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A FAREWELL TO ARMS?  page 14
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Dr Mary Wong received the former award for her commitment to the ministry of teaching and for her service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Asia—she is a former chair of the English departments at Southeast Asia Union and at Taiwan Adventist College, a departmental director for the Church’s Northern Asia Pacific Division and a lecturer at San Jose State University.

Pastor Hills received the latter award for his 41 years of ministry in administration, education, evangelism, public relations and youth leadership at all levels of the Church. The eight other alumni, one from each honour year, were: retired church administrator Keith Irvine (1942); retired engineer Ray Masters (1952); retired primary teacher Hazel Eaton (1962); business people and Sonship founders Trevor and Helen Oliver (1972); outdoor recreation lecturer David Low (1982); Captivating International Foundation founders Andrew and Julie Colquhoun (1987); primary teacher Joyanne Walsh (1992); and Walkley Award-winning journalist Kristina Kukolja (2002).—Brenton Stacey

Participants at the launch of a book about creation see it as a valuable contribution to the discussion about origins despite expressing differing views about its content.

In The Beginning shows “we don’t have all the answers—we never have”, said panelist Dr David Tasker, field secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific, during the launch at Avondale College of Higher Education on August 18.

Editor Dr Bryan Ball summarised the tone of the discussion: “These are perspectives on origins. They’re not the only perspectives. They’re not the final perspectives.”

Dr Steve Thompson described contributing a chapter about the New Testament use of the Genesis text as his “most spiritually enriching writing exercise”. He referred to Hebrews 11:3 as giving a “brief, elegant and informed” Christian response to speculation about origins.

“It says that while the world is a phenomenon that can be observed with human senses, the act of creation is pre-phenomenal,” he said. Moderator Nathan Brown, book editor at Signs Publishing Company, asked about the importance of mystery and wonder in the theology of creation.

Two-thirds of In The Beginning discusses origins from a theological basis. “God’s revelation in Scripture is the primary source of information about origins,” said Dr Ball in his opening, “and this places upon us an obligation to understand what Scripture says and not to impose upon it what we want it to say.”

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Celebrating service at Homecoming

Cooranbong, New South Wales

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—Brenton Stacey
I was appointed editor of the RECORD last month. Surprised? Not half as surprised as I am! You see, when my wife suggested we return to Australia for a year in 2014 I was enticed me with the promise of a year off. Well, not entirely off. Really a year to write that book I’ve been talking about for a few years now.

I suppose God has a sense of humour as, although I haven’t completed das book thus far, I haven’t stopped writing ever since returning. And it looks like the writing will continue for a little while longer. Even if it’s not quite the result I thought I was getting when I started.

So now that I’ve morphed from acting editor to editor, what does that mean for RECORD? It’s a reasonable question that deserves a candid response. So here goes . . .

I have long thought the RECORD the best generalist magazine we have in the Adventist Church. I thought that when I worked at the General Conference. I thought it when Pablo edited it. And, yes, I continue to think it is. Why? Because it regularly achieves its ambition of connecting us together, providing a little inspiration, keeping our community generally informed and providing some spiritual insight. How? The same way all great things happen—talent and hard work—and, with or without me, the RECORD team has been blessed with both in spades. And something else—a joie de vivre infused with the love of God. But like all good things, we’re all painfully aware that we’ll have to wait . . .

Specifically, I want RECORD to facilitate conversations, not just start them. I want RECORD to regularly print articles that you cannot find in any other church publication. But something else—a joie de vivre infused with the love of God. But like all good things, we’re all painfully aware that we’ll have to wait . . .

Do I want anything else? Yes, lots of things2, but this list is a good place to start don’t you think?

And we’ve already begun. For example, if you haven’t visited the RECORD website recently, you really should. In the past three months we’ve gone from posting a single new story a day, to between four and eight new pieces—including links to fascinating news we find from sources all around the world. We’ve also made it much easier to share articles that we publish. And we’ve eliminated cumbersome procedures that made it hard to comment on articles on the RECORD site, and we’re posting web exclusive material.

But technology can only take us so far—central to all we do is content. In this endeavour, your faith, encouragement and support are crucial. But there is something else—everyone needs origin thinkers, poetic writers, creative thinkers, innovative perspectives, some serious scholarship and we need all the breaking news we can get. And I think you, or someone you know, may be able to provide that. Am I right? If so, do what it takes to get your words on RECORD’s pages. I’m on twitter.com/JamesStandish.

As I planned. As I planned. As I planned.

1. I have written three chapters so far, so it’s not a total loss . . .
2. A converter Antoine-Martin would be particularly nice right now.

James Standish is communication director for the South Pacific Division. Follow James on Facebook: James Standish, Wahroonga.

I was angry. I felt violated, anxious, vexed, vengeful, helpless and disbelieving all at the same time. We had been robbed. Driving into our secure car park under our building, we saw that the garage door had been broken open and our carefully stored goods were everywhere. The most expensive item, our dryer, along with a few smaller things were gone. Thankfully our tent and most of our camping equipment remained.

And I was out for blood! ‘Mate, put that thief in front of me right now and I’ll go all Hulk on him.’ I was in serious danger of losing control. I wanted to break something (or someone). Into my head flashed thoughts of loving my enemy and that I should forgive like Jesus forgave those who were killing Him. But in the heat of the moment, I felt more like doing a David and calling down curses onto their heads. What’s biblical too right? My heart wasn’t convinced, but I was clinging onto my anger to make sense of things.

It didn’t make my wife feel any better about the robbery. As is often the case, my anger was manifesting itself and was directed at the robbers, but I’ve learned that often she feels it’s being directed at her (or at least she hates being stuck in the same room with it). Thankfully (as she so often does), she took a pragmatic perspective. “It’s only stuff! Please don’t worry about it.” And when we got into our apartment, she sat me down and prayed with me. I like how pointed her prayers can be. Praise God for a partner to keep me accountable.

