AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE SCREENINGS

MELBOURNE
March 15, 6 pm and 8.30 pm @ Lilydale Adventist Church

SYDNEY
March 19, 7 pm @ Fox Valley SDA Community Church

COORANBONG
March 20, 8.30 pm @ Ladies Chapel, Avondale College of Higher Education

BRISBANE
March 22, 7 pm @ Springwood Adventist Church

Brought to you by Manifest Creative Arts Festival and Adventist Book Centres

Presented by executive producer, Pat Arrabito
World church leaders gather Down Under

Cooranbong, New South Wales

Senior leaders from the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered at Avondale College of Higher Education in January for the seventh Global Leadership Summit.

Dr Branimir Schubert, leadership and professional development manager of the South Pacific Division (SPD), organised the event on behalf of the General Conference (GC). The theme was “Adventist Leadership: A Spiritual Responsibility”.

A number of GC officials attended the event, including president Dr Ted Wilson, vice president Pardon Mwansa and executive secretary, Dr G T Ng.

The aim of the summit was to evaluate the leadership and professional development of current and future leaders. It also provided an opportunity for informal networking and social interaction.

Speakers included guest presenters from Andrews University, the SPD and other Adventist entities. There were also reports from world divisions outlining their leadership development programs and events.

However, it wasn’t all work and no play for the attendees. The summit included visits to Sunnyside and the South Sea Islands Museum in Cooranbong, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing headquarters in Berkeley Vale and the Sydney Adventist Hospital’s new clinical education centre in Wahroonga. Guests also visited the Australian Reptile Park on the NSW Central Coast and took a cruise along Sydney’s Darling Harbour.

“I hope each attendee goes home with a better appreciation of Australian culture, the beauty of Sydney and the work of the Adventist Church in the South Pacific,” Dr Schubert said.—Vania Chew

The One Project’s next chapter

Seattle, United States

The One Project, a US-based ministry, launched its first book during its annual gathering in Seattle last month.

For the One: Voices from The One Project was published in Australia by Signs Publishing, edited by Nathan Brown and includes 19 adapted presentations from gatherings during the first three years of The One Project.

“This book allows a much wider community to engage in the conversations we are having at our gatherings,” said Pastor Japhet De Oliveira, co-chair of The One Project and a church pastor from Boulder, Colorado. “The more people talking about the centrality of Jesus in their lives, the stronger our faith will be.”

For the One: Voices from The One Project is available from Adventist Book Centres. For more on The One Project go to <www.the1project.org>.—Nathan Brown

Addicts give up drugs for Jesus

Gumanch, Papua New Guinea

“Say YES to Jesus and NO to drugs forever” was the slogan created by a group of 52 marijuana users who publicly renounced their drug addiction at an Adventist evangelistic meeting in Papua New Guinea in January.

The program, held at Gumanch in the Dei District of the Western Highlands Province, attracted some of the most notorious drug addicts in the region. Among them was an elderly man known as “Fatherman”, who served as the group’s team leader. During the week-long program, Fatherman gave up his nickname as a symbol of his new-found faith. Now known as William, he commended the local Adventist church and guest speaker Solomon Kewa for recognising the young men as people of value.

Local community councillors and chiefs were on hand to support the recovering drug addicts, encouraging them to “not let drugs lower your self-esteem”.

“You are worthy. Your families, church, community, province and country need you,” they said. “Above all, God loves you.”

All of the former drug addicts are currently attending the local Adventist church.—Zachary Lipen/Linden Chuang
Reckless words

Linden Chuang

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” It has always been a nice concept, albeit an almost impossible one to live out. Let me tell you, when somebody calls you an “******** Cong” to your face, it hurts. It hurts a lot.

As an ABC (Australian-born Chinese), I’ve had to deal with a fair share of racial abuse. It has happened several times at the most unexpected places—at the beach, in car parks—and always results in a complex range of emotions, from subtle annoyance to searing anger. One time after a passerby in a shopping centre spat an insult at me I almost lost it. I wanted to have a crack at him. Part of me still does.

I’ll admit such a reaction isn’t very honourable; I’m just being honest. Words hurt. The pain is deep and long lasting. It’s no wonder the Bible describes reckless words as piercing swords (Proverbs 12:18) and deadly arrows (Psalm 64:4).

While being on the receiving end of some racial slander has been painful, I consider myself lucky. Other people have had to endure a lot worse.

Last year, ABC newreader Jeremy Fernandez endured a 15-minute attack from a woman while travelling on a Sydney bus. After being called a “filthy, black paedophile”—among other things—in front of his two-year-old daughter, Mr Fernandez was kicked off the bus, with the driver claiming the altercation was his fault.

“Anyone who says racism is dying is well and truly mistaken,” Fernandez later tweeted. “It’s a sad thing when a coloured man in 2013 has to show his kid how to hold their nerve in the face of racist taunts.”

Being racist to anyone is shameful. Being racist to a leading Australian journalist is just plain stupid—he’s going to write about it.

These days the phone is even more powerful than the pen. A video of passengers on a Melbourne bus hurling racial abuse at a group of French backpackers went viral in 2012, making headlines around the world. Similar confrontations are posted all over YouTube, giving evidence to the claim that Australia is “one of the most comfortably racist places” in the world, as one popular social commentator recently put it. Such a reputation is both disturbing and undeserved. In fact, a study released in 2013 by World Values Survey found both Australia and New Zealand to be among the most racially tolerant countries in the world.

My own experience confirms as much, with the number of genuine, kind-hearted, “fair go” Australians I’ve encountered outnumbering the racial bigots more than a thousand to one.

But it just goes to show the negative impact a few reckless words can have. They not only can cause a great deal of hurt, but ruin the reputation of something really wonderful.

This should serve as a warning for us as Adventists. While we may not be in the habit of hurling racial abuse, we’re not above and beyond attacking each other with our words. I wonder how many people and pastors we have needlessly chased away because of some hurtful comments.

Then there are those among us who take the “remnant” and “chosen” status of the Adventist Church too far, using it as an excuse to speak ill of those who are different from us—Catholics, evolutionists and atheists alike. It all needs to stop. Too much is at stake—not just the standing of our wonderful church family, but also the reputation of Christ.

That’s not to say we need to subscribe to an “anything goes” ideology. By all means disagree, direct and discipline—but do so in a spirit of love. It’s what Jesus did (see Mark 10:17-23, for example), and we are called to do the same.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Ephesians 4:29 NIV).

The challenge is clear: build up, or shut up. Will you use your words for hurting, or for healing?


Linden Chuang is assistant editor of Record—digital.
Train up a child

Jarrod Stackelroth

Surprise! Emotions flickered across their faces—shock, joy, tears. My parents had no idea we were coming to visit, no idea we’d managed to invite everyone at church to their surprise 30th anniversary dinner. My wife, the master organiser, had somehow planned, decorated and thrown the party from interstate, with the help of my siblings and I. It was the least we could do and a small token of our appreciation. Too rarely in our lives do we come together to celebrate those who mean the most to us—too often it’s too late.

In an age when so many relationships end, forever means “until the feelings wear off”. But my parents have so far weathered the storms of life. This was a milestone to celebrate. After all, I owe everything I am to them and to God, who they modelled to us.

