain Pastor Leighton Heise has been showing students how to run these Bible reading groups. A year 12 student who had attended the school for many years but never taken Bible classes and chapels seriously found God spoke to him in the Bible reading groups. He’s now been baptised and is helping Pastor Heise teach Bible reading to other students.

In Port Moresby, Ric learnt about Bible reading groups. It was a simple method he could follow with his family. His children and wife liked it so much they invited neighbours of all ages to join them. Many have since come to church. Ric is a building supervisor and once a week at lunchtimes he holds a Bible reading group for his workers. Their lives have been changed so much they have assisted Ric in building a house for an elderly blind man.

The Scriptures have power. If Australian young adults, high school students, recent immigrants and PNG trade and village people are responding to these simple, reproducible Bible reading groups—perhaps they could be the basis of a thriving Adventist disciple making movement.

*All Bible verses in ESV.

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“Finn Tolhurst with his home-
grown honey.”

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RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

“Reconciliation is a heaven-born idea,” says Pastor Andrew Opis, president of Bougainville Mission (PNG).

In 2000, I was assigned to pastor Igora, a branch church in Popondetta.

That first Sabbath when my family and I arrived, we sensed spiritual dryness. Only God’s intervention would change people’s lives from spiritual dryness to spiritual wellness. So my wife and I prayed for a drastic intervention. At the end of one month, we were both convicted that confession, forgiveness and reconciliation were the way forward.

I brought the church’s spiritual condition to the church leaders and asked them to pray too. We committed another month to prayer. At the end of the month, we were all convicted that confession, forgiveness and reconciliation were the answer.

We leaders then brought the matter to the 50 church members. Another month of prayer—this time the entire church. To our surprise, at the end of the month, nearly all the members had the same conviction. We could not deny that confession, forgiveness and reconciliation were God’s plan for Igora. In the fourth month, the church asked the Lord to reveal the process of reconciliation ministry. At the end of the month, He did.

After a few more months of prayer and preparation, the first reconciliation program was conducted. Excitement, joy and sweet fellowship were experienced by the church, former members returned, two Grow One churches were established, and the church was organised and moved to a new strategic location. That was how reconciliation ministry in PNGUM was born.

God expects His church in PNGUM, the SPD and abroad to take reconciliation ministry seriously. Through much prayer, God will reveal His vision to the Church. Reconciliation ministry will not be successful without it.

KEPSIE ELODO
PNGUM PRESIDENT



PROJECT HOPE ARRIVES IN SAMOA

PETERO NAVOSAILAGI

More than 30 people attended Project Hope Samoa at the Tradewinds Hotel, Pago Pago, in American Samoa on March 11.

It was the first phase of Project Hope Samoa and was designed to train more Samoan young people to produce Adventist television content. A majority of those in attendance signed up to be producers and a fair number of them wanted to join the technical crew.

The training aimed at teaching producers how to grow, maintain and refresh content all year long. The next phase was to follow up with both experienced and new producers, and monitor their actual production experience.

Project Hope Samoa has been a collaborative effort between key partners. It was initiated by Hope Channel Oceania, under the leadership of Pastor Wayne Boehm, director of Hope Channel South Pacific.

“We are aiming to create as



PROJECT HOPE ATTENDEES.

many locally produced programs [as possible] to target our Samoan audience, both on this island and abroad. Our target number is 260,” said Tialupe Tapuai, managing director of American Samoa Adventist Media.

“Hope Channel continues to expand into the Pacific, giving people in cities and villages the opportunity to watch Christian programs,” said Hope Channel South Pacific director Pastor Wayne Boehm. “We are encouraging local missions and members to be involved in creating content that will transform lives for eternity. Our vision in running Project Hope is to eventually have local Adventist content in the hands of every person across the Pacific.”

ADVENTIST AVIATION MAKES HISTORIC FLIGHT

RONALD LUKE

The people of Wetap in Oksapmin LLG, Telefomin, in the Sandaun Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG), saw an Adventist Aviation plane land in their village for the first time recently.

Captain Jeff Downs, CEO of Adventist Aviation Services, made one of his last flights to test the newly built airstrip in Wetap on May 1, before ending his service in PNG and returning to the United States.

Captain Downs was accompanied by his son, two surveyors, Charlie Ikosi and Osera Tairen from the Rural Airstrips Agency who went to survey the airstrip, and Adventist pastor Ronald Luke, a local Wetap man who resides in Goroka.

With no road infrastructure available, the people of Wetap have been



ADVENTIST AVIATION PLANE AT WETAP.

deprived of basic services such as schools and hospitals.

The project took the community one-and-a-half years to complete using a mix of manual, traditional and modern tools. They have a few more final touches to make until the airstrip is fully completed.

The Wetap people expressed thanks to God that they could now have the benefit of basic services.

SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

An Adventist church pastor has turned his talents to app development, helping to make the Sabbath School Adult Bible Study Guides available in multiple languages for phones and tablets.

Pastor Jared Martin, the associate pastor at Mt Gravatt and Brisbane Fijian churches in Queensland, has been working on the project since 2016 when he and his wife were based at an Adventist boarding school in Scandinavia. They didn't have access to a printed version of the English Sabbath School (SS) Bible Study Guides and had trouble using existing SS apps.

"In my search I came across Vitaliy Lim, a software developer from Canada and the head developer of a new, open-source Sabbath School app for Apple and Android," he said.

"Now, like most people, I had never made an app or done any type of coding. So I quickly jumped on Google,

read lots of 'How to' websites and watched YouTube videos to learn how to contribute to the app.

"Fast forward to 2018 and I am now a regular contributor to the app, adding in the English, Danish and Fijian study guides."

Pastor Martin said everyone who works on the app is a volunteer. There are 10 regular contributors from across the globe, aged 25-30.

"We donate our time because we believe the SS Bible Study Guides are a fantastic avenue for studying the Bible and learning more about our wonderful God," he said.

"While the printed SS booklets are great, it's 2018 and we believe that the Bible Study Guides should be available anywhere, anytime, and in as many languages as possible. Also, as an app, it can never be lost or damaged, and it saves people/churches money because



JARED MARTIN.

it's 100 per cent free."

The Sabbath School Bible Study Guides are currently available in 29 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Malay, Indonesian and Russian.

It is hoped that more South Pacific languages will soon be added to the app, which has a number of features, including a built-in Bible, where the user simply taps on the Bible verse reference and the text pops up.

The Sabbath School app (by Adventech) is available from Google Play and the Apple App Store. A web version of the app is also available: <sabbath-school.adventech.io>.

NEW GM AT ADSAFE

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A new leader is at the helm of AdSAFE—the independent agency responsible for creating safer environments for children and vulnerable adults in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ann Wooldridge has been appointed AdSAFE general manager (GM), a role previously held by

Raquel Greive, who left the agency in February to pursue other interests.

For the past 14 months, Ms Wooldridge has been AdSAFE's senior case officer for offender management and investigation. She is passionate about empowering all of the Church's stakeholders to be aware of child protection compliance issues and the need to

provide safe environments for children, young people and vulnerable persons.

"Ms Wooldridge brings to the role more than 27 years of assessment, investigation, compliance and education experience within the child protection space, having worked in NSW Health, NSW Police Force, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, and various

consultancy projects," AdSAFE Ltd Board chairman Graeme Drinkall said. "We welcome Ann to the role of GM and the contribution she will make to the mission of the Church."

Mr Drinkall paid tribute to the work of Ms Greive, the first GM at AdSAFE.