So as I calmed down, I had to process my emotions. I started thinking about references to thieves in the Bible. The first one who came to mind was the thief on the cross. He was a thief being killed for his crimes but Jesus focused on his faith, not his past crimes. The other was the verse, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19-20). OK, so I was storing my “treasure” in the garage. I didn’t use the stuff every day, I was just storing it and, anyway, there are far more important things in life. How lucky I was to have had two dryers, a golf set I never used, camping gear, etc.

There are a lot of people in the world who have less and this was just my stored stuff. As I worked through my shock I realised how lucky I am. I had been humbled by my Lord’s example and my wife’s correction. I also began to understand the sin problem a little bit more. You see, when we are sinning against we feel justified sinning. The problem goes round and round. The only way to break the cycle is to forgive. If anger equals murder, as Jesus said, then I was in serious danger of being overcome by evil. According to Paul the only way to overcome evil is with good (Romans 12:21).

It was up to me to break the cycle and get over it. So whoever robbed our garage—I forgive you and I pray you come to know my Saviour, Jesus.

Jarrod Stackelroth is assistant editor of RECORD.
School funding hike
Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has announced plans to boost the annual spend on education by $6.5 billion, phased in over the next six years. Adventist Education head for Australia, Daryl Murdoch, welcomed the announcement but said more detail was needed in order to judge the impact on Adventist schools.—RECORD staff

Closing death’s door
Speculation about a euthanasia clinic in Fiji has been rejected by the nation’s government after Australian right-to-die activist Dr Philip Nitschke talked up the plan. Nitschke said Fiji would be an attractive southern hemisphere alternative to a Swiss clinic that helps seriously ill patients and their lives.—BioEdge

Marriage re-defined
A bill to legalise same-sex marriage has easily passed the first of three readings in the New Zealand parliament. It seems likely the bill will pass into law early next year. Church leaders from various denominations have called for Christians to speak out on the issue.—Rhema NZ

Future unknown
Faith-based charities and other not-for-profit organisations will have to wait until the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) on October 1 to see how new laws governing the sector will affect their operations. The Adventist Church is among the organisations unsure of the full impact of the changes.—Pro Bono Australia

Public stand
After controversy over women’s ordination amongst Adventists in the United States, Trans-European Division president Bertil Wiklander has restated his region’s strong support for women’s ordination. However, he emphasised the harmony with world Church policy that has so far prevailed and his commitment to the world Church’s current biblical study of ordination.—tedNEWS

Bible study course goes Beyond
Wahroonga, New South Wales
A 24-study correspondence course, designed to complement the Beyond DVD series, was dedicated during a special service at Adventist Media Network on September 4. Written by Clifford Goldstein, the course is designed to take students through the Adventist message, in the context of the great controversy, and covers more content than the 14 DVDs. The team at the Discovery Centre, who will be corresponding with students and marking their lessons, are very excited about the new lessons.

“So far there has been an enthusiastic response from all our new students doing this course and we expect it to be a wonderful new resource,” said Discovery Centre director Lyle Southwell.

Two Discovery Centre instructors have had a fundamental part in the series: Elena Janakijovska did some of the design and her commitment to the world Church’s current biblical study of ordination. However, he emphasised the harmony with world Church policy that has so far prevailed and his commitment to the world Church’s current biblical study of ordination.—tedNEWS

The choir added a musical flair.

Gift fit for a king
Nuku’alofa, Tonga
The King of Tonga has received one of the first Beyond: The Search DVD sets to go to the Pacific islands.
King Tupou VI, a member of the Free Wesleyan Church, was given a Beyond box set during official celebrations to mark his birthday. The gift was presented by Tonga native Paula Moimoi Latu, who works for Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing at Berkeley Vale, NSW. The presentation received great interest in the local press and community. More than 400 orders for the DVDs have already come from Tonga, according to the Adventist Media Network (AMN).

Beyond: The Search is a 14-part documentary series featuring stories from around the world that promote the Christian worldview as relevant, attractive and reasonable. Produced by AMN, the series has already received a number of mainstream film awards, including two prestigious Gini Gold Eagles. For more information, visit <beyond.info>.—Jared Madden/Kent Kingston

Cairns Samoans celebrate church status
Cairns, Queensland
Cairns Samoan company was granted official church status during a special day of celebration, which included a Samoan banquet and mass choir.
The day was organised by Pastor Musu Amuimua, who has been at the church for 13 years. “Like all churches, we’ve had some challenges along the way,” he said. “But it is really exciting for us as a church to take this next step.”
Representatives of the Northern Australian Conference, as well as the other Samoan pastors from the conference, came together with the Cairns Samoan church. Pastor Levi Mote and Sigila Palesi led out during the Sabbath School lesson and Pastor Uli Solofa, president of the Samoa-Tokelau Mission, sent a video message of congratulations. The 47 charter members were challenged by conference president, Pastor Brent Townsend, to be people who had Jesus dwelling in them, through the Holy Spirit. The names were read and voted by Rob Ellison, general secretary of the conference.—Top News

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You can make an eternal difference!

Hutt Valley Samoan church in North New Zealand hosted a healthy lifestyle program for members and the wider community recently.

Pacific families participated in the initiative—designed to promote health and wellbeing. Presentations from health experts, cooking demonstrations, exercise and a healthy lunch were key features of the program held at the church in Taita, Lower Hutt.

Type 2 diabetes and obesity were among the topics discussed. One of the presentations showed how much fat is in takeaway food compared to a healthy meal cooked at home.

Attendees responded positively to the program and many are working hard to be named the winner in a “biggest loser” competition. Aerobics classes are held at the church hall every Tuesday night and Sunday morning and are open to the community.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is well known for its health principles but we need to promote better access to health issues and services at a local level,” said Atapana Lio, who heads the church’s health department.

According to Ministry of Health Statistics, Pacific adults have the highest rates of obesity in New Zealand.

Lavea’i Trust Inc. project manager Naomi Saluni Tavau said she was happy to sponsor the initiative because it contributes to the trust’s mission of providing hope and motivation to help families live healthier lives.