They’ve showed me commitment, loyalty and conditional love, unconditionally. They taught me that two people with different interests, personalities and ways of doing things could live together in (relative) harmony. (Someone asked if that’s harmony until the relatives get involved?)

That’s not to say they didn’t fight. Of course they did. Different people clash. But they showed me that a fight is never as important as a person, that petty differences pale beside commitment and that reconciliation is always the best option. They showed me that tensions and trials were best withstood together and that it’s important to “leave” your birth family and “cleave” to your spouse. That was not always easy for our family but since our extended family was spread far and wide, we had to rely on each other.

My parents have had a number of stressful situations over the past few years, yet they have been solid rocks for their family, their friends and their church. Reflecting on their 30 years of marriage helped me to appreciate just how much they have done.

So much of what I learnt from them wasn’t taught but shown—in their actions, beliefs and relationships.

They taught me to be physically affectionate, playful and unafraid to show emotion. They taught me that it was OK to be first at church in the morning and last to leave because church was family and if things needed doing, then they had to be done. There they taught me the importance of hospitality to visitors, respect and appreciation for elders at church (even though I was scared of them) and the importance of making church like a family, a multigenerational, multi-ethnic family who carried each other through.

My dad taught me a healthy respect for things, my own and other people’s. He showed me practical problem solving and personal satisfaction with a job well done. I spent many hours not being very helpful, but watching him fix things, get things working again or tidying up the garden.

My mum introduced me to books; those glorious portals where mysteries can be unlocked, burdens lightened, faith grown and knowledge watered among their pages. But she also taught me to be a discerning reader, highlighting the importance of filling my mind with the right kind of images. We had many deep spiritual conversations and she read us My Bible Stories faithfully.

The most important thing my parents gave all of us was a love for God and by His grace my siblings and I are all still involved in church.

I pray I will have a marriage like theirs—that lasts, learns and leaves a legacy.

Jarrod Stackelroth is associate editor of Record.

Communion and three crosses

Last Sabbath members of my family and I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the communion service with the church family at Avondale Memorial church. It gave me an opportunity to again reflect on the meaning of Christ’s sacrifice for me and the special bond that we share together as His sons and daughters. Pastor Danny Milenkov reminded us of three crosses that were erected on Golgotha that Friday afternoon almost 2000 years ago. First there was the cross of redemption: Christ’s cross. He alone was qualified to be on that cross. As the sinless Saviour He took my place. He became sin for me. Second there was the cross of rebellion: the criminal who challenged Christ did not accept Him. Finally there was the cross of repentance: the criminal who acknowledged the Lordship of Christ, repented of his sins and was welcomed by Christ as a citizen of His kingdom.

Scripture calls upon all of us to bear our cross. Bearing the cross of Christ is not an option for us—only Christ could do that. But when it comes to the other two crosses we each have a choice. We can choose rebellion or repentance. I’m so glad that the communion service as celebrated in the Adventist Church stretches us outside our comfort zone—we bow down at each other’s feet; we follow the example and command of Jesus; and we are reminded that His death makes our choice possible. It was Jesus Himself who said, “Take up your cross and follow me.”
Factional debates
The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), representing some 600 million Christians around the globe, has cancelled its General Assembly, which was due to occur in South Korea in October. CEO Geoff Tunnicliffe said continued divisions amongst evangelicals in South Korea have led to the cancellation, but cooperation will continue in other forums. —Christian Post

Sunday law campaign
The European Sunday Alliance, formed of trade unions, civil society organisations and faith communities, has again called for work-free Sundays. The campaign is gaining traction in the European Parliament but troubles Adventists in the region. They've warned that setting up Sunday as the universal work-free day would discriminate against religious minorities.—ANN

Battle begins
Much beloved Australian worship leader Darlene Zschech says she has finished the first of six rounds of chemotherapy for breast cancer and that, through it all, she is assured of God’s love. She admits that losing her hair has been “confronting”, but is thankful for the support of her Central Coast, NSW, church.—Charisma News

Speaking out
Adventist health leaders have reiterated their opposition to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a cultural practice affecting 140 million women globally. General Conference Health director, Dr Peter Landless, said the issue should be dealt with sensitively, so as to not turn it into a cultural battle or further stigmatise those impacted by the practice.—ANN

Seismic disaster
An unexpected volcanic eruption in Indonesia has ADRA and other aid groups scrambling to assist evacuees. Mt Sinabung in north Sumatra began to erupt last September, prompting evacuations of 30,000 people. But after experts declared the area safe about half the evacuees returned, only to face a further sudden eruption early this year.—Slate.com

Cancer fights back
A UN health report has highlighted the growing scourge of cancer, with alcohol, tobacco, soft drinks and the Western lifestyle blamed for the increase. The figures show cancer is now the world’s leading killer, overtaking both heart disease and strokes. Experts say warning labels for alcohol and soft drinks may help.—SMH

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School launches learning disability program

Toowoomba, Queensland

Darling Downs Christian School (DDCS) will become one of the first schools in Australia to provide a groundbreaking program for students with learning disabilities.

The Arrowsmith Program will begin operating at Toowoomba’s Adventist school in term two. It has claimed to have helped thousands of children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia and dysgraphia to achieve academic and professional success.

Program founder, Canadian psychologist Barbara Arrowsmith-Young, visited DDCS and announced the launch of the program late last year.

“We have been working hard to bring this program to our school so we are really looking forward to seeing it become a reality this year,” principal Adrian Fitzpatrick said.

“Many Australian families have previously had to travel to Canada to access this program so it’s very exciting to offer it at DDCS.”

Mr Fitzpatrick said two teachers were currently receiving specialist training in Canada, but would return to open the program in April.

Mrs Arrowsmith-Young, an internationally recognised pioneer of neuroplasticity who also suffers from a learning disability, said she was thrilled that “the program will have such a wonderful home”.

“We take great care in choosing a school that fits our education philosophy,” she said. “DDCS offers the supportive, nurturing environment we want for our students.”

Anyone interested in enrolling should contact the school directly on (07) 4659 1111.—Elissa Dowling

Acts of kindness impact Port Vila

Port Vila, Vanuatu

More than 500 Adventist youth from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands celebrated the arrival of the New Year by performing service activities around Vanuatu’s capital city.

Youth members spent the first week of January picking up rubbish around Port Vila, painting school classrooms and cleaning the city’s main hospital and police station.

The community service was part of the Vanuatu Seventh-day Adventist Church’s National Youth Congress, which opened on New Year’s Eve with a special address from Vanuatu Prime Minister Moana Carcasses Kalosil.

The theme of the congress was “The Power of One”, with daily devotions and workshops held throughout the week at the Vanuatu Institute of Technology and Lycée College. Trans-Pacific Union Mission youth director, Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, and Efate district director, Pastor John Leeman, served as keynote speakers.

On Sabbath afternoon, participants took to the streets of Port Vila to sing and pray with people, hand out containers of rice and pay for bus fares. During these “act of kindness” activities, the youth also gave out Bibles and more than 300 copies of The Great Hope.—Jean-Pierre Niptik/Linden Chuang

San redevelopment continues

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Sydney Adventist Hospital’s major redevelopment is on track to open in August/September.