"It is with regret that we accepted Raquel's resignation, however Board members have expressed appreciation for the hard work she did during her time with AdSAFE."

AdSAFE began in January 2017—a direct result of the Church's acknowledgement of the work of Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Its focus: creating safer environments for children and vulnerable adults in Adventist churches/institutions, and caring for survivors of this type of abuse.



ANN WOOLDRIDGE.

GOLD COAST STUDENT RAISES \$1000 FOR ADRA

MARITZA BRUNT

An Adventist 10-year-old from the Gold Coast (Qld) has raised more than \$A2800 in under a week for an international ADRA project.

Finn Tolhurst, son of Adventist filmmaker Pastor Wes Tolhurst and grandson of the late Pastor Athal Tolhurst, recently started keeping bees, and decided to start a campaign to auction off his first 1L jar of honey to the highest bidder.

But there was a catch—instead of keeping the profits for himself, Finn decided to give all the donations he received to an ADRA Australia beekeeping project in Malawi. In addition, 10 per cent of all future honey sales will go to the project.

"[Finn chose] to donate to ADRA because of the work he has seen them do in some of my videos and through church," said his dad, Wes Tolhurst. "So he went looking for a beekeeping project and found the Malawi 'tsogolo labwino' project, which means 'working together for a brighter future'."

"I don't just want to sell honey, I also want to make a difference in this world with my business," said Finn. "The ADRA Malawi project is helping families have a brighter future by regenerating their forests and setting up beehives as a way to make money."

The campaign, which was posted on the fundraiser page Go Fund Me, raised \$A2818 in four days, surpassing Finn's original target of \$A750. It closed on May 20, with the highest bidder taking home the first jar of Finn's Honey.

"We are very excited that Finn has chosen to support our ADRA project in Malawi," said ADRA Australia CEO Paul Rubessa. "Finn's support will help train men and women to install beehives, plant flowers and native vegetation to encourage colonisation of the hives and to harvest and prepare their honey for sale at local markets. Thank you Finn for making a real difference in the lives of people."

To support Finn's honey project, visit gofundme.com/finno39s-honey-to-change-the-world.



FINN WITH SOME OF HIS HOME-GROWN HONEY.

Photo: Wes Tolhurst

OPEN HOME

On **June 17-23, 2018**, thousands of Adventists across Australia will **open their homes and reach out** to the community.

Register online at www.openhome.org.au to receive your free giveaway gift

Join the Open Home movement by opening your home for a meal, prayer and gift to friends, neighbours or colleagues—simple, easy and effective evangelism anyone can do here and now.

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Australia*

DISCIPLESHIP MODEL REAPS RESULTS

JARROD STACKELROTH

The farming-cycle discipleship model is “reaping results” in Madang Manus Mission (Papua New Guinea), according to Mission president Pastor Garry Laukei.

A successful evangelism series during late April and early May saw 142 baptised and 300 standing for baptism in the future. The South Pacific Division (SPD) provided funds for the series, with Institute of Public Evangelism (IPE) director and Tasmanian Conference president, Pastor Gary Webster, conducting the three-week campaign.

More than 5000 people attended each night. “Although we experienced

a couple of nights of rain, we were able to complete the series, ending on a high note,” shared Pastor Laukei.

The Mission plans to nurture the 300 who made their stand and Pastor Webster will return in September for another week of meetings—the “harvest” program.

“Madang Manus Mission (MMM) is experiencing growth in terms of membership,” said Pastor Laukei. “It seems we will change our plans for the next six months and do a lot of visitation, Bible study, conduct seminars and small groups so that we [can] nurture our interests who have surrendered their lives to Jesus. We do not want to lose these precious souls.”

Pastor Laukei thanked the SPD for its support with funding and planning for discipleship and for sponsoring the IPE training conducted by Pastor Webster.

Earlier this year, MMM ran discipleship and Bible reading training with Dr Peter Roennfeldt.



FILM CONTEST OFFERS WORLD MISSION PRIZE

JARROD STACKELROTH

Adventist young people are being encouraged to enter a worldwide short film competition for the chance to accompany Adventist Mission on an all expenses paid trip to hone their film-making skills.

The film needs to be one-minute or less and cover the theme “My story, My Mission”—examining what mission means in their lives.

Entry is free for self-identifying Adventist students and those studying at Adventist institutions, who are aged between 18 and 25 years old. Films must be submitted online by August 31, 2018 at <AdventistMission.org/filmcontest>.

The winners will be announced in October at the Society of Adventist Communicators Conference.

“The voyages of the Pitcairn throughout the South Pacific islands

captured the imagination of Adventists in the early days of our Church,” said Dr Graeme Humble, field secretary and Adventist Mission director for the South Pacific Division. “We are inviting students from our region to build on the story of mission in our South Pacific. What does mission mean to you within your life’s context today?”

For more information contact <EwertK@gc.adventist.org>.



NEWS GRABS



AUTISM AWARENESS

More than 300 Adventist Church leaders and members in Bangladesh recently participated in a first-ever Union-wide campaign to celebrate World Autism Day on April 2. Focusing on awareness and support for families, Adventists hosted parades, organised community discussions and visited families with autistic children.—SAD



KEEPING THE PEACE

United Nations peacekeepers in Burundi recently offered building materials to the local Adventist Mission, supporting the building of Adventist churches in the Central African Republic. The newest building site was dedicated earlier this year, attended by several government officials.—WAD



HUNGRY FOR MORE

During a recent mission retreat, more than 700 Adventist Church members from across eastern Hungary recommitted to building churches and community centres. Challenged by Matthew 5:13, the weekend also saw a special dedication of staff for two centres of influence in Hungary’s second and fourth largest cities.—TED/Adventist Review

HOT TOPICS



TOO STRESSED TO BE BLESSED

According to a recent study from the American Psychological Association, only 29 per cent of Americans said they turned to prayer to help deal with stress, a significant drop from 10 years ago, when 37 per cent of Americans prayed during times of stress. —*Relevant*



POWER PLANTS

One-third of all early deaths could be prevented by a vegetarian diet, according to a new scientific study. Harvard researchers say the findings indicate that people are vastly underestimating the benefits of a plant-based diet, backing up another recent study by the University of Toronto, which found that a vegetarian diet could actually reverse certain health problems by the same margins as commonly used statin medications. —*The Week*



SAVE THE PANDAS!

Panda lovers, rejoice: thanks to the valiant efforts of local governments and conservationists, the population of the giant panda rose 17 per cent from 2004 to 2014. The species is no longer endangered, their status being upgraded to “vulnerable”. —*World Wildlife*

ADVENTIST CHURCH REPRESENTED AT PUBLIC HEARING

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

In an effort to promote inclusion and equality, there is a trend towards stifling freedom of religion or belief, Pastor Michael Worker told a public hearing in Sydney.

Representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, Pastor Worker was invited to present an opening statement and join a panel discussion at the hearing, which is part of an ongoing Australian Government inquiry into the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief.

The inquiry, which was announced in December 2016, is being conducted by the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. It is examining Australia’s efforts to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief worldwide, including within its own shores.

Last year, the Seventh-day Adventist Church made a submission to the inquiry and this led to an invitation for Pastor Worker to speak at the public hearing, held over two days in Sydney and Melbourne. Pastor Worker was among a number of representatives from religious groups, human rights organisations and ethnic groups invited to attend.

“Whilst recognising that Christians are the most persecuted group in the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has had a long and proud history of advancing religious freedom rights for all peaceful people of faith and even those with no faith at all,” Pastor Worker said in his opening statement.