—Naomi Saluni Tavau/RECORD staff

MY MINISTRY IDEA

The One Project comes to Sydney

After much talked-about gatherings in North America and Europe, the One Project came to Sydney on the weekend of July 28 and 29. It was booked out 10 weeks in advance—with a waiting list—attracting 225 participants from across Australia and beyond.

But don’t we get together to talk about Jesus at church every week? ”There is so much strength and hope in coming together with others who love and follow Jesus,” said Japhet De Oliveira, co-chair of the One Project and chaplain for Andrews University (Michigan, USA). “But exploring the significance of this with others from all over the planet offers exponential hope and affords a safe space to share and reflect.”

Supported by the Greater Sydney Conference and Australian Union Conference, the One Project was hosted at Kellyville Church after church member Rod Long attended the One Project’s gathering in Seattle in February with a small group of Australians.

“One Project gathering was a watershed experience for us,” Mr Long explained. “It was a moment that brought to life who we are as Christians, and Who—not what—should be our focus. So it was our desire to have our church family share in the One Project experience and reignite our love and passion for Jesus.”

The One Project began two years ago with a small group of pastors and leaders with a passion to refocus people’s attention on Jesus, and who wanted to share that experience with their friends and colleagues. A professor of history at Southern Adventist University, Lisa Clark Diller, is a director of the One Project and presented at the Sydney gathering. “How we tell our history will shape our identity as a denomination,” she said.

Dr Diller expressed her appreciation for the support and interest experienced by the One Project team. “The work done by the local church to support this gathering was a huge blessing,” she said. “I was also inspired by how welcoming church leaders were to lay people of all kinds as they came together as equals in this gathering.”

Lesleigh Bower attended the One Project with nine other members of the North Perth church (WA) and expects this gathering will make a difference in their local church.

“We haven’t been good at placing Jesus at the centre of our relationships,” added Mr Long. “But without Jesus front and centre, we have nothing. I knew from my own experience that the presentations, worship and discussions would be amazing—and I knew many in Australia would identify with this.”

That the One Project seemed to catch on so quickly was only partly a surprise to the visiting speakers. “What I saw and heard, I believe it resonated with Australians just as strongly as it has with Europeans and North Americans,” Pastor De Oliveira said. “The strength of Jesus supersedes all cultural and personal possibilities and unites us with His mission.”

Talks are underway regarding future One Project gatherings. “The feedback from many people has been that these have been some of the best meetings they have attended,” said Pastor Tony Knight, director of Youth Ministries for the Australian Union Conference. “Such was the enthusiasm that every conference represented has expressed an interest in hosting future gatherings. They want to share it with more of their church members, so we are working on plans for the One Project in Australia again next year.”

While pleased to be able to share it with others, the core of the One Project remains personal for Pastor De Oliveira. “Jesus. All.” has called me to a new trajectory that seeks Jesus in all I am,” he said. “It has given me hope and connected me with so many others who share that hope. It is time to bless each other in what Jesus has called the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be.”

Nathan Brown is book editor for Adventist Media Network.
**A house divided**

In my last study, The Invincibles, we saw the church is the most precious thing on earth to God. Jesus said, “a house divided against itself cannot stand” (Luke 11:17). A family cannot last with continual disagreement! Two cannot continue on a journey together with endless arguing! The church is no different!

Unity and the church

Since the church is the household of God and has a God-given mission to make disciples of all people everywhere, it is no surprise to discover that unity is prized by God for His church. Unity is a must because we have all put on the same Christ, thus making all members equal, with no superiority to be exercised on racial, social or gender lines. Read John 17:11-21-23; 1 Cor 11:18; 12:20,25; Gal 3:26-28.

Unity of truth and behaviour

Such unity is one of both spirit and truth, of faith and of knowledge of Christ, and of lifestyle or behaviour. Read Eph 4:2-3, 13; 2 Cor 6:14-17; 1 Tim 6:3-5; 1 Cor 1:1-7.

Unity and organisation

Everything God does works with unity and harmony, with order and organisation. So too unity in the church is fostered by appropriate organisation for the sake of mission. Thus, as Christ “built his church”, He first appointed and ordained apostles. Later under the Spirit’s direction the church added the offices of deacons and elders and met in councils. Thus, in the Bible, the church is much more than people “out there” who have put their trust in Christ. It is the organised body of Christ for His mission “to seek and save that which is lost.” Read Matt 16:18; Mark 3:14; Acts 6:1-7; 14:23; 15:5-29.

Adele Nash is editor of NorthPoint magazine.

**OPINION**

Adele Nash

The advantage of integrity

Groucho Marx once said: “These are my principles. And if you don’t like them, you have others.” This is particularly relevant in the current slim majority-minority situation in the Australian Parliament, where it appears politicians of all persuasions will latch onto anything to give them a perceived advantage with the electorate, even if it contradicts things they’ve previously said.

Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with who stands for what on any given day. And it’s not just in Australia—leaders around the world seem to act like weather vanes, turning back and forth in the wind, rather than behaving like visionaries with coherent plans for the future.

Given how sceptical we’ve become, I’m surprised that so many political observers have engaged in the conflicted expressions of “morale” outrage about political fibs and flip-flops. For years, we’ve rated politicians on the lower end of the scale when it comes to those whom we can trust. And this facet is often reported in the media by journalists, who we also apparently find wanting.

Yet in spite of our cynicism, we still yearn for integrity—not only from our leaders but also those around us, the people we have relationships with and those we work with. Hopefully, we also look for integrity from and in ourselves. As a concept, integrity means we are consistent in our actions, words and values (basically it’s the opposite of hypocrisy). Proverbs 11:3 tells us that honesty and integrity act as a guide for good people. Integrity isn’t something that magically appears in everyone’s life, but results from being disciplined enough to pursue it—even when it’s inconvenient.

Although we do hope and work for integrity, we as Christians know that sin in the world means that there isn’t a single one of us who isn’t fallible (see Romans 3:23). However, as we’re told in Romans 12:2, we should transform our bodies for becoming people of integrity. Our words and actions reflect who we are to others. Let’s surrender to Christ and let Him make us women and men of integrity.