The development is a significant milestone in the hospital’s 110-year history. It will expand bed capacity by 192 to 552 and will increase the number of operating theatres by 10 to 24. The main tower of the “new San” will be named in honour of long serving and current CEO, Dr Leon Clark. Clark Tower will include a 40-bed state-of-the-art maternity unit with nine purpose-built delivery suites and an Integrated Cancer Centre.

Sydney Adventist Hospital is the flagship of Adventist HealthCare Limited, based in Wahroonga, NSW, and also operates other healthcare facilities: Dalcross Adventist Hospital, San Day Surgery Hornsby and San Diagnostics & Pharmacy Services.

As a result of the expansion, former general manager Phil Currie has been appointed to a newly created role of Performance and Change general manager, to meet the redevelopment needs.—Leisa O’Connor
**News**

**Williams tour South Pacific**

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

World Church president, Dr Ted Wilson, and his wife, Nancy, visited Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Fiji last month, where 75 per cent of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) membership resides.

Government protocol in Papua New Guinea dictated that Dr Wilson’s tour be given the same priority as a visit from a head of state, with security on hand and police vehicles escorting the presidential motorcade through the streets of Port Moresby, attracting curious stares and waves from locals.

Dr and Mrs Wilson, together with SPD president, Dr Barry Oliver, his wife, Julie, and PNG Union Mission president, Dr Leigh Rice, met with Prime Minister Peter O’Neill, as well as Opposition Leader Belden Namah and the Speaker of PNG’s parliament, Theo Zurenuoc. With each leader, Dr Wilson offered spiritual counsel and prayer, thanking the prime minister, in particular, for the religious freedom enjoyed in PNG.

Prior to Dr Wilson’s arrival, a series of evangelistic meetings at Port Moresby’s Jack Pidik Park, with the theme of “Immortal Decisions”, had been attracting large and enthusiastic crowds. But the main speaker, Pastor Chris Moses, secretary of the Central Papua Conference (CPC), ceded the pulpit to Dr Wilson for the final four meetings, which included the Sabbath morning service. Up to 15,000 church members and other Port Moresby locals crowded into the park, with hundreds making a decision for Christ in response to Dr Wilson’s appeal.

“It’s good to see that when our world leader comes to Papua New Guinea, he opens the Word of God,” said CPC president, Pastor Kove Tau, a key host for the Port Moresby visit.

Dr Wilson and his delegation travelled to Solomon Islands, where they met with Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo, who, according to a government media release, informed Dr Wilson about the role of Christian churches in nation building, particularly in the areas of education, health, youth development and spirituality. The Adventist leaders also travelled to Kukudu in Solomon Islands’ Western Province, the site of the establishment of the first Adventist mission 100 years ago.

The final leg of the trip was to Fiji, where Dr Wilson officially opened the new campus of Fulton College at Sabeto, on the outskirts of Nadi.—Kent Kingston

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- Church outreach—Fiji
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- Pacific Yacht Ministries—Vanuatu
- Medisonship clinic—Solomons

*PIO special price: $A20 ($NZ24) per subscription*
A new era began for Fulton College in February as approximately 600 people gathered to celebrate the opening of the Sabeto campus by General Conference president Dr Ted Wilson and Fiji Education minister Filipe Bole.

The $FJD20 million construction is almost complete, with classes scheduled to start on March 10. The buildings, including staff and student housing (for 240 students and 20 married units), classrooms, administration block and a multi-purpose centre, are completed but yet to be furnished.

After a number of legal cases and disputes with the traditional landowners at Fulton’s Tailevu site, the decision was made in 2007 to relocate. The relocation schedule released in 2007 had the site opening in March 2010. However, as college principal Dr Stephen Currow joked, it was better late than never. “So today we are only 1420 days late in opening this new campus. But we are here.”

Dr Currow thanked former Fiji mission president Pastor Waisea Vuniwa for his role in finding the current site. The development was assisted by a General Conference thirteenth Sabbath offering and donation of $US1 million.

The decision to move had its detractors. However, the new site, located 15 minutes from Nadi International Airport, is perfectly placed to cater for the almost 60 per cent of Fulton’s students who come from overseas.

Tribute was also paid to Barbara Allen, who attended on behalf of her late husband, Graham, the original project manager for the new site. His nephew, Greg Allen, and Mike Dixon had taken over the project after he was killed in a cycling accident.

Distinguished guests included the Solomon Island’s minister for education, representatives of the tribes who own the land, officers of the South Pacific Division, Trans-Pacific Union Mission and the Fiji Mission.

Both Dr Wilson and Mr Bole were given the opportunity to present a keynote address.

Mr Bole praised Fulton and the role it played in not only in Fiji but also in the whole South Pacific region. He recognised that Fulton would be producing the region’s future leaders.

“Without a well-prepared human mind, the abundance of information available can be a cacophony not a symphony,” said Mr Bole. “Your education at Fulton will prepare you to conduct the orchestra of the world’s information.”

Dr Wilson remarked on the progress that had been made in the three years since he had visited the Sabeto site. “To see how God has blessed, I know this will be an incredible institution.”

In his address, he alluded to the Mountain of the Sleeping Giant that Fulton rests at the feet of, and reminded the audience of another sleeper, Jacob. He described Jacob’s dream when he was running from his brother, Esau, and claimed the promises that God made to Jacob for the new campus.

“Surely God is in this place,” said Dr Wilson. “Let it be the Bethel, for many students who need to meet the Lord, may this be the place they meet God.”

On such an historic day for the 109-year old college that has trained so many Pacific ministers, it seemed fitting that the first official event after the opening was an ordination.

That evening, Pastor Ragoso Tagaloa’s call to ministry was recognised, in front of his fellow lecturers of Fulton College and his parents who had come from Brisbane.

With four presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church present—Dr Wilson, South Pacific Division president Dr Barry Oliver, Trans-Pacific Union Mission president Pastor Glenn Townend, and Fiji Mission president Pastor Luke Narabe—every level of the Adventist church was represented.

The Nadi English church choir provided stirring music as the Tagaloas were welcomed to ministry. One of the highlights of the evening was the speech of Kelera Suka, also a lecturer at Fulton, as she welcomed Pastor Tagaloa’s wife, Dorothy, as a partner in ministry and outlined the challenges and highlights of being a pastor’s wife.

Pastor Tagaloa worked in American Samoa before accepting a call to Fulton to lecture in the theology department. Ragoso and Dorothy have seven children.

— Jarrod Stackelroth
FOR THREE YEARS, PASTOR PETER KNOPPER AND his family had served the people of Homu in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. They were the ideal missionary family in the prime of their lives. They didn’t just get to know the locals; they loved them. And in return, the people loved the Knoppers.

Then, on March 16, 1988, it all came to a most brutal and abrupt end.

Peter was outside his Homu home when a group of assailants fired a shotgun blast at him, striking him in the head. Peter died on the way to hospital, leaving behind a wife and three young children, along with a truckload of questions (the killers were never caught). He was 32—far too young.

It’s impossible to imagine the kind of impact Peter’s murder would have had on his family and close friends. What we do know is the pain of the tragedy is still very real.

“I was very close with my brother,” Eddy Knopper says. “While I’ve had some really healing experiences since his death, there are things that keep bringing the pain to the foreground.

“Things like the hymns that were sung at his memorial service. I still struggle to sing them. It makes it all come flooding back.”

Despite the pain, Eddy says when he looks back he can clearly see the leading hand of God. For example, after Peter’s murder, the highlands community had a massive baptism, with approximately 2500 people giving their lives to Christ.