“In addition to advocating for freedom of religion or belief, freedom of thought or conscience is equally important and, whilst this is often neglected, this freedom is foundational. These freedoms are essential to a tolerant society, which has mutual respect for differing perspectives.”

Pastor Worker told the public hearing that while liberal democracies have been known traditionally as places where a diversity of views can harmoniously exist, “this tolerance is being eroded”.

“This is ironic when you consider the



PASTOR MICHAEL WORKER.

significant good that is being done by faith-based charities,” he said.

“Broad freedom of thought and conscience is necessary for religious freedom rights to flourish. Taking offence is an insufficient reason to limit speech, as virtually all speech of substance offends the subjective sensitivities of some listeners.”

While there is limited protection for freedom of religion or belief at a federal level, “many of the challenges to that freedom are coming from state, territory or local levels”, Pastor Worker added.

“Therefore, we believe that the government needs to intensify its efforts to garner greater freedoms and protections internationally. However, to do so it needs to be sure it that it has a consistent domestic practice.

“It is imperative that positive protections for freedom of religion or belief are provided in federal law that enshrine these freedoms in our country and ensure that we continue to be both a tolerant and a free society.”

In a press statement, sub-committee chair, Menzies (Vic) MP Kevin Andrews, said the majority of submissions to the inquiry to date have overwhelmingly expressed the concern that religious freedom or freedom of belief is being challenged by the emphasis placed on other human rights.

“Whether the human right to religion or belief needs further protections, and what form additional protections might take, are matters being considered by the sub-committee,” he said.

FLASHPOINT



RELAY FOR ROD

Eight Mile Plains church (Qld) member Rod Hutton recently had the experience of a lifetime, participating in the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Selected from thousands, Rod was offered a place in the relay on Sabbath. He declined the offer, telling officials he'd be happy to be a relief runner any day that wasn't Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. After a few weeks, the officials contacted him again and asked whether he would like to be an official runner on Good Friday. "Taking part was absolutely fantastic," said Rod. "But to be able to share with others my story of getting there was even better because it allowed God to be honoured." —*Maritza Brunt*



FIVE BAPTISED

Reedy Creek church on the Gold Coast (Qld) recently baptised five people as a public declaration of their commitment to Christ. Phillip Brzeski, baptised the day after his 23rd birthday, said, "For me, being baptised in Christ means receiving a second chance. It also marks the start of a new journey where Jesus will be the centre of my life and not on the side." Eighteen-year-old Jessalyn added, "For me, baptism meant giving everything to God—my love, trust and future—because He knows what's going to happen." Reedy Creek church is blessed to have Deanna, Phillip, Chantelle, Sean and Jessalyn as part of its church family. —*David Riley*



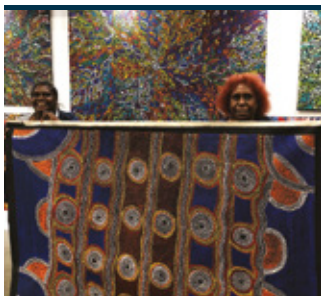
COMBINATION OF FUN

On Sabbath, April 7, for the first time, the Bay of Plenty and Waikato districts (NZ) combined for a regional day. More than 600 people attended the morning worship, which was followed by an open air picnic at the Rurakura grounds next to the Activate church where the regional was held. In the afternoon, Hope Channel premiered the pilot episode of *Finding Home*, a series based on the stories of members of Hamilton church. More than 60 children were also catered for, with special programs run by churches from both regions in the morning and afternoon. —*Ben Martin*



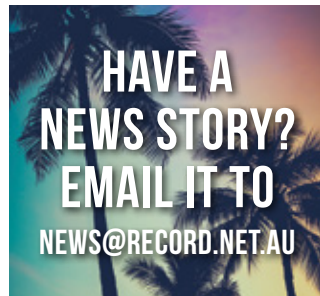
GREAT THINGS HAPPENING

The Orchard Melbourne Central Church (Vic), in the heart of the CBD on Flinders Street, and Greenvale church, on the northern fringes of Melbourne's growth corridor, are rejoicing after new baptisms from the community. Both churches are engaging in exciting outreach activities, including health and nutrition programs. The Orchard is running counselling sessions once a month while Greenvale is conducting community surveys. There are plans for an evangelism series in Craigieburn later this year. —*Rod Anderson*



HEALING THROUGH ART

Lanita Numina, a first-year Indigenous Lifestyle Health Promotion student at Mamarapha College (WA), recently featured alongside her sisters as a visiting artist at Perth's Creative Native Art Gallery. Lanita, along with one of her younger sisters, travelled from Darwin for the week-long exhibition. Titled "On Healing and Reconciliation", the exhibition featured bush medicine plants as well as a painting, titled "Brown Dingo Dreaming", which tells the story of a dingo in search of water. Lanita is one of three sisters attending Mamarapha for the first time in 2018. —*Beryl Garrard, David Garrard, David Fletcher*



PASTORAL GROWTH

Pastors from across the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) recently met over four days at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Auckland for a time of learning, connecting and growth. The NZPUC supports the South and North New Zealand Conferences, the three Missions of New Caledonia, Cook Islands and French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and Pitcairn Islands. —*NNZ Conference*



NEW CHURCH

Village chiefs, pastors, church members and residents of Bureta and its neighbouring villages recently gathered at Bureta village (Fiji) to celebrate the opening of the newly-built Seventh-day Adventist church. Fully funded by donations and assistance by local and overseas church members, it is the second permanent church building on the island of Ovalau. —*Joe Rabuatoka*



PATHFINDERS UNITE

Pathfinder clubs across the North Island of New Zealand met in their clusters on Sabbath, May 5 for a time of worship and fellowship, featuring activities and special music from several clubs. "It's always an exciting time watching our young ones sharing Jesus with each other," said Megan Tooley-Plijnaer, district director for the Central East Auckland Cluster. —*NNZ Conference*

Signing off...



It's been more than 25 years since I took up an editorial role with *Signs of the Times*. And this is my final communication to you as its editor.

I came to the *Signs* via South Australia Big Camp, which is surprising, as it is well off the worn career path.

Having tired of my criticism of the previous year's camp newsletter, my wife, who was a member of the Conference camp planning committee, volunteered me for the job of the newsletter's publisher-editor. I had no experience (my career was in teaching), but I had dabbled in a bit of desktop publishing with my new and expensive SE30 Macintosh. So the idea wasn't without merit.

Producing *Canvas Chronicles*, a four-page rag daily for a week, was ambitious—collecting news from around the venues, introducing Big Tent speakers and summarising their presentations, and providing “click-bait” fillers to keep the campers engaged—but each day opened to a new edition; each day was like a new episode of a dream. I was in my natural element, it seemed to me, and I looked forward to it. As, apparently, did the campers.

The *Chronicle* proved to be a hit with camp residents, who queued for each new edition, some requesting the previous day's edition that they'd missed, while others begged for a full eight-day, colour-coded set to take home as a Big Camp souvenir or for a family who couldn't attend!

Struggling with a somewhat depleted self-belief at the time, and questioning (with good cause) my future in teaching, it was a literal godsend. Here was something I could do! “You're a square peg in a round hole,” the Conference president reassured me. “This is you.”

And others in higher places agreed! While no-one actually said, “Hey, I love your work, Lee”, it was from that experience that Signs Publishing Company (SPC) invited me for a week of work experience. So while my family relaxed on sunny Waikiki Beach in Hawaii, I went to cold, damp Warburton.