**OPINION POLL**

How do you handle kid’s screentime?

- Limit hours per day
- Switch off on Sabbath
- Encourage them to master tech
- I’m too busy staring at my own screen to worry

Opinions? Comment? Send a letter to <editor@record.net.au>.

**HEALTH FEATURE**

Adele Nash

How caring for your heart helps those you love

It goes without saying that people who have personally experienced a heart attack have gone through a very traumatic event. But new research out of Denmark is reminding us that the negative health effects of a heart attack can extend beyond the individual.

Researchers compared the spouses of people in Denmark who had suffered heart attacks with the spouses of those who had other major health issues and found that the spouses of heart attack patients were at higher risk of depression, anxiety and suicide following the event, even if the patient had survived. When the researchers looked at antidepressant use, they found that the partners of those who had passed away due to a heart attack were three times more likely to be using antidepressants in the year following the event compared to the year prior. Spouses of patients who had survived were 17 per cent more likely to be prescribed antidepressants, while spouses of patients surviving other health scares were not more likely to be prescribed these drugs.

The researchers theorised that the suddenness of a heart attack may be a factor, as the patient may appear healthy and then suddenly be critically ill. While the research looked specifically at spouses, the investigators believe anyone close to the person who suffers the heart attack may be at risk.

When someone suffers a heart attack, we should not ignore the life-changing impact this can have on carers, family and friends. If you or someone you know has had a loved one go through a traumatic event, it’s vital important to talk to your doctor about the various forms of support available.

**Broccoli soup**

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 10 minutes Serves: 4

1 medium potato, peeled and cubed
1 head broccoli
3/4 tsp salt
1 tbsp oil
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 tsp crushed garlic
1 litre vegetable stock
Crusty bread to serve (optional)

1. Bring a pot of water to the boil, add salt.
   Only use enough water to cover the potato by 1cm. Boil for 10 minutes.

2. Cut the florets off the broccoli and place in boiling water, along with the potato. Cook for a further 5-7 minutes until broccoli is tender and still bright green in colour.

3. Do not drain potato and broccoli. With a stick blender, blend until smooth.

4. In a pan with a little oil, cook the onion with the garlic until onion becomes soft and tender.

5. Add to blended broccoli mixture and blend again.

6. Return soup to heat and add vegetable stock to the desired consistency. Heat through.

Call and speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 0800 319 392 (in Australia) or 0800 300 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (in New Zealand). Don’t forget to order our free cookbook, Food for Health and Happiness, by visiting our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz.

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Q: Is it worth adding seeds to the daily menu?
A: The answer is yes. Seeds are highly nutritious for they contain the germ of a new plant and are rich in the essentials of life. All cereals are essentially seeds, including wheat, rice, barley, millet and oats, which most people eat each day in various forms. But the list is unending, and pumpkin and similar seeds are likewise rich in food value. Eggs, a vital part of the food chain, are simply the “seed” counterpart of our feathered friends (as young chicks know so well). We simply steal them.

Q: My young son often has discharge from the nose.
A: A common cause is a foreign material shoved into the nostrils and may work its way backwards leading to profuse and often yucky discharge. It may be bits of cotton, pieces of gravel, tiny spherical bits of toys, wheat or rice grains. These are often only found with difficulty and may require a nose specialist. Mild infections and allergies are other causes. Many resolve automatically. Some people need allergy tests and “de-sensitisation” treatment to overcome the allergy (often grass pollen).

Unwell? Go to docwright.com.au - Enter symptoms for immediate advice.
If symptoms continue, see your doctor.

HEALTH WISE
Dr James Wright

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MY CHURCH
PONSONBY, Auckland
Karma Vano
I grew up at Ponsonby church and now I am the assistant pastor. The church has a lot of history. It was the first established church in the southern hemisphere. On October 13, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary. Ellen White preached in the original church, which is now our hall. All other Adventist churches in Auckland have basically come out of this church—it is the mother church.

A challenge that we face is that most members don’t live around here anymore. For about nine years we ran a big mission every year, however, we stopped doing that for a few years. We had to regroup.

This year we are running a mission again, with General Conference stewardship director, Dr Erika Puni, as the main speaker. It has been going quite successfully and we have many non-members attending. We are using personal invites to encourage people to come along.

Ponsonby is quite central as it’s just a stone’s throw from the CBD. We have about 400-500 people attending on a weekly basis, with all different age groups and nationalities represented.

There is a large group of Cook Islanders who meet at the church on Friday nights and a large Samoan fellowship who run Adventist Youth programs on Sabbath afternoons.

“WHAT MAKES YOUR CHURCH DIFFERENT TO ALL THE OTHERS?”
I thought about it for a moment . . .
“WE ARE ALSO ATHEISTS.”

WAS BOARDING A PLANE FLYING FROM AUCKLAND TO Sydney, thinking, “I hope no-one sits next to me. I am so tired that I just want to go to sleep.” You can guess—as soon as that thought came into my mind a young guy plonked himself down next to me.

“Hi, my name is Lucas and I’m a geology student at Sydney University. What’s your name and what do you do?”

His outgoing personality just oozed out of him and it was clear that he wanted to chat so I told him my name and that I work in media for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Oh . . .” he said. “I’m an atheist.” Then, “What makes your Church different to all the others?”

I thought about it for a moment wondering how to respond. I knew that I was about to be served a vegetarian meal, so I thought maybe I should start there. No. What about keeping the same seventh-day Sabbath that Jesus kept? How about the soon return of Jesus? Well, maybe. But then I said this to him: “We are also atheists.”

“Wha?” he said, clearly shocked. “How so?”

I said to him, “First, you tell me about the God you don’t believe in.”

“Well that’s the point,” he said. “How can I tell you about God if I don’t even believe He exists?”

“Yes,” I said. “But you must have some sort of a mental picture. Tell me about Him.”

“Well, He’s big and powerful, doesn’t really care too much. In fact, I think He’s rather cruel to be honest.”