Still, that doesn’t prevent thoughts of what might have been.

“You could tell he was always missionary material,” says Eddy. “I can’t help but wonder about where my brother would have ended up.”

It’s safe to say the Knopper family will always remember Peter’s life and sacrifice. But what about Peter’s church family—are we going to remember? Jesus said “greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). Will we allow the selfless love of Peter and our other fallen missionaries to fade into obscurity?

No. Never.

To help all of us remember these ultimate expressions of love, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific has set up an online memorial. It’s a page dedicated to the men and women who paid the supreme price while in active service in the mission fields of our Division; a place to remember the Peter Knoppers, Pearl Tolhursts and Terai Solomon of our church family.

“We feel very honoured to be able to provide a permanent public memorial to those from our church family who gave their all in service for Jesus, and the enormous sacrifice of their families,” says South Pacific Division Commu-
Grace, faith and law (part 2)

“We are no longer under law, but under grace.” Variations of this theme are regularly proclaimed in different traditions of the Christian faith to show that the moral law is no longer binding upon followers of Jesus. So has grace made the law obsolete? Do the Ten Commandments have any place in the lives of believers?

“You are not under law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14). What did the apostle Paul mean by these words?

• We are no longer subject to the law of sin and death. Read Romans 6:11-14 and 8:1-3.
• We are no longer under the curse and condemnation of the law as breakers of the law. Read John 5:24 and Romans 5:9-11.
• We are free from the treadmill of performance and futile attempts to obtain God’s approval by our own efforts. Read Galatians 2:15-16 and 3:1-5.
• Trying to obtain righteousness by keeping the law has been rendered needless by the death of Jesus. Read Romans 10:4 and Galatians 2:21.

According to Paul in Romans 3:31, grace and faith do not undermine the law; on the contrary, they combine to uphold the law. How is this so?

• Grace has placed our lives under new management, specifically the lordship of Jesus. Read Romans 6:15-18 and 8:1-5.
• As a result, we want to live in a way that pleases God. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1. His will is beautifully expressed in the moral code. Read Psalms 40:7, 8.
• Grace teaches us to live godly and righteous lives. Read Titus 2:11-14.
• One of God’s great objectives in the new covenant of grace is to write His law in our hearts. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.
• Faith without works is dead. Read James 2:17-19, 26. As one commentator has put it, “We are saved by faith alone, but true faith is never alone.” Therefore, grace, faith and the cross of Jesus have not abolished the law of God. On the contrary, they uphold the eternal principles enshrined in the Ten Commandments, and these principles remain as the rule of a devout and holy life.
My Story

David Tovirika

I was brought up on the island of Bougainville as part of a strong Adventist family. I was blessed with physical strength and agility and, during the 1980s, I was a successful boxer who competed on the South Pacific circuit.

But just after I was selected to compete in the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games, war broke out on my island as a rebel army began to fight for independence from Papua New Guinea (PNG). My sporting career came to an end as I joined the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), supporting my brother, Glen, one of the main players in the rebel movement.

One night I led my unit on a raid of Bougainville’s northern island, Buka, which is separated by a channel of less than half a kilometre. We made the crossing and the boat dropped us off on the beach—there were 12 of us. Somehow the PNG soldiers were waiting for us and opened fire. There was a patrol boat at each end of the channel—they were both firing. The bullets were all around us and three of my men were hit and died there on the beach. We were terrified and unable to do anything except jump back into the water and swim back to the mainland. I decided after that to forget the fighting.

I got married and was involved in the Church during the 1990s. In 1997 I participated in the Bougainville peace negotiations. But even though God was blessing me, I made some serious mistakes in my marriage and was removed from office and disfellowshipped from my church.

In 2009 I went to Port Moresby for a serious operation. I nearly didn’t make it. My heart stopped during the operation and they had to work on me for two hours to get it beating again. The doctor said he couldn’t believe I’d managed to survive. During that time I recognised how God had been leading in my life and I finally made up my mind that I needed to serve the Lord.

So in 2010, I tried to solve all my problems at home—I consider this my restoration period. I’ve been studying ministry for the past few years at Sonoma College. I feel God is moulding me here—there’s a big challenge waiting for me when I finish. I look forward to returning to Bougainville, this time to be a soldier for the Lord.—as told to Kent Kingston
Active every day

Many of us make the decision to strive for health, but it can often be daunting to look at the long list of changes we think need to be made, especially when it comes to exercise. But the truth is we shouldn’t expect ourselves to just decide to get healthy and strap on a pair of shoes and run a marathon the next day (or ever!). One of the best ways to start on the path to health is to look for convenient, simple ways to incorporate activity into our everyday lives. Here are some of our favourite tips—some of them might sound a bit odd, but they work!

› Stand on one leg when brushing your teeth. Standing on one leg forces you to focus more on your balance, activating your core muscles, making teeth brushing healthy in more ways than one.

› Be inefficient to become more efficient. When time is not a factor, try to get more activity into your daily chores. Maybe you normally carry all the washing downstairs to the laundry in one trip—why not break it up into three to get an extra workout? Look for ways to cut down on labour-saving devices—maybe rake the backyard instead of getting out the electric blower. You’re not becoming less efficient around the house, you are becoming more efficient at fitting activity in the day.

› Stand up when talking on the phone. Whether at work or at home, stand up when the phone rings and don’t sit down until you’ve hung up! This can be a great way to break up unhealthy periods of extended sitting time, which have been linked with negative health effects independent of overall exercise.

Potato and corn salad

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 20 minutes Serves: 6

6 small potatoes, cut in quarters
1 sweet potato, diced
1 cup low-sodium corn kernels, drained and rinsed
½ red onion, diced
1 tablespoon parsley, chopped
½ cup low-fat mayonnaise
½ teaspoon salt (optional)

1. Steam baby potatoes and sweet potato until tender. Set aside to cool.
2. In a bowl, combine corn kernels, red onion, parsley and mayonnaise. Add cooled potato and sweet potato, and stir until all ingredients are evenly coated with mayonnaise.
3. Season with salt or your favourite salt-free seasoning.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 673kJ (161cal). Protein 4g. Fat 4g. Carbohydrate 25g. Sodium 219mg. Potassium 688mg. Calcium 21mg. Iron 1.0mg.
In Art and the Bible, Creative Christian Thinker, Francis Schaeffer put it like this: "No work of art is more important than the Christian’s own life, and every Christian is called upon to be an artist in this sense. He may have no gift of writing, no gift of composing or singing, but each man has the gift of creativity in terms of how he lives his life. In this sense, the Christian’s life is to be a thing of truth and also a thing of beauty in the midst of a lost and despairing world."¹

It’s a reminder that we are called not just to do creative things but to live creative lives. Indeed, creativity is primarily a way of living life. It is never only on the page, canvas, musical instrument or stage of whatever kind. It is first about the home, the community, the workplace, the school, the office, the church and the street. Wherever we have a choice how we live, respond and react, we can choose creativity—or not.

Our most important acts of creativity might never be awarded, framed, published, performed, sold or even recognised. Large or small, they make a difference in the lives of those with whom we have influence. At times, this may call for artistic creativity within our skills and abilities but, perhaps more often, it might be about simply showing up and doing our part—but doing it well, doing it thoughtfully, doing it creatively.

Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy when He explained the greatest commandment as loving God (see Mark 12:30), so this command was first given in the context of the larger

The art of life

by Nathan Brown
laws that encompassed all of life, worship, annual festivals, care for health, care for others, care for land and animals, even what we eat. As suggested by the second “great” commandment—love for others as ourselves—loving is not so much a fuzzy feeling but active living. So loving God is not about our feeling so much as our faithfulness, loving and living with passion, engagement, energy, purpose and creativity, living “with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength” (see Mark 12:30).

Resisting despair

In the beginning, God created a world that He described as “very good” (see Genesis 1:31), expressing a contented, justified and healthy pride in not just the function but also the beauty of all He had created. This beauty is a recurring cause for praising God and something God points to in responding to questions about the true nature of life in our world (see Job 38–40). In God’s explanations, beauty is an important factor in a proper understanding of His creation and our lives.

However, we cannot and should not try to deny that we live in a “lost and despairing world”. So much around us is broken. So many people are hurt. Violence and power grab the headlines. The problems and tragedies can seem overwhelming. We can succumb to compassion fatigue and the paralysis of repeated pain. We are tempted to despair.

Paul responds: “Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good” (Romans 12:21). This is a call to faithful creativity and imagination. Art in all its forms can confront the brokenness and despair around us and within us, as well as creating beauty as an act of profound resistance and hope in the face of seeming hopelessness. We reject the voices that tell us that what we see and feel are all there is and all that can be. Instead, we offer alternative and hopeful acts of imagination that begin to transform the world around us today, as well as pointing to our ultimate hopes about what our world will be and how our Creator will recreate.

And this is not only about art but about the faithful art of living well. We resist despair in our choices, actions, engagement, love and creativity, always seeking to overcome evil by doing good, by creating beauty, by practising hope.

Collaboration with others

One of the romanticised images of art and creativity is that of the lonely artist working feverishly in a cluttered studio or remote location, but the art of the creative faithful life is best lived in collaboration. The tasks of creativity are difficult, requiring our best efforts and a healthy balance of ego and empathy. It is more difficult still when practiced as resistance against evil and despair.

The Christian’s life as a thing of truth and beauty—our great call to creativity—needs a community of collaboration and support. In the context of the hope we have, the writer of Hebrews urges, “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24). We are not expected to do this on our own. We should be able to draw on the resources of a creative and faithful community.

We must also be prepared to contribute to such a creative collective, encouraging others in their creative living and contributing to a community environment in which creative and counter-cultural lives and projects are supported and welcomed. When others fear and attack acts of creativity or when truth is devalued or beauty dismissed as worthless or unnecessary, we will use our voices and influence to create safety and support for those whose work has been criticised and to encourage them to still greater “acts of love and good works”.

Collaboration with our Creator

But even this creative role, together with all the other creative calls on our lives, is built on a deeper and greater collaboration with the Creator Himself. The call to live our lives as our greatest work of art is daunting—until we recognise that even this work is one of collaboration with the Great Artist: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:10).

The art of our lives is primarily God’s work, made possible by our collaboration with Him. Our best lives, our best creativity, are based on the grace, hope and love He offers us. The most profound truth and beauty we can imagine are found in His acts of creativity and re-creativity. Our invitation—and our most significant creative act—is to choose collaboration with the kingdom-building creativity of God in our lives and in our world.

Remarkably, our creativity is one of the ways He is at work in our world. Our most authentic and faithful creativity—in all its forms: life, relationships, good works, art, imagination and so much more—spring from our Creator, as do we ourselves, as His masterpieces of creativity. And when we acknowledge this inspiration and this source, the self-portraits our lives create become less acts of ego than acts of worship.


Nathan Brown is book editor at Signs Publishing. This article is adapted from Manifest: Our Call to Faithful Creativity. He is co-convener of the Manifest Creative Arts Festival, which this year will be hosted at Avondale College of Higher Education, March 20–23. See <www.artsmanifest.info> for more information, to register and to enter the competitions.
MORE THAN 50 THEOLOGY STUDENTS graduated from Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea), Fulton College (Fiji) and Avondale College of Higher Education (Australia) in 2013.

For these individuals, the past year would have been particularly challenging and stressful. Study, church, financial, family and personal pressures would have been exceptionally high. The interview process with division and union leaders for students in Australia would also have been daunting. Then there’s the nerve-racking situation of waiting for a “call” from a conference leader. Many of these graduates would have struggled with the uncertainty of not knowing whether they had employment or not.

That’s not to say it’s all doom and gloom. One good point to mention is that these graduates would have completed their studies knowing that God had called them and that He would carry them forward.

Many of last year’s graduates have since commenced work as pastoral interns across the South Pacific Division. However, the transition from final-year student to first-year intern offers little respite. Spouses need to make the transition to a new location, and help the children to settle into a new home and school. They also need to find employment (if that is her/his goal), while trying to set a rhythm for the family and sorting out a host of other things this short article could never capture or address.

For the pastoral intern, a new job comes with much interest and excitement, especially when seeing what God has planned. However, the role also comes with the weight of expectations from the conference, a supervisor to report to and a church that is looking forward to their leadership and expertise.

While the job of a pastoral intern is to support the church he/she is assigned to, the converse is just as true—the church needs to support the pastoral intern. The focus
of this article is to suggest ways church members can help and encourage our pastoral interns and their families.

1. Make them feel welcome
   The first Sabbath the pastoral intern arrives should be a HIGH Sabbath. The family is to be invited up front, introduced to the church, presented with flowers and a lunch should be held in their honour. This goes without saying but it’s sad to see churches that don’t even bother to welcome their new leaders in this way. My family and I have been welcomed like this and it made us feel special, appreciated and welcome.

2. Support them with prayer
   This must sound clichéd but it’s surely the best we can do for them. As we pray for strength, courage and peace, God is going to do something wonderful in us to strengthen our ministry toward them. The Lord blesses us so we can bless others, and it will be rewarding to see God work in and through the pastoral intern and his family.

3. Affirm and encourage them
   Discouragement is one of the main weapons of the enemy. Let us build up the pastoral intern and his/her family with words and acts of affirmation and support. I remember receiving cards and letters from members when I first began my work as a pastoral intern in South Africa. While going through some of my old files the other day, I came across these messages of encouragement from former members. My heart lit up. I’ve kept them for many years because they are such a blessing to me. Open your home and fellowship to the pastoral intern and her/his family. Nothing beats having a potluck lunch and fellowship together on a Sabbath to build the bonds of love and support.

4. Get to know the children
   Children often feel isolated and unsure of themselves in a new environment. Going out of your way to be kind and thoughtful to the pastoral intern’s children will be a wonderful way to help. Don’t place unwarranted pressure on these kids. They are just like any other children, so allow them to grow as they learn and make mistakes. Your unconditional love and support are what matter most.
   When our son was born our first church gave my wife a beautiful baby shower. We were so blessed with all the beautiful things the church members bought for our son. From time to time one of the ladies would actually bring toys for my son, take him to the rest room and sit next to him in church as my wife also had our little daughter to care for. These are precious memories of members caring for my family. What a difference they have made. Our son still talks with affection of this individual who looked after him. Our daughter was also blessed by a number of nurturing and loving church members.
   As our children have grown, Pathfinder leaders have also played a significant role by offering friendship, guidance and assistance, and providing a nurturing environment for them to learn more about Jesus and how to live in an authentic community.