But it was a sacrifice worth making, as it turned out, and when an editorial vacancy came up a year or so later, the SPC invited me into the position of assistant editor for the *Signs of the Times*. And in varying editorial iterations, that's where I've been since, and how I've gotten to know many of you.

It has been a most enjoyable journey. Led by the Spirit, I believe, and with a creative and dedicated team behind me, I've produced a magazine—some 271 of them—that readers have enjoyed, with a message they were happy to share.

But now it's time to step down and into retirement, handing over the reins.

It's been my pleasure to serve. Especially to hear your stories of how *Signs* has impacted lives, an instrument in leading many to choose

eternal life. So to those who've sponsored magazines for sharing, entrusting this purpose to me, thank you for your support.

Thank you also for forgiving me my mistakes, including giving “birth” to a navy frigate in Adelaide (amazingly), nominating Peter as the first pope (mysteriously), adding a “u” into iconic Qantas (unforgivably) and others I've forgotten (mercifully).

Twenty-six years is a long time in one job, but it has been easy to spend “more time in the office” and I leave wishing I'd spent even more.

The prophet Isaiah promises, “. . . those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

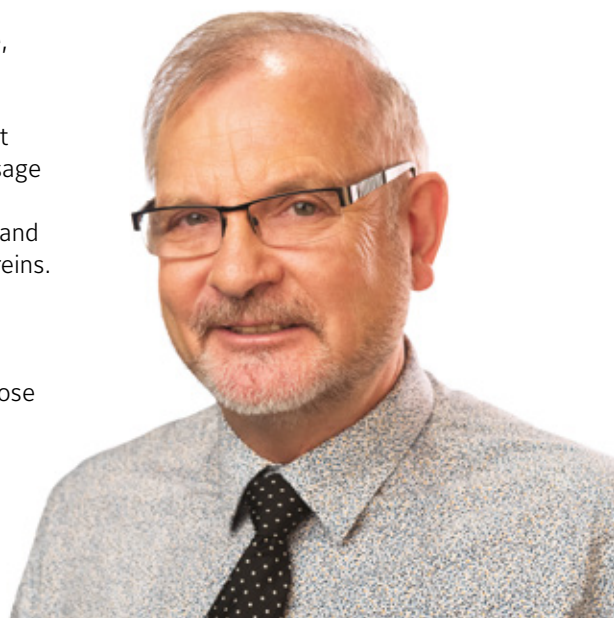
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

And when you know you're using *His* spiritual gift for *His* purpose, you don't tire. So when of late I detected a degree of tiredness overtaking me, I recognised that it was Him telling me it was time for a new generation of editors to dream their dreams in my place.

And it was time to say goodbye.

* *Isaiah 40:31*

LEE DUNSTAN EDITOR, SIGNS OF THE TIMES





HUNGRY FOR THE WORD

How does a special missionary ministry or outreach start? The beginnings are certainly as diverse as the outreach. Somehow, God opens people's eyes to a need, then puts resources within reach to fill those needs.

That is how it worked for Wendell and Linda Downs. The American couple retired from pastoral ministry at the end of July 2015 but were looking for a way to continue serving. They accepted a call from Adventist Aviation Services

(AAS) to help out with the mission and flying needs in and around Goroka, arriving in the Eastern Highlands Province in Papua New Guinea in August 2015.

One evening shortly after arriving, Wendell and Linda began a discussion with their Adventist house

guard, Tarufa, about the needs that he had experienced in his own village following his baptism in 2013. Tarufa lamented the fact that so many believers would fall away after their baptisms. Wendell and Linda mentioned the need for continued spiritual growth following baptism, fostered by Bible study and prayer, to which Tarufa responded that very few of the people he knew could even afford to purchase a Bible.

In fact, the very next Sabbath a baptism was scheduled in his village, but none of the 24 candidates owned a Bible, and his church was too poor to provide any. Wendell and Linda arrived at that baptism armed with 24 Tok Pisin (Pidgin) Bibles they had found and purchased down at the local Christian book store in Goroka.

Three or four days later, Wendell was stopped outside the AAS hangar by a total stranger who told him that he had heard about the Bible gift from the previous Sabbath. The stranger made a request for Bibles for



new believers from his church. After requesting a list of names of those new believers, Wendell and Linda, still having a few resources available, filled that need as well. And so, the lists began to roll in and Bibles went out, as funds became available.

As time went by, a few friends from America heard about the project, and sent some limited funds to help. From that time until now, the project has spread to more than 38 villages and has answered 1489 specific requests, with more than 2000 Tok Pisin and English Bibles given away. Sixty new Adventist Church hymnals and more than 20 Godpods were also distributed.

Coming from the secularism of America, the exciting thing for Wendell and Linda was the deep hunger for God's Word. A person could sit down in any public place, begin reading the Bible aloud in Tok Pisin or English, and a crowd of people would immediately gather around to appreciatively listen to the Word of God.

Wendell and Linda have returned home now, but the window of opportunity is still open, and they are praying somebody else may take up the challenge where they left off.

WENDELL AND LINDA DOWNS WITH MARITZA BRUNT.





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN... **ADSAFE TRAINER**

NAME: NICK COYTE
JOB: TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT, ADSAFE
WHERE: WAHROONGA, NSW

WHAT DO YOU DO?

AdSAFE has been set up to deal with the protection of children and vulnerable people in our Church in Australia and New Zealand. It's split into four parts: survivor services, who support survivors through healing pathways; redress, a survivor-focused scheme to acknowledge the hurt and loss suffered; offender management; and then safe guarding services, which is me. Our team does all the online and face-to-face training for churches, PR and getting the word out about what AdSAFE does.

WHAT LED YOU TO THIS MINISTRY?

I come from a teaching background—I'm a high school woodwork teacher—so working with kids is something I've done all my life. In the last five years or so, I started working more in state schools, just to work with more of the challenging kids. And by nature of the area—it was a low socio-economic area—a lot of the kids had problems similar to those we deal with here at AdSAFE on a daily basis. So when the job at AdSAFE came up, I thought it was a great opportunity to use the passion I had for children within the Church.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU IN ONE WORD?

Chaos! My role is primarily communications and PR with the churches. In every church now we have an AdSAFE coordinator and it's our job to talk them through different issues in their churches. I also look at all the different complaints and ways things have been solved in different churches and then share those ideas with churches dealing with similar issues. If I'm in the office, a lot of my day is communicating by phone and email. Since March last year I've had thousands of emails arrive in my inbox. But if we're out and about, we do a lot of face-to-face training in churches or attending Big Camps to get the word out about what we do and why we're here.

WHAT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED?

Probably just coming to terms with the number of incidents we've had and continue to have in our Church. For me, that's quite confronting. I also struggle when people ask, "Why should I have to do this training?" That is, in essence saying, "Why do I have to care about keeping my church safe?" For some people, it's too much

to ask to sit down for a few hours to do some training so that we can look after the vulnerable people in our Church. Some people can't seem to show the same type of care and empathy for children.

HOW DO YOU SHARE JESUS IN YOUR JOB?

Just the fact that AdSAFE is here is a massive acknowledgement to the fact that as a Church we care about sharing God's love and making His Church as safe as possible. In my life and job, I try to be the best representation of who God's made me to be and to share the passion He has given me.

ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE WANTING TO WORK IN A SIMILAR SPACE?

It is a very confronting job. There's a lot of confidentiality. You have to be able to separate your faith from certain things happening within our Church, and from your work. But it's a ministry, so more than anything, you need to have a passion for helping people, especially children and the vulnerable, and a passion for helping the Adventist Church protect those people.