“An atheist.” Then, “What makes your Church different to all the others?”

I then shared with Lucas a picture of God that provides perfect freedom. You can either believe in Him or not, you can love Him or not. He is a God who left heaven and stepped down, down, down, to die the worst possible death so that anyone who wants to go to heaven will get there. A God who actually goes out searching for people who are struggling so He can embrace and help them. A God who loves with a love that never stops.

Again Lucas was stunned. “Wow! I’ve never heard of your God like that.”

“Okay,” I said. “Let’s see if you can believe in Him.”

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Newly Schofield is CEO of the Adventist Media Network.
A farewell to arms?

by Nathan Brown

IT'S A QUICK WAY TO GRAB THE ATTENTION AND STIR the heart. Begin by addressing them as “troops” or an army, describe the spiritual battle in lurid and urgent terms, then call them to march and fight, live and die in the cause or name of Jesus. It even has some biblical foundation—although not as much as many assume—but it comes with the weight of historical abuses and current confusion. For this reason I believe it is the wrong metaphor for our times.

It is wrong as it over-emphasises a lesser metaphor of what the Church should be, turning it into something that does not bring out the best in us and is likely to cause uneasiness or outright fear in those coming across such rhetoric outside the Church. It is also something we have largely borrowed from other Christian cultures—cultures that not only revel in the military metaphor, but do so seemingly with no self-consciousness. Ever heard of “I'm in the Lord's Army,” or “Onward Christian Soldiers” or “I'm a light, an athlete, a soldier or slave.”

In Paul's letters, he occasionally describes colleagues as “soldiers,” but there are no direct references to exhibiting the warrior metaphor in the New Testament. The New Testament offers us many other metaphors for what it means to be a church and live faithfully—a body, a family, a bride, a tree, a vine, a city, a light, an athlete, a servant or slave.

The New Testament describes the spiritual battle as the peace of Jesus following behind, healing the injuries and damage our militaristic exuberance has inflicted. Paul knew what it was like to take such exuberance on the road. He was on just such a mission when Jesus pulled him up, blinded him and showed him “how much he must suffer for me” (Acts 9:16). We need to read the surprisingly rare military metaphors Paul uses in his later writings in this context. Paul's soldier references are always about enduring suffering and standing firm, except perhaps for his description of using “God's mighty weapons” (1 Corinthians 2:6–7) to “break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God” (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5; consider also 1 Timothy 6:12). In this case, His “weapons” are the truth of the Gospel, presented clearly and carefully.

In Paul's letters, he occasionally describes colleagues as “soldier soldiers” (see, for example, Philippians 2:25; Philippians 3:5) but he considers some of those who have “endured suffering along with me” (2 Timothy 2:3; also Philippians 1:30). Little wonder the best-known military metaphor in the New Testament is that of the armour of God, described in Ephesians 6:10–18, but also referenced in Romans 13:12 and 3 Thessalonians 5:8. This is about keeping safe amid the assaults of the devil and his agents, and is described in both military terms: “Use every piece of God’s armour to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm” (Ephesians 6:13, emphasis added).

Given the common use of military metaphors in some ministries and by some preachers, it’s surprising how uncommon such metaphors are across the sweep of the New Testament—having mentioned almost all of them above. It is as surprising and disappointing that many of the enthusiastic applications of these metaphors actually undermine the “gospel of peace” (see Ephesians 6:15; also Romans 10:14) we are called to share—and live.

The New Testament offers us many other metaphors for what it means to be a church and live faithfully—a body, a family, a bride, a tree, a vine, a city, a light, an athlete, a servant or slave—but sadly these don’t seem to catch our collective imagination as much as playing armies. This doesn’t reflect well on us. It shows how influenced we are by the violent cultures around us—even when aspiring to the heights of faithfulness—and it doesn’t bring out our best, encouraging different forms of attack on others and entrenching us against them in mentality in relation to our communities and the wider world.

It’s something we need to consider when next we plan a “crusade” or “campaign”, promote a “boot camp”, suggest we stand and sing “Onward Christian Soldiers” or “I’m in the Lord’s Army,” or choose how we promote and present particularly some of our youth and men’s ministries. For our own good and for the good of those around us, we need less “launching as to war,” not more—as some voices would urge us to.

In talking about the trials, persecutions and “battles” they would face, Jesus taught His disciples to “be as wary as snakes and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Too often, Christians have been as heedless and insensitive as pigeons squabbling over crumbs and as dangerous as cornered snakes, fighting and wounding for the rightness and goodness of our cause—or just because we are afraid of so many things different from ourselves.

Biblically, the military metaphors have their place—standing firm, suffering together, resisting the attacks of evil. That is one way to talk about being “harmless” as Jesus taught it. But we need greater encouragement toward what it means to be as “harmless” as Jesus taught—it in the best sense of the word. And some of the Bible's non-military metaphors will be more helpful in this faithful, Jesus-modelled quest.

The railway network (both by those inside and those outside the church)” (Brian Zahnd, Beauty Will Save the World). And it’s not just the culture war—it’s the actual war and its countless outrages and victims around the world today.

We are different and our rhetoric should be different as well.

Of course, Jesus is our ultimate example and the only description of Him as a warrior is right at the end of the story and only after the completion of the work of judgment (see Revelation 19:11). Even amid the ongoing great controversy, the one making war is the dragon and he is primarily resisted and defeated in non-militaristic ways—by the blood of the Lamb, by their testimony, by enduring, by standing firm (see Revelation 12:14).