5. Support the spouse
   The spouse needs to know she/he is loved and appreciated by the church. Take the opportunity to acknowledge and affirm her/him publicly on Sabbath morning from time to time. The spouse, if a woman, is often the emotional manager of her family and needs to develop trusted friendships where she can be nurtured and strengthened. She is often left alone with the kids while her husband goes out in the evening to minister to church members. Support her with a friendly phone call to encourage her and let her know she is being thought of.

   This type of support isn’t rocket science; it’s simply the kind of support one can expect from a family. The Bible uses the important metaphor of family to describe the church. The writers of the New Testament continually refer to this image because it highlights the central purpose of God—to be one with us.

   “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household” (Ephesians 2:19 NIV).

   “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10 NIV).

   The terms “family of believers” and “members of God’s household” suggest belonging, intimacy and connectedness. Most churches, sadly, give glib mental assent and public acknowledgement to the notion that the church is the family of God, while rarely thinking through its profound implications or attempting to practice all that the metaphor implies. When a church functions as a family there’s a fundamental shift in how that church looks and acts. Relationships are valued above programs, and understanding above business. There is also a shift from independence to interdependence, and from dominance to servanthood.

   The first few years of ministry can drastically affect the course of a pastor’s career. Without the help and encouragement of church members, and a sense of connectedness and belonging, a pastoral intern can quickly become overwhelmed and burnt out. As a church, this is the last thing we want for our young leaders and members of our family. Let’s intentionally support our new pastoral interns and their families as they work to support the church.

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Dr Kayle de Waal is senior lecturer in New Testament Studies at Avondale College of Higher Education.
Living memorial
Pastor Ted Wilson was surprised to learn during his recent visit to Papua New Guinea that a church had been named after him. During his 2011 visit to the country, the General Conference president and his wife, Nancy, met Madeleine, who had planted a church from a women’s literacy program she had started in the June Valley, outside Port Moresby. Impressed by her fervour, the Wilsons made a donation towards a permanent church building. Last month they visited the recently completed Ted Wilson Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church.—Kent Kingston

School celebrates first graduates
Dressed in graduation gowns, 11 eager children who successfully completed their education received graduation certificates from their principal Ogasta Daniel at the first graduation ceremony of the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School in Wildlife, Port Moresby. More than 100 children attend the school, which provides basic education for children from very poor and disadvantaged backgrounds. The graduates will now be able to attend primary school.—Operation Food For Life

Concert benefits school
Donations totaling $777.50 from a sacred concert, held at Dora Creek church, NSW, have been presented to the Dora Creek Public School and will be used for the purchase of reading material for the children. The concert featured an organ performance, solo and duo violinists, string ensemble, vocal items, bell choir, carol singing and narration, with young performers outnumbering older performers.—George Drinkall

Lighting the way
Light Bearers, the North NSW Conference and Kingscliff church have launched Arise Australia, which saw 24 students graduate after the first program. To strategically facilitate the partnership, David Asscherick has accepted the call to be the senior pastor of the Kingscliff church.—Light Bearers

Pedal power for ADRA
Graham and Wendy Herbert of Park Ridge church, Qld, have completed another epic 1000km bicycle ride, raising $4200 for the 2013 ADRA Appeal. Since 2007, their cycling efforts have raised approximately $28,000 for ADRA, covering central and south-east Queensland and northern NSW in −4 to over 40 degree temperatures—rain, hail or shine.—Bill Miller

Atoll evangelism
The City Evangelism series will soon be extended to atolls in the Central Pacific. Evangelist Pastor Gary Webster, who recently spent four days on Tarawa in Kiribati preparing for a three-week program, also witnessed the baptism of 10 precious souls during a combined church service. Kiribati Mission president, Pastor Titau Tavita, describes his country as probably the Pacific region’s most difficult mission field in light of its remoteness, ongoing population pressures, coastal erosion and economic challenges. Pastor Tavita has requested the prayerful support of the Church for this month’s program.—Henry Sanday

Midwife training boost
General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, cut the ribbon at the dedication of a new wing to Pacific Adventist University’s Health Science facilities, outside Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Statistics reveal that a pregnant woman in PNG is almost 100 times more likely to die in childbirth than a pregnant woman in Australia. The new facility will improve PNG women’s chances by increasing the number of trained midwives available. The classroom complex and student and staff residences were built with K7.5m funding from the Australian government.—Kent Kingston
HEALTH HERO

Peter Tung, via email

It was enlightening to read about Dr Siegfried Kotz (Record Rewind, "Hero of health", February 1) and his tireless work for the health message across three continents. I had the good fortune to hear him speak before his untimely death.

I feel the story needed a little explanation for those who wonder how a promoter of health could die at such an early age of heart disease. The fact is, he had a terrible family history of heart attacks, several of his siblings dying in their early 40s. It’s a credit to his adherence to healthful living principles that he actually managed to live till 52.

Thank you to Lester Devine for highlighting his many accomplishments.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Mary Trim, via email

Thank you for the article, "Hero of health" (February 1). It was a timely reminder of the tremendous contribution Dr Siegfried Kotz made to the health ministry of Adventism in Australasia.

In four years he did so much, and he was regarded highly as a man who practised what he preached. My husband and I remember the positive impact of his likeable personality when he visited the South New Zealand Conference. We were inspired by his habit of daily exercise. In fact we took him to the beach where, in vest and shorts, he ran a great distance along the sand.

In Christchurch, he introduced the first Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking in New Zealand, a program that generated intensive media coverage, promoted the Adventist name and attracted many successful participants.

Wisely, with enthusiasm and example, he trained successors how to reach addicted smokers through this plan. He also promoted the Adventist health lifestyle to church members. In those days, health was regarded and used as the right arm of the Adventist message.

Eric Hon (mentioned in the article), Bert Grosser and John Trim were three of many who went on to bless lives through health ministry, following in the footsteps of Dr Kotz.

Left alone at home with three children when her husband travelled, and quite alone since 1967, Ethel Kotz should be honoured as always a bright encourager. She lives today in Adventist Aged Care, Cooranbong, and will be 100 years old on May 5.

NIKE SWOOSH

Amanda Johnstone, Vic

It seems that the Nike swoosh is increasingly popping up in Adventist circles.1

"So what?" you may be thinking.

Disregarding the appalling track record Nike Inc has with regards to the labour rights of its outworkers2, this corporation has adopted the symbol of the Greek winged goddess of victory.3

I now hear you saying "OK, but very few people think of the Greek winged goddess of victory when they see the Nike swoosh symbol".

Yes this is true, however it is also true that very few people think of the papacy when they hear or read about the beast in Revelation . . . but that doesn’t deter Adventists from informing them of the connection and warning them not to worship this beast.

Our God in heaven commands His people to "Worship no god but Me" (Exodus 20:3 TEV).

In other words . . . Just don’t do it!

(1) Examples provided for editor’s reference.
(3) http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/455197/Nike

SAFE LUNCHES?

Name withheld

The editorial "Anger is the answer" (November 16, 2013) is a fine article.