For the full interview, visit <record.adventistchurch.com>.



ORIGINAL CHURCH.

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

FAITH IN GOD'S WORD OR EVOLUTION?

Biblical creation reveals an incredibly intimate, loving God and is totally incompatible with both atheistic and theistic evolution.

MAN MADE BEFORE SIN AND DEATH

Evolution requires multiple deaths over eons of time to eventually produce humans, whereas the Bible states unequivocally that death came by the sin of one man—Adam. Clearly man came before the death of anything. **READ** 1 Corinthians 15:21; Romans 5:12.

HUMANS MADE ON ONE 24-HOUR DAY

Unlike the long ages required by evolution, the Bible states man was created on the sixth day of a literal creation week of seven days, each consisting of evening and morning or 24 literal hours. The Sabbath, written with God's own finger, is the great bulwark against any rationalistic humanistic view of long ages for our origins. **READ** Genesis 1:4,8,13,19,23,26,31; 2:1-3; Exodus 20:11.

HUMANS WERE MADE BY GOD INTIMATELY IN HIS OWN IMAGE BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE

The Bible declares man and woman were made intimately by God in His own image. Thus Adam was the son of God. In contrast to the competitive "dog-eat dog" evolutionary paradigm of the "survival of the fittest", God created us out of His great love, as evidenced by the fact that Christ was ordained before the foundation of the world to die to redeem humanity. Little wonder God's final messages to accept His gospel include a call to worship Him as Creator. **READ** Genesis 1:26,27; 5:1; 9:6; Luke 3:38; Genesis 2:7,21,22; Psalm 136:5-9; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 14:6,7; 4:11.

Exercise faith in God's Word now rather than in the so-called "scientific evidence" for evolution. **READ** Hebrews 11:3.

70 YEARS OF SERVICE

Landsborough church (Qld) commenced in a pineapple packing shed in 1948, 70 years ago. It moved from the packing shed to a private home, then to a public hall, then to a double garage on the present site of the church. On June 22, 1958, the original church was officially opened by the then Queensland premier Frank Nicklin.

The congregation continued to grow to the point where we needed to extend. To this end we "stretched" the church, adding four extra pews. Fast forward to 2000: growth in the church had continued and further extensions became necessary. This time the church was widened, adding seven additional pews, giving us seating for 160 people.

We have been served by around 30 ministers over the past 60 years. Our first minister, Pastor Rex D Edwards, now living in the US, has written a greeting for our church's upcoming 70th anniversary celebrations.

Landsborough church has established five church plants around south-east Queensland. Three are still functioning well—Caloundra, Maleny and Kilcoy.

Over the years our church has reached out to the community in various ways: we are known as the "caring" church. The Sunshine Sanctuary was initiated by church members 25 years ago and has served the needs of domestic violence survivors. On a regular basis we assist Morris

House, a local aid agency, and the Scripture Union chaplaincy program. We've presented "deliciously vegetarian cooking" demonstrations, engaged in nursing home visits, enjoyed community Mother's/Father's Day visits and presented a diabetic health clinic for the community. For many years we have exhibited at the annual Maleny Show. We have even purchased a vehicle for a family in need!

What of the future? Currently, we have plans before the local council for yet another extension. Maybe next time you visit, the work might have been completed.



PROPOSED EXTENSION.

If you have been a member of Landsborough or served as one of our ministers over the years or visited our church, why not come and celebrate how God has led and blessed us over the years on Sabbath, June 23? Celebrations commence at 10am, followed by lunch at 12:30pm, then an afternoon of memories at 2pm.

Further information contact: Glen Woosley <gwoosley33@bigpond.com> or call 0408 934 652.

GLEN WOOSLEY CHURCH TREASURER.

THE GOSPEL OF DEATH

Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Psalms 146:3, 4; Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10; Daniel 12:2,13; Isaiah 25:8; John 5:28,29; 11:11-14; Romans. 6:23; 16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 20:1-10.)

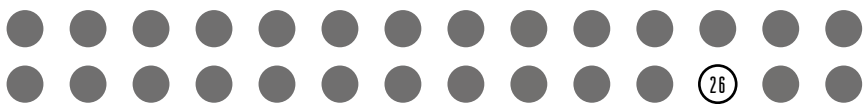
It was the late 1970s. My mother and father were engaged to be married and my father was studying the Bible with my mother's pastor, Pastor Graeme Christian.

As they were studying together, Pastor Christian opened the great themes of God's Word to Dad, who was loving every minute of it. One day they studied a very important and mysterious subject: *what really happens when a person dies?* Dad thought he already knew something

about this subject, but he was holding some contradictory ideas in tension. He lived in a haunted house, so he felt that he knew for a fact that it was possible for the spirits of the dead to return to either harass or to help the living. He also believed in reincarnation where people are reborn into new bodies when they die. Plus, he'd been raised attending the Roman Catholic Church, so he had heard that people go straight to heaven, hell or purgatory immediately at the moment of death.

Somehow Dad knew that not all of these ideas could be true, so he was very interested to try to find out which idea was the truth, if any. What he saw in the Scripture that day was very different to anything he could have thought or even imagined.

There were passages such as Ecclesiastes 9:5,6: "For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred



and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun." There was Job 7:9,10: "As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave does not come up. He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore."

He learned that, over and over again in the Scriptures, Jesus Himself referred to death as being like an unconscious "sleep" (see Psalm 13:3; John 11:13), from which He intended to wake His people and take them to be with Him "... at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:23, cf John 14:1-3), not as soon as they die (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). He learned that the dead do not return to haunt their houses and that the "ghosts" in his home were actually deceiving evil angels, not dead people, for "... Satan even transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). He learned that "... it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement" (Hebrews 9:27), so we do not die and reincarnate over and over again.

Basically, Dad learned the great biblical theme that we believe and ascribe to as Adventists and which is articulated in our 26th Fundamental Belief: "The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant

eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord" The difference and blessing that the biblical understanding of this truth made in our family while I was growing up is something that I am only now beginning to grasp. Popular media such as books, films, music and video games have always been replete with spiritualism and supernatural themes. The subjects of death, ghosts, spirits, demons and the supernatural are expounded on ad nauseam through TVs and computer screens, and it was no different when my sister and I were growing up. The enemy's purpose in this is, I believe: to educate us to develop unbiblical ideas about the spirit world, and so allow channels through which to deceive. When we spend between 10 and 20 hours a week on screens consuming media and only one hour a week at church, whose ideas are likely to be victorious in the battle for our mind?

The more I talk with people, the more I realise that when we don't know the truth on this subject, our minds are open to all kinds of attacks and deceptions from the enemy. Luckily for us, when we had a question about the afterlife as children, or we happened to see some ghosts or spirits on TV, my mother and father always encouraged us not to be afraid, explaining to us the biblical truth on this subject. What's more, they always pointed us to turn to Jesus in prayer for protection when we were afraid and, crucially, encouraged us not to watch or read things that were filled with untruths and errors.

I remember my friends at high school being scared stiff because they watched some horror movie or because they had experienced some haunting supernatural manifestation.

This is even more common today. I always knew that I had Jesus on my side "... who is above all principalities and powers" (Colossians 2:10), and that if I called out to Him in prayer there would be "... no fear in love; for perfect love casts out all fear" (1 John 4:18).

What this teaching means to me today can be summed up in the words of 1 John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." The most important thing in the whole world is to abide in Him through a real and living relationship. Because of His death and resurrection, I can know that I am saved and can joyfully anticipate His soon return.