While on earth Jesus reminded us that it is the peace-makers who are blessed (see Matthew 6:9), as well as they who patiently endure suffering and persecution (verses 10–12). Among his most remarkable acts of healing was that of the high priest’s servant’s ear after it had been cut off by an over-aggressive but well-intentioned disciple at the time of His arrest (see Luke 22:49–51). Perhaps if we only looked behind us in our occasional rampag-
Underdogs
Two Avondale College teams outperformed those from larger institutions at Avondale’s first Eastern University Games appearance. The mixed touch football team finished fourth; the netball team sixth. “We were the underdog,” said arts and teaching student Mark Tjkkel. “Within days, word spread we were a Christian institution; it made us feel so proud.”—Josh Dye/James Dawson

A win for Gore
Seventh-day Adventist Delalih Gore was elected as a member of parliament (MP) after winning the Sohe Open seat in the Dcio province of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Gore was one of only two women who won seats at PNG’s national election, which saw Peter O’Neill retain his position as Prime Minister.—RECORD staff/Sydney Morning Herald/The Age

Honoured overseas
The World Education Congress, together with CMO Asia, honoured leading educators at a special ceremony in Singapore in July. Queenslandan Warren Shinton, associate professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Asia-Pacific International University, was among those honoured. He received an Outstanding Contribution to Education award, and said, “No one should imagine that a faith-based education is inferior to the state-sponsored article.”

Six pastors ordained
Six pastors were ordained as part of Vanuatu’s centenary celebrations in Port Vila on June 12. Jimmy Jataph, Judahson Leo, Joshua Esau, Esad Tawali, Ernest Quero and Max Senembe were ordained on Sabbath in front of more than 3000 witnesses. Trans-Pacific Union president, Pastor Waisea Nitigvena, officiated at the ceremony.—Jean P Mypal

Brad Rea’s ordination
Macquarie College chaplain Brad Rea and his wife, Christie, were ordained at Waiemad Adventist Church, NSW in July. Family was the focus of the ceremony, with relatives and friends gathering to witness his ordination. Pastor Rea’s father, Malcolm Rea, took the sermon, while his brother, Pastor Ben Rea, shared his life story and, along with North NSW Conference leaders, welcomed him into the ministry. Despite serving as a legal practitioner in NSW for several years, Pastor Rea recognised his real calling was to pastoral ministry.—Adele Nash/Brad Rea/Justin Lawman

Students sent outside
Darling Downs Christian School (Qld) runs a number of “green exercise” programs to get students outside for the four walls of the classroom. A Kitchen Garden Program was launched in the primary school last year. Another initiative is HOPE—Health, Outdoor and Physical Education—a program for all Year 9 and 10 students. The school’s secondary agriculture program also teaches organic horticulture and animal husbandry.—DOCS

Flying high
Lyn Spain, travel manager/licencee of Yarra Travel Junction, was awarded the 2012 Top Sales Award for Scenic Tours and Qantas Holidays for Victoria and Tasmania. A member of Warwick Adventist church (Vic), Lyn also received an award for Best Owner/Manager, presented by Jetset Travelworld Group. Congratulations!—Sue Marshall

Priceless!
Sydney Adventist College donated $A1600 toward the World Changers Bible Project. “The fact that the school is closing its doors at the end of the year makes this donation priceless!” said Urania Turner, associate director of Adventist Youth Ministries. “They want to leave a legacy through the Bible.” School chaplain, Pastor Richie Reid, and principal Julia Young organised the initiative.

RECENTLY I ATTENDED SOME MEETINGS OUT west with a group of Adventist “progressives.” Because of jet lag, I found myself waking up early.

One morning, after reading for two hours, I tried to think of other interesting things to do. Finally, at about 6:15, I gave in and took a wrinkled shirt down the hallway to a shared ironing room.

As I entered, one of the conference attendees was already there having her devotional time. I apologised for interrupting but she waved it off and told me to stay.

While I stood ironing at my usual turtle’s pace, we struck up a conversation about the Adventist Church comparing attitudes at our local churches.

“What do you do?” she asked.

“Where you live,” I asked, “Does everyone pray at 7:00 am and 7:00 pm?”

“It was a moment to realise what she meant. “Oh,” I said, “I forgot all about that. Are you talking about Ted Wilson asking the world Church to pray at 7:00 and 7:00?”

“Yes,” she said.

“Well,” I asked, “Do church members do that where you live?”

She nodded.

These meetings that I attended “out west” were really far west for me (I teach at Southern Adventist University in the US). They were in Melbourne, Australia, where Adventist bookstore managers from throughout the South Pacific had gathered to welcome a new round of products. These men and women brought with them incredible stories of conversion, of whole families brought to Christ through the words on the pages of our books.

The woman praying in the ironing room was from the Solomon Islands. She and her friends are, to me, “Adventist progressives” in the best sense of the term. They’ll be praying this evening at 7:00 and tomorrow morning at 7:00 for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to progress rapidly through-out the earth.

I realise that my definition of “Adventist progressives” is a little unconventional. Adventist “progressives” are commonly seen as those urging the abandonment of the six-day creation record and biblical teachings on human sexuality; views the Adventist Church explicitly rejects. Setting aside these differences for a moment, I got to thinking how meaningful it would be if leaders of the Adventist progressive movement were the ones calling members to join our world Church leaders in prayer.

Whether or not we’re praying at exactly 7:00 and 7:00, surely we’d all agree about the importance of praying for and with each other. Yet how often do we find anything of this sort on the websites of those self-identified as progressive? Instead there sounds a rather steady drumbeat of criticism, even mockery, of church leadership.

Making the choice to be in a spiritual community isn’t about whether we all instantly agree on what (we’ve decided are) the pressing issues of the day. It’s about finding ways to come together anyway, being just a little bit different from a vitriolic popular culture that specialised in tearing others down without bat an eye. It’s also about showing respect for our appointed leaders and considering the possibility that they have been called to their positions for a reason.

Do I agree with everything that our current General Conference president does? Of course not. But I respect him as a deeply spiritual person and as our leader, just as I did his predecessor. Jesus didn’t command unity; He prayed for it. What could be more unifying (and potentially transforming) than for those most opposed to each other to pray for each other with each other? The day progressives unite in promoting prayer would be a good day for our Church.

Priceless!

Andy Nash is a professor, pastor and the author of Paper God, a spiritual memoir. This article was first published in the Adventist Review.