May I suggest that it’s not only children who need the Church to be safe; many churches hold fine church lunches where there is healthy food. But as a nurse I find it obscene that the churches have absolutely no idea that they are so dangerous in feeding the morbidly obese people who turn up for the food and the food only.

I care for a person weighing more than 200kg who is not interested in spiritual things, but has found a bunch of "suckers" who have allowed that individual to eat so much at lunchtime that their night nurse was afraid to let them lie down in bed due to the risk of them vomiting/aspirating.

This person is not the only one I know about who is allowed to overeat at church lunches. At one such gathering I saw a morbidly obese lady piling her dessert plate high for the third time, and I said “I think that is enough”, whereupon she threw the plate down and left, only to return next church lunch day. Obviously I need help!
I recently came across a conversation on the online blogging platform Tumblr that has been doing the internet rounds. The conversation went like this:

“‘Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say’ (John 8:43).

“Wait, did Jesus just say the equivalent of ‘Did I stutter?’ Jesus is such a rebel.”

Jesus the rebel: it’s an interesting concept. But, if you think about it, that’s what He was—a revolutionary, rebelling against the status quo. The conversation got me thinking: if Jesus were around today, what would He be saying? Because—well, let’s face it—Jesus was a pretty radical nonconformist.

If you’re like me, you’ve grown up learning about Jesus and the Pharisees. We’ve heard the children’s stories that paint the Pharisees as the bad guys while Jesus is the Hero. We even had kids’ songs about it, like “I Just Wanna be a Sheep” (my childhood favourite), where the third verse says “I don’t wanna be a Pharisee / they’re just not fair you see.”

But like many realistic villains, the Pharisees had good intentions. They sought to obey the Scriptures and follow their God. They prayed daily, went to church and spent their lives trying to become more holy. However, their fundamental problem was that they were putting doctrines before people. As a result, traditions and symbols had been stripped of all their meaning and became mere rules, to be obeyed under threat of condemnation. Don’t walk long distances on Sabbath. Don’t light fires. Don’t associate with diseased people or you’ll become unclean.

The Pharisees were known for the things they didn’t do. Jesus was known for the things He did.

Outside of our church walls, Christianity doesn’t tend to have the greatest rap sheet. Type “Christian” into Google News and you’ll likely find a host of stories on the things we’re known to be against. Anti-gay parades, rants about women and their “place”, articles on Christian oppression. As Christians—Advocates even—we’re known more for the things we stand against than the things we stand for.

Sound familiar?

“How can I make this any more simple!” Jesus might say today. “Love the Lord your God, your Creator, and love those around you. You have been created for so much more than this ritual-following, straight-line walking, closed-minded lifestyle that you’ve been living.”

But loving people takes time, and time in today’s fast-paced world is particularly precious. It’s so much easier (and quicker) to abide by rules than to reach out and form relationships. Dare I say it, but without those relationships, maybe we too are missing the point?

How many non-Christians do we associate with on a regular basis? I’m ashamed to say that for me, I can count that number on one hand. I live with Christians, work with Christians and go on social outings with Christians. It’s easier that way. There are fewer explanations required, it’s far more comfortable and it’s easier to remain “clean”. But that’s not how Jesus did it. Radical Jesus, bold Jesus, spent His life hanging out with tax collectors and adulterers, being the Friend and the Confidant they needed.

If we’re called as Christians to be Christ-like, then we too are called to radically love those around us. No exceptions. Gay and straight. Those for and against women’s ordination. Those who want drums in worship and those who don’t. That means people in and out of the church doors: coffee drinkers and Milo lovers, vegans, vegetarians, carnivores, and the ones who eat bacon and egg McMuffins on the way to Sabbath School. It doesn’t mean we have to agree with them. It does mean we should love them—really love them—anyway.

It’s easy to put our Christianity in a box, to take it out only on Sabbaths and in small groups. But unconditional, radical love can’t be boxed. Maybe that’s what makes it so difficult. And if Jesus was a radical in His day, what makes us think He wouldn’t be a radical in ours?

Let’s give the media something positive to talk about by following our radical Saviour—loving people, not just our rules.

Sara Thompson is a Communications graduate from Avondale College and writes from Cooranbong, NSW. She recently served as assistant editor while interning at Signs Publishing Company.
Manifest is an annual creative arts festival exploring, encouraging and celebrating faithful creativity.

- Workshops
- Showcases
- Writers’ retreat
- Performances
- Competitions (cash prizes)

Entries close March 7, 2014

Gabe Reynaud Awards
Saturday, March 22 at 7.30pm

www.artsmanifest.info
ANNIVERSARIES

Munro, Doctor Lyle and Marie (nee Gane) Munro were married 22.12.1953 by Pastor R E Gane in the old Wahroonga church, NSW. Exactly 60 years later they returned to Wahroonga church, on a sultry Sunday afternoon, to mark their diamond wedding anniversary. There was a joyful, fun-filled atmosphere as Lyle and Marie celebrated a remarkable milestone at an afternoon tea attended by their family, including three children and four grandchildren, and their friends. Thankful appreciation is extended to God for His generous blessings and to all who attended and participated, making the day so special. They still happily live in their home of nearly 55 years at Beverly Hills, Sydney.

Stocken, Beryl and Sydney Stocken celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 19.12.13. They both turned 96 last year, having been born six months apart in 1917. Beryl and Sydney have lived at the Adventist Aged Care facility in Wahroonga for the past six years. They have always been big walkers and enjoy daily strolls around the retirement village gardens. Adventist Aged Care would like to formally congratulate Beryl and Sydney on the 70 beautiful years together and look forward to watching them celebrate many more. Sydney and Beryl are a great representation of the blessings of the Adventist health lifestyle.

Graham Wegener

WEDDINGS

Croft—Ousby, Adrian Mark Croft, son of Allan and Noeline Croft (Adelaide, SA), and Alisha Jane Ousby, daughter of Scott and Janelle Ousby (Murwillumbah, NSW), were married 7.9.13 in a beautiful bush setting on Ousby’s Farm, Eungella.

Allan Croft

Millist—Adams. Andrew David Millist, son of David Millist (Amberley, NZ) and Wendy McKeon (Toowoomba, Qld), and Deanne Louise Adams, daughter of Rodney and Nerylee Adams (Hornsby Heights, NSW), were married 24.11.13 at the historic Gabbinbar Homestead, Toowoomba, Qld. Andrew’s grandfather, Dr Allen Sonter, conducted the ceremony. Andrew and Deanne plan to set up their home in Toowoomba.

Alien Sonter

PETRSON—LANG. Damien James Peterson, son of David and Elizabeth Peterson (Adelaide, SA), and Megan Danielle Lang, daughter of Michael and Mary Ann Lang (Vancouver, Canada), were married 27.10.13 in the gardens of Brock House Reception Centre, Vancouver.

Allan Croft

OBITUARIES

Biddle, Norman Joseph, born 28.3.1935 in Mildura, Vic; died 31.3.13 in Frankston. On 3.12.1974, he married Lorna Findley (nee Gates) at Naracotte, SA. He was baptised by Pastor Graeme Brown at the Millicent church on 17.12.1977 and later joined the Naracotte church. He is survived by his wife, Norm’s work in vineyards took them to Padthaway, Mildura, Yarra Valley and finally the Mornington Peninsula. He was a faithful member of the Frankston church from June 1988 till his death.