What this teaching tells me about Jesus is that His victory over death is complete and eternal. He is called the one who "... holds the keys of death and the grave ..." (Revelation 1:18). This mighty King has given us His resurrection as a down payment to guarantee that "Because I live, you too will live" (John 14:19).

One more thing you should know about me is that I was named after the prophet Daniel. For that reason, when Gabriel speaks to the prophet in Daniel 12:13, I hold his words closely to my heart: "But you, Daniel go your way until the end; for you shall rest, and then at the end of days you will arise to receive your allotted inheritance." I plan to be there on that day when the sleeping saints arise to be with Jesus. Do you?



DANIEL MATTED

Youth ministry director, Tasmanian Conference. Pastor of New Norfolk church. He is married to Katy and has two children, Grace and Samuel.



.....

a challenging call

Among Adventists, we often hear people saying, "I got a call . . ." or "We got a call . . ." to work in a different part of the home country or overseas. Most of the time, there is a tone of great satisfaction in people's voices. However, what happens when a person is "called" to stay in their own town and to work in a secular setting—and a very challenging one at that?

In mid-2014, an assistant principal at Moree East Public School (MEPS) asked me to apply for a full-time job. MEPS is one of the 15 Connected Communities schools in New South Wales. It has a high percentage of Aboriginal students and it was a challenging school. I remember some friends asking where I was going when they found out that I was leaving my old school. When I said I was going to Moree East, the conversations stopped.

I had been working at MEPS as a casual teacher and later taught two days a week from mid-2014 to the end of that year. I was wanting a full-time job where I would have my own class because I had to maintain my accreditation to continue teaching for the Department of Education. And it would be wonderful to work with some students for the year! I applied for a teacher position and before the end of the year, I was given a Years 3-6 girls' class for 2015—the dreaded class! This was my first class and it was not only a composite class but also a two-stage class. I was thankful to God for giving me the class but I was not at all confident that I could teach the students. I prayed to God every day for His guidance as I worked with this class of girls.

Every teacher had a student learning support officer or SLSO to help them. My first SLSO left for maternity leave at the end of term 2. I was given another SLSO and we got along with each other well. Together we got to know each girl. For example, there was a gorgeous girl in my class who often arrived at school late and without having had breakfast. My SLSO and I worked out a little tactic. When this girl arrived in class, I would call her over to me to check quietly whether or not she had eaten breakfast. Then I looked at my SLSO and she looked at me. I gave my keys to the girl and she and my SLSO went to the canteen to get some toast or cereal. Unfortunately, my SLSO was taken from me when the office needed to replace somebody else.

I cared for the girls by myself but I knew I wasn't alone. God was with me every step of the way. There were challenging moments and very challenging moments. There were also "What am I to do?" moments, but God and I worked together calmly. The weeks passed quickly. As the school year came to a close, the girls did a marvellous thing for me on our class party day. They wrote on the whiteboard, big and bold in red, "You are the bomb.com Miss Henley."

In 2016, I had a straight year 3 class. I was very thankful because year 3 was my favourite class when I did my prac teaching. One of the students had been diagnosed with ADHD and some other health problems. He was quite bright as well. However, he had some physical traits, which most of the other students found undesirable and he struggled making friends. At the beginning of the year, I found that my personality was clashing with his. He didn't seem to understand my facial expressions and, sometimes, when I talked to other students, he thought I was telling him off. As a result, he would get mad and churn out long lines of bad words. During sports

lessons, he would walk away from the class. His playground behaviour was uncontrollable and I was tired of hearing stories about him, both from staff and other students. I prayed for patience and wisdom to deal with this student and asked God to help me build up a rapport with him.

I began to see little changes in him towards the end of term 3. As the year drew to a close, I asked all my students to contribute something for our class party. They all volunteered to bring different things. On the party day, this special boy gave me five packets of "Jumpy's", saying, "Here Miss. I felt bad to not bring anything so I spent my \$5 lunch money to buy these from the canteen to share with everyone." I was so excited that I made a big thing out of it in the class and shared the great news with many colleagues at the end of the day.

I had this special boy again the following year. He grew so mature over the summer holidays. Some people thought it was his medication but I disagreed. One day, one of the boys copied the way his uncle walked. I told him to look away, but he said to me, "It's okay, Miss. Unfortunately, my uncle does walk like that." He now also participates in sports. He is running faster than a few of his classmates and has formed friendships with a couple of boys in my class. It's so rewarding to see God bringing him this far.

Recently, my husband and I thought about moving closer to the coast where there is a bigger church and to be closer to our family. Another reason was that our son will be in high school next year. We wanted him to attend an Adventist school and build friendships with his Adventist peers. We also wanted to get away from "church work". Yes, you heard it right. We'd worn ourselves out and we needed a break—a really long break. We were ready to go but then something happened.

We thought about the time when

I first came to work at MEPS. When I took up God's call, I knew it wasn't going to be easy. But He helped me all the way. It was a privilege to be working with children from dysfunctional homes, who are uprooted from place to place, who are not cared for properly and who are not disciplined. I was called to be with these children five hours a day—to teach them how to read and do maths but, more importantly, to impart some values. Also, every Friday my husband teaches Scripture to my class. He has done this for two years now. The children are well-behaved and they have grown attached to him. When he was unable to come they'd ask, "How come Mr Henley doesn't come anymore?" Recently, a few colleagues commented that my husband is the only consistent Scripture teacher in the school. The new principal has recently hired him to do coding lessons with a group of students. *When we both could be in this exciting, nameless ministry, why do we want to leave?*

So God led us to thinking things over. God told us that we don't need to worry about our son. He is God's son too and God will take care of him. He has given us the abilities to help our son get to where he needs to be someday. There is a Christian school in town that offers the education our son needs. Besides, how can we abandon the children God has sent our way? And how can we abandon our small church family?

When we decided that we were staying, peace filled our hearts beyond words. We know full well the challenges, but we also are assured that our Saviour is strong—He is able to carry us through any situation. After all, how can we claim that we trust God if we quit on Him when things get tough—really tough?

PEEMPAHN HENLEY PRIMARY TEACHER. SHE WRITES FROM MOREE, NSW, WHERE SHE LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND, SON AND CAT.



TIPS TO GET FUSSY EATERS EATING MORE VEGGIES

Most parents know the struggle that comes with having picky eaters. It's a constant battle between getting your little ones the nutrition they need and just being happy with any food they'll eat!

It's a common struggle and a recent Deakin University study highlighted just how quickly it can change from a baby who is getting enough veggies to battling with a fussy eater.

The researchers examined dietary data from 467 children, looking at what they ate at ages 9 months, 18 months, 3 and-a-half and 5.

At 9 months of age, 90 per cent of the tots were eating the recommended amount of fruit and veggies, but by the time they got to 18 months only 5 per cent were eating their recommended daily intake of veggies.

Researchers noted one reason may be that the recommended intake of veggies increases after kids turn one, but they also highlighted that 90 per cent of children in the study were eating too many discretionary foods—foods like soft drink, sweet biscuits, cake and ice-cream.

So how can you make sure children are eating more healthy veggies and leaving less room for discretionary foods? Try some of our favourite tips for getting more veggies into those fussy eaters and setting them up for a lifetime of healthy habits:

SERVE THE SAME FOOD AS THE FAMILY EATS

More is caught than taught, so surround your little one with great examples of healthy foods that the rest of the family enjoys.