Send your pictures and details to news@record.net.au

record.net.au  SEPTEMBER 29, 2012
Pioneer missionary

Marye Trim

Australasian Adventists who lived in the first half of the 20th century would have known the name Pastor Albert H Piper. He is especially remembered as the first missionary from Australasia to the Pacific islands.

Born in New Zealand, he became acquainted with Ellen White through her visits to his Wellington home to meet with his mother. Mary Piper had attended evangelistic meetings conducted by Stephen McCullagh from South Australia and wrote in the flyleaf of her Bible, “Kept the Sabbath”, dated March 7, 1891. In 1893, Albert’s sister, Nina, became housekeeper and assistant to Mrs White who wrote of her, “She is a remarkable girl among girls . . . a sincere Christian.” Of Albert, she wrote in the same letter, “He is not a believer and is a staunch Presbyterian.”

In 1896, Albert experienced a miraculous conversion and became a Sabbath keeper. He also remembered having encountered Mrs White in his home and that she had said to him, even while he scorned Adventists, that he would someday preach about the second coming of Jesus.

In 1897, his life changed when he left the New Zealand Civil Service, where it was said he would have a great career, and began work as a tent master in Christchurch for the American Adventist preacher Eugene Farnsworth. From there he went to Westport on the north-west coast of the South Island and while ministering there received an offer of financial help, prompted by Mrs White, for him to go to the Australasian Missionary College (now Avondale). The offer coincided with a reduced shipping fare and soon he was on his way to Cooranbong. During his time at college he lived in the White home, “Sunnyside”, in 1898 as a guest. The experience gave him a profound respect for Mrs White’s ministry.

In October 1900, Albert and his bride, Hettie, sailed to Rarotonga where he established two schools and churches at Titikaveka and Aorangi, staying for seven years. With sadness they returned to Australia when his young wife became very ill through impoverished conditions and overwork, causing her death. Thereafter he served the Church as principal of the Darling Range School, a missionary training centre in Western Australia, and from 1927-1937 lived in Wahroonga where he was secretary of the Union Conference (as the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australasia was then called) and president for Island Missions, a role he shared with Pastor A G Stewart, renowned pioneer to Fiji and the New Hebrides.

In 1938–39, he was principal of the Australasian Missionary College, participating in a remarkable Week of Prayer that students remembered all their lives because it prepared them to face an imminent World War II. During the war, and until 1950, Albert contributed as a conference president. After retirement he became a popular speaker at Weeks of Prayer and camp meetings, where he invariably spoke about the role of Ellen White within his own life and the Church.

For almost 60 years, Albert Piper’s strengths in Christian service lay in perceptive administration and in a unique, faithful, compassionate personality that was led and shaped by the Holy Spirit.


Marye Trim is an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College of Higher Education.
STRONG AND PROUD
Bronwyn Mison, NSW

Thank you for the great job you and your team are doing at RECORD and in the Communication department.

I was particularly encouraged by your recent editorial “Strong and Proud” (August 4).

Being confident about our identity makes a significant contribution to our health and wellbeing. We have nothing to fear, except perhaps the inability to be transparent and honest.

I agree that “we have a far better brand image than most of us realise. And it would be a lot better if we weren’t so busy hiding from our own shadow”.

Yes, our image out in the community is in many cases positive and, in some cases, unknown. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a valuable message that can connect people with Jesus and change lives for good. Every individual member has an opportunity to share the message and live the brand in a powerful way—what a privilege! Thanks again for the reminder.

SOFT ON OURSELVES
Carol Schwamm, NZ

I saw with some amazement and confusion the opinion poll result to the question, “How should the Church deal with divorce?” (June 16).

Firstly, I am struggling to figure out whether the poll was an accomplished fact or if it was seeking my opinion, which, for what it’s worth, doesn’t matter one tiny bit, except for my own actions/example.

Then I asked myself if a person should have an opinion on such a topic anyway. All of the options given could be appropriate in different circumstances. This is NOT a one-size-fits-all subject.

Have you never read Matthew 19:3–9? Jesus said divorce was allowed because of the hardness of our hearts. It is one of the tragedies of a sinful world. We would do well to read often what God (Jesus) did about the woman at the well (John 4:1–26), the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1–11) and King Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1–8; 2 Chronicles 32:33–33:20) before we wade into anyone’s lives. Why are we so hard on others and so soft on ourselves? God is extremely gentle. We ought to be so also (Micah 6:8).

ON THE SAME PAGE
Patricia Kila, PNG

Greetings from Papua New Guinea. I just want to say that I enjoyed the editorial titled “Jackie” (RECORD, April 7). I am not an Adventist but my friend, Lydia, passed on some of your magazines to read. I have enjoyed the articles as they relate to our South Pacific region. Anyway, I read your editorial and just wanted to say thank you for a beautifully expressed, well-written article.

I am still coming to terms with the death of my 18-year-old son who was studying at Pacific Adventist University at the time of his death in 2007. Just wanted to thank you.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?
Bill Miller, Qld

An accolade to James Standish (“Strong & Proud”, August 4) for sounding a long needed message. A few pages on, I wondered if the young gymnastics medallists (p 8) were from an AOG (Assemblies of God), SDA or RC (Roman Catholic) school. At least they said they were Christian but it would be nice if we knew the denomination that established the school.

In Selected Messages, Book 2 (p 384) we read, “Are we ashamed of our name? No, no . . . It is the name the Lord has given us.” Evangelism (p 179) says “. . . we should scorn concealment”. Life Sketches of Ellen White (p 314) advises that we should not cover up our distinctive features in the hope of avoiding prejudice. Selected Messages, Book 2 (p 386) notes that some so-called Adventists claimed that the “banner” that makes us distinctive should not be displayed so prominently as that would not be the best policy for the success of our institutions. We are also warned against cloaking our name in the hope of gaining patronage from non-believers.

Thank you James, you have hit the nail right on the head. Let’s hope the wood is not too hard.