Errol de Silva, Trent Martin

Brandstater, Joan Elaine (nee Harris), born 11.10.1924 in Palmerton North, NZ; died 29.12.13 in the Avondale Retirement High Care Facility, Cooranbong, NSW. In 1948, she married Jeff Brandstater in Christchurch, NZ. She was predeceased by her daughter, Anne, in 1974, and her husband, Jeff, in 2013. She is survived by her son and his wife, Jeffrey and Olive Brandstater (Sydney, NSW), her son-in-law and his wife, Warren and Evelyn Wordsworth (Auckland, NZ), and grandchildren, Andrew, Karyn, Michelle, Tanya, Penny and Jason. Joan was the glue that held her family together, with her husband away from home most weeks for work. Her home was always open to anyone who needed a friend or a meal and because of that she ended up with a very large “extended family”.

Gordon Smith

EVERSDEN, Athol Frederick, born 25.9.1930 in Subiaco, WA; died in Fremantle Hospital from a stroke. On 20.11.1976, he married Stella. He is survived by his wife, and children, Cathy, Anthony, Graham Wood and Annie Eversden. Athol lived his faith weaving a legacy of love for all who were privileged to know him. A treasured soul at rest.

Richard Reynolds

Greenfield, Ernest Graham, born 20.2.1930 in Albury, NSW; died 15.7.13 in Wangaruni, NZ. He was predeceased by his wife, Rosita Pimoe—Greenfield. On 24.4.00, he married Gloria Greenfield. He is survived by Gloria; and his children and their families, Adrienne Greenfield (Wangaruni), Desmond Greenfield (Wangaruni), Sharon Niua (Auckland) and Wendy and Bryan Fyfe (Campbelltown, NSW); her grandchildren, Johnathon, Melissa and Ron Newlands, Brendan, Penny and Darren Davison, great-grandchildren, Sarah, Phillip, Lochlan Nash and Trudy; and extended family, Lexie and Ted Deed, Peta and Steve Taylor, Pat and Don Fraser, Cliff and Evelyn O’Connor, Lynette and Mervyn O’Brien, Elaine and Graham O’Brien, Terry and Yvonne Hoskins. Audrey was an amazing woman of faith and prayer. Loved and sadly missed by all who knew her, she had an unwavering faith in the Lord’s soon return.

Murray Thackham

Elvey, Nellie Flora (Aunty Nellie), born 9.10.1925 in Uraidla, SA; died 19.12.13 in Holly Residential Care Centre, Hackham. Nellie had 12 siblings; she is survived by only two of her sisters, Ruby Robertson and Joan Wynnatt; and many nieces, nephews and their families. Nellie was a wonderful woman with a kind and compassionate heart. Her life was filled with a love for people, animals and flowers. In later years, Nellie visited the Tooperang church and subsequently responded to the Advent message. She was baptised on 11.5.02 by Pastor Allan Croft at Morphett Vale church. Deteriorating health eventually forced Nellie into care, but amidst her pain she found courage in her faith and trust in God.

Brenton Wilkinson, Dietrich Stahl

Graham Wynnatt

Manager, It Is Written Oceania (IIWO)—Adventist Media Network (Wahroonga, NSW). IIWO is looking for a dynamic leader who is passionate about bringing people to Jesus through media. The position involves key involvement in the development of the IIWO strategy; leading a high performing team to achieve the mission and objectives; working with the speaker to develop and implement effective evangelistic programs; organising all programming for media channels; developing a holistic marketing plan; ensuring a robust and efficient operation; developing effective relationships with church administration and external stakeholders. The successful applicant must be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with full commitment to its message, mission and lifestyle. He/she will have a passion for soul winning and experience in running evangelistic programs; strong leadership and management skills; minimum experience of five years, preferably in media; superior written and verbal communication skills; proven business management experience; have completed a tertiary degree; and a proactive, “can do” attitude. For more information about IIWO visit <www.itswrittenoceania.tv>. Direct applications and enquiries to Kalvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close March 13, 2014.
Paul Greenfield (Auckland); and sister, Elizabeth McIntyre (Albury, NSW). Graham loved the Lord and served Him on evangelistic teams and fly 'n' builds to Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Kiribati and Fiji. He was also camp caretaker at Haskell Park for four years. He was a Master Guide who loved Pathfinders and young people. He served in many areas of church leadership.

Paul Siope

Grosser, Jeffrey Fergus, born 6.9.1916 in Tanantoola, SA; died 7.10.13 in Mount Barker. On 28.11.1939, he married Mabel Grace. He was predeceased by his wife, and Lois Voigt and Ronald Grosser. He is survived by Murray and Heather Grosser, Ruth Young and Beverly and Wolfram Czech; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Jeff was a much-loved member of the Wistow church where his faithful attendance is missed. He was loved by all including little children. He had a kind word for everyone and his memory of scripture texts was amazing. Jeff’s love for Jesus showed in his life and commitment to his church.

Raymond Cartsen

Hapel, Veronica Michelle (nee Kuhl), born 4.11.1982 in Rockhampton Qld, died 20.12.13 peacefully after a long illness, surrounded by her loving family in Gladstone. She was the dearly beloved wife of Chris, much-loved daughter of Kevin and Dianne Kuhl, daughter-in-law of Stan and Pam Cregan and Andrew and Mary Hapel; and highly cherished sister of Christopher Kuhl. Broken-hearted family, friends and colleagues crowded the Gladstone church to overflowing to say their goodbyes to Veronica, who was laid to rest at Calliope.

Andy Krause, Tony Espinet

Langley, Constance Betty (nee Howell), born 29.9.1930 in Coorparoo, Brisbane, Qld; died 29.11.13 in Caboolture. On 12.12.1957, she married Fergus James Langley. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother and her husband. She is survived by her children and their families, Gwyneth and Fred Cotton (Kallangur) and David and Peta Langley (Pinjarra Hills); her grandchildren, James, Brendan, Stephanie, Bridget, Matthew and Rachel and Wayne Green and their family, Liam and Kenneth; and her siblings and their families, Patricia and Philip Walsh and Reg and Lynn Howell. Betty was a lady of great fortitude and courage who loved and served the Lord faithfully through her life involvement in church, family and community activities.

David Edgar

Romero, Elaine Elizabeth (nee Comwell, born 29.4.1932 in Maryland, NSW; died 4.12.13 in Coffs Harbour. On 15.4.1954, she married Rob Romero, who predeceased her in 2011. She is survived by her children and their families, Kevin and Wilma (Bonville), Peter and Sue (Nelson Bay), John and Chrys (Sunshine Coast, Qld); five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Elaine taught piano and her musical talents were much appreciated by the children’s Sabbath School and church. She also strongly supported her husband in his many years of voluntary building work for the Church. She was dedicated to Jesus and her family and will be sadly missed.

Eric Greenwell, Bob Manners, Abel Iorgulescu

Tronc, Robert Michael, died 18.12.13 in the Logan Hospital, Qld. He was married to Irene and is survived by his children, Scott, Nicole and Rhett; and long-time friend, Pauline McBurnie, and their families. The funeral was conducted at Springfield church, where he worshipped and was nurtured by a home group. In 2012, he accepted Jesus and was baptised. He awaits the resurrection morning.

Andre van Rensburg, Ron Reed

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Finally . . .

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-Charlie Chaplin

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