GIVE THEM CREDIT

Assume your child will like a new food, rather than being ready for a fight. Kids pick up on our attitudes and, if we go in expecting them to not like something, they can play into that belief. If they reject a food after they have tried it, have a healthy alternative you can offer.

MORE FUSSY EATING TIPS!



START SMALL

Give kids a small amount of the new veggie to try and have more on hand, ready to top up their plate. A large amount can seem overwhelming and can put off a fussy eater right from the start.



KEEP OFFERING

Studies have shown that the average child will need to be introduced to a new food between 5 and 15 times before they are willing to try it (and adults can be even worse). If at first the food is rejected, don't give up. Try cooking the veggies a different way to change their texture, like roasting veggies as "chips" or blending and mixing them with a dip your child loves, like hummus. Whatever the tactic, it's important to regularly include a small amount on their plate until they become familiar with the new food.



AVOID PUNISHMENT

Avoid using food as a reward or punishment. The last thing you want to do is associate health foods with punishment and junk food with reward.



Recipe of the Week

Sanitarium
Health & Wellbeing

Vegetarian country cottage rolls

Perfect for finger food at your next party, this vegetarian alternative to sausage rolls is lower in saturated fat and full of flavour! The kids will love these veggie-packed bites too. Be sure to make a big batch!

Find this recipe and hundreds more at:

Australia: sanitarium.com.au/subscribe
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Sanitarium
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CALM IN THE CRISIS

Re "Calm in the Crisis" (Feature, April 21).

In my first few months at ADRA Australia, I have been continually inspired by our hundreds of volunteers. Whether they're on the front line responding to crises like the recent fires in NSW, working in the dozens of ADRA Op Shops around the country, or serving hot meals to vulnerable people at meals programs, their commitment to generously serving those in need is amazing. If this is you and you are reading this, I'd like to say thank you so much for your dedication and loving kindness in being Jesus' hands and feet. And for those who are inspired to join a movement of passionate advocates and change-makers, I'd encourage you to get in touch and experience for yourself the joy of serving others.

Paul Rubessa
CEO, ADRA Australia

STEPS TO GOD

My heart went out to this person ("Expectations", May 5)! How many of us have sat waiting for the magic, and felt nothing.

What are the steps to having a personal relationship with God? How do we get the Holy Spirit to work in/through us? How do we find/use our spiritual gifts?

I can recommend my own personal experience.

Get your Bible and a blue and red pencil. Decide to pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to help you see God's face and hear His voice in the books you read. Underline whatever stands out to you. Then meditate a wee bit on that. Soon, you will start to feel you sort of know Him. As He knows you already, you then have a relationship.

I have always been encouraged by the gift of "helps" (1 Corinthians 12). I have found that there are so many times and ways I can help (others and my local

church). When I do, I am using my spiritual gift. I have sometimes challenged what I feel are not my gifts by trying to be helpful in areas I don't feel confident in. And truly the Holy Spirit has helped me muddle through!

The Bible shows that God-Jesus-Spirit is outside waiting to be invited in each day to a heart that is willing to respond to whatever He gently suggests.

I hope you receive my few suggestions and find "the God of Hope, filling you with joy and peace" (Romans 5:13) so that you can pour out hope to others.

Darlene Douglass, NSW

TRAGEDY AT SEA

It's 10pm Sabbath evening, Friday 27th. I have awakened to write this letter as a result of haunting memories of a tragic event that involved our young family 50 years ago on transfer from New Zealand to the Greater Sydney Conference as a publishing

director. The sinking of the *Wahine* as a result of a hurricane took place on Barretts Reef in Wellington Harbour (April 10, 1968). There were 600 passengers and a crew of 130. More than 50 souls, many Australians, lost their lives. This incident was widely reported by Pastor Robert Parr who was *Record* editor at the time and that news would be available to you.

The event was remembered these past weeks in NZ and many who were on board or their relatives attended. Two of my children, Daniel and Lydia, also attended for the week of activities of remembrance.

My wife Lydia and I are the oldest living passengers alive after all these years. I am 91 and my dear wife Lydia of 64 years is 87 in November.

I write as a result of very disturbed sleep at this late hour in wonderment that not a mention of this historical catastrophe was

mentioned in *Adventist Record* in recent weeks.

We have since lost two of our beautiful daughters to tragic accidents but our faith in God and His enduring love has never wavered.

My wife and I still live on to witness at every opportunity and have been able to do so as guest speakers at Rotary clubs and numerous church groups and schools.

Sorry to disturb you at this time of night but perhaps I'll be able to get some sleep now. God bless you in your important ministry. Your loving brother in Jesus.

Clarence O'Neill, Qld

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.

THIS MONTH IN



From gangs to God: Rome Ulia



Debate: the failed war on drugs?



Why does God allow evil?



Life's tough. Never give up!

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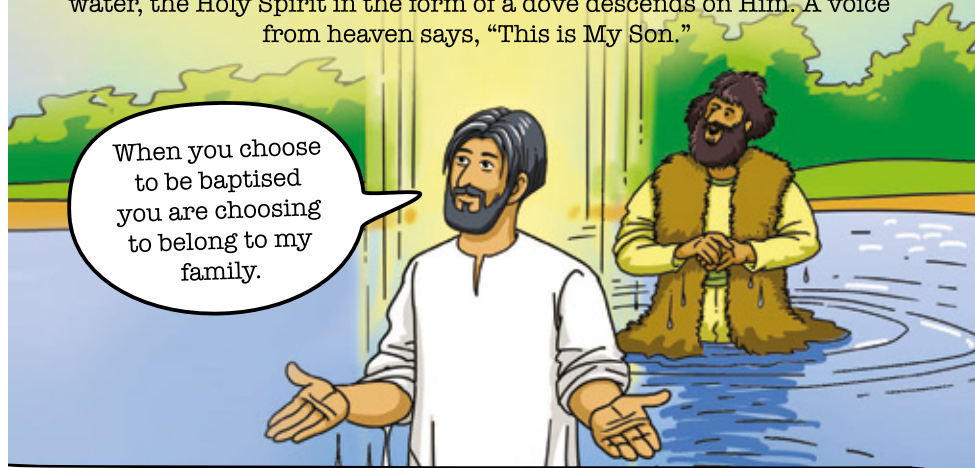
www.signsofthetimes.org.au

HI KIDS!

KIDS SPACE

JESUS' BAPTISM

John is preaching in the desert of Judea near the Jordan River, telling the people that they need to repent and believe on the Lord. He baptises many people who respond to his message. One day Jesus comes from Galilee and asks John to baptise Him. John says that Jesus needs to baptise him (John). But Jesus persists and says it is necessary "to fulfil all righteousness". Then John agrees. When Jesus comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends on Him. A voice from heaven says, "This is My Son."



FIND-A-WORD CHALLENGE

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------------|
| ETERNAL | BAPTISM | BELIEVE |
| LIFE | GALILEE | JESUS |
| DOVE | LIGHT | DESCENDS |
| PREACH | JUDEA | REPENT |
| CHOOSE | JOHN | HOLY SPIRIT |
| LOVE | JORDAN RIVER | |

X X R L X X X D C H O O S E Z Z
 Z X E O Z X O E X J O H N X Z X
 X H V V Z V M S I T P A B Z X Z
 R C I E E X X C T H I S X I S X
 E A R M Y X Z E X G A L I L E E
 P E N Z X X Z N Z S O N L T V X
 E R A Z X I N D Z X X I E E X J
 N P D X X X X S X X G R I X U X
 T I R I P S Y L O H N L Z D X X
 X X O X W H O M T A E I E X A M
 Z X J X X E F I L B X A X X Z X
 X W E L L X Z X
 P L E A S E D Z
 Z J E S U S X
 X Z Z X Z
 X X Z

MEMORY VERSE
 GROSS OUT ALL THE X'S AND Z'S IN THE FIND-A-WORD ABOVE TO FIND THE MEMORY VERSE.

Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Weddings



CRISPIN-GALE. Jake Crispin, son of Bryan Crispin (Coutts Crossing, NSW) and Michelle Crapp (Ulmarra), and Leah Gale, daughter of John and Annette Gale (Grafton), were married on 18.3.18 in the Maclean Adventist church. Jake and Leah, who met at high school, are currently living in Tumut. Jake is a third year auto electrician apprentice and Leah is studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary).

Justin Lawman



PULE-LARKING, Neil Pule, son of Oukei (dec) and Saunoa Pule (Brisbane, Qld), and Irena Larking, daughter of Ian and Helene Larking (Auckland, NZ), were married on 8.4.18 at the UQ Alumni Court Garden, Brisbane. Neil is the director of Vital Connection and is also serving as a chaplain. Irena is ADRA director for the South Queensland Conference. They met in ministry and will continue to serve together, helping others for Jesus. They plan to live in Brisbane.

Gideon Okesene

Obituaries



BOUGAARDT, Elizabeth (nee Landers), born 23.10.1950; died 17.12.17 in Wahroonga, NSW. Elizabeth is survived by her husband; children Laurian Smith (Sydney), Jeanine Sandy (Qld) and Rhianon Lassila (UK); sons-in-law Shannon Smith, Josh Sandy and Hayden Lassila; grandchildren Anaiah, Jaelyn and Gilead; and her brothers and sisters Marianne Kearns, Brian Landers, Pastor Lawrence Landers and Dr Kenneth Landers. Elizabeth was a wonderful wife, sister, mother and grandmother. Hospitality was her special gift from God as she always had a heart to serve and cook for anyone who needed it. Elizabeth's faith in God was unwavering right until the end—reminding us all to “stay faithful”. Liz will be missed by her church family at Castle Hill, Sydney.

Pablo Lillo

CAMERON, Monica, born 30.11.1954 in Perth, WA; died 14.4.18 in Kalamunda. On 4.5.1975 she married Kim Cameron. She was predeceased by her mother Kathe Magerl.

She is survived by her father Kurt Magerl (Perth); husband Kim (Perth); daughters and sons-in-law Vanessa and Dwight Van Ballegooyen, Emma and Darren McMillan, and Jodee and Ryan Walker (all of Perth); 11 grandchildren; and siblings Ronald, Kevin and Christine. Monica loved people, babies, serving others and, above all, spending time with those she loved. Monica had a heart for service through summer camps, as a Pathfinder leader, Sabbath School leader and homeschooler. Most of all she had a strong, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Miranda Leijser



JE, Pastor Young-Gab Brian, born 28.7.1964 in Busan, South Korea; died 21.3.18 in Cornubia, Qld. He is survived by his wife Hae-Kyong Retta Je and three daughters Esther, Susanna and Heidi. Brian was the pioneer of Korean Adventist churches in Australia. After graduating from Avondale College, he served in the Greater Sydney then South Qld conferences, planting the Sydney Korean (1990) and Brisbane Korean (2005) churches respectively. He also ministered to the Calamvale Asian, Wynnum, Mt Tamborine and Mitchelton churches. Brian enjoyed life to the full! He served the Lord heartily as a pastor, counsellor and writer. He was a beloved husband, great dad, and a role model to his family and friends. Brian rests in the Lord awaiting His call.

Russell Willcocks

MCTERNAN, Marion May (nee Bogg), born 16.3.1941; died 5.4.18 in Moruya, NSW. On 3.9.1966 she married Kevin McTernan. Marion is survived by her husband (Moruya); and children Tim, Sonya Watts and Katrina Nicholls (all of Moruya). Marion's selfless love will be dearly missed. Her previous role as a nurse educator at Sydney Adventist Hospital allowed her to nurture numerous young people. The Moruya Uniting Church was full of friends, family and church members who came to farewell Marion. In a special gesture, Marion's three succeeding ministers assisted in the service. During the service, in a prerecorded video message, Marion expressed her confidence in the resurrection morning.

John Tompson, Dragan Kanazir, Jimmy Watanabe

RICHARDS, Neil Stephen, born 6.9.1965 in Kurri Kurri, NSW;

died 2.3.18 in Bargara, Qld. On 12.7.1998 he married Brenda. He is survived by his wife; his children Cameron and Shalan; parents Ross and Wanda; and siblings Desmond, Gary, Trevor, Warren, Lorraine, Neroli and Lynelle. Neil's life was cut short by cancer. He was an active man, always willing to help those in need.

Kelly Richards



THOMSON, Pastor Alec Charles, born 4.3.1923 in Yorketown, SA; died 28.3.18 in Redlands, Qld. On 15.8.1946 he married Shirley Boyd Price, who predeceased him. Alec is survived by daughters Michelle and Paul Cherry and Claire and Michael Karafilis; grandchildren Tiffany, Jarrod, Luke, Martin, Kelsey and Jessica; and great-grandchild Kynan. Alec actively shared the gospel in Australia and overseas. He had an unshakable faith and a positive attitude his entire life.

Bob Possingham



SMILEK, Anna (nee Vitkova), born 17.12.1945 in Petrovice-Ostrava, Czech Republic; died 7.2.18 in Berwick, Vic. On 21.6.1965 Anna married Jeremy (Mirek) Smilek in Prague. They moved to Melbourne, Australia, in 1970. Anna is survived by her husband; children John and Janine Smilek and Diane and Michael Styk; and grandchildren David, Daniel, Ariel and Jayden. Anna was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and treasured friend to so many. She was a dedicated Christian who attended Springvale church and served in a number of roles over many years. She will be sadly missed by so many. Family and friends farewelled Anna with the blessed hope in their hearts of a joyous reunion on that great resurrection morning.

Barry Whelan

ADVERTISING

BACK TO DARWIN

Celebrating 50 years on Sabbath, July 21, 2018 at 80 Cavenagh

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MT DRUITT ANNIVERSARY

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GIANT BOOK SALE

All books \$2, \$4. Cash only. A must for lay preachers, SS teachers, librarians, readers. Adventist commentaries and others, E G White, religion, Bibles, novels, cookbooks, etc. Monday, June 11 (Queen's birthday), 11am-3pm. Nunawading church, Central Rd, Nunawading. For church building fund. Make a calendar note now.

Finally . . .

Prayer interrupts the devil's schemes.

-Tom Holladay

NEXT ISSUE: ADVENTIST

WORLD, JUNE 9

POSITIONS VACANT

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Applications close June 24, 2018.

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PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Pacific Adventist University is seeking qualified applicants for the position of support services director. The role of the support services director is to manage the organisation and operation of the various departments within the Support Services Department, including building maintenance, machinery, security, campus and grounds. They are also responsible for the oversight and management of all special projects undertaken by the university. 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 June 29, 2018.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT—SOUTH PACIFIC
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WAHROONGA, NSW**

SPD is seeking a highly suitable candidate to support the function and operation of the presidential office, including undertaking designated research and special projects. This part-time support role will report directly to the Division President and be based at the head office in Wahroonga NSW. For full selection criteria please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter, your CV, 3 work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist Church Pastor, to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au> or fax (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close July 2, 2018.**

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