MARRIAGE BELONGS TO CHURCH
Judy MacDonnell, Qld

I am alarmed by the rising support for gay marriage. As much as I appreciate gay people (I have good friends who are gay), I do not believe that the gay lifestyle is in God’s plan for us and do not believe that gay “marriage” is indeed marriage. Marriage should be kept in the church arena not in state control. Why not lobby the government to drop marriage as an agenda and give civil unions to everyone, homosexual or heterosexual? That would give everyone equality! Marriage belongs to the church, a sacred trust.
APPRECIATION

Hilda Smith and Ron McConkey wish to thank all those who lovingly offered their sympathy through prayers, phone calls, letters, cards and visits at the loss of six family members in less than three years.

WEDDINGS

Grice—Govender. Benjamin Wade Grice, son of Barry and Lorraine Grice (Sydney, NSW), and Revona Rume Govender, daughter of Pastor Roger and Delene Govender (Sydney), were married 13.5.12 at Parramatta church, Sydney. Revona’s father, Pastor Roger Govender, and Pastor Johnny Murison conducted the ceremony. Johnny Murison, Roger Govender

Nezar—Wadd. Samuel John Nezar, son of John (deceased) and Bridget Nezar (Scotts Head, NSW), and Tianna Beckie Wadd, daughter of Graham and Kaylene Wadd (Mackay, Qld), were married 25.6.12 in the historic Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Witta, via Maleny. Mike Brownhill

Scott-Hyland—Johnson. David Raymond Scott-Hyland, son of Ronald (deceased) and Barbara Hyland (Perth, WA), and Lynette Patricia Johnson, daughter of Geoffrey and Elaine Feddersen (York), were married 22.7.12 at Carmel church. Robert Kingdon

OBITUARIES

Blackburne, Graham Lindsay Norman, born 11.10.1951 in Hamilton, NSW; died 20.6.12 in Epworth Hospital, Vic. On 28.12.1977, he married Vera Jakowlew. He is survived by his wife; and their children, Andrew and Anna (all of Moorooburk); his mother, Elaine (Nunawading); brother, Keith and his wife, Heather, and daughter, Kelly (Auckland, NZ); and all of Vera’s family. Graham’s death was sudden and unexpected. He was best known for always being there to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Graham taught science, physics and later technology. In his 38 years of teaching, he served at Fulton College, Fiji, Betkama College, Solomon Islands, and then Nunawading Christian College. Graham’s life was lived with honour and to the glory of God. He was a truly humble man of integrity and Christian values.

Morrie Krieg

Bowen, Elsie (nee Stanton), born 22.12.1912; died 30.12.11. Born near Maitland, Elsie was the fifth eldest of 11 children. She lived in places from Coonamble to Sydney and the Northern Beaches, NSW. In 1939, she married Wally Sargent, who predeceased her in 1966 at Chatswood. They had no children. In 1980, she married Bill Grice—Govender. Benjamin Wade Grice, son of Barry and Lorraine Grice (Sydney, NSW), and Revona Rume Govender, daughter of Pastor Roger and Delene Govender (Sydney), were married 13.5.12 at Parramatta church, Sydney. Revona’s father, Pastor Roger Govender, and Pastor Johnny Murison conducted the ceremony. Johnny Murison, Roger Govender

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Morrie Krieg

Bowen, Elsie (nee Stanton), born 22.12.1912; died 30.12.11. Born near Maitland, Elsie was the fifth eldest of 11 children. She lived in places from Coonamble to Sydney and the Northern Beaches, NSW. In 1939, she married Wally Sargent, who predeceased her in 1966 at Chatswood. They had no children. In 1980, she married Bill

Karalundi is a co-educational K-12 Christian Community (Meekatharra, WA), a co-educational K-12 Christian boarding school which serves the Aboriginal people of Western Australia, is seeking expressions of interest for the position of chief executive officer. The successful applicant will be a self-motivated, energetic person who has a passion to share Jesus and His Word; have senior management experience and an interest in the development and training of Aboriginal young people; cooperate with the principal in designing practical education programs and provide leadership to Karalundi as a whole; be able to engage government and NGOs to maximise funding options; have cross-cultural experience together with a willingness to learn from others; be a team builder and have excellent problem-solving and conflict management/resolution skills. For further information please contact Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry, Adventist Church Australia, <stevepiez@adventist.org.au>, or 0409 357 701. Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.

KARALUNDI

Chief executive officer—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community (Meekatharra, WA), a co-educational K-12 Christian boarding school which serves the Aboriginal people of Western Australia, is seeking expressions of interest for the position of chief executive officer. The successful applicant will be a self-motivated, energetic person who has a passion to share Jesus and His Word; have senior management experience and an interest in the development and training of Aboriginal young people; cooperate with the principal in designing practical education programs and provide leadership to Karalundi as a whole; be able to engage government and NGOs to maximise funding options; have cross-cultural experience together with a willingness to learn from others; be a team builder and have excellent problem-solving and conflict management/resolution skills. For further information please contact Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry, Adventist Church Australia, <stevepiez@adventist.org.au>, or 0409 357 701. Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.
Rowan, who predeceased her in 1988 at North Balgowlah. Elsie was a faithful church treasurer, clerk and financial supporter. She lived in her own home at Cromer until the age of 99. She is buried at Matruarie Park Cemetery.

Carlos Hernandez, Eric Parker

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 • record.net.au

Finally

All of God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them.

———Oswald Chambers

VOLUNTEERS

Qualified builders needed for a fly-in Build project at Batuna Clinic in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. The preference is for builders to be available for three weeks at a time. This project will be starting from mid-October 2012 to June 2013 and volunteers can go when it suits them.

For further details contact A&S <volunteers@adventist.org.au> or (02) 9647 3278 – Anna Downie

TO ORDER DIRECT CONTACT: phone 02 9487 2296 <orders@adventistmedia.org.au>

SIGNSOFTHETIMES


Further information: phone 02 9487 2296 or (02) 6361 3636. Please note that the New Zealand CHP summit will be held February 15-17, 2013 at Tui Ridge, NZ. For more information visit: <www.chip.org.nz/summit>
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